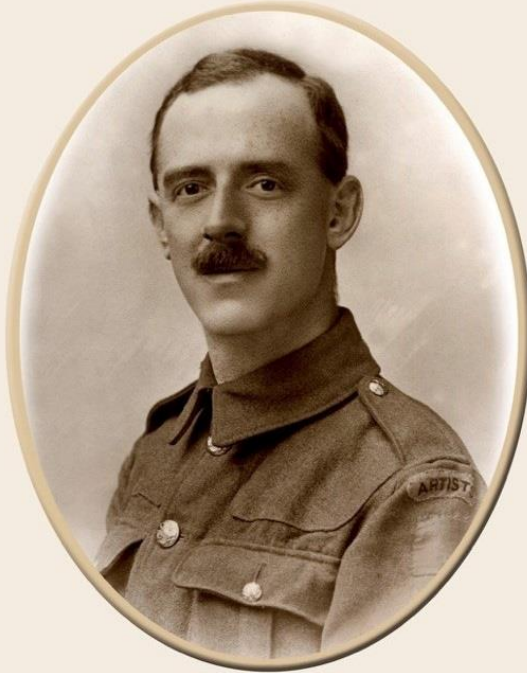




# WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY JOURNAL

VOL 36 No.4

December 2018



**Percy Walter Camplin**



1881-1918



## WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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<b>Subscriptions</b>	All categories: £15 per annum
<b>Subscription year</b>	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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Ann Greene  
39 Broughton Avenue, Ham  
Richmond  
Surrey TW10 7UG

Exchange journals from other societies should be sent to:

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

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

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## FUTURE MEETINGS

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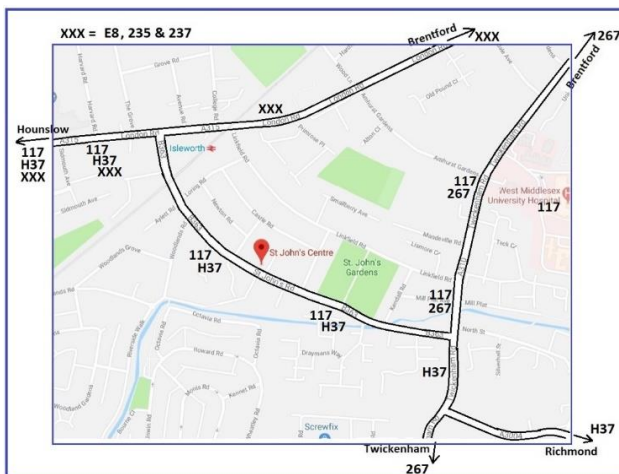


The following talks have been arranged:

- 20 Dec Christmas celebrations - quiz is likely!
- 17 Jan Hounslow's Special Constables in WW1 Ann Greene
- 21 Feb *To be announced*
- 21 Mar AGM
- 18 Apr *To be announced*

Our meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at St John's Centre, St John's Road, Isleworth, TW7 6RU, and doors open at 7.15pm. Fully accessible. A small carpark is adjacent to the Centre which is also close to a mainline railway station (Isleworth – South Western Railways) and is well-served by local buses.

Exchange journals from other societies can be browsed between 7.30 and 10pm (talks take place between 8pm and 9pm). Refreshments are also available.



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## WANT A LIFT?

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### **Do you find getting to meetings a bit of a challenge? We may be able to help!**

Below are details of those who have volunteered to offer lifts to other members. Please ring or email them if you would like a lift.

If you are able to offer a lift to someone living in your area, contact our Webmaster, Roland BOSTOCK (contact details below) giving your name, contact details and areas you could pick up from.

This list is also on our website under “Meetings” and hopefully more names will be added as time goes on.

**Roland Bostock**, who lives in **Teddington**, can do pickups from places such as:  
***Hampton Wick, Teddington, Strawberry Hill, Hampton Hill  
and Twickenham.***

Email: Roland@Bostock.net  
Telephone: 020 8287 2754

**Mike Pipe**, who lives in **Hanworth Park**, can do pickups from places such as:  
***Hanworth and Hanworth Park***

Email: mikejpipe@aol.com  
Telephone: 020 8893 1705

**Hilary Strudwick**, who lives in **Isleworth**, can do pickups from places such as:  
***Isleworth and Hounslow***

Email: hilary.strudwick@springgrove.org.uk  
Telephone: 020 8560 7492

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## Contributions and Advertisements

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The WMFHS Journal is your magazine so contributions of all kinds are welcome, not to say necessary!

Your contributions can be articles, cries for help, snippets of information, whatever you like.

Articles should be between 800 and 1200 words in length. Longer articles can be submitted but may have to be published in two parts depending on space.

Formatting: please set the document out as an A5 document with normal margins and single line spacing.

They can be emailed or sent by post. The editor's postal address is to be found on the inside of the front cover.

Email: [editor@west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk](mailto:editor@west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk)

If emailing an article, please submit any illustrations in a separate folder from the actual article.

If a quote or image is used that is not the author's own, the attribution must be given.

If the attribution is not known, please state this.

### **Copy submission dates:**

**7<sup>th</sup> January, 7<sup>th</sup> April, 7<sup>th</sup> July and 7<sup>th</sup> October.**

### **Advertisements**

*NB: We only accept advertisements relating to family history.*

Rates:

Full page:           £25 (members)    £30 (non-members)

Half-page           £10 (members)   £15 (non-members)

Quarter-page       £10 for both members and non-members.

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## Advice Sessions

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### Would you like help with your family history?

Anyone is welcome, whether or not they are new to family history research, or a member of the Society and regardless of whether your family history is within the West Middlesex area.

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.

Email the Advice Session Co-ordinator: [surgeries@west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk](mailto:surgeries@west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk) to make a booking and give us an idea of what you want to achieve.

The sessions are held in the Local Studies area of Feltham Library on the third Saturday in the month.

17<sup>th</sup> November, 2018

15<sup>th</sup> December, 2018

19<sup>th</sup> January 2019

16<sup>th</sup> February 2019

16<sup>th</sup> March 2019

***NB – No session on 20<sup>th</sup> April, Easter Saturday***

18<sup>th</sup> May 2019

15<sup>th</sup> June 2019

20<sup>th</sup> July 2019

17<sup>th</sup> August 2019

21<sup>st</sup> September 2019

19<sup>th</sup> October 2019

16<sup>th</sup> November 2019

21<sup>st</sup> December 2019

NB: Please check the Society website for up-to-date information:  
**[west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk-Activities-Advice Sessions](http://west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk-Activities-Advice%20Sessions).**

## 38<sup>th</sup> West London Local History Conference: The Impact of the 1914-18 War on West London

After Chairman Val Bott's opening words of welcome, Neil Robson of Wandsworth Historical Society introduced the theme of the Conference.

In 1914 there was in the country a widespread sense of peace. Then the War came, and by 1915, women were demanding the right to serve in the War. Although they did not achieve this (except as ancillary workers and nurses), they were allowed new employment opportunities as the men were away fighting, so by 1917 there was no conflict about giving over 8 million women the vote. And for some serving men there was now promotion from the ranks to officer status. Everyone had been touched by death, and after the War people were questioning the old order, including the existence of God. A huge number of men came back being able to use a rifle – this was a cause of worry. The upper classes could not afford so many staff, and estates were being sold off with a lot of the former tenants buying up the farms. Siegfried Sassoon later remarked that after WWI the old social order had expired but people had not realised it. We are still feeling these social convulsions.

### *When the War Began. John Grigg, Labour Historian*

Before the War the newspapers had been urging better relations with Germany, but by August 1914, Germany was the enemy, with rumours about spies turning into spy mania. People following what once would have been innocent pursuits, e.g. taking photos of or sketching public buildings, found themselves arrested - sketches were suspected of being "plans". Invasion was expected. Premises with views of installations such as railways were searched. Pigeon fanciers were regarded with suspicion; their birds could carry messages – a man in Brentford was ordered to destroy his birds. Any episodes of smoke being seen caused alarm. Germanic pub and street names were changed. "German" sausage was renamed "Breakfast" sausage. Dachshunds were shot in the street. A youth who had been scrumping walnuts and ran off along a railway when challenged by special constables was shot. Registered aliens were watched by police and suspected if they travelled too far from home. Enemy aliens were taken to detention centres across the country.

When War was declared, there was panic; people rushed to the shops to buy food to hoard and there was a run on the banks. Crowds gathered at bridges and level crossings to watch troops leaving for the War. It was the middle of the holiday season and some people were stranded in Europe, some behind enemy lines.

At first there was no rush to join up, and there were complaints about young men enjoying sports etc. while men were giving their lives. But reservists, such as at **Brentford**, were called up, with promises their jobs would be held open: it was thought the War would last less than a year. Recruiting rallies, such as in **Acton Park**, did not result in a lot of men joining up. Casualties began to arrive at local hospitals,



including that in **Dukes Lane, Chiswick**. Needlework Guilds made clothes, e.g. flannel shirts, for the Army. Stately homes were turned into hospitals and convalescent homes. Many men joined local regiments such as the Middlesex Regiment. Some were sent to guard installations in Britain, others sailed to India to release regular soldiers to fight in the War. At **Stamford Brook, West London**, a thousand men had joined up by the end of 1914, some to lose their lives at **Gallipoli**.

During the War there were some three-quarters of a million British casualties; from the wider Empire, this figure rose to one million. The other allies also had huge casualties.

***The cost in lives of the men of the “Alberts”, a small community in Richmond.*** *Valerie Boyes, local historian*

Valerie researched the names of WWI deceased on the **Richmond War Memorial** on the riverside near the Old Town Hall. Of the 39 names she researched 20 had had addresses in the **Alberts**, a small working-class community, of about 400 small Victorian cottages (many now gentrified) which would have been much affected by their deaths. Some of the men would have been employed in local work, such as a printing works in the Sheen Road, a laundry, a rag and bone yard, and the **Richmond Mineral Water and Bottling Company**, whose building was used during the War for making munitions; the building is now apartments called Albert Court.

She studied such sources as the Richmond Roll of Honour, the Ancestry website, wills and probate, newspapers, memorials and gravestones, church magazines, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website and photographs of buildings in the area. With the aid of the 1911 census she found that some of the men had been grocery assistants and errand boys; three were regular soldiers. Fathers' occupations included a decorator, bricklayer, gardener and general labourers. Only two women were noted as employed: a shirt ironer and a charwoman.

Some of the children from the **Alberts** went to **Holy Trinity School** (now a prep school); the boys then went up to **St Mary's School** on the corner of **Paradise Road** - many of the boys in the school photos would later go off to War and be killed. **Holy Trinity** church parish included the **Alberts** but some of the locals used **St Mary Magdalene**, the old Richmond parish church.

One in four British men joined up to fight in the War. There were 6.7 million volunteers, 2.77 million were conscripted. Men from the Alberts served in 22 different regiments; six in local regiments such as the East Surreys, West Surreys and Middlesex; one in the Post Office Rifles and others in a Cyclists Battalion. One man joined the Navy, but as infantry, not going to sea. 30 of the 39 men researched were Privates; only one reached the rank of Sergeant. Their average age at death was 28, the oldest 44, three were only 18.

WWI was fought in many areas as well as the Western Front. The men from this tiny Richmond community died in various places abroad – places they could not previously have imagined visiting; although most deaths were in the Western Front. 7 died near **Ypres** between 1914 and 1917, 4 died elsewhere. **George Burt** died in **Palestine**, his brother **William Burt** in **Mesopotamia**, another man at **Gallipoli** with the Australian infantry. **Leslie John Orsborne** was found dead in **Yorkshire** where he was posted, apparently having committed suicide – the experience of War probably too much for him. He was buried locally with full military honours.

27 of the 39 men researched were killed in action; the War Graves Commission had decided no bodies would be repatriated, so most were buried near where they fell. 12 of their bodies were never found – their names would be inscribed on the **Menin Gate** near **Ypres**. 6 died at home from results of the conflict and are buried in **Richmond Cemetery**.

Gravestones in the European war cemeteries were to be of a standard type to avoid class distinction, made of Portland Stone with name, rank, date of death, and a symbol for British troops. Families were allowed, for a fee, to add an inscription at the foot of the gravestone.

Local churches had their own memorials - six of the men are commemorated at **St Mary Magdalene, Richmond**. One family, the **Burts**, lost three sons. Other small communities must have had similar stories. The project continues. Some of the present residents of the **Alberts** were persuaded to put giant poppies in their window explaining about the project. There is also a blog: [morprojectofficer/](http://morprojectofficer/) or on the Museum's website. On 11<sup>th</sup> November 2018 it is proposed there be a nationwide ringing of church bells.

### ***World War I's Legacy in Fulham & Hammersmith.***

*Keith Whitehouse, Chairman, Fulham & Hammersmith Historical Society*

**Fulham War Memorial** is next to **Fulham Parish Church**, in the Vicarage Garden. It originally stood in **Fulham Palace Road** and was moved after 1934. It was made by a local sculptor, probably from a regular plan. A bronze plaque attached to it was stolen and due to cost was not replaced, but Keith has found a picture of the original design for the plaque.

**Fulham House** in **Fulham High Street**, built in 1735 as a private house, has had a military use since 1902. It was HQ of the London Cyclists, who were meant to guard the coast and in the case of incidents, telephone the Army. There is another plaque in Fulham church.

In **Fulham Cemetery** in **Fulham Palace Road** there is a collection of war graves: all the names from the gravestones are inscribed on one memorial, and there is a Cross of Sacrifice - the official Commonwealth War Graves memorial.

**Margravine Cemetery** (the old **Hammersmith Cemetery**) has a stone block bearing men's names. British and German soldiers were treated in **Fulham** (now **Charing Cross**) **Hospital** nearby. The Lyons company memorial is also in this cemetery: it was originally at **Sudbury Hill**, then was moved to **Greenford**, then to **Margravine**.

On **Shepherd's Bush Green** is the **Hammersmith War Memorial**, designed by Daniel Jones. The **Sir Oswald Stoll Foundation** owns several blocks on **Fulham Road**. A theatrical impresario, **Sir Oswald** wanted a theatre there but could not get permission, so offered the land for a home for disabled soldiers. It is still thriving.

**The Warren**, perhaps originally a hunting park for **Fulham Palace**, has been allotments since 1918. It was used for training troops, particularly cyclists, during the War. A huge number of medals was issued after the War, as well as death plaques sent to families: known as the "dead man's penny".

The traditional readings on the Conference theme by members of the Steering Committee took place both before and after lunch (injured bodies, broken hearts, damaged businesses women workers, tribunals, memorials). There were stories from **Brentford, Acton, South Ealing, Wandsworth, Richmond, Tooting, and Chiswick**, including the reintroduction of horse-drawn cabs, a money-raising visit from a real tank, appeals against conscription, a house shattered by a bombing raid, and poems written by patients in a war hospital's magazine.

### ***Feltham: how war transformed a village into an industrial suburb.***

*James Marshall, Hounslow Local Studies Librarian*

**Feltham** comprises one third of the Borough of **Hounslow**. Its growth began during the second third of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. An Urban District by 1903, it had most recently grown up around the railway station and outstripped its neighbours. The 1848 station was of the **London South Western railway**, originally for the distribution of coal (partly used for heating greenhouses) and produce. But in WWI Feltham was still surrounded by fields: where the **Airman** pub now stands was still a country road junction and **William Whiteley's** model farm in Hanworth supplied his store with fruit and other produce.

At the start of WWI sites for new military depots had to be found. An aircraft hangar on **Hounslow Heath** where **Charles Rolls** kept an aircraft became **Hounslow Heath Aerodrome** and a training ground for pilots. The first planes flying over the Western Front were observers, with pilots taking pot-shots at enemy pilots with a handgun: literally duels with handguns. This developed into machine guns fired between the propeller blades. Germany was in the forefront in the air, Britain and France lagged by a year. The Government needed people able and willing to build planes. There was also a huge demand for timber for huts, duckboards, pit props etc. **John Alexander Whitehead**, a timber buyer for the Hendon Aircraft Company, watched them building planes and knew he could do it himself. He set up a workshop in

Richmond at **Townsend Terrace** on the south side of the **Upper Richmond Road**. He approached the War Office. Impressed with his knowledge and business acumen, they gave him an order for 6 aircraft. He hired local carpenters and went to work, setting up a factory at **Manor Park Works, Richmond** where they cut timber into aeroplane parts.

Once assembled, the planes had to be air tested. **Whitehead** had been sharing Brooklands racing field, but wanted his own airfield and chose the parkland (once part of **Hounslow Heath**) surrounding **Hanworth Park House**, now a convalescent home for wounded soldiers. He cut down the trees, covered over part of the **Longford River**, set up large sheds and a timber store. His second order was for 100 aircraft and he also negotiated a contract for building Sopwith Pups for the Royal Flying Corps – going on to build several hundred. They gave good service over the Western Front: one pilot shot down 57 enemy aircraft. In January 1918 came another order for 100 monoplanes. He was an important supplier of aircraft for the War, employing over 2500 people; women were very important in all aspects of the production process. In 1914 Britain had 600 planes; in 1917, 30,000. We could now match the Germans. And the War was now turning in the Army's favour. But the Government did not pay **Whitehead** and he was on the brink of bankruptcy – he owed £85,000 with assets of £15,000. The company went into receivership. His Richmond house and Rolls Royce car had to be sold. He tried to promote **Hanworth Park** for aircraft but his premises were taken over by other industries and so **Feltham** became an industrial centre after the war constructing underground train carriages, trams, and trolley buses. **Whitehead's** old buildings were used again by the **Aston Martin** company, and in 1940, spitfires were being serviced at **Hanworth**. The propeller sculpture outside **Feltham Leisure West** is a reminder of the aircraft manufactured there.

***Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton: the pioneering treatment of war injuries.***

Tom Stanier, film maker and TV producer, presented a film he made for the hospital's centenary, 1915-2015. He had suggested to the hospital's archivist the making of a half-hour film with copies to be given out to the staff. The hospital still has a very important prosthetic and Rehab department and Tom was impressed by the courage of the patients and the devotion of the staff.

During WWI some soldiers recovered from wounds with no serious damage, but others lost limbs. Mrs **Gwyn Holford** met one such patient **Frank Chapman** while being taken round a hospital. **Chapman** was very depressed after losing his left arm and right hand. He said to her: "is this all my country can do for me?" **Mrs Holford** had powerful connections, and decided to start a hospital for supplying artificial limbs: she founded **Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton**, and **Frank** was one of the first patients. The hospital went from strength to strength. The men were also taught skills to enable them to get back to work. Soon **Frank Chapman** was writing to his fiancée, and they were later married.

A huge workshop was built to manufacture limbs, and thousands of men were equipped with new limbs. One of the nurses had a camera and took a number of photographs of the men, which brought images of the men to the public.



In 1961 the hospital became a District General Hospital, and since 1968 has been part of St George's. It still has a reputation for treatment of amputees. Nowadays, apart from accidents, some of the patients have lost limbs through diabetes or septicaemia. Staff are much admired for their positive approach. Some patients have taken up sport to Olympic standard and represent their country.

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## MEMBERS' DISCOUNTS

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### Find My Past

In May 2016 the Society signed a new contract with the Federation of Family History Societies (FFHS) relating to the terms under which we supply data to Find My Past. As part of this contract Find My Past has made available a discount of 15% on all new subscriptions, or Pay as You Go payments, taken out by our members. All you have to do is to enter the appropriate discount code as given below:

For **Subscriptions** the discount code is \*\*\* **Removed** \*\*\*

For **Pay as You Go** the discount code is \*\*\* **Removed** \*\*\*

These codes are valid up to the end of this year.

### Forces War Records

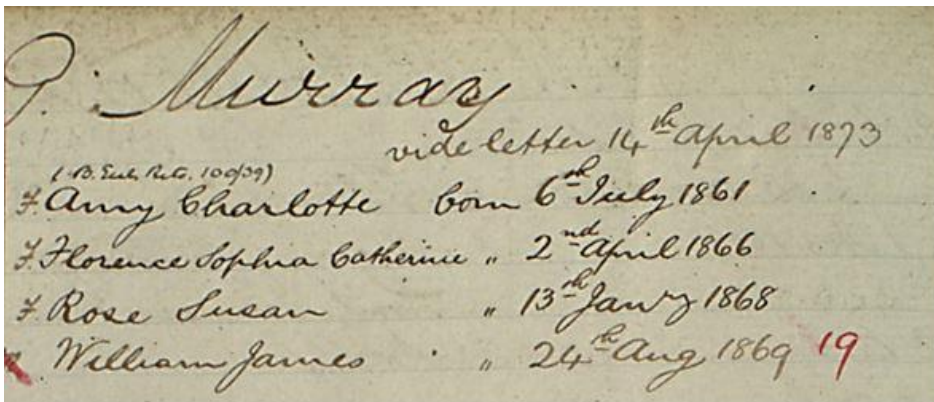
The Society has arranged a useful discount for our members of 40% when you take out a subscription with Forces War Records. The website is [www.forces-war-records.co.uk](http://www.forces-war-records.co.uk). Register your details with them, then visit their Subscribe page and enter our discount code \*\*\* **Removed** \*\*\* in the discount code box.

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*Special thanks to **Cathy Aquart** and **Bridget Purr** for their significant assistance, without which I would certainly have failed!*

If you have not already read the first part “**The Isolated Tomb**” [*WMFHS Journal*, March 2018], I suggest you should, as it will make this second part of the Major’s story easier to understand. My aim was to trace the descendants of Major **William George Murray** of the British East India Army, who died in **Portigliolo**, Corsica, in May 1894, so I could inform them of his isolated grave in escheat and help avoid the family story dying out. My problem was how to do this, since the only available information I had on the **Murray** family was the birth of his children, the existence of his sister, **Charlotte Henrietta Murray**, his marriage to **Florence Isabella Young** and his death in 1894, when his widow was living in **North Kensington**.

The will of **William James Murray** in 1894, appointed his sister, **Charlotte**



**Henrietta Murray**, executrix, stating that 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”.

The initial starting point was suggested to me by Cathy Aquart, who suggested I should search for any wills regarding Major **Murray** next of kin. The first I found was that of his wife, **Florence Isabella Murray**, née **Young**, which was probated in London on the 19<sup>th</sup> October 1917. Her daughter, **Amy Charlotte Murray**, was appointed her sole executrix and all bequests were made to her four children. From the very wordy will of **Charlotte Henrietta Murray**, sister of Major **William George Murray**, I was amazed to learn that she died in **Chikhaldara** in India, on the 25<sup>th</sup>

January 1899. Her will was dated 1884, with a first codicil made on the 7<sup>th</sup> April 1890, and a second on the 24<sup>th</sup> October 1894, three months after the Major's death. She left an estate whose net value was £5,401, which is worth £624,294 today. Bequests to the children of her brother, **William George Murray** were: £200 to his son **William James Murray** and to his daughters, **Amy Charlotte Murray**, **Florence Sophia Catherine Murray** and **Rose Susan Murray**, "income dividends and annual produce in equal shares" so long as they remained unmarried. She obviously wanted to ensure that her nieces had sole control of their legacies. However, this did not deter **Florence Sophia** from marrying **Francis Ernest Dewick**, (Clergyman) in Kensington in 1901.

Although very interesting, this did not throw any light on whether or not the Major had any grandchildren. The third will, dated 6<sup>th</sup> April 1933, was that of **Amy Charlotte Murray** (the Major's eldest child), of **39 Upper Latimore Road, St. Albans**. She bequeathed £350 to her sister, **Rose Susan**, £200 to her brother William James and £150 to her niece **Antonia Florence Kirkpatrick**! I was thrilled to read of the bequest to a niece, who else could she be if not the daughter of Amy's brother, **William James Murray**?

Bridget found the registration of **Antonia's** birth in the British Armed Forces and Overseas Births and Baptisms, for 1896-1900, which told us that she was born in Ajaccio, France. The 1911 census told us that **Antonia Florence Murray**, age 12, was, born in Corsica, lived in **Ajaccio**, a British subject by parentage, and was a pupil at a school in **Casterton**, Westmoreland. This vital information spurred me on to do some more research in the archives of **Ajaccio**, close to **Portigliolo** where Major **Murray** had died.

In the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, **Ajaccio** was the main city of **Corsica** and was one of the European places to be. Many wealthy foreigners went there because of the very mild weather during the winter and also because it offered a highly attractive social life with luxurious villas and hotels and a casino. There was a British Consulate in **Ajaccio**, (the Consul was a witness to **William James'** marriage) so we can suppose that the British community was very significant at that time. Miss **Thomasina Campbell**, a rich Scottish woman, went to Corsica around 1868 and played a prominent role in the society life of the island. She owned property, was a partner in some local investments and organized many concerts and exhibitions to which the high society of the island were invited. **William James'** father, Major **William George Murray**, is quoted as being "by Miss Campbell's side" on many social occasions. Through her initiative an Anglican church, Holy Trinity, was built and was opened in 1878. It is now home to the National School of Music.

After his father's death in 1894, **William James Murray** went back to **Portigliolo** and met **Camille Aline Peretti**, a Corsican lady born in **Ajaccio** on 12<sup>th</sup> January 1880. Her father was **Pierre Peretti**, a lawyer and her mother was **Antoinette Nunciade Ponte** (sometimes written **Peretti de Ponte**, which means **Peretti** related to the **Ponte** family). They were married on 10<sup>th</sup> June 1897, in **Ajaccio**. **William's** mother gave her



consent through a Notary Deed in London, as required by French law, and a marriage contract was drawn up on 9<sup>th</sup> June 1897 in **Ajaccio**. An announcement of the marriage was published in *The Colonies and India* newspaper.

26	THE COLONIES AND INDIA	JUNE 26, 1897
<b>BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.</b>		
—♦—		
[ <i>The charge for inserting Domestic Notices is 5s. each.</i> ]		
<b>MARRIAGES.</b>		
<b>Murray—Peretti de Ponte.</b> —June 10, at Ajaccio, Corsica, William James Murray, of Portigliolo, only son of the late Major W. G. Murray, formerly of Lairthwaite, Keswick, to Aline, second daughter of Pierre Peretti de Ponte, of Suartello, Ajaccio, Corsica.		

The marriage contract showed what their means were at the time of their marriage. There was no mention of a dowry from **William James Murray**, but **Camille Aline** received from her parents, property and goods to the value of at least 40,000 francs, equivalent today to £135,272.

Eleven months after their marriage, **Antonia Florence Murray** was born on 9<sup>th</sup> April 1898, in **Ajaccio**, apparently their only child. At this point in my research, I still could not find out when and where **Antonia's** parents moved away from **Corsica** at the very beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, so I decided to focus on researching **Antonia Florence Murray's** education in England.

Bridget found the following information from the National School Admission Register and Log Books. From 1907 to 1909 Antonia attended the Nelson Thomlinson Girls' Grammar School in **Wigton**, Cumbria, her parents were said to be abroad; from 1909 to 1913, she was a pupil at the Clergy Daughters' School in **Casterton** in Cumbria and in 1913 she was a boarder at **Kendal High School**. From the **Kendal Archives I** obtained a copy of her admission file at the **Casterton School**, where we learnt that she was "troublesome"; she had had whooping cough, measles and pneumonia in 1910; her guardian was Rev. **Francis Dewick** of Raughton Head Vicarage, near **Dalston, Cumbria** (the husband of **Antonia's** Aunt **Florence**); she went to **Warrington Teachers' Training College**; that for a short time she taught in London; and that her father's occupation was that of a "Mining Engineer".

NUMBER	NAME	ADDRESS	DATE OF BIRTH	SEX	STATUS	HEALTH	QUALIFIER	DATE OF ENTRY	REMARKS
1998	Antonia Florence Murray	W James Murray (Mexico) Guadalupe San Francisco Sanwick Roughly head Wray D. Carville	April 6 1898	Sept	1909	Imm. I - 7. Jan. 1910 - 7. Sep. 1911	(Colapsus, mgt. Traveler). Pneumonia Jan. 1910. Very thick-skinned in Army way. 1899; also 1910. Went to Mexico City and the life	July 1911	Bookman's name and name then de just. S. to find!! Julio Garcia At life school in S. S. The University Training College from teacher's school C. S. School

So where were **Antonia's** parents? Cathy found that **William James Murray** was listed as an immigrant by the US Department of Labour on 18<sup>th</sup> February 1919. His previous residence was **Lampazos** in the state of **Nuevo Leon, Mexico** and he was going to **Laredo, Texas**. At this time Laredo was the main border crossing between **Mexico** and the **USA** and during the period of **Mexico's** first oil boom in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, it was the major oil exporting port .

(NONSTATISTICAL)

Name Murray William J. Age 52 Sex M M. or S. Mar

Race English Occupation Mining Engr. Money \$ 100<sup>00</sup>

Ever in U. S. Yes Read Yes Write Yes Accompanied by \_\_\_\_\_

Place of Birth Lampazos N.L. Mexico

Admitted at Laredo Tex. by W. J. S. date 2/18/19.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

The first oil well in Mexico was drilled near **Tampico** in 1901. Some Mexican cities played an important role in the establishment of the earliest automobile routes, railroad lines, oil drilling wells, open quarries, etc., so as **William James** was a mining engineer, we can easily understand why he went there.

Cathy also found that **Aline Camille Murray** went to **Tampico** in 1924. The year 1923 had been an important one for her since during that year her father died and her daughter left England, so I assume that she was back from a trip to Europe when she arrived at the **Laredo** border crossing. Bridget found **Aline** in the Passenger Lists departing from **Southampton** on 12<sup>th</sup> November 1924, bound for **Galveston, Texas** but landing in **Tampico**. She travelled first class, her last address in England was **13 Gloucester Road, London SW**, her profession was a teacher, her last permanent residence was England and her intended residence was Mexico.

At that point I began to wonder if we would ever succeed in finding out what really happened when **Antonia** left **Corsica**, what became of her after she had passed her exams in England and where her parents spent the rest of their lives. Cathy discovered that **Antonia** had applied for a British passport in 1919; she arrived in **Quebec** in April 1923. She was 27 years old and she was on her way to **Regina, Saskatchewan** for a job as a teacher. She arrived in **Quebec** for the second time in 1925, this time her destination was **Preeceville, Saskatchewan**, about 170 miles from **Regina**. Her immigration form showed that she paid for her passage herself and she travelled with £150. Her address in England was that of her aunt, **Florence Sophia Murray, 28 Gratton Road, West Kensington**. She had previously been in Canada from 1921-1924 and she was travelling inland by rail.

Presumably she met her future husband in Saskatchewan between 1925 and 1927 - **Ernest Kirkpatrick** was born in 1887 in **Shelburne, Ontario** of Irish origin and was a farmer. They were married in **Regina** on 15<sup>th</sup> July 1927. Some time before 1954 the couple moved to **Vancouver** and the Canadian Voters List of 1963 showed Mrs. **Antonia F. Kirkpatrick** at 2555 Second Avenue West, Vancouver, a Teacher, but there was no sign of a husband or children. Cathy further discovered that Ernest died on 17<sup>th</sup> January 1954 in Vancouver and Antonia died on 16<sup>th</sup> June 1998, aged 99 years. She was buried in the Carman Cemetery, **Chilliwack**, British Columbia.



(source: findagrave.com)

I hope that the next and last article will be “**Meeting with the Major’s living descendant**”. I believe that through social media I may have found a great-great granddaughter of **Antonia**. If this is indeed so, I look forward to getting in touch with her since I have so many questions to ask:

- What became of her parents, when and where did they die?
- As I suppose, was **Antonia** her parents’ only child?

- As her mother was French, did she speak French?
- Why did she leave England for Canada, rather than elsewhere?
- Was there a particular reason why she chose **Saskatchewan**?
- Did she work as a teacher in **Regina** and then in **Preeceville**?
- Once she married, did she give up teaching to become a farmer's wife?
- How many children did she have?
- Why did **Antonia** and her husband move to **Vancouver**?
- Did she ever visit **Corsica** where she was born?

If ever I manage successfully to get around to meeting with **Antonia's** great-great grandchild then I am sure that the Major could rest in peace in his lost tomb forever. I will have done the job! There have been too many lucky coincidences which have led me to this descendant for me not to believe that the Major has given me a helping hand. But who knows?

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## Monthly Talks *John Seaman, Ann Greene*

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### Women in World War One *Kirsty Gray* August

Before World War One the role of women at work was very restricted, mainly domestic work, nursing and teaching. World War One changed this for ever. The declaration of war was widely supported. Men in the Reserve and Territorial Forces were mobilised and thousands more enlisted. Women also saw it their patriotic duty to help the war effort. They helped to raise money for the Red Cross, for Belgian refugees and the YMCA set up canteens for the military at home and abroad. Publicity to encourage recruitment made special use of images of women. One simple message was *Women of Britain say "Go"!*

Before the war, the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies had engaged in a campaign of militant action to win the vote, but they suspended this on the declaration of war and put all their efforts into supporting the war. However, organisations with suffragette links were treated with disdain by the military authorities, so new organisations were set up. The first group to be organised was the *Women's Emergency Corps* raised by the **Honourable Evelina Haverfield** who was an influential suffragette. The Women's Volunteer Reserve sponsored by the **Marchioness of Londonderry**, **Marchioness of Titchfield** and the **Countess of Pembroke and Montgomery** and **Mrs Dawson Scott**.

Nursing organisations were already in existence - the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry (FANY) had been raised in 1907 and the Women's Sick and Wounded Convoy Corps had given good service during the Balkan war of 1912; but the response of the War office to the proposal for a Scottish Women's Hospital was typical, *'My good Lady, go home and sit still- no petticoats here'*. Despite this, after negotiation with the diplomats and the military of the Allies, women's groups were welcomed to help in Belgium, France and Serbia. The FANY Yeomanry first left for France in October 1914 with 3 nurses, 2 orderlies and £12 of Corps funds. Conditions were very poor and equipment was only provided after appeals in this country. Even at the end of the war this organisation had only 120 members serving in France. Their contribution to the war was outstanding. The Flying Ambulance Corps was welcomed in Belgium and the St John Ambulance had been in Serbia since 1914.

Nursing was not without its dangers. **Mrs Mabel St Clair Stobart** of the Women's Sick and Wounded Convoy Corps was captured at **Antwerp**, accused of spying and threatened with execution. She was repatriated and then served in **Serbia**. Repatriation was usually granted on the proviso that the woman in question agreed to remain at home in Britain, but in several cases the women just went straight back out to Europe.

**Elsie Inglis** was taken prisoner in **Serbia** during 1915. After being repatriated, she immediately joined another unit and served in **Russia**.

When **Flora Sandes** became separated from her St John unit, she was in danger of being arrested as a spy. To prevent this, she joined the Serbian Army and became the only woman to serve legitimately in a fighting unit during the war.

In 1916 she published her autobiography *An English Woman-Sergeant in the Serbian Army*.

**Dorothy Lawrence** wanted to be a war correspondent. Denied the chance, she took matters into her own hands and became the only British woman to fight in the British Army. She borrowed a uniform and, disguised as a man, joined the 179 Tunnelling Company, 51 Division. Royal Engineers. She was with them for almost two weeks in August 1915, but weakened by contaminated water and exhaustion, she revealed herself as a female civilian. She had a scoop which she thought would make her name but she was imprisoned by the British military in a convent. She was forbidden to publish her story in newspapers or talks until the Armistice in 1918. Her book *Sapper Dorothy Lawrence, The Only Woman Soldier* was published in 1919. It was well received but remaindered within a year; the world was exhausted by war. By 1925, without reputation or income, **Dorothy** was living in rented rooms in **Islington**. She had a breakdown, and with no family to care for her, was taken into care and committed first to a London County Council mental hospital and then to **Colney Hatch Lunatic Asylum**. She died there in 1964. The location of her grave in **New Southgate Cemetery** is now unclear. A tragic end to what could have been a life in the vanguard of women's journalism.

The army did not see a need to maintain a large number of nurses in peacetime and when war was declared in 1914 the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Nursing Service (QAIMNS) had only 297 regular members. The criteria for recruitment were very restrictive but these were relaxed and by the end of the war there were over 10000 nurses in the British military nursing services. By far the most were those who volunteered and been trained by the British Red Cross and Saint John Ambulance.

Britain's greatest heroine of the war, **Edith Louise Cavell**, was associated with the Red Cross. She trained at London hospitals and in 1907 she was appointed Matron at the **Ecole Belge d'Infermieres Diplomees** in **Brussels**. In spite of the threat of invasion, she returned there from holiday in England in August 1914.

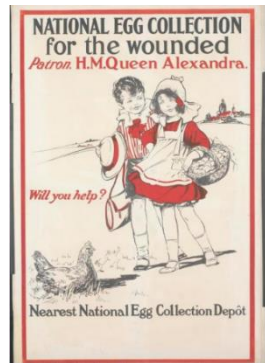


She assisted wounded British soldiers to escape to neutral **Holland** for almost a year until she was betrayed by a Belgian collaborator. She was tried and found guilty of “conducting soldiers to the Enemy” and despite international appeals for clemency, was executed on 12 October 1915.

After the Armistice her body was exhumed and brought to England. Following a funeral at **Westminster Abbey**, she was buried at **Life's Green** outside Norwich Cathedral.

**Edith (Edie or E) Appleton** was born in 1877 and trained at **St Bartholomew's Hospital** from 1900 to 1904. She was then a private nurse, a Health Visitor and just before the war a District Nurse. She joined the Civil Hospital Reserve which had been set up by the War Office to identify those willing to serve should war occur. She was first at **Fort Pitt** in **Chatham** on 16 September 1914 and it is assumed that she later transferred to the QAIMNS. She served at many different places in France and Belgium and was demobilised on 22 December 1919. During her war service she kept a diary and *A Nurse at the front: The Great War diaries of Sister Edith Appleton* was published first in hardback in 2012 and in paperback in 2013. (*highly recommended by Kirsty*)

Soon after the war began, a scheme was organised to collect and distribute eggs to wounded soldiers in France – the National Egg Collection for the Wounded. Through the war over 20 million eggs were sent to hospitals and of these about 64000 passed through the distribution centre at **Bridport** in Dorset. **Christine Squire** contributed hundreds of these, personalising many of them with paintings, poems, and her name and address. Many soldiers wrote letters of thanks to her and these are now at the Local History Centre at Bridport. Sometimes there was a draw to see who would receive an egg in a ward.



A huge gap in the workforce was left by men volunteering. Many jobs were taken by women on the understanding that men would have their jobs back after the war. However, many of women were not being utilised and in March 1915 the Board of Trade asked women to register for war work. The range of possible jobs was very wide and within a week over 20000 registrations had been made. Initially, employers were reluctant to take on women and were slow to respond. This changed with the "Shells Scandal" in 1915

when the Ministry of Munitions was created. On 21 July 1915 some 30000 women marched through London under the banner "We Demand the Right to Work". Munitions work was expanded and far more women were going to do their bit. The range of jobs done by women was vast and many became more mobile as a result. For many it gave a feeling of freedom, choice and a sense of adventure. After conscription in 1916 thousands of men's jobs needed to be taken by women.

At the end of the war men took over their jobs again, but women had gained a greater sense of independence. This was reinforced by the Representation of the People Act in 1918 which gave the vote to women over 30. Ten years later this was extended to all women over 21.

*(Images: Wikimedia Commons)*

## **Railwaywomen** *David Turner*      September

Dr David Turner is a railway historian, currently teaching a Master's Degree in Railway History through the University of York. His talk concentrated on railwaywomen prior to the First World War.

We know that the number of women employed on the railway mushroomed between 1914 and 1918. But prior to that, how many women worked on the railways and what functions did they perform? The 1851 census shows only 54 women working on the railway. This is either an error or non-reporting - scanning the staff files of just four railway companies (Great Western, London & Brighton South Coast, London Northwestern, and Manchester, Sheffield & Lincolnshire Railway) shows 60 women employed.

Britain was slow to start employing women on the railways. In 1914 about 10% of French Railway employees were women, while in Britain it was only 2%.

The roles performed by this 2% were affected by social conventions. In Victorian Britain, men were the breadwinners while women were confined to the domestic world. Working outside the home was not respectable for married women; those who did so were generally working class. The railway roles available to unmarried women were generally domestic in nature – low-grade clerical, food preparation, waiting-room attendants, workshop workers (engaged in the lighter finishing and upholstering work), gatekeepers.

Men made the decisions about what jobs women could do, and what their salaries and conditions would be. They feared competition from women in the workplace and a common complaint was that women could not do the work. By contrast, management claimed that women could do the work better. They were biased on this point as the lower rates of pay for women meant that they were cheaper to employ. Low pay, male bias and rigid gender roles, therefore, explain the low numbers and the low pay of female railway workers until 1914.



There were 3 tiers of railway workers

- Clerical workers received good pay, had stability of employment and good career prospects and could go into management.
- Skilled workers, - engine drivers, porters, signalmen - were weekly paid, had stability of employment and good career prospects
- The lowest tier - waiting room attendants, refreshment room staff etc – were the lowest-paid and had no stability of employment. They could be dismissed with little or no notice. Women employees usually fell into this category and suffered the most from this instability of employment. They were dismissed far more readily than men working in this category.

How did a woman become a railway worker? It was almost a family tradition - railwaywomen were nearly always related to a male railway worker - a daughter, widow, sometimes a wife. Unmarried daughters would work as ticket sorters, clerical workers, refreshment room workers etc.

In 1878 The Englishwoman's Review described railway clerical work as "work for fairly educated girls whose parents do not wish to send them into shops and factories" and "not difficult but requiring care and accuracy" - a job suitable for middle-class girls, not requiring too much brain power. The earliest known booking clerk is **Margaret Savage** who worked at **Three Bridges** Station in 1855, where her father was the stationmaster.

Clerical work encompassed administrative clerks, booking clerks and telegraph clerks. The notion of female telegraph clerks had been considered early on and in 1906 the first telegraph clerks were appointed by the Great Western Railway.

The company magazine declared "It is generally known that the duties of a telegraph operator are arduous and exacting, but there is no reason to suppose that the ladies will be found wanting. And it will then be found possible for male operators to be drafted into positions where there is greater scope for promotion in the service. This experiment will be watched with great interest and will be met with success". The company, through its magazine was trying to alleviate the fears of male employees by emphasising the opportunity for them to be drafted into areas where there was greater scope for promotion.

Fears of men being distracted by female employees and the threat they posed to men's employment and prospects were ever-present. But there was an economic imperative for the companies to employ women. The "Railway Mania" of the 1840s continued, but costs were on the increase. Employing women helped to reduce costs and boost dividends. Although the employment of women in clerical roles on the railways had been considered an experiment, by 1900 the LNWR alone was employing 180 clerical female staff.

Refreshment room and waiting room workers were numerous. When a train stopped at a station, it was possible for passengers to order and eat a four-course meal in the space of 20 minutes! **Charles Dickens** had a jaundiced view of refreshment rooms and

in 1856, he wrote unflatteringly of his experience at **Peterborough**, but his account is one-sided. Shifts were long (often 16-hours) and the work was arduous. Refreshment room posts were usually taken by younger women, while older women became waiting room attendants. This was another “domestic” role – keeping the room tidy, attending to the fires, making sure furniture was clean, providing reading material, keeping flowers fresh. **William Ramsdale** a gatekeeper at a level crossing near **Ringwood**, was killed by a train in 1859, leaving his widow **Mary** to care for three children. In 1862, she became a waiting room attendant. The railways had harsh rules for their employees and **Mary** was given a caution for incivility to a customer. A year later, she was placed in the **Fareham Lunatic Asylum** and her children were sent to the **Southampton Workhouse**.

Workshop workers formed a very large group of employees with a wide range of duties upholstery, knitting string into luggage racks, French-polishing carriages, painting small ornaments and mending waggon-sacks. In 1906 LNWR had 40 women on French-polishing and 60 in the cutting-out room.

Women could become gatekeepers and it was one of the first areas where women appear as employees. Railwaymen who had lost limbs or were disabled were given preference; women were only given this role if no men could be found. The first female gatekeeper, **Esther Pearce**, was appointed at **Berwick** in 1846. In 1859 she was summarily dismissed and her place taken by a man. The job was highly sought after as it came with a cottage, but in spite of this benefit, it was not a soft option. The work was hard and physical with long shifts. It was also the most dangerous of railway roles, and it was not uncommon for gatekeepers to be killed or injured in the course of their job. In 1889 a parcel of straw broke across the lines when the express train was 10 minutes away; the female gatekeeper had to hurry down the line to halt the train and avert disaster. As more lines appeared, more women were allowed to become gatekeepers, but a distinct lack of confidence in women persisted: in 1904 when a Royal train was expected on the Midland line, a directive went out that all gates were to be staffed by men for an hour before the train passed.

Women stationmasters were few and far between. Where they did occur, it was at quiet stations, and the women were the wives or widows or daughters of railwaymen. They were appointed at the whim of local management and their pay was very low compared to male station masters, with the tied cottage forming a large part of the salary. **Mary Argyle**, one of the few, was in charge of the **Merry Lees** station on the Leicester and Swannington Railway from 1832 until its closure in 1871. As well as being stationmaster, she was also porter, booking clerk and crossing keeper.

The employment of women had been growing across many sectors since the 1870's. But railway companies still lagged behind and female railway staff were also paid at a much lower rate than women employees elsewhere. In 1876 **Miss Baker** at the **Nine Elms** workshop started for only 5/- a week while a man would have been earning between 10 and 15 shillings a week. Women gatekeepers did fight against the low pay.

In 1911, the women of the **Moulton** branch, Eastern Railway conducted a year's campaign to get a 1/- week raise. The campaign was successful but the money went to their husbands.

For anyone interested in finding out more, David recommended "*Railwaywomen: Exploitation, Betrayal and Triumph in the Workplace*" by Helena Wojtczak

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## COLLECTING THE INSCRIPTIONS AT ST JAMES' HAMPTON HILL

*Roland Bostock*

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**Hampton Hill** is very close to where I live in **Teddington, Middlesex**, so I have been familiar with the dominating profile of **St. James's Church** almost all my life (yes, I was born in **Teddington**, and am a returnee), and its substantial churchyard has definitely attracted my eye since I made reading gravestones a favoured pastime in recent years.

I was therefore surprised to find that St. James was not listed as one of our 'parish' churches. If you look at the 'Ancient parishes' map on the back cover of our journal, **Hampton** is shown there, but not **Hampton Hill**. It's down to dates. The church is not quite so old as it looks; it was in fact consecrated in 1863, and the first burial was in 1864.

I had done a little research on the church from its website, and found the Burials Index there which provides a search facility on all burials at **St. James**, searching by surname or year of death. Further, for all burials in marked graves the index gives a grave reference, and good maps are provided to direct the enquirer straight to the grave of interest. This is the first time I have met a church which provides such information online, and it posed the question whether doing a new survey of the gravestones would have added value. Of course, I think it does. When we do these surveys of the memorial inscriptions at a church we produce a printed book of all the inscriptions with layouts where to find the graves, which we give to the church, and in this case to **Richmond Library**. We keep a copy for our own library, and also provide a fully indexed copy of the material to Find My Past, which brings us in a small royalty. But the real purpose of submitting these records to Find My Past is that the data is then very accessible to all who are looking for where their ancestors are buried, whether they are aware of the **Hampton Hill** connection or not.

One thing in addition, thus far we have only submitted the text of the inscriptions to Find My Past. For **St. James**, and future graveyard transcriptions, we will be

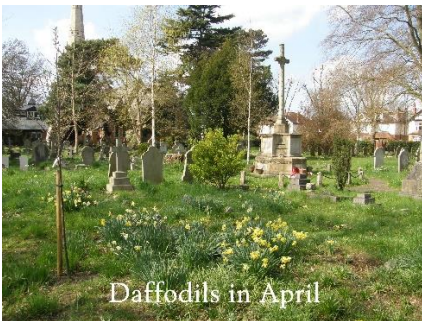


submitting photos of all the gravestones to be found along with the inscriptions. Most members will know that all our memorial inscriptions (MIs) can now be searched from the members section of our website. Less well-known is that a copy of the books presented to the churches is also available to members from the Digital Library section of the website.

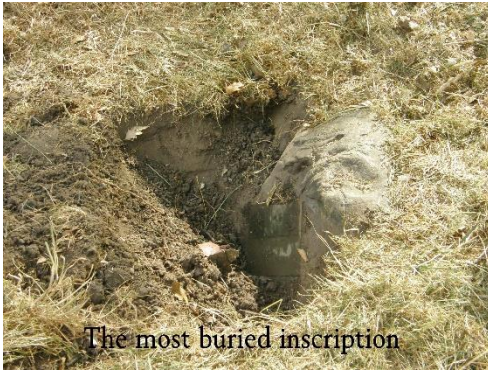
### **The Graveyard**

**St. James** has a sizeable graveyard containing 880 memorials, so it was always going to take a few months to complete a full survey. After a cold and wet start to the year, and as soon as spring looked as if it might be happening, I went to visit the church and met Nick Bagge, the parish administrator, who was enthusiastic about the project from the start, and I was soon mapping the stones and then reading them. Yvonne Masson joined me, as she has done for all the more recent surveys, and we made good progress.

In those spring days the churchyard was a pure delight, and I couldn't resist taking a few photos of the daffodils (April) and then the blue and white bluebells (early May) and ox-eye daisies in late May.



As May passed to June, there was beginning to be a problem. The church is very proud of its flowering churchyard, and in response to its parishioners' requests does not cut the grass while the flowers are in bloom, so Yvonne and I soon found that locating the kerb stones was becoming increasingly difficult. All graveyards have subsidence, but at St. James the subsidence is very pronounced, and hence we had to look quite hard to find some of the kerbs, and we then had to use a trowel (and a spade on occasions) to dig down to the actual inscriptions.



The most buried inscription

It was here that the church's Burials Index was particularly helpful, for it enabled us to check if we had found all the graves which were mentioned there. There was one particular grave which the index referred to, but we had not found anything at first. When revisiting the plot identified in the index we did find a rock just rising above the ground, but with no sign of it being a memorial. This time the digging was serious. At 6 inches down a metal plate began to be seen attached

to the increasingly large boulder. And after another foot of excavation the metal plate could be read, and it was indeed the missing memorial. This was the one that nearly got away, but was found on account of the church's own records.

There was one section of the churchyard very notable for its clean appearance and the mown grass. This is a set of 13 graves for Canadian soldiers who were billeted in **Bushy Park, Teddington** during WW2, and who died from their war wounds at **Upper Lodge, Hampton Hill**, which became the **King's Canadian Hospital** during the war.



The Canadian War Graves



One tends to think of a grave as an undisturbed resting place, and by and large graves are just that. But most graves do in fact have more than one person buried there, the first coffin being buried deep, and a second coffin then being placed above, but still being '6 foot under'. When there is just a headstone the second burial can be accommodated without lifting out the existing memorial, but when there are crosses on plinths and/or kerbs involved these must be lifted clear and then put back when the soil is firm enough to do so. Just occasionally the graveyard workmen's concentration seems to falter, and the grave does not go back quite as it was removed. There were two notable cases of this at St. James. First there was the very substantial cross on three-tiered plinth at the north east corner of the church. From the photo it looks right, even if the cross is actually facing north. But once one reads the inscriptions it is clear that the cross and the top tier have ended up being rotated by 90 degrees from originally facing east to be facing north as they are today. It's a heavy cross, I think it is likely to stay that way for some time.

The other notable lack of concentration comes from a grave referenced 9F2a, again a cross on a three- tiered plinth.



Here the picture says it all. How does one not notice that the bottom tier has been put back upside down? As you can imagine it adds a little joy to my day when I come across the unexpected. It will need a few volunteers to get that one back to its original state as well.

Next on Yvonne's and my to-do list is **St. Mary's Church in Teddington**, where we are currently busy deciphering some

very difficult gravestones.

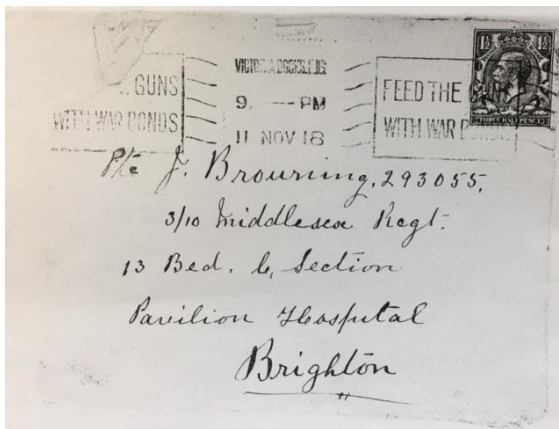
*(To get full benefit of all the colour photos, you need to access the Journal in colour from the website from the Recent Journals page, or opt to receive the journal online by emailing the webmaster – that's me)*

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## Passchendaele – Bed no. 13. Some reflections on a journey

*John Browning*

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The above envelope is of particular significance to me as it contained a letter sent on Armistice Day, 11<sup>th</sup> November 1918, by my grandfather **James Browning** to my father Private **James Browning** 293055 3/10<sup>th</sup> Middlesex Regiment, Bed 13, Pavilion Hospital **Brighton**, in which my grandfather writes of the excitement people felt as the news of the Armistice spread.

In common with many soldiers, my father did not say a great deal about the war, but when prompted, indicated that the men in the beds either side of him had sadly died. He said he had been badly wounded in both legs after going “over the top” on October 4<sup>th</sup> 1917 at **Passchendaele** and that he lay on the battlefield overnight pretending to be dead to avoid being killed by the enemy. The next morning, he was found and taken to hospital where his left leg was amputated above the knee. His right leg was badly damaged and would give him increasing trouble in the last years of his life, necessitating much time in hospital.

**Frederick James Browning**, usually known as James or more commonly Jim, was the eldest child of **James Browning**, master mariner (1847-1933) and his much younger wife **Elizabeth nee Lamswood** (1870-1956). He was born at **Kingsteignton, Devon** on March 26<sup>th</sup> 1894. He was illegitimate and registered under his mother’s maiden name of **Lamswood** but was fully acknowledged by his father, and in 1928, after the passing of the Legitimacy Act in 1926, his parents made a statutory declaration and a new birth certificate was issued in the name of **Frederick James Browning**



Both the **Brownings** and the **Lamswoods** were strongly rooted in **Devon**. My grandfather was the nephew of **John Browning**, himself a master mariner and shipowner of **Brixham, Devon**, whose four sons were all master mariners. The Lamswoods also had a strong link with the sea and played a significant part in the history of Brixham's trawling industry as block and spar makers.

In 1895, to pursue his career in the Merchant Navy, my grandfather moved to **Liverpool** where six more children were born; **John Browning** (1895), **Charles Browning** (1897), **William Thomas Browning** (1899, died in infancy and is buried in Toxteth Cemetery), **Harriet Browning** (1903), **William Browning** (1905), and **George Browning** (1907). The family lived at 11 Gwydie Street, **Toxteth** and my father and his two brothers John and Charles attended **St Silas Church of England School** in Toxteth. My father left school at the age of 14, although he continued his education at night school. He was first employed at the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, University of Liverpool Hospital, helping to keep instruments clean. The good reference he was given after two years did not mention that he was tasked with the collection of the bodies of dead babies and conveying them by public transport to the hospital! He was then employed by a Liverpool business Calthorpe Bros as a junior clerk until 1912 when the family moved again.

They moved to **Canning Town** in London for the last part of my grandfather's career in the Merchant Navy; his last recorded journey was in 1917. My father had a number of jobs including a brief spell as a ticket clerk on the London Underground. This job ended because he found it very hard to get to work on time. Finally, he was employed as a clerk in the Silvertown Rubber Company. He enlisted in the army in December 1915 and was initially placed on reserve. In 1916 he received orders to report to **Canterbury** where he attended a Brigade Bombing Course at **Nackington Hall** 4<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> December 1916 and later a Trench mortar Battery at **Lyndhurst, Hampshire** on April 3<sup>rd</sup> -14<sup>th</sup> 1917. He kept meticulous records of his training with much fascinating detail. It was not until after his death in 1981 that we discovered his father's letter showing that he had been treated not only in **Plymouth** and **Devonport** but also in **Colchester, Roehampton** and **Charterhouse Military Hospital**. He had also had additional operations on his stump as well as receiving electrical treatment. At some point he had been prescribed Guinness to help build up his strength and this would remain as favourite tippie for the rest of his life. Being in hospital in Devon did have one good side for him, however, as he had plenty of visitors both family and friends. As part of his therapy he began to make necklaces using wallpapers and glass beads; he also studied some French.

For the family it was a very difficult period. Two brothers **John** and **Charlie** had followed in their father's footsteps and gone to sea. After a long agonising time they discovered that **Charlie** had jumped ship in **America**. A strong family tradition, that persists to this day, maintains that he got involved with Al Capone and ended up buried under concrete!

The many letters sent to their much-loved brother in Bed 13 are a wonderful and often moving insight into a family's fears and anxieties, but the aftermath of the war was to bring more bad news. My grandfather's health began to fail as what we would now call dementia set in. My uncle **John** had long spells of unemployment despite his war service medals and the family faced tragedy again when **John** was tragically killed while working as a quartermaster on the Cunard White Star liner *Georgic*. An inquest concluded that the ship's foreman should be severely censured over his carelessness that led to my uncle being knocked forty-five feet to his death in the hold of the ship.

A year after my grandfather's death, in 1934 my father married my mother, **Florence Rosina Preou**. The Preous were a Huguenot family who had come to England in the 1670s. My parents had met in 1931 at the wedding of my mother's brother **Thomas Preou** to **Winifred Blackmore** whose family came from Devon and was in fact related to my father. I was born in **Clapton, Hackney**, in 1937 and we lived in **East Ham** until the Blitz when we left to live in **Dunstable** with my uncle, **Tom Preou**, and his family. In 1942, we acquired our own house. My father worked as a wages clerk; he worked full-time until he was seventy-three and then worked part-time until he was seventy-nine. Each year we would go on holiday to Devon. We stayed with cousins in **Brixham** until 1949 and after that we stayed with cousins in **Teignmouth**. My father was a generous and kind man with many interests; a collector, among other things, of cigarette cards, stamps, comics, magazines and newspapers. He was also an avid reader, belonging to several book clubs. He entered competitions and won prizes, enjoyed playing whist and cribbage, and loved all sports, especially football and racing. He had a determination to battle on regardless, despite losing his wife in 1962, and he outlived all of his siblings. Although he wouldn't have thought so, being a humble man, he was much admired and in his own way, quite remarkable.

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## Private Percy Camplin and the Artists Rifles in the Hundred Days Campaign *James Marshall*

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**Percy Walter Camplin** was born on 5<sup>th</sup> August 1881. His father, **John**, was a Gas Worker in Kensal Green. His mother's name was **Julia**. Twenty years later, on the 1901 Census, Julia was a widow working as a tobacconist. Nineteen-year-old **Percy** lived with her and worked as a Library Assistant. His younger sister, **May**, worked with her mother as a tobacconist's assistant. When Percy was 24 he married **Florence Hatton** at **St. Mark's Church, Notting Hill**. He was an Assistant Librarian by then – the professional distinction indicating some years of night school and private study in pursuit of accreditation by the Library Association. For **Percy**, library work was more than a job, it was a career.

In 1908, when their son **Reginald** was born, **Percy** was Librarian-in-charge of the Reading Room in **Isleworth Public Hall**, which housed the town's library until the present library, on Twickenham Road, was built in the 1930's. In 1912 **Percy** was promoted to District Librarian for Heston and Isleworth, which included the town of Hounslow. The Camplin family moved from **Newton Road, Isleworth**, to **Avonwick Road, Hounslow**. Percy's office would have been in the town's seven-year-old Carnegie Library, in **Treaty Road**, where the **Treaty Centre** now stands.



When the First World War broke out **Percy** was a 34-year-old married man with a wife and a five-year-old son and a responsible job managing a local authority library service. Enthusiasm for adventure and enlistment was for younger, or less well-established, men. But in 1916 the scale of the conflict caused the government to introduce conscription, in order to provide sufficient soldiers for what had become a long war. Married men under 45 years were eligible for military service, along with

their younger compatriots. Lord Derby's legislation sweetened the pill by allowing men to volunteer, prior to their call-up. In return, they could specify which regiment they wished to serve with, and continue with their ordinary lives until they were summoned to the colours.

**The Artist Rifles** had been founded in London, in 1859, as a unit for part-time volunteers who were keen to defend the country against invasion at a time of threatened war with France. The regiment was founded by an art student. Its first commanders were well-known artists. It quickly achieved a certain kudos – a bohemian brotherhood-in-arms. Architects, doctors, engineers and lawyers, professional men of all sorts, soon sought to join the painters and sculptors in its ranks. Private **Percy Camplin**, Londoner and professional man, was following an established tradition when he specified the Artists Rifles as his regiment of choice. Fulfilling this aspiration was not so straightforward. The regiment had a waiting list of patriotic professional men hoping to become Artists Riflemen. But its ranks contained more highly-educated men than any other unit in the British Army. At any one time a third of the regiment were training to become officers. Starting a new life as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant invariably meant a transfer to another regiment. So, vacancies in the ranks of the Artists Rifles occurred at a faster rate than battlefield casualties alone could produce.

**Percy** received his basic training and began his military service with the Middlesex Regiment, which had its depot at **Hounslow Barracks**. But by the autumn of 1918 Private Camplin had been attached to the Artists Rifles and had received a new service number. Had he any aspirations to become an officer? Probably not. He had a responsible job waiting for him to return to, as well as a wife and a young son at home in Hounslow. He may well have seen Librarianship as a vocation, as well as a profession. By early October 1918, when news that Germany was seeking an armistice was published, the soldiers of all armies must have realised that the end of the war was in sight. Each hoped, above all else, to live long enough to see it. Not all of them would be so lucky. On the 4<sup>th</sup> of November 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. **Wilfred Owen MC**, the poet, was killed at **Ors**, on the **St. Quentin Canal**, some 33 km south of **Valenciennes**.

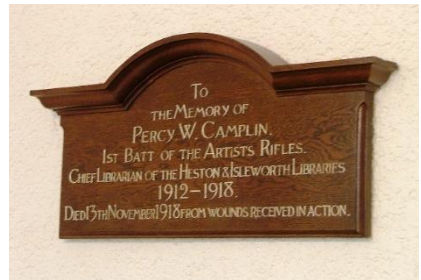
In the second half of September, British First and Third Armies advanced from their former front line, just east of **Arras**, steadily recovering territory from the retreating Germans. On the 30<sup>th</sup> September the **Artists Rifles** took part in an attack to the south of **Cambrai**. Their regimental diary, or log, records the death of a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant and the award of Military Crosses to two other 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenants and to Captain **Malpass**. On the 8<sup>th</sup> October they attacked the nearby village of **Niergnie**, capturing 100 prisoners and beating off a counter-attack by German tanks using a captured anti-tank gun. Sadly, Capt. **Malpass** was killed and 10 others were killed or wounded. The unit was then due a rest period and it returned westwards to camp at **Penin**, 20 km west of **Arras**. Moved by marching and by motor bus, the Artists Riflemen re-joined the battle at **Thiant**, a little south of the large town of **Valenciennes**, on 5<sup>th</sup> November. On

November 1<sup>st</sup>, in heavy fighting, the town had fallen to the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Division. There had been 800 German casualties and 1400 prisoners were taken. Allied casualties were 360 wounded and 60 killed. The Artists Rifles pressed on towards the Belgian border and the town of **Mons**, encountering German resistance as dusk fell on the village of **Blaugies** on the 8<sup>th</sup> November. The following day they advanced a further 5 km to reach the Mons-Maubeuge road beyond the village of **Quevy-le-Petit**. Harassed by machine-gun fire, the Artists Rifles dug-in for the night. On the 10<sup>th</sup> November they reached the village of **Asquillies**, where they came under heavy shellfire. The regimental diary's comment "...causing some damage..." seems understated given the casualty report that follows it.

Captain **Croft** and 2<sup>nd</sup>Lt. **King** were killed along with two 'other ranks'. Second Lt. **Conway** and 25 'other ranks' were wounded. One of those wounded 'other ranks' is presumed to have been Private **Camplin**. He died of his wounds at **Valenciennes**, in a Canadian Army Casualty Clearing Station on the 13<sup>th</sup> November.

On 26<sup>th</sup> November the minutes of Heston and Isleworth district council recorded "...an appreciation of the late Mr. **Camplin's** services..." and resolved that "...a letter of sympathy and condolence be sent to his widow."

<p><b>DEATH OF THE CHIEF LIBRARIAN.</b>          News came through on November 15th that Mr. P. W. Camplin was mortally wounded in the head and died unconscious early in the morning of the day the Armistice came into operation, and was buried by the Chaplain to the Canadian Forces in a British Cemetery at Valenciennes. Mr. Camplin came to Isleworth from the Wimbledon Free Library to take charge of the Isleworth branch when it was opened, and on the retirement of Mr. D. Leinas he was promoted to full charge of both Hounslow and Isleworth. Whilst at Isleworth he acted as hon. secretary to the Regatta Committee.          He leaves a wife and one child, and is sadly missed by all who know him.</p> <p><b>INCOME TAX.</b> — Information. Consult Brock, 60C, London Road, Isleworth.</p>	eld Ste His mil by con Loc Th (fa Wa and Fig Est Sta Mr and Pop Hig Off Mil det Gl Per
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*Thanks to Ann Greene and Mary Marshall for their research into Percy Camplin*

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## NEW MEMBERS

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*The Society welcomes all new members. Our most recent members are listed below, together with their surname interests (where given)*

B344 Mr Gary Best, Bedford  
C278 Ms Sharon Collins, Hounslow  
D173 Ms Teresa Deal, Woodhall Spa, Lincs  
O78 Ms Jacqui Ogande, Corfe Mullen, Wimborne, Dorset.  
S295 Mr David Seager, Shepperton.

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## Neighbouring societies .....

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The Richmond Group of the East Surrey Family History Society meet 6 times a year, on the 2nd Saturday of alternate months, beginning in January. They are very happy to welcome any of our members who want to attend. There would be no charge, although donations to the Society are always welcome.

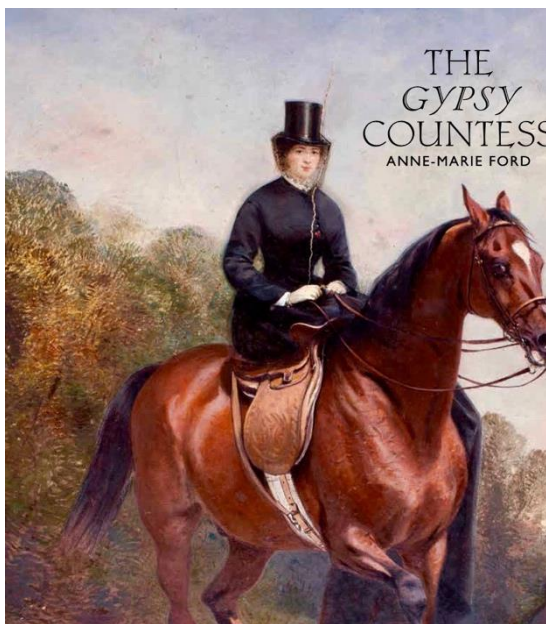
The meetings are held in Vestry Hall at 21 Paradise Road in Richmond, doors open at 2pm and the meeting starts at 2.30pm. After the talk, there is tea and coffee and biscuits. The next meeting is on 12th January 2019 and offers a chance for everyone to share family events of “**Winters Past**”.

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## BOOKSHELF

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If you're looking for a Christmas present for someone with Romany or Traveller ancestry, this could be just what you're looking for.



Catherine Cox was the daughter of an agricultural labourer father and a Romany mother, growing up in a farm cottage and later becoming a performer in Astley's Circus. But in 1855, despite her heritage and class, she married one of England's richest bachelors, the Earl of Stamford and Warrington. She also used her new position to assist her sisters, Susan and Mary, to achieve fame and success.

The book is published by the Romany and Traveller Family History Society, is priced at £16 and is available to buy from their website [www.rtfhs.org.uk](http://www.rtfhs.org.uk)



## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**



**Notice is hereby given that the  
Annual General Meeting of the  
West Middlesex Family History  
Society**

**will be held at 8.pm on Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019  
at St John's Centre, St John's Road, Isleworth, TW7 6RU**

Reports will be presented by the Chairman and Treasurer and members will be asked to accept the accounts for the year 2018, and elect accounts examiners for the coming year.

Elections will be held for officers and members of the Executive Committee.

Members who wish to bring forward any matters at the AGM, are asked to write to the Secretary at the address below by 3<sup>rd</sup> January, 2019.

The agenda for the AGM will be included in the next issue of the Journal, to be published and distributed at the beginning of March, 2019.

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



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## FAMILY HISTORY NEWS

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Cambridgeshire Archives is closing on December 1<sup>st</sup> in preparation for their move to Ely. They are expected to re-open in the summer of 2019.

**Ancestry**, **FindMyPast** and **The Genealogist** are always adding to their collections – some new records are shown below

### **Ancestry**

Electoral Registers for Surrey 1832-1962

Surrey, C of E Marriages 1754-1937

Coal Mining Accidents and Deaths Index (UK) 1878-1935

Select Cemetery Registers for England and Scotland 1800-2016

UK, Mechanical Engineer Records 1847-1938

England and Wales, Death Index 2007-2017

### **FindMyPast**

Liverpool Echo 1955, 1957-1958, 1967, 1985

Irish Independent 1917

Scottish Referee 1897-1898, 1901-1903, 1905-1907, 1909-1914

Dover Telegraph and Cinque Ports General Advertiser 1863-1864, 1866

Berks and Oxon Advertiser 1911

Volunteer Service Gazette and Military Dispatch 1903-1908

Pall Mall Gazette 1904, 1911

### **The Genealogist**

More records added to the Lloyd George 1910 Domesday Survey – Brent, Kingsbury, Willesden and Wembley

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## INDEXES HELD BY MEMBERS

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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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

**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, please include s.a.e.

*Mrs. Wendy Mott, 24 Addison Avenue, Hounslow, TW3 4AP. [wendymott@btinternet.com](mailto:wendymott@btinternet.com)*

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

*Mr. P. Sherwood, 5 Victoria Lane, Harlington, Middlesex, UB3 5EW*  
*[psherwood@waitrose.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:paulbarnfield@hotmail.co.uk)

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

*Mr. Brian Page, 121 Shenley Avenue, Ruislip, HA4 6BU.* [brian729@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto: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.

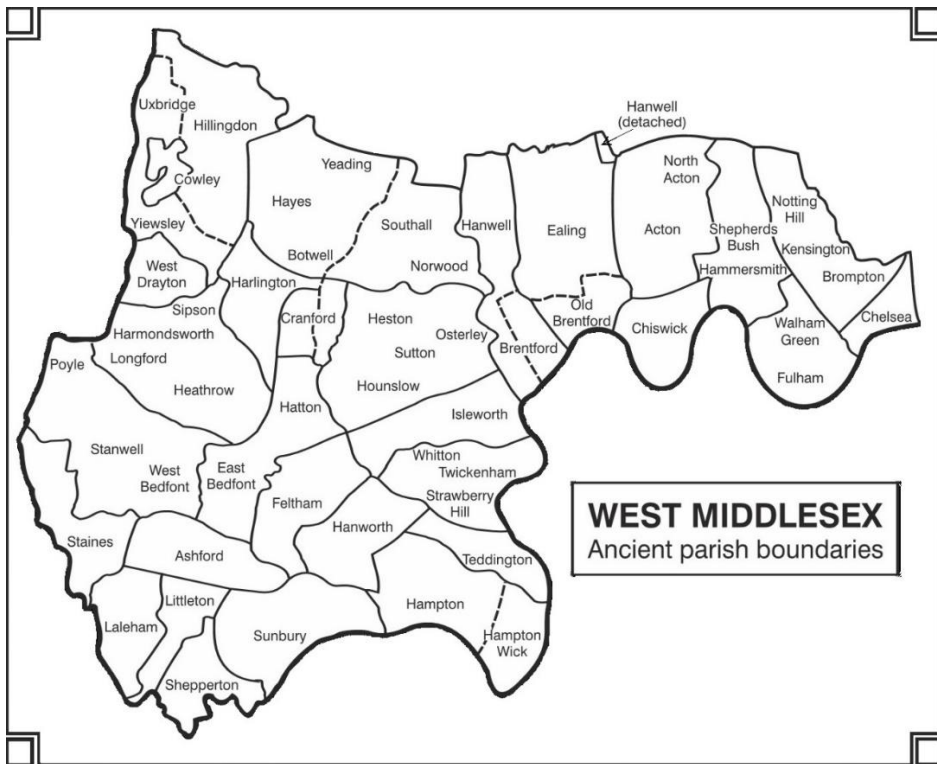
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## Front Cover

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The cover image this month is a photograph of Percy Walter Camplin, librarian of Heston and Isleworth 1905-1918. His full story is recounted in the article on page ... by James Marshall

*Image by kind permission of Hounslow Local Studies and Archive*



## 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

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