



WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY JOURNAL

VOL 39 No.2

June 2021



Hubert von Herkomer 1878
Eventide: A Scene in the Westminster Union



www.west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk



WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Joint Presidents: Rob and Bridget Purr

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Chairman	Ann Greene 39 Broughton Avenue, Richmond, Surrey TW10 7UG chairman@west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk
Secretary	Roland Bostock Flat 8, 167 Park Road, Teddington, Middlesex, TW11 0BP secretary@west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk
Treasurer	Muriel Sprott treasurer@west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk
Membership Secretary	Patricia Candler 57 The Vale, Feltham, Middlesex, TW14 0JZ membership@west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk
Programme Co-ordinator	Hilary Strudwick programme@west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk
Society Archivist	Yvonne Masson
Society Media Officer	Kirsty Gray
Acting Editor	Yvonne Masson 65 St Margaret's Grove, East Twickenham TW1 1JF editor@west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk
Webmaster	Roland Bostock webmaster@west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk
Bookstall Manager	Margaret Cunnew 25 Selkirk Road, Twickenham, Middlesex, TW2 6PS bookstall@west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk
Committee Members	Brian Page, Cheryl Ford, John Seaman
Post Holders not on the Committee	
Examiner	David Burton
Society website	west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk
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.

Published by West Middlesex Family History Society
Registered Charity No.291906

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Contents

Future Meetings	2
Annual General Meeting Agenda & Accounts	3
Contributions and Advertisements	6
Advice Sessions	7
Monthly Talks	8
The Poor Laws and West Middlesex	17
Laurence Manley, Sergeant of the Queen's Bears	26
Members' Discounts	27
Book Review	28
Genial Genealogy	29
Family History Fairs	30
New Members and Surname Interests	31
Indexes held by Members	32
Front Cover	33

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All articles and other items for the Journal should be sent to: Mrs Yvonne Masson 65 St Margarets Grove East Twickenham TW1 1JF	Exchange journals from other societies should be sent to: Mrs. Margaret Cunnew 25 Selkirk Road Twickenham TW2 6PS
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Queries concerning non-delivery or faulty copies of this Journal should be sent to:
Patricia Candler, 57 The Vale, Feltham, Middlesex, TW14 0JZ

FUTURE MEETINGS



The following talks have been arranged:

- 20 May Registers of electors for Family Historians *Eric Probert*
Who is included in registers, content and how to locate indexes in the
British Library, archives and online.
- 17 June AGM + Working on the Production of 'Who Do You Think You
Are?' *Gill Blanchard*
- 15 July The Long Paper Trail *Sue Paul*
What papers found in the attic can reveal.
- 19 August Posted in the Past *Helen Baggott*
Social history based on handwritten early 20th century postcards, one
from a 10-year-old servant, another about Kitchener's last meal.

Our meetings are normally held on the third Thursday of each month at St John's Centre, St John's Road, Isleworth. However, the Centre is currently closed until further notice due to the Covid-19 crisis, so we are currently holding our members' meetings via Zoom. This is completely free – all you need is your internet! (Reports of Zoom meetings held in February, March and April this year can be found in this issue of the journal.)

To access a meeting, click this link to our website <http://www.west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk/content/meetings.aspx> which will take you to our **Meetings** page. Halfway down the page you will see the instruction **Start Zoom**. Click on this and it will take you to the **Meeting Registration** page where you can fill in your details as requested.

Our virtual doors open at 7.30pm.

N.B. *If you're interested in attending talks by Zoom but don't trust your memory, email our Secretary secretary@west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk and you will be sure of getting an email reminder.*

Annual General Meeting



**The Annual General Meeting of the
West Middlesex Family History Society
will be held on Thursday 17th June 2021
by Zoom**

(Please see the website for details of how to join the meeting online)

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 15th October 2020 (published in our December journal)
4. Matters Arising
5. Chairman's Report
6. Treasurer's Report
7. Receiving the Financial Statement for the year ended 31st December 2020
8. Appointment of Examiner
9. Election of Committee
10. Any Other Business

Election of Committee

Roland Bostock, Patricia Candler, Margaret Cunnew, Cheryl Ford, Ann Greene, Yvonne Masson and Hilary Strudwick, having served three or more years on the Committee, offer themselves for re-election.

Muriel Sprott, having served less than three years on the Committee and being willing to continue, does not need to be re-elected.

Brian Page and John Seaman, having each served three years, have elected not to stand for re-election. The Society thanks them both for their contribution.

WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
Registered Charity Number: 291906
YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 2020
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	<u>Year to 31 December 2020</u>	<u>Year to 31 December 2019</u>
MEMBERS' SERVICES INCOME		
Subscriptions received for current year	1890	1785
Subscriptions received in advance last year	<u>1580</u>	<u>1500</u>
	3470	3285
Bank Interest	8	18
Tax refund on Gift Aid	<u>534</u>	<u>555</u>
	4012	3858
LESS: EXPENDITURE		
Journal production & delivery	2065	2145
Hire of meeting halls	297	788
Speakers	<u>200</u>	<u>495</u>
	<u>2562</u>	<u>3428</u>
	1450	430
OTHER INCOME		
Book stall sales	81	828
plus/minus Stock variation	125	-151
less Purchases	<u>-43</u>	<u>-202</u>
Donations	22	195
Isleworth baptism searches	86	40
Marriage index searches	503	526
Monumental inscription searches	349	314
Protestation returns searches	12	-10
War memorials searches	88	112
Other research income	28	39
Raffles	0	170
Refreshments	<u>25</u>	<u>30</u>
	<u>1276</u>	<u>1911</u>
	2726	2341
OVERHEAD EXPENSES		
FFHS Subscriptions	97	95
Genfair charges	10	18
Equipment repairs & maintenance, incl.website hosting	110	131
Honoraria & gifts	0	0
Library purchases	0	0
Postage, stationery & telephone	109	15
Printing of Leaflets, Posters & Flyers	0	96
Publicity, including attendance at open days	168	595
Polo shirts & hoodies - opening stock/purchases	389	660
Less: depreciated value of stock c/f	-311	-389
Sales of polo shirts & hoodies	<u>0</u>	<u>-98</u>
Net loss of value	78	173
Sundry expenses	0	104
Travel & subsistence	0	109
Depreciation & disposal of assets	<u>32</u>	<u>42</u>
	<u>-604</u>	<u>-1378</u>
Surplus for year	<u>£ 2122</u>	<u>£ 963</u>

A. Green

WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity Number: 291906

BALANCE SHEET AS AT:

	31 DECEMBER 2020			31 DECEMBER 2019		
	Cost or Value at 30/06/2020	Total Accumulated Depreciation	Value at 31/12/2020	Cost or Value at 30/06/2019	Total Accumulated Depreciation	Value at 31/12/2019
FIXED ASSETS						
Hammondsworth Manor Rolls	348	0	348	348	0	348
Lectern - Bought 2002	400	395	5	400	395	5
Amplification System - Bought 2006	235	230	5	235	229	6
Power Point Projector - Bought 2006	428	422	6	428	420	8
Viewing monitor for laptop B/t 2007	170	166	4	170	165	5
Display Stands & Table Cloths B/t 2008	1409	1379	30	1409	1369	40
LapTop Computer Bought 2011	915	861	54	915	843	72
	<u>3905</u>	<u>3453</u>	<u>452</u>	<u>3905</u>	<u>3421</u>	<u>484</u>
CURRENT ASSETS						
Stocks: Books		483			495	
Ordnance Survey Maps		220			234	
T-shirts & hoodies		311	1014		389	1118
Deposit paid for key to St John's Centre			30			30
Expenses paid in advance: 2020/2019			75			378
Cash at Bank & In Hand						
Barclays current account		625			700	
Barclays Business premium account		11963			9505	
London Capital & Finance Account		1125			1250	
Cash		52			52	
			<u>13765</u>			<u>11507</u>
Total assets			15336			13517
CURRENT LIABILITIES						
Due to St John's Centre & Oxley Hall for room hire		0			486	
Due to committee member for travel to events		0			37	
Subscriptions In Advance		1800	1800		1580	2103
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>£ 13536</u>			<u>£ 11414</u>
ACCUMULATED FUNDS						
Balance Brought Forward			11414			11701
Surplus for Year			2122			963
Provision for loss of value, LC & F investment			0			-1250
			<u>£ 13536</u>			<u>£ 11414</u>

Note - the sum invested in London Capital & Finance (LCF) is in doubt due to LCF being placed in administration.
The value of the investment has therefore been reduced by 75% in the interim, although doubts remain as to whether we will recover even this amount.

Munel Spratt
Treasurer



Ann Greene
Chairman



3 March 2021

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.

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.

We are not able to hold our usual face-to-face sessions at the moment, as social distancing makes it impossible. We hope to be able to restart them in the near future, but in the meantime we can offer advice via email.

Email the Advice Session Co-ordinator: **surgeries@west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk** to ask a question and give us an idea of what you want to achieve.

To make sure you don't miss the date when we can restart face-to-face sessions, please keep checking the Society website:

[West-middlesex-fhs.org.uk-Activities-Advice Sessions](http://West-middlesex-fhs.org.uk-Activities-Advice%20Sessions)

The following three talks were all delivered via Zoom

Growing up in Fulham**Giz Marriner****February**

Richard Harry MARRINER (1894-1976), Giz's grandfather, was born in Fulham, West London. Known to the family as "Pop", Giz remembers him as a cheerful man who loved company - her parents would be exhausted when he went home after a visit. She has a photo of herself on the beach at Seaford, Sussex, with her grandparents, but when she was seven her grandmother died and her father fetched home a box of her grandmother's memorabilia, which Giz kept, and after she married, she started researching the contents with her brother-in-law.

Pop was born 31st March 1894 at 21 Burlington Road. Giz wondered what the house was like and obtained a plan from an estate agents – extensions had been added, but it was basically a two-up, two-down with stairs up the middle; a sitting room and kitchen/living room downstairs, two bedrooms upstairs, parents in one, the children (more than eight of them – her grandfather was no.8) in the other, perhaps 4 to a bed, "topped and tailed". From Ellesmere Port Museum Giz obtained photos of typical interiors, one showing a kitchen range - the oven for heating and cooking - a stone hot water bottle, and a mincer on the table. By the early 1900s, the family had piped water and gas heating for the copper for the washing, plus a mangle; outside, a flush toilet.

Pop's father was a potter, working at Fulham Pottery – now demolished, but one bottle kiln still survives. It was founded in 1671 by John DWIGHT, a gifted man who produced salt glaze ware which was otherwise being imported from the Continent. The Pottery also produced busts and statues. After 1860 it was bought by C.I.C. BAILEY who built more kilns and produced beautiful pottery - Giz inherited some from her grandmother. Her grandfather's older brother also worked there.

Her grandfather and various of his siblings went to Munster Road School (opened 1893) in Filmer Road, he from the age of 8 to 14. The boys then took various jobs such as draper's or baker's assistant, panel beater, the girls went

into service. Richard Harry's first job was at the Electric Palace Cinema (a job which would have suited him), one of a group of cinemas which opened up around London. Giz found out it was at 474 Fulham Road – part of the King's Head pub (now the Broadway Bar and Grill); a door which led to the cinema (known as "the bung hole") is still there. The cinema (c1910-12) was very popular but short-lived. Richard then became Acting Manager at the Palladium Picture House, Brixton, and there met his future wife, who was the cashier. His "business card" was in the box. Giz got photos from the Cinema Museum, which is full of cinema equipment and information. The couple married in 1915 at St Leonard's Church, Seaford, Sussex, where the bride's mother came from. Richard "joined up" in 1915 at Lambeth Town Hall and went into the Royal Field Artillery.

On 30th June 1916 Pop arrived in Salonika, Greece. He had started training to be a communications engineer, but failed to qualify, so he went to Salonika as a Driver. Roads had already been constructed, but they had to clear swamps because of the mosquitos. Giz looked at the War Diaries at The National Archives, Kew, to trace their progress. In December they were camped in the Struma river valley. There was criticism of the Salonika Campaign, that it was not like the Western Front; they were called "The Gardeners of Salonika". But they had to face snipers and bad conditions. The accounts included descriptions of the countryside – there was the occasional hare or goose for the pot. Soldiers were given quinine against malaria, but a lot of them did go down with it, and dysentery - 6 times more died of this than from battle. There is an account by Nurse Emily LINGFIELD: during the winter, it was so cold the nurses had to wrap their hair in a towel as it would freeze to the pillow. The cold and mud rivalled the trenches in France. But in December 1916 a telegram reached Pop from his brother-in-law announcing the arrival of his son, Giz's father. The telegram was in her grandmother's box. Pop did get malaria and was shipped out to a hospital in Malta, but he contracted dysentery and was very unwell. It was decided he shouldn't go back to the Front and he was sent home, to a "recovery centre" on the south coast, arriving in Portsmouth in May 1917. Also there were "canaries" – women from the munitions factories, there to recover. Patients wore "hospital blues", dating from the Crimean War – a uniform to be worn with their regimental cap. After Portsmouth, he went to Woolwich Camp, but it was found his heart was affected, and he had to be careful what he ate. He

did not go back to the Front, and was discharged in May 1918. His two war medals, engraved with his military number, are in the box.

What did he come home to? His father had died in January 1917. His brother Joseph Thomas died in France, leaving 4 children including twins. Two days before Armistice Day, his brother Stephen died of the Spanish Flu - it tended to kill young, fit men; there were 10 million fatalities, perhaps 50 million worldwide. Stephen left three young children. Pop's wife had gone to live with one of the sisters in Wandsworth. Giz couldn't find her on the voter's list – then realised it was because she was too young, at 27, to vote, the voting age for women being at first 28. There were soup kitchens, dole queues, no jobs. In 1923 the youngest brother John emigrated (assisted passage) with his wife Lulu to Australia on the *Demosthenes*. They landed in Albany and got jobs in Perth. They were surprised at the food that was available, and the weather was warm. There were photographs in the box, but none of their letters has survived. Pop was out of work and life was not easy. They lived in Brighton for a while: Giz's ten-year-old father would fish off the pier - they had supper if he caught something. In the box: a job offer of 25th June 1925 from Provincial Cinematograph Theatres. The family returned to London and got a house in Wandsworth. Things improved and her father remembers that times were good. He went to Wandsworth Boys School – where he made the box! Pop's jobs came and went - William DOUGLAS & Sons, Putney, made equipment for the cold storage of meat. During WWII their house was bombed, but things that were broken got mended – Giz has a glass dish of her grandmother's that has repairs. They were bombed out of London. Pop retired to Seaford; Giz used to visit them there when she was small and well remembers the "Seven Sisters" – the White Cliffs of Dover. After her grandmother died in 1955 Pop moved to Eastbourne, and died in 1976.

Giz found people very helpful to her in her family history research, especially her cousin, who put her right on some of it and added to the family tree. She was able to research Pop's war record through the Service Records plus the Pension Records. For maps, she used Inkscape, a mapping website.

To start with, we should make it quite clear that our speaker Graham is not the Graham Sutherland who painted the portrait of Winston CHURCHILL which so upset Lady Churchill. “Our” Graham Sutherland is a retired police inspector and has recently retired from being a town crier. He is also a Blue Badge Tourist Guide, a writer (both fiction and non-fiction) and a speaker. His talk ranged far and wide across more than one country and several centuries and was not confined to mere headstones! It was a fascinating talk and so full of history that I have been reduced to “cherrypicking” in order not to fill the entire issue of the journal.

He began in Shifnal, Shropshire, with an image of the Holy Trinity Sanctuary doorknocker. Accused people seeking sanctuary from prosecution could use the knocker to claim safety within the church for 40 days. After that the accused had to leave but could still claim immunity from prosecution provided they carried a cross, made for the nearest port with the intention of leaving the country, and stuck to the main road. If they failed to do any of those things, they were fair game for the bounty hunters.

The seventeenth century was full of memorials both physical and virtual. In 1605, the failure of Guy FAWKES’ attempt to blow up the Houses of Parliament was marked by an Act of Thanksgiving. And our modern 5th November celebrations mark that with bonfires and fireworks.



In Gravesend there is a memorial to Pocahontas – pictured here in European dress. Famed for saving Captain John SMITH from death at the hands of her Native American tribe, she later married John ROLFE and voyaged to England. The English climate did not suit her and she became ill. She took ship to return home, but died at Gravesend, where she is buried.

An eerie tale is told of the tomb of Sir Lawrence TANFIELD in Burford, Oxfordshire. His widow is said to have haunted his tomb after her death until her spirit was captured in a bottle and dropped into a river. Also in Burford is a memorial to three Levellers, Cornet THOMPSON, Corporal

PERKINS and Private CHURCH who were executed for refusing to go and fight in Ireland. A parade is still held in their memory every year. A grim reminder of the Plague year of 1665 is found in Eyam, Derbyshire, where a rat on a weathervane recalls the village's isolation to avoid the spread of the disease.

The eighteenth century proved no less riveting. Francis PAGE, the Hanging Judge, is buried at Steeple Aston. Noted for his lack of mercy, he is said to have been responsible for hanging at least 100 people. Local legend says that the ghosts of his victims appear and pursue him round the church into a barrel. On the subject of hanging, for a while there was a gruesome penny-in-the-slot machine in Portsmouth Dockyard. It represented the execution of James AITKEN, alias John or Jack the Painter, a supporter of the American Revolution, who attempted to burn down the dockyard. He was caught and hanged and his body was kept in a local pub for a while but then disappeared.

The chalk figure of King George III on horseback overlooks the seaside town of Weymouth. George III loved Weymouth and took a house overlooking the beach, seriously cramping the style of the local smugglers. When he left, they showed their relief by carving the figure showing him leaving the town.

Moving into the nineteenth century, Graham began sedately enough with an image of one of the few remaining turnpike mile posts between Stratford and the Oxfordshire border and recounting the tale of Daniel LAMBERT, the heaviest man in Britain who died in 1809. He was 5' 11" tall and weighed 52 stone. He measured 9' 1" around the waist and 3' 1" round the calf.

The Antelope pub in Warwick memorialises the Peninsular War with a mural of the Battle of Orthez in 1814. The 6th Regiment of Foot (now the Warwickshire Regiment) fought there under the Duke of Wellington.



an exhibit in Saffron Walden Museum.

Wallace the Lion will be remembered by anyone who enjoyed Stanley Holloway's monologue *Albert and The Lion*. Wallace was actually a real lion in Wombwell's Circus. He died in 1838 and his skin, stretched over a framework of wooden struts and stuffed with sawdust became



The Irish Potato Famine was one of the blackest episodes in 19th century Irish history, and stimulated much of the Irish emigration to America. The tragedy is now commemorated by a statue in Dublin.

No talk that covers the nineteenth century would be complete without a railway tragedy. Thomas SCARFE and Joseph RUTHERFORD had been friends since boyhood and joined the Birmingham and Gloucester Railway together. On 10th November 1840, they were both killed when a defective boiler exploded on a two-engine incline.



The Hatters Arms in Atherstone, Warwickshire is an unwitting memorial. We probably all remember the Mad Hatter in *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. The phrase "mad as a hatter" is by no means an empty one. The toxic chemicals used in the trade caused early deaths and high levels of insanity.

Percy PILCHER was one of the first casualties of modern aviation. He had a passion for designing and experimenting with flying machines and was killed in a glider accident in 1899. He is buried in Brompton Cemetery but a memorial was placed near Stanford Hall, Leicestershire where the accident occurred. But Graham showed us that flying accidents do not belong solely to the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. In the early eighteenth century, a Shrewsbury steeplejack named Robert CADMAN used to perform feats of daring where he would fly down a rope from St Mary's Church across the river Severn to the Gay Meadow beyond. In 1739, the stunt failed when the rope broke and he fell to his death.

Moving into the twentieth century, there are memorials of all sorts. A stone trough was placed in Winchester in memory of the horses killed in the South African War of 1899 -1902; a memorial in Maryborough, Queensland, Australia commemorates two nurses Cecilia BAUER and Rose WILES who died

in 1905, having volunteered to nurse a family who had bizarrely contracted pneumonic plague (the Black Death).

Possibly the largest number of memorials in the twentieth century was prompted by WWI; in Little Compton, Warwickshire, St Denis church contains an unusual memorial. The church in Villers, France, was destroyed in 1918, but pieces of stained glass collected from the ruins were inserted in the chancel window of St Denis. But probably one of the best-known memorials in the world is the Menin Gate in Ypres, commemorating the WW1 soldiers who fought in the Ypres Salient and have no known grave.



Upstairs Downstairs: From Humble Beginnings to the American Dream
Jackie Depelle April

One of the (few) pleasant outcomes from the Coronavirus pandemic is that we, like so many organisations, have grown to love Zoom. Using Zoom not only means that we can welcome guests and members from anywhere, but we can also invite speakers such as Jackie who would not be able to come to Isleworth as she lives in West Yorkshire.

Joseph POWLEY was married in Blofield, Norfolk at the age of 19. His wife was Hannah WRIGHT who was 'of full age.' Joseph made his mark, but Hannah was able to sign the register. Joseph, his father and father-in-law were all labourers.

On the 1861 census Joseph was a 30-year old ag.lab., Hannah was 35 and they had 6 children including one-year-old Richard who was the subject of this talk and an ancestor of Jackie's husband. Jackie showed us a photograph of Blofield Parish Church, dedicated to St Andrew and St Peter, where Richard was baptised. It is a beautiful, flint-faced wool church, which tells us that a major occupation in the area was sheep rearing.

The 1871 census shows that Richard, aged 11, was the 6th of 11 children. Two Board Schools were built in Blofield in 1877, so Richard almost certainly had at least a basic education. By 1881, Richard had moved to Stanfield Hall, Norfolk (the location of a notorious double murder in 1848) where he was employed as a Footman. In July 1884 at the age of 24, Richard married Charlotte COOPER, aged 19.

Using an example from Gloucestershire, Jackie showed us what sort of lifestyle a Footman of the time could expect: a salary of around £40 a year; 2 suits of livery; 1 suit of private clothes; 3/6 a week beer money; laundry found. On top of this he would expect full board and accommodation.

Richard was clearly ambitious as the 1891 Census tells us that 34-year old Richard was living with his wife and their three young daughters and was employed as a Butler at Chedgrave Manor, Norfolk. However, in 1895 Charlotte died of pneumonia and influenza leaving Richard with five daughters to care for.

In 1900 Richard, aged 40, left Liverpool for Boston, USA. He was not therefore on the 1901 UK census, but his daughters were living in Ipswich with Richard's sister Sarah. In America Richard was apparently working for William MONTAGU, 9th Earl of Manchester - one of the most notorious bankrupts of his generation.

Richard had clearly returned home at some time as in 1904 he travelled from Southampton to New York on the *Kronprinz Wilhelm*. His final employer in the USA was Clarence Hungerford MACKAY, an American financier and entrepreneur who had made his money by finding silver when he had 'gone west.' Mackay's home was Harbor Hill, Roslyn, New York where he aspired to the standards set by the British aristocracy, employing over 100 servants. Richard began as an under Butler, eventually rising to Head, or First, Butler.

A photograph of Richard in his Butler's den shows that he had pictures of his children on display there. It is believed that he sent money back to England

to support his family. As Head Butler he would have received tips from guests and it is certain that these sums were also sent back home.

Richard continued to return to England from time to time as records show he sailed from Liverpool to New York in 1906 and again in 1910. However the 1911 Census shows that Richard was in a nursing home in Ipswich suffering from prostate cancer. Although treatment at the time would have been limited, in 1912 he again sailed from Liverpool to New York, this time on the *Baltic*.

Richard died in Ipswich in 1916 of prostate cancer, one of his daughters being present at his death. His will shows that Richard left £1558/12/4 - a good sum of money for the time and roughly equivalent to £140,500 today.

As a footnote to her story, Jackie told us that Ellin MACKAY, Clarence's daughter, married Irving BERLIN. She also told us that Harbor Hill has been demolished, although the gatehouse remains. Sadly, prostate cancer seems to run in her husband's family as he has also been treated for it.

Further reading:

'*The Victorian Peasant*' by Richard Heath

'*The Victorian Domestic Servant*' by Trevor May

Introduction

A major transcription effort by members of the Society going back to at least 1985 has now been completed, Phase 1 anyway, resulting in a new database being added to the existing databases that can be searched from our website.

In 2017 our former Projects Manager Richard Chapman gave to me for safekeeping a collection of typed volumes of transcribed Poor Law records from 10 of our parishes. I was not at all familiar with Poor Law records at the time, but even from a small inspection it was clear that they contained really interesting information to help one's family history. Not only did many of the records list whole families with the ages of the children, but the timeframe of the records included the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, when family research becomes very hit-and-miss. The records are also very focused on the movement of families between parishes.

The greatest shame is the comparative paucity of the records. At the end of this article I provide a breakdown of the records now digitized, and a further breakdown of Poor Law records in the archives that it is planned to include as Phase 2 of the full project. Taking both phases into account we still only have access to records from 15 out of our 36 parishes that existed in 1838.

Chelsea is by far the star performer - some 6,700 Poor Law records seem to have survived for Chelsea, whereas only a further 3,300 records can be found in total for the other 35 parishes. The 5,500 records that make up Phase 1 were loaded to our website on 6th March, and the same data was passed on to Find My Past not much later.

Since the history of the Poor Laws and the various documents that were produced is not well known, I have put together an explanatory document that can be linked to when viewing any particular record. What follows is a copy of the online document.

Short History of the Poor Laws

Since 1536 there have been a number of Poor Laws passed by Parliament, the purpose being to provide a level of protection to those who had fallen on hard times: wives whose husbands had deserted them, breadwinners suffering major illness, etc. Workhouses were built to provide shelter to the needy, and taxes levied on the better-off to pay for the running of the workhouses. Determining if an individual or family was entitled to Poor Law relief was the job of Overseers of the Poor, who were appointed by each and every parish. The concept of a person's "Settlement" was introduced to determine which parish had the responsibility to pay this relief. Hence, whenever there was any doubt as to which parish should be providing relief, there would be a formal "Settlement Examination" of the head of the family involved. These were conducted by Justices of the Peace, and would be signed by the examinee. Because the examinations were all about where the examinee was born, who their dependents were, where their parents lived, who were the fathers of illegitimate children etc., they are extremely valuable records for family history.

The main problem with Poor Law records is that there was never any legal requirement to keep particular records, nor any central filing of the records. The records were simply part of a large quantity of administrative paper being produced at parish level, and subject to the vagaries of each church choosing to retain its records or not. Hence for West Middlesex as a whole only a fraction of the original Poor Law records is available today, with most, but not all, of them now available at the London Metropolitan Archives.

The Old and New Poor Laws

Poor Laws remained part of English law up until the modern welfare state was formed after the Second World War, but it is usual to distinguish the Old Poor Law in force up to 1834, and the New Poor Law which became law in 1834. However, the records which were maintained by parishes were much the same under both systems.

From the point of view of family history research there is considerably greater value to be obtained by researching the period up to 1834 rather than from the later records, as it is generally true that family history research becomes much firmer and easier to do from 1837 onwards, when birth, marriage and death registration became mandatory, and with census records

starting in 1841, whereas before 1837 detailed family records are much harder to find.

Poor Law records is a general term and they consist of a variety of records, some much easier to use for family history than others. The following section contains a brief description of the various types of record that have been included in the West Middlesex Poor Law Records database.

Types of Poor Law Records

Settlement Examinations

These are the most informative of the Poor Law records. Settlement Examinations were carried out whenever there was any doubt as to the parish which should be providing relief to an impoverished person or family. The examinant was usually the head of household of the family to be supported, but it could be a spouse, relation, or an Overseer of the Poor who spoke for the person or family.

The examination was conducted by two Justices of the Peace, was written up by a clerk and then signed by the examinant with their signature or mark. It was usually one page long, would typically identify the examinant's status as single, married etc, give their age, and identify all dependents, including the names and ages of any children involved. Particular attention would be given to illegitimate children as where they were born becomes critical in determining their settlement status. Unfortunately for those concerned, children did not necessarily end up with the same parish of settlement as their parents. As explained in a later section, details of apprenticeships, longer periods of servitude, and property renting were all relevant to the process of establishing each individual's 'settlement'.

Removals From

Following the Settlement Examination, and usually having the same date, a Removal Order was produced if required. These are also written one page per Removal Order, but most of the text is standard, with much less detail given. Even so, all the individuals in a family are usually named, the children's ages are usually given and, importantly, the parish where a family is to be removed to will always be identified. For more distant parishes, and particularly if the removal is to another county or country, the Removal Order will state the more local parish where the family will be escorted to.

Removals To

A Removal To is the same document as a Removal From but seen from the other parish's perspective. The person/family being removed is accompanied by an Overseer of the Poor, and they will meet with an Overseer of the Poor for the receiving parish. The Removal From document is passed over with the person/family, and should then be filed with the Overseer's records of the receiving parish.

Removal Order Appeal

The receiving parish which will be responsible for providing relief to the person/family being removed to them has a right to appeal against the Order, in which event the case will be heard at a Court of Quarter Sessions. This is likely to be noted in the records of the Overseers of the Poor of the relevant parishes.

Removal Order Suspended

A Removal From may also be suspended. This happened quite often and would usually be because an individual was too sick to travel, or a woman was in an advanced state of pregnancy. Suspended Removal Orders would usually then take place a few weeks later.

Register of Removals

In a few cases we do not see Removals From and Removals To records but the parish may have kept a Register of Removals, which is effectively a shorter form containing the same information.

Settlement Certificates

While the general rule was that a person/family would reside in the workhouse of the parish supporting them, this was not always the case. In some circumstances the person/family might reside in one parish but be given poverty relief by another. When this was so the Overseers of the supporting parish would usually produce a Settlement Certificate addressed to the Overseers of the parish where the person/family lived, which clearly states that they acknowledge the settlement rights held by the person/family.

Bastardy Examination

A common cause for women to be in need of poverty relief was to become pregnant of a bastard child. In such cases part or all of the examination would be focussed on identifying the reputed father of the child (had carnal knowledge of her is the phrase usually used). The place of birth, even the place of conception, was important in such cases as it would usually determine the 'settlement parish' of the bastard child.

Bastardy Order

Following the Bastardy Examination, and once the Justices were satisfied as to the reputed father's identity, then a Bastardy Order would be drawn up which would spell out the several costs required to be paid by the reputed father, and also smaller amounts to be paid to the parish by the mother. The proper term for one of these orders was an Order of Filiation. Typical amounts to be paid by the father were £3 towards the woman's lying-in, then 5/- per week for support of the child, and a further £3 costs for raising the Order of Filiation. The woman was typically required to pay 6d per week for the maintenance of her child.

Bastardy Bond

In some cases after an Order of Filiation had been raised requiring payments by a reputed father, the parish would seek a further indemnity from the father requiring him to sign a bond of the order of £40 to £80 to support the bastard child. As the reputed father was unlikely to be able to produce a bond for such a large amount, these bonds frequently involved other parties such as the reputed father's father, in order to satisfy the parish that the required weekly payments of the Order of Filiation would be made.

Miscellaneous Order

The main files of Settlement Examinations and Removal Orders included additional records requiring this or that to be done. These have been grouped under the heading of Miscellaneous Orders.

The rules governing Settlement

The Poor Law acts define the rules by which any individual's settlement will be determined, of which the following is a brief summary.

1. When an individual can obtain settlement by more than one of their acts then it is the most recent act that determines their current place of settlement.
2. Settlement is obtained by renting a property (or mix of properties) that is valued at £10 per annum or more rent when unfurnished for 12 months or more.
3. Settlement is obtained by serving an apprenticeship with a master for 12 months or more. In such a case the apprentice lives in accommodation provided by his master.
4. Settlement is obtained by being a live-in servant to a master. It needs to be an annual contract. The term 'yearly hired servant' is frequently used.
5. A married woman, and children to the age of 6, take their settlement directly from the father of the household.
6. Only when the father of the household has no settlement (he may have been born abroad) do the above rules then determine a wife's settlement on her own account.
7. Children from the age of 7 may acquire their own settlement, which then takes priority.
8. If the father of the household has no settlement deriving from his own acts, then he will take his settlement from that of his legitimate father. If his legitimate father had no settlement, or when his birth was illegitimate, then his settlement derives from the parish where he was born.

Transcribing the records

The first transcription of West Middlesex Poor Law records was carried out by unrecorded volunteers from West Middlesex Family History Society in the period 1980 to 2000 by the volunteers visiting the relevant archives, finding the records, and transcribing the details to notebooks. The records were then typed up and presented in book form to the Society's library. Much

more recently in 2019 to 2021 those records were then transcribed again into spreadsheet form ready to be loaded to a Poor Law database enabling searches to be made through the Society website.

While transcribing the details to spreadsheets it was noted that the same individuals were turning up in more than one record. This was to be expected when a Settlement Examination was immediately followed by a Removal From order. It was also found that some individuals were repeat offenders in the sense that they kept returning to the place that they had been removed from. Where this was seen to be happening the two or more records have been marked as linked records.

The spreadsheets were then reworked to a format that could be submitted to Find My Past, ultimately providing the widest possible access to the records. All this activity has combined to deliver Phase 1 of the full project of digitising the West Middlesex Poor Law records, and was completed in March 2021, while COVID-19 restrictions prevented any further access to the archives, mainly the London Metropolitan Archives, where further relevant Poor Law records are known to exist.

Online access to the original Poor Law records

Most of the original Poor Law material at the London Metropolitan Archives has been photographed and is available from unindexed records on Ancestry. Transcription has necessarily included some difficult reading of the original material, and also necessary shortening of the rather wordy original examinations. The copy of data available from the Society website includes live links back to the source records on Ancestry where this is possible, which is for most of the data. Of course the researcher will need either an Ancestry subscription or have access by way of their library to actually see the records. For the Find My Past copy of data this was not possible.

Indexing the records

Seeing that ages are provided for many of the individuals to be indexed, and that reasonable guesses could be made for all the people mentioned in the records, it was decided to provide an estimate of the birth year for all people to be indexed. The year of death is also given for some individuals, so this was captured during indexing as well, and could help to find records when searching using Find My Past.

All family members mentioned would obviously be indexed. As for landlords, apprentice masters, servant masters and the like, they have been indexed with an estimated age only when a forename and surname is also available for them. Overall this has led to an average of 3 persons being indexed for each Poor Law record.

Coverage (Phase 1)

This document is published alongside providing online access to the Poor Law records described above as forming Phase 1 of the overall project to digitise all the available West Middlesex Poor Law records up to 1840.

The table below provides a summary of this data. Whereas 10 parishes in West Middlesex are listed in the table, the reader is reminded that West Middlesex (as at 1840) consisted of 36 parishes, so what you see is only a small percentage of the full story.

A summary of the Poor Law records included in Phase 1					
Parish	Settlement Examinations	Removal events	Bastardy events	All events	Earliest event
Chelsea, St. Luke	1260	84	2107	3451	1733
Ealing, St. Mary	186	59	52	297	1827
Feltham, St. Dunstan	5	7	13	25	1715
Fulham, All Saints	653	0	6	659	1706
Hammersmith, St. Paul	11	0	109	120	1796
New Brentford, St. Lawrence	5	1	90	96	1792
Shepperton, St. Nicholas	37	4	49	90	1714
Staines, St. Mary	322	1	269	592	1699
Stanwell, St. Mary	1	1	12	14	1752
Uxbridge, St. Margaret	11	0	244	255	1716
Total All Parishes	2491	157	2941	5589	1699

Coverage (Phase 2)

All transcribing of the Poor Law records in Phase 2 requires a visit to a county archive, which for most of the records identified is the London Metropolitan Archives (LMA). The records have not been found online despite the LMA catalogue declaring that most of these records can be found on Ancestry.

A summary of Poor Law records still to be digitised (Phase 2)				
Parish	Settlement Examinations	Removal events	All events	Earliest event
Chelsea, St. Luke	2800	500	3300	1787
Ealing, St. Mary	200	0	200	1783
Hammersmith, St. Paul	200	0	200	1824
New Brentford, St. Lawrence	13	0	13	1721
Hampton, St. Mary	100	0	100	1800
Hampton Wick, St. John	10	0	10	1824
Isleworth, All Saints	200	0	200	1779
Kensington, St. Mary Abbott	400	0	400	1699
Teddington, St. Mary	100	0	100	1800
Total All Parishes	4023	500	4523	1699

Certificates of Residence¹ issued during the latter part of the sixteenth century recorded that Lawrence Manley was liable to taxation as a member of the Royal Household. (Lawrence's name is spelt differently in different documents.)

In his will², which was proved on 29th January 1589, Lawrence Manley described himself as one of Her Majesty's yeoman ushers of her chamber and sergeant of her bears. He lived in the parish of Isleworth in the county of Middlesex and asked to be buried in the parish church 'at the going into the chancel at his seat's end'. A fair stone was to be laid upon his grave at a cost of £6.

Bequests included his silver tankard to his wife, his rapier and his sword and dagger to two named men, and some money to his maidservant Marie and to his manservant John Taylor. Later he mentioned his wife's name, Elizabeth.

On 4th April 1572 the Bishop of London issued a licence to allow Laurence Manley and Elizabeth Poste, a widow of Isleworth, to marry there, and Boyd's Marriage Index records the marriage of Lawrence Manley and Elizabeth Post at Isleworth during 1572³.

References:

- 1.TNA E 115/277/19, E 115/268/28, E 115/268/128
- 2.TNA PROB 11/73/5619
- 3.Find My Past website

Members' Discounts and Passwords

Find My Past

In May 2016 the Society signed a new contract with the Family History Federation 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.

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.

You must register your details with them in the normal way: go to their website at www.forces-war-records.co.uk/register

Then when you search their records, at some stage you will be asked to take out a monthly or annual subscription. That page includes the option of entering a discount code. Enter ***** in the space provided.

PASSWORDS

APR-JUNE *****

JUL-SEPT *****

Book Review: 'The Chester Creek Murders' by Nathan Dylan Goodwin

Those of you who are familiar with Nathan Dylan GOODWIN's fictional genealogical detective Morton Farrier, will be in for a surprise with this book. The first in a new series, the lone researcher based in Hastings is replaced by a team who work for Venator (Latin = a hunter) and are based in Salt Lake City.

The blurb says 'Venator ... is a company that uses cutting-edge investigative genetic genealogy to profile perpetrators solely from DNA evidence.' But don't worry - the references to DNA profiling are not overly intrusive and we've heard about centiMorgans both from John Symon's talk (given September 2019, writeup in journal December 2019) and Yvonne Masson's article in the Journal (December 2020).

Despite the references to DNA profiling there's still a lot of conventional research, which is where moving the focus of the story to Salt Lake City has clear benefits - members of Venator's staff can, and do, pay many visits to the LDS Family History Library a couple of blocks away from their office.

Being set in the USA, this novel uses American spellings which some readers may find irritating, but the reasoning is explained in a foreword. As we have come to expect from this author, although there is one main thread, other stories are interwoven into it leading to the usual questions: 'why are we being told this?', 'could it be...?', 'surely it's not...?'

Fans of Nathan Dylan Goodwin surely won't be disappointed. If you haven't read any of his books before, you are sure to be impressed by his depth of knowledge and the amount of research that goes into producing his novels.

Review by Muriel Sprott

Auntie Bea did the family tree
Spent every day at the TNA
Hoping for pearls, barons and earls
Didn't find any, but relatives, many
Second cousins, several dozens
Black sheep various with lifestyle nefarious
All of them part of the family plot

Auntie Sal was quite a gal
Living in sin with "Uncle" Jim
Her sister Sue sailed the ocean blue
In USA, resident, had affair with a President
Uncle Bob had a very good job
But they say he really was a snob
And that's what comes of being a swot

Bad Uncle Frank robbed a bank
His criminal capers got into the papers
(His worst crimes even made the Times)
Sweet Cousin Grace, with angelic face
Sent poison pen letters all over the place
Aunt Vi, bats, had 23 cats
For the usual conventions these cared not a jot

Bea had to admit her forebears weren't fit
To sit on a throne or even own
A castle or two - just one would do -
Or apartment block, but her lowly stock
Couldn't rise to that (not even a flat)
She thinks to herself her search for wealth
Has, like her ancestors, gone to pot.

So now that her tree is taller than Bea
She's had enough of this history stuff
She thinks her pastime should be the last time
She delves into family and genealogy
These kin she's discovered should remain uncovered
So she's telling her daughter, they really oughta
Quietly bury the whole blooming lot.

(Now you get the formula, we'd be delighted if our readers would be sufficiently inspired to add some of their own – please send to acting editor's address/email as on inside front cover)

Family History Fairs

The Genealogy Show

A virtual event, Friday 25th and Saturday 26th June 2021. 48 hours of non-stop talks, both live and then on demand for 30 days; will also feature a DNA Arena, Family History Escape Room and Wizard's (experts') tent. Many exhibitors including AGRA, IHGS, Family Tree Magazine, Association of Professional Genealogists, family history societies and commercial stalls.

RootsTech London, a large family history fair hosted by Family Search International, will be held in Autumn 2021. You can sign up on their website to receive announcements of their plans. Sessions and talks from previous RootsTech events can be accessed via their website

<https://www.rootstech.org/?lang=eng>

The Family History Federation's next Really Useful Family History Show will take place on 13th November 2021. WMFHS will be running our virtual stall (with chat).

New Members and Surname Interests

A warm welcome to our new members and rejoiners! The list below shows the names of our newest members.

Name	Membership Number
Mr Nigel Bostock	B349
Ms Clare Challis	C286
Ms Sara Collins	C287
Mr Steve Gardner	G157
Ms Samantha Gregson	G158
Ms Carolyn Retallik	R145

Surname Interests

Aldridge	All periods	Harmondsworth	MDX	A78
Aldridge	All periods	Staines	MDX	A78

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of member John Browning, who passed away in March this year. He and his wife Anne (who died in June 2012) joined the Society in October 1986. We offer our condolences to his family.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

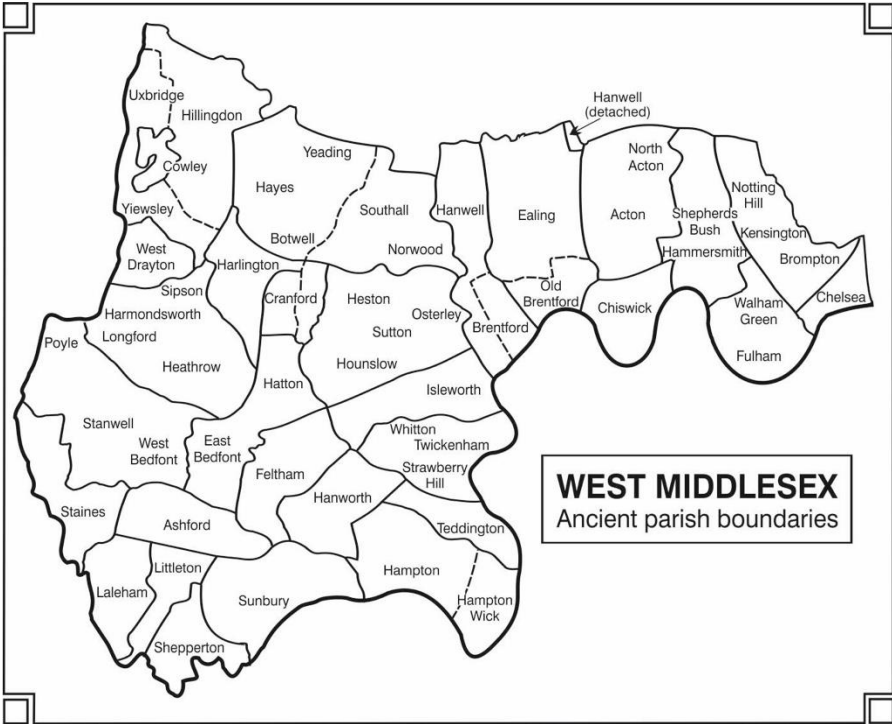
Mr. Paul Barnfield, 258 Hanworth Road, Hounslow, TW3 3TY

paulbarnfield@hotmail.co.uk

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

Front Cover

Our front cover this issue depicts a scene from the St James's Workhouse, Soho (part of the Westminster Union) as painted by Hubert von Herkomer in 1878. Some critics thought the subject too grim, others that the painting showed too pleasant a view of the workhouse! Roland Bostock's article on the history of the Poor Laws begins on page 17.



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