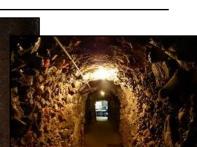


# WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY JOURNAL

# VOL 36 No.1



**March 2018** 

Pope's Grotto Alexander Pope

Pope's Villa on the Thames in Twickenham



#### WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Joint Presidents: Rob and Bridget Purr

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

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Queries concerning non-delivery or faulty copies of this Journal should be sent to: Patricia Candler, 57 The Vale, Feltham, Middlesex, TW14 0JZ

## **FUTURE MEETINGS**

The following meetings have been arranged:

# Montague Hall

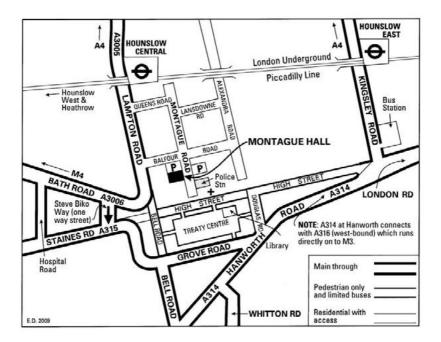
19 Mar AGM

#### St. John's Centre

19 Apr	Tba
17 May	Tba
21 Jun	Tba

Our meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at Montague Hall, Montague Road, Hounslow, TW3 1LD, or St. John's Centre, 80 St. John's Road, Isleworth, TW7 6RU and doors open at 7.15pm.

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 NEWS



The good news is that our Chairman, Kirsty Gray, has agreed to serve a further term as Chairman of our Society. She has been a breath of fresh air over the past two years, has saved the Society from being wound up, has reinvigorated the members and we hope for great things in 2018.

One of the biggest changes this year is a change of venue for our meetings, and you will find details about this, plus a map on page 15. I hope all those who regularly attend our meetings will find their way to Isleworth and will enjoy these new premises.

There have been particular problems in booking speakers for the coming year so I apologise that they are not listed in the Journal. Please refer to the website, where they will be posted as soon as information is available.

John Seaman and Hilary Strudwick were co-opted on to the Committee in January.

In the last Journal we published names of those people willing to offer lifts to those members wishing to attend meetings but did not have transport of their own. Unfortunately the telephone number for Mike Pipe suffered from a typo, so please note that if you wish to contact Mike, his correct number is: 020 8893 1705.

This is my final journal, having been Editor for ten years it is time for someone with new ideas to take over and I am sure you will welcome Ann Greene to her new post. I have made many friends while in this position and would like to thank all those contributors who have made our Journal such a lively and interesting read. I would specially like to thank those who contributed regularly, I will not name them, they know who they are, but without their input the quarterly production would have had far fewer pages. Please keep the articles coming. I will finish with the usual comment made by all those relinquishing office, that I am looking forward to having time to pursue my own family history!

# **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.

R142	Chris Rice, 1 Glenco Close, Frimley, Ca	amberley, Surrey, GU16 8YS
		chrisrice1@virginmedia.com
S294	Philip Sergeant, 48 Berkshire Avenue, M	/lerewether Heights, NSW 2290
	Australia	sargo@tpg.com.au
V19	Mrs. V. R. Van Raay, 53 Willis Road, M	onbulk, Victoria 3793,
	Australia	valvr@bigpond.com

# SURNAME INTERESTS

Surname	Dates	Place	County	Member
ANDERSON	1840-1900	West Derby	LAN	V19
ANNETTS	Aft.1800	Hungerford area	BKS	R142
ANNETTS	1850-1900	Chelsea	MDX	R142
BAKER	1920-2000	Sunbury on Thames	MDX	S294
BEAVER	19C	Great Marlow area	BKM	V19
BERRIE	1830-1860	Tamworth area	STS	V19
BURNS	1850-1900	Wargrave area	BKS	R142
BURNS	1800-1900	Larne area	ANT	R142
COE	1920-2000	Sunbury on Thames	MDX	S294
DOWNS	1920-2000	Sunbury on Thames	MDX	S294
FORD	aft.1840	Southall area	MDX	V19
GALPINE	19C	Ibberton area	DOR	V19
GOVAN	1720-1800	City of London	LND	V19
GOVAN	1720-1800	Islington	MDX	V19
HOWITT	17C-19C	Long Eaton	DBY	V19
KAHL	1930-1960	Kew	SRY	R142
KAHL	1880-1970	Isleworth	MDX	R142
MAITLAND	19C	Liverpool	LAN	V19
NEIGHBOUR	Aft.1850	Heston area	MDX	V19
PARKER	1800-1900	Morton Hampstead	DEV	R142
PEARCE	Aft.1800	New Brentford area	MDX	V19
PITTS	1850-1920	Brentford	MDX	R142
PITTS	Aft. 1800	Littleport	CAM	R142
PLUMRIDGE	Aft. 1700	High Wycombe	BKM	R142
PUDDIFOOT	18C	Rickmansworth	HRT	V19
RICE	Aft.1850	Gloucester area	GLS	R142
RICE	1750-1950	Tewkesbury	GLS	R142
SARGEANT	1800-2000	Hanworth	MDX	S294
SCOTT	1860-1870	Kelso area	ROX	V19
SEARS	1800-1950	Sunbury on Thames	MDX	S294
SERGEANT	1800-2000	Hanworth	MDX	S294
VOGEL	1850-1900	Islington area	MDX	R142
VOGEL	1850-1970	Fulham area	MDX	R142
WATSON	aft.1890	Southall area	MDX	V19
WATSON	18C-19C	Polstead area	SFK	V19
WITTERIDGE	18C-19C	Okeford Fitzpaine	DOR	V19

# FROM SOUTHALL TO AUSTRALIA



Thomas Watson

It was the heading in the newspaper cutting from 1901 "A Southall Yeoman, Taken Prisoner by the Boers", that prompted this reflection on my grandfather, Thomas WATSON.

Unfortunately, I never knew him, as he died long before I was born and in fact my Mum, his daughter, was only 18 when he passed away suddenly, on the other side of Australia from where the family lived at that time.

Thomas had been born in Southall. Middlesex. in Julv 1872 (the  $30^{\text{th}}$ according to his birth certificate but the 16th according to his baptism records from St. Leonard's in the parish of Heston, this date also being the one on which he always celebrated his birthday). He was the eldest son, and the second of twelve

children, to Thomas snr. and Ellen Elizabeth WATSON, (née NEIGHBOUR), who at that time lived in Cranford Lane.

The family lived in several houses throughout the area over the years, including *The Chestnuts*, which Thomas snr. had built on the corner of Osterley Park Road and The Green in Southall. This building later became The Working Men's Club in the early 1900s and later, in 1935, the Southall-Norwood Hospital.

Thomas snr. was a builder and contractor and, according to **british-history.ac.uk** he opened a 28 acre brick-field in North Road, Southall, which produced well over 2 million bricks a year between 1899 and 1901. He also served as a Councillor on the Southall-Norwood Urban District Council.

At the time of Thomas jnr's enlistment for the Boer War, his occupation was given as "Manager, Brickworks", so most likely he was working at his father's brickworks. His service record shows that he joined the 65<sup>th</sup> Company of Leicestershire Imperial Yeomanry on the 26<sup>th</sup> February 1900, at the age of 27 years and 7 months. According to a newspaper article from *The Leicester Mercury*, which is quoted on the website **paoyeomanry.co.uk**, the men who volunteered for this company were from several counties, including Middlesex, not just Leicestershire. It also said they were "of good physique" and "able to satisfy the officers of their ability to ride and shoot well." Apparently they sailed on the 6<sup>th</sup> April 1900 from Southampton, calling briefly on the 12<sup>th</sup> April at Tenerife, before sailing directly on to Beira, in Portuguese East Africa. The West Middlesex FHS holds some copies of letters written home by some of the men serving in the Boer War and they make both interesting and sad reading.

Although I knew basic details from Ancestry and Find My Past of Thomas's capture, it felt quite different reading the article I first mentioned, which was a copy of the letter in the *Southall-Norwood Gazette*, telling Thomas' father of his son's capture on the 6<sup>th</sup> March 1901. (The mention of 'F' Watson is an error.)

### A SOUTHALL YEOMAN TAKEN PRISONER BY THE BOERS

Mr. Thomas Watson, of South-road, Southall, has received the following communication from the War Office:-

Cavalry Record Office 41 Pall Mall, London, S.W. 10th March, 1901

Sir, – I am directed to inform you that a telegram has been received from the General Officer Commanding in South Africa, reporting the casualty mentioned below, and I am, at the same time, to express to you the sympathy and regret of the Commander-in-Chief, 65th Co. Imperial Yeomanry, 12059 Corp. F. Watson taken prisoner, Aberdeen, 6th inst. – I am, sir, your obedient servant. JOHN PRYE, Lieutenant, i/c Cavalry Record.

To Thos. Watson, Esq., South-road, Southall Thomas' service records show that he was discharged on the 1<sup>st</sup> July 1901, on his return from South Africa.

Thomas married Ruby Mary FORD in Paddington, London, on 25<sup>th</sup> June 1908, by which time Thomas was 35 and Ruby twelve years younger at 23. She was the daughter of William FORD, who had owned the George and Dragon Pub in High Street, Southall, for many years. Her mother had passed away in 1895, on Ruby's tenth birthday. What a terrible birthday that must have been for her!

Thomas and Ruby lived in Southall, with Thomas working as a road-making contractor. They had a son in 1911, then emigrated to Australia in 1913, aboard the Orsova.

I have a photocopy of a large article from the *Southall-Norwood Gazette* of Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> March 1913, which covered a concert and presentation put on by the members of the Jersey Bowling Club on the previous Saturday evening, on the occasion of Thomas' imminent departure for Australia, he being the Captain of the Club. It details the musical programme for the night, and then also talks about the speech given by the Chairman.

He talked glowingly of his friend Tom, who had been one of the founders of the Club, some ten or eleven years prior, and who had filled almost every office from Committee to Vice-President. He had been their Captain for the last two years. He also referred to him as being associated with the old Southall Football Club in the days of the "White Hart" and "Red Lion" fields, both as a player and as one of the Club's legislators. His time in the 65<sup>th</sup> Company of Leicestershire Imperial Yeomanry during the Boer War was also spoken of, and of him being a member of the Jersey Lodge of Freemasons from 1902.

Thomas and Ruby went on to have three more children in Australia, the first of these being my Mum in 1915, and including one who died as a baby. They lived in various inner suburbs around Melbourne, and Thomas was employed in superintending large constructional works for gas companies. At the time of his death in 1939, he was working for the company Woodall-Duckham Ltd., as a retort setter, and had travelled to Albany, Western Australia. They had sent him there on the ship *Kanimbla* for the project, "for the benefit of the sea air" as he had been feeling unwell. He died suddenly only three weeks after arriving, aged 66, and is buried in what is now known as the Memorial Park Cemetery there.

Sadly, neither his wife Ruby, nor my Mum, ever got to visit his grave, only having photos sent from the funeral director, but my husband and I visited it in 2010, which was very special. I also have some postcards he sent from Albany, and the last letter he wrote to his daughter only a couple of days before his death.

So, a sad end for a man loved and respected by family and friends, both in Australia and Southall.

# THE ISOLATED TOMB

# Dr. Phillipe Clerc

Some years ago I was spending my vacation in Corsica, a French island located in the Mediterranean. One day I decided to trek across the 'maquis' to reach the other side of a hill, where I thought that the view over a little gulf would be magnificent. On this island 'maquis' is a kind of dense bush that is peculiar to Corsica. So I put on my walking boots, thick clothes to protect myself against the

brambles and set off armed with a machete.

After about an hour of exhausting trekking I was amazed to come across a tomb, obviously abandoned in this deserted area. The box-like tomb was lying half buried and partly covered with bush, although the inscription was still clear. I rubbed the inscription on the tombstone, written in French it reads:



Tombstone of Major MURRAY

### Major W.G. MURRAY Deceased 18 May 1894 Aged 59 years Heureux sont les morts qui migrant dans le Seigneur [Happy are the dead that are migrated in the Lord]

The tomb was built on private property named *L'Orangeraie*, located at Portigliolo, Corsica.

I do not know why this discovery whetted my appetite? Maybe because on my father's side my great grandmother, Julia MacLEOD, was of Scottish extraction and on my mother's side, my great grandparents were from Corsica?

So the day after coming across the grave, I decided to go to the local archives, about 25km from Portigliolo, in order to look for his death certificate. From the death record I just learned that he was born in Scotland, was married, had served as a British officer in the British East Indies Army and lived in Portigliolo. What I had got was not enough, so I planned to do research for further information, such as his Will.

I finally found his Will, with the help of the archivist. It was a three page Holograph Will, written in French stating that:

- He wished that the present Testament be accepted by his heirs and be used as a codicil to the Will made in England and registered at the office of Clarke, Racolins and Clarke, in Gresham House, City of London.
- He made a holograph will because he was unable to have witnesses sign a will according to English law.
- He bequeathed to his sister, Miss Charlotte Henrietta Catherine MURRAY, of Lairbeck, Keswick, Cumberland, all his personal possessions: furniture and real estate in Corsica [movables and fixed assets?] with responsibility for selling these when she would consider it necessary and then she was to gradually give the sums to his son, William James MURRAY should he be in need of money and providing she judged him worthy of it.
- He left bequests to some people belonging to his domestic staff: his cabman, his maid, etc.
- He bequeathed to his friend, Dominique BONFANTE, his tiger skin and his two stuffed Himalayan pheasants. [Probably souvenirs from India.]
- He wanted all his photographic tools and chemical products stored in the room called 'Atelier du major' to be sold in the best interests of the heirs and then divided into equal parts and proceeds given to his domestic staff.

The Will was made and signed in Portigliolo on the 20<sup>th</sup> July, 1886.

On trying to find out how the MURRAY family settled the succession and how

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Power of Attorney

they had reacted to the Testament, I found a Power of Attorney. drawn up by Alan Charles COMMERFORD, Public Notary, at 7 Tokenhouse Yard in London. Present at the office were: Mrs. Florence Isabella MURRAY née YOUNG, widow of Major William George MURRAY, living at 17 St. Lawrence Road, North Kensington, in the County of Middlesex. Miss Amy Charlotte MURRAY, Miss Florence Sophia MURRAY and Miss Rose Susan MURRAY. These last three were spinsters, of a certain age, without occupation and also living at 17 St. Lawrence Road in North Kensington.

- All these persons above were said to be capable of inheriting from her husband or father, living in Portigliolo, Corsica, where he died on the 18<sup>th</sup> last May, as they have declared.
- They empowered Mr. William James MURRAY, civil engineer, living at 17

St. Lawrence Road, North Kensington, son of the deceased mentioned above, who was about to go to Corsica: powers to settle the succession; to put on the seals if need be; to do the inventory after death; to sell the movables; to receive or pay any sums, etc.

This document was sent to the office of Maitre DELUCA, a notary in Ajaccio (close to Portigliolo) and registered on  $2^{nd}$  July, 1894.

From another document in the archives of Maitre DELUCA, I learnt that the Will was filed on the 18<sup>th</sup> May 1894, then opened on the 21<sup>st</sup> June 1896. It stated that present at that time were William James MURRAY, son of deceased George MURRAY, and the domestic staff. After the reading of the Testament, William James MURRAY paid 800 francs as an account and then left without signing! Obviously it seems that he was not very pleased about what he had heard that his father had bequeathed his estate to his sister, Miss Charlotte Henrietta Catherine MURRAY, and that William had to be deemed worthy to the cash coming to himself from the sale of his father's assets.

I managed to find another document stating that William George MURRAY had several bank credits in the city of Ajaccio, but also on the 30<sup>th</sup> March 1894, he held a current bank account in London, at Pescott, Disdale, Cave & Co., for a total amount of 4,000 francs which, according to the experts, would represent nowadays a sum of  $\in$ 1,550,491 or  $\pm$ 1,389,436.

Obviously the main information missing was: why did William George MURRAY retire to Corsica? Where did he reside? Why did he remain alone without his wife and daughters? Why was he buried in such a wild area and not in a cemetery?

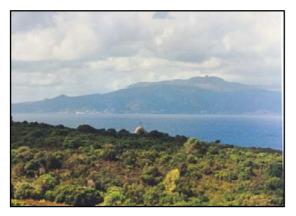
I just had to try to know more about Major MURRAY and his life in Corsica, so I got in touch with the Mayor of Portigiliolo, who suggested I visit the VICO

family, one of the oldest families in the village. M.VICO lived in the only house built on the sea shore. He was very cheerful and tried to give some responses to my questions. I was thrilled to learn that Major MURRAY was the former owner of M.VICO's house. He told me that when the Major died, his sister,



Major Murray's house

Charlotte MURRAY, sold the house and all the lands around to M.VICO's grandfather. Before he died, Major MURRAY had told his friend BONFANTE, that he wanted to be buried on his estate in an upright position, facing the sea!



Guide to Major Murray's tomb

As the land was covered with dense bush and the pathway was very difficult, a wayside marker, a large stone with a tall cross on top was erected so that the place should be seen for some miles around.

Obviously all the Major's wishes were granted and a moral agreement was set up M.VICO's between grandfather Miss and Charlotte MURRAY. to alwavs respect William George MURRAY's grave. M.VICO added that William

George MURRAY's wife went to Portigliolo in the first year of MURRAY's retirement but she said that she could not stay there anymore and live miles from anywhere! So she left Portigliolo for good and remained in London, together with her daughters and her son. He knew that the Major was fond of photography and had an entire room dedicated to his hobby. Maybe some of the photos taken by the Major were given to MURRAY's family, his wife or his sister? M.VICO feels that the Major was looking for a quiet and exotic place, like those he had come across when he lived in India.

In the early 1960s, M.VICO intended to sell the land where the Major was buried but at the same time he had to honour his promise to respect the grave. A fine, brand new coffin was ordered and an exhumation was carried out. In France for exhumation, the law requires the presence of the police, the mayor, some witnesses and the morticians. Unfortunately the work was much more difficult than anticipated since the coffin was very heavy and was upright in the ground. It took a long time to disinter but then an unexpected problem appeared: the new coffin was undersized! The Major was a very tall man (about 6 feet) and some 60 years later the corpse was well preserved, although it was not known if he had been embalmed. On the spur of the moment it was decided to cut the body into two parts and put it in the undersized coffin: awful, and for me disrespectful. Once the corpse had been put in the new coffin, it was moved to its last resting place (I hope it will be his last!) in the property of the area 'L'Orangeraie' (not to be mistaken with the housing estate 'Orangeraie' not very far away). However, the cairn is still standing. M.VICO told me that one of the witnesses was a French Officer named BARBÉ and he took many pictures of the scene. Of course M.BARBÉ was dead at the time I met M.VICO so later I enquired at the Mayor's office how I could get in touch with the BARBÉ family. I was told that his daughter was working as an Architect in Portigliolo and he gave me her address. Unfortunately she was unable to find the pictures of the exhumation in her archived family files.

William George MURRAY had purchased the estate from the brothers CASABIANCA but before that the house had belonged to the French Government, as it was in a military quarter called 'Caserne de Voltigeurs', a French elite unit. Later I heard that Major MURRAY went to Corsica during two long furloughs. During the first (March 1867-March 1869,) he purchased some lands in Corsica. During the second furlough (February 1873-February 1875) he sold all the lands he owned and bought the estate where he retired.

Once I left Corsica and was back home, I wrote to the Oriental and India Office Collection at the British Library, London. I received the following information: William George MURRAY was born on the 10<sup>th</sup> March and baptized on the 21<sup>st</sup>

April 1835, in Chunar in India, the son of William MURRAY, Captain in the 22<sup>nd</sup> Bengal Native Infantry, and Sophia. I took a look at the map of India and I saw that Chunar was located between Calcutta and Delhi, in the plain of the Ganges. William MURRAY was baptized on the 21<sup>st</sup> December 1801, in Dumfries and he died on the 27th June 1842, in Jubbulpore in India. (Let us note that William George MURRAY was only 7 years old when his father died). William MURRAY was the second son of John MURRAY and his wife. Catherine ARTHINGTON, and he married Sophia LYNN at All Souls, Marylebone, on the  $20^{th}$  May 1834 – she was the eldest daughter of Rev. James LYNN, Vicar of Cumberland Keswick. and the granddaughter of the Bishop of Carlisle. Sophia remarried on the 16<sup>th</sup> June 1849, to James STANGER of Laithwaite. Keswick, and she died on the 2<sup>nd</sup> December 1879.

Then I tried to get the marriage record of William George MURRAY and Florence

	Commonwealth Alfairs has	n the Secretary of State for Forei in his castody a Register of <b>fila</b> AD 1869; in which Register there rue copy.	rriages
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When married	Yaar 1860	start Jany	the 2nd
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False's Note and Second	William Marray	John Young	
Ny Name or Linense	Licence	Lipence	
Signifiance of the Pathion	W. G. Murray	F. I. Young	
Separateure of two or some Witnesses present	R. N. Maddeck C. L. T. Young I. James Women		
Names of Witnesses in full	Concernation of		
Signation to whom Married Name (and designation) of the person (datasets) by when the connecsy is (was) performed	James Sharpe Chap <sup>k</sup>		
	Blackfriars Road, Lond in the year of our Lovd	I have hereastic set my hand, at on, SL1, this Twenty-Third day One thousand nine hendered and n The Congression of the Staffer invegen and Commonwealth Offi	of September iony-seven

Copy from the Register of Marriages, Mussoorie, of the marriage between Major William George Murray and Florence Isabella Young

Isabella YOUNG, which was not an easy task. Finally I was happy to receive it from the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs that had in his custody a Register of Marriages solemnized at Mussoorie, India, for the year 1860, in which it appeared that William George MURRAY, bachelor, aged 24 years and a Lieutenant in the 68<sup>th</sup> Bengal Native Infantry, married on the 2<sup>nd</sup> January 1860, in Mussoorie, Miss Florence Isabella YOUNG, spinster, aged 16, daughter of John YOUNG. From a quick look at the map of India, I saw that Mussoorie was located in the Siwatick Range, 25km. north-west of Dehra Dun and 100 km. south-west of Delhi.

Obviously their four children were born after 1860. I managed to find the birth record of Amy Charlotte MURRAY, who was born on the 6<sup>th</sup> July 1861, in Mussoorie and according to the English 1881 Census, Florence Sophia was also born in India in 1866 and Rose Susan in Dresden in 1868. James William was baptised in Crosthwaite, Cumberland, on 28<sup>th</sup> October 1896.

I wrote to the British Association for Cemeteries in South Asia that kindly redirected me to the Oriental and India Collections of the British Library, which were helpful since they sent me the military career in India of William George MURRAY: what an impressive career indeed. Below are the main events I highlighted.

- Arrived in India on the 9<sup>th</sup> June 1855, appointed Ensign at the 62<sup>nd</sup> Regiment Native Infantry. He moved several times: Nowshera, Peshawar, Kasmir, Rewah territory.
- Was Topographical Assistant, then Topographical Surveyor.
- Appointed Captain on the 15<sup>th</sup> February 1866.
- Granted furlough to Europe for two years from March 1867-March 1869.
- Assistant Surveyor General in charge of the Lithographic Office in Calcutta in April 1869.
- Appointed with rank of Major to the 68<sup>th</sup> Native Infantry.
- Appointed Lieutenant Colonel, 68<sup>th</sup> Regiment N.I in September 1871.
- Granted furlough to Europe for two years on private affairs from February 1873-February 1875.
- Transferred to the half-pay list in February 1876.
- Retired on the 1<sup>st</sup> July 1882
- Died on the 18<sup>th</sup> May 1894.

I wonder what became of his descendants? If they can be traced, more than a century later, I would like to inform them of the isolated grave. William George MURRAY's tomb is in escheat so that if ever, sooner or later, that land is sold I fear real estate developers will destroy the tomb.

Let us keep in mind that our ancestors really died the day we definitively forgot them.

Philippe Clerc, Lyon, France. Email: *clercp@sfr.fr* 

# WE ARE MOVING!



## St. John's Centre, Isleworth

For a good many years West Middlesex FHS members and guests have gathered at Montague Hall in Hounslow on the third Thursday of every month to have a natter and hear a talk. Montague Hall is owned by the London Borough of Hounslow and managed on its behalf by Fusion Lifestyle. Around the middle of 2017 we began to see disturbing signs that things may be about to change. Local residents had heard rumours that the council wanted to demolish the hall and redevelop the area.

Towards the end of 2017, Fusion invited us to place our bookings for 2018. We did this, but also sought reassurance that these bookings were secure. Fusion insisted that not only were these bookings safe, they were already taking bookings into 2019.

Imagine our surprise, then, when less than six weeks after we had had this reassurance, we were informed that our bookings could only be confirmed until February 2018.

There followed a flurry of activity as your committee looked around for an alternative venue. We were surprised at how many halls are available in this area. Some of these halls, although very pleasant, suffer from poor public transport links and/or limited parking facilities.

Grateful thanks are due to our secretary, Roland BOSTOCK and to Ann GREENE, who gave up a good deal of their time and drove a good few miles to

visit our shortlisted halls In the end, the choice came down to St Mary's Church Hall in Twickenham, or The St John's Centre in Isleworth.

There then followed another strange twist in the tale when we received an invoice from Fusion for rental of Montague Hall in January, February and March 2018. The conspirators who do the online banking ensured that this invoice was paid very promptly. Having done this, Fusion then confirmed our booking for March 2018.

Back to the search for another venue: St Mary's Hall in Twickenham could only offer us Tuesday evenings. The St John's Centre in Isleworth was able to offer us the third Thursday of every month.

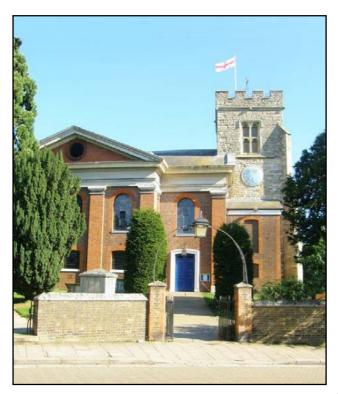
So – we will be at The St John's Centre, 80 St John's Road, Isleworth, TW7 6RU for our **April 2018**, and subsequent meetings. Bus routes H37 and 117 pass along St John's Road. Isleworth railway station is nearby as are bus routes E8, 235 and 237. Parking adjacent to the hall is limited to 8 spaces, but parking on the street outside is freely available. We realise that not everyone will be happy at this move but feel that by keeping to the same day and time each month we will minimise disruption to our routine. We look forward to welcoming you all and are sure we shall soon feel at home in this clean and pleasant hall.



# ST MARY'S TWICKENHAM, AND ITS OVERFLOW BURIAL GROUNDS Roland Bostock

## St. Mary's Church

This article is mostly about researching and reading the memorials at St. Mary the Virgin, Twickenham, and its two overflow burial grounds but first I would like to give you something about the history of the church.



## St. Mary the Virgin

There has been a church dedicated to St. Mary on the present site from at least 1332. when William BROWN became the first vicar of the church. The church that existed at the start of the 18<sup>th</sup> century was constructed of Kentish Rag, a poorly consolidated limestone found beneath the chalk of southern England. As result of this а material and the digging of vaults beneath the church. on the 9<sup>th</sup> April 1713. the entire nave of the church collapsed.

The story is that the cleric, Dr. Samuel

PRATT, had foreseen that such a collapse was imminent. He had been insisting that a tabernacle be erected in the churchyard and he preached in the church that the congregation should give thanks lest the church fall down while they were in it. The people laughed at him for this but within a week the church had fallen. Dr. PRATT became the new vicar and the congregation, in thanks for their deliverance, contributed to its rebuilding, which started immediately and was completed in 1714.

### The memorials in the church

The starting point for the inscriptions at St. Mary's was a small blue book by Sarah MINNEY and Margaret RIDGE, that we hold in our library. The book is not dated but will have been written in the 1980s, when they were both members of the Society. For memorials inside the church you can expect them to be just as readable now as they would have been 30 years ago, but for those in the churchyard, it helps to be able to refer back to readings made 30 years earlier.

I soon found that there were other books that I could use. The small blue book does at one stage refer to a book by R. COBBETT and also a book by Edward IRONSIDE. Church Archivist, Diana WELLS, also a member of our Society, directed me to look at the much more recent, *The Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Twickenham, The Memorials and Ledgerstones*, published in 2015 by Anthony Beckles WILLSON.

I started browsing the internet and found that the 1872 book by the Reverend

Richard S. COBBETT. Memorials of Twickenham. Parochial and Topographical, has been digitally scanned by the internet Archive, and was therefore easily accessible. The book by Edward IRONSIDE, The and Antiquities History of Twickenham, was written in 1797. While this book is not available on the internet, a reproduction print of the book was available from Nabu Public Domain Reprints at a very reasonable cost, so I took the opportunity of buying myself a copy. I now had four books to hand to help me record what I could see at the church.

The wall memorials inside the church were really quite straightforward. They were in accessible positions and were well preserved and hence easy to read. The memorials set into the floor of the church, the ledger stones, were another matter. Anthony Beckles WILLSON states that in COBBETT's time the ledger stones



War Memorial

were all covered by linoleum, which explains why he did not record them. The linoleum was only removed in 1958, and they were then first recorded by the church archivist at the time, Donald SIMPSON, OBE. WILLSON used Donald SIMPSON's records when writing his own book and I then copied the inscriptions from WILLSON.

## The memorials in the churchyard

At first sight there appear to be rather few tombs in the graveyard, but it is deceptive. The tombs that you notice are the altar tombs in front of the church, but then you observe that there are some ledger stones level with the grass and on further looking you will see that there are some 40 headstones which have been re-erected along the walls on the east side of the churchyard.

A total of 90 gravestones were found in 2017. 71 of these could be read, or at least identified from earlier records, 19 were completely indecipherable, but there were still 71 inscriptions given by IRONSIDE that could not be identified. As has been my custom in these situations, I duly added them to the other inscriptions, with the fully indexed records going to FindMyPast, so that family history researchers would have a chance of finding where their ancestors were buried, even if the memorial itself could not be identified.

One memorial that was not in any of the books previously mentioned, is the War Memorial, set in a prominent position to the west of the church. It is a WW1 memorial, in that all the names inscribed there are of those from Twickenham who died in the First World War, but a plaque has been added to it which commemorates those who died in both world wars. The names are recorded on the octagonal base below the column, but the stone is now badly eroded and very few names can be read today. Fortunately, all 120 names are known and they are

displayed on a Roll of Honour. presented as а framed picture in the church. The names were also copied on to our own War Memorials CD. when it was compiled in 2003.

# The Garden of Remembrance

Between the main church yard and the River Thames,



Garden of Remembrance

there is a Garden of Remembrance, where there are many small plaques spread about the flower beds. These are mostly 'unofficial', having been left there by the families of the deceased. The official way is to request the church to provide a small brass plate, which is then attached to one of several large slate panels at one end of the garden, as shown in the photo.

## Holly Road Garden of Rest

By 1780, the church yard at St. Mary's was becoming full and the church acquired a site in Holly Road, Twickenham, to be used as an overflow burial ground. Burials started there in 1782, but such was the demand for space, that it too became full by 1868, at which time it also was officially closed. In 1930, Twickenham Council determined that the burial ground should be converted to a



Garden of Rest. Holly Road

Garden of Rest. bv moving the headstones to the edge of the site. Some of the ledger stones were also moved to the edge and reerected as vertical stones.

As part of this process the Council produced a full list of the

inscriptions,

as could be read at the time as a book, *Borough of Twickenham*, *Holly Road Burial Ground*, *Record of Tombs 1930* and is available at the Local Studies Section of Richmond-upon-Thames Library. It contains a surveyor's map of the burial ground, marking the position of each grave before any had been moved, plus a surnames index and the inscriptions where they could be read, of the 199 memorials as then existed.

In about 1980, Richmond-upon-Thames Council, by then the local authority which included Twickenham, took the decision to make further modifications to the burial ground, installing a play area there, where the gravestones have found a

19

new use as excellent cover for the youngsters enjoying their games of hide-and-seek.

Between 1930 and 2017, a few memorials must have been removed, for we only found 189 memorials, or parts of memorials, in our survey. 171 of these were successfully identified back to the 1930 record, leaving 18 unmatched, while there were 28 inscriptions from 1930 that could not be found in 2017.

#### **Oak Lane Cemetery**

While burials were continuing at Holly Road, the church was also seeking new lands which could be used once Holly Road was full and in 1838 the church was gifted by Queen Victoria, the site in Oak Lane. The land was consecrated by the Bishop of London in 1839, and burials started there soon after.

Both Oak Lane and Holly Road are close to the centre of Twickenham, each being about 400 metres away from St. Mary's Church but they are also tucked

away, so that many who live in Twickenham are unaware that they even exist. This is particularly so with Oak Lane, perhaps the greenest and wildest of cemeteries that I have enjoyed visiting.

The plot is rectangular and almost square, and the burial plots have all been assigned column and row numbers, which were painted in white on the four walls of the cemeterv but are scarcely visible today.

That the green space survives to this day and that good records exist



Oak Lane Cemetery

providing the memorial inscriptions, is thanks to events that took place in 1973. It was then that St. Mary's Church of England School, which has land adjacent to the cemetery in the north west corner, was seeking to acquire at least one-third of the cemetery land and convert it into a playground for the school.

As part of this process, the school commissioned a survey of the entire cemetery, with all existing memorials identified on the survey map. The map also showed which of the existing memorials it was planned would be moved to the edge of the area and which memorials would be removed altogether. There is some irony in that the surveyor was unaware of the original numbering of the columns and rows and so invented a new scheme.

It seems that the members of St. Mary's Church and Twickenham Council looked favourably upon the scheme but the local residents did not like the prospect of losing their quiet green space one bit and they mounted a successful campaign to scotch the project. The locals, having got together in common cause, decided it was a good time to put on record a complete copy of the inscriptions on the gravestones. Foremost among these local people was Mrs. Lilian DRING, who started with no less than 20 volunteers to tackle the considerable task of recording and collating the inscriptions, but as is the way, there was a falling off of enthusiasm as the work got underway and it is known that the major part of recording the inscriptions was performed by 'the Four Faithfuls'. Together with Mrs. DRING, Mrs. Rita HARRIS was another of these four.

The reading of the stones was done in 1973 and 1974 and typing by Rita HARRIS took a further two years, but in 1977 the record was complete. Only two copies were produced, one for the local residents and one for Twickenham Library. The library copy has now moved to Richmond-upon-Thames Local Studies Library, where it is bound into two volumes. The detailed surveyors' map, showing each grave, is also kept at the Local Studies Library,

The surveyor's map from 1973 was particularly useful as the starting point for our 2017 survey, as this cemetery has been allowed to grow wild and some of the memorials would not have been discovered in 2017 without the map showing where they should be. This is the first time that I have felt it useful to provide a layout to the memorials which also indicates where you can go and where you cannot. A full text of all our Memorial Inscription documents is available from the Digital Library page of our website (Members' Section).

### Acknowdgements

Most good works build on the efforts of those who have gone before. In the story of producing an indexed copy of the memorial inscriptions of the three burial sites associated with St. Mary the Virgin, Twickenham, many previous works have been used, as is mentioned in this article and the efforts of those who produced them is much appreciated, as is the co-operation and support of the church, and in this case, also of Richmond Library. Along with me on this journey, at all three locations, I had the company of Yvonne MASSON, who was not afraid to go into the brambles with me as the occasion may have demanded. I also had the full support of Diana WELLS, Archivist at St. Mary's, and very much a Friend of Oak Lane Cemetery.

# THE LLOYDS OF HARLEY STREET

Christopher LLOYD has compiled a family history of his LLOYD ancestors, together with their various surname connections. Volume One, a copy of which has been donated to WMFHS and now resides in the Society's library, mainly covers the years 1735-1865.

Although, as the surname implies, the family probably originated in Wales, Oliver LLOYD (1735-1770) was employed as coachman to a London merchant, Francis WILSON, firstly at Great George Street, Westminster and later at Sundridge, in Kent. Oliver's wife Mary may have been a WILSON, as two of their six children had the middle name WILSON, although this may have been a gesture towards Oliver's employer – Francis WILSON's will left money to the LLOYD children. Oliver and Mary's eldest child, Frances, married John HEATH, a linen draper who had premises at various times in different parts of London. By her death in 1843, Frances was living in Bath Road, Hounslow. Her grandson, Richard aged 9, born in India, was living with her in 1841 – her daughter Frances had married an East India Company man. The LLOYD family had many other connections with India over the years.

In 1795, the *London Gazette* was reporting the dissolving of a partnership between Oliver and Mary's third child Edmund (born 1763) and James BETHAM, in a bookshop situated in Marylebone, Edmund to continue the business alone. It appears that Edmund started the bookshop in or before 1794, at 9 New Cavendish Street, on the corner of Harley Street and New Cavendish Street. In 1802 the bookshop was described as a "fashionable lounging place", with "Reading Rooms". Among their wealthy patrons and acquaintances was Lady Caroline PONSONBY, later known as Lady Caroline LAMB, poet and novelist. In 1816, the business moved across Harley Street to the corner of Great Marylebone Street and Harley Street – perhaps to bigger premises.

Edmund seems to have published as well as sold books: in 1796 he was advertising a first edition of BOYLE's *Fashionable Court and County Guide*. In 1830, Marylebone was being described as "one of the wealthiest of the London parishes". Certainly Edmund's family – he and his wife Bridget produced 12 children – seems to have prospered: they could now employ their own servants. Surviving family letters and diary entries reveal a strong sense of their place in society: writing to daughter Rosa, "poor Ann[a friend] will most probably expect you to walk with her; this Mama absolutely directs you not to do as she thinks three girls walking alone in the town would have a very improper appearance". The family had some influence: Edmund's wife Bridget could buttonhole the

Chairman (via his wife) of the East India Company to do what he could for her son Graham.

On 10<sup>th</sup> July 1818, the LLOYDs entertained 48 to supper, the meal consisting of two hams, two tongues, twelve fowls, lobster salads, four jellies (two cream and two pink,) four buckets of pastry, four dishes of sandwiches and various dishes of fruit. The family's wealth is particularly evidenced in Bridget's will of 1829: legacies include a grand piano and other furniture, jewellery, a gold watch, etc., shared amongst her children. However, a family letter of 1907, recalls quarrelling amongst the heirs after her death. The diary entries which give so much information about the family were written, up to 1819, by Edmund Sr's daughter, Bridget GREENWELL, then up to 1832, by his daughter Fanny and letters from 1832 by his daughter Ellen. Some of these papers came down to a descendant, who passed them on to Christopher LLOYD.

Edmund died aged 55 in 1818, leaving £4,000 (some £240,000 in modern money) – his father, Oliver, had left less than £20. The business was carried on firstly by his wife Bridget, then by his son Edmund Jr. The LLOYD family continued trading at the same address until 1843. Edmund Sr's will was confirmed by Richard Waring LLOYD (apparently a relative of Oliver), a solicitor in the partnership of Greenwell & Lloyd, of 24 Bentinck Street, Marylebone. James Hugo GREENWELL was the husband of Edmund Sr's daughter Bridget – they married in 1818. Bridget GREENWELL mentions Richard Waring LLOYD several times in her diary. A Richard LLOYD, perhaps Richard Waring's father, was admitted to the Law Society in 1780. Richard LLOYD of Jermyn Street had been articled to John LLOYD of Llanfihangel Ystrad, Cardigan, Wales, in 1774, for five years – is this a connection to the LLOYDs' homeland?

Edmund Sr. and Bridget sent several of their children to a school at Brockhill, near Winkfield, Berkshire, run by the Misses JOHNSTONE, who became family friends and stayed with the LLOYDs when in London. The JOHNSTONEs invested money (unwisely as it turned out) in the LLOYD bookshop. When some of the LLOYD family visited the JOHNSTONEs in 1816, they went in a pony and chaise, leaving home at 5am to arrive by 10am – five hours from West London to Berkshire.

Edmund Sr's son Martin became a priest, ordained in 1830. Early in his career he often preached at the Quebec Chapel [demolished in 1911, the Church of the Annunciation now stands on the site] on the Portman Estate in Marylebone. His sister Fanny heard him there and "liked it exceedingly", but his brother-in-law, Thomas BENT (married to Edmund Sr's daughter Mary Sarah) found him "theatrical". Martin was noticed by the Duke of Richmond, who granted him the living of Depden, Suffolk. On taking over there, Martin rebuilt the Rectory.

Three of Edmund Sr's sons, Graham, Oliver and George Bazett, went out to India as cadets with the East India Company. Graham, born 1801, went out in 1818, rose to Captain and died in 1834, aged 33. Oliver, born 1803, went out in 1819, was a Lieutenant by 1820 and died in 1823 of a fever (but a family story suggests he was actually killed by outraged locals after entering a temple wearing boots). George Bazett, born 1807, went out in 1824 and by 1827 was serving in the same regiment as brother Graham, with the rank of Lieutenant. He was with Graham when the latter died. In January 1840, George was promoted to the Brevet rank of Captain but in February 1840, he was tried at Court Martial for allegedly stealing a fellow officer's watch, was found guilty and dismissed from the Service, but was granted £50 per annum pension. He returned to England in 1841 and later worked as a commercial clerk.

Edmund Sr's fun-loving daughter Fanny, born 1811, perhaps influenced by her brother Graham's accounts when home on leave, decided to go out to India herself and they sailed together in 1832. On the voyage she had a shipboard romance with William Hamilton HART, a Merchant Banker in India, and married him in Bombay seven days after their arrival. Throughout their marriage William and Fanny lived mostly abroad and she died in Brussels in 1851, aged 39. Her equally fun-loving sister Ellen, born 1809, eventually married in 1843, aged 34, to Robert William CUMBERBATCH. She gave birth to a daughter, Ellen, in 1845, and died a month later. When Edmund Sr's daughter Rosa was born in 1800, one of her "sponsors" was Lady Caroline PONSONBY. Rosa married Edmund SKIERS, a doctor practising in Paris, so she spent the rest of her life in Paris, dying there in 1876, but kept in touch with LLOYD family affairs in a lively correspondence, particularly with sister Ellen. Edmund Sr's daughter, Mary Sarah, born 1798, seems to have suffered ill health throughout her short life. In 1819, when she was 20, she twice had leeches applied to her side where she had a pain. She married in 1821, at St. Marylebone church, Thomas BENT, a wealthy landowner of Hillingdon, Middlesex. She died childless at the age of 31.

Edmund LLOYD Jr does not seem to have inherited his father's ability in business. He seems to have been a 'charmer', especially with the ladies – married or otherwise – from a young man. In June 1818, he was forced to place an advertisement in the newspapers stating that the suicide of a young lady due to a broken promise of marriage by a Mr. LLOYD, did not relate to himself: however, he soon left for a short stay in Paris. He married, in 1825, Mary Ann COLLETT at Fulham Church. The COLLETT family lived at Holcrofts, a large house in Fulham, with entrance gates facing Fulham High Street. Mary Ann was the daughter of his friend Kenrick COLLETT, a lawyer with Collett, Wimburn & Collett, who became Master of the Court of the Exchequer. The book *Fulham Old & New* describes Kenrick as "an extraordinary buck, reported in his day to be the handsomest man in Fulham". He was legal adviser to Samuel WEBB Jr, son of a wealthy butcher, who had made a fortune through provisioning military

expeditions for the government and who had a shop at Walham Green, Fulham, and who refers in his will to his "estate" at Walham Green, "houses occupied by William SMITH, gardener, the house adjoining being the butcher's shop lately occupied by me with 3 other facing the pond or pool". This pond later would be filled in and St. John's Church, Walham Green, built on the site. In 1802 Kenrick married Mary Ann (11 years his junior), daughter of Samuel WEBB Jr, then of Hanwell. Samuel WEBB Jr purchased Holcrofts in 1816, but in 1820 settled at Wynyaw House [now demolished] in Farm Lane, Walham Green. Kenrick died at 57 Harley Street in 1841, aged 67, and left everything to his wife. A year later she married again to the Rev. Martin LLOYD, who was 20 years her junior. Her daughter, Mary Ann, was already married to Edmund LLOYD Jr, Martin's elder brother. So she became sister-in-law to her own daughter. The elder Mary Ann in 1832 (when still Kenrick's wife) had been described as "a vain, foolish woman, always looking in the glass". She died in 1848, and was buried under a monument in Depden churchyard.

In 1834, Edmund LLOYD Jr appeared before the bankruptcy court. Family letters of 1834 bemoan, "Edmund has failed and his name will appear in the evening *Gazette*. Edmund has brought his career to a disgraceful end. Mr. BENT has been told [that] he is upwards of £10,000 in debt, but what I am so wretched at is ... our dear friends the JOHNSTONs ... have I fear lost every farthing of their money. I understand Kenrick COLLETT and Edmund have been drawing bills on each other to an immense amount". Two days later, "Mr. WALFORD is managing the JOHNSTON's business with Edmund but I very much fear there is nothing to be done." The JOHNSTONEs' loss probably refers

to money invested in the business, not to their whole estate, but even so bankruptcies obviously did not just affect the bankrupt himself.

In 1833-4 Edmund moved to Cole Hill Cottage, opposite the Bishop of London's Walk, Fulham. In 1835 Edmund and Mary Ann moved to Holcrofts, to live with the COLLETT family. In the 1841 census Edmund is still described as a "Bookseller" and they have six servants at Holcrofts. In 1845 Edmund sold the bookshop to Robert WEIR. In 1847 Edmund sent



### Holcrofts

two of his sons to study in Germany but within six months recalled them home, perhaps due to financial reasons. In 1845, Edmund and Mary Ann are living with their son, the Rev. Samuel Webb LLOYD at Barham in Kent, and in 1860, Edmund died aged 65.

## IN OUR SPARE TIME WE...

...go out to events where we meet a lot of lovely people, listen to their stories and offer what help we can, whilst promoting the benefits of joining a Family History Society (especially WMFHS). We hand out lots of our useful free leaflets and sell books of local interest. Under the guidance of Ann GREENE we run monthly advice sessions at Feltham Library. For details of the coming sessions, please refer to our website.

WMFHS is a charity and therefore we must act for the public benefit. Our

constitution says that we shall "Promote and encourage the public study of family history..." We fulfil our obligations in a number of ways: the doors of our monthly meetings are physically open to anyone who cares to come in and meet us; our Facebook and Twitter pages and website are open to everyone, anywhere in the world, at any time of day or night.

A couple of weeks, from the end of September to beginning of October 2017. the saw us exceptionally busy. Sunday, 24th September, found Roland BOSTOCK, Margaret CUNNEW and Muriel SPROTT attending the Family History Show at Sandown Park. This was a new event, both for the organisers and therefore for us. The organisers told us that 750 admission tickets had been sold before the event, so we were comfortably busy all day. We had a lovely position, close to the café and with an open door in front of us through which we could see - when not helping our visitors - planes taking off and landing at Heathrow, the Wembley Arch and a large house on a wooded hill, which we have not yet been able to identify.



Roland and Muriel at the WMFHS Stand at the Family History Show

Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> October, was the Full of Life Fair at Twickenham Rugby Ground. This event is organised by the London Borough of Richmond-Upon-Thames to showcase the activities and services available to the public, especially the over-55s. It was a buzzing, fun day, where we met plenty of folk who are not members of family history societies and we did our best to persuade them of the benefits of membership. Yvonne MASSON and Muriel SPROTT manned our table in the morning, with Roland BOSTOCK and Margaret CUNNEW taking over for the afternoon. Steve RANDALL gave us welcome breaks several times during the day. Roland BOSTOCK had produced a wonderful new leaflet, "Getting started with the Internet", which proved very popoular and is now on our website.

The same evening, at the Isleworth Public Halls, the Isleworth 390 Project (for details see articles in the December 2016 Journal), led by our own Ann GREENE, hosted a talk by Andrew ROBERTSHAW, entitled "Eye Deep in Hell", about the Passchendaele massacre. This was attended by Pat CANDLER and Muriel SPROTT. Yet again we were talking to the 'unconverted' about the joys and frustrations of family history research and how membership of a family history society can help. WMFHS had sponsored the talk financially, using the funds left to us by the late Mary BICKLE.

Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> October, saw Roland BOSTOCK, Margaret CUNNEW and Maggie MOLD heading off to Basingstoke for the Hampshire Genealogical Society Open Day. Sadly, this event proved to be somewhat less exciting than the other events we had attended that weekend.

Somewhat unusually, we were not joined at any of these events by our other stalwarts, Pam and Brian SMITH. We kindly allowed them to have a few weeks off to visit their sons. However, you may have noticed the same names repeated several times. This is where we are asking for your help. Do you drive? Are you able and willing to represent your Society at events like these? If we are visiting your neighbourhood, could you spare a couple of hours to join us? We would love to hear from you. If you are able to help, please contact any of the committee members whose names appear inside the front cover of this Journal.

Image: Carole Steers

# HELP

## Robert Hugh Donald MacLEOD

Tim HURLEY would like to know whether anyone has any information on Robert Hugh Donald MacLEOD, who was a doctor in Nova Scotia. In 1934 he moved to England with his wife, Ola, to continue his practice. He settled at 70 Hounslow Road in Feltham and eventually his brother Frank moved in with him. On his immigration record it stated that he was going to the Royal Bank of Canada in the West End. His son, James William, was born in London in 1939. If you can help please contact Tim on:

## timhurley26@gmail.com

## RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION WAR MEMORIALS

At the Headquarters of the English Rugby Football Union's stadium in Twickenham, there are two War Memorials and a Memorial Gate, commemorating those who fell in both World Wars and subsequent conflicts.

## World War One



In the centre of the bronze plaque is the RFU's red rose and underneath are the words:

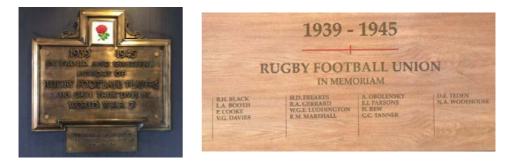
### 1914 1918 IN PROUD AND GRATEFUL MEMORY OF RUGBY FOOTBALL PLAYERS WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN THE GREAT WAR

Inscribed on the polished wooden plaque are the names:

H.A. Hodges	E.R. Mobbs	R.O. Schwarz
R.E. Inglis	W.M.B. Nanson	L.A.N. Slocock
P.D. Kendall	F.E. Oakeley	E.N. Tarr
J.A. King	R.L. Pillman	A.F. Todd
R.O. Lagden	R.W. Poulton-	J.H.D. Watson
D. Lambert	Palmer	A.J. Wilson
A.F. Maynard	J.E. Raphael	C.E. Wilson
	R.E. Inglis P.D. Kendall J.A. King R.O. Lagden D. Lambert	R.E. InglisW.M.B. NansonP.D. KendallF.E. OakeleyJ.A. KingR.L. PillmanR.O. LagdenR.W. Poulton-D. LambertPalmer

This memorial was unveiled by George V on the 12<sup>th</sup> February, 1921

## World War Two



This bronze plaque is identical to that for World War One but is inscribed with the words:

1939 1945 IN PROUD AND GRATEFUL MEMORY OF RUGBY FOOTBALL PLAYERS WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN WORLD WAR 2

Inscribed on the polished wooden plaque are the names:

B.H. Black	H.D. Freakes	R.M. Marshall	C.C. Tanner
L.A. Booth	R.A. Gerrard	A. Obolensky	D.E. Teden
P. Cooke	W.G.E.	E.I. Parsons	N.A. Wodehouse
V.G. Davies	Luddington	H. Rew	

This memorial was unveiled by Princess Elizabeth on the 28th April, 1951

## THE ROSE AND POPPY GATES Designed by Harry Gray

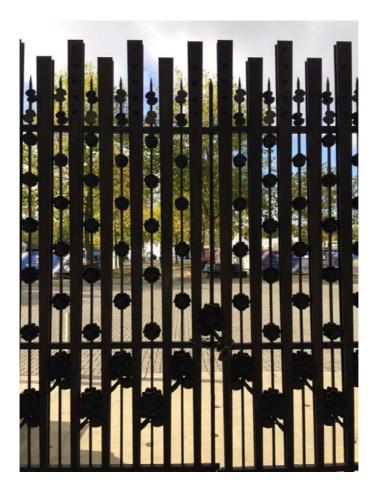
The Rose and Poppy Gates are dedicated to the memory of all Rugby Players who have served and died in conflicts around the world.

On the gates, bronze roses – as worn by generations of English Rugby Internationals – gradually transform into poppies, symbolising the move from player to soldier.

There are 15 large roses on each gate representing the rugby team. They are modelled on those worn by the Grand-Slam winning England Team of 1914, who all volunteered to fight for their country.

The brass poppies at the top of the gates are formed from German shell-casings fired in action during the 1914-18 War.

The gates were unveiled in April 2016, as part of the RFU's programme of events to commemorate the centenary of the First World War.



The RFU welcomes any relatives who would like to visit and pay their respects. Please contact Chris Donnelly: *ChrisDonnelly@RFU.com* 

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



## The Annual General Meeting of the West Middlesex Family History Society will be held on Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> March 2018, at Montague Hall, Montague Road, Hounslow

# Agenda

- 1. Welcome
- 2. Apologies for Absence
- 3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
- held on 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2017
- 4. Matters arising
- 5. Chairman's Report
- 6. Treasurer's Report
- 7. Receiving of Financial Statement for the
- year ended 31st December, 2017
- 8. Appointment of Examiners
- 9. Election of Committee
- 10. Amendments to the Constitution
- 11. Any other business

# **Election of Committee**

Muriel Sprott has served six years on the Committee and therefore has to stand down.

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.

Margaret Cunnew, Cheryl Ford, Brian Page, John Seaman and Hilary Strudwick have offered themselves for election to serve on the Committee.

Roland Bostock Flat 8, 167 Park Road Teddington Middlesex, TW11 0BP

# FAMILY HISTORY NEWS

### **GRO** Certificates

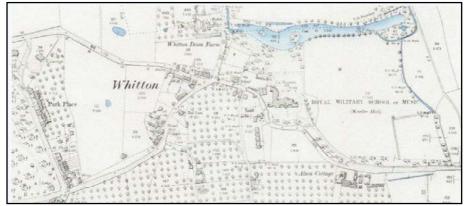
The General Register Office is piloting a new service to provide PDF copies of digitised historical birth and death records for England and Wales. Initially running for three months from October 2017, in order to assess the demand for this service, it is hoped that it will continue thereafter. Applications for each PDF copy, which must include the GRO index reference, are to be made online and will cost £6. The periods in questions are:

- Births: 1837-1916
- Deaths: 1837-1957

**NB**: The PDF certificate has no 'evidential' value and therefore an authorised copy certificate is required for official purposes, e.g. applying for a passport, driving licence, or giving notice of marriage. These cost £9.25 and should be obtained from the GRO website – do not use the commercial sites for this, e.g. Ancestry, as their charge is much higher.

gro.gov.uk

Ordnance Survey Maps 25" to the mile



As noted in the last Journal, the National Library of Scotland has completed its digitisation of Ordnance Survey maps of England, Scotland and Wales, dated from 1841 to 1925. These maps are the most detailed maps available for this period and you can see all the local features: e.g. buildings, streets, railways, farms, etc. etc. In some you can even see the projections on buildings: bay windows or door steps. The first edition maps show which buildings are constructed in stone and which in brick – you can see where your ancestors lived as they saw it. **maps.nls.uk/os/25inch-england-and-wales** 

## **Closure of Lichfield Record Office**

The Lichfield Record Office closed to the public on the 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2018. The archive collections have been prepared for transfer to Stafford, which is due to take place in March. The online catalogue is being updated and those items which are held at the Service's outstore in Stafford will be annotated and 48 hours' notice will be required. It is hoped that all collections will be fully available for consultation in May 2018.

## stafford shire.archives @stafford shire.gov.uk

## Survey of English Dialects

Were you, or any member of your family involved in the Survey of English Dialects carried out by the University of Leeds between 1946 and 1978? The University has received Lottery funding to enable them to continue the Survey and they want to interview the descendants of original participants. The original Survey interviewed hundreds of people across the country, recording people's language and lifestyles. If you qualify and would like to get involved in this second part of the Survey, please email them.

dialect and heritage @leeds.ac.uk

# MONTHLY TALKS

Roland Bostock, Muriel Sprott

## Dig for Victory, Russell Bowe, October.

Well, that was the scheduled talk, but Russell Bowes had to cancel his attendance at very short notice and so this was an impromptu meeting. Fortunately, webmaster Roland BOSTOCK, brings his laptop to all members' meetings, just in case the speaker has any problems connecting their own equipment to our projector. And, as webmaster, that means he has a full copy of our website to hand and he certainly knows his way round the site.

So the main part of the evening was taken with Roland fielding various questions from the audience concerning the website and putting a main focus on the facilities in the 'Members' section. He first showed the latest addition to the website, which is the page which shows who has offered to give lifts to get to the meeting and where they live, etc.

First with a question was Stephen KNIGHT, with a keen interest in our war memorials and Roland was able to show how the data search worked, and in particular how you can see all the war memorials the Society has transcribed for any particular town: e.g. Twickenham, Whitton, etc. Seeing John SEAMAN in the audience, well-known for his many articles in the Journal relating to Sunbury, Roland took the opportunity to show off 'Journal Search', another comparatively recent addition to the website. He showed that by entering "Sunbury" as an Article Keyword, you immediately see 15 article titles which include the word Sunbury, and surprise, surprise, 14 of these are by John SEAMAN! As a slight variation on the search, if you search with "Seaman" as the Author, then you actually find that John has written 25 articles in Journals from 2008 to 2017. Roland showed that when you select an item from the list, you first see a short synopsis of the article and if you select again, you get taken directly to the full article as it appeared in the Journal.

Roland then moved to the 'Members' Section' and briefly showed most of the facilities there:

- How to look up members
- How to see which Societies exchange their printed journals with us
- How to view journals from the societies who do a digital exchange with us
- How to see what is in our digital library
- How to look at approved minutes of the Executive Committee
- How to look up our 15% discount codes to use when subscribing to FindMyPast
- How to see the leaflets and forms we usually display at Family History Fairs
- How to renew your subscription online

Hilary STRUDWICK asked for a run-through of what is available from the 'Research' tab, so Roland showed some of the pages available there – in particular the Parish Information page, where any of our parishes can be selected and information such as where the parish registers are held, is easily obtained. Another page that Roland showed was the 'Gazetteer' page. The gazetteer holds information on all places within the M25 and is useful for anyone wanting to know which Family History Society covers any particular location – Pimlico was used as an example. Do we cover Pimlico? If not, then which society does?

It was about this time that Roland checked his watch and realised that it was time to pass the reins back to chairman, Kirsty GRAY. We may not have learned much about digging for victory, but some of the less used parts of the website received an airing. RB

## Tracing Your Military Ancestors, Phil Tomaselli, November

Are you sure your ancestor was a soldier? In peacetime the army was quite small, so in order to establish that your ancestor was, indeed, a soldier, look for evidence. Look at the occupations on censuses or other documents, such as birth

or marriage certificates. Words such as 'soldier' or 'pensioner' are strong indications of military service.

There is virtually no useful information before the Napoleonic Wars. During the Victorian era records gradually improve, but there are very few records for men who left the military before being entitled to a pension.

Phil showed an example of an early pension record from 1811, which has very little useful information. It does show when and where the man was born, so it should be possible to go back to the relevant parish records.

Early Muster Lists at The National Archives (TNA) are mostly simple lists of names with no additional genealogical information. Some Musters do give additional information, such as 'wounded'. From about 1830, Musters are more informative about men leaving the army, for example showing where they enlisted. Most men enlisted near their home, so this may help identify an area for further research.

Be aware that soldiers often transferred from one regiment to another, especially if they were posted to India, where their pay went a long way.

Any soldier could marry after calling banns or obtaining a licence. However, to marry 'on the strength' required the permission of the commanding officer. Wives on the strength got paid, but were expected to do laundry and carry out other domestic tasks. For many years, there was no separate accommodation for married soldiers and their wives – they had to live in the main barrack room, with a blanket hung round the bed to give some privacy. Wives not on the strength were simply left at home when the men were posted away. Later soldiers' records name wives and sometimes also children born to the couple.

'Social diseases' and over-consumption of alcohol were common vices amongst soldiers and led to the dismissal of many men.

Only about 1.25 million records out of an estimated 6.5 million records from the First World War survive. The rest were destroyed by fire when an incendiary bomb hit the storage facility. Officers' records and those of the Chinese Labour Corps were especially badly hit. However the Medal Cards do survive and these point to the Medal Rolls, organised by regiment. The Western Front Association (WFA) has a collection of Medal Cards, which are now available to view on Ancestry. The WFA also has 6.5 million pension cards but as yet these have not been digitised.

Of the records which did survive the fire, be aware that these were completed by clerks in the United Kingdom, using the information provided whenever it arrived. Hence, a man's service records may not be in strict chronological order, so has to be read carefully. It may be possible to find the relevant War Diaries at TNA, although the information contained in these diaries is very variable and

seldom names men who are not officers. The War Diary may state that regimental photographs have been taken, in which case it is worth contacting the Imperial War Museum to see whether they have a copy of that photograph.

If you have, or can locate a photograph of the man you are researching, look for wound stripes on his left sleeve and chevrons on his right sleeve – one chevron for each year of overseas service.

For post WW1 records, it is necessary to contact the Army Records Office in Glasgow. It is necessary to show that you are next of kin, or have the permission of the next of kin before full details can be supplied. However, if you are able to obtain the full records, they are very detailed and informative.

The more information you have to start with, the more information you are likely to find. It does take time and can be problematic, but if fortune favours you, you may have excellent results. MS

## Christmas Celebrations, December

Christmas is a time for relaxing and getting together with friends. At West Middlesex Family History Society, our December meeting is just that – an easy-going get-together. Our numbers were a little depleted this year due to various nasty illnesses going round, but we still had a good turnout. Pam and Brian SMITH had decorated the tables to suit the occasion and Roland BOSTOCK had his jolly Santa hat on, to bring a smile to our faces.

After announcements, including confirmation what we shall be moving to the St. John's Centre in Isleworth for our April and subsequent meetings, members put their heads together to work on two quizzes. Each table worked as a team; if two heads are better than one, then six heads are even better. After about half an hour, Muriel SPROTT read out the answers, some of which caused groans of exasperation from people who really should have been able to work out the solutions. Unfortunately, due to Muriel's forgetfulness, there were no prizes, which turned out to be fortuitous as one of the quizzes was won by four tables earning equal scores.

After the quizzes came the food, supplied by Pam and Brian. As usual, the festive spread was well-received and folk could have a good natter whilst eating. Ann GREENE then drew the raffle prizes. For our Christmas meeting, members donate the prizes and we are all given free tickets. Groans again, as so many people came within one number of winning, but in the end the prizes were spread fairly evenly around the room. Ann then closed the meeting by proposing a vote of thanks to Pam and Brian for all their hard work – the response was a generous round of applause.

Members then worked together to help with the clearing up as we all wished each other a Happy Christmas and looked forward to meeting again in 2018. We hope to see you! MS

# FAMILY HISTORY FAIRS

**The Name Event**, Local History, Genealogy, etc. \* Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> May, ILEC, 47 Lillie Road, SW6 1UD. 10.00-4.30 Tickets: £12.50 MUST BE BOUGHT IN ADVANCE via website. **thenameevent.co.uk** 

Wiltshire Family History Society, Family History Show Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> May wiltshirefhs.co.uk

Yorkshire Family History Show Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup> June. Knavesmire Exhibition Centre, York Racecourse, YO23 1EX 10.00-4.30 thefamilyhistoryshow.com

SWAG Family History Day (South West Area Group of Family History Societies) Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> June Steam, Fire Fly Avenue, Swindon, SN2 2EY Admission: Adults £3, children free. swag-fair.co.uk

**Buckinghamshire Family History Society** Open Day \* Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> July. The Grange School, Wendover Way, Aylesbury, HP21 7NH 10.00-4.00. Free admission and free parking.

The London Family History Show \* Saturday, 22<sup>nd</sup> September Sandown Park Race Course, Esher. thefamilyhistoryshow.com

**Oxfordshire Family History Society**, Family History Fair Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> October. The Marlborough School, Shipton Road, Woodstock, OX20 1LP. 10.00-4.00 **oxfhs.org.uk** 

West Surrey Family History Society, Family History Fair \* Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> November. Woking Leisure Centre, Kingfield Road, Woking, GU22 9BA. 10.00-4.30 wsfhs.co.uk

\* WMFHS will have a stand at this Show To find a family history fair near you, go to: geneva.weald.org.uk

# WORLD WIDE WEB

A survey of new records recently published on the web.

Ancestry now has parish registers for Derbyshire, Huntingdon and Yorkshire; Roman Catholic baptisms, marriages and burials in Ontario 1760-1923; Admission Registers to the Dreadnought Seamen's Hospital in Greenwich 1826-1930; UK Electoral Registers 2003-2010 and for Berkshire 1840-1965; Find a Grave burials for the UK and Ireland 1300-current and also burials at sea ancestry.co.uk

**Bomber Command** casualties who were killed during WW2 and who served in Bomber Command: over 57,000 records. internationalbcc.co.uk

**British Army** records: 11.5m photos from British Army records from 1850-1920, with the ability to upload your own photos to the site. **britisharmyancestors.co.uk** 

**Birmingham Burials**: 1.5m burials and cremations in Birmingham from 1836 to the present day. birminghamburialrecords.co.uk

**Digital Panopticon** gives the details of the lives of transported and imprisoned convicts both in Britain and Australia: these are the 90,000 individuals convicted at the Old Bailey between 1780 and 1925. **digitalpanopticon.org** 

Family Search has new indexed records from Staffordshire, Stoke on Trent, Sussex and Essex. They have also posted details of more than 200,000 immigrants to South Australia between 1849 and 1940. familysearch.org

### Find My Past

New parish records for: London Docklands, Derbyshire, Portsmouth, Kent and Greater Manchester and the Archdeacon's records for Canterbury; various Roman Catholic and Congregational baptisms, marriages and burials; M.Is from Rotherham FHS and Northamptonshire; burials from Brompton Cemetery; Clerkenwell has been added to the Greater London Burial Index; Methodist burials in Sheffield. WW1: British Army medical records, widows pension forms and casualty lists, British Red Cross Volunteers and from the Imperial War Museum details of military service in the Bond of Sacrifice lists. Prisoners of War 1715-1945.

Their subscription categories have been revised and the 1939 Register is now available on a monthly subscription.

## findmypast.co.uk

The Genealogist has added the parish records for Somerset and Dorset. They have an ongoing project to put Lloyd George's 'Domesday Survey' of 1910 online. They have started with the records of the City of London and of Paddington, which will enable you to accurately locate an ancestor's house on a large scale map, plus find information in the accompanying field books. thegenealogist.co.uk

The National Railway Museum has produced a database of information found in Accident Reports of the Railway Inspectorate between 1911-1915, which list details of almost 4,000 casualties. railwayaccidents.port.ac.uk

**Roman Catholic records**; a new database listing over 250,000 has been launched by the Catholic FHS from records from the Margaret Higgins Database. **catholicfhs.online** 

Scotlands People have downloaded the Valuation Rolls which show who owned, rented and occupied property in Scotland in 1935. scotlandspeople.gov.uk

Latest dates for the submission of articles for printing in the subsequent Journal:

> 7<sup>th</sup> January. 7<sup>th</sup>April. 7<sup>th</sup> July. 7<sup>th</sup> October

## **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 Sandleford 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.

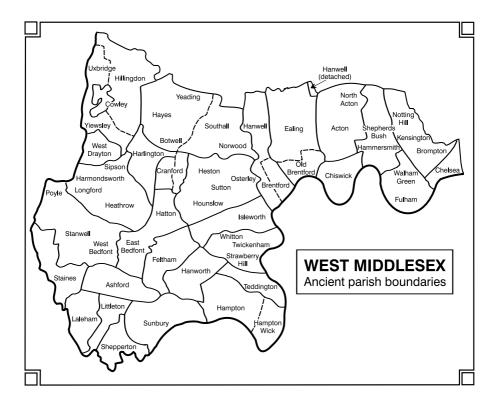
Miss Valerie Walker, 32 Cunnington Street, Chiswick, London, W4 5EN

**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  $\pounds l$  per certificate. Please check on Society website for current list. Cheques should be made payable to West Middlesex FHS and please include an sae.

## Front Cover

Alexander POPE (1688-1744) was born in London to Catholic parents, thus he was prevented by the Test Acts from a regular education, and was unable to go to university, although he did attend illegal Catholic schools. Mostly self-taught, he was a prolific reader, particularly of classical literature. He was a flourishing poet but the works which enabled him to purchase a villa on the Thames in Twickenham, were his translations of Homer's *Iliad* and Odyssey.

It was at his Twickenham villa that he created the famous underground Grotto, fed by a spring, it was filled with the relaxing sound of trickling water. Much of the Grotto still survives, although it is now in private hands but is occasionally opened to the public.



## 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