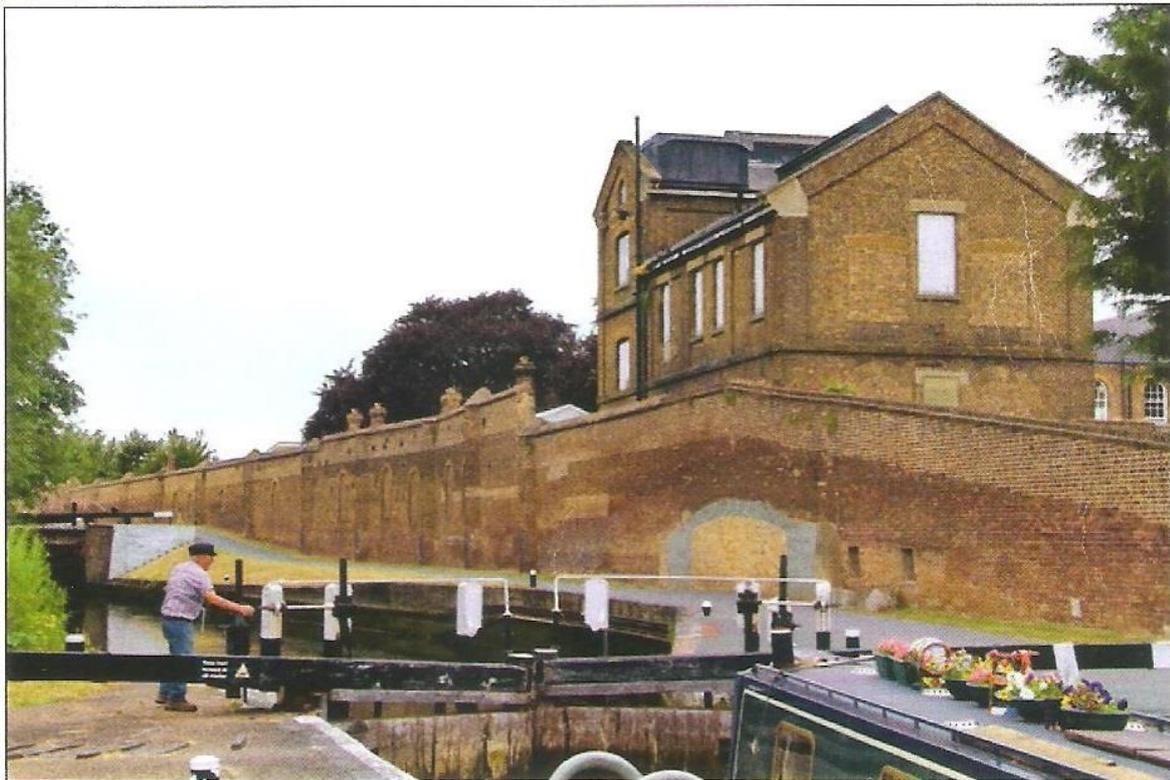




WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY JOURNAL

Vol. 34 No.1

March 2016



Grand Union Canal and Hanwell Asylum

WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Executive Committee

Chairman	Kirsty Gray 3 Wintergreen, Calne, Wiltshire, SN11 0RS <i>chairman@west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk</i>
Vice Chairman	Brian Page 121 Shenley Avenue, Ruislip, Middlesex, HA4 6BU
Secretary	Roland Bostock <i>secretary@west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk</i>
Treasurer	Muriel Sprott 1 Camellia Place, Whitton, Twickenham, Middlesex TW2 7HZ <i>treasurer@west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk</i>
Membership Secretary	Patricia Candler 57 The Vale, Feltham, Middlesex, TW14 0JZ <i>membership@west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk</i>
Bookstall Manager	Mrs. Margaret Cunnew 25 Selkirk Road, Twickenham, Middlesex TW2 6PS <i>bookstall@west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk</i>
Programme Co-ordinator	Mrs. Kay Dudman 119 Coldershaw Road, Ealing, London W13 9DU
Projects Co-ordinator	Brian Page
Society Archivist	Yvonne Masson
Webmaster	Roland Bostock <i>secretary@west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk</i>
Committee Members	Claudette Durham Ann Greene Joan Scrivener

Post Holders not on the Executive Committee

Editor	Mrs. Bridget Purr 8 Sandleford Lane, Greenham, Thatcham, Berks RG19 8XW <i>editor@west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk</i>
Examiner	Paul Kershaw
Society Web site	<i>www.west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk</i>
Subscriptions	All Categories: £12 per annum
Subscription year	1 January to 31 December

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.

Published by West Middlesex Family History Society
Registered Charity No. 291906

Contents

Annual General Meeting	3
Bookshelf	23
England Jurisdiction Maps	34
Family History Fairs	35
Future Meetings	2
Heathrow – the Lost Hamlet	6
Indexes Held by Members	36
Letter from the Editor	5
Miscellany	24
Monthly Talks	26
Our New Chairman	4
Recent Developments on our Website	17
She Was a Very Difficult Woman	20
Sod Houses or Soddies	16
The Elusive William John Hills	12
World Wide Web	32

© West Middlesex Family History Society and contributors 2016.

No part of this publication may be reproduced in any form or by any means without permission. Articles in this journal do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Editor and the Executive Committee. The Society cannot vouch for the accuracy of offers of services or goods that may appear.

All articles and other items for the Journal should be sent to:

Mrs. Bridget Purr
8 Sandleford Lane, Greenham
Thatcham
Berkshire, RG19 8XW

Exchange journals from other societies should be sent to:

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

Queries concerning non-delivery or faulty copies of this Journal should be sent to:

Patricia Candler
57 The Vale, Feltham, Middlesex TW14 0LZ

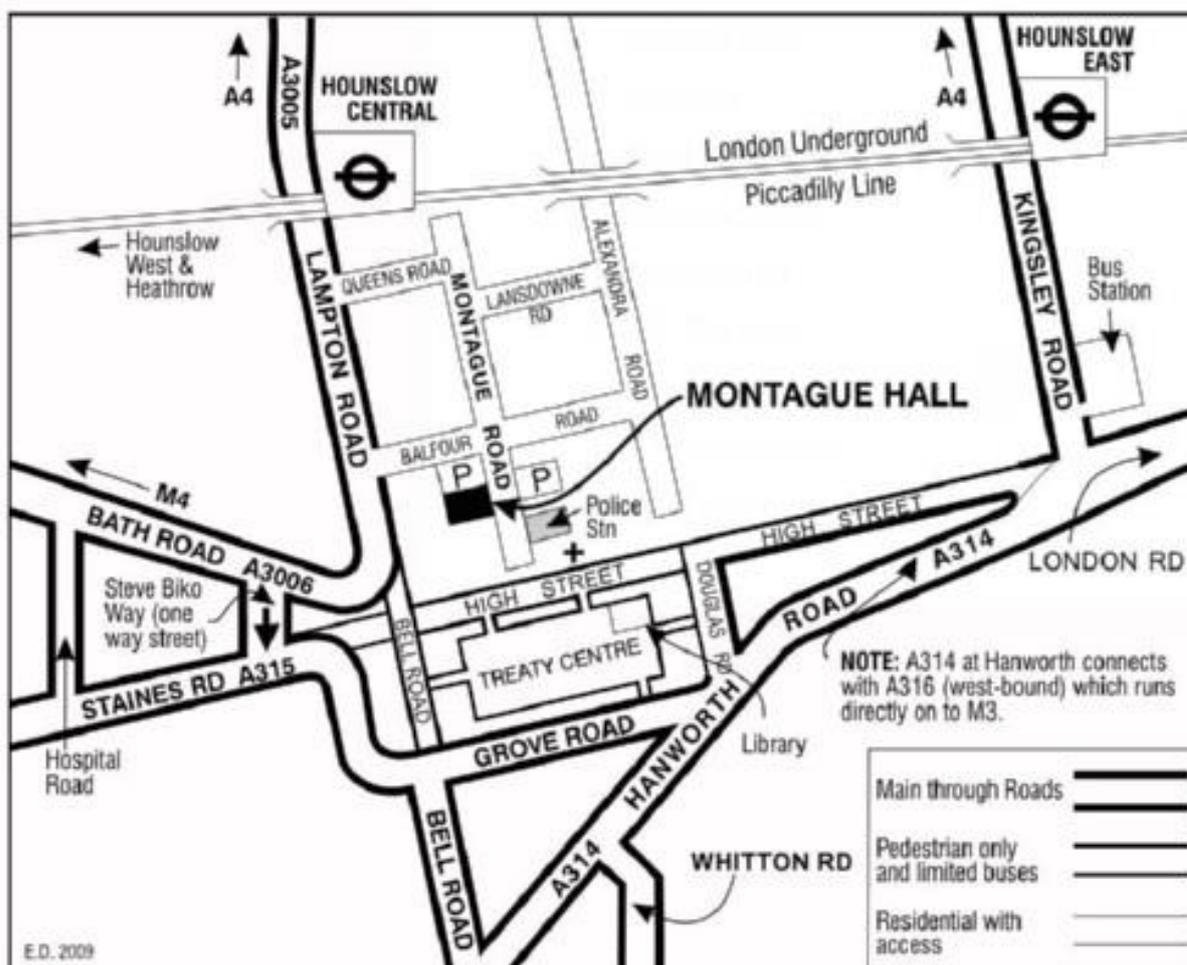
FUTURE MEETINGS

The following talks have been arranged:

- | | | |
|--------|---|---------------------|
| 17 Mar | AGM, plus Osterley House and its Families
<i>Cameron</i> | <i>Andrea</i> |
| 21 Apr | History of Education
<i>Davis</i> | <i>Antonia</i> |
| 19 May | Film Archives for the Family Historian | <i>Kathy Chuter</i> |
| 16 Jun | Putting on the Ritz - Fashion in the 1920s and 1930s | <i>Carol Harris</i> |

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.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



The Annual General Meeting
of the
West Middlesex Family History Society
will be held on
Thursday, 17th March, 2016
at Montague Hall, Montague Road, Hounslow

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 19th March, 2015
4. Matters arising
5. Chairman's Report
6. Treasurer's Report
7. Receiving of Financial Statement for the year ended 31st December, 2015
8. Appointment of Examiners
9. Election of Committee
10. Any other business

Election of Committee

Betty Elliott has served for six years on the Committee and therefore has to stand down.

Margaret Cunnew, Claudette Durham and Muriel Sprott, having served for three or more years on the Committee, offer themselves for re-election.

Roland Bostock, Pat Candler, Kay Dudman, Kirsty Gray, Ann Greene, Yvonne Masson, Brian Page and Joan Scrivener have offered themselves for election to serve on the committee.

Kirsty Gray
3 Wintergreen,
Calne, SN11 0RS

OUR NEW CHAIRMAN



Kirsty Gray

All our dreams came true in October 2015! At our monthly meeting, an Extraordinary General Meeting was scheduled with a view to Winding up the Society at the end of 2015. For many years we have lacked volunteers to manage the Society but, in October, a dynamic, young, charismatic speaker came to our rescue, along with another seven volunteers to join the Committee! Of course, we welcomed them all with open arms and the Society now has a new, fresh lease of life with Kirsty GRAY as our new Chairman.

Kirsty comes with a long and illustrious track record of volunteer work in the family and local history fields. At the tender age of just 25, she was more than likely the youngest Secretary of any Family History Society, back in late 2003! Since then, she has been integral in setting up two new societies in the last three years - the Society for One-Place Studies (www.one-place-studies.org) and The Surname Society (www.surname-society.org).

When Kirsty took over as our Chairman we asked her what her vision was for the Society in the next few years,

“Well, my first job is to find out about the history of West Middlesex Family History Society! I certainly don't want to come in and change things before I see what works and what doesn't, The other two societies I am involved with have a strong online presence and that is something I can offer, to develop the awareness of - and hopefully increase the membership of - WMFHS. The thriving societies provide benefits to members both online and offline and, whilst the Society has an excellent and developing website, more benefits could be offered to members who are not local enough to attend the monthly meetings but have interests in West Middlesex research.”

The members have warmly welcomed our new and enthusiastic Chairman, especially with the recent Christmas Quiz (see page 30). We will certainly look forward to some innovative ideas in the New Year. Watch this space!

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



Exciting things have been happening in the Society and one of these is the re-vamping of our website: turn to page 17 and you will see the recent developments described in an article by our Webmasters. Since he wrote that article Roland has been doing yet more innovations and there is now a 'Members Only' section to the website, where you will find some of the databases which are held on the Society's laptop, i.e. baptisms, marriages, burials, Protestation Returns and MIs. Here is an announcement prepared by Roland:

IMPORTANT NEWS FOR MEMBERS

Our website now includes a Members' Area
(use the available Quick Link)

To use the search facilities you will be asked for a password.

For January-March the password is PQRST
For April-June the password will be PLEAS

I apologise that various errors crept into the last Journal. Unfortunately 'Brosna' in County Kerry, Ireland, was 'translated' as 'Brosner' in the account of Jill William's talk in the last Journal (December 1915, Vol.33 No.4) page 26. Please will all the Irish, and particularly Jill, accept the apologies of the ignorant English editor.

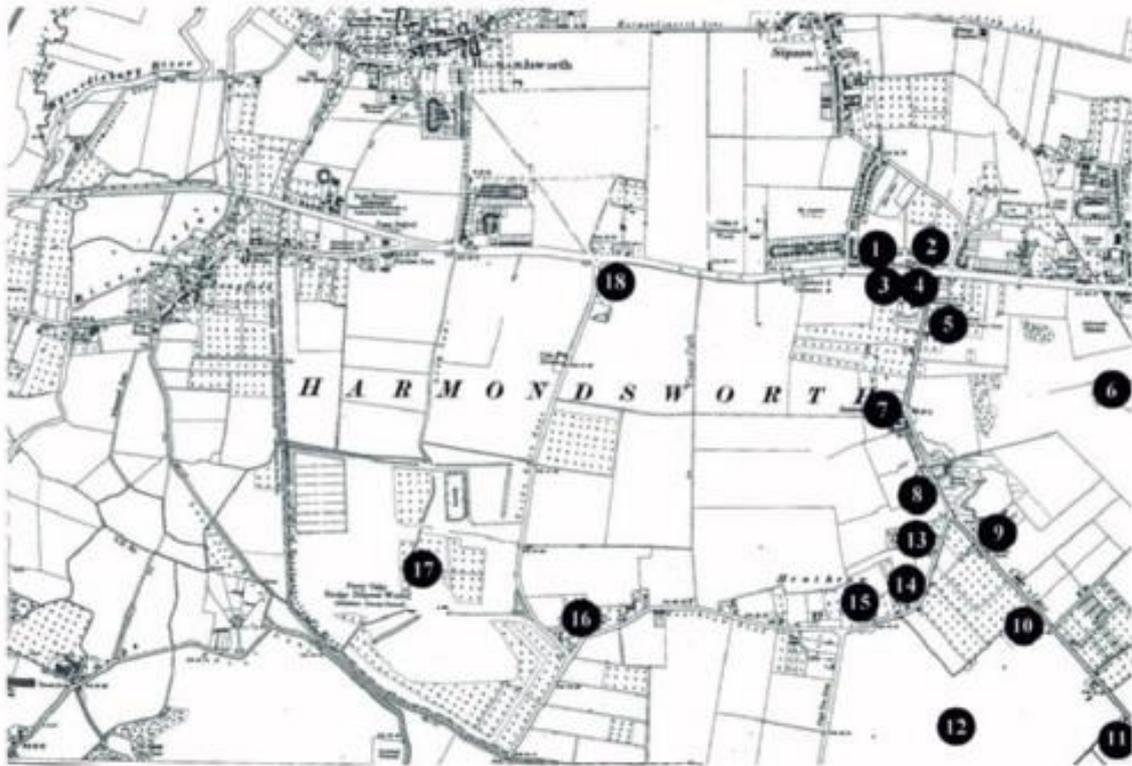
I must also apologise for an error that occurred in the account of Ian Waller's talk, My Ancestor Was a Hat Maker, published in the last Journal. On page 32 it was reported that the hat industry was largely centred on Luton and Stockport - Stockport should have read "Southport".

John Seaman has told me that the memorial at the Millbank Military Hospital dedicated in 1922 was to all members of the Imperial Nursing Service, not just to those of the Imperial Military Nursing Service (p.17).

And finally, a typo has been brought to my notice which occurred in the last Journal. I do apologise - we do our best to discover these before the Journal goes to print.

It has been very special to edit a Journal that we all thought would not see the light of day! I know that many of you worked hard to produce an article for what could have been a Final edition in December, but I hope that some of you also did further research over the winter and are now able to send me the results of that research - even if it is not yet finished. I look forward to having a very full in-tray in the near future.

This article is a modified version of chapter 6 of the second edition of the author's book *Heathrow: 2000 Years of History*, published by the History Press, 2011.



Heathrow – Principal Features in 1935

1. Sipson and Heathrow School; 2. St. Saviour's Church; 3. Old Magpies; 4. Three Magpies; 5. Cannon; 6. "Caesar's" Camp; 7. Heathrow Hall; 8. Palmer's Farm; 9. Wild's Farm; 10. Fairey Hangar; 11. Cain's Farm; 12. Great West Aerodrome; 13. Perrott's Farm; 14. Plough and Harrow; 15. Heathrow Farm; 16. Perry Oaks Farm; 17. Perry Oaks Sludge Works; 18. Shepherd's Pool.

To make way for the airport in 1944, the hamlet of Heathrow was completely destroyed and its inhabitants forcibly evicted at very short notice. This was done under the pretence that there was an urgent war-time need by the RAF for a base near London, although in reality it was intended from the outset to be a civil airfield, War-time powers meant that the land could simply be requisitioned without question by those affected. Before it was destroyed Heathrow was the most remote and rural of the villages and hamlets that make up the large parish of Harmondsworth. Little modern development had occurred and a third of the 28 buildings in Harmondsworth parish, listed by the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments, were in Heathrow, even though it was by far the smallest hamlet.

The settlement of Heathrow was spread out in a straggling manner on the west side of Heathrow Road, from the Bath Road to Perry Oaks. Perry Oaks itself could almost be regarded as separate from Heathrow and it had direct access from the Bath Road via Tithe Barn Lane.

Although most of the agricultural land in West Middlesex was in use for market gardening, mixed farming was also practised at Heathrow itself. This made it more attractive than the rest of the locality as mixed farming, unlike market gardening, could in the 1930s exist quite happily with trees and hedgerows. The presence of numerous ponds and historic farmhouses added to its attractions. Gordon MAXWELL in *Highwaymen's Heath*, published in 1935, well described its general character thus,

If you turn down from the Bath Road by the "Three Magpies" you will come upon a road that is as rural as anywhere in England. It is not, perhaps, scenically wonderful but for detachment from London or any urban interests it would be hard to find its equal; there is a calmness and serenity about it that is soothing in a mad rushing world.

Until 1944, a traveller following MAXWELL's route and standing outside the "Three Magpies" would have seen an even older inn, half-timbered and with a thatched roof that stood only 100 yards to the west. This was the "Old Magpies" (N03 on map) almost opposite which was Sipson and Heathrow School (No.1),



"The Old Magpies" 1935, demolished in 1951

opened on the Bath Road in 1877. Almost opposite the "Three Magpies" was St. Saviour's Church (No.2) opened in 1880, and now the site of the Heathrow Park Hotel. If he had then turned down Heathrow Road from the "Three Magpies" (No.4), he would have passed a row of houses, Doghurst Cottages, on the left but after these the only buildings that would then be encountered were isolated farmhouses and cottages. The first farmhouse along the road was a rather undistinguished one on the left, known as "Bathurst". In an orchard near to this house was a small fenced enclosure containing the barrel of the cannon marking the end of General ROY's baseline, which was measured across Hounslow Heath in 1784 [No.5].

A little further along, on the right-hand side of the road, was one of the largest farmhouses; known as "Heathrow Hall" [No.6] it was an attractive 18th century building, occupied by one of the several branches of the PHILP family, who farmed extensively in the area. The farmhouse adjoined a typical English farmyard with sheep, pigs and cattle and many old barns.



Heathrow Hall in 1935

Almost opposite "Heathrow Hall", on the left side of the road, was a large pond which had probably started life as a gravel pit to obtain roadmaking material. This pond was surrounded by trees and reeds and had a rich variety of wildlife, including kingfishers looking for fish in the pond.

About a quarter of a mile past the pond, just after passing Palmer's Farm, an early 17th century farmhouse on the right, the road forked at Wheatcut Corner. The road to the left, known as Cain's Lane (Isaac CANE [sic] owned land on one side

of the lane in 1819 - hence its name) led to East Bedfont and was dead straight, having been laid out across the Common by the Enclosure Commissioners in 1819. On the east side of the lane were two modern farmhouses - Shrub End and Croft House - belonging to John WILD senior and his two sons, David and John Junior, whose family had farmed in the parish for more than three hundred years.

On a corner of their farm and adjoining the road was a corrugated iron mission hall, which had been erected in 1901. This belonged to the Baptist Church at Sipson and was the only 'church' in Heathrow, although there had been earlier churches at Heathrow belonging to non-conformist sects.

The Fairey Airfield, opened in 1929, was a little further along on the west side of the lane, opposite yet another modern farmhouse, occupied by F.W LONGHURST. Cain's Lane then continued until it was crossed in about half a mile by the Great South West Road, which had been constructed as a by-pass to the old Staines Road in 1930. The part of Cain's Lane beyond the Great South West Road was outside the boundaries of the Airport and a small length of its south-east end still exists.

Coming back to the point at which Cain's Lane left Heathrow Road the road, which had been running roughly in a north-south direction, gradually swung round into an east-west alignment. About 200 yards along the road from its junction with Cain's Lane, and on its north side, was Heathrow's only public house, the "Plough and Harrow", a small building of no great distinction dating from the mid-19th century (No.7). Soon after passing the "Plough and Harrow" there was a T-junction, where High Tree Lane branched off to the left. This was another of the Enclosure Commissioners' roads, leading in a straight line to West Bedfont.

Half a mile along High Tree Lane, at a fork marked on maps as "Goathouse Tree Ford", the road crossed the man-made Duke of Northumberland's River. Goathouse Tree Ford was seldom, if ever, referred to as such and the area of the ford was known locally as "High Tree River". It was a local beauty spot, popular for picnics, where children could safely paddle in the water and fish for 'tiddlers'. Although the very occasional traffic had to use the ford, there was a footbridge high above the River. The River had rather high banks, probably a result of the deposition of spoil during its construction. The banks were well-wooded and on the south side was a riverside walk to Longford, about two miles away.

Coming back along High Tree Lane to rejoin Heathrow Road and almost opposite the junction were two cottages lying back from the road, beside which was the entrance to Pease Path, a public footpath running across the fields in a northerly direction to join the Bath Road at a point between the Technicolor and Penguin Book factories, both of which had been built on the north side of the road in the late 1930s.

About another quarter of a mile along the Heathrow Road, in an area of Heathrow known as Perry Oaks, the road forked again; the left fork, known as Oaks Road, led to Stanwell village. The right fork, known as Tithe Barn Lane, proceeded in a northerly direction to rejoin the Bath Road midway between the "Three Magpies" and the "Peggy Bedford".



Perry Oaks Farm, Heathrow 1935. Demolished 1948

Just before the road forked and on its northern side, stood Perry Oaks Farm (No.16), a most handsome red-brick Elizabethan farmhouse occupied by S. WHITTINGTON, a member of another old farming family in the locality. This farm had some very fine old barns, a dovecote and a duck-pond and was, without question, the best of the many farmsteads of Heathrow. Just past the farmhouse, on the west side of Tithe Barn Lane, was the Perry Oaks Sludge Works (No.17), opened in 1936 by Middlesex County Council. This was nowhere near as bad as it sounds, being some 200 acres of land occupied by lagoons, in which the sludge was allowed to settle under gravity. Before the lagoons were destroyed in the late 1990s, to make way for a fifth terminal at Heathrow, the sludge works had become a site of some scientific importance because of the large number of wading birds attracted to the lagoons.

Tithe Barn Lane got its name from a barn half-way along its western side that was reputedly a reconstruction of a northern wing of the Great Barn of Harmondsworth. It is doubtful if, in fact, the Great Barn ever had a northern wing, but the story of the wing being dismantled and being re-erected in Tithe Barn Lane

Barn Lane is often quoted. The area at the junction of Tithe Barn Lane and the main road was known as "Shepherd's Pool" [No.18], the pool being a large pond completely surrounded by trees! It had also probably started life as a gravel pit but had become completely naturalised over 150 years, when its name was recorded on the Enclosure Map.

The development of the Airport meant the complete destruction of Heathrow, most of Hatton and those parts of Harlington and Harmondsworth that lay to the south of the Bath Road, The feelings of the residents of Heathrow, who were ruthlessly evicted at short notice from their homes, are well summed-up in the poem written by John WILD, whose family had farmed in the area for over 300 years It would win no prizes for poetry but the sadness and sense of great loss are unmistakeable.

LAMENT FOR HEATHROW 1944

We shall remember thee in days to come
Before the ruthless hand of man had spoiled
When sweet peace lingered on thy country brow,
The day when sound of plover lulled thee,
The night when screech owl loved thy lonely shade
We shall remember thee although the time
Of visitation great had come!
NO longer is there peace within thy gates
That peace which was thy birthright. Now they come
They strip the wealth and riches from the soil
Although most fertile land in all the south,
But now the tyrant's hand has claimed thee,
Cruel progress could not pass unheeding by.
Soon will be nought to mark thy hedges trim -
No hedge, no tree, no wayside flowerets fair —
Naught that is lovely left. Oh woe the day!
Long years have passed since Rome raised camp on thee
And yet they passed and left thee undisturbed
Hadst thou a voice couldst tell us of thy past,
But now men want to rob of all thy grace
Full comely thou dost seem as we must go
And so "Goodbye" - a long last farewell.
For some short time the larks may still come home —
The weasel, mole and field mouse tunnel round;
Yet as the circling days go swiftly by
Soon will be gone all traces of the past
Save in our memories fond - we still
Remember Heathrow.

John Wild, 1944

On arriving home from a holiday in 2014 I found a letter from Canada awaiting me. Strange, as I didn't know anyone in Canada. It read:

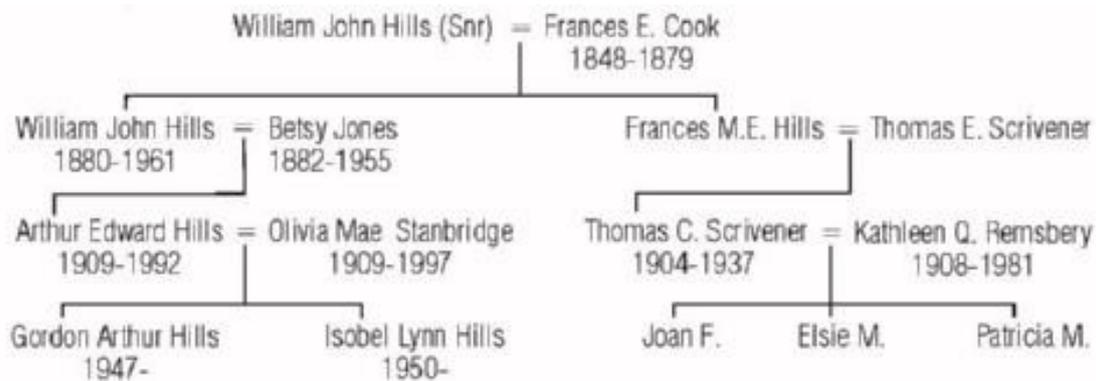
Dear Miss Scrivener

I am writing to you because I believe that my grandfather, William John Hills was the brother of your grandmother Frances Hills. I enclose the family tree as I believe it looks from my research.

If we are indeed second cousins I would appreciate hearing about anything you know about Frances Hills. I believe she was raised by her mother's family after her mother's death. My grandfather was sent to an orphanage and eventually was sent to Canada as a "Home Child"...

Isobel Tamney (née Hills)

The family tree she sent was:



I knew little about the HILLS family as my grandparents on that side had died fairly early and my father had been the only surviving child. My father died young and my mother knew very little about his side of the family apart from two of the SCRIVENER aunts who sent Christmas cards. The only picture I have seen of Frances is the one shown here.



Frances M.E. Hills

William senior had married Frances COOK in April 1874 and Frances HILLS was their first child, born

* Home child - 100,000 British Home Children (alleged orphans) were sent to Canada by over 50 British Child Care organizations. These 4-15 year old children worked as indentured farm labourers and domestic servants until they were 18 years old. The organizations professed a dominant motive of providing the children with a better life than they would have had in Britain, but they had other ignoble and pecuniary motives. The organizations rid themselves of an unwanted segment of their society and profited when they sold these children to Canadian farmers.

in 1875, I never knew that Frances had a brother. He must have been born after Frances, some time before 1879 when his mother died. There could also have been one other child in that period. I saw that we must be related and sent her what little I had on Frances HILLS.

There were so many REMSBERY relations to explore that I did not follow up the HILLS line in Woolwich especially as it was quite a common name, but I knew from the 1881 census that Frances had been taken in by her COOK grandparents when her mother died. She appears in 1891 and 1901 in Hammersmith, a dyers' assistant, living with an aunt and uncle before her marriage in April 1903.

Isobel replied that she didn't know much about the HILLS family either. Her grandfather would not speak about his past. She knew that he was a Home Child. He said he came out with a Barnardo's group but she had not been able to confirm that. He ran away from his placement in the province of Manitoba. She assumed that he was abused. He was found by the SPEERS Family walking down the railway tracks in the middle of nothing and nowhere. They took him in and brought him up from there! He told them he was 15 but they said he looked more like 10. Isobel has not been able to confirm his age at all. Since the name he used was William John and she knew that was his father's name, she wondered if he could have changed his name.

From this information she had pieced together what she believed happened and went on to find me.

Later she wrote saying she was pretty sure that Frances was William's sister because her brother Gordon knew her married name and that Frances had a son. Also something he had seen indicated that William had sent Frances money and apparently he was pretty tight with his money so she would have to be close to him for him to do that. Gordon said he had seen the picture of Frances before and thinks they might have a copy somewhere.

She attached an extract from the 1881 census of an orphanage at Sunbury, Middlesex showing a William John HILLS aged about 5, born at Mile End Old Town, Middlesex. This meant he was born in 1876, but our William gave 1880



*William John Hills and his wife
Betsy Hills (née Jones)*

as his date of birth, which was wrong since his mother died in 1879.

She says: *I just don't understand why he is not in the birth records. As far as I know, he was in a Barnardo's home in London that burnt down. Barnardo's has no record of him now (I contacted them).*

I wondered if the COOK relatives thought Frances would be old enough (aged six) to be helpful in the household while he would still need care, being younger.

On 25th September she wrote: *Well, if I had any doubts about our being second cousins, I think these cards puts that to rest. (She enclosed copies of two postcards postmarked Hanwell where Frances was living at the time).*



So now I am convincing my husband that after our European cruise next spring that we should go to England and meet you and my cousin related to my grandmother (William's wife). I think our cruise ends at about the end of May so we would be there early in June Am I crazy to be excited to find such close relatives? When you have grown up with so few relatives, I guess that is why. I have NO first cousins, (My Dad was an only child and my mother's: brother never married). My cousins were second cousins. SO you are as closely related to me genetically as they are] I can't even explain how excited I am to have found you. I hope I will be able to arrange to meet you next spring.

Your excited cousin, Isobel

I obtained Frances E. HILLS's (William J's mother) death certificate to see if she died in childbirth (William J's) which might give an indication that he could have been born in 1879. She did indeed die of complications shortly after childbirth on 23rd February 1879 at 32 Kidd Street, Woolwich, but I can't find the birth of William at that time. I am sure that the orphanage document she sent does not apply to William J. She mentions that he was in a Barnardo's home in London that was burnt down and that wouldn't be the one in Sunbury which wasn't a Barnardo's or in London.

I downloaded a page from the St Thomas parish church in Woolwich which shows Frances Elizabeth HILLS's burial on 27th February 1879. That was not too difficult to find as Frances Elizabeth are not all that common used together.

I scoured the list of births for a William J. HILLS on the computer. There were hundreds, but not the one I was looking for. So things went quiet for a while.

In June last year Isobel and her husband Dalton came to England and we had a couple of days together. We compared photographs of family members, but there was only one [one of my nieces) who looked like one of Isobel's family.

On their return to Canada I got to work again. For hours I scoured the lists in Ancestry and Findmypast for the elusive William, but again no luck.



Isobel (right) and me in June 2015

Then I had an idea. In those days it was common for the first boy in the family to be named after his grandfather, which in this case would be George Frederick. So I

searched Ancestry and Findmypast again, this time for George Frederick in 1879 in Woolwich and found several, but one was particularly interesting. It was in the first quarter of that year, so could it be the one? I sent for the birth certificate and there it was. Registered on 25th March 1879: 11th February 1879 - mother Frances Elizabeth HILLS (deceased) formerly COOK, father William John I-IILLSI The same Kidd Street address as the one given on Frances's death certificate. Success at last! I emailed Isobel immediately.

Now we can search for him in the census for 1881 and 1891, hopefully with more success; he must have been somewhere near Woolwich for his sister to have remained in touch. He would have been sent to Canada about 1894, so a look at the Canadian immigration records should be interesting.

The search continues.

Sources: *Freepages -Ancestry.com. Resource site for descendants of 100000 British Home Children emigrated to Canada from 1870-1948.*

SOD HOUSES OR SODDIES

Joan Scrivener

When Isobel, my recently discovered second cousin from Canada, visited in June this year in the course of conversation about family history her husband mentioned that his grandparents, Irish grandfather and Scandinavian grandmother (who spoke no English) had lived in a "soddy" when they first arrived in Canada.

I asked what a soddy was and he replied that it was a house made from grass because there were few trees for building cabins in the Canadian prairies. So I looked on Wikipedia for more information and this is what I found:

Settlers paid a \$10 fee for 180 acres (73 ha) of land and agreed to make some improvements within a specified time after which the land was theirs. The sod house or "soddy" was a successor to the log cabin during frontier settlement of Canada and the United States. The prairie lacked standard building materials such as wood or stone; however, sod from thickly-rooted prairie grass was abundant. Prairie grass had a much thicker, tougher root structure than modern landscaping grass.

Construction of a sod house involved cutting patches of sod in rectangles, often 2' X 1' X 6" (600 X 300 X 150 mm) long, and piling them into walls. Builders employed a variety of roofing methods. Sod houses accommodate normal doors and windows. The resulting structure was a well-insulated but damp dwelling that was very inexpensive. Sod houses required frequent maintenance and were vulnerable to rain damage. Stucco or wood panels often protected the outer walls. Canvas or plaster often lined the interior walls.



Saskatchewan sod house, circa 1900

Sources: Wikipedia – *Land Ownership in Canada.*
– *Sod House (with photograph)*

Following our Extraordinary General Meeting on 15th October 2015, things have been on the move at Society HQ, and part of the general shake-up has been some innovations to our website.

The first significant change following Kirsty GRAY's appointment as Chairman, was that Kirsty set us up with both Facebook and Twitter pages and in order to reflect that, and provide easy access, you will now see Facebook and Twitter icons on our website in the permanent panel that is on the left side of all pages; so do go and visit these pages and see what the hot topics of the day may be.

The second change came about when I realised that we had been showing the same photo on our Home page, a very good one of the Great Barn in Harmondsworth, since December 2011 and perhaps it was time for a new one. So from November 2015 onwards it will be a fresh photo each month and who knows whose image may appear next month? Watch this space.

The third change, which is what this article is mostly about, has derived from a realisation that the Society has been very half-hearted about our members' Surname Interests. Yes, as new members join the Society they are invited to tell us what their Surname Interests are and these are duly published in the next edition of this Journal: but we did not maintain a consolidated file of Surname Interests anywhere, let alone provide any means to do a search on such a file.

So I set out to create the necessary file. Back in 2010 there was a project to collect together all members' interests and in 2011 a CD was produced and made available to the membership at that time. This CD was clearly a good place to start to build the current set of Surname Interests. As most of the Journals which have been published since 2011 contain new Surname Interests, it was then just a typing task to add these records to the 2011 database. We have, of course, lost some members since 2011 and so the full file had to be compared to our membership of today, dropping the records which no longer apply.

There was then a short pause while I had to 'find out' how to transfer the data, now in excel files, to our website database, which is a 'Microsoft Access database', but I found the way and soon I had a database ready and waiting for the actual search facility to be integrated into our website. There was some discussion at committee level whether display of Surname Interests should be private as a 'members only' part of our website but the consensus was that these Interests need to be publicised and hence, could be part of our regular 'open to the public at large' website.

Once you know how, and provided you accept certain standard ways of

presenting the data (i.e. using a GridView), web page development is really quite easy, so it did not take long to produce two extra pages for our website, which I shall presently describe. However, there is no substitute to paying the website a visit, where you should very quickly be able to do some easy searches, and indeed, I recommend to you that you check your own membership detail, including your email address as we have it, and also check your own Member's Interests.

If you were not on the 2011 CD of members' interests, but were a member at the time, then we do not know what your Surname Interests are but they can be added very easily if you follow the procedure on the two web pages that I now outline.

Surname Interests Page

The screenshot shows the website for the West Middlesex Family History Society. The main heading is "Surname Interests". Below the heading, there is a search form with five input boxes labeled "Surname", "Period", "Place", "County", and "Member No.", followed by a "Search" button. Below the search form is a table titled "Surname Interests" with the following data:

	Surname	Period	Place	County	Member No
Select	ACKERY	1850-1950	Any	Any	T70
Select	ADAMS	19C	Bilney Area	ESS	F106
Select	ADAMS	18-19C	Holborn	MDX	S268
Select	ADAMS	19C	Chelsea	MDX	S268
Select	ADDESON	19C	Kensington area	MDX	F125
Select	ADLINGTON	after 1950	Kensington area	MDX	E333
Select	AZZLEWOOD	19C	Rotherham	WRY	A101
Select	ALDRIDGE	19-20C	Hammersmith	MDX	D110

When the page is first presented it starts to show all the data but there are five boxes provided to enable you to filter down to the records of interest. To check your own Surname Interests, just enter your own Membership number and hit the search button. If you need to change your Surname Interests, use the link provided to your It will set up an email directly to the Webmaster and Journal Editor which you can easily complete.

In order to search using a particular surname, just enter the surname – the

leading characters may be enough - and hit search again, or just hit enter; but do remember to clear filters which no longer apply. Period, Place and County may also be used as filters, but Surname and Membership number will be the fields most often used.

Once you see that some other member has a Surname Interest that you may wish to contact them about, then you should hit the relevant Select and this takes you on to the Members page.

The Members Page

West Middlesex Family History Society

Home + Research + Our members

Our Members

This page enables members or visitors to see who are members of our Society, and it provides an email address, where we have it, so that our members may be contacted. The main use of this facility is assumed to be in pursuit of common Surname Interests.

Initially all rows are displayed, but you may use the search filters to help find the member of interest. When the page is linked from Surname Interests the Member No is defaulted for you.

If any details are incorrect, please email the corrections required to **WMFHS Webmaster & Membership Secretary**.

Where there is no email address you will have to contact the **Membership Secretary** with a view to obtaining alternate contact information.

Member No Surname Forename(s) Town

Our Members

Member No	Surname	Forename(s)	Town	Email address
E210	Boddy	Valerie	Worthing, W Sussex	valerie.dare@ntlworld.com
E311	Bond	Nicholas	Budleigh Salterton, Devon	
E334	Bostock	Roland	Teddington, Middlesex	rolant@bostock.net

On the Members page, if you have transferred directly from Surname Interests, you will find that the Membership number is already filled in for you and you just have to hit enter, or the Search button. Almost every member with Surname Interests has provided us with an email address, so the rest is now in your hands using the email provided. As with the Surname Interests page, you may search for Members using any information that you know; you can see members from your own home town, with a given forename, by Membership number or Surname. If your own details are not as you like, then the link is provided for you to email the Webmaster and Membership Secretary as may be necessary.

Finally, if you feel there are further specific developments you would like to see on our website, we are up to the task of some further development, so do please bring them forward by addressing your comments to me, your friendly Webmaster.

This article results from a talk based on a personal photograph, given at the Members ' Evening last April.

"She was a very difficult woman."
That is the only thing I know about my Great Grandmother that is not in the official records. It was a comment made by her daughter-in-law, my Grandmother, to a cousin of mine. So I am going to see whether her life as illustrated by public records can throw a light upon why Elizabeth WOOLFOOT might have been known as such a "difficult woman". This is mostly speculation but guided by research.



Elizabeth Woolfoot

I am going to look first at her husband, my Great Grandfather. Robert STEGGALL was born in 1830 in Gipping, a small hamlet, a few miles east of Stowmarket in Suffolk. He was the eldest son and second child of 14 children of another Robert and Mary, née

TURNER. His father, his grandfathers, his gt. grandfathers, his gt.gt. grandfathers and so on back at least to the 15th century, were all farmers. They owned land, they rented land, in many cases they were the most important men in their immediate locality.

In the 19th century their sons who did not go to boarding school went to the local grammar school; their daughters, if they were not in boarding school were taught by governesses who lived with the family. Looking at the marriages in the parish registers, these families were all related in some way - the boys married sisters of their friends, and the girls married their friends' brothers. I should imagine they were a close knit society of comfortably-off, middle class, yeoman farmers, Robert's grandparents, Philip and Mary TURNER, had 12 children, all married, all had families and Robert had - at the last count - 94 first cousins!

Robert had an uncle, Henry TURNER. Although uncle and nephew, Henry was only seven years older than Robert, being the youngest brother of Robert's

mother, Mary. Henry's father died when he was only II, and Robert's father became Henry's Guardian. The boys lived on adjoining farms and always had a close friendship.

Agriculture in the second half of the 19th century was going through hard times and in this branch of my family, the boys who did not become farmers, with the sole exception of my grandfather, became drapers, and this is what Henry did. Originally apprenticed at an early age to one of his older brothers, when he was 18 he went to London and was a draper's assistant in various establishments before being employed by a Mr. SPENCER in 1849. As the next door premises became available, Henry, and an old friend from Suffolk, John BOLDERO, decided to go into business themselves and wisely, Mr. SPENCER joined the two young men and so Spencer, Turner & Boldero was born.

This business went from strength to strength. Located in Lisson Grove in Marylebone, they eventually took over all the adjacent houses and premises and by 1881 the shop and its adjacent warehouses covered 8 acres of land. In the 1900 Post Office Directory they were described as being "linendrapers, upholsterers, carpet factors, tea merchants, wine and spirit merchants and warehousemen" and they had two registered trade marks of their own, one for fancy goods and one for heavy goods.

I think it must have been on a visit by Robert to Henry's premises that Elizabeth WOOLFOOT caught the young man's eye. Born in 1829 in Rothwell, which is now an outer suburb of Leeds, she was the 4th daughter of Edward WOOLFOOT, a labourer, and Hannah, nee HAIGH. She was the only one their eight children who went to London to seek her fortune, so she must have had some spark of adventure in her. Perhaps she just did not want to end up in the weaving mill, as did a couple of her sisters, and the idea of being a shop girl in London was more to her liking. She would live in a hostel with her fellow shop girls, all her meals would be provided and there was a wide selection of after-work activities provided by Spencer, Turner & Boldero for their workforce.

I do not know when she went to London, she was not living at home in 1851 and I have not found her anywhere in the census - no doubt her surname has been mis-transcribed. But in 1855 she and Robert were married by licence in St. Marylebone Church, and he then took her back to Suffolk. Had he told his family he was getting married? Their first child was born two years later so it was not a shot gun wedding. I wonder how she was accepted within that society? She probably had a strong Yorkshire accent and she was of a different class, Was she snubbed by the other farmers' wives or drawn into their

activities? Did she have any contact with her own large family, most of whom were now living in Leeds or did she live a fairly isolated life?

Robert established himself on a farm of 123 acres in Wetherden, to the west of Stowmarket - the other side of town from the family farm - where he employed five men and two boys. They had five children in the next ten years then, sadly, in 1872, Robert died of TB. I have not been able to find a will, nor even an admon. Was the farm leased by his father, not by Robert himself? In the next ten years it was occupied first by one of his brothers then by another.

In the 1881 census Elizabeth was living above a shop in Stowmarket, making a living as a dressmaker. Did her reasonably wealthy father-in-law offer support and did she turn it down, or were they not on good terms? Still living with her was my grandfather, Edward, 16 years old and a clerk. Her eldest son, Henry Woolfoot STEGGALL, was working in a drapers' shop in Greenwich. The oldest daughter, another Elizabeth, had worked in Bonne Marché in Kilburn and had married a goldsmith and pawnbroker from Paddington. The second daughter, Sarah, had worked as a draper's assistant in Clapham High Street, then married a warehouseman from Marylebone, who presumably was in the employ of Spencer, Turner & Boldero. The youngest daughter, Emma, was also in London visiting her older sister.

Robert's father died in 1884, but in their grandfather's will, his two orphaned grandsons were only left the portion that would have gone to their father, divided between them. Their sisters got nothing, although one of their younger female cousins, whose father had also died when she was still a child, was left a considerable sum.

By 1891, Elizabeth had left Suffolk and from then until her death she alternated between the households of her two older daughters in London. This was about the time when my grandmother would have first met her. Did her daughters find her difficult to live with, hence she was shuttled between them?

Elizabeth died in 1917, at the age of 89, in Tooting Bec Asylum (now St. George's Hospital), of "senile decay". Her daughters lived in Willesden and Cricklewood, so why was she in Tooting? It has been surmised that the hospitals in central London had been cleared for expected casualties from France, so perhaps older patients had been sent south of the Thames.

My mother and her sisters never spoke of their grandmother, although my mother was 16 when she died. It seems very sad that her only legacy was that "she was a very difficult woman."

If some of these names sound familiar, Elizabeth was the mother of Emma, who featured in an article which appeared in the September Journal.

BOOKSHELF

London's Lord Mayors, 800 Years of Shaping The City, by Emma Hatfield
(Amberley Publishing 215) ISBN 978 5029 6 (hardback) £20, ISBN 978 4456
50302 (ebook)

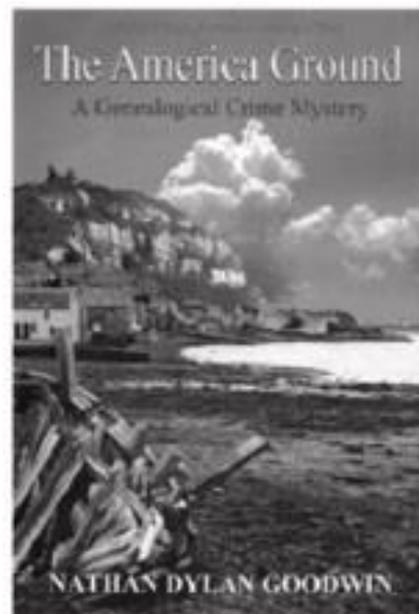


The first Lord Mayor of London was given the title in 1189 by Richard I and it is believed to be the oldest civic office still in existence. As the City had been given jurisdiction over London and Middlesex by Henry I earlier in the 12C, it has always had an important influence on West Middlesex. Lord Mayors are elected annually - some have been good, some not so good, and some have had a greater importance in history than others, but all are listed in this book. It tells how they were influenced by the political and economic climate of the day, and how sometimes they were instrumental in shaping that climate. There was Richard WHITTINGTON (of course), a Mercer who made his fortune selling luxurious cloth to the aristocracy and who was a friend of Richard II: when he died he left the

equivalent of £3m for charity and some of this money was used for the creation of the first library in Guildhall; there was Richard GURNEY who was committed to the Tower for supporting Charles I; there was Thomas BLUDWORTH who despaired because he could not halt the Fire of London, and so on down the centuries. This is a history of England seen through the eyes of the City of London and its Mayors - a fascinating read.

The America Ground, by Nathan Dylan Goodwin (self published,
www.nathandylangoadwin.com 2015) paperback
and ebook editions. ISBN 978 1517170042

This is the third genealogical crime mystery solved by the forensic genealogist Morton Farrier. This time he is tasked with solving the murder of a woman 180 years ago in a part of Hastings formed by the receding coastline, which in itself has an interesting history. There is a great deal of genealogical expertise which shows you how to discover information prior to the 19C censuses, and on into the 20th, sandwiched between the story of Eliza Lovekin, where she came from, what happened to her children and why she was murdered. A good holiday read.



MISCELLANY

London Metropolitan Archives



To mark the 400th anniversary of SHAKESPEARE's death, there is a display in the Heritage Gallery of the LMA which includes their 'Shakespeare Deed of 1613' and the Guildhall Library's First Folio. Other documents on display will relate to theatres in London in the early 17th century. The Deed

will move to the British Library in April as part of their major Shakespeare EXhibiti0n. Look out for items relating to the Great Fire of London, including Robert HOOKE's Diary in the Heritage Gallery later in the year.

The lease of the LMA's building in Northampton Road expires in 20 years' time and the Archive is looking for new premises, although this will not take place for at least five years. The LMA is also actively researching what services it wishes to offer in the future and how it might look in ten years' time. We hope to bring you more news of this as their plans develop.

Liddiard (and variations) Family Gathering



If you have LIDDIARD ancestors, a family gathering will take place in Aldbourne, Wiltshire, on 13th-14th August.

If you would like to attend, please contact Karen Rogers on liddiard@one-name.org, or at 33 Peat Place, Lower Portland, NSW 2756, Australia.

Aldbourne Church

A new exhibition "designology" opens on 20th May 2016 at the London Transport Museum. It explores how design is encountered in our everyday journeys and how this has evolved over the last century, as well as looking at how our travel experiences might develop in the future. It covers publicity and communication, architecture,

technology, engineering, service operation and the urban environment. Tickets, on the door, are £17 for adults and £14.50 for concessions, There is more information at: www.ltmuseum.co.uk

Assisted Passengers Arriving 1848-1854, at Moreton Bay, Port Phillip, Sydney and Twofold Bay, Australia

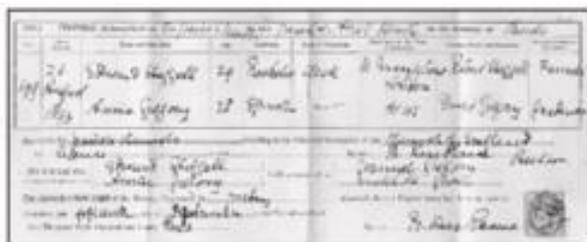


A new CD has been issued which lists over 23,000 names from the NSW Governor's Despatches covering the above ports. The immigrant details include name, age and occupation and there are also births and deaths with dates for each and, for deaths, the cause is given in most cases. The names have been compared with those on shipping lists and any variants are noted. The CD can be purchased direct from the website, at a cost of

\$A40 plus p&p.

Email: pastkeys@tpg.com.au Web: www.pastkeys4com.au

Marriage Certificates



The Prime Minister has announced that he has instructed the Home Office to address the inequality on marriage certificates and allow the name of the mother to appear alongside the name of the father.

Kingston-upon-Thames archives



These have been moved from the North Kingston Centre in Richmond Road and are now located at the new Kingston History Centre in the basement of the Guildhall in the High Street. Opening times: 10.00-5.00 Wed-Sat [- 7pm on Thursdays).

www.kingston.gov.uk

Brookwood Military Cemetery



A new WW1 memorial has been unveiled at Brookwood, dedicated to the memory of servicemen who died in the UK, Ireland or at sea and have no known grave. Many of the casualties died from their injuries away from the battlefield and previously have been omitted from the official records. This results mainly from the 'In From the

Cold Project' set up in 2006 to ensure that these servicemen and women received proper recognition. Families, historians and other researchers can submit names to the CWGC and it will be possible to add further names as these are discovered.

Tracing the History of a Community: *Kirsty Gray*. October

Kirsty is one of the founder members of the Society for One-Place Studies and The Surname Study. One of her place studies began with a plaque on the tower of a small church in a remote village in Devon. The only road leading to the church was little more than a farm track and it was necessary to go through a farmyard to get to the (now redundant) church. Names on the plaque included the man who rebuilt the church tower, who was a SILLIFANT and although she has no actual family connection with the place, nor the Sillifant name bearer, she wanted to know more and so began a one-place study on the village of Luffincott.



Plaque on the church tower at Luffincott

When starting a one-place study, Kirsty recommends that you should think:

- Why are you interested in it?
- What do you already know about it?
- What do you want to know?
- How much time could you devote to it?

The place to be studied could be a street rather than a village, either connected with your family, or where you have lived. Your study is whatever you want it to be and of course, you can register it with the Society for One-Place Studies - a society of like-minded individuals undertaking similar studies.

- When making your plan, you should consider:
- What are the best lines of enquiry?
- What are the best places to go to find out more?
- How to record the information: a research notebook, put it online, produce a booklet?
- Are there other people who may also be interested in the same place?

Some information will be at a local archive, for instance the Devon Heritage Centre in Exeter in Kirsty's case, but how can you find where the records are? They are not necessarily where you may think: some of the records Kirsty has



Luffincott Church

examined were held in Cornwall, as the landowner's family records were deposited there. So, you will need to think outside the box.

Local archives will help you to piece together a community but some of the records themselves are in a bad condition. The National Archives' ARCHON directory contains up-to-date information on local repositories including address, current website, email address, telephone number, map, etc. It is advisable to contact a local Record Office before you visit.

Some information has been digitised and is online, such as the British Newspaper Archive, and there is family history material on Find My Past and Ancestry, where you can locate data for a whole village if it is small.

As well as at local level, some holdings, such as wills etc., will be at The National Archives (TNA). Military records can be searched by place and service records of local people may survive. There are the Absent Voters Lists for those who were absent as they were serving away from home in the First World War and therefore did not vote. [NB: TNA's Discovery Catalogue now includes material which was formerly on Access to Archives (A2A).]

Another useful website is Genuki, which has a lot of links: you can select a parish; for a small village there may not be much but for a bigger place the amount of information can be vast.

If you would like to know about people in modern times, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) has Neighbourhood Statistics for places. For the parish she was interested in, Kirsty found 192 datasets covering recent censuses: 2001-11. Comparisons can be made between the 21st century and Victorian times in the context of occupations, size of households and much more.

The English Heritage website has historic photographs of England. There might be some material on the place you are interested in. Their 'Images of England' include things which have been listed: buildings, even telephone boxes, public toilets, milestones, etc. Historic England's Heritage Explorer has an 'Images' site: castles, bridges, etc. or images of local industry.

A One-Place Study places people and families in their physical and social contexts in any location across the globe. A small group of people discussed setting up a One-Place Study Society in 2013 and there are now 140 members across the

world, with hundreds of registered studies. Some members live in a different country from the place they study. Everyone does their study differently. Every year, the Society does a 'Shared Endeavour' such as WWI in the community. Membership is £10 a year: you can be just a member, or register a study and a free service allows non-members to check what places are being studied using an interactive map on their website: www.one-place-studies.org

K.G./Y.M.

Sources

www.one-place-studies.org email info@one-place-studies.org

www.TheNationalArchives.gov.uk

www.genuki.org.uk

www.imagesofengland.org.uk

www.heritage-explorer.co.uk

www.victoriacountyhistory.ac.uk

www.balh.org.uk

www.ons.gov.uk

Sabotage, Security and Sheer Stupidity, *Chris Hern*. November

Chris Hern is an expert on the Hounslow gunpowder mills which flourished beside the River Crane for some 170 years from 1757 to the 1920s. He has written a book,



'Shot Tower' in Crane Park

Tales From the Tower, which was due to be published shortly after his talk.

The tower in question is the so-called 'Shot Tower' in Crane Park, the park which straddles the River Crane between Hounslow and Richmond. He is sure the structure has been misnamed, believing it instead to have been a windmill which turned a wheel for lifting water from a leet, as part of the gun-powder production process.

Chris was able to scotch rumours that the Hounslow mills were connected with the Gunpowder Plot, in which conspirators tried to blow up the Houses of Parliament in 1605, as the Hounslow gunpowder mills date from 1757, some 150 years after the event. They were built on land owned by the Duke of Northumberland and initially local people surmised that the structures were going to be part of a corn mill but

soon realised that the site was too extensive: more than 15 buildings were being erected and later the site became even larger.

The dangerous nature of the work at the mills was outlined, and how its employees were under the constant threat of explosions, of which there were several over the time the mills were in existence.

One particular incident concerned the attempted rescue of two prisoners from Clerkenwell Gaol in London. Four barrels of gunpowder were removed from the mills and taken to London by handcart and placed close to the prison wall, next to the exercise yard. However, this particular sortie ended in failure as the matches used to light the fuse kept going out. Next day the handcart appeared again near the prison and a man asked some boys who were loitering and smoking nearby, for a light. This time the gunpowder was ignited and a large hole was blown in the prison wall. Unfortunately the time of the exercise period had been changed and no prisoner escaped, but some people in adjoining houses were killed and a policeman was stripped of his clothes but otherwise was unhurt. One man was arrested and later hanged - the last public execution in England.

There were always fears of sabotage at the mills, especially by Fenians (19th century Irish republicans) and there were incidents of people being seen loitering near, or even inside the mills in a suspicious manner. The gunpowder mills at Faversham in Kent had similar problems with threats of sabotage, especially during the Napoleonic Wars. When a man died in an explosion at the Hounslow mills during World War One, the Press was initially banned from the inquest in case they were German spies or saboteurs. Other suspicious incidents included the finding of pieces of flint in a composition mill in 1883, which certainly should not have been there and could have caused an explosion, and on another occasion nails were found.

Many of the explosions were caused by carelessness, or even stupidity on the part of employees. In 1850 the worst explosion in the mills' history was caused when an employee, anxious to get away to watch a walking race on Hounslow Heath, went back into a building wearing his normal



shoes, rather than the special felt ones used inside the buildings to prevent sparks. The resulting explosion killed a large number of people. In another incident, an argument between two workers caused a temporary loss of watchfulness, and this also led to an explosion.

Although women were employed at the mills, especially in the packing department, none was ever killed. An explosion in 1859 destroyed the Press House (where gunpowder was pressed to extract 'liquor') killing seven people. The inquest on this incident cited mistakes by the management, the jury deciding the mills were being run in "a loose and dangerous manner". A similar verdict had been given not too long before, after an accident in a mine in Yorkshire.

Chris's research has revealed that one manager was having an extra-marital affair, which may have taken him away from his work too often. On another occasion a body search of male workers found that 50 men were carrying pipes and matches, both of which were strictly forbidden. In another incident, a metal cigarette case falling out of a man's pocket caused a spark and three lives were lost. Perhaps surprisingly, there was no record of anyone being drunk on duty.

The last accident involved one William DAVIS, aged 69, who went too close to a fire to warm himself during a break, but his clothes were caked in inflammable dust and caught fire, He died two days later from his burns.

All these accidents had a great impact on the families of workers at the mills: whenever they heard an explosion there was the fear that one member of their family had been killed. In 1869 locals pleaded with the Duke of Northumberland not to renew his lease on the mills. The Duke complied and, instead, sold the land outright. Although various owners of the mills faced bankruptcy when the amount of gunpowder produced outweighed demand, much money was made, particularly during times of war.

Chris believes that there should be a memorial to commemorate all the people who died at the mills - after all, much of the gunpowder they were producing was used for nationally important work, especially by the armed forces.

Y.M.

Christmas Party: December

Members gathered in the seasonally decorated Montague Hall for celebrations, relieved that the Society was not going to be wound up in 2016. The committee had provided festive fare and informally seated members formed teams of five or six, which were given names of City Livery Companies. We then participated in quizzes devised by Kirsty Gray and Betty Elliott. Competition was fierce as we struggled with Kirsty's questions on many different kinds of general knowledge, and Betty's anagrams of Christmas carols and cryptic descriptions of London Underground stations and we tried to identify a series of topical images. The Worshipful Company of Weavers eventually triumphed and were awarded with silver cups!



Puzzling it out!



*The triumphant Worshipful Company of Weavers!
Paul Kershaw, Janice Kershaw, Nigel Thomas, Joan Scrivener,
Rob Purr, Bridget Purr*

Thank you to all those who worked so hard to make the evening such fun! B.P.

WORLD WIDE WEB

A selection of new databases that have come online:

- The following have been added to the Ancestry website: the burial records for the Beckett Street Cemetery in Leeds (1845-1987) and the inscription grave registers for 1907-1938; more records from West Yorkshire are the Removal and Settlement Records for 1689-1866; the Probate Calendars for 1857-2005 have been updated; a list of suffragettes arrested between 1906-1914 from TNA records; the registers of Freemasons held in the Library and Museum of Freemasonry in London (which includes records from the United Grand Lodge of England) and the Grand Lodge in Dublin are now fully searchable, 1751-1921; and there is a new catalogue: UK, City, Town and Village Photos containing the Francis Frith photos 1857-2005.

www.ancestry.co.uk

- The Library and Archives Canada has released the first tranche of records of the Canadian Expeditionary Force files for those who served in WW1 and they hope to complete the digitisation by the end of 2018. The records are being uploaded in alphabetical order.

www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng

- To mark the 70th anniversary of VJ Day, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission records of almost 600,000 casualties of World War II commemorated by CWGC and thousands of prisoner of war records for the Far East have been digitised.

www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng

- Deceased online have added four cemeteries managed by Wyre Council in North Lancashire; burial and cremation records for the London Borough of Lewisham; have completed the records for the London Borough of Southwark; and have added the records for Grimsby and Cleethorpes in Lincolnshire

www.deceasedonline.com

- Some new data from Find My Past: Memorial Rolls for 1914-1918 for both Lloyds of London and the employees of the Stock Exchange; Military Tribunals, 1915-1918 for Surrey; parish registers for Warwickshire and Kent, baptism registers for Northumberland and wills for Staffordshire; a world-wide index for servicemen in the British Army, including the Honourable East India Company; some more 19C British Army Muster

Rolls; miscellaneous lists for London Watermen; more school registers for Ireland, Southwark and New South Wales; settlers in Victoria, Australia; and the widely heralded 1939 Register, although you will have to pay for the latter, even if you do have a subscription (they are free to access at The National Archives in Kew).

www.findmypast.co.uk

- In the Immigration, Emigration and Travel area of The Genealogist are more than Sm. British travel records, 1896-1909. These are available on other sites but The Genealogist has grouped families who are travelling together.

www.thegenealogist.co.uk

- The Jersey Heritage Archives have digitised their Alien Registration Cards - after 1920 all aliens over the age of 16 had to register and these cards contain a photo as well as personal details.

www.catalogue.jerseyheritage.org

- The National Library of Scotland has been making Ordnance Survey maps available on the web and you can now access the Z5 inch-to-the-mile maps for London and the Home Counties and also for the West Country

www.maps.nls.uk

- If you have an illegitimate birth in Scotland the release of over 11,000 historical Scottish paternity records may help you. Information about this new resource is at:

www.scottishindexes.com/learningcourt.aspx

- More Scottish records: the 1855 Valuation Rolls include the indexed names and addresses for every owner, tenant and occupier of property in Scotland in 1855; also the WWI Military Tribunal records of those applying for exemption from conscription for Edinburgh, the Lothians, the Borders, Ross, Cromarty and Sutherland - the Government ordered the majority of these papers to be destroyed in 1921.

www.scotlandpeople.gov.uk

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

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



The London Family Search Centre can be found on the first floor of The National Archives at Kew. It is extensively used by family historians who consult its large stock of films of parish registers and other resources.

The Centre's recently upgraded website now includes a series of interactive maps showing the boundaries of a range of key jurisdictions in England as at 1851 . The separate layers available include:

- Counties
- Civic registration districts
- Dioceses
- Poor Law Unions
- Hundreds

For each layer you can zoom in to parish level and confirm the relevant jurisdictions Readers can choose from three different background options:

- Map: a simple map
- Satellite: modern aerial view
- Ordnance Survey; 19th century Ordnance Survey map

When you find a locality of interest, you can move in on 'street view' or follow up a range of options, such as compiling a list of parishes within a particular district. Your search can also move on to discover associated material in the Library catalogue and Research Wiki.

Navigation is supported by a written introduction. This facility is a major boost for anyone with English ancestry. It is particularly helpful if you do not live in the same area as your forebears and are unfamiliar with the record-keeping organisations that operated there in the past.

Francis Howcutt is the Archives Liaison Officer, Federation of Family History Societies.

FAMILY HISTORY FAIRS

Dorset Family History Society*

Saturday 12 March, Family History Day , Parkstone Grammar School, Sopers Lane, Poole, BH17 7EP. Free admission and car parking.

www.dorsetfhs.org.uk

Who Do You Think You Are? Live

7-9 April. The N.E.C. Birmingham.

Details on www.whodoyouthinkyouarelive.com

Sussex Family History Group

Saturday 21 May, Family and Local History Fair. 10-4. Steyning Centre. Fletchers Croft, Steyning, West Sussex, BN44 3XZ. Free admission and car parking.

www.sfhg.org.uk

Sheffield and District Family History Society

Saturday, 21 May, Family History Fair. 10-4. The Lounge, Sheffield Wednesday Football Club, Hillsborough, Sheffield, S6 1SW

www.sheffieldfhs.org.uk

Shropshire Family History Society

Saturday, 4 June. Family History Fair. 10-4. The Shirehall, Shrewsbury, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, SY2 6LY

www.sfhs.org.uk

Wiltshire Family History Society

Saturday 18 June. Family History Fair. Swindon

www.wiltshirefhs.co.uk

Yorkshire Family History Fair

Saturday 2 July. The Knavesmire Exhibition Centre, The Racecourse, York, YO23 1EX. Admission £4.80, children under 14 free. Buy a ticket through the website and get one free.

www.yorkshirefamilyhistoryfair.com

Buckinghamshire Family History Society*

Saturday 23 July. The Grange School, Wendover Way, Aylesbury, HP21 7NH. Free admission and parking.

www.bucksfhs.org.uk

Oxfordshire Family History Society

Family History Fair. Saturday 1 October. 10-4. The Marlborough School, Woodstock.

www.ofhs.org.uk

*WMFHS will be appearing at these events.

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, TI/V16 51W chapmanrg@f2s.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, Z4 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

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, Z5 Selkirk Road, Twickenham, TW2 6PS

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

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 wendyrnott@btinternet.com

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

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

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

*Mrs. M. Sibley, 13 Blossom Way, West Drayton, Middlesex 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.sweetlancl@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. Cheques should be made payable to West Middlesex FHS. Please include a sae.

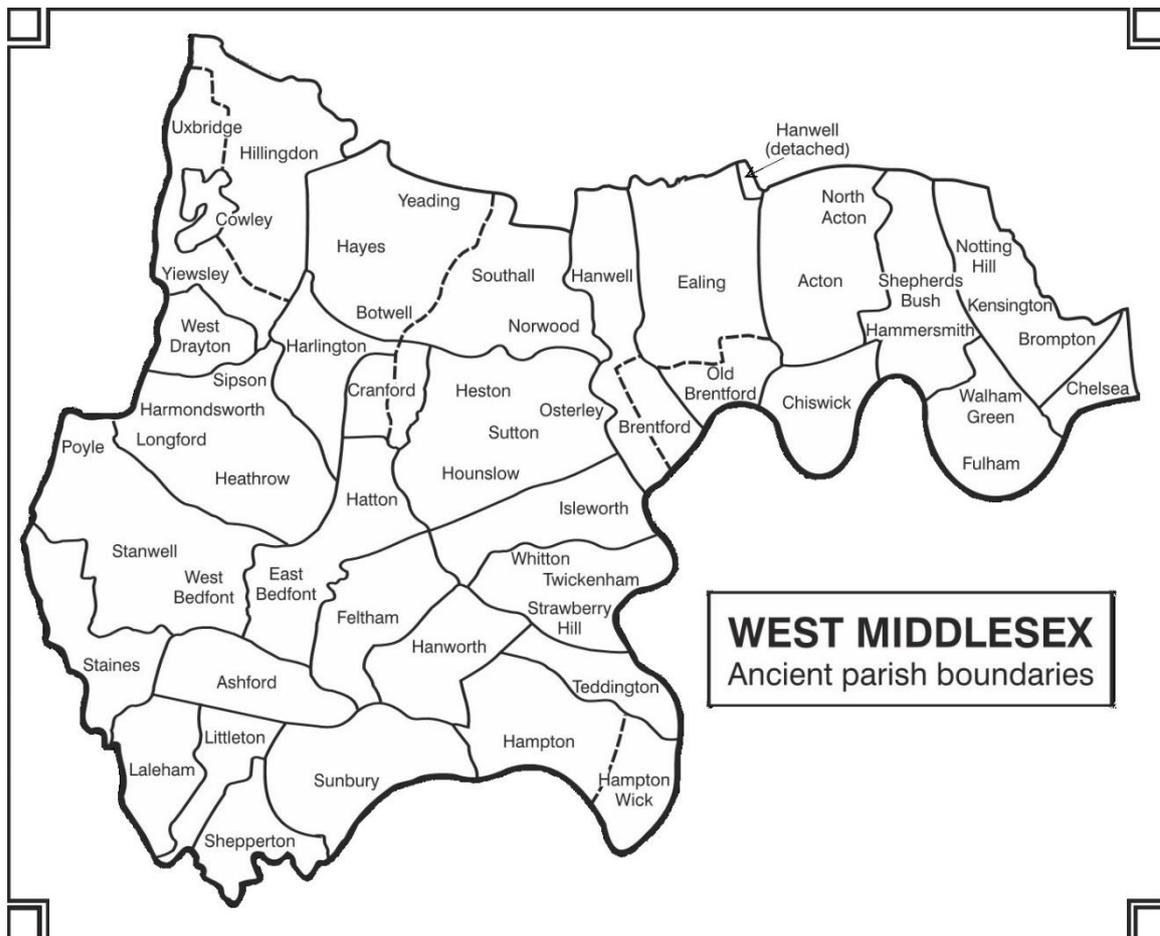
HANWELL ASYLUM

The Middlesex County Asylum in Hanwell was the first pauper lunatic asylum built in England, following the Madhouse Act of 1823. It was opened in 1831 and was also known as the Hanwell Insane Asylum and the Hanwell Pauper and Lunatic Asylum. From the beginning there was a regime of "therapeutic employment", initiated by the first Superintendent, Dr. William Charles ELLIS. This pioneering approach led to a more speedy recovery by the patients and it was the first large asylum which dispensed with all mechanical restraints.

The Grand Union Canal provides the southern boundary to the building which, together with a flight of six locks on the Canal, has been designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

Today the building is part of the headquarters for the West London Mental Health (NHS) Trust and is still used for the treatment of and research into serious mental distress.

Image: www.noproblem.org.uk



**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