



WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY JOURNAL

VOL 37 No.4

December 2019



www.west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk



WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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Subscriptions	All categories: £15 per annum
Subscription year	1 January to 31 December

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

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All articles and other items for the Journal should be sent to: Mrs Ann Greene 39 Broughton Avenue Richmond Surrey TW10 7UG	Exchange journals from other societies should be sent to: Mrs. Margaret Cunnew 25 Selkirk Road Twickenham Middlesex, TW2 6PS
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Queries concerning non-delivery or faulty copies of this Journal should be sent to:
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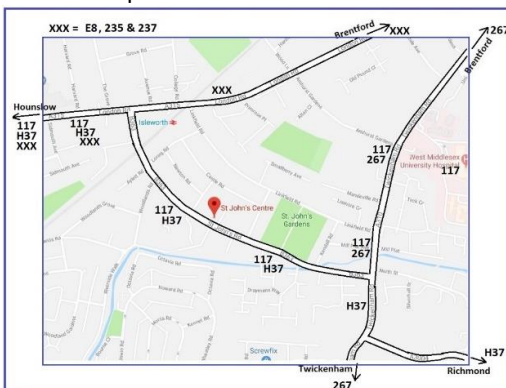
Future Meetings

The following talks have been arranged:

December	Members' Christmas Party	
January	A Brief History of York House, Twickenham	Paul Leonard
February	Who do you think they were?	Julian Pooley
March	Annual General Meeting	
	I wish I had asked more questions	John Collis
April	Researching the First World War Dead at West Norwood Cemetery	John Clarke
May	What Did They Do? - Records relating to trades, professions and occupations.	Amelia Bennett
June	Our Newspaper Heritage	Meryl Catty

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.

Talks begin at 8pm. Exchange journals from other societies and our bookstall are available between 7.30 and 10pm. Refreshments are available at the end of the talk.



Want a lift?



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

Contributions and Advertisements

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. Our font is Calibri 14 point bold for titles, Calibri 11 point regular for body text.

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

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:

15th January, 15th April, 15th July and 15th 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.

Advice Sessions

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.

Booking is essential

To book a session, 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.

18th January 2020

15th February 2020

21st March 2020

18th April 2020

16th May 2020

20th June 2020

18th July 2020

15th August 2020

19th September 2020

17th October 2020

21st November 2020

19th December 2020

NB: Please check the Society website for up-to-date information:

www.west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk/content/advice.aspx

GDPR

You will remember that in 2017, new and more stringent Data Protection rules were introduced under the General Data Protection Regulation Act. Individuals now have the following rights.

The right to be informed; The right of access; The right to rectification; The right to erasure; The right to restrict processing; The right to data portability; The right to object; Rights in relation to automated decision making and profiling.

Our policy is given below

WMFHS Privacy Policy

What information do we collect?

- Your name
- Your address
- Your Gift Aid status
- The date and amount of your subscription payments
- Your surname interests
- Your email address (if you have one)

Why do we collect it?

We collect your name, address and email address so that:

- We may deliver the Society's quarterly Journal to you.
- We may contact you about Society matters or your subscription.
- Other members may contact you about shared surname interests.

We keep a record of subscription receipts so that :

- We can issue reminders as necessary
- We are able to claim the correct amount of Gift Aid at financial year end

How is it stored?

- We maintain and update a hard copy Membership File, recording joining and renewal dates, postal addresses, membership numbers, and email addresses (if provided)
- We maintain a computer file of addresses specifically for the purpose of generating address labels for all members receiving a printed copy of the journal.

- Our Webmaster maintains a computer file of member information (including Surname Interests) for display on the website, and to generate the email addresses required to send electronic copy of the journal to members
- Our Treasurer maintains a summary file of members' subscriptions, and any donations which qualify for Gift Aid.

What data is shared?

- Our website Members Page displays members' names, membership numbers, town of residence, and email addresses. Such information is displayed only with the specific consent of the member concerned.
- Surname Interests are displayed on the website. Members are identified only by their membership number.
- Personal information on members under the age of 18 is automatically withheld from our website.
- Personal data is only shared with the express consent of the member concerned.

What are my rights?

- You can ask at any time to see what data the Society holds on you.
- Our Renewal of Subscription form gives you the option to add or withdraw consent to your data being displayed.
- You can ask at any time to have any of the following information withdrawn from the website: your name, your email address, your surname interests.
- You have the right, when cancelling your membership, to demand the erasure of all your data from the Society's records. Gift Aid data is retained for 7 complete tax years for compliance with UK law.

West Middlesex Family History AGM

Members are advised that:

The Annual General Meeting
of the West Middlesex Family History Society
will be held
on Thursday 19th March 2020
at St John's Centre, St John's Road, Isleworth.

Prior notice is given here that there will be a resolution to amend our existing Constitution by reducing the quorum of attending members to 12. The resolution will be discussed and voted on at the meeting.

The full agenda will be published in the March 2020 Journal.

The History of Brookwood Cemetery *John Clarke* August

The national cholera epidemic of 1848/49 highlighted the problem of burying London's dead. Burial space was under pressure, with no space left in many churchyards.

The first scheme proposed to resolve the problem was the Metropolitan Interment Act of 1850, sponsored by **Edwin Chadwick**, which aimed to effectively nationalise burials in London. It proposed that the 'Magnificent Seven' burial grounds be taken over and interments transferred to two new sites - The **Great Eastern Metropolitan Cemetery**, to be situated near **Abbey Wood**, and the **Great Western Metropolitan Cemetery** to be created by enlarging **Kensal Green**. The Act was never implemented.

A second scheme was passed which allowed vestries to contract with burial boards and this would form the basis for local authority ownership and control of cemeteries. A private Act of 1852 - The London Necropolis and National Mausoleum Company Act – allowed the acquisition of 2,000 acres of Surrey Heathland from **Lord Onslow**. The land was of little agricultural value and cheap to buy.

A contract was also made with the **London & South Western Railway Company** for the transport of coffins and mourners to the new cemetery. A private station was built just outside Waterloo which was demolished about the turn of the 19th/20th centuries and a new, more spacious and luxurious,



*The Brookwood Necropolis Railway Station.
Ben Brooksbank/Creative Commons*

one built at **121 Westminster Bridge Road**. That station continued to serve the **Necropolis Company** until it was bombed in 1941. Two stations were built inside the cemetery, the north station serving non-Church of England (C of E) burials and the south station serving C of E burials.

As the first burials were from **St Saviour's, Southwark** (which was then in the diocese of **Winchester**), the **Bishop of Winchester** officiated at the consecration on 7 November 1854. The first burial, in an unmarked grave, was of a pair of stillborn twins. The cemetery opened to the public on 13 November 1854. To begin with, most of the burials were of paupers. Sadly they were rarely accompanied by mourners, who would not have been able to afford either the fare or the time off work. Each burial was dignified by having its own plot - there were no mass graves for the poor. Brochures were produced to encourage more people to arrange funerals at **Brookwood**. Friendly Societies, Guilds and similar organisations were encouraged to use their own designated areas of the cemetery. The **Swedish Church in London** has an area which is still in use today, with some of the monumental inscriptions (MIs) being in Swedish and some in English. By the end of the 19th century more areas were designated for Catholic burials. The **Royal Hospital Chelsea** and the **Corps of Commissionaires** also have their own areas.



*Entrance to the Parsi section of Brookwood Cemetery
Secret Pilgrim/Creative Commons*

In 1910, a new, more spacious, C of E chapel was completed and in the same year **Lord Cadogan's** redundant family mausoleum was sold to the **Necropolis Company** for £200 and converted into a columbarium for the interment of cremated remains.

The **War Office** only took up the offer of a dedicated section in 1917. Service personnel (including nurses) of the UK and Commonwealth who died in British Military Hospitals were buried in a **Commonwealth War Graves** area at Brookwood. The USA Government also established a military cemetery within Brookwood commemorating the US war dead from the First World War (WWI) who had died in British Military Hospitals. It remains the only US military cemetery in the UK although it was not officially consecrated until 1937. The **Brookwood Memorial** was inaugurated in 1958 by **Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II** to commemorate all Commonwealth forces who had no known grave after the Second World War (WWII). There are also designated areas for Belgian, Canadian, Czech, Free French, Polish and Turkish service personnel, each with its own central, national, memorial. After the recent conflict in **Afghanistan**, some deceased service personnel were repatriated and some of them were interred at **Brookwood**.

The **Necropolis Company** anticipated that, after WWII, there would be an increase in demand for cremations, so in 1949-50 a Glade of Remembrance was opened, where ashes could be scattered. The Glades were consecrated by the **Bishop of Guildford** on 11 May 1950.

By 1972, both the cemetery stations had disappeared; one was burnt down by vandals and the other had been allowed to become derelict, so was pulled down. In 2010 the lake at the entrance to the Glades of Remembrance was restored to mark the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Glades. The original company has been sold several times to investment companies or private individuals and some of the land sold off. Part of the land was sold in 1982 to the **St Edward Brotherhood**, who have interred there the relics of **St Edward the Martyr** - almost certainly the oldest human remains in the cemetery. In 2014 **Woking Borough Council** created a private limited company - **'The Woking Necropolis and Mausoleum Company'** to manage the Cemetery. The Council has bought back some of the land which had been sold off and has embarked on an ambitious (and expensive) programme of restoration and renovation. The **Colquhoun** family mausoleum is being restored and a large area has been cleared of rhododendrons, although this has left the Lych Gate of **St Alban the Martyr Holborn** looking rather lonely in a cleared area - it used to look as though it 'belonged' in the environment. There are sets of - incomplete - registers at both the cemetery offices and **Surrey History Centre (SHC)**. The SHC has entered into an agreement with

Deceased Online to digitise the registers, but no date for completion is yet known.

(Information checked, and additions made using: An introduction to Brookwood Cemetery by John Clarke with Mary Lucas and Arthur Storie, 1992)

DNA: The Story Continues *John Symons* September

John began by telling us that after giving the matter a lot of thought, curiosity got the better of him and he took an autosomal DNA test with Ancestry about three years ago.

To explain a few basics first. There are three types of DNA: - Y-DNA is only carried by males and is passed from father to son, so follows only the male line; Mitochondrial DNA (Mt-DNA) is carried only by females and is passed from mother to daughter and thus follows only the female line; and Autosomal DNA which is carried by both sexes. This latter DNA shows all lines of heredity back, but with some limitations and is potentially the most useful for most people.

Your DNA tells you about your ethnicity, but the ethnicity estimates are constantly being refined as more folk take the test. Although this aspect of DNA testing is the headline-grabber, it is not actually very helpful for most people. More potentially useful is the fact that your DNA can link you to possible cousins you may, or may not, know about. Most of us can accept that there are 'black sheep' in every family, but if you are worried about what the test might reveal, it would be better not to be tested.

People who take the test tend to fall into one of two main categories - family historians who want to further their research and people who were given the test as a gift. The latter group may add useful data to the database, but are unlikely to be of any research help if you find a match to one of them. Ancestry has the largest database of all the organisations which offer DNA tests and the number of subscribers grows day by day. Similarity in DNA is measured in units called Centimorgans and the higher the number of Centimorgans you share with someone, the more closely you are related. A disadvantage is that you may not know who these people are, although you can click on a person's profile and find out where they live. With some research it may be possible to identify where these people fit into your family tree so that you can decide whether to make contact with them. Contact can

be effected via Ancestry. However, Ancestry is known to get the expected degree of relationship incorrect in many cases. It will also give you hundreds of 'top matches'; in fact so many that it is impractical to try and establish who all these people are. In addition, because the database is updated daily, you are constantly offered the opportunity to match with even more potential cousins. For this reason, John only investigates people who appear to have 80 Centimorgans or more in common with him.

John showed us a complex chart downloaded from '*The Shared CM Project - Version 3.0*' which shows how probable relationships can be calculated based on the number of shared Centimorgans. Ancestry tries to draw a line showing how people who share DNA may be linked. This line links to family trees which have been posted on Ancestry, but as these have not been checked and many are known to contain errors their usefulness is doubtful.

Your DNA profile can be transferred from most commercial providers to GEDmatch and from Ancestry to other providers at a relatively small cost. However, it is not possible to transfer DNA profiles from other providers into Ancestry. Because of this, it may be considered that Ancestry is a good choice for DNA testing, although it may be worth waiting for a special offer price.

To summarise, DNA testing can be a useful tool in family history research, but should be used in conjunction with, not instead of, conventional research. If a DNA test is used in isolation as a 'quick fix', participants are likely to be disappointed. As the DNA database increases more people will discover matches. Although this may help to reduce erroneous information on family trees, only time will tell if this is the case.

Be prepared for the fact that a DNA test may raise more questions than can be answered.

The main DNA Test Providers are: 23ANDME; Ancestry DNA; Family Tree DNA; Find My Past; Living DNA (currently the best provider for a detailed British breakdown of results); and My Heritage.

Anyone who would like to know more about Mitochondrial DNA may find '*The Seven Daughters of Eve*' by Bryan Sykes interesting.

The History and Architecture of Underground Stations Part 2

Mark Pardoe

October

Mark is definitely an enthusiast for his subject. When he gave us his first talk in March this year he was barely half-way through his material when we had to ask him to conclude his talk. The answer was simple, to invite Mark to back again to complete his story, which he duly did in October.

(See the June Journal for the write-up of Mark's first talk covering the need for an underground means of transport in London, and the first 65 years of development of the system)

The story continues in 1923 when various tube lines were already well established, with most of the lines such as the **District Line**, the **Bakerloo Line** and **Piccadilly Line** coming under the management of the umbrella organisation the **Underground Electric Railway Company of London (UERL)**, of which **Frank Pick** was the chief executive. **Frank Pick** was a visionary, and saw the importance in developing his underground stations with a recognisable brand to them; and he took particular interest in the work of the architect **Charles Holden**.

When the next expansion opportunity arose, which was to extend the Northern Line from **Clapham Common** south down to **Morden** it was to **Charles Holden** that he turned. **Charles Holden** gave all the new underground stations a common look, using



Portland stone for the buildings, with large windows at the front displaying large illuminated Underground logos. The aim, which succeeded, was for the buildings to be instantly recognisable as underground stations, and to draw the travellers in. **South Wimbledon station (left)** is a good example of **Charles Holden's** early work.

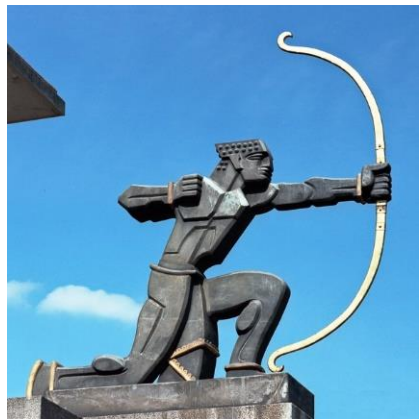
Perhaps the most dramatic of **Charles Holden's** work is the design of **Southgate** Station on the Piccadilly Line. In this case the station was to occupy a site on a large circular roundabout, and **Holden** produced a completely circular building as the picture on the right shows.



Southgate is also a striking construction below-ground. The escalators are finished with a lot of bronze work, and have specially designed lighting which uses reflection from the ceiling to great effect. As with other stations of its time Southgate was built with wooden escalators. Today, only **Southgate** and **St. John's Wood**

stations retain their wooden escalators, which have been fire-proofed after the **Kings Cross** disaster of 1987.

The design of all these underground stations is essentially functional. But **East Finchley** station stands out as it was embellished with a fine example of Art Deco sculpture. Raised above the station is the image of an archer taking aim with his bow towards London. It is the work of **Eric Aumonier** and is thought to convey the subtle message – *“Take the underground and fly straight into London”*.



All further development of the underground was put on hold during the war years. Some tunnels, which had been built but did not yet have a service running, were put to use as factories. As Mark duly quipped, these were the longest and thinnest factories ever constructed. One such tunnel factory was built in the unfinished tube line from **Leytonstone to Gants Hill**, and was used to build aircraft components.

After the war not much happened with the underground until 1953 when the **Victoria Line** was conceived, running across central London from SE to NW. It took a full 10 years development before the line opened.

Mark had nothing complimentary to say about the above-ground architecture of the **Victoria Line** stations, so he took us down to the platforms. Firstly, he showed us the platform scene at **Seven Sisters**. Having worked us up to expect something really psychedelic, he revealed that “two tone grey” was the colour scheme they had adopted. But all was not lost. At least the tiling behind the seats had been designed uniquely for each station, the picture (*right*) showing the fitting design created for Seven Sisters.



The talk ended with a couple of surprises. The first surprise was the entrance hall of **Upminster Bridge** station (the penultimate stop on the eastern end of the District line) which opened in 1934. Mark revealed that the floor was embellished with a right-handed swastika pattern, a popular decorative design of the time symbolising good luck. The design remains to this day. (*Ed: the right-handed swastika should not be confused with the left-handed swastika associated with the Nazi regime*).

The second and final surprise came from a member of the audience who was able to contribute a further example of disused underground tunnels being put to a good use today. She informed us a project was initiated in 1996 to make the disused railway tunnels near to Highgate Station into a bat hibernaculum, which has proved to be a great success.

(Images by Wikimedia Commons)

Our website continues to develop and evolve. This article identifies three new features included since I last wrote for the June Journal.

A page which I was very pleased to add is to be found at *Activities / Our own YouTube*. Only made possible of course because Chairman and Editor Ann Greene has started to bring her very compact movie taker to our fairs and other events. Ann's husband Nic does the editing, and between them they have now put together three short YouTube videos which capture our presence at these events very successfully. If you have not yet seen these videos I highly recommend them to you.

Another feature that I was pleased to be able to add to our website, this time for members only, is the adding of gravestone photographs to further support our considerable collection of Memorial Inscriptions searchable from the members area, *Members Area / Data Searches / Memorial Inscriptions Search*. From the *Search* page there is a link to the *Coverage* page, which now has two new features. It identifies which churches include Images of the memorials, and you can now select a church directly from that page. For most memorials there is just the one photograph, but for some there are quite a few more. The intention of the photographs is mainly to provide a keepsake record, and to help actually identify the memorial. They do not really provide evidence of the actual inscriptions which are often far too faint to be read from any photograph. The photographs are exactly the same as have been supplied to Find My Past. We take photographs now for each new church that we visit, and we will go back to the many churches that we already have inscriptions for, and add the photographs to them.

Another small change made in recent months is to add another page under the *Research* tab labelled *Professional Research*. We do from time to time get asked if we can suggest anyone to carry out professional research in our area. While we run our monthly Advice Sessions at Feltham, which are available to all who can visit Feltham, and while we do also have Society members willing to carry out 'best efforts' research in specific areas, as

mentioned in the *Research / Indexes* pages, we don't set out to provide professional (paid for) general research. This page is included to provide short guidance on where to look to hire a professional researcher.

Those are the most recent updates made to the website. The website can help you keep up to date with changes as they have occurred over time. Take a look at Updates under the Website tab where they are all listed. And while you are there you might wish to look at *Newslog*, also under the *Website* tab. That's where we keep a short diary of the main events in the Society's recent history.

One Man and His Dog

Pat Candler

I found a very useful piece of information on Find My Past earlier this year. I was looking up my Great Uncle **Lawrence** who lived in **Kanturk, Co. Cork**. I found him on the Irish 1911 Census and did more searches. His name also appeared on the list of Ireland Dog Licence Registers. Uncle had kept a brown and white terrier and paid his licence between 1913 and 1918. He paid one pound two shillings and sixpence, which I thought was rather expensive in 1913, for one dog. However, his address was shown and even more importantly in **Ireland**, the townland, **Upper Greenane**.



Image: Wikimedia

The Families They Left Behind Mayflower 400 Commemorations Can you help?

The FHS has forwarded a message from the Devon Family History Society. Devon FHS are hosting a Mayflower International Genealogical Conference in **Plymouth** on 29th August 2020. Plymouth was the last port of call before the **Mayflower** left England.

Who did they leave behind? Are there any descendants of the Mayflower's passengers and crew that stayed in England or Leiden and are still living there?

Devon FHS hope to publish a collection of family researches about relations of **Mayflower** passengers. Are you descended from a family who saw one of their relations sail off to a new life? Check this website to see if you have a Mayflower connection:

<https://www.mayflower400uk.org/education/mayflower-passengers-list-an-interactive-guide>

If you think you might have a connection, please contact Maureen Selley, Secretary of Devon FHS secretary@devonfhs.org.uk

Off the Cuff.....

Do you ever find yourself thinking *"Why on earth do I do this?"*

Thanks to one of **Pat Candler's** cousins, this may be the answer

She asked him: *"Why do you do family history?"*

He replied: *"I got sick of politics!"*

Given our current political situation, I think we can all relate to that!

On the 11th November, 2018, I posted a message on my Facebook page remembering those of my family who had died in the First World War. As a conscientious family historian, I had researched their military service and 20 years ago my husband and I had travelled to Northern France to lay wreaths on the graves and the memorial on which they were commemorated.

I thought that that was one part of my family history that was complete. However, for my father's eldest brother, **Leslie Tyers**, there was another chapter to follow.

On reading the names I had listed on Facebook, my son-in-law researched them on the web and discovered that in 2014, while digging a trench in order to install an eco-friendly heating system at **Beesthorpe Hall**, near **Newark, Nottinghamshire**, together with other old rubble a long, marble stone had been discovered, engraved with the words, "Leslie, fell in action in France, June 20th 1916, aged 19 years". **Andrew Greenslade**, a local military historian, researched the name and came to the conclusion that this could only be **Leslie Tyers**. He appealed on Facebook for any living relatives to get in touch, but had to wait four years before any contact was made.



To begin at the beginning: there must have been celebrations in **Hucknall Torkard Nottinghamshire**, on the 1st August, 1896 when **Leslie** was born to **Harry and Hetty (née Poxon) Tyers**, their fourth child but first son of an eventual family of eleven children, seven boys and four girls. **Harry** was a shoemaker and after working in **Lincoln** and **Sheffield**, during the summer of

1904 he settled in **Newark** and opened his own shop. **Leslie** was enrolled in the **Wesleyan School** in **Newark** in November of that year, where he remained until September 1910, when he left for work.

The family moved a couple of times during their first six years in **Newark** but they were never far from the **London Road Congregational Church**. **Harry** served as church treasurer and taught in the Sunday School, and **Leslie** joined him in the church choir, as did his younger brothers as soon as they were old enough. So Sunday was a busy day for the whole family, with two church services and attendance at Sunday School for the children, and later **Leslie** was a member of the afternoon Bible Class conducted by the Minister.

Although on his attestation papers **Leslie** described himself as a “shoemaker” (perhaps he had helped his father in his shop) when he left school he was

apprenticed as a turner with the large engineering firm of **Ransome & Marles Bearing Company**, just outside **Newark** and it must have been there that he joined the **Engineer’s Society**, a representative of which attended his memorial service.



On the 9th September 1914, just twelve days after the beginning of the War, **Leslie** enlisted in **Newark** into the **Sherwood Foresters (the Notts and Derby Regiment)**. He spent time training at **Harpenden** and **Braintree** and six months later, on 2nd Mar 1915, he landed in **France**. He went home on leave in the Spring of 1916 but his time in the trenches must have left his mark on him such that my father, then eight years old, did

not recognise the young soldier with his rifle on his back who came through the garden gate. Returning to France, he wrote to his parents saying that



Leslie's grave in France

although he had caught a cold while travelling, now he was well. He said his battalion was in the trenches but his company was in reserve taking up the rations, so it was better than being in the front line. Sadly, it was while he was “carrying dinner up the trench” on 20th June 1916, that a shell exploded, killing three soldiers, including **Leslie**, and wounding five more. Initially **Leslie** was buried close to the trenches by his comrades but later he was transferred to the **Foncquevillers Military Cemetery**.

So what was the stone discovered in 2014? It looked like an end stone to a grave, perhaps that of his parents? **Andrew** searched for the burial place of **Harry** and **Hetty**: their grave was found in **Newark Municipal Cemetery** but when

he went to look for it there was only a bare piece of grass with no memorial of any kind. After I had made contact with **Andrew** I spoke to the very helpful officers in the Environmental Services Department of Newark Town Council, who said that the grave in question held the remains of **Lancelot Tyers**, buried on the 25th July 1910, **Hetty Tyers** buried on the 5 October 1929 and **Harry Tyers**, buried on the 11th December 1944. So was this stone originally the end stone for **Lancelot's** grave? He was the third son of the family, born in 1902, who died of meningitis, aged 10. Also in the grave was a still born child of parents who seem unconnected to the **Tyers** family, placed there two days after the burial of **Hetty**. They had also found a still born child of **Hetty's**, buried in 1914, in a different grave, three years after the birth of her last surviving child when **Hetty** would have been 45 years old. It appears that it was common practice for a still born child to be buried in a ‘convenient’ grave.

I spoke to the one remaining cousin with whom I am in contact, knowing that although not living in Newark, she had regularly visited the family who lived

there during her childhood. She could not remember ever visiting the grave of our grandparents, so that was another blank.



If we had found an endstone, what had happened to the headstone? We understood that the ground in the cemetery was particularly unstable (it is not far from the River Trent) so had the headstone become unsafe and been removed? One source said that when this happened the stones were broken up and sold for hardcore, although we were assured

that this was not the present practice. Had the owners of **Beesthorpe Hall** bought too much hardcore at one time so just buried what was left over?

My sister and I visited the Cemetery and saw the bare patch (marked by the Cemetery Superintendent with a traffic cone!). The surrounding headstones marked burials in the first decade of the 20th century, so this grave must have been purchased on the death of **Lancelot**. My sister and I agreed that a new headstone should be put in place but we were told that only the owner of a grave was permitted to do this. The officers at the Town Council told me that the grave had been purchased 'in perpetuity' by my Grandfather, **Harry Tyers**. On his death in 1944 it would have passed on to his eldest child, and so on. Did my Aunt **Kate**, 16 years older than my father, even know that she owned the grave? Her eldest child had no children and the next one had twins – who was the elder? The family had scattered and as far as I knew there was no one presently living in Newark. The Council agreed that it would be very difficult to trace the present owner of the grave, and as my sister and I were granddaughters of **Harry** and **Hetty**, they would grant us permission to erect a new stone. I now own the grave!

The monumental masons we approached in **Newark**, intrigued by the tale as was everyone we spoke to on this journey, agreed to produce a new headstone, which would incorporate the stone that had been found. This has been done and in September my sister and I visited the grave, which now commemorates the lives of our grandparents, and our uncles, **Leslie** and

Lancelot Tyers. During this research we have also discovered that **Leslie's** name is recorded on the panel listing the men of **St. Mary's parish, Newark**, who fell in WW1, and in the Borough Book of Remembrance in the church; on War Memorials in **Newark Cemetery** and in **Titchfield Park, Hucknall Torkard, Leslie's** birthplace, added in 2012; also on the War Memorial of the **Ransome & Marles. Bearing Company Ltd**

We would like to thank all those who have been so helpful during this research: initially, of course, **Andrew Greenslade**, who kept the stone safely and tried to trace a member of **Leslie's** family; the officers in the **Environmental Services Department** of **Newark Town Council**; the Superintendent of the **Newark Cemetery** and the employees of the monumental masons who produced a new stone.



So keep searching, new material is appearing on the internet daily and you never know what might turn up!

Sources:

Family papers and photographs;

Admission Register, Wesleyan School, Newark;

TNA WO363; WO372/20 (www.thenationalarchives.co.uk);

Newark Times, Newark Herald;

Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919

Sherwood Foresters Roll of Honour (www.the-sherwood-foresters.co.uk)

Facebook

At our September meeting, **John Symons** talked about his recent progress using autosomal DNA in family history research, giving a lively account of how his story continues. This prompted me to look again the usefulness of DNA at my own efforts to trace my ancestors. I feel that it is worthwhile to take the tests and as John said, it is becoming cheaper. Family historians need evidence and would run a mile and jump a stile to get to it. Some people hesitate to send away samples for security or health reasons, and because this is still a new science, but it is possible to test under a pen name. The companies that do the tests are very careful and it is in their interests to keep things private, otherwise they would lose customers.

My paternal grandfather died in December 1937, five years before I was born. His death certificate showed that he died of chronic bronchitis, and that a hernia (gained in the Boer War) had suddenly strangulated. If only I had met him, I feel sure I would have made much more progress with my family history. Perhaps he would have been able to tell me about *his* grandparents. He had been a Corporal in the Royal Munster Fusiliers and had travelled and read widely. We know he liked to read Tennyson and for many years, his poetry book with a green cover, was on the bookshelf. In his little workshop, he made a simple flute from a bicycle pump to amuse his sons and people were amazed that it was quite well in tune. My father lost touch with the Irish side of the family, but I was able to find out the names of my grandfather's brothers and sisters and my great grandparents, with help from the LDS Centre, then at Hyde Park Chapel, Kensington. I'd heard that my father's eldest sister, Mary Ann, had married and stayed in **Dublin**. My mother had kept the one post card the family had received from her. I wished I could find a living Irish relative – someone who would know such a lot more! Often it seems harder to find living relatives than those who passed away a long time ago.

I posted a message on Curious Fox UK. www.curiousfox.com giving the details I knew about my aunt and hoped someone in Dublin would remember her: but I felt it was a long time ago and that there would not be many people

living who could remember. Curious Fox is often useful for enquiries after 1900, but depends very much on people's memories and willingness to help. It has the advantage of being inexpensive. After several months, I received a message from Debby, the granddaughter of my Aunt Mary Ann. She said she remembered Mary very well and gave me lots of details; the names of her ten children and their occupations; that she was "A feisty no-nonsense person, active in the community and in the Catholic Church". Mary had visited London in 1970 and stayed in **Chiswick**! I was living in **Chiswick** then and wonder if we had ever both walked along the **High Road** together or travelled on the same bus? Debby concluded "I have more cousins than I can count" but she couldn't add much to my knowledge about my paternal ancestors. We wondered if DNA could help.

I took the autosomal DNA test with Ancestry. I had been searching on Ancestry, so it seemed the best and easiest way to use their DNA test. The results came quite quickly and **Jill Williams**, who used to be a member of West Middlesex FHS, advised me to upload the file to Gedmatch as soon as possible. This was more difficult for me and I had to phone a friend, **Samantha Christie** who is much more used to electronic devices than I am, for help. Gedmatch supplied me with a Kit Number in order to compare my DNA with other researchers. I tried the various DNA Applications: the One-to-One Autosomal DNA comparison, One-to-Many DNA Comparison Result and the newer One-to-Many Beta. I needed to get used to the new terms in order to be able to discuss things with others.

There were several fairly good matches and I corresponded with these researchers, but we had no names in common. We needed to go back one or two generations further with our paperwork to make named connections. This is often the difficulty with Irish research because there are few records before about 1820 and due to widespread poverty, only occasional memorial stones survive to provide names and dates. The Catholic Church does not seem to have recorded burials – perhaps they thought that the dead are in the hands of God, so nothing more need be done here on earth. There were a lot of distant matches. It takes time to search but one improves with experience. It seemed rather like reading X-rays: at first you miss important things. There may be living Irish relatives still be in Cork and Kerry who have

not taken a DNA test, so I need to check Gedmatch regularly in case that should change.

The Ethnicity Estimate provided by Ancestry was very much what I expected: 60% Ireland and Scotland, 40% England and Wales and North West Europe. If I'd had no information about my ancestors, it would have been a good hint, and would have saved me from wasting time looking in the wrong part of the world. It was good to have confirmation; more recently, Ancestry has indicated that my father's ancestors were mostly in **South West Munster**, **North Kerry** and **North Cork**. As more people are tested, the size of the database increases, and so estimates can be more refined. Ancestry also gives a list of matches to possible cousins. For a while there were very few matches, but now I have nearly 300 2nd – 6th Cousins. There was one quite good match (291 CentiMorgans) and when I looked into this – I discovered that Debby's daughter, Scarlett, had tested. Scarlett had done a lot of Family History and sent a tree containing over 4,000 names to Ancestry. We promised to tell each other of our progress and were pleased to have confirmation of our research. It was good to see a young person with such enthusiasm.

I joined some of the Irish surname genealogy groups on Facebook, and Christina in **Massachusetts**, contacted me to say I matched with her (I was delighted to think that I may have relatives in the U.S.A) 11.7 CentiMorgans, and a genealogical distance of 5 generations. Christina is therefore a distant cousin, and although my research goes back to about 1805, my great- great-grandparents' names were not known to her. I had not heard of any of my ancestors crossing the Atlantic, but it now appears that one or more of them did, before the Irish famine of 1847 and possibly in the 18th Century. Only a month or so ago, a lady living in **Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania** told me of another match – 16.6 CentiMorgans and distance of 4 generations. Yesterday, someone else from the USA told me of another match. This researcher had tested with 28 other persons, some named and others with assumed names. There were 9.8 CentiMorgans. Many people would say this figure is not worthy of much attention, but I changed my mind when I saw instances of my maiden surname and that of my great grandmother on the list. I should like to show these results in full here, but I am not allowed to, for

reasons of confidentiality. I've noticed that women seem to get on and do the comparisons – men are more cautious. These three matches help me to estimate when and where a common ancestor may have lived. Time and place are important, so I should find out what are the chief industries in the towns where these remote cousins lived, and study the two trees. They would be descendants of my direct ancestor's siblings, I suppose. Many of my ancestors were soldiers or civilians employed doing metal work and I wonder if there was a musical or military or metalwork occupation among these others.

Autosomal DNA can only help to within about six generations. Most family historians like to work backwards over previous generations, but I am working forward again! Facebook is useful because enquiries can be made in particular localities, among people who know local surnames and customs and can interpret old handwriting. Should new records come to light, it will be easy to spread the word – and it won't be too expensive.

I wondered how I should record the DNA details and decided to simply use a small bound book, for the time-being. Patience, perseverance and effort are what I shall need. **John Symons'** idea of writing up his progress in instalments and telling the family history society is a good one - you have a record that you can refer to later. A course about DNA at the Society of Genealogists in May this year was fully booked and I was glad to talk to some members and speakers who have done advanced work. I also did a short online course run by FutureLearn, with tutors from the University of Strathclyde, and one about The Genomics Era, which was more medical, and these were very interesting. At the family history shows, there are more speakers on the subject recently. I heard **Graham Holton** lecturing at Alexandra Palace about Y-DNA testing in Scotland and it sounded as if a lot of progress had been made there, with named and anonymous testees. I think I need to continue visiting the **National Archives in Kew** and **Dublin**, to gain experience looking at DNA results and to read any new records that come to light, especially on the IGRS site. Some people think that laws in the UK and overseas will soon restrict access to DNA. I heard an experienced person say "Do your research as soon as you can, because in a few years you won't be able to move for a panoply of legal restrictions".

[Editor: John is in the habit of digging through the Sunbury records and coming up with some very interesting items. His latest offerings are below:]

Clayton-Penn Marriage

Another example of local events appearing in far-flung places!

On 26 July 1774 *The Leeds Intelligencer* reported the marriage of **James Clayton** and a Miss **Penn**. She lived at **Laleham** and was the daughter of the late **Hon. Richard Penn** one of the proprietors of the **Province of Pennsylvania**. She was reported to have a fortune of £3000. **James** had lived in **Sunbury**. (This was almost certainly the **Sunbury** in **Pennsylvania**.)

The marriage of **James Clayton** and **Hannah Penn** on 19 July 1774 was recorded in the **Laleham** parish register. The transcription from the register was accessed using the Findmypast website.

George Rowland: a soldier from Sunbury and Teddington

The *Soldiers Died in The Great War 1914-1919* database records that **George Rowland** was born in **Sunbury**, lived in **Teddington**, enlisted at **Hounslow**, served with the 6th Battalion of the Middlesex Regiment and died at sea on 30 December 1917. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission records that he is commemorated on the **Chatby Memorial** at **Alexandria** in **Egypt**. During the war the *Aragon*, a Royal Mail Line ship was requisitioned and on 30 December 1917 she was sunk by a submarine near the entrance to **Alexandria**. She was taking about 2500 troops and nurses for the campaign in **Palestine**. 600 died including some of the crew – **George Rowland** was one of those who died. He was just 18.

George was the son of **Oswald Rowland**, a house painter and his wife **Frances, nee Wanbon**. They had 4 children. **Winifred, Beatrice, Oswald** and **George**. **George's** elder brother **Oswald** served with the Royal Fusiliers and was killed in action on 17 February 1917.

Both brothers are commemorated at **Teddington** by the civic war memorial and by the memorial at the church of **Saint Peter and Saint Paul**.

MEMBERS' DISCOUNTS

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 *****

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

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

At the time of going to press, we have not received updated discount codes.

Please continue to use these and check our website if they do not work

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 discount is valid until 12 March 2020. You must register your details with them in the normal way, by going to <https://www.forces-war-records.co.uk/register/>." Then visit their [subscribe page](#), and enter our discount code***** in the discount code box.

New Members and Surname Interests

The Society welcomes all new members. The lists below shows the names of our newest members and the latest additions to our Surname Interests.

Ms A Baghiani	B346	Isleworth
Ms P A Brown	B347	Woking
Ms S Christie	C279	Feltham
Mr J Collis	C280	Osterley
Ms J Hart	H290	Whetstone, Leicestershire
Mr R Mathews	M250	Southend on Sea
Mr A Phillips	P165	London W13
Mr D Shailes	S298	Brentford
Mr T Smith	S248	Bearsted, Kent
Ms E Sparkes	S297	Uckfield, Sussex

DATA PROTECTION

We take our responsibilities on Data Protection seriously.

Please read our Privacy Policy which is displayed on our website and is also included at the beginning of this Journal.

Family History Fairs and Events

This is the “fallow” period for Family History Fairs with things not really picking up until February next year, but there are a few events out there!

For anyone with ancestors in British India or who is interested in the part played by Indian troops in WW1:

India’s Great War : Forgotten personal stories

Wolfson Theatre, New Academic Building, London School of Economics
5th December, 18.30-20.30. Tickets £10 (including glass of wine)

The LSE is easily accessible by tube (Holborn). It is also a short bus ride from Waterloo

For anyone who feels they need some help with searching the many online family history resources:

The Society of Genealogists is offering tutorials to help you. You can book a 45-minute, one-to-one advice session with one of their tutors. The tutorial itself is absolutely free (how often do you hear that?), but if you stay to research and are not a member of the SoG you will need to pay a fee to use the Library and Archives

(The Society is 5 minutes’ walk from Barbican tube station, or a bus ride from Waterloo Station)

One to One Internet Session.

Society of Genealogists, Charterhouse Buildings, London

Various dates and times. Booking is essential

Check the Society’s website or call (020) 7251 8799 (from UK); +44 20 7251 8799 (from outside UK)

Family History News

MY LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT

We all know that one of the best ways to find out about our ancestors is to look for their will. In it, we can discover what they were worth (financially), what land or possessions they owned, who their immediate family were and who got the loot! Until now, at £10 a will, it has been a pretty expensive way of getting all this information. But all that has now changed! Now you can apply online for the price of £1.50 each.

Go to the government website www.gov.uk and in the search box type **Wills**. On the righthand side, you will then see lots of option. The top one is **Search Probate Records**. Click on that and you're away!

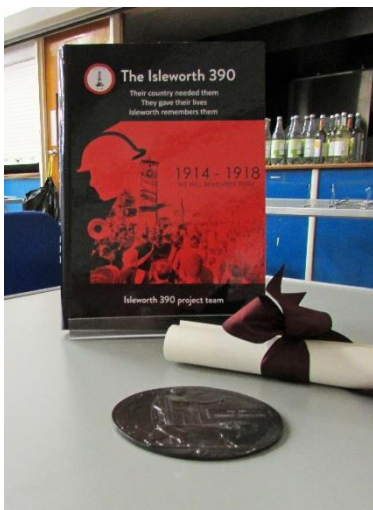
We have no reason to assume that the price will suddenly rise again, but I will definitely make the most of this option just in case!

On a sadder note:

Roy Stockdill, lecturer, professional genealogist and former journalist has passed away. He was a member of the Executive Committee of the **Federation of Family History Societies** (*now the Family History Federation*) from 2003 to 2007.

Isleworth 390 – the book

Five years ago, **Isleworth 390** was born. Its aim was to identify and research every man named on the Isleworth War Memorial. A small team of researchers took on the mammoth task – some with experience of family history and others with no experience at all. Initially, the project's aims were modest – to research the men, to set up a website containing their biographies, to engage and involve the local community and schools and to commemorate the men on Armistice days.



Above: the book with the replica scroll and 'Dead Man's Penny' which were presented to 3 local churches and 9 local schools who

Over time, other aims began to appear; a map showing the locations of where the men lived, pledges by local schools to maintain the remembrance beyond 2018 and a full-colour book. The project team's life for five years has been researching servicemen, raising funds to cover costs, persuading local businesses and organisations to support the project, hours of filling in application forms for heritage and local authority grants and even more hours arranging the Remembrance Sunday parades with all the attendant nightmares.

Isleworth 390 has achieved a staggering success rate. Only 15 men out of the 390 remain undiscovered, while errors, omissions and oddities have been discovered and amended.

The book is a permanent reminder of the men who fought and died; and the first print run was sold out within 4 days of the launch. A second limited print run is being organised; please check the website www.isleworthww1.co.uk for details or contact: Mrs Jacqueline Wills, 31 Pembridge Avenue, Twickenham, TW2 6AE

CHRISTMAS
PARTY

You are cordially invited to
an evening of Christmas jollity
with the **West Middlesex Family History Society**
Thursday 19th December 2019
St John's Community Centre, St John's road,
Isleworth.
Doors open at 7.15.

Food, Festivities and Fun

Bring your party hats and your party spirit (not the
alcoholic kind!)

LET CHRISTMAS BEGIN!

Indexes held by members

These indexes are intended as aids to research in the West Middlesex area. For Society members look-ups are free (please quote membership number), unless otherwise stated. For non-members there is a fee of £5. Please note that all enquirers must supply a SAE if a reply is required by post. If an email address is given, holders of the Index are happy to receive enquiries by email. Unless stated otherwise, cheques should be made payable to the holder of the index, not the WMFHS.

WEST MIDDLESEX FHS INDEXES

Roland Bostock, bostocr@blueyonder.co.uk

West Middlesex Monumental Inscriptions. Acton, Ashford, Cranford, Chiswick, Ealing, Feltham, Fulham (recorded 100 years ago), Hampton, Harlington, Hayes, Heston, Hillingdon, Hounslow (United Reformed), Norwood Green, Perivale, Staines, Teddington, Twickenham and Uxbridge.

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

Richard Chapman, Golden Manor, Darby Gardens, Sunbury-on-Thames, TW16 5JW
chapmanrq@btinternet.com. Cheques to West Middlesex FHS.

Marriage Index. Pre-1837 marriages in West Middlesex with partial coverage elsewhere in the county. Please supply places/dates/surname variants if known.

Mrs. Wendy Mott, 24 Addison Avenue, Hounslow, TW3 4AP. wendymott@btinternet.com

West Middlesex Strays. People from or born in our area, found in another area.

Mrs. Bridget Purr, 8 Sandleford Lane, Greenham, Thatcham, RG19 8XW
bridgetspurr@waitrose.com

West Middlesex War Memorials. Substantial name-list material, consisting of public, churches', schools' and companies' memorials, etc. for WWI, WWII and earlier wars where they exist; list not yet complete; information on any other memorials you know of would be welcome. When making an enquiry please include any information on village or town where you might expect a name to be mentioned.

PARISH RECORDS

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

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

Chiswick, 1801 Census

Ealing Parish Registers, St. Mary. Baptisms 1779-1868, marriages 1797-1857, burials 1813-1868.

Hanwell Parish Registers, St. Mary. Baptisms marriages burials, 1813-1855.

New Brentford Parish Registers, St. Lawrence. Baptisms marriages burials 1802-1837.

Old Brentford Parish Registers, St. George. Baptisms 1828-1881, marriages 1837-1881, burials 1828-1852.

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.

Mrs. Wendy Mott, 24 Addison Avenue, Hounslow, TW3 4AP. wendymott@btinternet.com

Harmondsworth Parish Registers. Baptisms marriages burials 1670-1837.

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

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

Mrs. M. Sibley, 13 Blossom Way, West Drayton, Middlesex UB7 9HF.

mavikensib@aol.com For more than 3 names, please write for an estimate of charge.

Hayes Parish Registers, St. Mary. Baptisms marriages burials 1557-1840

Hillingdon Parish Registers. Baptisms 1559-1909, marriages 1559-1910, burials 1559-1948 (churchyard) and 1867-1903 (cemetery).

Isleworth Parish Registers, All Saints. Baptisms 1566-1919, marriages 1566-1927, burials 1566-1942.

Isleworth Register of Baptisms: Brentford Union Workhouse, Mission Church, Wesleyan Methodist Church, extracts from Register of Baptisms.

Ms. Carol Sweetland, 36 Diamedes Avenue, Stanwell, Staines, TW19 7JB.

carol.sweetland@btinternet.com

Stanwell Parish Registers. Baptisms 1632-1906, marriages 1632-1926, burials 1632-1906. Also available on FreeREG. Name database 1632-1906.

MISCELLANEOUS INDEXES

Mr. A. Rice, 46 Park Way, Feltham, TW14 9DJ. secretary@feltham-history.org.uk

Feltham Index. An expanding collection of transcripts and indexes relating to the parish of Feltham. Donations welcome, payable to Feltham History Group.

Mr. Paul Barnfield, 258 Hanworth Road, Hounslow, TW3 3TY

paulbarnfield@hotmail.co.uk

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

Mr. Brian Page, 121 Shenley Avenue, Ruislip, HA4 6BU. brian729@blueyonder.co.uk

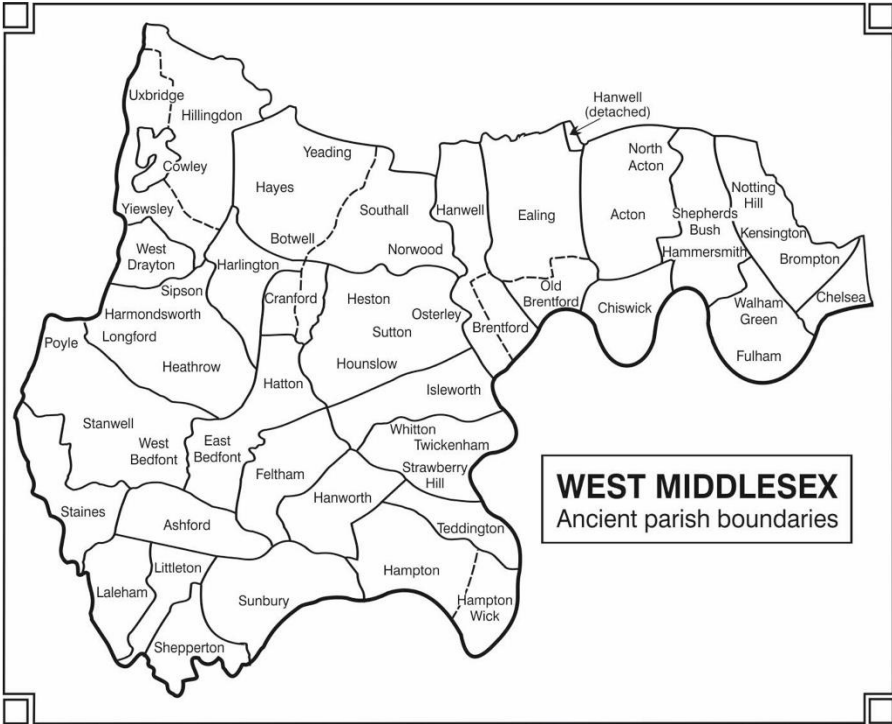
1641-2 Protestation Returns of Middlesex. This has been indexed. You will secure a printout, which includes variants. Cheques made payable to West Middlesex FHS.

Front Cover

Image: The Palm Court Entrance of Alexandra Palace.

Well out of our area, but we had two very successful days there this year at the Family Tree Live show. And we will be there again in April 2020.

Copyright: *Ann Greene*



West Middlesex Family History Society

Area of Interest

Acton, Ashford, East Bedfont, Chelsea, Chiswick, Cowley, Cranford, West Drayton, Ealing with Old Brentford, Feltham, Fulham, Hammersmith, Hampton, Hanwell with New Brentford, Hanworth, Harlington, Harmondsworth, Hayes with Norwood, Heston, Hillingdon, Hounslow, Isleworth, Kensington, Laleham, Littleton, Shepperton, Staines, Stanwell, Sunbury, Teddington, Twickenham and Uxbridge

If undelivered, please return to :

West Middlesex FHS

c/o Pat Candler, 57 The Vale, Feltham, Middlesex, TW14 0JZ

Printed by Joshua Horgan Print and Design

Unit 2, Glenmore Business Centre, Range Road, Witney, Oxon OX29 0AA

print@jhorgan.co.uk

ISSN 0142-517X