



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 1978)

COMMITTEE 1980/81

Chairman	Miss Susan Cooper, 6 Athena Close, Byron Hill Road, Harrow, Middlesex.
Secretary	Mr. Tony Francis, 4 Adlecombe Close, Kenton, Middlesex, HA3 8JS Telephone: 907-9908
Treasurer	Mr. Eric Whittleton, 104 Howlands Avenue, Hatch End, Pinner, Middlesex, HA5 4AP
Other Members	Mr. Peter Esclemont Mr. Philip Haig Mrs. Joan Marker Mrs. Sue Thomas Mrs. Evelyn Todd

Subscriptions for year to 31st August, 1981

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| (a) <u>Individual Membership</u> | £4.00 |
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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. Esclemont 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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Autumn 1981

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FROM THE EDITOR

Although these words are being written on a warm summer evening, by the time the Journal reaches members the autumn programme will be under way. I hope that those members who went 'ancestor hunting' in their summer holidays found useful information and have been able to add branches, or at least twigs, to their family trees.

You may remember that after Philip Haig resigned as Editor last year I agreed to act as editor until a new editor could be found. This is the third issue I have edited in this temporary capacity but pressure of other commitments made me tell the committee at a recent meeting that this was the last issue I would be able to edit.

It is now very urgent that somebody comes forward if the Journal - which is the mouthpiece of our Society - is to continue. If you would like to know more about what the task involves please have a word with me, or another member of the committee.

Peter Esclemont

SURNAMES

Did you know that HETHRES and PLEACHERS are terms used in hedgelaying, and mean respectively "stake cut from long stave", and "stave which have been cut and bent, to be held in place by stakes".

(There is a Hetherman in the local telephone directory).

Contributed by Mrs. E.M. Parrin, from "Woman's Realm" magazine.

SOCIETY NEWS AND NOTICES

Subscriptions for the year 1981/82 are now due and should be sent to the Treasurer, Eric Whittleton, as soon as possible. Eric's address is 104 Rowlands Avenue, Hatch End, Pinner, Middlesex and the rates of sub. are the same as last year - £4 for Individual or Corporate membership and £5 for Family membership.

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The programme for the rest of 1981 is as follows:-

- 11th September - Talk by Mr. Alan Read on 'Interesting books on my shelf'.
- 9th October - Annual General Meeting followed by an Heirlooms evening.
- 13th November - Talk by Dr. Christopher Watts on 'Cockney Records'.
- 11th December - Christmas Social Evening.

All these Friday evening meetings will be held at Westfield School, College Road, Harrow and will start at 8 p.m. Our meeting room is usually open by 7.30 p.m. and is available then for members to meet and to get to know each other better. This extra half hour also gives an opportunity to examine the bookstall and the journals we receive from other societies.

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As members of the Federation of Family History Societies we give copies of our Journal to a number of other societies and also receive copies of their Journals in return. At present Eric Whittleton is acting as librarian and brings these Journals to our monthly meetings. Members who wish to borrow one (or more) of these Journals may do so on request.

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Our third Annual General Meeting will be held on 9th October at which brief reports on the last year's activities will be given and a new committee will be elected. Although all the present committee are willing to stand for re-election this does not mean that you have to re-elect them! In any event they hope that one or two more members will be willing to serve on the Committee so that the work can be shared round without it becoming too much of a burden for any one member. If you want to know more about what is involved please speak to any of the present committee members. Their names are on the inside cover of this Journal and you can spot them at meetings by the badges they wear.

After the formal business of the AGM has been completed we shall be holding another heirlooms evening. This will take the same form as the previous heirlooms evening about 18 months ago, but for those who were not present then, a few words of explanation. We ask all members to bring along some family heirlooms for others to see, and to say a few words about the heirloom. Last time we had family bibles, samplers, pictures, diaries, etc on display - as well as a silver memorial plate. As they say in other places - all contributions gratefully accepted - and remember the evening can only be a success if as many members as possible bring along an heirloom. This is your chance to show off a prized family possession.

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Our Christmas social this year will be on Friday 11th December. These socials have always been enjoyable and give members a chance to mix with other members - something that there never seems to be time to do at our normal meetings. For those who have not been able to get along before there is seasonal fare - mince pie, sausage rolls, cakes as well as wine and squash. There are also one or two simple quizzes with a genealogical flavour. But the main purpose of the evening is to spend a social evening with other members of the Society.

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We are grateful to Mrs. Margaret Monger for donating the following books to the Society's library:-

- Parish Registers in the Essex Record Office 1980
- Short guide for Genealogists (Ipswich & E. Suffolk Record Office, 1969)
- Handlist of M.S. in Guildhall Library of "London Rate Assessments and Inhabitants Lists. (1961)
- Handlist of Guildhall Library: "Registers of the Church of England Parishes within the City: with other registers as in 1967
- Cumbria Archives for genealogy in Cumbria and Westmorland, listing many sources, revised to 1978.
- Salisbury Diocesan Record Office. Transcripts of Parish Registers Wiltshire and Berkshire. Also of 'Peculiar' - Records of the Bishop of Salisbury.
- A Key to Boyd's Marriage Index. 2nd Edition revised. (The Index is at the Society of Genealogists and at the Guildhall, London).

All Saints, Farrow Weald is a fairly modern church with a beautiful tree-lined avenue from the lych gate to the church doors. The 'old' grave-yard is around the church and well tended. There are tomb-stones from the middle 1800s that are interspersed with modern memorial plaques. Apart from one or two stones that are badly weathered it is a recorder's dream.

However the 'new' grave-yard on the opposite side of the main road is another story. This was first brought to our attention by some local press reports early in 1980. The reports complained about how overgrown it had become and the problems it was causing residents who used a path through the grave-yard as a short cut to a near-by bus stop.

As a result the local Authority used a team of Youth Offenders during the summer to clear the grave-yard. They attacked trees, shrubs and brambles to reveal some 480 tomb stones.

In the spring of this year a first survey and plan was made. At the time the ground was very wet but clear of heavy undergrowth. It was a different story in June when recording first started - grass and weeds had grown up and in places it was 4 or 5 feet high. We know from the plans where the tomb stones should be but it was like a jungle safari cutting a path to find them!

Thanks to willing workers with shears and rip-hooks it has now been recorded. In the 'old' grave-yard there are only some 85 left of a total of 250 to complete the initial recording of both grave-yards.

The rough notes now need to be typed, a simple job for cold, wet winter evenings - any volunteers will be welcome.

Many thanks to all who helped; our next project will be St. John's in Wentley.

REPORTS ON MEMBERS' MEETINGS

MARCH MEETING

MEMBERS WORKSHOP

At the March meeting Miss I. Moody and Mr. E. Howard formed a panel to answer members queries and the various questions and answers are briefly given below.

- Q. From marriage and death certificates I can deduce a date of birth about 1865 but I cannot find any reference in the indexes at St. Catherine's House; is there anywhere else I can look.
- A. The registration of births was not compulsory until 1875 and thus the indexes are not always complete, but if you know the district try the Registrar of the District it may be recorded there.
- It is also possible that the birth was registered under a 'wrong' name - check sound-alike names.
- Q. Would Bishop's transcripts help trace births after 1837.
- A. Baptismal registers usually continued until 1890/60 but gradually faded away, Bishop's transcripts are generally not very complete.
- Q. If registration of births not compulsory until 1875 what rules apply to Civil registration of marriages and deaths.
- A. From 1837 a death certificate was a legal requirement for burial thus registers complete (unless your ancestor was the victim of an undiscovered murder!)
Legal marriages have been recorded since 1794 - Hardwick Act and in the Civil system since 1837.
When Religious Law forbade a marriage, i.e. inter family marriages of Jews, these were often registered abroad.
- Q. With Civil marriages in Churches does the Vicar keep a copy of the Certificate.
- A. There are three copies, one for the parties involved, one for the local Registrar and one for the Vicar.
- Q. Where are births, marriages and deaths recorded for British Armies of occupation.
- A. All Military and Consular records are under 'Registered Abroad' indexes in the Civil registration, but civilians abroad may not be registered at the Consulate.

- Q. Is the information on Civil registration certificates 100% reliable.
- A. The certificate you get is only a 'true copy' of the register, and there may well have been errors when the register was completed.
With some illegitimate births the father's name is used, 'by declaration' when both the father and mother must be present at the registration.
- Q. How can you trace if there has been a change of surname.
- A. Legally you can change your name to suit yourself provided it is not for criminal purposes.
From 1800-1900 these legally announced have been indexed by Phillips.
Also in early times an 'alias' was not always for criminal purposes but a record of a more common name by which a person was known.
- Q. I have traced a family to a village in Norfolk where the children were baptised in about 1780 but I cannot find the marriage, where else can I look.
- A. Only by hard work, try the Local record office - Norfolk has Bishop's transcripts filed in parsonages every 7 years. Norfolk L.R.O. is well served and worth searching.
- Q. I have a similar problem in Sussex, is it easier to find the information from wills.
- A. In Sussex from 1780 wills were more often proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury instead of locally - these wills are on microfilm at the Society of Genealogists.
- Q. Could anyone prove a will at the P.C.C.
- A. Subject to rules of property an executor could prove a will in any superior Court.
- Q. What is the Mormon microfiche.
- A. The Mormons, as part of their religion trace their family in order to baptise them into the Mormon faith.
They only record births and marriages (and deaths only if before 8 years old). These are put onto a computer file and the print-outs are available on microfilm in various libraries. The Mormon Library is in Exhibition Road, S.W.3. They have an index of everything available at the computer complex in Salt Lake City, U.S.A - poll books, wills, etc. and for a fee they will send away for the information. The file is not complete, there are some errors and the index is phonetic.

Report continues on page 87

APRIL MEETING

SOME PINNER FAMILIES - Mrs. Pat Clarke

At this meeting we had a talk by the research secretary of the Pinner Local History Society which centred round the history of a charming old Pinner cottage, East End Farm Cottage. Mrs. Clarke told us that it was her love of old cottages, and this one in particular, that had led her to research the families that had lived in this cottage over the centuries.

Research had shown that the house had been built in the 15th century as a Hall-house with one open fire in the middle of the main room, the Hall. Traces of wall paintings had also been found but these paintings had shown hunting scenes and not the more common religious scenes.

East End Farm had ceased to be a working farm as recently as 1936 and the last farmer was Henry Hedges. Until 1917 the Hedges had been tenant farmers but in that year they bought the farm from Miss Elizabeth Pye. The Pye family had bought the farm from the Lords of the Manor in 1871.

The first reference Mrs. Clarke had found to the Hedges family at the Cottage was in the 1851 Census. At that time the family consisted of William, his wife Martha (nee Ashridge) and their four eldest children. More children were born later. William and Martha were married at Huislip in 1841. The first time the Hedges family appeared in the Pinner records was in 1792 when John Hedges was baptised. Two years later his younger brother, James, was baptised. James was married in 1815 at Huislip to Sarah Woodley and on Christmas Eve 1815 their first child, William, was born. At the time of the 1841 census James and his family were at Weatherleys Farm, a farm of 15 acres.

Prior to being occupied by the Hedges family the Cottage had been occupied by the Street family, one of the old Pinner families with references being found as early as the 14th century. Indeed this family might be able to claim the record for being in Pinner for the longest recorded period. Before the Streets the Cottage had been occupied by the Stanborough family for a number of generations; this family had held 3 or 4 different head tenancies in the area. Mrs. Clarke had found the Stanboroughs a difficult family to research as they only seemed to use three christian names for the boys - Robert, Richard and Joseph. The last Stanborough to be farming at East End was Robert who died in 1725 and left the farm to his 13 year old daughter, Sarah. It seemed probable that this was the same person as the Sarah Street

who was there as Sarah Street in 1780 (the wife of Henry Street). Eventually Mrs. Clarke tracked down the marriage of Henry Street of Pinner to Sarah Stanborough of Pinner at St. James, Clerkenwell on 7 December, 1736 with the aid of the OVI. The Stanborough family had all died out by the mid 19th century.

As part of their research, the Pinner Local History Society have reconstructed a map of 16th century Pinner from a number of available sources; this shows the area around East End Farm as owned by the Reading family. So, the next stage in Mrs. Clarke's research was to investigate that family - another important family in the life of Pinner as they had been tenants at Headstone (where they were the Archbishop's bailiffs), Pinner Wood and Sweetmans. East End Farm land had been in the hands of the Sweetmans branch of the Readings by 1490 and then passed to the Headstone branch. Mrs. Clarke told us that one of the early references she had found to the Reading family was in the Court Rolls when John Reading was fined 14/10d for cutting down trees that were not his.

MAY MEETING

QUARTER SESSIONS AND ASSIZES

David Hawkins gave an informative talk on Quarter Sessions and Assizes. All criminal Registers are kept at New 1805 - 1835 by county.

Quarter Sessions were held every three months, and Assizes were held twice a year.

These records give the place, time, name and sentence.

Quarter Sessions cover applications for Non-Conformist Churches, baking bread, brewing beer etc., Removal Orders, Widening roads, Prison records will give place and date of birth. Calendars of Prisoners, printed late 18th century onwards will give a great deal of information including age. These records if you are lucky enough to find an ancestor who was a criminal give an insight to the person's profession. One interesting point that was mentioned was against the law not to have a name and address on a farm cart, the forerunner of licence plates!

The meeting concluded in Mr. Hawkins answering a number of interesting questions.

JUNE MEETING

RECORDS OF THE LAMBETH PALACE LIBRARY - Miss Melanie Barber, Deputy Librarian and Archivist of Lambeth Palace Library

Miss Barber concentrated on talking about the post-Restoration records, since these survive as a continuous series from that date, and their language and handwriting are easier for the layman to interpret than are those of earlier records. The Library was established in 1610 under the will of Archbishop Bancroft, and contains much of interest to the family historian. Marriage allegations and bonds provide a wealth of biographical detail. These were necessary before marriage licences could be issued, which enabled - and still do enable - couples to marry quickly without banns being read. Pre-1754 common licences enabled couples to marry outside their parish, but Lord Hardwicke's Marriage Act of 1753 stipulated that the marriage must take place within the parish of one, at least, of the parties (although by 1823 a residential qualification of only 15 days was needed). By the mid 18th Century age is no longer given on the allegations, except in the case of minors. The bonds, which before 1823 had to be entered into as well as the allegations, are not so informative. There are indexes to the allegations at the Library.

The Library holds original wills proved in the Deaneries of Croydon (which includes Harrow) and Arches, and registered copies of wills proved in the Deanery of Shoreham (originals are in the Kent Record Office). These three Deaneries are Peculiars of the Archbishop of Canterbury. They were abolished in the 1840s, although the wills begin to peter out before 1750. Some of the wills include inventories.

There are also the records of the Court of Arches, which was the Court of Appeal for the entire Province of Canterbury, and covered all matters connected with the clergy and also secular disputes. Divorces granted by the Court did not allow either party to re-marry during the other's lifetime. The Court of Arches material is extensive but varied in quality, some records giving only bare details of a case, others being most comprehensive. Up to 1733 the proceedings are in Latin, although depositions are in English. The Library has an index to the Court of Arches' Cases, 1660 - 1913.

Among other material held by the Library are many records of the clergy generally and in particular those of Canterbury and the Peculiars. Clerical appointments in the West Indies and American Colonies have been indexed by Professor N.W. Nanrose. There are a few burial and marriage registers of English communities abroad - e.g. Bora, Shanghai, Shantung.

JULY MEETING

ONE NAME STUDIES - Mr. Fred Filby

Mr. Filby started by reminding those of us who research all of our ancestral lines that we could be hunting for 194, 217, 728 different names by the time we reach back to 1066 although he did point out that there were only about 4 million people in England at that time.

His interest in family history and in the name of Filby started with one Ellsworth L. Filby of Kansas City who was interested in finding his great-grandfather who had emigrated to America. He had looked up all the Filbys in the English Telephone directories and arranged a meeting of Filbys at Filby Church, Norfolk where about 300 people turned up. This started his recording all references to the Filby family and starting the Filby Association. From the display of his books which he brought with him he had done an incredible amount of work. One book was extractions from all the birth indices of the G.R.O. and he said he had others for marriages and deaths.

The requirement for registering a 'one name family study' was:-

1. That all entries from the GBO indexes should be listed.
2. To extract all references to the name from the POC Will indexes up to 1900.
3. To extract all the entries in the National Telephone Directories.

There are at present about 700 names registered and it is growing by about 100 names per year. The aim is to have every name registered eventually.

Ellsworth Filby invited our speaker over to the United States and took him on a tour of the American West including a visit to Salt Lake City. On a second visit following Ellsworth's death he paid a second visit to Salt Lake City and met the Head of the Genealogical Dept. of the Mormons who showed him their computer and microfiche. It so impressed him that he arranged to buy a copy for the Society of Genealogists. This was the first to be seen in this country and now of course many other organisations hold copies.

Mr. Filby explained that the microfiche was a superb aid to a one name study group as the names in a county are already grouped in alphabetical order.

FEDERATION WEEKEND AT BIRMINGHAM - APRIL 1981

The week-end began on Friday evening with an illustrated talk by Mr. W.P. Pardee on Witley Court, one of the large mansions in the area.

Following coffee on the Saturday morning the group was welcomed by Lt Col Iain Swinerton, President of the Birmingham and Midland Society in the Newarth Building. Our first lecture by Professor R.H. Hilton was entitled "Names associated with Wat Tyler and the Peasants' Revolt" and was very well attended. The speaker is Professor of Medieval Social History in the University of Birmingham and his talk concentrated on medieval peasant movements and the English uprising of 1381. The lecture provided an insight into life in the areas covering Kent, Sussex, London and parts of East Anglia during this period. Surprisingly enough, some surnames of those taking part are to be seen in surviving records.

Mr. Francis Borton's discussion on his research work into descendants of those taking part in the Charge of the Light Brigade drew a large audience. He has done considerable work on this particular subject and those people fortunate to hear him will doubtless remember the detailed information he was able to provide. There are tentative plans for the publication of a book on the subject and the methods of research should be most interesting.

A talk by Mr. Sharp, a member of the host society, on "Chosen Names" took us back to the study of Christian names in England during the pre-Reformation times 7th - 16th centuries and brought us right up to the 19th century.

Another talk by Mr. David Wilson on "Vital Statistics of Ancestors" brought the day's lecture proceedings to an end. The children who had been taken to Stratford on Avon for the day returned and met up with their respective parents for an evening meal.

Approximately 240 people were at the Conference Dinner that evening. As is frequently evident at these gatherings old acquaintances were renewed and all of the world's genealogical problems were solved!

On Sunday after breakfast a short church service was held with some people then proceeding to the AGM and Council Meeting of the Federation; others went to hear Mr. P.C. Maxwell speak on "Those Elusive Ancestors".

Following coffee Dr. A.P. Joseph spoke on "Jewish Records".

Joan & Stan Barker

ON THE BOOKSHELF

THE FAMILY HISTORY BOOK, by Stella Colwell. Fbaidon Press, Oxford. 1980.
176pp., 29.95

Don Steel's book "Discovering your Family History" (BBC Publications) has been on sale at the Society's bookstall for the last few months. Based on the television series featuring Gordon Honeycombe, it has received favourable comment from all sides.

This book now has a companion, but obtainable only as a hard-back and at a price that makes it a luxury for many family historians. This is reflected in its "coffee-table" style, and with a page size of 11 x 8½ inches there could be a problem in bookshelf storage.

Stella Colwell spoke to our Society at the March 1980 meeting, and a good attendance of members learned at first-hand of her wide knowledge of the many records available to the family historian and could be grateful for the information she imparted. This has now been put into print and even if we do not use the twelve pages provided for recording a pedigree there is no doubt that this book, its bibliography, and its index, will be most useful for reference.

A first impression suggests too many illustrations; some 136 on the 176 pages. But many are useful and all are well reproduced. An archive reference number is given to many; a commendable point. A ship's passenger list to Australia, for example, has the reference "New, Public Record Office, B7 27/32." There is a drawing of the search room at Somerset House in 1875 which shows a scene much the same today except we are now faced with many more calendars of Mills. However the serious genealogist buys a book for its useful contents and while this book covers a very wide field it gives the impression of being written to give encouragement to a newcomer. We have all been beginners at some time and might then have welcomed such an easily read book, and one artistically laid out with plenty of "white-space" to prevent overcrowding of the pages.

The author has given her time to the Executive Committee of the Society of Genealogists and has worked at the College of Arms. This is appreciated when reading the last of the seven chapters - Heraldry; an excellent introduction to an often neglected subject.

As a "sussing-up" there is good advice to those working on a pedigree. "The important thing is to leave no stone unturned and to seek for clues to other sources in the information you already have. You will never stop discovering new leads and new sources to be explored, so that you can never say that the pedigree is complete".

E.N.

The book is available for reference at the Harrow (Civic Centre) library.
Ref. 929. 1.

HELP WANTED

Do you want help in Wiltshire? Research in Wiltshire C.R.O. can be undertaken in return for your help in researching in St. John's Church, Kennel Green Parish Registers. Contacts Mrs. B. Dixon, Martins, Whitehill, Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire.

Any information about the marriage of JACOB TURNER to ELIZABETH HASWELL c1836 or earlier. His son JACOB JAMES TURNER b.21 July 1857 at 9, Langton Ave., Saint Luke, Middlesex. City Road Registration Office. Reply to:- Thomas Hewitt, 36 Sherburn Way, Less Lane Estate, Felling, Gateshead, NE10 6RZ.

Any information on family of CHARLES COCKER (or Coker) Boot and shoe manufacturer of 1, York St., Garden Town - 1851 census; he was then 27, born Devon. Wife HARRIET SUPPLING aged 26, born Norfolk. Issue (1851) CHARLES aged 2. WALTER GEORGE aged 1. Mother-in-law MARY SUPPLING born Norfolk believed died Stepney Sept. 1890 aged 94. WALTER GEORGE then a piano tuner arrived New Zealand 1875. Reply to:- R.K. Harding, 1/27 Saltham Road, Milford, Auckland 9, New Zealand. (Postage repaid).

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

MEMBERS INTERESTS

MR. FRANK TURNER

I first thought of studying Family History when I discovered a birth certificate of my grandfather (TURNER) among some papers but it wasn't until I was convalescing five years ago that I obtained a book from the local library on how to go about it and set off to the G.R.O. to see what I could find. I have not progressed very far on that line but discovered many details of the life of his father as he was a Marine. Other names of interest are KASLEN - found lots in a little village near Devizes called All Cannings and FIRKINS - name appears to originate in Herefordshire.

I have also researched some of my wife's lines - SCARISBERGH from Lancashire and DELAPOSS - came from France in 1706 but appear to have disappeared from the British telephone directories now.

Ought to try and concentrate on one but which should I pick?

MR. W.H. (BOB) DEVIALL

I commenced tracing my male line in 1965, having been introduced to the subject by a colleague at work, who was engaged on the firm's history.

From about 1971 the matter lay fallow until I was introduced to the OXFES last year - and that was that!

My main problem is caused by the 50 varieties of spelling of my name which I have accumulated: the eldest of the current DEVIALLS I have been able to trace is my great great grandfather JOHN, born in the Stafford area around 1775-1780, which is where I have become bogged down.

Have therefore started working in reverse, toward the present day and have some 200 descendants logged, although not all yet fitted into the family tree.

On becoming member No. 1272 of the Devon Family History Society about 6 months ago (the DeWiall's having been resident there since beginning of 19th Century) I offered to obtain certs for members from St. Catherine's House on a cost and expenses basis.

My first 'customer' was from Birmingham, then from the Isle of Lewis followed by several from Devon. The most recent came from Ontario, Canada and I was fortunate to find all 3 certificates requested.

It is very much a case of taking the rough with the smooth, as one cannot be certain as to the accuracy of the information given. In one instance a precise date and place were given but no traces; on the other hand sometimes luck is on your side when only an approximate area and date are given.

One thing it has resulted in is several new friends scattered around, which all helps to make the effort worth while.

MRS. EILEEN PERRIN (nee COAN)

CHANGING NAMES ON MARRIAGE - From my notes, I have picked out names that my family COAN have married, and looked them up in our London and Middlesex Genealogical Directory. Here are listed names of fellow members interested in these other surnames. I shall pass on my notes on the marriages, I hope to have a little information back on offspring.

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

... ..

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members who have joined the Society in recent months:-

- 112 Mr. L.J. Pitt, 1 Lancaster Road, North Harrow, Middlesex, HA2 7BN
- 113 Mrs. M.R. Pitt, as above.
- 114 Mr. R. Tompkins, 5 Saddlers Kew, Egham, Surrey, Weybridge, Middlesex.
- 115 Miss F.D. Pittman, 21 Welbeck Road, West Harrow, Middlesex, HA2 0RN
- 116 Mr. V.H. Danner, 121 Acornel Drive, Harrow, Middlesex HA2 6PW
- 117 Mr. R.C. Tribbick, 75 Byron Road, Wembley, Middlesex, HA0 3PS
- 118 Mrs. T.M. Williams, 87 Pasture Road, North Wembley, Middlesex, HA0 3JW
- 119 Mr. S. Cooper, 22 Lece Avenue, Northwood, Middlesex, HA6 1WT
- 120 Mr. G. Jones, 95 Oakington Avenue, Wembley Park, Middlesex, HA9 5RY
- 121 Mrs. D.E. Jones, as above.
- 122 Mr. A.J.W. Messenger, 3 Kitebrook Cottages, Norton in Marsh, Glos. GL56 0RN
- 123 Mrs. K. Osborne, 10 The Close, Rayners Lane, Pinner, Middlesex.
- 124 Mr. E.L. Sear, 3 Christchurch Avenue, Brenton, Middlesex.

DRAMA IN THE VESTRY

In his invaluable book "The Parish Chest", W.E. Sate writes of the Parish Clerk - "this functionary, often (in his own estimation) second in importance to no one in the parish, is a study in himself." Many years ago such a study was written by P.H. Ditchfield, author of several books on local history.

His book "The Parish Clerk" (Nathson, 1907) is well worth reading today if a copy can be found. Those who have suffered from unusual entries in a parish register may like to read an extract from the author's chapter on this subject.

"Sometimes litigants have sought to remove troublesome entries in those invaluable books which record with equal impartiality the entrance into the world and the departure from it of peer or peasant. And in such dramas the clerk frequently appears. The old man has to be bribed or snajoled to allow the books to be tampered with. A stranger arrives one evening at Rochester, and demands of the clerk to be shown the registers. The stranger finds the entry upon which such depends. In its present form it does not support his case. It must be altered in order to meet his requirements. The clerk hovers about the vestry, alert, vigilant. He must be got rid of. The stranger proposes various inducements; the temptation of a comfortable seat in a cosy corner of the nearest inn, a stimulating glass, but all in vain. There is something suspicious about the stranger's looks and manners; so the clerk thinks. He sticks to his elbow like a leech, and nothing can shake him off. At length the stranger offers the poor clerk a goodly bribe if only he will help him to alter a few words in that all-important register. I am not sure whether the clerk yielded to the temptation.

There was a still more dramatic scene in the old vestry of Lainston Church, where a few years previously a Miss Chadleigh had been married to Lieutenant Hervey. This young lady, who was not remarkable for her virtue, arrived one day at the church accompanied by a fascinating friend who, while Mrs. Hervey examined the register, exercised her blandishments on the clerk. She expressed much interest in the church, and asked him endless questions about its architecture, the state of his health, his family, his duties; and while this little by-play was proceeding Mrs. Hervey was carefully and noiselessly cutting out the page in the register which contained the entry of her marriage. Having

removed the tell-tale page she hastily closed the book, summoned her fascinating friend, and hastened back to London. The clerk, still thinking of the beautiful lady who had been so friendly and given him such a handsome present, locked the safe, and never discovered the theft. But time brought its revenge. Lieutenant Hervey succeeded unexpectedly to the title of the earldom of Bristol. His wife was overcome with remorse. By her foolish scheme she had sacrificed a coronet. That missing paper must be restored; and so the lady pays another visit to Lainston Church, on this occasion in the company of a lawyer. The old clerk unlocks again the parish chest. The books are again produced; confession is made of the former theft; the lawyer looks threateningly at the clerk, and tells him that if it should ever be discovered he will suffer as an accomplice; and then, with the promise of a substantial bribe, the clerk consents to give his aid. The missing paper is produced and deftly inserted in its former place in the book, and Miss Chadleigh becomes the Countess of Bristol. It is a curious story, but it has the merit of being true."

MARCH HOLDING continued from page 76

- Q. What is the 'modern' Domesday book.
- A. This is a return of owners of land in 1873 for England and Wales and refers to freeholders of over 1 acre of land; copies are at Sec. of Gen., Somerset House, and the P.R.O.
- Q. What recent Army records are available.
- A. The Army records centre at Hayes say that records are closed from 1914, but now being 'waded' for 1914-1917. The centre at Hayes may help if you are a direct descendant or you may find the Regimental records will help.

AGM AND COUNCIL MEETING OF FEDERATION OF FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETIES -
BIRMINGHAM, APRIL 1981

At the AGM, various constitutional amendments to the FFHS Constitution were proposed, solely to meet the requirements of the Charity Commissioners and these were all passed without comment.

The Chairman's Report mentioned that membership of the FFHS had risen considerably and possibly in a few years the total of member societies could be up to 500! We are deeply indebted to all those who help to keep the FFHS going with various projects. The N.I. 5-year project has been disappointing and many more helpers were required if this is to be achieved before vandalism, weather and destruction in general set in. Mention was again made of the exchange of journals between societies on a large scale than at present. Central Middlesex FHS stated that being a small society, funds would not allow greater exchange than at present existed. The Treasurer said the FFHS would consider giving help in such deserving cases if societies would write in on this matter.

The Secretary's Annual Report was encouraging with many new societies joining, particularly from abroad. Among the principal societies recently joined were the Wiltshire, Seattle USA and Prince Edward Island, Canada. Not every one who applied to join was admitted if it was considered inappropriate. A few societies have still not joined in on the insurance scheme available to them.

At the election of Officers and Executive Committee Mr. Patrick Palgrave Moore stood down as Chairman and his position was filled by Mr. Colin R. Chapman, previously General Secretary. Mr. Derek Palgrave is now Vice Chairman, Mrs. A. Chiswell, Secretary and Mr. R. Senter continues as Treasurer. The following will serve on the Executive Committee, Mrs. P.K. Litten, Mrs. G. Mansfield, Mr. G. Felling, Mr. J.L. Raymont and Mrs. P.A. Saul; Mr. P. Elby not seeking re-election.

Extra help had been needed to continue the running of the organization as we now have 131 member societies and the attendant correspondence is voluminous. The Treasurer reported it had been decided not to increase subscriptions; some of the larger societies had been kind enough to make donations.

Thanks were given to all the Officers and members of the Executive Committee. The next AGM to be held on 4 April 1982 at Lincoln.

At the Council Meeting the new Chairman welcomed new member societies and it was confirmed that Mrs. Ann Chiswell would continue to be the Publications Secretary. Derek Palgrave said that Family History News & Digest had a circulation of about 3,000 now and "Beginning Your Family History" is still having enormous success. The Project Co-ordinator, John Raymont, spoke of a project he had undertaken with regard to liaison between the Federation and Record Offices. It was suggested if you have problems with any particular Record Office write to the Chief Officer of the Authority concerned. It had been reported that a certain Record Office now charged for access. The Educational Liaison Officer reported that Family History classes continued to go well and that about 130 have taken place during the past two years. Discussion took place on the possibility of introducing 'D' level studies for family history.

The Elizabeth Simpson award for 1980/81 went to the Genealogical Society of Victoria, Australia but Mrs. Simpson mentioned there were not as many contestants for the award this time. It was agreed the award would continue in its present form for the time being.

West Surrey FHS will be the hosts for the Second British Family History Conference from 17-21 September 1982 which will be held at Guildford University.

Agreement was reached that a contribution should be made towards the expenses of the official representative to the National Genealogical Society meeting in Atlanta, Georgia.

Discussion took place on the possibility of a new Federation logo. On the subject of a fares pool feasibility for representatives of societies attending the AGM and Council Meetings it was felt this was a matter for each individual society to decide.

The next Council Meeting is to take place at Cheltenham on 6 September 1981.

The meeting closed with the Chairman thanking the B&F&G&H for their hard work in making it such a successful conference.

JOAN AND STAN MARKEE

NOTES AND NEWS

The 1881 Census for England and Wales will be released on 4th January 1982 and at this stage it is not clear how quickly local libraries will be able to get copies. However with the increasing interest in genealogy in the last ten years there will clearly be a great rush to examine the 1881 census returns when they are made available. The FRO is anxious to have all large towns strict indexed for all years to speed searches. Any member who could help with this very useful project should let the secretary know.

... ..

Every winter there are a number of evening classes organized by the University of London Extra Mural Department, WEA and similar bodies. Courses during the coming winter include:

From Countryside to Suburb - a practical investigation of the records of a Middlesex parish in the 19th century. This course will be held at the Grange Museum, Beacons on Thursday evenings commencing 24th September.

The Medieval Parish Church - This course will be on Wednesday evenings commencing 23rd September and be held at Ealing Road Library, Wembley. Further details of both these courses can be obtained from the Grange Museum.

Introduction to Genealogy and Advanced Genealogy. These two parallel courses for which early enrolment is advised will be held at Norley College, Westminster Bridge Road, on Tuesday evenings from 6.30 to 8.30 p.m.; they are organised by the Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies of Canterbury. The Institute is also arranging six linked Saturday day schools at Norley College commencing 10th October (10.30 a.m. - 4.30 p.m.) on Documentation of Family and Local History.

London Transport and growth in 19th and 20th centuries is the title of a series of six lectures to be held on Monday evenings from 7.45 p.m. to 9.45 p.m. at Copland School, Wembley commencing on 21st September. This series is organised by the Wembley branch of the WEA.

... ..

Leabeth Palace Library, which we heard about at our June meeting is open to bona fide students from Monday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. New readers are required to provide a letter of introduction from a person or institution of recognised standing. The entrance to the library is in Leabeth Palace Road. The telephone number is 988 6222.

GFI NOW IGI

Members who have become used to seeing the initials GFI used for the vast index of microfilmed Parish Register entries of Marriage and baptisms extracted by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints may be interested that it is now known as the "Mormon Church International Genealogical Index", abbreviated to 'IGI'.

... ..

The Metropolitan Railway runs through much of London and Central Middlesex in which our members are concerned. It is noted that on Platform 5, Baker Street Station, there is a list of 139 names on a memorial to those of the Metropolitan Railway Company who fell in the 1914 - 1918 war.

... ..

The records of the Pinner Burial Board relating to the old cemetery have been deposited at the Harrow Local History Library. Among the items are a Day book of the Board (1860-1919), records of Grave grants, and five large detailed plans. Of particular interest is the record of burials in the non-conformist section, which is now being indexed by the M.I. group.

... ..

Members who wish to carry out research in the Manchester area might like to know that Mrs. Bette Hall of 2 Alderley Road, South Haddish, Stockport (Telephone 061-480 2934) is willing to offer overnight accommodation to fellow family historians at a nominal charge.

... ..

The following books which have been published in recent months may be of interest to members:-

From Rural Middlesex to London Borough - the growth and development of Harrow illustrated with maps. This fascinating paper back illustrating the history of Harrow is available from libraries in the Borough at a price of £3.

Census Returns on Microfilm (£1.20)

Bishops Transcripts and Marriage Licences (£1) Two more useful guides produced by Jeremy Gibson giving details of the libraries and record offices which hold copies of these documents. Copies of the guides are available on the Society's bookstall at meetings.

MICRO CHIP GENEALOGY

Continued from Page 42 (Vol 2 No. 2)

The amount of information available in the computer file of the Pinner Census returns is best explained from the details given in the 'print-out' pages. For ease of explanation in 'Greentrees' a sample line has been put into tabular form.

61806201 This code gives Census year 1861/ Enumeration District B/
Source Code: the first three figures being the 'Family'
reference and the last two the position in the enumeration.

WEST END ROAD Address/ Surname/ First name(s)

AMBRIDGE

JOSEPH

H0M 39064 First letter: position in family (H = head)
Second letter: Status (M = married)
Third letter: Sex (M = male)
First two figures: Age
Second two figures: Total of family
Final figure : Class of skill (five classes)

AB1 An occupation coding (Booth-Armstrong System)

AG.LAB Census named occupation.

PINNER. Place of birth/ County.

WIDDX.

It will be realised that some of the coded information is designed to analyse the socio-economic pattern of the village at a time of major change. Nevertheless the filed information can be of immense value to the family historian and a single reference code can produce a print-out of one family name in all available four censuses; soon to be extended to five.

Horizons are still widening and the way is open for other records to be similarly processed. The Society of Genealogists have encouraged new ideas and suggestions have been printed in the Society's magazine. Mr. I.B. Harrison has offered a coding system of eighty characters - "The Genex Code." He has already experimented with the Uxbridge Rate Book of 1838, the Medal Roll of the Royal Navy 1793-1827, Emigrants to Adelaide and some M.I. records. It is certain that the 'micro-chip' will be of some importance in future genealogical research. It is to be hoped that uniform programmes will be devised to make this straightforward.