



# WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY JOURNAL

VOL 37 No.3

September 2019



## WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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<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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Exchange journals from other societies should be sent to:

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

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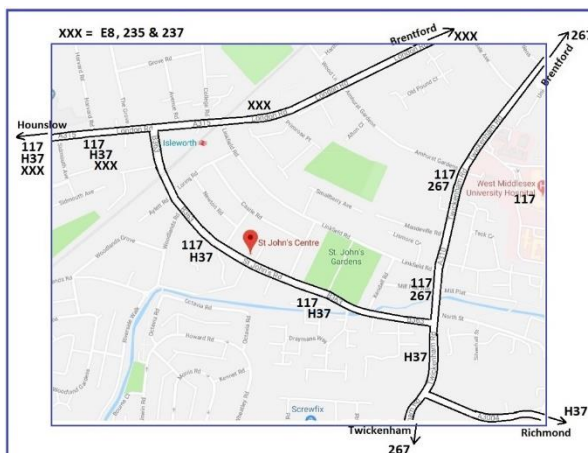


The following talks have been arranged:

September	DNA: the story continues	John Symons
October	The History and Architecture of London Underground Stations. Part 2	Mark Pardoe
November	One Street Studies	Gill Thomas
December	Christmas Celebrations! Quizzes, food and drink, and a free raffle	

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 and a bookstall – all 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, font size 10 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.

To make a booking, email the Advice Session Co-ordinator: **surgeries@west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk** 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.

21<sup>st</sup> September 2019

19<sup>th</sup> October 2019

16<sup>th</sup> November 2019

21<sup>st</sup> December 2019

18<sup>th</sup> January 2020

15<sup>th</sup> February 2020

21<sup>st</sup> March 2020

18<sup>th</sup> April 2020

16<sup>th</sup> May 2020

NB: Please check the Society website for up-to-date information:  
**west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk**



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## Robert Cole (1862-1940)

### Strange behaviour for a Good Samaritan

*Margaret Watson*

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Family historians are often faced with mysteries that they cannot solve and this has proved true of one of my ancestors, **Robert Cole junior**, who for so long was an admirable Good Samaritan. The explanation for what happened later in his life, we shall never know.

He was born on November 21<sup>st</sup> 1862 in **Chilbolton, Hampshire**, the son of **Robert Cole senior** and **Mary Ann Tilbury**. **Robert** and **Mary Ann** were first cousins, which may account for why two of their children were born deaf and a third suffered from mental problems throughout most of her adult life. **Mary Ann** had three elder brothers, **William**, **Henry** and **George**, and a sister **Harriet**. **William** married **Sarah Gaiger** and moved to **Yeading, Middlesex** where he was the manager of the brickyards and later a farmer. **William** was my great-great grand-father. **George** married **Fanny Elizabeth Cockman** and also moved to Middlesex, where he was the owner of the **Bell Inn** in **Ealing**. Interestingly, **Mary Ann's** sister, **Harriet**, married **Robert Cole's** elder brother **William**.

**Robert Cole junior** first appears in the 1871 census as a school boy living with his parents and four older and two younger siblings. **Robert Cole senior** was an affluent farmer of 370 acres employing 3 men and 4 boys. By 1881 **Robert junior** had moved away from home and was lodging in **Alton, Hampshire** with **Richard Whilit**, who was a watch and clock maker. Robert was an apprentice to **Whilit**.



*Robert Cole's shop, High Street, Staplehurst, Kent (courtesy of Joanne Espenhaim)*



It is not known why **Robert** chose watch and clock making as a profession; but by 1891 he had moved to **Staplehurst in Kent** where he owned his own watchmaker and stationer's shop. This census shows that he had already taken under his wing his older sister, **Mary**, who was deaf, and two of his other sisters, **Alice Maud** and **Kate**, were also living with him. **Kate**, who was 24, had suffered her first bout of mental illness at the age of 17 and continued to go in and out of mental institutions for the rest of her life. She is shown as an assistant in **Robert's** shop in the census, but it is clear that Robert was keeping a brotherly eye on her.

On October 27<sup>th</sup> 1875, **Robert's** elder sister, **Nancy**, had married another **Tilbury** cousin, **Francis**. They had two children, **Florence** born in 1876 in **Chilbolton, Hampshire** and **Roland** born 27<sup>th</sup> December 1877, also in **Chilbolton**. Tragically, **Francis** died of pneumonia at the early age of 26 on February 4<sup>th</sup> 1879 after a duck shoot on the river Test. **Nancy** was left a widow with two children under the age of three. The 1881 census shows her living in **Chilbolton** with the two children, her brother **James** aged 22 and her sister **Alice Maud**, aged 24. Worse was yet to happen as **Nancy** herself died the following year on August 4<sup>th</sup>, aged only 30, leaving **Roland** and **Florence** orphans. **Robert junior** must have played a large part in watching over his nephew and niece; they are both shown at boarding schools in the 1891 census in **Maidstone, Kent** near **Robert's** home in **Staplehurst**, while the rest of the family were all in **Hampshire**. **Florence** was boarding at a school in Albion Place run by **Sarah Hutchinson** and **Roland** was at **Brunswick House Academy** run by **William Brownscombe**.



*Harriet Maria Cole, nee Clifford*  
*Courtesy of Michelle Tribe*

Later in 1891 **Robert** married **Harriet Maria Clifford** in the **Strand, London**. They had two boys, **Robert Clifford Cole** born in **Staplehurst, Kent** February 13<sup>th</sup> 1892 and **Thomas Weston Cole** born March 4<sup>th</sup> 1893 also in **Staplehurst**. In the 1901 census the family are living in the **High Street, Staplehurst**.

**Robert's** two sisters, **Mary Ann** and **Kate** are still living with them. The two sisters were still living with **Robert** in the 1911 census. **Mary Ann** died in **Staplehurst** in 1933 having lived all her adult life with her brother.

Robert's eldest son, **Robert Clifford Cole** married **Mary Elizabeth Fuller** in 1920 at **St. Martin, London**. They had two daughters.

**Robert Clifford** and **Mary** travelled extensively in Europe, which must have been quite unusual in the early nineteen twenties. They visited **Sorrento** in **Italy** and took **Robert Clifford's** parents with them when they visited **Venice**.



*Left: Robert Cole junior and his daughter-in-law, Mary Elizabeth Cole, St Mark's Square, Venice.  
Courtesy of Robert Bonner*



*Above: Robert Cole junior in later life  
Courtesy of Michelle Tribe*

Sadly, **Robert Clifford** died in 1926 when he was only 34. This is where the story takes a strange twist. Following **Robert Clifford's** death, there was apparently a family 'discussion' and it was decided to cut his widow, **Mary Elizabeth**, out of any inheritance and she was left to fend for herself. This was curious behaviour for **Robert junior** who up to that point had been the Good Samaritan of the family. Maybe he was leaned on by his wife, who had had enough of harbouring his helpless relations. Maybe **Mary Elizabeth** was considered too 'common' for the **Cole** family – **Robert Clifford Cole** had apparently attended the coronation of **George V**. Maybe they wanted to ensure that the business remained in the hands of **Thomas Weston Cole** who had followed in his father's footsteps becoming a watch and clock maker. We shall never know, but perhaps it just goes to show that no one is perfect!

**Robert junior** died on October 20<sup>th</sup> 1940 in **Staplehurst, Kent**, aged 77. Interestingly, he left some money in his will to his two disinherited grand-daughters.

## **The Poor and Sickness in the Early 19<sup>th</sup> Century** *Judy Hill* April

The Old Poor Law came into being in 1601. It stated originally that the lame, the impotent and the blind should be cared for but later statutes made no direct reference to these people.

From 1784, there was a general increase in poverty, especially in rural parishes, and this intensified in 1815 after the Napoleonic Wars. Agricultural produce had a high price during the wars, but then suffered a post-war slump. Adding to the problem were the demobilisation of soldiers and the importing of cheaper goods from abroad. There were also changes in the employment of labour. Previously, servants and labourers had lived-in and were fed and housed by their employer.

Now, to try and save money, farmers and landowners began to use casual labour, paid on a daily rate. These day labourers were often out of work in the winter when agricultural tasks were fewer. In rural areas there was little in the way of alternative employment; industrialisation was killing off the cottage industries. Enclosures destroyed the “makeshift” activities of the poor. They had once had rights to graze animals on common land and collect fallen wood both of which were vital to the survival of poor families.

The population increased, prices increased and poverty increased. The breaking point came in 1830 with the “**Captain Swing**” riots against the mechanisation of agriculture.

The administrators of the poor law tried to be humane but expenditure was increasing and parishes could not increase the poor rate too much. The land was no longer as profitable as it had been. The Overseers were doing more work so now they were being paid £30 to £40 a year. Often the parish rates were not collected and so deficits built up. Non-payers could be prosecuted but there was reluctance to do this. The industrialised Northern areas were more prosperous and so the problems were worse in the South

To receive assistance, the poor applied to the Vestry. There then followed were negotiations about how much was to be paid and inevitably delay in receiving payment. When the claim was for sickness, doctors were asked for their opinion. They were employed on a comprehensive contract but frequently made exceptions, refusing to treat smallpox, broken bones and to carry out midwifery.

The treatment that they could provide was limited, and many of the medicines themselves were poisonous, containing mercury and arsenic. Many people treated

themselves. Disputes broke out after 1815 with parish administrator feeling they paid doctors too much while doctors claimed they were paid too little.

Each parish was responsible for its own parishioners. When a person lived in a different parish from the one to which they belonged, the "home parish" was asked to pay for their non-resident parishioner. Charges could be excessive; many parishes preferred to bring back people back to them so that the cost could be controlled. In large cities, if you were sick and away from your own parish, you could apply to go to one of the hospitals – **St Thomas's, the Middlesex** etc But these were few and far between until after the New Poor Law of 1834.



The workroom at the St James' Workhouse, 1808  
*Public Domain*

Daily workhouse schedule <sup>[39]</sup>	
5:00-6:00	Rise
6:30-7:00	Breakfast
7:00-12:00	Work
12:00-13:00	Dinner
13:00-18:00	Work
18:00-19:00	Supper
20:00	Bedtime
Sunday was a day of rest. During the winter months inmates were allowed to rise an hour later and did	

The workhouse daily routine

For the poor with no family, the only option was the workhouse. And nobody wanted to go there. It was the last refuge for the elderly, the chronically sick, the pregnant, the disabled, the feeble-minded. Orphaned and bastard children and young people were sometimes housed in the workhouse for lack of any alternative. County lunatic asylums were late in coming and expensive so the workhouses had to care for the mentally disturbed.

Parishes also had to care for the casual poor and vagrants who became ill on their way through the parish. A transient woman giving birth in the parish was a problem as the child then had parish rights. Beggar drivers were appointed to keep the transients moving on their way.

In 1834 Old Poor Law was criticised for its expense, but, looking back, each parish was in fact a miniature Welfare State, and was administered as humanely as money allowed. In contrast the New Poor Law is now seen as Dickensian and draconian, a punishment for being poor.

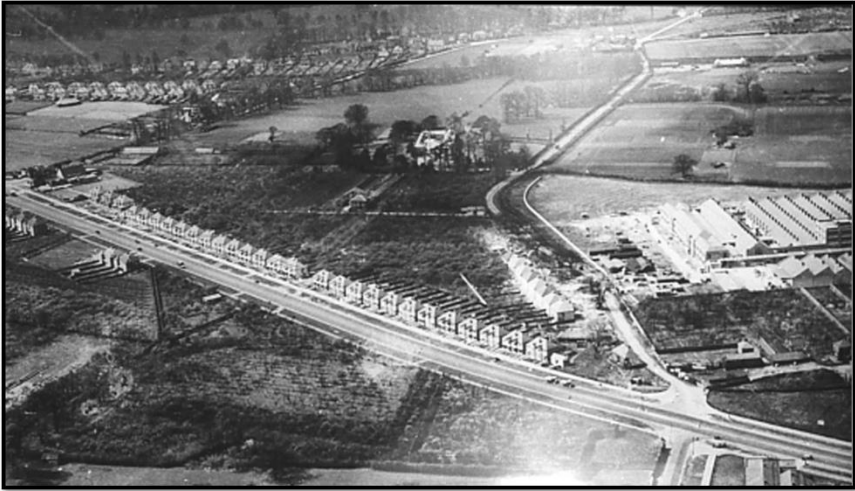
## The Great West Road and the Brentford Golden Mile

*James Marshall* May

Before the Great West Road came into being, the area was dominated by agriculture. Local farmers grew strawberries and fruit trees. Brentford had two jam factories whose smells mingled with those produced by the soap works, breweries and gas works. The old observatory tower on Sion Hill was demolished to make way for the Great West Road.

It was built as a bypass for Brentford whose narrow High Street had been a notorious bottleneck for traffic for centuries. The Commissioners for London's turnpike roads had promised a bypass as early as 1836 but the urgency of the need had been reduced by the change from wagon-transport to rail transport for goods. The introduction of tramlines in 1901 increased the congestion and confusion. A Board of Trade report in 1909 described the traffic as the worst in the entire London region and declared that a bypass was indispensable. Even before this, the Roads Improvement Association was advocating a bypass. The vision of secretary **Rees Jeffreys** was that it should be a private-finance operation with construction being funded by development of a broad ribbon of land running alongside the road, acquired by compulsory purchase. None of this had attracted sufficient parliamentary support to become law, so in 1909 the Board of Trade decided that the road should be built by the government. The route was the work of **Colonel Hellard** of the Board of Trade – he also outlined **Western Avenue** and the **Kingston Bypass**, major arteries that enabled motorists to avoid the worst of the traffic congestion in London. The passing of the Great West Road and Finance Act came only a few days before the outbreak of WW1 so construction did not begin until the spring of 1920. On Saturday May 30<sup>th</sup> 1925, **King George V** officially opened the new road. A public holiday had been declared and people came from miles around to see the spectacle.

Before the building of the **Great West Road, Brentford, Hounslow and Isleworth** had been separate settlements surrounded by open fields. Afterwards, maps show the same area as covered in a ribbon development the factories that line the **Golden Mile** and the suburban housing extending from **Sion Hill** to **Hounslow West**.

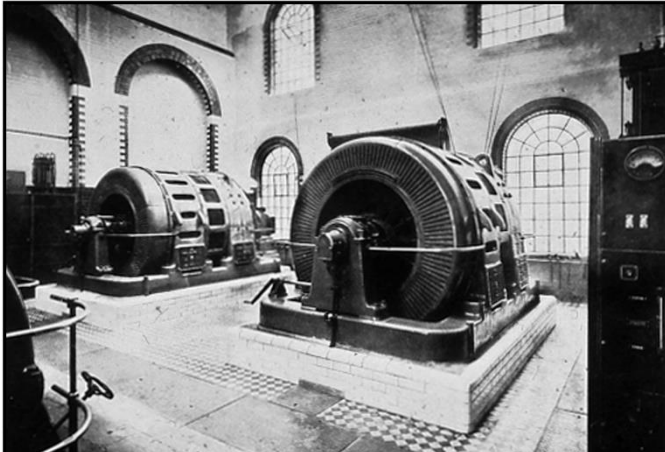


*Great West Road – Osterley suburban sprawl c.1930.  
(By permission of Hounslow Local Studies)*

**Sion Hill Farm** at **Sion Lane's** junction with **Great West Road** was where the **Gillette** factory would be built. **MacFarlane-Lang's Imperial Biscuit** factory had already been built by 1930, relocating from Fulham to this new greenfield site. Initially they had problems recruiting staff from the local area and had to lay on special trains to bring the workforce in from Putney. The staff were mainly women. Staff welfare was good. It was realised that lost working time could be reduced if staff could see a doctor, contracted to the company, on the factory site. A glass-roofed palm court provided a staff recreation area. Linked to the factory was the railway's **Brentford Dock** branch. The railway had an important role in bringing in bulk supplies of fuel and ingredients for biscuit and cake manufacture and carrying the finished goods to wholesalers.

In 1935 the **Sion Hill Farm** site was bought by **Gillette** for their new factory. They had merged with the **Autostrop** razor company and the **Great West Road** site gave them good road access and was mid-way between the two factories. An eye-catching façade would also be good for business. The new building was designed by **Sir Bannister Fletcher** who regarded it as his finest work. It was hailed by the *Architect and Building News* as a welcome departure from the already fading fashions of the Great West Road "bringing back qualities of restraint and dignity to a bypass already noted for its garish facades".

In 1928, before the National Grid, **Heston and Isleworth Borough Council's** own local power station in **Bridge Road, Hounslow** was a key factor in persuading factories such as **Firestone Tyres** to build on the **Great West Road**. **Firestone** was one of the first of several impressive Art Deco factories by **Wallis, Gilbert and Partners** to be built alongside the **Great West Road**.



*Bridge Road Power Station c. 1932  
(by permission of Hounslow Local Studies)*

Household rubbish (largely combustible in those days) was collected and then burned in the depot. The steam produced was then used to generate electricity. And the refuse lorries that collected the rubbish were then charged up using the electricity. An early example of recycling! The **Central Generating Board** took over electricity supply for the country in the 1930s and the local power station was later closed down as uneconomic.

Road transport grew in importance between the wars. A new factory built on a large site next to a major road could take advantage of this. But by the 1960s, things were changing. The opening of Heathrow Airport had increased the importance of the Great West Road as a commercial corridor. Land values increased dramatically as developers began looking for high-prestige locations for multinational companies. For companies such as **Jansen Swimwear**, the land on which the factory stood became more valuable than the company itself.

Another imperative for relocation came from government pressure. Economic, environmental and planning regulations all impacted heavily.

The Clean Air Act meant that **London** was now a smokeless zone and the **London Regional Planning** board was intent on growing the white-collar sector.



Factories were no longer welcome; and to crown it all, 1945-1973 saw a period of labour shortage. Manufacturing companies found they were competing with the airport for recruiting staff. It made commercial sense to relocate factories to areas where land and staff were cheaper and more plentiful.

The new towns that were built to take London's overspill population needed businesses to help their economies and communities survive. And so relocation packages were offered to companies willing to leave **London**. **Bracknell** was **West London's** overspill town and it was to **Bracknell** that **Sperry Gyroscope** went in 1966 after over 30 years on the **Great West Road**.

To encourage staff to go with them, family relocation packages were offered. The **Great West Road's** manufacturing base was now in steady decline.

In 1979 the **Firestone Tyre Factory** closed. Its American parent company had suffered huge financial losses after its radial tyres were linked to several high-speed road crashes. In 1980, the factory was bought by Trafalgar House PLC and over the August Bank Holiday weekend, just days away from being listed, it was demolished. The outcry led to several of the other Art Deco buildings being listed and preserved.



*The Firestone factory in the 1930's.  
(by permission of Hounslow Local Studies)*

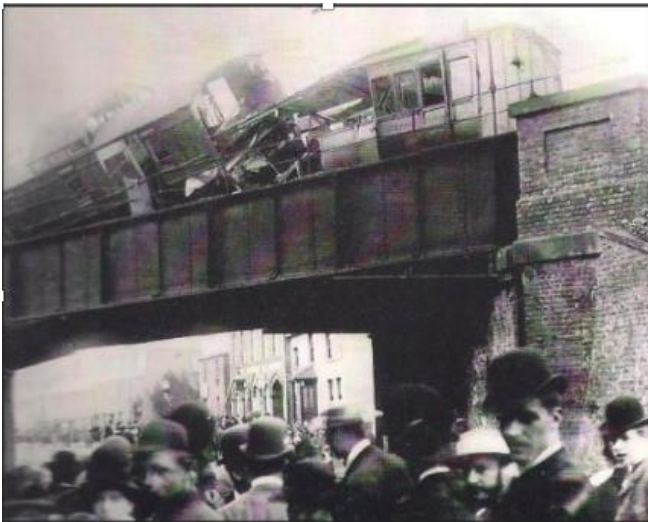
The **Pyrene** factory is still standing although no longer used as a factory. The **Coty** building has also survived. It opened in 1932, then closed as a factory in 1979 and became offices for a computer company. The **Beecham's** building is now part of the façade for the **Great West Quarter**

## The Hampton Wick Accident 1888 *David Turner* June

The short detail of the accident is that it occurred on 6th August 1888 when a steam locomotive engine was in a head-on collision with a passenger train on its way from **Hampton Wick** to **Kingston**.

The accident occurred late at night at 11:56 pm on the August Bank Holiday Monday, in poor weather. The single engine, which had decoupled from the carriages it had been moving, was reversing along the railway line from **Kingston** station towards **Hampton Wick** station, and was on the wrong railway track when it collided with the passenger train. Whereas the single engine was only manned by its driver and fireman, there were plenty of passengers on the passenger train, which was carrying a mix of first class, second-class, third-class and composite-class carriages, fourteen carriages in all. It was a wonder that only four people died as a direct cause of the accident. These were the driver and fireman of the passenger train, and two women passengers.

The reversing engine was travelling at speed, and ended up beneath the forward-facing engine, with several of the much lighter carriages riding high into the air. Those who are familiar with **Hampton Wick** will immediately recognise the railway bridge where the incident happened. The solidity of the bridge may well have contributed to the relatively few deaths that occurred.



View of the damage, Tuesday morning  
*Copyright: Origin unknown*



Both engines were the LSWR 415 Class  
*Copyright: Creative Commons*

In the mid-19th century there had been a number of rail accidents occurring as the network of rail coverage increased, and the number of passengers increased dramatically. Between 1870 and 1888, the number of rail passengers per year in England increased from 15 million to 37 million. Railway safety was becoming a matter of paramount concern. Hence, within days of the accident an investigation committee was duly setup to examine and report on its cause, and this was headed by one **Major Francis Marindin**, ex-Royal Engineers and an Inspector of the Board of Trade. The **London and South Western Railway Co** was proud of its safety record and was indeed considered to be the safest among all the regional railway companies. By all accounts **Marindin** did a thorough job of investigation; he reported on the specifics of the accident itself and made several recommendations for how to improve future safety on the railways. The main blame for the accident was pinned on the signalman at the **Kingston** signal box, as it was his responsibility to oversee the switching of the points to get the free engine on to the right track to make its return journey to **Twickenham**. What actually occurred was that the signalman failed to move the points in time, so that the engine never actually switched rail tracks, but remained on the same track as it had used going forwards. The driver and the fireman did not notice that they were on the same track, and they fired up the engine, in reverse, to cross the **River Thames** and approach **Hampton Wick** station, where they would not be stopping. They realised too late that they were on the wrong track, and the accident followed.

What seems amazing to us today is that the wreckage which was strewn all over the place was cleared from the second track so that trains were running from **Kingston** through **Hampton Wick** by 2:00 am the same night, and full service was resumed in both directions within 24 hours.

It all started when my sister gave me a MyHeritage DNA Kit for my birthday, over a year ago. I wasn't that happy with the results.

As I do not have their subscription I can no longer retrieve any information from my contacts without paying a 3-figure amount. They occasionally give me a new contact who I can approach, provided I do it straight away, and then the problem of subscription arises again.

I have been told that they have a data base of about 2.4 million against Ancestry's 14 million. So, as I have an Ancestry subscription, when they had their DNA sale around Christmas time, I took the test again. Now I had far more contacts including four cousins all on the Somerset branch of my family, whom I had already found through the old-fashioned way. I was quite impressed with that. However, I have also found a second cousin, my maternal grandfather's younger brother's son, mum's first cousin, who is still living and in Australia. I knew nothing about my grandfather's sibling, who, according to this new cousin, had left the family home when he was 14 and gone to sea. Unfortunately, nearly everything that Doug, my cousin showed me was incorrect as he has not bought any certificates and I believe his information has been gleaned through other DNA sources (quite a few overseas), and on-line information, without checking. I am surprised we are still communicating, but he has come around to my version of the information, as it has been 'proved' by certificates, census returns etc, acquired over the 35 years I have been researching.

I have a few other contacts on my various trees. One of them, again, has incorrect death information, as I have the death certificate and newspaper report. So, do I tell him or not?

I still have a lot of checking to do, but when you have reached my stage of research, any helpful information is worth going for. I am glad I took the Ancestry test.

Back in 2017 I wrote a short article telling you about the weekend activities of members of West Middlesex Family History Society. We're still travelling to Family History Fairs and other events and having a lot of fun in the process. We visit some shows every year and enjoy catching up with familiar faces and places. This year we have branched out into some new venues. You will have seen **Ann Greene's** article about *Family Tree Live Show* at **Alexandra Palace** in April - and do watch the very short film on our website.

On May 12th we had a stand at the Richmond May Fair on **Richmond Green**. This was a busy day and very well organised. **Roland Bostock** kindly drove **Margaret Cunnew** & me to **Richmond** at our assigned unloading time. We were happy to find a team of hunky young men waiting with a large trolley to transport all our books and paraphernalia to our allotted space - Margaret & I usually have to carry all the boxes ourselves.

If you know **Richmond Green** you must try to visualise long marquees around the inner borders of the Green, the marquees being subdivided into individual 'rooms.' We had one room space and, as a charity, this was free of charge - commercial enterprises had to pay £250! Within the Green was a children's' play area with a helter-skelter, carousel and other amusements, an area for the dog show (there were a lot of dogs around), food stalls, a bandstand and another large marquee with a wide variety of stands selling almost everything you can think of.

After a cool week, with some much-needed rain, Sunday was mostly warm and sunny. We were grateful that our covered little 'room' provided some much-needed shade, although **Roland** did spend quite a bit of time outside - hoping for an early tan? Quite early in the day we were delighted to be joined by **John Seaman** who is our 'go to' man for anything you need to know about **Shepperton** and **Sunbury**. Happily, John stayed with us for most of the day answering visitors' questions and generally keeping us company.

During the day we had welcome visits from several of our members, who then left us to enjoy the rest of the Fair. We have to be honest and say that we did not sell many books, but we helped several people by giving them ideas for further research and also met two potential new speakers. So, as you can see, book sales are not the only ways we make positive gains from attending such events.

Saturday 18th May was another early start for Margaret and myself as we were off to **Woking** for a day of talks at **Surrey History Centre** - '*How we used to live.*' This was a new venture for the Organisers and very successful it proved. Why had

WMFHS been invited? Not only is **Surrey** our next-door neighbour county but the towns of **Ashford, Shepperton, Staines** and **Sunbury**, although geographically in **Middlesex** are now administratively in **Surrey**. You're confused? So are we all! Shortly after beginning to set up our stand, we were joined by **John Seaman** and then shortly afterwards by **Ann Greene**. Before the first talk **Jane Lewis** of **Surrey History Centre** came round with chunks of delicious home-made cake - a welcome start to the day.

The layout of the room was ideal, with chairs in the middle of the room for the 50+ people who had booked to attend and the stands laid out round the walls of the room, so we could listen to the talks without having to leave our stand. We were comfortably surrounded by both the **East Surrey FHS** and **West Surrey FHS**, with the **Brookwood Cemetery** representatives being just a little further away. The representatives of the Military History organisations were in the main reception hall of the Centre.

The first talk of the day was by **Julian Pooley**, manager of the centre who gave us a very quick run-down on some of the sources for family historians held by the Centre. It's useful to know that both Ancestry and Find My Past can be accessed free of charge from the Centre computers. **Julian** told us that he has a team of volunteers methodically going through *The Gentleman's Magazine* extracting all references to **Surrey** people. These are being painstakingly cross-referenced to Parish documents so is inevitably a slow job, but it is hoped that the first volume may be ready for publication by next year.

After a break - for refreshments if needed - the next talk was by **Jane Lewis** on the topic '*Learn to love your ag labs!*'. Jane began by asking how many people in the room have Ag Labs on their family tree - the majority of us raised our hands. She then reminded us that although the censuses are the obvious starting points for learning about our ag lab ancestors, the early censuses often do not tell us what type of work these people did, whereas the later censuses tend to be more precise, naming many roles in which people were employed in agriculture. Agriculture became more mechanised between 1851 and 1911, the growth of the railway network led to more 'luxury' crops being grown as they could be taken to market quickly and by 1881 some 85,600 British ag labs had emigrated to the USA. School log books are also a useful source - attendance at school dropped substantially during harvest time (we saw this in the **Staines** school log books in our library). It's also worth looking at the Poor Law records because of the seasonal and unreliable nature of farm work. Petty sessions records can be useful for picking up ancestors who had a tendency to over-indulge in liquid refreshment.

We then had a break for lunch when visitors could browse the stands and chat to each other. Then the final talk of the day was '*Ripley and Send, reflections on the*

*'war to end all wars'* by **Steve Johnson**. Steve has researched the stories of about a dozen young men from these two Surrey villages. It is clear from their consecutive army numbers that in at least two cases several groups of young men had enlisted together. Steve ended by showing us a ceramic plaque about 15" x 15" which had clearly been mounted on a wall - somewhere; but where? The plaque depicts emblems representing the East Surrey Regiment, but some of these features are not shown in their usual forms and the plaque may have been taken from one place and adapted for use elsewhere. The plaque mysteriously appeared in a regimental office with no clues as to where it came from!

**Surrey History Centre** staff led tours of the Search Room where samples of some of the documents they hold were laid out. We at WMFHS always welcome visits from our members when we attend fairs. The fairs we are scheduled to visit are always listed in the Journal. If we are coming to a town near you, do come and say "Hallo" - we'll be very happy to see you!

### **More chances to get out and about**



“Beyond The Census IV” conference, organised by the Family History Federation, will be held at Wesley’s Chapel and Leysian Mission in City Road on 23<sup>rd</sup> November this year. This is a lovely venue - easy to get to on public transport, with coffee shops nearby and the historic Bunhill Fields just across the road. There is a £19.50 charge for attendance, but if you’re thinking this is a bit steep, it includes a buffet lunch and teas/coffee throughout the day, so it is a good deal.

The editor will certainly be there and will be wearing the Society sweatshirt. Look for the WMFHS scarlet logo on charcoal grey and come and have a chat.



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## The Great Diary Project

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How many people these days keep a diary? That is to say, a proper diary, recording events, thoughts, weather and observations?

Diaries are of enormous value to historians and genealogists, recording both the great and the small events. **Samuel Pepys'** account of the Great Fire of London gives us a close-up on how people were affected that is far more immediate than a book written about it in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Launched in 2007 by two diary devotees, **Dr Irving Finkel** and **Dr Polly North**, the Great Diary Project project rescues, archives and makes publicly available a growing collection of more than 9,000 unpublished diaries. Their aim is to collect as many diaries as possible and preserve them for the future. **Michael Palin** and **Stephen Fry** are patrons of the project.

The diaries are held at the **Bishopsgate Institute Reading Room**. Some are on open access, others can be obtained by application to the Archivists and a few are closed, presumably because of sensitive information. If you are a diary enthusiast and can get up to the Bishopsgate Institute (almost opposite Liverpool Street), this would be your idea of Heaven.

On a more practical note, do you keep a diary yourself and have you thought about what will happen to that diary once you are no longer there? If you want to ensure its survival, then you can deposit it with the Great Diary Project.

They take diaries in any format – DVD, audio, USB files, and hand-written. Their website is: **thegreatdiaryproject.co.uk** and their deposit form can be downloaded. If you are unable to access or download, get in touch with the WMFHS editor who can download it and send it to you by post

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## The Memorial Inscriptions of St Mary's with St Alban Teddington

*Roland Bostock*

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Whereas the Society has now transcribed and digitised the memorial inscriptions for most of our ancient parishes there still remain a few that need to be done. Starting last September it was the turn of **St. Mary with St. Alban** in **Teddington**. I was born in **Teddington**, and can remember enjoying the cosiness of the church from many years ago in the 1950s. I had also always noted the immense contrast between **St. Mary**, which is a compact church with quite a low roof, compared with its very close neighbour **St. Alban** which was built with a very high nave, and has the proportions of a cathedral.

Perhaps I should explain how it is that **St. Mary** church is now more properly called **St. Mary with St. Alban**, for these two churches have a linked history.



St Mary with St Alban 2019  
*Image copyright: Roland Bostock*



Landmark Arts Centre 2018  
(formerly St Albans)  
*Image copyright: Roland Bostock*

St. Mary's is the ancient parish church, with a long history dating back to 1217. But near the end of the 19th century the congregation for St. Mary's was far outgrowing the quite small church, and no less than 4 new churches were built in Teddington. The grandest of these was St. Alban the Martyr, just across the road from St. Mary's, and intended as a replacement for St. Mary's. So it was that in 1889 St. Alban's was duly consecrated, and St. Mary's was closed. However, St. Mary's was not demolished, and in 1936 it was opened once again. In 1977, it was St. Alban's, an entirely serviceable church, but with the building never actually completed, and being much the costlier to upkeep, that was deconsecrated and closed as a church. St. Mary's was

renamed St. Mary with St. Alban. In the 1990's St. Alban's found a new name and purpose as the Landmark Arts Centre, which is its current role.

As with all work on memorial inscriptions, it is important to use what may have been done before. In the case of **St. Mary's**, we have a booklet in our library which was published by **The Teddington Society** in 1986, based on work carried out in 1984 by **Patricia Counsell** of the Society. The booklet does not record the inscriptions, but provides a list of the names, grouped by memorial, with dates and ages as applicable, for all the gravestones that could be read at the time, which came to 345 memorials. She was not working from scratch, but had used a much earlier list produced by a local historian **Percy Towell** in 1935. In 1979/80 **The Teddington Society** had worked with members of our Society to produce the first typed copy of **Percy Towell's** list, one copy of which is now held at the **Society of Genealogists**. The introductory paragraph to this list is as follows:

*“Memorial Inscriptions from St. Mary's Teddington churchyard transcribed by P. E. Towell in 1935, checked by the History Group of the Teddington Society, 1979, those in the church transcribed by Mrs. Pat Counsell, 1980, indexed by Muriel Senior, Iris Harris and V. E. Gale of West Middlesex Family History Society”.*  
and the page was signed **V. E. Gale**, July 1980.

The churchyard had been closed to new burials since 1884, long before **Percy Towell** produced his list. We don't know why, but he did not include any inscriptions dated later than 1870, so one of **Patricia Counsell's** contributions was to add a further 98 inscriptions to **Towell's** list bringing the total number of inscriptions to 345. Neither **Percy Towell** nor **Patricia Counsell** commented on, or included, any mention of the unreadable stones. In this most recent survey, we actually found some 29 stones that were entirely illegible, or were just stumps, which could not be identified to a particular burial. We also found a further 10 gravestones that we could identify, but which had not been included in the earlier lists.

As we moved through the churchyard reading all that we could read we inevitably came across a number of fallen headstones, and 5 of these were fallen face down. In most cases that would be the end of it unless we had some map which showed which graves were where. We didn't have that, but we had noticed that there were two distinct copies of the burials parish register on the **Ancestry** website. One was more of a graves register, in that it included three references for each grave to identify its position in respect of nearby earlier gravestones. This register proved to be sufficient to identify all 5 of the fallen headstones.

I give the entry just as it is for one of these stones:

*“July 3<sup>rd</sup> 1878: **Margaret Barton** – in a new brick grave 14ft 10” East of **Anne Louisa Napier** (Marble tomb); 27ft 6” NE of **Anne Davies** (Hstone); 37ft 4” NW of **Robert Rich** (Hstone) aged 72 years, as per stone.”*

If you know exactly where those other three memorials are placed, then a bit of pacing about soon confirms where **Margaret Barton** was buried.

The churchwarden **Robin Field-Smith**, who had been highly supportive of the project from the start, was determined that ‘no stone should be left unturned’ – literally, and he arranged with local cemetery management to have the five stones turned over so that the full inscription was duly read in the end. All five stones were easily read. A very good way of preserving an inscription is to have it lying face down! The state of preservation of gravestones is often somewhat surprising, and quite often it is the very old gravestones that are still quite clearly legible, whereas some recent stones flake away very early. We had some old stones at **St. Mary’s**; the oldest from 1627, which is an oval tablet fixed to the church wall, and notable for a large nail protruding from the church wall on one side of it. The words on this memorial, in this case all given by **Percy Towell**, are as follows:

*“Under / the ledge / opposite this tablet / rests the body of / **Henry Becket Esq.** / who died 10<sup>th</sup> Jan. 1627 / aged 91 years / He left £1 6s. 0d. per annum / to be given in bread to the poor / binding certain lands in this / parish to perpetuate the gift”.*

The nail in the church wall has been there since 1627, and we are told that the bread was placed in a basket which was then hung from this nail.

Another old stone has a character all its own. As can be seen from the photo the lettering is well defined and quite easy to read. It looks odd as ‘daughter’ is spelled ‘daeter’, ‘Joseph’ is spelled ‘Josepth’, there are no spaces between the words, and the surname **Webb** is split over two lines. **Towell** added a footnote to this stone to mention that it had actually been buried beneath the north wall of the church until dug up by **Mr. Southwell** in 1837.



The inscription on the tomb (*left*) reads:

*“1687 / MARY THE / DAETER OF / JOSEPTH WE / BB AND  
ANN HIS / WIFE BURIED THE / 28TH OF SEPTEMBER.”*

Left: Tombstone for Mary and Ann Webb  
Image copyright: Roland Bostock

However my favourite among the stones was for a noble lady, **Isabella, Countess Dowager of Denbigh**. When we first came to the church there were a number of tombs completely covered by ivy, so much so that I would not clear them unless the church specifically approved. In the case of this tomb, which was placed right next to the church tower at the west end of the church, the brick tomb with its railings was completely covered with ivy and brambles, but churchwarden **Robin Field-Smith** had no hesitation in helping me to clear the tomb so that it could be read. **Towell** had provided the bare information when Isabella had been buried, but he said no more. In fact the top of the tomb had a long and rather interesting verse written upon it. Here is the full inscription:

“**Isabella, Countess Dowager of Denbigh** / died 16th May 1769 / Aged 76 Years / With lively Talents and an open Heart / Superior to the Fallacies of Art / Grac'd by that innate Dignity of Soul / Which neither Threats nor Bribes could once control / Second in high Nobility to none / See **Denbigh** lies beneath this humble Stone / A large Benevolence each thought refin'd / Like **Hales** the generous Friend of Humankind / With Love of Philosophy, Learning fraught / She wisely practic'd what his Virtues taught / Then Seal'd his Praises with her parting Breath / And grateful courts his last Remains in Death.”

I had to admit that I had no idea who **Hales** was, but it did not take long to find out, and once I did I was able to add my own note for this inscription as follows:

“*Note: The reference to Hales is to **Dr. Stephen Hales**, noted clergyman and scientist, who was Perpetual Curate at **St. Mary's**, where he was buried on 10th January 1761 directly under the church tower as he had requested, and **Isabella, Countess Dowager of Denbigh**, bought her own plot in the churchyard adjacent to where **Dr. Stephen Hales** was buried.*”



Tombstone of Isabella,  
Countess Dowager of Denbigh  
*Image copyright: Roland Bostock*

Usually at the end of a survey, and once the book of inscriptions has been duly prepared, I simply hand over a copy to the church and we say our farewells. However **Robin Field-Smith** had a greater plan, and I was asked if I would mind delaying the handover for several months until June 9th, being Pentecost Sunday, and also the day chosen for 'Teddington in flower', when the church was going to lay on some hand-bell ringing in the church, and cream teas to be served outside.

The Deputy Mayor had also been invited to attend, and then at 5:00, as arranged, Vicar **Joe Moffatt** gave an appreciation for the work that **Yvonne Masson** and I had put into conducting the survey, and then I said a few words before officially handing over the book. A further unusual ending is that **Joe Moffatt** declared that the book would be placed in a cabinet in the church where it could be accessed at all times that the church was open by whosoever was interested to see what it contains.



The presentation of the Churchyard Survey 9<sup>th</sup> June 2019  
*Image copyright: Ann Greene*

Happenstance – serendipity – call it what you like, but some of our best discoveries are made by accident.



Empress Place,  
with the Empress State Building in the background

In May 2018, WMFHS took a stall at The Name Event, a brave attempt to replace the Who Do You Think You Are show, held at the Ibis Hotel in Lillie Road. On my way there from **West Brompton** station, I found myself walking past what seemed to be half a street. Streets that have lost one whole side because of redevelopment or road-building are not uncommon – **Smethwick High Street** is now shops on one side only and a busy four-lane road beyond – but **Empress Place** was different. It had two sides, but half-way along its length, it has been almost cruelly truncated by a wall and large industrial gates. Peering through the gates I could see a huge empty space stretching away, with no indication of what might happen there.

As I have said elsewhere in this Journal, I am nosy - although I prefer to describe it having a healthy curiosity - so I couldn't leave this un-investigated. Later researches showed that **Empress Place** wasn't half a street, it had always been cut off at this point. The 1865 OS map shows that it had been built in front of the **Lillie Bridge Works**, with the **Metropolitan District Railway** running along the eastern side of the street and with the **Empress Hall**, the **O2** of its day, just behind and to the west. Built in the late 1800s for **Imre Kiralfy**, a Hungarian showman, noted for his



“spectaculars”, the **Empress Theatre**, as it was first known, could seat up to 5000 people and, in a radical departure from the theatres of the day, all the seating was on one level. In 1915, it was stripped out to house Belgian refugees, but by the end of the war, it had become a storage depot. Post WW1, it was used for designing railway stations. This might seem strange but the huge space would have allowed full-scale mock-ups of the designs. 1935 saw it renamed the **Empress Hall** and turned into an ice-rink which hosted many of the London Ice Spectaculars. After its demolition, the **Empress State Building**, an office block, was built on part of the site. The area is now part of a stalled and hotly-disputed redevelopment project and the **Empress Place** houses are boarded up.

But what had it been like before all this? When was the street built, who had lived there and what had it been like in its heyday? For a start it had not always been called **Empress Place**. First built in the early **1860's**, it was originally called **Richmond Place**. It was designed by the architect **John Young** who also designed the **Brompton Hospital** and was noted for his use of polychromatic brick and stucco. **Fulham** was experiencing an influx of professionals and working people who needed houses and shops. The street's name was officially changed to **Empress Place** in 1937. It was only one of several streets that were re-named, and originally the proposal had been to call it **Seagrave Place** as it was opposite **Seagrave Road**. Public opinion was decidedly against this and an alternative name of **Empress Way** was suggested. At some stage, this changed again and the final name became **Empress Place**.

Researching a street online with no known residents is not something I would recommend. The big internet genealogy sites don't like searching for a street name alone and will either deny its existence or offer so many hits, you lose the will to live. So the best option is to go back to basics with street directories and newspapers. These are only a partial solution but they give you something to work on.

When it came to online resources I found the 1939 Register very useful; a far cry from the 1860s but it was a start. One of the most useful things about it is that it gives occupations (with the usual exception of married women). Another bonus is the dates of birth, allowing you to calculate the average age of a street's residents. **Empress Place's** 1939 occupants were working-class with a few variations into the lower-middle class. Storekeepers, lorry drivers, cooks, clerks, waitresses, dressmakers, builder's labourers, a foreman bricklayer, with the surprising addition of a masseur and a pianist.

The average age of the street's residents in 1939 was 43, but the highest age-groups were 20-29 and 30-39. So it was a young street of working people. They were, for the

most part, people with a steady wage and a certain amount of job security. While they were certainly not rich or even well-off, they would be able to pay their rent. Several of the houses were multi-occupancy; some of them had been divided into self-contained flats, while in others an elderly householder could have been supplementing their income with paying guests.

The list of names in 1939 provided possible links to earlier and later residents. And a bit more research showed that **Empress Place** seemed to be a place where people stayed for a long time. The **Narrowways** and the **Danapalas** were all long-term residents, which is another indication that the street's residents did not have to regularly move in search of cheaper houses. The houses were also large enough to accommodate a moderate sized family – three or possibly four children.

Local newspapers show the residents as human beings with all their virtues and frailties. The death of a young man after two operations; the inquest on a wife who had fallen (or possibly jumped) to her death from an upstairs flat one of the residents caught selling fruit from a barrow without a licence; advertisements for self-contained flats at 14s a week. Just a few of the entries relating to **Empress Place**

**Number 11** was home to the **Danapala** family from 1920 until the early 1960's. In 1949, the wedding of **Leela Danapala** to **John Hughes** was reported in the **Fulham Chronicle**.

*Below left :*  
Number 11, home to the  
Danapala family  
*Image copyright: Ann Greene*



*Below right:*  
Report of Leela Danapala's wedding  
*Fulham Chronicle September 5<sup>th</sup> 1949*

**INTERNATIONAL WEDDING**

Guests from the West Indies, Ceylon, America, Scotland and Ireland were present at the wedding of Leela Danapala, of No. 11, Empress Place, Fulham, and Mr. John Hughes, of Vauxhall Bridge, Victoria. The fully-chocola service was at All Saints' Fulham Parish Church, and the happy couple, surrounded by their friends in colourful saris and costumes, made a picturesque scene.

The bride's father is a native of Raddigama, Ceylon.

The bride was radiant in a gown of white satin thickly embroidered with crystal and silver beads and pearls. Her veil, 10 yards in length, was surmounted by a halo of orange blossom, and she had a trailing bouquet of red roses.

Attendants were the bride's sister, Mrs. N. Reade, Miss A. Seymour and Miss R. Turgot. Their blue crepe dresses were caught up with pink carnations to show an underlayer of lace, and they had blue feathered head-dresses, and held pink carnations.

The 44 guests gathered at Kelvedon Hall, Kelvedon Road, for the reception.

**SAUSAGE MEAT DEFICIENCY**

For selling pork sausage-meat 24 per cent. deficient in meat at Vanston Place, Walham Green, Beales Bros., Ltd., were fined £27 and £3 8s. costs at West London.

The meat was purchased by Mr. A. W. Gamnack, sanitary inspector and sampling officer for Fulham.

It was stated that this was the first complaint against the firm, which was 60 years old. Kelvedon Hall, Kelvedon Road, for the reception.

Photo: W. D. Hogan, 483, Fulham Palace-rd.

However, the **Hazlewood** family were indisputably the longest-standing residents, living there from as early as 1908 and staying until 1965. **Charles Hazlewood** and his wife **Jessie, nee Palmer** first appear at **number 2 Richmond Place** in 1908. They had three children, **Charles Robert**, **Elsie Maud** and **Leonard James**. **Charles Robert** and **Elsie** married and left home in the 1920s.

On 20<sup>th</sup> September 1915, **Leonard** joined the **East Surrey Regiment**, claiming to be 19, but was swiftly unmasked as being under-age and discharged. In November 1917 aged 18, he enlisted in the **Worcestershire Regiment**.

His soldier's papers give an idea of how hard the common soldier's lot could be. Between May and October 1918 he received a total of 25 days confinement to barracks for comparatively minor offences – being absent from parade, improper dress on parade, improper conduct. On top of that he suffered from recurrent flu between August and October 1918.

He was discharged in June 1919 and returned home to his parents at number 2. He stayed there for the rest of his life. He married **Daisy Winifred Curtis** in 1931. They had one child, a daughter born in 1937, who was still living at number 2 in 1965 at the time of her marriage.



Number 2 Empress (Richmond) Place.  
Home to the Hazlewood family  
*Image copyright: Ann Greene*



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## **FAMILY HISTORY FAIRS**

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### **The London Family History Show \***

Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> August . 10-4.30.

Sandown Park Racecourse, Portsmouth Road, Esher KT10 9AJ.

Admission £8 on the day. Children under 16 free.

Free parking

**[thefamilyhistoryshow.com](http://thefamilyhistoryshow.com)**

### **Romany and Traveller Family History Society Open Day**

Saturday 12th October. 10.30- 3.30

Surrey History Centre, 130 Goldsworth Road, Woking GU22 9BA

### **Surrey Heritage Showcase Event \***

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October .10-4.

Staines Methodist Church, Thames Street, Staines upon Thames TW18

4SD

Free admission

### **West Surrey FHS Family History Fair\***

Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> November. 10-4.30

Woking Leisure Centre, Kingfield Road, Woking GU22 9BA.

Free admission. Free parking for 3 hours

\* WMFHS will have a stall at these events.

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## FAMILY HISTORY NEWS

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Every family history society I have come across in the past few years has uttered the same plaintive cry – our membership base is shrinking because younger people think everything is online!

There is a great deal more online than there used to be and if you are overseas, unable to travel, are just short on time, this is a huge boon. But pre-digital researchers know that there is more to family history than collecting information from a computer programme!

The **Family History Federation (FHF)** formerly the **Federation of Family History Societies** is trying to redress the balance by setting up a series of Beginners' Workshops across the country and they need our help in the form of suggestions for places to hire and also to provide local genealogists to provide the advice and support. The FHF will do all the organisation and booking of venues, they just need our brains and bodies.

The WMFHS committee discussed this at the July committee meeting and we agreed that it was a good idea. Our Secretary Roland has emailed the FHF with details of places within our area that might be available to hold a workshop and has also mentioned that we do our own Advice Sessions at Feltham Library.

If you think you might be interested in helping out a session, please contact any of the Committee members.

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## NEW MEMBERS and SURNAME INTERESTS

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*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.*

A119	Mrs L Abraham	Isle of Wight	lesley@kitehillfarm.co.uk
B345	MR P Bonsey	New Zealand	
G155	Mrs A Goble	Twickenham, Middx	
T96	Ms G Thomas	Chiswick, Middx	
T95	Mr R Tulloch	Dublin, Ireland	
W263	Mrs M Williams	Windsor, Berks	

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## SURNAME INTERESTS

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<b>Surname</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Member</b>
Bazley	1863-1870	Kensington Park, Bayswater	MDX	A119
Best	1540-190		MDX	B344
Burris	Pre-1900		SSX	B344
Burris	Post-1800		MDX	B344
Endersby	1540-1900		MDX	B344
Leader	1540-1900		MDX	B344
Penfold	Pre-1900		SSX	B344
Penfold	Post 1800		MDX	B344
Rylett	1540-1900		MDX	B344

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## WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY NEWS

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We have had a very interesting email from one of our members Timothy Warner. He writes that

His great grandmother **Constance Baker** was born in **Marham** village, **Norfolk** in 1868 and is on the Norfolk Women in History website. She came to **London** as a teenager with her parents and was trained as a dressmaker, making dresses for actresses and opera singers. After her marriage she lived at **90 Harwood Road Fulham**.

In the Great War 1914-18, she put on entertainments in **Bishop's Park, Fulham** and took in wounded soldiers to care for them. They called her Mother of the Wounded and this is on her gravestone in **Brompton Cemetery, Kensington**.

On the 21st September 2019, at 2pm, **Marham** Parish Council are unveiling a blue plaque on the old **Marham** village school that she attended as a child. The unveiling of the blue plaque will be performed by the local Mayor, MPs and the Mayor of **Hammersmith and Fulham** .

Timothy says that **Hammersmith and Fulham** council are seeking money to put up a memorial to his great grandmother **Constance Baker** "Mother of the Wounded in Fulham" and that he will also be attending the unveiling of that plaque.

Representatives of **Marham** parish council and MPs will be at the **Fulham** unveiling. Members of the West Middlesex Family History Society are very welcome at both the unveiling ceremonies.

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

**Mrs A Browning**

**Mr Stephen Randall**

We offer our condolences to their families



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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*

**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*

**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.

*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](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.

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

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

## Front Cover

Images: 1) Presentation of the WMFHS churchyard survey of St Mary with St Alban, Teddington

*Left to right: Robin Field-Smith (churchwarden), James Chard, (Deputy Mayor, Richmond upon Thames), Roland Bostock (WMFHS webmaster and secretary), Joe Moffatt (vicar, St Mary with St Albans), Yvonne Masson (archivist, WMFHS)*

2) (Inset) St Mary, Teddington

*Image Copyright: Ann Greene*

