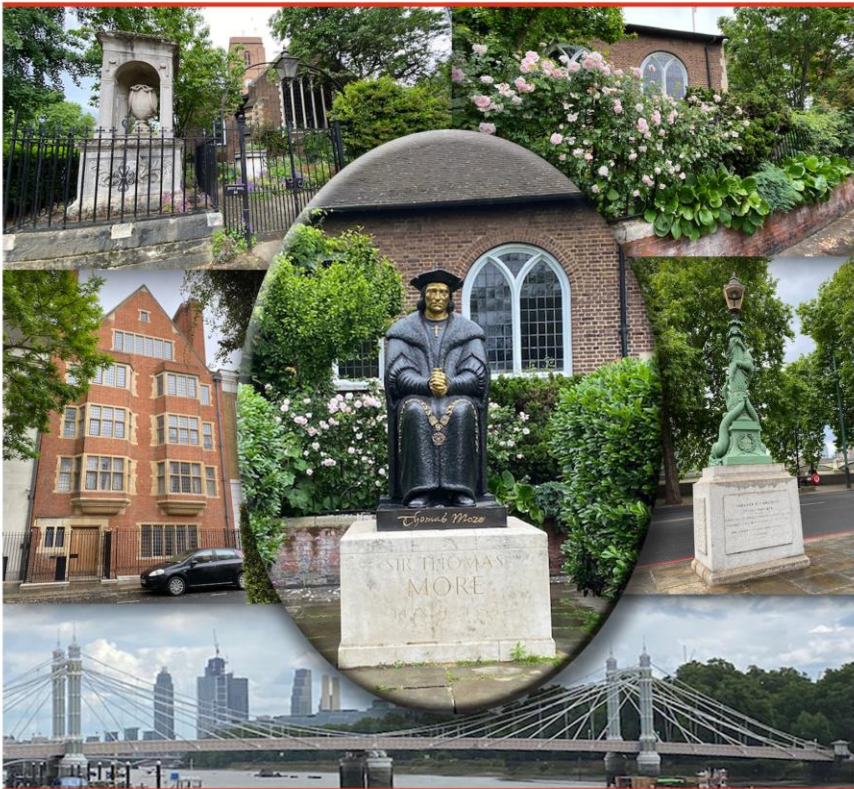




WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY JOURNAL

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September 2022



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FUTURE MEETINGS



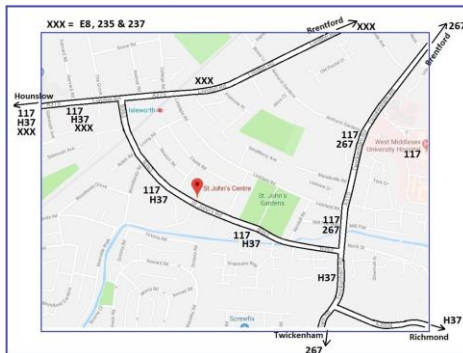
The following talks have been arranged:

15 th September	Making good use of the National Archives Website	Simon Fowler (speaker present at St Johns)
20 th October	How can memorabilia help with family history?	Elizabeth Owen (speaker present at St Johns)
17 th November	Pursuing surnames	Julie Goucher (via Zoom)
15 th December	Christmas Party – seasonal celebrations.	

Our meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at St John’s Centre, St John’s Road, Isleworth, TW7 6RU. Members and guests can attend in person or via Zoom.

To access the Zoom 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.

St John’s Centre is fully accessible. A small carpark is adjacent to the Centre which is also close to a mainline railway station (Isleworth – South Western Railways) and is well-served by local buses.



Want a Lift?



**Do you find getting to meetings a bit of a challenge?
We may be able to help!**

Below are details of those who have volunteered to offer lifts to other members. Please ring or email them if you would like a lift.

If you are able to offer a lift to someone living in your area, contact our Webmaster, Roland BOSTOCK (contact details below) giving your name, contact details and areas you could pick up from.

This list is also on our website under "Meetings" and hopefully more names will be added as time goes on.

Roland Bostock, who lives in **Teddington**, can do pickups from places such as:
***Hampton Wick, Teddington, Strawberry Hill, Hampton Hill
and Twickenham.***

Email: Roland@Bostock.net

Telephone: 020 8287 2754

Mike Pipe, who lives in **Hanworth Park**, can do pickups from places such as:
Hanworth and Hanworth Park

Email: mikejpipe@aol.com

Telephone: 020 8893 1705

Hilary Strudwick, who lives in **Isleworth**, can do pickups from places such as:
Isleworth and Hounslow

Email: hilary.strudwick@springgrove.org.uk

Telephone: 020 8560 7492

Contributions and Advertisements

The WMFHS Journal is your magazine so contributions of all kinds are welcome, not to say necessary! Your contributions can be articles, cries for help, snippets of information, whatever you like.

Articles should be between 800 and 1200 words in length. Longer articles can be submitted but may have to be published in two parts depending on space.

Formatting:

The document should be set out as an A5 document with narrow margins and single line spacing.

NB: Please use **Endnotes** rather than **footnotes**; numerals (lowercase) are preferred.

Contributions 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 separately 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.

Help and Advice

We no longer do monthly face-to-face Advice Sessions but we do offer advice by email and relish the extremely interesting and quirky enquiries that we get!

If you are wondering why your 4xgreat grandmother appeared to be baptised three times to two different sets of parents, try asking us.

Email advice@west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk with your query and give us an idea of what you want to achieve.

We can't promise to solve your problems but we will do our best.

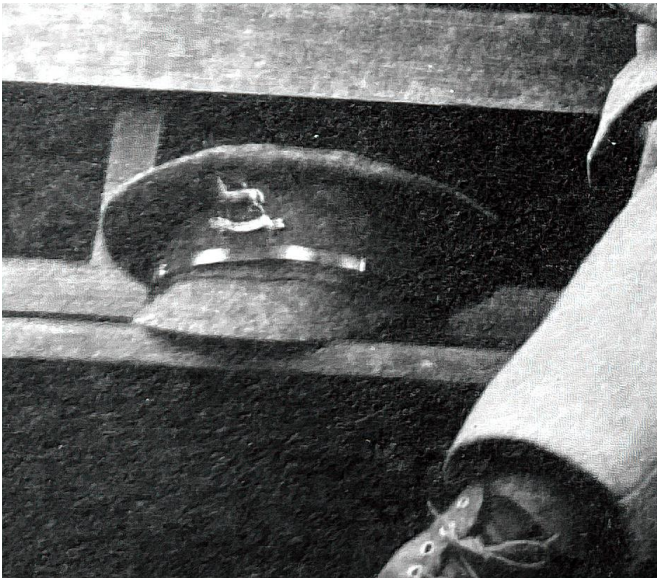
All enquiries are treated in confidence.

Can Anyone Help? September 2022

We have an interesting problem for this month. The photograph on the following page is of an unknown soldier related to a member and her cousin. He is thought to be a sibling of their grandfather, but they cannot identify him. He is wearing a WW1 hospital suit so had obviously been wounded and sent home to recuperate. By him on the bench is his cap with regimental cap badge. Can anyone identify the cap badge? The photograph has been cleaned up and enhanced but it is still not very clear. Do any of our WW1 experts have any help to offer? Two suggestions already made are: the **Royal Warwickshire Regiment** whose insignia is an Indian Antelope and the **Royal West Surrey Regiment** whose insignia is the Paschal Lamb carrying a banner (images on following page)



Above left: Cap badge of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment
Above right: the cap badge of the Royal West Surrey Regiment



Monthly Talks

Muriel Sprott, Roland Bostock, Yvonne Masson, Ann Greene

Understanding a birth certificate

Antony Marr

April

Antony introduced himself by saying that he had been in the police service for 30 years and when he retired 10 years ago thought he would turn his hobby of genealogy into a career. His new business started slowly, so when he saw an advertisement for a part-time registrar at Beaconsfield, he applied and got the job, leading to his ability to give talks such as this. Antony is now also the Chairman of AGRA, the body which regulates professional genealogists.

The first thing to make clear is that most of us will never see the original register entry again after it has been signed; this is kept in the registrar's office. The birth certificate which is issued to the parents is a copy of the original register entry. A 'full' birth certificate is a true copy of an entry in the Register Book and is what you receive when you order a copy from the local registrar. If you order a full birth certificate from the General Register Office (GRO) what you get is a copy of a copy. 'Short' birth certificates were introduced in the mid-20th century; before that there was a "Certificate of Registry of Birth" which was just a receipt acknowledging that the birth had been registered.

It was interesting to note that registration of a birth is not automatically concerned with the *birth* parents, but with recording the *legal* parents at the time of the birth. A child must have at least one mother, although it may have a second female parent. This gives an idea of the complexity of the rules surrounding registration of a birth. Antony showed us a picture of the guidance issued to registrars - a bulging A4 lever-arch file.

Before registering a birth, the registrar must check:

- 1) That a live birth has occurred. These days hospitals provide the information directly to the registrar. If a time is shown on English and Welsh registrations this usually indicates a multiple live birth, but is normal on all Scottish registrations

- 2) That the birth occurred in the district. Births can only be registered in the district where the birth took place; the only exception is for foundlings, where the place of birth may not be known.
- 3) That the registration is taking place within the legal time limit. This is commonly believed to be six weeks, but is actually twelve months. After twelve months, the registration will need the permission of the Registrar General
- 4) That the birth has not already been registered.

Before 1969, the baby's surname was not explicitly stated on the birth certificate. Nowadays, it is entered but the surname can be whatever the parents decide it should be. Register entries are indexed by the surnames of the parent(s), depending on their marital status. A single register entry can appear more than once in the indexes.

From 1874 unmarried couples could only name the father if he was present at the time of registration. It is not possible to tell from a birth index entry whether or not the parents were married.

Determining the mother's surname is fraught with difficulties. For the birth certificate, it denotes the name she is either ***“using or is known by”*** at the time of the birth. ***'Late'*** indicates that she has changed her name. ***'Formerly'*** should precede her maiden name. A maiden name is the name in which she first contracted a marriage and is not necessarily her birth name!

Consequently, a woman who has never been married cannot have a maiden name and the GRO computerised index therefore shows no maiden surname for an unmarried mother.

The Informant column shows how the informant signed, the qualification that allowed them to register and their address on the date of the registration. If there is a single informant and the father is named, it is likely that the parents were married, or claimed to be. If two informants are shown and the father is named, then the parents are not married, at least not to each other.

The informant must fulfil one of the following qualifications:

- a) Be the mother
- b) Be the father, if married to the mother
- c) Be the occupier of the premises where the birth took place
- d) A person present at the birth, which may include an unmarried father
- e) a person in charge of the child

From 1904 workhouses were not, or should not have been, named as a place of birth; they are shown just by their street address which often might seem to be a normal domestic residence.

Re-registration of a birth can occur for several reasons:

- i. On the instructions of the Registrar general
- ii. After 1926, to legitimise a child after the subsequent marriage of the parents.
- iii. To add an unmarried father who was not named at the time of the original registration

Note that the name of the child could be changed on re-registration and also that there will be new index entry/entries on re-registration which may appear in the indexes months or years after the original.

Register entries can be corrected. If a number is shown (often with a margin note) this cross-references to an entry in the corrections book held at the Register Office. Corrections can be made whilst the entry is being completed and before the register is signed.

Registration "By Declaration" - if these words appear in the Informant column it means that the informant went to a registration office outside the correct district. A declaration form would be completed and sent by post to the proper district where the birth entry would be completed without the informant being present.

If you can't find a birth in the indexes when you expect, check a few years either side of the date you expect. Could the child have been born in a different district? For example, maybe the mother had gone home to her mother to give birth.

To sum up - check the informant(s), look for re-registration and corrections, indexes can't tell the whole story - obtain certificates where possible.

Antony was thanked for a most interesting and enlightening talk He has kindly said that if you have an unusual certificate, email him at: info@chalfontresearch.co.uk for an explanation.

Thanks to Antony for his handout, a few sentences of which have been included verbatim in this report.

Gill's talk was about the Poor Laws which were the subject of many acts of Parliament, and the very significant role of the Parishes in implementing the laws. Poor Law records contain much of interest to people researching their family history, but they are far less accessible than records such as parish registers or census records. For the most part researchers must expect to have to visit the appropriate county record office, locate the records which may be of interest, and then search the records without the aid of any index. However, there is an increasing focus by Family History Societies on transcribing and indexing Poor Law records, so at least some of the data is becoming available online.

A short history of the legislation affecting the parish poor

From the earliest times parishes took on most of the tasks now performed by local government. From the 14th century we find parishes appointing churchwardens as their principal officers under the guidance of the parish priest, and parish constables were responsible for enforcing local laws. Actual administration of the Poor Laws became the responsibility of Overseers of the Poor. Until the Suppression of the Monasteries Act in 1536, beggars and paupers relied on the charity afforded by the monasteries.

From 1536 onwards a tougher line was taken on any vagrant who might be categorised as 'won't work' rather than 'can't work', and in 1547 an act introduced branding and slavery punishments for those considered as persistent vagrants. From 1552 parishes were required to keep their records in a secure place, which was the introduction of the 'parish chest'. In 1572 an act requiring annual appointment of Overseers of the Poor became law, and then in 1598 the role of the Overseers was extended demanding that they find work for paupers and set up poorhouses. All this was supported by collecting local poor rates from the better off.

In 1662 an act was introduced requiring everybody to have an official parish of settlement. Each parish then became responsible for maintaining its own poor. The detail of how settlement was to be determined was elaborated on in further acts of 1691 and 1697. From 1697 people requiring support were allowed to move away from their 'settlement' parish, and settlement certificates were issued by the parish who had responsibility for their

maintenance. Paupers were also required to wear an identifying badge on their shoulder at this time.

The 18th century saw several changes in how the work houses were run. A 1723 act allowed parishes to contract out the running of workhouses, and Gilbert's Act of 1782 allowed groups of parishes to share the running costs of a single larger workhouse. Even so the system was considered expensive to run, and in 1833 a Royal Commission was set up to investigate more efficient ways of providing the necessary poor law services. This led to the Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834 which introduced Poor Law Unions with elected Boards of Governors. New Union workhouses were erected. These were large establishments being laid out more in the style of prisons than the earlier workhouses, and they remained in place up until the modern welfare state was introduced in 1948.

Poor law documents

Poor law records cover a wide range of documents. Parishes had to raise the money to support the system, which meant keeping Rates Books identifying the people who were due to pay, and also Cash Books to record the many disbursements required to support the people in need.

However, the documents of most interest to family historians are those establishing a family's settlement, and any removal orders which often followed. When an individual or family fell on hard times and requested relief from the Overseers of the Poor of the parish they were inhabiting, the overseers would enquire of the settlement status of the family. Everybody born in the UK had a parish of settlement. This was usually the parish where they were born, but a wife and dependent children would take their settlement from the father, and should he have been born elsewhere then any poor law relief would be the responsibility of the father's parish. Relief could come by way of a maintenance payment between the parishes, but the issue was more commonly settled by forcefully returning the father and his dependents back to his original parish. The document establishing the father's settlement is called a Settlement Examination. The document requiring the removal of a family from one parish to another is called a Removal Order. A Removal Order From is the removal order as raised, and a copy of the same document would be recorded as a Removal Order To by the receiving parish.

Poor law officials could also arrange apprenticeships for the children in their care, and they started young. The average age of a pauper entering into an apprenticeship was just 8 to 10 years old.

Single mothers and their children would often require poor law relief, and the parish officials would try very hard to recover maintenance from the fathers held to be responsible. Thus there were Bastardy Examinations of the women to enquire in detail the where and when of their pregnancy, and of the man involved. A Bastardy Order would then be raised against the father requiring a weekly contribution to the upkeep of the child.

From 1834, with the introduction of the Poor Law Amendment Act responsibilities up to then taken on by the parishes were gradually handed over to the civil parish councils. In 1848 Boards of Health were introduced to regulate sewerage and control the spread of diseases. In 1853 the Charitable Trusts Act appointed Charitable Commissioners in order to administer charities. In 1888 county councils, run by elected councillors, were introduced. In 1894 the creation of civil parish councils finally ended the church's role in general parish administration. In 1930 Poor Law Guardians were abolished, and the workhouses became homes for the elderly, children and/or unmarried mothers. Finally in 1948 the Welfare State and National Health Service were established, and any remaining activity under the Poor Laws as such was ended.

My British Raj family: early days *Jenny Mallin* *June*

In the 18th century there were some 150,000 British soldiers in India, so, as Jenny said, a lot of us probably have ancestors who were there. She showed a family photo of a wedding in Bangalore in 1927, an Anglo-Indian family, domiciled in India but who originated in Great Britain. They had decided to stay on but kept their “Britishness”. Her talk revolved around three of her ancestors, each one involved in a chapter of British-Indian history.

Her first ancestor, **Benjamin Hardy**, born 1775 in Mirfield, West Yorkshire was a clothier in the heart of the wool community, regularly taking his cloth to Leeds Cloth Hall to sell. The market started at 7am and gradually filled up with traders; by 9am trading was over and he would then partake of refreshment at one of the local taverns. After marrying **Frances Sheard** in Mirfield, he enlisted in the 84th Regiment (later the Yorkshire and Lancashire Regiment), which sailed from Portsmouth on the “*Dublin*” on 29th April 1798

to Madras. These voyages, carrying both cargo and passengers, took 5-7 months and depended on the Trade Winds. The weather would often be stormy and some ships sank. Many on board would fall sick; those who died being buried at sea. At Madras was Fort St George, built by the **East India Company**. Madras was not a natural harbour so ships had to anchor offshore and passengers were rowed ashore, the boats having to deal with strong breakers and being driven ashore by the surf. The 84th Regiment would stay in India for the next 24 years. What was happening in India at the time? Wars between the East India Company and local rulers, such as **Tipu Sultan**, a powerful ruler who was an ally of the French. The Regiment's first campaign was the Siege of Bangalore. The impenetrable Bangalore Fort was the Sultan's summer residence, part of his Kingdom of Mysore. But **Lord Cornwallis** was able to breach the Fort and it became a base for the Regiment. Another siege in which they took part was Seringapatam, 77 miles from Bangalore – a key battle in the Conquest of Southern India. Attacking at 1pm during the heat of the day, they fought their way into the Fort. When the battle was over, the Sultan had been killed. The new Maharajah of Mysore was only 5 years old.

At the age of 43 **Benjamin** was discharged from the Army, and made a decision that would affect the next five generations of his family. He suggested to **Frances** (who was 39, still lived in England and had been apart from her husband for many years) that they should settle permanently in India. She came out to India and, arriving at Madras, was carried ashore. She would now be a "Memsahib", living in the "Cantonment" at Bangalore: they had servants, schools, and health care. They had a son, **Joseph**, who later became a schoolmaster in Mysore, his pupils all Indian princes.

Jenny's second ancestor was **Samuel Sausman**, born 1758. He saw in the *Kentish Gazette* a notice that volunteers were wanted for the army in His Majesty's 77th Regiment, specifically for service in India. Going to a meeting at the *Butchers Arms*, Canterbury, he enlisted and a few months later, the Regiment set sail. They stayed in India for the next 19 years and were involved in intense fighting and action throughout that time; Seringapatam during the Anglo-Mysore War, and at Cochin on India's South Coast, where the British wanted to establish a stronghold. Cochin was the capital of the Portuguese Eastern Empire, and had been the first European settlement; houses there were built in the Portuguese style, with balconies etc. After the

fighting, Cochin was annexed to the British. Samuel married a local girl, **Caroline**, who had ancestors in Cochin, but he died early in the marriage, leaving **Caroline** a widow with one child (John) and pregnant with a second. Because of her pregnancy, she could not immediately return to Britain. She gave birth to a second son, **James**, in 1805, and married again to **Martin Sullivan** another soldier. James was christened on the same day. The 77th Regiment was due to return home after nearly 20 years, but **Martin** chose to join the 86th Foot, so they stayed in India. **Caroline's** son **John** became a drummer boy at the age of 6, possibly the youngest recruit in the British Army (amongst other things drummer boys communicated commands).

At the age of 20, **John** married a local woman, **Louisa**, of Portuguese ancestry, but she died giving birth to their second child. At 26, **John** re-married to **Elizabeth Wilson**. Four days later, the second child of his first marriage died, but there were more children: five sons and three daughters, including Jenny's five times great grandmother, **Wilhelmina**. **John** was eventually discharged - "worn out" - after 34 years. When **Elizabeth** died, **John** married for a third time to another **Elizabeth**, 15 years his junior, and they had four more children. **Wilhelmina** married **Benjamin Hardy's** son **Joseph**, the schoolmaster.

The third and final ancestor was **James Shardley**, born 1773. He served in a European regiment of the Bengal Army. His son, **John**, was born in 1807 in Ceylon, which was ruled by the British East India Company. At the age of 13 John enlisted. The British wanted to complete the Conquest of India (to keep out the French) and so more wars ensued. In 1829 the 41st Foot were deployed to Burma during the first Anglo-Burmese war. **John Sausman** (the ex-drummer boy) and **John Shardley** were now serving in the same regiment, their names even appearing adjacent to each other in lists and their families were to be united by the marriage of their grandchildren. At the age of 45 **John** married **Caroline Osborne**, aged 16.

The attraction for women in marrying a soldier was that soldiers would get a pension, and were also paid a premium. The shortage of marriageable women in India meant that any available women were "scooped up" - they might even be approached at their husband's funeral! With unmarried young men in India looking for wives; and young unmarried women in England desperate to avoid becoming spinsters often objects of scorn and pity, the East India Company saw an opportunity. They offered the girls £300 a year

for life if they came to India and found a husband within one year. After a sea voyage of several months, local bachelors were invited to have dinner on board. Most courtships began within a few days; some girls were scooped up immediately, and taken to the church. They were under a lot of pressure to marry the first man to ask them; those who couldn't get a husband in one year lost the East India income and were "returned empty" to England. Scorned, unwanted and penniless into the bargain.

John died aged 75 having had four children. Two of his sons, **William** and **Daniel**, went to work for the railways, which were enabling people in India to travel to places they could never before reach. **Daniel** rose to the rank of Inspector.

Old London Bridge: the one with the houses on top Rob Kayne July

Rob began by talking about the resources he used in researching Old London Bridge (list at end of report). One unusual source was the scale model of the bridge in its 15th century state, created by the late David T Aggett and now housed in the church of St Magnus the Martyr in Lower Thames Street in the City of London.

Old London Bridge was an essential part of the important north-south route in and out of the City. It was a continuation of Fish Street Hill, slightly downstream from the present London Bridge. St Magnus the Martyr was sited here and in 1762, it was decided to create an access passage through the bell tower for bridge-traffic. When the workmen began the process, they found that such a passage already existed. It had been plastered over when **Sir Christopher Wren** was carrying out alterations.

To begin at the beginning: bridges were traditionally built of wood which eventually decayed and had to be replaced, involving more expense and inconvenience. **Peter de Colechurch** discussed this with **Henry II** and the suggestion arose that the bridge should be built of stone. The Court of Common Council was created and the construction of the bridge began in 1163. The construction was completed in 1209, having taken over 40 years and seen the reigns of three kings – **Henry II**, **Richard I** and **John**.

One of the key documents Rob showed us was a photograph of a lease held at the London Metropolitan Archives. The lease shows **Peter de Colechurch**,

Procurator of London Bridge, granting a house on the bridge to a carpenter with land appertaining to it.

The bridge has had a long and varied history, with seven “stages” in its development. From the start there was a drawbridge, housed in the Great Stone House. Open by day, it was raised at night to enforce the curfew and protect the City. The arches beneath the bridge were narrow, with the largest one being directly under the drawbridge. This narrowness restricted the flow of water which was then speeded up. At times, the “drop” in the water levels on either side of the bridge could be quite dramatic and dangerous.

Watermen competed to be the first through the bridge when the tide turned with sometimes disastrous results. Nor was the danger confined to the water. Life on the bridge was fraught with peril. The bridge, no more than a cart’s-width, had no parapets. Congestion was a feature of daily life and pedestrians were in constant danger of being run down or knocked off the bridge by carts. “Drowned at the Bridge” became a common entry in death registers.

The houses on the bridge were scarcely more secure, with their foundations lodged on the bridge’s piers and virtually hanging off the side of the bridge. In the sixteenth century, this type of building nearly caused the death of a young child, **Anne Hewett**. Seated in a window with a maidservant, Anne fell into the river and was only saved by the swift action of her father’s apprentice who dived in and rescued her. When **Anne** grew up, she married her rescuer, **Edward Osborne** who later became Lord Mayor of London. **Anne** was one of the lucky ones; there were doubtless many who drowned.

As well as the danger from water, there was danger from fire in the houses. Edward Hall’s Chronicle of 1548 recounts the tale of a servant of **John Briggs**, needleworker, who placed a tub of hot ashes under the house stairs one night. The ashes caused a conflagration that destroyed forty houses. And there was the Incident of the Siege. This was not a military attack however. The siege in question was a public privy in the form of a bench (or siege) hung, like the houses on the side of the bridge. In 1481, during a period of heavy use, the bench fell into the river, drowning five of the users. Rob made an allusion to modern congestion at one stage. In 1390, there was a joust on the bridge between **Sir John Welles** and **David de Lindsay** as a means of ending the rivalry between England and Scotland. While this event was going on, traffic had to be diverted to the other bridges – Blackfriars and Westminster.

London Bridge had to be managed. There were rents and tolls to be collected, which were then invested to pay for its repairs. This money was managed by Bridge House. It was originally sited on the bridge but around 1350, it was moved to Tooley Street. At one stage it employed two Bridge Wardens, the Clerks of the Chapel, the Clerk of the Drawbridge, six carpenters, four masons, one marine, one cook, one housekeeper, rent collectors and shutemen. Another post was that of the Head Keeper – nothing to do with gamekeeping, this post literally involved the keeping of the heads of traitors which were regularly displayed on the bridge to remind the populace of the perils of rebellion. In 1592 there were no fewer than 34 heads on the spikes.

As time went on, it was clear that the bridge was becoming increasingly inconvenient as a route into the city. The superstructure and drawbridge were removed to allow for the widening of the bridge. Between 1758 and 1762, the bridge's width was increased from 12 feet to 26 feet, one of the arches was removed to create the Grand Arch and recesses were installed to allow pedestrians to escape cart traffic. In spite of these improvements, the bridge was still proving inadequate, so the parapets were removed and were sold off either as stones or complete sections. One section of parapet still survives at Gilwell Park in Chingford, some of the stones went to form the Southern perimeter wall at Ingress Abbey in Kent, the Kings Arms in Newcomen Street has the insignia of George III and one of the cupolas is in the grounds of Guys Hospital.

Bridge House Estates still exists and, as well as managing London Bridge, also looks after Tower Bridge, Southwark Bridge, Blackfriars Bridge and the Millennium Bridge. The building of the Millennium Bridge was in fact funded by the Bridge House Estates.

Rob then took us all back to our childhoods with the rhyme "London Bridge is falling down". This has two explanations. It could relate to Norse Saga "*Heimskringla*" celebrating the destruction of London Bridge by **Olaf II** around 1014, but the recurring phrase "my fair lady" could also link to the period when **Henry III's** queen, **Eleanor of Provence**, had custody of the revenues from the bridge. She was accused of taking the revenues for her personal use rather than maintaining the bridge.

Rob recommended some of the main sources for anyone who wanted to explore further

- Patricia Pierce *Old London Bridge*.
- (This was published in 2001 and is out of print but Rob said that second-hand copies can still be found)
- Gordon Home *Old London Bridge*, published in 1931.
- Dorian Gerhold 's children's book *London Bridge and its houses 1209 to 1761*.
- The Agas Map, surveyed between 1570 and 1605, shows the precise location of the bridge.

Alison Blundell then added to these sources. Her 5xgreatgrandfather, **Richard Hall**, had a shop on London Bridge and kept a diary, which, among other things, records the burning of the temporary bridge that had been put up during the redevelopment of the main bridge. Alison's cousin has written a book about **Richard Hall**.

- Mike Rendell *Journal of a Georgian Gentleman* published in 2011.

None of the above are available on Amazon but it is worth trying Abebooks who are very good for second-hand books.

Henry Robert Caswill (1847-1909) Chris Caswill



Henry Robert Caswill arrived in west London between 1871 and 1875. He was baptised in Burnham, Somerset on 30 May 1847, the first child of **John Pinn Caswill** and **Sophia** (nee **Millier**) who had settled in the small North Somerset village of **Stockland Bristol**. **John Pinn** set up there as a cooper. **Henry** did not follow his father as a cooper, and is recorded in 1876 and 1883 as a carpenter, no doubt contributing to the family cooperage business. At that time, other Somerset **Caswills** were on the move. His uncle and two cousins had migrated to **South Wales** and another cousin, **Thomas** had gone to sea and to live in **Southampton**. Opportunities were clearly

limited in rural **Somerset**, and there were now trains and ships for travelling and newspapers and letters to advertise a different life elsewhere.

Together with his younger brother **William**, **Henry** was one of the first of **John** and **Sophia's** several sons to leave. By 1871 they had both moved 40 miles to the rapidly expanding city of **Bristol**. **William** worked as a cooper there, married **Emma James** and stayed. **Henry** found work as a carpenter, and lodged in **Ellenborough Place, Clifton** with his cousin **Ellen**, who had married **William Cook**, a gardener.

Henry then moved up to London. When he married **Anna Bowman** in **Edmonton** in September 1875 he was living in **Acton**. **Anna** was also from **Somerset** – her father farmed in **Otterhampton**, a couple of miles from **Stockland**. She had also lived in **Bristol** for a while. In 1871 she had been a nurse in the **Wadham** household at **12 Victoria Square**, also in **Clifton** and **Henry** probably first met her there.

The couple went back to **Otterhampton** in 1876, no doubt by train, for the birth of their first child **Albert Henry**, who then stayed in **Stockland** for several years with his grandmother Sophia.

Henry and **Anna**ⁱ were living at **5 Myrther Terrace, Chiswick**ⁱⁱ in 1881 with their children **Arthur Robert** (b. 1878) and **Constance** (b. 1880). **Annie Elizabeth, Beatrice Mary** and **Ernest James** were born in **West London** between 1883-8. **Anna's** connections with **Otterhampton** were still strong and they took **Annie Elizabeth** back there for her baptism on 19 August 1883.

Henry was joined in **West London** around 1885 by his younger brother **Walter John** and his new wife **Caroline** (nee **Williams**). **Walter** was also a carpenter. The brothers lived near each other in the **Acton / Chiswick** area for many years, **Walter** at **16 Windmill Road, Chiswick**. Both were members of the **Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners**, and both transferred their membership to the **Chiswick** branch on the same day, September 27 1897.

The **Otterhampton** connection continued when **Henry** and family were at living at **Otterhampton Cottage** in **Beaumont Road, Acton** on the April 1891 Census, including their latest arrival, **Emily Sophia** (b.1890). Sadly **Anna** died there at the end of 1893, only 46, from 'double pneumonia and exhaustion'ⁱⁱⁱ. **Henry** was left with two boys of 17 and 15, three girls between 13 and 8 and a young son of 5. His brother **William** had also died young, age 42, in **Bristol** and his youngest brother **Gabriel** had emigrated to **Canada**. **Henry** was still at **56 Beaumont Road** in 1901, a carpenter and widower, with his daughter **Constance**, 21, a silk blouse machinist, and son **Ernest** aged 13. By 1903 he had moved to **36 Antrobus Road**, a few streets away.

That year, age 55, he married 62 year old spinster **Jane Ann Cock** on July 4th, in **All Saints Church, Portsea**, near **Portsmouth** docks. Neither of the witnesses was a **Caswill**, and it's likely the wedding was a surprise for **Henry's** family. **Jane** was born in **Mevagissey** in **Cornwall** in 1842. She came up to London by 1881, when she was a parlour maid to the **Humphrey** family in **Hindley Cottages, East Acton**. She later moved to the service of **Sarah M Sibson** who was one of the wealthy **Ouvry** family - commemorated in the churchyard of **St Mary** in **Acton**. It is likely that the journeyman carpenter **Henry** had a relationship with **Jane** while she was in service there. After the wedding, **Jane** was back in **Acton** in January 1904 when she made her will,

witnessed there by **Mary Cersell**, the wife of a carpenter living near **Henry** in **Bridgman Street**. **Jane** was already seriously ill, as she died on 11 February of spinal myelitis and paralysis syncope, at her **116 Gladstone Street Portsmouth** home. She left £104 and 50 GWR shares to her brothers **Richard**, a shipwright, of the same address, and **Joseph** in **Port Isaac** in **Cornwall**. Nothing to **Henry**.

Back in **London**, **Henry** moved into the pub business and to **167 High Street, Uxbridge**. The local papers reported in 1905 that he ran the **Bell** in **Uxbridge**, and that he was charged with selling alcohol to an intoxicated woman. The case turned on whether **Henry** or his daughter **Annie** had served her. He was fined 40/-. In 1906 he applied for renewal of a licence at the **Bell**. There was an extensive examination which revealed that there were 17 fully licensed premises within a radius of 220 yards. **Uxbridge** had 845 houses at the time and a population of just over 3000. Curiously the report says he was living there 'with his wife' (as yet unexplained) and family, with a son and daughter. He was assisted in the business by his daughter **Annie**, who married a policeman, **John 'Jack' Roger** in 1907. **Henry** paid £21 pa rent, with takings of £765 plus lodgings paying 15/- a week. The brewers were **Harman and Co**. Shortly afterwards the licence for the **Bell** was revoked, but **Henry** was compensated with a £250 payment, worth over £21000 in today's money. From **Henry's** 1908 letter to his son **Ernest**^{iv}, we know that he went back to **Otterhampton** to visit his widowed mother in law, **Elizabeth Bowman**. The letter also mentioned an aunt and uncle, very likely **Anna's** sister **Elizabeth Jane**, and her farm worker husband, **Edwin Silke**. **Henry** and **Edwin** walked across the fields to **Combwich** while he was there. Sadly both he and **Elizabeth** were dead within a year.

When **Henry** died on 7 February 1909 he was 61, and on the **Uxbridge** Electoral Register at **166 High Street**. His effects were £759.^v The local papers reported the funeral, and that his polished elm coffin was carried on 'a pair-horse Washington car'. He was described as 'of the **Ram Hotel**', which was next door to the **Bell**, and as '*30 years a resident of Acton, well respected*'. He was interred in the family grave. His sons **Albert**, **Arthur Robert** and **Ernest** were at the funeral, along with his brother **Walter**, and nephews **Percy**, **Arthur** and **Harry Augustus**^{vi}, his daughter **Annie**, and **Jack Roger**, his sister Mrs **Sarah Bartlett**, and many others. He left six children, one of whom emigrated to **Australia**, two to **Canada**. More of them in the next issue.

Endnotes

ⁱ *Sometimes Hannah*

ⁱⁱ *which no longer exists, but according to the 1881 Census was close to Fishers Lane and Wellington Place*

ⁱⁱⁱ *Pneumonia was one of the main infectious killers of the Victorian era*

^{iv} *Ernest, his wife and children emigrated to Canada in 1912. Thanks to Gary Caswill Pryce in Canada who is Henry's great grandson, and unearthed the letter.*

^v *£91,500 in 2019 values.*

^{vi} *See the WMFHS Journal June and September 2020 issues*

BE PREPARED!

Muriel Sprott

Those of you who were members of any of the Baden-Powell youth organisations will, of course, still Be Prepared.

But what am I asking you to be prepared for? The answer is: **Your December Journal!** I know, you've only just received your September journal and have probably thrown away/recycled the envelope. But when your December journal arrives in approximately three months time, please **don't** throw the envelope away. Put it somewhere safe and conspicuous. It is your reminder to pay your 2023 subscription.

There are several ways you can pay your sub - the pullout pages in the centre of the journal will have all the information you need.

Forgotten your membership number? **It's on the envelope which I am asking you to keep!** If you choose to pay by bank transfer, please quote your membership number and as much of your surname as will fit in the 'Reference' box.

Prompt payment of subs is much appreciated, as is a brief note to let Pat Candler know that you are resigning. Sending reminders involves time, effort, trips to the post office (and postage). Each year, when Pat sends out reminders, some of you reply 'I'm sure I've paid - please check your records.' More work for Pat! This year, please could you check **your** records first? Diary entry, cheque counterfoil, bank statement – the evidence will be there!

Thank you and we hope you will continue your membership in 2023.

The Hampton Court Robbery Barry Purdon

I'm one of a small team of volunteers at The National Archives (TNA) cataloguing series HO18 'Criminal Petitions for Mercy'. The Court of Appeal didn't exist at the time of this crime in 1842 so the only hope of mitigation of sentence was to petition the Crown whose laws they had broken. Many of these petitions refer to fairly mundane crimes such as pickpocketing and come from all over the country.

If you like the idea of cataloguing original handwritten Criminal Petitions for Mercy from series HO18 at The National Archives at Kew, do contact our volunteer team to discuss further at volunteer@nationalarchives.gov.uk

To encourage you, the following tale is a 'stand-out' local petition from Hampton Wick concerning **Mary Ann Goatley** aged 19, **Henry Grover** aged 30 (a gardener from Mortlake) and his wife **Martha Grover** aged 31, all indicted for 'burglariously breaking and entering the dwelling house of our Sovereign Lady the Queen' at **Hampton Court Palace** [TNA/HO18/92/31]. The burglary took place at the Grace and Favour apartment No.44 in **Tennis Court Lane** the home of **Caroline Henrietta Hamilton Sheridan** (daughter-in-law of the playwright **Richard Brinsley Sheridan**).



Tennis Court Lane, Hampton Court



Hampton Court Palace

Mary Ann Goatley was her cook. **Caroline** had £30 of silver plate stolen (about £1,800 today) and some silk valued at £20 belonging to **Lady Selina Dufferin**. **Susan Foster** (**Martha Goatley's** mother) was indicted for receiving the same.

At the Old Bailey on 24 October 1842 **Mary Ann Goatley** and **Henry Grover** were found guilty of the Sheridan burglary and sentenced to ten years transportation. Foster was acquitted. Judgement on **Martha Grover** was deferred pending submission of her marriage certificate showing her legal marriage to her husband and a few days later this was produced. 'For the sake of form' she was re-indicted to another jury who found that she had been directed by her husband and was therefore acquitted. A full account of the main trial can be found at *Old Bailey Proceedings Online* (www.oldbaileyonline.org). Search for **Mary Ann Goatley** in 1842.

A detailed but less formal report can be found on **FindmyPast** in the *Morning Post* newspaper of 26 Oct 1842.

The letters of petition refer solely to **Mary Ann Goatley**. The first (above) is from **Henry Goatley**, carpenter, her father, of **Hampton Wick** and is undersigned by 25 inhabitants of **Hampton Wick** known to him. These include **John Collins**, **John Stevens** (Poor Law guardian and employer of **Henry Goatley**), **Job Elphick** (butcher), **William James** (baker), **Benjamin Regester** (hair draper and Overseer of the Poor), **M T Coleman** (surgeon), **Edward James** (grocer), **William Hitching** (butcher), **Thomas Russell** (constable), **Jonathan Fricker** (letter carver), **Arthur Sharpe** (carpenter),

Joseph Heffer (painter), **John James** (cooper), **Charles Belchamber** (carpenter), **James Hill** (baker), **John Weedon** (bootmaker), **Thomas Hill** (shoemaker), **Thomas Powell** (late constable), **William Walker** (undertaker), **Charles Clarke** and **John Denyer**.

Henry Goatley also encloses a letter from **Dr Inglis** of **Lawn House, Hanwell** (**Mary Goatley's** former employer) who gives her a good character. This ties in with the 1841 Census the year previously, which places her in service nearby at **Castlebar Hill** in **Ealing**. The second petition is from a Miss **Caroline Neave** of the Ladies Committee [for prison reform] and is endorsed by **Mrs Elizabeth Fry** the well-known prison reformer on that committee. The grounds for clemency for **Mary Ann Goatley** are that she was lured into the crime by the **Grovers** who were much older than she was, combined with her exemplary character previous to this her first offence. Also that the Ladies Committee considers her to be a suitable candidate for the **Millbank General Penitentiary** rather than being transported. However, **Sir James Graham** (Secretary of State for the Home Department) who received the petitions thought otherwise and he has initialled one of the petitions '*Transport*' and the other '*Refuse*'. Given that it was a first offence with no violence involved, it is unusual for this severity of sentence to be imposed. I suspect that the status of the victims and the location probably had something to do with it and, of course, it was a substantial burglary.

There is a transcript of the petitions at the Australian link below.

https://www.femaleconvicts.org.au/docs2/petitions/MaryAnnGoatley_Margaret1843.pdf

Mary Ann Goatley was transported on the convict ship *Margaret* on 5 February 1843 arriving in **Hobart Town, Van Diemens Land [Tasmania]** on 19 July 1843. **Grover** was sent to *York* convict hulk at **Gosport** and then transported to **Bermuda** where he is listed on the convict hulk *Tenedos* in 1847, his wife having unsuccessfully petitioned for mitigation [TNA/HO19/11].

https://www.femaleconvicts.org.au/docs/ships/Margaret1843_SJ_Mould2.pdf gives the following transcript by **Jan Westerink** of the *Margaret* surgeon's report on the last three months of **Mary Ann Goatley's** voyage to **Hobart** which paints a vivid picture.

Journal of Her Majesty's Convict Ship *Margaret*,
J.A. Mould, Surgeon, Between the 14th May 1843 and 26th July 1843

GENERAL REMARKS

The number of Convicts on board the *Margaret*, at the time of my taking charge in Simon's Bay [Western Cape, S.Africa] amounted to 152, all of whom were landed at Hobart Town. The case of death noted in the Nosological Synopsis was that of a child: another infant also died on the passage, but is not included in that Report, from never having been on the Sick List, as it did not appear to require Surgical Treatment, apparently perishing from defect in the [a?i?lative] functions. The number of sick was fifty-nine.

The prevailing diseases were affections of the membranes lining the air-passages, Rheumatism and Diarrhoea, arising from change of climate and much exposure to moisture from the Prison Deck and the beds of the Convicts being frequently wetted by leakage. In addition there were many minor cases and also some of derangement of the [Patamenia?], which later received palliative treatment only, the[.....] at my disposal not enabling me to do more, besides which they mostly appeared to be, mainly, [.....] on confinement on shipboard and the consequent want of that exercise to which the subjects had previously been accustomed, probably also, in some, they were owing, wholly or in part, to former sexual excesses.

To confinement and want of exercise also may be traced a great demand for and large consumption of Purgative Medicines. Some cases of Itch appeared in the early part of my charge, but being confined to one [.....], the measures consisted, in addition to the common treatment with Sulphur, in the free use of the dry [.....] of Lime about the berth and bedding of those affected, and as the means of perfect isolation were wanting, a strict charge was given both to them and to the other prisoners to avoid as much as possible, any personal contact. By these means the disease was prevented from spreading.

The cases generally exhibit but little interest. In that of Mania, fright appears plainly to have been the immediate exciting cause but disordered menstruation was probably a powerful [.....]. Only one paroxysm occurred and the patient, when landed, was fast approaching convalescence.

John [Arnot?] Mould, Surgeon.
Hobart Town, August 1st 1843

West Middlesex Family History Society – Members News

We regret to announce the death of
Edward Cartwright (C241)
who passed away in December 2021.

Surname Interests

Surname Interests are a key part of the Society. Registering your names with us can lead to connections and sometimes a member being able to do research for you on the ground.

If you think someone local may be able to help you, you can contact them directly (if they have included an email or other address) or you can ask via the Society. Don't be shy!

MEMBERS' DISCOUNTS

Find My Past

In May 2016 the Society signed a new contract with the Federation of Family History Societies (FFHS) relating to the terms under which we supply data to Find My Past. As part of this contract Find My Past has made available a discount of 15% on all new subscriptions, or Pay as You Go payments, taken out by our members. All you have to do is to enter the appropriate discount code as given below:

For Subscriptions the discount code is: *****

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

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

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. Go to their website www.forces-war-records.co.uk . Then visit the Subscription Rates page, register your details for the package you want and enter our discount code ***** when requested.

PASSWORDS

July to September 2022 *****

October to December 2022 *****

Family History Fairs and Events

The Family History Show is back at Kempton Park this month and we shall be there in person. The full programme of talks is not yet finalised but we can already see from their website that many of our old friends will be there – East Surrey Family History, The Surrey History Centre, the London Westminster and Middlesex Family History Society – and many more.

We are looking forward so much to our first in-person show in nearly three years. If you can, do come along and support the show!

Details as follows:

The Family History Show

Kempton Park Racecourse

24th September 2022, from 10am-4pm.

Tickets £12, under-16s go free.

NB at time of going to press - August 1st – there is an Early Bird offer of two tickets for £12. Please keep checking this on their website:

www.thefamilyhistoryshow.com/London

Getting there:

Train: Kempton Park North Entrance is about 200 yards from the station (half-hourly service to Waterloo)

Car: Free parking all day

Bus: the 216, 235, 290 and 555 all serve Kempton Park.

There is always a temptation to slightly inflate our ancestor's standing. A clerk may be described as a Chief Clerk or a butcher or baker may have the term "master" added to his occupation. And sometimes, status was even more inflated.

The following extract taken from the *Midland Ancestor* of December 2004 who found it in an issue of the Melbourne Probus newsletter of the same year.

How (not) to write your family history by Philip Wheeler

"An amateur genealogical researcher discovered that his great uncle Remus Star, was hanged for horse stealing and train robbery in Montana in 1889. The only extant photograph of Remus was when he was standing on the gallows just before he died. On the back of the photograph was this inscription 'Remus Star, horse thief, sent to Montana Territorial Prison in 1883, escaped in 1887, robbed the Montana Flyer 6 times , Caught by the Pinkerton detectives, convicted and hanged in 1889'

In the family history subsequently written by his descendant, Remus' picture was cropped, scanned in as an enlarged image and edited with image processing so that the picture shows nothing more than Remus' head. The accompanying biographical outline reads as follows: *'Remus Star was a famous cowboy in the Montana territory. His business empire grew to include the acquisition of valuable equestrian assets and he had closely intimate dealings with the dealings with the Montana Railroad. Beginning in 1883, he devoted several years of his life to service at a government facility until in 1887, he finally took his leave from it to resume profitable dealings with the Montana Railroad. Later in 1888, he was a key player in a vital investigation conducted by the Pinkerton Detective Agency. In 1889, Remus passed away during an important civic function held in his honour when the platform on which he was standing suddenly collapsed'*

An amusing story and we can all relate to the need to airbrush some of our more disgraceful forebears - but then it gets a little stranger! Trying to find out more about Remus Star (you know I am nosey!) I went to the family historian's friend/enemy – Google and found entries relating to such people as Joe Biden, Al Gore and Hilary Clinton, all of whom appear to have had an ancestor called Remus who was a horse thief. Surely they couldn't all be related to each other?

Factcheck finally solved the problem for me. The Remus Star story is a widespread genealogical hoax that is regularly attached to politicians and public figures. It has been going since 2000 and in fact the photograph that is often attached to this tale is of an outlaw called Thomas Edward "Black Jack" Ketchum who was hanged in 1901.

The moral of this is:

- Don't inflate your family status and
- Don't believe what you find on the internet until you've gone back and followed the research trail!

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.

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.

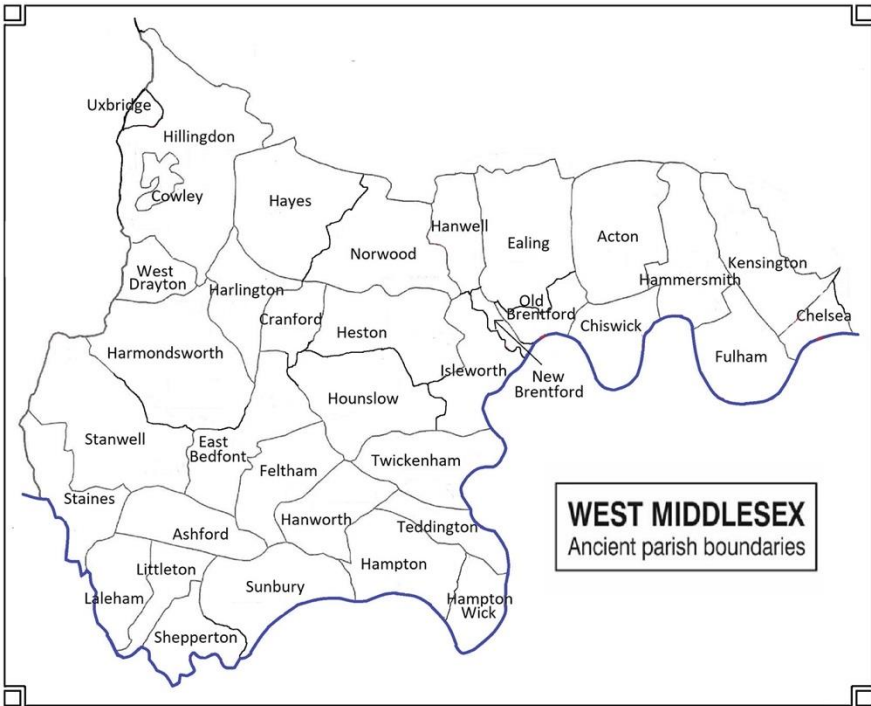
Front Cover

Images:

Clockwise from top left. Memorial to Sir Hans Sloane; Chelsea Old Church; Statue commemorating the opening of the Chelsea Embankment that encase Bazalgette's new sewerage system; Sir Thomas More; the sole remaining element of Crosby Place; Albert Bridge.

A fascinating corner of Chelsea and rich in history. Sir Hans Sloane was a physician, naturalist and collector, and also possibly the inventor of drinking chocolate. Crosby Place belonged to Richard III, but later passed into the ownership of Sir Thomas More. A small sunken garden nearby, Roper Gardens, was part of the Crosby Place orchards and contains an unfinished sculpture by Jacob Epstein who had a studio in Chelsea.

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West Middlesex Family History Society

Area of Interest

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

If undelivered, please return to :

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