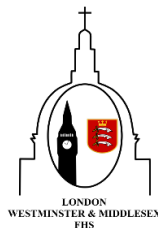


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METROPOLITAN

The Journal of the
LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX
Family History Society



Volume 10 No. 3 (182)

June 2024

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Cover picture: Fleet Street by Barbara E. Haswell, see page 141

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EDITORIAL

Details of our up-coming Virtual Branch and Rayners Lane Branch talks can be seen on page 162 of this journal. Many speakers will do both online and in-person meetings but there are some who only do one or the other, so it is good news that we can cater for both. Editors Barbara and Elizabeth visited the Rayners Lane Branch in March to hear Kathy Chater (who prefers in-person meetings) talk about 'Turning your tree into a tale'. Kathy is an excellent speaker and we picked up lots of tips! One of these was that to help put ancestors into the context of their time you could split a page in two with each line representing a year, then write their key events on one side and world events on the other. That way you can see at a glance how the two timelines interact. The Rayners Lane branch is held in the afternoon at Roxeth Community Church, Coles Crescent, South Harrow, Middlesex HA2 0TN. There is plenty of on-site free parking and there are refreshments after the talk.

Our cover photo is of Fleet Street and actually shows three churches: St Bride's Church is on the left with St Dunstan in the West in the distance and the spire of St Clement Danes can just be seen too. The image illustrates our Spotlight on Fleet Street article on page 141, which talks about this important road and its connection with the printing trade. Our article on William CASLON on page 146 is another link with the trade. William came to London in 1716 as an engraver, not intending to have anything to do with printing at all. He remained in the area all his life but his influence was worldwide.

Don't forget, we are always happy to receive articles, snippets and queries for our *help!* column or suggestions of topics you would like to know more about. Contributions from our members are what makes our journal so interesting. We were delighted to receive three brick wall queries for this issue of the journal. These questions often involve problems which most of us can relate to in our research and the answers can therefore help all of us. Maybe you could send us a photograph - perhaps an idea for our cover or one you need help to date?

Barbara, Elizabeth and Paul, the Editorial Team

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

It is with regret that I have to announce that Sylvia Thompson has stood down as Membership Secretary. She had been in this role for nine years and will be greatly missed. I would like to record my appreciation for all the hard work she has done for the Society and she has not only my thanks for this but, I'm sure, that of all members of the Society too. Sylvia will continue to send out our postal sales booklets for now, for which we are very grateful.

You may remember that in my Chairman's Report for the year ending 30 September 2023 I mentioned that we are preparing a short survey with the hopes of finding out how to make our Society even better. When I started my family tree, we actually had to travel to see collections, which were mainly original documents – remember those massive GRO Index books? Now we have vast online catalogues of digital indexes and images you can look at from home and, of course, Zoom meetings. With so much change, I feel it is important to make sure the Society is offering its members the range of services they want now and will want in the future, hence the creation of a survey. It might be, for instance, that our Australian members would appreciate a Zoom chat every now and then at a time convenient to them? Perhaps London members would like to meet up on a regular basis? Maybe you have skills which you would like to share? I'm sure you will have other ideas.

To this end, our survey will be going live on Saturday 8 June. There will be various ways in which you can access it but please only complete it once.

a) A link to the survey will be emailed to those of you who have specifically given us permission to contact you by email. You will have done this by filling in and returning our Consent Form. If you would like to receive this email link and are not sure whether you have completed a Consent Form, there is one in the Members' Area of our website. Please then either post it to Membership Secretary, c/o 93 Leicester Road, New Barnet, Herts EN5 5EL or email it to: membership@lwmfhs.org

b) If you receive an ejournal, click on this link or type the following into a search engine: <https://forms.gle/5j9hTnVjRWjDd1hz7>

c) The link will be posted on our website. There will be a button saying 'Take our Survey'.

d) It will also be shared with our private Facebook Help and Discussion Group.

The survey will only be live for 2 weeks. It is anonymous unless you chose to share your details with us, as indicated if you want to volunteer for something we will need to know how to contact you. (It is a Google Docs survey so, if you have a gmail/google account and are signed in, your gmail address may be displayed at the start of the survey but it is not shared with us, as indicated just below it). The questions are worded and carried out in such a way that no precise personal data that could identify individuals is being gathered. Also, some questions are optional and you can still respond to the other questions and decline to respond to those questions, should you wish. Any information you contribute will only be used by the society with the intention of making it more useful for members.

If you do not use the internet, we are still interested in your opinion. Do let us know what you like about our Society and what, in an ideal world, we could do better to help you research your family history. Please send your comments to me at the address on the inside front cover of this journal.

I would like to stress that this survey is of course voluntary and you can just ignore the email, if you receive one, or not click on the link. However, I love our Society and would like to make it the best it can be and the opinion of members is crucial to this.

We are now looking for a new Membership Secretary. Please see next page for details and more information. This is a crucial task for the running of the Society and we do need to find one as soon as possible. In the meantime, members of the Committee will be making sure that your membership renewals are processed, so please send them in using the form in the centre of this journal or in your usual way. Please note that the postal address has changed. We will also be needing someone to send out our postal sales booklets. Please email info@lwmfhs.org for details.

Elizabeth Burling



URGENT

we need a new

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Sylvia has stepped down after 9 years in this position and the Society **urgently** needs a replacement.

Do you have the same qualities and enthusiasm she gave to this role?

The job involves:

1. Managing our Membership List held as an Excel spreadsheet.
2. Handling the Society's membership email, Parish Chest and Genfair online accounts.
3. Producing mailing lists for journal distribution and the virtual branch.
4. Having an understanding of GDPR regulations and complying with our Privacy Policy.
5. Attending monthly executive meetings on Zoom whenever possible.
6. Producing a report for the executive committee quarterly and another for the AGM.
7. Liaising with our treasurer (note: out of pocket expenses will be covered by the Society).

You will have to be UK based, deposit cheques, send and receive items via the Post Office, have access to a printer and be able to store Consent Forms in a small fire proof safe (provided by the Society).

Please contact the Executive Committee to express an interest
or if you have any questions:
email info@lwmfhs.org

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

The Mary Wade Family History Association (MWFHA) in Australia needs your association's help. Mary WADE was born about 17 Dec 1775 and transported to Australia in 1789. Mary was convicted with her accomplice, Jane WHITING, who was also born about 1775. Both received the same punishment and were transported to Australia on the *Lady Juliana*. This link https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mary_Wade will give some information about her. You'll see from this that there is plenty of confusion. Well, that is our problem. Was she the Mary WADE born in St Margaret Westminster or the one born in Southwark? The Association is seeking, as much as possible, to confirm Mary's detail. We are reasonably sure where she lived, her date of birth and who her parents are. However, we would really like to nail this down.

If any of your members read this and realise they are connected to Wades of the 1770s, or you have a Mary WADE in your family tree, or you have a young female transported to Australia; we wonder if you have had your DNA assessed? The MWFHA realise Mary WADE was a fairly common name at that time and this is what is making tracing the correct Mary difficult. If your members show a DNA connection any of the common names mentioned at <https://www.marywadefamily.org/webtrees/tree/MaryWadeFamily> in our Mary WADE Family, we would be very happy to hear from them.

Chris Prest, Mary Wade Family History Association

Email: secretary@marywadefamily.org

I was wondering if it is possible for you to let your members know about our Liddiard Family Gathering we have planned for later this year? This is our third gathering have held in the UK, it is always a lovely weekend. This year we are in our home village of Aldbourne, Wiltshire.

This Liddiard Family History Society gathering will be held from 20 to 22 September 2024. If you have any Liddiard's (of any spelling) in your family, we would love to see you. Bring out your family photos and anything Liddiard/ Lidiard/ Lyddiard/ Lydiard / Lediard and join us as we follow the family's journey from North Wiltshire to the six continents of the world. Berkshire & Wiltshire Family History Societies & the Guild of One- Name Studies will also be joining us. For more information, please see our website. <https://liddiardfamilyhistorysociety.com/wp/events-2/>

Karen Rogers, Liddiard Family History Society

Email: info@liddiardfamilyhistorysociety.com

WOMEN VICTIMS OF THE V1 ATTACK AT STANDARD TELEPHONES AND CABLES

By Janet Sutton, Member No. 6805

"On the day in question – 23rd August 1944 – a dull misty morning, I was on the day shift which started at 7.30 a.m. It was about two minutes to eight when we heard a voice over the tannoy shouting "Lie down, lie down". We all knew by the urgency of the voice that danger was very, very near. We all got down on the floor amidst the sawdust and oil and waiting for the explosion".

This was written by my late mother, about the time a V1 flying bomb landed at Standard Telephones and Cables (STC) company factory at New Southgate where she was working. She operated a multi-spindle drilling machine nicknamed 'Big Bertha'. It was a very noisy place to work and as they were unable to hear the air raid sirens, the workers relied on the lookouts on the roof of the factory. A yellow alert over the tannoy meant there was an air raid, a red alert meant danger was very close. Everyone used to lie down on the floor by their machines, as there was no time to get to the shelters.



A group of workers at STC.

From late 1941 women were called up for war work. At first, only single women aged 20-30 but later married women were called up, providing they were not pregnant and had no children under the age of 14 living at home. They would be regarded as ‘mobile workers’ and be available for directing into any ‘essential’ work. My mother was Doris Louisa PHILLIPS, 3rd child of Henry George PHILLIPS and May Clara (née WELLS), The family were living at Queens Terrace, Burnt Oak Broadway, Edgware. Her brother Eric and his wife Joan also worked at the same factory. Her sister Ella was in the ATS. As a mobile worker, Doris could have been sent to anywhere in the country but as Eric got her a job at STC, she was able to continue living at home.



Doris Louisa SUTTON
née PHILLIPS (1922-
2009) taken in the 1940s
by her brother.

Standard Telephones and Cables company was said to be one of the most prepared factories for war – shelters, its own fire brigade, ARP unit and Home Guard. A doctor’s surgery on the factory estate, with a full-time doctor and both registered and auxiliary nursing staff.

My mother’s notes continued -

“... we were then told to switch off our machines ... and go down to the shelters (which were across the road from our building. As we went, I glanced across towards the radio building and was horrified to see that the camouflage netting covering the building was burning fiercely. Many windows were broken, and the escalator had stopped running. The wood shop was non-existent”.

The V1 had fallen between the Woodwork shop (Building 6) and Building 8. The Woodwork shop was a single storey building, steel framed with brickwork. Amongst other things, it was where the parts for Bailey bridges were being built. Building 8 was a three-storey building of reinforced concrete where Air Force radios and radar equipment was assembled. The wing tip of the bomb had caught the outside staircase which projected from Building 8.

According to various sources 33 people were killed (21 on the premises) and about 200 were injured. I have traced the names of 30 of the victims, amongst whom were 8 women. This is my initial research into these women so far.

The Women Victims

Christina Philpott

Christina HIGGINS was born on 11 September 1894 in London (Kensington area), the daughter of Daniel and Bridget HIGGINS, both from Ireland. She was one of 9 children. Her schooling and residences over the coming years (due to her father/mother being in and out of the workhouse) included St Joseph's RC Home, Southall School, Hammersmith/Westminster. By 1911, Christina was at the Franciscan Convent college, Clacton, Essex, as a domestic servant. On 12 January 1918 she married Thomas Edward PHILPOTT at Our Lady of Victories RC church at Kensington. Thomas was a private in the Army Service Corps (a ship's steward), whilst Christina was a booking clerk. On the 1921 census Christina was lodging at 34 Clifden Road, Brentford End, Middlesex and was recorded as a bookkeeper for Thomas De La Rue stationers. By 1939, she was a domestic servant at the Convent of the Good Shepherd, Finchley. At the time of her death, she was working as a welder, her husband was noted as a grocer. Christina died at Wellhouse Hospital, Barnet, recorded as 'found dead' on 23 August 1944 at 17 Wellhouse Lane, Barnet, 'due to war operations' at Standard Telephone company.

Elsie Maude Brown

Elsie was born Elsie Maud DENNIS on 14 July 1907 (according to the 1939 register) at Sheringham, Norfolk, the daughter of George DENNIS and Maud May (née DAGLESS). On the 1911 census, her father was an 'assisting butcher'. By 1921, Elsie was living at Gresham Cottage, Sheringham with her paternal grandmother Clara Jane DENNIS, along with two other grandchildren. (Elsie's father had died in 1917). Her mother was with her parents in Guestwick, Norfolk, and she remarried in 1926.

In 1936 Elsie married Eric Frederick BROWN (in the Barnet registration area. By 1939, the couple had moved to 2 Porchway, Oakleigh Road (Whetstone/Friern Barnet). Eric was a foreman decorator, Elsie was 'unpaid domestic duties'. By the time of her death, her husband was in the army, a private in the RAOC. Elsie died at North Middlesex County Hospital on 23

August 1944. The death certificate does not state what her occupation at STC was, though her death was ‘due to war operations’.

Maria Lofting

Maria Hilda PORTCH was born 2 January 1924 in the Barnet area of North London. She was the daughter of Albert J. PORTCH (1892-1970) a taxi cab owner/driver, and Emily J. (née EVANS). She had one brother Albert G. (1926). On the 1939 register, the family were living at 2 Simmons Way, Maria (listed as Maisie) was ‘paper modelling children’s books’. In December 1943, she married Robert Francs LOFTING in the Hendon area. She died on 23 August 1944 at the Middlesex County Hospital and buried 29 August at Hendon. It is unknown which department she worked in, her death certificate (‘due to war operations’), gave only her husband’s occupation – Press tool fitter engineer.

In the Radio Department

Minette Louise Victoria Goffe

Minette was born on 18 January 1901 in the West Norwood/Lambeth area, one of three daughters of Mathew Henry GOFFE and Catherine Mary née MANLEY. Matthew was a carman. On the 1901 census, the family were living at 2 Coin Street, Lambeth, but in 1911 both Minette and her sister Catherine were at the Lambeth Workhouse school. The third sister was at 35 Sekforde Street, Clerkenwell (John Groom’s Home). Moving on to 1921, Minette was a domestic servant in the household of Peter PORTEOUS at 46 Holmdene Avenue, Camberwell. In 1939, she and her sister Catherine were at 11 Queens Avenue, with the family of John REYNOLDS, both listed as domestic servants. Minette died at STC aged 41 and was a radio assembler – death ‘due to war operations’. The informant was her cousin John W. REYNOLDS.

Norma Gladys May Bennett

Norma was born on 1 August 1923 (1939 Register) in the Pancras area of London. She was the daughter of Walter Edgar BENNETT and May Elizabeth (née SPICER). On the 1939 register Norma is living with her mother at 71 Ollerton Road, Southgate. Her occupation is given as shoe shop assistant. Norma was employed at STC as a radio examiner. She died at 17 Wellhouse Lane, Barnet (Wellhouse hospital) on 24 August. Her cause of

death was given as ‘1a – shock, 1b burns extensive – due to enemy action’. Her father was the informant.

Ivy Clara Bates

Ivy Clara PAYNE was born on 8 August 1909 at Leyton, Essex, one of three daughters of Joseph PAYNE (a tailor) and his wife Clara Ella (née ABDY). Ivy was baptised at Leyton on 26 September 1909. Her sisters were Sylvia and Daisy. In 1911 the family were at 122 Francis Road, Leyton. Sadly, her father died in 1915, and her mother remarried on 27 May 1919 at Edmonton to Edward George LITTLEFORD. By 1921 the family had moved to 2 Pump Yard, Bury Street, Edmonton. Her stepfather was a general labourer for a nurseryman. In 1934 Ivy married Laurence BATES, a storekeeper, and in 1939 the couple were living at 1 Pembroke Road, Palmers Green. Lawrence was recorded as a head storekeeper at a Bakelite moulders. He was also in the Edmonton ARP at STC where Ivy was a radio examiner. As a victim of the V1 attack, her death certificate also states her cause of death was ‘due to war operations.’

Incidentally, her sister Daisy who had married Frederick Arthur BARR, was widowed in 1943, (her husband was a flying officer). It would seem that she later remarried in 1945 – to her late sister’s husband.

Kathleen Victoria Edwards

Kathleen was born Kathleen Victoria WARD on 9 November 1918 in the Barnet area, the daughter of Albert Edward WARD, (a ganger/platelayer for Great Northern Railway), and Mary Elizabeth née PEGG. Kathleen was baptised on 8 December 1918 at St James the Great, Friern Barnet. She had two brothers, Albert (1915) and Arthur (1916). In 1921 the family were living at 23 Holly Park Road, Friern Barnet, her father still employed by the Great Northern Railway. In 1939, the family are still at Holly Park Road, Kathleen is single, a radio inspector and with the ARP at STC (First Aid). In 1940, she married Albert EDWARDS. She died on 23 August 1944 at the factory ‘due to war operations’.

Mabel Lusby

Mabel was born on 20 March 1911 at Stepney, London, the daughter of Henry Charles LUSBY and Annie Louisa (née WINTER). She was baptised on 26 April 1911 at Ratcliffe, Tower Hamlets, London. The home address was 1 Stepney Causeway, her father’s occupation was given as brewer’s yardman. Mabel had 5 sisters. For some reason, she is not listed on the 1911

with her parents and siblings. By the time of the 1921 census, the family were living at 36 Payne Street, Islington, and Mabel was in full time schooling. Her father was a warehouseman for Sir James Buchanan Whisky distillers at Holborn, London. In 1937 she was living at 17 Andover Road, Islington. On the 1939 register, she is recorded at 75 Sherrards Way, as a showroom assistant. Mabel died on 23 August at the STC factory, her occupation given as radio inspector, death due to 'war operations'.

Women's War Memorial

Until 2005 there was no memorial to the women who lost their lives in the



The Monument to the Women of World War II in Whitehall.

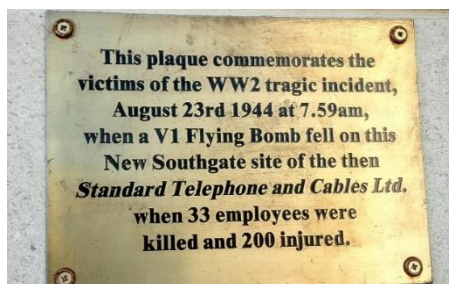
Second World War. The idea for such a memorial was first mooted in 1997. A fundraising trust was set up, which included Dame Vera LYNN, Betty BOOTHROYD (Speaker of the House of Commons) and the Princess Royal. The memorial was unveiled on 9 July 2005, by Queen Elizabeth II. The monument is situated in Whitehall, London next to the Cenotaph. The images round the monument depict 17 sets of clothing and uniforms, symbolising the many jobs undertaken by women during the war.

There is a brass plaque commemorating the victims of the factory - outside Building 2, North London Business Park, now offices for Barnet Council.

Postscript – My mother was lucky to suffer with nothing more than aching ears from the blast, which lasted a week. My uncle, who was also a volunteer fireman at the factory, suffered nightmares after, and never spoke of what he saw.

My research is ongoing, especially to trace the names of the missing three victims.

The plaque at the STC site.



Sources:

Ancestry UK website <https://www.ancestry.co.uk/>

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<https://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ww2peopleswar/stories/49/a1128449.shtml>

Days of Darkness: The London Borough of Barnet at War by Percy Reboul and John Heathfield (The History Press, 2005)

Find My Past website <https://www.findmypast.co.uk/>

GRO website <https://www.gov.uk/general-register-office>

Power of Speech: A History of Standard Telephones and Cables 1883-1983 by Peter Young (George Allen and Unwin Ltd, 1983)

Standard Telephones and Cables website

The Doodlebugs: Story of the Flying Bombs by Norman Longmate (Arrow Books Ltd, 1986) pages 305-313



The Harrow Observer, Friday 11th July 1941

“**LOST AT SEA:** Reported ‘Missing’ some weeks ago, information has now been received that Mr J CHESHIRE aged 28, an Assistant Steward in the Merchant Navy, son of Mrs C and the late Mr Frank CHESHIRE of 10 Dorchester Avenue, North Harrow, must be presumed ‘Lost at Sea.’

Mr CHESHIRE was born in Bonnersfield Lane and went to St Ann’s Road School, Harrow. On leaving he worked for Messrs HUNT & KENNARD, Timber Merchants, Station Road, Harrow, and in addition to his service in the Merchant Navy before the War he had also been employed at the Kodak Works. Mrs CHESHIRE has five other sons, one serving at Gibraltar and another in Sierra Leone, both in the Royal Engineers.”

OUT AND ABOUT

East Anglia FHF Really Useful Family History Show.

LWMFHS attended this event on Saturday 20 April which was hosted by the East Anglian Group of Family History Societies at the Burgess Hall in St Ives, Cambridgeshire. There was free admission and free parking for all and the show was very well attended. It was great to actually meet some of our members who we had only seen on the Virtual Branch Zoom meetings before!



There was a constant stream of visitors to our stall and our team were kept on their toes answering questions about our area and selling our booklets, maps and second-hand books. Thank you very much to Elaine, Elizabeth, Karen and Sylvia, who manned our stall.

Haringey Local History Fair, postponed

Regarding other events, Haringey Local History Fair has been delayed again this year due to ongoing restoration works on the East Wing of Bruce Castle. The work started in May and will go on until 2025.

Coming up...

London Westminster & Middlesex FHS will hopefully be going to the following events this year, if we are able to get some extra volunteers to help out. You do not have to be an expert, just enjoy chatting to people about family history. If you could help at any of these events for an hour or two, please contact Karen at: events@lwmfhs.org

Barnet Medieval Festival, 8 and 9 June

The Society has a stall at this year's Barnet Medieval Festival over the weekend of 8 and 9 June. The aim is to promote our organisation and family history in general, sell our publications and have fun too! It is a fabulous event, commemorating the 1471 Battle of Barnet. There will be battlefield displays, living history camps, activities and a great selection of food and drink. We are in need of volunteers to help man our stall. If you would like to offer even just a half day's help or more, that would be very welcome. Please let us know asap. You will have free entry to the event so you can enjoy it as well as help us.

This event takes place from 10.30am-5pm on Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 June at Barnet Elizabethans Rugby Club, Byng Road, Barnet EN5 4NP. There is only very limited parking on the site. High Barnet tube station is the nearest, with a walk of about a mile but the 384 bus takes you to Byng Road, only a 6 minute walk away. Tickets cost £7 for adults, £3 for children and are available on the gate or in advance from www.barnetmedievalfestival.org You can find out more about the festival on that website too or on their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/1471barnet>

Stephens House and Gardens, Finchley, 1 September

There will be a Heritage Open Day at this Grade II listed house, which is on East End Road and used to be the home of Henry Charles 'Inky' Stephens. As the local family history society we would like to attend but currently do not have enough volunteers to do this.

Palmers Green Festival, 1 September

This festival will be held at Broomfield Park, Palmers Green, London N13. It is open from noon to 5pm, is free to enter and is very much a local community event, with many different stalls already booked. This is another one we would like to attend but do not yet have enough volunteers. Of course, having two events on the same day does not help!

The Family History Show, Kempton Park, 5 October

The Family History Show at Kempton Park Racecourse will be held on 5 October this year, so make a note in your diaries if you would like to come along. There will be more details in the September journal.



BEGINNERS' CORNER

Probably like many 'technophobes' of my generation. I need basic help and guidance (at least initially) when taking on a new computer task. I would like to be able to scan old photos, street maps, etc onto my laptop, edit and save the documents, for use in the many detailed reports I have produced for my family.

Alan Gunter, Member No. 8093

There must be many people in a similar position to you, Alan, especially when we consider the huge rise in the use of technology for family history research. Of course, this is a massive subject. To start with, there are two main operating systems for computers, which are Microsoft Windows and Apple's Mac and then another two for mobile phones: Android and Apple iOS. Not only will there be different instructions for doing the same operation on any of these systems, each system will have different instructions for its different versions. So, for instance, the way to take a screen shot on one person's iPad will not necessarily work on someone else's. For this reason, we will try and give you some tips on how you can help yourself understand and successfully use the technology which you own.

The first useful thing which you will need is the instruction manual for the various bits of technology you use, such as a scanner, camera or phone. The booklets you get with these devices nowadays normally just consist of how to turn the thing on in 63 languages. The instruction manual itself is usually to be found online and to locate it you will need the make and model of your device. Then find it using a search engine.

It is worthwhile reading through the whole thing really, but you definitely must have a look at the 'tour' of the device, which will help you find out what all the buttons etc are for. The other useful thing about an online manual is that you can search in it easily for what you are trying to do. Start off with a broader term such as 'screen shot'. You can narrow this down if there are too many mentions.

Google (other search engines are available) is invaluable. Just type your question in to the search box and see what comes up. You will likely have to sift through the answers and may need to modify your question but the

answer will be there somewhere. And the more you do of this, the better you get at it. It's amazing what you can find out which creators of manuals just assume everybody knows these days. For example, if you have found an online image from a map, photo or similar and wish to save it to your computer, you could type in 'How can I take a screenshot on my computer?' without even specifying just what your computer is. One of the first answers says:

'Use the 'Print Screen button (PrtSc), which is usually on the upper-right side of most keyboards or next to the space bar. This will copy an image of your entire screen to the clipboard. You can then press 'Ctrl and V' to paste it into a document.'

Have a look at your keyboard – you will almost certainly find 'PrtSc' printed on one of the keys.

Almost certainly, some of the answers to any question you ask will be in video form and probably on YouTube. If you like somebody to show you how to do something, then these can be extremely helpful. You can pause and replay these as many times as you like so that you can be sure you understand and can try out their suggestions.

Another thing which will give you a boost is to attend a local computer class. Again, these can be found by looking online for 'Beginner computer course near me', 'Silver surfer computer course' or similar. U3A, the Workers' Educational Association (WEA) and Age UK all offer both in-person courses or online courses, and local libraries may also.



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.

WEBSITE NEWS

Marriage Locator

Marriage certificates are immensely useful when researching your family history and many of us have bought copy certificates from the General Register Office (GRO). The originals, however, are likely to have been deposited in local Record Offices such as London Metropolitan Archives or City of Westminster Archives (in our area). These are the versions which will have the actual signature or mark of the bride, groom and witnesses. For this reason, it is useful to be able to find out exactly where a couple got married and this can be done by using this free Marriage Locator service.

This database, created by the Guild of One-Name Studies, is designed to help you find which church was used for a marriage which appears in the Marriage Index created by the GRO for England and Wales.

The Marriage Index was created from quarterly returns sent to the local Registrar of events which had taken place in each church or register office in each sub-district. These were then sent to the GRO for inclusion into volumes based on the Registration District. Marriages for each individual church were entered together in chronological order starting on an odd-numbered page. (Late return were entered elsewhere and account for page numbers with letters on.) This means that over time, as enough information has been gathered about entries in the index, it has been possible to work out which church submitted which returns.

To use the Marriage Locator, you first need to find the entry for a marriage from FreeBMD and note the year, quarter, volume and page. This information is entered into the Marriage Locator search box and a result produced. This is a work in progress which currently covers the years 1837-1945 and some 1,431 Registration Districts. New data is being added all the time, so worth going back to if your particular entry cannot yet be found. You can access Marriage Locator here: <https://one-name.org/marriage-locator/>

Have You Changed Your Email Address?

Please make sure you let us know by emailing your new address to:

membership@lwmfhs.org

BAREKNUCKLE FIGHTING IN FINCHLEY

By Tony Gee, Non-member

Local author Tony Gee is preparing a revised edition of his book *Up to Scratch: bareknuckle fighting and heroes of the prize-ring* to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the original publication. Prize-fighting was one of the greatest sporting attractions in the 18th and 19th centuries and fights attracted thousands of spectators from all walks of life. The area around Barnet, Whetstone, Finchley and up into Hertfordshire was one of the most popular for staging these fights. The following paragraphs are from his chapter 'The Bristolian Belchers' which is about one of the greatest of the champions of England from the bareknuckle era, Jem BELCHER, who fought a major contest on Finchley Common at the turn of the 19th century.

'The advent of the 19th century brought to the area Jem BELCHER, grandson of Jack SLACK and destined to become one of the prize-ring's greatest exponents. BELCHER, another butcher, hailed from Bristol at the time when this West Country city was fast emerging as a hotbed of pugilistic talent. He was only 19 when he appeared in a bout with the 37-year-old Brentford-born Jack BARTHOLOMEW at Finchley Common. (According to the maps of John CARY, the premier cartographer of the age, the common around that time was approximately three miles long, one and a half miles wide and covered most of the area now occupied by both North and East Finchley.)

BELCHER introduced an original style to the sport; little more than a middleweight, he found it expedient to utilize greater movement than was generally customary during this period. His knowledge of the art was largely intuitive, his agility little short of extraordinary and his 'bottom' undoubted. BELCHER's adversary, a long-time favourite of the Fancy, was an extremely game battler and the possessor of considerable power. The combatants had previously met once before in a gruelling encounter which had eventually terminated in a draw. The rematch, on 15 May 1800, saw BARTHOLOMEW, the stronger and heavier of the two, attempt to maximize his physical attributes whilst BELCHER wisely opted to mill on the retreat.

The veteran gained the first major advantage, felling the future champion in the second round with such a heavy punch that his chances of recovery

seemed remote. In fact BARTHOLOMEW's supporters, prematurely deciding that victory was a foregone conclusion, sent a carrier pigeon to London with news of their man's success. However, the Bristolian showed the bravery and recuperative powers expected from a descendant of the celebrated SLACK. A few minutes later he completely turned the contest around with a well executed cross-buttock throw. The *Oracle, and the Daily Advertiser* of the following day reported that BARTHOLOMEW "was thrown upon his head with such violence that his eye-sight failed him and he appeared infinitely distressed". From then on he was never quite able to provide the same formidable resistance but still continued courageously to dispute every round until, at length, he received a tremendous blow to the pit of the stomach which ended the proceedings. Although the battle lasted only 20 minutes, as the *Sporting Magazine* commented, it was "seventeen rounds of as severe fighting as we ever remembered".

Immediately afterwards the loser was taken into custody by police officers under the authority of a judge's warrant and was escorted back to town, where he was bailed on arrival. The next week the *Morning Post and Gazetteer* explained that he had been arrested "for having forfeited his bond to keep the peace given at the time he was tried for killing a man at Charing Cross". (This probably referred to an affray in which a sailor, James HAYES, met his death at the hands of John SYMONDS on 30 January 1798 at the Crown and Thistle public house. BARTHOLOMEW was subsequently tried for aiding and abetting his fellow bruiser in the slaying of the unfortunate seaman.) After succumbing to the youthful BELCHER, BARTHOLOMEW never fought again and the *Sporting Magazine* recorded his demise in July 1803, in the Almonry, Westminster, after an illness of several months. Following a death-bed request, his body was opened and it found that his liver was "remarkably enlarged and quite scirrhus".

BELCHER's impressive performance at Finchley confirmed his position as a genuine title claimant. In his very next bout he easily overcame unbeaten Irishman Andrew GAMBLE to earn recognition as champion of England. He went on to quell the powerful Shropshire brawler Joe BOURKE (Berks) four times, twice in turn-ups, and also scored a 20-minute victory over Jack FIRBY before losing an eye in an unfortunate rackets accident. This led to his early retirement, but he was injudiciously tempted back into the ring with his former protégé Henry PEARCE and later, on two occasions, against the redoubtable Tom CRIBB. In all three meetings BELCHER found his

restricted vision to be too great a handicap and was reluctantly forced to admit defeat. He passed away at the early age of thirty, on 30 July 1811, leaving behind a well-deserved reputation as the most brilliant pugilist of his day. An interesting footnote to Jem's story is that he made popular the wearing of colours by fighters and gave his name to the neckerchief, known as the 'Belcher', which later became an item of high fashion.

Another of the BELCHER clan, younger brother Tom, although not quite reaching the heights of his famous elder sibling, was nevertheless a noted performer known for his skill and sparring abilities. He had a distinguished career in which he clashed three times with the renowned 'Dutch Sam', and twice beat that determined Irish hero Dan DOGHERTY, one of the latter matches being made by Lord Byron. In 1814 he took over the running of the Castle Tavern in Holborn, for many years the unofficial headquarters of the ring. Tom was one of the 18 boxers employed at the crowning of George IV and the lucky recipient of the single gold coronation medal presented to this corps of royal pages to commemorate the momentous event.

In 1828 he retired as landlord of the Castle Tavern and took up residence in Finchley. Egan related in *Boxiana* that "the lucky Tom Belcher now passes his days in a very handsome cottage on Finchley Common, living at his ease like a man of fortune, with his dog and his gun, to traverse the fields when he feels inclined for a day's shooting to 'bag the game'". Belcher later moved from the area and his death certificate recorded that he died from apoplexy at his house in Trafalgar-square, Park Road, Peckham, on 9 December 1854.'

Anybody who wishes to register an interest in the new edition should contact Lennard Publishing by email at: orders@lennardqap.co.uk



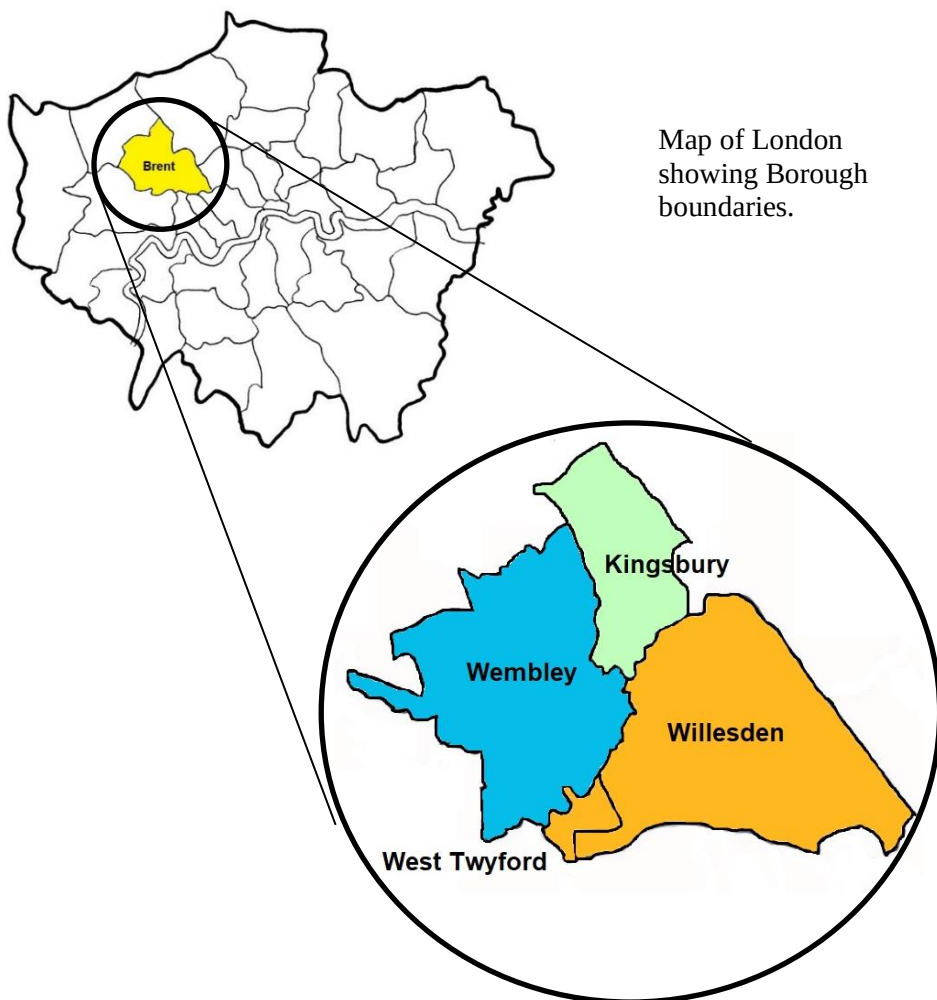
NEXT COPY DATE

Please remember that the copy date for the next issue of *Metropolitan* is
1 August 2024

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

ANCESTORS IN WHAT IS NOW THE LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT

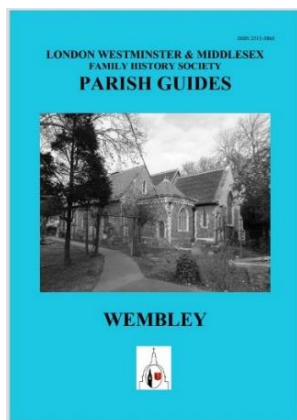
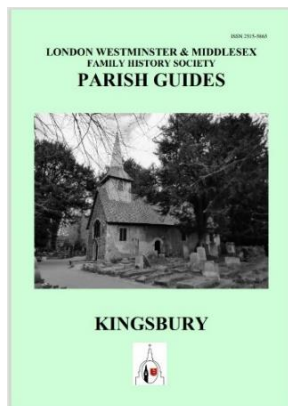
Before 1965 this area was divided into two Municipal Boroughs: Wembley and Willesden, which in turn were called Urban Districts from 1894-1955. Wembley Urban District had been formed in 1934 from the civil parishes of Wembley and Kingsbury. However, since Tudor times, this area was covered by the Ancient Parishes of Kingsbury and Willesden, with Wembley being part of Harrow-on-the-Hill until 1847.



Map of London showing Borough boundaries.

Our Parish Guides are based on these Ancient Parishes, although the information they contain goes from the earliest known records available right up to date.

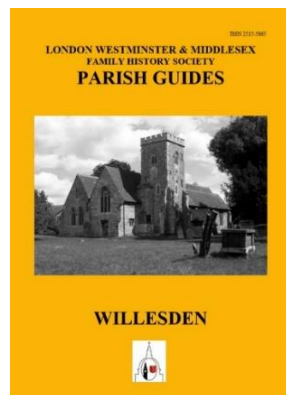
Places in **Kingsbury** Ancient Parish include Chalkhill, Kingsbury Green, Pipers Green, Queensbury, Roe Green and part of The Hyde.



Places in **Wembley** include Alperton, Monks Park, Preston, part of Sudbury, Tokyngton, Wembley Green and Wembley Park.

Places in **Willesden** Ancient Parish include Brondesbury, Church End, part of Cricklewood, Dollis Hill, Dudden Hill, East Twyford, Harlesden, Kensal Rise, Kilburn (west of Edgware Road), Mapesbury, Neasden, Park Royal, Stonebridge, Willesden and Willesden Green.

West Twyford, also called **Twyford Abbey** is included in this booklet.



You can buy these booklets or any of our other booklets here:
<https://www.parishchest.com/london-westminster-middlesex-fhs-4577.php>

JOTTINGS

Lost Victorian City: a London disappeared

This is the title of a free exhibition being held at London Metropolitan Archives (LMA) until 5 February 2025. A wide range of richly evocative and forgotten views will feature photographs, prints, watercolours, and documents of buildings, horse-drawn transport, docks, artists' views of the capital, and varieties of entertainment.

Highlights include photographs of the Oxford Arms, a 17th century coaching inn in Warwick Lane near the Old Bailey. These were taken in 1875 by the Society for Photographing Relics of Old London, two years before the inn was demolished. There are two images out of some 160 which Philip Henry Delamotte took recording the removal of the Great Exhibition's Crystal Palace from Hyde Park to Sydenham in south-east London in 1852. Another photograph shows public disinfectors dressed in protective blouses and leggings removing infected textiles and placed in a sealed hand cart, ready for disinfection. The group in the exhibition's photograph are standing in front of the outbuilding which contains the disinfecting oven.

As, perhaps, with all of the exhibitions at LMA, this one is bound to be fascinating. It is open during the usual opening hours of LMA.

Anyone interested in lost London, especially those who cannot get to the LMA Exhibition, may be interested in this book: *Lost London 1870-1945* by Philip Davies (Transatlantic Press, 2009). The book is lavishly illustrated with images taken from the English Heritage archive, many of which were taken as a historical record for the *Survey of London*.

Matthew Flinders

Royal Navy captain and explorer Matthew FLINDERS was the first person to navigate around the entire coast of Australia and is credited with having named the country. He died aged 40 in London and his burial appears in the parish register of St James Piccadilly, his address given as London Road. He was then buried at the St James, Hampstead Road, burial ground on 23 July 1814.

His body was found during the clearing of the cemetery for the HS2 train line and will now be reburied in the town of his birth, Donington, in Lincolnshire, after a local campaign. There will be a three-day celebration of his life from 12-14 July, with the burial taking place on Saturday 13 July at the church of St Mary and the Holy Rood, Church Street, Donington.

YOUR ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL FORM IS OVERLEAF

Please read our Treasurer's note on the back page of this insert before completing the form.

If you already pay your subscription by **Standing Order**, please contact your bank to ensure that you are paying the correct amount and to our Santander bank account. Paying your subscription in this way is the most cost effective for the Society.

Members wishing to pay future subscriptions by Standing Order should send an SSAE to the Membership Secretary to obtain a form or download one from our website.

You can pay directly into the Society's Santander Business account: Sort Code: 09-01-29; Account Number: 70580978; the account name is London Westminster & Middlesex Family History Society.

You may also renew by **Parish Chest** here (please include your membership number): <https://www.parishchest.com/london-westminster-middlesex-fhs-4577.php>

Please ensure that the Membership Secretary has your current address and email address

If you require a receipt for your cheque, then please include an SSAE with your completed form and remittance.

LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL – for the year 2024-2025

There are three categories of membership each with a different subscription rate. These rates depend on the mode of delivery of the LWMFHS journal *Metropolitan*.

Subscriptions are renewable by 1 October 2024 and must be paid in pounds sterling.

Please make your cheque payable to LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX FHS and return the completed form to our Membership Secretary with your appropriate payment to:

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Please tick the appropriate box below, indicating your category of payment or cancellation of your membership of the Society.

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A note from the Treasurer

To renew your membership for 2024-2025, you can:

- Set up a standing order payable on 1 October annually*
- Make a payment directly into our bank account*
- Pay through Parish Chest directly from our website:
<https://lwmfhs.org/join/>
- or our page on the Parish Chest website:
<https://www.parishchest.com/london-westminster-middlesex-fhs-4577.php>
- Post a cheque to the Membership Secretary (details overleaf) giving your name and, if possible, membership number

*You will need this information to make the payment

- The Society's Santander bank sort code: 09-01-29
- The Society's Santander bank account number: 70580978; the account name is London Westminster & Middlesex Family History Society
- Your membership number which is on the email notification of your electronic *Metropolitan*, or the address sheet with your paper copy

Note: It is important that you include a reference with your payment, otherwise the Society will not know who the money is from. Please ask your bank to add a reference which includes your name and membership number eg L Jones 1234, Fairweather 2345. These details will be enough for us to identify your payment and renew your membership.

However you pay, make sure you send us the correct amount, depending on whether you have paper or electronic copies of *Metropolitan*.

If you have changed your name, address or email, please tell the Membership Secretary.

April Vesey, Treasurer

SPOTLIGHT ON: FLEET STREET

Fleet Street has its origins in a Roman road which led west from their town of Londinium, which is today the City of London. The road starts at Ludgate Circus and continues west to the Temple Bar Memorial, at which point it becomes the Strand. It was the only direct route between the City and Westminster until the Embankment was opened in 1870. Fleet Street was named from the River Fleet which runs south from Hampstead under Farringdon Street and New Bridge Street to the Thames.

There are three churches on Fleet Street. St Bride's stands on the southern side and at the eastern end of Fleet Street. The church is the seventh to be built on the site with the current one being a restoration of Sir Christopher WREN's replacement to the medieval one which burnt in the Great Fire of London. The name St Bride refers to Irish woman St Brigid of Kildare and

this dedication may date back to the 6th century here in London. A Roman mosaic pavement was constructed here in the year 180 and it is still visible in the crypt, along with medieval tiles and other interesting artefacts. Samuel PEPYS, diarist, was born next door in Salisbury Court and baptised in the church, where his mother had her own pew, on 3 March 1632.



St Dunstan in the West with the former Dundee Courier building next door.

St Dunstan in the West is at the other end of Fleet Street and on the northern side. St Dunstan himself was appointed Bishop of London in 958 before becoming Archbishop of Canterbury in 960. This church has its origins in one built between 988 and 1070 but the current version is again a restoration of an 1831 rebuild, as both St Bride and St Dunstan were badly damaged by bombing in the

Second World War. Unusually, the interior is octagonal in shape.

The church has a famous clock which dates from 1671 and was the first public clock in London to have a minute hand. The figures of two giants strike the hours and quarters and when they needed to be repaired, one Christopher PINCHBECK was asked to do this but he then used them as a window display in his family's pastry shop next door. Christopher was actually a watchmaker who had made a musical clock for French King Louis XIV and had invented a new kind of brass. This metal had an increased copper content and came to be accepted as imitation gold, particularly for the setting of semi-precious stones. The formula to create this metal, known as Pinchbeck, was only told to Christopher's son, who inherited the business. Eventually, rolled or electroplated gold was preferred and 'pinchbeck' came to mean false, or cheap. St Dunstan's is a parish church but also provides a home for Romanian Orthodox services.

Temple Church is located on the opposite side of Fleet Street to St Dunstan in the West, between the road and the River Thames. It was built by the Knights Templar and was used from about 1163. The church is round in shape (with a rectangular chancel) to pay tribute to the round Church of the Holy Sepulchre, built by Constantine in Jerusalem. After the Order of the Temple was abolished in 1307, Temple Church was given to the Knights Hospitaller (the Order of St John). They had headquarters at the Priory of Clerkenwell and so rented Temple Church to two colleges of lawyers. These bodies came to be known as the Inner and Middle Temples and are two of London's four Inns of Court to which every barrister in England and Wales must belong.

The area around Fleet Street has also had a long association with printing and publishing. Wynkyn de WORDE, apprentice to William CAXTON, established the first connection by setting up his printing press in the churchyard of St Bride's Church in 1500. Wynkyn de WORDE was buried in the churchyard in 1535. French-born Richard PYNSON was also an early printer and is believed to have moved to a workshop next to St Dunstan in the West from one at St Clement Danes in about 1501. It was PYNSON who introduced roman type to England, where it was used mainly for Latin texts at this time, black-letter being favoured for texts written in English. PYNSON's books exhibited a high standard of craftsmanship and he was appointed King's Printer to both King Henry VII and King Henry VIII. It is thought that these two printers account for about two thirds of all books produced for the English market during the years they were in Fleet Street.

Once also known as the home of newspapers, both provincial and national, Fleet Street is no longer haunted by journalists and their watering holes. The first newspaper in London was the *Daily Courant*, published by Elizabeth MALLETT from 1702 from rooms above the White Hart pub. Many more newspapers followed. By the 20th century, most national newspapers had offices on Fleet Street until the 1980s when Rupert MURDOCH moved his papers, *The Times* and *The Sun*, to Wapping in East London in order to distance his business from the print unions. Most of the others followed suit but traces of them still remain, for example the *Daily Express* building at No. 121-128 is a fabulous Art Deco edifice, as is *The Daily Telegraph* building at No. 135-142. Both are now Grade II listed. Reuters was the last news outlet to leave, moving out to Canary Wharf in 2005.

The street is just as bustling, however, and numerous taverns still survive and thrive, such as the *Punch Tavern* which was renamed from the *Crown and Sugar Loaf* in the 1840s as it was much frequented by journalists from the nearby offices of *Punch* magazine. Another Fleet Street pub, *Ye Old Cheshire Cheese* is one of the oldest in London. Although rebuilt after the Great Fire of 1666, a tavern had stood on the same spot for at least 100 years before this. Dr Samuel JOHNSON, famous for creating the first dictionary, is said to have frequented the pub when he lived nearby and playwright Ben JOHNSON, poet John MILTON, authors Mary TWIN, Sir Pelham Grenville 'P.G.' WODEHOUSE and Sir Arthur Conan DOYLE were also regulars.

Dr Samuel JOHNSON's townhouse at 17 Gough Square, built at the end of the 17th century for wool merchant Richard GOUGH, is now a museum which is open to the public. The four-storey building has retained many of its period features, including historic panelling, a fine open staircase, wooden floorboards, a quirky cellarette cupboard, coal holes and even the original door handles. The 18th century front door still has its historic anti-burglary devices intact, including a heavy chain with corkscrew latch and spiked iron bar over the fanlight.

Sources

Fleet Street: <https://hidden-london.com/gazetteer/fleet-street/>

Fleet Street: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fleet_Street

St Bride's Church: <https://www.stbrides.com/about-us/our-history/>

St Dunstan in the West: <https://www.stdunstaninthewest.org/history>

BEGINNERS' WORKSHOPS AT LMA

London Metropolitan Archives (LMA) is holding a series of workshops which focus on family history, which will take place on 2 September, 7 October and 4 November at 40 Northampton Road, London EC1R 0HB.

These workshops are a beginners guide to using BMD indexes, parish records and the census and will look at the digital family history resources available at LMA. Instruction on combining them to start/progress your research will be given using examples of a case study of a Bermondsey family.

You will be able to access all of their online and physical resources, and get familiar with using an archive to better inform your genealogical research!

This event is free but you must book a place. You can find booking details on the events section of their Facebook page.



SURNAME INTERESTS

A traditional part of family history journals is the advertising of members' research names. LWMFHS lists the names in both our journal, *Metropolitan*, and website. We also add the names to the Family History Federation's website, and this allows more people the chance to view them.

If you would like to add your interest names to our database, please fill in a Surname Interests form and send it to me by email or post. The form can be downloaded from the Surname Interests section of our website. If you cannot access the website, then please send me a stamped, self-addressed envelope and I will post one to you. My addresses can be found inside front cover of *Metropolitan*. A form has been included in this journal – see opposite

The form has spaces to add more details to a surname which narrow down the date and area where the name is being researched. This will make it much easier for distant cousins with potentially useful information to find you. For example if you are searching for a SMITH then parish information and dates are crucial to help you find a connection.

Barbara, Surname Interests.

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SOCIETY**

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(Please complete this form as per the example given)

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Name	Period	County	Parish
eg. WATTS	1850-1875	MDX	Islington, St Mary

Special Interests (eg a One Name study can be one of your choices)

Please email your completed form to: surnames@lwmfhs.org
or post to: Surname Interests: c/o Mrs B Haswell, LWMFHS 93 Leicester
Road, New Barnet, Herts EN5 5EL

WILLIAM CASLON, FONT FOUNDER

By Elizabeth Burling, Member No. 4992

The church of St Giles Cripplegate was built just outside the walls of the City of London in medieval days and its parish stretched out to the north over the swampy lands of the manor of Finsbury. The marshes were drained in 1527 creating usable land which became known as Finsbury Fields. These were used for activities which the crowded City had no room for, such as archery practice (compulsory for able-bodied men on Sundays), and duck hunting or



William CASLON, from an original painting by Francis KYTE dated 1730.

swimming at Perilous Pond, a pool fed by a spring which is remembered in the road names Bath Street and Peerless Street today. A Pest House was built in 1593 so that City residents with infectious illnesses could be cared for well away from their neighbours. A new artillery ground was created on Finsbury Fields and in 1658 the Honorable Artillery Company moved in.

Because this area lay outside City boundary and so out of its jurisdiction, it attracted different sorts of people. Nonconformists had a large presence, as is shown by the establishment of a large Quaker burial ground in 1661 and Bunhill Fields burial ground in 1665. The aftermath of the Great

Plague of 1665 and the Great Fire of London in 1666 meant that house building started on the fields of Finsbury too.

The stranglehold over trade that the City Guilds had meant that many craftsmen, especially Huguenots and Italians, settled here. The old Pest House was used to house sick French Protestant refugees who were fleeing religious persecution in France and a new, larger, French Hospital was built nearby in 1718.

William CASLON had been born in 1692 or 1693, probably in Cradley, a village in Worcestershire. He served an apprenticeship to an ornamental engraver of gun locks and barrels, perhaps in Birmingham, and then came to London in 1716. He started his own engraving business in Vine Street, Minories, in the City of London, adding making tools for bookbinders and silver chasers to the services he offered.

On 29 August 1717, William CASLON (of the parish of St Botolph Aldgate in the County of Middlesex – where Vine Street was) and Sarah PEARMAN (of Rude Lane in the parish of St Michael, London) were married by Licence at St Peter upon Cornhill. Although a church had existed here since medieval times, the building was largely destroyed in the Great Fire and the church the couple were married in had been rebuilt by 1684 to a design by Sir Christopher WREN. Their first son, also called William, was baptised on 23 June 1720 at St Botolph without Aldgate.

William's skill in cutting punches for decorating book bindings was immediately recognised by eminent printer John WATTS who for many years had a printing office at Wild Court, near Lincoln's Inn Fields. His establishment was one of the most important printing firms in London at the time and many printers learnt their trade here. He employed almost 50 workmen including, in 1725, a young American called Benjamin FRANKLIN, who subsequently started his own printing house upon his return home a year later.

John introduced William to other printers, such as James and Thomas GROVER, a father and son team who were based at Angel Alley, Aldersgate, and Thomas JAMES at whose foundry in Aldermanbury William was encouraged to learn typesetting. Thomas had been to Holland, which had the monopoly of type founding, and returned with thousands of letter moulds (known as matrices) of various fonts in 1710.

William executed his first commission in 1720. This was from Mr Solomon NEGRI for the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge. He needed a New Testament and Psalter printed in Arabic for use amongst the 'poor Christians in Palestine, Syria, Mesopotamia, Arabia, Egypt and other Eastern Countries', who had no access to these religious texts in their own language. William created two new fonts of Arabic types for this and put his own name 'in pica Roman' at the bottom of the text.

‘Roman’, by the way, was one of three versions of the Latin alphabet used at this time. ‘Roman’ referred to a straightforward unembellished font which could be seen as the standard typeface used in books. The other versions were ‘Black-letter’, which is typical of medieval documents, quite tricky to read and known as Gothic today, and ‘Italic’, a sloping almost cursive letter form now used as a special function of roman letters. ‘Pica’ refers to the size of the font and is equivalent to 12 point today. ‘Small pica’ is 11 point, by the way, and is the size we use for most text in *Metropolitan*.

His family life was continuing apace, with a daughter Mary baptised on 31 August 1722 and a son John on 21 January 1723 (January then being towards the end of the year rather than the beginning, of course) at St Botolph without Aldgate. In both cases the family were said to live at Vine Street.

On seeing William’s work, London printer Samuel PALMER of Bartholomew Close advised him to cut a whole matrix of his pica roman and italic font but then withdrew his support. Luckily John WATTS loaned William £100 to help get him started. William BOWYER, printer of Dogwell



Helmet Row, next to St Luke’s Church.

Court, Whitefriars (who had also noticed William’s ‘uncommonly neat’ lettering on a book) and his son-in-law, James BETTENHAM, printer of St John’s Lane, also helped to the tune of £200 each. All three printers gave him their custom.

William’s first foundry was in a small house in Helmet Row in the new suburb of Finsbury Fields. Another child, Thomas, was baptised on 3 March 1726

St Giles Cripplegate, perhaps showing that the couple had moved to the area by this date.

Unfortunately, William’s wife Sarah must have died within the next year or so, as William CASLON, a widower, and Elizabeth LONG, a spinster, were married by Licence at St Giles Cripplegate on 11 September 1729. He is described as being of St Giles Cripplegate and a Letter Founder.

A S T R O N O M I C A L

By WILLIAM CASLON, Letter-Founder, in Chifwell-Street, LONDON.

DOUBLE PICA ROMAN.
ABCD
ABCDE
ABCDEF
ABCDEFGH
ABCDEFGHI
ABCDEFGHIJK
ABCDEFGHIJKL
ABCDEFGHIKLMN

DOUBLE PICA ITALIC.
*Quousque tandem abutere, Catilina, patientia nostra? quamdiu nos etiam furor iste tuus eludet? quem ad finem fese effrenata jacob-
 ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOP*

GREAT PRIMER ROMAN.
 Quousque tandem abutere, Catilina, patientia nostra? quamdiu nos etiam furor iste tuus eludet? quem ad finem fese effrenata jacob-
 ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRS

ENGLISH ROMAN.
 Quousque tandem abutere, Catilina, patientia nostra! quamdiu nos etiam furor iste tuus eludet? quem ad finem fese effrenata jacob-
 ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRS

French Canon.
 Quousque tandem abutere, Catilina, patientia nostra?
 Quousque tandem abutere, Catilina, patientia nostra?

PICA ROMAN.
 Melius, novis rebus fudent, manu sua occidit. Fuit, fuit ista quondam in hac rebus, virtus, ut viri fortis acerbis supplicia civem pernicitiam, quam acerofissimum bellum coherceret. Habemus enim legem confusum in te, Catilina, vehementer, & grave: non desit, reus, confilium, neque autem inuicem ordinis: nos, nos, deo aperit, coacta infamia. De-
 ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRS

SMALL PICA ROMAN, No. 1.
 At nos vigintiannos jam diu patitur habere aciem horum
 ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRS

SMALL PICA ROMAN, No. 2.
 At nos vigintiannos jam diu patitur habere aciem horum
 ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRS

LONG PRIMER ROMAN No. 1.
 Vixit quae hoc, quod dixerunt fuisse illi operum, coram deo
 ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRS

LONG PRIMER ROMAN No. 2.
 Vixit quae hoc, quod dixerunt fuisse illi operum, coram deo
 ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRS

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 ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRS

DOUBLE PICA ITALIC.
*Quousque tandem abutere, Catilina, patientia nostra? quamdiu nos etiam furor iste tuus eludet? quem ad finem fese effrenata jacob-
 ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOP*

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 ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRS

Two Lines English.
 Quousque tandem abutere, Catilina, patientia nostra?
 Quousque tandem abutere, Catilina, patientia nostra?

Two Lines English.
 Quousque tandem abutere, Catilina, patientia nostra?
 Quousque tandem abutere, Catilina, patientia nostra?

William CASLON's specimen sheet of his new typeface.

As the population of Finsbury Fields increased, new churches were required and St Luke's Church was built on the corner of Helmet Row and Old Street, opening in 1733. A separate parish, whose area was much of the northern part of that of St Giles Cripplegate, was immediately created. William's second foundry was at nearby Ironmonger Row and then, about 1735, he opened one at Chiswell Street, both places in this new parish.

It was here that he had his type foundry (there is a blue plaque at 21-23 Chiswell Street to commemorate this) where he made the metal letters of his type face, whose beautiful shapes, varied weight lines and superior legibility made it instantly popular. It is said that from 1720 to 1780, few books were printed in England which did not use Caslon type. However, he did not issue his first specimen sheet, which showcased his roman and italic type in 14 different sizes, until 1734. For this reason, Benjamin FRANKLIN had to start off with type from Thomas JAMES but by 1737 he had introduced Caslon type to America and it was widely used, even being employed for printed copies of the *Declaration of Independence* in 1776.

William's eldest son, also William, joined him in the business and first appears on specimen sheets in 1742. William senior retired to Hackney Road in 1750 and then to a country residence at Bethnal Green. He died there aged 74 on 23 January 1766.

In his Will, he left the business 'in the art or Mystery of Letter Founders' and one third of his personal estate to son William, another third to his wife Elizabeth with the third part being divided equally between sons William (again), Thomas and daughter Mary, the wife of Thomas HANBEY.



The Caslon tomb in St Luke's churchyard.

William was buried in the front churchyard of St Luke, Old Street, where his chest tomb is now the only one still standing there. It was whilst researching the area for our *St Luke Old Street* parish research guide that my curiosity was piqued about this tomb and so hence this article.

The top of his tomb is the part which refers to him but the slab is fairly covered in moss. This was all I could make out:

[*Top:*] William CASLON Esqre/ ... Aged 74 Years/ Also/ ... CASLON/ ... of the /above .../ ... 177[?]/ .../ .../ .../ .../ William CASLON/ who died Oct.../ Aged 7 Months .../ Mr Thomas CASLON son of/ the above William CASLON .../ March 9th

The two sides have survived in better condition and mention more of his family:

[*South side:*] Thomas HANBEY Esqr/, Late of Hackney/, died December the 25th 1786/ Aged 74 Years./ Here lyeth the Body of Mary, Widow of the above named/ Thomas HANBEY Esq who died the 14th day of January 1797/ Aged 75 Years./ And also Relict of Godfrey SHEWELL Esq late of this Parish./ and likewise Daughter of William CASLON Senior Esqre/ formerly of this Parish.

[*North side:*] Mary Anne CASLON Wife of Henry CASLON/ Son of Henry and Elizabeth CASLON/ born August 21st 1785 died March 31st 1816/ Sacred to the Memory of Henry CASLON Esqre/ of Higham Hill, Walthamstow, Essex only surviving child of/ William ROWL Esqre of Higham Hill./ Born in Gower Street, London May 15th 1786/ Died at Boulogne sur-mer, May 28th 1850.

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St Luke Old Street Parish Guide, (LWMFHS, 2023)

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MRS AMY MARY EMILY MORGAN, 1903–1993

By Vivien Liles, Member No. 6561

Amy COLLS was born on the 5 August 1903 in Willesden, North London. She was the eldest of a family of five – having three brothers and a sister. Their parents were Herbert, who worked as an Inland Revenue clerk, and Florence COLLS. She was educated at Croydon High School for Girls where she won several prizes for good work and from where she matriculated in 1922. Her family were not well off and could not afford for her to study medicine which she would dearly have loved to do. However she succeeded in obtaining a Bursary entitling her to a remission of fees at the London School of Economics. So, Amy studied there for three years and at the same



Amy's graduation photo,
dated 5 August 1953.

time enjoyed a considerable social life. She was elected, amongst other things as Vice President of the Student's Union. In 1925 she obtained her Degree B.Sc. [Econ]. The Graduation Ceremony was held in the Albert Hall on 12 May 1926 when the photograph on the left was taken.

After this she spent a year with a firm of Bankers engaged in statistical work and being fairly fluent in French and had good German she was able to act as translator for them. Amy spent the next five years with the Inland Revenue. She had initially sat the Civil Service Open Examination to become an assistant Inspector of Taxes and came 31st but she was not accepted then, although many men who were placed below her were

accepted. She decided to re-sit the examination in 1926 and this time she came 13th out of 110 candidates, and so she had to be accepted! In 15th place was Mervyn MORGAN. They met when sent to Liverpool and Birkenhead around 1927 on their second placements.

In 1931 Amy became one of the very first women to be a full Inspector of Taxes. Her salary was £220 pa rising by £15 annually to £400 pa. By this time she had become engaged to Mervyn They did not marry for five years as Amy was still supporting her siblings' education, and also they knew that she would have to resign under the Civil Service Rules on marriage. This she did before marrying on 15 July 1933 and the couple moved to Darlington where Mervyn's next post was. Here they rode their bicycles and had a tandem that they took to Norway which was very hot that summer! They had one daughter, Vivien. Amy did not work again until November 1941 when she joined a solicitors' firm in Wolverhampton where the family were now living and she was able to work because she had a living in nanny. Despite the war, the Inland Revenue refused to employ her as an Inspector of Taxes, but would have demoted her to the rank of clerk. This was unacceptable to her.

Mervyn's next move was to Aberdare in South Wales in 1943 [it was Inland Revenue policy to often move people around, sometimes with promotion]. Amy continued to work for the firm of solicitors in Wolverhampton working on Trust Accounts and Probate where she was in charge of the Tax Department. She travelled by train from Aberdare and stayed in Wolverhampton Monday to Friday returning home to her family at weekends until the end of 1948. From 30 August 1948 she became a social worker responsible for the aftercare under the National Association for Mental Health. She visited servicemen and their families who had suffered shell shock; she enjoyed her work and was sorry when the National Health Service took over in April 1949 and had to finish.

In 1949 she took up three year articles with a firm of Chartered Accountants in Dumfries Place, Cardiff, but this was reduced to two years as she was a graduate; she travelled from Aberdare daily. Amy passed her intermediate exam in 1951 and her Final exam at the first attempt in 1953, which was very unusual as all sections of the examination had to be passed at the same time and few managed that. So, at the age of 50 she qualified as a Chartered Accountant. She became a fellow in 1959, and in 1974 was licensed to do company accounts.

She attended the Chartered Accountant's Annual Dinners in Cardiff in the 1950s when wives were banned and she was the only woman. She was very pleased when gradually over the next few years a few more ladies qualified.

Amy had a very successful accountancy practice in Aberdare where she was much respected and admired. She continued to work for her clients until December 1992, when ill health forced her to give up. Over the years she had a number of articled clerks including a girl and a Nigerian; eventually the first one became her senior partner and successor – Alan M EVANS - the firm was called Morgan Evans & Co. She took part in career conventions in local schools to help young people and informing them about accountancy.

Amy was a staunch supporter of Soroptimism* being a founder member in 1956, club treasurer and President of the Aberdare Club. She held office at Divisional Union [now called Regional] level for very many years and was President in 1968/9. Mervyn supported her in all she did throughout their marriage. He died in December 1978 just short of his 75th birthday. Amy worked relentlessly to advance and improve the status of women and was instrumental in urging the Government to introduce the separate Tax Returns for Women. The Aberdare club made her an Honorary member before she moved to Penarth in 1983 where she had her own flat within Vivien's house and so was with family which included two grandchildren. She transferred to Vivien's Soroptimist club in Barry but continued to attend the retired members' coffee mornings in Aberdare on a weekly basis for several years.

She enjoyed travelling visiting China, Australia, Egypt and many European countries during her lifetime. She often went on courses – one was to learn Italian, and was frequently at the opera. Amy died in Penarth on 15 September 1993 aged 90.

*Soroptimist International, a worldwide women's service organisation founded in Oakland California, is celebrating 100 years this year [2021].

This article was first published in the Glamorgan FHS journal in 2021.

Bolton Chronicle, 5 December 1863

On Tuesday, at two p.m., the first train passed over the Charing Cross Railway from London Bridge to the new station, now nearly completed, on the old site of Hungerford Market at Charing Cross. The trip proved entirely satisfactory. It is expected the line will be opened for public traffic in a fortnight.

BOOK REVIEW

Secret Islington and Clerkenwell by Lucy McMurdo (Amberley, 2024).
This is a 94 page lavishly illustrated paperback.

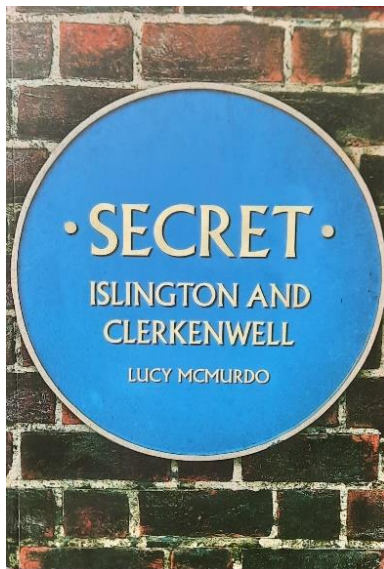
This book provides a useful overview of the history of the London Borough of Islington, and especially the Clerkenwell district, starting from when the area was entirely rural except for the Great North Road, which was lined with inns catering for travellers.

After a comprehensive introduction, the book is divided into chapters which are arranged by subject. The first chapter is about the monastic and religious houses which dominated the area, and shows what can still be seen of these.

Further chapters cover immigration and how its situation outside the City of London made the area popular, especially with craftsmen. The many wells in the district plus the Fleet and New Rivers with their influence on industry form another chapter, with 'Architecture and Design', 'Poverty, Prisons and Punishment' and a chapter on leisure activities also describing the built environment.

The inhabitants of Islington and Clerkenwell are covered by chapters on 'Revolutionaries' and 'Charities, Philanthropists and Famous Personalities' from Tudor philanthropists Dame Alice Owen and Thomas Sutton to modern politicians such as Tony Blair and Boris Johnson.

The author is a historian and London Blue Badge Tourist Guide, which means that she has thoroughly investigated the area covered by her book. The many photos in this book mean that it would be especially good for those who are interested in Islington but cannot visit it, and it would make a great companion to our *Parish Guide to Islington* for those researching ancestors in the area.



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.

Help!

HANSON



My Uncle Bert, Albert HANSON is second from left, bottom row. He was married to my Dad's sister Hilda and lived in East Barnet from the 1930s but lived in Carlisle Place, New Southgate before he married. This picture is sometime in the 1920/30 and is Friern Barnet, New Southgate, Southgate, Finchley sort of area, I think but could be wrong.

Hilda worked in Colney Hatch as a nurse before she married and several members of my family also worked there and I recently found out that the pictures I have of them in fancy dress are to do with the hospital. Bert was a tool fitter/maker/engineer and worked in Southgate but later than this picture. Bert is the only person I recognise.

Any help would be appreciated.

Pam, Non-Member

Note: We put this (with permission from Pam) onto our Facebook Help and Discussion Group too. Jo-Anne suggested that the men could be wearing Scottish berets, with the pompoms on. It is certainly unusual for a group of people in North London to be wearing hats like that and there must be a reason for it. The rest of their clothing looks fairly normal. Could they be an amateur dramatic society or similar?

Graham thought it might be during the war, as a couple of the people appear to have white arm bands on.

The left hand side of the picture has a scribbly looking line down it. Is it writing? Or something in the image itself? In the background to the right of the photo, the diagonal lines of wood can be seen which seem to form some sort of garden support. We have seen similar in a municipal rose garden locally.

Bert is at Carlisle Place in the 1921 Census returns, by the way, and was already a metal turner, working for Knight and Kendall Engineers at 134 High Road, New Southgate.

WHO IS MY GRANDFATHER?

After years of compiling my family history, I now suspect my father's father, Maurice Walwyn BAUGH (1886), is not my grandfather. Maurice was Welsh but when I received my DNA results 29% was Jewish on my father's side. Maurice was not shown living with my grandmother Alice Elizabeth BAUGH (née SHELHER) in any of the records I found. They married on 13 April 1912. Alice had John SHELHER (1905) (who lived with her parents), William Lambert BAUGH (1907) (previously SHELHER), Thomas Stanley BAUGH (1915) and two girls, Beatrice Pauline BAUGH (1918) and Betty BAUGH (1924) who were both given away. Beatrice was traced but I have been unable to trace Betty although I have her birth certificate.

There were rumours that my grandmother worked for a doctor and maybe he was my grandfather. Do you know how I can search for doctors 1905-1924 in North London?

Any suggestions will be gratefully received.

Linda Denham, Member No. 7859

Note: We are not sure whether it is the DNA results or the absence of Maurice from records that gave rise to the question but, so far as DNA

is concerned, the 29% is not on its own conclusive. Your paternal DNA would normally be 50% from your father but the DNA from which he passed on that 50% would come from 4 grandparents and before them, from 8 great grandparents. The important feature is that each and every one of those ancestors may have been reflected in your father's DNA, out of which you received a random 50%.

Mathematically, it is just possible that, even if you are not aware of Jewish ancestry on your father's lineage, this may be present in your paternal grandmother's line or even earlier in your patrilineal ancestors. Have you found any shared matches which would assist in examining whether this is an NPE (non-paternal event)? Second or third cousins may be expected to share some Jewish ethnicity and could point to a potential candidate or candidates for your grandfather.

Regarding the rumour that your grandmother worked for a doctor who was possibly your grandfather, you can search for local doctors in the census returns without putting in any name at all, although having an area will help. The 'Census, Land and Surveys' search page on Findmypast has an optional keyword in which you can enter 'doctor' or 'MD' and you can choose 1911 or 1921 as the date. Ancestry UK has a similar keyword box on the 'Census and Electoral Roll' search and after clicking return you can narrow it down to the 1910s using the filter options.

There is also a specific 1921 census search page on Findmypast and the link to 'advanced search' has a separate box for the person's occupation and one for the occupation code. The code for 'Physicians, surgeons, registered medical practitioners' is 840.

Another source which might be worth looking at is the 'UK and Ireland Medical Registers 1859-1943' collection on Ancestry (charges apply). This contains published registers of medical doctors and lists their name, residence, qualification and date of registration. Registers were published annually but have only been digitised at 4 year intervals. You can narrow down your search by location and dates. This source can be found here: <https://www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/62268/>

The National Archives library holds paper directories for the following years: 1915-1921, 1924, 1927, 1930, 1933, 1936, 1939, 1942, 1944, 1950, 1953-1973

BASTIN

I cannot find my father in the 1921 census. He was Albert Ernest BASTIN, born 17 November 1905 at 21 College Street, Homerton, Hackney. His father was Arthur Henry BASTIN, mother Mary Ann BASTIN, née SATCHELL. In the 1911 census the family were living at 74 Huxley Road, Upper Edmonton, Middlesex. On 2 January 1914 his father Arthur Henry BASTIN died of typhoid in the Enfield and Edmonton joint isolation hospital.

On 8 August 1916 widow Mary Ann BASTIN married Charles William MEDDINGS, their address was 16 Skelton Lane, Leyton, Essex. From what my father said they had a small general store. Apparently the business failed and my father Albert Ernest BASTIN mentioned the workhouse but did not give any details. In the Electoral Register for 1919 Charles MEDDINGS and Mary Ann MEDDINGS were living at 25 Hartwell Cottages, London E8.

In the 1921 Census I found members of the MEDDINGS and BASTIN families (but not my father Albert Ernest BASTIN) living at 3 Elton Street, Islington. Charles William MEDDINGS committed suicide by drowning in the river Lea near Lea Bridge on 31 July 1921.

Apparently my father was taught tailoring at a trade school. Would this have been combined with the workhouse? I cannot find anything about him until his marriage to my mother Annie Louisa TUTTHILL on 5 August 1928 when his address is given as 3 Elton Street, Islington, London.

Derek BASTIN, Member No. 6247.

Note: We could not find him either, despite using very broad search terms of various types. Albert will have been 15 years old, so old enough to not be living at home despite older and younger siblings being there. Regarding your father's mention of the workhouse, Hackney children who needed help from poor relief were housed in cottage homes in Chipping Ongar from 1905. These were certainly still in use in the 1920s. Boys aged 14 or more were given vocational training. There is a fair amount of information and some pictures on the Workhouses.org website here: <https://www.workhouses.org.uk/Hackney/Homes.shtml>

Hackney is not in our area, so it might be worth contacting Hackney Archives for their advice on any records which they hold which might help you. They are located at Dalston CLR James Library, Dalston Square, London E8 3BQ. Further contact details and opening hours can be found on their website: <https://hackney.soutron.net/Portal/Default/en-GB/Search/SimpleSearch>

SURNAME INTERESTS

The research interests listed here were submitted by members between February and May 2024.

Each quarter's 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, please go <https://lwmfhs.org/surname-interests/> In the search box, type the name you are interested in and a list of entries will appear if a match is found. Click Contact and this brings up an email for you to fill in.

Interests shown are from members: 7425; 8293; 8397; 6821

Name	Period	County	Parish / Area	Mem.No.
BROWN James	1859	MDX	Westminster	6821
BUNTON	1800 to date	MDX	Edmonton, Enfield	8397
BURROUGHS C	1826	NFK	Great Yarmouth	6821
COCKRILL W	1826	SFK	Gorleston	6821
COGGINS Annie	1860	ESS	West Ham	6821
COLEMAN	1840-1900	NTH	Deenethorpe, Kettering	8293
DANIELS Geo L	1822	NFK	Great Yarmouth	6821
DAWSON	1850-1920	SSX	Hastings	8293
FAIRFIELD	19C	WAR	Polesworth	7425
FULCHER	19C	NFK	Stockton	7425
HOUGHTON	19C	BDF	Biggleswade	7425
KENT	1850-1920	SSX	Hastings	8293
KNIGHTS	19C	NFK	Haddiscoe	7425
LEE	19C	SFK	North Cove	7425
PARKER	1850-1940	LND	Paddington	8293
SMITH George C	1844	MDX	Marylebone	6821
THRING Rosanna	1843	LND	Tottenham	6821
THURLOW S	1821	NFK	Great Yarmouth	6821
TIPPELL	1820-1930	SFK	Pakenham	8293
WEBSTER	19C	STS	Darlaston	7425
WELTON	19C	SFK	Stowupland	7425
WOOD	19C	WAR	Sowe	7425

SPECIAL INTERESTS

8293	NEWMAN – One-name Study
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NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the new members, number 8494 – 8503 who have joined the Society over the past few months and wish them well with their research.



HARROW-ON-THE-HILL PARISH GUIDE

This, our last booklet for Westminster and Middlesex, was due out on 1 May but has not yet been published. I left this one until last because the local archive, Harrow Local History Collection & Archive (HLHCA) was unavailable when I started working on these guides.

HLHCA has existed in some form since 1948 when Wealdstone Library opened. In 1968, a Local History Librarian was appointed and the collection moved to the Gayton Library. Four years later it moved to the new Civic Centre Library. This closed in 2013 and the collection then moved to its current home at Headstone Manor & Museum. There

was not an archivist for a while, so accessing the collection was difficult but things are now improving.

However, just as I started work on this booklet, the collection was closed for six months! There is good news, though, as it is undergoing cataloguing and other substantial changes in order to create a new research space at Headstone Manor to make the Archive more accessible to the public. As the collection contains over 60,000 documents, books, ephemera, maps, and visual material relating to the past and present borough of Harrow and its residents, I really need to be able to include these items in the parish guide. HLHCA will reopen in early June and so I hope to publish our new booklet in the summer.

Elizabeth Burling



I'm not sure this image will make it into the finished Guide but it definitely needs to be seen somewhere!

ACCESS TO THE RECORDED VIRTUAL BRANCH TALK

You can watch our Virtual Branch talk on our website whenever you like for three days after the live meeting. Note – we can only record with the permission of the speaker.

Each talk has its own specific password. This will be emailed to you with the invitation to attend the actual live talk.

To access the recording, you need to go into the Members' Area of the website using the password you were sent by email in early December 2023. Please contact the Membership Secretary if you have forgotten this password and it will be emailed to you again.

Once in the Members' Area, click on the talk and enter the password for that talk sent out with the Virtual Branch email.

FORTHCOMING BRANCH MEETINGS

Virtual Branch – Talks are on the second Thursday of the month. 'Doors' open at 7.45 for an 8pm start. The details of each Zoom meeting will then be emailed to you a few days prior to the event.

Branch Contact: Clare Pollitt, Email: virtualbranch@lwmfhs.org

13 June *Victorian Life Upstairs and Downstairs* by Dr Judith Hill.

In the 19th century there was a vast increase in the number of domestic servants. We will look in detail at the operation of a Victorian household.

11 July *Researching Before Parish Registers* by Ian Waller.

Pre 1600 research is an entirely different 'ball game' with many records existing that can be useful although the familiar ones had not even commenced. Many of the early records are underused and many family historians consider their research can go no further when parish registers stop. This talk helps family historians see what is available.

- 8 August *Nonconformists* by Michael Gandy.
This talk gives a brief history of the main religious groups outside the Church of England and explains their records (or lack of!).
- 12 September *Family History and the media: behind the scenes of Who Do You Think You Are* by Dr Nick Barratt.
Nick explores the impact of Who Do You Think You Are on the way we research our family stories. With an explanation of how the show was first conceived and produced.

Rayners Lane Branch – Talks are on the first Monday of the month unless that is a Bank Holiday, in which case the meeting will be on the second Monday. Doors open at 1pm for a 1.30pm start at Roxeth Community Church, Coles Crescent, South Harrow, Middlesex HA2 0TN.

Branch Contact: Tony Allen, Email: raynerslanebranch@lwmfhs.org

- 3 June *My Cousin Sophia and how I Uncovered her Story*
by Karen de Bruyne
- 1 July *The Woodbridge Family in Harrow and Pinner*
by Susan Cooper
- 5 August No meeting
- 2 September *The 110th Anniversary of the Start of the Great War in August 1914.*
Come and share your family stories, letters, postcards and so on.



Roxeth Community Church, home of our Rayners Lane Branch.

FOCUS ON FACEBOOK

By Elizabeth Burling, Member No. 4992

One of the things I like to do on our Facebook page is to post London anniversaries from previous times. On 10 April my post was about the Great Bell in the clock tower of the Houses of Parliament, which was cast by John Warner & Sons in Stockton on Tees in August 1856. Unfortunately the bell cracked when being tested in New Palace Yard and on 10 April 1858 it was recast at the Whitechapel Bell Foundry. The bell weighed 13.5 tons and was taken to Westminster on a trolley pulled by 16 horses. This bell also cracked but it was possible to repair it, though this did change its tone. The Great Bell (better known as Big Ben) was the largest bell in Britain until 1881, when Great Paul was hung in St Paul's Cathedral.

Hilary posted a most fascinating comment: 'John WARNER was my 3x great grandfather. He had died in 1852, but the firm was now owned by his sons (including my 2x great grandfather Frederick). They were in Jewin Crescent, where the Barbican Centre is now. Big Ben was too big to cast in London, so the bell was done in their other branch in Stockton-on-Tees, and brought down by ship. The project-manager thought that he knew better than the professional bell-founders and over-loaded the test hammer. When the unfortunate bell cracked, Warner's withdrew in great annoyance and Mear's of Whitechapel took over. The second bell cracked too but not as much, so it was repaired and turned to avoid the weak spot. That is why it sounds a bit flat to this day. The quarter-bells are still ours...'

The Whitechapel Bell Foundry was founded in 1570 and according to *Guinness World Records* was the oldest manufacturing company in Great Britain. It had been at its premises at 32-34 Whitechapel Road since 1738. The last family to own it, the HUGHES, had bought it in 1904 and ran the business until it was sold in 2017. Unfortunately, the future of the foundry is by no means assured. At the time of the sale, a consortium of heritage groups tried unsuccessfully to have the building preserved as one of historical importance. The current owner wants to turn it into a boutique hotel, albeit whilst maintaining a space for the manufacture of hand bells. A not-for-profit company has made an offer for the building to save it as a working enterprise but everything has currently been put on hold by the government.

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. Please give 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).

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

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

Please include your name and membership number as payment reference.

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.**