

G R E E N T R E E S

THE JOURNAL OF THE CENTRAL MIDDLESEX

FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Beneath these greentrees rising to the skies
The planter of them Isaac Greentrees lies
The day shall come when these greentrees shall fall
And Isaac Greentrees rise above them all.

1702

CENTRAL MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
(Founded 1978)

Committee

Executive

Chairman	Peter Esslemont
Secretary	Dan Williams
Treasurer	Eric Whittleton

Members

Librarian	Susan Cooper Peter Rowbotham
Journal Editor	Phil Haig

Subscriptions (1st September - 31st August)

- a) Individual Membership £3.00.
(Includes one copy per issue of the Journal)
- b) Family Membership £4.00.
(For two or more related persons living together and includes one copy per issue of the Journal)
- c) Corporate Membership £3.00.

The twofold objects of the Society are: to promote, encourage and assist members in their efforts to trace the histories of their families, and to help co-ordinate research and transcription of records of the Central Middlesex area. Correspondence relative to membership and all Society matters should be addressed to The Secretary, Mr. D. Williams, 17 Northwick Avenue, Kenton, Harrow, Middx.

CENTRAL MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
JOURNAL

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The Journal is the official publication of the Central Middlesex Family History Society. Articles appearing in this Journal must not be reproduced either in whole or part without written permission. The Society does not accept any responsibility for the views expressed in any of the articles published in the Journal.

EDITORIAL

This being the inaugural issue of our Society Journal quite a lot of space has been used to give a full report of the Inaugural Meeting. In subsequent issues we shall require a lot of material from you the members. It is after all your Society and the Journal is your opportunity to make your views known and provide an influence on the policies of the Society. So please do not be shy in providing articles on any aspect of family history. Details of problems met and overcome may well be of interest to other members and provide them with the help they require to solve one of their problems.

In this issue we have included profiles of the six committee members. In future issues we will be providing profiles of our members. In the next issue we will have a Members Notes and Queries section. This service is free to members so please limit your request to one per member.

Our first meeting was well attended. It was an informal evening and members had an opportunity to get to know one another and to say something about their own particular interests in family history. The second meeting was a visit to The Grange Museum of local history at Hensden. It is a fascinating museum and local history library and anyone who was unable to attend would I am sure find it well worth while making an effort to visit there on another occasion.

Our first project is the recording of M.I's at St. Mary's Church, Harrow. A preliminary survey was carried out on Sunday 15th October to plan how the job would be tackled.

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Until a few years ago the only Society in England for those interested in genealogy and family history was the Society of Genealogists but now the scene is very different. In the last ten years about 100 local family history groups have been formed, linked together through a National Federation of Family History Societies. Last summer it was decided to form five groups in the London area and the Central Middlesex Society is one of these.

What is the point of having these Societies? Our aims are twofold. Firstly, to give our members a chance to meet other people who have similar interests and to get hints for and encouragement in, the study of the history of their own families. But I hope we can do more than this and that as a Society we can be outward looking and help to preserve local records for future study. The tombstones in many of our local churches are in a sorry state, being destroyed by weather and vandals. Throughout the country there is a campaign now on to record all the old tombstones and I hope that our Society will be able to record those in Central Middlesex. For a start we plan to record the stones in St. Mary's, Harrow on the Hill, but members who find it inconvenient to get to St. Mary's might like to make a start on their local churchyard. I also hope that some members will be able to carry out research possibly in conjunction with the local history societies in the area, on some of the families who lived in our area 100 years ago.

In the next few months we shall be visiting the local history collections in Harrow and Brent (Wembley and Willesden) and having a speaker from the Middlesex Records Office - or to give it its full title The Greater London Record Office (Middlesex Records). There is a great

deal of material in these collections of local interest which will help to build up a picture of life in Central Middlesex 50 or 100 years ago even if your own ancestors do not feature in the records.

We are also having two talks from local people who have made a study of local families the Pages, Grays and Gurneys.

Finally, may I close with a plea. This is your Society, not the Committee's Society. Your suggestions and comments will always be welcome - on subjects for talks, guest speakers, articles for the Journal, places to visit, projects to tackle. Please pass them to any member of the Committee.

Peter Esslemont

Chairman

AN EDITED RECORD OF THE OPENING
ADDRESS BY MR. ROYSTON GAMBIER, CHAIRMAN
OF THE FEDERATION OF FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETIES

To start off with, it is my pleasure to welcome you all here, to the inaugural meeting of the Central Middlesex Family History Society. To start with and for the benefit of those who do not know the background of how these Family History Societies got going I shall just give you a brief outline to put you in the picture.

In 1974 there were 8 independent Societies other than the National Societies such as the Society of Genealogists, The Heraldry Society and the more academic body, The Institute of Genealogists and Heraldic Studies in Canterbury. Two factors led to the creation of The Federation of Family History Societies. First, and foremost, we were thinking of inviting the National Congress to take place in London in 1976 and the permanent bureau in Brussels had said that we should have a Federation as the inviting body rather than a single society whether it be a national one or not, so a Federation was created which invited the International Congress to come to this country and hold it in London in 1976.

Secondly, as a result of these 8 individual Societies that had already started up, there was this general feeling throughout the country for an expansion along these lines. A few people got together and talked this over, and decided that it would be a good idea to promote this interest in every county in England and, as a result, a meeting took place and the Federation of Family History Societies was formed. That was in 1974 with its 8 individual Societies and the three National organisations that became part of it, so these 11 formed the Federation. Now in 1978

we are approaching 100 member groups and Societies and I think you will agree that in 4 years that's not bad going. It will also give you an indication of how popular the interest and study of family history has become in the last few years. So now we have most of the counties in England covered, with only Herefordshire and Shropshire that haven't got an individual Society looking after them. Some Societies are doubled up, Somerset and Dorset are under one organisation. The Birmingham and Midland Society of which Fred Markwell is the dynamic secretary with 11 assistant secretaries under him, but they look after 3 counties - Staffordshire, Warwickshire and Worcestershire. Middlesex being so close to London, it was always remarkable to me that nobody had ever thought of forming a Middlesex Family History Society; so I had a word about this to my friend John Rayment who is the Chairman of the Essex Family History Society and who also was very much in on the ground floor getting the Federation started in 1974. John said 'an excellent idea' so I said 'right' and twisted both arms and got him to help with the organisation. In fact he really did take over the basic organisation in the first place, and that is why so many of you were circulated with the forms to find if you were interested in joining one of these Societies. During the past two weeks we have had our preliminary meeting with those who said they would serve on the committee, and in the last fortnight we have launched the other 4 Family History Societies. What we term East London has now adopted the name of East of London Society, then we went on to Bromley

that we had designated South London and they are calling themselves the North West Kent Family History Society. We then went to Enfield and they have decided instead of being North London they will call themselves the North Middlesex Family History Society. Then on Wednesday we were in the West of London at Hounslow and they have decided to call themselves the West Middlesex Family History Society. I see that your working party committee have in their wisdom offered as the name for this Society the Central Middlesex Family History Society. In my opinion this is a very good balance because you then get the old county of Middlesex cut up into the 3 sections that run down into London. As you can imagine there is an enormous amount of coverage both for people and for the amount of research work and projects that have got to be done so that if we divide the old county of Middlesex in this way I think it is a very sensible approach. So that is the general background of how it has all come about, and how we have got to the state of affairs now where these societies are in almost every County throughout England. In Scotland there are two Family History Societies, one is the old Scottish Genealogy Society based in Edinburgh and the other is the Glasgow Family History Society. In Wales there is just one at the moment in South Wales. In Ireland there is the old established Irish Genealogy Society with their headquarters in London.

The record of the remainder of the meeting is in the official Minutes.

Minutes of the Inaugural Meeting of the Central Middlesex Family History Society held at Brent Town Hall on Friday 21 July 1978.

PRESENT

Mr. R. P. Gambier, Chairman of the Federation of Family History Societies (in the Chair),
Mr. J. L. Rayment, Chairman of the Essex Family History Society and 33 other people.

NAME OF SOCIETY

It was proposed by Miss S. M. Cooper, seconded by Mr. E. H. Whittleton that the name of the Society be the Central Middlesex Family History Society. This resolution was carried unanimously.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

It was proposed by Mr. P. H. Rowbottom, seconded by Mrs. I. J. Marker that the annual subscriptions for the period to 31st August 1979 be as follows:-

Individual Members	£3.
Family Members	£4.
Corporate Members	£3.

This resolution was carried unanimously.

DATE OF FINANCIAL YEAR

It was proposed by Miss S. M. Cooper, seconded by Mr. D. E. Williams that the Society's financial year should run from 1st September to 31st August. This was carried unanimously.

CONSTITUTION

A draft constitution was considered by the meeting and after discussion it was proposed by Mr. E. H. Whittleton, seconded by Lt. Col. S. N. Marker that the constitution (a copy of which is attached to these minutes) be adopted. This was carried unanimously.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

Chairman Mr. P. D. Eslelement proposed by
Mr. P. H. Rowbottom
seconded by Miss S. M.
Cooper.
Hon Secretary Mr. D. E. Williams proposed by
Miss S. M. Cooper
seconded by Mr. P. H.
Rowbottom.
Hon Treasurer Mr. E. H. Whittleton proposed by
Mrs. I. J. Marker
seconded by Miss S. M.
Cooper
Other members Mr. B. Brooks.
Miss S. M. Cooper.
Mr. P. E. Haig.
Mr. P. H. Rowbottom
proposed by Mr. A. Endes
seconded by Mr. D. Jacobs.

In addition Mrs. M. Smith offered to assist with typing but did not wish to attend committee meetings. This offer was accepted and all the above nominations were carried unanimously.

ELECTION OF AUDITOR

It was proposed by Mrs. M. Smith, seconded by Mrs. H. Dingleton that Mr. A. J. Francis be the Hon. Auditor. This was carried unanimously.

BANK ACCOUNT

It was resolved to open a bank account for the Society with the Midland Bank, North Wealdley and a formal minute to this effect is attached.

MEMBERS MEETINGS

Discussion took place on the most suitable date and venue for these meetings. It was felt that Central Harrow would be the most convenient location and either a Wednesday or Friday

night the most suitable. It was left to the Committee to make the necessary arrangements.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE FEDERATION OF FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETIES

It was agreed that the Executive Committee should arrange for the Society to become a member of the Federation.

TALK BY MR. JOHN RAYMENT

At the conclusion of the formal business Mr. John Rayment, Chairman of the Essex Family History Society gave a talk on The Functions of a Family History Society.

THANKS

After Mr. Rayment's talk thanks were expressed to him for his talk, to Mr. Gambier for chairing the inaugural meeting and to the steering committee for the work they had done in conjunction with Mr. Rayment and Mr. Gambier in arranging the meeting.

Other point

It was suggested that an additional section be prepared for the constitution and brought to a later AGM or EGM concerning the maximum term for officers and committee, arrangements for rotation, election etc.

CONSTITUTION

1. The Society shall be named 'The Central Middlesex Family History Society'.
2. The objects of the Society shall be:-
 - (a) to promote, encourage and assist members in their efforts to trace the histories of their families.
 - (b) to help co-ordinate research and transcription of records of the Central Middlesex area.
3. There shall be three categories of members:-
 - (a) Individual membership
 - (b) Family membership
 - (c) Corporate membership
4. There shall be an annual subscription for each category of membership, determined by resolution at each Annual General Meeting, and payable in advance. Any member who is three months in arrears with the subscription shall be notified by the Honorary Treasurer. If the said member is still in arrears after a further month, he or she will automatically cease to be a member of the Society.
5. The management of the Society shall be in the hands of a Committee which shall consist of a Chairman, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer and not less than three other members. The Committee shall have the power to co-opt further members as necessary. The Officers and other members of the Committee shall be elected at each Annual General Meeting and hold office for a year, but shall be eligible for re-election.
6. All monies belonging to the Society shall be paid into a separate account in the name of the Society opened with the Midland Bank Limited. Cheques shall be signed on behalf

X
of the Society by the Honorary Treasurer and countersigned by the Chairman or Honorary Auditor who shall be appointed annually at the Annual General Meeting.

7. The Society's accounts shall be audited annually by an Honorary Auditor who shall be appointed annually at the Annual General Meeting.
8. An Annual General Meeting shall be held at such time and place as shall be decided by the Committee. The Committee shall have the power to call an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Society and shall be bound to do so within twenty-eight days of receiving notice in writing specifying the business to be transacted and signed by not less than one-third of the membership for the time being of the Society.
9. The Constitution can be altered or amended only at an Annual General Meeting of the Society and then only if the proposed alteration or amendment receives two-thirds of the votes of members of the Society present at the meeting.

THE FUNCTIONS OF A FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

by John L. Rayment, Chairman of Essex Family History Society (Edited Record)

First let us examine the relationship between genealogy and family history. Genealogy can be considered as the bare bones of the historical development of the family. Family history is the fleshing out of those bones or putting the leaves on the family tree. There are differences between the two approaches, but they are essentially the same. It has also been said that inside every Genealogist there is a Family Historian trying to get out.

In the past this branch of history has been of particular interest to social classes from the top down, but not very far down. As democratic ideas evolved it would seem that awareness grew that everyone had a family and we all had roots of a kind. Even those with humble beginnings were worth researching. There were high and low spots in all pedigrees and villainy and bastardy were universal and that we all had skeletons in our cupboards, even more recently has come the knowledge that some accepted pedigrees are unacceptable and a respected name is no guarantee of an unblemished background. During the last century or so Genealogical researchers have tended to beaver away on their own, benefiting slowly from their own experience and even more slowly from that of others. The writing up of the family history or a piece of research inevitably comes at the end of that research and any project seems to call for more work, more evidence to support conclusions. The work may never get written up at all much less published and so we come to the first function of the Family History Society. Communication is in my view the most important. We all have some information, we all want more,

someone else in our own Society, in another Society, or elsewhere may have it or may know where it can be obtained. We can therefore help each other. Communication is fundamental in that all the other functions of the Family History Society depend upon it.

A very large part of the records that can be used have been compiled by enthusiastic amateurs. If it had not been for them we would have very little to work upon. These folk have taken primary records, ancient, worn, faded, often in Latin, often almost indecipherable, and they have deciphered, translated, transcribed and indexed what is after all part of history. History is often spoken of as an abstract sort of a thing but this cannot be so. Were it not remembered and written down it would not exist. History is like children, being conceived all the time but if it is not preserved as a written record, it is in a sense aborted and will have no life.

It is essential in my view that a Family History Society should not become a cosy collection of people researching their own background exclusively. Family History Society has a duty not just to its present members but to the Genealogy of the future. To collect and preserve all it can of the precious past. A London Family History Society is in a unique position and being part of the greatest City in the world the opportunities are immense. I hope you will rise to the occasion.

There are now formed 5 London Family History Societies and the East Surrey Family History Society already flourishing. Thus 6 societies whose activities are centred around the great web of London. It would be very worthwhile, to form in due course a committee representing these 6, so as to co-ordinate their activities. The boundaries and areas of activity must never

become a source of disagreement. There is enough work for all and to spare. The only thing dividing you is the simple geographical need to have a series of local societies, if it weren't so then you would probably not be here; you would probably be at Harrington Gardens.

Which brings me to another point. It mustn't be Genealogy versus Family History. Even more important it must never be the Society of Genealogists versus the Federation of Family History Society. The two disciplines, the two organisations, the two approaches, are complimentary and should work together in unity. There will always be a need for a central National Society with a reference library to which we can all turn for authoritative answers. There must be an adequate coverage of local societies. Your society may be autonomous but you should never become isolated. The subjects you study will be of interest to other Societies. In the London region many will be members of more than one Society. You should welcome interaction and exchange of speakers not just among the London area but elsewhere.

Family history is about people, and places; Local History is about places and people, a difference only in view point. Seek out your neighbouring societies of all kinds, local history societies and co-operate. It does not matter who does the work in the record rescue field provided it is well done, and provided the results are available otherwise it is of no use, by the same token make copies of your work and make them available to others.

If members only come to meetings and do not contribute any thought and effort then the committee will become discouraged and you will become a cosy club if not actually moribund. If you take part in projects and do a bit of transcribing or typing or indexing or MI recordings then you will be adding to the body of information which we all need in order to do our work. You may think that your own family researches are more important but remember every time you find that the Parish register has not been transcribed, or a will has not been abstracted, it could be said that it was your fault, as you had not done anything about it. It is up to you all to look for tasks so that your Committee can if necessary break those tasks down into units 'finding suitable workers' economical methods to get things going. There will be occasions when you can't decipher something. Copy all round the difficult bit and get somebody to visit the record office where the original is and try and do the difficult bit for you. If you are unskilled at reading the early handwritings then start with the later part and work backwards as your skill develops. You committee will no doubt be arranging palaeography lectures to help you. There are benefits for you if you wish to participate in this sort of give and take effort, you will be adding to the body of information and strengthening your Society's library, thereby benefiting present and future Genealogists. Try and make occasional contributions to the Society's journal, your effort does not have to be a learned article. Perhaps only a short paragraph, even just an amusing, tragic or unusual entry in a Parish Register, or just a query, it is all grist to an editor's mill, it makes for an interesting journal.

Those of you who have sometimes deplored the remoteness or unhelpfulness of the County Council may take heart provided you don't ask for the moon, provided you have a good ambassador, somebody who can write a good letter or can be persuasive it is surprising what you can achieve as a Society.

As a Society you can break the task down, analyse it, define the operations needed, the type of work study. Then have at your finger tips the knowledge of your resources, members being willing to be involved and the skills that they have got, and the local resources, location of microfilm readers or photo copies and the fact that some part of the task may have been done by a local Society. You will be able to dovetail all these together and devise a working method, remember if you put up a good show, make a good job of your Project and don't make yourselves objectional you will become a voice for the family historian in your area, and body to be reckoned with.

To become a useful Society you will need to increase your membership, you are possibly very largely a one type membership, because when I sent out the 600 letters to the various people around the London area, I took the majority of those names from the new members list of the Genealogists magazine as having joined since 1975. So a lot of you are members of the Society of Genealogists, you should not restrict your membership in any way. You should work with all kinds of people from the professional to the beginner and mixed membership is, I think essential. The interaction of people differing in points of view differing in experience and skills will enrich you all.

Transcripts and projects.

When transcripts are being produced of monumental inscriptions or Parish registers or what ever, it is the custom among other Societies to make several copies. Monumental inscription work is the most urgent task facing the family historian today. They are corroding and rotting and falling apart. They are being cleared, there are redundant churchyards which leads to vandalism, and the evidence and material on monumental inscriptions is diminishing at an alarming rate. We need that information because the M.I. almost always had something on it which is not in the burial register, so it is the most urgent task, and this is why the federation has started a five year programme aimed at recording all the survivors uncopied in the country. Dr. White's monumental inscriptions published by the Society of Genealogists is extremely useful and goes into the subject in depth. But I cannot resist recommending my own booklet Notes on the Recording of Monumental Inscriptions, and the second booklet will be available in August-September. It will be 35p, 50p post free, published by the Federation. Monumental Inscription dates, Field work dates, can be extra to your normal programme because these will probably have to be on Saturdays if you are working on recording in a live churchyard.

Now tasks for the Society, Peter has already heard this. It is a list of things that might trigger off an idea. I think one of the things that you should do as an early task is a survey of your members, names addresses, but also their interests, your members could be interested in Libraries, transport, railways, surveying, history, geography, science, computers, tape recorders, education, maps, churches, archaeology, shipping, trade, engineering, law, highways, prisons, aerial photography,

indexing all useful things and they all have some bearing on the some family's history. Your members may have special skills, draughtsmanship, surveying, architecture, civil engineering, these often mean access to Ordnance Survey plans which are very, very, useful.

Family History is more embroidered than plain genealogy. It may take more time but if one gets stuck on one line there are many more to play with and it is less frustrating.

So there we are, a body of people whose pleasure it is to expose in public our obsession with our ancestors. Communication is all important and I hope I have communicated to you some of my enthusiasm. Having been involved in raising the Essex Family History Society it gives me great pleasure to be in at the start of another. May I wish you good fortune, and may you build a great future on a great past.

PROFILES

Peter Esslemont
Chairman

Became interested in his family history about 1965 and has now traced 31 of his 32 great, great, great grandparents as well as some ancestors in earlier generations. Nearly all these ancestors lived in Aberdeenshire.

In addition to tracing his own direct ancestors he has also compiled records of as many Esslemonts as possible. Although the earliest record found is a baptism in 1678 (not of a traceable connection) the name has been in use as a place name in Aberdeenshire for over 600 years - the earliest reference of this nature being in a charter of 1377.

The principal families being researched are Esslemont, Duncan and Crombie.

In addition to interest in family history and genealogy he is also interested in heraldry and local history.

Daniel Williams
Secretary

Became interested in public records in 1970 when he was allocated the job of implementing the Public Records Act, 1958 at the Royal Mint at Tower Hill, prior to closure. Mint records from the time of Sir Isaac Newton up to 1945, mainly of interest to medallists and numismatists but also to some family historians, had been transferred to the Public Record Office when he retired from the Civil Service in 1976.

Requests from American relatives for a history of the family led him to the usual searches at

Portugal Street, St. Catherine's House, Somerset House and Chancery Lane, followed by visits to the Glamorgan archives at Cardiff and to burial grounds in South Wales. Hopes to do more searching in Bucks, Oxford, Glamorgan and Carmarthen.

Eric Whittleton
Treasurer

Has done considerable research into his family in Norfolk, Somerset, Dorset and the West Midlands. His ancestors near Redditch were connected with the early needle trade (WILKES PURCELL). In Norfolk a branch of the family owned a large windmill near the coast (HARVEY: FRAREY). Recent research includes work at the Methodist Missionary Society. His great-great-grandfather, Isaac WHITEHOUSE was a famous Wesleyan missionary in Jamaica (1824-1874).

Mr. Whittleton's father was born in the Bahamas, and his grandmother came from old Bahamian settler stock (KEMP). He has visited Nassau to work on the records there. While not having Middlesex ancestors, Mr. Whittleton was born in Acton and has lived in Ealing and Wembley. At present he is working on Ealing records for the Secretary of the Birmingham and Midland Society.

Philip Haig
Journal Editor

Thought about tracing his family history for many years but did nothing about it until six years ago. Is attempting to trace all forebears back to the sixteen great, great grandparents and then follow the more interesting male lines back as far as possible. Is also doing the same thing for his wife's family. His maternal ancestors have been reasonably straightforward but his paternal ancestors came from Bavaria and so far he has not managed to determine the precise town or village from whence they originated. Names of interest are HAAG, BRAND, PRINCE, WINCH, BRUTON, WHITE, YEATES, COOPER, BEST, PAVEY AND KENT.

Susan Cooper
Librarian

Is 31 years old and has lived in Harrow all her life, except for 3 years spent as a student in Aberystwyth studying pure mathematics. She is an Actuary by profession and works in the General Insurance department of a leading Insurance Company. Her hobbies include playing golf, learning languages and maths. Her local genealogical interests are her mother's families of WOODBRIDGE and CHAPPELL who lived on Harrow Hill in the nineteenth century and the families of BRAIDENRY, BLACKSLEY and CRAWFORD who lived in the Canden area in the nineteenth century.

Her father comes from Scotland and her preliminary researches have brought her to the families of ROBERTSON, DOUGLAS, LOW, GOW and SCRIMGEOUR in Blairgowrie district of Perthshire. Great grandfather Robert Cooper was born in Inverkeithing, Fife (c.1847) but she has been unable to trace any record of birth or baptism so far of an earlier generation William Jackson born in Ireland c.1819.

Peter Rowbottom

Started researching the male side of his family some years back. His name may be unusual in the south, but in Lancashire it is fairly common and he has heard most of the variations possible. Due to the location of most of the areas of interest, Manchester and Southport in Lancashire, Mottram Longdendale, Cheshire, Derby and Willesden, his researches are spasmodic, as he prefers to do the researching himself, rather than use agents.

LIBRARY NEWS

We are intending to gather together a library of books, pamphlets and journals that may be of interest to members. To start us off Eric Whittleton has donated:-

The Survey of London (1603) John Stow

Family History News and Digest, Summer 1977
Vol.1. No.1.

- the official publication of the Federation of Family History Societies.

If any member has any relevant literature that they no longer require and would like to donate it to the library, it will be gratefully received.

Books may be borrowed by members for one month at a time, i.e. between meetings.

Susan M. Cooper, Hon Librarian.

USEFUL BOOKS FOR BEGINNERS

Genealogy for Beginners - Arthur J. Willis

In Search of Ancestry
and

In Search of Scottish Ancestry

- both by G. Hamilton-Edwards

NEWS FROM ROUND AND ABOUT

What our members are doing.

Our Hon. Treasurer has recently transcribed the non-parochial register of CRADLEY Baptist Church Worcestershire, held at the P.R.O. Chancery Lane. His copy will be used to supplement local records and both will be used in a forthcoming publication of the Birmingham and Midland Society for Genealogy and Heraldry. The publications committee of that Society have already published other transcripts of local registers. The Chairman of that Society has written "The transcription of registers for our Society often appears to be something that is limited to local members. It has been most heartening to have a project which has allowed an 'out of town' member to contribute.

We are sure our own society will be equally well served by its 'out of county' members.

LOCAL RECORDS

Ealing Central Library, Walpole Park, Ealing.

The Reference library has a very active local history section and publishes reproductions of local maps and postcards at reasonable prices. A recent publication is a 2nd edition of R. N. Rowland's "Street names of Acton, Middlesex." This is a useful book for those with connections in the area and contains a good map.

The library has copies of the Census and files of the "Middlesex County Times". There is also a very useful Surnames Index, which relates to all kinds of records both local and at the County Record Office to Ealing family names.

OTHER SOCIETIES

The Harrow Decorative and Fine Arts Society is a member society of the National Association, and meets monthly in Harrow for lectures on cultural and artistic themes. The Society is also very concerned with the conservation of our heritage, and has an active group recording the churches of the district. All the contents of a church are examined and carefully listed and described. This includes all the memorials in the church and any heraldic crests. This year, work has commenced at the Parish Church of Pinner, and it is hoped that next year St. Mary's Harrow on the Hill will be chosen. When the work is finished, photographs, drawings and a full report will be sent to the Public Record Office, Victoria and Albert Museum, and to the Church. Our own recording of the Churchyard memorials should complement this valuable work.

UNUSUAL SOURCES

If at first you don't succeed.....

We are all familiar with the more widely used sources of information that help in making a family tree and fill in our family history. The 'Aid to searches' issued by the Greater London Record Office mentions those records that should be consulted in the early stages:- St. Catharine's House, Kingsway, for the elusive certificates of birth's, marriages and deaths. Then across the road, to Somerset House, for the calendars of Wills commencing in 1859. A short walk to Chancery Lane for an inspection of non-parochial registers in the Public Record Office, then around the corner to Portugal Street to strain one's eyes at the micro-films of the census records for 1841, 1851, 1861 and 1871.

However there will come a time when substance has to be added to all the dates and names that have been collected, and in the United Kingdom we are fortunate in having a vast accumulation of records, aided by an efficient library system; invaluable in putting together a family history.

After all we are a family history society; we want more than a graph to represent our family and its past. That is why the lectures of family history societies are well attended. Compiling a story of one's family is never easy or quick, but good information will make the task easier.

A readers ticket to the BRITISH LIBRARY (in the British Museum) is an asset. It costs nothing and includes a colour photograph, useful to identify the holder when consulting other archives. Everyone knows the scope of this library, but be warned; it is not so complete as many think. The writer has scanned books in provincial libraries and put off detailed reading until a later visit to the British Library - only to be disappointed when the book was not found. However the library ticket has a bonus; The Newspaper Library opposite Colindale Underground Station (Bus 79 - Alperton/Burnt Oak, passes the door). Here production of huge bound-volumes of newspapers of all kinds is quick and efficient. The card index is comprehensive and easy to use. Quite recently the writer found an old family bible illuminated dedication on the inside cover. It mentioned a presentation in June 1889. As the occasion seemed out of the ordinary, the local newspaper was traced in the library. In the issue of July 6 1889 there was an account of a church service, the name of the minister, his address to the congregation, details of

this same bible and its presentation, and the work for which it was given. This type of family history can be found in every paper and is not difficult to trace. Every part of the country has a newspaper recording social events, crime, politics and trade from the early eighteenth century.

On a flight of stairs in the British Museum itself is the Map room. Here behind a closed door is a vast collection of maps. Your ticket will gain admittance, and on open shelves are the first large scale Ordnance Survey maps for the British Isles. The assistants are always willing to give advice, and you will certainly be able to trace the towns, villages and streets that your ancestors trod.

The 'readers ticket' required for the Public Record Office and Census records also admits to the new building at Kew. This is not difficult to reach from Central Middlesex. There are buses to Kew, and it is only 8 minutes walk from Kew Gardens Underground station. While many of the records here are more modern and not of genealogical interest, the map room on the top floor houses the unique collection of 'Tithe Maps'. Their history has often been printed and need not be repeated here. The maps are very large, often 5 feet square, but there are large tables where they can be spread out and there is an excellent lighting system. They do not have to be ordered through the famous computer system, although this should be used to establish a seat number. With the maps (Ref LR 29) are the apportionments (Ref LR 30). The maps detail all the land in the parish consulted and give a number to the fields and buildings. The apportionment relates these numbers to the owners and occupiers. While not every parish in the country was apportioned for the Act of 1836, those that were

have maps drawn about 1840, to a scale between 13 inches and 20 inches to a mile. A recent enquiry about an Ealing family was quickly solved by use of the 'Tithe map' and allowed their property to be clearly identified.

Another form of map is published by the Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies, Canterbury. This shows, county by county, the parish boundaries and gives the dates when their parish records commence. A new edition of these valuable aids is available.

There are many records of genealogical interest in the LAMBETH PALACE LIBRARY, entered by a small door in the wall in Lambeth Palace Road. Again there are comprehensive indexes and helpful archivists. Marriage Allegations cover the issue of common Licences from 1660 until the present day. There are also incomplete transcripts of the Archbishop's peculiar of Croydon: this deanery included such places as Harrow, Putney and Wimbledon. The library also holds probate records of this peculiar.

A new source of genealogical information, now being introduced by several family history societies, is the "Microfiche" photographic records of the index of birth/Baptism and Marriage from the 'Computer File Index' of the Genealogical Society of Utah at Salt Lake City, U.S.A. Each small microfilm sheet contains 270 pages with about 60 names ... some 16,000 entries are magnified on a reading machine from each negative. Reading machines and 'microfiche' are available for use at the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-day Saints (Room 208), 64 Exhibition Road, South Kensington (Tel. 589 8561)

This is the church library and it is open to the public until 9 pm on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday evenings. Advice on personal research problems and procedure is freely given and other microfilms are available for inspection. A note of caution regarding the Computer Index File; it is only a partial index to other records and not a record itself. No area is completely covered for baptisms, and some entries are not accurate as the source material is not from the original. There is also an acknowledged mistake in the computer programme! But if one understands the limitations of this index it can be a very useful tool indeed.

These are only a few unfamiliar sources that are available. Do not forget a down-to-earth text book. There is some sound advice in "How to trace your Ancestors" by Maida Mander (Mayflower Books - 95p).

If at first you don't succeed, try, try again.

E. H. Whittleton.

PROGRAMME OF MEMBERS MEETINGS 1978/1979

Friday 10th November

Meeting at St. George's Hall 8 p.m.
Speaker: Mr Geoffrey Hewlett on
Wembley Park - tracing the Grays & Pages

Friday 8th December

Informal meeting, with a Christmas flavour
St. George's Hall 8 p.m.

1979

Friday 12th January

Visit to Local History Library, Harrow
at Civic Centre Reference Library 8 p.m.

Friday 9th February

Meeting at St. George's Hall 8 p.m.
Speaker: Mr. Sawways from Middlesex Record
Office on the Middlesex records and the
help they can be to the family historian.

Friday 16th March

Meeting at Brent Town Hall of Wembley History
Society at 8 p.m.
Speaker: Mr. Jim Golland on the Gurney
family.

ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH HALL - St. Andrew's Avenue,
Sudbury, Wembley. Bus 92 passes the door
or Buses 182 or 245 to The Mitre PH in
Watford Road and five minutes walk through
Perrin Road and Elms Lane.

HARROW CIVIC CENTRE LIBRARY - near Harrow and
Wealdstone Station. Buses 114, 182, 186
258, 286 and H 1.

BRENT TOWN HALL

Buses 83, 182 or 245
or Underground to Wembley Park and short walk.

LIST OF MEMBERS

Local History Librarian,
London Borough of Camden, Swiss Cottage Library,
88 Avenue Road, London, N.W.3.

Mr. J. E. Attlee and Miss J. Attlee,
On The Parade, Sudbury Heights Avenue,
Greenford, Middx.

Mr. H. R. Blackburn, Mount Wise, 38 Hawthorn
Drive, North Harrow, Middx.

Miss J. Bundle, 39 Silverholme Close, Harrow, Middx.

Mrs. N. H. Bussell, 32 Highview Gardens,
Edgware, Middx.

Miss S. M. Cooper, 6 Athena Close, Byron Hill Road,
Harrow, Middx.

Miss A. J. Dennis, 33 Eastbury Road, Northwood, Middx.

Mrs. Hazel Dimpleton, 7 Parkthorne Drive,
North Harrow, Middx.

Mr. A. G. Eades, 41 Woodhall Gate, Pinner, Middx. 428 4567

Mr. Peter Esslemont, 25 Thomas a'Becket Close, 904 9971
Wembley, Middx.

Mr. A. J. Francis, 4 Addisonbe Close, 907 5908
Kenton, Middx.

Mr. P. E. Haig, 58 Medway Gardens, Wembley, Middx.

Mr. Geoffrey Hewlett, 78 Tewkesbury Gardens,
Kingsbury, London N.W.9.

Mr. Derek Jacobs, 15 Morford Way, Ruislip, Middx. 866 0872

Mr. Michael J. Livy, 6 Evon Avenue, East Ringwood,
Victoria 3135, Australia.

Lt. Col. and Mrs. S. K. Marker, 866 8126
25 Gladesdale Drive, Pinner, Middx.

Mrs. Margaret Monger, 9 Abercorn Gardens, 907 5705
Kenton, Harrow, Middx.

Mr. A. J. Moores, 305 Kingsbury Road
Kingsbury, London, N.W.9.

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Mrs. M. E. Moss, 30 Vine Lane, UXBRIDGE 38721
Hillingdon, Uxbridge, Middx.

Mrs. J. Phalan, 139 Whitby Road, Eastcote,
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Mrs. A. Pitson, "Davelle", Ducks Hill Road
Ruislip, Middx.

Mrs. Ivy Raper, 291 Kenton Road, Kenton, 907 1400
Harrow, Middx.

Mr. P. H. Rowbottom, 52 Bloomsbury Close,
Ealing, London, W.5.

Mr. John Sinfield, 27 Uphill Drive,
Kingsbury, London, N.W.9

Mrs. Mary Smith, 65 Nursery Road, Pinner, Middx.

Mrs. S. A. Stuart and Miss Stuart
15 Creswick Walk, Hampstead Garden Suburb,
London, N.W.11.

Mrs. E. Sykes, 29 Stone Crescent, Ruislip, Middx.

Miss D. A. Thornicroft, 35 Hamilton Road
Cowley, Uxbridge, Middx.

Mrs. E. L. Todd, 2 Cranford Drive, Hayes, Middx. 573 8571

Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Torode, 51 The Greenway,
Ickenham, Middx.

Mr. D. J. Townsend, 37a Lower Road,
Higher Denham, Uxbridge, Middx.

Mr. F. B. Turner, 37 Eastcote Avenue,
South Harrow, Middx.

Mr. E. H. Whittleton, "Westmeade",
104 Rowlands Avenue, Hatch End, Pinner, Middx. 428 2514

Mr. and Mrs. D. E. Williams,
17 Northwick Avenue, Kenton, Harrow, Middx. 907 7340

NEW MEMBERS

We would very much like to increase the membership of the Society so please talk to friends and acquaintances and get them to come along to our meetings, or, contact our Secretary for membership details:-

Mr. D. E. Williams,
17, Northwick Avenue,
Kenton,
Harrow,
Middlesex.

NOTES AND QUERIES

Members wishing to send notes and/or queries for inclusion in subsequent issues of the Journal are asked to send them to the Editor. Please send a stamped addressed envelope if a reply is required. If possible the note or query should be typed double spaced. Non members of the Society may also use this service for a charge of 25p per entry. Members entries limited to one per issue.

Additional copies of the Society Journal may
be obtained from the Editor post free price
50p per copy.

The quotation on the front cover is taken
from an inscription in the churchyard of
St. Mary's church, Harrow-on-the-Hill.

