



WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY JOURNAL

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WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY JOURNAL

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FUTURE MEETINGS



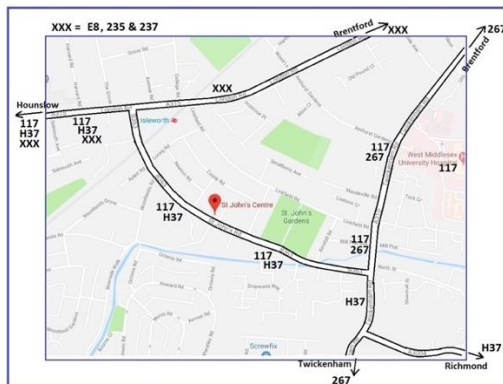
The following talks have been arranged:

Date	Topic	Speaker
<u>19 Sept 2024</u> Zoom meeting Speaker is remote	Using DNA for Family History Research This talk looks at some of the methods and techniques you can use when working with your DNA results. In addition, little tips will be given along with a few practical examples to help you visualise what you need to do to progress your family history research	Mia Bennett
<u>17 Oct 2024</u> Zoom meeting speaker at St. John's	Walking with the Ghosts of Hampton Court Palace Sarah wears one of her costumes whilst she presents her PowerPoint presentation with images detailing her experiences at Hampton Court. Sarah gives a glimpse of what it is like to wander the galleries late at night on her own in the dark. She will lead you on an exploration of the history, stories and sightings of some of the ghosts of Hampton Court Palace that have been reported over the last few hundred years	Sarah Slater
<u>21 Nov 2024</u>	T.B.A.	

When and How We Meet

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.

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. The H22 now also runs where 117 & 267 are shown.



To access the Zoom meeting, go to and click <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.

Members of Hillingdon FHS (www.hfhs.org.uk) and East Surrey FHS (www.eastsurreyfhs.org.uk) have an open invitation to join any of our Zoom meetings without charge and offer our members a reciprocal invitation.

Contributions and Advertisements

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

Articles should be between 800 and 1200 words in length. Longer articles can be submitted but may have to be published in two parts depending on space. Formatting: please set the document out as an A5 document with narrow margins and single line spacing.

They can be emailed or sent by post. The editor's postal address is to be found on the inside of the front cover.

Email: editor@west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk

If emailing an article, please submit any illustrations in a separate folder from the actual article.

If a quote or image is used that is not the author's own, the attribution must be given. If the attribution is not known, please state this.

Copy submission dates:

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

Advertisements

NB: We only accept advertisements relating to family history.

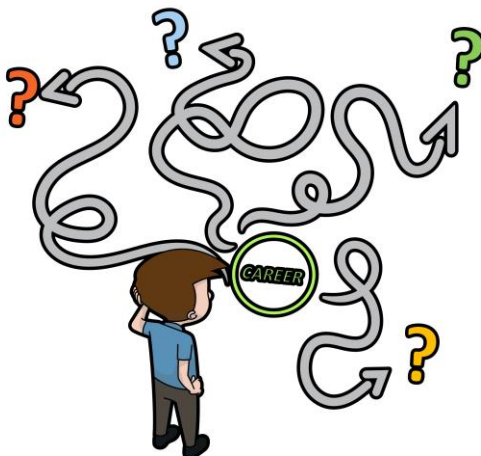
Rates:

Full page: £25 (members) £30 (non-members)

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

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

Would you like help with your family history?



Since the pandemic, we have cancelled our monthly face-to-face Advice Sessions at Feltham Library and have now begun offering advice by email. This allows our more far-flung members to access help. Email us at advice@west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk with your query and give us an idea of what you want to achieve. If you prefer to make an enquiry by post, write to the Secretary (address on the inside cover of this Journal).

Other members may be able to help with your query. If you think putting your enquiry in the Journal may help, please ask us to do this. Replies can be directed to you through the advice email (see above) if you do not want your contact details published.

Please note: we do **not** offer a genealogical research service.

If you would like to use the services of a paid genealogical research agent, the best place to start is the Association of Genealogists and Researchers in Archives (www.agra.org.uk). They have a list of people who are trained and accredited and will help you interpret their findings.

Frost Fairs

May

Ian Currie

Ian began by saying that frost fairs were not just a matter of history but also involved geography, science, art and literature.

Frost fairs are a rarity these days, especially in recent years when winters have been milder. When, why and how did frost fairs occur? Were winters much colder in previous centuries? How can we compare them when records have not been kept for that long? The fact that we can do this is due to **Gordon Manly, FRGS**, who devised the **Central England Temperature** chart that went back to 1659 before thermometers were invented. The science of dendrochronology shows that temperature affects the growth rings of trees.

What was a frost fair? Essentially it was a fair with all the usual stalls and entertainments but actually held on a hard-frozen river. Below is a painting by **Thomas Wyke** depicting the Frost Fair of 1683-1684.



London was not the only place to hold Frost Fairs and entertainment. In 1808 York held a skating race on the frozen river Ouse, but the Frost Fairs on the Thames are the most famous and occurred most frequently between the seventeenth and nineteenth centuries. The cause of this phenomenon of frozen rivers was a climate period dubbed the “Little Ice Age”. Preceding periods had been much milder but during the 15th century the weather in Northern Europe and the Arctic

took a turn for the worse and became markedly colder. With the cause established, why did people decide to make a celebration of a natural disaster? At that time the Thames was a major employer for the population of London. Transport of people and goods was almost entirely waterborne. When the

water froze, normal trade came to a halt. The heavy impact of this on watermen led to compensation being paid to prevent them becoming destitute.

However, they also devised various ingenious methods of maintaining their income. By upturning their boats and covering them with boards and blankets, watermen were able to use them as market stalls. They also employed some questionable practices such as encouraging people to come onto the ice for free under their own steam and then charging them to be helped off to dry land. You could do anything at a Frost Fair that you could do at a regular land-based fair – and more.

In the winter of 1564/65, **Queen Elizabeth I** herself took part in a game of Targets on the frozen Thames. You could play kalf – an early form of golf - or you could skate. Ox-bone blades were the norm until 1663 when a new fashion of iron blades was introduced from Holland. Sleds and horse-drawn sailboats were popular methods of transport for those who did not fancy skating, and you could even visit a print booth and buy a souvenir sheet with your name on it as a memento of your trip to the Frost Fair. Other entertainments were minstrels, acrobats, singers and a “fuddling” tent - a sort of pop-up pub. There were even fox-hunts on the ice. And there was a useful by-product - blocks of ice could be used to keep food fresh. Artists of the period such as **Breughel** and **Griffier** depicted many scenes of people enjoying activities on the ice.

The ice, though, could prove dangerous as well as entertaining. If the ice cracked and you fell into the water, you could die from the cold in a matter of minutes. One woman was even beheaded by the ice. A fissure appeared in the ice, causing her to slip through into the water. The ice sheets then immediately closed up, beheading her. So dangerous was it that the Royal Humane Society patrolled the ice, dragging people out when they fell through before they could die of hypothermia. In 1739, work on **Westminster Bridge** was held up by the ice and damage to the partially-built bridge was such that a National Lottery had to be held to pay for the repairs and completion.

Cold temperatures were not consistent. The winter of 1739/40 was the second coldest ever recorded, while the winter of 1677 was milder than the Big Freezes of 1946/47 and 1962/63. But if this was the case, why then, did the Thames freeze in 1677 and not in 1946? How did such a large river as the Thames come to freeze at all? The answer is that cold alone was not responsible for the freezing of the Thames.

A picture of a sunset over **London Bridge** gives us a clue as to another key factor. It shows no fewer than nineteen narrow arches of the old London Bridge. These arches limited the speed of the flow upstream (also allowing a build-up of silt and rubbish) that blocked the stretch of the river from Westminster Bridge down to London Bridge. Another factor was that the Thames in those days was almost twice as wide and much shallower than today's river. So a combination of shallowness, width, slow-flowing water and harsh weather created almost perfect conditions for freezing.

If you visit modern-day **Southwark Bridge**, you can see a depiction of Frost Fairs on the paneling. It is clear that **Bankside** – site of today's Tate Modern and The Globe – was still very rural in those days. London's population began to increase in the eighteenth century.

The nineteenth century saw the demise of the Frost Fairs. Winters were still cold, with snow and frost; **Charles Dickens** popularised the enduring fashion for snowy Christmas card scenes. But the Little Ice Age was coming to an end. The last Great Frost Fair actually occurred in 1814. To the right is a painting of it by **Luke Clenell**.

Another painting of it can be seen in the **Museum of London** and there is also a copy of **George Davis's** "Frostiana" a commemorative

booklet. The end of that year's big freeze came very suddenly with the ice breaking up and resulting in the collapse of **Kingston Bridge**.

The end of the Thames Frost Fairs was a result both of a warming up of the weather and man-made intervention. A new London Bridge was built in 1831 with fewer arches and the Thames itself was dredged, resulting in a faster flow that prevented freezing. The Thames froze at Richmond in 1855; in 1890 it was so cold that London had no sun for a month; and in 1895, there was skating on the frozen Serpentine but there were no more Frost Fairs. It is unlikely that we will ever see them again.

WRITTEN BY ANN GREENE



Giz came upon what remains of The Fulham Pottery by accident when she was looking for the house where her grandfather was born in **Fulham**. All that remains of the pottery is one bottle kiln situated at the intersection of **Burlington Road** and **New King's Road**, just north of the River Thames.

The name, Fulham Pottery, was familiar to Giz because as a child she had used an old stone hot water bottle, declaring its maker as "Ye Olde Fulham Pottery, established 1671".



Subsequent research showed the founder of the pottery to be **John Dwight**. Dwight studied for a degree at **Oxford** where he worked as an assistant to **Robert Boyle**, later of the **Royal Society**, and renowned

for his work on experimental chemistry. Dwight became interested in the chemistry of ceramics and experimented in its production until in 1672, he patented his discovery for manufacturing stoneware and salt glaze. Stoneware, produced by adding fine sand to the clay and firing at 1200 °C, had the advantage that it was impervious to liquids. It had been manufactured previously in **China** and **Germany** whence Britain had imported it until this time. Encouraged by Robert Boyle, Dwight set up the Fulham Pottery and rapidly took over the stoneware production market.



Salt added to the kiln at maximum firing vapourised and reacted with the sand in the fireclay to produce a vibrant salt glaze, as can be seen in this example of a small jug produced at Fulham in about 1680.



Dwight was not himself a potter, but he employed talented people to produce true works of art. A quality example of pottery sculpture is a figure of his daughter, **Lydia Dwight**, who sadly died at the age of 6. Heart-broken, Dwight had her immortalised in this sculpture, now in the **Victoria and Albert Museum**.



John Dwight ran the pottery until his death in 1703, when he passed the business to his wife Lydia. Lydia survived until 1709, when she passed it on to one of their sons, **Samuel Dwight**. Upon Samuel's death in 1739 the pottery was run by his widow, **Margaret**, and **Thomas Warland**, first husband of Samuel's only child, also named Lydia. Unfortunately, the pottery went bankrupt in 1746, not long before Thomas died in 1748. Lydia then married **William White**, an excellent potter who restored the pottery as a business. The pottery passed down in turn to William White's son, also **William**, and to his son, **Charles Edward White**.

Charles Edward came to a sad end. In 1859, and he was found dead in his counting house. It was at first assumed that he had died of a natural cause, but a post mortem was conducted, and it was found that he had poisoned himself. The reason it seems was that he had been having an affair with a young lady, which led to a row and his taking of his own life. The executors of Charles Edward's estate then sold the pottery and it became the property of **Macintosh & Clements** in 1861, but they held it just for a short while, and it was sold again in 1864, this time to a great enthusiast, **Charles Irvine Conyngham Bailey**. Bailey immediately grew the pottery, and in addition to the production of everyday stoneware items on which the fortunes of the

pottery was founded, he employed artists such as French landscape artist **J.C. Cazin**, to design for the art pottery market. The photo (right), shows a vase created by **Wallace Martin** for Bailey in 1876. Bailey expanded the pottery considerably, and by 1888 it had nine kilns and employed about 130 staff.

But Bailey had perhaps overstretched himself, plus being heavily fined for smoke pollution, he was bankrupt in 1888. The pottery was acquired by **Cheavin's Water Filter manufacturers** from **Bolton**, becoming "**The Fulham Pottery and Cheavin Filter Company Ltd.**" Cheavin diversified the business, producing stone hot water bottles and water filters during WW1 and later garden ornaments in the



1920-30s. In 1935

Constance Spry, famed for her flower arrangements for Royalty, commissioned a trial run of plain but stylish pots in which to display her flowers. The success of this trial resulted in a group within the company continuing to design and market the highly successful Constance Spry range that continued to run well after WW2. Within this group was **William John Marriner**, eldest brother of Giz's grandfather and a long-term employee at the pottery. He had spent 40 of his 51 years there designing and making stone hot water bottles as shown at the start of this article. Giz's great grandfather had also been employed at the pottery along with another of his sons.

Stoneware production at the Pottery ceased in 1928 as more modern materials replaced it for use in the food market and smoke pollution was no longer tolerated in the rapidly expanding Fulham. In 1969 the Pottery was sold with its remaining works moving to **Battersea**. Excavation of the historic site began in 1971 and in 1975 it was dismantled to leave the single kiln shown at the start of this article, to mark the site where so much pottery history had occurred.

WRITTEN BY ROLAND BOSTOCK

All Photos shown courtesy of the V&A Museum

Almshouses originated in medieval times. They were often attached to monasteries which had a Christian duty to care for the sick and needy – a duty of hospitality. Our modern word ‘hospital’ comes from that root.

While ailing monks were treated within the monastery, outside or ‘lay’ patients were housed in an infirmary and treated by monks. Church authorities often encouraged the foundation of such infirmaries, notably **Whitby Abbey** founded in the 7th century which had a building to which they took “those who were infirm or seemed at the point of death”. The oldest such institution in the country still in existence is the **Hospital of St Oswald** (*see below*) in **Worcester** which was founded in 990CE (CE – common era). It still functions as a complex of 21 almshouses. In its original form, it offered hospitality to travellers who arrived after the city gates were closed as well as tending the sick and burying the dead.



Lazar houses were specifically concerned with the care of leprosy sufferers. They were isolated from the main infirmaries because of the fear of contagion, although we cannot be sure that all such patients were suffering from leprosy. Many of them may have had skin disorders that resembled leprosy.

There were also non-monastic hospitals, founded variously by the aristocracy, wealthy merchants and Livery Companies or Guilds. A lack of pre-Reformation records makes it difficult to identify them, particularly if they were small, short-lived foundations. However, records for larger ones are still available; two such hospitals are **St. Mary's Hospital** in **Dover**, founded by **Sir Hubert De Burgh**,

Earl of Kent, and **St. Cross** in **Winchester**, founded by **Henry de Blois**, grandson of **William the Conqueror**. Winchester was outstripped in the number of almshouses by other cities such as **York**.

From the 15th century, the modern almshouse began to emerge as residences for those who had fallen into need through age or sickness. Some of these had previously been lazaret houses which had been repurposed as almshouses as the prevalence of leprosy declined.

The establishment of an almshouse was a highly visible form of charity. Substantial investment was required, with the expense of building or adapting a property and establishment of a fund to continue the work. The best form of funding was agricultural land as it brought in rents to fund the almshouses. Once set up, an almshouse might accrue additional bequests or endowments from other local people who wished to be associated with it. Location was important when setting up an almshouse or hospital. It needed to be highly visible in order to attract funds, so a roadside location on the approach to a town was good.

The monastic almshouse suffered greatly during the **Reformation**. With the demise of the monasteries, funds that supported the almshouses disappeared, although the sale of monastic lands raised about £800,000. Non-religious hospitals stood a better chance of survival provided they could prove they were not attached to a religious foundation but they were still vulnerable. On the eve of the Reformation there were an estimated 500-600 almshouses in the country; by 1550 this had shrunk to around 250. In the following century however, the numbers began to recover.

Design varied as time went on. In the early days, when almshouses were as much hospitals as living place, they were built on a long-hall plan with beds placed on either side of a central aisle. There was a move away from the communal living design and a growing acceptance of the need for personal space, greater privacy and a little more comfort. The long ward with beds on either side was replaced by cubicles. Meals could be taken with other residents or in one's own private space. As the emphasis shifted towards providing an independent living space, the design became a small cottage space with kitchen, bedroom and parlour. The "courtyard" layout became popular and was much copied in the 19th century.



The picture on the left shows **Hopton's Almshouses** in **Southwark**, an example of the courtyard style. The most popular design however was the "row house" as it was very cheap to build. Almshouse buildings were not always well constructed or well-maintained. Many of them were timber framed and subject to decay and collapse.

There are few architecturally memorable almshouses – famous architects were not often asked to design them. The most famous example is the **Royal Hospital** in **Chelsea** for ex-soldiers, designed by **Sir Christopher Wren** and still a working almshouse.

In some places, a monetary allowance would be provided for food in lieu of meals. A cash pension plus housing might also be offered but this could vary enormously between institutions. An allowance for fuel and clothing might be offered in cash or in kind. Some foundations expected their inhabitants to wear the foundation uniform when out; others offered the uniform as the clothing allowance. Additional money could be gained through offering personal services such as helping to nurse other residents or by reading daily prayers.

The **Elizabethan Poor Law** finally began to codify poor relief. By the mid-1600s, the term hospital was replaced by almshouse. It was no longer a place for medical treatment but a place where the poor could live out their final days in decent comfort. The recovery of the almshouses was well on its way with 1 in 10 parishes now having an almshouse.

The **Chelsea Pensioners** of course have their own distinctive uniform of red coats, but other almshouse residents, as has already been mentioned, might be expected to wear clothing that marked them out as inhabitants of a

particular charity. In some cases, this might simply be a badge. Ironically, the wearing of an almshouse badge by residents could be seen as a mark of distinction, while at the other end of the spectrum the “badging” of workhouse inmates was a mark of shame.

Almshouses required staff to run them - a matron, an overseer, a warden, a superintendent, a chapel clerk – and all these people had to be paid. Above the almshouse staff was the Board of Trustees, whose duty was to manage the finances, maintain the foundation’s reputation and keep the almshouse running. There had to be firm, clear rules – if these did not exist at the setting up of an almshouse, court cases might result at a later stage. But as with benefits and uniforms, these varied. Behavioural rules were finally standardised in the 19th century by the charity Commissioners.

The **Industrial Revolution** brought the growth of towns and increasing poverty among workers and wealthy philanthropists were encouraged to fund almshouses. Typically, applicants were required to be local residents, aged, ill or incapacitated, of good character and relatively poor. The 19th century also brought into the light the need for reform of the almshouse system and the Poor Law. Differing standards, problems with administration and the potential for fraud had all led to the 1830 inquiry into almshouses, and by 1853 the **Charity Commissioners** had been set up with a brief to challenge abuses, follow the principles of founders and promote standardisation of rules for both residents and trustees. The New Poor Law was introduced in 1842 with its unions of parishes delivering relief through the workhouse rather than individual parish relief payments and there was now an overlap between the almshouses and the workhouses – the major difference being that almshouses could select their residents (the “deserving” poor) while the workhouses were bound by the rules of the New Poor Law. An almshouse resident was guaranteed a particular stipend by his institution, while poor relief was distributed by need.

By the 20th century, public and private charity had converged and in 1950 the **National Association of Almshouses** was formed. Today the surviving almshouses show a great deal of vitality. In 1999 the **UK Almshouses Association** had a membership of 1748 member charities managing 2,599 groups of almshouses and providing accommodation for 31,421 residents.

WRITTEN BY ANN GREENE

Where are you - Where have you gone?

A message from Giz Marriner - Your Chairman

When meetings resumed about 2½ years ago, we regularly saw over 20 people attending meetings at St John's Centre and often 30 or more watching on Zoom.

Since then, the numbers have declined substantially. It is now quite normal for there to be fewer than ten people at St John's Centre and fewer than 20 on Zoom.



Your committee members are seriously concerned about this, to the point where we are considering cessation of 'live' meetings at St John's Centre. After all, Roland has to bring a great deal of equipment, set it all up, then take it all back home afterwards.

Embarrassing, too, when we have a speaker, who has given up their evening, to find themselves addressing so few people in the room.

Why don't you come to meetings or watch on Zoom anymore? Are there any topics that would make you say "Ooh, I must remember to attend that talk"? Is there any topic especially relevant to your family history? Please contact any one of the people listed inside the front cover of this Journal and tell us your reasons. If you don't tell us what we are doing, or not doing, we have no way of doing things better.

This Society is your Society. You know the cliché – "Your Call is Important to Us". **Well, your views are important to us. Please share your opinions.**



JOHN SEAMAN

Claude Duval, not only our highwayman

Because of his romantic association with **Hounslow Heath**, we may have considered **Claude Duval** to be our highwayman. However, the **Claude Du Vall** public house in **Camberley** is a reminder of his criminal association with **Bagshot Heath** in **Surrey**.

A few times when I was somewhere between the ages of about 8 and 12 my mum used to take me and my younger brother and sister from our home in Fulham to visit a friend of hers, she used to call **Dot SIMPSON**, who lived on the border between Fulham and Hammersmith in a small terraced house in a group of streets of similar houses off the Hammersmith Road. I well remember that the District Line tube trains used to run just behind the fence at the back of her small garden, and when a train went past the teacups used to rattle on her dresser, which we kids thought was funny. She was a small brown-haired lady and wore one of those wrap-around floral pinnies. I also remembered that Dot's mother lived upstairs as we once went up and had tea with her in her sitting room which was nicely old-fashioned and lacy, and we had homemade seed cake with our tea.

Recently I'd been wondering who Dot was and how my mum knew her – was she a former work colleague? My mum had worked at a printers before she was married – had she known her there? And I suspected that Simpson wasn't Dot's married name but the name my mum best knew her by from before they were both married. I vaguely remembered from our visits a husband, and a son who was a bit older than us. So I decided to do some research. The group of streets where she lived are long gone – the Hammersmith Flyover now dominates the area, so I couldn't even go back and look for her house. And anyway, I didn't know the name of the street. Not a good start!

I thought a look through the local Electoral Registers for those streets might give a clue. I do have a few old A-Z books of London Street maps and I could find those streets between the tube line and the Hammersmith Road, so I had a few street names to go by. I found out from the website of Hammersmith and Fulham Archives that they are housed upstairs in Hammersmith Library just off Hammersmith Broadway and are only open two days a week, Monday and Tuesday, and an appointment is required, but it also said that the Electoral Registers were on open access, so I went along one Monday morning a few months ago on spec and got in without a problem – you have to ring the bell on the door upstairs. I was able to give the Librarian one of the street names and, as I knew the Registers were produced annually in book form, I asked for

1950. She eventually found the right Ward containing those streets right at the back of the book.

I started looking for Dorothys (although I didn't know for sure if that was what "Dot" was short for), running down the lists of names for each street and writing down each married couple which included a Dorothy – there were just a few. Then, I came to **Lurgan Street**. And there was an **Andrew** and **Dorothy MASON**, and at the same address was a **Sarah A. SIMPSON**. I thumped the table. It had to be. If these were the right people (i.e. Dot and her husband and her mother), then I was right that Simpson was Dot's maiden name, not her married name, and now I had that too. I knew that once I had the surname of her and her husband, as a family historian, I was away! I carried on writing down "Dorothy" couples for the remaining streets but somehow, I knew this was unnecessary – I had them in the bag.

So, home on the tube and onto the computer. First to the Free BMD website for an Andrew Mason marrying a Dorothy – I started around the mid-1920s and came forward. In 1930, an Andrew Mason married a Dorothy Simpson! In Fulham! On to Ancestry.com, who actually had the church register entry for



that marriage. When I opened it up, I couldn't believe what I was seeing. The couple were married in our old parish church of St. Matthews in Fulham – and they both gave their address as: 14 **Lindrop Street**! Huh? This was the house my mother and her family had lived in for many years, from 1912 onwards – they had moved there from Battersea when my mother and her sister were small children and all their younger siblings were born there. No.14 was split into two flats. Did this mean that in 1930 Dorothy Simpson and her new husband had moved in upstairs to my mum's family? Is this how she had got to know her?

My mother was married herself two years after Dorothy, in 1932. Did they attend each other's wedding?

I then started digging into both the Mason and Simpson families and was in for an even greater surprise. Looking at the 1911 census on Ancestry, I found the Simpson family, with Dorothy as a small child, living a few streets away from

Lindrop Street in **Hazelbury Road**, a very nice road locally. Her father was **William Henry SIMPSON** who had been born in Birmingham and worked as a checker of goods travelling by railway. His wife was **Sarah Ann SIMPSON** – the lady with whom we'd had tea and seed cake! – and here was the big surprise. Sarah's birthplace was given as: **Baydon, Wiltshire!** I thought – this can't be a coincidence. Because my family knew the name of this small village very well indeed. My mum often talked about it, as this was where she, my older brother **Malcolm** and myself as a very young child, were evacuated during World War II. Checking the William Henry and Sarah Ann marriage, which had taken place in **Marylebone, London**, I found that Sarah Ann's maiden name was **LAWRENCE**. In the 1901 census I found 17-year-old **Sarah Ann LAWRENCE** working as a maid at the Vicarage in Baydon. There were several Lawrence families in the village.

Now, I had always thought that my mum had been sent down to Baydon as part of the official evacuation scheme. According to my mum we had lived with a middle-aged bachelor called **Mr WOODWARD** – I didn't remember him but he was apparently very kind to us and even made me a doll's pram, with a hood that went up and down properly (on which I had apparently insisted). A subsequent visit to the Fulham Archives and another look at the Electoral Registers showed that the Simpson family had actually moved to 14 Lindrop Street in c1912, which was exactly when my mum's family, the **DOVES**, had also moved there. And a further surprise – the Electoral Registers revealed that immediately after moving from Battersea the Doves had actually lived briefly in Hazelbury Road, just along the street from the Simpsons. So did the two families meet there and decide to move to Lindrop Street together?

So, the Simpsons lived upstairs to the Doves at no.14. Dot was two years older than my mum, and the children of the two families grew up in the same house. My mum, then, had known Dot for a very long time. Surely it must have been Dot's mother Sarah who arranged for my mum and us to get accommodation in Baydon, the village where Sarah herself grew up? I had not known this before, or if I ever did, I had long forgotten it.

After my parents married in 1932, Ancestry's (rather patchy) coverage of Electoral Registers show that Dot and her husband and my parents lived next door to each other in an adjacent street, **Glenrosa Street**, for a while, then later my parents moved around the corner to **Stephendale Road**, to the flat where I and my siblings grew up, and eventually Dot and her husband must

have moved with Dot's mother to Lurgan Street. Local newspaper reports from the British Newspaper Archive show that that group of streets South of the Hammersmith Road had been under threat at least from the late 1930s as it was already known that something would have to be done about increasing traffic in the area, streaming west out of London through Hammersmith.

Dot must have known when we visited in the late 1940s or early 1950s that her home was doomed. They must later have been rehoused because according to the Electoral Registers on Ancestry they moved to a rather nice area off the **Upper Richmond Road**. Perhaps that's why they moved to Lurgan Street in the first place – was there already a promise that when the houses came down people there would be rehoused by the Council? And she didn't mind us laughing when her teacups rattled as the trains went by – they were not going to be there forever! The Flyover was completed in 1961 and the houses were demolished (surprisingly, no coverage that I can find in the Press at the time about the loss of this community). By then our mum had died, we moved out of Fulham soon afterward, and we lost touch with Dot's family – no more visits, and all these back stories almost forgotten. But, after years of wondering, one visit to the Hammersmith and Fulham Archives yielded a lead to virtually the whole story in just a few minutes.



Houses in Lurgan Street area undergoing demolition

Photo courtesy of Hammersmith and Fulham Archives

The **Longford River**, in Middlesex, is not a river but a canal cut by a King and now owned by a King. It starts from a place on the **Colne/Wraysbury** river in the village of Longford at a point just after an island of four acres. The main river flows on to join the **Thames** at **Staines**, whilst the man-made river flows south. This passes through the **Middlesex** villages of **Stanwell** and **Bedfont** where it is only metres away from one of Europe's busiest Airports. It then flows through **Feltham**, **Hanworth Park**, **Hampton** and **Bushy Park** before fulfilling its purpose in the **Hampton Court Palace** water gardens and exiting into the River Thames.

This artificial river was dug on the orders of **Charles I** in 1638 to improve the flow of water to the Hampton Court fountains. He designed the fountains to impress his wife, **Henrietta Maria**. It was often called the King's, Queen's or Cardinal's River, but is now universally known as the Longford River and is still Crown property.

Soon after the river leaves the **River Colne** at the Saxon village of **Longford** it crosses the **Great Bath Road**. This busy road, which leads to **Windsor, Reading** and **Bath**, was once in constant use by horses, carts and carriages. After years of coachmen having to negotiate the narrow bridge that crossed the Kings River, and over which successive Monarchs had been driven on their journeys to and from **Windsor**, **King William IV** decided to do something about it. In 1834 he had built a cast iron bridge bordered on each side by an elliptical arch with a parapet with trellis design. In the centre of the arch is a plaque with a raised crown and underneath "WR IV 1834". This is now a Grade II listed structure.

As Crown property the river was strictly monitored to prevent any external encroachments on the river or its surroundings. In Victorian times only those granted permission by **Mr. Jesse** the Superintendent of Palaces were allowed to fish in the river. One of those granted a line permit was **William Singleton**, a grocer from Hampton. He was fishing at 7pm on 31 August 1846 when he saw two men retrieving stunned or dying fish that were floating on the surface from the river. The following morning about 6am a local Surgeon, **Henry Jepson**, who also had a permit, was fishing with a line when he was asked by

Mr. Plumbridge, a river inspector, whether he had seen anyone on the riverbank. Mr. Plumbridge had received information that fish had been seen floating in the river, and a passerby had pointed out two suspicious men. Fifteen minutes later, the Doctor saw two men on the bridge looking down into the shallow water. It was a while before he saw what they were looking at until he spotted, laying on the bottom of the river, several large fish, some dying - and some dead - they appeared to be under the influence of some narcotic and as he looked, he saw more. They were everywhere. He pulled a couple of the roach out of the water and took them home to examine them. Later that evening, in the presence of Mr. Plumbridge and **Mr. Benbow**, the local chemist, he surgically cut them open and discovered they had deep yellow matter in their stomachs, which he knew to be characteristic of the *cocculus indicus* plant. This plant, often called the Indian berry or fishberry, induces stupefying effects, and although a poison, it was, (until it was banned in the mid-nineteenth century), sometimes added to cheap beer to make it more intoxicating. Adding the berries or a paste of the berries would have stupefied the fish, making them easier to catch. At the subsequent trial at the **Old Bailey** on 21 September 1846, nineteen-year-old **Jesse Lucas**, one of the men looking over the bridge, stood in the Dock. **George Henry Benbow**, the chemist from Hampton, gave evidence that the accused came into his shop on the afternoon of 31 August and bought half-an-ounce of *cocculus indicus*.

Mr Benbow said, "he did not ask for it by that name - I do not remember the name he called it - it is called by so many names - it was the common name - but I sold him half an ounce of *cocculus indicus* - he did not say what he wanted it for but before he left the shop, I cautioned him and told him it was transportation to use it - I did not say what for".

He told the Court that he was present when Mr Jepson opened the fish that had been removed from the river. "I am satisfied that what was found was *cocculus indicus* - I know that it is sometimes mixed with dough and put into the water."

Jesse Lucas was born in **Hampton Common**. His father had died when he was a baby and he had been in trouble before, but had been holding down a job as a bricklayers' labourer for the last 18 months. Now he was in serious trouble. When the two men were arrested, Lucas's companion, **Jim Lee**, sprinted away and was never found. At the trial Jesse Lucas' defence statement was, "I never chucked any stuff in." Nevertheless, he was found guilty and sentenced to

transportation for seven years. He was first taken to **Pentonville Prison** and then transferred to **Millbank** and a prison hulk. Weighing 9st 11lbs he had to do hard labour until, after eighteen months he was put on board the **Anna Maria** and sailed for **Port Phillip, Melbourne, Australia**. He then disappears from the records.

Fishing was not the only activity restricted by Crown authorities. It was an offence to use the water for irrigation or to damage the river or its banks with any type of construction, other than that authorised by the Crown authorities. In 1836 **William Stevens** of Longford was summoned before the Magistrates Court by the Superintendent of the water supply belonging to her Majesty to Hampton Court. Stevens was charged with pulling down and damaging the palisade fence enclosing the river. He was convicted with a penalty of twelve

shillings and costs and sent to the treadmill for one month.



The Crown employed men to help maintain the river. One such riverman was **Thomas Hedges** who lived at the **Kings Arms** in Longford village. He used a long shallow boat like a punt to dredge the river and keep the banks clear of weeds. Hedges also had an obligation to report on misuse of the river. On 12 August 1878, Mr.

Hedges was in the Kings Arm's tap room when a labourer called **Edmund Buckland** criticised Hedges for not lending him his boat, an argument broke out which resulted in a fight, although Hedges did not return the blows. Buckland was drunk, had previous convictions and was upset that Hedges had caught him netting the river. Buckland was found guilty of assault and was fined fifteen shillings (a week's wages).

The bridges over the Longford River had been maintained by Crown authorities, but in the late 19th century complaints about the narrowness of the bridges for modern traffic caused conflict between the local council and **H.M. Office of Works**. The Board declared it did not have a budget for replacing the bridges, nor were they willing to assign additional land for a wider bridge.

In 1901 an attempt was made for the **Middlesex County Council** to take over the ownership of the bridges from the Crown, but negotiations broke down. The issue was still unresolved in 1913, when H.M. Office of Works said they had no money for bridge improvements but they were willing to re-open negotiations about the ownership of the bridges.

In fact, under the Crown Lands Act 1906, bridges owned by the Crown could be transferred to any authority "willing and able to accept such a conveyance". So, one by one, local councils along the route of the Longford River applied to take responsibility for a bridge in their area, thus removing the necessity to keep applying to the Crown when maintenance or improvements were necessary. They were however to do nothing that would interfere with the flow of the river.

As well as the issue of the bridges there were other construction issues. There was a smallpox outbreak in 1907 and the Staines council wanted to build an isolation hospital near the Longford River. The Crown authorities objected strongly to this, the inference being that the river could be contaminated in some way. In 1914 Feltham Council applied to H.M. Office of Works for permission to utilise a portion of the Longford River as a bathing place, but permission was refused. However, they did concede that if the Council wanted to build a swimming bath near to the river, then, on receiving details, they would sanction the use of the water from the river. Council Surveyors estimated that such a swimming bath would cost £830, but with the start of the First World War, the Council decided to defer the proposal at that time.

Occasionally nature interfered with the river - in severe winters it would freeze over. At other times the storms caused flooding. Cottages next to the river in Stanwell were flooded in 1914 and the council requested that the surface water be allowed to drain into the Longford River, but the Crown objected as they felt it would cause pollution.

This water hazard also caused tragedy. In Hanworth in 1894 72-year-old **Charlotte Penfold** accidentally fell in the river. Her body was seen floating down stream face down by a neighbour **William Morgan**. He managed to get her out of the water and called a doctor, but she was pronounced dead. At her inquest it was explained that she had recently had influenza and was still groggy when she went to the river bank to feed the ducks. It was thought she had become dizzy and fallen in and a verdict was returned of Accidental Death.

Mrs Penfold had been a respected member of the parish of Hanworth for 35 years. Her late husband was the foreman at **Curtis and Harveys Mills** (gunpowder mill on Hounslow Heath) for many years. Another long-term worker from Curtis and Harvey accidentally drowned in the river in 1922. **George Rowe**, aged 71, of **River View Villas, Bedfont**, fell in the river. He was in the habit of rising early and walking along the banks to see his son. Not all drownings were accidental. **Elizabeth Martin**, aged 31, was found drowned in the river, after leaving her three children with a neighbour and a note for her husband, who was working away. The inquest verdict was suicide.

When Charles I began his quest for a picturesque water garden at Hampton Court and spared no expense in getting twelve miles of waterway cut from the Colne River to feed it, he probably never envisaged the growth of Middlesex



suburbia, nor transport such as planes and automobiles. But the fact that it has survived for 385 years through changing times, and its tranquil waters and natural habitats have given pleasure to many over that time means that the river is well-loved and admired. It will be sad to see it disappear into a

culvert at Longford if the third runway is built at **Heathrow airport** and the village of Longford is demolished.

Wendy Tibbitts is the author of “Longford: A Village in Limbo” now available in paperback and e-book.

For a “Look Inside” option for this book go to <https://b2l.bz/WUf9dc>

BRICK WALLS

MW

The Case of the Vanishing Lady

Margaret Watson

My husband's father was born illegitimately and brought up by **Fred and Ellen Binkley**, though never legally adopted, it would seem, since he kept the name with which he was born, **Joseph Hartshorn Watson**. Fred died in 1914, before my husband was born, but Ellen must have moved in with her 'adopted' son and his wife because my husband can remember her teaching him to read and write at home before he went to school. Ellen died in 1939 in the **Don Valley, Yorkshire** aged 85. This meant that she must have been born around 1854.

Wanting to find out more about my husband's putative grandmother I started by looking for the Binkley marriage certificate and with the rare name of Binkley this was easy to find. They married in **Sneinton, Nottinghamshire** in 1892. It is interesting that Ellen's age of 26 must have been incorrect, as she would have been aged around 38 if she was in fact 85 when she died in 1939. Perhaps she didn't want to appear so much older than her husband!

I found the couple in both the 1901 and 1911 censuses. I was amused at the long name they had given to my husband's father in the 1911 census – Joseph Fred Hartshorn Watson **Binkley**! To confuse matters, though, Ellen's age was given as 43 in 1901 and only 47 in 1911, neither of which tallied with her age at death of 85 in 1939. It was sad to see that she had given birth to three children, none of whom had survived.

From the marriage certificate, I had found Ellen's maiden name, **Bentley**, so, given her probable date of birth from the death certificate, I thought I would be able to find out more about her. This was where I came upon my brick wall.

CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.

Before writing on this Schedule please read the *Explanatory and the Instructions* given on the other side of the paper, as well as the headings of the Columns. The entries should be written in Ink.

The contents of the Schedule will be treated as confidential. Strict care will be taken that no information is disclosed with regard to individual persons. The returns are not to be used for proof of age, as in connection with Old Age Pensions, or for the preparation of Statistical Tables.

NAME AND SURNAME	RELATIONSHIP to Head of Family.	AGE (last birthday) and SEX.	PARTICULARS as to MARRIAGE.					PROFESSION or OCCUPATION of Persons aged ten years and upwards.		BIRTHPLACE of each person.	
			State, for each Married Woman entered on this Schedule, the number of:—		Personal Occupation.		Industry or Service with which worker is connected.		Whether Employed, Whether Working at Home, or Whether Working at Home.		
			Wife	Children born alive to present Marriage. (If no children born alive write "None" in Column 7.)	Children born alive to previous Marriage. (If no children born alive to previous Marriage write "None" in Column 7.)	The reply should show the precise branch of Profession, Trade, Manufacture, &c.	This question should generally be answered by stating the business carried on by the employer. If this is not done, the question need not be answered here.	Write against the name of each person engaged in any Trade or Industry, the name of the Employer, if this is not done, the question need not be answered here.	Write the name of the person carrying on the business, if this is not done, the question need not be answered here.	(1) If born in the United Kingdom, write the name of the County, and Town or Parish of birth. (2) If born in any other part of the British Empire, write the name of the Dependency, County, &c., and of the Province or State. (3) If born in a Foreign Country, write the name of the Country. (4) If born at sea, write "At Sea." (5) If born in the case of persons born elsewhere than in England or Wales, state whether "Born in Wales" or "Born in this Country."	
1. John Smith	Head	44	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
2. Mary Smith	Wife	47	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3. John Smith	Son	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4. Mary Smith	Daughter	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5. John Smith	Son	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF MARRIAGE



GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE

Application Number 15065738/1

1891. Marriage solemnized at St Andrew's Ch. in the Parish of St Andrew in the County of Nottingham

No.	1	2	3	4	5	6
No.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Fuller's Name and Surname.
43	<u>Aug 27</u> <u>1892</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>Single</u>	<u>Widower</u>	<u>6 Nether St</u> <u>St Andrew Rd</u>	<u>John Hickley</u> <u>Insurance Broker</u>
	<u>Wm Hickley</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>Single</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>St Andrew Rd</u>	<u>John Hickley</u> <u>Insurance Broker</u>

Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by _____ or after Notice by me,

The Marriage was solemnized between us, John Hickley in the Presence of us, Joseph & Elizabeth Oliver Stansfield George Henry Green (Witness)

Wm Hickley

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a register of Marriages in the Registration District of Nottingham
Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, under the Seal of the said Office, the 30th day of April 2024

MXJ 921778

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WARNING: A CERTIFICATE IS NOT EVIDENCE OF IDENTITY.

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H1.A

According to the 1901 and 1911 census information, Ellen was born in Nottingham. However, a search on Findmypast came up with no entries for an

Ellen **Bentley** born around 1854 anywhere in Nottinghamshire. I widened the search to plus or minus 5 years either side of 1854 and came up with two possibilities. The first was in 1851 which seemed unlikely on two counts: Firstly, Ellen's age was unlikely to have been understated when she died and secondly the birth was in Basford, not Nottingham. The second birth was in Nottingham in 1857. Ellen's date of birth varied between the censuses, the marriage certificate and the death certificate, but 1857 was close to the age of 43 given in the 1901 census. This looked promising,

My next step was to look for Ellen, born around 1857, in the earlier censuses. The marriage certificate gave her father's Christian name as Emmanuel, so I thought it would be quite simple to find the two together. I started my search in the 1861 census when Ellen would have been aged around 3. There was one Ellen **Bentley** in the right time frame but her father's Christian name was Oliver. In 1871, one result was found, but again with the wrong father's name, this time Charles. In neither 1881 nor 1891 were any relevant results found. I tried including name variants but without luck. The curious fact was that I couldn't find an Emmanuel **Bentley** in any census either, even using wild card characters in the search. I assumed that he was alive during that time since he was not stated as deceased on the marriage certificate.

I decided that maybe I was wrong about Ellen's birth in 1857 and therefore searched again through the birth registrations for Ellen **Bentley** born in or around 1864 (the birth date agreeing with the age of 47 given in the 1911 census) and 1866 (the birth date agreeing with the age of 26 given on her marriage certificate). There were no results around 1864 and the only possibility around 1866 was an Elizabeth Ellen born in Nottingham in 1867.

I checked for Ellen **Bentley** born around 1867 in all the censuses between 1871 and 1891 and found Elizabeth Ellen each time, but always with the same father, Philip. This was clearly not my Ellen.

At this point I decided to apply for the birth certificate for Ellen in 1857 to find out if it was indeed the correct one, with Emmanuel **Bentley** given as the father's name. It wasn't. The father's name was Charles, which agreed with one of my findings in the 1871 census.

This called for some lateral thinking. Ellen died in 1939, so it was just possible that she might have been listed in the 1939 Registration which included actual dates of birth. Unfortunately, however, she died in the second quarter of that year before the registration took place in the September!

I decided to check the 1921 census where perhaps Ellen might have been more honest about her date of birth and eventually found her recorded as Ellen **Benkly** lodging with Verdun [sic] and Lilian **Lacey** at 29 Leicester Road, Dinnington with Joseph **Watson**, aged 18, a coal miner. Here, Ellen's year of birth was given as 1856, but this was no help since it just brought me back to the erroneous birth in 1857.

So, I am left with a woman who does not appear to exist until her marriage to Fred **Binkley** in 1892. If anyone can suggest any further avenues of investigation. I should be extremely grateful.

Recording MI inscriptions 1980

Sarah Minney

Back in the early 1980's, when I had first started my own family history research, I took time out from it and, with my friend Margaret Ridge, and as part of the committee of West Middlesex Family History Society, recorded the memorial inscriptions in and around the church of **St. Mary, Ealing**.

Margaret and I lived quite close to each other but were actually introduced when we were paired up to help record the gravestone in **Staines** Churchyard. When we joined the committee, and at the suggestion of the late Wendy Mott, we became the co-ordinators of the memorial inscriptions projects and our first project was St. Mary's, Ealing.



Although I grew up in Ealing and feel a strong affinity to it, my family are not from there. However, I went to school at The Grange Girls school which was located at the rear of this church. Every school day from 1965 until 1970, I

walked through this churchyard on my way to and from school. I don't think I ever bothered to read any of the inscriptions as they had no meaning, they were not relevant to me.

Sadly, Margaret has now gone and due to a recent change in my own circumstances, I now have time to look at some of the inscriptions we recorded and spend time looking up the people whose graves I used to pass and later recorded.

Looking through the printed booklet Margaret and I had done following our survey, I have picked out some to look at more closely.

We recorded them thus:

HENRY EDWARD PEGG

Granite Celtic Cross on Three-Tiered Plinth with Kerb:

Top tier:

*In loving memory of Henry Edward PEGG
of the Lawn Ealing Green
born 2nd April 1853
entered into the rest of God
12th April 1901 – at peace for evermore.*

Second tier:

*Also of Alice Pegg
the beloved wife of Henry Edward PEGG
born 7th July 1858 – called home to God 6th April 1903
so he bringeth them to the desired haven.*

So, who was **Henry Edward Pegg**? To have quite a big memorial plus a house called "**The Lawn**" we must assume that he was a local "big wig". Since he died in 1901, I decided to try the 1901 census first.

Not surprisingly this showed Henry and family at "The Lawn". He was forty-seven years old, having been born in **Notting Hill** with no occupation listed just "living on own means". With him was his wife Alice, a daughter, two sons, a cousin and seven servants. Four of the servants are listed as "sick nurse", so Henry must have been quite ill at the time.

Announcements of his death appeared in quite a few newspapers, including this one below; it is interesting to note the number of typing errors in this notice!

PEGG.—On the 12th inst., at "The Lawn," Ealing Green, Henry Edward Pegg (formerly partner in the firm of Messrs. Lucas, Leadbetter, and Pegg, of High Wycombe), aged 48 years.

For those with an interest in film history, **Ealing Green** is where the famous **Ealing Studios** are now located. Being a local "big wig", a report of Henry's funeral made it into the local newspaper:

There was a large attendance at St. Mary's Church last week, when the funeral of the late Mr. H. E. Pegg, of "The Lawn," Ealing Green, took place. The service, which was fully choral, was conducted by the Vicar (who gave an address), assisted by the Revs. W. de Burgh, Harrison, and Molyneux. The interment was made in the churchyard, the body being placed in a coffin consisting of an inner shell and an outer case of polished oak, fitted with brass furniture, and bearing the following inscription:—"Henry Edward Pegg; born 2nd April, 1853; died 12th April, 1901." The chief mourners were Mrs. Pegg, Master John Pegg, Master George Pegg, Mrs. Broad, Mr. Broad, Mr. W. Morley Pegge, Miss Wayte, Miss Pegge, Mr. Henry Bird, Mr. Ernest Bird, Mr. George Bird, Mr. J. Ashwell, Mr. Arthur Broad, Mr. Peal, Mr. W. T. Cooke, and Dr. Macrae, and Dr. Knevitt. The funeral was conducted by Messrs. Myring and Son.

JOHN HORNE TOOKE

Inside the church itself we found a very interesting plaque which reads:

"Born 1736,

died 1812:

In memory of John Horne Tooke whose body was interred in the adjacent churchyard as a recognition of his actions in raising a fund for widows and orphans of American soldiers killed on April 19th 1775 at Lexington and Concord, Massachusetts at the outbreak of the Struggle for American Independence and further to commemorate the Alliance in 1917 of American and British Arms in war for freedom and the Right of all Nations to self-Government.

Erected by the New England Society of Brooklyn, New York, 1919"



The description we gave this monument is as follows:

Position: South Side Aisle wall

Description: Metal on Marble

with sculptured head of John Horne Tooke,

Overall: 4 foot deep by 2 ½ feet wide”.

So, who exactly was **John Horne Tooke**?

He was famous enough to warrant a Wikipedia entry but also had an entry in **Appletons' Cyclopedia** of American Biography, 1600-1889

TOOKE, John Horne, English politician, b. in Westminster, England, 25 June, 1736; d. in Wimbledon, England, 18 March, 1812. He changed his name from Horne to take an estate that was bequeathed him by William Tooke in 1782. He was a minister of the established church, a follower of John Wilkes, and in 1768 a founder of the Society for the support of the bill of rights. He bitterly opposed the coercion of the American colonies, and, after the battles of Lexington and Concord, advertised for a subscription for “the widows and orphans of the American soldiers who were murdered by the king’s troops.” The ministry prosecuted him for libel, and he was tried at Guilford hall in July, 1777. He conducted his own defence, that he might personally attack the government, and was condemned to one year’s imprisonment, and to pay a fine of £200. While in jail he published his celebrated “Letter to Mr. Dunning,” in which he critically explained the case of the King *vs.* Lawley, which had been used as a precedent against himself on his trial. He served in parliament in 1801-’2, and was an important factor in the Liberal party. His numerous publications are included in “Memoirs of John Horne Tooke, together with his valuable Speeches and Writings, by John A. Graham (New York, 1828). See “Memoirs of John Horne Tooke, with Original Documents,” by Alexander Stephens (2 vols., 1813).

He lived out the latter years of his life in **Wimbledon** but was buried with his mother in **Ealing**.

An interesting character indeed!

Members Discounts & Passwords

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, (except Premium) and 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:

The discount code is: *****

Code is valid up to the end of this year.

Forces War Records

The Society has arranged a useful discount for our members of 40% when you take out a subscription with Forces War Records. You should register your details with them by visiting www.forces-war-records.co.uk and going to their *Login/Register* page. The discount code is *****

PASSWORDS for accessing the Members' Area of our website

Jul-Sept 2024 *****

Oct-Dec 2024 *****

West Middlesex Family History Society Matters

Questionnaire – Final Report

Muriel Sprott

Once again, many thanks to those of you who took the time to complete the questionnaire. Your responses are very helpful.

As a result of the analysis of the first batch of questionnaires it became apparent that many of you struggle with setting up and using Zoom. We hope that Roland's article in the March Journal helped. Please let us know whether you found it useful. We hope to see more of you joining our Zoom meetings in future, or listening to the recordings at a time that suits you.

Many thanks for the many suggestions for articles in the Journal, but don't forget that to other people it's **your** stories that make family history interesting. The editor looks forward to receiving your articles, and we look forward to reading your stories. They don't need to be long - a single page is enough, and they don't need to be serious, academic essays. Family stories which proved to be a pack of lies, or which reveal an unsung hero (or heroine) are particularly welcome!

If you know, or hear of someone who has knowledge of a particular area, old occupation, or any other aspect of social history, why not ask if they would write an article for us? Or, even better, give us a talk.

At this point, I am definitely going to become Mrs Grumpy. If anyone is easily offended, please turn the page now. The Society is run by a committee of volunteers, most of whom are in our 70s and 80s. So far, only two people have said they can offer some time to help the Society, but they are already on the committee. This is either good news – two committee members are willing to continue, or bad news – only two committee members are willing to continue. Do please think again about whether you could, for example, write-up one of our talks for the journal or store our books and take them to family history fairs.

We did have a couple of "Why don't you...?" remarks. Good question. Our answer is "you suggest it, maybe you could do it" - remember, we do know who made the suggestions!

If you have any further thoughts, you can still contact any of the people listed inside the front cover of the Journal. It would be a pity to see the Society forced to close due to our failure to recruit committee members. We are in need of someone with Excel skills who is willing to become Treasurer in a year's time and Pat has said she would like to relinquish the membership Secretary role.

Please do think about positive ways you could help the Society move confidently forward. As Tesco tells us 'Every little helps!'

New Members and Surname Interests

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

Name	Membership #	Address/Location
Ms. Rosemary Connellan	C293	Teddington, Middx
Michael Dover	D182	Fulham, Middx
Dr. Claire Jarvis	J92	Teddington, Middx

SURNAME INTERESTS:

Surname	Period	Place	County	Member #
CHASEMORE	18C	Fulham	MDX	D182
CROFT	18C	Fulham	MDX	D182
DAY	18C	Fulham	MDX	D182
GUILLEBEAU	18C	Fulham	MDX	D182
NICHOLS	19C	Fulham	MDX	D182
ROWLEY	18C	Fulham	MDX	D182
ROY	18C-19C	Fulham	MDX	D182
VASLET	17C-19C	Fulham	MDX	D182
WANSBROUGH	18C-19C	Fulham	MDX	D182
WHITFIELD	18C-19C	Fulham	MDX	D182

Family History Fairs and Events

The Family History Show – London

Saturday October 5th 2024 - 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.

Kempton Park Racecourse

<https://thefamilyhistoryshow.com/london/>

Advance Ticket Price: £8.00 per person ^ Tickets on the day: £12.00 each

SPECIAL OFFER

Buy your tickets early and get two for £12!

Free Parking

Wheelchair Friendly

Trains – direct from Waterloo to Kempton Park every ½ hour

Family History show sponsored by “The Genealogist”

Speakers: Nick Barratt – Historian, Author & Professional Genealogist

Donna Rutherford – DNA Expert

Keith Gregson – Professional Researcher and Social Historian

Time slots are booked on a first come-first served basis

WSFHS SURREY FAMILY HISTORY FAIR

Saturday November 9th 2024 - 10:00 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.

At

Woking Leisure Centre, Kingfield Rd, Woking, GU22 9BA

More information to come!



Really Useful Bulletin

Really Useful Show—Online



Friday 15 and Saturday 16 November 2024

Calling for Your Presentations!



Local, Regional and Specialist Topics

We are determined our online
FHF REALLY USEFUL Family History Show
will be even better this year.

What's more, we want YOU to be a major part of our success!
Your presentation will reach out to a large Zoom audience!

So, with that in mind, please consider the following:

- ◊ Are you especially knowledgeable regarding a particular aspect of local or regional family history?
- ◊ Do you enjoy sharing your expertise with others?
- ◊ Could you prepare an inspiring 10-20 minute recorded talk on your chosen subject?

If you answered YES to the above, we would most definitely like to hear from you!

Please email suggestions@familyhistoryfederation.com and put your idea for a talk topic in the subject line, plus any other information you'd like to share, and we'll get back to you as quickly as we can.



*PS - Don't worry if you're not confident using technology –
we're willing and able to assist!*

**Steve Manning,
Chairman**

The Really Useful Bulletin welcomes contributions from all Federation member organisations.
It is opportunity to promote *your* society to the extensive Bulletin readership.

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Records held by members

These records 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, record holders are happy to receive enquiries by email. Unless stated otherwise, cheques should be made payable to the holder of the index, not the WMFHS.

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 a 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.

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

Image:

This month's cover shows the bridge mentioned in the article (page 21) by Wendy Tibbitts, member T100.

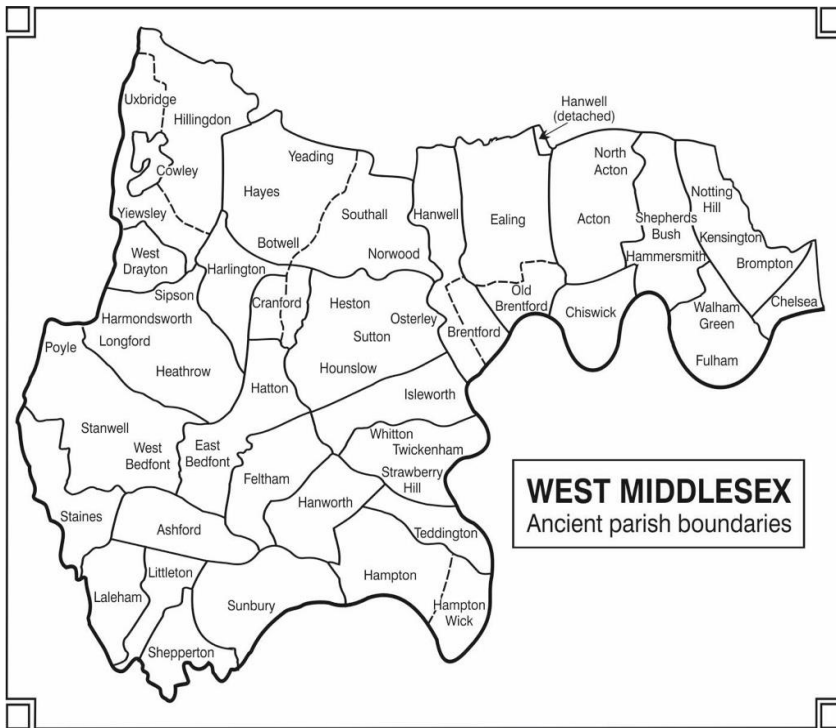
*Wendy is the author of the book "**Longford: A Village in Limbo**", the location of the bridge is on the Bath Road near the Stanwell Moor Road roundabout.*

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West Middlesex Family History Society

Area of Interest

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

If undelivered, please return to :

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