



# GREENTREES

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 1976)

COMMITTEE 1980/81

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The two-fold 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.

General correspondence should be sent to the secretary, whose address is shown above, correspondence relating to membership should be sent to the membership secretary, Mrs. Marker at 25 Gladvale Drive, Pinner, Middlesex whilst correspondence regarding the Journal should be sent to the Acting Editor, Mr. Eslesmont at 25 Thomas A'Becket Close, Wembley, Middlesex.

The Society is affiliated to both the Harrow Arts Council and the Brent Arts Council.

CENTRAL MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY JOURNAL

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#### CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

The Editor reminded me that it was time for me to write for the Journal. I am very lucky because many things that had their beginnings in Peter Eselment's term of office will come to fruition during mine.

Under Tony Francis' direction, with some help from Jim Colliard and some boys from Harrow School, we have transcribed all the inscriptions on the tombstones in the graveyard and memorials in the church of St. Mary, Harrow on the Hill. This summer we would like to "do" two churchyards, possibly, All Saints', Harrow Weald and say be St. John the Evangelist, Washley. Before we start we need a plan of each graveyard. Do you know anyone who likes to draw plans and maps? It is not necessary for the person to be one of our own members. Please contact Tony if you know of anyone or if you would like to join one of the transcribing teams.

I am very pleased with the response to our appeal for the D.F.I. Microfiche fund. On the strength of it, we have ordered the whole set. We hope the Bring & Buy sale at our March Meeting will bring in the remainder of the money required. I think the purchase of the microfiche will help all our members, as the Civic Centre library, where it will be housed, is open on Saturdays and on weekdays, except Wednesdays, until 8 p.m.

Phil Haig edited our journal for its first two years. It is now edited by Peter Eselment on a caretaker basis. If anyone would like to have a go at editing the journal, have a word with Peter, who would be happy to guide someone editing one edition on a 'no commitment' basis. We think we have devised a method of production that involves least hassle!

As far as the future is concerned, we are looking into the possibility of indexing census returns straight on a computer. This has the advantage of enabling us to combine our work with that of other local groups. I do not have to point the convenience of the availability of a comprehensive index to someone researching in an area. At the moment we are looking for a tame computer, we would pay the cost of the storage. If you know of anyone with access to, say, a college computer which may not be fully used in the vacations please contact Tony Francis.

It is my aim that the bookstall should finance the cost of our meetings. Please support it. If you can think of any items we should stock please speak to Peter Eselment. One item we stock regularly is the Family History News and Digest, the publication of our parent body; every member could benefit from reading the news of wider activities and conferences in the family history field. Also the digest of articles in other journals can be indispensable if you have interests in other parts of the country.

Please pass on your own ideas for speakers to Evelyn Todd, for publicity to Phil Haig, for finding new members and for membership information that you think should be exchanged to Joan Marker and your own ideas of other activities to any of us on the Committee. We are your committee - help us to serve you.

Susan Cooper

#### BOOKSTALL NOTES

In addition to the Family History News and Digest (next issue due April 1981, price 95p) the following books are on the bookstall and available at meetings:

Beginning your Family History (a useful book for beginners)	75p
Discovering your Family History - Don Steel. This is the book issued in connection with the Gordon Honeycombe TV series and contains a useful reference section	£ 3.50
How to record your Family Tree - Patrick Palgrave Moore	£ 1.00
Census Returns on Microfilm - compiled by Jeremy Gibson	£ 1.00
Guide to Probate Jurisdictions - Jeremy Gibson	£ 2.00
Various Shire Publications books in their Discovering .... series. All very good introductions to their subject.	
Current titles include:	
Discovering Local History	95p
Discovering Surnames	85p
Discovering Christian Names	95p
Discovering Place Names	80p
Discovering Heraldry	£ 1.15
Discovering Epitaphs	85p

PLEASE SUPPORT THE BOOKSTALL  
and so help the Society's finances.

## REPORTS ON MEMBERS' MEETINGS

### NOVEMBER MEETING

#### GRANDFATHER'S DIARY - Howell Green

Howell Green's work began in 1964 with the discovery of a diary kept by his grandfather in 1900. It was a little slim book inscribed 'The lady's Diary'. Although the diary contained no remarkable revelations, Mr. Green found it contained a fascinating account of his grandfather's experiences and impressions gained during his service in South Africa during the Boer War and then in China during the Boxer Rebellion - quite an eventful year. Since discovering the diary, Howell Green has been able to visit Hopetown on the Orange River where his grandfather served in the Field Hospital. He has also been able to collect a large amount of material with which to illustrate the events recorded in the diary and has made this into a tape/slide presentation, which is frequently updated and expanded as more material is discovered. Those who were present were able to enjoy a well presented show enhanced by songs of the era being included on the tapes.

### DECEMBER MEETING

#### CHRISTMAS PARTY

We held our traditional Christmas Party on 12 December. Phil Haig organised the wine. Many of our members brought cakes, mince pies, sausage rolls - more than I could eat though I did try to sample as many different offerings as I could.

Having fed the inner family historian, most people turned their attention to the quizzes and competitions devised by Tony Francis, Eric Whittleton and myself. The main prize winner was Evelyn Todd, but prizes were also won by Mrs. Farrin, Allegre Dowe, Mrs. Raper and Mr. John Thomson, with Eric Whittleton getting an honourable mention. One of the competitions was to compose an Epitaph and the winning entry, composed by Mrs. Farrin, appears elsewhere in this issue of the Journal.

Peter Esleasant had done a splendid job getting the journal out in time to distribute it at the party. Many members also supported Peter's other activity - the bookstall.

I would like to thank everyone that participated in the evening for making it go with a swing.

Susan Cooper

### JANUARY MEETING

#### PROBATE RECORDS and their location - Jeremy Gibbon

The speaker at the first meeting of 1981 was Mr. Jeremy Gibbon, who is well known for his books on Wills, and for various booklets on other subjects, published for the Federation of Family History Societies. We were reminded that Wills could be written at any time, and although a number were written (or rewritten) shortly before death others might be written before setting out on a hazardous journey. They are useful to the family historian for the information given about family relationships, and also for the information they give about the extent of the testator's estate.

We were also reminded about Nuncupative Wills - those made orally to witnesses and written down by them. These wills were not usually signed if the testator, being on his death bed, was too weak to do so. Also, about Letters of Administration - abbreviated to admons - which were granted generally to the next-of-kin, when no will had been made. Probate inventories, which were common in the late 16th and 17th cents, listed personal and household goods only - not land.

From 11th January 1898 the location of a Will in England and Wales is a simple matter. All are indexed and held centrally at the Principal Probate Registry at Somerset House and at District Probate Registries in various centres throughout England and Wales. Scotland has its own separate system.

The indexes can also be used to give an approximate date of death of an adult male or a widow - but not a married woman.

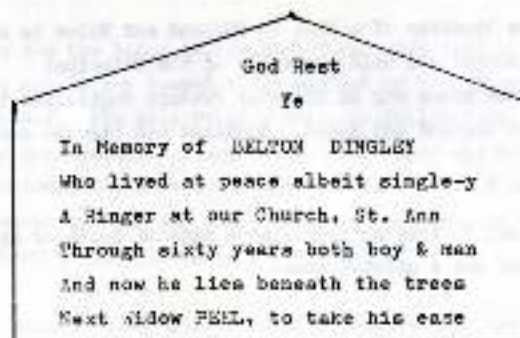
Mr. Gibson then went on to guide us through the maze of ecclesiastical courts which existed until January 1856, apart from one period during the Commonwealth when records were centralised. These Courts began in medieval times, because the monks were literate, the Church had an interest in property and the Courts were a useful source of revenue. Below the two great Prerogative Courts of Canterbury and York were the Consistory Courts of the various bishops. Beneath these in importance were the Archdeaconary Courts. Apart from all these were the Faculties, usually exempt from the jurisdiction of the Archdeaconary, and often of the Consistory, Courts but generally subject to a Dean or Dean and Chapter.

In England, also, there were Commissary Courts, normally a Consistory Court with powers from the Bishop but acting in one archdeaconary only.

Scotland had its own Commissary Courts for various districts which after 1823 coincided with the old sherriffdoms (counties).

Mr. Gibson concluded by recommending the printed indices of the British Record Society, a booklet 'Prerogative Court of Canterbury' published by the Public Record Office for the experienced genealogist, and for the beginner his own booklet 'A Simplified Guide to Probate Jurisdiction' (available on our bookstall, price £2.00 - Ed.)

Dorothy Morrison.



The winning entry in our Epitaph competition at the Christmas Party - composed by Mrs E. Perrin.

## MEMBERS INTERESTS

### Mr. D.J. TOWNSEND

Has been tracing the family history of his four grand parents for about twelve years. Their surnames are as follows:-

TOWNSEND in the area of Calce, Wilts and Westminster London.

CHADDER in the area of Kingsbridge, South Devon.

WRAPSON in the area of West Sussex.

MACRO in the area of Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk

The Macro family have been traced back to 1627.

Also interested in the name of BRAND of Bury St. Edmunds area of Suffolk.

### MR. DON PELGATE

Although always interested in history, did not become seriously involved with family history until a few years ago when given a considerable amount of information by a hitherto unknown relative. This has given me an unproven line back to the 16th Century, all in East Anglia mainly Suffolk.

Items of interest that have subsequently been discovered are two Church brasses, a family coat of arms (to which I am not entitled) and a number of Pelgates who emigrated to Virginia in the early 17th Century and had a river creek named after them. In regular correspondence with various Pelgates including one in California whose family history I am also researching.

Have just started on my Mother's side but having the usual problems with the multiplicity of Parfitts in the Bristol area.

\* \* \* \* \*

Members whose interests have not yet been recorded in GREENWICKS are asked to write a short piece for a future issue of the magazine.

#### NOTES AND NEWS

St. MARY'S CHURCHYARD, HARROW Last summer a number of members, assisted by a group of boys from Harrow School transcribed the monuments in the Churchyard, memorial ground as well as those inside the Church. A copy of the full transcript will be given to the Church; copies will also be available for consultation in the Civic Centre Library, Harrow and at the Society of Genealogists. A copy of the index will be issued to every member during the next few months.

CENSUS RETURNS You will probably have heard about the work the Pinner Local History Society has done in computerising the 1841, 1851, 1861 and 1871 censuses for the Pinner area (see also Jim Golland's article on page 38 ). We would like to do a similar job for the rest of the Harrow Parish, and then move on to other parishes in the area covered by our Society. However to do this easily we need access to one or more computer terminals so that the data can be typed straight on to the computer. Any member who can suggest suitable organisations to contact is asked to get in touch with the secretary, or any member of the committee.

SURVEYORS (amateur) WANTED We hope to transcribe the monuments in one or two churchyards during the long hot summer we will have in 1981 (or even during the long wet cold one) but before we can start we need a plan of the churchyard and to allocate a number to each tombstone. If you can help in this way please contact Tony Francis, our secretary.

SCRUBBERS AND RECORDERS will also be wanted. The work is enjoyable, and the comments received from passers-by amusing. The more who are able to assist the more fun it becomes, and the quicker all the local churchyards will be recorded - remember it can be a race against the vandals and the weather - so if you would like to help, again give your name to Tony Francis so that you can be given the dates for the working parties.

#### GREATER LONDON RECORD OFFICE

New premises where all the records can be stored under one roof have been secured. It is felt that the new building has great potential.

The building is excellently lit and will have some 40 places available in the search room. The microfilm self-service system will be extended and it is hoped to continue the indexing of the deposited parish registers. It is planned to introduce a common room where researchers may meet and take refreshment. Another room will be used for exhibitions. The Greater London History Library will be in the same building. Architects are at present working on details of shelving and strong room installation, and the first steps for removing the thousands of documents are planned for October of this year.

There will be a timetable of movements and we will keep our members informed of this. There will have to be a period of closure but this will be kept to a minimum, and the microfilm service will be disturbed as little as possible.

Our members are asked to be tolerant during the changes and in view of the improvements offered, despite a staff cut of 16 per cent, our co-operation may be assured.

The new record office will be in Clerkenwell (40, Northampton Road, London E.C.1.); near the City University with Farringdon the nearest Underground Station.

CONFERENCES The Society of Genealogists are arranging two conferences during 1981. The first will be held from 10-15 August at the University of York on the theme 'Ancestors on the Move'. The second is a one day conference to be held on Saturday 10th October at Baden Powell House, Queens Gate, London. Further details can be obtained from the Society of Genealogists or at our monthly meetings.

WILTSHIRE A new Family History Society is being formed in April in the County of WILTSHIRE. This is an 'off-shoot' of the Bristol and Avon Society and any members who have interests in the Wiltshire area, and others interested in joining can obtain details from the secretary - Mrs. Marjorie Moore at 17 Blakeney Avenue, Wythe, Swindon, Wiltshire. Please remember to enclose a S&F for reply.

see also page 34

## TELEPHONE DIRECTORIES

As an introduction I briefly describe the development of the telephone system in Britain.

On 14 February 1876, Alexander Graham Bell filed a patent application in America, for a telephone, which was granted on 7 March 1876. The new invention was brought to Britain in July 1877 by the Post Office. However, as the Post Office already had an extensive telegraph network, and were restricted by Government policy, the early exploitation of the telephone was largely carried out by private enterprise.

The Telephone Company Ltd was set up in 1878 to exploit Bell's patents in the UK, and they opened the first telephone exchange in London in 1879 with 8 subscribers. By the end of that year The Telephone Co. were operating two more London exchanges servicing 200 customers. The Edison Telephone Co, set up in 1879, provided some early competition, but it merged with the Telephone Co in 1880, when the latter achieved some technical advantages. After judgment had been given on 20 December 1880 in the court case, the Crown vs The Edison Telephone Co, which decreed that telephone systems were within the Post Office Telegraph monopoly, all private companies had to have a licence to operate, issued by the Post Office. The Post Office opened their first exchanges in Wales (Swansea, March 1881 and Cardiff, August 1881) by converting existing telegraph systems. By 1888 the Post Office and a number of private companies were operating 272 exchanges and handling 242,000 calls a day for 21,500 subscribers. In 1889 the major private companies merged to form the National Telephone Company Ltd. This company gained control of almost all local telephone services by 1900. The first licences to municipal corporations were granted in 1900. As licences expired, the Post Office took over the private systems, so by 1905 controlled the London network and shared the rest of the country with the National Telephone Co. In 1912, the National Telephone Company's system was transferred to the Post Office, who became the sole supplier of telephone services in the UK (except for two municipal networks, Kingston-Upon-Hall, which survives today, operating under Post Office licence, and Portsmouth which lasted until 1 October 1913).

During the first year the system expanded, to such a degree that it became necessary to issue Telephone Directories. There were few private subscribers at first. Only wealthy residents would have been able to afford such a luxury as a telephone in the days of universal penny postage, with several deliveries of mail each day and an efficient extensive telegraph system. The principal users were central and local government offices, companies, businesses and the professional classes.

Telephone directories are a useful supplementary source of genealogical information, although limited to the past two or three generations and to a small minority of the populace. However, apart from the study of surname distribution they can be utilised to establish places of residence, occupations, family movements and the existence of relatives.

A directory is a transient document, immediately rendered obsolete upon the issue of the next edition. Therefore copies of early directories are extremely scarce and unlikely to be held by private individuals or organisations. Although I have no personal knowledge of any, some may be found in libraries and County Record Offices; and if so, would probably only relate to the local area, and be of fairly recent date.

The British Telecom Museum, Telephone Exchange, Speedwell Street, Oxford, OX1 1RH has a complete set of Oxford Telephone Area directories from 1939, and some earlier lists, the first of which is dated 1889. Oxford Telephone Area includes Abingdon, Aylesbury, Gosham, Banbury, High Wycombe, Oxford and surrounding villages. The British Telecom Museum in Taunton, Somerset has one directory for South Devon, 1892 issued by the Western Counties and South Wales Telephone Co Ltd.

However the most complete set of directories in existence is the Historical Telephone Directory Library, (maintained by the London Telecommunications Region) housed on the 7th Floor, 211 Old Street, London EC1Y 9PB. This may be viewed between 10.30 a.m. and 12.30 p.m. and 1.30 and 3.30 p.m., Mondays to Fridays, by appointment. The very early directories are merely booklets, some of which are in a fragile condition. Most of the volumes in the library were official Post Office issues rather than public copies, and many of the earlier issues have been rebound. The earliest directory held, which is believed to be the first one issued is dated April 1880 and was issued by the Telephone Company Ltd. It contains entries for 350 subscribers in London. The telephone numbers range from 1 to 127, each with an "A", "B" and

"c" suffix, so there were up to three subscribers on each number. The next issue was August 1880 when the suffixes were dropped and subscribers had an individual number, and was published by the United Telephone Co (following the amalgamation of The Telephone Co with The Edison Telephone Co). The National Telephone Co issued their first directory in September 1885.

Up to 1899 all the directories held are for the London Network and the library is virtually complete for London up to the present time. The first directory held which includes towns outside London is a national volume for 1899-1900. An incomplete range of provincial directories is then available until about 1900 when from that date, an almost complete national set of directories is kept.

Mrian Phillippe  
Secretary, Post Office  
Headquarters Genealogical  
Society.

#### NOTES AND NEWS (continued)

TITHE RECORDS Tithe records which have been in the custody of the Inland Revenue were moved from Thames Ditton to Hayes during March. They may now be inspected there by prior appointment. Arrangements should be made with the Officer in Charge at the Public Record Office, Bourne Avenue, Hayes, Middlesex. Telephone 573-3831.

UNWANTED CERTIFICATES The Birmingham and Midland Society for Genealogy and Heraldry operate a clearing house for unwanted certificates. The scheme is a national one and not restricted to the Birmingham area and contributions come from all parts of the U.K and even some from overseas. All names from the certificates are indexed - mother's maiden name, witnesses, registrars etc - along with the year of event and county. The list of names now runs into thousands. So, if you have any unwanted pre-1900 certificates why not send them to the Index Compiler, Mrs. Barbara Baker, 270 Clarence Road, Streetly, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands. Mrs. Baker will also look up names in the index in exchange for a SAE.

#### ON THE BOOKSHELF

"VICTORIAN SUBURBS". by H.J. DYOS. (1966) Leicester University Press.

Mr. R.G. McK. BUTCHER, one of our members, has shown us a book that has been useful to him in his research. First published in 1961 it has since been reprinted. Although it relates to a part of London distant from Central Middlesex, the growth of suburbs during the Victorian era in such local areas as Paddington will be better understood. The book is concerned with Cusberwell, and the methods of building, the purchasing of land and creation of new streets are well documented. The book is an extension of a university thesis and the author studied numerous documents in London archives. All these have been carefully noted and would be invaluable to anyone wishing to research a family in this part of South London.

"HERE LYETH. Life and Death in Ruislip, 1700-1900."  
WEA Local History Class. 1980 (£1.20)

A copy of this small book has been presented by our Society to the Library of the Society of Genealogists and an acknowledgment appeared in the December 1980 issue of that society's magazine.

The pages record the work of Eileen Bowlt and a team of helpers from a local history study group. They have produced a worthwhile publication which could be an example to Family History societies who intend to publish their own accounts of recording memorial inscriptions at the Parish church.

Eight people are given credit for their sections of the book which has a central theme: the recording of the memorials in the churchyard of Ruislip Parish. There is a useful plan of the churchyard with the memorials numbered. Unfortunately these numbers are not identified although it is explained that there is a full list which can be consulted locally. However we are given some information about some leading local families. The Bear Family have played a prominent part in Ruislip history over many years and were first recorded in the parish in 1699. Likewise the Weldon Family (first recorded 1698); the Bray Family (1740); the Lavender Family (1781) and more recently the Edgell Family. Eileen Bowlt has written of "strangers buried in Ruislip", but pride of place must go to the churchyard memorials; the work of James McBean. There are some appropriate illustrations.

#### THE CAMERA AND FAMILY HISTORY

Not far from the Harrow Civic Centre Local History Library there is a little known local museum. It could easily be passed by and considered as part of a large factory. The original "Kodak Factory" in Epsom Drive, Wexlstone was built in 1891. The buildings now cover a wide area, but the first building is now the Kodak Museum and the collection and display is open daily (including weekends) to the public and admission is free.

The main collection shows the evolution of photography in each decade from the 1830s to the 1970s and here many family historians will find an answer to an outstanding query. For who has not some family photograph undated, unaccountable, sometimes uncared for and more often unknown. There are examples of those family albums that became popular after the introduction of the 'carte de visite' photograph in the late 1850s. Also many examples of this form of photograph and the cabinet enlargement. Another showcase explains the process of making those small pocket cases which held a tinted picture, an heirloom that many of us possess. There are several cases devoted to the decorative applications of photography in the last century; stereoscopes, photographic jewellery and so on. A reconstruction of a small portrait studio of the last century, inspired by the family business of E. Reeves, of Lewes, Sussex will identify many of those dark curtains and aepidietras that feature in our old family portraits.

A friend of the writer recently went to Lewes seeking traces of his family there. He carried a photograph from the studio of E. Reeves, not knowing that the business still existed after four generations. Finding the studio he was prompted to enquire about his photograph which bore a number. To his surprise he was told that the negative probably existed, now in the archives of the local museum. Enquiries were made and the negative found which

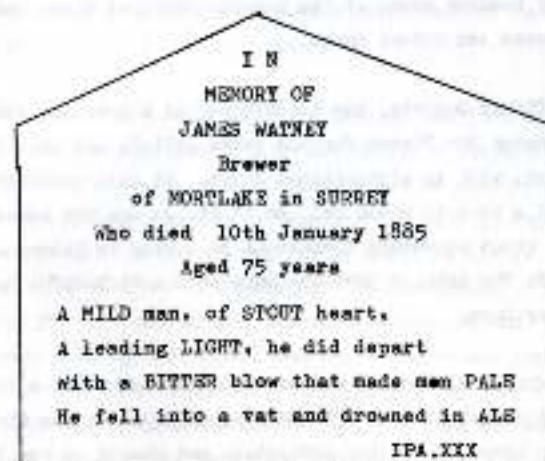
resulted in a modern enlargement being produced, with a bonus. From the old records the name of the sitter was obtained and her local address. This allowed the family to be traced on a Census return and another entry made on the family tree!

Old photographs always help to bring life to a written family history. Mada Nander in her book "How to trace your ancestors" (Mayflower 1977), writes

"Look at pictures' backgrounds, since architecture or furniture may be visible and various types of backcloth passed in and out of favour. This quite often helps in determining by what time someone was still alive or perhaps his identity, while such items as stocks and boots indicate social status. Photographic processes and painting styles can also be dated."

A visit to the Kodak Museum will certainly be of assistance.

Eric Whittleton



Our secretary's entry for the Epitaph competition at the Christmas Party

### AN INDEX OF INDEXES?

Answering enquiries from researchers into particular names poses a bit of a problem for me. I am never very sure to which Index I should turn. Some time ago, faced with a number of unidentifiable names of local inhabitants in a nineteenth century document, I started a card index of people living in Harrow, concentrating on Victorian shopkeepers in Harrow-on-the-Hill; this has now expanded to include anyone living in the Harrow parish at any time and so far includes over 4,000 cards. (A mere flea-bite compared with the 20,000+ of a gentleman in Uxbridge.) I still await the time to work systematically through all the parish registers: so far I have included names only as I come across them in documents and newspapers, but I know that one day I shall have to face the daunting pastime of trying to make this index really comprehensive. At least now I feel fairly well acquainted with many of the major figures in Harrow in the last century, some of whom possess several cards to themselves as they appear frequently in the newspapers of the time, for instance.

As a member of the Research Group of the Pinner Local History Society, I felt it only right and proper that I should have a similar collection for my own area; so far, this has not developed so fully as the Harrow one, with only a couple of hundred cards at the moment. Both of these indexes (indices?) include house and street names.

Ken Kirkman, of the Pinner Society, has transferred to a computer all the information on the Census for Pinner for the years 1841-71 and this is now available in print out, with an alphabetical index. If this could be done for each parish, what a boon it would be! As it is, we can now answer positively enquiries about ancestors thought to be living in Pinner at that time, and already the details provided have been most helpful to a number of distant searchers.

As readers of this journal will know, we have recently completed a survey of all the Monumental Inscriptions in St. Mary's, Harrow at the time of writing, the index to these is nearing completion and should be available by the time you read this: so once again, anyone searching for an ancestor who may have been buried in Harrow may be lucky if this index is consulted.

Here again, there are sometimes unexpected details on a tombstone that do not appear in the Registers, such as the place of birth, or the type of occupation followed. A similar list has been compiled for all the inscriptions in the Harrow School Chapel and I have immediate access to that index.

Talking of Harrow School reminds me of yet another source for information. Last year I sent for publication a book on The Harrow Apprentices: printing has been delayed but is expected any year now. This transcribes a number of different documents in the possession of the School, as well as some of the Parish records, all relating to the payment of fees as a charity towards local children, either by the School Foundation or by the Parish. Many of the 600 or more boys and girls in the list are given also the name of their parent, and the father's trade and domicile, as well as the name and address of the tradesman to whom they are apprenticed. The list is indexed separately under "Persons", "Places" and "Trades", so I can tell you, for instance, all the Peachey's in the list, all the shoemakers, or all the tradesmen mentioned from, say, Wembley.

In addition to all these, I have specialised indexes to members of the Gurney and Wilsin families locally, and to the Gurney family in East Anglia. I often feel that it might be simpler if all the cards were in one large index, which would perhaps save a great deal of cross-checkings perhaps that's a job for when I retire?

Needless to say, I am always happy to divulge the information on these cards to serious researchers: I do not charge a statutory fee, but any contributions to the cost of file cards would be greatly appreciated. One or two of my correspondents have been most helpful in sending me cuttings or transcriptions from parish registers, and I am always delighted to be able to add to the store of knowledge. At the moment, I am working through some of the Minute Books of the School Governors as many of the houses locally were owned by the School and their leases and rentals are frequently recorded: John Lyon's charitable contributions to poor widows and in support of poor marriages are also noted, so there are some more names for the file. I have already been dropping hints about the value of a domestic computer in case someone is thinking about next Christmas.

Jix Golland  
Harrow School

#### MICRO CHIP GENEALOGY

"Preserving the past for the future" is the title of an illustrated booklet published by the Genealogical Society of Utah: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. We all are familiar no doubt with the 'Microfiche' Index of the Society which contains about 51 million names; over 3 million entries for London and Middlesex. But this valuable index would have been impossible without the use of the computer, recognized in the title of Computer File Index (CFI).

Each small sheet of film contains 270 pages (each of about 60 names) taken from the computer files. Reading a single entry on the microfiche we are usually concerned with the first columns of names, type, date and parish, but it will be noticed that three further columns follow. Headed 'B', 'E', and 'S' these show the dates on which the Church ordinances - baptism, endowment, sealing - were carried out. Code letters are added to identify the Temple concerned. If the word "cleared" appears here it is a record that recently received data has not been checked.

Now we are well into the realm of the computer, as the last two columns headed "Batch" and "Serial Sheet" are references to further information available from computer files in Salt Lake City. Usually the batch number is six-figured and preceded by a letter. The letters C- P- or M refer to 'controlled extractions' entries from parish registers, bishop's transcripts or modern copies of these. There is a list of the parishes included in the computer file, with the dates of their records, at the beginning of each county list. This should always be looked at.

A batch number without a preceding letter indicates information submitted by a member of the Church. Here the first two digits are the year this was received, the next two digits the day's batch number. The last column gives the serial sheet number within that batch.

While this information may not be of immediate use and refers to the posthumous baptisms into the Mormon Church, it allows a researcher working in Salt Lake City to have a reference which will allow further information to be extracted from the computer files held there. The prefixes C-P-M can only be checked against an original record and this can usually be done in this country where a film copy is held and need not be referred to America. The "A" reference is to an Archive Record giving the name and address of the person interested in a named husband, wife and children. A photo copy of this information can be produced. A straightforward number identifies a film record of the Church request for proxy sealing.

Whether this purely Church information will bring more tangible results to our own research is doubtful. A researcher in Salt Lake City may charge about \$ 6.00 for an hour's work with a few cents extra for photo copies. But the exercise will show how a reference number is essential to recall information stored in a computer memory.

Our own Society has recently been privileged to examine the first results of another computer project and one concerned with our own area of operation. The Pinner Local History Society have been preparing for some time a card index of the 1641 to 1671 census for Pinner. Having completed the slip-index it was realized that to allow rapid analysis and ease of scanning, a simple method of computerising the information should be sought. Mr. Ken Kirkman, of the Society offered his experience in data analysis and devised a programme that may act as a pioneer in this field. Punched cards of 80 columns were prepared from the original slips and 'memorized' in the computer. 'Print-outs' from these cards provided a line of 125 characters prepared from a 132 position printer. This allowed a few spaces for readability. Needless to say several problems associated with the data had to be overcome, particularly with spelling, and a clear coding system had to be adopted.

We feel our readers will be interested in the results which have already proved successful and could be a pattern for others contemplating the use of a computer file system for local records. These will be mentioned when this report is concluded in our next issue.

Eric Whittleton

#### OTHER SOCIETIES

Quislip, Northwood and Eastcote Local History Society was founded after 1960 with members from other interested groups. Since then membership has increased and a considerable amount of local information gathered and put on record. Quislip itself is particularly fortunate in having had Kings College, Cambridge as Lord of the Manor from 1451 to 1932. The College has carefully conserved many records and the archives contain much that is useful to the family historian. Manor Court records date from the 13th century and the Society have details of a 15th century rental containing the names of inhabitants of the Manor. The Society have photocopied such material including a tax assessment of 1815 now in the County Record Office (at County Hall, S.E.1.); a very useful source of information for a family historian. The local Enclosure Award of 1814 has also been thoroughly analysed and an alphabetical list of 100 names has been related to an Enclosure Map.

The Society closely co-operate with the local library which has copies of the 1851 to 1871 Census enumerations, and a leaflet has been published summarising a study of the 1851 Census. This would be most useful for anyone writing of a Quislip family at this period. The leaflet forms part of a 'pack' with other society reports. This can be added to from time to time as these appear; quite a good idea for a family history society too. Work in the society continues with enthusiasm and the secretary is Mrs Krause of 29 Eastern Avenue, Pinner, Middlesex.

#### HELP WANTED

**SEVER FAMILY** Mr. Kenneth Sever is searching for information on this family. ROBERT SEVER left England on the Mary and John of London, Robert Sayres master. Passengers took the 'Oathes of Supremacy and Allegiance to pass for New England' 24 March 1633. Mr. Sever would be grateful for any references members find to his birthplace, family or heritage. Information should be sent to Mr. K.D. Sever at RR 1, Box 193 Waldron, Indiana, U.S.A 46182.

**MANDRY FAMILY** Help is wanted by Mrs. Clashy in tracing this family of Westminster. Any references to the name are wanted but particularly birth/baptism of Joseph Mandry circa 1789 Westminster and his marriage to Sarah probably before 1825. The family were plasterers for at least three generations. Details to Mrs. V. Clashy, 38 Newstead Road, Southbourne, Bournemouth, BB6 3EL. Postage will be refunded.

**CHARLETT FAMILY** Information sought about the following or their descendants. Rebecca Ann CHARLETT bapt. 1/6/1852 Beckley, Oxon. marr. 25/1/1874 at St. Barnabas Church, par. St. Luke Middx. to Charles Alfred GREENING, age 23, bachelor, dentist, of Marlins Place. Father Charles George GREENING, dentist.

Mary Elizabeth CHARLETT bapt. 8/6/1834 Beckley, Oxon. marr. 7/5/1860 at St. Pancras Church, Middx. to John Hoare BATHY, bachelor, shoemaker, of Mansfield Place, father Richard BATHY.

Edward Hawkins CHARLETT bapt 21/4/1867 Beckley, Oxon. died 24/11/1915 aged 48 at 33 Carlton Street, St. Pancras. foreman horse keeper, present at death Henry J. HILLIARD, nephew of 33 Childric Road, Bapford.

Any details to:- Miss S. Martin, 50, Kidlington Road, Islip, Oxford.

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Items for inclusion on this page in future issues should be sent to the Acting Editor (name and address on inside of front cover). Price 50p per item included; members are allowed one free entry per issue.

#### NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members who have joined the Society since the last Journal was issued:

No.

- 108 Mr. F.V. Erush, 10 Mantague Road, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire  
109 Mrs. F.W. Erush, as above  
110 Ms. J. Balch, 578 Hilledale Avenue East, Toronto, Ontario,  
Canada M4S 1V2  
111 Mr. B.E.W. Hollis, 6 Hawthorn Drive, Sway, Lynton, Hampshire  
SO4 0DX

#### FUTURE PROGRAMME

- Friday 8 May : Mr. D. Hawkins - Quarter Sessions and Assizes  
Friday 12 June : Miss M. Barber - Lambeth Palace Records  
Friday 10 July : Mr. F. Filby - One Name Studies  
Friday 14 August: No meeting  
Friday 11 September: To be announced

All these Friday evening meetings are held at Heathfield School, College Road, Harrow and commence at 8 p.m.

During the summer months further Churchyard recording will be undertaken. Further information on dates and location can be obtained from the Secretary.

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