



WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY JOURNAL

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WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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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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Contents

Future Meetings	2
Annual General Meeting 2022 Notice	4
Advice Sessions	4
The Trials of Bigamy	5
WWI Military Service Appeal Tribunals	7
St Thomas of Canterbury Parish Registers Project	10
Book Review	11
The Memorial Inscriptions of St Thomas of Canterbury, Fulham	12
Family History News	16
An Unusual Source of Family History Information	17
Members Discounts	20
Passwords	20
Monthly Talks Summaries	21
New Members and Surname Interests	31
Indexes Held by Members	32
Contributions and Advertisements	33
Journal Front Cover	33

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FUTURE MEETINGS



The following talks have been arranged:

16 December Humour in Genealogy *Chris Broom*

A light-hearted walk through a variety of genealogical records, reinforcing the value of scrutinising original documents. Zoom only

20 January 2022 Help, My Ancestor has Vanished! *Simon Fowler*

Based on many years' experience of genealogical research, Simon's talk considers why people disappear from the records, and ways of overcoming these problems. St. John's Centre

17 February My Ancestor didn't leave a Will *John Hanson*

Have you seen the TV programme *Heir Hunters?* John guides us through probate records and what they can tell us. At St John's Centre, Speaker on Zoom

17 March Annie Besant and the Match Girls Strike *Jeffrey Page*

Young women and girls, the main employees in the matchmaking industry in the 19th century, worked in appalling conditions. Social activist Annie Besant played a significant part in improving their situation. At St John's Centre, Speaker on Zoom

21 April Understanding a Birth Certificate: how difficult can it be?

Antony Marr

We tend to take these documents for granted. This in-depth explanation of the rules surrounding birth registration, including tips on effective index searching, may help track down those missing ancestors. At St John's Centre, Speaker on Zoom

From 20th January 2022, we are back in St John's Centre, St John's Road, Isleworth! Map location and facilities are on the next page.

The January talk will be a non-Zoom event while we sort out the logistics of running hybrid meetings, but from February onwards, we will be combining Zoom and physical audiences. We hope that everyone who attended by Zoom during the lockdown will stay with us and bear with our failings – it has been lovely to “see” more of our members.

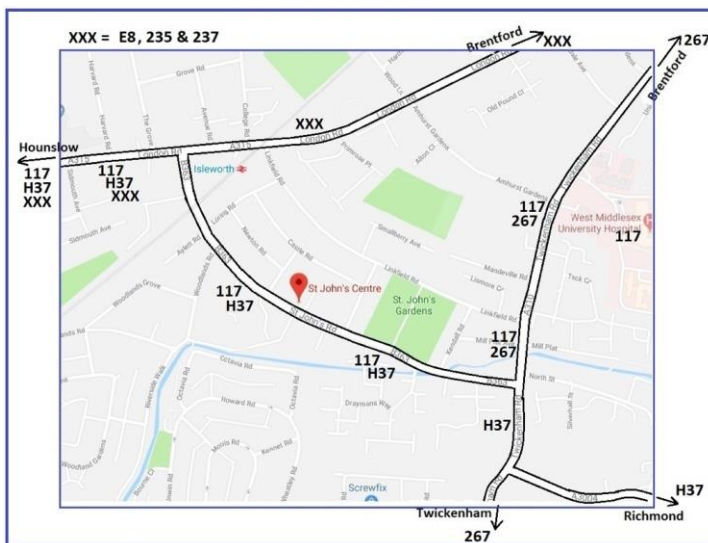
Our meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of the month. Doors open at 7.30pm. As always guests are welcome!

Please note: Zoom meetings are not only for people who can't physically travel to St Johns. If it's a cold wet night, or you've had a busy day and want to put your feet up, you can attend our talks from the comfort of your

armchair. 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.

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.

The St John's Centre, St John's Road, Isleworth, TW7 6RU, is fully accessible. It has a small carpark next to the Centre which is also close to a mainline railway station (Isleworth – South Western Railways) and is well-served by local buses.



West Middlesex Family History Society AGM



Members are advised that the Annual General Meeting of the West Middlesex Family History Society will be held on Thursday 17th March 2022 at St John's Centre, St John's Road, Isleworth. A full Agenda will be published in the March 2022 journal.

Members will be informed in good time of any change to these arrangements

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>

At the trial of poor bigamist Thomas HALL in 1845, Judge MAULE was alleged to have addressed him thus: "Prisoner at the Bar, you have been convicted before me of what the Law regards as a very grave and serious offence, that of going through the marriage ceremony a second time while your wife was still alive. You plead in mitigation of your conduct that she was given to dissipation and drunkenness, that she proved herself a curse to your household while she remained mistress of it, and that she had latterly deserted you, but I am not permitted to recognise any such plea. Another of your irrational excuses is that your wife had committed adultery, and so you thought yourself removed from treating her with any further consideration – but you were mistaken. The Law in its wisdom points out a means by which you might rid yourself from further association with a woman who had dishonoured you; but you did not think proper to adopt it.

I will tell you what the process is: you ought first to have brought an action against your wife's seducer, if you could have discovered him, that might have cost you money – and you say you are a poor working man (but that's not the fault of the Law). You would then be obliged to prove by evidence your wife's criminality in a Court of Justice, and thus obtain a verdict with damages against the defendant, who was likely to turn out a pauper. But so jealous is the Law (which you ought to be aware is the perfection of Reason) of the sanctity of the marriage tie, that in accomplishing all this you would only have fulfilled the lighter portion of your duty. You must then have gone, with your verdict in your hand, and petitioned the House of Lords for a divorce. It would have cost you perhaps five or six thousand pounds, and you don't seem to be worth as many pence. But it is the boast of the Law that it is impartial, and makes no difference between the rich and the poor. The wealthiest man in the Kingdom would have had to pay no less than that sum for the same luxury, so that you would have no

reason to complain. You would of course have to prove your case over again, and at the end of a year, or probably two, you might obtain a divorce which would enable you legally to do what you have thought proper to do without.

You have thus wilfully rejected the boon the legislature offered you, and it is my duty to pass upon you such sentence as I think your offence deserves, and that sentence is, that you be imprisoned for one day, and in as much as the present Assizes are three days old, the result is that you will be immediately discharged.”

The *Times* reported that the bigamist in question, one Thomas Hall alias ROLLINS, a poor man not possessed of a farthing, was convicted for bigamy before Judge Maule at Warwick Assizes on 1st April 1846. As Thomas Hall he had married Mary Ann NICHOLLS in Northleach, Gloucestershire in 1830. Within a year she had taken their child and deserted him; when he tried to execute a Special Warrant to get her back he was beaten up by ruffians. In 1840, as Thomas ROLLINS, he married Maria HADLEY at Hampden in Arden, Warwickshire. The *Times* also recorded the sentence. Maule did *not* give Hall just one token day in prison, as was later widely reported. Instead, Hall was sentenced to four months hard labour – for the injury done to his second “wife”, who had married him in all innocence and given birth to two children. Maule said the sentence would have been lighter had the second wife not been deceived. Maule thought Hall would have behaved better to have told her the circumstances and said “Now I’ll marry you if you would like to take the chance”.

This surprisingly robust attitude was no doubt the result of Maule’s years of experience as a judge, and his acceptance that for many people bigamy was an obvious choice within their own personal situation. One study showed that between 1805 and 1861, 2,555 bigamists were tried. What nobody knows is how many bigamous marriages went undiscovered or undisclosed to the Law. Quite a few amongst my own ancestors!

Those of us with Middlesex Ancestry have available to us a rich source of material to provide an insight into the impact of the First World War upon individual households through the records of the Middlesex Military Service Tribunal that form part of the MH47 series and are searchable on line via the National Archives website.

The Military Service Act of 1916 had placed on a statutory footing the Military Service Tribunals formed by borough, urban district and rural district councils to hear applications for exemption from military service during the First World War. Before considering the records and the information that can be gleaned from them some background as to the process is necessary.

At the declaration of war on 4th August 1914 the strength of the British Army stood at around 700,000 men made up of full time professional soldiers and reservists, all of whom were volunteers. It was immediately recognised that more men would be needed and an initial call for 100,000 volunteers was made, that number being considerably exceeded with almost half a million men volunteering in the first two months of the war urged on by patriotic sentiment whipped up by the popular press. Despite the optimism in August 1914 that it would “all be over by Christmas” the First World War dragged on into 1915, settling into the stalemate of trench warfare. Whilst in the early months of the war many men had joined for adventure, excitement and the chance to escape the monotony of daily life, by early 1915 numbers volunteering to serve began to fall as the casualty lists lengthened.

To address this the upper age limit for volunteers was raised in May 1915 from 38 to 40, but it soon became clear that further measures were needed. This task fell to Lord Derby, who as Director-General of Recruiting instituted the scheme that carries his name. The Derby Scheme was a halfway-house between voluntary enlistment and conscription - something that the Government of the day was reluctant to adopt. It was not however sufficiently successful and conscription followed with the Military Service Act in 1916. Under the Derby Scheme there were two options: enlist for immediate service or agree to serve when called. Those who chose the latter

were placed by age into one of forty-six groups, the first twenty three groups comprising single men with groups numbered twenty four to forty six being for married men up to the age of forty.

One man who enlisted under the Derby Scheme was my grandfather James RIMINTON, who at the outbreak of hostilities was in business as a newsagent, stationer and printer in Isleworth. His efforts to do the right thing and a misunderstanding on his part as to the proper meaning of the term Home Service were to ultimately cost him his business. James Riminton had presented himself at Hounslow Barracks in December 1915 and attested; medically examined he was found fit to serve but categorised as C2, meaning that he was only fit for Home Service and as a married man aged 33 he was placed in the 39th group. He was immediately transferred to the reserve and returned to his business until the time came. Those attesting in this way received an armband with the Royal Crown and had the opportunity to undertake voluntary preliminary drill, which he did, and they avoided conscription when it was finally introduced in 1916.

Attested men could, on receipt of the call to join their unit, still appeal to their local Military Service Tribunal if their circumstances had changed in the intervening period. In all there were some 2,086 local tribunals with a further 83 county tribunals formed by County Councils to hear appeals from those dissatisfied with a local tribunals decision. A Central Tribunal in Westminster heard cases referred to it by the lower tribunals and dealt with contentious cases where the decision in a particular case would set a precedent for local tribunals.

Applications could be made to tribunals by individual men as well as their employers, the usual grounds being that their work was of national importance, business commitments, domestic hardship, medical unfitness, and conscientious objection. By the end of June 1916 over 748,000 men had applied to tribunals. The appeal tribunals were remarkably fair in their consideration of applications, often granting deferrals to enable applicants, or employers, to find someone to take over the appellant's role in a business, make domestic arrangements or undergo further medical examination. Deferrals were usually between a few weeks and six months, conditional on their situation at work or home remaining the same and serious enough to warrant their retention at home.

In the period between attestation and being called to serve, things had not gone well for James Riminton's business, and he appealed to the Military Service Tribunal. His file contains correspondence in the form of letters in his own hand revealing that the wholesale price of newspapers and transport costs had risen and the cost of living had increased by 40% since the war started. Added to this, he had paid a bill in the sum of £10, sending the money through the post in cash. The money was, in his words, lost or stolen in the post and he was not in a position to forward the sum again. Legal proceedings had been commenced against him in the County Court with judgement being given against him with the debt plus costs having now increased to £17. He also sets out his family circumstances, his wife's inability to cope with the demands of a business and her child care responsibilities.

The District Manager of *The Star*, an evening newspaper, wrote a letter to the tribunal citing the fact that Mr Riminton had been their agent for many years and was responsible for the distribution and collection of their supplies in the whole district and how the position he filled demanded personal knowledge and acquaintance with a number of newspaper sellers under his control.

James had also sought to do what he regarded as the honourable and right thing and had answered an advertisement for solderers at the premises of Messenger Brothers Hounslow making airtight cases for shell fuses, despite working long hours, firstly in his own business from 5 am to 8.20 am and then at Messenger Brothers until returning to his own business from 6.30 pm until 11.00pm or later. During the time he was soldering fuse cases his wife was trying to look after the shop in addition to caring for their four children whose ages at this time ranged from 6 months to 6 years with a fifth child expected later in the year.

From reading the correspondence, his thought processes seem to have been along the lines that having been classified as fit for Home Service he WAS working at home contributing to the war effort by keeping the troops at the front supplied with munitions. His appeal had concentrated on his business and family commitments but the military representative pointed out that his presence in his own business could not be that essential if he was able to undertake other work. Unfortunately there was no evidence from Messenger Brothers as to his contribution to the War Effort, the latter also overlooked by the Military Representative.

The appeal records make fascinating reading. Typically each case file includes an appeal form, local tribunal application form and a notice of decision form which confirms the final decision of the tribunal. Many of the case files have evidence attached ranging from letters, medical certificates or statements, and religious pamphlets to business information. Appeals include one by a Burial Board in respect of a grave digger who if called to serve would, so their Clerk wrote, result in the dead remaining unburied! A pig farmer from Yeading was one of the few to engage a solicitor to help him with his appeal, arguing that his work was in the national interest.

After the war, instructions were given to destroy all tribunal material except for the Middlesex records and a similar set for Lothian and Peebles in Scotland, these to be retained as a benchmark for possible future use. A sample of records from the Central Tribunal was also retained. Despite the instruction to destroy the records some others did survive and have been found in dark corners of County Record Offices, so it is always worth a search if you are also researching areas other than Middlesex.

As for James Riminton, the tribunal rejected his appeal and he finished the war as a corporal in the Pay Corps stationed at Hounslow Barracks. Unable to find anyone to carry on his business he shut up shop and after the war the family moved to Hounslow where he ran a printing business until his death in 1936 at the age of just 54.

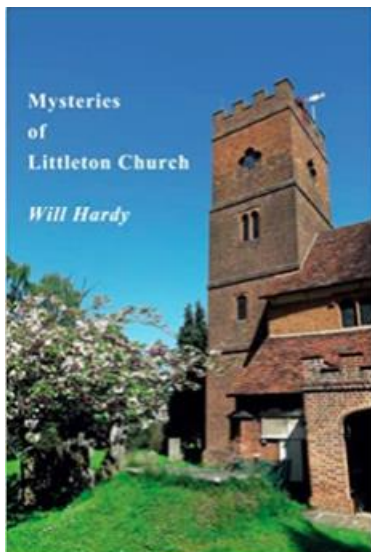
St Thomas of Canterbury, Fulham: Transcriptions of Parish Registers

From November 2021 WMFHS are starting a project to transcribe the baptisms, marriages and burials of St Thomas of Canterbury RC church, Fulham, and we are looking for volunteers to help with this project. Photographed pages can be sent to volunteer transcribers. If you are interested in helping, please contact Roland Bostock, the Programme Coordinator, via the item on the [Parish Registers Project](#) on our website, or see his contact details on the inside front cover of the journal.

Book Review

The Mysteries of Littleton Church by Will Hardy

What do six medieval saints, a director of Harrods and a Pre-Raphaelite painter have in common? The answer is Littleton Church.



For Will Hardy, a lecturer in History at the Open University, Littleton Church is not just his local place of worship, it is a place of mysteries.

How did the Florentine paintings known as the Littleton Saints come to be in the church? Was the “Millais” window really by John Everett Millais and where is it now? Why did so many of the mysteries seem to revolve around the late 19th and early 20th centuries? His journey to find the answers took him from Italy in the aftermath of the Black Death, to

England in the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries, right up to World War II and makes an enthralling story.

If you want to know the answers to the questions, you will have to read it for yourselves! It is published by Aidan Press, Shepperton and is available from Amazon. The price of £16.99 might seem a little steep but it is well-produced with interesting illustrations, and for detective-story fans, ardent Sheppertonians, or anyone with a passion for history and old churches, it would make a good Christmas present.

Reviewed by Ann Greene

The Memorial Inscriptions of St Thomas of Canterbury, Fulham

Roland Bostock

Until this year all the transcribing of memorial inscriptions (MIs) for our area had been at Church of England churches. Then at the start of the summer of 2021 my co-transcriber, Yvonne Masson, and I visited and recorded the MIs at Brentford and Isleworth Quaker Burial Ground, and we followed on from that project to transcribe the MIs at St. Thomas of Canterbury, Fulham which is a Roman Catholic church.

I had been used to recognising Roman Catholic sections in some of the churchyards of Church of England churches, because of the wording that is typical of a Catholic inscription. At St. Thomas we did of course find this typical wording used on most of the inscriptions. Here are some examples of the words often found on Roman Catholic inscriptions.

At the start of an inscription you will sometimes see the initials JMJ. Sometimes the words themselves are given. The initials stand for Jesus, Mary, Joseph. Why start the inscription in this way? Jesus, Mary, Joseph is itself shorthand for a prayer of support for the inscription which follows, such as “O merciful heart of Jesus, immaculate heart of Mary, and you, O glorious St. Joseph, reject not my prayer and petitions but graciously hear and grant them”.

Whereas an Anglican inscription very commonly starts “In loving memory of”, a Catholic inscription is much more likely to start “Of your charity pray for the repose of the soul of”. Another phrase that is very common in Catholic inscriptions is “who died fortified with the rites of holy church”. The performing of Catholic rites is an important part of Catholic burial procedure, and refers to the priest using a particular form of words at the graveside of the deceased.

There are two variations on how many inscriptions end. One is the use of the words “on whose soul sweet Jesus have mercy”. Equally common is to find the words “Jesus mercy, Mary help”. We are well used to seeing R.I.P. at the end of a memorial inscription, and it is particularly common on Catholic inscriptions. Indeed, if 4 people are named in an inscription you are quite likely to see R.I.P. given 4 times, once for each individual. Catholic inscriptions are much more likely than Anglican inscriptions to include Latin phrases. Whereas an Anglican inscription might well end “Rest in peace”, this was never found at St. Thomas, but many inscriptions did end “Requiescat in pace”.



Apart from some pieces of Latin found here and there, there were quite a few inscriptions written in foreign languages – French, Italian, German and Portuguese – but the one which would have defeated us entirely, had the church not volunteered to find a translator for us, was one written in unusual script and in Irish Gaelic. This is the Gaelic text:

“A Mhuireagus a Josef naomhtha / guided aranamnaibh /
 MAIGHREAD bean dilis do / SEAGHAN O'CEALLACHAIN a Corcaigh /
 deag la namarbh 1921 / i n'aois a 63 bliadna / agusar a n'ingean
 MAIRE / a rugadh i mbaile an bunanaigh / deag 5 Marta 1909 / i
 n'aois 21 bliadna / go ndeinidhdiatrocailleortha.”

and this is the translation as provided by the church:

“Oh Maire and Saint Joseph / pray for our souls / MARGARET
 devoted wife of / SEAN O'CALLAGHAN of Cork / died in the year
 1921 / at the age of 63 / And for her daughter MAIRE / born in the

original town / died 5th March 1909/ at the age of 21 / May God give them mercy.”

Among mostly ordinary graves there were a few which stood out and grabbed attention. The tallest grave was about 18 feet high, as shown, and it looked like reading the inscription was also going to be a challenge, for the inscription is written on two sides of the large octagonal plinth just beneath the statue of Mary at the top. Fortunately a good pair of photographs, taken in the right light, enabled the inscriptions to Thomas Charles LOUGHNAN and his wife Georgiana Lucy Agnes Ellen LOUGHNAN, to be read directly from the photographs (no ladder required).



The churchyard also included a small but nicely proportioned mausoleum to house the mortal remains of Mathilde HARWARTH and her husband Simon HARWARTH.



A further feature of this churchyard was the number of memorials commemorating nuns, as shown in the headstone pictured. The nuns mentioned here all came from a local Marist convent, and are all given their 'sisterhood' names, which bear no resemblance to their original names. 'Sr' stands for Sister and 'M' stands for Mary. Fortunately the church still holds all its burial registers, which we were invited to reference, and the registers showed the original names for each buried nun.

The church was built in 1847/1848 and the first burial took place in 1849, so none of the gravestones was particularly old, but the quality of stone must have been poor for many graves, and perhaps the proximity to central London has caused more than the usual erosion due to acid rain. In any event, of the 463 gravestones we recorded a remarkable 92 were totally illegible, and many more were very hard to



read. Another feature added to the difficulty of reading the inscriptions - many of the gravestones, whether headstones or plinth structures, had sunk many inches, requiring a great deal of spadework before the inscription could be seen, let alone be read. One example is shown. To the left is what was visible before digging. On the right you see that this was just the top of a pyramid-shaped plinth where the inscription was found. I think Yvonne, as an archaeologist, was probably more in her element here than I was.

Family History News

Family Search has announced that their projected Rootstech Show will be an entirely virtual and free international event over March 3-5 2022. See their website [Rootstech.org](https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech) for details. Presentations which took place during the Rootstech 2021 event earlier this year are still available for viewing on their website.

Those researching Catholic ancestors may not be aware that there is a Catholic Family History Society. Members receive their journal *Catholic Ancestor* three times a year, there is an annual conference in October and a programme of talks. Volunteers around the country are transcribing early Catholic Registers. Their website is <https://catholicfhs.online/index.php> Freely available on the website is their programme of talks, Members Interests and their Catholic Burials database.

A new website (thehiddenbranch.com) has been launched aimed specifically at younger family history researchers. The Hidden Branch can also be found on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. The founding members describe themselves as 'the new generation of genealogists who grew up in the digital age'. The website will have blogs, podcasts, and will soon include online resources. WMFHS members may like to bring this to the attention of younger members of the family. It might spark a life-long interest!

The 1921 Census will be available from 6th January 2022 and will be online on FindMyPast, with a charge of £2.50 per transcript, £3.50 for images (10% discount for 12-month Pro subscribers). It will be available for free at The National Archives Kew building.

An Unusual Source of Family History Information

Sarah Minney

Having gone down the route of the usual certificates, wills, census returns etc. have you ever thought of looking for your family history on eBay or similar commercial auction sites? A search for a surname of interest may turn up an item that passed out of your family years ago!

I will confess right away that, as well as being a professional researcher, I also buy and sell items on eBay, at a collector's fair and via a cabinet at a local antique centre. However, let me say straight away that I have no intention of using this article to try and sell you something. I will give you some examples that I have already sold to show what items can be found.

Apart from the obvious military medals, many of our ancestors were given medals for long service in civilian life. One of these is the Imperial Service medal instituted by King Edward VII. It was awarded to men and women who served in public service such as the post office and the qualification was 25 years-plus service upon retirement.



One such medal I sold recently was an Elizabeth II awarded to Charles Ernest LUFF, wheelwright. The medal is "named", which means his name is engraved on the rim, and using this I was able to discover that Charles Ernest Luff was born in 1904 in Portsmouth, Hampshire and worked as a Shipwright at HM Dockyard, Portsmouth.

Another civilian medal is the Police Long Service and Good Conduct medal.



The one sold recently (in its original box, see picture) was named to Sergeant David J. BREARLEY; however, I have been unable to find out anything more about David Brearley.

As a family historian and a genealogist and someone who comes from a family where there were few

personal effects such as these, I am always keen to reunite items with family wherever possible. In the summer of 2019, I was at an ephemera fair in Tolworth, Surrey. Rooting about in a pile of old papers and magazines, with a sign above stating that everything on this table was a £1 each, I found an old scrapbook, just the sort that one could have bought in the 1950's and 60's in Woolworths, but this one had been carefully filled with family photographs. Under normal circumstances I would not have bothered with it but it had the name and address of the compiler and I knew that armed with that information, family could possibly be traced. I bought it with the intention of putting it on eBay as someone might be interested.

However, being curious, when I got home I looked at all the photographs and noted that one was of the Christening of a child in the 1950's; underneath had been written the child's name and the date of the Christening. In about ten minutes flat I was able to find the child's birth registration, marriage and that her husband had put up their families' trees on Ancestry. I dropped him a message and asked if he thought his wife might be interested. I left my direct email address and waited to see what happened. Less than 24 hours later he emailed me saying that the scrapbook had been put together by his wife's grandmother and had obviously been passed on to another member of the family as his wife had never seen it. I was happy to pass the scrapbook on to them for a small fee to cover my costs plus postage. He emailed me a few days later to advise that it had arrived safely and that his wife was delighted with it.

Many people will have heard of the Freemasons and may have family members who joined this august body. However, how many will have heard of the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes? Like the Masons it is one of the largest fraternal organisations in the United Kingdom. The Order started in 1822 and is known as the *Bufs* to members. The RAOB organisation aids members, their families, dependents of former members and other charitable organisations.

Like the Masons, they also issue medals (also known as jewels) and these are often engraved with details of the recipient and a date. One I sold recently was this one:



It was awarded to an F E CLAYTON for Services Rendered in 1947 Bedford Lodge and bears a silver hallmark.

Other items on eBay include "In memorial" cards, military medals and photographs. Recently I even sold a collection of five 1930's birthday postcards sent to Edwin Brinton OGDEN. These were sold to a family whose great uncle Edwin had been. A little bit of research showed that they were probably given to Edwin around 1936/37 and that he only died in 2020. It's nice to think that he treasured those birthday cards all his life. The family members who purchased the cards did not know he had passed away. I was able to give them the name of the auction company I had bought the cards from and through them contact was made with a long-lost branch of their family.

I buy much of my stock from auction “houses”, most of which are online, although beware, if they are a distance from you, you will have to pay transport/postage charges in addition to the usual commission charges. However, you can search pretty much most of them in this country using, say, your name of interest, via commercial websites such as “Easylive” and “the Saleroom”. It is free to register but you have to pay a small fee in addition to the auctioneer’s fees, should you “win” the item.

So, if you have a minute or two, have a look on eBay or one of the above auctioneer’s sites. You will be amazed what you might find!

MEMBERS’ DISCOUNTS

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. For both Subscriptions and 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 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

OCT-DEC 2021 *****
JAN-MAR 2022 *****

The following talks were delivered to our members via Zoom:

Posted in the Past

Helen Baggott August

Posted in the Past is a project which Helen started about 20 years ago. Helen's interest in cards posted more than 100 years ago was sparked when her parents bought a batch of postcards at a car boot sale. Helen identifies the recipient of the card and attempts to trace a family tree for them. With regard to soldiers who died during WW1, Helen reminded us that not only must we remember them, but we must remember that they had a life before the war robbed them of that life.

The first example we were shown was a card sent to Pte Gilbert FREEMAN at Chelsea Barracks. Gilbert was born in 1891 in Freshford, near Bath. He died in the battle of the Somme and is commemorated on the Thiepval memorial. In his pre-war life, Gilbert had travelled to Saltash, just across the River Tamar in Cornwall, to work with his half-brother William in the family shop - they were Nurserymen and Seed Merchants. Later, William and their other brother, Charles, emigrated to the USA which is where this first card was sent from.

Gilbert is listed on the Saltash War Memorial, but also on the memorial in Chalford, Gloucestershire. Research has demonstrated that this is the same man, but no reason has been found for his entry on this second memorial.

The information Helen had discovered about Gilbert was put online and within hours Helen was contacted by Charles' granddaughter with whom she shared research. The Saltash Heritage Centre also got in touch - they had had a visit from William's descendants and Helen is still in touch with them. Helen has been fortunate enough to acquire a postcard written from William to Charles whilst the latter was serving with 5th Battalion Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry.

Helen was looking for a postcard of Dorking, Surrey, because she was writing 'The Mayflower Connection' for her latest book and wanted to follow the story of William MULLINS and his family. William was a Dorking bootmaker and an investor in the journey. However, the card she found, with various views of the town, led her to researching the WHITFORD family.

The Whitford men were, for several generations, silversmiths who must have employed staff as they were able to spend time as volunteers for Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH) for children. Samuel Whitford senior was the first secretary at GOSH, a position he held for 32 years. One of his chief roles was as a fundraiser; one of the hospital's sponsors in his time was Charles DICKENS. Samuel Whitford III was also a silversmith and hospital volunteer - in his time, too, Charles Dickens was a sponsor. This Samuel later became a gardener and emigrated to the USA from where he managed to continue his association with GOSH.

Helen has also found postcards written to patients in GOSH and by tracing them on a public database of patients has managed to create yet more family trees. Of the two postcards illustrating her talk, Helen has learnt that one of the patients recovered and went home, but the other sadly died.

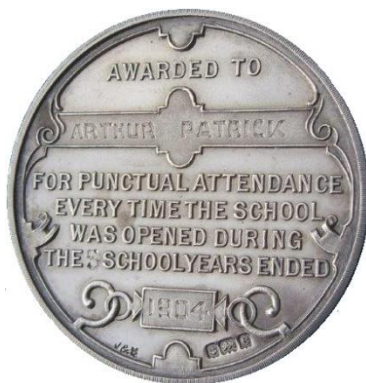
Next, Helen showed us a postcard of the Promenade at Cleethorpes sent in 1906 to a Mrs Jones in Liverpool. Amazingly, Helen had traced her back through the censuses and marriage records to 1851. In 1861, 10-year old Emily CREASE was already working as a laundress. The law said that a child was not supposed to work more than 48 hours a week, but as she was living in her employer's home this would not have been enforced. In 1887 she married Samuel JONES, a ship's carpenter. They lived in Burdett Street, Liverpool, which is near the docks and is now retained for its heritage value. Despite the fact that Emily could not have had much, if any, education, her family did benefit from education: her son worked as a clerk in the docks and her daughter was a teacher.

Helen finished by talking briefly about a postcard of KITCHENER, sent by a ship's cook to his sister. The ship was on a diplomatic mission to Russia, but was sunk with all lives lost, including Lord Kitchener.

Family History from Education Records *Colin Chapman* September

Dr Chapman divided the providers of education into three broad categories: schools, tertiary institutions and 'specialist' bodies. The kinds of records produced by these institutions are very varied, and include, for example, advertisements, prospectuses, admission registers, lists of attendances, log books, punishment books, class lists, year books, photographs, handbooks, magazines, management minutes, alumni registers and histories.

Dr Chapman provided further detail on each type of record and showed many examples. He mentioned that attendance lists were often used as the basis for payment of the teachers, and hence were usually both accurate and complete. Good attendance by students was often recognised by giving the student a certificate, a number of certificates leading to a medal of attendance. This was common practice from the late 19th century through to the 1930s.



Dr Chapman continued with some examples of medieval documents relating to education, for example a document of entitlements for Gloucester Almonry School. Here the master was entitled to £6 per year, two loads of fuel per year, a two course dinner each day, a loaf and 8 pints of beer per day. For that he had to play the organ and teach 13 boys grammar and 6 boys singing. One wonders how he managed to do the teaching with all that beer available.

Moving on to the reign of Henry VIII, which included the dissolution of the monasteries c1536, Dr Chapman emphasized that this was a good

period for the financing of schools. Many schools were endowed or re-endowed with funds which derived from the monasteries. The financing of schools continued under the reign of Edward VI, and was also supported by wealthy merchants of the time.

From 1698, the year when the Society for the Promotion of Christian Knowledge (SPCK) was set up, a large number of charity schools were also financed. They provided their pupils with uniforms, usually of a distinctive colour: there were Blue Coats, Green Coats, Yellow Coats, Grey Coats, and more beside. The distinctive coloured uniforms meant it was much harder for pupils to abscond from school.

Education in the 19th century was advanced by the setting up of what was called the Monitorial System. There was the 'British Schools' system set up in 1808 by Joseph LANCASTER, a Quaker, and the 'National Schools' system set up in 1811 by the Revd. Andrew BELL (Church of England). Both these systems adopted the principle of teaching pupil teachers (or monitors) first, who would then go on and teach classes. The British Schools were mainly attended by non-conformists, whereas the National Schools tended to be supported by Anglicans.

Tertiary institutions include Oxford University with records dating back to 1096, and Cambridge University with records dating back to 1209. Alumni records for tertiary institutions have been published, many online. Law was not taught at either Oxford or Cambridge in early times, and in the 1400s the four Inns of Court were established principally for this purpose. They were Lincoln's Inn, Grays's Inn, the Middle Temple and the Inner Temple. Ten Inns of Chancery were also set up about the same time, namely Clement's Inn, Thavies Inn, Lyons Inn, Barnard's Inn, Clifford's Inn, Serjeant's Inn, Furnival's Inn, Staple Inn, New Inn, and Strand Inn. It was required that a student be educated at an Inn of Chancery before proceeding to one of the Inns of Court. Whereas the Inns of Court are still active today, all ten Inns of Chancery have long since ceased to exist.

Universities expanded in the 19th century when St. David's College, Lampeter was set up in 1822, University College London in 1826, King's College London in 1829, the University of Durham in 1832, and the University of London in 1836.

Grouped as specialist bodies Dr Chapman listed military schools, Sunday schools, deaf, dumb and blind schools, workhouse schools, industrial schools, denominational schools and reformatories.

A final footnote. If you thought the name Dr Colin Chapman might be familiar to you, well, his county abbreviations certainly will be. This Colin Chapman is indeed the author of the universally-used English county name abbreviations that we call the Chapman Codes.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Ian Everest October

At the start of his talk Ian stated that he does not work for the CWGC and was not representing them, but he has a huge respect for their work, and anyone visiting any of their cemeteries would probably feel the same way.

Ian's grandfather was a regular soldier – a sergeant in the Middlesex Regiment. He used to speak about his time in a PoW camp during WWI - he was with the British Expeditionary Force and was taken prisoner at the Battle of Mons on the 23rd August 1914, the first battle of the War. Ian wishes he had talked to his grandfather more about his experiences; although he did not take an interest in history at school, about 38 years ago he did start to take an interest and started researching his family history – this was life-changing.

In 1983, he started at the War Memorial in Newhaven, Sussex – there were two EVERESTs there, his great uncles, one being Arthur Frank Everest, killed in 1917. The family story passed down was that he was shot by a sniper. Ian wrote to the CWGC at Maidenhead and also made an appointment at the then PRO at Kew, who were very helpful and found Arthur Frank's military records. East of Arras in France is the

village of Gavrelle. Ian and his brother tracked down the grave: the first members of the family to do so. It was an emotional experience, and they have been over there every year since. Ian was amazed at the appearance of the cemeteries: the design, layout etc., and wanted to try and find out more about the CWGC. Someone had needed foresight and imagination to create those cemeteries.

Ian showed a photograph of wooden crosses beside a shell hole on a WWI battlefield. Bodies were buried in such scattered graves: in holes, the sides of trenches or roadside ditches. So how did we get from that to the cemeteries we have today?

Fabian WARE was a brilliant and energetic man, not a soldier, but a teacher and journalist and with good leadership qualities. Aged 45 when the War started, he was too old to fight, but the R.A.C. were advertising in newspapers for people to offer their car and services as a driver to help with the War Effort, to go over and look for wounded and lost men. Ware arrived in France on 14th September 1914, and this is the work he did. They worked with the British Red Cross, then the two groups merged and someone had to take the lead – Fabian Ware came forward to assume the leadership of the unit plus the fleet of cars. The unit had also been recording any names on the battlefield burials they came across - some were marked with crosses made of any available materials, or just a helmet on a bayonet, even just a bottle with a message in it – there was not a lot of identification for the dead, sometimes none. The unit was asked to stay on and continue this work.

Ware knew something better was needed - that at the end of the War, relatives would want to visit graves. There had been two types of burial – the hurried burials on the battlefield, and those taking place behind the front line conducted by a Chaplain, with the dead being put into properly dug graves with wooden crosses. Fabian Ware got some decent timber for crosses and had men making them. He insisted the name was painted on both sides, then later machine-made metal strips were fixed to the crosses. Few records were being kept, except by the

Chaplains, but the records moved with them, and no-one was responsible for the maintenance of the graves. Ware persuaded the authorities that something more was needed – an organisation. And cemeteries should include the dead from all of the Empire. In February 1915 Ware's search unit became the Graves Registration Unit. He was given the rank of Major so he would be taken seriously by the Army. This became his life's work and he eventually became a Major General and Sir Fabian Ware. Between May and October 1915, 30,000 graves were registered by his team, with inscribed wooden crosses. Ware discussed with the French and Belgian authorities about acquiring land for cemeteries. The French insisted the cemeteries should be sited outside villages but not take up much agricultural land. The Belgian and French governments compulsorily purchased land. 550 cemeteries were created, maintained by soldiers. This was later reduced to 174 - bodies were exhumed from smaller cemeteries and brought to these larger "concentration" cemeteries. Burial records were building up - they had already started getting enquiries. The Red Cross started taking photographs of as many graves as they could; forms with a photograph were sent to relatives. The Unit also set about maintaining the graves. Members of the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps went over to work in the cemeteries, even doing some planting between the graves. Field Marshall Haig realised this work had a value for morale.

Fabian Ware realised a more formal organisation was needed. The Office of Works said they wanted to take the work over but Ware was against it – he did not want a government department in charge, he wanted a combination of all the nations who had lost men on the Western Front. In 1917 the Imperial War Graves Commission was set up. A lot of other decisions needed to be taken. There was the issue of repatriation of bodies. From the start of the War the wealthy had been able to bring bodies home. There was a general feeling of "The country took him, the country should bring him back". Ware was against this. A decision was made that no bodies were to be brought home "till the end of the War", and this was later extended to "in perpetuity".

For the new IWGC, Ware surrounded himself with the most skilled and respected people he could find, e.g. Edwin LUTYENS, Herbert BAKER and Reginald BLOMFIELD, architects, plus Rudyard KIPLING (who lost his son in the War) as literary adviser, and Arthur HILL, from Kew Gardens, to advise on planting schemes. But MPs, Army Officers, everyone who had lost someone had ideas about how the cemeteries should look. Ware was a friend of Sir Frederick KENYON, Director of the British Museum: he asked him to go across in 1917 to look at the sites. Kenyon produced a booklet "War Graves" (now on the CWGC website) containing designs. Lutyens also went over in 1917. One of the first pieces of design was a large stone of remembrance: Kipling wrote the wording for it. A start had been made on the design of the cemeteries.

As soon as the War ended, relatives started to visit the cemeteries. This put pressure on the IWGC to keep them tidy. The wooden crosses needed replacing. Headstones would be permanent and uniform. But people wanted their own headstones, and some preferred crosses. They were not happy; families felt left out. A burial paid for by the State smacked of a pauper's burial. Rectangular headstones were decided on, in two British limestones, Portland stone and Hopton Wood stone; they would be 2 feet 6 inches high, 1 foot 3 inches wide, 3 inches thick. Half a million would be needed, each headstone to bear the regimental badge, name of deceased, date of birth, plus their age if requested by the family, and a religious emblem, usually a cross, in the centre. They were initially engraved by hand, which took a craftsman a week – at which rate the task would take 15 years. A company in Lancashire began mass producing them – they could produce 3 a day. By 1920, 4000 stones every week were being shipped out. The old wooden crosses were replaced by stone. Ian showed a photograph of Tyne Cot cemetery in Belgium with wooden crosses (now they have headstones) - the biggest British military cemetery in the world: 12,000 graves, 8,000 not identified (for the unidentified, Kipling supplied the words "Known unto God"). At its centre the Cross of Sacrifice stands over the site of a bunker.

Isolated graves on the battlefields were still being looked for by the Battle Clearance Unit. 4000 square miles – a huge undertaking. A giveaway for the location of a grave might be a rat hole. Bodies were exhumed respectfully. This work was taken over by the IWGC. They became experts in identifying the men by different means, whatever was available. By September 1921 they had found 200,000 bodies and re-interred them in the “concentration cemeteries”. This work stopped in 1921. But there are probably some 200,000 bodies still there. Some are still being found – about 40 a year on average.

1400 gardeners were employed in the cemeteries by 1921. Some were British soldiers who stayed on and married local women – there was even an English school. Now there are fourth generation gardeners from the early 1920s. Junior architects designed some of the smaller cemeteries, preference being given to them if they had served on the Western Front. Names for battlefield areas given by soldiers were sometimes retained for cemeteries, e.g. Flat Iron Copse. There was a shortage of building materials – the French needed to rebuild a lot of ruined buildings. The cemeteries needed walls strong enough to keep out farmers’ ploughs, cattle etc., but not too high, so visitors could look out across the landscape. The cemeteries should not be gloomy.

Graves were laid out in orderly fashion – like an English garden, evoking Rupert Brooke’s poem “some corner of a foreign field that is forever England”. Horticulture was to play a major part. When in flower, roses would cast a reflection on the deceased’s name. Shrubs placed in front of headstones stopped rain splashing mud on them. Headstones are rounded at the top: rain follows the curve and runs down the side, not the front. The letters in inscriptions are cut at an angle, so “come up into your eyes” when standing before the stone – and in a special typeface so the names do not shout, but whisper. If families wanted a personal message put on the stone, this could be added at the bottom, for a fee – 3½d a letter – but not everyone could afford it (there was no fee in WWII).

At the entrance to every cemetery there is a Register Box containing a book naming those who are interred there. The Cross of Sacrifice placed in each cemetery was designed by Blomfield. There are War Memorials to the missing – the Menin Gate in Ypres, erected 1927, the most visited British War Memorial in the world, commemorates 55,000; the Last Post is sounded there every evening. And the Thiepval Memorial on the Somme, designed by Lutyens, to the 72,000 missing.

Today the work carries on. A lot of the headstones need replacing – about 3000 a year. The CWGC is highly visible, with a new logo last year, and appears on social media such as Facebook and Twitter etc. to promote its work, plus a website especially good for family historians: you can put a name or cemetery in the Search Box, and also find out if there are CWGC graves in local cemeteries in Britain; a smartphone app has cemeteries plus names. You can ask the website for a certificate at no cost. They now have a Supporters Group, who conduct guided tours of cemeteries, including British ones like Brookwood. There is the CWGC Experience: a Visitors' Centre (totally free) in Northern France, where all the maintenance work – engraving of stones etc. - goes on.

Before WWI, battle casualties were forgotten, quick lime being put on bodies against infection. One man changed all that - how we remember the Fallen. Fabian Ware continued working until 1948, died in 1949, and is buried at Amberley, Gloucestershire – with a CWGC stone.

(Postscript: The sad fact of families not being able to afford an extra inscription on their son's headstone may well have applied to the parents of Christopher NEWBERY, as mentioned in Sarah Minney's article The Untold Story in our September issue, and pointed out by member April Wood Ashton.)

New Members and Surname Interests

A warm welcome to our new members! The lists below shows the names of our newest members and the latest additions to our Surname Interests.

Name	Membership Number
Mrs Emma Albery	A123
Dr Elaine Ballard	B351
Ms Nicola Byrnes	B352
Ms Doris Budd	B350
Mrs Karen Connolly	C289
Don Leonard Delacassa	D179
Miss Ceri Dixon	D178
Ms Terry Ford	F126
Ms Clare Kent	K64

Surname	Dates	Place	County (Chapman Code)	Member's No.
Bunce	Post 1800	West Bedfont	MDX	D179
Sanders	Post 1853	Staines, any	MDX	D179
Smith	Post 1877	West Bedfont	MDX	D179
Smith	Post 1869	Weybridge	SRY	D179
Smith	Post 1780	Fulham	MDX	D179
Woodward	Post 1700	Fulham	MDX	D179

We regret to announce the death of member Graham Bird (B45) who passed away in June this year. Graham had been a member since November 1989

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.

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.

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.

Contributions and Advertisements

Contributions of all kinds are welcome for the journal, whether articles, cries for help, snippets of information, etc.

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. Articles 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)

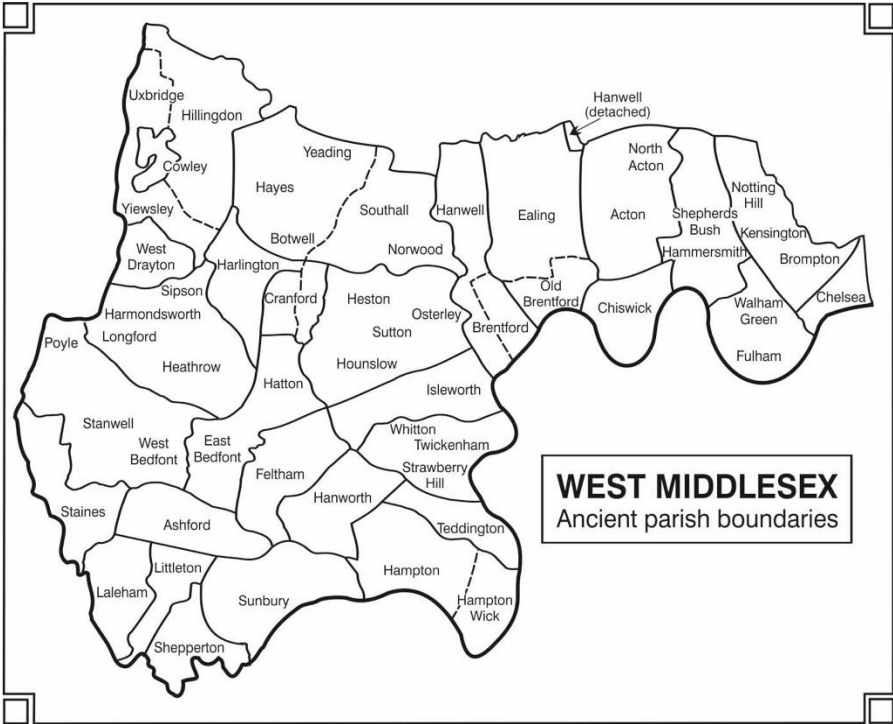
Half-page £10 (members) £15 (non-members)

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

Journal Front Cover

The Lendy Memorial in the Walled Garden in Sunbury-on-Thames commemorates the lives and deaths of the two sons of French-born Major Auguste Frederic Lendy (1826-1889) who settled in Sunbury. Both of his sons became Army officers and died in Africa within a month of each other, Edward in 1893 in Sierra Leone, and Charles in 1894 in what is now Zimbabwe.

The various memorials in the Walled Gardens, mostly plaques on the benches, have recently been documented, and may be referenced from our Digital Library page - <http://west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk/content/digitallib.aspx>



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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