



# WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY JOURNAL

**VOL 34 No.4**

**December 2016**



*Chelsea Pensioners*



ISSN 01452-517X

# WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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<b>Examiner</b>	Vacant
<b>Society Website</b>	<a href="http://www.west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk">www.west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk</a>
<b>Subscriptions</b>	All categories: £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, 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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All articles and other items for the Journal should be sent to:

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8 Sandleford Lane, Greenham  
Thatcham  
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Exchange journals from other societies should be sent to:

Mrs. Margaret Cunnew  
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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:

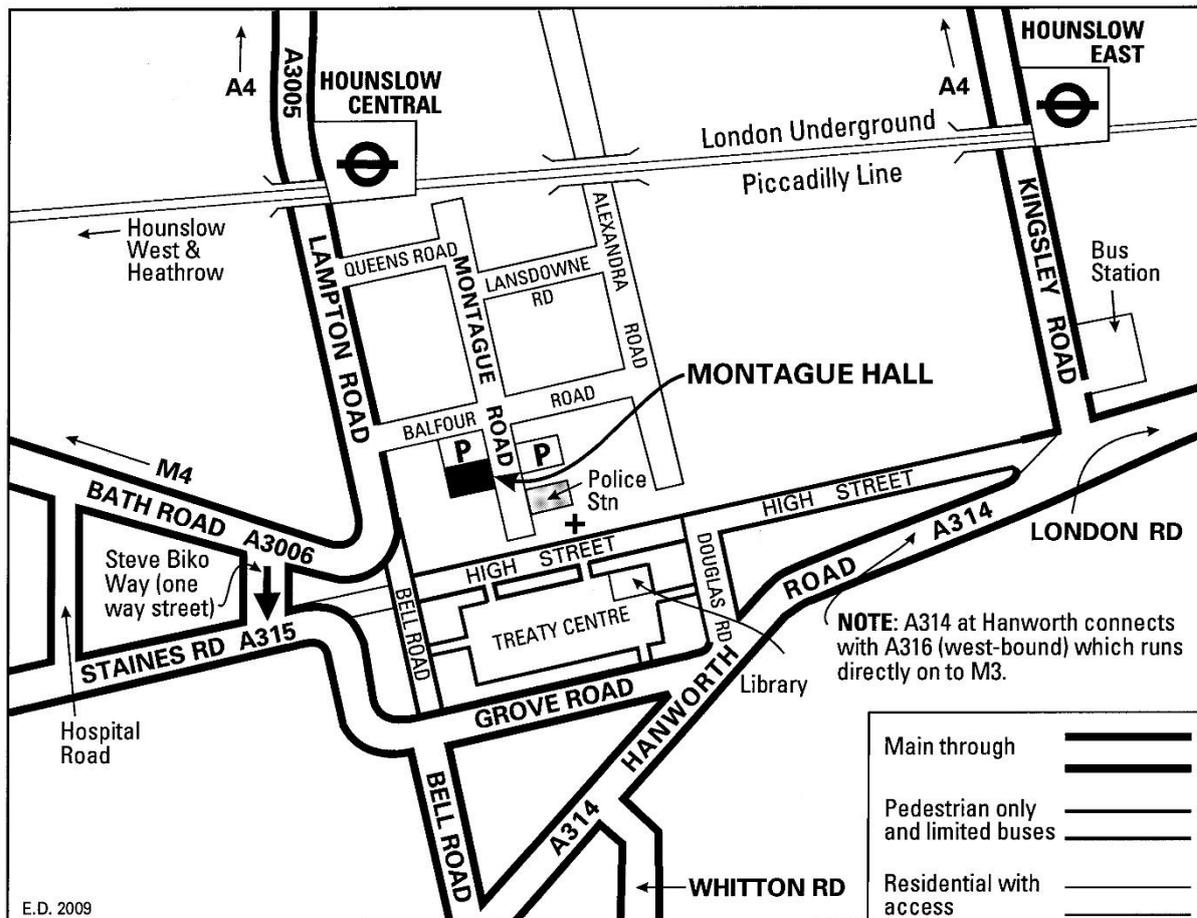
15 Dec	Christmas on the Home Front 1939-45 <i>Plus</i> Christmas Social	<i>Mike Brown</i>
19 Jan	London Genealogy or the Metropolitan Nightmare	<i>Paul Blake</i>
16 Feb	War Your Ancestor a Gypsy?	<i>Beverley Walker</i>
16 Mar	AGM <i>Plus</i> My Grandfather was an Air Raid Warden	<i>Steve Hookins</i>

Our meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at Montague Hall, Montague Road, Hounslow, TW3 1LD, and doors open at 7.15pm.

Parking is available adjacent to the Hall.

Reference books, exchange journals from other societies and a bookstall – all can be browsed between 7.30 and 10pm (talks take place between 8pm and 9pm), and tea/coffee, or a cold drink, and biscuits are also available.

Fully Accessible.



Last dates of submission for articles for printing in the subsequent journals are:			
7th January	7th April	7th July	7th October



### **Honorary Membership of the Society**

During my year as Chairman of the Society, there have been several ad-hoc recommendations for Honorary Membership made at Committee meetings. Most have been approved. It is my personal belief that anyone worthy of being awarded honorary membership should have their case put forward in a slightly more formal manner particularly as, in my case, I do not have the benefit of historic knowledge of what individuals may have done for our society in years gone by. Hence, I presented an 'Honorary Membership scheme' proposal to a committee meeting earlier this year, which was approved.

**What does this mean for members?** It means that you can nominate individuals whom you consider have gone way above and beyond the 'call of duty' as a member of the society. This could be in any capacity, for example, longevity of service on Committee, in a particular role, making a difference to our members .... whatever!

**How do you nominate?** You can nominate at any point in the year, in writing, to the Secretary. The closing date for each year will be 31<sup>st</sup> January and all nominations should include the name of the nominee/s and the reason for the nomination (maximum 300 words).

**How are the Honorary Members chosen?** The Secretary will randomly select five newly proposed Honorary Members each year and circulate the details of those nominated and the reason/s for their nomination to a small panel of existing Honorary Members, with a suitable period set for discussion and a date for votes (for/against) to be received by the Secretary.

A **maximum of two Honorary Members** would be elected in any one year and the announcement would be made at the AGM in March.

**Simple!** So, get your thinking caps on! Roland is looking forward to hearing from you!

*Kirsty Gray*

### **Full of Life Fair at Twickenham**

The Borough of Richmond, which includes Twickenham, Whitton, Teddington and the Hamptons in the south east of our area, held its fifth 'Full of Life' fair on 7<sup>th</sup> October, at the Rose Suite at Twickenham Rugby Stadium.

The aim of the Fair was to promote healthy and independent living and enhance digital skills, and was particularly targeted at the over 55s and their helpers. There were 75 stall holders of all kinds and a programme of activities to keep visitors involved. 1200 people came to the Fair.

In amongst all this activity we had booked to run a stall this year for the first time. We were not selling anything on this occasion, but our stall had plenty of free information leaflets to hand out, and interest was keen throughout most of the day. We were also able to set up a monitor with a rolling presentation of “What WMFHS has to offer” not far from our stall.

Representing the Society were Margaret CUNNEW, Yvonne MASSON and Roland BOSTOCK. Certainly we will be back again next year. The Fair comes highly recommended.

*Roland Bostock*

### **Winter Sale of Birth, Marriage and Death Certificates**

Over the years Valerie WALKER has built up a collection of over 800 birth, marriage and death certificates donated to her by Society members. While Valerie is keen to collect more unwanted certificates, she is even keener to be relieved of those she has. The certificate collection may be searched from **Services/GRO Certificates** on our website. As part of a Winter Sale, the cost of obtaining a certificate is now reduced from £3.50 to £2.00, plus the cost of the SAE. This sale will continue up until the AGM next year on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2017.

### **Letters to the Society**

**Margaret WATSON** wrote to say that a sentence had been omitted from her article in the September Journal. The first paragraph on page 5 of the journal should read:

Francis’s daughter Martha married Peter FIRMSTONE on 18 April 1869 in Brierley Hill, Staffordshire and they emigrated to America in 1880. They had eleven children, some of whom were born in England, and the later ones born in America. By the 1900 US census, sadly, three had died. Peter was a miner in 1900, but by 1910 he was just a labourer in the coal-yard, no doubt being too old for strenuous mining at the age of 60. *It was with the Firmstones that I found Joseph PASSMORE in the 1900 US census.* He gave his occupation there as a day labourer, whereas in 1881 in England he had been a forge blacksmith. Maybe his inability to find meaningful employment in America was a reason for his eventual return to England. It is curious that his age is given as a year younger than he actually was, and the return states that he had been married for twelve years, whereas his marriage was in 1880, only ten years previously.

**Jack MORATH** has written with the following query:

Does anyone know what has happened to the Marriage Banns records of Holy Trinity Church, Clapham? They are missing from the London Metropolitan Archives. [Replies please to Editor].

**Sarah REAY** has written to WMFHS with regard to research for her forthcoming book *The Half Shilling Curate*, which describes the experiences of her ancestor, Herbert Butler COWL. He volunteered to become a Wesleyan Army Chaplain during WW1 and served with the Durham Light Infantry. He was severely injured and while he was returning to England his hospital ship, *Anglia*, was hit by a German mine in the Channel. As a result of his actions on that day he received the MC for gallantry. He then worked in garrisons and camps in England as an Army Chaplain. After the war he became a Methodist Minister and twenty years later he was living with his family in Acton. Sarah would like to receive any information about Acton during WW2. More details can be found on: [mywesleyanmethodists.org.uk/page/rev\\_herbert\\_butler](http://mywesleyanmethodists.org.uk/page/rev_herbert_butler) or you can contact Sarah directly on: [Sarah.reay28@gmail.com](mailto:Sarah.reay28@gmail.com)



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



**Notice is hereby given that the  
Annual General Meeting of the  
West Middlesex Family History Society  
will be held at 8.pm on Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2017  
at Montague Hall, Montague Road, Hounslow**

Reports will be presented by the Chairman and Treasurer and members will be asked to accept the accounts for the year 2016, and elect accounts examiners for the coming year.

Elections will be held for officers and members of the Executive Committee.

Members who wish to bring forward any matters at the AGM, are asked to write to the Secretary at the address below by 3<sup>rd</sup> January, 2017.

The agenda for the AGM will be included in the next issue of the Journal, to be published and distributed at the beginning of March, 2017.

*Roland Bostock  
Flat 8, 167 Park Road,  
Teddington,  
Middlesex, TW11 0BP*

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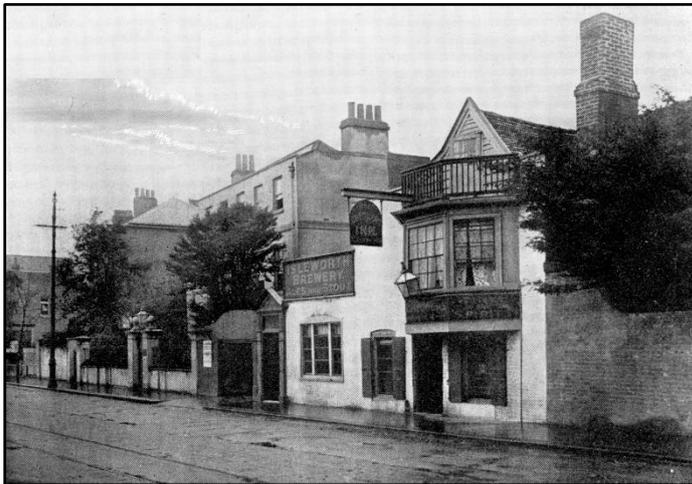
## THE SHORT LIFE AND LONG DEATH OF JOHN SHAW

Susan Coleman

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John SHAW was born on the 13<sup>th</sup> April 1821 and baptised at St. Mary's, Ealing on the 6<sup>th</sup> May 1821. He was my 3x great grandfather. I had had much trouble identifying him as he was baptised outside the area where my SHAW ancestors had customarily lived and I had not been able to identify him prior to his marriage in March 1843 to Caroline MADDIX (MADDOCKS) in St. Leonard's Heston. Nor had I been able to find his death and I am not sure, even now, that I have correctly identified him in the 1841 census, in the Navy and of the right age and place of birth, Brentford.

After some gratefully received help from a couple of people on the Ancestry website, I was pointed to a death registered in Eton, though the cause of death was omitted. However, this allowed me to trace his burial record to St. Mary's Ealing, which stated the burial was "under Coroner's Warrant". From here I used the **British Newspaper Archive** to follow the resultant inquest carried out after his death. (*London Evening Standard, Windsor & Eton Express, and Buckinghamshire Herald*. The original reports were in the *Times* newspaper and reprinted in the above papers).



*The Chequers Inn, Isleworth*

The inquest commenced on the 19<sup>th</sup> September and concluded on the 19<sup>th</sup> October 1844. It took place at various venues during its duration: at Eton (a room in the workhouse), the One Tun Public House, Old Brentford and in the "large room" at the Chequers Inn, Twickenham Road, Isleworth. The accident and ensuing treatment and death of John SHAW seemed to have caused quite a stir and attracted much interest in the local community as well as with

John's family and friends, and I give a very brief account from the large amount that was reported.

At the time of his accident John was living in Old Brentford. Letters from John to Caroline and from Caroline to her parents were produced at the inquest and were addressed to Caroline's father at "near the half Moon and Seven Stars, Brentford End". John's actual home address is never revealed and there is every possibility that John and Caroline were living with Caroline's parents at this time. Having

married Caroline a year before, they now had a son, also John, who had been born in April 1844.

John was recorded as working as a ground labourer in July/August 1844, at a building site (the construction of four houses) in Slough, possibly in Upton Park, and he was boarding locally during the week. On the 5<sup>th</sup> August, whilst digging out the foundations of a house cellar, “an abatement of earth” collapsed on him, breaking his left thigh in two places. He was then speedily carried off by his work mates on a “shutter” or board, to the relatively new Eton Union workhouse, as directed by a passing surgeon of Windsor, a Mr. NOBLAND, who happened to witness his transportation out of the building site. John was admitted into the infirmary ward, which was under the supervision of a Mr. HAMMOND, the surgeon of the Union. The Master and Matron of the workhouse were a Thomas and Caroline AITKIN.

It appears that John had the attentions of several surgeons and had his leg bound up after no wound or projecting bone was seen. Further treatment could not be attempted until the swelling had gone down. He was afforded a comfortable bed and all attempts were made to keep him free of pain and as comfortable as possible and cold bathing of the leg was performed regularly in an effort to reduce the swelling. Amputation of the whole leg was discussed but the surgeons concluded that any such operation would likely kill him.

The inquest focussed on John’s pastoral as well as his medical care. His wife and other family members had complained about the lack of care from the workhouse Master and Matron, their failure to feed him properly, the harshness of the visiting rules and treatment of his wife and other family members by the workhouse supervisors and porters. As always, there are two sides to the story with various witnesses both confirming and denying the allegations made by John’s wife, Caroline, and his sister Mary.

The family offered evidence that John complained he was starving most of the time and he was quoted as telling his sister, “Mary, I am bodily ill and I’m starved to death”. At one time he stated to his wife that, “you know that I have always been used to good living”, implying he was used to good portions of food. John had initially been put on a very light diet of broth, tea and bread, at that time thought to be a suitable diet for one so ill, but probably nowhere near enough for the stomach of an otherwise young, fit, labouring man who was used to solid, filling meals. Both Caroline and his sister tried taking in food for him: currant cake etc., which when successful he ate “voraciously”. At other times, any food was taken from them: one time allegedly being eaten by a porter, though this was denied under questioning.

Caroline claimed access to her husband was limited in time and that she was never allowed to see John without a chaperone being present. They had to whisper to each other to have private conversations. Again this was denied at the inquest, although it was admitted that a workhouse official was usually in the general area. John was reported to have asked Caroline and his sister Mary not to complain to the workhouse authorities as he would “suffer for it after you have gone”.

John's condition never improved. The swelling failed to reduce enough for any exploratory operation or proper setting of his leg and as at the time anaesthesia would have been rudimentary – probably little more than getting him drunk on some spirit or other – he would probably have died under the knife anyway.

As the weeks went by, John's diet appeared to improve and fish and "pudding", eggs, the occasional mutton chop and the like were added. Towards the very end of



*The Workhouse, Eton*

his life porter (a type of ale) was provided, along with some tots of port wine, though this latter appears to have been paid for by John's employer, a Mr. SEARES.

The final stages of John's life were blighted by the onset of gas gangrene and maggots in the decaying tissue as the leg slowly died. He complained of no pain, but rather numbness in his leg and eventually in his lower abdomen as the gangrene advanced. It was a very hot summer and various methods were employed to keep him cool and the abundant flies away from him. At one stage his mattress was so putrid that it was buried in the union workhouse grounds and a fresh one was provided

The day before John died his wife was summoned, as his death was thought to be imminent but as she had to travel from Old Brentford, she arrived rather late in the evening at the workhouse, was refused admission by a porter and told to return the next day. Thus John died at 12.30am without his wife being present. He died on the 11<sup>th</sup> September 1844, aged 23 years, although his death certificate states he was 22. His son was just five months old.

The post mortem revealed blood clots in the area of the fractures, no doubt causing the loss or impairment of blood to the lower leg and subsequent gangrene. On the whole I believe John received the best medical care available at the time and that probably his death was unavoidable from the moment that the soil fell on him.

The inquest returned a verdict of accidental death but the Master and Matron of Eton Union Workhouse were criticised over their handling of John's care and their failure to report the death to the coroner, as it should have been, due to the death being the result of a work accident. Their interpretations of workhouse rules were shown to

be suspect (i.e. not allowing inmates privacy with visiting family and friends). In fact, this inquest resulted in a general circular dated 31<sup>st</sup> October 1844, being distributed to the “various Boards of Guardians throughout the kingdom” clarifying the rules on visitors to workhouse inmates.

Thomas and Caroline AITKIN had possibly been in charge from the opening of the workhouse in 1835 – they were definitely there in 1841, but they were not in residence by 1851. There is evidence from witnesses to suggest that Caroline SHAW and her sister-in-law Mary may have aggravated the whole situation by being antagonistic towards the AITKINs when access to John and the taking in of food was restricted. There is an undercurrent of contentiousness in the evidence provided by the SHAW relatives, perhaps understandable in the circumstances.

Sad though the whole episode was, the existence of the inquest gave me huge insight into the workings of the workhouse system of the day, care of the sick and injured and more information about my SHAW ancestors at that time than I managed to find out via the usual methods. Discovering he had a sister, Mary, allowed me to trace her and another sister Catherine (Kitty), in the 1841 census, where they were transcribed as THAW. They were living with a John SHAW, tailor, who was 75 and from Ireland. This John died in 1842 and I have not been able to determine whether he was the father or grandfather of John and his sisters.

Caroline SHAW was awarded by Brentford Union a loaf of bread and 1s. 6d. a week for a few weeks before the money was stopped, although the loaf was provided for a further few weeks. They also paid for John’s coffin. Caroline remarried before 1851 and went on to have more children. John’s son lived into his early fifties and had four children, including a son, John Charles, b.1870. He was my great grandfather and he stayed in Brentford until his 17 children (born between 1894 and 1920, and my own grandfather, another John Charles, who was born in 1899) grew up and spread out, mainly further west of London and beyond.

A shorter version of this article was published in the *Berkshire Family Historian*.  
Images: Hounslow Local Studies Library; **[workhouses.org.uk](http://workhouses.org.uk)**

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## ISLEWORTH 390: RESEARCHING THE NAMES ON THE ISLEWORTH WAR MEMORIAL

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Mary Marshall



*Isleworth War Memorial*

Isleworth 390 is a project group made up of local schools, churches and individuals committed to finding out more about the lives behind the 390 names on the Isleworth War Memorial, and about life in Isleworth itself during this period. In August 2015, Ann GREENE and I were approached by Susan CASEY to join the project on behalf of Hounslow Libraries Local Studies, bringing in our family history research skills and knowledge of the library's resources. We developed a training programme for the volunteers, as well as workshops at some of the local schools.

The project is mirroring the years of WW1 and has involved talks, displays and publications. Its first event was on Remembrance Sunday 2014, where 390 schoolchildren wore white sashes with the individual name of one of the servicemen on the War Memorial. For November 2015, 92 names were researched in detail, and the children taking part in the ceremony were each given a scroll telling them something about the life behind the name – age, family, where they lived, how and where they died,

etc. In 2016 we have focused on the 1916 deaths, many of which were at the Battle of the Somme. For each serviceman we have produced an illustrated A4 sheet about his life, which has been used in exhibitions and these are also being put up on the website: **[isleworthww1.co.uk](http://isleworthww1.co.uk)**.

Some of our researchers are experienced family historians with personal subscriptions to genealogy websites such as **Ancestry**, **FindMyPast** and **The Genealogist**. Others have been using **Ancestry** on the free Internet service in Hounslow Libraries. Various different data sets are available on these sites, with some overlap. There are books, articles and online guides to the military records, but the following is based on the guidance we gave to our researchers, and may be useful to anyone else researching WW1 casualties from this area.

The first website to search is the **Commonwealth War Graves Commission**, a free resource which records all the casualties and their place of burial or commemoration. By searching 'surname + Isleworth' for some men we found details of parents or wives, addresses, and enough information (forenames, rank, regiment, battalion, service number, date and place of death, age, and cemetery or memorial) to find them in other records. By extending the search to neighbouring areas such as Hounslow, St Margarets and

Twickenham, we managed to identify nearly half of the names on the war memorial (and in fact there are some from Isleworth who are not on the war memorial).

Our next major source of information was **Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919**, which also includes airmen – but seamen must be searched in other records. This often provides additional information such as birth place, residence, enlistment place and cause of death (e.g. killed in action; died of wounds). This is available on **Ancestry**, **FindMyPast** and **The Genealogist**.

Once we had a name and service number we could do a general search of the military records on **Ancestry**, **FindMyPast**, etc. Records include:

- **British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards** and the associated **Medal Rolls**.
- **Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929** (the money owed to soldiers who died in service; payments went first to widows, or else to a parent (often a mother) or siblings, who are named in the record).
- **British Army WWI Service Records** (contains valuable information, but unfortunately a lot of these records were destroyed).
- **De Ruvigny's Roll of Honour, 1914-1919** (biographies of over 26,000 casualties from the British Army, Navy, and Air Force; 7,000 of the entries include photographs).
- **War Office Casualty Lists**.
- **Royal Navy and Royal Marine War Graves Roll, 1914-1919**.
- **Royal Naval Division Casualties of The Great War, 1914-1924**.
- **WW1 Naval Casualties**, and various other naval record sets.

Circumstances of death, and other background information, could sometimes be found by looking at **Regimental War Diaries** (digitised on **Ancestry** - officer casualties are more likely to be mentioned by name than ordinary ranks); details of battles or of ships sinking are quite easy to find on the Internet by searching the name; sometimes a person's name would be found on a military history or other website by a simple internet search.

As well as the serviceman's military career, we wanted to find out as much as possible about his personal history and family. For this we started with the **1911 Census**, searching with 'name + Isleworth', or full name or other data based on the information we already knew, and we recorded the address, names, ages and occupations of all members of the family. The parents might be in Isleworth even if the son had moved away. We then moved back through the 1901, 1891 and 1881 Censuses, depending on the age of the serviceman. Sometimes we also found the electoral registers (**Ancestry**) useful for tracking the family through non-census years, and even the 1939 Register on **FindMyPast**.

Baptismal records give parents' names and occupations, sometimes an address and date of birth; and marriage registers show names, ages, occupations, addresses, father's name and occupation. Some for Isleworth are on **Ancestry**; the All Saints parish registers are held at Hounslow Library Local Studies. We also looked for birth and marriage records on **FreeBMD**, a basic index. Mary BROWN trawled the parish magazine of All Souls, St Margarets, for its news of service personnel and casualties. The **National Probate**

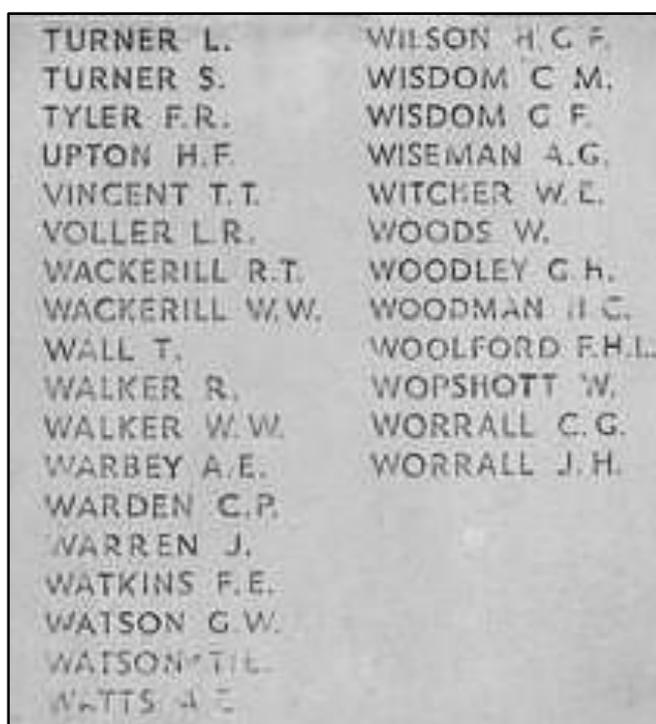
**Calendar (Ancestry and FindMyPast)** also proved worth searching for deaths of the men or their relatives.

Some men's deaths were reported in the local newspaper, which may give useful information about their family, an address or how they died. The **British Newspaper Archive** is a subscription website, but you can do a basic search for free, and it has digitised the *Middlesex Chronicle* from 1914 to 1918 (the local paper published in Hounslow, and covering Ashford, Bedfont, Brentford, Cranford, Feltham, Halliford, Hampton, Hanworth, Harlington, Hatton, Heston, Hounslow, Isleworth, Kew, Laleham, Lampton, Littleton, North Hyde, Shepperton, Southall, Spring Grove, St Margarets, Staines, Stanwell, Sunbury, Sutton, Teddington, Twickenham, Whitton, etc, etc, according to its masthead). A **FindMyPast** or **Genes Reunited** subscription also enables access to its articles; otherwise it can be viewed on microfilm at Hounslow Library Local Studies. 'In Memoriam' entries are sometimes found on the anniversary of the death, which may supply further personal information, and can be very poignant – e.g. "In loving memory of my darling husband, Pte W GASH, 10<sup>th</sup> South Wales Borderers, who died in France, March 27 1917, aged 27, to the great grief of those who loved him. 60 Linkfield Road, Isleworth. A loving husband, a father kind..."

Other resources we used at Hounslow Library were *Kelly's Middlesex Directory 1914*, which has a listing of some of the residents of Isleworth, Hounslow, etc; maps and old photographs; and lists of names from other war memorials in the borough, such as local churches, schools and colleges. Employees of Pears Soapworks were commemorated in the house magazine, 'Bubbles', some with photographs.

As researchers we have found it as rewarding as if they were our own relatives, and we have been moved by the stories we have uncovered. I should also mention the value of using the **Ancestry** Public Member Trees and how this has led to very constructive dialogue with families and also to receiving some photographs. Among the living relatives we have encountered a pupil at Isleworth Town School who is related to both John STYLES and John CRESSWELL, bargemen.

The War Memorial only gives surname and initial, so the research becomes more challenging as we proceed. We have discovered surnames misspelt, incorrect initials, men who served but survived the war, and some who had no real link with Isleworth. Perhaps surprisingly, it is not just the common surnames that are problematic – e.g. we have two WACKERILLS listed; one proved to be Richard Thomas



*A sample of the names on the panels of the Isleworth War Memorial*

WACKRILL, but W. W. WACKERILL is a complete mystery. Other examples appear in the following article by Ann GREENE.

Further information can be found at: [isleworthww1.co.uk](http://isleworthww1.co.uk), and new members of the group are very welcome. Do please contact: [isleworth390@gmail.com](mailto:isleworth390@gmail.com).

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## HOW ACCURATE ARE WAR MEMORIALS ?

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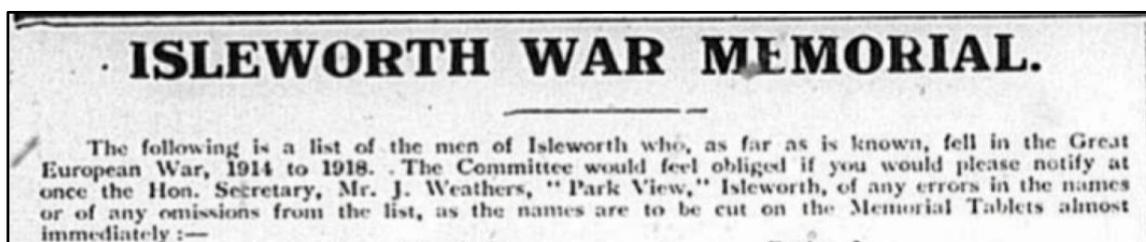
*Ann Greene*

Nearly everyone has, at some stage, stopped to read the names on a war memorial in a town square or on the wall of a bank or railway station. They might even have been astonished at the number of men lost from a small community. But once you start thinking about war memorials, you start to come up with questions as well. One important question is – where did the names come from? Local memorials were organised by local people, and the names that would go on the memorials came from their families and friends. How accurate was the information?

When a name on a memorial cannot be matched to the WW1 casualty or military records, you may have to ask yourself the following questions:

- Has the name been mistranscribed?
- Was an alternative surname or forename more commonly used?
- Did they actually have a connection with the area? On a Shropshire memorial are the names of two men who never lived there. In both cases, their names had been put forward by surviving members of their family who had moved to the locality after the war and wanted their relatives to be remembered.
- Did they actually die?

Add to this the pressure of time. Inscribing a memorial took time, and once it was done, it was literally set in stone. On May 15<sup>th</sup> 1922, the *County of Middlesex Independent* published an “Advance List” of the names to be inscribed on the Isleworth memorial. They asked for errors to be reported immediately as they were about to start cutting the names.



*Extract from the County of Middlesex Independent, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 1922*

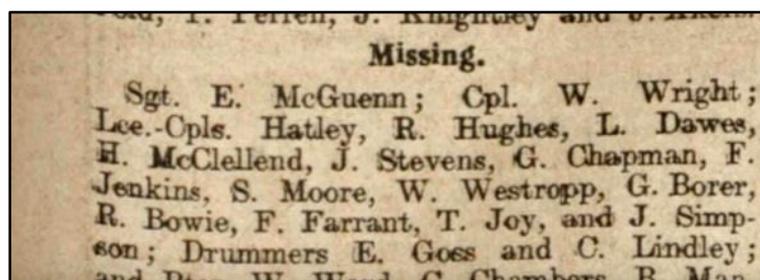
Despite this care and attention, there are four names on the Isleworth War Memorial that we know should not be there. They are George DOWDEN, A. G. WISEMAN, William WILLIS and Thomas JOY. Although two problems were solved, educated guesses had to be made about the other two and the full story may never be known.

**George DOWDEN** never existed; his proper name was George GATHERGOOD and he has two entries on the Isleworth Memorial. His father died when he was a small child. A year later his mother married Thomas DOWDEN and by 1906 the family had moved to Isleworth. George's military papers were in his correct birth name of GATHERGOOD, and he is named as George GATHERGOOD in the 1901 and 1911 censuses. However when it came to recording the names of the fallen, confusion probably resulted from Mr. or Mrs. DOWDEN submitting the name of their son George GATHERGOOD, particularly when the family were comparative newcomers to the area.

**Alfred George WISEMAN** was born in 1890 and lived in Isleworth all his life. In 1911, he was living with his parents at The Labouring Boys, Worton Road. So far, so good – but then he vanishes until his death in Isleworth in 1919. Nor does he appear either in the Soldiers Died in the Great War database or on the Commonwealth War Graves database. The military records bring up an Alfred William WISEMAN of the right age, who was discharged in 1916 on grounds of ill-health. Fortunately, the home address given on his military papers and his marriage certificate (5 Worton Road) make us 98% certain that he is both the Alfred William WISEMAN who married in 1917 and the Alfred George WISEMAN who died of TB in 1919. Why his middle name changed, we don't know. Perhaps it was never used and it was assumed he had the same middle name as his father, who was George William – perhaps the confusion occurred when he joined up and he felt unable to correct it – or perhaps he just preferred the name Alfred William.

**William WILLIS**, so far as we know, did not die until 1961. Born in 1899, he appears in the 1901 and 1911 Censuses with his parents, George James and Sarah WILLIS. He joined the Middlesex Regiment and was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. There is no record of his death; in 1920, we find a William WILLIS marrying Alice PEARSON; and in 1937, there is a William WILLIS living at 7 Swan Street with Alice WILLIS and Hannah PEARSON. Why he appears on the memorial, we do not know. The only possible explanation is that there is another William WILLIS on the memorial. William James WILLIS, another Isleworth man, also joined the Middlesex Regiment, and died in 1918, so it is possible that both men's names were entered on the memorial by mistake.

**Thomas JOY** did not die in the war. He joined the Sherwood Foresters and fought in the war, but survived until 1931. So how had this confusion arisen? Several factors contributed. Thomas had moved away from Isleworth to Nottingham well before WW1, so was possibly not



*Middlesex Chronicle, 14 Sep 1914*

remembered by many people. The rest of his family had also either left Isleworth or died by 1918. His nephew Patrick JOY, who joined the Royal Fusiliers, was killed in action in October 1914 and is recorded on the Isleworth memorial. On 10<sup>th</sup> October 1914, the *Middlesex Chronicle* reported a T. JOY of the Royal Fusiliers as missing. Thomas was in the Sherwood Foresters and Patrick was in the Royal Fusiliers, so it is almost certainly Patrick who was missing, later to be confirmed as killed. This confusion was compounded

a year later in 1915 when the *Chronicle* reported the names of fallen soldiers to be remembered by a sung mass. Patrick's name is omitted but Thomas JOY of the Sherwood Foresters is named. By the time names were being collected for the memorial, there were no members of the JOY family living in Isleworth to correct the mistake. Both Patrick and Thomas are on the memorial as fallen warriors.

Although there was no intent to lead anyone astray, it should always be borne in mind that memorials were erected by human beings who are fallible.

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## WYATT ROAD INFANT SCHOOL, STAINES – LOGBOOK

*Muriel Sprott*

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I was very excited when we had the opportunity to buy these log books for our library. Data extracted from other school logbooks had told me that my great-grandmother and her mother and grandmother displayed an insolent disregard for what they saw as petty school rules. A small book I bought recently had used the information from a school logbook in Warwickshire to pad out basic facts which were known about life in that village.

Oh dear, what a disappointment the Staines log book turned out to be. The head teacher who wrote it had terrible writing which, in places, was difficult to interpret. Tactfully, none of the pupils were named but Monitresses – pupils who acted as trainee teachers – were named in places, usually when they were off work sick, or when their work was commented upon.

On the opening page it states that the school opened on 1<sup>st</sup> November 1902, and there are a few items of interest from that first year, starting with the staff list for that date.

Miss SEWELL	Head teacher
Miss ADEY	Assistant C
Miss BATES	Assistant
Miss MOTT	Assistant
Miss E. SEWELL	Assistant
Alma GOLDSMITH	Monitress
Maud LONG	Monitress
Accommodation 301	

However, based on the square footage evaluation given, there was space for the following pupils:

Standard II Classroom	64
Standard I Classroom	48
Standard 0 or Transition Class	39
Infants Class 1	39
Infants Classes 2 & 3	64
Total	254

At the end of the first week, Friday 7<sup>th</sup> November, the report says “Fifty children transferred on Monday to the various Boys’ and Girls’ Departments. Many of the children are absent suffering from bad coughs. The new classes have been arranged and a fair start made with the new work of the year. Average 134.”

The sickness (coughs and colds) continued throughout November and December. The school closed for Christmas vacation from 23<sup>rd</sup> December until the 12<sup>th</sup> January 1903.

Copy of the Report for Year Ending 31<sup>st</sup> October 1902 reads:

“This department continues to be conducted most efficiently, and the Head Teacher is now able to effectively supervise the work of the younger teachers. Successful nature teaching is quite a feature of the school work. (Signed) Henry BATES.”

Here are some of the entries from the Log Book.

“January 1903	Influenza strikes both staff and pupils.
Friday, 20 <sup>th</sup> Feb	One child from StI(Standard I) died on Friday after a few days’ illness. Coughs and colds still prevalent.
Friday, 6 <sup>th</sup> Mar	A wet and stormy week. Children unable to get to school ... some children absent from bad colds.
Wednesday, 4 <sup>th</sup> Apr	School closed today until April 20 <sup>th</sup> for the Easter Vacation. Cold and wet have caused poor Attendance. Miss PRATT visited the school this afternoon and gave Miss MOTT a present from Teachers and children of the school. Two cases of Whooping cough reported. Miss MOTT left school to be married.
Friday, 24 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Whooping cough is very prevalent among the children of Class 3. Two cases of ringworm.
Friday, 1 <sup>st</sup> May	Whooping cough spreading. 10 Children in Class 3 (Infants’) absent from sickness ... Miss HICKS appointed in place of Miss MOTT.
Friday, 8 <sup>th</sup> May	Fresh cases of Whooping cough reported daily. Children who are able to attend school making good progress Average for the week 143.2
Friday, 15 <sup>th</sup> May	Monday was Fair Day. Only 130 children present in the afternoon. Whooping cough spreading ... class 3 Inf. And the babies the worst attendance through Whooping cough.
Friday, 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Attendance worse this week. Sickness is now almost epidemic ... St.I and Class 1 Infants taken for a walk on Thursday afternoon to the Reservoir for a nature lesson.
Friday, 5 <sup>th</sup> Jun	Attendance very bad – Whooping cough is on the increase, while the drenching rain of Wednesday Thursday and Friday prevented many children from attending.
Friday, 12 <sup>th</sup> Jun	Rain. Floods and sickness have caused the school to be completely empty for 2 days. Average only 121 ... Fresh cases of Whooping cough reported.

Friday, 19 <sup>th</sup> Jun	Attendance still very bad. Some of the roads leading to school have been closed by the flooding of the river. Monday and Friday were very wet. Miss HICKS is beginning to make progress with her work. Coming from a Girls' school she has found it difficult to adapt herself to the work of the Infant School but she is very painstaking and persevering and will in my opinion do well.
Friday, 26 <sup>th</sup> Jun	Some children returned to school while others are away with bad throats – owing probably to the bad smells left by the flooded parts of the town.
10 <sup>th</sup> Jul	Brighter warmer weather is causin [sic] the children to lose the whooping cough though there are many who will not be able to return to school until after the holidays.
Friday, 17 <sup>th</sup> Jul	Sunday school treat on Thursday kept several children away. Miss ADEY, First Assistant left school on Wednesday. Until a new Assistant is appointed Miss BATES will take Class 3 Infants. St.I taken by myself.
Friday, 24 <sup>th</sup> Jul	Wet weather and a Sunday school treat on Thursday reduced the average to 157.1 for the week. Quarterly examination commenced this week.
Wednesday, 29 <sup>th</sup> Jul	School closed today until August 31 <sup>st</sup> for the summer vacation. Pupil Teachers examined on the work of the last quarter. Class examinations finished. The progress of the school has been checked by the prevalence of whooping cough.”

And so here we are at the end of the first academic year. The log book continues in similar vein throughout the following years. The commonest cause of poor attendance was bad weather, followed by whichever illness was causing havoc. December 1903 saw the school closed by the medical authorities because of measles. By May 1904, ringworm was spreading and by July the children were suffering from the great heat. Whooping cough, bad throats, bronchitis and chicken pock [sic] quickly followed by influenza had a detrimental effect on education. As the teachers also succumbed to various illnesses, in January 1905 one teacher was taking a class of more than 70 children. In November 1905 the school was closed until January 1906 because of mumps, then in June 1906 the school was closed again, this time because of chicken pock. Also in 1906, two children died from diphtheria.

Each year, during Ascot race week, attendance was down as it was dangerous for the children to come to school with the heavy traffic. There were also occasional ‘treats’ organised by Sunday schools and the Temperance League. Empire Day was celebrated – the children paraded in front of the Union Flag, sang patriotic songs and were then given a half holiday. September 1908 saw an unpleasant series of incidents with local people throwing stones at the school because, they alleged, the children had been throwing stones at their cottages. The head teacher was most upset and indignant about this slur on the character of her pupils. A policeman was summoned; he hid in a classroom, witnessed the stones being thrown at the school and had strong words with the adult perpetrators.

A further item which may be of interest is the staff list begun in 1920:

HOWARD, Amy Mary	Head	20.9.88	Begun 1.6.20
BENNETT, Hilda,	UC	30.9.83	Left 27.7.43 (retired)
CURTIS, Lily Louisa	MC	25.12.81	Left 31.10.21
HICKS, Jane	U	3.3.76	Transferred to Stan Rd.8.10.23
SEWELL, Emma Alice	S	28.6.68	
COUSINS, Dorothy Isabel	U	27.8.95	Left for college 14.9.23
COCKERILL, Winifred Ethel	TC	14.5.92	Began 1.11.21 left 20.7.38
ATKINS, Ethelburga Mary	TC	10.3.91	Began 8.10.23 left 1.4.31
WHITFIELD (BEALES) Clara Elizabeth	TC	11.8.87	Began 5.11.23 left 12.9.24
STEFFENS, Florence	CM	16.10.80	Began 15.9.24 left 31.3.34
MUGFORD, M.	Supply		Began 13.4.31 left 30.6.31
GAIT, Alice K.	C		Began 1.7.31 left 23.12.31
CASTLE, Frances Christina		8.4.1910	Began 28.8.34 left 21.7.37
PATON, Edith Marjorie Maud		30.5.1910	Began 25.8.36 left 1.6.41
BAILEY, Enid Vyvyan		12.7.1917	Began 24.8.37 left 26.7.39
BAILEY, M. I.	Supply		Began 23.8.38 left 26.7.39
BRYANT, J.			Began 29.8.39 left 23.7.41
DOWNS, M.	C	21.5.1912	Began 26.8.41 left 21.12.44
STEVENS, R. or N.D.	C	19.9.1912	Began 26.8.41 left 17.9.43
JENNING, R.	C		Began 31.8.43 left 5.4.44
McINTOSH, D.	C		Began 2.3.44
RUMSEY, L.E.	C		Began 19.6.44
ROBSON, M.E.	C		Began 29.8.44

The first log book continues to Easter 1945. If anyone would like to delve into these logbooks in more detail, please speak to Pam or Brian SMITH, who look after our library. Can anyone identify the above initials beside the names of the teachers?



Did you have an ancestor who served in the First World War and could have travelled through Peterborough by train in 1916 or 1917? If so they may feature in a project taking place at the moment.

Peterborough used to have two railway stations. The present station was known as Peterborough North and there was also a Peterborough East.

An organisation called the Women's United Total Abstinence Council ran a coffee and tea wagon in Peterborough city centre to try and keep men away from the pubs. During WWI they transferred to the railway station to provide refreshments for servicemen travelling through. Visitors were invited to sign a guest book and two of these books, from 1916 and 1917, survive from the East Station.

*Peterborough East Station*

An award from the Heritage Lottery Fund has enabled these guest books to be digitised, indexed and a website created. Although mainly soldiers, some entries were from sailors and a few women also feature. Some just signed the book, others wrote messages or poems and there are also drawings. The people came from all over the country so this is not just a local project.

The main aim is to find out about the servicemen and record anything that might be known about them so bringing to life the person who wrote in the book. It is interesting generally to browse the entries on the website, reading the messages, seeing the different handwritings and the places people came from.

There is a Project Officer but most of the transcribing and research has been carried out by volunteers. They hope that anyone who recognises a name will be able to provide more information, including photographs. They would be delighted to hear from you if one of your ancestors featured in the book.

The website: **[peterboroughww1.co.uk](http://peterboroughww1.co.uk)** has images of the pages, an index of names and any information that they already have about a serviceman. More up to date information is available on social media. It is a fascinating social document and well worth looking through.

This article will appear in several family history society journals.

© Dorothy Habron, Peterborough & District Family History Society.

Image: **[disused-stations.org.uk](http://disused-stations.org.uk)**

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## WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY HITS SOCIAL MEDIA

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When Kirsty took over as our Chairman in October, she brought with her a breath of fresh air and a new dawn for the society. As a member of the younger generation of family historians, it was clear from the outset that some of her ideas may have come across as a little bit 'radical' for a society with few members under fifty!

By her own admission, Kirsty did not want to come in and make lots of changes before getting to know the ropes. However, an addition which Kirsty described as 'crucial' was 'getting the society on to social media'. We had not looked to grow the society's membership, nor to promote our existence for some while but, with our new lease of life, it is clearly important to raise awareness of the benefits of membership and actively work to increase our membership once more.

So, our Chairman has set up a Facebook and Twitter account for the society which she manages on our behalf. There have been various posts of interest over the months and we would like to encourage members who use these social media channels to 'like' our Facebook page: [facebook.com/westmiddlesexfhs](https://www.facebook.com/westmiddlesexfhs), and 'follow' our Twitter account [@WestMiddlesexFH](https://twitter.com/WestMiddlesexFH). Kirsty uses these to promote society activities and other genealogical news, as well as sometimes finding the time to participate in [#AncestryHour](https://twitter.com/AncestryHour) on Twitter.

Social media is a great way to connect with other people with West Middlesex interests or, indeed, with other people interested in family history around the world. Why not 'get online' ....? Kirsty has a large following on social media and posts regularly, so ask her if you want any advice about Facebook or Twitter on: [chairman@west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk](mailto:chairman@west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk).



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For technical reasons the "www" will no longer be printed at the front of website addresses. I am sure that members will recognise by the format when a website address is being flagged and will remember to add the "www" in front. Ed.

This article is to give information on various changes made to our website during the last six months, mostly expanding on the facilities of the Members Area.

### **War Memorial Records**

Our collection of War Memorials was recorded by members of the Society during the period 1987 to 2002. Our volunteers, and particularly Wendy MOTT, visited all the main towns in our area and collected the data from churches, cemeteries, town halls, offices, factories and other places of work, schools, sports clubs, and many places besides. They also extracted records from newspaper collections held in local Record Offices. The combined collection of 21,700 names was then collated and indexed by Bridget PURR and produced as a CD by Richard CHAPMAN. This was sold both to members and the general public. It was the electronic record from the CD that enabled me to structure the data so that the names could be searched along with our Baptism, Marriage, Burial and Memorial Inscription records, as part of our members Data Search facility. War Memorials Search was added to the website in May.

### **Electronic version of Exchange Journals**

It is certainly a benefit to our members that we are able to show, and lend out, copies of other Family History Society Journals. Our bookstall at Members' Meetings always has the last four journals from some 32 other Societies with whom we exchange printed copies of our respective journals. It is also good publicity for us that our Journal will be on display at the meetings of these same societies. However, printing the extra Journal copies and mailing them costs about £2 an issue and we have to be sure that the benefits match the costs.

The alternative way of providing access to our respective journals is to do it electronically, which is zero cost to both societies. We file an electronic copy of our Journal on our website and the exchanging society does the same on their website. If there are passwords to be used, then these are passed on so that members can gain access as required. We are only just starting on this method but it is bound to become more popular as time goes on.

For the exchanging society members, they access our website and go to the Exchange area. They need a password to do this but then they can see our last four issues, ready for viewing or download. Issues older than this can be seen by any visitor to our website from our Journals page. For our members it is a matter of selecting 'Access other Societies Journals' from our Members' Area and selecting the particular society from there. There is also a link on this page to show the list of 32 societies with whom we currently share printed copies of our Journals.

### **Executive Committee Minutes – open governance**

It was also in May that the Executive Committee approved a motion that the Minutes to our meetings, once approved, should be placed on our website. This was done in the spirit of open governance and to demonstrate to our members that we do take our 'committee' responsibilities seriously. As we meet in alternate months, currently you will only find the May and July meeting minutes there at the time of writing this article in September.

### **Descriptive detail added to the Library Catalogue**

It was in December 2015 that the initial version of the Library Catalogue was added to the website, thanks to Librarians Pam and Brian SMITH providing descriptive names for all items in the library. It was soon felt that more could be done and descriptions of each item have now been added to provide further information as to content, size of the document and whether the document is indexed. The Library itself is now housed in robust plastic boxes, so the box number is also given to help find a required item quickly.

### **Renewal of subscriptions online**

At the May Executive Committee meeting it was agreed that from next year, members should be given the opportunity to pay their annual subscription by simple transfer of funds using online banking. This Journal includes the usual Renewal of Subscriptions tear-out pages to advise members of the subscription's amount and how to pay it, which this year shows the Society bank account details. The same information has been placed in the Members' Area, thereby making it a little easier for all to renew their subscription.

### **Photo Archive**

Another addition to the website was made in October. This arose from a contribution by former member, Antonia DAVIS. At the August Members' Meeting, Toni brought along with her a collection of some 50 photographs, which show members of the Society doing what they do, particularly at the Society's Open Days – some taken back in the 1980s. The photos have been grouped by main category and most of the people in them identified. They can now be found and enjoyed in the Members' Area.

**Members' Evening. July**

The theme of this evening was 'Health'. Several talks covered different aspects of this subject.

**Alison Blundell**

Richard HALL was Alison's 5 x gt.grandfather, he was a hosier with a business on London Bridge. A relative of Alison's has produced a book based on his letters and diaries, *The Journal of a Georgian Gentleman* [reviewed in WMFHS Journal Vol.30, No.1, March 2012].

Richard's letters contain much about family illnesses and the various remedies that were tried. Smallpox was a lethal disease in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and in 1766 family letters revealed the fact that his cousin Frances succumbed to smallpox. It was related that she felt feverish and the next day it was clearly seen that she had smallpox, she was vomiting and had pox on her arms and legs. This caused her family great distress. In 1796, Dr. JENNER administered pox from cowpox to an 8 year-old boy, leading to later inoculation against the illness.

Richard often suffered from pain in his bowels and in May 1773 he was taking a number of remedies, such as an ounce of senna in hot water and brandy, cardamom with camomile tea and Raleigh's confection with wine. Next day his bowels were better but in October he was again poorly. This time with diarrhoea, which would have been a problem with no flushing toilet or running water. He recovered but in December suffered more bilious attacks, this time taking a rhubarb tincture.

**Yvonne Masson**

Yvonne spoke about her grandparents' first-born child, Edward Charles DEARLOVE, who was born in 1899 in Fulham. Unfortunately she had found in the records that he had died two years later in 1901 of smallpox, but was puzzled by the fact that, although the family were then living in Battersea, the death was registered at Dartford, Kent. She saw that on the death certificate the place of death was given as the Hospital Ship *Atlas* and the informant's address was given as the Hospital Ship *Endymion*. She found that three hospital ships, owned by the Metropolitan Asylums Board, the *Atlas*, *Endymion* and *Castalia*, were moored one behind the other in the Thames near Dartford. Patients with infectious diseases, especially smallpox, were taken by river ambulance to these ships for isolation and treatment. *Endymion*, the middle of the three, was used for administration. There was a river ambulance receiving station at Fulham riverside. The hospital ships were taken out of service in 1903. Due to inoculation, smallpox has now been eradicated worldwide.

**Paul Kershaw**

Following a remark about polio by Yvonne Masson, Paul reported that in 1984, Rotary International said the world could be rid of polio for \$3 a head, but the World Health Organisation claimed it would cost \$30. Many Rotary volunteers are raising money and Bill GATES is matching what they raise. The disease is now only found in two countries, Afghanistan and Pakistan. In India, one million children a day are getting inoculated.

### **Ann Greene**

Ann is a former librarian at Hounslow Library and spoke about the Brentford Mortuary Book. This was found in a car boot sale but is now safely in the Chiswick Library archive. It covers ten years, 1899-1909, and presents an excellent picture of Brentford at that time. It contains some fascinating causes of death: there was no Health and Safety in those days!

### **Kirsty Gray**

Kirsty spoke about a new free service available on the internet called **Tap Genes**. The Mormon organisation in Salt Lake City gives awards to companies for innovatory ideas. **TapGenes.com**, a free website, is about health and how family lifestyle affects health. It could throw light on health risks within a family and can be accessed by everyone. Kirsty pointed out that it helps to know about genes in the family, for instance with regard to cancer. Tap Genes offers a personal health profile, where you can swap details with others. It also gives screening recommendations. On **Family Search** you can tell people in the family that the information is there and they can take a look but it is also very private – confidentiality is key. YM

### **Down Our High Street, *The Reminiscence Road Show*. August**



*Ealing High Street*

Members of the Questors Theatre in Ealing are engaged in interviewing older members of the community and compiling an aural history of the area, initially of Ealing but now spreading further afield. From these verbal memories they produce both full length plays and shorter Road Shows, using the actual words that they have recorded from residents.

For our Road Show at the August meeting they concentrated on shops and shopping and gave us an entertaining, and sometimes illuminating insight into times gone

by, at the same time stimulating memories among our members, which the Road Show performers were interested to hear to add to their growing archive. BP

### **Otto and the Margarine Factory, *Peter Hounsell*. September**

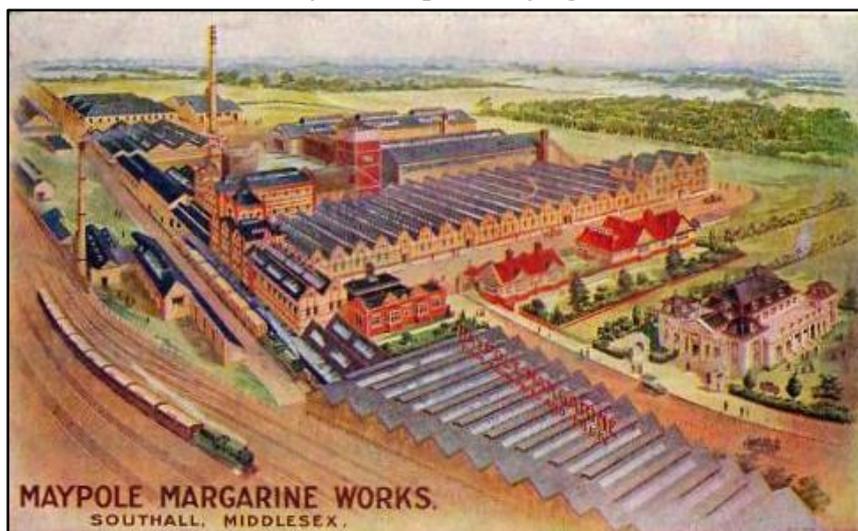
Margarine has been around for 150 years but it is constantly changing. Originally it was a hard substance but now it is a soft spread. It is not a natural product like butter and originally the main ingredient was refined beef tallow. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century butter was too expensive for the poor in Europe and their diet was deficient in fat, particularly in the cities. So they turned to margarine.

Margarine was invented by Hippolyte Mège-Mouriès, a Frenchman and was patented in 1869. By 1872 it was possible to buy it in Paris: it was then sold in the USA and Europe. It

began to be manufactured in Holland and it is from there that it was exported to Germany and Britain.

Otto MONSTEAD was born in Denmark in 1838. He founded a company which exported butter to China but also to England. In 1883 he opened the first margarine factory in Denmark where it was known as Norwegian Butter. Laws were passed in Denmark preventing the export of margarine to prevent confusion with Danish butter, so in the late 1880s MONSTEAD opened a factory in Godley, near Manchester. Business was good and in 1894 he built a large factory covering 16 acres in Southall, next to the station, which had three times the capacity of the Godley works. This factory was well placed to serve the London market and South East England.

This was the first factory in this primarily agricultural area; it was built by a local firm, A



*Margarine Factory*

& B HANSEN, in eight months and it covered 16 acres. The elegant office block was open plan and had central heating and electric lighting. The factory had its own cooerage to make barrels for storing the margarine and they made their own boxes for packing. The factory workers wore uniforms, which were washed

in the factory laundry. It had its own dining room but the employees could bring their own food if they so wished. In 1910 an Institution was built for recreation, with a concert hall, cinema, billiard room, reading room and library and it supported its own orchestra and male voice choir. Also there were tennis courts, cricket and football fields, a bowling green, a rifle range and a skittle alley.

The refined beef fat was brought from Birkenhead but this was eventually replaced with imported coconut oil; local milk was used in the manufacture although as production increased, milk was brought by rail from Wiltshire, Somerset, Gloucestershire and Berkshire. The rail line was important and by 1913 there was an internal rail system in the factory which carried the boxes to the train platforms. A private canal was also built in 1913,



*The canal branch*

which connected with the Grand Junction Canal, at a cost of £27,000.

In 1914 the Maypole Company provided more capital and investment and eventually became the owner of the factory. The margarine was now sold under the Maypole name and sold throughout the country in Maypole grocery shops. It was an important employer in the Southall area. The office workers and skilled and unskilled labourers were male but there were women on the packing line. Most of the workers came from the local area but there were some from Pasadena in California. Many of the managers were from Denmark – some lived near the factory but others lived in West Ealing and Hanwell.



*The Offices*

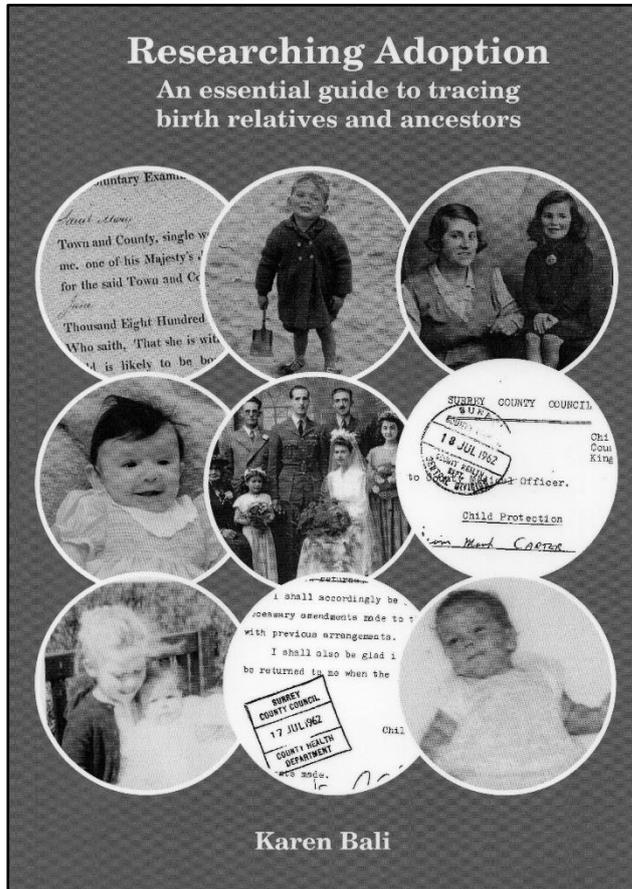
By 1917 there was a shortage of butter and the use of margarine moved up the social scale. Over 2,000 women had replaced the men in the factory. The Institute building became a hospital run by VADs – it had its own operating theatre and enjoyed a very high reputation. 52 employees were killed in the fighting.

After the War there was more competition in the industry, particularly from Unilever, who eventually bought the company and by 1930 all

production of margarine in Southall had ceased. The Institute still stands and the canal is still there but the rest of the area is now covered in housing. BP

Images: [mapio.net](http://mapio.net) [geography.org.uk](http://geography.org.uk) [gerald-massey.org.uk](http://gerald-massey.org.uk)

**Researching Adoption** by Karen Bali (*The Family History Partnership*, 978 1 906280 52 9, 2015) £4.95



This is a very readable book, with particularly useful information about the clues which may lead to the discovery of an adoption either into, or out of, a family.

Relevant postal and email addresses are embedded in the text and the main contact details are also included in an appendix.

Clearly based on the author's personal knowledge, there are plenty of warnings about the risks and responsibilities arising when an adopted person wishes to trace their blood family. These warnings are reinforced by mentions of the benefits both of using an experienced intermediary and possibly receiving counselling.

Although based on real case histories, because of the risk of breaching confidentiality, many personal details

are either blurred out, or names have been changed. However, there are four case studies covering adoption from different perspectives.

For me, the most irritating issue with this book were the distracting typographical errors, the worst of which was mention of a man who married in 1962 and died suddenly in 1938. At £4.95 and with only 48 pages, including a *Contact, Resources and Further Reading* list, it really should not have been too difficult to ensure that the book is error-free. However, despite this, the information is sensible and could well help researchers avoid embarrassing or upsetting mistakes.

**Dating Old Photographs 1840-1950** by Robert Pols (*The Family History Partnership*, 2016) £7.50

This small book, 67 written pages complemented by 24 pages of photographic examples, is so jam-packed with information that it is difficult to know where to begin. In his introduction, the author states that, "dating conclusions are often reached via an accumulation of approximations."

With an eye to either the young, or an overseas market, the author carefully quotes all sizes in both inches and centimetres.

When trying to date an old photograph, reading all the chapters carefully will pay dividends. Despite the chapters being presented in a logical and clear manner, there is inevitably some overlap of information from chapter to chapter. With no index, it may be that the information you seek is not in the chapter where you expect to find it. In addition, each chapter provides clues which need to be accumulated, as the author suggests, in order to narrow the possible date range.

The author is careful to point out that just because a new technique or fashion has appeared, do not assume that everyone will adopt it straight away. Old materials or fashions which are still usable, will continue to be used until some other factor intervenes to make them obsolete. There is a summary of the main fashion styles, arranged by decade, for both women and men.

With the rise in popularity of the postcard format, the cards themselves and any stamps and post marks on them can help to narrow the date range. There is a short description of how the printed wording on the cards changed over time and a list of the colours of the postage stamps used on postcards.

A short chapter lists online resources which may be helpful and a bibliography of further reading is provided. Unlike the book described above, this one has been meticulously proof-read. For anyone who has mysterious photographs which they cannot identify, careful study of this book may well prove helpful. Although £7.50 may seem expensive for such a small book, it is not a heavy price to pay for such a lot of good, solid information.



Both these books can be purchased from The Family History Partnership, 57 Bury New Road, Ramsbottom, Bury, Lancashire BL0 0BZ. [thefamilyhistorypartnership.com](http://thefamilyhistorypartnership.com)

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## WORLD WIDE WEB

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New records from Ancestry: parish records, gaol records and school registers from Gloucestershire; prison records 1728-1914, electoral registers 1832-1974 and Land Tax Records 1713-1822 from Somerset; nursing records from the Royal College of Nursing 1898-1968 and the Queens Nursing Institute 1891-1931. **ancestry.co.uk**

The British Newspaper Archive now includes: *Daily Telegraph*, *Cambridge Daily News*, *Mid-Sussex Times*, *Lincolnshire Free Press*, *Western Chronicle* and the *Belfast Telegraph*. **britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk**

Newly on Deceased Online: West Yorkshire records. **deceasedonline.com**

The Family Search website can now be searched for the surname collection from the Guild of One-Name Studies. **FamilySearch.org**

Find My Past's new databases include: criminal trials in Middlesex from TNA/ HO26 AND HO27; more non-conformist births, marriages and deaths; parish registers from Staffordshire, Lincolnshire and Cheshire; British Army World Wide Index for 1851; British Army Casualty Lists 1939-1945; Index of enemies, aliens and internees in WW1 and WW2; births, marriages and deaths in New Zealand; New South Wales Census 1891/1901; Tasmania convict records; US and Canadian border crossings 1895-1954.

**findmypast.co.uk**

The Genealogist has posted baptisms from Worcestershire; some more BT phone directories and US WW2 prisoners of war **genealogist.co.uk**

Do you have Irish ancestors? The Early Irish Marriage Index has been released. **irishancestors.ie**

Births, marriages and deaths from the General Record Office of Ireland can be searched for free. **irishgenealogy.ie**

Jewish Londoners who served in WW1 are commemorated in We Were There Too. It contains details of men and women who served abroad and at home.

**jewsfww.london**

MI's from Canterbury and Rochester Cathedrals and parish churches across the county can now be searched. **kentarchaeology.org.uk/19/000**

Scotlands People has a new host company and the site has been updated and re-launched. **scotlandspeople.gov.uk**

A new website dedicated to photographing, transcribing and the preservation of war memorials from the 17thC onwards. **War-Memorial.co.uk**

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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.*

K62 Mr. G. J. KING  
geoffking1@outlook.com

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## SURNAME INTERESTS

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*The table below gives surname interests for the new members listed above. 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 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.*

Surname	Dates	Place	County	Member
COLE	1750-1900	Kensington	MDX	K62
GINN	1700 -	Cambridge	CAM	K62
KING	1750-1920	Isleham	CAM	K62
LAING	1750-1900	Clapham	SRY	K62
POPE	1750 -	Hammersmith	MDX	K62
RATCLIFFE	1850-1920	Marylebone	LND	K62

It is with deepest regret that we announce  
the sudden death of

**Joan Scrivener**

A current and long serving member of the  
Committee, she will be deeply missed.  
We offer our condolences to her family.

An appreciation of Joan will appear in the  
next edition of the Journal.

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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

*Roland Bostock, [bostocr@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:bostocr@blueyonder.co.uk)*

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

*Richard Chapman, Golden Manor, Darby Gardens, Sunbury-on-Thames, TW16 5JW*

*[chapmanrg@btinternet.com](mailto:chapmanrg@btinternet.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](mailto:wendymott@btinternet.com)*

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

*Mrs. Bridget Purr, 8 Sandford Lane, Greenham, Thatcham, RG19 8XW*

*[bridgetspurr@waitrose.com](mailto:bridgetspurr@waitrose.com)*

**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.

*Mrs. Wendy Mott, 24 Addison Avenue, Hounslow, TW3 4AP. [wendymott@btinternet.com](mailto:wendymott@btinternet.com)*

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

*Mr. P. Sherwood, 5 Victoria Lane, Harlington, Middlesex, UB3 5EW*

*[psherwood@waitrose.com](mailto:psherwood@waitrose.com)*

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

*Mrs. M. Sibley, 13 Blossom Way, West Drayton, Middlesex UB7 9HF.*

*[mavikensib@aol.com](mailto: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.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.

#### MISCELLANEOUS INDEXES

*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.

*Mrs. M. Sibley, 13 Blossom Way, West Drayton, Middlesex, UB7 9HF*

[mavikensib@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto: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. Please check on Society website for current list. Cheques should be made payable to West Middlesex FHS and please include an sae.

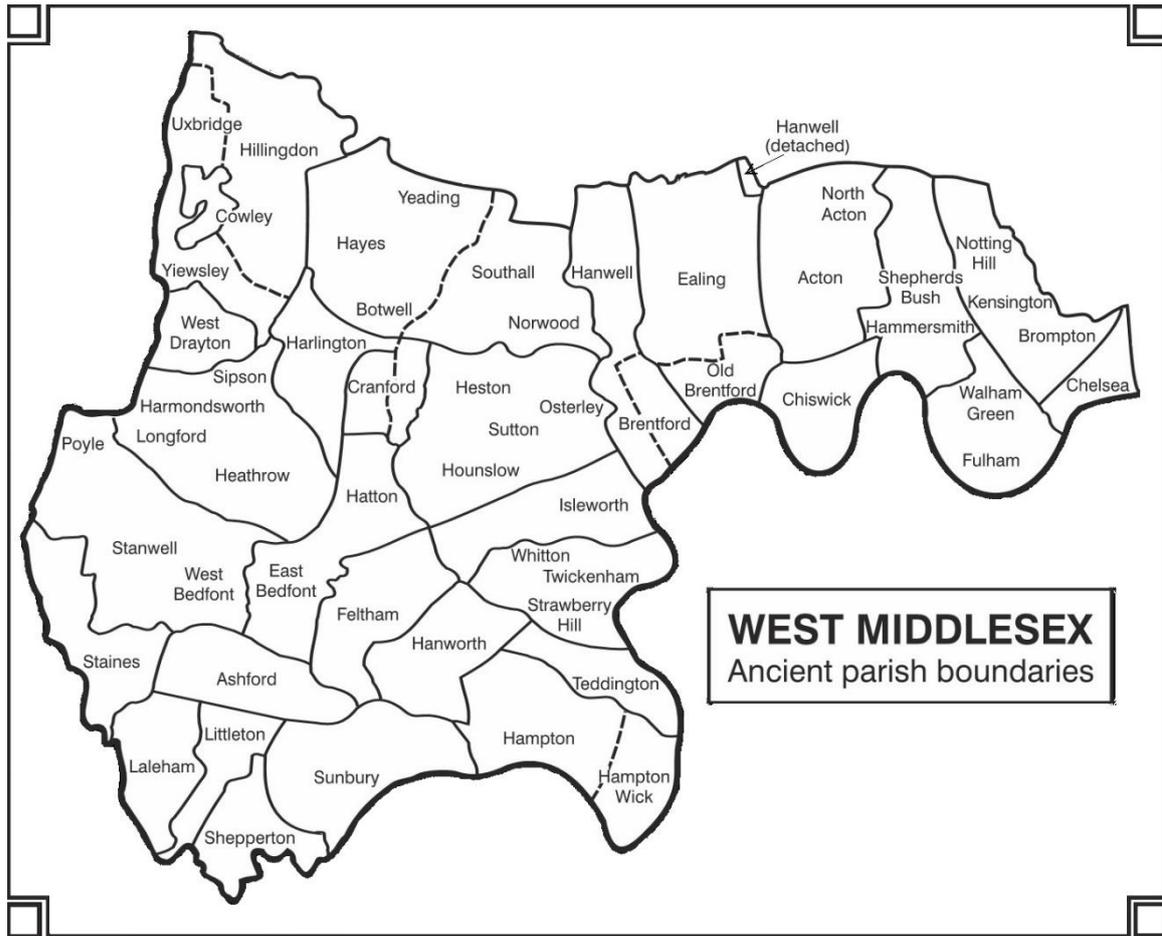
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Front Cover

#### Chelsea Pensioners

Before the 17<sup>th</sup> century old and injured soldiers were cared for in religious foundations but after the dissolution of the monasteries there was no provision for these men. In 1681 Charles II issued a Royal Warrant for a hospital to be built to care for those “broken by age or war” and so the Royal Hospital was built, designed by Christopher Wren. The first of 476 Chelsea Pensioners were admitted at the beginning of 1692.

Image: **Wikipedia**



**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 Pat Candler, 57 The Vale, Feltham, Middlesex, TW14 0JZ