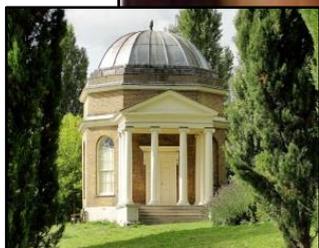




WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY JOURNAL

VOL 35 No.2

June 2017



*Garrick's
Villa*

*David
Garrick*

*Garrick's
Temple*



WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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Subscriptions	All categories: £15 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.

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FUTURE MEETINGS

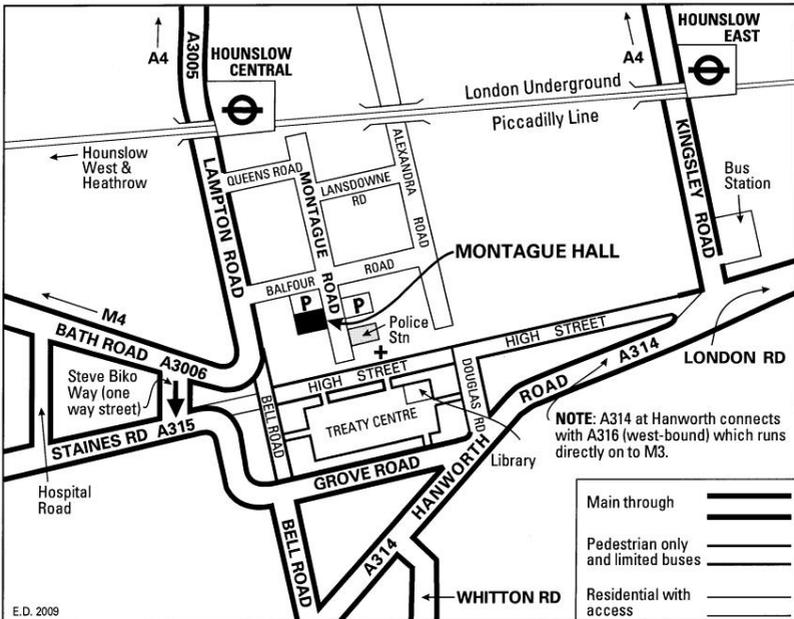


The following talks have been arranged:

- 15 Jun Tracing a House History *Gill Blanchard*
- 20 Jul Getting Online *Members*
- 17 Aug Toleration or Turmoil? English Non-Conformity and our Ancestors *Janet Few*
- 21 Sep Heir Hunting – The Real Deal *Kirsty Gray*

Our meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at Montague Hall, Montague Road, Hounslow, TW3 1LD, 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 7.30 and 10pm (talks take place between 8pm and 9pm), and tea/coffee, or a cold drink, and biscuits are also available. Fully accessible.





WMFHS ADVICE SESSIONS

Would you like help with your family history? The Society runs a programme of Family History Advice Sessions, to which anyone is welcome, whether or not they are new to family history research, or a member of the Society.



At these Sessions, an experienced member of our Society will spend about an hour with you to advise you on possible ways to move forward with your family history research. The main tools that will be used are the

websites FamilySearch, which is a research tool developed by the Church of the Latter Day Saints and is free for all to use; and Ancestry, which is available for public use in the location of the Session.

It is preferable that you book yourself in to a time slot, so that we can avoid trying to help two visitors at the same time. Please send an email to the Advice Session Co-ordinator: surgeries@west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk to tell us when you would like to visit and what you would most like to achieve.

Formerly these sessions have been held at Hounslow Library, but due to the transfer of that Library from the Treaty Centre to Hounslow Civic Centre, the venue for these at present is uncertain but they are likely to be held at Feltham Library. Please refer to the Society website for up-to-date information: west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk - **Activities - Advice Sessions.**

The Advice Sessions are held on the third Saturday in the month:

20th May, 2017
17th June, 2017
15th July, 2017
19th August, 2017
16th September, 2017
21st October, 2017
18th November, 2017
16th December, 2017

My story begins on a hot summer evening in rural Wiltshire, in about 1950. Occasionally, then, travellers' wagons passed through the village.

"Probably from Salisbury way – making for Devizes," I was told.

On this particular evening, one of the travellers knocked at our door. He asked, in an Irish accent, whether we needed any cooking pots or kettles or baths mended – anything metal at all. My mother thought for a few moments, then produced a couple of saucepans from a cupboard for repair. When he had gone, my mother said she felt sorry for them.

"They must have walked a long way in all this heat and the children were looking tired and dusty. We'd better let them draw water from the well – I think some washes are in order tonight!"

A real gypsy caravan with a horse! My imagination ran wild. I knew my father was Irish and had come over from Dublin with his brother when he was a small boy.

"Do you think they are any relation to us, Dad? I wonder which part of Ireland they come from – why don't you ask them?" and I bounced up and down with impatience.

My father did not share my excitement.

"Ah well – careful now – after all, we don't really know anything about them, do we? Come along inside now, we mustn't stare at people."

Having been paid a couple of shillings for repairs to the saucepans, the travellers drew water from the well at the back of our house and went to the overgrown lane beyond the railway arch, where they parked for the night. We never saw them again because they moved on very early next morning.

Half a century later, when I began to make family history enquiries, I was glad I had seen these tinsmiths passing, because I discovered that some of my ancestors had taken up the occupation. It was a dying trade even in 1950, and I cannot remember any others coming to the village.

My cousin and I were told very little about our ancestors. Our grandfather had died in 1937, before we were born. What we knew had been picked up by our curious young ears from time to time when the family met. Patrick remembered hearing about someone called Lawrence, who had a shop, and who we correctly guessed was our grandfather's brother. My sister heard that our great grandmother had wonderful long dark brown hair. Other things were what I

came to call 'double hearsay', such as a remark about an ancestor marrying a Spanish lady and that there was a title once. I know my mother shared my curiosity and she would make a wry smile at any of our speculations, especially at the idea that the family had any wealth!

Just one thing seemed clear, and my father and his brother were certain of it: many ancestors had been soldiers. Our great grandfather was Michael O'SULLIVAN and he had been to Africa and was in the Zulu War in 1879. This tale interested me and I thought it should be possible to verify it and learn more at the National Archives at Kew (TNA), although I did not know which regiment Michael had joined, or whether he had any medals. I was amazed when I discovered that there were indeed thousands of soldiers with the names Sullivan and O'Sullivan in the British Army since 1800, and even more had joined the Royal Navy. It made my own few years in the Women's Royal Army Corps seem insignificant. I did learn quite a lot – more than I ever expected – about my great grandfather at TNA and from other sources and I tried to put the facts in order.

Michael O'SULLIVAN was born in Newmarket, Co. Cork, near the town of Kanturk, in September 1838, the son of John O'SULLIVAN and Honora MULLANE. I realized that he and his brother Patrick, born in 1835, would have been very young at the time of the great storm of 1839, when many people throughout Ireland were made homeless, and Michael would have been aged about seven in 1845, at the beginning of the famine. He spent his childhood in humble rural surroundings and probably did not go to school, but the family appears to have avoided the workhouse, although times were hard.

He joined the South Cork Militia as a teenager and in 1856 was enlisted into the 15th Regiment of Foot. After his enlistment he was posted to Dublin and then to Gibraltar, so he must have hoped for more warm climates and adventure. It could have been the start of a long career, but tuberculosis changed all that. He had problems with his left leg and the trouble quickly spread, so he was sent to Chatham and the military hospital. The surgeon was very concerned about him and the decision was made to amputate the leg above the knee. A few details were recorded on the army papers indicating that he would not be able to continue his hoped-for military career. A friend who goes to medical museums tells me that the most likely anaesthetic would have been ether, but undoubtedly Michael spent most of February and March 1858 in hospital.

He was discharged with a small pension, which he would receive in Ireland at Fermoy. There seems to have been some delay in granting the pension and there was a remark in the margin of the documents, "Not the effect of military service." It was true that he had not been on a battlefield, but his ill health had begun since enlistment. He could have contracted tuberculosis in Ireland or Gibraltar and was leaving the army with a disability. Tuberculosis was quite common throughout Europe in 1860, and if he had not been in the army, where

the amputation could be performed promptly, the disease would soon have worsened and proved fatal.

Surely my great grandfather could not have served in the Zulu War in 1879 with this disability? I wondered how the story about South Africa had originated. Perhaps it was not Michael, but some other member of the family who had been to South Africa. It was difficult to tell, or even make a fair guess about that, because there were at least six men called Michael SULLIVAN in the Zulu War, although one of them was born in Tralee in 1847 and served in the 80th Regiment. That soldier had been at Ntombi River and at Ulundi. Perhaps my great grandfather had heard about him and told younger members of the family.

I discovered that a tinsmith called Michael SULLIVAN was aboard *HMS Inconstant* in Simon's Bay, South Africa on 3rd April 1881, the night of the 1881 British Census, and he had been born in 1860 in County Cork in the diocese of Cloyne. Could he have been a relative? Was the ship in that part of the world in 1879? I read books about the Zulus and searched in the National Archives whenever I had the time. I recalled an occasion when I was at school, in a history lesson, when I was the only pupil who had heard of the South African Wars or the Zulus. Many thousands of English soldiers served in South Africa during the reign of Queen Victoria, so it would appear that most of my classmates had not talked to their grandparents about the past. I had always enjoyed history and was ready to look up anything that puzzled me. I would go the extra mile in pursuit of mysteries.

Aged 20, Michael returned to Cork city with his wooden leg. He needed to find some kind of work to supplement his pension and did not return to relatives in Newmarket. It was not easy for him to travel anywhere – and those with little money had to walk. It would have been a considerable effort for him to go to the post office and make his mark in order to receive the pension. I made no progress with my enquiries about him until I went to the LDS Family History Centre (Church of the Latter Day Saints, or Mormons,) at Hyde Park Chapel, London.

Although Michael had suffered a terrible ordeal and set-back in life early in 1858, he married my great grandmother, Mary NAGLE, on 11th August 1858 at the R.C. church in Carrigtwohill, quite near to Cork city. Church records did not show the names of the parents of the bride and groom but there were two witnesses, John PRICE and James POWER. I have often wondered if Mary had been a nurse? I expected that she would have been born in Carrigtwohill, but this does not seem to have been the case. I wrote to the priest at Carrigtwohill but he was unable to find any children of the marriage in his baptismal register. "Perhaps they moved on quite quickly," he suggested.

I searched the Internet for sources of information and plagued catholic priests with enquiry letters for several years. I hoped I would not cause annoyance by applying so often. Many priests have busy parishes and not all have a clerk to help

them with paperwork. I imagined them going down into the crypt and wiping the dust from old volumes. Those who replied were very kind and one began by telling me that he had little time for genealogies. In the next paragraph he gave me three very good pieces of information. Then he concluded, "As I say, I don't have much time for ancestors and I hope this helps."

I returned to the LDS Centre and continued my efforts by looking through reels of microfilm. I had to guess the names of Michael and Mary's children, except one, because my cousin had remembered Lawrence. The young couple moved to Middleton, where William (1859), Mary (1861) and John (1863) were baptised. Margaret (1866) was born at Clonmoyle, just before the family moved again to Millstreet. Lawrence (1868), John (1870) and Jeremiah (1872) (my grandfather, who had an urgent conditional baptism), Patrick (1874), Richard (1876) and Catherine (1878) were all born in Millstreet. On seeing these details, my cousin exclaimed, "Ten children? Michael doesn't sound much like an invalid to me!"

Margaret's birth certificate showed that Michael was a "Pensioner of the 15th Regiment of Foot" and I was lucky to be able to see full details of the certificate at the LDS Centre. Michael was described as "Tinsmith" or "Tinsman" on the later certificates. Unfortunately Margaret died in 1870 at the age of four, due to hydrocephalus, only a few weeks before the second John was born, but her birth certificate details made the connection with Michael's short military career and disability. Michael was always the informant at the register office and he made his mark, as he did on the army papers, so evidently he did not learn to read and write. This was a pity, because a sedentary indoor clerical job would have been better for him. A tinsmith's work entailed quite a lot of hammering and bending metal but he would at least be his own boss.

The child named John, born in 1863, had probably died but I have not attempted to find his name in the death indexes yet. The family had a fixed abode in Millstreet for more than 12 years and I was able to check this when I went to the Irish Genealogical Research Society Library (IRGS), in the Society of Genealogists in London, and looked at the famous O'KIEF* volumes. It was so helpful to be able to access the books easily, without filling in a form.

There was another move later for the family, about ten miles northwards to Newmarket, probably in about 1880. Perhaps Michael's parents were infirm and needed help, or perhaps work prospects seemed better there. Railways were being built and there may have been employment for tin-plate layers. I hoped they had not been evicted from their cottage, as many were at this time. As the children grew up they would have been able to help their father – he really needed a horse and cart to search in the villages for items to mend, and there was the chore of getting peat for the fire, but I expect Michael and Mary kept the home going by sheer hard work, because they had only the most basic amenities. I can recall for myself just how cold a house can be without central heating and

the hassle of drawing water from a well on a frosty morning when the ground was slippery near the windlass. Men walked long distances in search of work and my mother's father walked many miles in Dorset, too. If times were hard in England, you could almost guarantee that they were worse in Ireland.

According to my research at present, it seems that only one of Michael's sons, Lawrence, became a tinsmith and he had a workshop in Kanturk. The 1901 Census shows that there were 580 tinsmiths in Ireland and in the 1911 Census their number had reduced to 564, so the trade may have died out more gradually in Ireland than in England. I found out more about Lawrence quite by chance – he was a strong Irish Nationalist – my discoveries always came in a different order than I expected.

Michael died in November 1889, of pneumonia, having been ill for three weeks, at the age of 51. The Meteorological Office recorded a very wet, cold autumn that year. My search for his death certificate was quite a marathon. I searched the death indexes from 1878, the year Catherine was born, through to 1900, looking for any Michael SULLIVAN from the locality and of the age that would fit, then applied for copy certificates of those I thought most likely to be my great grandfather. Michael did not live to see his sons Jeremiah and Patrick enlist and one wonders if he would have encouraged this. A few years later his children went their separate ways, some to Killarney, some to Tralee and the Royal Munster Fusiliers.

My great grandmother was still living in Newmarket in 1894. I know this because she was recorded as next of kin on my grandfather's attestation papers in that year. A few weeks ago, I thought I had identified Mary in the 1911 Irish Census. It was possible – although *that* Mary had moved to a small village near Killarney. She was a widow, the age recorded was credible but she was unable to read and write. I was cautious, because many of the NAGLEs were educated and some in the professions. She *could* have taken over a small farm. After all, she had done much else! I have been unable to find her grave in Killarney or Newmarket, so expect it will be a long time before I am certain by how much she survived her husband – there are so many women called Mrs. Mary O'SULLIVAN in south west Ireland! I have met only a few of Michael and Mary's hundreds of descendants. We had no photographs of our great grandparents. As my sister Eileen said, "It makes you feel cheated not to have known them."

This article will also appear in the Members' Section of the IRGS website.

**O'Kief, Coshe Mange, Slieve Lougher and Upper Blackwater in Ireland*

A collection of 16 tomes - the work of Albert E Casey who was a pathologist, as well as a family historian. He collected lists of 19th Century baptisms, marriages and funerals in many localities in Co. Cork and Kerry.

CHANGE OF NAME BY ROYAL LICENCE AND AUTHORITY

John Seaman



On the 3rd November 1795, *The London Gazette* announced that William Thomas DARBY of Sunbury had been granted by Royal Licence and Authority, permission to change his surname to SAINT QUINTIN and to use the Crest and Arms of Saint Quintin. William Thomas DARBY was the son of George DARBY (who had died and had been an Admiral in the Royal Navy) and his wife Mary, who was a younger sister of the late Sir William QUINTIN, bart. This change of name was to comply with the will and testament of his late uncle, Sir William. This will has not been located

The crest of St. Quintin

The burial of William Thomas SAINT QUINTIN at Harpham, in Yorkshire, on the 26th January 1805, was recorded in a Bishops Transcript (find.my.past.co.uk). The church, which is dedicated to St. John of Beverley, contains SAINT QUINTIN family tombs and memorials. William Thomas's will was proved at the Prerogative Court of Canterbury on the 24th May 1805. (TNA PROB 11/1426/161).

On the 14th June 1824, *The Morning Post* reported the marriage on the 12th June at Sunbury, of the Honourable Thomas William GAGE and Arabella SAINT QUINTIN, the eldest daughter of the late Thomas William SAINT QUINTIN of Scampton Hall, by the Rev. James COWE.

Darby House in Sunbury is a reminder of the family's local associations.

MEMBERS' DISCOUNTS

We reported last year that the Society had arranged a members' discount with the website Find My Past. Please note that the discount codes for 2017 are:

If you are paying by subscription: **FFHS2017SUB**

If you are using pay-as-you-go: **FFHS2017PAYG**



*Gravestone of Johan
Richard Schram in St.
Nicholas, Chiswick*

My curiosity was aroused by Roland Bostock's reference to Johan Richard SCHRAM in the WMFHS Journal (March 2017, p.14) and I was prompted to do some further trawling of the internet.

This revealed that in 1869, he was engaged as a draughtsman at the Science Museum, South Kensington, suggesting that he had moved to London by then, but I was unable to find him in the 1871 census. However, in 1877 he started the business of Richard SCHRAM & Co. at 17a Great George Street, Westminster. The 1881 Census shows him to be an *Engineer, Mechanical and Mining*, living at 23/25 Norfolk Street, St. Clement Danes, a hotel managed by his wife, a *Private Hotel Keeper*, who had also resided there in 1871. Her birthplace was given as *St. Andrews, Middlesex*. In

1891 SCHRAM was at the Temple Hotel, Arundel Street (also St. Clement Danes) with his second wife Emeline, but her occupation is not given. He may have moved again subsequently but it would seem likely that when he died in 1898, he was in Luzern on business, on holiday, or perhaps visiting another family member.

In 1867 SCHRAM had married Fanny Atkinson EDWARDS at Kensington, but she died in 1886. In 1890 he married Emeline Mary HOWLAND at Thame, where she was born. She died in April 1936 at Brentford and was commemorated on his gravestone, so here we have a local link. Another one is that in 1894 John I. THORNYCROFT & Co, who then had a factory at Church Wharf, Chiswick (they later moved to Southampton), built a rock drilling machine for Richard SCHRAM & Co. These machines, designed by SCHRAM, were used in tunnelling in countries such as India, Japan and Natal (South Africa).

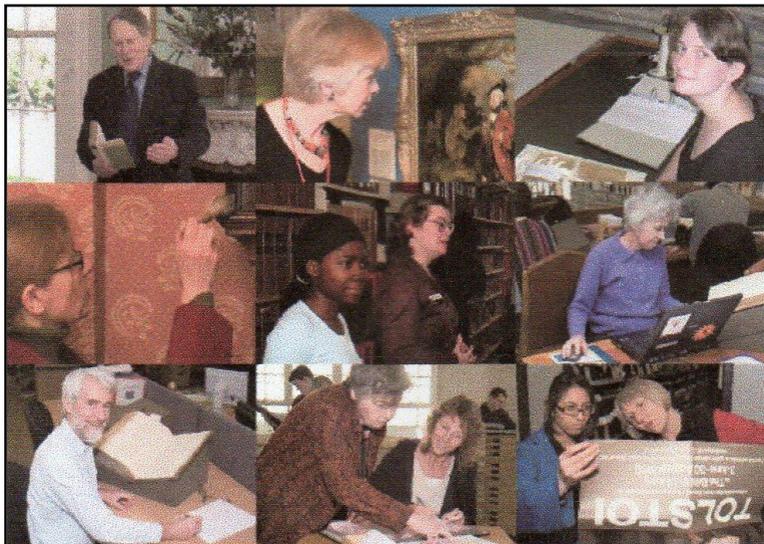
This, of course, is not conclusive evidence that he ever lived in Chiswick, but it does establish that he lived in London for many years and had local connections.

Due acknowledgement is given to the following websites:

Graces Guide to British Industrial History;
The Institution of Mechanical Engineers
Pinterest.

LONDON METROPOLITAN ARCHIVES

LMA are appealing for volunteers.



They welcome over 30,000 visitors a year and receive over 18,000 distance enquiries a year from all round the world.

Their users have a wide range of research interests, including family, community and local history, and they also work with engineering and architectural consultants, lawyers, social workers and local government organisations.

Their family history volunteers support the work of the permanent staff on the **Saturdays** they open to the public. In particular, they assist first time visitors, showing them how to get started on their family history research.

They are always looking for people with similar experience to join the team.

If you would like to get involved, please contact them, or ask a member of staff for further information or volunteer opportunities:

London Metropolitan Archives, 40 Northampton Road, London, EC1R OHB
Telephone: 020 7332 3820.

Email: ask.lma@cityoflondon.gov.uk or Sally.bevan@cityoflondon.gov.uk

FAMILY HISTORY NEWS ROUNDUP

Here are some items of news received in the last three months.

Journal of Genealogy and Family History

I have received the following press release, which is printed here for information for members. As is the usual practice of the Society, this does not mean that it is endorsed by the Committee. Ed.

Launched in April 2017, the new Journal of Genealogy and Family History (JGFH) will address the current need for a high quality, peer reviewed publication, covering broad scholarly research in genealogy and family history in a 21st century online format. The journal will be offered to readers and contributors free of charge, on an open-access, non-commercial basis, with content available under a Creative Commons Attribution License. The scope of the journal will include any field or academic discipline associated with genealogy or family history research such as heraldry, demography, education and record conservation.

Articles will offer the reader insights into the current thinking and practice and provide an outlet for theoretical and speculative ideas within genealogy and family history. Topics will be wide ranging, and include for example:

- Family histories which demonstrate new and innovative approaches and analytic techniques;
- Locational studies;
- The use of new technologies;
- Software applications and databases;
- The use of DNA analyses to better understand kinship;
- Ancestry and populations;
- Micro histories which may focus on personal, local, community and social histories;
- Ethical and legal issues surrounding the practice of genealogy.

The journal will attract authors from around the world who wish to have their genealogical and family history work published in a credible form and made available to anyone who chooses to read it. All articles submitted for publication will undergo anonymous peer review, which will provide a rigorous and robust process of close scrutiny.

The Editor, Jessica Feinstein, says, "I am very excited to be part of the great team involved in this venture, and look forward to enabling authors in our field to publish academic articles that will advance genealogical research in many areas."

The editorial board will include prominent individuals from within the field of genealogy and family history as well as associated disciplines. The Journal of Genealogy and Family History is registered at the British Library with ISSN 2399-2964.

The journal was initiated and designed by the Register of Qualified Genealogists and will be published via their website at: qualifiedgenealogists.org/igfh

For further information please contact the Editor, Jessica Feinstein by email or telephone: editor@qualifiedgenealogists.org or 01235 531500 (evenings only).

Protestation Returns

In a welcome move, the Parliamentary Archive has announced that it will digitise its Protestation Returns. This is excellent news for ancestry researchers, as these documents are effectively a 17th century English census.

By order of the House of Commons, all adult men were asked to swear an oath of allegiance to the Protestant religion in 1642. Their names were duly inscribed in a list in each parish, and the list was then sent back to Parliament. The Returns survive for about a third of English counties.

Up to now, you needed to know where your ancestors were living in the 1640s to search for them in the **Portcullis** online catalogue. Once you determined the Return existed, you could then go to the Parliamentary Archive to look at it, or ask them to make a copy. (Tip: if the Archives does not have a particular Return, it may be that the county record office has one. Some of the oaths were recorded in parish registers too. For example there is such a list in the parish register for Appleby Magna, Leicestershire.)

In an exciting new step, the Parliamentary Archive is now testing on **online search tool**, for locating Protestation Returns. Eventually, you will be able to click through to a digital copy of the Return, once you have found it exists using the map tool.

Peter Calver of **LostCousins** has helpfully put together a list of all the digitised Returns that have been completed or are in progress, which you can browse and refer back to as more Returns are digitised.

Pdf Marriage Certificate Trial Live

The General Register Office is now trialling its 'Pdf Pilot Phase 3'. During this phase they will provide pdf copies of non-digitised records, which will be emailed. Of most interest to genealogists are the marriage certificates dating back to 1837, which were not available in phases 1 and 2. Applications cost £8. England and Wales records which are available as pdfs in pilot 3 include: Births:

1935-2006; Deaths: 1958-2006; and Marriages: 1837-2010. The pilot phase 3 was due to close at 4pm on 12 April, or when 40,000 pdfs had been ordered, whichever was sooner. Analysis of the pilot will then follow.

The pilot was set up to test the viability of supplying pdf versions of non-certified birth and death certificates, which GRO had already digitised at the end of last year. Phase 1 gave genealogists the opportunity to pay £6 for a pdf. After payment the certificate was emailed. Phase 2 tested the demand for a rapid 3-hour service, costing £45 for a birth, marriage or death pdf. Too pricey for all but the most enthusiastic family historian, the service was targeted instead at those who need a certificate quickly, such as 'heir hunters'. As well as potentially lowering the cost of family history research, a major extra benefit of this trial is the improved indexes on the **GRO website**, which now gives the mother's maiden name before 1911 and also the age of death before 1860.

Family History Competition aimed at young children

The Federation of Family History Societies (FFHS) has launched a competition aimed at children and young people aged between 5-16 years. It is hoped that with the help and encouragement of their older family members, they might develop an interest in family history. The *My Family Tree* booklet produced by the FFHS will help to start their research adventure.

To enter the Competition, competitors must:

- Submit a photocopy or scanned copy of a completed double-page spread of their *My Family Tree* booklet and/or the completed family tree chart as printed in the booklet.
- Write a short item (no more than 450 words) describing what they enjoyed most about working on the booklet.

Free copies of the booklet can be requested via email or post. Full details with links to the Rules and Entry Form are on the Home Page of the FFHS website: ffhs.org.uk/ezine/competition-2017.php

Please note the closing date for the competition is Thursday, 13th July 2017.

London FamilySearch Centre at TNA (Kew)

The following press release has been received.

In the next few months a number of changes will be implemented in the London FamilySearch Centre services at Kew. We have been based within The National Archives at Kew since August 2011, and our planned stay of several months has stretched to several years. The National Archives have been gracious landlords, but our contract with them will end on 30 June 2017. Our presence will

continue at Kew in a 'legacy' mode until at least the end of March 2019, although with mutual agreement, this could be extended. However, the size of presence at Kew and the type of offerings will change in June 2017. More information will be available closer to the time. Meanwhile, you should be aware of the following:

Microfilm Collection

The permanent microfilm collection now at Kew has been given to the Society of Genealogists. According to current plans, it will be available there starting early in June 2017, although this date may slip. See sog.org.uk for the Society's address, opening times and charges. For those who are not members, there is a daily or part daily charge for using the Society's resources, and also a daily charge for using a camera. It is likely that films at Kew will not be accessible from about mid-May, although this date could also slip. Further information will be given when available.

FamilySearch has now digitised the film collection at Kew, and is beginning to make some sub-collections available online to browse at any family history centre including Kew. As an example, the burials of Woodgrange Cemetery, all post-1858 record copy wills for both the Principal Registry and the District Courts, and the Irish Registry of Deeds films held at Kew are now available. The rest of the Kew films have been given a very high priority in the schedule of providing digital remote access to films, but it is not possible to say when each film will appear. Legal issues may prevent some of the Kew collection from being available online.

Kew films now available to browse will be able to be identified using the Salt Lake Family History Library catalogue available under 'Search' on the FamilySearch website. Go to the film number as shown in the Family History Library Catalogue filtered by 'London FamilySearch Centre' and look for the little picture of a camera to browse. Also available to browse are more than 65,000 films from the British Isles and many tens of thousands of films from other parts of the world which are not part of the Kew film collection. Note that these online films will not appear in a list of 'historical record collections' or 'browse collections' on the 'Search Records' page.

Patron Short Term Films at Kew

Patrons who now have short term films at Kew will be able to continue to view them at Kew, either using Kew readers or FamilySearch readers (as long as the latter are available). They will remain available to view when the permanent collection has been moved. Scans of images will continue to be available as at present. Film orders which have not yet arrived will be delivered to Kew as normal. New films to be viewed at Kew can still be ordered.

We appreciate your patience while these changes occur.

Sharon Hintze

London FamilySearch Centre

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the West Middlesex Family History Society, held at Montague Hall, Montague Road, Hounslow, on Thursday, 16th March 2017. The meeting was attended by 39 members.

1. Welcome by the Chairman

Good evening and welcome to the Annual General Meeting of 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. I am pleased to tell you that as there are more than 20 members present, the meeting is quorate.

2. Apologies for Absence

Claudette Durham, Wendy Mott, Brian Page.

3. Minutes of the AGM held on 17th March, 2016

These were published in the Society's Journal of June 2016. Is it agreed that they can be signed as a true record of that meeting?

Proposed: Rob Purr. Seconded: Carole Steers. Carried unanimously.

4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

5. Chairman's Report

I think I can safely report to you that 2016 was a far better year for the Society than 2015. We have been able to put aside all thoughts of 'winding up' and get back to simply enjoying our family history together. It is not worth us being a Society unless we can all enjoy our participation in it.

There is a serious side to it too. Decisions have to be made, and the books have to roughly balance, but mostly this Society is about enjoying our evenings together, as with this evening. So I am delighted to see you all here this evening.

We do our best to obtain speakers who will amuse and inform us at the same time, and I am sure that our speaker this evening will be able to do just that. I have to thank Kay Dudman once again for arranging all our talks for last year. I took over the Programme Co-ordinator role in arranging for all talks commencing January this year, so you know with whom to take issue if the talks do not match up to expectations, but I sincerely hope they will.

We have a lot of members in our Society who help our evenings together run smoothly, and more who work behind the scenes. I certainly wish to thank

Bridget Purr as our editor of the Journal for consistently producing quality material every quarter, and I know that Bridget will be with me when I extend that thanks to the several regular contributors to the journal. You know who you are, and I thank you for your contributions. I shall only single out one contributor today, as she has probably written more words for the journal than any other: and that is Yvonne Masson, in particular for her very many write-ups of our monthly talks, but she has written much more besides.

Just a few more thank-yous before I move on. I thank very much the Smiths, who between them provide support at every single one of our meetings: Brian making our not inconsiderable library appear and then to remove it at each meeting, and Pam for always being there with refreshments. Who can forget the excellent refreshments she provided for us at Christmas time?

I certainly wish to thank Margaret Cunnew for bringing part of her bookstore to every meeting. It is not as large as the library, but there is plenty of carrying to be done, and Muriel Sprott plays her part in that too.

There is also the door-keeping performed by Mary Brown and Wendy Mott, and the management of the raffle by Joan Storkey. Thanks to all of you.

Keeping up our membership and attracting new members is to the forefront of what your Committee try to do for you. Hence we go to Family History Fairs where we hope to meet potential members. During 2016, we attended Dorset FHS Day in March, Wiltshire FHS Day in June, Buckinghamshire FHS Day in July, Oxford FHS Day and Richmond's Full of Life Fair in October, and West Surrey FHS day in November.

An important new thing that we started in 2016 was the running of clinics, or advice sessions, initially on trial for the months of June, July and August, and then on a regular basis each month since January this year. Thanks in particular to Ann Greene for getting this programme running.

Muriel Sprott and Roland Bostock have been helping Ann to run these sessions. Roland, of course, also runs our website, which has seen many new things happen over the last year. Some of you will have renewed your subscriptions online using information from the website.

Others may be more interested to read what goes on behind closed doors. The Committee took a decision last May that all Committee minutes, once approved, should go on the website so all of you can see whether we are running the society in a proper manner.

More recently, Roland has been adding to the collection of journals that may be browsed online. He is currently back to 2006. The journal articles are also indexed all the way back to Volume 1, which was 1978, and surnames are indexed back to 1994. So our own history is being well cared for.

I shall end on a more sombre note. We have had two deaths this last year of particular note – both much-loved and long-time Honorary Members – which left us the sadder without them. Mary Bickle died on 26th April, and Joan Scrivener on 1st October. Joan, in particular, was then serving on the Committee, and had been our colleague working at West 4 Printers, of which she was a founding member, so she is terribly missed. That event also reduced our Committee members down to eight.

Presently, as we come to re-election of Committee members you will see that Margaret Cunnew is standing down as she has completed her six-year term, and Brian Page is also standing down as Vice-Chair and Committee member from today. That leaves us with six to continue into this coming year. We will manage with six, but we would so much like a few more. We would really like to hear some new ideas and, I am told, that it is actually quite good fun.

Prospective Committee members do have to be proposed in writing to the Secretary 14 days before the AGM, so you have missed that opportunity but our Constitution says that at the AGM – I quote, “If insufficient nominations have been received to fill the vacancies the Chairman may, at his discretion, take nominations from the floor.” This is your chance, please go for it, I am listening.

One last plea. When I took on the role of Chairman 18 months ago, I rather quickly set up a Facebook and Twitter page for our Society, because I absolutely know it is one way of reaching potential new members. These pages need active participants to make them work and promote the Society and it is with this in mind that we are calling our July Members’ Meeting ‘Getting Online’. Do please set that date aside to hear what social media can do for you and for us as a Society.

6. Treasurer’s Report

Good evening. We had intended that you would find a copy of the annual accounts on your chairs, but we encountered a problem this year, so that has not happened. However, the fall-back plan is that we are able to show you the accounts on the screen, which I trust will be sufficient, and it saves a lot of paper. The accounts have been approved by the Committee, independently examined and are now presented for your approval. They will also be published in the June Journal.

To begin, I am going to sound like an Oscar winner by thanking everyone: Kirsty for coming in like a knight in shining armour and rescuing us when our future looked bleak; to all our members who continued to pay subs and therefore showed their confidence in us and finally, to all the people who do things for us – too many to name and I do not want to risk upsetting anyone by omitting them.

Moving on to the accounts, but continuing the ‘thank you’ theme – we are very grateful to everyone who has made a donation to the Society, over and above the

subscription. Donations include £24.58 from the collection made in memory of Mary Bickle and £50 compensation from Barclays for the troubles we experienced opening the accounts.

During 2016 we had a new source of income – revenue from FindMyPast for searches of our Monumental Inscriptions database. This has got off to a very satisfactory start and has recently been joined by our War Memorials Index. It is quite clear that the more data we can get online, the better, so if anyone has any ideas for future projects, do let Roland, Kirsty or myself know.

Despite spending more than we take in, our reserves are still healthy. We hope that increasing our subscriptions will go some way to reducing the shortfall this year. We hope to be able to hold the subscriptions at £15 for a while.

During the year we successfully completed the migration of our bank accounts from CAF Bank to Barclays. Amazingly, for an allegedly charity-supporting bank, CAF Bank was going to start charging if we paid in ‘too many’ cheques. There are no such restrictions with Barclays Community Account. We also transferred £5,000 to London Capital & Finance Three Year Bond, maturing in June 2019. The interest on this account is compounded annually and paid on maturity.

I always find it difficult to know what to talk about as I believe the accounts are as simple as we can make them, but if anyone has any queries, I will do my best to answer them.

Thank you.

John Steward queried if the journal will continue in its printed form. He was reassured that it will.

7. Receiving Financial Statements for the year to 31st December 2016

The Committee recommends their acceptance by you, the members.

To accept the accounts:

Proposed: Bridget Purr. Seconded: Maggie Mold. Carried unanimously.

8. Appointment of Examiners

To accept Neil Johnson as Examiner for 2017.

Proposed: Muriel Sprott. Seconded: Pam Smith. Carried unanimously.

9. Election of Committee

Margaret Cunnew is standing down, having served her full six years. Kirsty thanked her for the work she has done over these six years on the Committee.

Muriel Sprott, having served more than three years on the Committee, and being willing to continue, offered herself for re-election.

Proposed: Roland Bostock. Seconded: Kirsty Gray. Carried unanimously.

WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity Number: 291906

Receipts and Payments Account for the Year to 31 December 2016

	YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 2016		YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 2015
MEMBERS' SERVICES INCOME			
Subscriptions received for current year	2338		1618
Subscriptions received in advance last year	<u>372</u>		<u>1224</u>
	2710		2842
Bank Interest	21		56
Tax Refund on Gift Aid	<u>289</u>		<u>716</u>
	3020		3614
LESS EXPENDITURE			
Journal production and delivery	2260		2457
Hire of meeting hall	1017		1080
Speakers	<u>575</u>		<u>497</u>
	<u>3852</u>		<u>4034</u>
	-832		-420
OTHER INCOME			
Bookstall sales	638		482
Plus/minus stock variation	-295		-70
Less purchases	<u>-156</u>	187	<u>-55</u>
Donations	148		53
Marriage Index searches	295		433
Monumental Inscription searches	69		0
Other research income	21		26
Raffles	230		240
Refreshments	<u>20</u>		<u>42</u>
	<u>970</u>		<u>1151</u>
	138		731
OVERHEAD EXPENSES			
FFHS Subscriptions	90		105
FFHS fees	2		7
Equipment repairs and maintenance	154		190
Honoraria and gifts	99		52
Library purchases	208		79
Postage, stationery and telephone	28		157
Printing of Leaflets, Posters and Flyers	28		0
Publicity, including attendance at Open Days	236		321
Sundry expenses	162		172
Travel and subsistence	159		63
Disposal of assets	0		87
Depreciation	<u>107</u>		<u>143</u>
	<u>1273</u>		<u>1376</u>
Deficit for year	<u>-£1135</u>		<u>-£645</u>

WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity Number: 291906

Balance Sheet as at

	31 DECEMBER 2016			31 DECEMBER 2015		
FIXED ASSETS	Cost or value at 30/09/1994	Total Accumulated Depreciation	Value at 31/12/2016	Cost or Value at 30/09/1994	Total Accumulated Depreciation	Value at 31/12/2015
1881 Census Index	1087	1083	4	1087	1082	5
Projector Stand – scrapped	0	0	0	1	1	0
Times Divorce Index	11	10	1	11	10	1
Boxes & Display Shelves	31	30	1	31	30	1
Harmondsworth Manor Rolls	348	0	348	348	0	348
Exhibition Display Boards	324	322	2	324	321	3
Lectern – bought 2002	400	395	5	400	394	6
Laptop Computer – bought 2002 scrapped	0	0	0	1482	1482	0
Overhead Projector – bought 2005	352	345	7	352	343	9
Amplification System – bought 2006	235	224	11	235	220	15
Power Point Projector – bought 2006	428	410	18	428	404	24
Laptop Computer – bought 2007 scrapped	0	0	0	795	795	0
Viewing Monitor for Laptop – bought 2007	170	158	12	170	155	15
Display Stands & Table Cloths – bought 2008	1409	1314	95	1409	1282	127
Laptop Computer – bought 2011	<u>915</u>	<u>744</u>	<u>171</u>	<u>915</u>	<u>687</u>	<u>228</u>
	<u>5710</u>	<u>5035</u>	675	<u>7988</u>	<u>7206</u>	782
CURRENT ASSETS						
Stocks: Books		720			890	
Ordnance Survey Maps		<u>300</u>			<u>425</u>	
			1020			1315
Expenses paid in advance:2016/2015			167			35
Cash at Bank and in Hand						
Barclays Current Account		1235			0	
Barclays Business Premium Account		7002			0	
COIF Account		0			11503	
CAF Bank Current Account		0			-249	
CAF Bank Deposit Account		0			1523	
London Capital Account		5000			0	
Cash		<u>2</u>			<u>51</u>	
			<u>13239</u>			<u>12828</u>
Total assets			15101			14960
CURRENT LIABILITIES						
West 4 Printers for December Journals		569			0	
Subscriptions in Advance		<u>1079</u>	<u>1648</u>		<u>372</u>	<u>372</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>£13453</u>			<u>£14588</u>
ACCUMULATED FUNDS						
Balance Brought Forward			14588			15233
Deficit for Year			<u>-1135</u>			<u>-645</u>
			<u>£13453</u>			<u>£14588</u>
Muriel Sprott Treasurer				Kirsty Gray Chairman		

Roland Bostock, Pat Candler, Kirsty Gray, Ann Greene and Yvonne Masson, having served less than three years on the Committee, and being willing to continue, do not need to be re-elected.

Brian Page has decided not to continue as a Committee member. Kirsty thanked Brian for his contribution.

10. Any other Business

Presentations

Kirsty presented Margaret Cunnew with chocolates as a token of the Society's thanks for completing six years' service on the Committee.

Kirsty announced that the Committee had approved Honorary Life Membership awards to Yvonne Masson, and to Brian and Pam Smith, for their respective long term contributions to the Society. Kirsty then presented them with their certificates.

The official business of the AGM closed at 8.10 pm with thanks to all who had attended



Yvonne Masson and Brian and Pam Smith receiving their Honorary Membership Certificates

MISCELLANY

The National Army Museum



This Museum has undergone a massive redevelopment programme, costing several millions of pounds. It covers 400 years of army history over four floors and five galleries at the main site at Royal Hospital Road, Chelsea. As well as the special collections, it offers monthly talks at a cost of £12. Visit the website for more details.

nam.ac.uk

Museum of English Rural Life



Another refurbishment, this museum is devoted to telling the story of the English countryside. It has nine themed galleries and includes a 'wagon walk' of 20 historic wagons. As well as 25,000 different objects, there are 100,000 volumes in its library, which has open access. Part of the University of Reading, it is open from 9.00-5.00. Redlands Road, Reading RG1 5EX.

reading.ac.uk/TheMERL/

World War One Love Letters Appeal



Do you have any love letters in your family dating from the First World War? The Europeana digital platform, which is cloud funded, is inviting you to transcribe the letters and submit them to their growing online database of letters. They already have many from countries all over Europe.

transcribethon.eu

London Genealogy – or the Metropolitan Nightmare, *Paul Blake*, January

Paul Blake's starting point was the early 19th century. This was the time when London's population began to expand significantly and caused a wholesale change in civil administration. He began by defining London: originally 'London' meant the City but by the late 19th century, the suburban areas were beginning to grow in size and population and the idea of London began to change. As early as the 18th century, inhabitants of the metropolis were beginning to regard the suburbs and environs of the City, as London. They thought of themselves as Londoners, even if they did not live in the Square Mile originally defined as London.

London's Growth

By 1837, London was unique in the country (and possibly the world) for its size and continuing growth. In 1851, the population was 2.4 million and by 1900 had increased to 6.5 million. This three-fold increase in population was not due to a rise in birth rate: until the 1850s, when links between disease and public hygiene began to be understood, the death rate actually outstripped the birth rate. The expansion was caused by migration into London. In the mid-19th century, 45% of London's population were born in the intra-metropolitan areas of Surrey, Middlesex and Kent and the remaining 55% were born outside that area. 5% of London's total population at that time was Irish-born.

Population growth was not uniform across the whole of London. Between 1851 and 1891, the balance of population began to change. Whereas previously, the City had been the most populous part of London, now people were deserting it for the suburbs: affordable public transport was the reason for this change. Workers no longer had to live within walking distance of their jobs and they could escape the fumes and pollution of the city by moving further out.

Administration

One of the lasting effects of this growth was the need for change in civil administration. Up until the mid-19th century, London operated on the same principles as the rest of the country: civil administration, along with the Poor Law, was delivered by the Vestry and the parish. However, the rapid, uncontrolled growth of the population put an impossible strain on the parishes. Old parishes were dividing and new parishes were being created and the result was chaotic.

In 1855, it was acknowledged that the old system could no longer cope and the City of London and 38 other districts were brought into being by the Local Government Vestries and Boards Act. Existing large, efficient Vestry Boards became Districts, while smaller Boards were amalgamated. This was effectively the foundation for the modern-day London Boroughs.

However, by the mid-1880s, complaints were being made by Liberal MPs that unscrupulous persons were making money out of the system and in 1889 the Local Government Act came into effect, creating County Councils and County Borough Councils. The County of London was formed from the City, large areas of Middlesex and Surrey and a small part of Kent. This system lasted effectively until 1965, when the modern London Boroughs were formed. It was this division that laid the foundations of modern archive locations.

Record Offices and Archives

Anomalies exist, but broadly speaking, location of records is as follows:

The London Metropolitan Archives (LMA) acts as a joint Record Office for Middlesex and the County of London and contains records of the City and Middlesex, as well as Greater London. Exceptions to this are records of Livery Companies and records of the Freedom of London, which are at the Guildhall, and records for Westminster which maintains its own archives.

Westminster Archives holds resources that you would expect to find in any Record Office, such as parish registers, electoral registers and poll books, maps, local government records, images, newspapers, business and community histories.

The Surrey History Centre at Woking maintains the archives for Surrey, with the exception of records of intra-metropolitan Surrey, which are held at the LMA.

Kent and Essex Record Offices keep the resources for their own counties. These are all essentially similar to County Record Offices across the country.

The Guildhall Library is a specialist resource. It holds the archives for the City of London, including Lloyds of London records, poll books and electoral registers, published family and local histories, City directories from mid-1700s, published registers of schools and directories for the clergy, medical and legal professions and the army.

Online London Resources

In general, LMA resources are available through **Ancestry**, while City of Westminster resources are available through **FindMyPast**, but there is a certain amount of 'cross-over', so it is worth using more than one resource when searching. It is also worth noting that not all records are fully indexed and that browsing may sometimes yield better results than defined searches.

Online resources allow family historians to search across parishes and to find instances of ancestors marrying away from their home parish. By 1903, because of London's rapid growth, many of the original parishes had divided and acquired 'daughter' churches. A parish boundary could be only two streets away from a family home and lead to someone apparently marrying or being buried in the 'wrong' parish.

Problems of research in London. These problems are the same as anywhere else – but more so.

Births. One of the main problems is the under-reporting of births during the early days of civil registration when as many as 40% of births may have gone unregistered. While it was not possible to get married or buried without declaring it, you could easily get away with not registering a birth. Most people wanted as little do with authority as possible and this was particularly so in London, where people may have been trying to escape their past or make a fresh start.

The Census. Censuses present the same problem as births. A popular illustration shows large numbers of people crowded into the backyard privies of a row of houses, all hiding until the census enumerator had gone. While this may be exaggerated or fictitious, the number of apparently uninhabited houses on a street sometimes raises questions. The censuses are not actually complete. Parts of them are missing, particularly the 1861 Census. FindMyPast is good for finding out which parts are missing but the best site for searching the census is **The Genealogist**, as it offers more choices than Ancestry or FindMyPast.

Marriages. Pallot's Marriage and Baptism Indexes 1780-1812 are useful sources. They are on Ancestry. Marriage Licences, from various sources, are another good source of information and are available online at Ancestry and FindMyPast, or in printed form at the Society of Genealogists.

Burials. You could avoid registering or baptising your children, you could avoid marriage and the census but you had to be buried somewhere when you died. Until the 1840s people were buried in the graveyard of their parish church. However, the rapid expansion of London meant that the city was running out of space to bury the dead. In 1853 the Burial Act was passed, banning churchyard burials. Seven major Cemeteries around London, the 'Garden Cemeteries' had already been established by a bill introduced in 1832. Determining which cemetery your ancestor was buried in can be tricky, as they were not necessarily buried in the nearest one. **Deceased Online** offers a free initial search but to see the detailed results, pay-per-view vouchers are needed.

Wills. Greater London has no fewer than 17 probate courts, but the favoured one was the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, which was the most senior probate court in the country. It covers the period from 1383-1858 and is online at Ancestry and at **The National Archives** website. Probate of England Wills 1507-1958 and is on Ancestry, but it is by no means complete. Also on Ancestry are Probate Records from 1858-1966.

City Livery Companies. Some of these records are online but a visit to the Guildhall Library may be necessary.

Freedom of the City of London. Some records are online at Ancestry but most of them are at the LMA.

Your ancestor may also be found in unexpected places.

Charles Booth's Survey of London. Between 1886 and 1903, Charles BOOTH made a survey of the social state of London, making sketches and notes and allocating each street a colour denoting its prosperity or otherwise. The worst colour was black, denoting lowest-class, vicious and semi-criminal. The maps and note books are now online via the London School of Economics website: booth.lse.ac.uk .

The **Old Bailey** website gives the names not just of criminals but of witnesses too: oldbaileyonline.org

London Lives covers 1690 to 1800 and deals with crime, poverty and social policy in London in that period: londonlives.org

Boys Inhabitants of London is available on FindMyPast.

Final words of advice

Allow for mis-transcriptions when searching online. These are often caused by the handwriting on the original. You may recognise a name you are searching for, in spite of crabbed and spiky handwriting, but an indifferent transcriber may not. Consider that your ancestor may have moved back and forth across parish boundaries several times in their life and broaden your search. Be willing to accept that the information you are seeking may not exist. By and large, if you have searched different online resources, broadened your search terms and browsed as well as searched, then you may have to accept the fact that the entry is not there and move on.

AG

Was Your Ancestor a Gypsy? *Beverley Walker*. February

Beverley has Romany ancestry through her father's mother, Rachel PENFOLD, which led her to join the Romany and Traveller Family History Society, (R&TFHS) where she is now Secretary. Her well-illustrated talk provided much confirmation of the way gypsies were continually rubbing up against officialdom as they ran their lives, but also provided plenty of insight into the values held by Romanies.

The name 'Gypsy' is derived from 'Egyptians' and arose because many believed that these travellers had originated from Egypt but that is a myth. It is now known that the ethnic origins of the Romany-speaking travellers is in fact north-west India. It was from India, in about the 12th century, that gypsies spread westwards through North Africa and Turkey towards Europe. Whereas other travellers became settlers, the gypsies maintained a strong tradition of mobility and remain as travellers to this day. The earliest documentary evidence of gypsies in Britain is in Scotland in 1505 and in England in 1514.

The gypsies were soon in trouble and in 1530, a death penalty was introduced for "being a gypsy"; from 1562, the death penalty also applied to people found

travelling with (i.e. married to) gypsies. The Act also stated that gypsies born in England and Wales could stay in the country so this in turn meant that gypsies were particularly keen to have their children baptised. The death penalty act remained in force until 1783, though it was seldom used.

As a result of the Act of Parliament and continual harassment by local authorities and police, gypsies have always been wary of officialdom. Non-gypsies, or 'gorgers' tended to treat gypsies as vagabonds and thieves but there is no real evidence that supports the claim that they were any worse than the rest of the population. They had close-knit families, they treated their children and animals well and had many skills and crafts.

Among the farming community gypsies integrated well: they provided various skills for the farmers and the farmers provided seasonal employment. They would camp in barns or set up their 'bender' tents – tents made from hazel sticks bent into the required shape and covered with blankets or tarpaulin. The tents were vented and they would cook over fires inside them.

Gypsies started using wagons in the 1870s, with the wagons initially looking much like bender tents on wheels. Later, the much more elaborate 'vardo' caravans would be used. These elaborate caravans could take up to six months to build and were expensive items. Nowadays the place to see a vardo would be at one of the gypsy museums or at a gypsy fair.



A gypsy vardo

Parish registers do not identify the parents of babies being baptised as gypsies but they will record the father's occupation as whatever he was last doing. Typical occupations were peg-maker, basket maker, chair repairer, hawker, knife-sharpener, fruit picker, etc. In current times, hop picking in September is still a favourite occupation for gypsies.

Whereas gypsies have always been meticulous about having their children baptised, they were far less concerned about the formal registration of births and they were not very particular about their marriages either. When it came to burials, gypsies will usually have their dead buried and erect large tombstones.

They also tended to avoid the census returns, due to their continual travelling – though they will sometimes appear in more than one census return. In the 1841

and 1851 censuses the enumerators were not required to name people who did not live in houses, they just had to count them. In later censuses they are listed at the end of the enumerator's district. There are surnames which are typical of gypsies, e.g. BEENY, BILLIE, BIRD, BOSWELL, BUXLEY, etc. but it is their choice of forenames that is more striking. Gypsies definitely like the exotic names. Some examples of forenames are: Ambrose, Cornelius, Goliath, Reservoir and Trafalgar for boys, and Athalia, Cinderella, Defiance and Tryphenia for girls.

Being travellers, the place of baptism was frequently some considerable distance from where the child was born. Many gypsy families would have their favourite church to which they would return for baptisms. They also had a tendency to re-baptise their children, with one child being baptised 14 times in all: this was partly due to the custom of congregations giving presents to those being baptised.



A modern hop-picking gypsy

As regards marriage, it was the habit of church missionaries to attend gypsy fairs and it was not uncommon for several members of a family to be married at the same time by the missionaries, often many years after having lived together and having had several children. Gypsies tend to marry from within their community, often to a first cousin and to marry young: consequently they have large families. Beverley is one of seventeen children from her father's two marriages.

Criminal records include plenty of references to gypsies, who lived their lives at the limits of legality. Indeed gypsies favoured setting up camp on county boundaries, so that they could always move across the border when getting into trouble. Newspapers are also a good source for discovering what your gypsy ancestors may have been doing. Typical offences would be: "lighting fires in public places", "horses straying on to the road", "not having names on their vehicles".

Among the sites that gypsies used was an area of barren land in Birmingham called Black Patch. There is no documentation listing who owns it, but the gypsies, although unable to prove it, say it belongs to them. The site now has a stone marking the area which was unveiled in 2015. A special guest at the unveiling was Michael CHAPLIN, son of Charlie CHAPLIN. It is said that

although Charlie CHAPLIN stated in his auto-biography that he was born in London, he was in fact born on the gypsy site of Black Patch.

Gypsy activity is still celebrated at various gypsy fairs. In May each year there is an event at Dorchester; in June there is an event at Singleton in Sussex. Beverley listed a number of archives and museums where gypsy records could be found. She also mentioned that hawkers had to have licences, renewable each from the police, at the not inconsiderable cost of 5s.: these can be found in some archives.

Gypsies played their part in both world wars and to this day a contingent from the R&TFHS, resplendent with their medals, participate in the march past the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday. RB

Images: Beverley Walker

Meet Mr. Warden, or My Grandfather was an Air Raid Warden, *Steve Hookins* April



*Steve Hookins in the uniform of
an ARP Warden*

“Evening! You can call me Mr. Warden. When I’m on duty I’m God in this street. Understand? Why aren’t I in the army? I’m in a reserved occupation and am too old. I was in the last lot (indicates medal ribbons). The war to end all wars... but it wasn’t was it, because here we are again?”

In full ARP (Air Raid Precautions) uniform, this is how Steve greeted us. He told us that Civil Defence volunteers began to be enlisted in the 1920s, but enrolment accelerated in 1938, when it was clear that war was looming. Many of the volunteers were older men or in reserved occupations (those occupations which were seen as vital to the war effort). They were issued with a helmet, an armband, a whistle and a gasmask. Members of the public could buy their own, less robust helmets.

Steve then showed us a familiar picture of Hitler with his distinctive moustache and

then of Mr. Warden’s cat, which had similar facial fur and which the local children nicknamed ‘Kitler’.

The ARP Wardens were grouped into patrols of eight, charged with looking after around 300 people. The adult male volunteers were paid £4 a week, the women £3 and the boys – who acted as cycling messengers - £1 a week. Photographs of

ARP Wardens often show only seven members in a patrol – the ugliest member being chosen to take the picture.

Everyone had been issued with a gas mask by the end of 1938, and these had to be carried at all times. The Wardens sounded a rattle to warn people when to put their gas masks on, after which they had 14 seconds to do so. This was a virtually impossible task for mothers who had to put on their own masks, then that of their children. Babies were fully enclosed in a capsule which had to be manually ventilated – again: how did mothers cope with this, especially if they had twins? For people who were deaf and would not hear the rattles being sounded, special paint was applied to letter boxes which changed colour when gas was detected, acting as a visual warning.



A baby's gas mask with pump

The ARP Wardens had to know all the nooks and crannies in their area so that they could plan possible escape routes in times of danger. Some people were rather alarmed when they first saw the Wardens peering over garden fences and into alleyways reconnoitring their 'patch'.

Households were supplied with information in the form of numerous Government information leaflets. ARP Wardens helped families put the message in these leaflets into practice, especially in the creation of refuge rooms in their homes. These rooms were to be as secure as possible and to contain everything they might need to survive in there for three days.

The blackout came into operation as soon as it became dark, so of course the actual time varied with the time of year. Unfortunately, at first, there was a 300% increase in road accidents due to people not being able to see where they were going, so very quickly white lines were painted on kerbs, round lampposts and on roads. 'Cats eyes' were embedded into roads; these had been invented some time before but only really came into their own as a result of the need to achieve blackout.

If a family had a garden they could dig a large hole and put in an Anderson shelter. The earth from the excavation was used to cover the shelter and add extra protection. It was suggested that it was not a particularly good idea to dig another hole in which to place the earth from the first one. (Sorry – you really needed to hear that to hear the comedy). Families without a garden were

instructed to create a Morrison shelter indoors. This was a person-sized hamster cage erected under tables; they protected the residents from falling debris but were of little practical use.



A family going into an Anderson shelter

When going into the shelter, the family had to take with them everything they might need – food and water, insurance policies, ration books, whatever they were working with when the alarm sounded, or thought they might possibly want.

The ARP Wardens needed to know how many people were in each house at an given time, so that if a house was severely damaged they knew how many people they were searching for. They would not search a house where all the occupants were known to be away from home. The first priority for the Wardens was care of the people, then of property. Householders were strongly urged to clear all inflammable materials from their lofts to help minimise the risk of fire damage. Wardens had to know about any industrial premises in their area which used, or stored flammable materials. Wardens also had to care for lost and bewildered animals found wandering in their area.

Deaths of children, especially where preventable, always distressed the Wardens. Children loved playing on bomb sites but these could be dangerous and children were injured, or even killed, playing there. Sometimes water tanks were placed on bomb sites to serve a neighbourhood. Children would swim in these and some sadly drowned.

The Women's Voluntary Service (WVS) helped with feeding both the rescue workers and the people who found themselves homeless after air raids. Conscientious objectors were frequently drafted into non-combatant corps, such as bomb disposal squads. Men in these squads tended to have a very short life-expectancy due to the dangerous work.

People, especially women – who were often in homes with no males – had to learn how to deal with incendiary bombs. Water and incendiary bombs formed a lethal combination; the bombs had to be dealt with by being covered with earth or sand then moved to a place of safety. No easy task, especially given the

inadequate resources available. Women also had to know how to use a stirrup pump. A cigarette card of the time showed three women operating a pump, but



Women operating a stirrup-pump

with the caption, *It needs two men to operate a stirrup pump.* Steve risked upsetting the female members in attendance by saying that it was no wonder it needed three women to do the work of two men – by the time the women had had their hair done, put on their make-up and best shoes the fire was worse than it had been. Luckily we are a

resilient lot, who retorted that it made a change from jobs where two women do the work of three men.

By 1941/42, many merchant ships were being lost. The population had to become more self-reliant. We all know the phrases *Dig for Victory*, and *Make do and Mend*. Nothing was wasted. Recycling occurred on a scale never seen before or since. Clothing coupons did not go far, so clothes were unpicked and made into new garments. Children wore hand-me-downs. Fine if the children in the family were the same gender, or if the boy was the elder, not so much fun for a young lad with an older sister.

29th December 1940 was the worst day of the Blitz. The German bombers made their first sweep at 5.30 pm and came back six times. The Thames had its lowest tide for many years, so fire hoses could not draw water from the river. St. Paul's Cathedral was saved, but at the cost of more than 200 lives. Luckily, just as in the Great Fire of 1666, the wind changed direction and fires burnt out.

One of the most spectacular events was when the Tate & Lyle factory caught fire and a huge stream of burning sugar rolled down the river. The Thames itself appeared to be on fire.

Over 1,300 Wardens were killed, with double that number injured. The Home Guard lost over 1,200 members, the WVS had about 240 killed and over 1,000 members of the Fire Service lost their lives as well.*

Steve concluded by saying that this talk was first written as an education programme for children at the FirePower Museum and has since been repeated many times and in many places.

MS

*These statistics were taken from, *My Grandad, the Air Raid Warden*, by Steve Hookins, FireStep Publishing, 2014.



Photos

of the

MIDDLETON

family



HELP!

MIDDLETON FAMILY

Maureen Braithwaite has received some photos of the family of Thomas MIDDLETON, b.1830 in Cutslow, Oxon, and his wife Mary Ann, b.1825 in Norwood Green, Middlesex. They lived in The Grove/Grove Road, Ealing with their 10 children. Their daughter, Elizabeth was the first wife of Maureen's grandfather, Harry JERMEY and they had one daughter, Elsie JERMEY, born 1893 in Reading. Sadly Elizabeth died in 1896 and Elsie was brought up in Ealing by her aunts, Annie and Mary MIDDLETON. Maureen, however, is descended from Harry JERMEY and his second wife.

She has found one direct descendant from Harry and Elizabeth JERMEY but she is hoping that there are more direct descendants who may be able to identify these photographs. If you can help, please contact Maureen direct.

maureen64@hotmail.co.uk

SAVORY FAMILY

Chris Savory has traced an extensive SAVORY family of Thames fishermen, found to be living in both Hammersmith and Fulham, and elsewhere in west Middlesex, in the 16th and 17th centuries. If anyone has any knowledge of either this family, or local Thames fishermen during this period, please contact him.

savory@talk21.com

It is said that the only certainties in life are death and taxes – add to that: ancestors. We all have them. We would like to hear about yours. Have you found a long line, all the way back to William the Conqueror, or are you stuck with Grandad, illegitimate and born in the workhouse? If the former you must have several tales to tell; if the latter, what is his story after his birth?

How did you go about your research? Were you one of those who went to Somerset House, St. Catherine's House, Chancery Lane or the Family Records Centre? Did you have the fun of going to a County Record Office? It is amazing what you can find rummaging through their libraries, or through the card indexes. Or did you do most of it online and get back several generations all in one afternoon? That brings its own frustrations. I found two sisters who never married and always lived together. On a public family tree online they were both given the same date of death, although one outlived the other by 8 years!

What kind of occupations did your ancestors have? Did sons follow in their fathers' footsteps or did they strike out on their own? I have been looking at the family of my paternal grandmother – 99% of the men were miners and 99% of the women married miners. The boys went down the mines from 12 years old and their sisters at the same age either picked up the needle or went into service. My grandmother was one of the 1%, Hetty, née POXON married a shoemaker.

What about numbers? My father said he had only a couple of cousins, but I have found that he had 52 first cousins on his mother's side, and she had 48. Perhaps they were too tired on a Sunday to go visiting so Dad never saw them. These miners had big families, ten children was the norm and several numbered 11, 12, even up to 15. My grandmother followed the trend and my father was number nine of 11 he always thought but no, I then discovered a still birth, which was quite a shock as the *only* mention of the child was in the cemetery records with the burial of a "Child of Hetty TYERS." Why was father Harry not listed?

Did you find interesting names? I found sisters, Mehitabel and Tryphena. The various Registrars managed the correct spelling of both but the census enumerators had no idea how to spell them, and the transcribers had even more problems. What about name variations? My maiden name is TYERS. Who would have thought that there were 32 different ways to spell that?

I hope this has given you some ideas. There are just over 500 words here, so it doesn't have to be a lengthy essay, and even fewer if you add a photo, but if you want to write 2000, that is fine too. But please, PLEASE, PLEASE write me something. The Journal is YOUR Journal and we want to hear your stories.

WORLD WIDE WEB

A survey of new records that have been published on the web.

Ancestry have posted some new London collections: London Transport records from 1863, when the Metropolitan Line opened, they cover staff on the Underground, trams, buses and clerical staff; 400,000 new London occupational records; naval apprenticeships for 12,000 boys from poor London families. Other records include gamekeepers licences for Middlesex, parish registers for Jersey which include digital images and the Electoral Register for Swansea and surrounding areas, 1839-1966. ancestry.co.uk

FamilySearch has added 15m. new records covering 13 countries, including Britain. familysearch.org

FindMyPast has uploaded Catholic records from the Archdioceses of Westminster and Birmingham from the mid-17C. The sacramental registers cover baptisms, marriages, burials and first communions, plus some miscellaneous records. Additional records include parish registers, marriage licenses, wills and probate records for Leicester and Rutland, BTs for Norfolk, MIs for Dorset, Northamptonshire and Yorkshire; parish registers for Wiltshire; Methodist baptisms and burials for Yorkshire and Derbyshire; early emigration from Britain 1636-1815; 1842 census for Lower Canada, births in Victoria, Australia; and 10,000 new registers and records for Scotland. findmypast.co.uk

The Genealogist has published Quarter Sessions court and criminal records for Middlesex, Shropshire, Surrey, Warwickshire and Worcester. Also they have produced coloured tithe maps for Middlesex covering the early Victorian period. thegenealogist.co.uk

The General Register Office is now providing a free service for you to search their database: births from July 1837-1915, will now give you the maiden name of the mother (formerly only available from July 1911); and deaths from July 1837-December 1957 will also give you the age of the deceased person (again, not formerly available before 1860). You will have to register with the GRO if you have not already done so and the indexes are somewhat cumbersome to use. You can only specify the year plus or minus 2 and also have to state the gender of the person in question. However, this is another step to being able to access the GRO registers for information without having to buy the certificate. gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/default.asp

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.

S292 Mrs. C. STEERS, 20 Audley Court, Hampton Road, Twickenham, TW2
5QW steers.carole@gmail.com

SURNAME INTERESTS

Surname	Dates	Place	County	Member
STEERS	18-20C	All	Any	S292

It is with great sadness that we announce the death
of the following member:

Alan Charles FOSTER

We offer our condolences to this family.

FAMILY HISTORY FAIRS

Yorkshire Family History Fair

Saturday, 24th June. Knavesmire Exhibition Centre, York Racecourse, YO23 1EX. 10.00-4.30..

Admission £4.80, children under 14 free. Free parking.

yorkshirefamilyhistoryfair.com

Buckinghamshire Family History Society Open Day*

Saturday, 29th July. The Grange School, Wendover Way, Aylesbury, HP21 7NH. 10.00-4.00 Free admission and parking.

bucksfhs.org.uk

Bristol & Avon Family History Society, Family History Fair

Saturday, 9th September. BAWA, 589 Southmead Road, Filton, Bristol, BS34 7RG. 10.00-4.00. Free parking

bafhs.org.uk

The Family History Show*

Sunday, 24th September. Sandown Park Racecourse, Portsmouth Road, Esher, KT10 9AJ. Admission £4.80

thefamilyhistoryshow.com

Richmond Full of Life Fair*

Friday, 4th October. Harlequins Stoop, Twickenham Stadium, Whitton Road, Twickenham, TW2 7BA. 10.00-4.00 Free admission

richmond.gov.uk/full_of_life

Oxfordshire Family History Society Family History Fair

Saturday, 7th October. The Marlborough School, Shipton Road, Woodstock, OX20 1LP. 10.00-4.00. Free admission and parking.

ofhs.org.uk

Hampshire Genealogical Society Family History Open Day

Sunday, 8th October. Everest Community Academy, Oxford Way, Basingstoke, RG24 9FP. 10.00-4.00. Free admission and parking

hgs-familyhistory.com

West Surrey Family History Society Family History Fair*

Saturday, 4th November. Woking Leisure Centre, Kingfield Road, Woking, GU22 9BA. 10.00-4.30.

wsfhs.co.uk

***West Middlesex FHS will be attending these Fairs**

To find a family history fair near you, go to: geneva.weald.org.uk

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.

West Middlesex Settlement Records. Chelsea, Ealing, Friern Barnet, Fulham, Hammersmith, New Brentford, Shepperton, Staines, Stanwell, 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.

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 Sandaleford Lane, Greenham, Thatcham, RG19 8XW
bridgetspurr@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, 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.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, Middlesex, 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

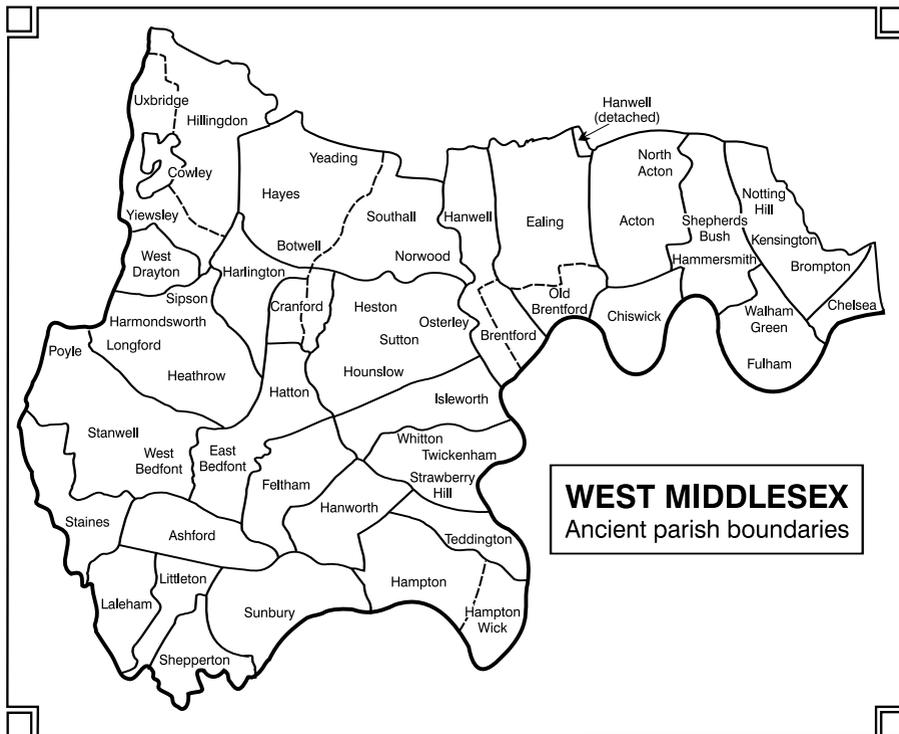
G.R.O. Certificates. A number of original GRO birth, marriage and death certificates have been kindly donated to the Society by members and are available for purchase at a cost of £1 per certificate. Please check on Society website for current list. Cheques should be made payable to West Middlesex FHS and please include an a/c.

Front Cover

David GARRICK (1717-1779) was an English actor, playwright, producer and manager of Drury Lane Theatre (which he part-owned). His portrayal of Richard III greatly influenced the staging of SHAKESPEARE's plays in the 18th century. In the garden of his house by the River Thames in Hampton, he built his 'Temple to Shakespeare' to house his Shakespearean memorabilia. It included a full-sized statue of SHAKESPEARE by François ROUBILIAC. The grounds were landscaped by Capability BROWN.

The Temple is open to the public (admission free) on Sunday afternoons, March – October, and contains copies of many portraits of Shakespeare, including one by Johan ZOFFANY of GARRICK as Richard III. A copy of the ROUBILIAC statue takes pride of place, the original now being in the British Museum.

Images: Twickenham Museum



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