



GREENTREES

THE JOURNAL OF THE
CENTRAL MIDDLESEX
FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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

1702

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CENTRAL MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

(Founded 1978)

COMMITTEE 1981/82

Chairman: Miss Susan Cooper, 6 Athens Close, Byron Hill Road, Harrow,
Middlesex. Tel: 01-422 9694

Secretary: Mr Tony Francis, 4 Addiscombe Close, Kenton, Middlesex.
Tel: 01-907 5908

Treasurer: Mr Eric Whittleton, 104 Howlands Avenue, Hatch End, Pinner,
Middlesex. Tel: 01-428 2514

Members: Mr Peter Esslemont 01-904 8971
Mr Philip Raig 01-904 9296
Mrs Joan Marker 01-866 8126
Mrs Sue Thomas 01-863 1881
Mrs Evelyn Todd 01-573 8571

Subscriptions for year to 31st August 1982:

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|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| (a) <u>Individual Membership</u> | £4.00 |
| Includes one copy per issue of the Journal | |
| (b) <u>Family Membership</u> | £5.00 |
| For 2 or more related persons living together
and includes one copy per issue of the Journal | |
| (c) <u>Corporate Membership</u> | £4.00 |

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 given above; correspondence relating to membership should be sent to the Membership Secretary, Mrs J Marker at 25 Gladsdale Drive, Pinner, Middlesex.

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

WELCOME TO THE PRESIDENT

The Central Middlesex Family History Society is pleased to announce that Miss Isabel Mardy has kindly accepted the post of President to the Society. Miss Mardy is well-known in Family History circles. Being a Fellow of the Society of Genealogists, she has served on its Executive Committee for 8 years and has held the post of Chairman of the Libraries and the General Purposes Committees. She is currently serving on the Society's Lecture Committee.

Miss Mardy has researched her own family history thoroughly. She has traced her mother's ancestry to Abraham of Bohemia, Prefect of the Jews of Poland in the fifteenth century. She has included in her searches other families (including that of the Scribe of Amsterdam) some of whose members married into her main pedigree and came to England throughout the eighteenth century. Having researched for so long, Miss Mardy is now a mine of information on Jewish records: she has an index of some 14,000 - 15,000 slips and is quite willing for anyone to peruse her records for that Jewish ancestor they cannot quite trace.

Her talent for locating relatives proved most useful in her work as Children's Officer for the Borough of Bournemouth (a post she held for 17 years until her retirement in 1965). It is her proud boast that she was always able to find the lost relatives of her children, by tracing them not only in Britain, but also overseas.

After graduating with a London University degree in Mathematics, Miss Mardy worked for 6 years with the East End Dockland Settlement and also worked for many years as Director of the Guardianship Society before taking up her post in Bournemouth. She has also undertaken voluntary work in Holloway Prison.

Clearly, a lady of many talents. We welcome Miss Mardy to the Presidency of the Society and we look forward to a long and happy association together.

NOTES AND NOTICES

SOCIETY MEETINGS

Meetings of the Society will continue to be held on the second Friday of each month at 8 p.m. at Heathfield School, College Road, Harrow - opposite Harrow-on-the-Hill Station.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions for the year 1981/2 are now due and should be sent to the Treasurer. Details of rates and Treasurer's address inside front cover.

PRESENTATION

We are grateful for the following items presented to the Society's Library by Mrs Erica Parker:

"The Local Historian", Vol. 14 (Nos. 3-6, Aug. 1980 - May 1981).

We have mentioned this publication previously in these pages and recommended it to family historians. The issue for February 1981 gives an account of the Federation of Family History Societies in an article by Elizabeth Simpson, a Vice-President of the Federation.

STRAYS

Committee Member, Sue Thomas, is compiling an index of Strays. Strays are names of people who have some connection with the area covered by our Society which other Societies have come across in their research and have forwarded the details to us. When compiled the index will be a useful addition to the Society's research facilities but before then, volunteers will be needed to help complete the index cards. Details of 'Strays' evenings will be given out at Society meetings so, if you are available please volunteer to help.

FROM THE PAST

Following the A.G.M. on 9 October 1981 a short session was held where members showed and talked about some of their heirlooms.

Mr W. Burgess showed some medals of his grandfather's and from the service numbers on them he was able to obtain copies of the service records. However the age and birth place given were almost a false trail - to secure entry into the forces his grandfather had lied about his age and birth place by 3 years and 10 miles respectively!

Mrs M. Pitt was able to show some beautifully illuminated samplers made by her mother in c.1877 and grandmother in c.1811. One showed all the names of the family, perhaps we should produce similar samplers to hand down to the next generation.

Mr E. Butcher produced some bills and accounts book of his father's honeymoon in 1910. Every item of expenditure before and after the wedding is recorded... a taxi to the station 4 old pence (1½p)...Did that include the tip we wondered.

Mrs J. Ashley had an ornate silver teapot presented to Detective Sergeant Bell on his retirement from the Police in 1877. A "Victorian" letter and service record are further background to Mrs Ashley's family history aren't all family historians detectives?

Mrs E. Startin's contribution was a 'picture of woe' ... an album of old photographs found in an ancestor's belongings but not one word or clue as to who they are, with maps of the Great Exhibition scene must be over 100 years old.

Mrs D. Morrison also had a photographic contribution .. a tin, yes, TIN photograph of her grandfather and his cousin on holiday in 1913 ... but the tin was going rusty and it looked as if her heirlooms would not survive. However she was able to find a photographer who made prints from the original and now she has a 'modern' copy that is in fact better than the original.

E. Whittleton concluded the short session with a musical note. One of the ancestors he was researching had been a Parish Clerk and records indicated that he had written a hymn. Searches of old Presbyterian books at the British Museum found this music of 150 years ago and with the help of a tape-recorder and a friend who plays the organ he now has the record taped.

AGAIN, FROM THE PAST

From THE TIMES - Wednesday, September 4th 1850

"Kenton near Harrow - TO BE LET KENTON LODGE, 2 miles from Harrow, 2 from Stanmore and 6 from London. A good family house contains Drawing, Dining and Breakfast rooms, small Study, 5 Bedrooms and 2 Dressing Rooms with good servants' offices; Coach-house, Stabling, large Garden, lawns, orchards, paddocks etc. in all about five acres. The premises have lately been put into substantial repair. Rent of the Lodge and 5 acres of land - £80 per annum; the tenant paying all taxes except the Property Tax; the owners insuring the house and buildings from fire. For particulars and to view, apply to Mr Henson, Estate Agent, 28 Chancery Lane; Mr Wilson, Fisher Merchant, Stanmore; and at the Inn, near the Lodge, Kenton."

From THE TIMES - Monday, September 9th 1850

"To be let - ACTON GREEN LODGE near Turnham Green and the London Horticultural Society's Gardens, Chiswick and 5 miles from Hyde Park Corner. To be let on lease on moderate terms. Acton Green Lodge is a most desirable small family residence standing in its own grounds and approached by a fine carriage drive on lawn; it was formerly occupied by Sir James Lambton, and latterly by the Portuguese Ambassador. Has a large well-stocked and beautifully laid out garden, capital coach-houses and stabling for four horses; excellent supply of the purest spring water. Situation open, airy and healthy and within five minutes' walk of Turnham Green where conveyances to and from the Bank are passing every quarter of an hour. Fares 6d. For further particulars apply J.B. Ryder, Esq., 159 Sloan Street."

From THE LADY'S NEWSPAPER & PICTORIAL TIMES - Saturday, May 8th 1852

"MARRIAGES - At St John's Church, Wembley on Tuesday the 27th April, by the Rev. Edward Gray, M.A., the Reverend John Edmunds of Kyles, Northumberland, to Maria, eldest daughter of the Rev. John Edward Gray of Wembley Park, Middlesex."

From THE LADY'S NEWSPAPER & PICTORIAL TIMES - May 29th 1852

"BIRTHS - At Kenton Lodge, near Harrow, Middx. on the 24th May, Mrs Sang of a son."

From THE TIMES - Friday, March 26th 1869

"DEATH - On the 24th March at The Oaks, Acton, Middx. Douglas LaPraike, late of Hong Kong, China."

From THE TIMES - Saturday, September 22nd 1900

"MARRIAGES - On the 20th September at St Michael's Church, Harlesden, Middx. (sic) by the Rev. W. Irwin, M.A., George Baylis Yates, eldest son of the late Henry Kirke Swann of Nottingham, to Elizabeth Jane, only daughter of the late Robert Knox of Birkthwaite, Cumberland, and of Mrs Knox of 'Birkthwaite', Wembley, Middlesex."

On 25th January 1821 the first edition of THE DEVIZES & WILTS. GAZETTE carried an editorial describing the funeral of Mrs J.W. Cunningham, wife of the Rev. Cunningham, Vicar of Harrow. She actually died on Thursday, January 18th 1821 "at Neasden in the house of W.T. Money, Esq., M.P., leaving a husband and nine children to lament the loss of a tender wife and mother." The BATE CHRONICLE also carried the account of her funeral attended by approximately 1,000 mourners with Masters of the Public School acting as pall-bearers. Mr Money who married into the Kyrle family of Whetham, Wiltshire, presumably had his London house at Neasden.

TO THE FUTURE

Look out in the near future for History on Your Doorstep, a series of 8 T.V. programmes to be broadcast on BBC-2 in early 1982.

Programme 1 - Your House: A suburb - in this case Ealing in West London - and a typical 1929 semi. What history would such a house have, if any, and how would you go about tracing it?

Programme 2 - Your High Street: A High Street - probably in a suburb. Was your High Street always that? What lies behind the W.B. Smith and Boots fascias - elegant 18th or 19th century houses? When and why did they change their role?

Programme 3 - Your Village: Swavesey in Cambridgeshire. To the visitor passing through it is an ordinary strip village but take another look and the village landscape soon reveals clues to its fascinating hidden past.

Programme 4 - Your Town 1: A country market town - how was it researched and the remains of the town's medieval past revealed?

Programme 5 - Your Town 2: Industrial towns. How did Halifax grow and why and from what? How can the pattern of this growth be seen in the present day?

Programme 6 - Your 'neighbours': How close can you get to the people who once lived in your area and the lives they led, by studying surviving records?

Programme 7 - The Countryside: Landscape History - How much local history remains on view in the countryside today. What do the fields, boundaries, hedges, ditches, roads and paths tell you about the past?

Programme 8 - Scotland: Some of the sources special to Scotland.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Jan 8th - Members' Workshop Evening

Feb 17th - Miss Rendell: Catholic Society Records

Mar 12th - Mr Herman Blackburn: Someone's Ancestral Home

Apr 16th - Dr Smythe Wood: Irish Records

May 14th - Mr Eric Whittleton: Unusual Archives

THE SOCIETY'S FINANCES

In order that space may be conserved in the Journal the full Income and Expenditure Account for the year ending 31st August 1981 is not being reproduced. It will be available at all the Society's meetings and a copy will be sent to any member on request.

Income was £816. 39 and expenditure £467. 63. The balance in hand was therefore £348. 63. At the Annual Meeting of the Society, the Hon. Treasurer explained that due from this balance is payment for the recently received microfiche of the IGI (£360) and for the last issue of "Greentrees" (£84. 60). There is therefore an actual deficit of £95. 97 and the Society is looking to an increase of membership to alleviate this position. Can you please help?

POST OFFICE HQs RECORDED OFFICE

This is housed in Room SG 28, PHQ Building, St. Martins-le-Grand, London ECL1 1HQ (01-432 4521/4580). It is an officially designated Repository for Public Records and is therefore open to historians and researchers between 9.00 a.m. and 4.30 p.m., Mondays to Fridays. Apart from many books on postal history, including mail transport by mail coach, rail, sea and air, postage stamps and the day to day organization of the Post Office, there are extensive personnel records covering the whole of Great Britain and Ireland. These records are only useful if you have an ancestor who was employed by the Post Office at any time, in any capacity.

The information available from Nominations and Appointments (1737-1968) is Name, Position, where employed, date of appointment and salary/wage. The Pension Records (awarded to retired employees or to widows and/or children) should include name, date of birth, a career summary, date of leaving the Post Office and the amount of pension and/or gratuity. The above are indexed alphabetically, in volumes covering several years. Before 1831 however, the indexing is of not such a high standard and searching takes longer.

Other information, but indexed non-alphabetically, includes details of promotions, transfers, dismissals, re-employment, commuted pensions etc. It is theoretically possible to trace an employee's career from beginning to end by searching through the indexes covering his/her period with the Post Office. The higher the position held the easier it is to trace someone as there is more information concerning Postmasters, for example, than Clerks or Letter Carriers (postmen). One should be cautious, however, as examples are known of an employee describing himself in documents, like a marriage certificate, as "Postmaster" when in fact he was a Postman or clerk.

Unfortunately, personnel records containing useful data like address(es) and family references, are destroyed four years after a pensioner's death or within several years after otherwise ceasing employment. If a pension was awarded on retirement, although the actual birth date is not stated the approximate birthday can be estimated as retirement age was normally 60.

Before commencing your research you should ideally have for the person concerned one or all of the following:-

- i. Approximate date of appointment.
- ii. Correct grade (position held), where employed.
- iii. Approximate date of employment ceasing.

This detail narrows the search considerably, otherwise searching the indexes can be very time consuming.

Although the staff at the Record Office are very helpful they cannot guarantee to undertake detailed research on behalf of enquirers. However, depending on the amount of information given, and the availability of staff resources, they will endeavour to answer written queries, as fully as possible, though this may only be a list of the records which should be searched.

Adrian Phillips
Secretary, Post Office Headquarters
Genealogical Society.

FAMILY HISTORY STUDY CENTRE

Holway House is the first Family History Study Centre to be set up in this country. Courses on Family History and allied subjects are run most weekends. Most courses are designed for beginners but Holway House also offers weekends devoted to more specialised topics. The House can accommodate about twelve people per course making for a very personal, informal and relaxed atmosphere and individual attention to problems.

Further details of all courses from: Cynthia and Michael Walcott, The Family History Study Centre, Holway House, Ilminster, Somerset (Tel. 04605 3413).

ON THE BOOKSHELF

In a previous issue of "Greenress" we reported on the visit to our Society of Jeremy Gibson who talked to us on Probate records and their location. His booklet on the subject - ('A Simplified Guide to Probate Jurisdiction', 1980) - has been a best-seller and is available from the Society. Mr Gibson is indefatigable and does not rest on his laurels. Two other booklets have now followed; one useful for reference and the other of interest to census searchers with a desire for indexes.

"Census Indexes and Indexing" (Edited by Jeremy Gibson and Colin Chapman. 1981. 38pp. £1.00) contains a useful introduction and nine short articles giving practical advice for those wishing to use and compile a form of index to these valuable records. Our own Society are fortunate in having access to the computerized Pinner Census, and this method of indexing is mentioned in one of the articles. For some, the most valuable part of the booklet will be a list of existing indexes printed under County headings.

"Record Offices: how to find them" (40pp. £1.00) is a unique publication, described by the author as "street maps, showing location of record offices, with car parks, railway and bus stations". Armed with this booklet a researcher will save valuable time when going around the country to distant archives. It will certainly bring to notice some place not previously recognised as being of help in one's own work. There is also a list of "Do's and Don'ts when using Record Offices" and No. 5 should be emphasised in view of complaints being made by many archivists: "Treat all records with respect; sometimes it will not be possible to see the originals because of their fragile condition." Family historians are using more and more of such documents. We should all consider those who will be using them after us.

AS I TRACE AGAIN THY WANDERING BILL. A tapestry of prose and verse, by Dorothy Boux and Elaine Wilson. (Shepherd-Walwyn (Publishers) Ltd., 1981, £8.95).

While this expensive, but elegantly printed, book cannot be said to be of wide interest to the genealogist, the excellent calligraphy of Dorothy Boux 'which embellishes it' must receive comment. The drawings used for illustration are equally pleasing.

The prose and poetry, and even some music, relate to Harrow where many of our members live. The choice of items in the anthology may not

be to all tastes, but our members will certainly be interested in page 20, devoted to Isaac Greentree, "patron" of the Society's journal! The monumental inscription carved into a head-board is a feature of the front cover, but in this book there is a charming drawing of Isaac's grave with its inscribed panel and the following information: "Isaac Greentree was a churchwarden in 1696 and the original of the wood panel was dated 1702, but Percy Thornton, the historian, wrote in 1885 that 'there was a certain family called Greentree who kept what in modern parlance is known as a tuckshop where Byron was wont to regale'. When Mr Greentree died, the poet, in response to the widow's desire, wrote an epitaph that was placed on Isaac Greentree's grave."

E.S.W.

Two very useful books dealing with churchyard memorials:

1. English Churchyard Memorials by Frederick Burgess, published by SPCK. Price £4.95 paperback.
The book gives the history of cemeteries and churchyards and is most useful for those people recording monumental inscriptions.
2. Churchyard by Pamela Burgess, widow of the above, who is an authority and adviser on churchyards.
This is a very interesting pocket guide. Published by SPCK. Price 75p paperback.

Jean Marker

Lt Col S.N. Marker, on a recent visit to America, gave a short talk to the Columbine Genealogical Society in Denver, Colorado with regard to using English sources for genealogical research. The object of the talk was to promote the Society of Genealogists' forthcoming Spring 1982 Lecture Tour to the USA.

Regular Soldiers' Documents and Pay Lists/Muster Rolls at the Public Record Office, Kew

These are by far the best sources of information on rank and file soldiers, who served in the British Army during the 19th and early 20th centuries. They are described in the P.R.O. Leaflet No. 9, "British Military Records as Sources for Biography and Genealogy".

The Regular Soldiers' Documents (W.O. 97) are arranged in various groupings: 1760 (theoretically!) - 1854, 1855 - 1872, 1873 - 1892, 1893 - 1900 and 1900 - 1913. Those in the 1760 - 1893 periods cover only soldiers who were discharged to pension. The papers of soldiers who did not become pensionable were destroyed by fire many years ago. One must look in the period of the soldier's discharge from the Army for his papers. For the pre-1893 period one must know whether he served in the Cavalry, Infantry, Royal Artillery, Royal Engineers, etc. If he was discharged from the Infantry during the pre-1873 period, one must know his regiment, since these are arranged separately. There were over 100 foot regiments! For the periods 1893 - 1900 and 1900 - 1913 the arrangement is a straightforward alphabetical one, theoretically covering all the men who were discharged over this time. In practice I've found quite a few gaps - which can sometimes be filled in with information from the medal rolls (W.O. 100), though this is usually very bald. The 1900 - 1913 series is in the process of being transferred from the Army Record Centre to P.R.O., Kew, and is currently up to men whose surnames begin with "S". What do these documents consist of? Usually one finds an attestation paper, giving place of birth, age on enlistment, trade or occupation before enlistment, a physical description and a run down of the man's army career (showing if he was promoted, deserted, court martialled, etc.), listing any medals gained, showing where he served and giving his date and place of discharge and intended place of residence after discharge. In the later documents, next-of-kin are usually shown. Brothers and sisters are often listed, showing which are older and which younger than he. The man's signature, or mark, appears on the document, sometimes more than once. Later documents often include a medical history sheet and, if a man is gaining a pension for medical reasons, these are described by an army medical officer.

The Pay Lists and Muster Rolls augment the Regular Soldiers' Documents - and for before 1893 often provide the only source of information on a soldier. These date from about 1760 - the early lists being muster rolls - and end in the 1860s or earlier. The Cavalry, Guards and Regiments of the Line are in the classification W.O. 12 (W.O. 16 for the later pay lists), Yeomanry, Militia and Volunteers, W.O. 13, Royal Engineers, W.O. 11 and Royal Artillery, W.O. 10. They are arranged by regiment, battalion, troop, battery, etc. The pay lists, which comprise by far the greater part of these classifications, are arranged by quarter with 4 lists to a volume - the year usually beginning on 1st April and ending the following 31st March. At the end of each quarterly pay list, are lists of soldiers

recruited and discharged during the quarter. Although the P.R.O. Leaflet No. 9 tells us that birthplace, trade and date of enlistment of a man discharged (or dead) should be shown, they very often are not especially in the early and later lists. The best period for this information, I've found, is around the 1830s and 1840s. This also goes for age given on enlistment. Depot pay lists are often found at the end of volumes. After about 1866 a list of men on the Married Establishment is included at the end of each pay list. This gives the wife's Christian name, but rarely the names of the children - usually only their ages are given (I've only once seen the children actually named in one of these lists).

A. DAVE

PROFILE

MEMBERS' INTERESTS

My research started when I was not working for a time and decided to 'do something'.

I started by writing to the archivist in Schaffhausen, Switzerland, and found out much about my ancestors in the city as they had a coat of arms and were recorded in the archives. The archivist was interested to hear from me as up to 1970 little was known of the two Schnetzlers who came to England in the 1740's; Johann to become a famous organ builder and much of his work still survives; Leonhard, an artist and stucco-plasterer lived on Gloucester Green in Oxford for twenty years, his plaster work is still to be found in the Colleges and libraries of that city. I was able to pass on to Schaffhausen results of my work here and in doing so come to know one of my Schnetzler 'relations' who is a historian and has researched the Schnetzlers in their homeland, and to make my own first journey 'home' to meet other Schnetzlers, visit museums to view their work and walk in the countryside and the original village and birthplace of the Schnetzler family recorded around 1552.

My research in London for my more immediate ancestors is proving more difficult as although my great grandfather records himself as a naturalized British subject in the 1891 census no record of him appears in the Home Office Index. Any help here would be welcomed! Next year 1982 will be a celebration year for the Schnetzler family, with the publication of a book on the life and work of John Snetzler, organ builder, and an exhibition in Schaffhausen of notable Swiss who have contributed to the prosperity of that city with a section for the Schnetzler family.

Side Tracks

Are you easily side-tracked when looking at old records, particularly when the search is not very fruitful? These side-tracks can however be extremely interesting and increase our understanding of the world our ancestors lived in.

The Overseers of the Poor books are very detailed accounts of income and expenditure on behalf of the poor of the Parish and show income from the "haves" at one end and outgoings to the "have-nots" at the other.

Looking through some of the Isle of Wight Parish books I found no mention of the name I wanted, but I could not resist making note of some of the outgoings -

1759 - 1789 period:

To old Newbery in need	- 0. 5. 0.
To old Downer for keeping Mary Farthing in Small Fox for three weeks	- 3. 3. 0
For a pair of breeches for Old Newbery	- 3. 6
To Jackson's other bastard	- 10. 0
To Henry Hayden to fat his hog	- 16. 0

There is a very strong impression of a caring society as one reads through the entries.

In another village they seemed very keen to stamp out everything that moved -

1767:

Paid for catching 10 doz. Sparrows	- 0. 1. 8
Paid for catching 3 Stoats	- 0. 1. 0
Paid for catching 7 doz. Sparrows and 5 Hedgehogs	- 0. 2. 10

An entry in 1790 reminds us that churches often had a wind band rather than an organ:

$\frac{1}{2}$ doz Bassoon reeds	- 0. 7. 6
and in 1793 -	
One Hautboy for use of Church	- 1. 11. 6

Looking through the records of Parkhurst Prison, I found no mention of the family but the "Assessed Dietary" caught my eye -

1843 - General Ward

Breakfast: 1 pint Cocoa 1 oz Bread

Dinner

Sun. Tues. 4 oz Mutton no bone Mon. Wed. Fri. 1 pint Soup
Thurs. Sat. 1 lb Potatoes
1 oz Bread

Supper: 1 pint Gruel
1/2 oz Molasses
1 oz Bread

The Refractory Ward did not fare nearly so well, receiving for Dinner every day only 12 oz Potatoes and 8 oz Bread and for Supper 8 oz Bread and 1 pint of liquor in which meat for the other convicts has been boiled.

I suppose that these meals must be looked at in relation to the diet of a poor person of the time, but at least the country poor would have access to green vegetables which seems to be entirely forgotten in the Prison diet.

The Overseers of the Poor Books are now often to be found in the CHG's, having been called in with the Registers. When I looked at mine they were still in the Parish Chests, still needing three keys to get at them. It was more fun that way but the CHG central holding is a lot more convenient.

R.C. TRIEBLICK

New Members:

Mr S.L. Bear, 3 Christchurch Ave., Harrow, Middx. HA3 8ND	No. 124
Mrs A. Harvey, 884 Kenton Lane, Harrow Weald, Middx.	No. 125
Miss E.M. Startin, 57 Larkfield Ave., Kenton, Harrow, Middx.	No. 126
Mrs J.N. Ashley, 16 Wentworth Hill, Westley, Middx. HA9 9BG	No. 127
Mrs J.S. Lewis, 120 Beirnie Road, Eltham, London SE9 1EJ	No. 128
Mr J. Reynolds, 33 Thorn Lane, Four Marks, Alton, Hants. GU34 5BX	No. 129
Mrs E.V. Pirie, 44 Derechester Ave., North Harrow, Middx. HA2 7AU	No. 130

Change of address:

Miss D.J. Wood, 45b Napesbury Road, London, NW2
Mr E.J. Ash, Cedar Lodge, 39 Church Road, Newick, East Sussex BN8 4JX.

MORMON I.G.I.

In November 1980 we launched an appeal for funds to purchase the Computer File Index, now known as the International Genealogical Index (I.G.I.) of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons).

The response was excellent and based on our sums converting pounds to dollars at that time we were able to order a full set for the British Isles during the spring of this year.

At the same time we made an application to the Edward Harvist Charity (administered by Brent Council) for a grant towards the fund. They in fact granted £166, sufficient to purchase another set.

Both sets of the I.G.I. micro-fiche have now been received and are available for members' use.

One set is housed at the Harrow Civic Centre Reference Library, Local History Section, Station Road, Harrow. This library is open until 8 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays and until 5 p.m. on Saturdays (closed all day Wednesday). There are 3 micro-viewers in the reference section and another 3 are available on request in a lower room. Additionally they have a viewer that can give a double sized image.

Members can pre-book up to one hour on a micro-viewer by telephoning Mr Bob Thompson on 01-863 5611, ext. 2055/2056.

The second set is housed at the Grange Museum of Local History, Neasden Lane, NW10 (on the roundabout at the top of the Neasden underpass). The museum has 3 micro-viewers and is open from 12 noon until 5 p.m. daily with a late night on Wednesdays and early opening at 10 a.m. on Saturdays.

No pre-booking arrangement exists; however the Local History Librarian is Judith Knight, telephone 01-452 8311.

Plans are in hand to improve the filing and indexing facilities at the libraries for the micro-fiche. Until then members are requested to take special care in handling the films to avoid damage or misfiling.

The I.G.I. micro-fiche will be a valuable aid to members' researches since they contain information on all parts of the U.K. and a few foreign parts in Harrow.

BUT and it is a big BUT, with the adverse change in the dollar exchange rate since we ordered the I.G.I. we now have invoices to pay that are some £41.00 in excess of the micro-fiche fund. I would therefore appeal to any member who may not have contributed or any member that would like to make an additional contribution to send a donation to the Treasurer.

MEETING TOGETHER

On 18 October members of Family History societies operating north of the River Thames were invited by the Society of Genealogists to a discussion meeting at Lutheran Church House, South Kensington. It was proposed that, at this meeting, delegates from the societies should give a brief report of their local activities and discuss plans for consolidation. It was felt that it would be useful to exchange ideas.

Our own Society sent representatives and the Chairman made a short speech outlining our work in Central Middlesex. It was pointed out that although meetings could be considered very beneficial and attracted about one third of our membership, general support for the Society could be improved. There were also short speeches from the East of London, the North and West Middlesex Societies. Altogether a membership of some 950 family history enthusiasts were able to be represented at this forum and there is no doubt that it proved most valuable. It is the view of our Society that there are opportunities for co-operation that are not being exploited to the full. This could well be in the production of journals and literature, and an example of this has already been seen when a joint genealogical directory was produced in 1980.

Another topic was the benefit of closer co-operation with Local History societies, something that has always been the policy of our own Committee.

Family History societies from south of the Thames will meet next year on 13 February at the same place and our members will be welcome to attend. We will give news of any further developments arising from this obvious desire for positive progress in Greater London.

An Invitation not to be Turned Down

O yes, it is I thought Scrubbing tombstones - what an odd sort of thing to be doing on a Saturday morning or any day, for that matter.

I had definitely planned to turn down that invitation until I heard the speaker the Friday before. What I thought could only be dull and boring turned out to be most fascinating; so much so that I changed my mind and trekked up to St Mary's, Harrow-on-the-Hill where the Central Middlesex F.H.S. were going to do their first scrub.

The proper name for this form of scrubbing is the "Recording of Monumental Inscriptions". Tombstones can be a valuable source of genealogical information and before the weather and vandals destroy them our Society plans to record the inscriptions on all the graves in our area. As St Mary's is perhaps the most famous church in our area we started with that one.

You need no special talent to be a scrubber. If you can write and bend your knees a little then you have ample talent and really should join the "party".

Some of the stones are easy to record but others have worn away and at a first glance there is nothing on them. This is where the scrubbing comes in. With a soft brush and a little water you gently brush the stone and the loose grit and the creepers fall away and reveal - eureka - a host of names and family connections.

Not only are the stones a great source of information for genealogists but also for the general historian. You might come across a group of graves where all the occupants died at about the same time of an epidemic which swept the area or one of the first train accidents is described in gory detail. You also learn about the type of people who lived in the area - a devoted wife and mother; the physician to King George; the young serviceman; the Irish statesman and barrister and the poet's young daughter buried by the church porch. You never know who or what you will find. Some memorials are the most flamboyant and most expensive of their time and some very simple.

Having finished at St Mary's we started at All Saints, Harrow Weald, and we were surprised to discover one very small grave marked "Snuffy, R.I.P." under an oak tree - could it be someone's much loved hamster buried surreptitiously one night?

When we arrived at All Saints, one grave stood out from all the others. Most of the area was a wilderness apart from this particular grave. It belongs to Leefe Robinson, the pilot who was the first to shoot down a Zeppelin in the First World War. It is always kept so neat and tidy because the landlords of the nearby Leefe Robinson licensed restaurant were only given permission to use his name on condition that they always keep his grave tended.

Surprising though it may seem, if you have never done it before, scrubbing is fun, fascinating and can be very rewarding.

Do join us and come and try it for yourself! Details of all "scrubbings" are given out at Society meetings.

S.J.T.

FAMILY HISTORY CONFERENCE 1982

The West Surrey Family History Society, who is arranging the Conference, and the Federation of Family History Societies invite you to attend the Second British Family History Conference to be held at the University of Surrey, Guildford, Surrey on 17-20 September 1982.

The theme of the Conference will be 'The Common Man' and sessions will cover sources and methods which should help the family historian discover more about his 'ordinary' ancestors. Among the topics covered will be Poor Law records, early Trade Union records, early newspapers and life in an agricultural community. For those who are interested there will be an opportunity to do some computer indexing and a symposium on the use of computers in family history is being arranged for those with a knowledge of computers.

Full details will be available in December 1981. To receive them please send a stamped addressed envelope to Mrs J.S. Young, 52 Portland Drive, Church Crookham, Aldershot, Hampshire.

HELP WANTED

- (1) Information on Raymond Snetzler, son of Joseph Snetzler, b.1832 - married first in London c 1863 - first child born 10.8.1864 at Hampden St., Kensington - no trace of marriage certificate at St Catherine. 1891 census states he was born in Germany, naturalised British subject but no record of this in Home Office Index. Any suggestions for continuing the search welcomed.

M.F. Snetzler
Barcott, Buckland Brewer,
Bideford, Devon.

- (2) Information on HEEN and GASKIN for Mr John Wren of 5, Southlands, Holms Chapel, Crewe, CW4 7EU. He writes:

From the records of St Mary, Harrow, and family material I have
GASKIN: 28.3.1779 Jane, d of William & Anne of Preston (she was born 10.3.1776)

HEEN: 14.11.1802 John, s of Thomas & Jane of Boxeth (he was born 3.9.1802). She was Jane Gaskin. Thomas Heen died 1806.

In the 1841 and 1851 census returns Jane describes herself as "retired schoolmistress".

- (1) When and where were Thomas and Jane married?
- (2) Who were Thomas Heen's parents?

There are still Wrens and Gaskins in the Harrow-Pinner area: perhaps a member of one of these families has family records which could throw light on these questions.

- (3) Mr Leslie Brooks of Hill House West, Crookham Village, Nr Aldershot, Hampshire (Tel: Fleet 21703) writes:

I am a member of the Genealogical Society with particular interest in the family history of English Catholics.

In the past thirty years or so greatly increasing attention has been given to the history of the Catholics in England by international historians of the highest repute. With the aim of eventual establishment of an English Catholic Family History Society, I would ask your members the following enquiry:-

- i. Would any who are English Roman Catholics with interest in the subject be good enough to contact me or at least send their name and address?
- ii. Would any of your members who have details of their own English Catholic ancestry (grandparents or further back) let me know what information they have?

Research, encouraged by the proposed Society, among the papers of even the humblest family could produce items of historic importance, proving to be of the highest value to scholarship in this field.

- (4) Ms J. Balch, 578 Hillside Ave. East, Toronto, Ontario M4S 1V2 Member No. 110, has written to say she has a large family tree (not authenticated) of BALCH. At one time they were tailors/butchers. She is interested in the name anywhere before 1837. Is also a member of the Sussex, Devon, Cornwall, North Middlesex, Ontario Genealogical Society of the Society of Genealogists.

FROM THE EDITOR

To all new Members and to those of longer standing: the Society likes to include in its Journal brief notes on the genealogical interests of members, known as Members' Profiles. If you have not already done so, could you send your notes to the Editor, Sue Thomas at 11, Priory Way, North Harrow, Middx. for inclusion in future issues of the Journal. To give members some idea of what is needed, details included in past Profiles have been length of time researching, surnames being researched, areas covered, progress to date.

It is one way for members to get to know each other and you never know someone may just be researching the same name as you and you would never have known if you hadn't written a Profile.

All other items for inclusion in the Journal should also be sent to Sue Thomas at the above address.

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE FROM THE SOCIETY

Guides for Genealogists from J.S.W. Gibson:

Census Returns (1841-1871) on microfilm	£1.20 (plus 20p)
Record Offices: How to find them	£1.60 (plus 20p)
A Simplified Guide to Probate Jurisdiction	£2.00 (plus 25p)

Federation News & Digest	£1.00 (plus 20p)

Beginning your Family History by George Felling	£-.75 (plus 20p)

Cash with order to: Peter Eslemont. The prices shown include the cost of Postage and Packing (U.K. & Overseas Surface Mail).

Peter Eslemont: 25 Thomas a Becket Close, Wembley, Middx., HA0 2SH.

The Society wishes to express its grateful thanks to member, Mrs. Jean Ashley, who gave her time unstintingly to help in the production of this Journal.

