ISSN 1359-8961 (print)
ISSN 2056-3698 (online)

METROPOLITAN

The Journal of the

LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX

Family History Society

LONDON
WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX
FHS

Volume 9 No. 1 (176) **December 2022**

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EDITORIAL

Are you new to genealogy? If so, you might well be interested in our new Beginners' Corner column on page 14. If you are a more experienced researcher, what advice would you give to a beginner? If the former, do let us know what you would like help with and if the latter, please send in your top tip!

As you know, we editors are always in need of help from our members and rely on your assistance to fill the journal and we would like to thank all who have contributed to *Metropolitan* over this last year. We look forward to receiving more articles, letters, snippets and jottings from you in 2023. Don't forget, you can also send in *Help!* requests if you have a research problem, which could be a tricky brick wall or could be help with a particular resource or record set. We also love to receive your members' interests, which we publish in the yellow pages and elsewhere, see the mini report on page 26 for details.

Meanwhile, we do hope you enjoy the variety of articles in this edition of *Metropolitan*. Perhaps reading them will encourage you to put pen to paper, or even open your computer, and send us something. If you have a tale to tell in which the 1921 census has been instrumental, you might also want to enter The National Archives' competition, see page 19.

We are looking for photos to put on the cover of the journal. Would you like to see one of your photos there? It could be a scene or people but must have a connection to the Society's area. Please send them, with a little explanation about the connection, to: editors@lwmfhs.org.uk

The Editors and the Executive Committee wish all our members and their families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We also wish you Good Luck with your research and hope that any brick walls will be knocked down in the next year. A New Year's Resolution could be to re-view your research and find any gaps that need filling.

Barbara and Elizabeth, the Editorial Team

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

The latter part of this year is the 80th Anniversary of the Battle of El Alamein which was fought in Western Egypt and Libya between the British Empire troops under the command of Lieutenant-General Bernard MONTGOMERY and the German Afrika Corps with their Italian Allies under Field-Marshall Erwin ROMMEL.

From ROMMEL's arrival in North Africa with an Expeditionary Force in February 1941 to support the Italians, the situation for the British became much worse. ROMMEL was a highly intelligent General and proceeded to push the under-supplied and poorly-led British back with the aim of capturing Egypt, the Suez Canal and Palestine.

In August 1942, to avert disaster, Winston CHURCHILL appointed MONTGOMERY as commander and agreed to build up his support including better tanks and aircraft. MONTGOMERY proved to be at least as good a tactician as ROMMEL. The battle commenced on 23 October and in two weeks they managed to drive the Germans back into Tunisia. This was the first British Victory of the war. The Church bells rang! On the 10 November 1942, CHURCHILL, in a speech said. "This must not be considered as the end; it may possibly be the beginning of the end, but it certainly is the end of the beginning."

He was right, in March 1943 ROMMEL had been wounded and evacuated to Germany. His deputy, an Italian General, was aided by German Generals none of whom were very competent and in May 250,000 German and Italian troops surrendered to an Anglo-American Army leaving North Africa under British, American and Free French control.

In October 1942 MONTGOMERY commanded 220,000 troops. Many of you must have had family members among them. I am not sure of the Army but my mother told me that a cousin of hers was an RAF pilot who died in North Africa. I searched the CWG records and did indeed find a Raymond DAVIES with the right parents who died in Tunisia in July 1943. However, his rank was only LAC (Leading Aircraftsman), so he could not have been a pilot or any other aircrew as they all at least held the rank of Sergeant. I later heard from another cousin of his that he was run down by a truck driven by a drunken fellow airman on a boozy night out. It just shows that there are many half-truths and exaggerations to beware of in family history. But they may still lead to the truth.

Best wishes for Christmas.

Tony Allen

COMES A TRAIN OF LITTLE LADIES

(from *The Mikado*) – Part 1

By Janet Sutton, Member No.6805

In my family tree, are two ancestors named Pythagoras QUARRY. One is my 4x great grandfather, who lived in Hertfordshire (1777-1856). The other is one of his grandsons, who was a bank clerk and 'gentleman' in London (1847-1928). He married Anna Maria THORBURN and they had one son (Arthur Thorburn QUARRY 1873-1959) and four daughters – this is their story.

I HAVE A SONG TO SING-O! (*The Yeomen of the Guard*)
EDITH MAUD QUARRY

Edith QUARRY was the eldest daughter of Pythagoras and Anna Marie and was born on 28 January 1872 at 16 Healey Street, Kentish Town. By 1881 census, the family, now with 5 children, were living at 7 Carroll Road, Kentish Town. The house was shared with another family of four. In August 1888, Edith is recorded in the UK Postal Services appointment book as a postal telegraphist, confirmed on the 1891 census, (at 23 Tremlet Grove, Upper Holloway/ Islington). Edith is recorded as a 19-year-old postal telegraphist living with the family. Pythagoras was a bank clerk, (and confirmed in other records, who worked for the London Stock Bank.) However, by the time of the 1901 census, life has greatly changed for Edith.

Healey Street, Kentish Town.

About 1894, Edith joined the D'Oyly Carte's American Utopian Company, which was to take the latest Gilbert and Sullivan comic opera, *Utopia Limited*, to America. In February 1894, American newspapers were reporting

that Richard D'Oyly Carte had already chosen the singers and that they were being rehearsed alongside the main company in London. Edith was a mezzo soprano. All the costumes and scenery were exact copies of those of the Savoy Theatre production. The company sailed to New York on the *Campania* and Edith appears on the passenger list as being 22 years old and occupation is given as 'music'. The ship arrived in New York only a day late at 1.30 a.m. They were allowed to land, despite a protest by the Chorus Singers Association. The Immigration official was satisfied that singers were artists and had performed at the Savoy Theatre in London.

The opening night was Easter Monday 26 March 26 1894 at the Broadway Theatre, New York and the latest G & S opera received a lukewarm reception (compared to productions of earlier Gilbert and Sullivan operas), especially the leading lady. But the show's reception improved during their time in New York. The production moved to Boston Museum Theatre on 14 May to escape the hot weather in the city. The tour ended in June and the company returned UK to Liverpool on the *Catalonia* where Edith is recorded as being 18 years old (!) and 'theatrical'.

On her return Edith joined the D'Oyly Carte "A" touring company, performing Utopia Limited, which toured England, Scotland and Wales covering 61 towns. (23 July until 3 December). Some weeks they performed in two towns. Edith undertook the minor role of 'Salata' until October when she took over the role of 'Kalyba'. She is mentioned in various provincial newspaper reviews of the show. The *Dundee Courier* (16 October 1895) recorded that "Miss Edith Quarry sang delightfully*"* and later on 12 November reported *"*Miss Edith Quarry sang the solo in the opening chorus with delightful freshness of voice". (For images of the costumes worn, go to https://collections.vam.ac.uk/ and type in 'Percy Anderson' and 'Utopia Limited' or 'The Grand Duke'.)

I have been unable to trace what Edith was doing in 1895 but the following year she was once again touring with the "D" company of the D'Oyly Carte. It was the first out-of-town production of the newest comic opera – *The Grand Duke* with Edith singing the minor role of 'Melene'. At some time, she must have sung the role of 'Lisa', as the *Hull Daily Mail* reports "Miss Edith Quarry displays great care in her portrait of Lisa". The tour ran from 16 March to 16 November, performing *The Grand Duke* and later *Utopia*

Limited was added. Also in the production was a Mr Powis PINDER – more of him later.

In 1897 Edith was performing in a tour of *The Geisha*, again in a minor supporting role, getting positive mentions in the provincial newspapers. In 1898, Edith re-joined the D'Oyly Carte opera "C" Company who were on a year-long tour from December 1897-December 1898. Edith joined the tour in September 1898, taking over the role of 'Lady Angela' in *Patience*. According to the G&S archive website, she also took on the mezzo role of 'Phoebe' in *The Yeomen of the Guard*.

Bert in his army uniform.

On 1 March 1899, Edith married Herbert Victor Merton COTES (a solicitor) at the Chapel Royal, Savoy, London. Herbert (known in the family as Bert) was the son of Sir Merton Russell COTES of Bournemouth. Sir Merton was a businessman, who had travelled the world and accumulated many works of art. He was also in the hotel business and was Chairman of Director of the Royal Bath Hotel in Bournemouth. He had the East Cliff Hall built for his wife and it was later donated to the town of Bournemouth and became the Russell-Cotes Art Gallery and Museum. Herbert was a solicitor but was also involved in many aspects of town life in Bournemouth as well as being a keen amateur performer. In the *Gentlewoman* journal, dated 11 March 1899, there is a very detailed description of the wedding, giving information about the bride, groom, bridesmaids, what they wore and a list of guests. Her brother Arthur Thorburn QUARRY was the Best Man. The bride wore "white satin merv with blonde lace and chiffon". The reception was held at the Hotel Cecil.

On the 1901 census Edith and Herbert were living at Meyrick Park House, Bournemouth with their daughter Evelyn Isabel (born 1900). In 1906, Herbert stood in a local election and the *Bournemouth Graphic* gives details

of his birth, parents, education, occupation and his achievements. A second daughter was born in 1906 – Anita Rosalind. On the 1911, census the couple were living at Meyrick Park Crescent, Bournemouth and had three servants. A third daughter followed later in 1911 – Edith Maude. On 1921 census, the family are still at 8 Meyrick Park Crescent, Bournemouth.

Initially I could only find a very poor image of Edith at the time of her wedding but following an email to the Russell-Cotes Museum, I was emailed a copy of a photograph of the Russell Cotes family, showing Edith taken about 1913. Herbert and Edith are seated on the left, with their daughter Evelyn standing behind them. Their youngest daughter, Edith, sits on Edith's lap. Their second daughter, Anita, stands on the right, beside her grandmother. A passenger list gives a brief description of Edith - "5'6" tall, fair complexion, light brown hair and grey eyes".

The Merton Cotes family in about 1913.
© Russell-Cotes Art Gallery and Museum, Bournemouth.

In December 1914, local ladies held a 'Patriotic Concert' at St Peters Hall, Bournemouth and Edith had filled in for another lady who was unable to take part. The *Bournemouth Graphic* (18 December 1914) reports: "Mrs H M

COTES very kindly filled the breach however and her charming contralto voice was heard to great advantage". Then In July 1916, she took part in another 'Patriotic Concert' at St Peters Hall, Bournemouth as 'Mrs H M COTES', to raise funds for British Prisoners of War. Bert was 41 years old when conscription was brought in (1916), but he served with the Hampshire Volunteer Regiment, which was attached to the Royal Garrison Artillery.

The family took several overseas trips to America over the following years. In 1923, Herbert and Edith sailed to USA on the *Aquitania* and returned a month later to the UK on the *Berengaria*. In 1926, Edith and her daughter Anita were returning home from another USA trip on the *Caronia*. Then in 1929, Herbert, Edith and their daughter Edith made a trip on the *Alvania*.

In August 1932 however, Edith's life changed again as Herbert died aged 61. There was a report in the newspapers of his death. An inquest was held, as it was unclear if he had taken an overdose deliberately or by accident. He had been prescribed tablets of bromide and chloral, (only a mild dosage) but they had a fatal effect on a weak heart. He had apparently left a letter for his wife. The jury ultimately decided the Herbert had committed suicide by taking an "overdose of hypnotic dial and chloral during a period of temporary insanity". He was buried in Wimborne Road Cemetery, Bournemouth, in a grave alongside the mausoleum where his parents were buried. (A description of the inquest, Herbert's life history and interests etc and full details of mourners and floral tributes reported in *The Swanage Times and Directory* 12 August 1932 – British Newspaper Archive).

Edith continued living at Bournemouth, making a couple more trips to America – in 1935 on the *Ascania*, to visit her daughter Anita, who married John Curtis COSGROVE of California, USA in 1921 and settled in America, becoming a naturalised citizen. (It appears that Anita sang in an amateur capacity prior to her marriage.) In 1937, Edith travelled again to the USA on the *M S America*.

Her daughter Evelyn married Norman JACKS of Bournemouth in 1920 and her third daughter Edith married George S PARSONS of Bournemouth in 1931 - both daughters remained in the UK.

Edith died aged 83 on 17 July 1956 at *Cuplaymoor*, 20 Braidley Road, Bournemouth. Cause of death was given as heart disease and rheumatoid

arthritis. She is buried in the family plot with Herbert at Wimborne Road Cemetery, Bournemouth.

From the G&S Archive website: "Appeared with four D'Oyly Carte touring companies between 1894 and 1898. Her first stint was as a chorister with Carte's American Utopia Ltd company in New York and Boston between March and June 1894. Essentially a mezzo-soprano chorister and understudy, she took small roles with the D'Oyly Carte Company "A", Aleta in Utopia Limited (July – December 1894) and the "D" company (Martha in the Grand Duke, March – November 1896). She also filled in on occasion as Kalyba in Utopia Limited ("A" company October 1894), as Lisa in The Grand Duke ("D" Company August 1896) and as the Lady Angela (in Patience and Phoebe Meryll in The Yeomen of the Guard ("in "C" If company)"

The family grave.

Sources:

Genealogical websites including - Find my Past.co.uk & Ancestry.co.uk
GRO (Births/Deaths/Marriages)
G&S Archive website
V&A + their collections website - https://collections.vam.ac.uk/
Russell-Cotes Museum, Bournemouth
'The Art of a Salesman' about Sir Meron Russell Cotes – by Paul Whittaker (Author)
Operascotland,org.uk

Part two will cover the careers of the three other daughters.

JOTTINGS

Out and About

We have been out and about to two family history fairs recently. The Family History Show took place at Kempton Park Racecourse at Walton-on-Thames on Saturday 24 September. Attending were other family history societies, archives groups and companies. Talks were held in two lecture areas and you could book a free personal session with an expert. The Show was not as busy as in previous years but our team of Karen, Sylvia, Kate and Elizabeth had plenty of visitors at the stand to keep them occupied.

The very next weekend we went to the Oxfordshire Family History Society's Fair at the Marlborough Church of England School at Woodstock. This was a first visit for us as a Society but we had a lovely time and hope to go back again next year. Entry to the Fair was free, as was parking and, indeed, a cup of tea for exhibitors which went down a treat with our team of Sylvia, Elizabeth and Wendy!

Between the two fairs we sold over 70 of our Parish Guides and Monumental Inscription booklets, several maps and over 50 second-hand books. Willesden Parish Guide was surprisingly popular and topped our best-seller list, together with the St Marylebone and Islington Parish Guides.

We also attended the Family History Federation's Really Useful Family History Fair on 10 and 11 November. Apart from the fact that you can 'visit' this show from the comfort of your own home, the Friday night session is completely free and with many family history societies attending it provided a great opportunity to ask them questions! (Lincolnshire FHS were able to find the 1842 Will of my husband's 2x great grandfather last year, for instance, which I had not been able to find. It was quite interesting reading!) Our online stand looked great with a PowerPoint presentation showcasing aspects of the Society. We had maps detailing our area and our *Which Place is Where?* Guide for visitors to download. We had around 70 visitors to keep our team of Karen and Elizabeth occupied.

TNA Online Jigsaws

The National Archives created a series of free online jigsaws featuring beautiful and bizarre records from their collections during lockdown which, happily, are still available to do. This series, 'Archive Jigsaws', is just a fun way of learning more about our history and whilst there is only a tenuous connection to family history, it is nearly Christmas and you might fancy a short break.

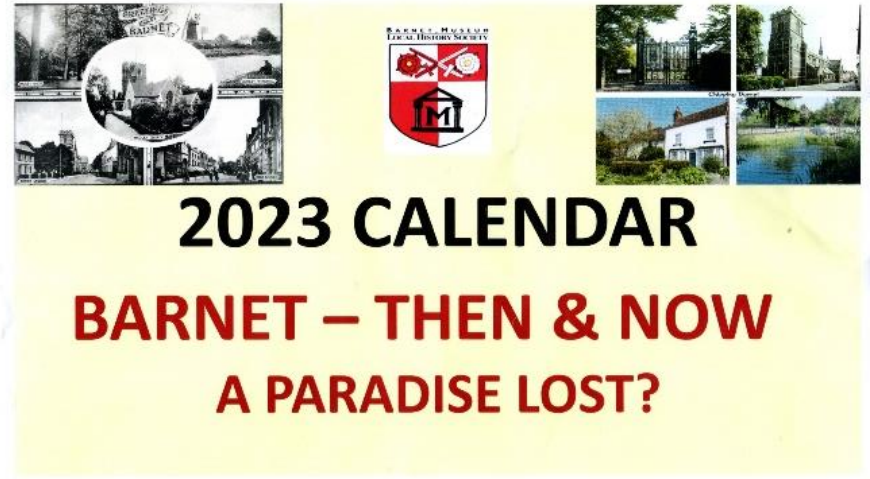
Examples include an image of the belongings of Mary SMITH, who once lived at Christ's Hospital in London and is described in TNA's records, in language of the time, as a 'lunatic'. Mary died in 1810. Another jigsaw is a poster for a firework display marking King Edward VII's coronation which comes from Pain & Sons, a firework company that traces its roots back to the gunpowder plot and still creates professional pyrotechnic displays today. You can find these here: https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/boredom-busters/archive-jigsaws/

Frozen London 1683-1895

It was common for ponds, lakes and even rivers to freeze over in the years between the 16th and the early 19th century, which are sometimes referred to as the 'Little Ice Age'. It is thought that the Thames froze over about 16 times between 1683 and 1814. Cold winters were met with enthusiasm by those who enjoyed the great Frost Fairs or took part in skating or sledding but for people who had to work outside winters could be hard. Thames watermen, for instance, were held back by the bad weather sometimes for periods of up to seven weeks and that would mean to wages coming in. When the price of staple items, including coal and general foodstuffs, increased during the freezes, there were serious effects on the health and mortality of

ordinary Londoners. An online gallery on the London Metropolitan Archives (LMA) website contains 103 historical images of wintry weather in a frozen London. You can see these pictures via the LMA website here: https://search.lma.gov.uk/

Local history calendar for 2023



Barnet Museum and Local History Society's 2023 calendar features pictures of the area from the past, including some of the postcards which Terence Atkins showed to the Barnet Branch during his talk in June this year.
You can obtain a copy of the calendar by contacting the Museum or popping in. Details are on their website here: https://www.barnetmuseum.co.uk/

ADVERTISING RATES

Advertising rates per issue of *Metropolitan* are as follows:
Full Page £40, Half Page £23, Quarter Page £14, Eighth Page, £8.50
All copy, correspondence and remittances should be sent to the Editors.
See inside front cover for address.

MONKEN HADLEY PARISH GUIDE

Our 33rd Parish Guide is coming out at the beginning of January 2023. This guide will be to Monken Hadley, also called just Hadley, which lies about 12 miles north of London between the old Great North Road (now the A1000) and the south-western corner the forest tract known as Enfield Chase.

Monken Hadley was an Ancient Parish in the county of Middlesex and formed part of the Edmonton hundred (subdivision) of the county. The manor of Hadley belonged to Geoffrey de MANDEVILLE, Earl of Essex, who donated land for a hermitage to Walden Abbey in about 1136. This is thought to have led to the 'Monken' prefix to Hadley. The parish of Monken Hadley itself was established in about 1175 and also came under the control of the abbots of Walden. At the suppression of religious houses in 1538, Hadley manor was given to Thomas Lord AUDLEY who licensed it to local man Francis GOODERE in 1540.

The church is dedicated to St Mary, with the current building being built in 1494 (although it has been repaired and restored many times since then). The village of Monken Hadley grew up near the church and by the mid-17th century there were houses built around Hadley Green all the way down the Great North Road to the market town of Chipping Barnet. A number of these houses, together with others built around Hadley Common (to the east of the church) were very grand. Hearth Tax records show that in 1664 eight houses had ten or more hearths – a vast number for a small settlement. Quite a few of these are still standing and most of them are listed as being of special architectural or historic interest by Historic England.

Hadley Common was granted to local people when Enfield Chase was enclosed in 1777, as they then lost their privileges of hunting for small game, gathering of firewood and fattening their pigs there. Five gates were erected where roads crossed the common in order to prevent cattle and other animals from staying and our cover photo shows one of these.

If you had ancestors in Monken Hadley, then you will find our Parish Guide useful in order to help you find records about them. Be aware, though, that next-door Hadley Wood is actually in the ancient parish of Enfield so you would need to look in our Parish Guide to Enfield for its records.

BEGINNERS' CORNER

Quite recently, several people have asked about how to *start* researching a family history and whilst many readers will have been working on their genealogies for a long time, as a family history society we definitely want to welcome and help people who are just starting out.

So this new column will look at first steps and basic resources. If you are new to research, please let us know of anything you would like particular help with. There are no silly questions and the chances are that if you want to know how to do something, somebody else will want to know that too!

Family history is researched backwards in time from what you know so perhaps the first thing to do is to find out what you actually know already. Start with yourself. Put your own name at the top of a sheet of paper (this can be on your computer). Write down your full name and date of birth and those of your parents and siblings. Add the schools you went to and your addresses with dates as well as you can remember them. It does not matter if they are not quite accurate as these things can be verified later on, if needed. At some point, add paragraphs about childhood and other significant memories because it is tales like these that add colour to the bare bones of facts.

Next, start a page for each of your parents. Add details as above as you remember being told them. If your parents are still around, ask them for their input. They could write you a piece or you could talk to them about it. Don't worry if what people say contradicts what others say – this is quite normal – but make sure you record who says what. Talk to any other family members and get their input too.

You will probably find you know the names and approximate dates of birth of your parents, grandparents and their brothers and sisters. The next step is to start to verify this information. This can be done without any expense, at least to start with, using the FreeBMD website: https://www.freebmd.org.uk/

Go to the website and click on the red 'Search' button, half way down the page on the right. This brings up the search form, which is shown below. Fill this in, starting at the top. Tick which type of event you are looking for, put in the surname and first name(s). Ignore the next three boxes for now and go

to ‘Date range’. The box saying ‘Mar’ indicates the first three months of the year and just leave that for now too. If you think the person you are searching for was born in a particular year, put that year in the box to the right of ‘Mar. and that to the right of ‘Dec’. Press ‘Find’ at the bottom of the page.

Here is an example. My grandma was Ellen Mary HAYNES and her birthday was 24 February. She told me she was born in 1901. The results page looks like this on the right. This tells me that her name and birth year were correct. If I wanted to buy her birth certificate, I would need to use the District, Vol

Surname	First name(s)	District	Vol	Page
Births Mar 1901 (>99%)				
Haynes	Ellen Mary	Hendon	3a	289

and Page numbers also shown. See *Metropolitan* September 2021, A Guide to Birth Records, for more details on how to do this. You can download this *Metropolitan* from the members' area on our website.

My other grandma died giving birth to my mother in Manchester in 1929 so family knowledge did not have her birthdate. I did know that she was Violet Florence CAMPBELL, nee BELL. Putting those details into the search page, however, brings up no entries. A pop-up box advises me to only use one first name and doing this brings up two results. Neither says Manchester but clicking on the 'Barton I' link brings up a page that says this place was in Lancashire. A further link brings up a page which details many places which are now considered to be part of Greater Manchester, so this one is my grandma. Her age is given as 39, making her date of birth about 1890.

Surname	First name(s)	Age	District	Vol	Page
Deaths Dec 1929 (>99%)					
Campbell	Violet E	22	Romford	4a	424
Campbell	Violet F	39	Barton I.	8c	590

Revising my query to look for the birth of a Violet BELL in 1890 shows there were nine but only one was a Violet Florence and that one I know is my other grandma.

Surname	First name(s)	District	Vol	Page
Births Mar 1890 (>99%)				
Bell	Violet Florence	S. Shields	10a	707
Bell	Violet Mary	St. Alban's	3a	563
Bell	Violet Mary	Newton A.	5b	148
Births Jun 1890 (>99%)				
Bell	Violet	Sculcoates	9d	141
Births Sep 1890 (>99%)				
Bell	Violet	Lambeth	1d	338
Bell	Violet	Newcastle T.	10b	148
Bell	Violet Elizabeth	Woolwich	1d	1231
Births Dec 1890 (>99%)				
Bell	Violet Ethel	W. Ham	4a	234
Bell	Violet Ethel	W. Ham	4a	234

If you cannot find a likely entry, it is worth widening the years looked at. If too many entries appear, you can narrow down the county, in the first instance. The district can be selected but there are complications, as this is the Registration District and, as shown above with Barton I, it can be confusing.

It is worth having a look at all the links on FreeBMD as they all contain interesting information.

Do have a go at locating ancestors on FreeBMD if you are new to research and don't forget you can contact us for help if you need to by emailing us at: editors@lwmfhs.org.uk

Also, we would welcome any hints and tips from more experienced researches – our Society is all about collaboration and helping each other. Our first tip can be seen below.

Things I wished I had done when I started my family history
When I first started researching my family history, I always carried my one notebook with me. I had put my name and address on the front in case I lost it; all my research was carefully written down with source and date noted. I quickly filled the pages and started another book.
My books were filled with many names, belonging to many families and I soon realised the mistake I had made. When I looked back through my notes for a particular name, I had no idea in which book to look.
My advice for people just beginning their research is to have at least two notebooks – one for each of your parents. Even better would be to have four notebooks – one for each of your grandparents.
Barbara

The following two websites both have good guides to helping beginners, which you can investigate:
https://www.familyhistoryfederation.com/resources-research-tips
https://www.genuki.org.uk/gs

Next time we will have a look at finding marriages and siblings using FreeBMD.

Have You Changed Your Email Address?

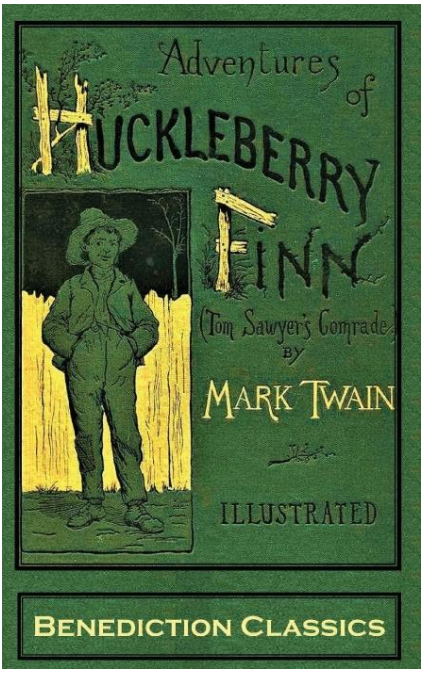
Please make sure you let Sylvia know by emailing your new address to: membership@lwmfhs.org.uk

GENEALOGY ON TELEVISION

By Dennis Galvin, Member No. 1046

Recent television programmes seem to have discovered that genealogy makes good viewing figures, indeed I never miss it. I am also impressed with the expertise of all the genealogists who give such expert results to all their research investigations.

Recently, an edition of 'Who Do You Think You Are' featured TV celebrity Anthea TURNER. Towards the end of the programme viewers were informed that that Anthea liked to support the Battersea Dogs Home, so it was quite astonishing that when she arrived at the establishment it was discovered that one of her great grandfathers was at one time patron/president of the famous home! Indeed, Andrea was shown various decorations on the boardroom wall with his name very prominent, so quite an astonishing surprise.



All of this brought back memories to me of a BBC 2 programme in May 2001, I astonished myself by finding I had made notes about a special edition of a programme called 'Old New World' in which well known TV lady Lucinda LAMBTON went off to the USA to do a special programme about author Mark TWAIN, who wrote *Tom Sawyer* and *Hucklebury Finn*.

Mark Twain was in fact born Samuel Langhorne CLEMENS on 30 November 1835 at Florida, Missouri USA. His father was John Marshall CLEMENS. Mark's grandmother was Jane Lamp(b)ton CLEMENS. Now, ignoring the LAMP(B)TON which we all get in the village baptism register, our TV lady found, astonishingly, that she was a distant relative to Mark

Twain, through the grandmother!! Three of Mark's children were called Susy, Clara and Jean.

Our BBC TV celebrity Lucinda LAMBTON was born in Newcastle, Northumberland and I note that Lamb(p)ton features in the history of Durham Castle if it is of interest. Now this is where it gets really astonishing because it turns out that Lucinda - without knowing any of this history - actually named her son (born c1970s) Hucklebury. What an amazing coincidence!!

1920s STREETS COMPETITION

Individual researchers and local history groups are invited to enter a competition for a chance to win prizes including a Findmypast subscription and a bespoke tour of The National Archives (TNA). TNA and the British Association for Local History (BALH) are appealing for individuals and groups to enter stories that capture the imagination and show what local history is all about in the '20s Streets Local History Competition'.

The competition was announced following the launch of the 1921 census for England and Wales on Findmypast in January, so all local history stories must have a link to the 1920s and relate to the areas covered by the 1921 Census of England & Wales. The stories don't have to be local to the person or group submitting them. A panel of local history experts from TNA, BALH and external historians will score entries based on the criteria of good evidence of a range of sources being used; quality of exposition; an engaging story that can be easily shared with audiences; and a link to the 1920s.

To enter, submit a story of 500 to 1500 words on TNA's website. You can include photographs or web links in your entry. The closing date for entries is 11:55 on Tuesday 31 January 2023, with winners and runners-up announced in May 2023.

For more information, visit: https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/about/news/20sstreets-local-history-competition-now-open/

COVENT GARDEN MARKET

By Elizabeth Burling, Member No. 4992

The land that later became the parish of St Paul Covent Garden has had a long association with the growing and selling of food. In the 13th century Covent Garden was a kitchen garden belonging to the monks of Westminster Abbey and formed part of their parish of St Margaret Westminster. The monks grew apples, cherries, pears and an assortment of vegetables as well as pasturing their animals there, using the food to feed themselves and selling any extra. The word 'covent', by the way, is the original English spelling of 'convent'. This comes from the Latin 'conventus', meaning assembly or company and came to refer to a house of a religious order, especially but not exclusively an establishment of nuns. A church to the east of the Abbey dedicated to St Martin is first mentioned in records dated 1222, when it appears it was being used by the monks of Westminster visiting their convent gardens.

At the time of the dissolution of the monasteries in 1536, King Henry VIII seized the land and later gave 'seven acres of land called Long Acre' and about 40 acres which comprised Covent Garden to one of his Gentlemen of the Bedchamber, John RUSSELL. He then created the parish of St Martin-in-the-Fields, taking all the land between St Clement Danes in the east and the Palace of Westminster in the west from that of St Margaret Westminster. This was done in order to ensure that 'the danger of infection which might happen to our Court by the carrying of dead bodies past our royal palaces to be interred in St Margaret's' did not occur. King Henry VIII had a new church built (although the current church replaced the Tudor one in 1726).

John RUSSELL was created first Earl of Bedford by Henry's son King Edward VI in 1550. In time John's estates passed to his great-grandson, Francis RUSSELL, the 4th Earl of Bedford. In 1630 Francis was required to improve the Long Acre highway and the licence he received for this allowed for the development of the surrounding area which, until this time, had been mainly fields.

Architect Inigo JONES had been appointed Surveyor-General of the King's Works by King James 1 in 1615, a position which continued under his son, King Charles I. Jones designed many now iconic London buildings, including the Queen's House at Greenwich, the Banqueting House at

Whitehall and the Queen's Chapel at St James's Palace. In the 1630s he was commissioned by the Francis RUSSELL, fourth Earl of Bedford to build a residential square with houses and a church on his estate at Covent Garden. This was the first planned square in London and it was based on the piazza at Livorno in Italy. There was to be an open space surrounded on three sides by elegant houses 'fit for gentlemen' and the new church - the first to be built in London since the Reformation. Russell did not want to spend much money on the church, which he had felt obliged to include in the plan and asked Jones to just build a barn for the purpose. Jones proceeded to build what has since been described as 'the finest barn in Europe'. The fourth side of the piazza was the garden wall of the Earl's mansion in the Strand.

Inigo Jones by William Hogarth, circa 1757.

Market traders began meeting informally in the piazza, with shops and booths appearing by 1656. The parish was quite sparsely populated until the Great Fire forced former City dwellers into the area, at which point the market really took off. To regulate trading, Covent Garden Market was established by a Royal Charter granted to the Earl of Bedford in 1670, which allowed a market to be officially held on every day except Sundays and Christmas Day. Stalls were initially erected on the southern side of the piazza but the vast amount of market business eventually spread out into nearby streets.

The lease for the market proved a lucrative source of income for the Russell family, however, the market generated much rubbish and space was at a premium. By the late 18th century there were 15,000 acres of land producing fruit and vegetables within some 10 miles of London. This meant that every night large numbers of carts would arrive at Covent Garden from every direction in order to supply the dealers, who were there from about 3-5am. The carts then had to return home. All of this traffic was quite disruptive, causing major traffic jams and the vast numbers of people visiting the area attracted many others – people looking for work, prostitutes, petty thieves

and so on. The chaos of the market and the dissolute nightlife of the area caused the ‘gentlemen’ to leave and more working-class people to move in.

All of London’s other main wholefood markets were publicly owned – it was felt that the Russell family, who were made Dukes of Bedford in 1690, were benefitting from what amounted to an immoral tax on the nation’s food. From the Dukes’ point of view, the market always needed more room and despite spending large sums on improving it, these were never deemed enough. In an effort to regulate trading, a dedicated market building was constructed in the centre of the piazza, designed by Charles FOWLER and built by William CUBITT in 1828.

The market building is still surrounded by carts of flowers and plants.

The Duke had tried to sell Covent Garden to the City Corporation or the Metropolitan Board of Works in 1882 but both rejected the deal. The market continued to cause him problems. In 1893 complaints were received about waggons loaded with manure standing for considerable periods in Covent Garden Market and the adjoining streets. Steps were taken to prevent them remaining there but another problem was that the owners of such waggons carried empty fruit and vegetable baskets back to the country on the top of the manure. In 1894 the Medical Officer of Health (MOH) reported that complaints had been made regarding the ‘watercloset and urinal

accommodation' at the Market. The MOH made a special enquiry and found that the people using the market could be divided into various groups: auctioneers and others occupying shops and offices; their clerks and assistants; the regular and casual porters; railway and carriers' employees; and the general public who attend as buyers, etc. For each class separate and sufficient accommodation had been provided by the owner of the market or by the Board but he was able to suggest certain improvements which either had been or were being carried out in respect of the construction of certain of the conveniences.

Eventually. the 11th Duke of Bedford sold his Covent Garden estate to the sons of pill-manufacturer Sir Joseph BEECHAM (one of whom was conductor Sir Thomas BEECHAM) in 1918 and it continued to be held in private hands until the 1960s. The Covent Garden Market Authority was established in 1961, finally bringing the market into public ownership. However, the land it was on was too small for the nation's main fruit and vegetable market and in the 1970s it moved to a new site at Nine Elms, in Battersea.

The central thoroughfare inside the market building.

Plans were made to demolish and redevelop the old market space but a campaign by local residents ensured that the 1828 neo-classical building was renovated instead and in 1980 it reopened as a speciality shopping centre.

The archive of the estates of the Russell family, Dukes of Bedford, is at LMA and contains a plethora of records including lots which are connected with Covent Garden Market. These are Ref: E/BER/CG and include many which could mention ancestors or are otherwise interesting, from 'A yerely rentall of Covent Garden' dated 1619, which includes tenants' names and rents to a collection of letters about cholera precautions from 1824-1853 to a plan of the layout of numbered stalls and shops with the names of some of the shopkeepers given from 1850 and much more.

Mentions of people who worked at the market turn up elsewhere too. For instance, in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury archives at The National Archives, where there are several Wills, such as that of William CHILD, Greengrocer of Centre Row, Covent Garden Market dated 1844. These have been digitised and can be downloaded from TNA.

Sources:

Covent Garden at: http://www.coventgardenmemories.org.uk/
Covent Garden: at: https://www.thehistoryoflondon.co.uk/the-creation-of-covent-garden/
Covent Garden at: https://www.coventgarden.london/cg-edit/the-history-of-covent-garden
Inigo Jones at: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inigo_Jones
London Metropolitan Archives website: https://search.lma.gov.uk/
PCC Wills online: https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/wills-1384-1858/
St Paul Covent Garden Parish Guide by Elizabeth Burling (LWMFHS, 2022)
Survey of London: Volume 36, Covent Garden, ed. F H W Sheppard (London, 1970), British History Online http://www.british-history.ac.uk/survey-london/vol36

Our new Parish Guide will tell you more about St Paul Covent Garden.

NEXT COPY DATE

Please remember that the copy date for the next issue of *Metropolitan* is **1 February 2023**

Articles, letters, requests and comment should be sent to the Editors. The Editors reserve the right to edit contributions.

Contributors should indicate if copy is being distributed to other family history society journals or family history magazines.
Material in *Metropolitan* may not be reproduced in any form without first obtaining written permission from the Editors.

MEMBERS' INTERESTS

The research interests listed here were submitted by members between September and November 2022.

Members' interests are put onto the website just before the journal is published. If you would like to contact a member whose interests are listed below, please go to our website, click on Members Interests (in the list on the left), type in your interest name, click **Go** and then click the surname and then **Contact** and an email will pop up which will allow you to send a message to that member.

Interests shown are from members: 7945; 8363; 8370; 8384

Name	Period	County	Parish / Area	Mem.No.
CROLE	Any	Any	Any	8370
GREENER	1840-1850	MDX	Heston	8370
GREGORY	1820-1840	MDX	St George, Hanover Squ	8370
GREGORY, Peter	1630-1705	MDX	Westminster	8370
GRIGG	1800-1900	LND	Any	7945
HINGE, Charles	1810-1840	MDX	Northolt?	8370
JOHNSTON	1800-1860	MDX	Any	8363
LUCAS	1790-1870	MDX	St Pancras?	8363
MANTON	1750-1960	MDX	Tottenham	8384
PEARCE	1850 to date	MDX	Edmonton	8384
SMALL	1800-1884	MDX	St Pancras?	8363
STUART	1800-1884	MDX	Holborn, St Pancras	8363
WHITMILL, Wm	1800-1840	MDX	Harrow Weald	8370

SPECIAL INTERESTS

8363 **STUART**s and how they came to live in London and then went to Liverpool to emigrate to Canada
8370 Finding my missing great grandfather – father of Francis Gregory

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the new members, numbers 8365-8389 who have joined the Society over the past few months and wish them well with their research.

LWMFHS PUBLICATIONS

Our Parish Guides are little books crammed with as much information as possible about the Ancient Parishes in our area. We aim to inspire family historians and to help you locate ancestors in places that you might not have thought of looking before. Each guide starts off with a brief history of the area and a description of where the main archives for the parish are located. There are then many different sections about the various types of records that relate to the parish, with a description of what they are and information about where these records can be found. This full list of those available to far is shown overleaf. Coming next are St Paul Covent Garden, followed by Monken Hadley.

Our Monumental Inscription booklets were researched by our founder societies in the 1980s and subsequently published on microfiche. We have been updating these and reissuing them as booklets. In checking them for publication, any gaps and anomalies were checked against the Burial Registers in order to try and find out who is referred to on the gravestones. If anyone would like to help with these, with typing or with checking against the gravestones, please contact our Projects Co-ordinator, Elaine Tyler by email at: projects@lwmfhs.org.uk

We also have 2 census guides naming the streets of Westminster and the City of London, taken from the 1851 census returns.

Booklet	**UK**	**Europe**	**Rest world**
Parish Guides			
Clerkenwell	£7.85	£9.65	£10.60
East Barnet	£7.85	£9.65	£10.60
Edmonton	£8.55	£10.75	£13.30
Enfield	£7.85	£9.65	£10.60
Finchley	£7.85	£9.65	£10.60
Greenford and Perivale	£7.85	£9.65	£10.60
Harefield	£7.85	£9.65	£10.60
Hampstead	£7.85	£9.65	£10.60
Hendon	£7.85	£9.65	£10.60
Holborn	£8.55	£10.75	£13.30
Hornsey	£8.55	£10.75	£13.30
Islington	£8.55	£10.75	£13.30

LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 9 March 2023
7.00pm-7.45pm
Online

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Members of the Society will be held at 7pm on Thursday 9 March 2023 online via Zoom.

We expect the AGM to take half an hour or so and do hope that members will come to this as well as staying online to attend our usual Virtual Branch talk, which takes place afterwards.

For those who have not attended an AGM before, the Committee does hope that you will take this chance to 'come along' and see what it is all about. It is your opportunity to question the members of the Committee concerning any aspect of the Society. The Minutes of the last AGM were published in March's *Metropolitan* (this is also available as an e-journal in the members' section of our website) and you may wish to comment on them. You'll also need this December's *Metropolitan* with you so that you can access the reports in this AGM insert.

Zoom 'doors' will open at 6.45pm for a 7pm start. After a welcome from our President, Michael Gandy, our meeting will run like this:

AGENDA

- Chairman's Report – please read the report on page iii of this insert. If you have any questions about anything Tony has said, you are welcome to raise these at this time

- Treasurer's Report – April's report is on page iv. Again, if you have any queries you can ask them now.

- The Annual Accounts for 2021-2022. These are published on pages v and vi.

- The Election of the Officers of the Society. All of our Officers (Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer) are volunteers who are elected for one year. Any member can stand for election for any of these posts and if you would like to do this, please fill in the form on pages vii and viii and return it to the Secretary by 23 February 2023 (see below). If you would like details of what any particular role entails, please contact the Secretary, which can be done online here: secretary@lwmfhs.org.uk

- The Appointment of other members of the Executive Committee: these are the Membership Secretary, Journal Editors, Members' Interests Co-ordinator, Projects Co-ordinator, Events Co-ordinator and Postal Sales.

- Any Other Business. Anything else you would like to ask the Society about – it would be helpful if you could notify the Secretary by 23 February 2023 (using the form on page viii) so that if necessary the answer can be researched fully in time for the meeting.

The Business of the AGM will then be finished. There should be time for a short break before our talk.

Our Virtual Branch meeting will take place as usual at 8pm. The talk on this occasion will be *Name Lists* by Michael Gandy, our President.

Log-in details will be emailed to you a few days before the meeting.

c/o 639 Uxbridge Road
Pinner
Middlesex
HA5 3LU

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
for the year ending 30 September 2022

Although the threat of Covid-19 is reduced, there is now also the threat of Seasonal Influenza, so we have decided to continue to have an AGM on Zoom.

The Executive Committee has now realized that there is no great need to meet in person and that it is more efficient to meet every month on Zoom. However we are now able to meet up for talks so the Rayners Lane and Barnet Branches regularly have normal meetings.

We have found that the Virtual meetings which have been going since September 2020 on the second Thursday of every month have been a great success. This has benefitted members from overseas and in UK outside London as well as those who are not able to easily travel. So at present we have the Virtual, Barnet and Rayners Lane branches operating. There is also a healthy Twitter advice line run by Karen de Bruyne. The AGM for the year ending September 2022 will be a Virtual Meeting on Zoom in March 2023.

We have a very good publication record with four editions of the *Metropolitan* being produced every year by our Editors Elizabeth Burling and Barbara Haswell. We have an ever-increasing number of Parish Guides being produced by Elizabeth Burling and associates. The present total is 32 and they are selling well, as are the Monumental Inscriptions booklets and the two Streets of 1851 Census Guides. As you can see from out Treasurer's report the society is in a healthy financial state. Our Membership stands at 430.

I would like to thank all members of the Society for their help in this still somewhat difficult year. I would like to particularly thank the Executive Committee, the Branch Secretaries, our web-master Peter Walker and our President Michael Gandy. We are still without an Hon. Secretary. The committee have shared out these duties, but we are particularly grateful to Celia Otley who has now taken on a significant part of the work.

I wish you all a healthy 2023, and many interesting discoveries,

Tony Allen, *Chairman*

TREASURER'S REPORT
for the year 1 October 2021 - 30 September 2022

Our funds remain healthy, with a surplus this year of £2,378. As expected, this is lower than last year but still a very pleasing result. Last year's figures included a number of atypical refunds for cancelled events and branch meetings, and the return of floats held at local branches to central funds.

Branch meeting costs are higher than last year because since the lifting of covid restrictions we have had two physical branches running and have continued with the popular and more inclusive monthly Virtual Branch meetings. However, the costs are reasonable. There were no costs for last year's Annual General Meeting as it was held on Zoom, so no need for room hire etc and a talk on the 1921 census was kindly given for free by Find My Past's Jen Baldwin. The Zoom cost is already accounted for in Branch Meeting costs and Administration. Executive Committee meetings are still virtual. The cost of Zoom to facilitate virtual meetings is relatively cheap at around £144 a year and is split equally between Administration and Branch Meetings headings in the accounts.

Our booklets such as Parish Guides and Memorial Inscriptions continue to be popular. As more titles are published, revenue increases. As stated before, these are not priced to generate huge profit, but to provide family historians with help; we cover costs and get a small return on top. Most are sold online or by post, but as family history fairs resume in person and visitors can browse our collection, we expect that even more will be sold. We are again attending Family History Fairs, which have begun to be held as the covid situation has improved.

This year I have included the cost of posting out Parish Guides and Memorial Inscriptions booklets with the cost of printing them, which makes their cost look higher but this is complemented by a reduction in administration costs, as all postage was previously included there. It seems logical to do this as the receipts for postage and packing are included in the income from sales of the publications. Printing costs for Parish Guides, Memorial Inscriptions and Metropolitan have risen during the year due to printers having to pass on at least some of the increased cost of paper, electricity etc to customers.

Bank charges of nearly £70 (for less than a year) are one of the reasons we have moved our account from HSBC; our new bank Santander will not apply bank charges and we will be closing the HSBC account early in the next financial year, incurring minimal charges.

The Society spent £112 on equipment (an Android Tablet) to help to continue modernising and extending our service to members.

April Vesey, *Treasurer*

LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Profit and loss account for the year ended 30 September 2022

		30.9.22		30.9.21
Income:				
Subscriptions	£7,573.08		£7,313.24	
Sales of Parish Guides and MIs	£2,550.88		£2,104.04	
Donations	£49.98		£19.00	
Miscellaneous & help with research	£47.80		£74.13	
Interest received	£4.07		£1.86	
Maps, postcards & books	£109.98		£0.00	
Return of floats	£0.00		£150.00	
		£10,335.79		£9,662.27
Expenditure:				
Metropolitan Journal	-£3,264.90		-£2,569.18	
Branch meeting costs	-£1,213.24		-£418.55	
AGM	£0.00		-£100.00	
FFHS Membership	-£186.58		-£175.18	
Books, maps etc	£0.00		£0.00	
Fairs and open days	-£193.50		-£20.00	
Administration & general expenses	-£374.36		-£900.80	
Printing of Parish Guides and MIs	-£1,756.86		-£724.21	
Storage	-£662.35		-£628.20	
Equipment	-£111.97		£0.00	
Bank charges	-£68.12		£0.00	
Deprecation	-£125.90	-£7,957.78	-£113.90	-£5,650.02
Net Deficit/Surplus		**£2,378.01**		**£4,012.25**

LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Balance Sheet as at 30 September 2022

	30.09.22		30.09.21	
Fixed Assets				
Equipment	£213.58		£227.48	
Current Assets				
Stock of publications	£2,741.68		£2,161.00	
Prepaid expenses	£1,087.68		£366.29	
Cash and bank balances	£24,375.56		£23,444.66	
Total assets		£28,418.50		£26,199.43
Current Liabilities				
Subscriptions in Advance	-£2,324.50		-£2,344.78	
Creditors & Accrued Expenses	-£75.40		-£81.49	
Unpresented cheques	£0.00		-£132.57	
		-£2,399.90		-£2,558.84
	£	**£26,018.60**		**£23,640.59**
Financed by:				
Balance Brought Forward		£23,640.59		19,628.34
Net Deficit/Surplus for Year		£2,378.01		4,012.25
Members' Net Funds	**£**	**£26,018.60**		**23,640.59**

LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Annual General Meeting
to be held on
Thursday 9 March 2023

Nomination Form for Election of Officers

Position: CHAIRMAN

Nominee:…… Mem No……..

Proposed by:……

Signature…… Mem No……..

Seconded by:…….....……..

Signature…… Mem No……..

Date..……. Agreed by Nominee…….

Position: HON. SECRETARY

Nominee:…… Mem No……..

Proposed by:……

Signature…… Mem No……..

Seconded by:…….....……..

Signature…… Mem No……..

Date..……. Agreed by Nominee…….

CONTINUED OVERLEAF

Position: HON. TREASURER

Nominee:…… Mem No……..

Proposed by:……

Signature…… Mem No……..

Seconded by:…….....……..

Signature…… Mem No……..

Date..……. Agreed by Nominee…….

Any Other Business

I wish to raise the following matter under Any Other Business

……

……

……

……

Name:……. Mem No……

Signature……. Date……

Please return this form to: Hon Secretary LWMFHS
c/o 639 Uxbridge Rd, Pinner, Middlesex HA5 3LU
or by email to: secretary@lwmfhs.org.uk
To be received no later than Thursday 23 February 2023.

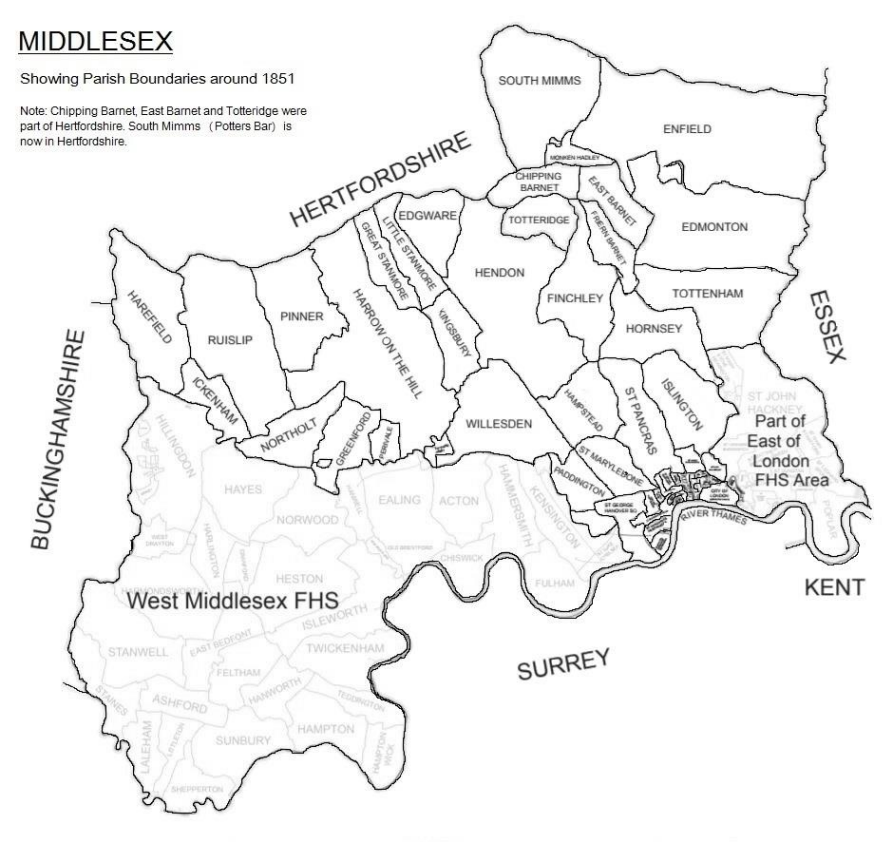
Booklet	**UK**	**Europe**	**Rest world**
Kingsbury	£7.85	£9.65	£10.60
Northolt	£7.85	£9.65	£10.60
Paddington	£7.85	£9.65	£10.60
Pinner	£7.85	£9.65	£10.60
Ruislip	£7.85	£9.65	£10.60
St Anne Soho	£7.85	£9.65	£10.60
St Clement Danes	£7.85	£9.65	£10.60
St George Hanover Square	£7.85	£9.65	£10.60
St Giles-in-the-Fields	£8.55	£10.75	£13.30
St James Piccadilly	£7.85	£9.65	£10.60
St Margaret & St John	£7.85	£9.65	£10.60
St Martin-in-the-Fields	£8.55	£10.75	£13.30
St Marylebone	£8.55	£10.75	£13.30
St Pancras	£8.55	£10.75	£13.30
St Paul Covent Garden *New*	£7.85	£9.65	£10.60
South Mimms	£7.85	£9.65	£10.60
Stanmore	£7.85	£9.65	£10.60
Tottenham	£7.85	£9.65	£10.60
Totteridge	£7.85	£9.65	£10.60
Willesden	£7.85	£9.65	£10.60
Monumental Inscriptions			
Chipping Barnet St John the Baptist	£8.55	£10.75	£13.30
East Barnet St Mary the Virgin	£8.55	£10.75	£13.30
Hornsey St Mary	£8.55	£10.75	£13.30
Monken Hadley St Mary the Virgin	£8.55	£10.75	£13.30
St James Hampstead Road	£8.55	£10.75	£13.30
Census Guides			
Streets of the City of London	£7.85	£9.65	£10.60
Streets of Westminster	£7.85	£9.65	£10.60

There are several ways to acquire these booklets:
1. They can be purchased for £6 each plus postage and packing online from GenFair at: https://www.genfair.co.uk/ or from the Parish Chest at https://www.parishchest.com/home.php. Post and packing costs vary

depending on the weight of the booklet and the destination, as shown here. Of course, if you want more than one booklet the postage will be different but these websites will work it out for you.

2. For those not on the internet, you can write to the Editors at the address on the inside front cover of METROPOLITAN stating which booklet you would like and enclosing a sterling cheque made payable to 'London Westminster and Middlesex FHS' for the appropriate amount.

The prices quoted in this table include the booklet plus postage and packing and are correct at time of going to press.



Our parishes shown on a map of north London.
To see a larger zoomable version, visit our website:
https://www.lwmfhs.org.uk/images/stories/Middx.pdf

SOME MINI-REPORTS SHOWING WHAT ELSE WE HAVE BEEN DOING THIS YEAR

Monumental Inscriptions Booklets

Work on our Monumental Inscription booklets in the last year has not picked up as hoped. However:

Work on Part 1 of Harrow on the Hill (covering the Church and Upper Churchyard) started again recently. On-site checking of the Upper Churchyard is complete and the Church interior is in progress. Thank you April and Sylv.

St Mark's Church, Barnet Vale (one of the smaller project sites within the Barnet area) has been chosen by enthusiastic Barnet Branch members to revisit and on-site checking is underway. Thank you Celia and Clare.

The Churchyard of St James, Friern Barnet has been visited with a view to begin an on-site check. Thank you Elizabeth. This is a large Churchyard and will take time but it is hoped a start can be made in 2023, volunteers willing to help are very welcome – please get in touch if you are interested.

All Saints, Edmonton (another large site) has been retyped by one of our most active members and joins several others awaiting the next step. Thank you Alison.

Five Monumental Inscription booklets have been published so far, see page ii of the yellow pages section of this journal for details. Twelve more have progressed to the typed up or on-site checking stage. Fourteen other potential booklets wait patiently for work to begin.

Elaine Tyler, Projects Co-ordinator

Parish Guides

In the Society's year ending 30 September 2022 we have brought out a further six Parish Guides, Hornsey, Northolt, Ruislip, St Giles-in-the-Fields, St Paul Covent Garden and Totteridge. We have now completed Parish Guides for 31 of our Ancient Parishes and this year we sold 335 booklets. Our top 3 sellers overall are Islington, St George Hanover Square, and St Pancras. Those planned for this next year are Monken Hadley, Wembley, Edgware, St Luke Old Street, Friern Barnet and Ickenham, in that order. See page ii of the yellow pages in the middle of this journal for details of our booklets.

Elizabeth Burling, Editor, editor@lwmfhs.org.uk

Events Report

Last year we were hoping we would be able to attend some events in person this year and I am pleased to report that we have been to three physical fairs. The first one of 2022 was the Haringey Local History Fair in May, followed by the Family History Show and Oxford Family History Society's Fair in October. We also attended three virtual shows: East Surrey FHS Virtual Family History Fair in May, The Genealogy Show in July and The Family History Federation Really Useful Show in November. See Jottings on page 10 for a report of some of these. Thank you very much to all of the helpers at these fairs.

Our first fair in 2023 will be the East Surrey FHS Virtual Family History Fair on 28 January (see page 44). Any volunteers would be very welcome to join our happy group!

Karen de Bruyne, Events Co-ordinator, events@lwmfhs.org.uk

Members' Interests

The society continues to publish our members' interest names within the journal, in the traditional way. I also list them on our website – there are already over 1,400 surnames here.

A new way of sharing your names has been provided by the Family History Federation which has given all family history societies the opportunity to upload their data and so give names a greater exposure. After the publication of every *Metropolitan*, I now upload the interest names to the Federation website: www.familyhistoryfederation.com where a link to 'Surname Interests' is on the home page. Our members' names and addresses have not been given to the Federation.

Barbara Haswell, Members' Interests, membersinterests@lwmfhs.org.uk

Membership Report

The Society's year ended with a membership totalling 545 but we are still waiting for 115 to renew and so currently have 430 members. Thank you to those members who renew promptly and/or setup standing orders, it helps enormously.

Sylvia Thompson, Membership Secretary, membership@lwmfhs.org.uk

BRANCH REPORTS

Barnet Branch Report

We have continued to meet on the third Thursday in the month and mostly we have a general members' evening to discuss our research and seek help or advice. On some occasions I have introduced a specific topic, such as reading old handwriting and unusual surnames. One month's topic was to bring something from the attic; see the report on that elsewhere in the journal. We also had three very good talks during the year, with two of the speakers being members of the Society and one from Barnet Museum. Please join us if you can. It is always lovely to meet new members and offer assistance and hear stories. We meet from 7.30pm to 9pm at Lyonsdown Hall, 3 Lyonsdown Road, Barnet EN5 1JB. If you wish to join us, just turn up. There is plenty of parking, good local bus connections and New Barnet station is just around the corner. Free WiFi is available and existing members would be happy to assist with any research queries you may have.

Clare Pollitt, Barnet Branch Co-ordinator, barnet@lwmfhs.org.uk

Rayners Lane Branch Report

Members have enjoyed some excellent talks over the past year, as well as using family history videos for members' afternoons as a basis for some interesting discussions.

Tricia Sutton, Rayners Lane Branch Co-ordinator,
rayners_lane@lwmfhs.org.uk

Virtual Branch Report

Our monthly talks on Zoom have proved to be very popular and have been wide-ranging and varied. We regularly have between 60 and 80 members attending the evening talk, some of whom join us from North America or Australia. We are delighted that it gives these members and others around the UK an opportunity to enjoy what the Society can offer and to meet some of us. The Q&A session after each talk is very helpful and the speakers have appreciated the chance to discuss further any points or questions. We continue to offer a recording of the talk for members to attend the next day if they cannot make the evening (where a speaker permits it).

If you have not yet been part of the Zoom experience or are a new member and wish to join us please contact the team on the email below so we can add you to our growing list.

Clare, Elizabeth, Sylvia & Elaine, The Virtual Branch Team
virtualbranch@lwmfhs.org.uk

SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook Report

Facebook has recently revamped the way its pages work and they also look slightly different. We now have a little piece promoting our website pinned to the top of our page and the next Virtual Branch meeting is shown there too, which I think is an improvement. Facebook is no longer measuring pages by 'likes' but by followers and we currently have 2614 of these. There are all sorts of interesting statistics available about the page, such as the fact that, after London, seven of the next nine top locations of our followers are in Australia with Brisbane heading the list. The main page aims to be an informative and fun place where local London or family history anniversaries are mentioned and linked archives showcased. We also put notice of our branch meetings here and promote our booklets. Of all of our recent posts, the one introducing our new Northolt Parish Guide on 1 September was seen by the most people, with a massive 8540 views.

The Help and Discussion group is a private place where people can post their family history queries and interact with other historians on matters relating to London, Westminster and Middlesex. Anyone reading this will know how complicated Greater London history can be and we aim to point people to our fellow family history societies when queries relate to their areas. Membership of this grown to 2523 members, up 551 on the year.

Any member who is on Facebook is, of course, welcome to join in.

Elizabeth Burling, https://www.facebook.com/LWMFHS

Twitter Report

Our Twitter account now has 243 followers, up 106 on last year. We use the account to promote events both virtual and in person, encouraging membership and sales of Parish Guides etc. We also support other societies and organisations with family history and/or local history links.

Karen de Bruyne, https://twitter.com/LWMFHS

POSTCARDS

By Barbara Haswell, Member No. 4224

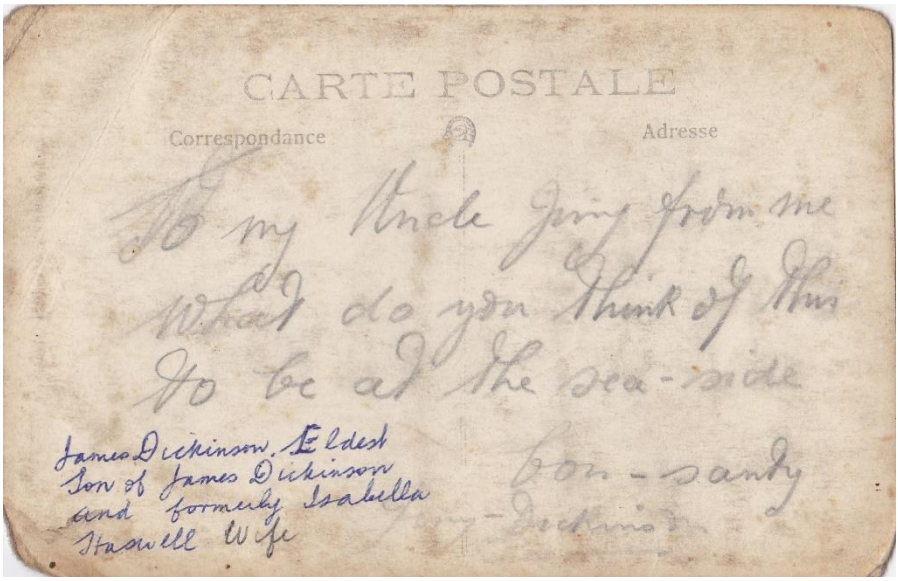
I was interested to read Elizabeth's article about her postcard in September's *Metropolitan*. It encouraged me to search out the boxes of postcards I have collected since a child. Once found, I was still reading them two hours later. Looking back at my childish writing brought back so many memories of happy family holidays by the sea. In the past we all used to send postcards. I went on holiday with the addresses of friends and relatives and spent time choosing the right card for each person. I used to ask my mother "What shall I write?" She always answered, "Say that you are having a lovely time and mention the weather". Looking at all the postcards written to our family over the years nearly everyone talks about the weather. 'Lovely and sunny here'; 'A bit grey and rainy'; 'Enjoying the sun on the beach'; 'Very hot 26 degrees C and went for a paddle'. On another card 'at 3.15pm, on the 16 May 1983, Barnet had a violent storm and it absolutely poured with rain'. It is said that the English always talk about the weather, and that is true.

Using these postcards, I have been able to illustrate my family history with pictures of where my relatives lived. The picture on the left, for example, was sent to me by my father-in-law showing his home town.

Most of my postcards are holiday ones but I do have some military cards.

With the advent of war in 1914, postcards took on an altogether different meaning. Men were joining the army and separated from wives and girlfriends. Postcards were made with a photo on one side and space for an address and message on the other. These could be tucked into a uniform pocket as reminder of loved ones back home.

The postcard on the left shows a soldier with an insert of his wife and baby. If you look closely, you can see that the picture was taken out of doors but with a military-looking backdrop showing rows of tents behind him. The image of his family must have been one he already had.



The back shows that this postcard may well have been produced abroad, as all the pre-printed parts are in French and he includes a French phrase when signing off – 'bon-santy' (bon santé, which means good health). My father-in-law helpfully added the bit about who the soldier was.

The type of postcard on the left was produced as a romantic picture to give to a loved one. This photo is of my husband's great aunt and is dated 1916 on the back.

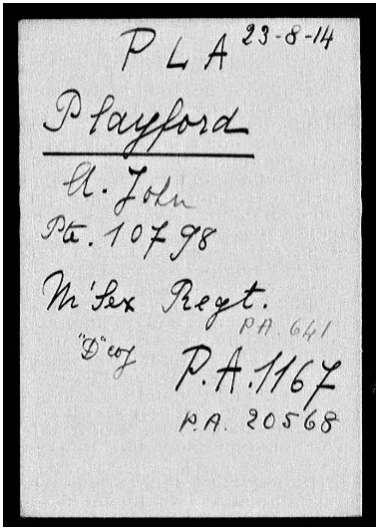
Letters boosted morale and soldiers were given free postage to encourage them to send mail home. A letter or parcel could be sent from Britain and arrive two days later for a fighting soldier abroad.

This postcard pictures my uncle who served in the Middlesex Regiment and arrived in France with the British Expeditionary Force. Captured on 23 August 1914 during the first Battle of Mons this postcard was sent back to his family.

The reverse (below) shows that the postcard was sent to his girl friend in Mill Hill from a Prisoner-of War camp in Germany.

He survived the war and returned home in 1919. He married his girlfriend the same year.

There is a website: Prisoners of the First World War, the ICRC archives (ICRC being the International Committee of the Red Cross). In the First World War, millions of people both servicemen and civilians were sent to detention camps. Countries sent lists of their prisoners to the ICRC which created a searchable list of index cards. A search of grandeguerre.icrc.org for my uncle brings up the following image.



Captured on 23.8.14
Playford
A. John
Private. 10798 of the Middlesex Regiment
'D' Company.
PA 641
PA 1167
PA 20568

Hovering the curser over the image brings up 'Additional Information' and a window opens where the numbers shown above can be entered. For A John Playford there are three further records, the first giving the information that he was captured at Mons and sent to Senne POW camp. The typewritten records are faint but the downloaded image can be photo edited and made easier to read.

This postcard shows HMS Kent entering Grand Harbour, Malta with my father-in-law somewhere on board.

My grandfather is pictured in this card. Middle row and second from left. He served in the Middlesex Regiment for many years. He was pensioned but re-joined in 1914 as a Recruiting Sergeant aged 57 years.

Military postcards multiplied during the war years and many collectors just collect these cards.

Until 1918 the price of a postcard stamp was a halfpenny. In 2022 the cost of a second-class stamp is 68 pence. The first postcard produced in the UK was in 1870. It was plain on both sides with a pre-printed stamp. In 1902, the cards (known as Divided Back postcards) started to look as they are now – a picture on one side and on the back a line dividing the message on the left and the address on the right. Size: 5.5 inches x 3.5 inches.

Sources:
www.oldpostcards4sale.co.uk
https://grandeguerre.icrc.org

UP AND DOWN THE AVENUE, IN AND OUT OF THE GAS WORKS

By Colin Barratt, Member No. 4427

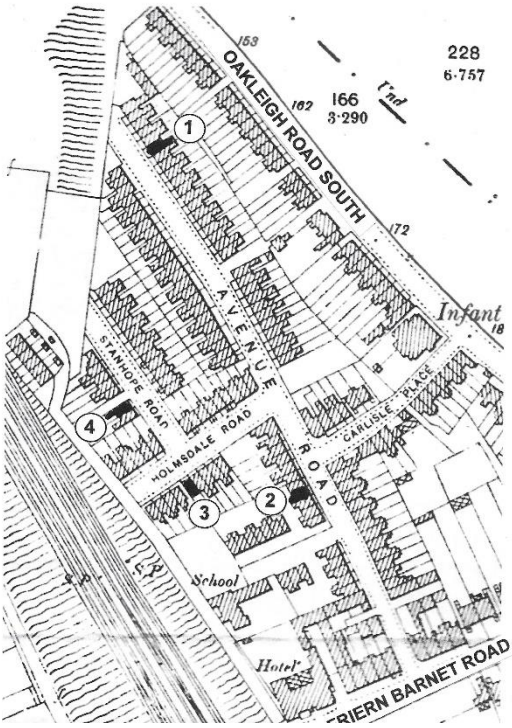
In the 1898 Godfrey edition of the ordnance survey map of Friern Barnet and New Southgate, the notes on the back, written by local historian Pamela Taylor, said that the streets around The Avenue, (formerly called Avenue Road), were described in 1891 as one of the roughest north London suburbs. I don't know why this was. Perhaps it was people moving to the area who brought less desirable habits and behaviour. Decades before, the adjacent Railway Hotel (known locally as "The Turrets") had beautiful landscaped gardens behind it, which were used for celebratory occasions, but these gardens had long gone.

Both sets of my maternal great grandparents, the Hunts and the Wrights, moved to The Avenue in New Southgate in the 1880s. Charles HUNT was already working at the gas works in Hornsey, and was transferred to the local works in New Southgate, called at the time the Southgate and Colney Hatch Gaslight and Coke Company, which was rapidly expanding. He started there in 1884 as a stoker. Henry WRIGHT came from Clerkenwell as a coal porter and was also employed at the gas works.

The Avenue showing the junction with Holmsdale Road in 1955. Henry Wright's house was in the centre of the terraces.

Children who live in the same street and play together, often keep their friendship for years after they move away and sometimes these childhood friendships blossom into romantic relationships and marriage. Although my two families lived at opposite ends of The Avenue, the road was short and quiet, so the children in the road would have known each other and played

together, including teenagers Philip HUNT and Eva WRIGHT, who would become my grandparents. They got married in August 1900 and I discovered Eva was 7 months pregnant on her wedding day, and the wedding took place in Southall, west London, miles away from home. This must have been to spare the family the shame of a heavily pregnant bride. A few months later the young parents were shown on the 1901 census as staying with Eva's family in The Avenue. They may have been living there to get help with their new baby. 20 year old Philip was already working at the gas works and would do so for the next 45 years, until he retired. By 1911 Philip and Eva had 5 children and had moved to Station Road, New Southgate, close to the entrance of the gas works. Over the years, 4 of his children also joined him at the works.

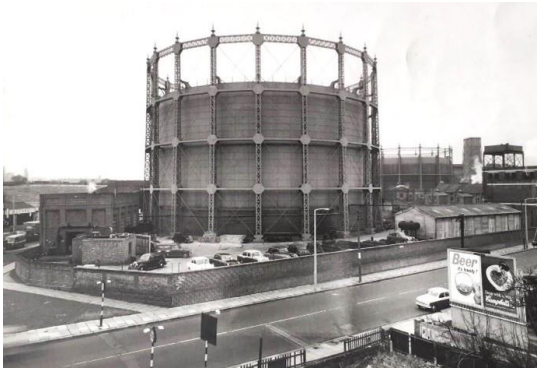


Map showing The Avenue in 1898.
1. Charles Hunt and family
2. Henry Wright and family
3. Harry Hunt
4. Annie Hawkins and parents

In 1911 Philip's younger brother Harry had joined him at the gas works, and in 1914 was living in Holmsdale Road, a small road off The Avenue. Shortly after the start of World War 1, in August 1914, Harry volunteered to join the army. I expect, like thousands of other young men, he thought it would be an adventure and probably it would all be over by Christmas. They were wrong, but I didn't know until recently that Harry had married in August 1914, less than 2 weeks after war was declared. His wife, Annie HAWKINS, had lived in Stanhope Road, which was another small road off The Avenue and Holmsdale Road so, like his brother Philip, Harry probably knew his wife-to-be from childhood. Like

Eva, Annie was also pregnant on her wedding day. She was 4 months pregnant, so it's likely that Harry knew this and it's therefore surprising that, with a new wife and also a baby on the way, he would volunteer to go off to fight. He was placed with the South Wales Borderers. Sadly, just 3 months later, Harry was killed in Flanders, in the first Battle of Ypres and, like many thousands of men, his body was never recovered. His name is engraved on the Menin Gate in Ypres, Belgium.

So in a period of 5 months, poor Annie got married, was widowed and gave birth. I don't know what Annie did for the next three years, as a widow. She may have moved back with her parents in Stanhope Road. Then, in early 1918 Annie re-married, to Albert HOLMES, who was also in the forces. Like her first husband Harry, Albert was sent to Flanders and, unfortunately, he suffered the same fate, being killed towards the end of the war, by which time Annie was again pregnant and gave birth to a daughter, Vera, in the December. So Annie was a widow for the second time, with two young children. In the 1921 census she and her two children were shown as back living with her parents in Stanhope Road. Her daughter Vera also married at 20 years old, in 1938, and history repeated itself when her husband was killed in 1943, during World War 2.



Making gas for New Southgate.

A sad end to Harry HUNT's branch of my family tree but for my grandparents, Philip and Eva HUNT, they started a dynasty in New Southgate, which contributed 500 years' service to the local gas works, including my father and other partners of family members, and it all began in a small road at one end of the district, which was a thriving community at the time. This was all swept away decades ago, like much of New Southgate. The gas works closed down in 1972 and the remaining gas holder was demolished in 2021, but a section of The Avenue is still there, with businesses and some new properties. It still bears witness to the start of my family's link with New Southgate almost 140 years ago.

‘AN ITEM FROM THE ATTIC’

A Barnet Branch Meeting

By Clare Pollitt, Member No. 7503 and Elaine Tyler, Member No. 7102

A fun and interesting evening was had at the Barnet Branch on 15th September when members were encouraged to bring some sort of heirloom or object from their past or an ancestor’s past. Items brought along were very diverse and included a 1920s wedding head-dress, a Voltmeter, Pinky and Perky 45s, old books and, poignantly, a souvenir of the Queen’s Coronation in the form of a toy of the coronation coach and horses. The most unusual item turned out to be a Chinese weighing tool.

Members spoke about their connections to the items and the history. It was great to see a different and tangible side to our family histories. It was an entertaining evening and there will probably be a second instalment in the future.

WEBSITE NEWS

Google Image Search

Do you have a family picture with a church, house or other location you cannot identify? Google Image Search may be able to help as the company has released a useful update to its image search engine. This allows users to upload a file for which it searches to find similar images. So, if you upload an image of a cat, Google will show you images of other cats. Where this can help you in your family research is by allowing you to upload images of locations and then using the selection of similar images returned by Google to find out where those images were taken.

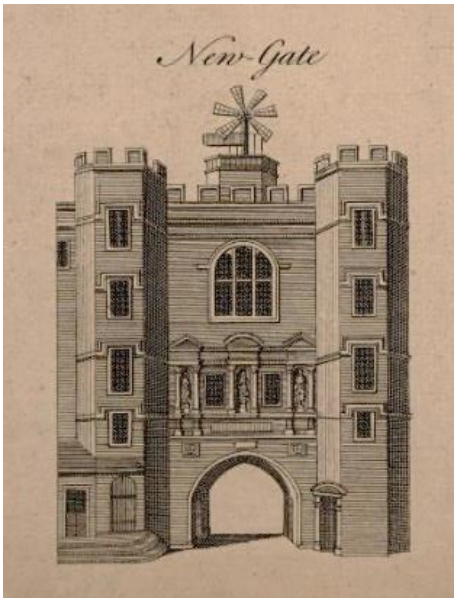
To use this feature you need first to get to the Google Image search box, which you can do by typing 'image' into the Google search bar. Then you need to click on the camera icon to the right and select your image from your computer. You can also drag and drop images to this window if you're using a modern browser.

I tried this with a picture of a house in a road in Walthamstow taken about 1904 and the first image returned was a similarly aged photo of a house located a 6 minute walk away, which I felt was quite encouraging! It didn't, however, bring up the Google Street view of the house, which is still there albeit with no railings and the bricks painted white. Hopefully this feature will be added at a later date. This facility is free to use, so has to be worth a try if you have an image of a location which you cannot identify.

The Mills Archives

The Mills Archive was established in 2002 and is a permanent repository for the documentary and photographic records of traditional and contemporary mills, millers and milling, material which it makes freely available for public inspection and use in research and learning. The Mills Archive has rescued over 3 million documents and images that might otherwise have ended up in a landfill site. It is an Aladdin's cave filled with memories and free to users. The collections show the rich and diverse crafts, buildings, machinery, equipment and people involved with mills in the UK and around the world. The archive collection can be searched by surname or place name and will bring up family histories, press cuttings about millers and pictures of the mills themselves – they are happy to receive contributions if you have miller ancestors. A search for 'Middlesex', for instance, brings up a sketch of the post mill at Clerkenwell, a press cutting about water mills in Middlesex from 1945, photos of the windmill site at Pinner and much more.

The Mills Archive website also has a blog and the post from 14 November is all about the Newgate Prison Windmill, sourced from an unpublished typescript by Stephen Buckland (1935-2006) which is in their collections. Newgate Prison was originally built in the 12th century and windmills appear to have been first fitted in the 1740s in an attempt to improve ventilation and prevent outbreaks of 'gaol fever' (typhus). These windmills were worked manually by prisoners with a bell that kept ringing to show that they were working. New ventilation mills were installed in 1752 and a description with two illustrations appeared in the *Gentleman's Magazine*. The mill cost 50 guineas to build and the blog contains many details of its construction and workings.



This image is from Maitland's *History*, which can be read for free online: https://wellcomecollection.org/works/yngjy96j

Two engravings of old Newgate show the mill as a rough detail. The first is the frontispiece to William Maitland's *History of London*, (1756); the second is in Walter Harrison's *New history of London and Westminster* (1775). In the latter it has a pent roof and four sails, in the former it has six sails and the sails in both are narrower than in 1752. Both show it placed over a hexagonal or octagonal base rising above the ornamental battlements.

The original article is available to read in full from the Mills Archive's website: https://new.millsarchive.org/

Findmypast and the First World War

Several new datasets were added to this pay-per-view website to commemorate Remembrance Day in November.

79 issues of *The War Pictures Weekly and the London Illustrated Weekly*, dated from 20 August 1914 to 17 February 1916, have been added to the newspaper collection. There are pictures from both home and abroad showing how both civilians and the military were coping.

Correspondence relating to the conditions suffered by prisoners of war in German camps in 1915 has also been added. This collection contains official government documents, reports, some personal letters and first-hand accounts of imprisonment. Some individuals are mentioned by name in these records.

In order to help the Germans understand British regional dialects, they recorded 56 servicemen who were in German prison camps but who came from across the UK. The men are all reciting the same piece – the Parable of the Prodigal Son. These recordings are held at the British Library but can be heard on Findmypast.

Findmypast is online here: https://www.findmypast.co.uk

Imperial War Museum and Ancestry

Pay-per-view website Ancestry has just announced a partnership with the Imperial War Museums to help show what life was like during wartime. The Imperial War Museums have a broad collection of wartime materials, collected since 1917, which includes documents, film, journals, maps, newspapers, photographs and other miscellaneous printed materials, such as tickets, leaflets, and posters. The collection contains contributions from journalists and photographers as well as those who served.

You can search in various ways or browse specific image sets. There are several specifically related to London, including six files of photographs of bomb damage and so on – unfortunately there is no information on where the images were taken or the names of individuals portrayed. Ancestry says: you may not find a photograph of your ancestor but images of their unit can help you to know a little more about their uniforms, equipment, the locations they served in and perhaps those whom they served alongside. Other items will help you to explore the contribution and sacrifices made by everyone during times of war.'

This collection is called 'UK, Wartime Records and Material, 1914-1918, 1939-1945' and can be found here: https://www.ancestry.co.uk/

If you have found a useful website perhaps you would consider writing a short review for METROPOLITAN or let the Editors know of it? See inside the front cover for email and postal addresses.

FOCUS ON FACEBOOK

By Elizabeth Burling, Member No. 4992

David Apps, Member No. 8000, sent in this photo of a large dinner to see whether the location and the occasion could be identified. David wrote that there are probably 200-300 men, mainly seated, and the only women appear to be the waitresses. In the background are many union flags and a banner saving 'God Save the King'. His enquiries elsewhere had produced various suggestions, such as that it could be a dinner for those that returned from the First World War, as one diner is said to be wearing the medals 'Pip, Squeak & Wilfred'. Another suggestion was that the roof truss style dated the building to the 1920s or 1930s, but as he served an apprenticeship as a structural steelwork draughtsman in the 1960s and regularly detailed such roof trusses, he dismissed that statement!

We posted this picture onto out 'Help and Discussion Group' to see if anyone could help. Stephanie wondered if it could be a masonic dinner or something to commemorate a coronation. Carmel suggested that it could be a dinner to celebrate the coronation of King George VI in 1936 but it could be veterans, masons, any of the men's clubs that were prolific at that time. David C also thought it might be a First World War veterans' regimental dinner The

waitresses' costume were thought to be from the 1930s, which would support the coronation celebration theory but Barbara said she doubted that it was the masons as there is not a bit of regalia on view. She thought it looks like a factory so perhaps a large employer in the area celebrating a coronation and mentioned that before the war not many women worked in factories.

Doing a reverse image search on Google (see Website News, page 39), there is a picture of a Royal British Legion dinner from the 1950s which has similarities: all men, decorated tables, Union Jacks on the walls. This photo is online here: https://www.westerhamheritage.org.uk/content/catalogue_item/pfaf-british-legion-dinner

Looking at the banner saying 'God Save the King' is reasonably helpful. This particular design turns out to be a cotton banner made for the coronation of King George VI in 1937. They were made in either red or blue. This picture of a street party in Sebastopol Road, Edmonton, celebrating the coronation shows one in the background. This photo can be seen online here: https://www.streetparty.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/history/1937-St-Party-Sebastapol-Rd-Edmonton.jpg

So hopefully we have now identified the date of the photo. If only we could make out what the board on the back wall says…

Help!

Please set out your *Help!* request as clearly and succinctly as possible. All surnames should be in CAPITALS. Members may have one free entry per journal. There is a £3 charge for each subsequent entry and for all entries from non-members. Don't forget to include your contact details and your membership number.

Note: We have not received any 'Helps' this quarter but you might very well find this fair helpful!

EAST SURREY
Family History Society

Virtual Family History Show

Saturday 28 January 2023 from 10am–12am and 2pm–4pm
Enjoy all the benefits of a family history show from your own armchair, FREE of charge, using Zoom

Go to the website to register for either or both sessions (morning and afternoon). At these sessions you will have an opportunity to talk to people from lots of different family history societies, who will each have their own breakout room for you to visit. Keep checking the website to see which Societies are attending. Bring your specific questions to get the best from the event. Numbers are limited so please book early!

London Westminster & Middlesex FHS will be there!
Please email **eventsteam@lwmfhs.org.uk** if you would like to help.

For more information visit the website:
https://www.eastsurreyfhs.org.uk/

MYSTERY PHOTO

This photograph has printed on the back: Shakespeare Photographic Artist, 162 King's Road, Chelsea. Can you tell me anything about it?

Elisabeth Roller, Member No 7822
Denzenbergstraße 46, 72074 Tübingen, Germany

Note: An address search of the 1881 census returns shows that photographer Charles Shakespeare was living at 162 King's Road, Chelsea. It seems likely that, 'Shakespeare Photographic Artist' might well be him. Indeed, in the 1871 census he is at 7 Jubilee Terrace, Chelsea describes himself as 'photographic artist'. (162 King's Road today is on the corner of Jubilee Road so it possible that 7 Jubilee Terrace is the same place.)

Charles had been born in Coventry, Warwickshire in 1833. He married in 1870 and set up his studio in Chelsea and was at 162 Kings Road until 1885. The 1891 census shows he had moved to Lewisham. So this photo must be dated from between 1871-1885.

Looking at the photograph itself, square corners are usually dated to before about 1880, after which rounded corners are more common. Regarding the image itself, with a vignette such as this there is not a lot to go on to aid dating. One's eye is drawn to the bold design and large knot of the tie. Could it represent a school or college?

FORTHCOMING BRANCH MEETINGS

Virtual Branch – Talks are on the second Thursday of the month. 'Doors' open at 7.45 for an 8pm start. To attend, you have to initially register an interest by emailing: virtualbranch@lwmfhs.org.uk (This is once only - you do not need to register for each talk). The details of each Zoom meeting will then be emailed to you a few days prior to the event as well as being announced in *Metropolitan*, on our website and Facebook page.
The talk will be recorded (with the speaker's permission) and reshown the following morning at 10am so that members who live abroad or those who can't make the live event can watch it at a hopefully more convenient time.
Branch Contact: Clare Pollitt, Email: virtualbranch@lwmfhs.org.uk

8 December	*Christmas food and drink through the ages* by Simon Fowler. Find out what the men, women and children of Britain, rich and poor, would have eaten and drank over the Christmas period. Would they have eaten turkey and furmity? Or have drunk Smoking Bishop? And would the paupers in the workhouse have been allowed a pint of beer? All will be revealed.
12 January	*Little Italy – The Story of London's Italian* Quarter by Tudor Allen, Archivist. In the 19th century there grew to be such a concentration of Italians in one part of London that the area became known as 'Little Italy'. This illustrated presentation will tell the history of this Italian quarter from the time of the first settlers up to the last days of the community in the late 20th century.
9 February	*Navigating the Maps Website* by Craig Statham, Maps Reading Room Manager, National Library of Scotland. Craig will give a brief overview of the types of maps available and how they can be used. He will also give a guided tour of the website, highlighting how to easily find the map you are looking for amongst the 250,000+ currently available. The talk will be highlight maps that will be of interest to LWMFHS members.
9 March	*Name Lists: 1550-1800* by Michael Gandy, FSG, our President. This talk covers at least a dozen basic sources in which all our English and Welsh ancestors appear. Many are in print or online and some are even indexed!

This will be preceded by our AGM – see our AGM insert in the middle of this issue of *Metropolitan*.
We do hope to see you at both events.

Barnet Branch – Talks are on the third Thursday of the month from 7.30pm to 9.30pm at Lyonsdown Hall, Lyonsdown Road, New Barnet, Hertfordshire EN5 1JB.
Branch Contact: Clare Pollitt, Email: barnet@lwmfhs.org.uk

15 December	No meeting
19 January	An informal meeting with discussion, your stories and research help.
16 February	*General William Booth, Founder of the Salvation Army* by John Hall. According to the Barnet Press, Booth was 'the greatest figure of his age'. John Hall of Barnet Museum talks about the remarkable life of Booth, resident of Hadley Wood for over 20 years and his claim to the tribute paid to him on his death.
16 March	An informal meeting with discussion, your stories and research help.

Rayners Lane Branch – Talks are on the first Monday of the month. Doors open at 1pm for a 1.30pm start at Roxeth Community Church, Coles Crescent, South Harrow, Middlesex HA2 0TN.
Branch Contact: Tricia Sutton, Email: rayners_lane@lwmfhs.org.uk

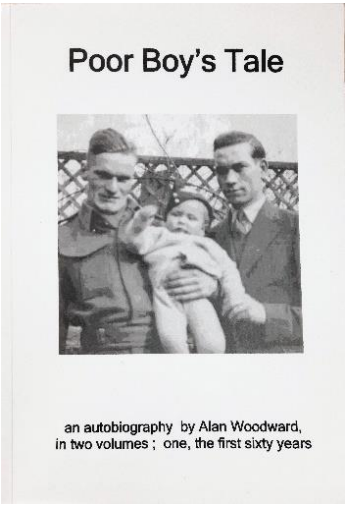
5 December	Christmas Tea Party with puzzles, quizzes and plenty of cake.
9 January 2023	Members' afternoon
6 February	*Farming with Steam* by Tom Doig
6 March	*St Lawrence Whitchurch – its building & its people* by Stuart Cawthorne. This illustrated talk is based on Stuart's research for his book which is being sold to raise funds for renovations to the church.

BOOK REVIEWS

Southgate Town Hall War Memorials by Southgate District Civic Voice. This 16 page illustrated booklet was republished with additional information by Southgate District Civic Voice in 2022. It costs £2 and can be bought via Genfair.

Memorials commemorating employees of Southgate Council who died in action in the two World Wars stood in the main entrance to Southgate Town Hall until 2012, when the building was acquired for residential use. After a few years in storage (care of the Museum of Enfield) the memorials were placed in Palmers Green Library in 2018.
This booklet celebrates the lives of the men who died with a full page for each of them. A photograph of most of them is included together with information about their lives, service and their final resting places. Anyone interested in the history of Southgate would find this little booklet interesting.

Poor Boy's Tale by Alan Woodward (Gorter Press, 2012). This 255 page illustrated paperback is the first part of two (the first sixty years!) of an autobiography.



Alan Woodward (1939-2012) was a socialist and an activist who lived much of his adult life in Tottenham. He was at the forefront of the promotion of working class rights in the area, helping to set up tenants' associations to combat rent increases and training many trade union shop stewards. His autobiography is very much written from the point of view of how his family life and early experiences help shape his radical viewpoint but there are many personal reminiscences of life in London which will have been familiar to many.

AIMS OF THE SOCIETY

1 To encourage the study of family history, genealogy and heraldry, primarily in the City of London, City of Westminster and the London Boroughs of Barnet, Brent, Camden, part of Ealing, Enfield, Haringey, Harrow, part of Hillingdon, and Islington.
2 To help to co-ordinate efforts to make local records more accessible.
3 To carry out such activities as are relevant to a family history society

SUBSCRIPTIONS

The annual subscription covers all family members living at one address, with one journal and one vote per subscription.
There are three subscription rates: £12, £15 and £20 depending on where you live and how your journal *Metropolitan* is delivered.
Our year runs from 1 October until 30 September the following year.
Members joining during the Society's year will receive back copies of journals.

£12 UK & Overseas: to receive *Metropolitan* electronically by download
£15 UK: to receive *Metropolitan* by post
£20 Overseas: to receive *Metropolitan* by airmail post

CHEQUE PAYMENT BY UK OR OVERSEAS MEMBERS

UK cheques are payable to LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX FHS.
Overseas members' payments must be made in pounds sterling by cheque, drawn upon a London Bank, made payable to: LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX FHS.
All cheques should be sent to the Membership Secretary, address on the inside front cover.

CANADA: Canadian Postal Money Orders cannot be accepted.
AUSTRALIA / NEW ZEALAND: Most banks will provide sterling cheques.

OTHER WAYS TO PAY

- Set up a standing order payable on 1 October annually (bank details below);
- Make a payment directly into our bank account (details below);
- Pay through Parish Chest directly from our website lwmfhs.org.uk, or our stall on the Parish Chest
- Post a cheque to the Membership Secretary (details inside the front cover) giving your name and, if possible, membership number (which is on the email notifying you of your electronic version of *Metropolitan*, or on the address sheet sent with your paper copy).

BANKERS: Santander Business Banking, Bridle Road, Liverpool, Merseyside L30 4GB
Sort Code: 09-01-29; Account Number: 70580978
Business account name: London Westminster & Middlesex Family History Society

MEMBERS' DATA

A labels-list of members is held on computer for the purposes of administration and distribution only.
Data from the members' list will NOT be given out to commercial enterprises.
Anyone objecting to his or her name being on this list should write to the Membership Secretary.

METROPOLITAN Copy Dates: **1 Feb, 1 May, 1 Aug, 1 Nov.**

Views of Henrietta Street, Covent Garden

In 1882 Nos 25- 29 used to be St Peter's Hospital for Stone but this lovely doorway is now the entrance to an apartment block.