



# WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY JOURNAL

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MARCH 2025



[www.west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk](http://www.west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk)



# WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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<b>Society website</b>	<a href="http://west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk">west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk</a>
<b>Subscriptions</b>	Standard: £15 per annum.
<b>Subscription year</b>	1 January to 31 December

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

# WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY JOURNAL

Volume 43 Number 1

March 2025

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All articles and other items for the Journal should be sent to:  
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Brampton, Ontario  
Canada L6T 1L5  
Please send any post office mail  
c/o the Secretary

Exchange journals from other societies should be sent to:  
Mrs. Margaret Cunnew  
25 Selkirk Road  
Twickenham  
Middlesex, TW2 6PS

Queries concerning non-delivery or faulty copies of this Journal should be sent to:  
Patricia Candler, 57 The Vale, Feltham, Middlesex, TW14 0JZ

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## FUTURE MEETINGS

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The following talks have been arranged:

Date	Topic	Speaker
<u>20 March 2025</u> Zoom meeting speaker at St. John's	<b>The AGM followed by The Whitehead Aircraft Co.</b> 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
<u>17 April 2025</u> Zoom meeting speaker is remote	<b>Behind the Scenes at Who Do You Think You Are</b> Exploring the impact of Who Do You Think You Are on the way we research our family stories, with an explanation of how the show was first conceived and produced.	Nick Barratt
<u>15 May 2025</u> Zoom meeting speaker at St. John's	<b>Bletchley Park</b> The talk will cover how Bletchley Park started, it's growth and achievements. The breaking of Enigma and other high-level machines, some of the personalities and the effect of the work on the outcome of the war.	Ian Thomson
<u>19 June 2025</u>	<b>To be arranged</b>	

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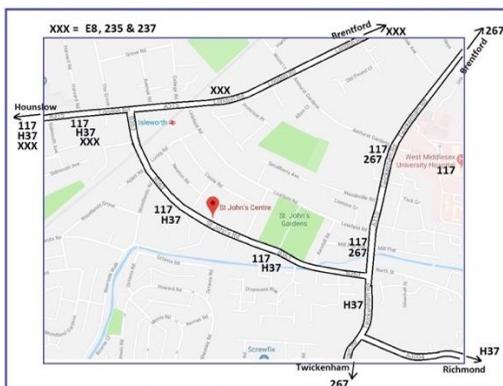
## When and How We Meet

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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](http://www.hfhs.org.uk)) and East Surrey FHS ([www.eastsurreyfh.org.uk](http://www.eastsurreyfh.org.uk)) have an open invitation to join any of our Zoom meetings without charge and offer our members a reciprocal invitation.

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## Contributions and Advertisements

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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](mailto: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:

15<sup>th</sup> January, 15<sup>th</sup> April, 15<sup>th</sup> July and 15<sup>th</sup> October.

### Advertisements

*NB: We only accept advertisements relating to family history.*

Rates:

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

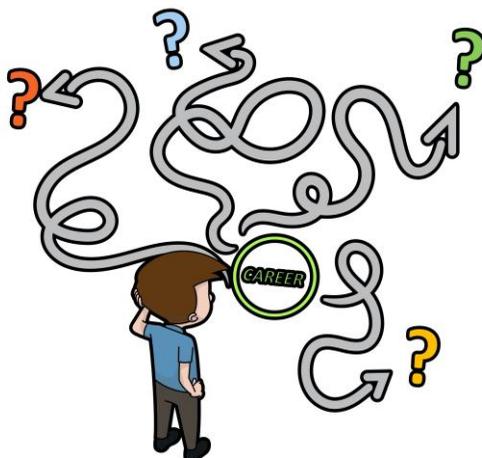
Half-page       £10 (members)   £15 (non-members)

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

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## Would you like help with your family history?

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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](mailto: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](http://www.agra.org.uk)). They have a list of people who are trained and accredited and will help you interpret their findings.

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# Annual General Meeting

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**The Annual General Meeting of the  
West Middlesex Family History Society  
will be held on  
Thursday 20th March 2025  
at St John's Community Centre, St John's Road, Isleworth  
(also by Zoom connection)**

## **Agenda**

1. Welcome
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2024
4. Matters arising
5. Chairman's Report
6. Treasurer's Report
7. Receiving of Financial Statement for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2024
8. Appointment of Examiner
9. Election of Committee
10. Any other business

## **Election of Committee**

**Emma Albery, Roland Bostock, Pat Candler, Ann Greene, Giz Marriner, Yvonne Masson and Lesley Kinch** having served less than three years on the Committee and being willing to continue, do not need to be re-elected.

**John Seaman** having served three or more years on the Committee, and being willing to continue, offers himself for re-election.

**Muriel Sprott**, having served on the committee for the last six years, stands down.

**WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY**  
**Registered Charity Number: 291906**  
**YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 2024**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**

	<u>Year to 31 December 2024</u>	<u>Year to 31 December 2023</u>
<b>MEMBERS' SERVICES INCOME</b>		
Subscriptions received for current year	1665	2190
Subscriptions received in advance last year	<u>1245</u>	<u>840</u>
	2910	3030
Bank Interest	459	93
Compensation from Barclays Bank	0	50
Tax refund on Gift Aid	<u>467</u>	<u>395</u>
	3836	3568
<b>LESS: EXPENDITURE</b>		
Journal production & delivery	2826	2830
Zoom & Internet expenses	213	280
Hire of meeting halls	1140	1020
Speakers	<u>715</u>	<u>555</u>
	<u>4894</u>	<u>4685</u>
	-1058	-1117
<b>OTHER INCOME</b>		
Bookstall sales	148	221
less Stock variation	-344	-126
less Purchases	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Donations	30	60
Baptism index searches	95	84
Burial Index and NBI searches	68	73
Latymer Upper School Admissions	13	0
Marriage index searches	566	451
Memorial inscription searches	266	421
Poor Law searches	18	36
Protestation returns searches	7	32
War memorials searches	62	78
Raffles (Pre-Covid income banked in 2023)	10	98
Refreshments (Pre-Covid income banked in 2023)	0	10
Sale of polo shirts & hoodies	<u>20</u>	<u>0</u>
	<u>959</u>	<u>1438</u>
	-99	321
<b>OVERHEAD EXPENSES</b>		
FHF Subscription, including insurance	92	98
Genfair charges	5	6
Card reader charges	1	1
Equipment repairs & maintenance	0	0
Library purchases	0	0
Postage, stationery & telephone	23	378
Printing of Leaflets, Posters & Flyers	0	0
Publicity, including attendance at open days	210	276
Polo shirts & hoodies - opening stock	0	199
Sales of polo shirts & hoodies	<u>0</u>	<u>-60</u>
Net loss of value	0	139
Sundry expenses	28	68
Travel & subsistence	28	21
Depreciation & disposal of assets	<u>66</u>	<u>83</u>
	<u>-453</u>	<u>-1070</u>
Deficit / Surplus for year	£ <u>-552</u>	£ <u>-749</u>

Sundry expenses = Catering at Midsummer Social  
Catering at December meeting - refreshments all donated

# WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity Number: 281906

BALANCE SHEET AS AT:

31 DECEMBER 2024

31 DECEMBER 2023

## FIXED ASSETS

	Cost, or		Value at 31/12/2023	Cost, or		Value at 31/12/2022
	Value at 30/09/1994	Total Accumulated Depreciation		Value at 30/09/1994	Total Accumulated Depreciation	
Harmondsworth Manor Rolls	348	0	348	348	0	348
Lectern - Bought 2002	400	395	5	400	395	5
Power Point Projector - Bought 2006	0	0	0	428	423	5
Viewing monitor for laptop B/t 2007	170	166	4	170	166	4
Display Stands & Table Cloths B/t 2008	1409	1398	11	1409	1395	14
LapTop Computer Bought 2011	915	897	18	915	892	23
Sum-Up card reader Bought 2022	179	103	76	179	78	101
Projector Bought 2023	153	66	87	153	38	115
	<u>3574</u>	<u>3025</u>	<u>549</u>	<u>4002</u>	<u>3387</u>	<u>615</u>

## CURRENT ASSETS

Stocks: Books		50		308
Ordnance Survey Maps		<u>100</u>		<u>186</u>
			150	494
Deposit paid for key to St John's Centre			30	30
Expenses paid in advance: 2024/2023			0	50
Cash at Bank & In Hand				
Barclays current account		288		405
Barclays Business premium account		6700		7500
Skipton Building Society		10000		10000
Cash		<u>50</u>		<u>55</u>
			<u>17018</u>	<u>17960</u>
<b>Total assets</b>			<b>17747</b>	<b>19149</b>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>				
Due to St John's Centre for room hire		180		180
Due to Editor for catering at December meeting		0		25
Subscriptions In Advance		<u>420</u>	<u>600</u>	<u>1245</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		<b>£ 17147</b>		<b>£ 17699</b>
<b>ACCUMULATED FUNDS</b>				
Balance Brought Forward			17699	18448
Deficit / Surplus for Year			<u>-552</u>	<u>-749</u>
			<b>£ 17147</b>	<b>£ 17699</b>

Muriel Spratt  
Treasurer

Giz Marriner  
Chairman

Dated: 9 JANUARY 2025

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## Monthly Talks – *Ann Greene, Roland Bostock & Yvonne Masson*

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### Members talk about Photos    December    Our members

For this meeting the idea was that members would volunteer to bring a photograph or two to the meeting and talk about its relevance to them for their family history. We had seven volunteer speakers, so they each had only a few minutes to give their talk. Some kept to time better than others!

The evening started with new member **Clive Westley** speaking via Zoom. Clive showed us the image of a youngish woman attired in black, whom he is seeking to identify. His father described her as his great, great grandmother, but Clive is not convinced.

Clive's second photo is copied here. It is a gathering mainly of children with piles of sphagnum moss that they had picked. His dad and two uncles are among the children. The photo was taken in the New Forest during WW1. The moss was bagged up and sent to hospitals where it was very good as padding for bandages.



Next to speak was **Alison Blundell**, speaking from St. John's. Her story was about Devonshire House, Battersea, which her great grandparents, Augustus and Alice, moved into in about 1892. Alison had been told by a great aunt that the house had been demolished, and hence she did not at first seek to locate it. However, in 2006 she visited a library and asked where the house had been located, only to be told that the house was still standing.

Alison visited the site and walking around to the back of the house was amazed to see the turreted extension. Immediately she knew she had seen this view



before, it was in the background of a photo she had had for some time of her grandparents wedding which took place in 1907.

Alison wanted to visit the house properly and contacted the new owners. The house itself had been made a Grade 2 listed building in 1954. Alison was granted permission to visit, and her

third photo was of herself and her husband, taken in 2007, with the same turreted extension of Devonshire House clearly showing behind them.

Third to speak was **Julia Zouch**, from St. John's. Julia's first photo was of her great grandfather Edward Alan Zouch, who was, as we can see, a dairyman, this photo being taken about 1883 when Edward was 22 years old. What Julia most noted about Edward's life was the number of different addresses he lived at, 5 addresses by the time he was 11, and at least another dozen addresses thereafter, up to his death in 1930. Often, he moved just to the next street, or around the corner, and generally moved West across London, ending up at Harlesden, near Paddington. While he was a dairyman for most of his life, he was also at one time a master greengrocer, and also a carman and packer.



Julia's second photo was of her paternal grandmother's uncle, Lima James Spence, who was a sailor. He was born in 1855 in St. Pancras, and volunteered to join the Navy in 1870 just before his 15th birthday. Lima served on several ships, but in 1877 he joined the crew of the frigate Eurydice, which was in Bermuda. This was a masted vessel and had been a gunship with 14 guns, although reduced to 6 in 1877. In 1878 the vessel was returning to its base, which was at Spithead in the Solent, with more than 300 people on board, including crew and passengers. However, the ship encountered an unusual storm as it sailed south of the Isle of Wight, just an hour away from its destination in Spithead. The ship was blown over onto its side, and sank within minutes killing almost all aboard, including Lima. There were just two survivors.

Next to speak was **Giz Marriner**, using Zoom. Giz had three photographs, each including her grandfather. The first was a picture taken in 1917 at Antifa Hospital in Salonica, where he is seen with soldiers and nurses after recovering from contracting malaria and dysentery. Shortly afterwards he was sent home to England to convalesce, and Giz's second photo showed him relaxing with a small group at a family run recovery centre in the South of England.

Giz's final photograph was of her grandfather in his first job after school. He is the boy on the right in the photo, and is a bellboy at The Electric Palace Cinema in Fulham. The photo shows him doing his bit at the cinema to raise money for the Christmas Pudding Fund for poor children.





only son of David, Roland's elder brother, so the coat of arms does now truly belong to Rolands's nephew Tim.

Next, at St. John's, **John Seaman** had brought with him a ring, as shown. John was dutifully short with his talk. Although the photograph does not really show it, the ring has a glass rounded cover, and beneath the glass is a small portrait of John's grandfather Isaac Seaman. The ring belonged to his grandmother Elizabeth, who passed it on to John's father, who passed it on to John.



The final speaker was **Pat Candler**, who read out a true story about car insurance, involving her family, from 1979. This was her reading: Before I was married - when I had only just met my husband – in April 1979 – and we had been going out together for a week or so – he told me one evening that he must urgently pay his car insurance. It was about to expire! A local office was open late, he'd discovered, so I said "Well, we'd better go around there, quickly". So, we did.

We approached the counter and he told the lady assistant of his need to get his insurance paid quickly. To my surprise, he produced a large whiskey bottle full of coins! The lady looked ..... and looked again, without saying a word. It was ten to eight.

“Well,” I said at length “As it’s getting near to closing time, Mike, perhaps I could write a cheque for the amount and you could give me the coins when you take me home”.

So that is what happened. I kept the whiskey bottle hidden in my bed-sitter in Chiswick Lane, W.4. until I had spent all the coins. Heaven knows what my landlady would have thought, as I was known as teetotal.

A nice way to finish the talks – thank-you Pat and thanks to All!

WRITTEN BY ROLAND BOSTOCK

## The Real Downton Abbey

January

Ian Porter

In this talk about the real lives of servants in the past, Ian began with **Charles Fortnum**, who in 1707 became a footman in the household of **Queen Anne**. Part of his job was looking after the candles used for lighting around the Palace. After they’d been used only once, he would replace them with new ones and sell off the used candles. He made a lot of money and later went into partnership with **Mr. Mason**; they set up **Fortnum & Mason** in **Piccadilly**.

Ian pointed out that from mid-May to Mid-August, a wealthy household would move from the country to their house in London to attend balls, dinner parties, the ballet, opera and sporting events. Ian thought that in the Downton Abbey TV series, some of the servants such as **Thomas** the under Butler didn’t seem to do very much, which is not realistic.

There would be several **footmen**. One would accompany the mistress of the house when she went shopping, carrying her purchases, tipping the crossing sweeper if his employer had to cross the road, and taking her to her friends’ houses for tea; a second footman went with the man of the house on *his* social rounds; a third footman stayed in the house to answer the door, and later the

telephone. A footman also cleaned the silver, using his fingers for working the product into the silver, which created blisters – hence the wearing of white cotton gloves.

Besides being fit (one footman calculated he walked 18 miles in a day, just within the house), footmen were required to be tall, as dressed in livery they would look more impressive - **Mr. Mosley** in Downton Abbey is too small and too old. Footmen were never known by their own name (which the mistress could not be expected to remember) so were given set names such as William, Thomas, and James. A **valet**, having equal status with the butler, was employed to look after the clothes of the master of the house, helping him to dress and ironing his clothes including his shoelaces!

The **cook** ruled the kitchen with an iron rod! There was often more than one cook – a chef (usually with a large ego and bad temper) cooked for dinner parties, a “plain” cook did day-to-day meals. Cooks, who were usually addressed as “Mrs” out of respect although most were single, were allowed to sell waste products from meals such as dripping. **Kitchen maids** did the simpler tasks, such as plucking birds or skinning (they were allowed to sell the feathers and skins); the **scullery maid** was mostly employed to do the washing up; she also laid the table in the servants’ hall.

The mistress would come down to the kitchen around 10am to discuss the day’s menu. **Tradesmen** would call (at the back door) to take orders, which were delivered later in the day. There would perhaps be at least two dinner parties mid-week, with a more lavish affair at the weekend. A wealthy family really only had to change their clothes and eat. (breakfast, lunch and dinner – up to ten courses). Soup might also be available around mid-morning, and sandwiches just before bedtime. During dinner a different type of drink such as burgundy and madeira would be served with each course, and wine throughout the meal. A meal for 20 people might cost £60 – five times the annual wages of a scullery maid. After the meal the ladies would “withdraw” to the drawing room while the men remained in the dining room for brandy and cigars.

Ian said the **housekeeper** also doesn’t seem to do much work in Downton Abbey, but again this is unrealistic. Allowed to wear her own clothes, and, like

the cook, usually addressed as “Mrs”, she was like a military quartermaster, keeping everything in the household in good supply, such as china and linen, and any cleaning supplies which she handed out to the servants. She made sure the family’s clothes and linen were mended or darned and she supervised the **housemaids** and also the **stillroom maid** if one was employed. She might have her own recipe for items such as “catsup” (ketchup). During house parties she chose where guests and their servants would sleep.

The **lady’s maid** was a personal servant to the mistress and was often unpopular with the other servants, allowed to wear her own (fashionable) clothes, and often coming from a better background. She was trained in dressmaking, needlework and hairdressing. (**Mrs. Beeton** thought the latter the most important skill); the mistress’s hair, although not washed as often as it would be today, was brushed regularly. The mistress might wear five sets of clothes in a day, and her lady’s maid also looked after her jewellery and furs. When a lady travelled, she might have several trunks and suitcases as well as her jewellery and medicine cases etc.

**Chamber maids** worked in the bedrooms, **parlour maids** - downstairs. After World War One, there would probably just be general **housemaids**. A housemaid worked from 6am, starting in the pitch dark. Carpets were hand-brushed, fires laid, the front doorstep cleaned with a hearthstone – placing a girl in a rather vulnerable position as she knelt to the work. Maids had to be invisible - their work should be finished before the family came down; servants usually had their own staircase for moving about the house. In some households a servant could be dismissed if they were seen by a family member, but they were more usually required to face the wall if come upon unexpectedly - the Royal palace had shields that servants could duck behind. There was a marked division of labour amongst housemaids – a third housemaid was required to open a door for a first or second housemaid. In the afternoon they darned socks etc.

**Outside tradesmen** were also used in the house, such as window cleaners, knife grinders and chimney sweeps.

Going into Service, one had to have one’s own uniform – it was not supplied – e.g. a print dress, aprons etc. Girls could start training from the age of 11: on

their 14<sup>th</sup> birthday they went into full time Service, probably as Maids of All Work, i.e. skivvying. Before World War One, households employed **laundry maids**, but not afterward – professional laundries were used. There isn't a laundry maid in Downton Abbey.

The **Hall Boy**: a servant to the servants. He put out the food on the table in the servants' hall, cleaned the boots, looked after the family dogs, coming up from the local village to let the dogs out and keep them clean, especially after shoots.

**Outdoor staff**: an **Agent** looked after the general running of the estate: the grounds, gardens, roads, farm etc. Outdoor workers had skills they could use elsewhere (gardeners particularly being respected for their skills), such as city parks, sports clubs, market gardens, etc.

Ian commented that a **chauffeur** would never have been allowed to marry into the family as in Downton Abbey. The **head coachman** looked after the horses, carriages etc. After the coming of the motor car, some coachmen became chauffeurs. In looking after the family cars, a chauffeur might also be required to be a good mechanic.

There was a social hierarchy amongst servants. A housemaid did not speak to a kitchen maid. At meals in the servants' hall, the butler sat at one end of the servants' table, the housekeeper at the other. The meal was eaten in silence. When the butler put his knife down, everyone had to do the same – it was advisable to eat quickly. The lower staff could talk after the butler and housekeeper went to their rooms. The butler slept in the **Butler's Pantry**, the housekeeper and cook in their own rooms. Maids slept in the attic, well away from the men, who slept in the basement – the head housemaid kept guard. Once a week servants could bathe in a tin bath, or they used water used for washing linen.

“Followers”, i.e. boyfriends: maids could arrange to meet them when out posting a letter. But in the house, fraternising between the sexes was not allowed and could lead to dismissal. Servants worked 6½ days a week – when could they meet someone? But indoor servants often married outdoor servants. After World War One women outnumbered men, but female

servants might still be looked down on when meeting men socially. Cooks and housekeepers particularly worked on in Service till it was too late to consider marriage.

Bicycles, which could be bought on instalments, made a big difference to a servants' free time: they could now cycle further on their day off, perhaps to the cinema. Servants' pay was on a par with other working-class occupations. If frugal, servants could save, e.g. with a Post Office Savings Book. There were alms-houses for retired servants, but the rest probably returned to live with their families. Servants could advertise for a position in the newspapers. They were also great letter writers, writing to friends working in other households – they would tell each other about any vacancies; it was often necessary to keep moving on to get promotion as this didn't happen frequently enough within the house. There were servants' Registry Offices – employment agencies.

From 1901, there were more opportunities, such as work in factories etc. One of the disadvantages of working in Service was not enough time off, and potential employees were less willing to accept all the restrictions. Country girls were more likely to go into Service but with the general availability of the railways they too could go into the towns for work e.g. in the factories or shops. Girls in Service looked down on factory workers, but the latter looked down on "skivvies".

The population of the country was 44 million in 1901, but over 3 million people emigrated for a better life abroad. Many were young women, who could earn three times as much abroad. A young single girl could "marry up" out of her class. In 1911: the National Insurance Bill: providing sickness benefit for servants; the mistress of the house had to (unwillingly) pay this to her servants. In World War One, men went off to fight. Females had to do the men's work. At home, every blade of grass was dug up by the Women's Land Army etc. in 1918: the Flu Virus. An unusual strain, it attacked the immune system of the strong, causing the body to react more strongly, making death more likely. Only Spain published its true mortality figures, so it became known as the "Spanish Flu". In this country, 258,000 people died in ten months. Women were forced back into Service, but now were determined not to live in, becoming outworkers, e.g. charwomen, "day" women, with set hours. The end of an era.

After the talk, our Chair, Giz, said that her mother had a stuffing recipe that contained “catsup”. Giz still uses it.

### Questions & Comments:

**Q:** Was the Downton Abbey mistress chatting with the servants realistic?

**Answer:** No. But those watching the series on TV would not want the family to be horrible!

**Q:** Children’s nurses seemed to be pensioned off and looked after by the family? **Answer:** Employers varied – nurses were not servants, but an employee. They were regarded as haughty by the other servants, and were unpopular as they demanded special food for their charges. Sometimes the family set them up in a little house.

**Q:** Clive Westley: my grandfather was a young stable helper and groom at Sevenoaks in the house of the 6<sup>th</sup> Earl of Stanhope. 30 servants, two were stable helpers. Within a few years he was a groom and coachman in London. Where would he have been living? **Answer:** On the estate. Sometimes sleeping accommodation was within the stables – horses were valuable and could not be left unattended.

Orphanages: By the age of 14, it was pre-arranged where an orphan was going to work in order to become respectable working class.

WRITTEN BY YVONNE MASSON

## Irish Heritage

## February

## Dr. Penny Walters

Penny began by saying that she was not an expert but was happy to share information she had acquired about researching Irish ancestors from her own experiences. She has also sent handouts to Roland, our secretary which will go on our website.

So, where is Ireland? Not a silly question as Penny has found that people in Australia or the U.S. assume that England and Ireland are in the same place and will say their ancestors came from **Dublin** in England, when they mean **Great Britain** or the **United Kingdom**. Looking at Penny’s map, it is quite clear that **Ireland** is separated from **Great Britain** by the **North Channel**, the **Irish Sea**, and the **Saint George’s Channel** all on **Ireland’s** east coast. In spite of the seas between, both land masses are very close. The North is close to **Scotland**;

the middle, close to **North Wales, Manchester, and Liverpool**, and the south is very close to **South Wales**.

Maps are important in Irish family history because of how **Ireland** has been divided for administrative purposes. In mediaeval times there were many territorial divisions. By the 17th century, there were four main provinces. Confusingly, the Irish word for division means “fifth part”. There had been five provinces, which were later subsumed into four. The Government of Ireland Act was enacted on May 3 1920 and the country was partitioned, with **Northern Ireland** (the Six Counties), remaining as a part of the **UK** with **England, Scotland, and Wales**, and the remainder of the country, becoming an entirely separate country known as the **Republic of Ireland**.

**Ireland** is divided into different regions known as provinces, which are subdivided into counties. Counties are then subdivided into parishes, and parishes into townlands. Below townlands, a place might be a farm or a very tiny village.

When Penny first began researching her ancestry, the plethora of place-names was confusing. An ancestor was living in **Drimmarleague**, then **Cork**, later in **County Cork**, and then **Munster**. Were they moving around the country a lot? No - **Drimmarleague** is a little village, maybe a town, in **County Cork**, and **County Cork** is in the region of **Munster**. So, geography matters and so do borders. In some areas, particularly in **Belfast**, for example, the left-hand side of the road is in the **Republic of Ireland**, and the right-hand side is in **Northern Ireland**. Penny strongly advised us all to maintain consistency in recording of place names so you have some idea of the difference between the places you come across and the spelling variants for different places. This is particularly important in Irish genealogy because sometimes they are phonetic, and sometimes they use the actual Irish name which seems to bear no resemblance to how an outsider would pronounce it.

## The Irish Diaspora

The Irish Diaspora is the largest in the world. In the 2017 American Community Survey, it was found that 33,000,000 Americans, which is 10% of the total population in **America**, have identified as being Irish. This compares with a population of about 7,000,000 people in **Ireland**. A similar case is found in

**Canada**, many Canadians recording themselves as Irish Canadians, preferring Irish heritage over their Canadian heritage. So how and why did the migrations occur? We can take a look at travel routes and certain problems that have happened in Ireland throughout history. The first recorded Irish presence in **Canada** dates back to the 1500s when fishermen travelled from **Cork** to **Newfoundland**. During the famine, more than a million Irish emigrated, and half of the Irish immigrants in **Canada** arrived there for that reason. Some Irish emigrants returned to Ireland but are in the minority. Most people, once they migrated to **Canada** or **America**, travelled further and wider into the continent.

The cause of the mass migration was a series of famines, caused by potato blight, with the Great Famine occurring in the 1840s. Penny began researching the Irish famine when she discovered her Irish roots and was devastated by what she found. But potato blight was not the single cause. There was a political agenda at work. Ireland was still exporting luxury goods and specific animals. Food could have been imported to help the starving, but it didn't happen. The Great Famine could just as easily have been called the Great Starvation. This is an uncomfortable notion for people with no Irish heritage, for those with Irish heritage, it could feel like genocide. Fifty years after the famine, the population, due to death and emigration, had been reduced by half. In 1841, the population was eight and a half million. By 1850, a million at least had died and over a million more had emigrated, and starvation may have caused a drop in the birth rate of about half a million. The psychological and social effects of the famines have affected Irish history and emigration has become embedded in the culture. Sadly, many people emigrating to escape the famine actually died of disease on the ships. As a result, many children were orphaned by the time they arrived in their new homeland, an added layer of trauma for them. Some may have been taken in by French-Canadian families, others slipped through the net and had to make their own way in life.

If you are trying to trace ancestors who seem to have gone missing from the tree, Penny advised looking at immigration patterns. Famines were not the only reason for emigration. People were lured by better opportunities and later "chain migration" appeared. Someone would emigrate, get settled and send money home to bring other family members over. There were also indentured servants who traded years of unpaid labour in return for a free passage. Women usually became servants in America, men would often end

up as coal miners in New South Wales. Assisted passages also existed often offered by companies who needed employees in the colonies. There was also transportation to Australia and service in the military. So, lots of places to look for your Irish ancestors!

## Resources

Penny's detailed handouts are on our website but here are some of the major ones:

**Samuel Lewis's Topographical Dictionary of Ireland, 1837.** There is an entry for **Sneem** where some of Penny's ancestors lived. **Sneem** is a maritime village in the parish of **Kilcacrane, Barony of Duncairn**, county of **Kerry**, and province of **Munster**. It had a harbour, a river, mountains, fishing vessels, new houses, a new road, fogs, a penny post, petty sessions with the courts, had a police station and farming fairs selling flannel and frieze seven times a year, a school, a dispensary and a Roman Catholic church. So, a lot of information to help you think about your ancestors.

**Births, deaths and marriages.** You can search for Irish civil certificates on the Irish genealogy website for The Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland through [www.irishgenealogy.ie](http://www.irishgenealogy.ie)

You can also get civil records from the **Irish General Register Office** through [www.gov.ie](http://www.gov.ie) . You will find official records of birth deaths and marriages from 1864, non-Catholic marriages from 1845. Full details of charges are in the handout.

## Irish Censuses

It is often said that you can't do Irish research because there are no censuses. There were – every ten years but not all have survived and not all of them have useful information.

**1813:** The first Irish census - it was poorly executed, but was the first official census.

**1821:** The government just wanted the numbers of people and what buildings they were living in – a headcount, no more.

**1831:** This census contained details of the head of the household, how many children and how many adults and the religion.

**1841 & 1851:** Gives people's names, their age, sex, and relationship to the head of the household, marital status, occupation, and birthplace.

**1861 & 1871:** Both were destroyed after the censuses were taken, so all information is lost.

**1881 & 1891:** Were pulped during WW1.

*So this leaves a 50-year gap in family history!*

**1901:** Gives you the name, age, sex, relationships to the head of the household, religion, occupation, marital status, country, and county of birth and whether you could speak Irish and read or write.

**1911:** Is the same as 1901 census, with the useful addition of how long a wife had been married, how many children she had within that marriage and how many of those children were still alive.

So you *can* pad out your family tree a little but when encountering gaps like these, we need to step sideways and employ a bit of lateral thinking rather than just relying on birth, marriage, death certificates and censuses. Further useful resources are:

**Griffith's Valuation:** Between 1820 and 1840 the British government wanted to know about land tenure for tax purposes. Griffiths had the job of travelling around Ireland asking questions and ultimately produced a huge document published between 1847 and 1864. The questions (What is your name? Do you own this land and this property? And if not, what is the name of the landlord?) and the labels used to clearly identify individuals are potentially useful family historians. For example, the use of suffixes like senior and junior might indicate that they are father and son. You might also find “old man” + surname and “young man” + surname used to distinguish men. The landlord would have been well documented, so researching them might help your research.

**Dog Licences:** Not as silly as it sounds! These can be absolutely invaluable. In 1865 you had to pay 2/- to licence your dog. A quarter of a million licences were purchased every year. Each licence contained a description, sex, and age of the dog, and the details of the owner. You can find Ireland dog licence registers in Find My Past.

**Railways:** At one time, there were many railway lines in Ireland but many have been closed down now. [www.Swilson.info](http://www.Swilson.info) shows a 1904 map of Irish railway lines. Your ancestors might have travelled much further than you thought because there was a viable travel route.

**FamilySearch:** If you go to FamilySearch and put **Ireland** in the Place box, 251 categories of entry come up. Almanacs, archives, cemeteries, church records and folklore.

**Linking surnames and place names:** You may find that some surnames are heavily concentrated in certain areas

**DNA:** The breakthrough for Penny, who is adopted, was her DNA test. DNA testing reveals your ethnicity estimates and a map of likely origins. Your DNA is matched with others and the computer gives you named relationships. So, you may find a DNA match with a possible second cousin, you can then collaborate with DNA matches to share information. Penny cautioned us about the nature of the relationships; it could say, first cousin, but it could actually be an aunt. So be cautious about the parameters of the relationships. If you link your DNA with yourself in your family tree, you will get added hints. You can also download your DNA test information, save it to your computer and upload it (usually for free) to other websites. Penny submitted her DNA results to **Ancestry**, **Living DNA**, **23andMe**, and **My Heritage**, and similar percentages of ethnicity emerged each time. The patterns of community (where your ancestors lived) helped to focus her research. There is also a merging website **GEDmatch** which has a column for common ancestors giving you a guesstimate as to the common ancestor and a generation number. You would be one generation from your children, while you and your grandchildren would be two generations apart. So, if you get a DNA match on GEDmatch, you'll also get a number one or two or three or seven which gives you an indication of how many generations back your potential common ancestor occurred.

## Books and other sources!

**"Tracing Your Irish Ancestors"** by John Grenham. He comes highly recommended by Penny and has a website.

**"Skibbereen, the Famine Story"** by Terry Kearney and Phillip O'Regan. This will give you an idea of the effect of the Great Famine

**Irish Lives Remembered** The magazine, produced by the Irish Family History Centre is free and has massive amounts of information there.

**Facebook.** If you type in any kind of Irish angle, there's a Facebook forum in there. So for example, Ireland family history, the Irish surname registry, Cork Genealogical Society etc

**Who Do You Think You Are:** Fun and useful to watch. As well as the obvious subjects – Graham Norton, Dervla Kirwan, a surprising number of not-obviously-Irish celebrities have Irish heritage – Julie Walters, Alexander

Armstrong, Barbara Windsor. A lot of information about places and research resources can come out of the programme.

**American Censuses:** The questions asked can potentially produce useful guides as to where to look next. Where were you born? Where was your father born? Where was your mother born? What is your citizenship, and what is your job? The information is not always precise and it helps to keep an open mind - if you said you came from Ireland, they might write you down as English.

**Find a Grave:** <https://www.findagrave.com/> where graves have been photographed and described, you may find gold dust!

Keep searching even when you think you've finished. Many people will say they have finished their tree, but every week, new records appear somewhere. For example: The **Guinness** archive. If you have **Dublin** people or they worked at **Guinness**, you can go into the **Guinness Storehouse** website archive at <https://www.guinness-storehouse.com/en/discover#archives>, it has all kinds of information from the HR team about individuals. It also describes the work that the departments were doing.

A final word of warning. We should think twice about putting all our information online publicly. Once your information is online, you can collaborate with people, but quite often people will take bits of information that you may not want shared, in which case keep it off your tree and consider who you share it with – and always ask others if you want to use something on their tree.

Penny doesn't do family research herself (apart from her own) but knows some Irish experts who could help you with tree research for a fee. She has also written two books which deal with some common issues when researching family history. "***Ethical Dilemmas in Genealogy***" looks at some of the things that can go wrong and cause upsets when you're doing a family tree and "***The Psychology of Searching***" which takes a look at *why* we are doing a family tree. Both are available on Amazon as paperback or Kindle.

If you want to stay in touch, Penny's email is: [penny\\_walters@talk21.com](mailto:penny_walters@talk21.com)

WRITTEN BY ANN GREENE

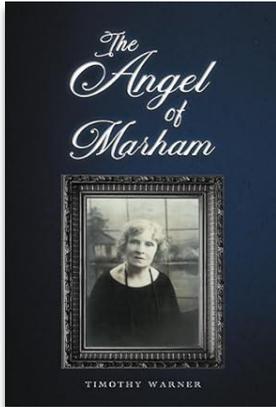
# The Book Corner

The following information was sent in by non-member  
Timothy Warner



A NEW BOOK PERHAPS OF INTEREST TO OUR MEMBERS? -

My Great grandmother **Constance Baker** was a Victorian dress maker who made dresses for Victorian and Edwardian actresses, opera singers and music hall performers. During **WWI** she put on entertainment for soldiers at **Bishops Park, Fulham**, London. From 1914 to 1918, the only place in England that had this, as all other green spaces were taken over by the British Army for training. As pointed out by the film **“OH WHAT A LOVELY WAR”** they could only be entertained for 10 to 15 minutes because of training that had to take precedence.

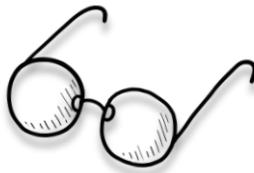


I have written a book about my Great Grandmother who took in wounded soldiers into her home in Fulham. She looked after them and bought them things. They named her “Mother of the Wounded” which is on her grave stone in **Brompton Cemetery, Kensington**, London, and her photograph is in the **National Portrait Gallery**, London, photographic archive.

My book about Granny Constance Baker is titled **“THE ANGEL OF MARHAM”** and it will be published on the 21st March 2025. I hope your members will find it of interest.

*Tim*

Tim can be contacted via email at: [timothywarner86@gmail.com](mailto:timothywarner86@gmail.com)



**Princess Pocahontas and Brentford**

Princess Pocahontas was a Native American. In 1617 she and John Rolfe, who was a settler in Virginia were married. They visited England and for a time lived in Brentford. To mark her association with the town a memorial plaque, which depicts her portrait was fixed to the Syon House estate wall in London Road. The memorial also includes seven feathers which gently float away.

And what a shame that people have to destroy things - In searching for the image John is referring to, I found a further article dated March 28 2024:



The memorial plaque to Pocahontas on London Road has been daubed with black paint although it remains unclear if this was done as an act of straightforward vandalism or a protest. The damage was done at some point on or around 23 March which is generally believed to have been the date of her death in 1617. The plaque was unveiled on this day in 2017 on the 400th anniversary.

The black paint covers the head and head-dress of Pocahontas as well as the arch of flying feathers that rise up from the plaque that was originally designed by local ceramicist Claire Ireland.

**Editor's Note:** *Does anyone know if it has been cleaned and brought back to its original condition?*

*It was interesting to read the article in the June 2024 journal on the talk given by Ann Larkham on methods of dating, and identifying family photographs. One of the photographs Dad had left me was, according to his handwritten note on the reverse, of 'Great, Great Grandmother Westley'. However, linking a name from current research findings to the photograph is proving difficult; suggestions and ideas would be welcomed.*

The photograph is an oval black and white image 13cm by 10cm printed, rather than mounted, on card and appears to be original. It has an appearance of a formal studio photograph, possibly marking a family occasion or event. Portrait



photography reached a wider population from the 1860s with the development of the *cartes de visite* card-mounted print. The woman is photographed just with head and shoulders and looking off-camera, suggesting it was possibly taken in the last quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Research so far reveals family tragedy, a workhouse in Chelsea, three Roman Catholic Orphanages, a stately home in Kent, and two families closely connected with horse-drawn transport in London during the Victorian and early Edwardian era.

Dad's parents were **Thomas Joseph Phillip Westley** born 1876, **Middle Street, Brompton, Kensington** and **Elizabeth Emma Westley**, formerly **Barber**, born 1877, **Cromwell Mews, Brompton, Kensington**. Thomas's parents were **Thomas Joseph Westley** and **Louisa Mary Westley**, formerly **Iles**. Louisa's parents were **Frederick Iles** and **Caroline Iles** formerly **Wheeler**, married 1841 in the Parish of St. George Hanover Square, London, and both were recorded as "of full age" on marriage.

Evidence relating to Thomas and Louisa reveal family tragedy and a puzzling story. In August 1867 Thomas, a joiner, and Louisa were living in **Byron Street, Bromley-by-Bow, London** where - possibly their first child? - **Caroline Westley** was born. However, in February 1868, Caroline had sadly died, by which time the family had moved to **Albert Street, Bromley-by-Bow**. In January 1869 Thomas, now recorded as a carpenter, and Louisa have moved west, now living in **Montpelier Row, Knightsbridge, Westminster** where **Susan Alice Westley** was born.



*The Red Lion, 35 High Street  
now "Hobgoblin" (since 2010)  
photo: Colin Ager*

The 1871 census records show Thomas and Louisa living at Montpelier Place Knightsbridge; Thomas, carpenter, age 49, born in **Little Abington, Cambridgeshire**, his wife Louisa, age 29, born **Soho**, and their daughter Susan Alice, age 2, born in Knightsbridge. Louisa's birth certificate confirms she was born in Soho 1843, and was baptised in the **Parish of St. James, Westminster** in 1844.

In July 1871 Thomas and Louisa were living in **Chapel Place, Brompton, Kensington** where **Louisa Westley** was born, and in April 1874 **Elizabeth Mary Ann Westley** was born at Middle Street, Brompton, Kensington; my grandfather was born in 1876 at the same address.

Unable to find a Thomas Westley in the 1881 census - suggesting Thomas possibly died between 1876 and 1881 - I found there

was a Louisa Westley, age 38, widow, born Soho and a Susan Westley, age 12, born Brompton, both working as domestic servants at the **'Red Lion', Cookham, Maidenhead, Berkshire!**

A search for a record of death for a Thomas Westley in the Kensington area revealed a Thomas Westley, occupation carpenter, having died of bronchitis

February 1879 age 69, (older than expected) whilst in the Infirmary, Kensington. Unfortunately, as Thomas had died in hospital the record shows neither his home address or a family name for an informant; the informant was the hospital superintendent. If age on death was correct, it suggests Thomas was in fact age around 61 (not 49) at the time of the 1871 census!

In October 1879, only eight months after Thomas had died **Philip Nori Westley** was born in the Infirmary Kensington. The birth registration records Philip's mother as Louisa Westley and his father as Thomas Westley, carpenter, deceased.

In March 1880 Louisa age 8, Elizabeth 6 and Thomas 4 were admitted to the **Britten Street Workhouse, Chelsea** by order of the Board of Guardians. The children were described as destitute and Roman Catholic. Two days after admittance, Louisa and Elizabeth were discharged to **Walthamstow, Essex** - likely **St. Mary's Roman Catholic Girls' School** - and Thomas was discharged to a school/orphanage for Roman Catholic boys in **Leyton, Essex**. I believe an important objective of orphanages established by the Roman Catholic church was to remove Catholic children from workhouses where, it was feared, they could lose their Catholic faith. Girls chargeable to the poor rates were often trained for domestic service and boys for a trade or occupation. Records show that on the 18<sup>th</sup> August the same year Louisa, now age 9, and Elizabeth age 6 were passed back to the Britten Street workhouse by Walthamstow, and similarly, Thomas returned to Britten Street on the 19<sup>th</sup> August. All three were then recorded as being passed back to Kensington Parish. The 1881 census records my grandfather, age 4, as an 'inmate' at **St. Marys Orphanage, North Hyde Hounslow Street, Heston, Brentford**.

The census record for 1871 for Thomas and Louisa indicates that they were married, and the children's birth certificates show 'Louisa Westley formerly Iles' However a search for a civil marriage record for Thomas and Louisa has, so far, been unsuccessful. To add to the puzzle **(1)** there is a Thomas Westley in the 1861 census, occupation carpenter, born c.1821 in Abington, Cambridgeshire, living in Croydon with wife Martha, age 36 and daughters, Jesamine 14, Amy 12 and Martha 8, and **(2)** again, no official civil marriage record for Thomas and Martha!

In April 1883 Philip Nori, age 3, died of bronchitis whilst in the **St. Agnes Orphanage, Leyton**; the informant was a **Sarah Webster**. The 1891 census shows a Louisa Westley in Brompton, Kensington, widow, charwoman, age 47, born Soho, with a daughter Elizabeth age 17, born Brompton. My grandfather was now a stable helper/groom at '**Chevening Park, Sevenoaks, Kent**, the ancestral home of **Arthur, 6<sup>th</sup> Earl Stanhope**.

The Catholic census of Westminster in 1893 lists a 'Mrs. Westley and Thomas Westley'. Mrs Westley had no first name or age recorded, but was a widow and a charwoman. Thomas was an 18-year-old groom and they both attended mass and had been confirmed.

In the 1901 census Thomas was a lodger in **Walton Street, Brompton**, working as a groom, and was a coachman when he married my grandmother at **St. Mary's Boltons, Brompton** in 1906. Elizabeth's father **Lewis Charles Barber** was also a coachman when he married **Elizabeth Letitia Sunnex** at **Christ Church, Marylebone** in 1873 and Elizabeth Letitia's father was also a cabman in 1873.

By 1916 my grandfather had become a chauffeur to **Algernon and Violet Yorke**, both families living at the same house in **Lyndhurst, New Forest** during WW1. Following military service in **Malta** with the **Army Service Corp** as a driver (his attestation document records his religion as Church of England), Thomas returned home, and by 1921 both families were at '**Norton Park**', an estate overlooking **Dartmouth, Devon** purchased by Algernon Yorke in 1918. The 1921 census records my grandfather as chauffeur for Algernon and Violet, who were **Mayor and Mayoress of Dartmouth**. Around 1924 both families moved to **Hamble, Hampshire**; grandfather died in 1959, and his death certificate records he was a retired chauffeur and gardener.

A story with many questions, and avenues for research but can the photograph really be my dad's Great, Great Grandmother?

*If anyone has any information or suggestions they can contact Clive through the Society's Website: <http://west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk/>*

In the old days - the 1980's, when I first started my family history research, researching extended lines was not so easy. If you were lucky and the family of interest lived in a small place, you could search the census returns and if a family member disappeared between census returns, without a great deal of searching through GRO indexes, especially with a common name, they would be lost to other easier ancestors to find.

Of course, nowadays with virtually everything digitised and indexed, one can now locate those lost strays from within the comfort of one's home. With time on my hands since retirement I have been going through my family trees and finally finding out what happened to those distant family members.

One such line is great grandmother **Elizabeth Baylis's (nee Lilley)** siblings. Born in 1862 in the small Hertfordshire village of **Barley, near Royston**, Elizabeth was the penultimate child of a long string of children born to **Joseph Lilley** and his wife **Mary (nee Camp)**. Their first child had been born in 1842 and their last in 1864. By the time Elizabeth was born, her elder sister **Esther** was married and having her first child, so like many families in those days, Elizabeth was an aunt as a very small child herself. Esther had married locally, a **Richard Loveday**, and was relatively easy to trace, so Elizabeth could have known her quite well.

But with her older siblings, who moved away, and with Elizabeth's own marriage in 1883 and her move to **Evesham** in **Worcestershire** as a result, I wonder how well she knew her many older siblings.

With modern day indexes, I decided to "knock off" each of these siblings to find out where they ended up. Whilst Lilley is a common name; with a year and place of birth such as Barley, census returns should be easier to search than in the past.

Starting with **Julia Lilley** born in 1846, I found that she was in the 1871 census in **Hemel Hempstead** working as a live-in cook and servant to **Henry Charles Leonard**, a Baptist Minister. Interestingly, my Elizabeth, was found working in the 1881 census for a Church of England vicar.

Further research into Julia produced a possible marriage in 1879 in **St. Marylebone**, although her surname was given as **LILLY**, rather than Lilley, it still looked good as her father's name was given as Joseph and his occupation, a labourer. This Julia **LILLY** had married **Henry William Cushing**, a master butcher.

**London** would have been an obvious place for Julia to gravitate towards as her chances of getting a job in domestic service were much better than if she had stayed in a small village in rural **Hertfordshire**. Subsequent research showed that at least two of Julia's brothers had also gravitated to London.

Checking the 1881 census for **Julia Cushing** found that she had indeed been born in Barley so was therefore the right person. She and husband Henry were listed as being in **Tring Road, Isleworth**.

No. of Schedule	ROAD, STREET, &c., and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES (Un-tenanted or (U), or (S), or (B))	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON-DITION as to Marriage	AGE last Birthday of		Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN	If (1) Dead and Dumb (2) Blind (3) Imbecile or Idiot (4) Lunatic
						Males	Females			
323	Tring Road 16	1	George Cushing	Head	Mar	40	1	Oppns. Stationer, letter	Isleworth	
			Elizabeth	Wife	Mar	32			Isleworth	
			Anna	Daughter	Mar	7		Seaman	Isleworth	
			Martha Cushing	Sister	Mar	41		Wife	Isleworth	
326	No 17	1	Andrew Smith	Head	Mar	50		House painter	Southam, Leicestershire	
			Charles Smith	Wife	Mar	50			Isleworth	
327	No 18	1	Henry Cushing	Head	Mar	34		Butcher	Isleworth	
	Dutchman Street		Julia Cushing	Wife	Mar	34			Isleworth	
			Henry W. Cushing	Son	Mar	5			Isleworth	
328	No 19	1	Thomas Mercer	Head	Mar	52		Tobacconist	Whitechapel	

Like Julia, Henry was a country boy having been born in **Norfolk**. The 1871 census finds Henry in St. Marylebone working as a foreman for a **butcher, Henry Welch**. Perhaps he had come to London to be apprenticed to Henry Welch or another London butcher to learn his trade.

Searching forward for Julia and Henry, I found them having children baptised in **Hounslow; Henry William**, born 1881, obviously named after his father, **Rose Mary**, born 1883 and **Daisy Julia**, born in 1886.

The three children were each baptised at **St. Stephen's Church** in Hounslow and the family's address was given as **Holly Road**. Henry was noted as being a **Master butcher**, so one assumes he had done his training, gained experience

and had then moved to the then burgeoning suburbs to set up on his own account.

The address of 2, Holly Road was to remain the family home until Julia's death at the age of 67 in June 1914. However, in 1901 the family was shown at Tring Cottages, Holly Road, so, I assume this is all the same address.

I know as the suburbs grew and more roads built, many changes were made in names and layouts of the existing ones. Perhaps a local member can confirm this for me?

After Julia's early death from Bronchitis and Syncope, Henry moved away from Hounslow to be near his son, Henry William to **Lewes** in **Sussex** where Henry W. had settled.

Of Julia's children, it seems her girls stayed local to the area. Rose Mary married a **William John Gray** on 7<sup>th</sup> September 1912 at St. Stephen's Church, Hounslow, this was following Daisy Julia's marriage at the same church, the previous year, on 12<sup>th</sup> November 1911 to **James Henry Palmer**, a **cabinet maker**. The girls had witnessed each other's marriages, so must have been quite close.

Daisy Julia Palmer died in 1956 at **Ashford Hospital**, with her home address being given as **Hounslow Avenue**, Hounslow. Sadly, Rose Mary Gray predeceased her sister, dying on 12<sup>th</sup> April 1928, at the early age of 44. Her home address was given as **3 The Pavement, South Street, Isleworth**.

Rose's place of death was given as **30, Twickenham Road, Isleworth**, which is the site of **West Middlesex Hospital**. It was quite common in those days to give a street address for a hospital because of its past associations as also being the site of the Workhouse from which the hospital had evolved.

I would love to hear from any members who had a connection with this family, it would be great to find out if contact continued with the Barley branch of the family. It would also be great to find out if my great grandmother, Elizabeth (1862-1950) ever visited her sister in Hounslow. *Maybe a descendant has some surviving photographs of a visit or wedding?..... one lives in hope!*

*When I was being unsuccessful in finding the fate of my 3-g grandmother, Amelia Sanders, née Howkins, I began to trace all her descendants, hoping to find clues. On the way I found a number of more newsworthy stories, one of which concerns a family in Teddington. The Eliza in the tale below was my great-grandmother's first cousin. You never know what family history will bring to light!*

### **The Frenchman and His Mother-in-law:**

This headline appeared in the **Surrey Advertiser of 8<sup>th</sup> October 1892** and refers to a court hearing about events in **Windsor Road, Teddington**, the home of **Margaret Ann** (named Mary Ann in the paper) **Sanders**, her daughter **Eliza** and grand-daughter **Margueritte**.

The Frenchman was **Louis de Mortillet**, Eliza's estranged husband. The couple had married in **Bromley** in 1886, gaining British citizenship for Louis, but their marriage was an unhappy one. It was claimed that on account of his violent temper and brutality Eliza had left Louis several times. Previously she had returned to him, but now she and their 2 years old daughter were living with Margaret Ann. Louis had been to the house several times, each time threatening Margaret Ann. On the occasion giving rise to the hearing, Margaret Ann said Louis had gained entry to the house and refused to leave when asked. Although Eliza had left the building, during four hours he had subjected Margaret Ann to abuse and told her that a Parisian man had shot his mother-in-law in similar circumstances!

A local doctor came, and, taking in the situation, called for police to be fetched. Before a policeman arrived, Louis had a discussion near the back door and Margaret Ann and her servant attempted to shut him out. This led to him punching and knocking down Margaret Ann. The policeman arrived whilst they were struggling. Louis claimed in court that he had been detained for the four hours by Margaret Ann having him locked in her kitchen. The defence lawyer argued that Louis had several testimonials from colleges where he had taught French which showed him to be of the highest character and put forward the view that his marriage to Eliza would have been happy had it not been for her mother's interference. The case of assault was dismissed.

### **Both Louis and Eliza had interesting backgrounds:**

Louis had been born in 1846 at **St.Foy-lès-Lyon** in the **Rhône district**. In 1881, he was teaching French in **Clevedon**, near **Bristol** and in 1890 was initiated into the **Freemasons**. His claims to be of the highest character may have been dented somewhat had the Bench been aware that in 1881 he had been bound over at **Clevedon Police Court** for threatening the life of **The Reverend John Horne, Principal of Hallam Hall College**, where Louis taught. In July 1888, already living with Mary Ann, Eliza had petitioned for judicial separation, claiming that Louis had assaulted her on many occasions and had also assaulted her sister and their baby son. She further claimed he had threatened her with his revolver. I have found no record of an actual divorce. Louis died in Paris in 1908.

Eliza was the daughter of **Richard Sanders**, born 1818 in **Oxford**, and **Mary Ann Lucking**, born 1820 in **Writtle, Essex**, and was their seventh child. In 1871 she was 19 and living-in as a servant to 77 years old widower and retired printer **Benjamin Davey Cousins**, born 1795 in Tiverton. In 1874 they married. Eliza was Benjamin's third wife. He died in 1884, leaving over £8000, with Eliza and a son by his first marriage as executors.

Eliza married Louis two years later. They were to have four children. **Louis Gabriel** (1886) died late in 1891 and was the baby his father was alleged to have assaulted. The deaths of **George Benjamin** (1888) and an unnamed boy (1889) were both registered in the same quarters as their births. **Margueritte Marie Blanche** was born in 1890.

Some of Benjamin's money must have been used to improve Margaret Ann's life. In 1871 she was a widowed charwoman. In 1881, she seems to be managing on the income from two boarders, but by 1888 is in Teddington, the next census showing her and Eliza as living on their own means and employing a servant. In 1901, the name of their home has changed from **Brooklands** to **Margueritte Villa**, presumably referring to Eliza's daughter. Margaret Ann died in 1908 and Eliza in April 1934. In 1921 Margueritte was a teacher at the **Roman Catholic School in Fairfax Road**. In 1938, she married **Maurice George Thompson**, born 1907 and baptised in **Teddington**, and the couple later moved to the **Isle of Wight**, where they ended their days, Maurice in 1968 and Margueritte ten years later.

**Candidates Needed for YDNA Testing** *by James R. Reynolds,  
WMFHS Member*

A goal of many American Reynolds researchers is to trace their lineage to the homeland of their Reynolds immigrant. Using traditional genealogy research employing British and American records of the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century provide one means for investigating the English origins of many **Reynolds** who emigrated to the Colonies. Additionally, researchers have added YDNA testing to their genealogy "toolbox." Among the types of DNA tests available, the Y-DNA test is best for a specific line to reach back in time because it is passed down directly without alteration from father to son (typically with the same surname).

To help with locating British, Scottish, Irish and Welsh connections, the Reynolds Family Association (RFA organized in 1892) in the U.S.A. has limited funds available for offering discounts on YDNA tests. This funding is available to any male Reynolds living in **Great Britain** (England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland) and the **Republic of Ireland**. There are \$100.00 USD grants for either a Y-DNA 37-marker test (which is about \$100 USD) or \$100 USD off a Big Y-700 test.

Eligible recipients for this grant are required to provide a valid lineage chart. The intent is to expand **Reynolds Y-DNA** testing penetration in the UK, where most Reynolds surnamed lineages are believed to have originated. Hopefully, each of these newly tested **UK Reynolds** will turn out to be a match to one of our 40+ existing Reynolds groups (that are predominantly American Reynolds). The goal is to provide some evidence of pre-immigrant local origins for some of our Reynolds lineages.

The Y-DNA 37-marker tests for United Kingdom candidates are advertised on the **International Society of Genetic Genealogy (ISOGG)** website and at all Genealogical Conferences (where ISOGG volunteers are in attendance). Use [https://isogg.org/wiki/Free\\_DNA\\_tests/Reynolds](https://isogg.org/wiki/Free_DNA_tests/Reynolds) for access to the application for this test.

For additional information about any of these grant programmes, please contact one of the Y-DNA Project administrators for the Reynolds Y-DNA Surname Project using the following website: <https://www.familytreedna.com/groups/reynolds-surname-y-dna-study/about>

You may also make inquiries about participating in the YDNA testing grant programme by contacting Nancy Wallander [wallandern@gmail.com](mailto:wallandern@gmail.com)  
Thank you for your help!

~ ~ ~

## MORE HELP NEEDED!!

We also received a request for help from Chris **SAVORY**, not yet a member, but interested in any information on the following:

**From Chris:** I have researched my paternal line to 1671 in **Hammersmith**, Middlesex and have found many births, deaths and marriages in both **Fulham** and Hammersmith. My family were **Thames fishermen** and **watermen**. The earliest members of this huge **Savory** family(s) are from around the 1620s, the most prominent names being: **Henry, John, James William** and **Joseph**.

Any members having information on the surname or indeed fishermen/watermen that might help Chris on his search can contact him at: [savorychris77@gmail.com](mailto:savorychris77@gmail.com)

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## AND PERHAPS A HELPFUL WEBSITE? Suggested by Sarah Minney

I have recently discovered this new on-line catalogue which might be of interest to members with research interests in Ealing:

<https://calmview.co.uk/ealing/CalmView/>

(Ed) I tried the link, it does have a bunch of interesting listings, but no direct links, if you find something of interest you must make a note of the appropriate reference number and then email Dr. Jonathan Oates to make an appointment to view the items at Ealing Library.

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## Members Discounts & Passwords

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### 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](http://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

Jan-Mar 2025 \*\*\*\*\*

Apr-Jun 2025 \*\*\*\*\*

We regret to announce the death of  
**Mr. Brian Watson** OF Ashford, Middlesex, Member W209  
who passed away December 2024  
and also  
**Mrs. Maggie Alderson** OF Teddington, Middlesex, Member  
A109 who passed away recently.  
Our condolences go out to both families

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## New Members and Surname Interests

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

<b>Membership #</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Area/Location</b>
C294	Mr. Peter Clark	London SE23
F129	David & Marilyn Floyd	Oxford
K56 (re-joined)	Mr. Steve Knight	Harlington Middx

### **SURNAME INTERESTS:**

<b>Surname</b>	<b>Period</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Member #</b>
GIBBONS	BEFORE 1900	ALL	HAM	F129
GIBBONS	19-20C	ALL	MDX	F129
RIDER	BEFORE 1900	ALL	BKM	F129
RIDER	19-20C	ALL	MDX	F129
RYDER	19-20C	ALL	MDX	F129
MERCER	BEFORE 1900	ALL	SSX	F129
MERCER	19-20C	ALL	SRY	F129
MERCER	20C	ALL	MDX	F129
WESTLEY	19C	Little Abington	CAM	W273
WESTLEY	19C	Bromley-by-Bow	MDX	W273
SUNNEX	19C	St. James, Westminster	MDX	W273
SUNNEX	19C	St. George, Hanover Sq.	MDX	W273
BARBER	19C	Fulham	MDX	W273
BARBER	19C	Kensington Area	MDX	W273
BARBER	19C	Lawford	ESS	W273
WESTLEY	19C	Sevenoaks	KEN	W273
WESTLEY	19C	Brentford	MDX	W273
WESTLEY	19C	Chelsea	MDX	W273
WESTLEY	19C	Brompton	MDX	W273
WESTLEY	19C	Kensington	MDX	W273

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## Records held by members

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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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:paulbarnfield@hotmail.co.uk)

**Hampton Wick:**

Records of this village collected over 40 years of research

## Front Cover

*Image:*

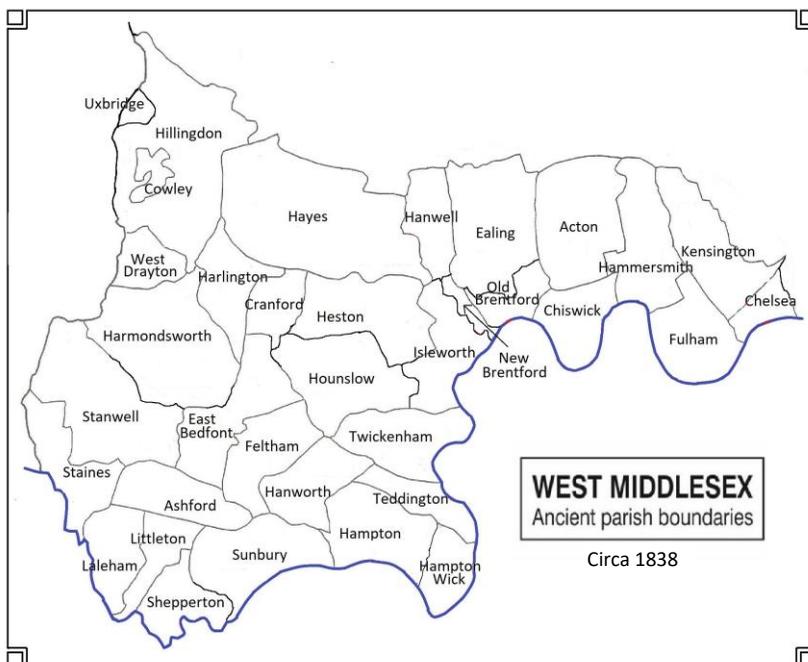
*This month's cover shows the Pocahontas plaque on the wall of Syon House by the entrance on London Road (A315).*

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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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