

WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY JOURNAL

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WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY JOURNAL

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FUTURE MEETINGS



The following talks have been arranged:

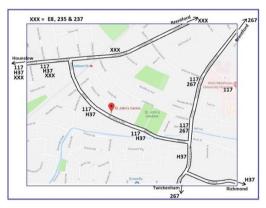
Date	Topic	Speaker
19 Dec 2024 Zoom meeting Speakers are us!	Members' evening We ask members to join us at St. John's or on Zoom, and volunteer to talk about some photo of interest in their family history. **Treats will be served!	All members
16 Jan 2025 Zoom meeting Speaker is remote	The Real Downton Abbey The relationship between upstairs and downstairs. What all the jobs entailed. Inaccuracies on TV. Indoor and outdoor staff. Leisure time. The 'Servant Problem' from 1901. How the Great War changed things.	lan Porter
20 Feb 2025 Zoom meeting, speaker is remote	Irish Heritage Many diasporas are keen to research their Irish roots. This talk looks at the information that is available in the absence of a number of key Irish census records, DNA match collaboration and heritage tours.	Dr. Penny Waters
20 March 2025 Zoom meeting, speaker at St. John's	The AGM followed by The Whitehead Aircraft Co. J.A. Whitehead was a showman entrepreneur who built an aircraft factory in Richmond-upon-Thames and created an assembly works and airfield in Feltham (1915-1919) from small beginnings. His company built over 1000 aircraft for service in WW1. This is his story.	James Marshall

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.

Doors open at 7.00 p.m. most people are there by 7.30 p.m. meeting proper starts at 7.45 p.m.



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

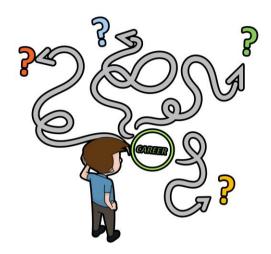
NB: We only accept advertisements relating to family history.

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.

Monthly Talks - Ann Greene, Roland Bostock & Yvonne Masson

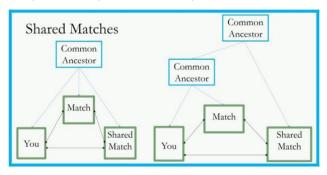
Using DNA for Family History Research September

Mia Bennett

This talk by Mia Bennett is the follow-on from her previous talk to the Society in August 2023 on 'Introduction to DNA for Family Historians'. Mia provided us with a comprehensive handout to her first talk, which is available to members on the Helpful Documents page in the Members section of our website. In similar fashion Mia has provided us with a further handout for this talk, which is available from the same page on our website.

The subject matter is quite detailed, so it is highly recommended that the interested reader should refer to these documents.

When you receive your DNA results after completing an autosomal DNA test you will be presented with a list of DNA matches, with a centiMorgan (cM) count against each match. Clearly if someone is listed for you as a DNA match, then you will also be listed to them as a DNA match. But it only gets interesting when you and this DNA match both include a further DNA match, that we call a Shared Match. Basically, this means that the three of you must have a common ancestor, and the fun begins to find that common ancestor and fill in the gaps to fully establish your relationships with these DNA matches.

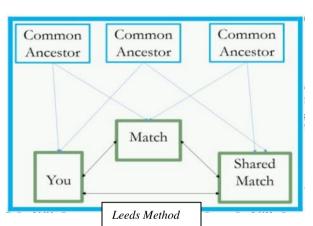


In the diagram just one common match is shown, but in practice there may be many, dozens even, of these matches. It is just possible that you and the

Shared Match do not have a common ancestor, per the following diagram, but these cases are quite rare.

Mia then went on to describe the important process of clustering, or grouping, your matches. A popular method of doing this is known as the "Leeds Method" which aims to create four groups from your matches, one for each of your grandparents. This translates into looking for the groups that include anyone who shares between 90 and 400 centiMorgans of DNA with you.

With the Leeds method you start by listing your matches in descending cM



sequence until you have included about 50 matches. You start at the top and assign a colour to the first person on the list (e.g. blue). You then look at your shared matches for that person, and mark them up with the same colour. You then take the next person on your DNA matches list

without any colour against them, and assign them a new colour (e.g. orange), and repeat the same process for them, repeat this using as many colours as may be necessary. In the example Mia used, four colours were necessary to complete the grouping of these matches, per the chart on the next page (just the first page being shown).

Mia then went on to explain "SideView," this is a feature in **Ancestry DNA** to automatically provide 4 groups, one for Parent 1, one for Parent 2, one for Both Sides, and one for Unassigned. Ancestry does not know whether Parent 1 is your mother or father, but you should be able to discover this for yourself from your known family tree. Both sides come about when a cousin has ancestry from both your father's side and your mother's side. Unassigned is usually a

	Α	В	С	D	Е	F
1	Match	cM				
2	Ann Denson	165				
3	Laura Kellet	146				
4	William Thomas	130				
5	Lily Dunford	121				
6	Peter Durham	119				
7	Harry Eccles	118				
8	t_landers4	117				
9	swalters_3	114				
10	ivor_tanner84	111				
11	Walter T Harris	111				
12	lmacdonald7154	110				
13	Ian Harding	104				
14	Jack E Thomas	104				
15	Maggie Y	102				
16	Jane Milner	101				

temporary assignment and Ancestry is likely able to replace this assignment with one of the other three within a short period, perhaps up to a month.

She then walked us through the Ancestry method for creating groups from all the possible matches.

Mia briefly reviewed the facilities available from the other DNA test vendors, namely **MyHeritage**, **23andMe**, and **FamilyTreeDNA**, but they all provide similar information to Ancestry to enable you to create groups of tested individuals who have matched DNA and who have shared matches with you. See the mentioned handout for further information on the methods provided by these vendors.

Mia then went on to review how to connect your shared matches into actual family trees, and she called these 'Quick and Dirty Trees' for she emphasized that when working to find common ancestors it was not necessary to dot every i and cross every t as one would with your own proper family tree. Short cuts could be taken. Mia used to create these trees on paper (envelopes actually) but now does it all on Ancestry, but she cautioned about the need to mark these trees as private. You don't want other Ancestry users to find the possibly incorrect information on your quick and dirty trees.

WRITTEN BY ROLAND BOSTOCK

Working with the Ghosts of Hampton Court October

Sarah Slater

Sarah, is both a White and Blue Badge guide and has worked as a guide at Hampton Court for 16 years, sometimes in costume. To add even more atmosphere to her talk, Sarah was wearing a Victorian mourning gown. She told us that up to WW1 various domestic mourning rituals were observed such as turning clocks to the wall and keeping front window curtains closed (this



meant there had been a death in the house). After the funeral, family members went into mourning, in keeping with their status in the house. The widow wore black for two years and one day. For the first six months, she attended no social engagements, but callers could come to the house, and she could go to church. Then, half-mourning: she could wear another colour, e.g. purple.

Handy for a reigning monarch, the Palace is midway between London and Windsor. Built initially by Cardinal Thomas Wolsey, he eventually fell from grace, and was forced to "give" Hampton Court to Henry VIII, so it became a Royal residence. Later Royals preferred Windsor Castle and even later, Buckingham Palace. When William and Mary came to the throne, they decided Hampton Court should be rebuilt in the Baroque style to rival Versailles in France. Sir

Christopher Wren was commissioned and work of demolition and rebuilding began, but then Mary died, and William ran out of money – the only reason part of the old Tudor palace still survives.

In view of the Palace's long and colourful history, there has long been a tradition that it is haunted by various ghosts. Sarah showed us Victorian postcards bearing fake photos of "appearances". Some of the world's oldest stories are ghost stories. When Henry VIII changed the country's official religion from **Roman Catholicism** to **Protestantism**, many of the former beliefs

about what happened in the afterlife were abolished, which worried people regarding the souls of the dead and possibly led to a belief in ghosts. A UK survey in 2014 found that some 23% of people claimed to be religious, with a third believing in ghosts. There are theories about whether some of the "episodes" could actually be caused by, perhaps, energy left over from past traumatic events being absorbed by a building's fabric – "stone tapes", detectable only by certain people. Hampton Court's ghosts reportedly take various forms – human, animal, even modes of transport, and can be detected by sight, sound, even smell or taste. "Sightings" can be by visitors, Palace staff or residents.

Hampton Court is usually crowded by day, empty at night, when a different atmosphere prevails. But Sarah pointed out that many of the "sightings" have normal causes – she was walking through one of the courtyards at night and saw a "figure" at a window in an otherwise darkened wing – this turned out to be a picture hanging on a wall in the room!



George III left the Palace empty, which displeased other members of the Royal family. Who should be allowed to live there? So, the Grace and Favour apartments, rent-free, were set up -60-70 apartments, with 12-14 rooms within them (the largest had 46 rooms), for some 200-300 people - mostly elderly widows plus their servants. Men were outnumbered 50-1.

The first "ghost stories" were recorded in the apartments, such as Apartment 18, occupied by Lady Baden-Powell, widow of the creator of the Scout Movement. Her apartment was "dilapidated", with 12 bedrooms: she would "put up" girl guides from overseas. Her autobiography contains "sightings", including Anne Boleyn, who supposedly had a small "praying room" in the Palace — an ante room to the Great Hall. This is known to have actually been the Buttery, or Butler's workroom.

The Palace's South West Wing is allegedly haunted by the **Grey Lady** – for most of the ghosts, no-one has any idea who they are, although some have been "identified" – recognised from portraits, such as **Dame Sybil Penn**? She was employed by **Henry VIII** to look after his son, the future **Edward VI.** She became an Extraordinary Gentlewoman of the **Privy Chamber**, and a family friend. When **Elizabeth 1**st contracted small pox, her ladies nursed her back to health, but Dame Sybil caught it and died on **6**th **November 1552**. She was buried at **Hampton Parish Church**. Some people objected to her opulent monument which included her effigy. Later, some workmen heard sobbing, presumably coming from the effigy. From that time her ghost is supposed to have returned to the Palace.

In the 1830s, the **Ponsonby** family occupied a wing. They complained of a "whirring" noise, furniture moving and the feeling of a cold hand across the face. The wing was in a state of disrepair. It was covered in ivy, under which a doorway was discovered. Inside was a chamber with a 16th century spinning wheel which had been turning, presumably in the wind from a window.

Henry VIII's private apartments, in the SE corner of **Fountain Court**, were rebuilt as part of Wren's work for William and Mary, but some parts survived. When **Lady Jane Hillyard** lived there 1817-78, she complained of "banging", and two men coming into the apartment and waking her. In 1871, work was being done on the drains nearby, (it just happened to be 2nd September which was "All Souls Day") - two feet down, human remains were found, some 150-200 years old (as reported in **The Times**), two adult men in a shallow grave - and they had been covered by lime. Who were they? People wrote to the Times with an explanation: in June 1689, Wren started work. Six months later, in December 1689, as huge roof beams were being installed, the building collapsed, eleven workmen were injured, two were killed. Mary was in a hurry

to get her new rooms; she gave money for their burial, but was it spent on that? Perhaps they were merely hastily buried nearby.

Catherine Howard, Henry VIII's fifth wife, was 17-18 years old when she married him, he was 49. In 1542 – the Long Gallery formed a processional route from the Royal apartments to the Chapel. There are two doors in the corridor, leading to private balconies within the Chapel. On All Souls Day, Archbishop Cranmer recounted to the King, Catherine's previous sexual history. He believed it. Her so-called lovers admitted their misdeeds under torture. This was treason (Henry later made it an offence to marry a Royal if not a virgin). He ordered Catherine arrested. Legend says her one chance was to plead with Henry: breaking free from her captors, she ran along the Gallery, screaming for him, but was dragged back. She was taken to the Tower; the night before her execution she had the block brought to her room and practised putting her head on it, so she wouldn't show fear. Her ghost is supposed to have returned to Hampton Court.

Although stories of ghosts at the Palace go back hundreds of years, the first written records are from the 1870s. Four different residents heard screams. Just before WWI, one resident claimed to have actually seen Catherine running towards her, then going back along the Gallery.

In modern times, when Elizabeth II was due to visit, dogs were used for security – they refused to go into certain areas. There have been episodes of women fainting under a certain chandelier. A two-week scientific investigation was conducted with 600 volunteers – 300 believers, 300 not. Electrical equipment was set up in various places in the Palace. Finally, a lengthy report (available online) appeared in an archaeological journal. The Press picked it up. No conclusion, but it said some people had unusual sensations, especially in the Gallery. Natural phenomena were detected, such as a column of cold air under the chandelier, and certain types of geomagnetic activity.

Is this the energy in the walls? The walls have been repainted and fabric hung on the walls. The "sightings" have decreased – does the fabric absorb the energy? The Palace now puts on Halloween events.

WRITTEN BY YVONNE MASSON

Introduction to House Histories November

Cathy Soughton

Cathy is from Bucks Research (<u>www.bucksresearch.co.uk</u>) and has been researching house histories for about 20 years. In the early days, she found that the majority of people were unaware that finding information on a house's history was even possible. Now of course, programmes such as "A House through Time" with **David Olusoga** have brought the subject into greater prominence.

Family history, local history and house history, for Cathy, naturally go hand in hand. If you are researching your ancestors, house history adds an extra element. House history may well involve using documents you would not usually be looking at, but as you study your house, little pieces of information about owners or occupiers may appear.

It is a big subject, taking nearly as much research as family history so Cathy proposed to start by talking about what you can realistically find and what pitfalls you might encounter, and then go on to illustrate this by a case study of her own, which was 62 **Whielden Street** in **Amersham**. She described the process as trying to do a very complex jigsaw with no picture, with some of the pieces missing, and with pieces from an entirely different puzzle bundled in for good measure.

What can you realistically expect to find?

There are more surviving records for Victorian and 20th century buildings although you may not necessarily find the name of the architect or builder. For pre-19th century buildings, things get more difficult, but information from later records may help take you back further. Buildings that once had a specific purpose and have now been converted are easier to trace: chapels, banks, schools, pubs etc. Pubs particularly, are easy to trace if the licensing records survive and the **National Archives** at **Kew** have some school records that include plans. Street and trade directories can be helpful in large cities, especially in London. **NB**. Bear in mind that before the 20th century renting your home was the norm. A relatively small number of people owned most of the land and the houses on it. **Estate sale catalogues** can give a great deal of

information as can **manorial documents** which may describe the site of a house or cottage and perhaps give the name of the tenant.

Pitfalls

- Guessing a building's age from its external appearance is risky. Alterations to windows or converting two or three tiny cottages into one house may deceive you, as can fashions for copying earlier architectural trends. Cathy recommended using a book on house history to help you here.
- Make sure you have identified the right building on a map. This is essential, as is identifying the correct borough or parish. Bear in mind that the footprint of a building may have changed over time.
- If the house has a date inscribed somewhere on it, treat it with caution. It may refer to when the building was extended or altered, rather than when it was built.
- House numbers often did not exist before the 19th century; rows of cottages would be named for the builder or the landowner, or perhaps just their location.
- House History Myths!

Roof timbers are from old ships;

We have a priest hole;

Royalty slept here;

There are family ghosts or secret tunnels;

It was once an old Coaching Inn

Most of these can be debunked if the records are checked.

Where and how should you start?

<u>Write down</u> what you know about the house. Check land registry documents, planning records, ask neighbours. Is it a listed building? For Example: 62 Whielden Street in Amersham is listed as a Grade II building, and so provided the approximate date of construction as late 16th or early 17th century.

<u>Read up</u> on the local history - websites, articles, books. Has someone perhaps done a one-place study?

<u>Go to or contact</u> local archives that cover the area to make sure you are researching the right property. Bear in mind that administrative boundaries may have changed so you might need to visit more than one archive. There may be useful online sources, but Cathy stressed the importance of this fact.

Maps, maps, and more maps!

Maps are extremely useful. Local archives may have a variety of maps, but if you can't visit them, try using the **National Library of Scotland** maps website (<u>maps.nls.uk</u>). It is a wonderful resource as it allows you to "layer" current maps over older maps to make sure you have the right building and shows how the area has changed.

Sometimes known as **Lloyd George's Domesday Survey**, the **Valuation Office Survey of 1910-1915** was intended to aid taxation if land values increased. The maps and schedules show properties in minute detail. The **National Archives** at **Kew** have the originals, some **County Record Offices** have copies and **The Genealogist** (*thegenealogist.co.uk*) is gradually digitising all the records. It is worth looking at the originals if you can, as entries sometimes have later annotations. If you have identified your house on the Lloyd George records, the 1911 census may help to flesh out what you know.

The **Tithe Commutation Act, 1836** is a 19th century version of the Lloyd George maps. The system of parishioners giving a "tithe" or tenth of their income to the church was overhauled, converting the payment to a sum of money. This is another key piece of your house jigsaw. Maps show the location and size of every landholding and the accompanying schedule gives an assessed valuation of the property, its location and type along with the names of owners. Originals can be seen at the **National Archives**; some county or local records offices may have copies and The Genealogist is gradually digitising the whole country. Cathy recommended checking the census nearest in date (1841) for further possible details, and she indeed, found a family link in 1841 for her **Whielden Street** case study which led her from the Tithe records right up to 1911.

About 20 years before the **Tithe Commutation Act**, the **Enclosures Act** effectively absorbed and reallocated the medieval common lands. Maps were produced of the area, showing numbered plots. The accompanying schedules gave owners and occupiers of the plots along with the size and use the land was put to.

Estate maps provide more jigsaw pieces. They are usually only available at county record offices.

Military maps may also help, particularly in areas where there was a large consistent military presence, such as Hounslow Heath.

Other Resources

<u>Newspapers</u> - The power of the press should never be underestimated. Birth, marriage and death announcements, court cases, house sales, content sales and other local events may all provide further pieces of the jigsaw. In Cathy's study, she found an accident where a car crashed into the house, and a fire where the family cat gave the alarm.

<u>Deeds</u> - Can provide a lot of information, but have not always survived and it is difficult to find them unless you already know the name of the owner. If you are researching a house in **Middlesex**, the **Middlesex Deeds** collection at the **London Archives** (previously the London Metropolitan Archives) covers 1709 to 1938, but you need an owner's name.

<u>Wills and inventories</u> - are a potential source of information but as with deeds, they are a mixed blessing. You can only search by the testator's name and they may not always include details of individual properties or describe their locations. Until 1782, an inventory of the deceased person's belongings had to be submitted. From these, you can gain a picture of how large the property was, how wealthy the deceased occupant was and how they lived.

<u>Sales Catalogues</u> - are mostly at local record offices and date largely from the post - WWI era when many large landowners found themselves unable to maintain a large estate or run it profitably. Entries typically show the individual properties, the rental, the tenants, the length of their tenancy and how long they had been there. Additional notes may also be pencilled on them. The **Whielden Street** study shows the break-up and sale of the **Tyrwhitt-Drake** family holdings.

<u>Planning applications</u> - Houses may alter over time and alterations now require planning consent. Local councils may have online records of planning applications. If you are researching a pre-19th century house, the application may include a heritage statement.

<u>Manorial records</u> - The manorial system was still operating (in a much-reduced fashion) until the 19th century and there may be records that can help. If you find that your house was a copyhold property rather than freehold, there may be information in the manor's records. Check the Manorial Documents Register (on the National Archives catalogue, **Discovery**) to see which manor your house belonged to and where any records might be stored. Manors did not always match parish or town boundaries and may be spread over more than one archive.

<u>Civil Court records</u> - These can be just as useful for house history as for family history. Property has always caused disputes.

Rate books - Councils and parishes needed money to run their administration, so everyone in the area was assessed for a local rate. Before boroughs and county councils came into being, it was the parishes who levied, collected, and recorded the poor rate. Survival rates of these records varies but they are a valuable alternative to censuses if you can find a long run of these volumes. They provide the names of owners and occupiers, type of property and the sum it was assessed for. They can sometimes help your history by noting where street renumbering has occurred. These are to be found in county or local archives, and again, you need to check how administrative boundaries have changed over time.

Cathy finished by saying that the real problem with house history is knowing when to stop and opened the floor to questions.

Questions:

- **Q**. When large estates were broken up, were records kept on who bought the various parcels of land? **A.** There is no formal record. There might be annotations on sales catalogue and some counties have updated their Lloyd George Domesday Survey records but the surest way would be to try using the Rates Books.
- **Q**. The Lloyd George records for London are mostly online now. Are there plans to digitise the whole country? **A**. The Genealogist is planning to digitise all records, but in the meantime, there may be individual indexing projects at a local level. Check your local archives.
- **Q.** *Are there any maps showing bomb damage reparation claims?* **A.** Check with local or National Archives.
- **Q.** Google Streetmap is very useful for looking at a current view of streets and houses, but doesn't always work and some houses are blurred. Why? **A.** The Google car can't go into cul-de-sacs, pedestrianised areas, or the wrong way down a one-way street, so some areas may not appear. Blurring of houses may be because house owners have requested the blurring as a privacy factor.

WRITTEN BY ANN GREENE

Are you looking for a Latymer Boy?

Are you looking for a boy who attended Latymer School, but can't find him in our transcripts?

In the March Journal, Roland wrote an article about our transcription of **Latymer Upper School** enrolment registers. Have you searched for someone and not found him?



Whilst we could have made errors in our transcription, there may be another reason!

Polly Foley, the archivist at Latymer Upper School has explained that there was also **The Latymer Foundation School** which co-existed with Latymer Upper School until 1965 when it was closed. The two schools often get mistaken for each other as they were run by the same Foundation and both in **Hammersmith!** The records for the Foundation School are largely held at **London Archives**. (formerly London Metropolitan Archives)

There is also a sister school in **Edmonton, The Latymer School**, that is another possibility for anyone unsuccessfully searching our transcriptions.

So, if at first you don't succeed, try looking at the records for one of the other two schools.

Searching for an old journal article

If you've tried searching our old journals (sorry, this can only be done online), – but the keyword search doesn't bring up any likely results, you can also search by volume number.

http://west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk/content/journal-vnn.aspx where nn is the volume number. For example, 2024 is volume 42 and the year 2000 is volume 18. You will be able to search all four issues within the volume requested. Thanks to Muriel Sprott for the above two articles

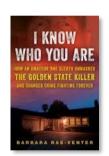
Introducing the Book Corner

Christmas is coming so I thought this would be a good time to start a book corner in which to talk about books, both fiction and non-fiction, with something to do with family history. So here are a few ideas as possible stocking fillers.



My first I shall introduce by asking: Have you taken a DNA test? And, whether you have or not, how private and personal do you feel that information is? Should law enforcement have the right to access it?

Whether you already have strong opinions on this subject or not Barbara Rae-



Venter's book "I Know Who You Are" (2023) I think, makes for compelling reading. Having retired from her job as a patent attorney Barbara became interested in genetic genealogy and, having volunteered as a "search angel" to help solve unknown parentage issues with some success, she was approached by a cold case investigator from the sheriff's office to try to identify the Golden State Killer, a sadistic serial rapist and murderer who had operated in America during the 1970s and 80s and had never been

apprehended. This is the true story of how she solved that case and a number of other cold cases using DNA and the press furore that followed.

In complete contrast "Buried Secrets: Looking for Frank and Ada" by Anne Hanson (2022) is the true story of her grandparents, Frank and Ada Hanson.



Although Ada had given her family a few wee snippets about her life through the years Anne had never been able to find any records to back them up. After the deaths of both grandparents, it was a photograph that finally gave Anne a lead to the truth. When writing up my own family history I have always found it difficult to integrate factual records with a fictionalised tale of real lives but Anne does a good job in interweaving, yet clearly distinguishing between, fact

and her imaginings of how her grandparents lives unfolded.

Although **Nathan Dylan Goodwin** has written several factual books about Hastings in Sussex, he is becoming increasingly well known as a writer of fiction. He published his first Morton Farrier, Forensic Genealogist, book, **Hiding the Past**, in 2013 (best bought in conjunction with its prequel, **The**



Asylum, unless you like Kindle). He recently published book #10 in the series but in 2021 he began the Venator Cold Case Series (beginning with **The Chester Creek Murders**) featuring a small team of investigative genetic genealogists based in Salt Lake City solving some pretty gruesome murders. Personally, I think this series is in a league above his other books with his fictional team solving some really horrible murders along with showing just how it's actually

done by clustering the DNA matches. I also got very involved with stories of the members of the IGG team whom he draws as very real people with very human problems of their own.

Happy Christmas and happy reading! Giz Marriner



JOHN SEAMAN

Bombardier Billy Wells

William Thomas Wells was born in Stepney on 31 August 1889 and in 1906 he enlisted in the Royal Artillery. He boxed with his regiment and he bought himself out of the army to follow a successful career as a professional boxer. He was one of the *Gong Men* who introduced Rank cinema films.

He died on 11 June 1967 and his ashes were placed in the crypt of Saint Mary's Church in Hanwell. A photograph of his memorial in the church and a transcription of the inscription can be downloaded from the members' section of our Society's website.

Liquor, Liaisons and Lunacy: The Rowlls family of Kingston

Ann Greene

This story was unearthed when I was asked to research a lady named **Catherine Henrietta Rowlls** who had owned three coaching inns in **Hounslow** in 1815, the **Prince Regent**, the **Nag's Head** and the **Red Lion**. Although this seemed a simple enquiry, it proved to be quite the opposite.

The first hard fact discovered was her death in 1830. This led to the discovery of her will, often a source of family information. There was no mention of a husband, and brothers or sisters to give us a clue to her maiden name. She asked to be buried in Hampton as near as possible to her "dear mother" but didn't name her mother. She named her children William, Charles and Elizabeth Maria and left money for her grandchildren Charles Martin Bellingham, William Henry Bellingham and Catherine Henrietta Bellingham invested in trust in their name and that of their uncle Charles Bellingham. She then named her son-in-law as John Burn the second husband of her daughter and provided for any children (present or future) of that marriage.

Searching for the baptisms of **Catherine's** children proved as difficult as finding information about **Catherine** herself. Land Tax Records and local directories revealed that she had had a considerable portfolio of pubs! In 1824, in the **Giggs Hill** area of **Kingston**, she had no fewer than thirteen pubs, plus a brewhouse and Pigot's 1826 Directory of Middlesex describes her as a brewer. But there was still no clear indication of when or where she was born or what her maiden name was.

I turned to searching the **Rowlls** family in **Kingston**, **Surrey**, guessing that if **Catherine** had inherited her pubs from her husband's family, they must be fairly wealthy. And it proved to be a good guess. The first clues emerged when I found **John Rowlls** of Kingston, Receiver General for Surrey, and owner of a brewery and a considerable number of inns and pubs in the Surrey and West Middlesex area. **John** had married twice and seems to have had several children from his marriages, but when he died in 1779, he was survived only



by a daughter, **Elizabeth** (from his first marriage) and two sons, **William Peter** and **Charles** (from his second marriage). The eldest son **William** was killed in a duel at **Cranford Bridge** in 1784. **William's** killer, **Richard England**, fled abroad and was outlawed. However, the online proceedings of the Old Bailey show that he returned in 1796 and was immediately prosecuted for murder by **William's**

mother **Elizabeth Rowlls**. He was found guilty of manslaughter not murder, imprisoned for twelve months and fined one shilling. A token warning that duellists were not above the law.

Although **William** had married in 1780, he had no children, so any descendants had to be from his younger brother **Charles Edward Legh Rowlls**. But I could find no marriage recorded for **Charles** and he died in **Belgium** in 1795 aged about 32. The **Rowlls** family tree appeared to have come to an abrupt stop and I still had no idea who **Catherine** was.

I was curious about **Charles'** death in **Belgium**. Why had he died there. Was this a link to his family's brewing trade? Having found the date of **Charles'** death, I could now search for a will. I found it; it was long and left me wondering even more about **Catherine's** identity. Throughout the will he does not mention a wife and his entire estate is put into the trusteeship of two friends **Jackson Browne** of **Hampton** and **Thomas Holloway** of **Chancery Lane**. Then, about halfway through Charles' will, he mentions **Catherine Henrietta Eastabrooke**, the wife of **John Eastabrooke** of **Hampton**. The coincidence of names is too much. Was she a relative of **Catherine**?

Even more curiously **Charles** was adamant that whatever he left her (more or less everything he owned) should be for her sole use and not be subject to "the control direction debts engagements or encumbrances" of her husband **John**. He then went on to make provision for **Catherine's** children, including any child with which she might be pregnant at the time of his death, and light began to dawn. There was clearly a close connection between **Charles** and **Catherine**

and it seemed likely that he had fathered **Catherine's** children although he didn't name them.

Catherine's husband, **John Eastabrooke** was still alive when **Charles** died. Had **Charles** and **Catherine** married, produced three children, and then divorced, leaving her free to marry **John Eastabrooke**?

It was time to change direction and tackle the births of **Catherine's** children. I started with the only daughter **Elizabeth Maria**, reasoning that if I couldn't find a baptism, I might at least find her marriage. But immediately I found the baptism of **Elisabeth Marie Legh Rowlls** in 1794, the daughter of **Charles Edward Legh Rowlls** and **Catherine Martin** in **Bruges**. Was **Catherine Martin** our **Catherine Henrietta**?

In 1819, Elizabeth Maria Rowlls married Henry Bellingham at All Saints, Kingston. The marriage was witnessed by C. H. Rowlls and William Henry Rowlls, presumably her mother and her elder brother.

It was starting to look as if **Charles Rowlls** and **Catherine Henrietta (nee Martin?)** had never married but lived together and produced three children. This would explain their living in **Belgium**. And the terms of **Charles'** will were becoming clear too. If **Catherine** was a married woman, her money and land automatically became the property of her husband.

Her daughter, **Elizabeth's**, birth is the only one that can really be confirmed. Her youngest son, **William's** baptism has not been found yet, but his date of birth is given as 16th April 1792 in the Cambridge Alumni records. He joined the 18th Hussars in 1814.

The eldest of **Catherine's** children, **Charles**, was born on 26th January 1791 according to the Cambridge University Alumni records and census records seem to bear this out, although again no baptism has been found.

But I still had no idea of who **Catherine** was. I began to work backwards from the marriage of **John Eastabrooke** and a **Catherine Henrietta** and found a marriage licence for **John Eastabrooke** to marry a widow **Catherine Henrietta Carr**. From there I could go further back looking for a Mr XXXX **Carr** marrying a **Catherine Henrietta**. And there it was **Robert Carr** of Hampton marrying

Catherine Henrietta Martin on 21st July 1779 by licence. The licence told me that she was a minor and so had to be married by licence with the consent of her father **Henry.** I had found the mysterious **Catherine Henrietta**.

She was baptised **Catherine Henrietta Martin** at **St Botolph without Aldersgate** on 12th September 1759, the daughter and eldest child of **Henry Martin** and his wife **Elizabeth nee Portsmore**. Her first marriage to **Robert** Carr was childless and came to an abrupt end. He died on 14th December 1786, leaving **Catherine** the sum of two thousand pounds. His will shows him to have been commander of the *Barwell*, a merchant ship that made six voyages for the **East India Company**. Two years later, in 1788, **Catherine** remarried. Her second husband **John Eastabrooke**, a member of the large Devonshire family of **Eastabrooke** who had political connections, and commander of the *London*, another **East India Company** ship. They had one daughter **Catherine Henrietta** in 1789.

And then - who knows what happened? John Eastabrooke was away at sea from April 1789 to November 1790. The Cambridge Alumni records say Charles Rowlls was born on 26 January 1791. If we believe this Catherine was six months pregnant by Charles Edward Rowlls by the time her husband returned. Had the marriage already broken down before John put to sea? We can't say.

All we know is that sometime after the birth of her daughter, **Catherine** began a liaison with **Charles Edward Rowlls** and between 1791 and 1794 bore him three children – **Charles, William Henry** and **Elizabeth Maria**. **Charles'** early death at the age of about 32 ended the liaison. Although he left **Catherine** everything he had and made provision for the children, she was in a difficult position. Married but estranged from her husband, unable to remarry unless he divorced her, and with three children who were technically fatherless. **John Eastabrooke** died in 1804 leaving everything to his daughter and making absolutely no mention of his estranged wife. Two years later in July 1806, **Elizabeth Rowlls, Charles's** mother died. In her will she specifically named **Catherine's** children as the natural offspring of her son **Charles Edward Rowlls** and makes provision for their future. On 21st August of the same year, the London Gazette reported that **Catherine Henrietta** and her three natural children by **Charles Edward Legh Rowlls** (deceased) had been granted the right

to use the surname of **Rowlls**. Catherine never remarried and died in **Kingston** in 1830.

Despite their inheritances, **Catherine's** children do not seem to have prospered greatly. Her daughter **Elizabeth Maria** had married for the first time in 1819. Her husband, solicitor **Henry Bellingham**, died in 1825. She married a second time in 1827 to **Henry John Burn** of the **East India Company**, but it seems as if they ran into debt quite soon. In 1831 Henry was released from the Kings Bench Prison under the Relief for Insolvent Debtors Act. His interests in **Elizabeth**'s inheritance and some life insurances on his wife and children had to be sold to pay for this. **Elizabeth** only survived her mother by 4 years.

Catherine's second son **William Henry** was declared a lunatic in 1836 and died in 1837. He had married **Mary Twort** in 1833, but the marriage produced no children.

Her eldest and only surviving child **Charles**, continued the family tradition of brewing. He also seemed to continue the family tradition of illicit liaisons. He had a son **Charles Trismegistus Rowlls** in 1830 by **Jane Spurland** but the couple did not marry until 1837. **Jane** died in 1853 but **Charles** had already fathered two more children, **Alfred** (1849- 1887) and **Alice** (1852- 1899) with another woman, **Ruth Irwin**. He died in 1868, having sold the brewery in 1854.

Cameron Medals

Sarah Minney

Having recently retired as a professional military researcher, I am very interested in military medals, and have recently taken to buying those from the Second World War.

World War 1 medals are all "named", this means that the recipient's name is engraved on the medal, along with his rank and regiment/unit. As so many medals were issued, including to civilians during World War 2, the government did not go to the expense of having them all engraved.

However, many people kept the box in which the medals were despatched and these give us a name and address to work from. More and more of these

Second World War medals are coming up for sale as the recipients are passing away.

I try, wherever possible, to buy local medals, either to where I live or where my family came from. I recently acquired such a set of medals with an address of **Wensleydale Road, Hampton, Middlesex**. The boxes also state from where the medals were issued and, in this case, they came from the **Air Ministry**, which indicates the person saw service with the **Royal Air Force**.

However, as there are no Campaign medals included, it is most likely that the person was either ground crew or in administration meaning they did not see any overseas service.



A search of the 1939 Register showed an **Ian M. Cameron** living at the address noted on the box and at that time was listed as being a "school boy". He was living with his older brother, **Douglas Steward Cameron**.

Further research showed that he was **Ian Michael Cameron** and he had been born on 4th December 1922 at **6 Observatory Road, Mortlake**, the son of **Algernon John Cameron** and his wife **Nellie Georgina (nee Tattershall)**.

The address in Mortlake also appears on documents relating to Algernon's World War 1 Service.

With the combination of names, I was sure the family had a Scottish connection. But, a search of the census returns showed that Algernon John Cameron was born in 1876 in **Notting Hill, Middlesex**. His wife Nellie had been born in **Bromley, Kent**.

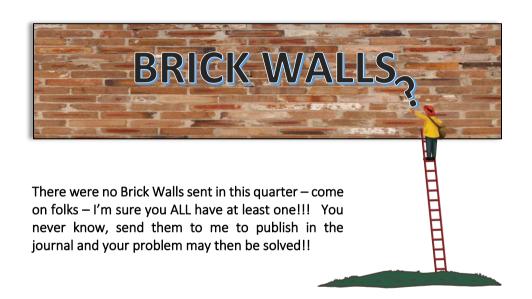
The Scottish connection was found with the 1881 census where Algernon was listed with his parents, **Augustus Cameron**, a Civil Engineer from **Scotland** and **Euphemia (nee Harrison)** who was from **Chislehurst**, **Kent**.

Deceased name	Date of Burial	Gender	Age
Douglas Stewart Cameron	04/07/1947	Male	31 Years
Mrs Beryl Edmee Cameron	27/08/2010	Female	89 Years
Nellie Georgina Cameron	08/12/1969	Female	90 Years

From all this I was able to research lan's life following the War. Sadly, I have been unable to trace a marriage for lan and he died in **Cardiff** on 25th April 2002

However, his brother Douglas Stewart, Douglas' wife and Douglas and Ian's mother are all buried in **Hampton Cemetery**.

If any members know anything about this family, I would love to hear from you!



Whoever devised the panel game "Would I lie to You?" must have had a Granny like mine. Gran wasn't one for advice such as "if you eat your crusts, you'll have curly hair", but she was a source of family stories. The only challenge was sorting out those which were definitely true, those which may have been true and those which were definitely not true!

When I was very young, I remember asking Gran how old she was and being told "As old as my tongue and older than my teeth". Even at that age I knew she had false teeth so her answer was absolutely true. It took a while to realise that, apart from those rare babies who are born with teeth, it is always true. It just didn't tell me what I really wanted to know.

One of the big differences between Gran & me, was that I grew up knowing all four of my grandparents, but Gran had only met one grandmother. Consequently, many of the tales she told relied on hearsay. She did remember her maternal grandmother, Isabella, expecting her grand-daughters to curtsy when they met her. A census entry shows widowed Isabella working as a lady's maid, so maybe she copied grand ideas and expectations from her employers? Isabella's late husband, Edwin, had reputedly been a famous artist. Funny, though, that Google searches showed no evidence of any surviving works by him. His death certificate explained why - he <u>was</u> a painter, but a painter and decorator!

Gran's paternal grandmother, Amy, had died when her children were small, so there were no family memories of her. Her husband, Thomas, was supposedly the organist of a church in Bow. Thomas - like his father and grandfather before him - is shown on censuses as a Professor of Music. Fortunately, his death certificate does show him as "Organist" and he did die in Bromley-by-Bow so that story was almost certainly true.

The two people I wanted to hear about were Gran's parents and they were the two people she didn't talk about. The only thing I can remember her saying about her mother, Amelia, was "I hated it when she came to stay, because when she left, she always took my spare blouse." Her father, another Thomas,

was described as "short, threw his weight about, but was a talented mandolin player."

As both Gran's parents lived until the 1940's my Mum must have known them, but she, too, never spoke willingly about them. Mum did say that a family friend reported seeing Thomas busking on Shepherd's Bush Green a few months before he died.

I will finish with one of Gran's big whoppers of a story. During the Second World War it was apparently difficult to obtain nice soap, but Gran often told me that she had hoarded six bars of Pears soap which she gave to my parents when I was born. That was kind of her, to worry about my complexion as a baby. I was recounting this story to my parents one day, when they gasped in unison and asked "HOW many bars of Pears Soap?" "Six, Gran said" I innocently replied. They both spluttered out the true answer —

"It was ONE bar of Pears Soap!!"



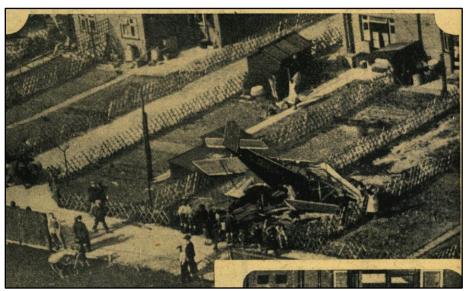


Image of wreckage published in Daily Mirror 16th April 1934

When my Nan, **Patricia HARRIS** passed away in 2018, I was given a box of photographs and among them were three very small images of what appeared to be a plane crash. My father vaguely recalled hearing about a plane crash that happed a few doors down from their house, but had no details. As I looked closer at these tiny images, I realised that these were actually three different plane crashes and this revalation was just too exciting not to investigate!

My Nan Patricia lived on **Uxbridge Road** in **Feltham** for the majority of her life, living at number **187** with her parents, **Benjamin** and **Constance PAY** and later next door at number **189** when she married my Grandad, **Thomas Vincent HARRIS.** The couple moved back to 187 when Benjamin died in 1950 and Patricia remained living there until she passed away. 187 Uxbridge Road backed onto **Hanworth Air Park**, which was a grass air field in the grounds of Hanworth Park House.

In the early 1930's, the Air Park became known as a centre for private flights, air races and pagents. Celebrities were in abundance. In 1931, the Graf Zeppelin landed at Hanworth and in 1932, crowds gathered to see Amelia Earhart pay a visit after her first solo flight across the Atlantic.

As I began to search the newspapers, it quickly became obvious that living in such proximity to the air field meant that crashes and near misses were inevitable. An aviation accident website helped me narrow down the crashes that occurred in the Hanworth area, either just after take-off or coming in to land. From this information, I was able to discover that this image was taken on **15**th **April 1934**.



My Nan had actually captured this image of the crash from her bedroom window looking into her neighbours garden. On this particular day, her neighbour Mr. Percy SEARS had been painting his car in the garden of 183 Uxbridge Road. Suddenly, an Avro Avion came screeching towards him, sending residents in neighbouring gardens diving for cover, before crashing just ten yards in front of where he had been working.

The pilot of the plane, Mr. E. COX and his passenger Mr. R. FENTON had been attempting to land at Hanworth but were caught by a gust of wind which caused the plane to strike the ground and

bounce off again, heading straight towards the houses that run parallel to the air field. The pilot opened the throttle in an attempt to clear the houses but the undercarriage caught a fence, the plane still a few feet from the ground, could not stop the momentum and it raced on. The hurtling plane crashed

through two more fences before finally coming to rest with it's nose buried into the ground of Mr. Sear's garden. He told reporters, "I heard a crash and saw the plane coming through my fence straight for me. Before I had time to do anything the plane turned up on its nose in the bottom of the garden." Luckily, the two men in the plane managed to climb out unhurt and seemingly undeterred, as they immediatley walked back to the areodrome and went up in another plane!



Just a few weeks later, on 9th May

1934, Nan captured an image of <u>another</u> plane crash on the Uxbridge Road. On this day, a **Desoutter MK I** plane was being flown by **Mr. J. D. KERWIN**, who lived at Hanworth Flying Club. His passengers were **Mr. William COURTENAY** and **Mr. F. HOOFA** who were travelling to **Brooklands**.



The pilot took off from halfway across the field, but it being a windless day, could not gain sufficient height, and the plane stalled. The wheels clipped the top of a fence, running through some gardens before nose diving, with the tail hitting a house at **32 Uxbridge Road**, on the northern boundary of the aerodrome. As a result of this, as you can see in the picture, the plane came to rest against the house, almost upside down. The cabin was completely wrecked and the tail had ended up in the bedroom of the young lady who lived there. Luckily, the occupants, **Mr. & Mrs. MILLARD** had been lunching in the back room at the time and it was a miracle they escaped.

A neighbour, **Mrs. Frances BELL** of **215 Uxbridge Road**, told a reporter, "I saw the blue-cabined plane come over the fence and land on its nose with a terrible



crash against the back wall of the house. I ran over to the plane and assisted the pilot from the debris.

Neighbours nearby fetched towels and hot water and tore for sheets up bandages." It was reported that the pilot and other passenger were almost unhurt but Mr. **COURTENAY** was out cold and spent three days in Hounslow Hospital.



As for this final picture, I know that the man in the picture is my great grandfather, **Benjamin PAY** and I assume with some certainty that the lady is my great-grandmother **Constance PAY**, but details of this crash remain a mystery... **for now!**



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

Oct-Dec 2024 *****

Jan-Mar 2025 *****

West Middlesex Family History Society AGM

Members are advised that the next Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the West Middlesex Family History Society will be held on:

Thursday 20th March 2025 at St. John's Centre, St. John's Road, Isleworth It will be a hybrid Zoom meeting

The agenda will be published in the March 2025 Journal

Members will be given advance notice of any change to these arrangements

On our website's home page for December, you will currently see the logo for the new social media platform, **Bluesky**. Webmaster Roland adds: Since Ann



Greene signed us up just a few weeks ago our followers have embraced our Bluesky page. As of 22nd November, we had 221 followers and it increases day by day. In fact, at last check on 2nd December we have a further 75 bringing the ever-increasing number to 296! Why not follow us too? As it happens the Family History Federation have included an informative article on Bluesky in their latest Really Useful Bulletin. Here's the link.

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.

W223	Mr. Clive Westley	Grange over Sands, Cumbria
** ~ ~ ~	IVII. CIIVE VVESTICY	Grange Over Sanas, cambra

D183 New Member Oxford

There were no new Surname Interests this quarter – so I added a couple of my own!

Everyone please remember this section is available to ALL members (new or old!) who have surnames they may wish to submit.

SURNAME INTERESTS:

Surname	Period	Place	County	Member #
PEARCE	19-20C	Southall/Norwood	MDX	K63
LINSTEAD	19-20C	Chelsea	MDX	K63
KINCH	19-20C	Southall/Norwood	MDX	K63

Family History Fairs and Events



Virtual Family History Fair

Will again be hosting our:

Fabulous Virtual Family History Fair Saturday January 25th 2025 10.00 am – 12.00 noon

&

2.00 pm - 4.00 pm

Enjoy all the benefits of a family history show from your own armchair, FREE of charge, using Zoom. Click below to register for either or both sessions, keep checking our website to see which Societies are attending. Bring your specific questions to get the best from the event.

Click here for registration & list of societies attending

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

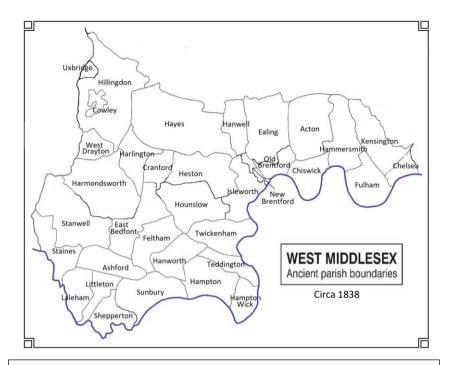
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This month's cover shows the entry to Hampton Court Palace

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West Middlesex Family History Society

Area of Interest

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

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