



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 Harrow Arts Council and the Brent Arts Council.

"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 of the Journals issued). Corporate membership is £4.00 a year. Subscriptions are due on 1st September annually and expire on 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 Mr W. P. Burgess, 20 Kemp near Acre, Grahame Park Estate, Colindale, NW9. Will all intending contributors note that items intended for inclusion in the next issue of "Greentrees" be submitted by 31st August 1985.

E D I T O R I A L

The Society has for some years now been fortunate in having Eric Whittleton as Editor of our Journal. Unfortunately, owing to other commitments, Eric has had to give up.

The Committee would therefore, on behalf of all our members, like to record their thanks and appreciation for the work he has done in producing so many interesting journals, which have not only been of benefit to our own members but of great value to the many Family History Societies with which we have contact.

The Committee has endeavoured to carry on the good work Eric has done.

We are still looking for an Editor so if amongst our members there is someone who feels they would like to try their hand at Editorship the Committee will be only too pleased to hear from them.

FOR YOUR DIARY.

All meetings are held at the Friends Meeting House, 456, Rayners Lane, Harrow. Nearest Underground Station: Rayners Lane - Picadilly/Metropolitan Lines. Bus services: 209 and H1.

Monthly meetings are held on Fridays and commence at 8p.m.

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| | |
|---------------------|---|
| 14th June 1985 | Mr R A M Harvey will give a talk entitled " <u>Genealogical Research in the City of London.</u> " |
| 12th July 1985 | Mr K E Cox will give a talk on " <u>The Last 300 Years.</u> " |
| August | No Meeting |
| 13th September 1985 | Annual General Meeting, etc. |

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HOUSE GROUP AT WEMBLEY PARK

Mrs Doris Jones has organised this group since the beginning of last year. It was formed to allow those living in the Wembley area to have the opportunity of getting together to sort out some of the problems encountered in research.

Meetings are held the last Monday of the month. The group exists for those members wishing to compare their experiences and can be of particular help to inexperienced researchers wanting to get started. We all know that family history research is an occupation in which, however experienced the researcher, there is always yet another method to be tried, or another source to be considered.

The initial enthusiasm of the group deserves to have full support and anyone interested in attending should contact Mrs D Jones at 95 Oakington Avenue, Wembley Park. Please telephone if you can join (01-904-6310).

ADDRESSES OF CONTRIBUTORS

If members wish to contact the contributors with regard to their articles, the addresses are as follows:-

Mr Ron Purser, 55 Tewkesbury Gdns, Kingsbury, London NW9 0OU.
Mr Mike Wilshin, 5 Romcree Gate, Pamber Heath, Basingstoke, Hants RG26 6EJL.

NOTES & NEWS

GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY

When the photographers of the Great Western Railway went out with their plate cameras at the turn of the century they brought back not only pictures of trains, stations and newly appointed station-masters, but a unique record of life in town and country.

Their glass negatives gathered dust in hundreds of boxes stored at Paddington station, West London. Little of their work appeared on seaside posters or as views in railway carriages.

Mr Alan Brock, a photographic consultant, has been cataloguing and processing a quarter of a million negatives retrieved from storage as part of a joint venture by British Rail and the Oxford Publishing Company. His task could last many years and it is bound to add immeasurably to pictorial knowledge of British life between the late 1880's and the 1940's.

The pictures include many that are not identified because the photographers did not list them. Mr Brock has produced subject lists of many categories in the collection. His lists are available to anyone who cares to send him a stamped addressed envelope to 302 Holdenhurst Road, Bournemouth, Dorset.

In view of the effect that the building of the Great Western Railway had on the Central Middlesex area members may wish to contact the following for further information.

| | | |
|-----------------|----------------|-----------|
| G W R Society | Ealing Library | P R O Kew |
| Tony Hayliss | | |
| 25 Chalfont Way | | |
| Ealing W13 | | |

THAMES WATERMEN

One of our members of the North West Kent Family History Society, Mrs June Curtis, has gathered a considerable amount of information about Watermen working on the Thames. She is now trying to compile an index of Thames Watermen and would like to hear from members of other societies who have a similar interest and who would like to help. Most, if not all, of the records relating to the Watermen are held at the Guildhall Library in the City, so any offers of help would involve travelling to the Guildhall to transcribe registers. If anyone would like to help Mrs Curtis with this project, please contact the North West Kent projects co-ordinator, Miss Joanna Hards by telephoning 01-651-2431 or writing to 64 Mayfield Rd, Sanderstead, Surrey CR2 0BF.

FRIDAY 11th JANUARY 1985 - A Genealogical Check List

The talks of Eric Whittleton, a founder member of the CMFHS, are always of a practical and informative nature, and this occasion was no exception. Many of the items discussed were backed up by suitable examples, which members were able to examine later.

The Family Bible is, no doubt, an excellent starting point if one is lucky enough to locate it and the entries have been made with care.

Other items which may well be found in Family Papers include the following:-
 Birthday and Address Books, Diaries, Autograph Books, Baptismal and Confirmation Records, Memorial Cards, Seals... used for sealing letters, and usually embossed with the person's initials of Family Crest. Post Office Savings Account Books... record any change of address. School Reports, prizes and magazines, Apprentice Certs, Testimonials, Passports... which include a description of the person. Presentation items and Sporting Trophies, Medals and other Decorations, Armourial Crests/Silver, Medical and Hospital Cards, Settlement Certs... confirming residence in a particular Parish. Photographs, Samplers, Newspaper cuttings, Books on the Bookshelf, Postcards and Letters, Military Records. Wills... did not all have to be proved, if no property of value. Cemetery records... give Plot No. etc., Directories of various Professions. Also local Directories, Kellys, etc., "The Gentlemen's Magazine" - indexed. Kensington Library has a large collection of Printed Pedigrees.

Finally, mention was made of the Historical Manuscripts Commission, to be found in Quality Court, Chancery Lane - the indexes may be viewed, which include location of Manors.

FRIDAY 8th FEBRUARY 1985 - Heraldry - with some Middlesex connections

Mr K W Holmes, Chairman of the Middlesex Heraldry Society, gave a talk on the subject above, and stated that the county did not have many members of the aristocracy to record; however, there were many of the landed gentry who had local connections. In particular the Newdigates with their close association with Harefield. There are numerous monuments and hatchments to members of the family in St. Mary's Church. Ruslip has strong links with the Hawtreys and has several hatchments commemorating this family.

Mr Holmes showed us some interesting slides, particularly of hatchments and explained the origin of this type of memorial. They originated in the Low Countries and came into England early in the 17th Century. The term hatchment comes from the medieval achievement, the shield, helm and other accoutrements of a noble or knight carried at his funeral. It was the custom to hang the hatchment outside the house during the period of mourning and then put it in the church. They are of particular value to genealogists in so far that not only the blazon of arms indicates the family, but the background of black/white or white/black tells us at a glance, whether the hatchment is for a bachelor or spinster, husband or wife, widow or widower.

On concluding his very interesting talk, Mr Holmes kindly invited our

members to visit the Middlesex Heraldry Society who meet on the third Thursday in the month at 8p.m. in Ruislip Manor Library.

FRIDAY 8th MARCH 1985 - Tracing your Coastguard Ancestors

Eileen Stage, a member of the West Middlesex FHS, is well known for her work on the coastguard service and from her talk we learnt much about its history and records.

The widespread illicit traffic of smuggling was becoming a threat at the time of the Napoleonic wars and the government were determined to reduce the operations of the smugglers. Preventative men or water guards were recruited who sailed along the coast prepared to "rummage" suspicious vessels. At first control was by Customs and Excise, but in 1856 it went to the Admiralty.

James Stage was a Coastguard and this knowledge started Eileen Stage on her enquiries. She had used House of Commons Sessions papers for lists of coastguards and their pay and allowances (1857). Census Returns had proved invaluable and led to the compilation of an index. This now had 18000 references and allows the movements of coastguards and their families to be traced.

There were many records at the Public Record Office among Admiralty papers (Ref 175). Muster Rolls and Description books had been useful. In 1857 when shore stations were adopted many were given ship's names. Armed with carbines there were dusk to dawn patrols. The conditions of the men could be understood from the many photographs and illustrations exhibited by Mrs Stage, and her audience learned much from her conscientious work. Some of our members had coastguard ancestors and Mrs Kirkwood brought a large framed photocopy of the complete record of her own ancestor, which she had traced in the Public Record Office.

FRIDAY 12th APRIL 1985 - Workshop Evening

For our April meeting a Workshop evening was held. The members who attended were asked to split into various groups; Beginners, Advanced, Heraldry and Computers.

The first three groups are self-explanatory. For the group on Computers, Keith Williams brought along a mobile information handling system to show how a home computer (Spectrum 48k) could be used in storing Family History information. He demonstrated the use of commercial cassette programs for displaying simple main line ancestors up to a maximum of 64 (Family Tree), for storing information on our own members (Masterfile), or on individual ancestors (Vu-File).

A series of small groups was shown how data could be displayed in either readable English or in a highly coded format. A word processor (Tasword) was used to display one ancestors life-story. It was explained that other programs could sort out which day a certain date fell on. Interested parties were told of a user group associated with the Soc. of Genealogists, which produced a quarterly journal. The computer is also being used for one-name studies, by Keith, for the names Bovingdon (Bucks) and Maalen (Wilts).

- THE COTSWOLD CONNECTION? -

by Ron Purser

My wife and I began family history research a year ago and for a number of reasons have concentrated on the Pursers. All we knew was that my grandfather, Henry Richard, died about 1948, and I vaguely remembered my father saying that Henry Richard had been born in Cleveland Street, St. Pancras and that there was a coach business somewhere in the family. A heritage in London, the infernal Wen, and not a whisper within the family of anything more. No one was left within our circle whom we could cross-examine. Now, 12 months later, we have a family tree stretching back to 1762 and encompassing hundreds of persons. And a story. How?

We started the hard way. In St. Catherine's House we traced from Henry Richard's death to his birth and forward to his marriage. At the same time we checked out each new address and had the usual Londoner's luck: not there. But we did notice a mysterious Elijah living in Cleveland Street, and when we got my great grandfather's marriage certificate, there was Elijah, coach body builder, father of Henry James and my great great grandfather.

We were also blindly checking the Somerset House will indexes, and in 1883 we came across the will of Richard Purser, Elijah's father, who had died 27 years earlier in 1856. A huge question mark: why the delay? The will contained the first of our great discoveries. Richard spoke of a legacy he was expecting from the sale of a farm at Hook Norton, Oxfordshire, the property of his late brother Samuel of Moreton-in-Marsh. Breakthrough number one: The Cotswold Connection.

This news brought a welcome change in the direction of our research. What a relief it was to examine indexes and census returns for the lovely rolling North Cotswold countryside, after the frustrating streets and alleys of the Wen. The next key we needed was brother Samuel's will. But where? Two miles outside Moreton stands the Four Shires Stone and it means what it says. Here, four counties used to meet, until Worcestershire was in more recent times sent packing. Wills, and where to find them, became the new name of the game. But the tricky borderline came to our rescue, because with property in more than one county, Samuel's will was among the PCC records in the PRO, our own backyard. Breakthrough number two. This will explained that Samuel wanted his estate to be shared amongst all his and his wife's nephews and nieces, but that the Hook Norton farm should not be so divided until Isaac, one of the nephews who was currently running the farm for Samuel, had died. Isaac, we found, passed on in 1869, and this explained part, but not all, of the delay in settling Richard Purser's will. Samuel also helpfully named all his and his wife's (formerly Jeffcoat) brothers and sisters, and confirmed what we by now already believed: that the Pursers stemmed from a family of eleven raised by Samuel and Sarah Purser (nee Jeffcoat) between 1763 and 1781. In fact, it came to light that three generations of Purser married three generations of Jeffcoats.

We cast around in the various information sources; for example, we noticed that a number of "Purser" wills and admons in 1882 and 1883 were for £90-13-6. Clearly, this was the final share figure and these were some of the nieces and nephews. There were bound to be many others under the

married names acquired by the ladies. We contemplated doing an exhaustive check through the indexes for all "194-13-6" cases, but fortunately before we started this laborious exercise, Breakthrough number three arrived.

We had deduced that Samuel was an influential man in Moreton. Occasional newspaper references we found showed him buying and selling. Therefore, in casting around for possible leads we wrote to the Moreton Chief Librarian, and received a reply from the Local History Society secretary who introduced herself as Isaac Purser's great granddaughter. Some of the information we had given in our letter was news to her. Now we were no longer researching alone. We have had the pleasure of meeting our distant cousin, and via her other members of the family. Before we came on the scene, Margaret had been making enquiries of her own around family contacts, and from her came the magical message: there could be money in Chancery.

We asked Eric Whittleston what he knew about the mysteries of Chancery papers and he produced a couple of very useful articles, which generally explained the difficulties. Fortunately, the magazines also included an article on the PRO's death duty registers. We tackled these first, since they were clearly easier, and found a ledger sheet for Samuel's estate on which were listed all the intended beneficiaries - 59 of them - in their families, and the size of the estate (about £10,000 in all.) But the ledger sheet included something even more valuable. Among the cryptic progress notes made by the clerical staff at the time was the name of the cause in Chancery, 'Stayt versus Shepard', its year and reference number, and the starting and finishing years. Breakthrough number four. In searching Chancery papers the name of the cause is the most valuable clue of all because much of the indexing is based on it. In our case, Thomas Stayt was the first-named of the four executors of the will who had become plaintiffs; Thomas Shepard was husband of one of the defendants contesting interpretation of the will.

We dug deeply into the Chancery records. They are not easy to reassemble into a complete case because they are scattered amongst a number of series according to type, but given the name of the cause and the determination to search many indexes we soon found that there's gold in them thar wills.

We have now located the original bill of complaint in 1869, the final orders in 1882 and 1883, a large number of affidavits, and the Chief Clerk's Certificate setting out the pedigrees proven by the parties. For example, we have a 15-page affidavit signed by my great great grandfather Elijah (who we had not heard of a year ago) which starts:-

"I, Elijah Purser of 119 Cleveland Street, Euston Road, Middlesex, coach body maker, make oath and say as follows. I am 58 years of age and am one of the children of Richard Purser, who was one of the brothers, I have always heard and verily believe, of Samuel Purser, late of Moreton, Gloucestershire, gentleman deceased. I have heard from my father and it was a well known fact in our family that he and the said Samuel Purser were the children of Samuel Purser and Sarah his wife, who I believe formerly resided at Black Downs Farm, Stretton, Warwickshire, but who afterwards and at the time of their deaths resided at Aston Magna, Blockley, Worcestershire."

Details of some 450 births, deaths and marriages are contained in the Chief Clerk's Certificate, not simply of the 59 nephews and nieces but of many of

their parents and descendants too. The gates have been thrown open wide for our family history study to proceed. When one reads the comments in the affidavits, one realises how difficult, at times impossible, is the task that family history researchers undertake. Tke the following examples:-

"My father William Purser left the country many years ago and went to reside in London where he died. I believe his death occurred more than 40 years since but neither I nor any of my family knows where or when he died." (A stray?)

"My uncle Robert died in a lunatic asylum in Ararat, Victoria. I understand he was married before emigrating and had a daughter, but have not heard anything of them for 30 years."

"I was not formally married to a man named Spinks. I lived with Thomas Spinks as his wife for a while and led my family to believe he was my husband."

"My brother had three children and none of these was ever known as William, and I have no doubt the one called William in the Baptismal Register was always known to the family as Joseph, and afterwards buried as such."

"I have not been able to trace my birth at Somerset House." (I was glad to read this - I had failed too, yet my forbear had been searching a hundred years before me.)

"The birth certificate shows Eliza's surname wrongly as Percival."

"John Purser left for Sydney some 25 years ago. I saw him leave by the ship 'Blackwall' which sailed from Blackwall."

"No trace can be found of the baptisms of Alfred and Emma, but I confirm they are my brother and sister."

Twelve years ago, we stayed for a couple of nights bed and breakfast at a farm just below Stretton, long before we started family history research. We now know that on the opposite side of the lane was another farm - Black Downs; where the Purser family was raised between 1763 and 1781!

A GLOSSARY for GENEALOGY

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| IRVINGITE | : a member of another religious sect, a follower of Rev. Edward Irving (1792-1834) - founder of the Holy Apostolic Church. In 1851 there were thirty chapels. Old registers are with the Public Record Office, London from 1829. |
| INITIATUS(A) FUIT | : He or she was baptised. |
| INCUMBENT | : A clergyman in possession of an ecclesiastical benefice - a rector, vicar or parson. |

THE EALING LOCAL HISTORY COLLECTION

M. Gooding

After more than 80 years in the beautiful but unsuitable George Dance/John Soane house (Pitshanger Manor) in Walpole Park, the Central Library has now moved into a large new library in Ealing Broadway Centre.

Those of you who visited us in our old premises will know that there were no proper facilities available for Local History. Our new building however, has special provision on the mezzanine floor for local history users.

Although we are still in the process of amalgamating the collections of the three former boroughs of Acton, Ealing and Southall, most of the items needed by those interested in family history (eg. census returns, street directories, voters lists) are now available at the Central Library.

When you visit our library you will find that none of the local history material is on the open shelves, but, please do not be put off by this - we are only too happy to fetch items for you. By the way, it is often better to explain what information you hope to find out, rather than asking for a specific type of publication. The particular item you mention may not be available for the area, but there are quite often other sources known to the staff which will provide similar information.

The collection is at present a partial amalgamation of local history collections. Of the three boroughs, mentioned above, the Ealing collection is much the largest, and this has been used as the nucleus of the London Borough of Ealing collection. Eventually all local history material will be included in it. The approximate size of the collection is as follows:-

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------|
| Books and Pamphlets | 4,000 |
| Archives | 1,000 |
| Manuscripts | 5,000 |
| Maps (sheets) | 1,230 |
| Newspapers (microprint) | 650 |
| Framed Pictures and Prints | 1,200 |
| Photographs and Illustrations | 12,000 |
| Slides and Transparencies | 2,000 |
| Cuttings and Ephemera | 4 scrapbooks |

Unfortunately the map collection was almost totally destroyed by fire in 1982 but where possible replacement copies have been obtained. These include some early parish maps e.g. Ealing 1777, copies of enclosure award maps and Ealing Tithe Map 1839.

The collection also includes various indexes as follows:-

Cumulative Index - covering scrapbooks, Ealing Local History Society publications and various other publications on the Borough.

Subject Index - consisting mainly of information from materials in stock at the library.

Personalities Index - includes names which appear in early rate books, vestry minute books, etc., as well as from more modern sources.

Holt Index - index of the main local newspaper for the old Borough of Ealing from 1858 to 1965. 1866-1961 is now in bound volumes.

The first three indexes mentioned are due to be incorporated into a General Information Index. The Holt Index from 1961 to date will be incorporated in the Newspaper Index.

All types of Periodicals, including local organisations, church magazines, school magazines etc. These files were also badly affected by the fire in 1982, but owing to the help and co-operation of local organisations and churches, we have managed to replace many issues and make xerox copies of many more.

Newspapers Files are of microfilm only. Some examples are as follows:-

Ealing Gazette and West Middlesex Advertiser October 1898 - September 1923

Ealing Guardian November 1898 - May 1900

West Middlesex Standard January 1893 - December 1894

Acton Press November 1869 - March 1871; July 1898 - June 1900

Directories including

Kelly's Directory of Acton 1915, 1916, 1919-1940

Pigot & Cos Middlesex 1822-3, 1826-7, 1839 (extracts for Borough only)

Kelly's Directory of Middlesex 1845, 1850, 1878. (extracts for Borough only), 1885

Kelly's Six Home Counties Directory 1894

Mason's Directory for Ealing 1853

Cordingley's Ealing and Hanwell Directory 1881

Kelly's Ealing, Acton, Hanwell, Gunnersbury, and Chiswick 1887-8, 1889-90, 1893-4, 1895-6

Parochial and other Religious Records. Items at present on loan to the library include St. Mary's Ealing, Vestry Minutes 1798-1879, St. Mary's Ealing Poor Rate Books 1696-1705, 1707-1835. The Library also has St. Mary's Hanwell Vestry Minutes 1785-1838 and St. Mary's Hanwell Rate Books 1808-1814, 1835-1855. The originals of these being in a very fragile condition, so that microfilm copies are provided for the use of researchers.

Local Government These records are in the main at the Municipal Offices, but in recent years some items have been passed to the libraries - in particular education records prior to 1914 which include a number of early school log books and some public health records, including Sanitary Inspectors' Journals 1899-1940 and Sanitary Inspectors' Record Books 1918-1939.

Other Administrative Records. Very few are held at the Library. Enumerators returns for 1841 Census for the former Borough of Ealing are on microfilm. Those for the rest of the London Borough of Ealing are available as photocopies. The Library also holds photocopies of enumerators returns for the whole of the present Borough for 1851, 1861, 1871, and 1881 Census.

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The local history collection can be found at the Ealing Central Library, 103 Ealing Broadway Centre, London W5 5JY (01-567-3656 ext. 37) The Local History Librarian is Miss M. Gooding, B.A., A.L.S., who provided this article.

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FAMILY HISTORY IN FOCUS

Edited by Don Steel and Lawrence Taylor
Lutterworth Press £9.95 929 2

This is an unusual book, set in large type and lavishly illustrated. Edited by Don Steel of BBC fame, and Lawrence Taylor, a history lecturer, it consists of eleven essays contributed by specialists concerning photographic archives, the identification and dating of costume and uniforms, with details of photographic processes. There is a section on arranging and presenting your own family history.

Much of the information has not been put together in one volume before and a good index with notes and a comprehensive book-list make this a volume useful for reference. The section describing photographic papers and processes (Don Steel) can be particularly useful and there is an adequate description of the Cartes de Visite, popular from 1859 to 1905 and found in most family albums.

Every family historian using a camera should read the book - it will add scope to the camera's use. There is a word of warning regarding colour prints (not transparencies). Today 92% of all film sold is colour but the length of life of the prints has not been determined and they can deteriorate with improper storage.

LIFE AND WORK IN A MIDDLESEX VILLAGE - HAREFIELD 1880-1914

by Geoffrey Tyack Hillingdon Borough Libraries, 1984 £2.50

The memories of some of Harefield's oldest residents form the basis of a new illustrated history of the village which has just been published by Hillingdon's Libraries and Information Service.

Called "Life and Work in a Middlesex Village" the book describes the daily lives of inhabitants of Harefield in the home, at school and at work, particularly during the early part of this century. The residents quoted in the new book gave their recollections and reminiscences to author Geoffrey Tyack in a series of taped conversations.

One of the few villages in the old County of Middlesex to have avoided being swallowed up by the growth of London during the 20th century, Harefield has since 1965 formed part of the London Borough of Hillingdon.

A past assistant editor of the "Victoria County History of Middlesex", Mr Tyack is no stranger to the village having taught a London University extra-mural class there from 1974 to 1977 which led to his writing "Harefield At That Time of Day" (1978).

In addition to being a contribution to the history of the village his book is intended to show how the use of oral reminiscences can enrich understanding of the social history of the area. This book is one in a series of local history publications and is available at the price of £2.50 from any Hillingdon library or by post, for £2.80 from the Civic Centre, Uxbridge.

WHO WAS HE?

In 1782 a baby boy was born at Abingdon, Berkshire. He was baptised on the 2nd June of that year at the Independent Chapel, but little is known of his parents. He would seem to have had a fair education and later married.

By his wife, Charlotte, he had five children. Three of these died before reaching the age of 22 and were buried in the 'burying ground' of St. Mary's Chapel, Holloway. Two children survived, Elizabeth and a son, Samuel. The family came to live in Islington, where the son wrote a "History of Islington."

His father had other plans of a literary nature. He had long felt a need for a comprehensive guide to the towns, villages and hamlets of England arranged in 'dictionary' form. After some years of preparation he could proceed with publication assisted by a friend, Joseph Timothy Haydn, a journalist from Dublin connected with the "Evening Mail" (1823) and later with the "Limerick Times."

The dictionary was a great success when it was published in 1831 and it is still to be found in all principal reference libraries. Its usefulness to many a family historian should place its author among the immortals. He died at 19 Compton Terrace, Islington on 28th February 1865 - just 120 years ago. In the margin of the probate of his Will at Somerset House are the words "under £7,000." It has since been suggested that if the whole of this sum represented profit on his dictionary, the money was well earned.

What was the work and who was the author? For the answer see Page 21

FROM

Valeria A Norris 10 Queens Avenue, Byfleet,
Surrey KT14 7AD

Letters
to the
Editor

"For the past several years I have been doing a One Name Study of the CULVERHOUSES. Although I have had great success with the out of London parishes for the Culverhouses, I find

that the London parishes are very slow going, as there are so many of them to search. I am, therefore, requesting details of any registers in which Culverhouses appear. At the moment I am very much interested in post 1837 Culverhouses.

As for my research, I have collated all births, marriages and deaths from 1837 to 1920 so far, plus Somerset House Wills from 1858 to 1930, and pre 1858 Wills from Hertfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Wiltshire. I also have all the Culverhouses from 1538 which appear on the I.G.I. In exchange for a S.A.F. I am always happy to give what ever information I can."

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From Sam Morton, Editor - "West Middlesex Family History Society" Journal

It is just two years since Eric Whittleton and I agreed that our respective family history societies were almost unaware of the other's existence and that we should try to alter that unhappy state. We said that we would each contribute short pieces for the other journal, and we also hoped to include North Middlesex as well. Despite Eric's retirement from the Editor's chair, it is our hope that this interchange will continue.

As you will know, the Middlesex Societies were considering a joint Day Conference this September, but there was insufficient time to make a realistic plan. We have agreed to meet again in July to consider a Conference next year. I would like to see all the London Societies taking part in this, - or is it just wishful thinking on my part at present?

It really is time that we considered the many problems of our London forebears as a whole. We need a comprehensive index of Births, Marriages and Deaths for the whole region pre 1837 and I would say up to 1850. We all know how much is missing from the early indexes at St Catherine's House. As you will expect, I have an interest in all this - most of my maternal ancestors sprung from the area bounded by Kingway and Aldersgate, they seemed to be printers or jewellers, but as usual the vital information is missing.

Why waste time on an Index of Deaths you ask? The one sure fact in life is that inevitably we all come to that state sooner or later - so why bother? One of my problems concerns on William Miles, I know from the Census of 1851 that he was living in Clerkenwell with his family, when the youngest son that I know of - my grandfather - married in 1870, William was dead, and the date of his death might tie in with the family's move to Lambeth, and it might save me a search of either Lambeth or Clerkenwell Census for the family. I have a similar problem with William's father-in-law, and it is that information which will help to confirm or dispute other facts that I am slowly building up about the family.

The growth of London in the late 18th and 19th centuries creates many problems for us, much work has been done, but there is still a vast amount to do. We need a fresh impetus and I would like to see every London Society taking part in this work.

by Mike Wilshin

Wilshin (or Wylchin to give it an original variation) has never been what you might call a common name: but I think a strong affinity with Middlesex can safely be assumed since some 95% of all known references are firmly rooted within its boundaries. During the eighteenth century, the Wilshins began to spread themselves in the north-west of the county. From their earlier origins with sundry sallows scattered around the common fields of Roehampton, their horizons began to broaden and by judicious breeding and inter-marriage (particularly amongst the Gurney family), there can scarcely have been a holding in an area bounded on the north by the Stanmoors, to the south by Ickenham and Hayes, west by the river Coln and east by Watling Street, which did not receive some attention from a farmer with Wilshin blood. For example, the published Paget family history refers to John Wilshin of Oxhey Lodge who 'carried on the practice of farming in a top hat and blue tail coat'. Now, I would not want you to imagine that he was following behind the plough in such an outfit, but it does give you an indication of the social standing of the family. At Northal around 1740, another John Wilshin held Old, Smith's, Home and Priors Farms and his brother occupied Court Farm. John's granddaughter, Elizabeth, was married there in 1784 to Edmund Tattersall, the founder of the bloodstock agency, and all are buried in the churchyard in adjacent tombs. But I digress.....

My own particular branch of the family were centred on Brockley Hill Farm, Great Stanmore, originally purchased around 1840 by my great great grandfather, Henry Horn(s) Wilshin. His son Henry Joseph was raised there, and in the fullness of time inherited, and started raising his own family there. If Brockley Hill sounds a little familiar, then perhaps it was because it achieved some fame in 1983 when an article in The Times, as well as a television news item related how the GLC were desirous to remove and rebuild the derelict Elizabethan barn in Hillingdon for a sum of £75,000 exclusive of the renovation. (Incidentally the news sent me hot-foot to Brockley Hill where I was extremely gratified to find that Henry Wilshin had left his mark both on history, and on one of the beams, in the form of his initials twelve inches high and half an inch deep.)

Henry Joseph had five sons, who ranged wide and free. They learned to reap and sow, but above all to shoot. About this time, Rudolf Otto Steinberg entered the picture. He was a financier (what else, with a name like that?) and he had come to court Caroline, HJ's sister. He was introduced by the famous five to their favourite sport and he took to it like a duck takes to water: to such an extent that individual prowess was called to question. A wager was agreed, a stake - gold - determined. And each hunter set off on a day's rough shooting, the one with the biggest bag at the end of the day to take the kitty. Rudolf was the last to return, apparently empty-handed. Upon interrogation it seemed that his 'bag' was in the gig outside, being too heavy to bring in. They scoffed and jeered: but it was true. Outside in the gig lay the corpse of an old sow, heavily peppered with buckshot - and quite indisputably the heaviest bag. History does not recount if this victim of over one hundred years ago had been killed accidentally or cold-bloodedly murdered. But the moral is clear, even if you are a farmer, you will have to get up very early indeed to beat a financier!

NEW MEMBERS

- 224 Miss Sharon Feltham 5/40 Stanmore Rd, Stanmore 2048, Sydney,
N.S.W. Australia
- 225 Mr H. C. Lambert 58 Hide Road, Harrow, Middlesex HA1 4SF
- 226 Mrs Patricia Ward 3 The Circle, Beechwood Ave, S. Harrow,
Middlesex
- 227 Mr John Heather 38 Claremont Gardens, Marlow, Bucks SL7 1BS
- 228 Dr George Haslett Connor "Aubade", 76 Pelworth Rd, Harrow, Middlesex
HA1 3QE
- 229 Miss L. C. Brackley 70 Elm Drive, N. Harrow, Middlesex HA2 7BY
- 230 Miss D. G. Hattam 15 Parkside Way, N. Harrow, Middx HA2 6DE
- 231 Mrs Alice Baxter 111 Powell Street, Grafton, N.S.W. 2460
Australia
- 232 Miss P. J. Cunningham 8 Gore Court, Fryent Way, Kingsbury, London
NW9 9SN
- 233 Miss P. S. G. Burt 3 Widmore Rd, Basingstoke, Hants RG22 6LB

..... who are welcomed to the Society

Obituary

We are sorry to have to tell you that one of our members, Mr John Thomson, lately of 42 Cranleigh Gardens, Harrow, and who moved to Broadstairs last November, died in the early hours of Christmas Day. Mr Thomson contributed a number of items to the Journal. We send our sympathy to his wife.

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MEMBER'S INTERESTS

Keith Williams, the librarian for the Society is in the process of storing member's interests on a home computer disc, so that they can be speedily sorted within any of several different fields. There are many ways of displaying the information, which may then be printed out.

Members are urged to send in updated versions of their interests in the form of the name being researched, the area (parish or county), and the period e.g. pre 1800.

The aim is to produce either a booklet of member's interests or to include them as a supplement to the "Greentrees" journal. They would then reach as wide an audience as possible.

It is, therefore, in members own interests to be included, as this could give rise to new contacts and leads and bring together people who are researching the same name or district, which is clearly beneficial for visiting distant Record Offices.

Members are requested to provide details to committee members at meetings or to forward them to Keith (address on inside front cover).

Auckland Group, New Zealand Society of Genealogists Mem. No. 155
c/o Mrs Margaret Sutton, 89 Gribblehurst Rd, Auckland 3, N. Z.

Mrs Sutton has sent in a list of surnames that are being researched by members of the above group.

| | | |
|------------|-------------------|-------------|
| ALLEN | Westminster | 1843 + |
| ATKINSON | Soho | c1755 |
| BLAKE | Anywhere | c1865 |
| BOULTON | Clerkenwell Green | c1825 |
| BROWN | London | 1840-1900s |
| COMBER | Woolwich, Kent | 1880-1920 |
| COOMBRIDGE | Anywhere | c1865 |
| COX | Harrow | c1864 |
| GAY | | 1860-1873 |
| GROVES | | 1800-1850 |
| GYDE | Clerkenwell Green | c1825 |
| HAYES | London | 1840-1900s |
| HEATH | Anywhere | 1800s |
| MEARER | London | 1840-1900s |
| MYERS | London | early 1900s |
| NATTRASS | London | 1840-1900s |
| PHILPOT | | 1800s |
| POTTS | West Hackney | 1840 |
| RACKSTRAW | Paddington | 1855 |
| SATCHWELL | | 1800s |
| SOLOMONS | London | late 1800s |
| STONE | | 1840-1900s |
| VYE | Westminster | c1851 |
| WATLEN | Paddington | 1855 |

| | | |
|---------|-------------|---------|
| WILSON | Westminster | 1843 + |
| WOODNEY | Anywhere | Anytime |

Mr K J. Williams

41 Bampton Drive, Ruislip, Middlesex HA4 9DB

writes - "Since joining the GMPHS in the Spring of 1983 I have progressed along three parental lines of research, as my father remarked following my mother's early death. The third line is that of my wife, Lorraine, herself a member until the birth of our first child Claire Louise in 1984.

The WILLIAMS line has been traced back to Cilcennin near Aberayron and branches include MORRIS(Borth), EVANS (Llanarth), so I am also a member of the Dyfed FHS. Another line traces the HUNTS via Manchester and Alcester to Stratford upon Avon. Also in this area are TOMPKINS (Stratford), HORN(S) of Arrow and HUNT lines linking CHATTAWAY and NETTLESHIPP in Welford, Glos., as well as ALLCOCK, BENNETT and HICKMAN(S) from the Lower Gornal and Sedgely area near Dudley. On my mother's side are BRENNANs from Darlington, originally from Co. Meath. Her ancestors include AMOS of Middlebrough, from ARMES of Walpole, Norfolk where they relate to SMITH and MIDDLETON (Heathersett). On the maternal line are WILSHER, KING, BULMER and PALLISTER from Haughton near Darlington. Earlier the WILSHERs were in Marylebone, KING in Pateley Bridge, Yorks and BULMER in Stokesley, Yorks. One branch has long roots in Yorkshire around Gilling, Middleton Tyas and the Cowtons and includes LAZENBY, WATSON, WALKER and HURWORTH and further back to the 17th century in Howes, KELL.

On my step-mother's side I am researching HODGSON and MORRIS in the Middlebrough area and also MAVIN (and back to Newcastle), SKELTON and COUPLAND. The MORRIS family can be traced back to Tunstall, Staffs., where they link with CARTLIDGE and HARRISON and around 1700 to Crewe. The others include BISHOP and DEWELL in Shoreditch, HOUGH in St. Ann, Blackfriars and LOWCOCK in Newcastle.

Lorraine's ancestors and DONOVAN from Southwark and (probably) Cork, MANSERS in St. Luke and the Brighton area, LEECH in Shoreditch, BOVINGDON in Penn and Bucks, BATES in Penn, TOTT in Hackney and MASLEN in the Devizes area of Wiltshire. A Scottish branch includes COOPER and McINTOSH in Kirkintilloch, Glasgow, CAMPBELL and SMITH in Stirling. In the branch involving GARDINER and KITCHEN who did not marry we are stuck in Poplar around 1890.

A major interest is to record all references to BOVINGDON and variants, especially in the Bucks, Herts region around Penn. To this end, I have recently added a micro-drive to my Spectrum computer. I am a member of the Society of Genealogists."

Mr Andrew Millard Mem. No. 209

4 Wimborne Drive, Pinner, Middlesex HA5 1NQ

writes - "I have been interested in my family history for several years, but it was not until the winter of 1983 that I started any serious research. I was lucky in that my paternal grandparents had a large amount of family information - for one branch of the family back to about 1700 and my maternal grandmother had an unusual maiden name - BODIMEADE - which only occurs in the parishes of Harrow, Bushey and Watford prior to 1820. I have collected quite a bit of information on the Bodimeade family which I have indexed. The index at present includes the St. Catherine's and Alexandra House indexes for these periods:-

| | |
|-----------|-----------------------------|
| Births | 1837 - 1856 |
| Marriages | 1837 - 1838 |
| Deaths | 1837 - 1850 and 1871 - 1892 |

I hope to expand these dates in future. Also included are all Bodimeade entries in the 1978 I.G.I. for England, Scotland and Wales and references from the Local History Collection Indexes of Harrow and Hillingdon Borough Libraries. I am willing to consult this (or any other) information I have for anybody interested. Any information to add to my collection on Bodimeade would be welcome."

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|------------|
| MILLARD/BUTTON | Mells/Kimeredon, Som. | to 1875 |
| COSTER/BROOKSBY-COSTER | Marylebone & Westminster | any period |
| | St Helena | 1826-1828 |
| CRABB | Stepney | c1760-1810 |
| HATCH | Wapping | c1700-1780 |
| BROOKSBY | Deal & London | to 1830 |
| CHAPMAN/LINCOLN/CARTER | Filton-with-Silsoe, Beds | to 1870 |
| RED(D)INGTON/LITTLECHILD(E) | North Mimms, Herts | to 1870 |
| ONWIN/UNWIN | Mountnessing, Essex | to c1865 |
| BODIMEADE (various spellings) | Harrow, Bushey & Watford | any period |
| JOWETT | Garstang & Preston, Lancs | to 1900 |
| CAMMACK/ATKINSON | Upton-cum-Kesby, Lincs | to 1865 |
| MILLS | Plaistow, Essex | to 1875 |

Mr Michael Fountain Mem. No. 218

155 Harrow View, Harrow, Middlesex HA1 4SX

has the following interest :-

| | | |
|----------|---------------------------------|----------|
| FOUNTAIN | Herts, Bucks, Middx and Norfolk | pre 1800 |
|----------|---------------------------------|----------|

HELP OFFEREDMem. No. 217 Mrs D Carter 82 Idmiston Rd, W. Norwood, London SE27 9HD

came across the following which may interest one of our members:-

Marriage by Banns on 24th October 1830 of the following couples
 Irvin Jones and Mary Ann Webb both of this parish (St. Geo. Hanover Sq.)
 William Puddicombe and Flavella Rayley b. o. t. p. "
 William Jobson and Eliza Rivers b. o. t. p. "

If interested, contact Mrs Carter.

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| Family Tree Magazine | 1. 00 |

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