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WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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If you wish to contact any of the above people, please use the postal or email address shown. In all correspondence please mark your envelope WMFHS in the upper left-hand corner; if a reply is needed, a SAE must be enclosed. Members are asked to note that receipts are only sent by request, if return postage is included.

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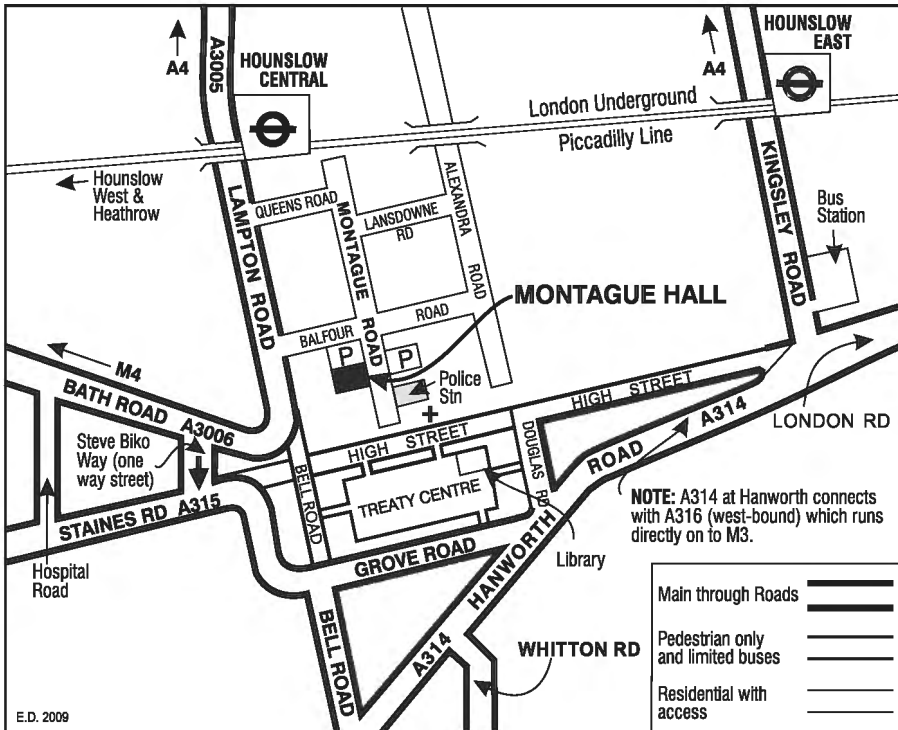
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FUTURE MEETINGS

The following talks have been arranged:

- 16 Jun Putting on the Ritz – Fashion in the 1920s and 1930s *Carol Harris*
 21 Jul Open Evening – Back to the Future *Members' participation*
 18 Aug Down Our High Street *Questors Reminiscence Road Show*
 15 Sep Otto and the Margarine Factory *Peter Hounsell*

Our meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at Montague Hall, Montague Road, Hounslow, and doors open at 7.15pm. Parking is available adjacent to the Hall. Reference books, exchange journals from other societies and a bookstall – all can be browsed between 7.30pm and 10pm (talks take place between 8pm and 9pm), and tea/coffee, or a cold drink, and biscuits are also available. Fully Accessible.



Last dates of submission for articles for printing in the subsequent journal are:

7th January 7th April 7th July 7th October

It has been a busy quarter for our Society so here are photos of some of your representatives in action.



In early March we attended our first Family History Fair of the year by travelling to Poole for the first time, to set up our stand at the Dorset FHS Open Day. Roland Bostock, Margaret Cunnew and Brian Page had a busy day and even managed to enrol a new member. Here Brian and Margaret are sharing their expertise.

Later in March, several presentations were made at the AGM and you can read more about this on page 16 of the Minutes.

Muriel Sprott and Paul and Janice Kershaw were made Honorary Members. Unfortunately Janice was unable to be present so Paul accepted the certificate on behalf of them both.



Muriel Sprott and Kirsty Gray



Paul Kershaw with Kirsty Gray



Also at the AGM Rob and Bridget Purr were appointed Joint Presidents

We would like to congratulate
Yvonne Masson
Committee Member
and the Society Archivist
on obtaining
a Masters Degree in
Archaeology
from Buckingham University

When my father, John BARNETT, was a young man, he often spent his holidays with several of his numerous cousins in Albrighton, Shropshire. One of these cousins was Mildred BARNETT, who I knew was a daughter of my grandfather's older brother, Charles BARNETT. My father had told me the story of how Charles had been persuaded out of an engagement to Betty JENKS because his older sister, Ellen BARNETT, who was fervently religious and had taken against Betty because of her lack of religious conviction, had put it about that there was a history of consumption in the JENKS family.



Mildred Barnett

Another cousin, Grace BARNETT, wrote to my father,

“Ellen broke up the romance by saying the Jenks family were affected with consumption, which proved totally untrue. I should not think that Charlie would have been so easily persuaded to give up his girlfriend on religious grounds only, but consumption would be a different matter and quite a sound reason for changing his mind in those days when consumption was rife and a deadly disease...”



Betty Jenks

Charles eventually married Annie PASSMORE when he was 38. He had trained as a nurseryman and set up his own nursery in Albrighton. A love of gardening seems to be a common trait in the BARNETT family: Charles' father, John, had been the garden manager on a large estate in Shifnal, Shrop-

shire. Another cousin, Flora BARNETT, wrote to a son of Mildred BARNETT,

“I remember your grandfather (Charles BARNETT) as a striking looking man with a beard and a serious rather sad face. According to your mother he was very gentle, very religious and quite unmercenary. One Sunday some villagers called to buy flowers for a grave, but he refused to sell them because he thought it wicked to trade on the Sabbath, so he gave them some. Next Sunday quite a

number turned up for 'free' flowers. He worked hard to provide a living for a wife and family – there were no quick fortunes made in horticulture in those days – and died at 49...”

I knew very little about Charles and Annie apart from the fact that my father said they had three daughters, Mildred, Muriel and Sylvia, and a son, Howard.



Charles Barnett

Howard spent some time as a young man in either the army or the RAF in India. His experiences retrieving casualties from the Quetta earthquake in 1935 (in which 35,000-60,000 people perished) may well have contributed to his later mental breakdown. He entered Shelton Hospital, near Shrewsbury, after his return to the UK and remained there until his death in 1982. My father had told me that he had taught the three girls to ride a motor bike and that he had met them again in the 1960s, when his work took him to Wolverhampton. I also knew from my father that Sylvia had married Albert PAULTON and that Mildred had married someone called PENN.

So I was delighted when I was contacted via my family tree website by someone who said that a certain John PENN wanted to get in touch with me, as we were almost certainly related. John was Mildred's second son and Annie PASSMORE's grandson. He provided me with more information about Charles and Annie and sent me a copy of a letter written to him by his aunt, Flora BARNETT, in which she wrote,

“My sisters and I regarded the Nursery as a wonderland and spent lovely afternoons exploring it, gazing at the pond where your mother just escaped drowning, when she was about six years old. Then we would sneak into one of the glasshouses and gorge ourselves with forbidden tomatoes. All their meals were taken outside during the warm



Mildred, Muriel and Sylvia Barnett

weather and I remember tea on a lawn in a small enclosed garden at the side of the house. We sat on a long bench at a trestle table – very Spartan. We did not see

much of Howard for he hid himself away in a tree. What with three sisters and three girl cousins, who can blame him?"

Both John and I knew a lot between us about the BARNETT family, but it was the PASSMOREs that intrigued John. He knew that his grandmother, Annie PASSMORE, had been brought up by her uncle and aunt, Henry PASSMORE and Ellen née LAMB. He also knew that her father was Joseph PASSMORE, born about 1855 in Wombourne, Staffordshire, but he did not know whom he had married or when and the big question was, why had he left his daughter to be brought up by his brother and sister-in-law? Where was he during that time? The only clue was that John said that there had been some mention, when he re-appeared later in the Shropshire area, of his having returned from abroad.

I thought I should first clarify just who this Joseph PASSMORE was that I was looking for, so I began by looking for Joseph PASSMORE's birth around 1855 in Wombourne. Unfortunately there were three Joseph PASSMOREs born in Staffordshire in 1855, one in West Bromwich and two in Wolverhampton, the registration district that included Wombourne. I needed to find out which of the two Wolverhampton Josephs was in fact Annie's father.

I checked the 1861 census returns but could find only one Joseph PASSMORE born in Wombourne. Further checking uncovered the fact that one of the two Josephs born in Wolverhampton died 17 months later. Indeed in the 1871 census there were only two remaining Joseph PASSMOREs who fitted the bill, one in Wombourne and the other in Durham. The Joseph in Durham was born in West Bromwich (in fact it was clear that his mother had re-married, no doubt prompting the move to the north), so that meant that Annie's father was the Joseph remaining in Wombourne. The 1861 census return gave me the names of Joseph's parents, Henry and Ann PASSMORE and his siblings, Ann, Sarah, Henry and Elizabeth. This looked good, knowing that Annie was brought up by a brother of Joseph's called Henry.

The 1881 census return showed Joseph as married to Annie and living next door to his parents and (as I later discovered) his grandfather's brother, Francis PASSMORE and his wife Sarah. Another search uncovered a marriage record for Joseph PASSMORE and Annie BAUGH in the December quarter of 1880 in Dudley, Staffordshire. That fitted perfectly with their daughter Annie's birth in 1881. So why did their daughter grow up with her uncle and aunt? I found her with her uncle and aunt in the 1891 census, aged 9. The only Joseph PASSMORE in the census born around 1855 was the other Joseph PASSMORE, born in West Bromwich, who was in Northumberland. Again in 1901, Annie, by then 19, was still with her uncle and aunt, but no sign of her father or mother anywhere. What had happened to them?

My first thought was that perhaps Annie PASSMORE (née BAUGH) had died between 1881 and 1891 and Joseph had found himself unable to cope with a small child on his own, but I could find no record of this. So that left me with the only clue I had: the mention of a return from abroad. I reasoned that if Joseph had gone abroad, he might be mentioned in the emigration records. Findmypast.com has travel and migration records, so I searched them and there he was – number 32 on the passenger list of the *Etruria*, which departed from Liverpool for New York on 10th May 1890. It was curious that he described himself as single, but it surely had to be him.

No. of Contact Ticket	Name of Passenger	Adult	Children	Profession, Occupation or Calling of Passenger	Sexes										Formations										Total No. Pass.							
					Males		Females		Males		Females		Males		Females		Males		Females		Males		Females									
					Married	Single	Married	Single	Married	Single	Married	Single	Married	Single	Married	Single	Married	Single	Married	Single	Married	Single	Married	Single								
					Age of each adult of 15 years and upwards		Age of Children between 1 and 15 years		Age of each adult of 15 years and upwards		Age of Children between 1 and 15 years		Age of each adult of 15 years and upwards		Age of Children between 1 and 15 years		Age of each adult of 15 years and upwards		Age of Children between 1 and 15 years		Age of each adult of 15 years and upwards		Age of Children between 1 and 15 years									
31	Albeit Harper	1		Man		25																										
32	Joseph Passmore	1		Man		25																										
33	Joseph Newton	1		Man		20																										
34	Jack Duffy	1		Man		18																										
35	Grace Whinnery	1		Man		23																										

Passenger List of the Etruria to New York

My next step was to try looking for Joseph in the 1900 US census, probably in New York. I could not find him in New York but there was a Joseph PASSMORE in Pennsylvania, living with his cousin Peter FIRMSTONE. His birth in July 1855 in England fitted and he stated that he was married, but I knew of no relationship with the FIRMSTONE family. However, I did note that Peter's wife was named Martha. Hadn't I seen that name on one of the censuses? Could it be that she was born Martha PASSMORE? If I could prove that, then that would prove conclusively that Joseph had indeed emigrated leaving his daughter behind in the care of his brother.

I checked the marriage records for Peter FIRMSTONE and Martha PASSMORE in the relevant period and hit gold dust! Peter FIRMSTONE married Martha PASSMORE on 18th April 1869, in Brierley Hill. Indeed, Martha was the daughter of Francis PASSMORE, who was living next door to Joseph in the 1881 census. So Joseph did leave for America and stayed there for between 10 and 20 years. He was certainly back in England for the 1911 census, where he appears lodging with a Mrs. BICKLEY in Wolverhampton and occupied as a "Pump turner's labourer". He now described himself as a widower.

It was not surprising that his daughter was not too happy to see him return, according to John PENN. It may account for Joseph's supposed suicide a few years later. According to Grace BARNETT,

"...Annie's father drowned in the lake just after Charlie's death (in 1914). I

think it was the day after the funeral. Here the days and times are confused, but I know Mr P. (PASSMORE) was found by Albert PUGH (the husband of Sarah BARNETT), or it could have been John, but I go for Albert. Mr. P had a beard but Albert found a cut throat razor in his pocket and took it out, as they realised the death was suicide and they wished to save the children from distress. Also the coroner happened to be someone well-known to the family and didn't enquire too searchingly into the matter."

Satisfying as it was to have discovered the whereabouts of Joseph during his absence from the UK, I was still no closer to knowing why he had gone to America, or indeed why he came back. I reasoned that if I could find out what had happened to Joseph's wife, Annie, I might get closer to the answer. I had already convinced myself that she did not die between 1881 and 1891, so I decided to search the migration records for her and see if perhaps she had followed her husband to America.

TWELFTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES.

SCHEDULE No. 1.—POPULATION.

(Supervisor's District No. 14
Enumeration District No. 102)

Division of census, Dist. Charles Townshof, Prof. Whiting Gardner, Bishop of Princeton Name of Institution, _____

rated city, town, or village, within the above-named division, Springfield, Genesee Valley Ward or _____

Enumerated by me on the 1st day of June, 1900, Andrew G. Cunningham Enumerator.

NAME	RELATION	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION										SALUTY			CITIZENSHIP			OCCUPATION, TRADE, OR PROFESSION		EDUC.	
		Sex	Color	Mar.	Single	Wid.	Div.	Mar.	Single	Wid.	Div.	Years of Nat. Birth	This is Nat. of Nat. Birth	This is Nat. of Nat. Birth	Year of Nat. Birth	Year of Nat. Birth	Year of Nat. Birth	Year of Nat. Birth	Year of Nat. Birth	Year of Nat. Birth	
<u>James B. Passmore</u>	<u>Head</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>Mar.</u>	<u>1900-58</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>England</u>	<u>England</u>	<u>England</u>	<u>1870</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>Coal Miner</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	
<u>Wife</u>	<u>Wife</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>Mar.</u>	<u>1858</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>England</u>	<u>England</u>	<u>England</u>	<u>1817</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>Coal Miner</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	
<u>Children</u>	<u>Child</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>Mar.</u>	<u>1890</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>England</u>	<u>England</u>	<u>England</u>	<u>1880</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>Coal Miner</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	
<u>Wife</u>	<u>Wife</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>Mar.</u>	<u>1874</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>Pennsylvania</u>	<u>England</u>	<u>England</u>	<u>1848</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>Day Laborer</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	
<u>Wife</u>	<u>Wife</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>Mar.</u>	<u>1882</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>Pennsylvania</u>	<u>England</u>	<u>England</u>	<u>1864</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>Day Laborer</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	
<u>Passmore, James</u>	<u>Child</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>Mar.</u>	<u>1884</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>England</u>	<u>England</u>	<u>England</u>	<u>1868</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>Day Laborer</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	
<u>Wife</u>	<u>Wife</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>Mar.</u>	<u>1871</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>Pennsylvania</u>	<u>Pennsylvania</u>	<u>Pennsylvania</u>	<u>1842</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>Day Laborer</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	
<u>Wife</u>	<u>Wife</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>Mar.</u>	<u>1879</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>Pennsylvania</u>	<u>Pennsylvania</u>	<u>Pennsylvania</u>	<u>1858</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>Day Laborer</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	

US Census 1900

I did find an Ann PASSMORE of the right age, described as married and with a nine year old son, John and a six year old son, James, sailing on the *City of Richmond* on 20th May 1891 from Liverpool to New York. However, if this was Joseph's Annie, then she should have appeared in the 1891 census, since the ship sailed after the date of the 1891 census. She did not. Nor could I find her in the 1900 census in America. She just seems to have disappeared off the face of the earth. Interestingly, I could find no record of a birth for either John or James PASSMORE.

So, although I had had some success in tracing Joseph PASSMORE's movements, I could not entirely explain his absence for my cousin, John. Maybe we will make a crack in the brick wall sometime, but for the moment Joseph PASSMORE and his wife remain an enigma...

WEBSITE DEVELOPMENTS – THE MEMBERS’ AREA

Roland Bostock

The Society has for many years benefited from having submitted a large file of some 87,000 marriages to Find My Past, where subscribers can then make a search. The search fees bolster our income by about £450 per annum, a very useful income, while fulfilling one of our main objectives of promoting family history research for our area

Since I joined the Society in late 2011, I have worked with Projects Co-ordinator, Brian PAGE, in an ongoing project to create a file of Memorial Inscriptions from our area, and to get that in place with Find My Past, thus enabling family history researchers across the world to read what is actually written on the gravestones of those they may be researching, and hopefully to add to the income that we make from sharing our data with Find My Past.

Two other threads to this story are that I took over the webmaster role from Richard CHAPMAN in January 2015, and I took over the care and safe-keeping of our last remaining Society laptop from Richard in December 2015. This is mostly used at Family History Fairs, where we provide the facility for our databases to be interrogated by members and non-members.

The databases consisted of a surname index database, which showed how often the surname occurred in each of five specific databases, and the five searchable databases. Brian PAGE advised that what he would most like to see improved on the laptop was being able to integrate the general search with the particular searches.

I could see that one way of achieving this would be to use the same web technology on the laptop as we use on our website. These databases could then also be copied to our website, so that now our members could access them too. So our Society laptop can now be taken to Family History Fairs, where it runs a local version of our website, while Society members can benefit from accessing the same databases through the new Members’ Area. Now let me tell you what is in the Members’ Area.

The Initial Pages

The first page presented, if you enter via the Home page quick link, provides general information for each of the indexes and a means of navigation to the separate pages. First time users will then be likely to go to the West Middlesex Indexes page where you can enter your surname of interest and you immediately get counts for that surname in each of the five indexes. This is also as far as you are allowed to go without providing the password as given to you through this Journal.

The five separate indexes can also be searched directly from this page by using the appropriate 'Detail...' button.

The Baptisms Index

The surname is carried forward from a general search, so the page is presented with the search already complete. The right hand column will show, 'Select...' or 'More...' according to whether all the available data on the baptism is seen on the initial search. So, if you see 'More...' you should select it and you will find that some further data is now shown to you.

Back on the Baptisms Search page, near the top, you will see that you are invited to see some detail of the range of baptisms included. The list of parishes is somewhat miscellaneous, including some lesser known churches, as well as the more familiar. Most of the records may also be available from other sources, free with FamilySearch, or by subscription to Find My Past or Ancestry, but I suspect some are unique due to the efforts of past transcribers from our society. Further, those extra details such as abode, occupation and date of birth, may not be available from alternate sources.

The Marriage Index

This has the same look and feel as Baptisms but when you search on a surname here you will get back a list containing the surname as either husband or wife. The index is exactly the same as is held in our name on Find My Past, with a few important additions. Find My Past does not have the extra information as given when you see the 'More...' indicator. This information is economic on the transcription but it can be really significant. For example a 'w' means 'widow or 'widower', which can be significant to know.

On selecting the Contents page you may notice here a few parishes which are outside our area, such as Islington. I do not know how that happened but we might as well keep the transcriptions. They are on Find My Past as well. The only 'Parish' we have that is not on Find My Past is *Gentleman's Magazine*. It looks like our transcribers visited the Society of Genealogists and started transcribing details of marriages that they found in this well-known magazine.

The Burials Index

For burials, it is a similar story. In this case, three quarters of the burials come from just two parishes, Hammersmith and Isleworth.

Memorial Inscriptions

Memorial Inscriptions (MIs) is the only active dataset at present, in the sense that transcribing is current and ongoing and several additional churches have been added to the dataset this year. While our first tranche of MIs can now be seen on Find My Past, our website is always the first to have the data added. Find My Past has the MIs for nine of our churches; the website now has MIs for

21. It is work in progress to get the 12 extra churches added to our Find My Past dataset.

The Protestations Returns

There is a very adequate document explaining what the Protestations Returns are on the Protestations Returns Search page. This was another piece of transcribing done by our volunteers who visited the Library in the Houses of Parliament a long while ago. I believe there is not an equivalent search facility for this one.

The Logging Facility

The ability to log records was added following discussion of what would be helpful to our representatives at Family History Fairs. It is quite extensive and is best investigated from the Logging page that is the bottom option within Members on the Navigation Bar. From there you can start/clear the log, view it and print it. Writing records to the log is an option on all the search and details pages already mentioned.

About the Password

You will see elsewhere in this Journal the passwords that must be used to see detailed data in the Members Area. The password is changed each quarter. Once entered correctly it is stored in a cookie on your computer so that you should not have to enter it again until the next quarter requires a new password.

So what next?

We do have further plans for the Members' Area. We are in negotiation at present with Find My Past, through the Federation of Family History Societies, to obtain some useful discounts for members who take out subscriptions with Find My Past. Once the negotiations are complete discounts will be available by quoting the relevant 'Promotion code', so our Members' Area will be the natural place to pass on this information, although it will also be highlighted in the Journal.

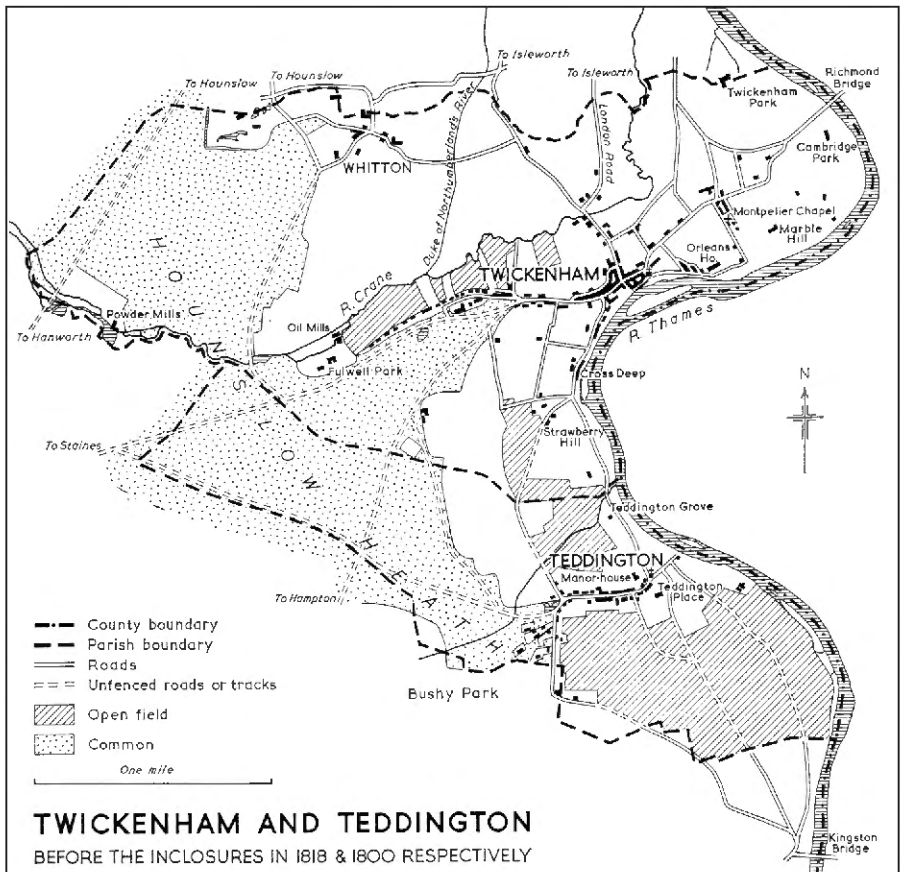
If you get an 'error' page

Wherever you are on the website it is possible you will encounter an error but this does occur more frequently within the Members' Area for two main reasons. If I have to refresh the databases with updated information when you are trying to search the same database, I get priority.

Another reason is that I have carried forward information between pages (eg the surname) using a variable that times out after 24 hours. The remedy for you is to go back to the Home page and try again, or conceivably close your browser session and restart. The problem will go away, but if you find things that are really a nuisance, do please email me: webmaster@west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk

For the first thousand years of its existence, it is difficult to separate the history of Whitton, which was a hamlet on the north-eastern corner of the parish of Twickenham, from its larger neighbour. Although it may have existed as a separate locale in the 8th century, it was not named in any document before the latter part of the 12th century. Situated on the edge of Hounslow Heath, it was merely a collection of several groups of cottages, together with a few larger houses. In 1664 it contained 29 houses that were exempt from the Hearth Tax. It was known to have its own parish officer in 1745 but was not separated from Twickenham until the establishment of its own church, St. Philip and St. James, which was built in 1862.

The Elizabethan and Jacobean courtier, Sir John SUCKLING, was known to



have built a house in the area now known as Murray Park (his son, another John, was born in Whitton in 1609). He later built a grander house on land which now borders on Warren Road.

The most prominent resident must be the court painter, Sir Godfrey KNELLER (1646-1723), who bought the house which had been built by Edmund COOKE, near the centre of the village. He constructed a new house on the estate, now known as Kneller Hall; several modifications were made by subsequent owners before it was purchased by the state in 1874. By this time the original part of the house had become unsafe and was demolished and two new wings were built.



Sir Godfrey Kneller



Kneller Hall

Initially Kneller Hall was used by the Government as a teachers' training college which opened in 1850. Its graduates were supposed to teach pauper and delinquent boys in specially built local schools. Due to political and religious wrangling these district schools never materialised and so the teaching condition was transferred to workhouses. This stipulation made it difficult to attract students

and the college was closed in 1856. It was then taken over by the War Office and was opened in 1857 as a school for army bandsmen and eventually became the Royal Military School of Music, which role it continues to hold today, although for a time after World War Two, it was used as a hospital and convalescent home for wounded servicemen.

Another land-owner was the 3rd Duke of Argyll, who in 1722 built Whitton Park on land that had been enclosed from Hounslow Heath. An enthusiastic gardener, the Duke planted many exotic plants and trees. On inheriting the estate in 1761, the 3rd Duke of Bute moved many of



Whitton Park in 1757

these to the garden of the Princess of Wales at Kew – which eventually became Kew Gardens. Whitton Park was described in 1909 as being fringed with small houses but “with its fences broken down, its many oaks and fine cedars

apparently doomed to early destruction,” and already boards announced that the land was “ready for development.”

The White Hart was the oldest pub in the hamlet and was established at least by the 17th century, when a document states that it provided three beds and had stabling for ten horses, so perhaps it was not quite such a sleepy place as the absence of other documentation might suggest. By the end of the 19th century the main occupation was market gardening and it was known for its apples, plums and pears and, grown under glass, were tomatoes and cucumbers.



Whitton Park in the 20th century

Some early terraced Victorian cottages still exist but much of the present housing in Whitton is of Edwardian and later 20th century construction. Whitton Park was developed in the early part of the 20th century and following the opening of Whitton railway station in 1931, the Argyll estate and the market gardens were replaced with more new housing. New shops were built and one end of Percy Road was renamed as Whitton High Street.

In 1936 a Ritz Cinema, designed by Major W.J.KING in the art deco style, was opened – it eventually became The Odeon but was closed in 1960.

A Church of England elementary school had been opened in the grounds of Kneller Hall in 1851 and Nelson Road Primary School was established in 1911: it was soon joined by Bishop Perrin C of E School, Heathfield Primary School and St. Edmund’s RC Primary School. The co-education Kneller Secondary Modern School opened in 1936, the boys moving out in 1959 to the Whitton Secondary School. It eventually became a Girls’ Comprehensive school but was closed in 1978 when the girls moved to Waldegrave School for Girls, located in the former Thames Valley Grammar School in Twickenham.



The Ritz Cinema

The first church, St. Philip and St. James, was built on land donated by the GOSTLING family in 1862 – they owned part of the former estate of the Duke of Argyll. A non-conformist Gospel Hall had been built in 1881 but it was

replaced in 1935 by the Whitton Baptist Church. Whitton Methodist Church was established in Percy Road at the time of the development of housing in the 1930s. St. Augustine of Canterbury C of E Church was opened in 1958. The first Catholic church of St. Edmund of Canterbury was built in 1935; the new church was dedicated in 1972.

Whitton is a thriving London suburb, which has passed from Isleworth Hundred to Twickenham parish, Twickenham Borough Council and is now part of the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames. With around 100 shops, it is one of the largest towns in the Borough, only smaller than Twickenham itself and Richmond.



St. Philip and St. James



Whitton Baptist Church



St. Augustine of Canterbury



Whitton Methodist Church



St. Edmund of Canterbury

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Henry Bennet

Within the area covered by the Society there is a surprising number of place names that begin with the letter “H”, thus we have Hammersmith, Hampton, Hampton Hill, Hampton Wick, Hanwell, Hanworth, Harlington, Harmondsworth, Hatton, Hayes, Heathrow, Heston, Hillingdon and Hounslow. This can have unfortunate consequences for those who fail to aspirate the first letter of the name of the place where they live; perhaps none more so than in the case of Henry BENNET.

His family owned the manors of Dawley and Harlington from 1607 to 1724 and lived in the manor house at Dawley. The best known member of the family is Henry (1618-1685) who was in fact born at Saxham in Suffolk in 1618.

However, as a boy he lived in Harlington with his father and elder brother John, and numerous authorities record him as having been born at Dawley, which is in the parish of Harlington. Thus Samuel PEPYS, on his return from a visit to Swakeleys at Ickenham on 7th September 1665, in company with a Mr. POVY, records in his diary, "A most pleasant journey we had back. He (POVY) showed me my Lord Arlington's house that he was born in in a towne called Harlington."



*Dawley House, Harlington in the late 18C**

On the restoration of the monarchy in 1660 Henry BENNET entered politics and was created Lord Arlington in 1663, and Earl of Arlington in 1672. For his title he had fully intended to take the name of the parish where he had lived in his youth, but presumably, like so many modern-day locals, he failed to aspirate the first letter and so became Arlington. Despite his objections, the College of Heralds refused to change the title from Arlington back to what he intended. He owned land in Mayfair and in Virginia and gave his name to Arlington Street and to what was to become the Arlington National Cemetery in Washington. But for his sloppy pronunciation these would both be called Harlington.

*This depiction of the Dawley estate was drawn by L. KNYFF at the time that Charles BENNET (Henry's nephew) was in residence. In 1724 Charles sold Dawley to Henry St. JOHN, Viscount Bolingbroke, who completely re-modelled the house. The house later became the property of the Earl of Uxbridge and it was demolished in the late 18th century. All that now remains as a reminder is the boundary wall of the estate that runs for about one mile on the western side of Dawley Road.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the West Middlesex Family History Society, held at Montague Hall, Hounslow, on the 17th March, 2016.

1. Welcome by the Chairman

Good evening and welcome to the Annual General Meeting of the West Middlesex Family History Society. Thank you for attending. We aim to get through the official business as quickly as possible so that we can enjoy tonight's talk. I would just like to remind you that when we take votes, if you have not paid your subscription for the year, you will not be entitled to vote.

As there are more than 20 members present the meeting is quorate.

2. Apologies for Absence

Claudette Durham, Betty Elliott, Yvonne Masson.

3. Minutes of the AGM held on 19th March 2015

These were published in the Society's Journal of June 2015. Is it agreed that they can be signed as a true record of that meeting?

Proposed: Rob Purr. Seconded: Maggie Mold. Carried.

4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

5. Chairman's Report

(a) Muriel Sprott

Let us make no bones about it – 2015 started with your Committee feeling very gloomy. Pam Smith had served her six years as Chairman and had to stand down. At every AGM since 2010, requests for more support had fallen on deaf ears. So, too, in 2015. The silence that followed our request for more support was deafening. A hard-hitting – we thought – article in the March Journal also made no impact.

Indeed, we had even decided not to insure our assets, as the cost of the insurance exceeded their book value. If anything had been destroyed, lost or stolen it would have been a blessing!

After the depressing AGM, the four of us who were left on the committee thought long and hard about the future. As Kay Dudman, bless her, had booked speakers for the year, and as we had funds to pay them and the hall hire, we knew we could continue until the end of 2015.

Then a ray of light appeared in the shape of Roland Bostock. Roland took over as Webmaster, slowly at first, but gradually with more dynamism. Our website is now a real treasure trove. Do have a look

Sadly, one swallow does not make a summer; we tried registering with local volunteer bureaux to try and find committee members, but discovered that just about every voluntary organisation was chasing the same shrinking pool of volunteers.

We then had another cheering event. Pat Candler offered to have a chat with Betty Elliott about taking over the job of Membership Secretary. I am delighted to say that Pat has now taken over and is coping admirably. Thank you Pat.

In order to fulfil our Charitable obligation to disseminate knowledge about family history, we attended Buckinghamshire Family History Society Open Day. Thank you to Pam and Brian Smith for attending that event with us. Interestingly, although it was a good day, attendances were down on the previous year, which in turn had been down on the year before.

In the background, however, we remained despondent. Despite the fact that every month you were looking at a poster showing the "Countdown to Closure", no offers of help were forthcoming. We looked seriously at the possibility of having to wind up and even sought help from the Federation of Family History Societies for advice on how to go about this. Dear Roland did his best to keep our spirits up, but the rest of you did not help him to help us!

In October we held our Extraordinary General Meeting, explaining why we felt the need to close the Society and making a last-ditch appeal for help. And, wow! What an evening that turned out to be! Our speaker for the evening, Kirsty Gray, offered to take over as our Chairman, an offer which was welcomed with open arms and hearts.

(b) Kirsty Gray

Our dear friend Brian Page offered to become Vice-Chairman and Roland has overcome his dislike of committees to become Secretary. Pat has joined the committee as well as being Membership Secretary, and this group was joined by Kay Dudman, Ann Greene, Yvonne Masson and Joan Scrivener, who all bring a wealth of experience and knowledge with them. Thank you all.

We rounded off the year by attending the West Surrey Family History Society Fair at Woking. Once again, thanks to Pam and Brian for joining us. And then ... the grand finale ... our Christmas Party. Thanks to the quizzes supplied by Betty and Kirsty, people actually spoke to each other! The excellent food and drink organised by Pam also helped with the party atmosphere. We have had lots of compliments about the party, so must have done something right.

WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 291906

Balance Sheet as at

	31 DECEMBER 2015			31 DECEMBER 2014		
	Cost or Value at 30/09/1994	Total Accumulated Depreciation	Value at 31/12/2015	Cost or Value at 30/09/1994	Total Accumulated Depreciation	Value at 31/12/2014
1881 Census Index	1087	1082	5	1087	1081	6
Projector Stand - scrapped	1	1	0	1	0	1
Times Divorce Index	11	10	1	11	10	1
Boxes & Display Shelves	31	30	1	31	30	1
Hamondsworth Manor Rolls	348	0	348	348	0	348
Exhibition Display Boards	324	321	3	324	320	4
Lectern - Bought 2002	400	394	6	400	392	8
LapTop Computer Bought 2002 - scrapped	1482	1482	0	1482	1460	22
Overhead Projector - Bought 2005	352	343	9	352	340	12
Amplification System - Bought 2006	235	220	15	235	215	20
Power Point Projector - Bought 2006	428	404	24	428	396	32
LapTop Computer Bought 2007 - scrapped	795	795	0	795	731	64
Viewing monitor for laptop B/t 2007	170	155	15	170	150	20
Display Stands & Table Cloths B/t 2008	1409	1282	127	1409	1240	169
LapTop Computer Bought 2011	915	687	228	915	611	304
	<u>7988</u>	<u>7206</u>	<u>782</u>	<u>7988</u>	<u>6976</u>	<u>1012</u>
 CURRENT ASSETS						
Stocks: Books		890			960	
Ordnance Survey Maps		<u>425</u>			<u>425</u>	
			1315			1385
Expenses paid in advance: 2015/2014			35			225
Cash at Bank & In Hand						
COIF Account		11503			11451	
Current Account- CAF BANK		-249			1000	
Deposit Account-CAF BANK		1523			1287	
Cash		<u>51</u>			<u>97</u>	
			<u>12828</u>			<u>13835</u>
Total assets			14960			16457
 CURRENT LIABILITIES						
Subscriptions In Advance		<u>372</u>	<u>372</u>		<u>1224</u>	<u>1224</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>£14588</u>			<u>£15233</u>
 ACCUMULATED FUNDS						
Balance Brought Forward			15233			17399
Deficit for Year			<u>-645</u>			<u>-2166</u>
			<u>£14588</u>			<u>£15233</u>

Muriel Sprott
Treasurer

Kirsty Gray
Chairman

WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 291906

Receipts and Payments Account year to 31 December 2015

	Year to 31 December 2015	Year to 31 December 2014
MEMBERS' SERVICES INCOME		
Subscriptions received for current year	1618	3047
Subscriptions received in advance last year	<u>1224</u>	<u>132</u>
	2842	3179
Bank Interest	56	53
Tax refund on Gift Aid	<u>716</u>	<u>552</u>
	3614	3784
 LESS: EXPENDITURE		
Journal production & delivery	2457	2683
Hire of meeting hall	1080	921
Speakers	<u>497</u>	<u>846</u>
	<u>4034</u>	<u>4450</u>
	-420	-666
 OTHER INCOME		
Bookstall sales	482	1055
plus/minus Stock variation	-70	-915
less Purchases	<u>-55</u>	<u>-551</u>
Donations	53	116
Marriage index searches	433	474
Other research income	26	41
Raffles	240	200
Refreshments	<u>42</u>	<u>1</u>
	<u>1151</u>	<u>421</u>
	731	-245
 OVERHEAD EXPENSES		
FFHS Subscriptions	105	109
FFHS Insurance & services	<u>0</u>	<u>187</u>
FFHS fees	7	7
Equipment repairs & maintenance	190	0
Honoraria & gifts	52	108
Library purchases	79	0
Postage, stationery & telephone	157	364
Printing of Leaflets, Posters & Flyers	0	73
Publicity, including attendance at open days	321	636
Sundry expenses	172	154
Travel & subsistence	63	64
Disposal of assets	87	0
Depreciation	<u>143</u>	<u>219</u>
	<u>1376</u>	<u>1921</u>
 Deficit for year	 <u><u>-645</u></u>	 <u><u>-2166</u></u>

It is great to know that we start 2016 with a full complement of Committee members, but ... as usual, there is a sting in the tail. Tea and coffee at meetings – they are no longer available because no-one is willing to make the drinks. Could you do it? Rustle up a rota with your friends and you would only need to do the work every few months.

Then, in alphabetical order – Kay Dudman. We owe Kay a huge “Thank You” for booking our speakers for so many years, but she has now resigned from the committee, so someone else needs to take over. Someone must have some ideas and be willing to do this vital job for us? We would pass on any ideas we have which may help.

Claudette Durham, who stayed with us through the last few difficult years has, sadly, decided that she is no longer well enough to continue on the committee. Claudette, your cheery nature helped us when times were tough; we will be sorry to lose you and wish you all the best for the future.

Betty Elliott has served her six years as membership secretary and has also moved house. Thank you Betty for all your work over the years and we hope to see you when the evenings get lighter.

Yvonne Masson has been writing summaries of the talks for our Journal for more years than we can count. Sometimes I listen to a talk and wonder how anything coherent is going to come out of it, but between them, Yvonne and Bridget produce excellent summaries. Yvonne, too, would like a break please.

Please do not look at your feet. Look up, smile and tell me which of these jobs you can take on. Let us make 2016 a New Year with new enthusiasm from everyone. Thank you.

6. Treasurer’s Report

Muriel Spratt reported as follows:

The accounts for the year are on your chairs. These have been approved by the committee and examined by Paul Kershaw. Thank you, Paul, for continuing to do this necessary job for us.

I cannot, and would not wish to go through every line as I hope the accounts are mostly self-explanatory. However, some queries were raised by the committee and it is worth running through these, as you may also have the same questions.

Last year we were all puzzled by the apparent loss on the bookstall, but Paul was asked to check this in his examination and he found no errors. This year, due to uncertainty about whether we had a future, virtually no books were purchased. Valerie Walker kindly gave us a lot of books to sell, which generated income at no cost to us. Thank you, Valerie.

Your committee considered last year that the cost of insuring our assets is more than their value to us. This year we have again not renewed this insurance. However, please be reassured that we do have Public Liability Insurance through our Federation of Family History Societies' affiliation fee.

Our visits to Open Days included attendance at Buckinghamshire FHS Open Day in Aylesbury in July and West Surrey at Woking in the autumn. We also attended the West London Local History Conference and the Brentford Library event. We do a lot of listening and talking, giving out copies of our leaflets, and offering advice.

We have noticed that attendance at Family History Fairs seems to be decreasing year on year. However, we have already attended Dorset FHS Open Day at Poole and have plans for attendance at other events. This helps us to achieve our charitable objective of public benefit by offering information and advice to members of the public.

The 'sundry expenses' covers the cost of refreshments at our Christmas social. As this was so well received last year, we decided to continue the practice of funding the costs from the Society's resources.

Having a quick look at our Balance Sheet, you will see that we have disposed of two old computers and a broken display stand. The stock of books and maps is reducing, although Margaret may have to buy more books this year.

Our bank balances still look remarkably healthy, but our reserves have been eroded every year for the past five or six years. Now, with our future looking more certain, we need to think about building up our reserves again. Your committee therefore proposes that the subscription be raised to £15 a year, to take effect from 1st January 2017.

With thanks to everyone who has helped us during the past year, that concludes my report. If anyone has any questions I will do my best to answer them.

Chris Hern asked what difference the additional £3 membership fee would make to our financial position. Roland responded that with approximately 250 paying members, the additional income would be about £750, plus further Gift Aid on this amount.

7. Receiving Financial Statements for year to 31st December 2015.

The committee recommends their acceptance by you, the members.

To accept the accounts:

Proposed: Bridget Purr. Seconded: Wendy Mott. Carried unanimously.

8. Raising of the Annual Subscription

That the annual subscription be raised to £15 per annum, commencing 2017.

Proposed: Roland Bostock. Seconded: Gabriel Fazi. Carried.

9. The Role of Independent Examiner

Paul Kershaw has served as our Independent Examiner for many years, ever since he resigned as Treasurer: he has always worked hard for the Society and we are extremely grateful for his dedication but he is now stepping down from this role. Our constitution requires that our accounts be examined at least once a year by one or more independent examiners. If anyone is able to take on this role, please make themselves known to me. Otherwise, we shall have to consider looking for an examiner from outside the Society.

10. Election of Committee

Betty Elliott is standing down, having served her full six years. Claudette Durham is unable to continue for health reasons. We thank them both for all the work they have done for the Society over the years.

Margaret Cunnew and Muriel Sprott have served more than three years on the committee and being willing to continue, offer themselves for re-election.

Proposed: Wendy Mott. Seconded: Joan Storkey. Carried unanimously.

The following people were co-opted on to the Committee at the EGM in October and their positions now need to be confirmed at this AGM:

Roland Bostock, Pat Candler, Kirsty Gray, Ann Greene, Yvonne Masson, Brian Page and Joan Scrivener.

Proposed: Rob Purr. Seconded: Pam Smith. Carried unanimously.

11. Any Other Business

(a) Presentations

On behalf of the Society, it was noted that a plant has been sent to Betty Elliott and flowers to Claudette Durham, as thanks for their work on the committee.

The Chairman was then delighted to note the award of Honorary Membership to Janice and Paul Kershaw, and to Muriel Sprott. Muriel was presented with her certificate to mark the honour. Paul Kershaw received his certificate at the end of the meeting.

This was followed by Kirsty advising members that the committee had unanimously voted that the Society should appoint its own President, and that Rob and Bridget Purr had been chosen as the ideal couple to be our Joint Presidents. Kirsty then presented a Certificate of Joint Presidency to the Purrs. Photographs were taken of these presentations.

Rob Purr, on behalf of himself and Bridget, thanked Kirsty profusely for the appointment, and gave his perspective of the responsibilities which were attached to this role. With tongue in cheek he saw his role as to open future AGMs, which once opened he could then hand over to the Chairman to run the

meeting. Rob also thanked the Committee for its work during 2015, which was agreed unanimously.

(b) Renewing subscriptions online

Roland wanted to test members' reaction if the Society were to give them the option of renewing their subscriptions online – for example by extending the GENfair subscription option to UK (and EU) members. From a show of hands there was clearly member interest in such a proposal.

(c) A new process to nominate Honorary Members

Kirsty told members that she was keen to involve members to a greater degree in the process of making future Honorary Membership awards. She was working on a process where members would be able to nominate members who deserved the honour. The process would be outlined in the Journal later on this year.

The official business of the AGM closed at 8.20pm, with thanks to all who had attended.

There was then a short break for refreshments, after which Andrea Cameron was welcomed for her talk on Osterley House and its Families.



*Some members of our committee at the AGM
l. to r. Brian Page, Joan Scrivener, Muriel Sprott, Kirsty Gray, Roland Bostock,
Margaret Cunnew, Pat Candler and Ann Greene*

MacDonald Gill – Maps, Memorials and Murals: *Caroline Walker*. January. At the start of her beautifully illustrated talk, Caroline explained that she is a great-niece of MacDonald GILL (1884-1947), a well-known and highly respected artist and designer during the first half of the 20th century.

MacDonald, or ‘Max’ was the brother of the more well-known Eric GILL, artist and sculptor who, amongst other works, created the sculpture that still adorns



MacDonald, ‘Max’ Gill

the front of Broadcasting House in London. Work that Max created with his brother is sometimes only attributed to Eric. MacDonald GILL is often confused with Donald McGILL, the creator of the ‘saucy’ post-cards one finds on sale at seaside resorts.

Max and Eric’s father was a non-conformist minister, their mother a professional singer and the family tended to be both artistic and musical. Max was

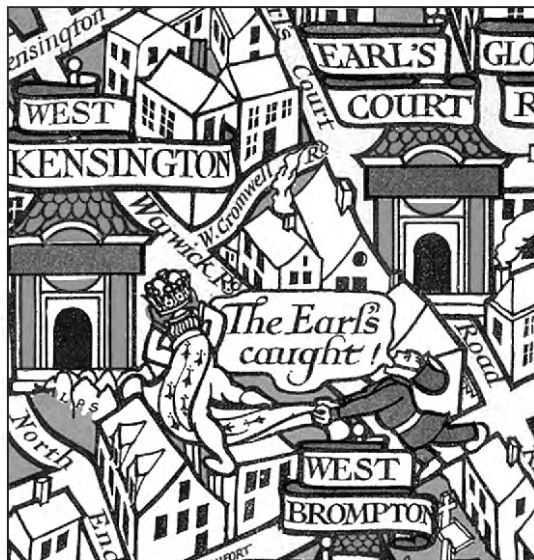
born in Brighton but in 1897 the family moved to Chichester, and later to Bognor. Initially he trained with a local architect in Bognor and then came to London in 1903, where he studied at the School for Arts and Crafts. Here Edward JOHNSTON was his tutor – the latter designed the famous London Underground roundel. Max and Eric shared a flat in Lincoln’s Inn and Caroline wondered how compatible they were as Max was quiet and reserved but Eric was an extrovert.

MacDonald GILL created an enormous body of work during his lifetime. He was an architect, mural painter, calligrapher, book illustrator, designer of furniture and creator of some of Britain’s most famous logos, for example that of the GPO. He also did work for private clients, for big stores such as Selfridges, Boots and W.H. Smith’s and even occasionally carried out work for the Royal Family. One work Max created for the private house of LUTYENS, the famous Arts and Crafts architect, was a ‘wind indicator’, a circular map with clock like hands which were attached, via a wire up a chimney flue, to a weather vane on the roof. The ‘clock’ hands below then showed the wind’s direction. There is still a working example of this type of device at Lindisfarne Castle.

In an alley off Windsor High Street there is a large mural map by Max, paid for by Jesse BOOT, the founder of Boots Store. There are large maps on either side of St. Stephens Porch, the public entrance to the House of Commons. He also created mural maps for both the *Queen Mary* and *Queen Elizabeth* liners and did the little paintings for LUTYENS' Queen Mary's Dolls House.

Some of his most well-known works were posters, one of which caused pandemonium on the streets of London: measuring 20 feet by 10 feet, it was put up on special hoardings and groups of people stopping to admire it caused traffic jams. Locally to Middlesex, painted ceilings by Max can still be seen in St. Anselm's Church in Hayes.

When he was a young man Max was much given to practical jokes and his sense of humour came out in his work in later years. He was commissioned to create various



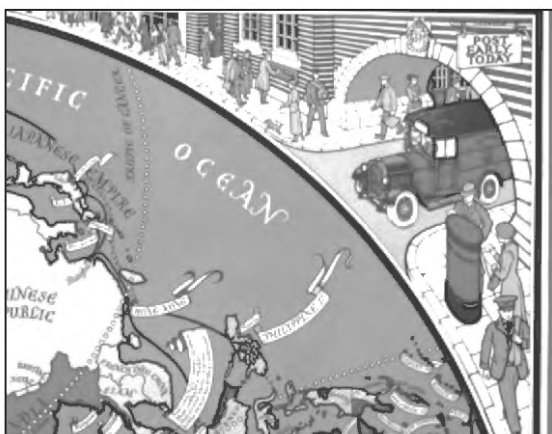
The Earl's caught!

maps, which he executed in his own unique style, particularly in his maps of London, where it was his custom to include comic depictions puns and plays on words: 'King's Cross' shows an irate monarch throwing his sceptre into the Thames, and that of Earls Court shows a policeman catching an earl. He also included well-known events such as a zeppelin, which passed over London, and the first aircraft to loop-the-loop.

As a meticulous calligrapher, the lettering on the maps was very important. Some maps were produced as propaganda supporting the British Empire, or depicting routes taken by record-breaking aviators, routes showing how cable messages were carried round the world for the GPO, or how tea was brought to Britain. These latter maps typically include exquisite little paintings of ships on the sea and animals and native people on land.

An important client was Frank PICK, the Managing Director of the London Underground, who commissioned Max to create posters aimed at encouraging people to travel by Tube and Max also created several schematic maps of the railway network. Some examples of this work can still be obtained on such

online sites as E-bay. A map produced for Frank PICK in 1939 was 'sent up' by *Punch* magazine because of the way the lettering had to be read round all four sides, showing one reader doing a cartwheel to read the bottom, upside down, lettering. Other commissions included designing book dust jackets and illustrations for such well-known authors as Eleanor FARJEON. One very important commission was designing the alphabet font and the regimental badges used on the Commonwealth War Graves British military headstones, and other memorials, such as the Menin Gate and the Cenotaph in London to the fallen of World War One.



GPO Steamship Routes

Sadly, much of his work was ephemeral – posters would be torn down and thrown away when no longer required and this caused MacDonald GILL to fade somewhat into obscurity after his death.



A book cover

As a member of the family, Caroline was able to include some personal details of Max's life. He married Muriel BENNETT in August 1915, and three children followed. However, he later had an extra-marital affair with his, by then grown-up goddaughter, Priscilla. He eventually left his wife to set up home with Priscilla at a flat in Chelsea and also a cottage in Sussex, where he worked on large projects in the tiny washhouse which became his studio. Priscilla acted as his painting assistant on a number of projects, including a map of Antarctica which was painted on to the underside of the dome of the Polar Museum in the Scott Polar Research Institute in Cambridge. As a perfectionist he was reputed to be a hard task master.

He and Priscilla were eventually able to marry in 1946 but in the following year he died of lung cancer. YM

Images: Caroline Walker

Murder and Mayhem on the Midland: *Judy and Chris Rouse*. February

Since 1999, Judy and Chris Rouse have been compiling an index of people who had any connection with the Midland Railway Company, which came into being in 1844 and whose lines, by the end of the nineteenth century, covered virtually the whole of Great Britain.

During this time they have indexed over 50,000 names, including 25,000 staff names. In their talk they showed how three very brief snippets of information uncovered during



Judy and Chris Rouse

their researches, could be turned into a full story by a little bit of extra research using various commonly available family history resources and, in each of the three cases, by a little bit of serendipity.

They went on to reveal that from the briefest initial information much more detail can be revealed. They highlighted railway occupations and wages, army records, court and criminal records, addresses, physical descriptions, family relationships, religious persuasions and much more, helping to bring the past to life – which others could do for their ancestors.

The three cases were very different as regards date, location and the social status of those involved, but they all demonstrated how we, as family historians, using just one small piece of information as a starting point, could amplify this to illustrate the social and economic lives of our nineteenth century ancestors.

The first story was called, *The Sad Case of Lady ZETLAND's Maid*.

This originated as a brief report to the Board of Trade, which concerned an accident on Wednesday, 8th December 1847, on the Midland Counties Line, in the early days of rail travel. It involved the wife of Lord ZETLAND and her maid, Emily JEFFS, whilst travelling in their own private carriage on the train. One point made was that the plight of Emily JEFFS, who remained largely

anonymous in early accounts, would probably never have come to light had it not been for the prominence and persistence of her employers. Many interesting facts came to light regarding the travelling practices of the well to do in the early days of railway travel, and also how the ignorance of the effects of travelling at speed put not only the lives of passengers at risk but also those of the railway employees.

The second story was an even sadder case but one for which Judy and Chris had been able to uncover the staff records and other information about many of the people involved.

Ralph THOMPSON, an Influenza Epidemic and its Aftermath.

Whilst indexing the records for Burton-upon-Trent staff, they found a reference to one member of staff having committed suicide in 1891, and used railway staff records, the census and provincial newspapers to create this case study.

Finally they uncovered the events leading to the most serious crime that they had found to date in the Midland Rail Staff ledgers.

A Midland Railway Murder – William THOMAS and the Murder of a Birmingham Coffee House Keeper.

Whilst transcribing the Birmingham and Saltley staff records of the Midland Railway for the period 1876-1908, they came across a reference to a murder committed by a member of staff and were able to reconstruct the events leading up to the murder, and the family backgrounds of both the murderer and his victim. This included the location of the murder, the military record of the runaway husband, the identity of another of the victim's admirers and the eventual fate of the murderer.

J&CR

Judy and Chris have created a website where family history researchers can find details of historical railway companies, where to look for records and can give advice.

www.wyvernrailwayancestors.com

Osterley House and its families: *Andrea Cameron.* March

Andrea started with a moment of reminiscence – she had been our first speaker after the Society was founded in 1978. Given the uncertainty we had faced last year, Andrea had feared that she might have the dubious honour of also being our last speaker. She is delighted that we can now look forward to a positive future.

In early mediaeval times, the first owner of an estate in the area we now know as Osterley, was John de OSTERLEE. Which name came first – that of the person or that of the estate? We simply do not know. Unlike its near neighbour, Syon House, which has been the home of the PERCY family for many generations, Osterley has had many owners over the centuries.



Osterley House

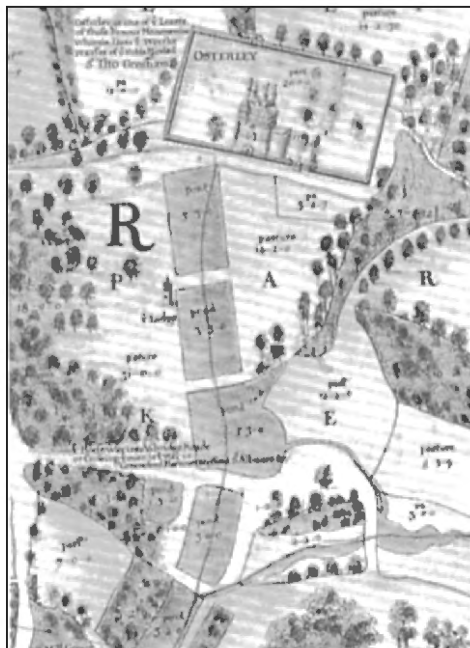
By 1570 Sir Thomas GRESHAM had acquired the estate. He had the present house built, although the impressive portico was added later. Queen Elizabeth I visited the house and was full of praise for it. Sir Thomas laid on lavish entertainments for the Queen, including a special masque. However, owners of neighbouring lands complained about Sir Thomas enclosing parcels of land to extend his estate. When Sir Thomas died he was buried in St. Helen's Bishopsgate, near his London home.

After Sir Thomas GRESHAM's death at Osterley in 1579, Osterley had a succession of owners. During the English Civil War, Sir Michael STANHOPE, a Royalist, and his family lived there, as did Sir William WALLER, a Parliamentarian, and then some families who were non-partisan.

After the restoration of Charles II, Nicholas BARBON lived at Osterley House. It was BARBON who pioneered The Insurance Office for Houses, later the Phoenix House, one of the first fire insurance companies. The idea for these insurance companies arose from his observation of the losses people suffered as a consequence of the Great Fire of London. BARBON died at Osterley in 1698.

In 1700 the estate was put up for sale and bought by Robert CHILD from a leading banking family. Their bank used the sign of the marigold and was based

in Fleet Street, near the Law Courts. The bank is now part of the Royal Bank of Scotland group. At the end of the 18th century, Robert CHILD died without issue and the estate passed to his brother.



Moses GLOVER's survey map of 1635 shows the position of Osterley House in the square at the top of the map.

The grounds were laid out in the style of Capability BROWN, but it is believed that it was not BROWN who actually did the work. William CHAMBERS had a temple built in the grounds which the family could use for taking tea.

The female members of the CHILD family seemed to be fond of eloping – one female eloped with the heir to the Earl of Westmoreland, and their daughter eloped with the heir to the Earl of Jersey. This marriage brought the house into the ownership of the Jersey family. The Earl of Jersey sold part of the estate in the 1880s to enable an extension to the London Underground to be built, on condition that he could have his own station at the end of his drive. The original Osterley and Spring Grove Station can still be seen, although the station building is now used as a bookshop. Osterley House continued to be passed through the Jersey family until the 20th century

After World War 2 the Earl of Jersey opened the house to the public, as he was living on the island of Jersey. The estate passed out of the family, with the

The CHILD family employed Robert ADAM to come and work on Osterley House at the same time as he worked on Syon House, owned by the PERCY family in Isleworth. It was ADAM who added the portico and the lake near the house. ADAM brought Roman remains back from his Grand Tour and used some of the artefacts in his designs, but there are more pieces at Syon than at Osterley. Robert ADAM commissioned a great deal of furniture from CHIPPENDALE, and paintings from different artists, including Angelica KAUFFMANN. Gobelin tapestries were made in Paris for the house. In the house is a long gallery, used mainly by the women for exercise (including walking their pet dogs) during inclement weather.

The grounds were laid out in the

National Trust (NT) being responsible for the grounds, the Ministry of Works responsible for the external fabric of the house and the internal fabric passing to the Victoria & Albert Museum (V&A). In the 1980s this unwieldy arrangement was brought to an end when the whole estate came under the control of the NT. However, the NT was only accepting properties which came to them with an adequate endowment for future maintenance, so the Government gave the NT a £4 million endowment.

The Earl of Jersey left most of the furniture in the house but took all, or nearly all, of the paintings. The current paintings in the house have been sourced from other NT properties. However, the furniture remains arranged as ADAM



*Sarah Sophia, Countess of Jersey
(1785-1867)*

Portrait by James Holmes

would have directed, e.g. all chairs to be placed with their backs to the wall, around the dining table only during a meal, and never in sociable arrangements.

In the 1940s it was possible to walk from Heston Church across fields to Osterley. Once the NT had responsibility the grounds were maintained by a small paid staff aided by volunteers. Now the ponds and a rose garden have all gone. Also in the 1940s a bed in the State Bedroom was refurbished by the V&A at a cost of around £40,000.

In the 1960s, land had been earmarked for the building of an exhibition centre but permission for construction was not granted. The Earl of Jersey and his developers then came back with a new plan, which was also refused planning permission. A third approach, using different developers, to build a shopping centre, was then advanced but again permission was refused. Finally, in about 1990, the Earl of Jersey sold most of his remaining lands to the NT and now it cannot be built on.

Today, the Elizabethan stable block houses a café but the interior of the house still shows Robert ADAM's influence. Andrea showed slides of several of the rooms, pointing out where this influence is still visible. MS

Images:

The National Trust
flickr.com

MISCELLANY

Conscription Exemption Appeals Finding Aid Launched

The Federation of Family History Societies (FFHS) is delighted to announce that, thanks to a joint project with The National Archives (TNA), a new finding aid is available for family historians. The WW1 Conscription Appeals Project has developed a resource to help locate applications made by people seeking an exemption from conscription into the Army during WW1.



Conscription became compulsory in Britain in 1916 for the first time ever, in response to the catastrophic casualty rate. Known as Military Service, initially only single men between 18 and 40 years old could be called up, unless they were widowed with children, or ministers of a religion. Military Service Tribunals were set up to consider claims for exemption, the majority of which were filed by employers of conscripted men.

The WW1 Conscription Appeals Project started when the FFHS, in partnership with the Friends of TNA, funded the digitisation of records of over 8,000 individuals in Middlesex who sought an exemption. The FFHS also surveyed repositories across England and Wales to find out if they had similar records. The results of the survey are now available on TNA's Discovery site as a finding aid, to commemorate the centenary of conscription in January 2016. The finding aid is available as a pdf download, so that it can be updated as other records come to light.

To search and browse the digitised Middlesex Military Service Appeal Tribunal 1916-1918 records, see the MH47 Middlesex Tribunal Collection page on TNA's website.

Free BMD, FreeCen and FreeReg

I am sure we have all used one or more of these databases at some time. Free UK Genealogy is proposing to license its databases to allow anyone, commercial or otherwise, to use the material in any way they wish, so long as they attribute the source. This would mean altering the transcriber agreement, so transcribers past and present are being consulted for their views. It will not alter in any way their existing websites.

TreeView

A new desktop software package has been introduced by the long-standing UK Company of S&N Genealogy Supplies. Compatible with both Windows and Mac it is designed to help researchers organise and present their family tree data. It synchronises with *thegenealogist.co.uk* and can be used in conjunction

with free TreeView apps for iOS and Android, enabling users to work between the online and offline versions of their family tree.

Copies of registration certificates.

The possibility of being able to access GRO birth, marriage and death certificates online is coming a step closer as public consultations have begun on the ramifications of each of the different models that are being discussed.

David Hey

Many of you will be saddened by the announcement of the death of David HEY. He was Emeritus Professor of Local and Family History at the University of Sheffield and published many books on family history. Indeed my first attempts to discover my own family history were guided by *The Oxford Guide to Family History*, which ran to several editions, and I have several more of his writings on my bookshelves.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Historical Diaries

I have various diaries of my parents and grandparents, and also quite an extensive one of my own and I have long worried about what would become of them when I died, since I have no children and no-one else in the family seems remotely interested. NOW I HAVE AN ANSWER TO THE DILEMMA! I won't any longer fear them being binned when I go ga-ga or when I die!

I discovered, as a result of a short broadcast I heard on Radio 4, the existence of the Great Diary Project (www.thegreatdiaryproject.co.uk) which undertakes to receive and preserve diaries in perpetuity. It has the great advantage of being run by the excellent Stefan DICKER, who has given talks to WMFHS on more than one occasion.

It will be certainly something I will investigate for my own purposes, but I am sending this to you in case others may be in the same position as I am. The organisation will even let you decide on how long you wish your diary to be 'closed' before it can be used for research purposes in the future.

Mike Pipe

Stockport or Southport?

I'm very pleased the WMFHS has survived – thanks to people like you. The March Journal is well presented and interesting. However, please don't apologise for the "error" on page 32 regarding Ian Waller's talk. It IS Stockport and not Southport. My father's family is the reason for my belonging to the Society, but my mother's family are all Lancashire and Cheshire, so Stockport, its hat making and textile trade is well known to us.

Judy Jones

WORLD WIDE WEB

A selection of new databases that have come online.

- ❑ New sets of data from Ancestry include: parish registers and Bishops Transcripts from Northamptonshire and Norfolk; Electoral Registers (1840-1962), Probate records (1521-1858) and Quarter Sessions (1637-1914), all from West Yorkshire; Catholic parish registers from Ireland; transcriptions of cemetery headstones from Sydney, Australia; copies of the *Police Gazette*, also known as *Hue and Cry* for 1812-1902 and 1921-1927.

www.ancestry.co.uk

- ❑ Deceased Online now includes records for Honor Oak Crematorium, South London and for Nottingham General Cemetery.

www.deceasedonline.com

- ❑ After 21 years and with the completion of the digitisation of the trade directories of the Channel Islands, David Foster has completed his UK trades directories project. It contains more than 1.16m names and over 7,000 settlements.

www.direct-resources.uk.com

- ❑ Find My Past has uploaded parish registers from Suffolk, Worcestershire and the Isle of Man, Baptisms from Middlesex, Phillimore Marriage Registers, 1531-1913 from 29 English Counties, M.Is from Lincolnshire, Manchester cremation records 1818-200, Catholic parish registers from Ireland; 250,000 more names have been added to the Greater London Burial Index and records from the Billion Graves Index of England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales, USA, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand; birth, marriage and death indexes from Western Australia and New Zealand and funeral records from Queensland, Australia; US marriage records from 26 States from 1650-2010; a new batch of records for Thames Watermen and Lightermen, split into five different databases; 1821 and 1831 censuses for London, Westminster & Marylebone; electoral records for Portsmouth.

NB. Good News! The Britain and World subscribers to Find My Past can now freely access the 1939 Register.

www.findmypast.co.uk

- ❑ Half a million records have now been transcribed by Forces War Records from the series WO417 at The National Archives, where personnel have

been listed as a “casualty”, i.e. either killed, wounded, missing or a prisoner of war.

www.forces-war-records.co.uk

- ❑ Tithe maps can be searched on The Genealogist website, covering 40 counties in England and Wales, which are linked to more than 14m. records; Norfolk parish registers; PoW records for WWII; there are also passenger lists for those arriving in New South Wales between 1828-1896 and they are offering a ‘family group’ tool to identify all kin on board the same ship.

www.thegenealogist.co.uk

- ❑ My Heritage has digitised thousands of free historical books, including city directories, school yearbooks and church congregational minutes; they can all be searched by keyword.

www.myheritage.com

- ❑ World War One diaries of 247 hospital camps, hospital ships, convalescent hospitals and veterinary hospital are now available on The National Archives website.

www.thenationalarchives.gov.uk

- ❑ 1930 Valuation Rolls with details of millions of Scottish people between the Wars are now available on Scotlands People.

www.scotlandsppeople.gov.uk

- ❑ The Original Record Company has released records of London Merchants 1767 and South African Officials in 1822.

www.theoriginalrecord.com

- ❑ Our Family Past is a new online service dedicated to sharing family history stories. Family historians can create their own online material that either can be made publicly available, or shared by invitation. A subscription-based service, but anyone can create up to 10 articles for free.

www.ourfamilypast.com



NEW MEMBERS

The Society welcomes all new members. The list below comprises those from whom surname interest forms had been received at the time this issue of the Journal was prepared. The interests themselves are listed below.

- D167 Mr. Paul DOUCH, 4 Marsh Lane, Somerleyton, Lowestoft, Suffolk,
NR32 5QX pauldouch@outlook.com
- E64 Mr. Joe EVANS, Krogvejen 46, 4281 Goerlev, Denmark.
joevans1968@gmail.com
- G152 Mrs. Julie GROOM, 4 Ballam Close, Upton, Poole, Dorset, BH16 5QT
jcbluke@talktalk.net
- H285 Mrs. P.J. HOPE, 21 Queens Road, Malvern, Worcestershire,
WR14 1RG pam.hope@talk21.com
- P162 Mrs. M. PARKINSON, Fy Yerrey, 16 Springfield Rise, Foxdale, Isle of
Man, IM4 3JX grannypledge@manx.net
-

SURNAME INTERESTS

The table below gives surname interests for the new members listed above. The format should be self-explanatory. Note that the Chapman County Codes are used in the 'Counties' column. 'ANY' or 'ALL' indicates that any date or any place is of interest. When writing, rather than emailing members about entries in this section, please remember to include an SAE. We would urge all those who receive enquires to reply even if there is no connection with your research.

<i>Surname</i>	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>County</i>	<i>Member</i>
BULLEN	1800-1950	Guildford area	SRY	H285
BULLEN	1900-2000	Hampton Wick	MDX	H285
COOMER	1800-1900	Fulham	MDX	E64
COOMER	1880-1970	Ashford	MDX	E64
DELL	1800-1861	Uxbridge	MDX	P162
GILLETT	1750-2000	Twickenham area	MDX	H285
GREENSLADE	1800-2000	Ilford Area	ESX	H285
GROOM	1900-2016	Ealing	MDX	G152
GROOM	1900-2016	Uxbridge	MDX	G152
HARRISON	1900-2016	Southall	MDX	G152
HOLDWAY	1750-1900	Hurstbourne Tarrant area	HAM	H285
HOLDWAY	1850-2000	Twickenham area	MDX	H285
HUNTINGFORD	1750-2000	Twickenham area	MDX	H285
LEVERATT	1890-1980	Ashford	MDX	E64
LEVERATT	1950-2016	Staines	MDX	E64

PIPER	1750-2000	Hurstbourne Tarrant area	HAM	H285
PIPER	1900-2000	Quebec area	Canada	H285
PIPER	1900-2000	Vancouver area	Canada	H285
ROBERSON	1848-1856	Uxbridge	MDX	P162
THOROGOOD	After 1865	Harrow area	MDX	D167
WOOLLARD	After 1880	Acton	MDX	D167
WRIGHT	1865-1880	Bow area	MDX	D167
WRIGHT	After 1880	Acton	MDX	D167

HELP!

L.M.K., Harlequin Avenue, Brentford

Janet Hobbs is asking whether any member has any information regarding L.M.K.? It later became Dawe Instruments Ltd, Harlequin Avenue, Great West Road, Brentford. Her father, John William Alfred LOVETT worked for L.M.K. as a Scientific Instrument Maker, which was a protected industry during the war. He continued to work for the company when Dawe Instruments took over. She can find no trace of what happened to the company.

If you have any information, please contact her on jwh21@hotmail.co.uk

Sarah ROBERSON, née DELL

Maureen Parkinson has been trying for some time to get information about her 3xgt. Grandmother, Sarah ROBERSON, who was the daughter of John and Sarah DELL of Uxbridge. When she was 18, Sarah had an illegitimate daughter, also called Sarah.

In 1848 Sarah married a widower, George ROBERSON and in 1851 she was living with him, his three children and 5 year old Sarah at the Railway Inn, 43 Vine Street, Uxbridge. George died in 1852 and then Sarah seems to have disappeared – Maureen has tried every avenue, to no avail.

In 1861 the young Sarah was living with her aunt and uncle in Leighton Buzzard and Maureen has a full family tree of her life but it is her mother that she is interested in: did she die; did she remarry? She has found a marriage between a Sarah ROBERSON and a Charles LAMBERT, but this does not seem to be the right one.

Sarah was 20 years younger than George, so she may have remarried. There is no registration at all of a death for a Sarah ROBERSON that matches, so where is she?

Maureen lives in the Isle of Man and if any member has an interest in that area, she would be more than happy to help out.

If you can help her at all, please contact her on katiebobbins@manx.net

INDEXES HELD BY MEMBERS

These indexes are intended as aids to research in the West Middlesex area. For Society members look-ups are free (please quote membership number), unless otherwise stated. For non-members there is a fee of £5. Please note that all enquirers must supply a SAE if a reply is required by post. If an email address is given, holders of the Index are happy to receive enquiries by email. Unless stated otherwise, cheques should be made payable to the holder of the index, not the WMFHS.

WEST MIDDLESEX FHS INDEXES

Roland Bostock. bostocr@blueyonder.co.uk

West Middlesex Monumental Inscriptions. Acton, Ashford, Cranford, Chiswick, Ealing, Feltham, Fulham (recorded 100 years ago), Hampton, Harlington, Hayes, Heston, Hillingdon, Hounslow (United Reformed), Norwood Green, Perivale, Staines, Teddington, Twickenham and Uxbridge.

Richard Chapman, Golden Manor, Darby Gardens, Sunbury-on-Thames, TW16 5JW chapmanrg@btinternet.com. Cheques to West Middlesex FHS.

Marriage Index. Pre 1837 marriages in West Middlesex with partial coverage elsewhere in the county. Please supply places/dates/surname variants if known.

West Middlesex Settlement Records. Chelsea, Ealing, Feltham, Friern Barnet, Fulham, Hammersmith, Hanwell, New Brentford, Staines, Uxbridge.

Mrs. Wendy Mott, 24 Addison Avenue, Hounslow, TW3 4AP. wendymott@btinternet.com

West Middlesex Strays. People from or born in our area, found in another area.

Mrs. Bridget Purr, 8 Sandleford Lane, Greenham, Thatcham, RG19 8XW bridgetpurr@waitrose.com

West Middlesex War Memorials. Substantial name-list material, consisting of public, churches', schools' and companies' memorials, etc. for WWI, WWII and earlier wars where they exist; list not yet complete; information on any other memorials you know of would be welcome. When making an enquiry please include any information on village or town where you might expect a name to be mentioned.

PARISH RECORDS

Mrs. Margaret Cunnew, 25 Selkirk Road, Twickenham, TW2 6PS

Chiswick Parish Registers, St. Nicholas. Baptisms, marriages, burials 1813-1901.

Chiswick, 1801 Census

Ealing Parish Registers, St. Mary. Baptisms 1779-1868, marriages 1797-1857, burials 1813-1868.

Hanwell Parish Registers, St. Mary. Baptisms, marriages, burials, 1813-1855.

New Brentford Parish Registers, St. Lawrence. Baptisms, marriages, burials, 1802-1837.

Old Brentford Parish Registers, St. George. Baptisms 1828-1881, marriages 1837-1881, burials 1828-1852.

Mrs. Wendy Mott, 24 Addison Avenue, Hounslow, TW3 4AP. wendymott@btinternet.com

Harmondsworth Parish Registers. Baptisms, marriages, burials, 1670-1837.

Mr. P. Sherwood, 5 Victoria Lane, Harlington, Middx, UB3 5EW psherwood@waitrose.com

Harlington Parish Registers. Baptisms, marriages, burials, 1540-1850.

Mrs. M. Sibley, 13 Blossom Way, West Drayton, Middx UB7 9HF mavikensib@aol.com
For more than 3 names, please write for an estimate of charge.

Hayes Parish Registers, St. Mary. Baptisms, marriages, burials, 1557-1840

Hillingdon Parish Registers. Baptisms 1559-1909, marriages 1559-1910, burials 1559-1948 (churchyard) and 1867-1903 (cemetery).

Isleworth Parish Registers, All Saints. Baptisms 1566-1919, marriages 1566-1927, burials 1566-1942.

Isleworth Register of Baptisms: Brentford Union Workhouse, Mission Church, Wesleyan Methodist Church, extracts from Register of Baptisms.

Ms. Carol Sweetland, 36 Diamedes Avenue, Stanwell, Staines, TW19 7JB.
carol.sweetland@btinternet.com

Stanwell Parish Registers. Baptisms 1632-1906, marriages 1632-1926, burials 1632-1906. Also available on FreeREG. Name database 1632-1906.

MISCELLANEOUS INDEXES

Mr. A. Rice, 46 Park Way, Feltham, TW14 9DJ. secretary@feltham-history.org.uk

Feltham Index. An expanding collection of transcripts and indexes relating to the parish of Feltham. Donations welcome, payable to Feltham History Group.

Mr. Paul Barnfield, 258 Hanworth Road, Hounslow, TW3 3TY
paulbarnfield@hotmail.co.uk

Hampton Wick. Records of this village collected over 40 years of research.

Mrs. M. Sibley, 13 Blossom Way, West Drayton, Middx, UB7 9HF mavikensib@aol.com

Newspaper Index. Births, marriages and deaths, court cases, accidents, etc. taken from local newspapers 1894-1925.

Mr. Brian Page, 121 Shenley Avenue, Ruislip, HA4 6BU. brian729@blueyonder.co.uk

1641-2 Protestation Returns of Middlesex. This has been indexed. You will secure a printout, which includes variants. Cheques made payable to West Middlesex FHS.

Miss Valerie Walker, 32 Cunnington Street, Chiswick, London, W4 5EN

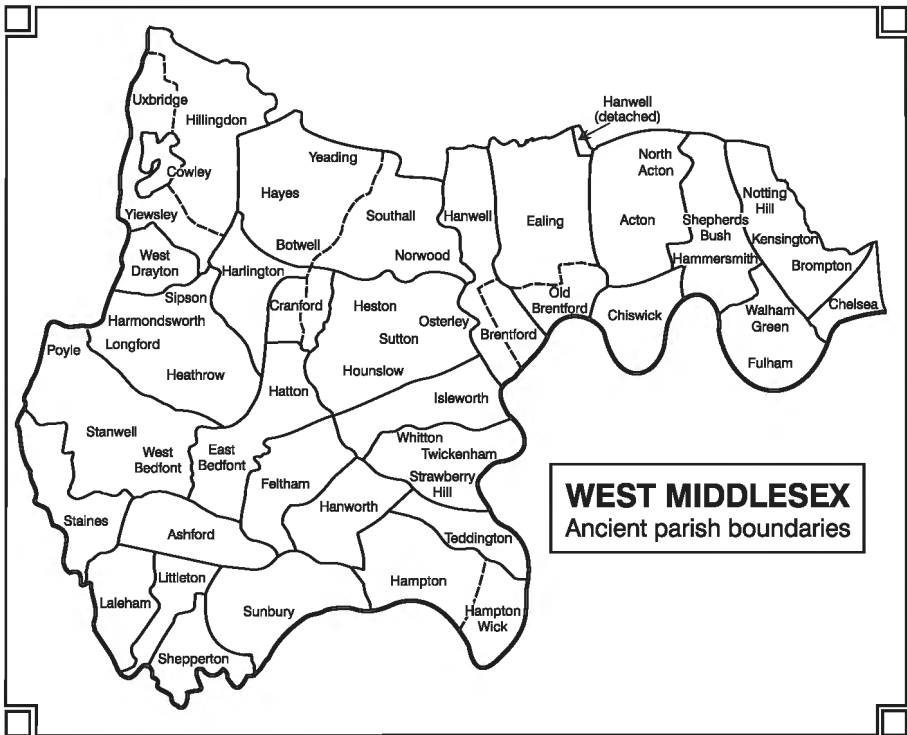
G.R.O. Certificates. A number of original GRO birth, marriage and death certificates have been kindly donated to the Society by members and are available for purchase at a cost of £3.50 per certificate. Please check on Society website for current list. Cheques should be made payable to West Middlesex FHS. Please include an sae.

Front Cover

Osterley House

Image: www.regencyhistory.net

Read the account by Andrea Cameron on page 30 of the Journal



West Middlesex Family History Society

Area of Interest

Acton, Ashford, East Bedfont, Chelsea, Chiswick, Cowley, Cranford, West Drayton, Ealing with Old Brentford, Feltham, Fulham, Hampton, Hanwell with New Brentford, Hanworth, Harlington, Harmondsworth, Hayes with Norwood, Hammersmith, Heston, Hillingdon, Hounslow, Isleworth, Kensington, Laleham, Littleton, Shepperton, Staines, Stanwell, Sunbury, Teddington, Twickenham and Uxbridge

If undelivered, please return to:

West Middlesex FHS
c/o Pat Candler, 57 The Vale, Feltham, Middlesex, TW14 0JZ