



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

CENTRAL MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

(Founded 1978)

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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.

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

The ancient parishes which are within the area of the Central Middlesex Family History Society are set out below:-

LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW

Pinner, Harrow, Great Stanmore and Little Stanmore.

LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT

Willesden, Kingsbury and part of Harrow which became Wembley

LONDON BOROUGH OF HILLINGDON

Harefield, Ickenham, Ruislip and Northwood

LONDON BOROUGH OF EALING

Northolt, Greenford and Perivale

CITY OF WESTMINSTER

Paddington, Westminster.

"GREENTREES" is the Journal of the CENTRAL MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY, which is affiliated to the Federation of Family History Societies.

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The quotation on the front cover is taken from a wooden headboard in the churchyard of St. Mary's Church, Harrow-on-the-Hill, Middlesex.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE SOCIETY is by subscription of £4.00 a year (includes one copy of each issue of the Journal). Family membership by subscription is £5.00 a year (for two or more related persons living together to include one copy of each issue of the Journal). Corporate Membership is £4.00 a year. Subscriptions are due on 1st September annually and expire on the 31st August in the following year. Application for membership should be addressed to the Secretary.

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CONTRIBUTIONS for publication and Letters to the Editor should be addressed to him at 104, Rowlands Avenue, Hatch End, Middlesex HA5 4AP. Will all intending contributors note that items intended for the next issue of "Greentrees" should be submitted by 30th June, 1983.

Editorial

Half a century has passed since an article reproduced in this issue was written. Indexing is as important today as it was in 1933 and looking back over the years we realise that modern indexes have helped to create much of our family history.

Perhaps the best known is the International Genealogical Index with some 45 million entries. Those who have used the IGI microfiche index that this Society has loaned to the Harrow Civic Centre Library and the Grange Museum, Neasden will know of the value of this modern system only made possible by the advent of the computer.

I remember visiting the National Physical Laboratory at Teddington around 1946. After a comprehensive tour and seeing many of the scientific marvels being developed, I was shown a room filled from floor to ceiling with racks of glowing valves connected by a tangle of wires to countless electrical components. This was "ENIAC", a computer, I was told. It promised to revolutionize the storage of information. Indeed it has, and now this computer itself has been revolutionized, as those who attended our February meeting must have realised. They will be indebted to our member, Ian Clarke who brought his BBC microcomputer to demonstrate how he is storing his family data outline. Without difficulty he set up his keyboard, data memory, visual display screen and printer. Names, dates and other details, often kept on scraps of paper, appeared in sequence and were printed at the touch of a button. As all the apparatus gets smaller and the information stores ever more comprehensive we could realise the immense possibilities that lie ahead.

Other recent inventions have been equally significant. The Xerox copier has brought document reproduction into every family history at a minimum cost, and has made possible the concise format of this journal. To have obtained a photo-copy of an old will, a marriage licence, or pages from a rare book would not have been possible a few decades past. The tape recorder has allowed family memories to become spoken history, to be heard long after those concerned are no longer with us. The use of this "oral history" has been demonstrated at the Cheltenham Conference of 1981 and by Ralph Samuel at Guildford last September. It should form part of every family history in the future.

Another technical aid is now with us: the word processor. We can be sure that new uses for this machine are already being considered. To introduce it to our readers, Mary Smith, one of our members, has kindly set out this editorial page.

E H WHITTLETON

PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS

- April 8th. 1983 Miss Isobel Nurdy, B.Sc., F.S.G., President of the Society, will speak on "Jewish Records." Miss Nurdy has been collecting information about Jewish families for many years and is responsible for a recent publication on the subject issued by the Society of Genealogists.
- May 13th. 1983 Quaker records and the family historian. Mr. Josef Keith will speak on this subject, and those who have used the facilities of the Society of Friends at Friends House will appreciate the value of this further information.
- June 10th. 1983 Details of the subject and speaker at this meeting will be announced.
- July 8th. 1983 Dr. R. Brock : "The Copland Family of Wembley." In February 1981 Dr. Brock spoke to the Society about Wembley Jewish Records. On a return visit he will speak about this important local family and we are assured of an interesting talk.

All meetings are held at the Friends Meeting House, Hayners Lane, Harrow. Nearest Underground: Hayners Lane - Piccadilly/Metropolitan Lines. Buses 209 and H1.

Meetings are on Fridays and commence at 8.00 pm.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Kodak Museum, situated in the Kodak Works, Headstone Drive, Harrow, Middlesex (Telephone 863 0534), has a permanent display on the history of photography. This is of particular interest to all those seeking information on old family photographs. It is open from Monday to Friday: 9.30am to 4.30pm, and on Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays: 2 to 6pm. Admission is free and there is car parking space. Until April 19th there is a special exhibition of Victorian rural scenes. The Museum was the subject of an article in 'Greentrees' -Spring 1981.

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Kent County Archives, County Hall, Maidstone, may be closed for essential building work to be carried out. This is planned from May until November and intending visitors during this period should, without fail, obtain up to date information from the Archives Office.

.....
Dr. Barnardo's -Homes for Children. The archives of this charity have been transferred to Liverpool University. Records more than 100 years old can be made available for research. The charity began work in the East End of London in the 1860's.

SUSSEX FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

This Society is celebrating its tenth anniversary year by acting as hosts to the Federation of Family History Societies in a Family History Conference at Brighton from the 2 - 4 September, 1983.

The theme of the Conference will be 'The changing attitudes of man to his pedigree' and lectures will explore how ancestor hunting has changed from being the pursuit of the 'idle rich' to an activity enjoyed by millions of people. The topics are certain to attract a large attendance and the venue, the University of Sussex, is about 4 miles from the centre of Brighton on the former estate of the Earls of Chichester at Falmer. Full details are available from the Conference Organiser, 44 The Green, Southwick, Brighton, Sussex.

SELF-ADDRESSED AND STAMPED ENVELOPES

When writing for these details you are asked to send 'SAE' and it is felt that these notes are an appropriate place to remind our members to observe this courtesy when making enquiries that call for a written reply. Overseas members are not always aware that British Family History Societies are organised by volunteer enthusiasts who are not paid for their efforts and spend their own free time answering letters they receive. While they are always ready to answer simple questions they have little time to do extensive research or to answer long letters.

DISPLAY SCREEN

A set of four display panels have been delivered and were put up at our monthly meeting on 11 March. We would repeat our request for help in arranging suitable displays from any member with experience.

In July the Society has been invited to use the facilities of the Gayton Road Library, Harrow, to display items relating to different aspects of family history. We hope this may be the first of such displays in local libraries.

"THE COMMON CHRONICLE"

The exhibition in Harrow will coincide with the publicity that is to be given this summer to the archives that are such a valuable possession of this country, so many of which are vital in the study of family history. All county archivists are co-operating in exhibitions supported by the Record Users' Group. The main exhibition will be at the Victoria and Albert Museum 8 June - 31 August. The Society of Genealogists have offered their support and it will give us all an opportunity to express our wider interest in family history.

LIVERPOOL DIRECTORIES

Another step forward in making valuable books available to a wider public has been taken by Liverpool City Libraries. On two reels of microfilm they have photographed fourteen early city directories of 1766-1796, and a further seventeen covering the period 1800-1824. It is pointed out that they are a prime source for a study of the 18th and early 19th centuries, a crucial period in Liverpool's development.

FAMILY HISTORY NEWS AND DIGEST

The official journal of the Federation of Family History Societies appears twice each year, its publication usually coinciding with the Spring and Autumn meetings of the Federation Council. The middle pages are arranged to contain a 'digest' of articles from the journals of most societies in the Federation. Abstracts are arranged under various headings, and details from our own journal "Greentrees" are always included.

SOCIETY MEETINGS

FRIDAY 12TH NOVEMBER, 1982 - Mr. J.S. Gollard, Editor Pinner Local History Society Newsletter.

Jim Gollard spoke about the background to his book "The Harrow Apprentices" (Review: 'Greentrees' Winter, 1982).

He explained how, when teaching at Harrow School, he enquired about any school archives that might exist. He found that these were not highly regarded and had suffered neglect. When he had collected many items together and started to examine them he found an old vellum book fastened with a metal clasp. Seeing the date 1648 at the head of the first page together with the word "Apprentices" he realised that he had a document of great interest and value. He had since given much attention to this and other contemporary records of apprentices some of which had been traced to other parts of Harrow School.

In his talk he traced the history of the apprenticeship system from the 13th/15th centuries. When the premiums demanded by Masters became expensive, charities were formed to subsidise apprenticeships and John Lyon, founder of Harrow School, in 1648 gave £20 for this purpose. The apprentice records now form part of the archives which Mr. Gollard has established in the school premises. They are in a well organised manner room with other local and school records.

Developing his subject, the system of indentures, the hours of work of apprentices and other relevant matters were introduced into a very lucid talk, and the enthusiasm of the speaker was very evident. Luckily his book is still available for those who wish to go fully into the subject.

FRIDAY 14TH JANUARY, 1983 - Mr. M.J. Gandy, Chairman, Publications Committee, Society of Genealogists.

The Society was fortunate in having Michael Gandy to open the lecture programme for 1983. His subject, "Shortcuts in family history research", attracted a large audience eager to learn from his experience. Mr. Gandy began his talk with a warning that "short cuts" could be dangerous and in case of any doubt it was better to use old and tried procedures. He did emphasise the importance of using the knowledge held by family relatives but writing everything down so that the details could be gone over again and checked. Then we were introduced to St. Catherine's House and the registration district maps. "I like maps" said Mr. Gandy when he encouraged their use as a short cut to learning more of an ancestor's surroundings. Not only early Ordnance Survey maps, but those parish maps compiled by the Institute of Heraldic & Genealogical Studies. Then to indexes, always a short cut to finding out where information is stored. Census indexes can save much time, and Mr. Gandy also mentioned his own Marriage Index of Kent. Similarly the directories that so many family historians are producing: the National Genealogical Directory (with widespread interests of the subscribers), the Greater London Cemeteries directory (time-saving 19th century locations).

Finally some hints to all those working on a family history - "Prepare before you go to any source of records - Keep an organised system of notes." This was the sort of talk that could only encourage those present. If each member used only one of the suggestions made in the course of Mr. Gandy's talk, it could well save the cost of the annual subscription to the Society.

P.C. MARKWELL, B.A., F.S.G.

It is now some fourteen years since I first started tracing my ancestry. I plunged into the fray with scant knowledge and made a great many serious mistakes. With hindsight how differently would I have set about it! As a result of my impetuosity I wasted time and opportunities. Maybe I am not alone in wishing I had set about things in a less chaotic fashion.

If I were starting again I would keep a detailed diary of all my researches, using an A4 size loose leaf folder. Let us suppose I was going to visit St. Catherine's House. I would record time of departure from home, details of journey, time of arrival. (You may later try some other route and find it quicker).

I should record the object of my visit, the year and quarter of each index consulted, and a careful copy of each entry recorded and any certificates ordered. Often you will need to study a list of 'possibles' at leisure. Always copy down the 'Code' at the end of the entry.

Sometimes the name of a Register Office looks obscure. I often think that when these offices were first set up the naming of them was entrusted to a Civil Servant with a degree in mediaeval history, for often the old 'hundred' names were used instead of the place in which the office was situated. Names such as Lotherland, Basford, Aole, Depwade, Thingoe, Spilsby and -yburn for example do not easily reveal the areas covered.

I wish I had realized that there is a key to the 'Code' which at least tells us the county in which the Register Office was located - though in some cases the same code was used for several adjacent counties. Up to 1851 Roman numerals were used - thus Surrey was IV. From 1852 Arabic numerals were used, the code was changed and Surrey becomes 1d and 2a. Kent, which was V also becomes 1d and 2a, so all is not plain sailing. Perhaps your magazine editor might consider publishing the code in a future edition. It originally appeared in an issue of 'Family History', the journal of the Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies. The Institute has also published two useful maps on which the locations of all Register Offices are shown. One shows Registration and Census Districts 1837-1851, and the second 1852-1946. Had I known about these they would have been my first purchase. My second would have been to acquire some of the Parish Maps for certain counties, also published by the Institute.

But I digress - let us get back to that Diary. If you visit a Record Office - again give details of your journey, the name, address and phone number & purpose. Note the reference numbers of any books, registers, documents etc. which you consulted, and copy any entry of interest with great care. If a word presents difficulty because of the writing, copy it exactly in enlarged form so that you can study it at home with the aid of a handwriting chart. Explore the indexes at the Record Office - these are sometimes complex. It is worth seeing if there is a surname index - you never know what treasures this might reveal.

Before tackling parish registers it is best to consult the International Genealogical Index to see which parishes in the county in which you are interested have been included and for which time span. (County Record Offices often have this index). If you find there an entry which interests you then check it for accuracy with the original register, and to see if there is additional information in that register such as occupation etc. Alas the index was not in being when I started my researches (although by way of compensation certificates were 2/6!). If you think you have spotted an ancestor in the index make sure that the word 'infant' does not appear in columns marked 'B' & 'S'. If it does then it is no ancestor of yours since it means that the child died as an infant. Similarly do not neglect the burials in the parish register: many an enthusiast has claimed as an ancestor a child who died young.

Do interest yourself in all the records of a parish where your ancestors lived once you have located it. Poor Law documents, tithe account, if they exist, even Churchwardens' Accounts may yield most interesting information. All should aspire to be family historians and not just genealogists intent only on constructing a family tree. As you build up the pedigree search for background material of all kinds - photographs, postcards of the parish church, maps, wills and of course census returns. Your family history should abound in 'visual aids' to make it come to life.

Check what memorial inscriptions have been transcribed and consult them, or make a search of parish churchyards. A tombstone could well tell you far more than the burial entry in the parish register. Let us give an example.

I discovered the tombstone of one of my maternal ancestors in the churchyard of Baling parish church, entirely overshadowed by a large shrub which happily had preserved the inscription. It read:- 'To the memory of James Grover, an honest man, a kind father and an affectionate husband, who died January 23rd, 1845 aged 69 years, and to mark the estimation in which he was held upwards of seventy of his neighbours unsolicited paid their last sad tribute of respect by following him to his grave'. The prose has almost literary merit! By contrast I recall seeing a tombstone in Coventry cemetery which read 'Mary Clarke of blessed memory, also Hannah of Tooting'. I always felt sorry for poor Hannah who had only her place of residence to recommend her.

My investigation of the Tithe Accounts of Stanstead Mountfitchet in Essex proved an Alladin's cave of riches. My ancestors were recorded year by year from 1698 until 1790 - though not always to their credit. Here are some of the entries:-

1700 Thomas Markwell in payment for offering 2d. (Mero he still owes me 8 groats for 8 years).

1703 Richard Markwell - a fat fowl in lieu of his chickens, 1/6.

1715 March 29th. J. Burnett told over the Markwell's flock in ye lane. There were 14 ewes and 14 lambs, but his son disowned 2 sheep and 2 lambs belonging to his father and uncle.

1715 March 31st. Edward Martin told over their flock again and his son acknowledged that there were 16 sheep and 15 lambs belonging to his father and uncle.

1715 April 2nd. John Markwell owned of these but 4 sheep and 4 lambs. He said that his brother Richard had 6 sheep and 6 lambs. Richard Markwell Junr. had 2 sheep and 2 lambs but according to John Markwell there were but 12 sheep and 12 lambs in their flock. I then paid John Markwell for 8 loads of dung'.

How amazing that such trivia should have survived - but it is just this trivia which is the stuff of family history.

Back finally to that Diary. In it record all letters you write, filing the carbon copies. Include in the diary the replies until - if they are from relatives or contain useful information - you are ready to promote them to your family history. Here, too, I use A4 Ring binders, so my family history is really in the form of a series of scrap books abounding in surprising treasures.

You will very soon outgrow one volume. You can play with colours - i.e. different coloured bindings for different branches of your family, and again a different colour for the Research Diaries which will eventually contain so much source material that you will need to index them.

Don't neglect to write your own life story in as much detail as possible, and the lives of your parents. Include photographs and other mementoes which may have survived. I am lucky. My parents were hoarders. My family histories and source material fill almost one hundred A4 ring binders - but then these include my studies of all branches of the Maxwell clan. If you have an unusual surname you become irresistably drawn to a One Name Study.

You do, of course, need a whole room to devote to your hobby. If you do not have one consider an extension to the house. Yes - Family history can be a very expensive obsession!

A GLOSSARY FOR GENEALOGY

- BILLS (REGISTER-)** : Transcripts of Parish Registers.
- BILLS (OF MORTALITY)** : A custom dating from the 16C until 1837, when Parish Clerks issued a weekly statement of the number dead and the causes of death. The Guildhall Library has a good collection.
- BARNYARD** : A farmyard
- BRITISH SCHOOLS** : The British & Foreign School Society took over the educational principles of Joseph Lancaster in 1810. Lancaster is known for his monitor system: tuition of large classes by other partly educated children. In 1851 there were 1,500 British Schools.
- BOND (MARRIAGE)** : A marriage licence could not be issued (until 1823) unless the party was bound with sureties who had to observe certain conditions (one of which stipulated that the couple married in a specified church). One of the two bondsmen was usually the bridegroom.
- BURIAL IN WOOL** : An Act of 1678 provided that within eight days of a funeral, an affidavit had to be made that the law had been observed; no shirt, shift, sheet or shroud could be used "other than what is made of sheep's wool only". Record Offices have books of affidavits. The Act was repealed in 1814, after being generally disregarded.
- BURIAL BOARD** : Burial Acts 1852 and 1853 allowed local authorities to administer their own cemeteries through Burial Boards. Previously most people were buried in church graveyards which had become seriously overcrowded in urban parishes.

50 Years Ago

From the "Genealogists' Magazine" : June 1933.

"Not long ago I was asked to review a book of family records. It was a well-printed and costly volume, with numerous illustrations and evidently contained the results of prolonged investigations into various branches of a family spread over many parts of England, and of researches made by experts for the compiler, undoubtedly at considerable expense. Hundreds of names appeared, not only of the family dealt with, but of those allied or associated with it, including witnesses to deeds and wills and inquisitions over a period of many centuries. The compiler was entitled to be well pleased with the results which he had achieved and he printed them, he stated, as being not only of family importance but as likely to be of value to others interested in genealogical studies generally, and in particular the families with which his own had been connected. So far one could have nothing but praise for the work. But the writer, by some strange process of thought (it can hardly have been absence of thought, so much had evidently been given to the work) had provided NO INDEX. I declined to review the book as this defect, from my point of view, destroyed its value, and any notice which I might have written would have included remarks which would probably have given offence and even have been unprintable. Personally I own a fairly good collection of genealogical and historical books, but except in very rare cases, I decline to buy books of these classes which have no index, or to review them.

What, one may ask, is the object of issuing a book of family records? Primarily and originally, it will be a natural interest in one's forbears, and, secondly, the desire to put on record, for the use of future persons likely to wish to know something about this family and its connections, facts which are not otherwise accessible. Whatever may be said, and it is very little, for the desirability of putting out for private circulation, perhaps amongst a family, such a book unindexed, the secondary object outlined above is almost entirely defeated by the absence of an index.

Even a professional genealogist, who is paid for his labour, must feel cross and disgruntled if, when his work leads him to look hopefully at such a book, he then finds that the natural means of referring quickly to its contents is denied to him. Likewise those of us who are unprofessionally interested and have only our spare time to give to such studies; are we not likely to decline the wearisome task of a page by page search for some information which may or may not be contained within its pages? The thing is foolish in the extreme and calls for plain speaking. "Reviewers are kindly folk as a rule, and, like editors, are not anxious to give offence, and the result too often is that a notice of a book contains merely a mild suggestion that an index would have been an improvement. But I wish to state emphatically what I believe all serious genealogists will endorse, namely, that an index is essential and that a book of the kind referred to is only a half-baked job without one."

R. S.-B. - with acknowledgments.

A SCHOOL CENSUS

Some twenty minutes after leaving Euston, a fast train will pass the small station of Hatch End. To the left of the track and just within the old Middlesex county boundary is a cluster of buildings now occupied by the Harrow Education Authority.

Until 1967 this was the Royal Commercial Travellers School - earlier known as the 'Commercial Travellers Schools for orphan and necessitous children'. Originally a school was founded in 1845 by John Robert Guffley at Wanstead, Essex. It had 20 pupils and the need for an institution of this kind was found to be so great that bigger premises were urgently sought. In 1855 the site at Hatch End was obtained, and buildings erected to accommodate 140 children. The Prince Consort opened the school, and contemporary drawings show it to have been a "pleasing and commodious collegiate Gothic structure". A further enlargement in 1866 allowed 300 children to be taken, and there is no doubt that the opening of the nearby station on the London and Birmingham Railway in 1844 made it easy for children to reach the school from all parts of the country.

This is indicated by an examination of the 1861 Census which strangely gives only the initials of the scholars, although other details are fully recorded. Did the enumerator wish to give the young orphans anonymity? In 1871 there was no such reticence. After listing the staff and domestic help there are 248 pupils named: 170 boys and 78 girls. Their places of birth can be from all parts of the country. There are 27 born in the Midlands and 97 from the Middlesex London area. The latter have been extracted and it may be that their names can explain family circumstances that would not otherwise be recognised.

Boys

	AGE		AGE
Walter Gordon Reid	15	Walter Howell Haynes	11
Henry Soundy	15	Harry William Cook	11
Robert Charles Sasborne	14	Thomas Pollard	11
James Henry Andrew	14	Edward Ernest Ayers	11
Hail Martin	14	Duncan Lionel Page	11
Howard Fitch	14	William Edward Higgins	11
William Charles Pollard	14	Thomas Henry Dean	11
Charles Edmund Walker	14	Ernest Robert Brunt	11
George Alderson Freeman	14	George Richard Kirwan	10
Alfred George Oampton	13	Horace William Jape	10
William Edward Pain	13	John Askel Leanan Tatner	10
Alfred George Edmunds Martin	13	Walter Soundy	10
Herbert Pollard	13	William George Taplin	10
William Henry Baker	13	John Wilson Hodges	10
William John Akers	13	Arthur Bishop	10
Herbert Augustus Martvoys	13	Arthur Robinson	10
Frank Harry Cooper	13	William Charles Elliott	10
Benjamin Bower	13	Harry George Goodman	10
Albert Miller	12	Hy. Chas. Frederick Baxter	10
Henry Sidney Sharp	12	Robert Malcolm Phillips	10
William James Panton	12	Arthur Edmunds	10
Bernard Philip Jape	12	Geo. Ernest Goodman Taylor	9
Frederick W. Cooper	12	William Alexander Heap	9
Sidney Harrison Marquis	12	William Henry Arnold	9
Charles Septimus Stevens	12	Arthur James Stubbs	9
William Henry Tardrew	12	Hy. Cornelius Field	9
John Alfred Boone	11	Edward Archibald Phillips	9
Jas. Gascoigne Humphry	11	George Henry Heap	9
Joseph Alfred Richards	11	Thos. Hedley Tardrew	8
Alfred Edward Dudley	11	Charles Rigby	8
		Samuel Jones	8
		Benjamin Lewis	7

Girls

	AGE		AGE
Clara Julia Evans	14	Zoe Brookman Phillips	12
Eleanor Busby Taylor	14	Sarah Taplin	12
Alice Maria Boute	14	Elish. Annie Cook	12
Mary Alice Pratt	14	Mary Tardrew	12
Rosina Matilda George	14	Amy Ruth Gregory	12
Agnes May Phillips	14	Maria Fielden	11
Jane Elish. Powell	14	Clara Cook	11
Emily Gertrude Handford	13	Ethel Beatrice Evans	11
Maoni Emily Martin	13	Emily Julia Fountain	11
Mary Sophia Gaeter	13	Alice Mary Rigby	10
Charlotte Elliott	13	Minnie Walker	10
Lucy Isabel Beauchamp	13	Frances Ann Hendry	10
Ada Mary King	13	Mary Ann Elliott	10
Evelyn Irwin Packington	13	Clara Evans	9
Jessie Rose Boute	13	Alice Esme Richards	9
Harriet Barnett	12	Florence Neel Robinson	8
Alice Mary Evans	12		

FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

At the moment I am having problems finding the desk! My full time job has needed a lot of overtime (without pay). My wife wanted the living room redecorated. Add to these demands the fact that a lot of Family Historians seem to spend the winter months writing around for help and I have a desk covered with work.

If you write to other Societies never despair, provided you enclose a stamped addressed envelope, eventually other Secretaries like me will get down to your query. Some enquirers seem to expect instant solutions to complex problems, but in many cases the help is by putting you in touch with an expert or a local source that can be of assistance.

The most rewarding aspect of a Secretary's job is when you get that note to say your suggestions have proved useful.

A recent example concerned a single reference to a name in a short article that I put in the Spring 1982 journal. Titled 'Sidetracks' it mentioned an account of the sinking of the Lusitania described by two local survivors - Mr. C. Hill and Mr. W.E. Inch. A few months later Arthur R. Inch of Keywards Heath, Sussex wanted a copy of the article as he believed it was one of his ancestors.

The solution was the National Newspaper Library at Colindale. Unfortunately, I could not get there but during a visit to the R.A.F. Museum at Hendon Mr. Inch was able to get a copy. So he now has another entry in his Family History file on his father's cousin. Perhaps we can all hope our letters seeking help will be as rewarding.

One other item on my desk, with all that correspondence waiting for replies, is the M.I.s from St. Johns, Wembley. Thanks to a lot of help from volunteer typists the transcription is almost complete. Next step will be to index before publication. The recent fine weather turns my thoughts to the next graveyard to be recorded. So get ready local members I will be after 'scrubbers and scribblers' again.

TONY FRANCIS.

NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

Mr. F.C. Markwell, B.A., Fellow of the Society of Genealogists, was invited to be Hon. Secretary of the Birmingham and Midland Society for Genealogy and Heraldry in 1970 and held this position until 1980 when the Society had 2,500 members and four branches. Born in Newport, Northamptonshire, Fred Markwell's parents were Londoners; a great grandfather was a 'Grover' of Ealing. Retiring from teaching when he was Head of a large comprehensive school, he is now Hon. Life Vice-President of the ENSGH and is still working on his family history. He has enthusiastically collected a vast amount of material about 'Markwells' in this country and overseas.



MAP OF THE ORIGINAL PARISHES IN THE CENTRAL MIDDLESEX F.H.S. AREA

There is often confusion regarding the boundaries of the three Family History societies that operate within the old county of Middlesex. The divisions were originally adopted to facilitate the various research projects contemplated for the whole area. It is felt that the arrangement is best explained by quoting remarks made by Mr. Moyton Gambier at the inaugural meeting of the Central Middlesex Family History Society on 21 July 1978.

"We then went to Enfield and they have decided instead of being North London they will call themselves the North Middlesex Family History Society. Then on Wednesday we were in the West of London at Hounslow and they have decided to call themselves the West Middlesex Family History Society. I see that your working party committee have in their wisdom offered as the name for this society the Central Middlesex Family History Society. In my opinion this is a very good balance because you then get the old county of Middlesex cut up into three sections that run down into London. As you can imagine there is an enormous amount of coverage both for people and for the amount of research work and projects that have got to be done, so that if we divide the old county of Middlesex in this way I think it is a very sensible approach."

NEW MEMBERS WHO HAVE JOINED THE SOCIETY

- 165 Auckland Group, New Zealand Society of Genealogists
c/o Mrs. M. Sutton, 89 Gribblehuret Road, Auckland 3, New Zealand.
- 166 Mrs. Margaret Dickie, 19 Kesteven Avenue, Glendowie, Auckland,
New Zealand.
- 167 Mrs. F. Ross, 24 Birkdale Avenue, Pinner, Middlesex.
- 168 Mr. Sidney C. Holmes, 9 Old Court Road, Springfield Hill,
Chelmsford. CM2 6LN.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

144/45 Mr. and Mrs. B.J. Williams, 41 Benpton Drive, Ruislip, Middlesex
HA4 9DB

OTHER NEW ADDRESSES NOTIFIED

West Middlesex Family History Society
Mrs. Mabel Norton, 32 Burlington Road, Isleworth, Middlesex, TW7 4LY

Federation of Family History Societies
General Secretary: Mrs. Ann V. Chiswell, 96 Beaumont Street, Milhouse,
Plymouth, PL2 3AQ.

MEMBERS' PROFILES

Mrs. EILEEN FERRIN (nee COAN)
10, The Gardens, Pinner, HA5 5DW writes:

"Until 1979 I had no idea of my grandfather's name since he had died before my mother met my father.

Gordon Honeycombe's television programme prompted me to ask my mother for her marriage certificate and to look up my grandfather's birth date at St. Catherine's House. Assuming he was about thirty when he wed (as was my father) I worked back through forty registers - each to be lifted off the shelves and weighing up to 12 lb. When he wed in 1866 he was twenty!

I had thought my name quite unique, but having started to copy down the other COANS in those forty registers I found many more. Later, this list helped me in piecing together my family tree. I had not known that my family came from Norfolk.

I wrote to other Coans found in the U.K. telephone directories and within two years started a "Coan Family and Associate Member's Society (COFAMS), circulating a quarterly news-sheet to twenty five others. Many of them have sent photographs or I have met them and discovered family likenesses in common which must stem from the original ancestor of us all; born in 1790 at Fornsett St. Peter, Norfolk.

Having referred to the Census, P.R.O., Army records at Kew, India Office records, trade directories at the Guildhall, and Wills at Somerset House, I am back to 1750 but stuck in Westhall, Suffolk. Lacking experience and time I would like to know if the procedures for inspecting Society of Friends' records, non-conformist registers, Bishop's Transcripts, Lambeth Palace records, early Wills and collections at the Society of Genealogists are time-consuming and difficult to grasp. I would like to be able to read old English writing and would welcome a lecture on this subject.

MEMBERS' PROFILES

John C. Thomson
42 Cranleigh Gardens, Kenton, Middlesex

I have lived in London for about 40 years, but I was born and educated in St. Andrews, Fife, Scotland.

Over the last few years I have been delving into the history of the Thomsons, who originally came from Strathniglo in the West of Fife. My grandfather, John, came to St. Andrews in 1892 and opened a drapery business called the Fairfield Stores, so I have also been tracing the history of this business and its connection with the family.

I have now written a History of the Thomson Family and the Fairfield Stores. The earliest Thomson I have found is a George Thomson, a weaver, who was born around 1770 and married a Margaret Archibald.

In the course of my enquiries I have had great pleasure in finding and meeting other Thomsons that I did not even know existed.

I have had to visit Edinburgh several times in order to see the Census of Population and Strathniglo Parish records. I have also had Wills and Inventories by post from both the Scottish Record Office and Fife Sheriff Court. The Newspaper Library at Colindale has been a fruitful source of information.

I was fortunate in getting a 17th century Minute Book of a Scottish Trade Corporation which records the names of people receiving pensions and those hiring their Mortcloth - a cloth used for covering coffins at funerals. I am currently transcribing this record.

I am also interested in local history, particularly in the families who lived in Kenton in the 19th century.

.....
Mrs. E. Bridges, 270 Kings Road, Harrow, Middlesex

I as a new member of the Society so have not yet got very far in trying to trace my maiden name of CADWALLADER. I have little information on which to work but intend soon to go to St. Catherine's House in the hope of finding information of my grandparent's marriage.

I was born and brought up in Swansea, S. Wales, and have been interested in the surname since learning in a Welsh history lesson at school of a battle leader of the 7th century named 'CADWALLADER the GREAT' The English translation, so far as I can gather, is 'Leader of Battle'. CADWALLADER seems to be an interesting historical name of the 7th., 10th., and 12th centuries and all were of royal blood.

I am looking forward to finding out about my grandparents and possibly further back than that. My own father was an only son and as I am an only child the name died with him in our family six years ago. I have no elderly relatives so have to rely on cousins for tit-bits of information. Still, I have always enjoyed detective work, so wish no luck!

MEMBERS PROFILES

Miss Patricia Kirkland
 5 Sherland Court, The Dell, Isdlett, Herts.

I was bullied into researching my family history by cousins visiting from the USA. Their parting comment was "You do the work and let us know what you find out". Little did I realise that the interest was to become an incurable disease!

Most of my research has been in Warwickshire, especially Birmingham but also in the Stratford area and surrounding counties. Names of particular interest KIRKLAND (anywhere but especially Lichfield Staffs. and Birmingham); MALLIS (anywhere) - this branch of my family has provided the most interesting and rewarding research I have done. The line to date stretches back to approximately 1630 but I am working in all directions and have built up an enormous family tree. LEE (cabinet makers) (London and Birmingham); YEOMANS (Aston, Birmingham and Marylebone, London).

Within the Central Middlesex area I am especially interested in the names WALTER and MIDDLETON. My great grandfather Samuel WALTER and his sister Sophia were born in the hamlet of Kenton and baptised at St. Mary's Harrow on the Hill. The family was located in Kenton in the 1841 census. Their parents John Michael WALTER and Maria Martha MIDDLETON were married in St. Lawrence Whitechurch, Little Stanmore in 1838 - place of abode given as Little Stanmore on marriage certificate for both, but the trail stops there. Where did they originate? Also what became of John and Maria and their family between 1841 and Samuel's marriage to Martha YEOMANS in Marylebone London in 1864? Information from anyone with mutual interests would be much appreciated.

I am also a member of the Society of Genealogists and the Birmingham and Midland Society for Genealogy and Heraldry.

ON THE BOOKSHELF

"VILLAGE RECORDS" John West. Phillimore & Co. Ltd. £12. (042.47)

First published by Macmillan in 1962 this book has been long out of print and widely sought after. The author, now retired, has written a preface to this second edition. He mentions many changes that have occurred since the first edition of 1962 - especially in the cost of books. "Village Records" cost 3/- when it first appeared; "raging inflation has completed the debasement of the coinage". The new edition, well revised, is £12 and the author is clearly worried at the effect especially as his book is widely used by teachers and students.

It keeps to the original format: charters, court rolls, maps, parish records, quarter sessions, probates and wills, enclosures, land tax and tithes - all are dealt with in detail and photo facsimiles are carefully analysed. Now that there is a greater use of record offices the author gives eight practical suggestions to help researchers. There is a completely revised index which incorporates recent changes in county boundaries.

This is a book which should be read by all family historians. We will be the wiser when we reach the last chapter.

E.W.

HELP REQUESTED

Mrs. K. ROBINSON, 2 St. Andrews Close, Holt, Norfolk NR25 6EL

... wants information regarding WILLIAM SAMUEL GILBERT who married MARY OLIVER at East Stonehouse, Plymouth in 1834. He is known as a bookbinder there in 1852. Sometime before 1857 he left his wife and children and "went off" with a school teacher. His wife is known to have repeatedly gone to London to seek him.

Where did William go when he left his wife and where did he die?
 Any information would be welcomed.

.....

The Editor has been asked to trace the baptism of JACOB HARVEY and MARY ANN RANSON (or RANSON) who were married by banns at the old Holy Trinity Church, parish church of Clapham, Surrey, on 8 January, 1799. Neither were born in that county. Jacob Harvey was later the landlord of the "Sun" public house in the Old Town, Clapham. Any information about these two families, with parishes of birth, would be appreciated.

.....

Mrs. MARGARET DICKEY, 19 Kesteven Avenue, Glenclowie, Auckland, New Zealand.

... is trying to locate the baptism of JAMES SPEED who married SARAH ANN REYNOLDS at St. Martin-in-the-Fields, 1788. He could have been baptised in one of the Middlesex Parishes, but so far she is unable to locate this, and it is a vital link in piecing together two ends of a family tree.

... She would like to hear also from anyone researching the names of REYNOLDS, HARWOOD, GOODMAN, BENFIELD, MORRIS and SPEED.

.....

MISS J.L. SUTTON, 25 Albion Road, Old Colwyn, Colwyn Bay, Clwyd. LL29 9TB

... would like to hear from anyone researching the name QUARRY (or variations QUARREY, QUARRIE, QUARY). Any references to the name would be welcome, particularly of a Pythagoras Quarry.

.....

Mr. H.J. LEATHERBARROW, 1 Sandford Lease, Avening, Tetbury, Glos. GL8 1BP

... is seeking firm evidence of his family connection in Wilsden particularly re JOHN LEATHERBARROW 1868 - 1870 (?) - 1941.

Believed parents died when he was very young. Brought up in a North London Orphanage. Full record of Army service from age of 17 is known, but place of birth which was given as Wilsden has not been confirmed. Next of kin recorded as:-

1896 - Uncle HENRY HARWOOD, 16 Gladys Road, Hexstal Road, Kilburn.
 Cousin ANNE CLARKE, Sutton St. Clerkenwell.

1898 - Cousin MRS. ANNE HIGGINS, 40 East Road, City Road, London.
 (Possibly Anne Clarke's married name).

Endeavouring to trace John Leatherbarrow birth certificate and records concerning his parents.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM John L. Rayment, Chairman. THE ESSEX SOCIETY FOR FAMILY HISTORY,
57, Coopers Hill, Ongar, Essex. CM5 9EP

"I have read, with great interest, in your Spring 1982 issue, an account called 'Meeting Together' which describes a gathering of the London Group in February 1982.

Your reporter notes that 'three of the societies (attending!) had started as a result of local evening classes'.

I think it is worth recalling that the five societies formed in July, 1978, i.e. West, Central and North Middlesex, East of London and North West Kent, were not in this category. They came about as the result of a realization of the need for societies in these areas, and a conscious effort on the part of the Chairman of the Federation, Royston Gambier, and myself. Eight hundred envelopes, stamps, forms and signatures (have you ever signed your name eight hundred times in one session? Quite an experience I can assure you), to say nothing of heaps of paper on my desk, were proof of it.

I spoke at all five Inaugurations, and am delighted to see the results.

Having 'banged the drum', so to speak, may I say how much I enjoy your Journal? Material, layout, and in particular, clear clean type, all appeal to me. Well done all!"

FROM R.G. McK. Butcher, 47 Priory Way, North Barrow.

I have recently bought two books on the First World War. One is entitled 'Introduction to the registers of the Ypres (Menin Gate) and Tyne Cot, Passchendaele Memorials, Belgium. It describes the memorials and gives dates and descriptions of the battles. Also a list of all the Regiments for the United Kingdom as well as Overseas Regiments. There are also photographs.

The second book, Part 6 (of 25 parts) is entitled 'Memorials to the soldiers of the Empire who fell in Flanders during the Great War and have no known graves. The Tyne Cot Memorial, Passchendaele, Belgium - Soldiers from the United Kingdom: names COPFIELD to DANIELS.' It gives names, ranks, regiments, next of kin, with addresses, age and date. There are fifty five pages with an average of twenty five names to a page.

These books were published by order of the Imperial War Graves Commission, 1927. I would willingly look up any names members might be interested in.

FROM Dennis H. Pearce, Regional Organiser, Hampshire Genealogical Society, 'Wayside', Rowan Road, Twyford, Winchester. SO21 1QW

George Wakelin, former chairman and a founder member of the Hampshire Genealogical Society started the Wakelin Index of Britons who died Overseas. Sadly George died a few months ago and I have been asked to continue the work. The 2,000 odd names that George collected are, I know, only the tip of the iceberg, so I shall be very grateful for any help you can give me in the way of lists of names, or information as to where such information is (a) stored, (b) may be obtained.

This Index will of course be available for research by anyone affiliated to the Federation of Family History Societies. I hope that in due course I shall receive a letter from you.

COLLECTING STRAYS

Whilst carrying out research on your family history, you are bound to come across the odd entry relating to someone from another county, perhaps from the other end of the country, who has 'strayed' out of their usual county of residence. You may have the feeling that someone, somewhere, is looking for just that entry, probably in all the wrong places, and you would like to make sure that it reaches them. But how?

The Federation of Family History Societies advises that you should first of all, record the entry carefully using block capitals for all surnames and place names. Note both the county of origin, and the one where the event took place, and make sure that you give the source of your information clearly, e.g. newspaper (title, full date and page number), parish register, bishop's transcript, gravestone (don't forget to identify the churchyard), so that if anyone finds the item useful he can go back and look at the original entry.

When you get home copy out carefully on to 5" x 3" slips, using a carbon paper to make one extra copy (two for marriages), and pass the slips to your Society Strays Co-ordinator who will send them to the Central Clearing House. In return entries relating to your own county will be received from Co-ordinators of other counties, perhaps helping you to find that 'lost' marriage, baptism or burial. Co-operation pays

The second copy of the slips will be forwarded to the National Strays Index. This is not open to individual queries, but periodically will be typed, microfiched, and distributed free of charge to member societies.

We are looking for a volunteer to act as Strays Co-ordinator in our Society, and meanwhile queries will be dealt with at our monthly meetings.

Some sample slips for your guidance:

SMITH John On Saturday last at BURY, LANCOS John 3rd son of late James SMITH formerly of this town. HULL ADVERTISER 3 June 1849 p. 16. (E.Riding Yorks)	BROWN William In memory of /William BROWN/ late of LOUTH, LINCOS/ who died 4 Jul 1821/ aged 63 years/ N.I. in WELTON churchyard (E. Riding Yorks)
SMITH James & Mary BROWN of par. PENRITH, Cumberland. Marr. by Lic. 6 Aug 1816 at HELMSLEY (North Riding Yorks) (HTs)	JONES Marnaduke Marnaduke s. Lawrence & Jane JONES bapt. 7 Nov 1808 at HOLY TRINITY, HULL. (E.Riding Yorks.) (Parish Register)

A GENEALOGIST'S DIARY

At the second British Family History Conference, held at Guildford last September, David J. Eveleigh of the Museum of English Rural Life spoke on "The life of Agricultural Labourers," particularly in Victorian England. Dr. Watts of the West Middlesex FHS, who heard his lecture, was intrigued by mention of historical farm business records that had been collected by the museum and placed in the Reading University Library. So much so that he wrote for a list of such items. He was excited to find references to Farm Account Books of 1854-1882 relating to a family name that he knew was of interest in my own research. The library forms part of the University complex at Whiteknights, Reading, (beside the A 327 - Redlands Road). When I learned of these items I made a detour when driving near, after making an appointment to visit the archive room (100 A) where there is a facility for reading. I was delighted to discover several family account books which not only contained useful details of Norfolk farm life - "Cutting grass 13 acre @ 2/6d (July 1855), but in the same year more personal information. "Charlotte died 10 minutes to 10 at night aged 5 months but 3 days." What small items of family history can be found in unlikely places. The permanent exhibition in the Museum of English Rural Life contains much of interest to those writing of their rural ancestors.

Another museum was the venue for the annual local history conference of the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society (LAMAS). A feature of this gathering at the Museum of London are the displays known by most of the local history societies of Greater London. Those with a family interest in this wide area found books, leaflets, maps, and photographs on display in great variety. As a bonus, enthusiasts were present from all the places concerned only too willing to share their knowledge of local and family history. I was fortunate in meeting Eric Smith of Clapham, who told me that he had been Secretary and Treasurer of the local Antiquarian Society since 1937. He is also their archivist. His knowledge of Clapham was profound and in a short conversation I was able to absorb a great deal of local information and learned of many new sources.

In the comfortable lecture theatre of the London Museum I was able to hear three excellent speakers with subjects such as "Parochial Assessment Maps of the London Area (1836-1848)" - these maps are being collected at the Guildhall Library. And "Records of Chancery and Exchequer." These deal with many subjects that are of use to the genealogist. Held at the Public Record Office they go back to 1366 and record such items as cases of property division and inheritance. While early calendars are printed, the documents do need some legal knowledge to understand and lack indexes which could assist reference. They are held in Class C at Chancery Lane and one item in the Pown Depositions 1547 - 1853, Class C 24, tells a good story.

"John Randall, of Hatcliff, Middx., gent, aged 44, deposing on fifth of December, 1668, says that he knew Richard Webber who died four or five years since. He was the son of John Webber by Donnor, one of the daughters of John Catwoodly, Esqre. Richard had a regard to his estate and condition and was free from extravagance and disorders and was of a courteous and affable behaviour

to his friends and acquaintances except that sometimes some or one of his acquaintance would purposely raise a discourse with him concerning the antiquity of the family of the Catwoodlye, thereby to provoke the said Richard Webber to a passion. And upon such discourse and not otherwise as this Deponent could produce, the said Richard Webber would appear to be much disturbed and would highly vindicate the said family of the Catwoodlies from whom he was descended affirming that one of his said ancestors the Catwoodlies, was knighted by the Emperor of Germany, which, as he said and endeavoured to make good, was a great a dignity as an Earl in England and that such honour or dignity descended to him from his said Ancestor, or to that effect. And otherwise than as aforesaid, to wit upon competition concerning the family of the Catwoodlies or some other high provocation, the said Richard Webber was of a faire and affable demeanour and did not take upon him to be a Duke, Earl, Prince, or Emperor in this deponents Hearing, or to be of other quality than as aforesaid."

Webber v. Webber.
PRO.: c24/933/144.

Other sources mentioned at the London conference are to be found at the Greater London Record Office and when these archives were re-opened in their new home on January 4th I did not delay a visit. Northampton Road may not be easy to find for the first time. Going by Underground (Metropolitan) to Farringdon Station I turned right into Farringdon Road and then after about eight minutes walk (crossing Clerkenwell Road) I took a turning to the Right: Bowling Green Lane. Northampton Road is then the first turning to the left.

There is a clear sign over the entrance and a flight of stairs leads to a common room with lockers. Then into the large, well-lit reading rooms. A new feature is the incorporation of the History Library with countless books on open shelves; now in close proximity to the manuscripts. In "The Londoner" for January 1983 I read an interesting account of this new home for 700 years of London's records:

"Records and books on 13 miles of shelves, plus the Council's extensive maps, prints and photographs collections, were moved in a complex operation that took almost a year."

"About 25,000 visitors used the record office and history library each year when they were at County Hall. Now they will have the extra facilities of a readers' common room and exhibition room for talks and displays. Records of St. Thomas's Hospital are deposited in the office. These include the register of nurses who served with Florence Nightingale in the Crimea and a series of job descriptions for 1556 which says the matron should be a 'sad, grey, virtuous motherly woman.'

A number of parish registers contain interesting entries such as a detailed account of an earthquake that hit London at 5.30am on March 8, 1749. The top of a pier on the north side of Westminster Abbey fell down, so did two houses in Whitechapel.

A rare document is a nuncupative will. This is an oral will, now valid only when made on the field of battle. The one in the archives was dictated by a Mrs. Joan Robinson from her bedroom window in 1609 shortly before she died of the plague in Uxbridge."

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE FROM THE SOCIETY

Cash with orders. Price includes postage and packing. (U.K.)

	£
Beginning your Family History (Second Edition) (Textbook for the beginner)	1.20
Census Returns 1841-1881 on Microfilm A Directory to local holdings. J.S.W. Gibson	1.40
Bishops Transcripts and Marriage Licences A guide to their location. J.S.W. Gibson	1.20
Probate Jurisdictions Where to look for Will. J.S.W. Gibson	2.25
Census Indexes How to use & compile them	1.20
Record Offices, with maps How to find them.	1.20
Marriage Indexes. M. Walcott & J. Gibson What and where they are	.95
Notes on recording Mon. Inscriptions	.80
Quarter Sessions Records Details of those available	1.20
Family History News & Digest Twice yearly report	1.20
The Grover family of Baling A local family. Baling Museum Society	.65

These and other publications may be ordered from:

Mr. P. Eslemont, 25 Thomas Beckett Close, Wembley, Middlesex.

Additional copies of "Greentrees" may be ordered;
Including postage and packing: .75p