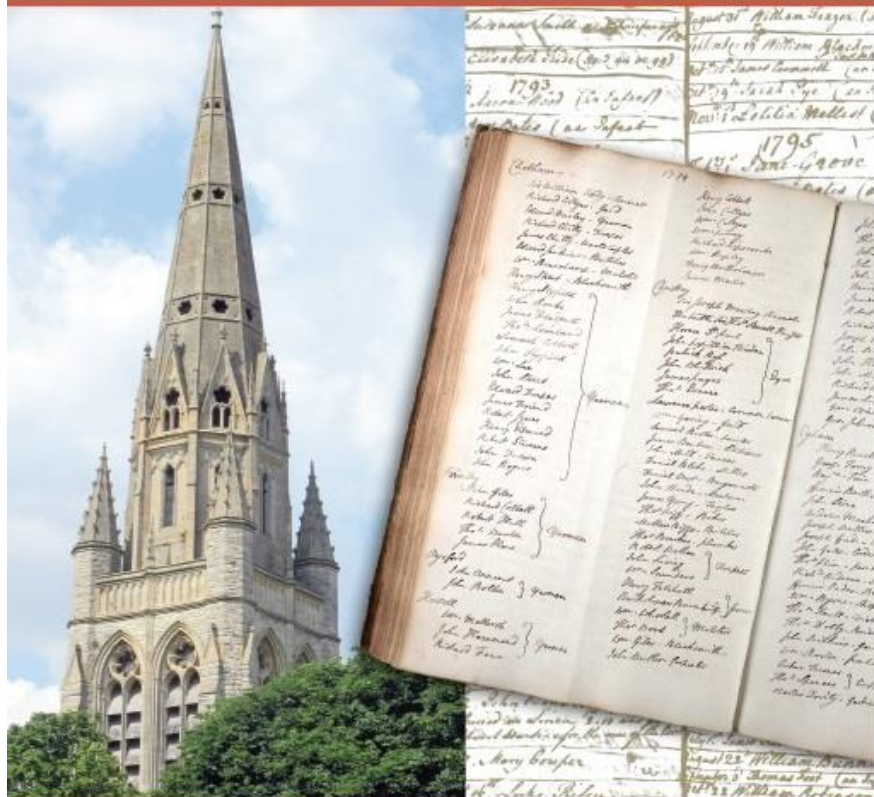




WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY JOURNAL

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WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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

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



The following talks have been arranged:

- | | | |
|--------------|---|--|
| 19 August | Posted in the Past | <i>Helen Baggott</i>
<i>Social history based on handwritten early 20th century postcards, one from a 10-year-old servant, another about Kitchener's last meal.</i> |
| 16 September | Family History from Education Records | <i>Dr Colin Chapman</i>
<i>For centuries education was provided, often free, by church, State, charities, endowments, institutions and individuals. Surviving records are invaluable.</i> |
| 21 October | The Commonwealth War Graves Commission | <i>Ian Everest</i>
<i>The origins of the Commission: an extraordinary organisation created by extraordinary people with an extraordinary vision.</i> |
| 18 November | Remember Then? Memories of 1946-49 – and how to record your own | <i>Janet Few</i>
<i>Recalling life in Britain during this pivotal period. Techniques described will help you start writing reminiscences of your own.</i> |
| 16 December | Humour in Genealogy | <i>Chris Broom</i>
<i>A light-hearted walk through a variety of genealogical records, reinforcing the value of scrutinising original documents.</i> |

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 meetings for members only via Zoom. This is completely free – all you need is your internet! (Reports of Zoom meetings held in May, June and July appear in this issue of the journal.)

To access a meeting, click this link <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 Minutes



The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the West Middlesex Family History Society, held as a Zoom virtual meeting on 17th June 2021. The meeting was attended by 28 members.

1. Welcome by the Chairman

Chairman Ann Greene welcomed everyone to the AGM.

2. Apologies for Absence

In view of this meeting being Zoom only, whereas a few members had expressly given their apologies Ann accepted a general apology for not attending from anyone who would usually have attended the AGM but was unable to attend in this instance.

3. Minutes of the AGM held on 15th October 2020

These were published in the Society's Journal of December 2020. Ann asked if anyone had concerns over the accuracy of the minutes. None were raised and the minutes were approved unanimously.

4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

5. Chairman's Report (Ann Greene)

Welcome to all of you. Once again, we are having to Zoom our AGM. It isn't a decision the Committee took lightly, as members who are not able to attend via Zoom are going to miss out for the second year running. However I would stress that they are not being left out of the democratic process – there are no extra-ordinary motions on the Agenda and we do not have to replace any of our major Committee posts. We have our fingers crossed that our March 2022 meeting will be a bi-modal meeting where we can have both physical and virtual attendance.

We moved our members' meetings to Zoom properly in July 2020 and it has been wonderful to see so many of our members on-screen and to hear their

views and ideas. Kirsty Gray, our ex-Chair, very kindly set up the meetings on her Zoom account and guided our steps through the process of hosting. Now, I am happy to say we are properly grown-up and have our own Zoom account which frees up Kirsty's Thursday evenings. Our Zoom talks have proved very successful and we have even tempted one of our members, Giz Marriner, to take the stage herself. They say everyone has a book inside them and I feel quite sure that all our members have talks inside them. We want to hear those talks!

In spite (or possibly because of) the Covid lockdown, we are continuing to attract new members.

I would like to say a big thank-you to the whole Committee for their work over the past year. Apart from the lack of physical meetings, I feel pretty safe in saying that members have probably noticed little change in the way the society operated. The Journal has appeared on time and with a range of interesting articles; the accounts have been kept meticulously (as always); advice has been offered to members via email; we have taken part in a couple of virtual Family History Fairs; the website has been maintained and enhanced by the new Noticeboard page; and our work on transcribing and photographing graveyards has continued, with the data being uploaded to FindmyPast and earning us valuable income!

Sadly both John Seaman and Brian Page have decided it is time for them to step down from the Committee, so we need to replace them. Please consider joining us! No experience is necessary. Even before Covid-19 came along we had proved that the Committee could operate efficiently using Zoom, so don't let distance put you off. You can attend meetings from the comfort of your armchair.

New Committee members are crucial. Our Society is facing a potential crisis, not financially but in terms of people willing to take on the various tasks that keep it going. In 2022 we will need to elect a new Chairman and a new Secretary as Roland Bostock and I will have completed our terms of office and are obliged to step down. Six years ago, we faced the very real possibility of having to close the Society down because we had no-one willing to take on the role of Chairman. Then, we were rescued by Kirsty Gray. Who is going to rescue us in 2022? You have almost a year to think it over and can always talk to Roland or myself about what these roles entail.

To end on an upbeat note: I am very pleased to announce that an Honorary Membership is to be bestowed on Brian Page. Muriel Sprott, our Treasurer and long-time Committee member, will now offer our vote of thanks to Brian for his years of service.

Vote of thanks to Brian Page by Muriel Sprott

Richmond u3a would describe Brian as a RUM - really useful member. Brian has been an active member of our Society for many years – he served a six-year term as treasurer; he was the sole transcriber of the Protestation Returns; he advised on loading our data onto the FHF/Find My Past database; he helps Roland & Yvonne with surveying and recording MIs; as a committee member he always seems to ask the sort of searching questions that we should all be asking. All this at a time of life when he really should be taking things a bit easy. Thank you for all your help over the years, Brian.

6. Treasurer's Report (Muriel Sprott)

Good evening, it's great to see so many of you joining us. The accounts for the year to 31st December 2020 were published in the June journal. I apologise for the fact that they are rather faint, but a PDF copy can be seen on our website. Go to the main Journals page, select 2021 journals, then follow the link to the last 4 journals, and select the latest.

I'll start by looking at the Statement of Financial Activities. We all know that 2020 was a very strange year and, probably not surprisingly, that fact is reflected in our accounts. Membership has slightly increased - thank you for sticking with us. Thanks are also due to those of you who are taxpayers and have gift-aided your subscription which has generated an extra £500 income with no corresponding expense.

Another thank you to members who have elected to receive the Journal digitally. With postage rates increasing every year, all savings are very welcome. If you would like to receive your Journal online, and haven't yet registered, please let Roland know - secretary@west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk.

Needless to say we saved a lot of money by not having to hire the rooms for our meetings. Many thanks to Kirsty who allowed us to use Zoom on her licence. We have now registered for our own licence as we plan to hold future meetings both in person and online.

It's from the Bookstall account and then the heading 'Overhead Expenses' down to the bottom of the page, that the impact of Covid can really be seen.

Open Days were cancelled, which meant minimal fees for attending virtual open days and no opportunity to sell our books.

Consequently we made an exceptional surplus of £2122. We plan to spend some of that surplus on sound and video equipment to enable us to add a Zoom link to our meetings when we resume holding meetings at St. John's Centre.

On to our Balance Sheet, about which I have very little to say. Our fixed assets and stock of hoodies have been depreciated to reflect loss of value over time. The main difference is in our Barclays Business Premium Account which shows an increase of £2458, which is broadly in line with our surplus for the year. It may seem strange that we have a Business account, but it is Barclays policy to lump charities in with business customers. As long as we continue to receive free banking, they can apply whatever description they like.

Thank you for your attention. If you have any questions, I shall do my best to answer them.

7. Receiving of the Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2020

The committee recommends that the accounts be accepted. Ann proposed the motion and Roland Bostock seconded it. It was then passed unanimously.

8. Appointment of the Examiner

Our current examiner, David Burton, has expressed his willingness to continue as examiner for the current year. There was unanimous approval to accept David as our examiner for another year.

9. 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. There was unanimous approval to accept all the above to continue to serve on the Committee.

Muriel Spratt, 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 for three or more years, have elected not to stand for re-election. The Society thanks them both for their contributions.

10. Any Other Business

There was informal discussion on family history matters, but no formal business. The AGM having run for 25 minutes, Ann thanked all for their attendance and closed the meeting.

FAMILY HISTORY NEWS

Family Search has announced that their projected Rootstech show due to take place in London this Autumn has been cancelled. They will now hold an entirely virtual and free international event over March 3-5 2022. See their website [Rootstech.org](https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech) for details. Meanwhile, presentations which took place during the Rootstech 2021 event earlier this year are still available for viewing on their website.

The 2021 Conference of the Register of Qualified Genealogists 'Genealogy & Social History: Know Your Ancestors' will be held free, online via Zoom on 25 September 2021. Main speakers will include:

Helen Johnson, Professor of Criminology at University of Hull and Heather Shore, Professor of History, Manchester Metropolitan University, speaking on research into criminal ancestors.

Melanie Backe-Hansen, a historian specialising in house histories who was involved in the recent BBC programmes 'A House Through Time'.

David Annal, speaking about his research on the impact of illegitimacy on the records our ancestors leave behind.

Plus several other short presentations.

An opportunity to share good practice and the latest ideas in genealogy. To register <https://www.qualifiedgenealogists.org/2021-conference>

Oxfordshire FHS will hold a free Family History Fair via Zoom on Saturday 2nd October 2021 with 2 sessions, 10am-12 and 2-4pm. Participating societies (including WMFHS) will have virtual 'breakout' rooms between which attendees can transfer to ask questions, take part in discussions or just listen and learn. Go to www.ofhs.org.uk for more information and to register.

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 as separate files 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 for the journal:

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 that by January of next year we will be able to restart them, 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: <http://west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk/content/advice.aspx>

Since Roland and I began work (as part of the recording of memorial inscriptions in West Middlesex) in the churchyard of St Thomas of Canterbury in Fulham, I have discovered that actor Daniel Radcliffe (Harry Potter) grew up in one of the houses overlooking the graveyard.

We'll be keeping a lookout for broomsticks....

Yvonne Masson

HELP!

I am doing some research on Hillingdon Village and have come across the following census entry:

1841 Census

Queen Head Beer Shop, Hillingdon

Richard Hemming Male Head 70 b Middlesex

Harriet Hemming Female 60 ?

Marey Hemming Female 30 b Middlesex

Harriet " 30

Eleanor " 25

Henrietta " 20

+6 servants & numerous visitors / residents

Richard Hemming was sometime resident of The Manor House in Hillingdon Village.

The above is possibly not the type of beer shop commonly found in small villages as it seems to support a number of servants as well as the family. I have looked on the 1825 enclosures map and am unable to find any trace of it online, so I am hoping a WMFHS member might have come across some reference to this dwelling - **Queen(s) Head Beer Shop** - which would help to identify its location....

April Wood Ashton

Ahashton1@icloud.com

The following three talks were all delivered via Zoom:

Registers of Electors for Family History **May** **Eric Probert**

The talk was a comprehensive review of what electoral registers exist today that can be searched, where to find them, and what to expect to see in them. As Eric stressed from the start, electoral registers, or electoral rolls, do not give any ages or relationships but they do show where a person lived year by year, their occupation, and who (age and gender being taken into account) was living in each household.

The first electoral registers were produced in 1832 and with the exception of the war periods 1916-1918 and 1940-1944 continue to this day. They are arranged by parliamentary constituency, ward and polling district. Up to 1930 they are listed in alphabetic order of surname within city, town or parish, but thereafter they are in street order.

Prior to recording the list of eligible voters there were Poll Books which gave the name of the candidate that each elector voted for, but this was discontinued in 1872 when the secret ballot was introduced.

The key dates affecting electoral rights, in particular who was entitled to vote, are as follows: In 1832 it was only males over 21 years old paying an annual rent of £10 or more in towns, or £2 or more in rural areas, who were entitled to vote. The Representation of the People Act in 1867, and another in 1884, increased male eligibility to vote. The Property Qualifications Act of 1918 extended voting further to all men over the age of 21, and single women and widows aged 30 and over, and also to married women aged 30 and over whose husband was a householder. In 1928 the vote was extended to everyone aged 21 and over, and in 1969 it was extended to everyone who was aged 18 and over.

In percentage terms this meant that the right to vote started in 1832 with just 7% of adults entitled to vote. By 1884 30% were entitled to vote. By 1918 75% of adults were entitled to vote, which became 100% in 1928.

(It was at about this point that Eric showed an advertisement for an ‘electric corset’. He could not explain what an electric corset was, but deliberately showed the slide to make sure his audience was not nodding off!)

Electoral registers can be particularly useful when tracing family history for seeing who is in a household after the available census records end in 1911, providing the full names of household members, and identifying any (eligible) family members with different surnames. You can also see whether the householder owned or rented their residence. Residences include things like moored boats.

Where do we find Electoral Registers?

The British Library has the most comprehensive collection, and its holdings can be summarised as:

- 1832-1886: not that many places
- 1886-1915: most places
- 1918-1931: modest amount of places
- 1932-6/9 & 1945/6: a few Scottish constituencies
- 1937-8 & 1947-2002: complete
- 2003 to date: complete full version

Eric gave a useful tip on finding the parliamentary constituency for any given street. First identify the postcode for the street, for which www.royalmail.com/postcode-finder is the recommended website, and then find the constituency which includes the postcode, for which www.parliament.uk/about/how is the website to use.

As to using online resources, Eric mentioned www.192.com which has the electoral registers for England, Wales and Scotland 2002-2013. For Ancestry and Find My Past the coverage is gradually increasing, and Eric recommended using Ancestry’s Card Catalogue or Find My Past’s Search All Record Sets facility with a search keyword of ‘Electoral’ to see their respective coverage. These are all ‘subscription’ websites.

Eric concluded by showing where further guides to Electoral Register research could be found on the internet, particularly a guide to researching at the British Library and another for researching at the London Metropolitan Archives. Eric has generously produced a PDF summarising his presentation,

and providing links to the guides just mentioned and also several more useful website addresses. This PDF is accessible at <https://sites.google.com/site/ericdprobert/home/family-history/talks/register-of-electors>.

The final contribution came from our Chairman Ann Greene who was able to inform Eric and the rest of us what an electric corset consisted of. It was sold in 1893 by one Cornelius Bennett Harness. There actually wasn't any electricity involved, but the corset contained a steel busk that was magnetised. Enough said.

Behind the Scenes of Who Do You Think You Are? Gill Blanchard June

This is the most successful non-fiction programme on the BBC. A popular format, it has been franchised around the English-speaking world and has generated interest in family history: it makes it look easy! Gill said she would talk about her experiences working amongst professional researchers on the programme together with some research she carried out. She has been "on screen" in two episodes, i.e. those featuring Jonnie Peacock (a paralympian) and TV cook Mary Berry. The programme is produced by a production company, and each celebrity gets a production team assigned to them. A professional genealogist is used, but outside researchers are also brought in, so although the producers are *not* genealogists, they have expert help on hand. The producers do preparatory work before they approach someone to be the subject of a programme. Why celebrities? A "name" brings in viewers. They have a list of potential subjects – people who have been in the news recently – particularly, it seems, people who have been on Strictly Come Dancing! Once signed up, they talk to the celebrities, find out what they are interested in, and if there is something in particular, they go down that route, but they try not to include research which has already been done in the family. They also try to find connections with the present day. Researchers, who will be required for a certain number of hours, are contacted and they have to sign a non-disclosure agreement. They are not told nor rarely know who the subject is until the programme goes ahead, sometimes not till it is aired. People don't realise how much work goes into it. Gill was required to research various topics around Norwich, particularly about the Second World War, maybe where a bomb fell – some of the

information being obtained from Norfolk Record Office. Researchers don't know how much of their research material will appear in the programme.

Some ancestors who are discovered get discarded along the way. A key factor is the element of surprise - the producers need to create a "story". When a piece of information is handed over to the celebrity, their reaction is genuine - they really don't know what they are going to be told: the producers want that "moment" on camera. Sometimes the people presenting the research on the programme are not the people who did it.

Jonnie Peacock: They sent Gill a "script", giving information on what had already been done and what they would do next. She filmed with him in St Ives, Huntingdonshire. It was expected to be a short filming session, but there were a lot of interruptions (for instance people kept recognising him), and there was a lot of extraneous noise. Although it was a very hot day, they weren't allowed to take anything off because of continuity. It required nine takes just to walk across a bridge. In the end Jonnie made them stop, saying "she's had enough", which Gill thought was very nice of him. She had to give Jonnie a family tree which included his ancestor Louise Voss and her illegitimate children, plus more information about her, such as a policeman giving evidence that she was fornicating in the local pub.

Sometimes the celebrities want to know more: Jonnie Peacock asked Gill about further family history work he could do. So quite a lot of them do follow up on it.

She spent half a day filming with Mary Berry, a short time on screen. While carrying out research for this programme on social history: workhouses, prisons, as well as trade records: bakers, printers, staymakers, Gill realised somebody else was doing the actual family history – that "somebody else" had been sitting in the research room when Gill was there. They soon realised they were both working on the programme. But they were not allowed to know it was about Mary Berry, although Gill worked out who it was - she was asked to research some gravestones for the name Berry! Gill was brought in as a consultant, particularly to talk about illegitimacy, and to help read some documents. The producers wanted to know: how common was it for a woman to have several illegitimate children, but not marry? The children of this woman had had money left to them although she had been poor. Gill took the team to various places, and directed them to other

places, such as a tiny museum in Norwich – a printing museum, run by retired printers, and she also told them about a workhouse museum plus a textile collection in Norwich: they did film there. In the programme some of her words were spoken and some of her research presented by other people.

But Gill got to do the “big reveal” to Mary Berry – that her ancestor was a baker – handing her a trade directory in which he was listed. Mary immediately started reading it, but the crew asked Gill to get Mary to move on, and finally they got to the relevant page. Researching where he had lived in Norwich, Gill wondered whether the local Houghton’s Yard was named after him? But it predated him so it might have been named after his father or grandfather. There had been slum clearance in the area and there were not many original buildings left. Using old maps and Ordnance Survey maps, Gill plotted distances with a tape measure and found where the old yards and courts had been. Mary Berry was taken there but not during the programme – the producers didn’t think the modern buildings were very interesting! Gill also worked on another Mary Berry ancestor – Christopher Berry; she found he was a declared bankrupt: his family were in the workhouse and his property was sold – she identified it, but again the producers were disappointed in its “modernness” and didn’t show it to Mary. Another ancestor was a Mary Berry, a staymaker who had several illegitimate children, but appeared in a trade directory. Gill was asked if she could find where “no.10 Pottergate” was. She realised it was not no.10 – this was actually the enumerator’s reference number. She found Pottergate Street was in three parishes, and although the relevant property was difficult to find, she managed to identify it by following the enumerator’s route; she was able to plot it on a map, and the woman who lived there was happy to be filmed. But it didn’t appear on the programme. So there is only so much a researcher can do. For just one episode she worked for over five months.

Question: Do the celebrities get all the information you find out?

Answer: Probably they get more than is in the programme. Jonnie Peacock said he was “looking forward to getting the book” so the celebrities are probably told more than appears on the programme.

Sue Paul is a retired projects manager who used to work in IT. An experienced amateur genealogist, she also speaks on a number of family history topics from pirates to reconstructing ancestors' lives when the usual genealogical records are missing. Sue stressed the importance of not sticking to official genealogical records when trying to trace your ancestors. Private papers and other families' archives can still shed light on our families and their lives.

Her talk centred around a collection of papers found in a manor house in Gloucestershire: in a little room under the roof of Cleeve Prior Manor House was a chest full of letters and papers, which had been sent there by Thomas Bushell in 1721 from his aunt's house in Marine Square, Wapping. It appears from the letter he wrote to his cousin explaining about the chest that he was suffering from smallpox at the time and was also trying to organise probate on the will of his aunt Frances Gardiner. We don't know if Thomas ever returned to Cleeve Prior but twenty years later, his uncle George Fettiplace died and made Thomas his heir. Thomas took his uncle's surname and moved to his estate at Swinbrook.

The papers that Thomas sent to Cleeve Prior were discovered in the early twentieth century. Nearly a century later, Sue's interest was sparked because an Internet search revealed that the papers related to a Captain Thomas Bowrey and she had recently published a one-name study on the surname Bowrey, but actually getting hold of the documents proved difficult. The owner of Cleeve Manor had insisted that the discovered papers were his property and should remain with him, but after he died in 1920 the papers then passed through a number of hands.

Sue paused in the story here to discuss the importance of family papers to the historian and some of the pitfalls. For example, did the creator of a document have the correct information on the subject being written about? We all know that both oral and written accounts can contain staggering errors, even lies. There is also the issue of copyright - physical ownership does not confer copyright! It is also important not to disturb the sequence of documents, however tempting to put them into some sort of order - by date, by correspondent, by subject under discussion, and so on - but the original owner might have classified them to a sequence of his/her own. During the process of resequencing, information may be lost as well as physical damage

occur. Clumsy attempts at preservation or stain removal can destroy old papers.

Sadly, after the death of the owner of Cleeve Prior Manor in 1920, Thomas Bowrey's papers fell victim to all the above-mentioned fates. The papers were bought by Henry Howard and since then they have been sorted, inspected and moved between various repositories at least once, and some completely lost. Richard Carnac Temple, who published some of the papers, mentions "treating" water-stained pages which have now vanished. Temple had ambitions to publish all the papers but died in 1931. The actual chest is in the Victoria and Albert Museum while the documents have been re-collected and the majority are now divided between just two archives, the London Metropolitan Archives holding the papers that relate to Bowrey's life after his return from India.

Sue expressed her gratitude to all the people and archives who allowed her to have copies of the documents so that she could study them at home in comfort.

Even trivial-seeming documents can be of enormous importance in recreating the lives of people in the past. A "List of items sent for Bath in my trunk" gives us an indication of the quality and quantity of clothes included plus accessories and jewellery for a four-week stay. While in Bath, there were expenses such as gratuities for the chair-man, a tour-guide, the pump-man. Bills for food indicate not just what people ate, but the quality and cost of it. A 100-mile coach journey for 6 passengers cost £800! Receipts for 'convex lights' remind us there was no public street lighting: individuals were responsible for lighting their own property and this cost money. Details like this can greatly enhance your family history. Private letters not only show us contemporary vocabulary, but give us an insight into how people felt about their lives. The chest contained three letters written by Thomas Bowrey to his wife Mary when she went to Bath. They show genuine affection and concern for her welfare, asking if she had everything she needed for her comfort and giving news of her dog Della. Mary's replies are in the same affectionate vein. Mention of a lacquered punchbowl tells us that the Bowreys were of the "middling sort", comfortably off. Your ancestors may be more humble in origin but could still figure in family papers of the wealthy, such as bills from butchers, tailors and the like. If your tailor ancestor supplied clothing to the middle-class or the wealthy, he had a good class of business.

Thomas Bowrey himself had a life that could have been written by a novelist. Born just after the Restoration, he experienced both the Plague - during which his father died - and the Great Fire of London. By the age of 9, he set off for the East Indies with someone who may have been a close relation or his stepfather. This man was ordered to remain in Bombay, leaving Thomas to continue his journey to Fort St. George virtually alone. He remained in India for the next nineteen years before returning home to Wapping, and although he continued to engage in the East India trade, he was obviously not a man to confine himself to one occupation. He collaborated with Daniel Defoe to boost the East India trade, a project doomed to failure when the South Sea Bubble burst. He also produced the first English-Malay dictionary and became a property developer in Lemon Street, in London's Goodmans Fields. Ironically he never owned the house he lived in. In the last years of his life, papers from the chest show that Thomas paid Dr James Sherard, an apothecary, for the following: hysteric water, quinine and elixirs for almost every ailment known.

Sue's detailed catalogue of the papers is to appear shortly, but in the meantime, with such a wealth of material and such an exciting subject, she felt she could not resist writing Thomas Bowrey's biography which she has entitled "*Jeopardy of Every Wind*", now available from Amazon both as a print book and in Kindle version. I am not giving away any secrets when I say that at least two of our members went straight out and bought copies! (see book review on page 29).

An Illegitimate Family is traced, thanks to West Middlesex FHS

Margaret Watson

West Middlesex FHS has proved to be a useful provider of family link-ups. I was recently contacted by Finola COONEY who had read my article that was published in the West Middlesex FHS magazine in September 2012 entitled "Don't believe all that you read in Census Returns!" In it, I mentioned my great aunt, Helen Macfarlane WRIGHT, who had seven children by a married man, John BARRY. She invented fictitious names for the father of her first two children on their birth certificates in 1884 and 1885 and entered herself as married in the 1891, 1901 and 1911 censuses. But there was no way that she would have been able to marry John BARRY as he was an Irish catholic and had married Mary DWYER on 29th July 1867 in Newcastle upon Tyne.

He was, in fact, a well-known Member of Parliament. His Wikipedia entry reads as follows: "**John Barry** (1845 – 27 January 1921) was born in Wexford and moved with his family to England when he was a small child.... [His father, Thomas, was a coastguard/lighthouse keeper.] He was a member of the Supreme Council of the Irish Republican Brotherhood and a founding member of the Home Rule Confederation of Great Britain. He was elected as an Irish Nationalist Member of Parliament for South Wexford in 1885, resigning in 1893... On his retirement he pursued his business interests with great success."

Indeed, he was very well thought of in Kirkcaldy, where he owned a linoleum manufacturing company. In his obituary in the Fife Free Times it said: "...In the past the community has been indebted for its prosperity and extension to the individual energy and industry of its captains of industry. Mr Barry might be classed as one of these men..."

Helen probably met John BARRY through her father, John WRIGHT, who was works manager at the firm of John Barry Ostlere & Co., where

he took out no fewer than 13 patents for improving the manufacture of linoleum.

It is ironic that Barry sided against Parnell when his leadership was challenged in 1890 due to his being cited as co-respondent in the divorce of Captain O'Shea and his wife. Barry kept Helen hidden safely away in the south of England where she had her children in secrecy and he only lived with her openly after he retired from Parliament. He was affluent enough to be able to provide her with no fewer than four servants: a nursery governess, a nurse, a cook and a house and parlour maid. This was in addition to his own large establishment in Kirkcaldy, where he employed two servants.

Finola is a great grand-daughter of Barry and his legitimate wife, Mary DWYER. She and her sister, Gerry COONEY, had always been intrigued by John Barry's will in which he left a large portion of his quite considerable estate to Helen and her five surviving children, Colin, Louis, Tom, Eveleen and Gwendolen. They had no idea who this Helen was and, interestingly, there were instructions in the will that his wife and her children were not to contest the will, or they would lose their share of the inheritance. They were therefore delighted when they discovered my article to find that someone knew all about Helen Macfarlane WRIGHT.

I had earlier been in touch with the daughter, Yvonne, of Helen's eldest son, Colin. She said that her father had always had a chip on his shoulder about being illegitimate. I was able to put Finola and Gerry in touch with her daughter in Canada, although Yvonne herself died last year aged 100. Colin had five children, Kathleen, John, Gwendolen, Patrick and Yvonne. I was also able to trace the children of Gwendolen on findmypast.com and found a son on 192.com. Finola and Gerry were thus hoping to make contact with him too and find out more about the 'hidden' family.

I was also able to help them in finding out more about their own family, descendants of Barry and his 'unwanted wife', as they

described her. They only had very scant knowledge, but were hoping to trace some closer relatives. John and Mary had four children, but their first, Thomas Ignatius, died from scarlet fever aged only six and their third, John, only survived a few months. Their daughter Mary Frances was born in 1871 and their son, another John, was born in 1876. Finola and Gerry are grandchildren of John, but knew very little about their great aunt Mary apart from the fact she had married and had three children, Molly, or Polly, Gregory and Rina. We discovered that she had married Gregory FFRENCH in 1897 in Kirkcaldy and she and Gregory were living with her brother, John, in Kirkcaldy in the 1901 census. John BARRY senior was missing although it was clearly his home as none of them gave themselves as head of the household.

Given that Molly or Polly and Rina were likely to be nicknames it was difficult to find out much more about them and I failed to find the family in the 1911 census on findmypast.com, which might have helped identify them. However, I decided to try looking in the Scottish records and finally found them in the 1911 census, still in Kirkcaldy. From this we were able to discover the true names of the children and their dates of birth. They were, Mary Frances, born 1902, Gregory, born 1904 and Erina Kathleen born 1906, all in Kirkcaldy. Sadly, Mary Frances's husband died only two years after the census, in 1913, aged only 37.

Erina's unusual name enabled us to discover that she married Sydney Bull in 1942 although she appeared not to have had any children. She died in Ireland in 1986. Gregory became a Father in the Catholic Church and died in 1983. So Mary Frances remained Finola and Gerry's last hope of any close relatives. But despite extensive searching, she, like her grand-mother, was elusive. Unlike her mother and sister, she does not appear in the 1939 Register. We found no record of a marriage or her death in any of the British or Irish records. Mary DWYER (the "unwanted wife") similarly appeared to have vanished off the face of the earth as there is no record of her in any census or elsewhere after the birth of her son John in 1876.

Although we found living family members on the illegitimate side of the Barry family and solved the puzzle of the will, it was disappointing not to be able to uncover any closer family members.

ADDENDUM

However, since this article was written, Finola has received more information on the family, from a distant relative in Ireland. It would seem that John BARRY and Mary DYWER were estranged following the death of their son, Thomas, in 1876. Mary subsequently went back to Ireland taking her baby son, John, with her. She died in Lismore, County Waterford. Their daughter, Mary Frances, was left in the care of her father, who took her when she was only 5 to a convent in Stroud, where his sister was a nun. She spent 10 years of misery there. She then transferred to the Ursuline convent near Edinburgh where she was a lot happier. She went to finishing school in Brussels and afterwards went to live with her father in Kirkcaldy. She met her husband, Gregory FFRENCH, on her visits to Wexford with her father.

The relative also indicated that Mary Frances junior had indeed married but moved to Colombia, South America. She appears to have returned to Britain though, since she died in London in 1985. Helen also moved abroad, to Portugal, where she died in 1951.

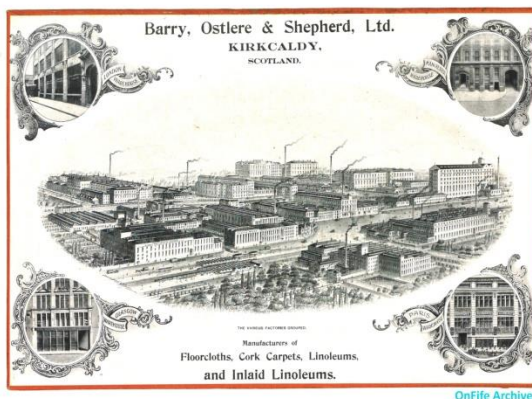
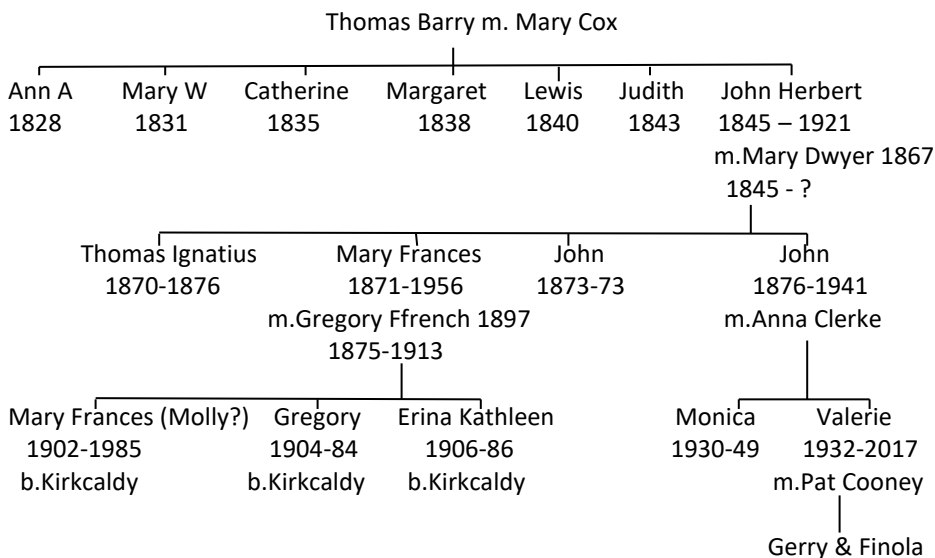
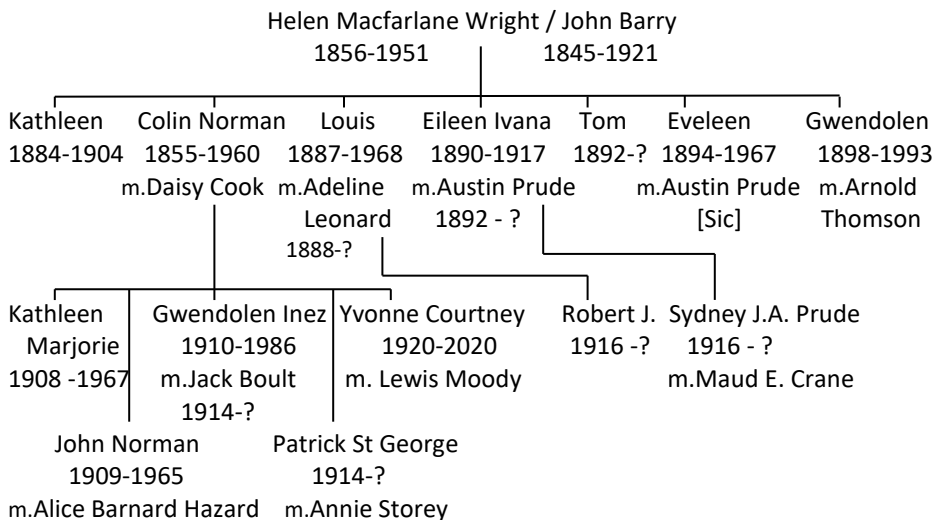


Image from: Fife Cultural Trust (Kirkcaldy Galleries) on behalf of Fife Council

Barry Family Tree



Descendants of Helen Macfarlane Wright



A friend, who is very interested in war medals but has no computer, asked me to assist in trying to find out more about a soldier who had died in the First World War. Dave was interested as he had found and purchased at a local antiques fair a WW1 Memorial Death Plaque with the name Christopher NEWBERY upon it.

Let me say straight away that I dislike the common usage of the expression “death penny” when referring to these plaques. They were sent to the family of the deceased and carried only the name. There was no regiment, rank or regimental number engraved on the plaque. This was to show that all those men, and some women, were equal in their sacrifice.

The other reason that Dave asked me to assist was that paperwork with the plaque showed that Christopher was resident in Twickenham at the time of his enlistment and I live in Twickenham.

A search of the usual commercial web sites showed that Christopher was born in Twickenham, the son of Washington George NEWBERY, who had been born in Greenwich. Washington was a builder and the 1911 census states he was a “seasonal employer”, which I assume means he employed men as and when he needed them. Christopher’s mother was a locally-born girl, who was stated to be “partially deaf”. The family were resident at 33 Heath Gardens, Twickenham. The parish registers of Holy Trinity Church, Hampton Road, Twickenham show Christopher’s baptism took place on 18th July 1897, he having been born on 31st September 1895, along with those of his brother Jack, born on 27th March 1893 and his sister, Eunice Maggie, who had been born on 16th May 1897. Obviously, following the birth of Eunice, the family decided they should catch up with the baptisms of their children and had three “done” at the same time.

As with all military people I research and I know died, I checked the Commonwealth War Graves Commission site to see what information can be found there. This is a good indicator of the family's approach to the death of a loved one under these circumstances.

Following the war and the reorganisations of graves, the families of the dead were approached by the then Imperial War Graves Committee to ask what extra information they would like to appear on the headstone. Of course, this would be limited, usually to widow or parent's name and perhaps a quotation from the bible.

However, sadly, Christopher's parents either did not respond to this request or did not want anything extra on the headstone. With Christopher his headstone shows, as usual, regimental badge, regimental number, rank, date of death and simply "C. Newbury". A search of local newspapers also makes no mention of Christopher's death on 4th April 1918; this may also have been at the instigation of his parents.

Christopher had enlisted into the London Regiment at Chelsea and was with the Machine Gun Corps when he was killed in action. He lies buried in a small war cemetery at Villers-Bretonneux, Departement de la Somme, Picardie, France, a long way from Twickenham. I wonder if his family ever visited his grave.

As Holy Trinity Church is about a 5-minute walk from my home, I decided to walk down to the church and take a look at the war memorial, which is in a small area of garden at the side of the church. I could not find his name. Again, this would have been a decision made by his family. As his parents would have had to walk past this memorial every time they attended church, perhaps they felt it would be too difficult to cope with.

Christopher was not the only member of his family to see action during the First World War. His brother, Edward NEWBERY, who had been born in 1891, having emigrated, served with the Australian Imperial Force. Edward did survive the war and died in Queensland in 1957.

Whilst Edward had only been in Australia a short time, he obviously felt the need to enlist almost as soon as war was declared as he did so on 27th August 1914, just three weeks after war was declared. One point of interest here: Australian military records are better for this period than British ones, as we know that Edward sailed from Suez on the ship *Hororata* on 27th July 1915. Edward was not in the services for long, having been wounded twice at Gallipoli, once on 29th April and secondly on 2nd May 1915. He was returned to Australia and invalided out of the army.

Edward's file shows that he was in touch with the Australian Army authorities as late as 1939 regarding his First World War medals that he had only just then applied for and received - there is a letter from Edward confirming receipt of these medals in early September 1939. Perhaps the approach of the Second World War made him think about applying for the medals he was entitled to for his service.

The file also contains letters from Edward's family from 1961, some four years after his death, asking about any war pension they might be entitled to.

Another member of this Twickenham family to emigrate to Australia was Martin NEWBERY, born in 1884, who arrived in Queensland in 1912. With him was his wife Annie, whom he had married in Wimbledon in 1906. He died in Queensland in 1952.

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 a 10% discount on Pay As You Go payments, taken out by our members. All you have to do is enter the appropriate discount code as given below:

For Subscriptions the discount code is *****

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

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 usual 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

July-Sept *****

Oct-Dec *****

In his will of 29th April 1796, proved 10th June 1796, 'Daniel Blake of Chertsey in the County of Surry [no 'e'] mealman' desired 'to be decently buried in the Church Yard of the Parish of Feltham..... in a vault belonging to me there.....'

Property left in the will included a mill, farm, land, live and dead stock and a copyhold ait of ozier ground¹.

In 1898, the spire was added to St Catherine's church in Feltham in memory of Daniel Blake².

This begs the question: why did Daniel Blake ask to be buried in Feltham and why is he remembered by the church spire?

1.TNA PROB 11/1276/98

2.James Marshall *Feltham and its Library Past and Present (2006)*, p.7

Book Review: 'Jeopardy of Every Wind' by Sue Paul

I was interested in Sue Paul's recent talk to our Society entitled "The Long Paper Trail: The Papers Discovered in an Attic" and decided to order a copy of her book. Like many members of family history societies, I enjoy biography. Most of us quickly discover, in doing our own research, that documentary evidence about ancestors is increasingly hard to find as we roll back the years, but Sue had a great deal of information to include and diligently organize – from documents, from her research in archives and the use of her imagination. She asks questions and suggests reasons why characters have taken a particular course of action.

Thomas Bowrey was a remarkable man with wide interests, and it may well be said that he was "born to the sea". His father and grandfather had been to sea and Thomas sailed away at an early age to India, where he faced dangers and had many adventures. Even his earliest years - born in Wapping in 1659 - were eventful; his father died of the plague in 1665, and Thomas was aged about seven at the time of the Great Fire of London.

On his travels, he found time to learn a foreign language and put together an important Malay-English dictionary. His maps and charts survived, too. Much of his time must have been spent writing – he achieved a great deal in his life of only 54 years. He was away from London for about 20 years and soon set up in business on his return, although he found the city much changed. On a lighter note, we read how Thomas and his wife travelled to Bath to take the waters, told with Sue Paul's usual attention to detail. Read this book and you will have a clear picture of life in the 17th and early 18th Century.

Review by Pat Candler

Copies of this book priced £9.00 (free delivery within Twickenham/Hounslow, p&p payable further afield) are available from our Bookstall Manager, Margaret Cunnew, see inside front cover of this issue for her email address or postal address.



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Greenwich Mean Time

Friday 12th November 6pm-10pm +
Saturday 13th November 10am-6pm



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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
Ms Lesley Kinch	K63
Mr David Chapin	C288
Ms Janet Saines	S302

Surname Interests (submitted by new member Nigel Bostock, B349)

Surname	Dates	Place	County
Bostock	17-18C	All Areas	DEN
Bostock	19C	Marbury	CHS
Bostock	19-20C	Stoke-on-Trent area	STS
Chillingworth	18C	Chigwell	ESS
Chillingworth	19C	Hackney	MDX
Van Aalst	1900-50	Chiswick	MDX
Bodell	19-20C	London	MDX

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.

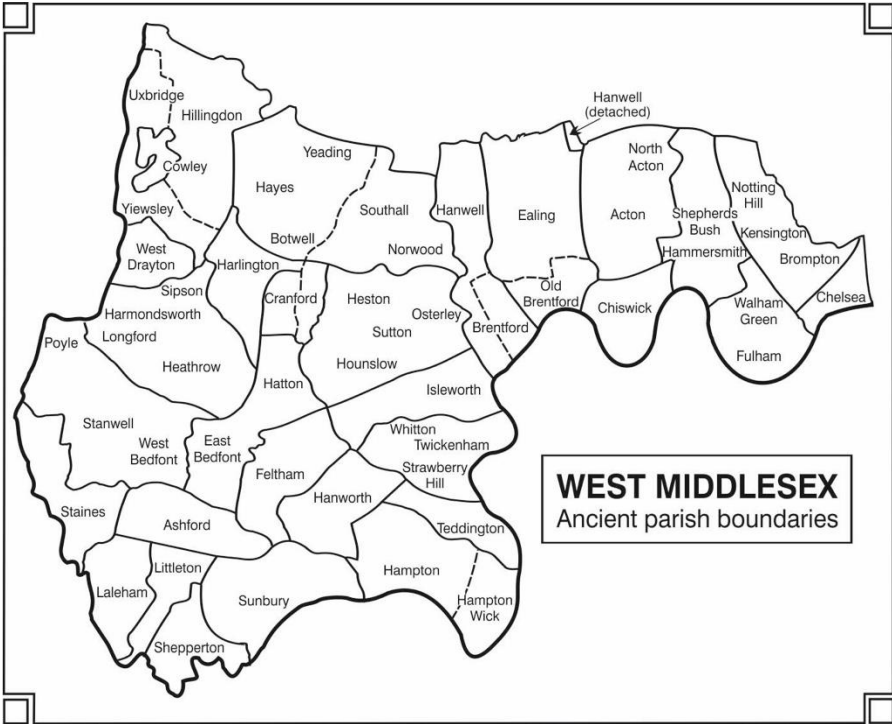
Mr. Paul Barnfield, 258 Hanworth Road, Hounslow, TW3 3TY

paulbarnfield@hotmail.co.uk

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

Front Cover

The two documents shown alongside the picture of the spire of St Catherine's Church, Feltham, relate to the article on page 28 by John Seaman about Daniel Blake. One is the page including his burial entry in the Registers of St Dunstan-with-St Catherine, held at the London Metropolitan Archives, and the other is a list of Freeholders 1696-1824 (which gives his occupation as a miller at Chertsey), held at the Surrey Record Office.



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

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