



# WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY JOURNAL

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Vol. 32 No.1

March 2014

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*Chiswick House*

ISSN 0142-517X

## WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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| Subscriptions         | All Categories: £12 per annum   |
| Subscription year     | 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, a SAE must be enclosed. Members are asked to note that receipts are only sent by request, if return postage is included.

Published by West Middlesex Family History Society  
Registered Charity No. 291906

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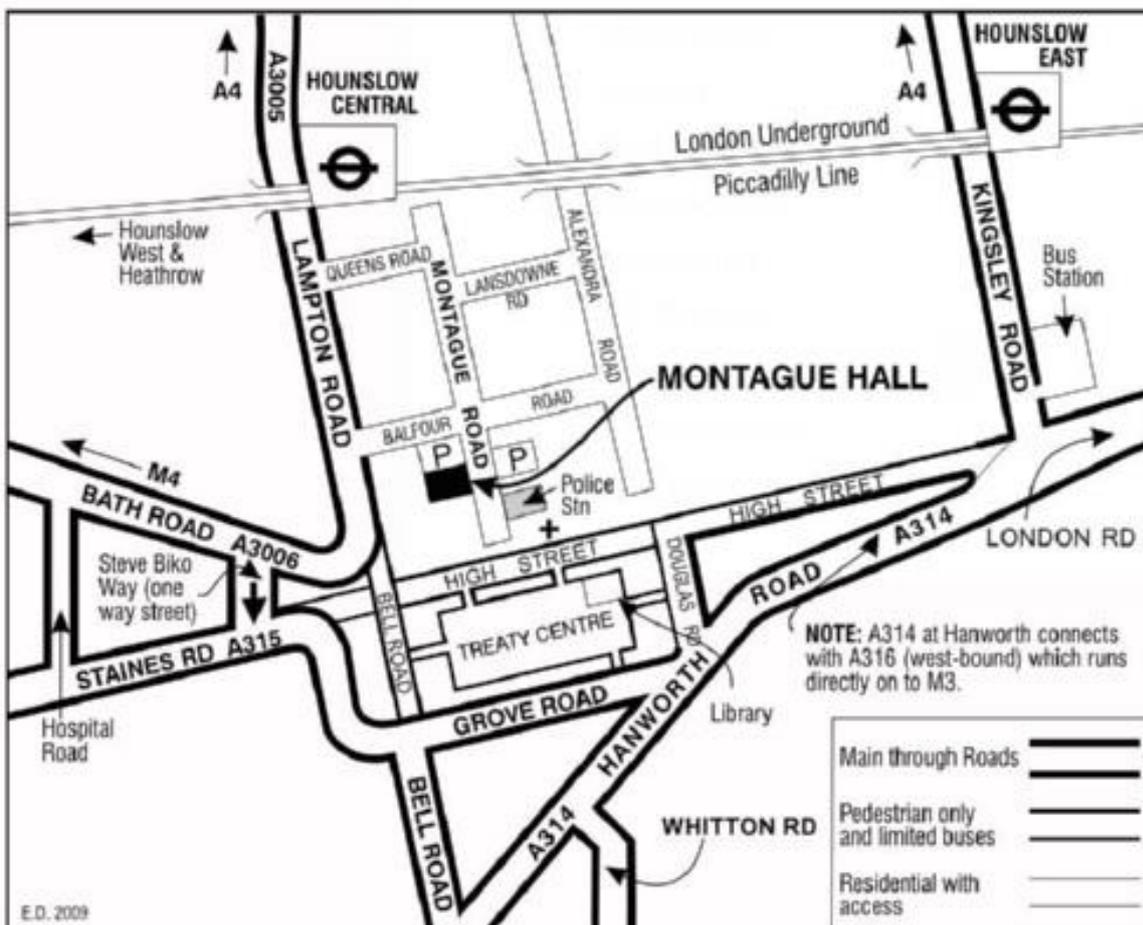
## FUTURE MEETINGS

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The following talks have been arranged:

- 17 Apr Suicide . . . . . *Kathy Chater*  
15 May Lord Ranelagh, Rake and Volunteer . . . . . *Keith Whitehouse*  
19 Jun How to Research Criminals and their Victims . . . . . *Jonathan Oates*  
17 July Members' Evening

Our meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at Montague Hall, Montague Road, Hounslow, and doors open at 7.15pm. Parking is available adjacent to the Hall. Research material on the Society laptop, erg. Middlesex marriages to 1837 and other indexes; reference books; exchange journals from other societies and a bookstall - all can be browsed between 7.30pm and 10pm (talks take place between 8pm and 9pm), and tea/coffee, or a cold drink, and biscuits are also available. Fully Accessible.





## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

### **Notice of Agenda**

The Annual General Meeting of the West Middlesex Family History Society will be held on Thursday, 20th March, 2014, at Montague Hall, Montague Road, Hounslow

The Agenda for this meeting is as follows:

1. Welcome
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Thursday, 21st March, 2013
4. Matters arising
5. Chairman's Report
6. Treasurer's Report
7. Receiving of Financial Statement for the year ended 31st December, 2013
8. Appointment of Examiners
9. Election of Committee
10. Any other Business

Mrs. Pam Smith  
23 Worple Road, Staines, Middlesex, TW18 1EF

### **Election of Officers**

Margaret Cunnew, Betty Elliott, Pam Smith and Joan Storkey, having served for three or more years on the Committee, offer themselves for re-election.

Kay Dudman, Claudette Durham and Muriel Sprott, having served less than three years on the Committee and willing to continue, do not need to be re-elected.



*Richard digging up his family tree*

I grew up in Broxbourne in the Lea Valley on the eastern side of Hertfordshire, the youngest of three children and the only one of the immediate family to have been born outside Essex. Schooled locally, I set off at 17 to take up a scholarship to read chemistry at University College, Oxford. This was subsequently extended beyond the regulation Four years, as I stayed to tackle a D.Phil. in the same subject. From there I

moved to join the BP Research Centre (as it was then called) at Sunbury and was thus introduced to West Middlesex, where I have lived and worked ever since.

It was in 1987, towards the end of my time as a student, that I first began to research my family history. I had always been aware of the old photographs and a handful of certificates held within the family, but I do not recall any particular triggering event that set me to ancestor-chasing. I do remember the first research trip that I made to St Catherine's House on Aldwych, struggling to lay a claim on a few inches of desk space to prop up those heavy index volumes. One of the birth certificates I was looking for then has never turned up. I also went off on a totally wrong tack with another one (moral: never accept family information as valid without checking it!). Other lines of enquiry, however, were more fruitful and those initial experiences were not enough to put me off.

Not long after moving to Sunbury, I joined West Middlesex FHS after finding the contact details for the Secretary (Glyn MORGAN, at that time) via Feltham Library. That was in early 1990. I soon found myself helping Editor Vic ROSEWARNE with the preparation of the December 1991 journal, before being let loose as Editor myself from March 1992 through to December 1997. This was to be the first of three periods of service for me on the Executive Committee, the others being as Projects Co-ordinator from 2001- 2005 and as Secretary and Webmaster from 2008-date. Stints on the publications committee and the computer group ran alongside these and I was particularly involved in the computerisation of the West Middlesex Marriage Index (now accessible via [www.findmypast.com](http://www.findmypast.com)).

My own ancestry is firmly rooted in the South East of England, particularly Suffolk and Essex. The principal counties that I visit through my research are

Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Kent, Middlesex, Oxfordshire, Suffolk and Surrey, with outliers in Antrim, Caithness, Cork, County Durham and Herefordshire. Research projects arising as ‘spin-offs’ from family history research have also provided an excuse to visit archives beyond these shores, in Australia, Canada, South Africa and USA. Although my father’s family were always thought to be from East London, it turned out that like so many others they had come in from elsewhere - in this instance from rural Suffolk, via a coastal shipping connection. Great-grandfather William CHAPMAN was a Thames pilot who was an off-duty bystander who was called to give evidence at the enquiry following the *Princess Alice* disaster in 1878.

It is always difficult to select one ancestor as particularly interesting - I find there is usually something of note in even the humblest ag.lab. (with which my tree is well-populated). However great-great-grandfather John PATTERSON (1837-1879) appears to have had a life that while short, was more varied than many - and a death that was not without drama too. Born in Ballinderry, County Antrim, around 1837 (his birth details remain elusive still), he joined the army in the mid-1850s and served in the 38th and 44th Regiments through to his retirement in 1872. During this time he survived 41/2 years of duty in India, being present at the Sieges of Lucknow during the Mutiny. Other periods of duty were at various locations in England and in Ireland. On his discharge from the army at Colchester he took work as a storeman with a local brewery. In September 1879 he went to the aid of a fellow worker who had entered a vat in order to clean it, but without checking the levels of carbon dioxide remaining in the air. Both men were overcome and John later died as a result, the coroner giving a verdict of “death from inhaling carbonic acid gas”. John left a widow and seven children.

Like the problem of John's birth, my family tree contains more than enough un-answered questions to keep me busy for a good while yet...

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## WMFHS NEWS

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We are hoping that the renovations to Montague Hall will be completed by the time of our AGM in March but please keep an eye on our website in case last minute changes have to be made. We look forward to seeing you there. By the time you read this, the Society will have taken part in Who Do You Think You Are? Live at Olympia and no doubt there will be many a post mortem into whether the holding of the Fair from Thursday to Saturday instead of Friday to Sunday was a success.

When I first started to investigate my family history, I did not expect to find many unusual occupations and was quite expecting to find lots of ag labs and farm workers. As time went on and my Trees started to grow, I did start to discover more unusual occupations in the various census returns.

It was one of these that really started the thoughts which led to this article, see if you can guess which occupation that was?

I will start with my father's family, the FIELDS. They lived in the Addlestone area of Surrey as far back as I have been able to determine. There was initially nothing particular in the occupations that they pursued but gradually one or two seemed to stand out. I hope you will find the ones that I have selected will raise a smile or a thought. In addition to the usual agricultural labourers, there were soldiers, beer house keepers and taxi cab drivers - horse drawn of course.

My father Robert FIELD (1905-1960), was a master bricklayer, as was his father Albert (1877-1941). My uncle George (1903-1981), was a cobbler but more about the shoe making and repair occupations later. My auntie Doris (1908-2002), was a very formidable lady and was head of the typing pool at Kodak, Harrow. Woe betides any young girl who crossed her path! Her husband, Walter EDWARDS, was chief rate fixer at Handley Page at Radlett. There was another of my uncles, Alfred (1900-1918) who did not have an occupation - yes WWI. He was unknown to me until I started to investigate my family history about 13 years ago.

A great grandfather, William (1843-1905], who was a jobbing gardener, is followed by my next relative, great uncle Frederick (1873-1945), who was a carman in a linoleum factory. Linoleum was invented by Frederick WALTON in 1855. The name comes from the Latin words 'linum' meaning flax, and 'oleum' meaning oil. (The oil was linseed oil). In 1864 WALTON opened his first factory in Staines, Middlesex, called The Linoleum Manufacturing Co. Ltd. In 1877 he opened a factory in Kirkcaldy, Fife, which was the largest producer in the world. Today linoleum has been replaced by polyvinyl chloride - PVC. WALTON also invented 'lincrusta' a highly durable linoleum wall covering. There was also a satellite factory in Addlestone, where my ancestor worked, he lived at 'Linoleum Factory Cottage'. There is another connection to this occupation, which will come up later.

Another great uncle George (1882-1917), was a silkman in a flour mill! This mill could only be the one at Coxes Lock; the lock was built in the 1650s as an important link to transport heavy goods between London and Guildford. It is the deepest unmanned lock on the River Wey Navigation, with a rise of 8ft

bins and is 1½ miles from the River Thames. In 1776 an ironmaster recognised the potential the site offered and started to build his iron mill, which became known as Coxes Lock Mill. In 1808 the lease was passed from Alexander RABY, an iron master from South Wales, to John BUNN, who converted the mill to flour in the 1830s, The mill was rebuilt in 1901 and extended in 1906, The mill closed in 1983 and the navigation was donated to the National Trust. The site has now been developed for housing. At one time the weaving of silk was tried and this is why my ancestor was employed as a silk man.

A distant relation by marriage was William LEGGETT, born 1834, a cordwainer/sawyer. How he combined the two quite disparate jobs is unclear. Cordwainer - the term is derived from the words 'cordwain' or 'cordovan'. This referred to the leather produced in Cordoba, Spain. The term was used as early as 1100 in England and refers to a shoemaker of luxury shoes and boots from the finest leathers. However a cobbler (my uncle George referred to earlier) refers to a shoe repairer, a distinction gradually weakened over the years, particularly during the 20th century. A sawyer was a timber mill/pit worker.

Another distant relation, Thomas THAYER (1815-1889), was a brick maker's burner; his job was to tend the fires for the brick ovens.

A Z x great grandfather, John FIELD (1809-1886), a great grand uncle, John HARRIS (1824-1897) and a great grand uncle, John WHITE (1848-1921), were respectively an ag lab, who died in the Chertsey workhouse, a groom and a game keeper.

My next relation was a great grand uncle, Charles KENDALL, born 1823, who was a journeyman tailor and church sexton. The church sexton was mainly the caretaker, who sometimes dug graves or rang the bells. Charles had a daughter Margaret (1858-1888], who had a very unusual occupation. When I

|   |   |                  |     |    |                 |    |                  |
|---|---|------------------|-----|----|-----------------|----|------------------|
| 2 | 1 | Charles Kendall  | 100 | 24 | Tailor & Sexton | Do | St. James Street |
|   |   | Margaret Kendall | 100 | 25 | Pew Opener      | Do | St. James Street |
|   |   | Susan Elliott    | 100 | 31 | Charwoman       | Do | Do               |
|   |   | William Kendall  | 100 | 2  |                 | Do | Do               |

first came across this occupation in a census return, it looked at first like 'Jew Opener', a term which made me think I had misread it. I had - it was 'Pew Opener'. In the past, when the landed gentry had their own private pews in church, it was customary for a church employee to attend them and open the door to their pew for them to enter. It did not end at that, and since the sermons were lengthy, a commode was often made available in the pew for emergencies, I would add that the walls of the pews were quite high. The poor old pew opener also had the job of cleaning up after the service had ended.

I will now turn to my mother's family, the BRYANs. The oldest records found are from Witney in Oxfordshire and the family moved to Chertsey, Surrey, via Sutton in Sussex, London and Twickenham. Like the FIELD family they had their fair share of agricultural labourers but also a sprinkling of unusual occupations.

My mother, Evelyn Esther (1906-1987), was originally cook housekeeper to the WHITTET family, who owned a mill on the Wey Navigation where it joined the River Thames at Weybridge. The mill originally was water powered but later was converted to electricity and latterly was used to crush linseed cake to produce the oil which was used in the manufacture of paints.

My brother John ran the oil refinery for many years but it is now gone and a number of houses have been built on the site, Whittet's Ait.

My great grandfather George (1854-1915) was born in Twickenham, Middlesex, and became an oil and colourman, a specialist in paint mixing and colouring. He was also a pawn broker and later came to own the Electric Palace Cinema, built about 1910 in Chertsey. This was next door to his pawnbroker's shop at 43 Guildford Street, Chertsey, which he ran as well. Prior to that he ran in oil and paint store at Bell Corner in Chertsey, Later in life he moved to Hastings, where he was a lodging housekeeper at the time of his death.



*Guildford Street, Chertsey*

Following him, my grandfather, George Reginald FIELD (1875-1948), was also an oil and colourman, pawnbroker and painter journeyman. An oil and colourman also sold oil for cooking stoves, lighting and paints. To make the specific paint the oil was mixed on the spot with a selection of ground pigments to produce the colour required. Guess what oil was used, yes, you were right, linseed.

My next relative, great uncle Edward (1880-1952) was a professional soldier, a sergeant in the Scots Guards, who served in the Boer and First World Wars and was awarded the Military Cross in WWI. He later became a school attendance officer; pity any boy or girl playing truant. Love the hat!



*Edward BRYAN*

Next are two relatives who were a harness maker and a librarian. Three more: 2 X great grandfather and a 2 X great grand uncle were respectively an auctioneer, a saddler, and what must have been the busiest of them all, a municipal relieving officer, vaccination officer and births and deaths collector.

A relieving officer worked for the Guardians of the Poor and among his duties was, "to receive applications for relief and to examine all matters relating to health, ability to work, condition of the family and to report his findings to the Guardians at their next meeting". Vaccination officers were appointed by the 1871 Act in relation to smallpox vaccinations and the officer was responsible for its application.

We are now getting back to the early 1800s and a series of 2 X great grand uncles were: brewer, schoolmaster, parish clerk and church warden - that was only one person - a shoemaker and workhouse governor, a saddler and a carpenter.

My BRYAN ancestors came from Witney as already mentioned, and it was at first a puzzle as to why they upped and moved to Sutton in Sussex. Yes Sussex, near Petworth, not near Croydon in Surrey as the 1881 census said. Witney was one of the main areas in the blanket weaving trade and a Guild was created in 1711. My ancestors were involved in the trade in the 1600s through to the early 1800s, when the number of independent master weavers declined and the industry became concentrated in the hands of a few large companies. This is probably the reason why my ancestors moved away. The

industry was industry was cottage based and the mention of horse hair manufacture and woollen and hair manufacture is probably part of the whole range of weaving that was carried out. Brush making was also a part of the horsehair trade. This covers the occupations of a range of great grandfathers, 3x through to 7x, who were mainly blanket weavers. My 3x great grandfather Daniel



*Sutton Workhouse today*

was the one who moved to Sussex and was made Governor of the Workhouse, his wife was the matron. The house, much modified, is still there.

My penultimate list is from my wife's family and includes a chimney sweep and chimney sweeping machine maker, a photographic artist and a lamplighter. He was my wife's great grandfather, Samuel TURNER (1841-1911). The lamplighter was also called a 'leerie' and was employed by the local Council to go round the streets and light the street gas lamps using a pole. He also often used to wake people up for work by banging on their windows and was known as a 'knocker upper'.

The last list is of various distant relations, ranging from Henry DABORN (1659-1735), a husbandman to a tenant farmer, William UNDERWOOD 1879-1953) who was a verger. Other occupations were: hawker, a peddler or itinerant street trader or dealer who carried his wares with him (it was often used as a form of abuse); a sack and rope maker, an iron founder, a wood reeve [employed in maintaining and protecting woodlands); a metal miner in a coal pit, a Thames Waterman; and finally a clergyman - at least one of my relations had found a religious calling!

Well, that is a swift trawl through the relations of the FIELD, BRYAN and CHAPMAN families and I wonder if you have guessed the occupation that started me off? Yes, it was the pew opener. I suppose you could say that my path was well and truly oiled with linseed and woven into the fabric of my family history by horsehair.

I hope that this has been of interest and that I have all the dates correct. Ancestry UK, Free BMD, census returns and *Index of Old Occupations* were responsible for the majority of the information, ably supported by various relatives.

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## FAMILY HISTORY A-Z

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**E****DUCATION** was mostly confined to the middle and upper classes until the 19th century, although the Sunday School movement started in the 18th century. Ragged Schools were begun in 1818 and were organised into an official union in 1844. Dame schools, run by women who would charge a small weekly fee, existed throughout the country. Industrial Schools were established from 1857, for children considered by magistrates to be in need of care and protection, who were then taught a trade. The principle that all children should receive elementary education was enshrined in legislation in 1876 and school attendance became compulsory, up to the age of 10, in 1880.

**F****IRE INSURANCE** records could seem to be an unlikely source of information but names of the policy holder, their occupation and address, the name of the tenant if there is one, the kind of construction being insured and other details are all recorded. Fire Insurance offices were established in London in the second half of the 17th century and in the provinces in the 18th century. The largest collection of such records is in the Guildhall Library in London, which has the records for over 80 different London based companies. Provincial Insurance company records may be found in the marriages, civil partnerships, stillbirths and adoptions in England and appropriate County Record Office.

**G****ENERAL RECORD OFFICE** holds records of births, deaths, Wales. Registration began in the third quarter of 1837 and birth, marriage and death certificates can be purchased through their official website (beware using commercial sites as they charge greatly enhanced fees) at a cost of £9.25 per certificate.

**H****EARTH TAX** records are useful for finding your ancestors in the 17th century. It was imposed between 1662 and 1689, and was generally unpopular as each household had to be inspected annually in order that the number of hearths could be noted. If there was only one hearth, the householder was relatively poor, the yeoman class might have four hearths but the higher up the social scale, the more hearths there would be. Those who did not pay the church rate, or the poor rate, were exempt, as were industrial hearths — except for bakers' ovens and forges. Properties with a rentable value of less than £1 per annum were also exempt. The tax was 2/- (10p) per hearth per annum and was collected twice a year. Lists were drawn up, headed 'in bonis' for the poor and 'in terris' for the wealthy. They gave the name of the head of the household and how much tax was paid, and after 1663 a list of those who were exempt was also included. Not all of these records survive but some can be found in County Archives and some in The National Archives in Kew.

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## FROM TWICKENHAM TO TUCK SHOP IN NEW SOUTH WALES

*Glynice Smith*

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An entry in the MINNS Family Bible describes Walter Thomas as born to Walter and Ellen Susannah MINNS (née WARDER) on the 16th May 1878, in BOW. There is a baptismal record for him on 5th June 1878, at St. Peter's, Mile End Old Town, in the East End of London. Mile End formed a hamlet within the large ancient parish of Stepney, in the Tower Division of the Ossulstone Hundred of Middlesex. Apparently, Mile End became the "Old Town" when a new settlement, next to Spitalfields, described itself as Mile End New Town.

His parents, Walter MINNS (born 1849, in Manea, Cambridgeshire) and Ellen Susannah WARDER [born 1855, Bethnal Green) married on the 24th May 1876, in Mile End Registry Office. Their family bible lists their children as:

|                 |         |                       |
|-----------------|---------|-----------------------|
| Annie Elizabeth | b.1877  | Mile End, London      |
| Walter Thomas   | b.1878  | Bow, Mile End         |
| Henry William   | b.1879  | Mile End, London      |
| Fanny           | b.1880  | Poplar, London        |
| William Henry   | b.1883  | Ware, Hertfordshire   |
| Albert Edward   | b.1884  | Hartford Heath, Herts |
| Ellen May       | b. 1888 | Southend, Essex       |
| Sidney Ernest   | b.1889  | Southend, Essex       |
| Florence Maud   | b.1892  | Kingston, Surrey      |
| Daisy Gertrude  | b.1893  | Kew, Surrey           |
| Rose Violet     | b.1897  | Richmond, Surrey      |



*St Mary's Twickenham*

The family were not affluent and the story is that they moved from the East End to Hertfordshire and then Essex, packing up for moonlight flits because they could not pay the rent. Two siblings - Henry and Fanny - had died before the Family relocated to West London.

In the 1901 census, parents Walter and Ellen are living at 1 Sion Place, Twickenham, St. Mary's. St. Mary's church is located in the heart of Twickenham, near the River Thames and opposite Eel Pie Island. It was the parish church for the whole of Twickenham until St. Stephens (1875) and All Saints (1914) were built. Their sons, William

(10) and Albert (16), are both "drapers porters". May [transcribed incorrectly as Mary] (12), Florence (9) and Daisy (7) are all listed as scholars. Rose is only 4 years old. Sidney (10) is also attending school. But where were Annie and Walter? Relatives believe Annie married and lived in Reading. (Ellen) May later used the names Lillian and Mabel, before her death in Brighton, Sussex.

Also in St. Mary's parish for the 1901 census is a Walter T MINNS (20), born Bow, London. He is a patient in St. John's Hospital, Oak Lane, Twickenham, also within the parish of St. Mary. He is described as a waiter in a hotel. Is this the missing Walter Thomas? St. John's Hospital was established by Elizabeth



*St. John's Hospital*

TWINING in 1879, on the understanding that it was "forever thereafter to be used as and for the purpose of a hospital or dispensary". The hospital was built to benefit local residents who could not afford to pay normal rates but were able to pay regular subscriptions to the institution. By the time Thomas was a patient it was likely to have been a general hospital with medical treatment provided by local GPSA It closed, after some controversy, in 1985.

Walter then seemed to disappear. A Walter Thomas MINNS joined the Lincolnshire Regiment on the 29th August 1898, but is he our Walter Thomas? A family story was that an uncle married a widow who had two sons and left for a life in New South Wales (NSW). This might be borne out by a marriage of a Walter T. MINNS to Margaret F. WRIGHT (nee DOIG) in 1923, in Bankstown, NSW A similar tree, available online, includes this marriage as taking place on the 16th November 1923. A Walter, a sailor, died in Parramatta, NSW, in 1954 - but is this our Walter? Electoral Registers for NSW list a Margaret and Walter Thomas MINNS residing in Parramatta. Walter is a greengrocer, just like his possible grandfather, Thomas Walter MINNS, who had two grocers and bakers shops.

Much more research is required to verify or discount the Australian connection. It would be very rewarding to discover that those tales of Uncle Walter and his tuck shop in Australia were all true after all.

Any contact from an Australian MINNS in NSW would be welcomed.

Glynice Smith, 4 Chester House, Prospect Road, New Barnet, Herts. EN5 5BW. *GlyniceS@aol.com*

**Sources:** Wikipedia; Ancestrycom; Minns Family Tree. **Images:** WMFHS

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## MODEL AEROPLANE FLYING ON HOUNSLOW HEATH

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*John Hancock*

---



*John on Hounslow Heath*

In 1945 I was nearly 14 and recently returned to Hounslow after war time evacuation. My Grandfather (a man of very few words) made a life-changing observation to me, "There are a load of chaps flying model aeroplanes on the Heath on Sundays." I went, and it was true. On Sunday afternoons the Heath was indeed picketed with groups of model aircraft enthusiasts of all ages with every sort of model, even a few large spark ignition petrol engine machines, whose operation was banned during the war.

The Heath in those days had a very different appearance to that of today. Apart from areas of dense scrub and woodland on the eastern and western edges, it was a big open area of coarse grassland, criss-crossed with well-defined paths. In World War One it had been an aerodrome and there was still a dilapidated 'blister hangar' by the eastern fencing.

A legacy of World War Two were a group of earth covered corrugated iron, hut-like structures in the top north-west corner, acting as shelters for some war time purpose, useful for us modellers when it rained. On hot days there could be quite major grass fires (arson?), which any model fliers would energetically beat out until the fire brigade arrived. This hot, open, prairie-like area also caused violent thermal dust devils to occur in summer, a phenomenon I have never seen elsewhere.

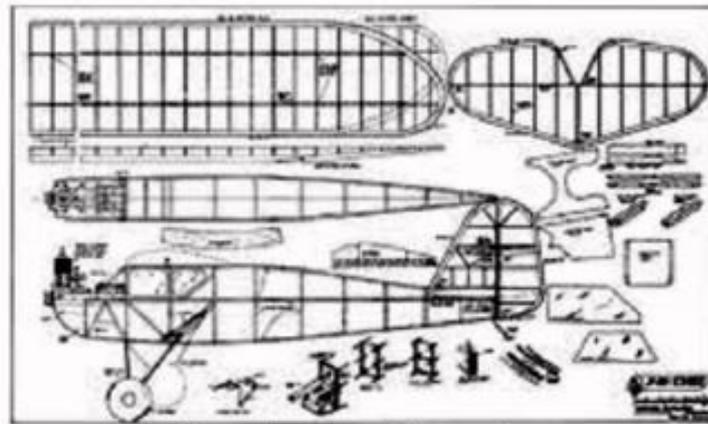
Men and lads came from all over West London to fly models on the Heath in that time; de-mobbed men rescued treasured models from lofts and we younger lot learned how to build and trim models. Many were broken and some lost, but we learned and persisted. Models in those days had no means of control - radio was a distant and expensive dream - once in the air they could depart the Heath with ease, and they did. Name and address



labels usually resulted in a letter or a postcard telling where our creations had landed - often very many miles away. Would that happen today?

The majority of the aeroplanes that we schoolboys built were made from quite inexpensive kits supplied by a busy nationwide cottage industry. They varied in material and design quality and we quickly found the better sources. These kits could be bought from newsagents and cycle shops, as well as the few dedicated model shops, such as Poultons in Hounslow.

Model magazines published drawings and articles that enabled us, as we gained experience, to construct models for ourselves and this activity taught us many skills. Toy aeroplanes - I think not.



*Plans for a model aeroplane*

The Heath was the social centre for all of this. As we happily learned to fly our creations over the hallowed ground, the air to the north was filled with a steady stream of elegant, propeller driven airliners, drifting into a newly built Heathrow. Many of us merged into this full-sized aviation world. Fairey Aviation, Vickers, Hawkers and RAE Farnborough, all welcomed apprentices who made flying model aircraft.

I rarely visit Hounslow Heath now, finding it so changed from the place that freed me from suburban imprisonment. Model flying is neither permitted nor practical since it became a Nature Reserve. Ironically, nearby Chobham Common, one of the largest and most significant Reserves in south-east England, makes a feature of hosting model flying of all kinds. Hanworth Air Park also provides a base for local radio controlled model enthusiasts.



Very few people make their own models now, preferring to buy and fly ready-made radio control models; this in itself is a skilled activity and demands knowledge and understanding of all things aeronautical but the Heath fraternity of craftsman model builders has de-camped to the clouds.

## HOLIDAY ACCOUNTS

Margaret Wilson

My parents, John BARNETT and Freda, nee TILBURY, grew up in Ealing and Southall and met at the County Secondary School in Southall. They married at Holy Trinity Church, Southall, on 24th April 1931.

After the Second World War, I imagine times were quite hard and few families could afford foreign holidays. Every other year my parents drove us on holiday to either Devon or Cornwall, where we would stay for two weeks in a guest house, as opposed to a hotel. My father kept meticulous notes of what he spent on these holidays and two of his records, for 1947 and 1951, I thought would be of interest.

In 1947 we went to Woolacombe, in Devon, without our baby sister Dorothy, no doubt to give my mother a well-earned rest, since Dorothy was severely retarded. My father's notes are comparatively less detailed for this trip, but they do give an idea of the costs at that time. It is difficult to make a direct comparison with today's prices, but using the Retail Price Index, 5 guineas (the cost per adult per week for full board at the guest house) was the equivalent of

| WOOLACOMBE '47   |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| Mrs. Taylor<br>Glenwood<br>Woolacombe                        |                      |
| Sept. 1 - 15   |                      |
| 5 gns/wk M+S   | 2½ gns/wk.           |
|  | 42 . 0 . 0           |
| Dorothy<br>M. Steel<br>Bundigo<br>Stanstead Rd.<br>Hoddeston |                      |
| Aug 30 - Sept 16   |                      |
| 3 gns/wk   | 6 . 10 . 0           |
| Petrol 38 g  | 4 . 1 . 9            |
| 660 miles  |                      |
| Cinema &<br>Theatre  | 1 . 12 . -           |
| Misc   | 6 . 11 . 3           |
|  | <u>£ 60 . 15 . -</u> |

Woolacombe Accounts

only £168.50, but it could be as much as £573.60, using relative average income as the basis for comparison. Even using this higher estimate, the guest house still offered pretty good value for money. It included a cooked break-fast and evening meal and we were provided with a packed lunch each day. Guests were expected to be out of the guest house during the day. Using the Retail Price index, this complete holiday would have cost £1,950 in 2011 for a family of five.

In 1951 we stayed at Ingledene Guest House in Torquay, run by two maiden ladies, the Misses HOSKING. The building is still there, as we found when We revisited in 1997, although the name had been changed to The Three Trees Hotel.

Back in 1951 the Misses HOSKING ran a very tight ship. A gong was rung at meal times and woe betide anyone who was late! I can remember a few worried moments when we were in danger of flouting this rule. There were no en-suites to bedrooms in those days - only a shared bathroom at the end of the corridor.



Former Ingledene Guest House

It is interesting to note that my father included details of his petrol consumption (19.3 mpg), which was a lot poorer than that of modern cars. The car he ran was a Sunbeam and I remember that on several occasions he would put the car in neutral to coast

downhill and conserve petrol. This nearly ended in grief one time when he did so descending the very steep Porlock Hill in Devon?

| The Misses Hosking       |           | NEWQUAY          |          |
|--------------------------|-----------|------------------|----------|
| Ingledene                |           | 1951             |          |
| Carninow Way             |           | 23 July - Aug 14 |          |
| DUPES NEED TRACE MARK    |           |                  |          |
| 6 gns                    |           |                  |          |
| £2 - for Sylvia, sharing |           |                  |          |
| double room w J.H.       |           |                  |          |
|                          | £ 59.     | 17.              | -        |
| meals                    | 3.        | 5                | -        |
| - on journey             | 2         | 7                | -        |
| Deck chairs              |           | 16               | 8        |
| Ices                     |           | 15               | -        |
| Bathing                  |           | 10               | -        |
| Balls, spade etc         |           | 14               | 3        |
| Fair                     |           | 5                | 4        |
| Cards + stamps           |           | 10               | 6        |
| Parks                    |           | 8                | 6        |
| Sweets                   |           | 14               | 6        |
| Crude oil (Thawpits etc) |           | 4                | 3        |
| Guide book               |           | 5                | -        |
| &c                       |           | 6                | -        |
|                          | <u>70</u> | <u>19</u>        | <u>-</u> |
| Petrol 61 g              | 10        | 18               | -        |
| 117.8 mi. 19.3 mpg       |           |                  |          |
| 2.32 <sup>3</sup> /mile  |           |                  |          |
| Oil                      |           | 5                | 7        |
| battery                  |           |                  | 6        |
| Garage                   |           | 10               | 6        |
|                          | <u>11</u> | <u>14</u>        | <u>7</u> |
|                          | £ 82      | 13               | 7        |

Ingledene Accounts

I imagine a family with children would still spend money on a holiday on much the same things in the present day, although few of us would keep such detailed records! I think the mention of crude oil was the cost of removing the oil which was found on many beaches after the War. I remember there were often globules of the oil on the beach and it was quite difficult to avoid getting some of it on your shoes, skin or clothes, as it quite frequently lay hidden just beneath the surface of the sand. It was horrible stuff to remove and Thawpits was the remedy my father used. Comparing using the RPI again, this holiday for a family of four would have cost £2,131 in 2011.

Our day conference on 28th September was centred upon how our family histories were shaped by the evolution of transport - based on the town of Brentford, by the Thames and at the junction with the Grand Union Canal. Here is the report of the last two talks given on that day. An account of the first two appeared in the December 2013 Journal.

### How Transport in London Developed to Serve the Growing Population, David WADLEY

In 1825 the horse-drawn omnibus charged 1/- (5p) fare to travel from Paddington to Bank. By the 1840s steam railways meant that people could commute to London, Trams were brought from the USA in the 1860s; they ran on rails which were laid on the road surface, which caused problems for other



*London trolley bus*

road users. During the 1870s the rails were lowered, which enabled two horses to draw more people. The resulting reduction in fares meant that more people could afford to live in the growing suburbs. The early 1900s saw the introduction of electric trams: these had all gone by 1952. Trolley buses were introduced on to

loss-making tram routes; they had the advantage of running on tyres rather than rails. The first successful motor bus was introduced by the London General Omnibus Company in 1910, and by 1915 all horse-drawn buses had disappeared from London.

Charles PEARSON, a City solicitor, proposed an underground railway to run approximately three miles from Paddington to Farringdon Street. It was built using the 'cut and cover' technique, which was heavy work using steam cranes and which caused significant damage to properties near the workings. This rail line, which became known as the Metropolitan Line, opened in January 1863 and offered cheap working-men's tickets.

The Underground expanded with the development of the Metropolitan and District Railways, with the Metropolitan Line concentrating on the northern

part of what is now the Circle Line, and the 'Met 8: District' on the southern routes. By 1884, the Circle Line was complete.

Barlow & Greathead devised a deep-level tunnelling technique and 1890 saw the construction of the first tube line - the City and South London, now the Northern Line. In 1900 the 'Robber Baron' Charles Tyson YERKES, from Chicago, entered into complex financial arrangements to buy into embryo schemes to build further deep-level tube lines, In 1905, electrification of the London Underground began, using techniques and some engineering borrowed from America.

Frank PICK, who eventually became Managing Director of the London Passenger Transport Board, qualified as a lawyer but had a passion for good design. He commissioned a font to be used for all London Transport purposes; this clear and simple font is still used today. He is credited with the idea of producing one stylised map of all the Underground lines, based on electrical circuitry diagrams.



*London Underground Poster*

His influence on the architecture of Underground stations can also still be seen today. Attractive and decorative posters advertising excursions which could be made using the Underground were commissioned by PICK. The evidence of PICK's influence is still with us in so many ways on the Underground network.

After David's talk we had another break for refreshments, including cake, which I am reliably informed was delicious, but had disappeared very quickly! Our final talk of the afternoon was:

### **The Inland Waterways, Richard MOULES**

Richard began by introducing us to some important terminology - barges are used on rivers, narrowboats on canals. Power was generated by animals, water and wind before mechanical means were derived; water has also always been used for transport.

The use of manmade water courses in Britain began with the Romans, who built the Fossdyke, connecting the Rivers Trent and Witham. Major development of the canals in England began in the mid-18th century, when Francis EGERTON, Duke of Bridgewater, who had coal mines at Worsley, had a canal built by James BRINDLEY to carry his coal from Worsley to Manchester. The opening of this canal in 1761 halved the price of coal in Manchester and made the Duke a fortune from a previously uneconomic pit. The Bridgewater Canal was later extended to Runcorn and the Mersey estuary.

Other major industrialists, such as Josiah WEDGWOOD, recognised the benefits of using canals for transport and were instrumental in encouraging



*Working narrowboat*

investment in the growing canal network. One horse could pull a load containing 30 tons; if longer, narrower boats could be built, the canals could be narrower and therefore cheaper.

Canals have to be able to be filled with water from natural sources, which placed some limitations on where

they could be built. However, by 1815, there were some 2,200 miles of canals and 2,000 miles of navigable rivers in England.

Then in 1825, George STEPHENSON's Stockton to Darlington railway was built as a replacement for a planned canal. As we heard earlier, the expansion of the railways marked the beginning of the end for commercial inland waterways. From the 1840s, due to competition, prices were driven down. From the days when the men working the boats had a home and family ashore, now whole families lived and worked the boats. The boatmen were paid piecework rates, so had to keep the boats moving. It was often the job of the children to walk with the horse and keep it moving.

By the early 20th century, the remaining narrow boats were mechanised, first by steam then by diesel engines. With motorisation, it was possible to motorise one boat, 'the motor', and tow a second, 'butty', boat. This gave the family more living space, whilst not having a marked increase in costs. Living on the narrowboats made it difficult to educate the children. Although there

were schools at Brentford and Southall, attendance could only ever be erratic.

As road haulage of freight expanded from the late 1930s to the 1950s, the use of narrow boats for commercial haulage had virtually ceased. The very hard winter of 1962/63, when boats could not move, added a further nail in the coffin, and by 1975 the canal system had effectively ceased to be used for commercial freight.

However, L.T.C. (Tom) ROLT wrote a book called *Narrow Boat*, which was published in 1944, and promoted the idea of using canals for leisure. Tom ROLT met Robert AICKMAN, a literary agent, and together they founded the Inland Waterways Association (IWA) with the idea of rejuvenating the canals. By the late 1940s, many of the canals had been bought by railway companies and made unavailable for commercial boats, by means such as obstructing bridges, in an attempt to force trade on to trains. In 1947, Lord METHUEN invoked an Act of Parliament which said that canals could not be obstructed. Grudgingly, the rail companies had to re-open the obstructed bridges.



*Holiday narrowboats*

For a while the National Trust (NT) was involved with the development of canals for leisure, but the NT is now responsible only for the Wey Navigation. Today there are fewer and fewer leisure boats on the Thames but more on the canals. Richard then showed some lovely photographs of views on several canals. He also told us that Watford Gap service

area on the M1 motorway has a back exit for pedestrians, from which there is a pleasant walk to the canal.

*So with the memories of his lovely photographs still fresh in our minds, our day closed. Thanks were offered to Kay DUDMAN, who organised the event, to Margaret CUNNEW and Betty ELLIOTT who looked after the refreshments, and to all volunteers who had helped in any way.*

**Images:** Trolleybus: [www.trolleybus.net](http://www.trolleybus.net)

Poster: [www.bodyofart.com](http://www.bodyofart.com)

Working narrowboat: [www.steamershistorical.co.uk](http://www.steamershistorical.co.uk)

Holiday narrowboats: [en.wikipedia.org](http://en.wikipedia.org)

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## MISCELLANY

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### **Family History Conference, 29th - 31st August, 2014.**

A weekend Family History Conference is being held in Essex to commemorate the fortieth anniversaries of both the Essex Society for Family History and the Federation of Family History Societies. Entitled "Dig For The Past, Look To The Future", there is an excellent list of speakers, which can be viewed on the Essex Society's website: [www.esfh.org.uk](http://www.esfh.org.uk), where you can also book to attend. The Conference takes place at the Holiday Inn in Basildon, where accommodation will be available.

### **S.S. Great Britain**



The Maritime Curators at the Brunei Institute are offering to search their databases for information on passengers who sailed on this iconic ship. The Institute has an extensive archive of documents relating to the ship and its history, which includes both passenger lists and crew lists. You can contact them just with a name, and Joanna THOMAS, the Curator, says, "You never know

where it might lead or what might be uncovered." And if you are in Bristol, do visit the ship itself.

[www.ssgreatbritain.org/brunel-institute](http://www.ssgreatbritain.org/brunel-institute)

### **Western Front 1914-1919**

The names of 42,000 men and women, including soldiers and nurses, who passed through Folkestone in Kent between 1914 and 1919 on their way to the Western Front, are to be put online. The names appeared in eight visitors' books which were kept at the Harbour Canteen and it was here that the last meal was eaten before boarding the troopships which took them to France and Belgium. The names have been transcribed and data will give rank and the date of departure - some regimental numbers were included in the books and also comments and short poems were added. The website is due to go online later this year the access to pages will be free, a small payment may be charged to use an enhanced index.

[www.stepshort.co.uk](http://www.stepshort.co.uk)

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## NEWS FOR THE ARCHIVES

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### **Saving Bexley Archives**

Local authorities are under great financial pressure, leading to reduced funding for services that are of particular use to family historians. Bexley Council is proposing to close Bexley Local Studies and Archive Centre as part of its 2014/15 Budget plan and transfer the service to Bromley Central Library in another borough. More information can be found at:

*<http://www.bexleyhistoricalsociety.co.uk/74.html>*

### **Talbot Library, Preston**

The Bishop and Trustees of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Lancaster have recently announced the permanent closure at the end of 2013 of the Talbot Library in Preston. The decision was announced on 17th December and appears to have been taken without any external consultation and without a proper option appraisal. The collection held some 60,000 volumes of predominantly Roman Catholic and Irish interest and was one of the most important Catholic library collections. Most of the books and periodicals will be dispersed to as yet unspecified locations.

### **Dudley Archives**

A new, state-of-the-art archive has opened in Dudley, replacing the old facility at Coseley. It is located at Tipton Road, Dudley, DY1 4SQ.

*[www.dudley.gov.uk](http://www.dudley.gov.uk)*

### **The Keep, Brighton**

A new archive facility, costing £19m, has opened at Woollards Field, Moulsecoomb, near Palmer. Among its collections are those from the East Sussex County Record Office, the Royal Pavilion & Museums local history archive and the Sussex Family History Group library.

*[www.thekeep.info](http://www.thekeep.info)*

### **Herefordshire Archives**

Hereford Archives are now closed, prior to a move to new premises in 2015. Distance enquiries and paid research services will continue as usual.

*[www.herefords/fire.gov.uk/archives](http://www.herefords/fire.gov.uk/archives)*

**Final date for submission of articles**

**to appear in the subsequent Journal:**

**7th January    7th April    7th July    7th October**

**London Administrative History: Katy Chater (October)**

Kathy started her talk with a few statistics - there are about 600 archives in London, holding about 29% of the UK archives. We also have about 1500 libraries and about 250 museums of one kind or another.

***London Legislative History***

Prior to 1888 parishes kept their own records. After the passing of the 1888 Local Government Act, when the Metropolitan Boroughs were created, those boroughs also created their own local archives. In 1963, the County of Greater London was created and from 1965 to 1985 the Greater London Council existed.

***London Archives***

There are three main archives covering Greater London:

- the London Metropolitan Archives (LMA), which includes the Middlesex Deeds Register;
- City of Westminster Archives;
- Duchy of Lancaster Archive.

It is probably best to begin research enquiries with LMA - if they do not hold what you are seeking, they may know who does.

***London Record Offices***

- Individual Boroughs;
- County Record Offices: Essex, Kent, Surrey and LMA, which covers Greater London;
- National Records - mainly held at The National Archives (TNA) at Kew;
- Privileged Jurisdictions - City of London, City of Westminster and Duchy of Lancaster (records at TNA)

***National Archives***

- TNA at Kew;
- British Library holdings include the National Sound Archive and records of the Oriental & India Office;
- British Library Newspaper Archive, now moved from Colindale to Boston Spa; thousands of pages are now online at [www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk](http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk);
- National Film Archives has offices near Tottenham Court Road but the films are held at Berkhamsted.

***Museums with Archives*** include:

- Army Museum in Chelsea;
- Bank of England Museum in the City;

- Imperial War Museum at Lambeth;
- National Maritime Museum in Greenwich;
- Royal Air Force Museum at Hendon.

All these museum archives hold personal memorabilia which may help researchers put ‘flesh on the bones’ of their ancestors.

### ***National Organisations***

- Businesses - there are some records both in the Guildhall Library and LMA;
- British Telecommunications (BT) and the Post Office (PO) both have their own archives;
- Charities - some still hold their own records, some records have been deposited at LMA;
- Insurance Companies - try Guildhall Library. Note that the records of the Sun Insurance company have been transcribed and are available only at [www.history.ac.uk/gh/sun.htm](http://www.history.ac.uk/gh/sun.htm)

### ***Religious Denominations***

- Archbishop of Canterbury's archive is held at Lambeth Palace Library;
- Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormons) - their record office is normally in Exhibition Road, South Kensington, but is temporarily at TNA;
- Dr. Williams’ Library of Nonconformists now has records online;
- Huguenot Library - normally at University College London but is temporarily at TNA;
- Jewish Museums - the Museum of East End Jewish History, and The Orthodox Jewish Museum at Woburn Square;
- Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) has a library and museum on the Euston Road;
- Roman Catholics - their records are notoriously difficult to research: records of foreign legation chapels are held at TNA and online at City of Westminster Archives and the Westminster Diocese records are at Westminster Cathedral in Victoria, but are not open to the public.

### ***Specialist Libraries***

- College of Arms
- Library and Museum of Freemasonry
- Regimental Museums
- Society of Genealogists
- Wellcome Trust Library for the history of medicine

### ***Planning a visit***

Firstly, ask yourself whether your trip is really necessary. There is now a great deal of data online, or published either in print or on CD. Stuart RAYMOND’s

booklet *Family History on the Web* was out of date before it was printed but it will give useful guidance.

Check the location of the records you seek - they may not be where you expect.

What are the opening hours of the archive? Most are now closed on Mondays.

Do you need a reader's ticket? If so, what identification will you need to get a ticket?

Obtain a Transport for London Central London bus map and mark the location of the archives.

For each archive you visit, keep a record sheet to show:

Information sought/source/call reference/result, whether positive or negative. This should avoid checking the same record twice.

Get hold of a copy of *The Greater London History & Heritage Handbook* by Peter MARCAN, which is packed Full of useful information about sources of information

Good luck with your research!

### **Poverty and Madness: from Stepney to Colney Hatch: Louise Taylor** (November)

Louise's talk was based on a study she had undertaken of 16 women from Stepney in east London who were admitted to Middlesex County Lunatic Asylum - Colney Hatch between 1877 and 1889.

Colney Hatch Asylum (opened in 1851) was one of 11 asylums built to house the pauper lunatics and imbeciles of London, as required by legislation. In



*Colney Hatch Asylum*

common with other asylums, its existence gave rise to increasing demand for asylum accommodation and patient numbers escalated rapidly.

Louise illustrated how she had used multiple sources to reconstruct the stories of individual women and to explain how and why these

women had come to be admitted to the asylum' Her research sample included seven single women, six married women, two widows and one deserted wife. They ranged in age from 22 to 62 years, when first admitted to Colney Hatch. Several had had previous employment. Another four were

already living in institutions. In 11 of the 16 women's cases close relatives played a part in the process of their admission. Many never left the asylum.

Among the women were several whose stories Louise brought vividly to life. These included a young domestic servant who thought her master's assistant was Jack the Ripper; a widow diagnosed with mania as she struggled to come to terms with multiple bereavements; and a single woman whose long-standing melancholia was said to have been caused by "a Fright".

The sources used included manuscript notebooks in the archive of Charles BOOTH's poverty survey (available online: <http://booth.lse.ac.uk/>) as well as records of Stepney Poor Law Union and Colney Hatch Asylum, both of which are held at London Metropolitan Archives ([www.lma.gov.uk](http://www.lma.gov.uk)). LT.

### **Christmas Social and Traditional Christmas Food: Simon & Sylvia Fowler (December)**

Our December meeting included our usual Christmas social with its table full of tasty buffet food provided by members, but first we heard a talk shared between local and family historian Simon and food historian Sylvia Fowler. Simon began the talk by asking "What is Christmas?" a celebration, a get-together, a religious event, a marketing/commercial event? We spend far too much money in a strange mixture of the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ and pagan rites. Although not celebrated everywhere on exactly 25th



*Queen Victoria and her family*

December, it does occur at the winter solstice, with its short days and long dark nights, and is a symbol of renewal. In the West Country they still sing to the apple trees to ensure a bumper crop for the cider.

It could be said that Christmas was 'invented' by Charles DICKENS and Prince ALBERT - between them they created the Victorian Christmas, which is still how we tend to think of Christmas. A picture of the Royal Family around their Christmas tree appeared in the *Illustrated London News* - this as always Filtered down through the middle classes till everyone had to have a Christmas tree. Charles DICKENS described the perfect Christmas in both the *Pickwick Papers* and *A Christmas Carol*. But Christmas is always changing, it is only in recent

years that everything closed on Christmas Day, and now everything revolves around the television.

Another phenomenon has recently come across from Europe: the Christmas Markets, with their handmade toys and gluhwein (mulled wine). Every Family does things differently. In the past they did not make as much of it as we do now, for instance Boxing Day was not a holiday. In a cook's dictionary from 1830, Christmas hardly features and there is no mention of turkey. Notwithstanding DICKENS' description in *Pickwick Papers*, Christmas was not a huge festivity, although in Jane AUSTIN's *Persuasion* the children do make paper decorations.

There is a long tradition of giving a meal to the poor. There has always been Christmas feasting, although Advent meant fasting up until Christmas Eve. Perhaps as a hangover from the restrictions on Christmas celebrations during CROMWELL's time CROMWELL tried to start monthly fast days and in one year this even fell on Christmas Day; this was not popular and people carried on celebrating in secret.



*The Lord of Misrule*

There was not a lot of fuss made at Christmas in the couple of centuries up to the Victorian era, but in medieval times there was lots of drink and feasting. The nobility particularly held feasts, copying the Royal Court, distributing gifts and giving a feast for their retainers. The celebrations lasted for the whole twelve days of Christmas, including the election from amongst the household of a 'Lord of Misrule' who reigned throughout the twelve days and had to be obeyed.

Not a lot of the food was exclusively for Christmas. The oldest traditional dish we still have is a boar's head, which perhaps came from Roman practices, the boar being a 'Lord of the Forest' whose head on a plate would be

really spectacular as it was paraded round the Lord's hall. There is still a Boar's Head Festival in a couple of the Oxford colleges. Most people probably ate goose at Christmas, although this is traditionally associated with Michaelmas. Other birds were consumed such as peacock, swan and game birds, plus venison, and various forms of pork such as brawn, and perhaps rabbit. Beef was very significant in English feasting, and there were rich stews and soups, and potages. There was mixing of savoury and sweet - sugar was new then, exotic and scarce, but all this was not what the poor ate, although the lower classes would try to imitate the nobility.



*Poor Robin's Almanac* (compiled by Benjamin FRANKLIN) indicates that spices were going into "plum porridge", a hangover from medieval times. A lot of ingredients and traditions were coming over from America. There was now pork, mutton, veal, beef, turkey, capon, Christmas Pie and 'nappy' ale. A traditional Yorkshire Christmas Pie included turkey, goose, chicken, hare, wild fowl plus nutmeg, mace and cloves. It could also contain snipe, grouse and truffles. There was a tradition of stuffing larger birds with smaller birds and few vegetables were served.

In *A Christmas Carol* the Cratchit family are having goose, probably sent by them to the local bakehouse for cooking. Scrooge sends them a turkey - a more expensive option - which was hanging in a local butcher's window. This may have started off the turkey craze, but was DICKENS following or creating the craze? Norfolk farmers were already rearing large amounts of turkeys and sending them into London. Turkeys and geese were walked to London - tar was painted on their feet to help protect them. Mincemeat in mince pies included real meat such as beef, mutton, venison, plus lots of dried fruit and spices. Eventually the meat disappeared, the only animal product left being suet.

Christmas Pudding was quite a late arrival - in a diary of 1675 plum pudding and plum porridge are both mentioned, the porridge being based on cereal and rarer Frumenty was boiled cracked wheat with added eggs and flavourings. Dried fruit was known as 'plums', This dish lasted into the 19th century, but evolved into pudding, with more flour and less cereal plus suet, all placed in a cloth and put into boiling water. It was not an exclusively Christmas dish - GEORGE IV popularised it by requesting it to be served.



*Mrs. Beeton's Christmas Pudding*

Charles DICKENS rhapsodises about the pudding in *A Christmas Carol*: the Cratchits added brandy to it, Christmas pudding was sometimes known as Empire Pudding as most of the ingredients came from all over the Empire.



*Mrs Beeton's trifle*

An illustration from Mrs BEETON included trifle, a dish which has been exported around the world, but its make-up tends to be a subject of fierce debate. What went into it depended on your class. The jelly was originally an animal product. Christmas Cake was originally 'Twelfth Cake', and is older than mince pies and Christmas pudding. The first written recipe is from 1803 and included fruit, bread and spices' By the middle of the 19th century it is specifically Christmas cake, eaten throughout the Christmas season.

Some of our ancestors might have experienced Christmas Day in the workhouse, as in the well-known poem. This might have been the only occasion they had enough to eat, probably roast beef, paid for by the Guardians. There was a lot of debate about the provision of alcohol on public funds, especially as some inmates were there as a result of drink. Some people even stood for election to the Guardians on whether alcohol should be provided on Christmas Day.

Undoubtedly drink plays a warmth! Coca Cola has also big role at Christmas - when we definitely need played a big role - they are said to have 'kidnapped'



Santa Claus. Did Santa wear red before appearing in their adverts? He also traditionally wore green - perhaps a connection with the Green Man.

Wassail was a 'festive bowl' - hot punch, passed around on Twelfth Night; a local farmer might treat his tenants. One recipe was 'Lamb's Wool' - beer, mulled ale, apples roasted and pulped, sugar, ginger, all heated up. Mulled wine is wine plus spices and sugar, heated. It might be fortified with port or brandy. 'Smoking Bishop' is basically mulled wine plus port, oranges, lemon, spices, heated. Pubs used to have barrels of Christmas Ale - usually strong beer - on the bar, but this has all but disappeared.

After all this talk of delicious Christmas fare, we were more than ready to descend on the contents of our buffet table! Y.M.

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## FUTURE MEETINGS

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In the last edition of the Journal, Michael J. PULLEN posed a question regarding the safe disposal of the "New Members" pages from the Journal in order to prevent their use for identity theft or spam emails. Our Webmaster, Richard Chapman, gives his opinion.

My own view is that spam is unlikely to be a concern here - such things are mostly automated and the purveyors of junk email do not go around looking for email addresses in printed publications like this. The ID theft is probably more of a potential concern, although I would put it at a relatively low risk, since there is little or no 'useful' information to be had about the individual concerned - the FH interests would not really profit anybody.

*Richard Chapman*

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## BOOKSHELF

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**Brands Plucked from the Burning: Essays on Methodist Memorialisation and Remembering** Ed, By David J. Hart and David J. Jeremy. (*The Wesley Historical Society*, 2013) ISBN 978 0 9554527 9 6, £14.95 incl p&p.

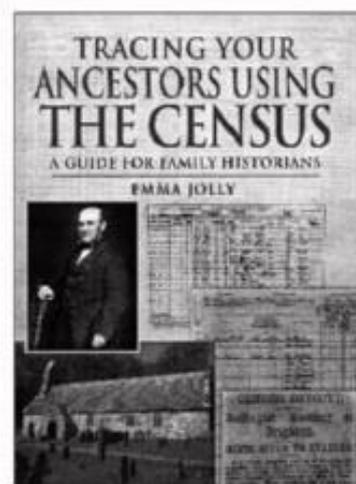


In 2011 the Wesley Historical Society held a Conference on the subject of “Memorialising and Remembering: Life Stories in Methodism” and this series of essays is taken from papers presented on that occasion. There are three strands of Methodist history represented: the Way life stories contributed to establishing the Methodist movement; looking at how later generations of Methodists were influenced by the lives of the early Methodists; and how the historian can research the past.

Several of the essays take a look in depth at the history of Methodism but those more relevant to the family historian look at the lives and work not only of the clergy but of the laity and even those who for some reason or another left Methodism. The final essay, “Methodist Prosopography: Sources and Exemplars of Collective Biography in British Methodism” is particularly rich in sources for further research. ‘Prosopography’ is the “study of the lives of a group of individuals with common background characteristics”. This book is more academic in style than those usually reviewed in this column, but if you are interested in the history of Methodism, or have Methodist ancestors, it is well worth looking at, especially for the sources it cites. This book can be purchased from [Lulu.com](http://Lulu.com)

**Tracing Your Ancestors Using the Census** by Emma Jolly (*Pen & Sword Books Ltd.* 2013) ISBN 9781 78159061 4, £12.99

This book begins with the general history of the census, those which precede the 1841 and still survive, those which are online, alternative records pre 1841 and Colonial censuses. It then takes a look in depth at each census from 1841-1911, shows you the most effective way to use them and what the problems might be. It is a very useful addition to this excellent series, which now numbers over 50 different topics. Can be purchased from any High Street bookshop.



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## WORL WIDE WEB

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A selection of new databases that have come online and other web-based news.

- Ancestry has acquired the online database, Find A Grave, which details over 100m, graves and includes 75m. photos - overseas and in the UK.  
*www.ancestry.co.uk*
- New cemetery records for Deceased Online include Boosbeck, Brotton, Eston, Guisborough, Bradford-on-Avon, Hilperton, Holt, Melksham, Trowbridge, Warminster and Westbury; and Sutton and Duddington Cemeteries in the London Borough of Sutton. This site has changed the way users pay to see the records - now it is necessary to purchase vouchers. The Indexes are free.  
*www.deceasedonline.co.uk*
- The project to list Devon wills, pre 1858, is now complete. It also includes probate documents.  
*www.Genuki/cs/ncl.ac.uk/DEV/DevonWillsProject*
- The Families in British India Society has posted the arrivals and departures for Bombay 1882-3, and details of the 300 Salvation Army Officers' records for India online.  
*www.search.fibis.org*
- Family Search is collaborating with Ancestry, Find My Past and My Heritage to put baptisms and marriages online. Also on their site can now be found parish records for Manchester; Bishops Transcripts for Norfolk; marriages 1869-1927 for Ontario, Canada; the 1911 Canadia Census and from the US, the 1905 Iowa State Census.  
*https://familysearch.org*
- Find My Past's new records include those of the Irish Petty Sessions; staff records for the Royal Household, 1526-1924; British Navy ships destroyed during World War I; marriages for Durham 81 Northumberland, baptisms and burials for Devon and baptisms, marriages and burials for Thames Medway.  
*www.findmypast.co.uk*
- The website formerly hosting the London Gazette has been relaunched to include the Belfast Gazette and the Edinburgh Gazette.  
*www.thegazette.co.uk*
- The Genealogist has added several trade directories, the militia musters records from TNA, dating from I 781; baptisms, marriages and burials for Bedfordshire, Devon, Essex, Leicester, Lincolnshire, Middlesex, Rutland,

Shropshire and Westmorland; and the war records of the National Union of Teachers, 1914-1919.  
*www.thegenealogist.co.uk*

- Lloyds List has gone online. It was started in 1734 as a printed list of ships' arrivals, departures and casualties.  
*www.lloydslist.com*
- The National Archives has launched another new look for its website which it hopes will help the 20% of its users who search via their mobile phones.  
*www.thenationalarchives.gov.uk*
- The National Library of Scotland provides an intriguing look at London by using the Ordnance Survey maps, 5 feet to the mile, of 1893-6. It is possible to impose modern OS maps on top of the old ones, enabling you to see the alterations over time.  
*www.bit.ly/lbB1wnl* (note the difference between '1' and 'l']
- Scottish Valuation Rolls, 1920, cover every property in Scotland and can now be viewed on Scotlands People.  
*www.ScotlandsPeople.gov.uk*
- The Wellcome Trust has launched a new website, London's Pulse. It contains more than 5,000 reports by Medical Officers of Health between 1848 and 1972, outlining the health of London, street by street. A valuable insight into the social history of London and Londoners during this period. Fully searchable.  
*www.wellcomelibrary.org/londons-pulse*

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## CHANGE OF ADDRESS FOR LONDON PROBATE

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**London Probate** search facility has moved from High Holborn to Court 38, Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL. The opening hours will be 9am to 4pm but the search facility is unavailable between 1-2pm. The fee payable for this service should be paid at the Fees Office, Royal Courts of Justice, which is signposted within the building.

The search facilities have not changed and copies ordered for collection will only be ready after 48 hours. If you have requested the postal option the copies will be posted within 14 working days.

If you have any enquiries, please contact a member of the London Probate Team on 020 7947 6043.



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## NEW MEMBERS

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*The Society welcomes all new members. The list below comprises those from whom surname interest forms had been received at the time this issue of the Journal was prepared. The interests themselves are listed below.*

D116 Mrs. J. DAVISON, 7 Hoctor Close, Gladstone Park, Melbourne,  
Victoria 3043, Australia. [myjaq53@gmail.com](mailto:myjaq53@gmail.com)

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## SURNAME INTERESTS

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*The table below gives surname interests for the new members listed allot/e. The format should be self-explanatory. Note that the Chapman County Codes are used in the 'Counties' column. 'ANY' or 'ALL' indicates that any date or any place is of interest. When writing rather than emailing to members about entries in this section, please remember to include an SAE. We would urge all those who receive enquires to reply even if there is no connection with your research.*

| <i>Surname</i> | <i>Dates</i> | <i>Place</i>       | <i>County</i> | <i>Member</i> |
|----------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------|
| DAVISON        | 1820-1890    | Isleworth and area | MDX           | D116          |
| WINTERBORN     | 1820-1890    | Isleworth and area | MDX           | D116          |

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## HELP!

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### Drill Hall, Shepherds Bush / CORIO



*'Joseph' Corio, seated,  
Royal Artillery Gunner?*

According to a report in the West London Observer in 1898, the hall was built for the use of the 1st City of London Volunteer Artillery. So far, my enquiries about it have resulted in little information. My grandfather, Joseph CORIO (or possibly Giuseppe, Giovanni or John), was a young man living in Hammersmith or Chiswick at the time. I have a photograph of him, probably taken in the late 1890s. The uniform he is wearing has been identified as that of a Royal Artillery Gunner. Could he have trained at Shepherds Bush? Any information about the early years of the Drill Hall or my grandfather would be very welcome. Jacqueline Finesilver, 28b Whelpley Hill Park, Chesham, HP5 3RH [jacqueline@finesilver.info](mailto:jacqueline@finesilver.info)

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## FAMILY HISTORY FAIRS

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### **Gloucestershire Family History Society Family History Fair**

Saturday, 31st May. 10-4. Gloucester Rugby Club, Kingsholm Road, Gloucester, GL1 3AU. Admission Free.

[www.gfhs.org.uk](http://www.gfhs.org.uk)

### **Sheffield and District Family History Society Fair**

Saturday, 31st May. 1867 Lounge, Sheffield Football Club, Hillsborough.

[www.sheffieldfhs.org.uk](http://www.sheffieldfhs.org.uk)

### **Wiltshire Family History Society, Family History Day**

Saturday, 21 June. 10-3.30. Civic Centre, Trowbridge, Wiltshire, BA14 8AH. Admission Free.

[www.wiltshirefhs.co.uk](http://www.wiltshirefhs.co.uk)

### **Yorkshire Family History Fair**

Saturday, 28th June. 10-4.30. The Knavesmire Exhibition Centre, The Racecourse, York, YO33 1EX. Adults £4.50, children under 14 free.

The largest family history fair in the North of England

[www.yorkshirefamilyhistoryfair.com](http://www.yorkshirefamilyhistoryfair.com)

### **Buckinghamshire Family History Society Open Day**

Saturday 26th July 2014, 10-4, the Grange School, Wendover Way, Aylesbury, HP21 7NH. Admission and parking free.

[www.bucksfhs.org.uk](http://www.bucksfhs.org.uk)

### **West Midlands Area Group Family History Fair**

Saturday, 9th August. Sixways, Worcester Rugby Club. Free coach from Worcester Foregate Street and Croft Road car park.

[www.herefordshirefhs.org.uk](http://www.herefordshirefhs.org.uk)

### **National Family History Fair**

Saturday, 13th September. 10-4. Tyne Suite, Newcastle Central Premier Inn, Newbridge Street, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE1 8BS. Admission £3.

The largest family history fair in the North-East.

[www.nationalfamilyhistoryfair.com](http://www.nationalfamilyhistoryfair.com)

### **Bristol & Avon Family History Society Open Day**

Saturday, 27th September. 10-4. The UWE Exhibition & Conference Centre, The University of West England, Frenchay Campus, Coldharbour Lane, Bristol, BS34 8QZ.

[www.bafhs.org.uk](http://www.bafhs.org.uk)

To keep an eye on family history events near you, go to:

[www.geneva.weald.org.uk](http://www.geneva.weald.org.uk)

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## INDEXES HELD BY MEMBERS

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These indexes are intended as aids to research in the West Middlesex area. For Society members look-ups are free (please quote membership number), unless otherwise stated. For non-members there is a fee of £5. Please note that all enquirers must supply a SAE if a reply is required by post. If an email address is given, holders of the Index are happy to receive enquiries by email. Unless stated otherwise, cheques should be made payable to the holder of the index, not the WMFHS.

### WEST MIDDLESEX FHS INDEXES

*Richard Chapman, Golden Manor, Darby Gardens, Sunbury-on-Thames, TW16 51W chapmanrg@f2s.com. Cheques to West Middlesex FHS.*

**Marriage Index.** Pre 1837 marriages in West Middlesex with partial coverage elsewhere in the county. Please supply places/ dates/ surname variants if known.

**West Middlesex Settlement Records.** Chelsea, Ealing, Feltham, Friern Barnet, Fulham, Hammersmith, Hanwell, New Brentford, Staines, Uxbridge.

*Mrs. Wendy Mott, 24 Addison Avenue, Hounslow, TW3 4AP wendymott@btinternet. Com*

**West Middlesex Monumental Inscriptions.** Acton, Ashford, Cranford, Chiswick, Ealing, Feltham, Fulham (recorded 100 years ago), Hampton, Harlington, Hayes, Heston, Hillingdon, Hounslow (United Reformed), Norwood Green, Perivale, Staines, Teddington, Twickenham and Uxbridge.

**West Middlesex Strays.** People from or born in our area, found in another area.

*Mr. Ted Dunstall, 43 Elers Road, Ealing, London, W13 9QB*

**West Middlesex War Memorials.** Substantial name-list material, consisting of public, churches', schools' and companies' memorials, etc. for WWI, WWII and earlier wars where they exist; list not yet complete; information on any other memorials you know of would be welcome. When making an enquiry please include any information on village or town where you might expect a name to be mentioned.

### PARISH RECORDS

*Mrs. Margaret Cunnew, 25 Selkirk Road, Twickenham, TW2 6PS*

**Chiswick Parish Registers, St. Nicholas.** Baptisms, marriages, burials 1813-1901.

**Chiswick, 1801 Census**

**Ealing Parish Registers, St. Mary.** Baptisms 1779-1868, marriages 1797-1857, burials 1813-1868.

**Hanwell Parish Registers, St. Mary.** Baptisms, marriages, burials, 1813-1855.

**New Brentford Parish Registers, St. Lawrence.** Baptisms, marriages, burials, 1802-1837.

**Old Brentford Parish Registers, St. George.** Baptisms 1828-1881, marriages 1837-1881, burials 1828-1852.

*Mr. P Sherwood, 5 Victoria Lane, Harlington, Middlesex, UB3 5EW  
psherwood@waitrose.com*

**Harlington Parish Registers.** Baptisms, marriages, burials, 1540-1850.

*Mrs. Wendy Mott, 24 Addison Avenue, Hounslow, TW3 4AP wendymott@btinternet.com*

**Harmondsworth Parish Registers.** Baptisms, marriages, burials, 1670-1837.

*Mrs. M. Sibley, 13 Blossom Way, West Drayton, Middlesex UB7 9HF.  
mavikensib@aol.com*

For more than 3 names, please write for an estimate of charge.

**Hayes Parish Registers, St. Mary.** Baptisms, marriages, burials, 1557-1840

**Hillingdon Parish Registers.** Baptisms 1559-1909, marriages 1559-1910, burials 1559-1948 (churchyard) and 1867-1903 (cemetery).

**Isleworth Parish Registers, All Saints.** Baptisms 1566-1919- marriages 1566-1927, burials 1566-1942.

**Isleworth Register of Baptisms: Brentford Union Workhouse, Mission Church, Wesleyan Methodist Church,** extracts from Register of Baptisms.

*Ms. Carol Sweetland, 36 Diamedes Avenue, Stanwell, Staines, TW19 7JB  
carol.sweetlancl@btinternet.com*

**Stanwell Parish Registers.** Baptisms 1632-1906, marriages 1632-1926, burials 1632-1906. Also available on FreeREG. Name database 1632-1906.

### **MISCELLANEOUS INDEXES**

*Mr. A. Rice, 46 Park Way, Feltham, TW14 9DJ. secretary@feltham-history.org.uk*

**Feltham Index.** An expanding collection of transcripts and indexes relating to the parish of Feltham. Donations welcome, payable to Feltham History Group.

*Mr. Paul Barnfield, 258 Hanworth Road, Hounslow, TW3 3TY  
paulbarnfield@hotmail.co.uk*

**Hampton Wick.** Records of this village collected over 40 years of research.

*Mrs. M. Sibley, 13 Blossom Way, West Drayton, Middx, UB7 9HF mavikensib@aol.com*

**Newspaper Index.** Births, marriages and deaths, court cases, accidents, etc. taken from local newspapers 1894-1925.

*Mr. Brian Page, 121 Shenley Avenue, Ruislip, HA4 6BU, brian729@blueyonder.co.uk*

**1641-2 Protestation Returns of Middlesex.** This has been indexed. You will secure a printout, which includes variants. Cheques made payable to West Middlesex FHS.

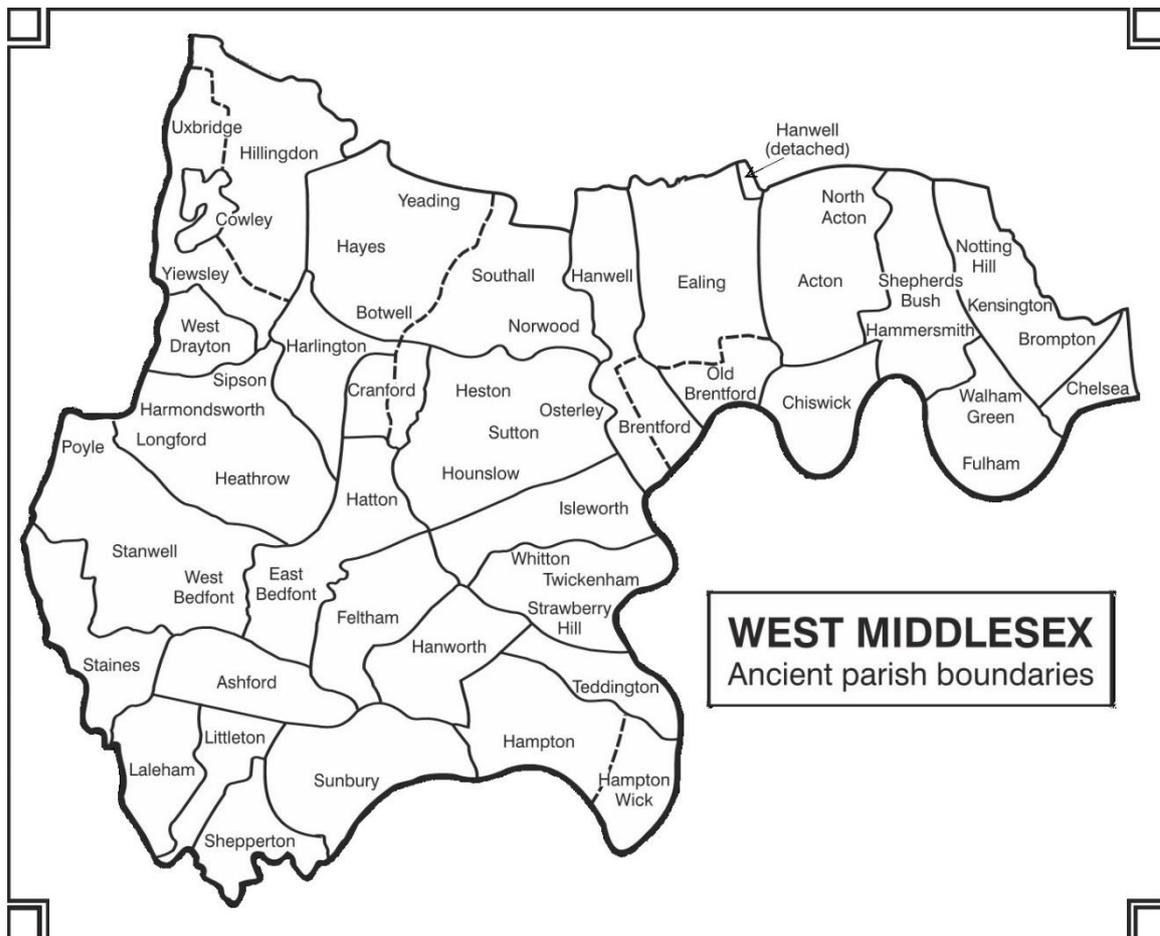
*Miss Valerie Walker, 32 Cunnington Street, Chiswick, London, W4 5EN*

**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 £3.50 per certificate. Cheques should be made payable to West Middlesex FHS. Please include a sae.

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### **Front Cover: Chiswick House**

Built for Richard BOYLE, the 3rd Earl of Burlington, who was a gifted amateur architect, Chiswick House is one of the finest examples of Palladian design. It was completed in 1729. After the death of Lady Burlington in 1758, it came into the hands of the Dukes of Devonshire. It was beloved by the Famous Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire, who called it her "earthly paradise". Two wings were added to the villa in 1788, when the original Jacobean house was demolished. The 9th Duke of Devonshire sold it to the Middlesex County Council in 1929. It was heavily damaged during the war but prevented from destruction by the Georgian Society. It is now managed by a Trust formed by Hounslow Council and English Heritage and final restoration of the house and its beautiful gardens was completed in 2010. The gardens are open to the public all the year round.



**West Middlesex Family History Society  
Area of Interest**

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

If undelivered, please return to:

West Middlesex FHS  
c/o Mrs. Betty Elliott, 89 Constance Road, Whitton, Twickenham, Middlesex, TW2 7HX