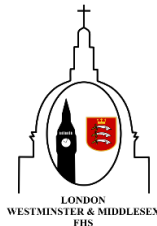


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METROPOLITAN

The Journal of the
LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX
Family History Society



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Cover picture: The Smith family in 1893. Back: Lou, Mae, Walter, Middle: Hal, John David, Mary Ann with Frank, Daisy, Front: Jessie, Cyril, Teresa
See page 221

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EDITORIAL

This is the last journal of the Society's year and it is a bumper one with four more pages than usual. Some of our new members are making use of the Surname Interest list and we have three pages this time. We have recently had a welcome flurry of members asking to be put in contact with others on the list. Is your interest name listed? If not, then please send us your names and we can put them in the December journal and add them to our website list. A form is available on the website. Do please let us know if you find a family connection – we'd love to hear!

We have our usual wide range of articles in this journal, which cover dates from the 18th century forwards and which we are sure you will find interesting. They range from trying to find unidentified fathers using genealogical detective work rather than DNA, to seeing how funeral cards can help with a family tree if you are lucky enough to have them. We have a potential insight into little known aspects of the life of Charles DICKENS and a fascinating glimpse into the desperately difficult days of destitute children who benefitted from the formation of the London Ragged School Union. The uplifting story of a girl in the Second World War includes her fascinating hugely personal typewritten version of what happened and a tale of cutlers in the city of Sheffield shows how families could spread out over the whole country and beyond.

Our cover photograph shows the SMITH family, who are also pictured on page 221 in an image taken 15 years later. They are the subject of one of the queries in a *help!* piece. We have nine pages of these this time and we are pleased that we have been able to indicate a possible way forward for each one. Whether these will result in a positive mention of each family is not known, of course, but we certainly hope that some of them will and that those helped will let us know the outcome. Our readers may have useful suggestions for further research too and we would also like to hear if you have a good idea for any of the problems discussed here or, indeed, in any of our member queries.

We are always delighted to hear from you. It is our members who make our journal such a good read – we all benefit when we share!

Barbara, Elizabeth and Paul, the Editorial Team

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Our Society year runs from 1 October each year so now is the time to be renewing your membership if you have not done so already. Paying promptly really helps Graham, our Membership Secretary, as this is usually his busiest time of year, although the many Lost Cousins who joined following my talk on 28 March was pleasantly challenging too!

Renewing now will ensure that you receive the December *Metropolitan*, be able to attend our Virtual Branch meetings and access the private Members' Area of our website. The new password to this will be emailed to members in due course.

Additions to our Members' Area this quarter are PDF copies of *Greentrees*, the journal of the Central Middlesex Family History Society, which became the Westminster & Central Middlesex FHS and was one of our founder Societies. These date from 1978-1988 and make for quite interesting reading. Do keep checking, more items are being added all the time.

Of course, there are other benefits to renewing your LWMFHS membership, such as the chance to submit the story of your London ancestors or your brickwall query to the journal. With membership starting at only £12 for a whole year (with an ejournal), we hope you will agree that it is very good value!

There are various ways in which you can pay – please make sure you include your name and membership number:

- You can set up a standing order payable on 1 October annually. Ours is a Santander business account, sort code: 09-01-29, account number: 70580978; account name is London Westminster & Middlesex Family History Society.
- You can make a payment directly into this bank account.
- You can pay via Parish Chest: <https://www.parishchest.com/london-westminster-middlesex-fhs-4577.php>
- If you wish to pay by cheque, please fill in the Subscription Renewal form from the June issue of *Metropolitan* (or download a copy from the link at the bottom of this page on our website: <https://lwmfhs.org/join/>) and post this together with your cheque to the Membership Secretary.

Elizabeth Burling

BETTY PATRICIA WILSON

One of the survivors of the London Blitz

By John Kelly, Member No. 8578

By September 1940 the Luftwaffe had lost the Battle of Britain and the German air fleets were ordered to attack London to draw RAF Fighter Command into a battle of annihilation.

The vast majority of bombs unloaded on to the civilian streets and dockland areas of London between September 1940 to May 1941 were Sprengbombe Cylindrisch 250 (SC 250) high explosive bombs. The destructive power of these bombs became apparent during the Blitz as they laid waste to vast swathes of London homes and military-strategic targets such as dockland areas. German command, however, discovered that the blasts from such bombs, as devastating as they were to targets, could be cushioned by surrounding buildings limiting their impact.

At this time, the Germans had a surplus of magnetic sea mines they had been using to target metal Allied ships. With stockpiles of sea mines that were no longer effective against de-gaussed ships, Germany experimented. The result was the parachute mine. These were sea mines fitted with a timer and dropped by parachute by Luftwaffe bombers, called land-mines.

When timed to detonate at the level of rooftops, rather than exploding on impact like SC 250s, the effect was a maximised blast that sent shock waves over a wider area without any cushioning from neighbouring buildings.

The blast could be devastating way beyond the capabilities of other bombs – with the potential to destroy an entire street, sending a blast out in a 330ft (100m) radius, and even causing some peripheral damage up to a mile away.

On 17 April 1941, the Germans dropped a land-mine by parachute on Pancras Square, Pancras Road. It landed in the courtyard between a surface shelter and the flats. Thus the explosion had maximum effect: out of 200 people, 77 were killed, 52 seriously injured.

These were Betty's classmates circa 1936. How many of these children below were among the 77 dead, I cannot say. Betty's mother, however, was amongst the dead, leaving her orphaned at 14.



AGDENHAM ST. SCHOOL JUNIORS 1935-6 ?
LOWER PLAYGROUND.

TOP ROW	3 rd Row	2 nd Row	BOTTOM ROW
1 — R.	1. MARY GOODYEAR	1 CELIA —?	1 ?
MISS DARY (TEACHER)	(COUSIN OF JACK &)	2 EILEEN GANT	2 —? JONNELLY
2 ?	JOYCE CROFT	{ 3 TWINS LIVED IN ?	3 —? JAWSON
3 ?	2 BETTY —?	4 GOLYINGTON BIGGS	4 ?
4 EILEEN STEWENS	3 VERA —?	5 VI SCRIPPS	5 ?
5 ?	4 DOROTHY THATCHER	6	6 ?
6 GLADYS ROGERS	(LIVED IN GOLYINGTON CRESCENT)	7 ?	7 ?
7 ?	5 GLADYS LEE	8 ELSIE WITHERS	8 —? BROWN
8 ?	Betty Patricia Wilson	LIVED IN LAST HOUSE	
9 —? SUMMERFIELD	2 PEARL —?	GOLYINGTON ST., WON	
	8 ?	THE SCHOLARSHIP WITH	
		ME.	

After being dug out of the rubble of the building, and a long hospital convalescence to recover from injuries (including 2 broken legs) sustained from the fall, Betty recovered and, with extended family support, went on to become a District Nurse, post war.

Whilst working in Folkestone in her capacity as District Nurse, Betty met a young Danish waiter, who carried a silver tea-spoon in his shirt pocket. The teen-aged Arne had escaped from Esbjerg to Sweden just before the Gestapo arrived at the family home to question him about his train sabotage exploits in the Danish Resistance. After his subsequent arrival in Britain, he enlisted in the British Army, serving as a dispatch (motor-cycle) rider in the North Africa campaign.

They were married 3 weeks after they met, and then emigrated to Australia, where they had 3 children, and 3 grandchildren, with whom they lived, during their later years.

In 1974, their house on the Brisbane River was inundated in the flood. They again surmounted the insurmountable, and recovered. Their construction business was the victim of an embezzler – but they repaid all their creditors and moved on. Just as well they were resilient...



Betty Wilson

After Betty's brother died in 1999, she recovered some memorabilia from her father which led to her writing to the *Guernsey Post*. Her letter, published on 20 November 1999, is headed 'Mystery of Gunner TOSTEVIN's lost photo'. In it, Betty describes how her father had a polished wooden box in which he kept what he considered were his valuables. Amongst these were memorabilia from the First World War, including photographs. One, in particular, showed a soldier who had died in 1917, who Betty used to think was a relative. Also in the box was a memorial card, which read: In Loving Memory of Wilfred James TOSTEVIN, Gunner, R.F.A., (Late of Landes du Marché, Vale) who died of wounds, May 29th 1917, aged 20 years, 6 months and 22 days. 'In the hope of better things to come. Au revoir.' 'He was laid to rest in the British Cemetery at Duisans, France, in sure and certain hope of the Resurrection, Anthony F. FENN, Chaplain, Church Army.' Although Betty's father had died in 1936 and her mother in the air raid, the box survived and was passed on to her brother.

Betty realised that the soldier must have been a friend of her father. There could be members of his family still living in Guernsey who might be amazed that the photo of Gunner TOSTEVIN had ended up in Australia. Within a



Gunner Tostevin

week, the *Guernsey Post* had heard from Wilfred's only descendants, two nieces who still lived on Guernsey and a third who had emigrated to New Zealand. They were delighted to hear about Wilfred. They knew he had died in France but had no idea where he was buried.

This also led to the return of the sideboard which had been in the room where Betty, her mother, Lily Florence GOODMAN, the neighbouring HEALS family, and the DONOVANS, (brother and sister), had been sitting when the land-mine struck. The children survived the explosion and the collapse. Three of the adults did not. The front of the building was turned to rubble, but the sideboard at the back of the dining room survived intact.

It is now ensconced in pride of place in the house in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, where Betty and Arne's granddaughter, Jessica, now resides, with her children.

In 2001 Betty contributed to another newspaper article as she continued to advocate for a commemorative plaque for the victims of St Pancras Square to be included in the re-development then taking place of the former graveyard, St Pancras Gardens. In the article, Betty describes how residents of the square frequently used the garden to relax in, with the children considering it to be an extension of their Pancras Square playground. She described her own experience of the landmine: 'It was a direct hit and I was buried. A boy heard me calling. One of my hands was poking out and he came and held my hand. When I called for my mother, he told me she was dead. Being under all the rubble, I never registered. It's only in the later years I'm really able to talk about it. In those days you didn't have counselling'. Below appears the story of that night as Betty recalled it ...

After 10 long years battling cancer, Betty died in June 2001.

Sources:

The Blitz - Wikipedia

The Deadly WW2 Parachute Mine: How 2,200lb German Bombs Devastated London In The Blitz (forcesnews.com)

THERE WERE SERVICE WOMEN AND MEN FROM ALL OVER. APRIL 2 17TH 1941. IT WAS OUR TURN TO HAVE OUR NEIGHBOURS IN IF THE AIR RAID WARNING SOUNDED, IT DID, RIGHT ON TIME WHICH WAS AROUND 8 P.M. THE AIR RAID CONTINUED WELL INTO THE NIGHT. MR. & MRS. HEALS, THEIR SON BOBBY, MR. DONAVAN AND HIS SISTER MISS DONAVAN, MY MOTHER AND ME. SOMEBOW THE HOURS SEEM TO PASS, WITH TALKING, A FEW GUESSING GAMES, CUPS OF THE TEA ETC. AROUND 3 A.M. BOBBY SAID I AM GOING OUT OF THE BACK BALCONY TO SEE HOW THINGS ARE, OR WORDS TO THAT EFFECT. (BOBBY WAS 13 yrs or 14 yrs. the same AS ME. I DON'T KNOW WHY I DIDN'T GO WITH HIM. I DID NOT RECALL ANYTHING HAPPENING AT ALL U TIL I WOKE UP BURIED BENEATH BRICKS AND RUBLE. I SCREAMED AND SCREAMED, MY MOUTH FILLING WITH DIRT AS I DID SO. NO ANSWER ONLY THE SOUND OF SOMEONE STRUGGLING TO BREATHE. I WAS TERRIFIED CLOSE BY. I REALISED THAT MY RIGHT HAND SEEM TO BE FREE AND I COULD MOVE IT. I HEARD A VOICE, IT WAS BOBBY, I COULD FEEL THE PRESSURE OF THE DEBRIS AS HE SCRAMBLE ABOUT TRYING TO FIND ME. AT LAST HE HAD MY HAND IN HIS. DON'T LET GO I SAID AND WHEN I CALLED OFOR MY MOTHER HE TOLD ME SHE WAS DEAD. EVENTUALLY HE LET GO OF MY HAND SO THAT HE COULD GO FOR HELP. He brought the RESCUE SQUAD, ONE OF THE SQUAD WAS DICK JACKSON. SO THIS IS HOW BOBBY AND DICK HELPED TO SAVE MY LIFE. BOBBY'S MOTHER AND FATHER WERE KILLED, MY MOTHER WAS KILLED, THE DONOVANS WERE ALL RIGHT, ALTHOUGH MISS DONAVAN WAS INJURED BADLY AND HOSPITALISED. WHEN THE MEN REMOVED THE DEBRIS, I REMEMBER SEEING THE SKY LOOKING RED AND SMOKEY AND AS THEY CARRIED ME ON A STRETCHER TO AN AMBULANCE SOMETHING HIT ME IN THE FACE. I WAS TAKEN TO THE HAMPSTEAD GENERAL HOSPITAL. I WAS PLACED IN A LARGE ROOM WHERE THERE WERE NUMEROUS PEOPLE LYING INJURED AND CRYING OUT AS I DID TOO. THERE WERE X RAYS AND OPERATIONS FOR A FEW DAYS AND THEN THEY DECIDED THAT WE SHOULD BE MOVED TO ANOTHER HOSPITAL, WHICH WOULD BE LESS IN LINE FIRE. BEFORE I LEFT I DISCOVERED THE ELDERLY LADY IN THE NEXT BED WAS MY SCHOOL FRIEND'S GRANDMOTHER. I LEARNED THAT PAT AND HER MOTHER WERE HURT BUT SAFE BUT PAT'S FATHER HAD BEEN KILLED. THEY WERE IN THE AIR RAID SHELTER. IT APPEARS THAT WE WERE THE VICTIMS OF A LAND MINE. THE SOTRY GOES THAT A MAN WAS IN THE STREET AT THE TIME AND SAW A PARACHUTE COMING DOWN AND THOUGHT IT WAS A GERMAN AIRMAN, BUT AS HE LOOKED SO HE BEGAN TO RUN TOWARDS THE POLICE STATION TO REPORT IT WHEN HE REALISED IT WAS AN OBJECT AND NOT A MAN - HE THEN THREW HIMSELF DOWN INTO THE GUTTER and lived to tell the tale. (THIS IS WHAT I WAS TOLD LATER) I DID NOT SEE BOBBY OR DICK AGAIN. I WAS TAKEN TO THE WATFORD PEACE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, AND I WAS ABLE TO GIVE THEM MY BROTHERS ARMY NUMBER WHICH I REMEMBER TO THIS DAY 6461773 .. THIS HELPED TO TRACE HIM QUICKLY AND HE WAS GIVEN LEAVE TO VISIT ME. WE DID NOT TALK ABOUT MY MOTHER. I DON'T KNOW HOW WE AVOIDED IT FOR 10 WEEKS. I SUPPOSE I KNEW IF I SAID IT OUT LOUD IT WOULD BE TRUE BUT BY KEEPING WHAT BOBBY HAD TOLD ME TO MYSELF, PERHAPS IT WAS ALL A DREAM. ONE DAY MY AUNTY CAME TO SEE ME AND FINALLY SAID THAT MY MOTHER WAS DEAD. SO I GRIED FINALLY WAS ABLE TO CRY. MARJORIE ECCLES, A RED CROSS NURSE AND TEACHER BEFRIENDED ME AND WHEN IT WAS TIME FOR ME TO LEAVE THE HOSPITAL SHE TOOK ME TO STAY AT HER PARENTS HOME AT 141, PARKSIDE DRIVE, WATFORD. WHERE I SPENT MANY HAPPY DAYS. MR. & MRS. ECCLES OFFERED TO ADOPT ME BUT I FELT THE NEED TO GO BACK TO MY OWN WORLD WHICH I DID. ALTHOUGH I WAS NOT PREPARED FOR THE CHANGE THAT HAD TAKEN PLACE. ALL THE IMMEDIATE NEIGHBOURS HAD GONE. IF THEY HAD NOT BEEN KILLED, INJURED, OR HAD BEEN FORCED TO MOVE AWAY FROM THE AREA. SO I SPENT SOME TIME TRYING TO TRACE THEM, I WALKED THE STREETS HOPING TO COME FACE TO FACE WITH THEM. BUT THAT WORLD HAD DIAPPEARED ON THE 17th April. 1941.

NOW THAT I HAD RETURNED TO LONDON I HAD TO DECIDE WHETHER TO RETURN TO SCHOOL OR GO INTO THE WORK FORCE. MY GREATEST WISH WAS TO BECOME A NURSE, WHICH CAME ABOUT BY MY LONG STAY IN HOSPITAL. BUT AT 214 YEARS I WAS OF COURSE TOO YOUNG. MY AUNT WORKED AT THE EXPRESS DAIRY, TAVISTOCK PLACE AND SHE APPROACHED THE MISS BARNABY WHO WAS IN CHARGE OF THE OFFICE STAFF AND I WAS GRANTED AN INTERVIEW AND GIVEN A OFFICE JOB IN THE STAFF CONTROLLERS DEPARTMENT. THIS LED TO ME ATTENDING PITMAN'S COLLEGE IN SOUTHAMPTON ROW TO STUDY TYPEWRITING, ENGLISH OFFICE REQUIREMENTS. I ALSO HELPED AT ST. PANCRAS HOSPITAL AND ELIZABETH GARRETT ANDERSON HOSPITAL - THE MATRONS WERE RATHER RELUCTANT TO LET ME WORK IN THE WARDS AS I WAS SO YOUNG, BUT THEY RELENTED WHEN THEY SAW HOW PERSISTANT I WAS. SO WHEN I WAS 18 years old I STARTED MY TRAINING TO BECOME A NURSE. AFTER THIS WAS COMPLETED I AT IN KENT. WHEN MY TRAINING WAS FINISHED I RETURNED TO LONDON ONCE MORE FOR A SHORT SPELL OF 6 MONTHS TO TRAIN AS QUEENS DISTRICT NURSE AT CADOGAN SQUARE, CHELSEA. WHILE THERE I THOUGHT I SAW A LITTLE OF MY OLD WORLD SPREAD AROUND CHELSEA AND THE WORLD'S END. BUT IT WAS NOT ENOUGH TO HOLD ME AND NEVER RETURNED TO LIVE IN LONDON AGAIN. BUT THE MEMORIES STILL REMAIN.

VIRTUAL BRANCH FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

This October marks the fifth anniversary of the Virtual Branch, which started as a result of the Covid pandemic in 2020 when we couldn't meet in person at our local branches. The original team was Pam, Sylv and Elaine and our first meeting on 22 October that year was an excellent talk on 'Old London Bridge' given by Rob Kayne. It was very well received with over 80 attendees. Since then, we haven't looked back (unusual for genealogists!) and the talks continue to be a major part of the Society. The talks have covered subjects including House History, Reading Old Handwriting and Ratcatchers.

The only time we ever had to cancel a talk was on 8 September 2022 out of respect to Queen Elizabeth II who had died that afternoon.

Elaine, Clare, Elizabeth and Janet make up our current team and our newest member, Janet, has been doing a fabulous job booking speakers. However, we are now looking for replacements for those of us that have been on the team for some while. We find things work best by sharing tasks as a team of four. The tasks include, sending out invites beforehand, running the Zoom session on the day, checking and letting members in to the meeting, engaging with members and introducing the speaker (front-of-house), initiating the recording and ensuring it goes on the website, and answering emailed queries.

We want the Virtual Branch to continue and to thrive. Please email us on virtualbranch@lwmfhs.org if you're interested in helping.

The Virtual Branch Team

Islington Gazette, 19 November 1909

North London Police.

The Whelk Saucer. Benjamin Hayes, 45, chimney sweep, of Campbell-road, Finsbury-park, charged with assaulting his son, Patrick, by striking him on the head with a saucer used for hodling whelks, was bound over in his own recognisance of £5 to keep the peace for six months.

JOTTINGS

London Borough of Barnet historical documents free online

There is some very exciting news for those with ancestors in the area covered by the London Borough of Barnet. Barnet Studies and Local Archives have been scanning various documents from their collections relating to the history of the area and these are being uploaded to the Open Barnet website where they can be searched by keyword and seen for free.

These currently include: Council Minutes for Barnet, East Barnet, Finchley, Friern Barnet and Hendon; Electoral Registers for Barnet, Finchley and Hendon; Kelly's Directories of Barnet, Edgware, Finchley, Hendon and Southgate and their constituent districts for various dates from 1886-1939; maps from enclosure through to the Second World War and on to Ordnance Survey; Monken Hadley Parish Vestry Minutes 1757-1793 and Poor Rates 1678-1707, 1731-1835; various civic magazines, and more. These are well worth a look if you are researching in the area.

Some of the documents are complete volumes containing hundreds of pages and the files are large (250mb+) and so may take a little time to download.

This website can be found here: <https://open.barnet.gov.uk/dataset/barnet-history-2rpm1>

Guildhall Library

The first library at Guildhall started around 1425 under the terms of the Will of 'the rich and pious merchant' Richard WHITTINGTON. This began in a building on the south side of Guildhall Chapel but seems to have ended when the Duke of Somerset 'borrowed' all the books to furnish his new palace on the Strand, Somerset House and never returned them. (There is still one book from this time in Guildhall Library - a 13th century copy of Petrus de Riga's *Aurora*, a metrical Latin version of the Bible, which was purchased from an antiquarian dealer many years ago.)

The Corporation of London opened a new library at Guildhall in 1828, with 1700 valuable books collected for the purpose. The core collection focused on London history and the City's growth and development but it also covered topographical studies and more general library volumes, such as dictionaries and glossaries. In 1873, a new building was constructed for the library to the east of Guildhall. There were now 60,000 books and the collection was opened to members of the public and not just members of the Corporation. The present Guildhall Library opened in 1974 in the West Wing of Guildhall. In 2009-2010 it was transformed again with the former Printed Books section

forming the nucleus of the Library you see today. At this time the Prints and Maps and Manuscripts sections moved to what is now The London Archives. However some major manuscript collections are still housed at Guildhall, such as the archives of 80 City livery companies, the Lloyd's Marine Collection and the London Stock Exchange. Also here are the libraries of the Clock Makers', Gardeners' and Fletchers' Companies, the Antiquarian Horological Society, Gresham College and the Charles Lamb Society. Guildhall Library is currently undergoing a 'transformation project' and has been hearing from those who use the library, with a view to shaping its future. If you are interested in its collections, you can find them at Guildhall Library, Aldermanbury, London EC2V 7HH. It is currently open from Monday to Thursday, 10am-4pm.

Open House Festival

This annual festival, also known as Open House London, is taking place this year from 13-21 September and celebrates the architecture of London.



During this event, many buildings considered to be of architectural significance open their doors for free public tours. Some of these will be buildings which are not normally

accessible to the general public, such as Mansion House, Horse Guards and Marlborough House. Highlights this year include: St Mary's Church in Eversholt Street, Somers Town, which was built in 1826 and is under threat of demolition; the Argentine Ambassador's Residence at 49 Belgrave Square, built by Thomas CUBITT in 1851; Sir George Gilbert SCOTT's St Matthew's Church Westminster, also from 1851; and a former park keeper's lodge for Finsbury Park, built in Seven Sisters Road in 1869, along with many more contemporary buildings. You can find out more details on the website: <https://www.openhouseworldwide.org/london>

Hertfordshire/London links

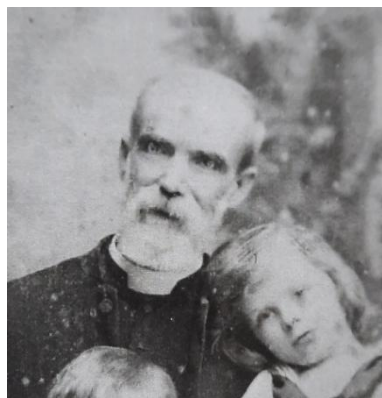
A recent publication by the Hertfordshire Record Society, *The Poor, the Sick and the Stranger in Hertfordshire: a selection of Settlement Examinations and Removals, 1697-1898* has revealed how several families regularly embarked on journeys across county boundaries, as they travelled in search of work. This resulted in discovering a considerable number of references to locations in other counties including 63 within The City and Greater London. You can find out more information from The Hertfordshire Record Society at: <http://www.hrsociety.org.uk>

THE LONDON RAGGED SCHOOL UNION

By Elizabeth Burling, Member No. 4992

The plight of poor and especially destitute children was quite horrendous in times past. They were very often left to their own devices and had a really hard time just finding food and shelter. Of course, some of them turned to crime to make ends meet and when they started to affect the rest of the community, especially wealthier members, thoughts were turned as to how to help these children and put an end to this problem.

These poorest children were often known as ‘ragged’ due to the state of their clothing. The Rev. David RICE-JONES (1831-1898), a London Diocesan



David Rice-Jones with one of
his own children

Home Missionary who worked in Southwark and then at the Great Wild Street Mission in the slums of St Giles-in-the-Fields described Walter, a ‘Street Arab’ thus: ‘He has neither shirt nor waistcoat but was perfectly bare as to his chest and throat, while the apologies which he wore for jacket and trousers were such a mass of rags and tatters that it was a wonder how he ever got into them; he might easily have jumped out of them if it had not been for the pieces of cord which held them together here and there. As for shoes and stocking, I don’t suppose he had ever been troubled with

such things...’, and this was in the middle of winter.

Children such as these were not allowed into most schools. As an example, widely reported in the press was the case of Edward MARTIN, a ‘scantily-attired, half-starved looking man, a cane-rib umbrella maker of Warwick-court, Whitecross Street’ who was sent to the House of Correction for three days for failing to send his daughter Ann (aged 9) to school. He said he had taken her to two local Board schools but the masters at both said they could not take Ann until she was better dressed. Another problem was that parents had to pay for a child to attend school, typically a penny a week. For a family struggling to provide the basic necessities of life, education cannot have been a priority.

To counteract this problem, free schools started to be set up. One of the first in London was at Field Lane (now Farringdon Road) in Clerkenwell, which opened its doors on Sunday 7 November 1841 and was run by the London City Mission. Charles DICKENS visited this school, commenting, 'The children were too ragged, wretched, filthy and forlorn' to go to any other school and were invited to 'come in here and find some people not depraved, willing to teach them something and show them some sympathy'. He hoped that the school would 'introduce some knowledge of the commonest principles of morality and religion' into these 'most miserable and neglected outcasts in London' before they fell into a life of crime. His story, *A Christmas Carol* (published in 1843), was written as a way of raising the plight of these poor children amongst the general public.

The 'people not depraved' reference unfortunately often referred to the children's parents. The condition of the children of ill-disposed and vicious parents particularly worried people. From their earliest days these young people were often exposed to the 'influence of evil example' and frequently forced to commit crimes.

The London City Mission was just one organisation which was running ragged schools and it was suggested that an association of similar bodies would be a good idea. To this end, the London Ragged School Union was founded in 1843. It was supported by the patronage of Anthony Ashley COOPER, 7th Earl Shaftesbury, who subsequently became president of the Union for 39 years. During this time, the organisation enabled about 300,000 destitute children to be educated for free at ragged schools or industrial feeding schools and provided clothing, food and lodging where necessary.

The *Morning Advertiser* of 10 June 1846 reported that: 'Of 290 children aged between 5 and 17 who had attended a local ragged school, 42 had no parents, 21 had step-mothers, 7 were children of convicts, 27 had been in prison, 36 had run away from home, 19 slept in lodging houses, 41 lived by begging, 21 had no beds to sleep on, 17 had no shoes or socks, 37 had no hat, cap or bonnet, 12 had no body linen. They made their living by picking up coals on the banks of the river, by selling things in the streets, by attending shows at fairs and by habitual stealing.'

David RICE-JONES wrote that children could become neglected for a variety of reasons. One or both parent could be 'addicted to habits of

intemperance', which accounted for the great majority of the slum children. Another reason was that the fathers, whether through their faults or through misfortune, did not earn sufficient money to support their families, or maybe the mothers were obliged to go out to work leaving no-one to look after the children. These children had 'neither wholesome nourishment nor a sufficiency of any kind of food; who have no attention paid to their comfort or cleanliness; who spend their days about the gutters of dingy streets, and their nights in an overcrowded room, breathing its poisonous air, and sleeping together in heaps upon rags that are seldom or perhaps never washed.' Of course many of these children died in their early years and David wrote that he had heard mothers remark that it was 'a great mercy it was that the poor little things were taken, for we find it a hard matter to live as it is, and I don't know what we should have done with so many.'

By 1849 there were 82 schools, 30 of which were open during the day and 50 in the evening, which were attended by 15,000 destitute infants, according to the *London Evening Standard* of 16 May. It was important for the schools to be thrown open on a Sunday evening in order to help children who had work or were otherwise occupied during the day. Boys, for example, 'who never see the inside of a house but for the purposes of robbery' were prime candidates, according to the Rev. James SHERMAN, writing in *The Patriot* of 8 May 1844. By 1893, the *Marylebone Mercury* reports that the Gray's Yard Ragged School in James Street was using some 40 to 50 voluntary teachers for their Sunday School, showing the vast number of children still needing help.

The largest ragged school in London was opened in three warehouses next to the Regent's Canal in Mile End in 1877 by Dr Thomas John BARNARDO. Thomas had been born in 1845 in Dublin and came to London to train as a doctor. He was shocked to discover the state of poor children in the East End and decided to devote himself to helping them, abandoning his medical career. The Mile End school, at 46-50 Copperfield Road, has now been preserved as a museum. Thomas himself taught here and one of his original classrooms has been restored to how it would have been when the school opened. It is noted, however, that his schools differed in philosophy and operating style from those in the London Ragged School Union. You can visit this museum but please check their website for opening times first: <https://www.raggedschoolmuseum.org.uk/>

It took a long time for things to change for destitute children. David RICE-JONES was at the St Giles Mission in Sardinia Street from 1882-1889, so there were already many schools to help these poor children and yet he wrote this in his book *In the Slums*, which was published in 1884: 'It is a cold wet night in January; and again I find myself in Great Wild Street on my way home. The road and the pavements are covered with mud, and the bitter winds that sweep up and down the street and in and out of its passages and courts are loaded with fog and sleet. Even the hardy folk who are usually to be seen, in all seasons and at all hours, sitting upon the door-steps, or loitering at the street corners, have now disappeared, and Great Wild Street is almost deserted. Almost, but not quite; for in front of a small oil shop, which is still open, four or five little children, bare-footed, bare-headed, half-naked, and begrimed with dirt, are apparently amusing themselves with a heap of rubbish which has been emptied from the shop into the gutter. But on closer inspection it becomes evident that they are not indulging in play; their faces are too earnest, too eager, too sad for that. They plunge their tiny fists into the heap of rubbish, and turn it over and over again until it becomes mixed with the mud. Still they go on turning it over and sifting it, like so many misers searching for a lost coin. Then suddenly a dash is made by all hands at once upon a particular spot, and there is a desperate scrimmage, which reminds one of the Rugby game. The biggest and strongest boy gains the victory and the prize, which is nothing more nor less than a large rotten carrot. Having wiped the ashes and the mud off the carrot by rubbing it against his trousers, the boy proceeds to devour it as if it were the most delicious fruit. But when he has consumed about one-half he relents, and holds the piece of carrot out in turns to each of the other children, telling them to take a bite, but holding the carrot in such a way between his fingers as to prevent their biting off more than a fixed quantity.'

Gradually, though, things did improve. Thomas BARNARDO founded many children's homes and by the time he died in 1905, his charity had 96, mainly built in the 'cottage homes' model where children were looked after in small groups looked after by a house mother, which were looking after over 8,500 children.

In 1944, the London Ragged School Union adopted the name 'Shaftesbury Society' in honour of the 7th Earl of Shaftesbury. This charity is now known as Shaftesbury Young People Trust and it has a large archive at TLA, Ref: LMA/4647, which includes much information on destitute children from our area, such as the following:

A Day book dated 1845-1847 and Minute books from 1852-1874 for the St Giles and St George Bloomsbury Ragged School, Refuges and Ragged School reports 1844-1855, annual reports 1856-1982, Admission registers for girls dated 1862-1875 and for boys dated 1872-1873 for the National Refuges for Homeless and Destitute Children.

The archive of the Ragged School Union is at TLA, Ref: CLC/225, and comprises a case book of London boys from the Ragged School Union who were admitted to a collecting centre for assisted emigration to Canada, dated about 1860. Photographs of the boys are included.

If you had poor ancestors in London, you might just be lucky enough to be able to find a mention of them. The above archives are by no means the only ones concerned with helping destitute children. Even if you cannot find yours, you should definitely be able to find similar children whose plight can help you understand their situation.

Sources

Barnardos: <https://www.barnardos.org.uk/who-we-are/our-history>

British Newspaper Archive on www.findmypast.co.uk

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From Cellar to Garret by Rev. David Rice-Jones (Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, 1876), available online:

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<https://www.victorianlondon.org/publications6/slums.htm>

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Ragged Schools: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ragged_school



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See inside front cover for address.

WHO WAS THE FATHER?

Tracing absent male ancestors in my family tree

By A.K. (Tony) Allen, Member No 5587

Most of us have encountered a parish record or birth certificate where the father's name was not given as the parents were not married. However in many cases the name of the absent father was strongly hinted at. I will explain how I found the identities of the probable fathers and what was the subsequent history of the mothers, fathers and children. These cases are all from the family of my father, Fredrick William George ALLEN (1910-2001) from the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries.

1. Ann Cobden REYNOLDS (My father's 3x great-grandmother). She was baptised on 24 July 1788 in the parish church of Langford, Wiltshire. The actual wording in the parish record of baptisms is: 'Ann the Daughter of Elizabeth Reynolds &——-Cobden of Whiteparish, July 24th.' Whiteparish is only about 3 miles from Longparish, also in the county of Wiltshire. Presumably the vicar questioned Elizabeth as to the paternity so that money for the support of mother and child could come from Mr COBDEN rather than parish funds. Strangely there is no Christian name for Mr COBDEN. Perhaps she was considered to be his social inferior and only addressed him as Mr COBDEN. He did seem to come from an established family.

However, he proved to be an honourable man as 11 months later in June 1789 at Whiteparish Church after banns, John COBDEN, widower, married Elizabeth REYNOLDS, single woman. They subsequently had two more children christened in Whiteparish, Elizabeth on 14 November 1790 and James on 9 March 1796. They do not seem to have survived to adulthood. So the sole surviving child was Ann COBDEN REYNOLDS who married John ELKINS on 14 October 1811.

Her mother Elizabeth COBDEN died in Whiteparish in 1822. When it comes to her father there is a problem as there were three John COBDENs who died in the decade before her in Whiteparish. It seems likely that they are two cousins of about the same age and the son of one of them. The deaths were recorded as being in 1813 age 50, age 75 in 1814 and age 75 in 1816. I think it most likely the youngest John born in 1763 in Whiteparish is the father of Ann.

Rather surprisingly Ann appears in the probate records of the Archdeaconry of Sarum (now Salisbury) in November 1832 as the claimant for an intestate estate of the late John COBDEN of Whiteparish. It is recognised that she is 'Ann the wife of John ELKINS. The lawful daughter and next of Kin and Administratrix of all the Goods, Chattels and Credits of John COBDEN late of Whiteparish in the county of Wilts and the Archdeaconry of Sarum.' Signed with an X by her husband but not by Ann. Unfortunately there is no date given for the death of John COBDEN. It seems strange that it took up to 19 years to get this document completed. Perhaps it was important to establish against a challenge by other family members to property that she held. Ann died in 1860 at the age of 72 years. At least five of her children survived to adulthood.

2. Frederick Thomas Coleman HARBART (my father's great-grandfather). He was baptised on 18 October 1829 in the parish church of Great Brickhill, North Buckinghamshire. His unmarried mother was Amelia HARBART. Obviously the middle name was that of the presumed father from whom the parish would be demanding payment for the up-keep of the child. There was no hope of marriage as Thomas COLEMAN had married 19 months earlier. In the parish records of the same church it is stated that on 24 April 1828 Thomas COLEMAN of Leighton Buzzard married Sarah PEPPIATT of Great Brickhill. By 1835 they had moved to London where a child was born. They had at least two surviving children and he worked as a baker and died in the 1860s.

In 1833 at the age of 28 Amelia married George FOWLER (age 20) in Great Brickhill where they continued to live. There were five surviving children from the marriage and Amelia died in 1859.

At some point, she gave away Frederick, as at the time of the 1841 census he was living in Soulbury (3 miles away) with a change of name to HARBOUR with Ann and Thomas PONTLING. I cannot find a family connection of the couple to Amelia. At the time of the 1851 census Frederick was working in a local farm as a milch-man (sic) with a dairy-maid called Catherine TANSLEY. In 1853 they married in Soulbury and continued to live there having four children. They changed their name by 1856 to HERBERT (almost his original name). Then in the late 1850s they moved to London, unfortunately, to the slums of Lambeth. He mostly had portering jobs living in very poor conditions. During the 15 years Catherine gave birth to ten

children of whom seven died. By some means that I cannot explain, in 1875 they managed to move to the better district of Marylebone and then to Kensal Green/Paddington where they set up a greengrocers shop with their surviving six children out of the fourteen whom Catherine gave birth to. They built up a family network of grandchildren and great-grandchildren in the Kensal Green area which persisted up to the late 1930s. They worked as shopkeepers and also in the large Kensal Green Cemetery. Catherine died in 1897, age 64 and Frederick in 1907 age 78. They were buried in Kensal Green Cemetery.

3. Kate WILTSHIRE (aunt of my father and eldest sister of my grandmother). She was born to Alice WILTSHIRE a 16 year old single mother on 19 August 1883 in Ash, Kent. There was no mention of the father on the birth certificate and I could not find a christening record.



The lady with the dog is Mrs Alice NOBLE, formerly WILTSHIRE, DALTON (1866-1943). She was mother of Kate.
The lady with the child is Mrs Kate GOLD, formerly NOBLE, WILTSHIRE, DALTON (1883-1948).
Both photos were taken in the 1914-1918 period.

Alice was not abandoned, as on the 28 May 1885 in nearby Eynsford she married P.C. George NOBLE. George had joined the Metropolitan Police on 2 July 1883 but before that had lived in Ash. In the 1881 census he was recorded as being a gamekeeper in North Ash House, less than a mile from Fawkham where Alice (age 14) lived with her mother Clara (variously using the surnames PACKMAN, WILTSHIRE and DALTON). Kate and George obviously became lovers, perhaps they did not marry as young married men might not have been wanted as recruits by the Metropolitan Police. Obviously he was an honourable young man and felt bound to return to marry Alice once he was established. They moved to London and lived in Marylebone, Harrow and Greenford (all at that time in Middlesex) and had 7 more children. Kate always used the surname NOBLE and was referred to as daughter of George NOBLE in the censuses of 1891 and 1901, also on her marriage and in the 1947 Will of George.

In 1907 Kate married Job John GOLD a professional soldier who served as a gunner in the Boer War and WW1 and later in the Tank Corps. He rose to the rank of Regimental Sergeant Major. Later he was a customs officer in Wales. They had four children. Their eldest son, Squadron Leader Arthur G.W. GOLD (1909-1991) was an RAF Pilot during WW2 and was awarded the Air Force Cross. Kate died in Swansea in May 1948.

4. Henry Fordham ALLEN (my father's 1st cousin). He was born on 28 December 1906 to single mother Kate ALLEN at 605 Harrow Road, Kensal Green, Paddington, Middlesex in the family apartment of his grandmother, Jane Elizabeth ALLEN (née HERBERT). There was no father registered on the birth certificate but the child's Christian names were obviously an identification by Kate. On searching for Henry FORDHAM, I found a marriage in the local church, St Jude's, Kensal Green on the 11 May 1906 of Henry John FORDHAM to Alice Ada LAVERS. So he conceived a child with Kate ALLEN only a month before his marriage. Ironically, his marriage produced no children. He served in the police until 1933 and died in 1959.

Henry seems to have been initially cared for by his grandmother as at the time of the census in April 1911 he was living in the same apartment where he was born with her and some of his uncles and aunts. In 1910 Kate married William PEGG a railway porter (later a signalman), they lived nearby in an apartment at 547 Harrow Road. William served in the Army in WW1. The 1921 census showed that they were still living at the same address and that

Henry had dropped the FORDHAM ALLEN name and was simply described as Henry PEGG son (not step-son) of William PEGG. There was also a half-brother Frank born in 1915.

On the 6 August 1933 Henry PEGG married Isobel PAGE (known as Ella) at St John's Parish Church, Kensal Green where many of his mother's ALLEN/HERBERT relations had also married and been baptised. He gave his name as simply Henry PEGG, his father as William PEGG and his profession as baker. After their marriage they moved to Stanmore, Middlesex and had two daughters; Shirley born 1937 and Patricia born 1938. He was still there in the September 1939 Registration. Profession baker and pastry cook.

In 1949 they sailed to Australia and settled permanently in the Sydney suburbs. After the death of his stepfather, his mother joined them in 1953. The death notice in the *Sydney Morning Herald* of 10 December 1985 reads: 'PEGG, Henry Fordham — December 8th 1985, late of Miranda, dearly loved husband of Ella, loving father of Shirley and Patricia (Deceased) and grandfather of Gai, Josie, Gary, Bradley, Allen and Cathy.'

It seems to have been a common practice for unmarried mothers to name the father in the baptismal record or birth certificate. This was the case in three of the registrations, resulting in a marriage in only one case. The exception was the birth of Kate WILTSHIRE. It seems that her mother, Alice WILTSHIRE, was confident that her gamekeeper turned policeman lover would return. However there were a lot of illegitimate children in her family, so perhaps no one cared. It is encouraging that all the mothers did have apparently successful marriages and so did their children.

Sources

Mostly researching on Ancestry, but some from conversations with my father and other relatives. Some of the information in sections 2 and 3 has already been given in previous issues of the *Metropolitan*.

New Email Address?

Please let us know: membership@lwmfhs.org

SPOTLIGHT ON: NORTHWOOD

Northwood was originally a hamlet in the most northerly part of the ancient parish of Ruislip, right next to the border with Hertfordshire, and now forms part of the London Borough of Hillingdon. The hamlet lay on the north side of the road from Pinner to Rickmansworth and it is perhaps no surprise that the name refers to a wood which was north of the settlement of Ruislip.

The monks of Bec Abbey in Normandy ran Manor Farm at Ruislip and had a grange at Northwood from the 11th century. When Kings College, Cambridge, became lords of the manor of Ruislip in 1565 following the Dissolution, they conducted a survey of their new domain and found 10 houses and several farms at Northwood. Northwood remained much like this for centuries.

A school for local children was opened in 1848. Holy Trinity church was founded in 1854 on Rickmansworth Road and the school, which moved to a new building nearby in 1862, became known as Holy Trinity Church of England School. By 1906 it was called Ruislip-Northwood Church of England School. Account books from 1858-1896 and a School Managers' minute book from 1903-1914 are in the parish chest collection of Holy Trinity church at The London Archives, Ref: DRO/117.

Development of this rural area was hindered by some 3,000 acres of land at Northwood being enclosed in 1804, adding to 350 acres of land west of Ducks Hill Road which had been enclosed in 1769. This had included common ground known as West Wood. Now known as Mad Bess Wood, this was bought by the local council in 1936 to form part of the new 'green belt' around London.

The open nature of the area led to three hospitals taking advantage of the fresh air to establish themselves here. The first was Hampstead-based Mount Vernon Hospital, which cared from patients with tuberculosis and other lung diseases, who opened their country branch at Northwood in 1901. The second, St Vincent's Orthopaedic Hospital had been set up in 1907 in Clapham as a home for crippled boys. In 1912 it moved to Ruislip Holt, a house in Wiltshire Lane and girls were admitted from 1925. During the Second World War the hospital was used to treat war casualties. The third was established during the First World War in an iron hut on the corner of

Green Lane and Hallowell Road as Northwood Voluntary Aid Detachment (V.A.D.) hospital. If you are researching those who were treated here, the Wartime Memories Project is currently building a database of patients: <https://wartimememoriesproject.com/greatwar/hospitals/hospital.php?pid=13786>. The V.A.D. hospital was superseded by the Northwood and Pinner Cottage Hospital, which opened on the same site in 1920 following a public meeting to raise money for a war memorial and small hospital for the district. A much larger hospital, which was known as Northwood, Pinner and District War Memorial Hospital, was opened on Pinner Road in 1924. In 1948 the hospital joined the NHS as the Northwood, Pinner and District Hospital.

Part of Ruislip Common was used to create Northwood Cemetery in 1915 to cater for the local growth in the population. It covers 15 acres and includes the graves of many airmen who had been stationed at RAF Northolt, including 63 from the Polish Air Force.

The Metropolitan Railway extended their line from Pinner to Rickmansworth in the 1880s and a station was opened at Northwood in 1887. A second station was built in Joel Street in 1933, which was surrounded by a new residential district. Northwood was one of the first districts to adopt a town planning scheme and this meant that the rural amenities and character were preserved in the new suburb. A newspaper competition was held to name the Joel Street station and the winning entry was 'Northwood Hills', despite the location being at a lower elevation than Northwood.

Another school was opened in 1934 to cope with the increasing population. Initially known as Potter Street (New) Senior Council School, it is now called Northwood School. Former pupils might like to know that there is a private Facebook group for alumni which currently has over 2,200 members: 'I Went to Northwood School'.

Sources:

Northwood: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northwood,_London

Parish Guide to Ruislip (LWMFHS, 2022)

Ruislip, Northwood and Eastcote Local History Society: <http://www.rnelhs.org.uk/>

The Detailed Ruislip Online Website: <https://www.ruisliponline.com/>



WEBSITE NEWS

London Furniture Makers

The Furniture History Society was founded in 1964 to increase knowledge and appreciate furniture of all periods, places and kinds and to assist in the preservation of furniture and its records. One benefit of this for family historians is their database of British and Irish Furniture Makers Online (BIMFO). This resource covers British and Irish furniture makers and associated tradespeople over 400 years and includes where they worked, what they made, the materials they used and their patronage and commissions. The online database can be easily searched by personal name, location, material, ornamentations or style. For example, the Joiners' Company records show that John TAPPIN son of Job TAPPIN, deceased Yeoman of Islington, Middlesex, was apprenticed to John SAX from 6 November 1750 for 7 years. The premium of £3 0s 0d was paid by the parish of Islington, probably because the boy's father was dead. You can access this database here: <https://bifmo.furniturehistorysociety.org/>

Related to this is a map which records where 2,750 London furniture makers (who were originally recorded in the *Dictionary of English Furniture Makers, 1660-1840*) were located. The London furniture trade was initially concentrated in the City before expanding westward into Covent Garden, St Martin's Lane, Soho and Piccadilly, and northward to Bloomsbury and beyond by the early Victorian period. Information from the *Directory* has been added to the digital mapping platform, Layers of London, a map-based history project that allows anyone to access free historic maps of London and to contribute stories, memories and histories to create a social history resource about their area. The resulting map is scaleable to show patterns of city-wide distribution, alongside much closer views of neighbourhoods and streets. Individual records (each marked by a blue circle on the map) then 'open up' to provide a copy of that craftsperson's record within BIFMO, with details of his or her specialism, residence, and dates of known association with that place. Layers of London is here: <https://www.layersoflondon.org/>

UKGDL: Genealogical Directories and Lists on the Internet

This is a sister site to UKBMD (which helps find online data concerning births, marriages and deaths) and UKMFH (which has links to information about military family history).

UKGDL aims to help you find out the history of your family by linking to web sites that have on-line data which will help you discover what your

families did and how they lived. For example, school lists, trade directories, electoral rolls, passenger lists, old photographs and so on are now listed under UKGDL's menus. A series of buttons on the left of the screen allow you to target the information you receive:

- Miscellany lists all the web sites with information related to genealogical research which is not specific to individuals, such as date calculators, old occupations, coinage, old medical terms etc.
- Category lists all the web sites for a particular category, for example school or educational records, trade directories, tithes and so on.
- County: you can specify a county here. From our area there is the City of London or Middlesex.
- Places: you can then further narrow your search by selecting one or more places from a large list.
- Occupations: choose one or more occupations from a vast list.
- British Abroad has links to help you find life events of British people which are recorded abroad.

Browsing this site is bound to turn up something interesting! You can search it here: <https://www.ukgdl.org.uk/>

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THE SHOP ON FISH STREET HILL

By Stephen Henley, Member No. 8703

Before I started writing this article, it was envisaged as a simple story of three generations of one family managing a small shop in the City of London. However, as I completed the research, trying to tie up some loose ends, it morphed into something very different.

William WILLEY (1789-1853) was a prominent cutler in Sheffield from the 1820s onwards, working with his four sons Charles, John, Henry, and William. After the death of John in 1832 at the age of 17, perhaps in an industrial accident in what was a notoriously dangerous industry, he took his eldest two surviving sons into partnership, trading as William Willey & Sons.

He served three times in 1834, 1836, and 1838, as an ‘assistant’ in the Sheffield Cutlers Company. But it was clear that the family had ideas to expand. By 1841 Henry had moved to Liverpool where he set up his own manufacturing workshop. In the 1840s William himself moved to London with his youngest son William (jnr), and they opened two shops, at 113 Ratcliff Highway, Stepney, and at 21 Fish Street Hill. Charles remained in Sheffield to manage the still growing cutlery manufacturing business from a set of workshops they had constructed in 1839 on Chester Street. The partnership was dissolved by mutual consent on 10th August 1844, likely replaced by a more formal company structure.

The first reference I have found to the Fish Street Hill shop, which shows clearly that William (snr) and his third wife Ann WILLEY (formerly COPLEY, nee MANN) were living there (though listed at Ratcliff Highway in the 1851 census), was an item in the London Standard on 23 August 1848: *ATTEMPTED BURGLARY - John Henry was brought up upon the charge of having attempted to break open and enter a house on Fish-street-hill. Kendall (policeman 552) stated, that between eleven and twelve o'clock on Monday night he observed the prisoner and another man watching him, and suspecting their object, he watched them from a door-way. In a few minutes he saw the prisoner and another man close to the door of Mr. Willey, cutler, at No.21. The prisoner looked round and then stooped and tried to unlock the door, twisting his hand round several times. The lock distinctly sounded. Some one came by just at the time, and the prisoner and the other man removed a few yards off, soon after which they returned and repeated the attempt several*

times, after which they walked towards witness, who seized the prisoner, the other man made his escape. Upon being asked why he had tried to unlock the door the prisoner made no reply, but appeared much confused. Upon going to the station-house the prisoner resisted very much, and slipped down near a sewer grating, against which something jinked. In his pockets were found a skeleton key and a latch key, and he dropped a piece of black soft wax, such as was used in taking impressions of keys. He refused to give his address.

The Prisoner said the keys were the key of his hall door and the key of his bedroom door, as he could prove to any person who would not speak of so disgraceful a business in the neighbourhood in which he and his mother resided. He would suffer any inconvenience rather than put his aged mother into difficulty or terror. He knew nothing of the house or the man alluded to, and he had only just arrived from Gravesend.

Inspector Todhunter said that on Saturday night an attempt had been made by two men to enter the same house, but they had been interrupted.

The prisoner, who persevered in refusing to give his address, was remanded.

Bell's New Weekly Messenger on 3 Sept 1848 reported that John HENRY was sentenced to 2 months imprisonment.

On 6 May 1849, William's daughter Mary WILLEY on a visit to London was a witness at the marriage of her brother William WILLEY (jnr) to Mary DALBY, daughter of Octavius DALBY (1784-1839) and Hannah DOBSON (1793-1860). Clearly the family were taking full advantage of the new mobility offered by an expanding railway network, as the 1851 census lists her in Tranmere, Cheshire with brother Henry WILLEY, where their half-sister Ann WILLEY married William TURNER in June 1851 (Ann and William later returned to Sheffield), and on to Leicester where Henry married Mary Ann BURNES on 20th November 1851. Henry and Mary Ann had met when both were visiting the 1851 Great Exhibition in London, and after their marriage they returned to Liverpool.

William and Ann remained in London, with William (jnr) and his wife Mary, at 113 Ratcliff Highway in the 1851 census. William died on 10 April 1853. Ownership of the shop on Ratcliff Highway (by then, St George Street) had already passed to William (jnr). William's will left the income from 8 cottages in Chester Street, Sheffield to his wife Ann. There are other smaller bequests, but there is no mention of the shop on Fish Street Hill.

However, it is clear that management of this shop had already passed to Mary (daughter, not daughter-in-law!), and a year later, after her marriage, to her husband Evan EVANS (1816-1900) from Ceredigion, Wales. Evan was not a cutler, and he converted the shop to a tobacconist, though still selling cutlery made by Mary's brothers William in Stepney, Charles in Sheffield, and Henry in Liverpool, as identified in the 1871, 1881, and 1891 censuses ("tobacconist and cutler") – though by 1891 only William (jnr) in London was still working as a cutler, with one of his sons, Frank. Charles had retired and moved to Liverpool and died in 1883; Henry had died in 1873, and his son Frederick took over running the business in Liverpool, but it failed in 1884, with sale of all remaining stock.

Evan and Mary had two children: Thomas William EVANS (born 1856) and Louisa Ann EVANS (born 1861). Both were talented. The 1881 census lists Thomas as a "*Student of Painting at the Royal Academy of Arts*". The Royal Academy records show that he was admitted as a student in 1877, recommended by E. J. POYNTER RA. This was Sir Edward POYNTER (1836-1919) who had been elected as an Academician in 1876 and went on to become the President of the Royal Academy from 1896-1919. There seems to be no common thread between POYNTER and the WILLEY or EVANS families, so perhaps Sir Edward was a customer in the Evans shop and recognised artistic talent in the young Thomas, 21 years old in 1877. However, clearly Thomas either failed as an artist or was persuaded to take on his father's business, as in 1901, 1911, and 1921 he was listed as a tobacconist and newsagent at 27 Fish Street Hill. The Sheffield connection remained, as Thomas had married Ada DALTON from Ecclesall Bierlow, Sheffield, in 1895. Their two sons Walter Dalton EVANS and Allan Dalton EVANS both became shopkeepers (tobacconist/newsagents), though not on Fish Street Hill, but in Lambeth and Lewisham respectively, in the 1939 register.

In the 1881 census, Evan and Mary's daughter Louisa Ann EVANS was a music teacher, aged 19, still living with her parents and brother at 27 Fish Street Hill. But beyond the 1881 census she disappears totally from UK records. What happened next was prompted by some enigmatic mentions in records from Wilmington, Delaware, United States.

She emigrated to the USA in 1881 with John BROWN. According to both UK and US records he was an organ builder. John was born in Moortown (a Leeds suburb), Yorkshire, on 18 Jan. 1852. He married Caroline PATERSON from

Hull on 29 July 1871 – in Manchester Cathedral. This already raises some questions of course: how did they meet, and why did they go to Manchester to marry? They then settled in Sheffield, where they had five children between 1873 and 1880 – and a sixth born in 1882 after John had already left for New York.

John was listed in White's 1879 Directory at 5 Plumpton Street, Sheffield as a "pianoforte dealer and organ builder", though it seems this was a one-man operation, so he was probably working as an agent for Henry Willis & Sons,



one of the first and largest organ building companies, who were based in London. He had a younger brother George Edwin BROWN who was listed in the 1881 census at 15, Marquis Road, St Pancras, as an "organ builder journeyman", and the National Pipe Organ Register (<https://npor.org.uk/>) notes that he worked for Lewis & Co, another large organ-building company (though in later censuses he is recorded just as a carpenter and decorator). Marquis Road is just a 15 minute walk from 9 Rochester Terrace which was the home of Henry WILLIS and his family.

Pipe organ built by John Brown at the First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, Columbus, Ohio, United States in 1895. (image from *The Tracker*, journal of the Organ Historical Society).

When John and Louise Ann arrived in New York, John BROWN initially worked for the major organ building company of Hilborne Lewis ROOSEVELT (a staunchly apolitical cousin of the future presidents Theodore and Franklin), but in 1885 moved to Wilmington,

Delaware, to set up his own business, the Brown Organ Co. John BROWN and Louisa Ann EVANS had three children in the US, in Manhattan and in Delaware, but it wasn't until his first marriage ended in divorce in 1894 that they could marry.

After that, at least two of his sons from his first marriage joined them in Wilmington, and one of them, Frank BROWN (who had been born in 1882 after John emigrated) joined the business and managed it after his father's retirement. Meanwhile John's first wife Caroline was able to retire on 'independent means' (alimony?), still living in Sheffield, according to the 1911 census. John BROWN organs were built and installed in many churches and other institutions in the US in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

There are, as always, loose ends, most annoyingly about William Willey himself. Although born in 1789, and apprenticed to his uncle Charles ROEBUCK, he didn't gain his freedom until 1831 – at the advanced age of 41, when he already had a thriving manufacturing business. William's father was a filesmith. Perhaps he started in that trade, but needed a second apprenticeship to qualify as a more highly skilled spring-knife and table-knife cutler. Or perhaps his career was interrupted by military service.

In the 20th century, there was a continuing company named William Willey & Co., a cutlery wholesale business operating from 54 Vittoria Street, Birmingham, managed by master silversmith Frank TURNER, son of Ann WILLEY (half-sister of William (junior) and Mary), but it had ceased trading by the time of Frank's death in 1950.

HAVE YOU RENEWED?

The Society's year ends on 30 September 2025 and it is now time to renew your subscription. This will mean that you will receive December's *Metropolitan*, be able to attend the October Virtual Branch meeting and benefit from the Members' Area of our website. The new password to this will be sent out to members on 1 October, so keep an eye on your emails then.

The renewal form was in the centre of the June issue of *Metropolitan* and it is also available to download from our website, as are links to paying via Parish Chest. These can be found here:

<https://lwmfhs.org/join/>

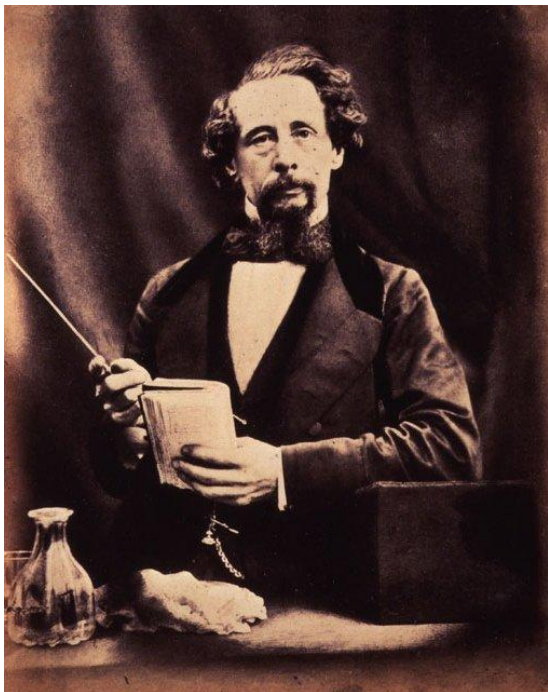
Thank you to all those members who have already renewed.

THOMAS HEADLAND:

The Man Who Knew Too Much?

By Sheila Clarke, Member No. 7900

In early 1863 Charles DICKENS gave what would be the last of his public readings for some time. A frustrated actor at heart, he had considered making



Charles Dickens, St. Martin's Hall, London
1858 (public domain)

the stage his career and the readings allowed him to portray characters as only their creator could do. They were also very lucrative: here was the chance to see the famous author performing scenes from the stories that had held the country spellbound. Little wonder the demand for tickets was high for what may have been the only opportunity to see literature's first 'superstar.'

Any performer will tell you that being on the road needs efficient management and DICKENS had this from the onset with his right hand man, Arthur SMITH. SMITH had overseen the first charity readings at

London's St. Martin's Hall and when it came to organizing a tour Smith was the obvious choice. He did not disappoint: his 'wonderful tact and consummate mastery of arrangement' smoothed the way for DICKENS to concentrate on his performance safe in the knowledge that all the onerous background business had been taken care of. They became close friends, so when SMITH fell ill in the Autumn 1861 it was not only a professional blow but a personal one too. It became apparent SMITH would be unable to carry out his duties and DICKENS visited his ailing manager to discuss the tour planned to start in a few weeks' time. He had already decided to employ

Thomas HEADLAND, SMITH's assistant, and he now sought his approval. 'We couldn't do better' agreed SMITH, reinforcing DICKENS's belief that he had made the right choice. A few weeks later it would be a very different story, culminating in a decision to abandon the readings he found so rewarding. What had happened to bring about such a dramatic change of heart? For that we must look to SMITH's controversial deputy, my ancestor and DICKENS's 'worthy man with a genius for mistakes,' Thomas Hughes HEADLAND.

I have written before about 3xgreat uncle Thomas's part in the DICKENS's story, and admit to a great fondness for this Victorian Mr. Bean who somehow managed to keep his job despite a litany of mistakes and near disasters. There would have been no shortage of applicants willing to take on the prestigious role of Readings Manager and yet DICKENS chose to continue employing a man he found 'damned aggravating' and 'a worthy jackass.' Recently I began to wonder again why this might be and decided to revisit my research to see if anything new could be learned.

There I found an upright character with an endearing 'have a go' streak that saw him embrace three very different lines of work – silversmith, theatrical manager, and hotel keeper. That he succeeded in two and failed spectacularly in the third has intrigued me since I first discovered my connection. I had wondered if my family's financial problems at that time may have persuaded DICKENS not to add to their woes - a letter exists in which he refers to putting pressure on his friend John HULLAH to pay Thomas money he was owed - 'Didn't I always say he (Thomas) would get his money from Hullah? I have got Hullah into such a corner at last that he must pay and will pay.'

No one knew better than DICKENS how quickly fortunes could change: taken out of school aged twelve and put to work in the blacking factory was an experience he would never forget, and he always showed sympathy to those who fell on hard times. But could there have been another, more personal, reason that kept his manager in post? At the time of Thomas's appointment the author was in an intense relationship with actress Ellen TERNAN. Gossip had been circulating for some time about a possible affair with his sister-in-law Georgina HOGARTH, a permanent fixture in the DICKENS household to help with its management. But it was teenage Ellen who had captivated the forty five year old DICKENS, leading him to take a course of action he had been contemplating for some time.

Charles DICKENS and Catherine HOGARTH had married in 1836. He was twenty four and his bride just a month away from her twenty first birthday.



Ellen Ternan (public domain)

Over the next fifteen years ten children were born, and a combination of Catherine's domestic responsibilities and DICKENS's burgeoning fame saw the couple drift apart. They never had much in common but appear to have lived companionably enough until the fateful meeting with TERNAN. Now he wanted nothing less than to be rid of his wife and appears not to have minded how that was achieved. Before long he was telling friends 'Poor Catherine and I are not made for each other' perhaps paving the way for what would become a campaign of hostility against his unfortunate wife. Catherine was apparently a supportive partner and good mother to her ever growing brood, but DICKENS began to spread

rumours that she was mentally unbalanced, neglected her household duties and didn't care about the children. He made it clear he did not consider her his intellectual equal, berating her in company, and complaining she had become fat and physically unattractive. Soon she was subjected to the indignity of having their bedroom partitioned off, before being ejected for good and finally banished from the house altogether.

In 1858 they separated and from then on DICKENS reverted to his bachelor life with a punishing work schedule and busy social life, now free to pursue his relationship with TERNAN while Georgina took care of the domestic duties. DICKENS was used to getting what he wanted and above all he wanted Ellen, the companion he described as his 'magic circle of one.' This was the situation Thomas would have found when he took over the role that would cement his reputation as a bringer of chaos and confusion, over-promoted and inept.

That the new manager was ambitious is beyond doubt: this was an opportunity he would never have thought possible a few years earlier, but after joining the singing classes of DICKENS's friend composer and music teacher John HULLAH he was offered the post of secretary at his headquarters, St Martins Hall. That he had no secretarial experience does not seem to have fazed Thomas, and from there it was a short step to coming to the notice of DICKENS and being chosen as manager. The signs were ominous from the start: even before the tour began DICKENS was reporting that 'animal magnetism - or something else' brought Thomas to his office twice within twenty four hours, suggesting he may have already had doubts about the wisdom of his decision. Once the tour got underway, the mistakes began to pile up.

The first hint that all might not be well came with 'a rather alarming breakdown at Newcastle' when posters 'were lost on the road.' DICKENS was due to perform there later that month but when the events were finally announced he found that he was to read *Dombey and Son*, ('which I had no more intention of reading than I had of reading the solar system') instead of *David Copperfield*, a favourite with audience and reader alike. 'The unlucky Headland has broken down most awfully!' he told Georgina. Thomas had blamed both incidences on the printer and DICKENS seems willing to give him the benefit of the doubt (' I know that the man who never made a mistake in poor Arthur's time is not likely to be always making mistakes now,') while admitting that 'without him I would have done a hundred times better.'

The rest of the tour continued in the same manner: tickets and posters were lost or contained incorrect information, leading to scenes of chaos and at least one potentially life threatening situation when DICKENS reported from Edinburgh - 'My people were torn to ribbons last night. Amid a surging, roaring sea that overflowed everything' DICKENS's staff and doormen were left 'with not a hat and scarcely a coat amongst them.' Undated tickets had resulted in poor attendance on the first night and severe overcrowding on the second. With things rapidly getting out of control DICKENS made a desperate appeal for calm and disaster was narrowly averted. But all this was exhausting and time consuming for someone who expended a great deal of energy on his performance. He was not merely reading from his books but acting out the scenes to electrifying effect. The death of Nancy in *Oliver Twist* was so draining that he was forced to take a break and lie down, unable

to speak for a short time before a glass of champagne set him up for the remaining performance, and son Charley would later describe hearing disturbing sounds coming from the DICKENS's garden only to find it was his father rehearsing the murder scene on the lawn. The last thing he wanted was to be involved in the day to day business of the tours, and yet the man he now privately referred to as 'Blockheadland' or 'Block' was kept on. 'He is so anxious and so good tempered that I cannot be very stormy with him' he told Georgina. This from a man who would not hesitate to sever relations with a close friend if they displeased him and was known to be a perfectionist at home, checking rooms every morning and reprimanding anyone who failed to meet his high standards. ('He considered himself little less than a demi-god' according to a recent biographer 'once expressing the desire to "Loom as a fanciful thing over all London."') It seems unlikely that being anxious and good tempered would have been enough to save Thomas from being dismissed and, although I'm not suggesting he was privy to his employer's innermost secrets, as manager he would have undoubtedly had access to details of his day to day life. On tour they travelled and often dined together - and who knows what may have passed between them in the convivial atmosphere of the Kings Arms Hotel, Berwick on Tweed when after a particularly difficult day DICKENS made a jug of whiskey punch 'to drown the unlucky HEADLAND's remembrance of this failure'?).

The tour was brought to a premature halt with the death of Prince Albert and DICKENS retreated to his country home in Kent for the Christmas break. 1862 found Thomas still in post and DICKENS, sounding like a man on the edge, writing to Georgina about the situation in Cheltenham where he was due to read. ('I have no idea what we are doing here: no notion of whether things are right or wrong: no conception where the room is: no hold of the business at all.') A few months later he was telling Wilkie COLLINS 'The management of Block is so mortal bad, that I am in all good humour to get rid of him at the end of the series [of readings.] But I rather hope he may be murdered before it is over. I saw so many doubled fists flourished in his perspiring face last night that I trust his life may be considered in danger'. Clearly, things could not continue as they were and when the exhausted author decided to call a halt on the readings Thomas needed to find some other source of income. With his customary flair for reinvention he moved to Eastbourne where he ran the Sussex Hotel for 'families and gentlemen' and became a pillar of the local community. Meanwhile, DICKENS was spending more and more time abroad.

Between 1862 and 1865 he would cross the channel around seventy times. The destination was France and the reason for his journeys was rarely given leading to speculation that they were personal and therefore of no concern to anyone else. It was common knowledge that his marriage was over – indeed he had made sure it reached the widest possible audience by publishing a letter defending his decision to separate from Catherine and to quash rumours of an affair. As friends had feared this had the opposite effect, drawing even more attention to the situation and the young actress at the heart of it. The frequent trips abroad only served to fuel the speculation: Ellen's whereabouts were unknown and gossip of a pregnancy began to circulate. DICKENS was in France for a large part of 1862 from where he wrote to Wilkie COLLINS of having 'miserable anxieties' and 'unsettled fluctuating distress.' In early 1863 he told a friend that 'some unstringing of the nerves - coupled with an anxiety not to be mentioned here - holds sleep from me.' Daughter Katy would later reveal that Ellen had indeed been pregnant, with Katy's brother Henry confirming this, adding that the baby boy had died sometime before mid 1865, when Ellen TERNAN returned to England in the most dramatic of fashions.

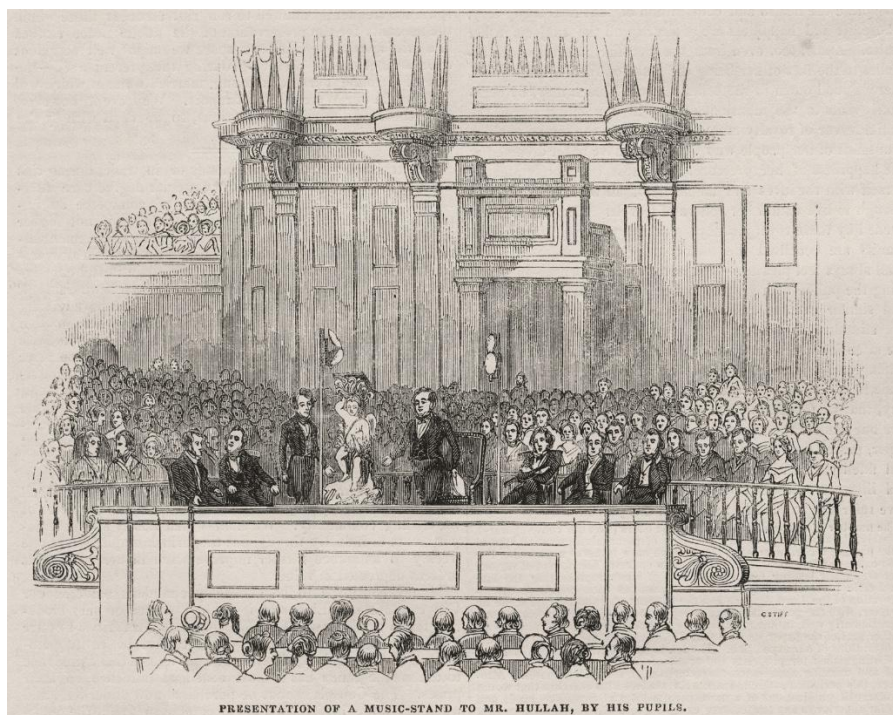
DICKENS went to great lengths to destroy all correspondence he received but a great many of his replies survive including one to Thomas HEADLAND after the Staplehurst Rail crash of June 1865. DICKENS had been travelling back from France with Ellen and her mother when the train left the track and toppled off a bridge. After climbing out off a window he returned to assist the injured (and retrieve the unfinished manuscript of *Our Mutual Friend*) while the TERNANs were spirited away before they could be identified as fellow passengers. Although we will never know what Thomas wrote in the letter sent shortly after we do have DICKENS's response in which he acknowledges his former manager's 'kind feeling' and 'affectionate good sense,' signing it 'Faithfully Your Friend.'

Before we condemn his hypocrisy perhaps we should consider that this complex character was also capable of acts of great kindness, such as inviting a teenage boy he rescued from the train wreck to spend the following Christmas with the family at his country home, Gad's Hill. (In 1862 Thomas was also invited to Gad's Hill - 'dinner is at six and you are welcome to stay the night' - though this was almost certainly to discuss potential readings in Paris). So perhaps he was genuinely fond of my bumbling ancestor and wanted to maintain a friendship – just as long as Thomas was not involved

in any aspect of his working life. There is some evidence that this may have been the case: a letter recently offered for sale has DICKENS passing on to Thomas good wishes from sons Frank and Alfred, its price reflected in the rarity of the author mixing business and family. And in 1865 the *Sussex Advertiser* lists Mr. Alfred DICKENS among the ‘Fashionable Arrivals’ at the Sussex Hotel.

From Eastbourne, Thomas continued to make the odd pitch for work but was always politely rebuffed. In 1866 DICKENS finally felt ready to resume touring but this time with a new manager, the genial George DOLBY whose party piece was the ability to stand on his head. He also had some of the first manager’s organizing skills and DICKENS was once more able to enjoy performing in a stress free environment. Meanwhile, Thomas was relishing his role as a hotel keeper while never forgetting his previous connections, adding ‘Late of St. Martin’s Hall, London’ after his name in hotel publicity. In 1864 he was ‘headhunted’ for the post of General Manager of the Stratford upon Avon Shakespeare tercentenary celebrations and described as having ‘experience of a most valuable kind.’ Newspapers credit Thomas for much of its success and it was gratifying to see him getting credit for once. He spent the rest of his life in the South coast resort and died there in 1888 aged eighty two, his obituary describing him as DICKENS’s Private Secretary and that he had been ‘full of anecdotes of the eminent novelist,’ which is exactly how I imagined him.

Although revisiting my research failed to produce any answers as to how Thomas had managed to keep his job it reminded me once again that he really has been the gift that keeps on giving. As well as making many contacts in the Dickens community, I was awarded twelve months free access to Findmypast records and their newspaper archive proved invaluable in piecing together details of Thomas’s life after DICKENS. Without them I would never have learned of his involvement in the Shakespeare celebrations or the kindness he showed by not pressing charges against the hotel’s washerwoman when she was caught stealing. I have also been inspired to research and write about characters and places on the periphery of this tale. None of this would have been possible had DICKENS not been a prolific letter writer, corresponding with friends and associates on an almost daily basis, and I remain profoundly grateful that the author of some of the greatest novels in English Literature left a record of my ancestor for me to fashion into something of my own.



Thomas Headland (with papers in hand) making a presentation to John Hullah,
Exeter Hall, London, 1851.

Reproduced by kind permission of Janet Snowman.

Sources:

A.N. Wilson in *The Mail on Sunday*, 24 May 2020

Charles Dickens A Life by Claire Tomalin (Penguin Books Ltd, 2020)

Charles Dickens As I Knew Him by George Dolby (Elibron Classics, 1885)

Dickens The Enchanter by Peter Conrad (Bloomsbury Continuum, 2024)

Project Gutenberg <https://www.gutenberg.org>

The Letters of Charles Dickens Edited by His Sister in Law and His Eldest Daughter
(Chapman And Hall, 1880)

The Sussex Advertiser, 8 January 1888



OUT AND ABOUT

Barnet Medieval Festival, 7 and 8 June

This was the 6th Medieval Festival (although only the second we have



A company of soldiers

attended) and was at Fold Farm, Galley Lane, Barnet a new larger venue this year. The fact that Fold Farm is also the home of Lewis of London Ice Cream certainly seemed a good thing to our helpers! The Festival commemorates the Battle of Barnet, an important battle fought during the Wars of the Roses. This took place

on Easter Sunday, 14 April 1471 in thick fog at Gladmore Heath, a now unknown location near Barnet. This year there were over 500 re-enactors taking part, arranged in 40 different households each with their own livery. There were men-at-arms, archers, royalty, mounted knights and civilians represented and most stayed the weekend in a living history encampment. The weather was a bit mixed on Saturday but on Sunday the sun came out and the place was packed.

Our stand was in a small marquee with other similar societies: the Battlefield Trust, Barnet Museum, the Richard III Society, Hendon and District Archaeological Society and the Barnet Society.

Our team of Clare, Elaine and Elizabeth were kept busy talking to visitors and our Finchley Parish Guide was unexpectedly the most popular. Of course, few of us have managed to trace our ancestors back to medieval days but we do include manorial records in our research guides as these are one of the best sources of early name mentions.

Next year is the 555th anniversary of the Battle of Barnet and it is hoped to mark it with a spectacular event. We intend to be there again so do contact Karen at: events@lwmfhs.org if you would like to join us.



Clare on our stall

Coming up...

London Westminster & Middlesex FHS will be going to the following events in the next few months. Are we are coming to one near you? We are always happy to welcome extra volunteers to help out. You do not have to be an expert, just enjoy chatting to people about family history. It lets our main helpers have a short break and is actually good fun! If you could help at any for an hour or two, please contact Karen at: events@lwmfhs.org

The Family History Show, 4 October



This is one of the largest family history shows in England and is the main London one. It will be

held on Saturday 4 October from 10am-4pm at Kempton Park Racecourse. This show is organised by *Discover Your Ancestors* magazine and sponsored by The Genealogist subscription website. There are many local societies, archive companies and genealogical suppliers exhibiting, including us. You can book a free one-to-one session to with Nick Barratt, Amelia Bennett and Donna Rutherford and there are free talks held throughout the day, including ones by the three experts. Early-bird tickets bought in advance cost £14 for two and include a free goody bag on entry. Tickets on the day will be £12 per person. There is a café and also space to eat your own food. Ample free parking is on site but the venue also has a train station 200 yards from the North entrance with trains running every half an hour from Waterloo.

For more information visit: <https://thefamilyhistoryshow.com/london/>

Oxfordshire Family History Society Fair, 25 October



This fair will be held on Saturday 25 October from 10am-4pm at Cherwell School North Site, Marston Ferry Road, Oxford, OX2 7EE.

If you are new to family history research and not sure where to start, or you are experienced but always looking for more information to support your research, a family history fair is a great place to come. You will find many

experts willing to help you, including local Oxfordshire ones and family history societies from further afield. All this free advice and plenty of goodies to buy! Entry is free and refreshments are available. There is some parking on site. Visit their website for further information, including how to get there on public transport: <https://www.ofhs.uk/whats-on/fairs/ofhs-family-history-fair-2025-2>

West Surrey Family History Society Family History Fair, 8 November



This fair will take place on Saturday 8 November from 10am-4.30pm at Woking Leisure Centre, Kingfield Road, Woking GU22 9BA.

West Surrey FHS brings many of its indexes, lists and transcriptions of local records and there is usually a large selection from the West Surrey FHS Reference Library to look at including, London/Middlesex items (such as the Victorian A-Z of London) and others that cover the whole country. Volunteers will be on hand to give help and advice with these resources. There will also be specialist help desks and free talks.

Expert advice will be on hand with guest societies from around the Home Counties and beyond, including us, local heritage groups; suppliers of data CDs, maps, software, archival materials and much more.

There is free admission to the fair and free parking for 3 hours.

For more information visit: <https://wsfhs.co.uk/pages/openday.php>

FHF Really Useful Family History Show online, 14 and 15 November

The Family History Federation's Really Useful Family History Show is an online event which will take place on Friday 14 November from 10am to 10pm and on Saturday 15 November from 10am to 6pm. Usually, on the Friday, the Exhibition Hall is free and anyone can go and visit all of the exhibitors and ask them questions. Tickets for the event allow access on the Saturday to workshops and presentations by leading experts as well. These will be available for some time afterwards to watch at your leisure. Further information was not yet available as we went to press but you can find out more information in due course here: <https://www.fhf-reallyuseful.com/>

Can You Help at Any of These Events?

Please email Karen at:

events@lwmfhs.org

THE FUNERAL CARDS AND THE OTHER WHITES

by Robert Wilkinson, Member No. 8019

After Beattie's passing, I acquired a collection of seven funeral cards, which languished, like my research, for some years in a dusty folder. When I eventually began to research these cards, the foregoing story of the WHITES developed new dimensions and further insights were gained.



Mary Ann ANDREWS (née WHITE) is the subject of the first card below. (One for Alfred is in the article about

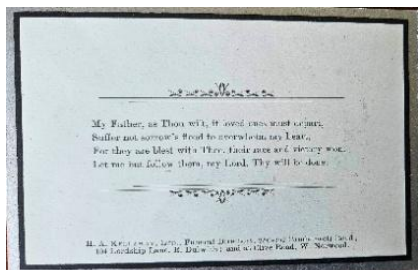
his naval career, which was published in *Metropolitan* March 2025). The main part of the card says: 'In Affectionate Remembrance of Mary Ann ANDREWS, Who died 26th April 1919, Aged 56 Years. Interred at Forest Hill Cemetery, In Grave No. 25924.'



This card has a poem on the reverse: 'Relieved from sorrow, sin and pain, And free from every care; By Angels' hands to heaven conveyed, To rest for ever there'. Underneath this is noted: 'E & I Dunn, Undertakers, 79 High Street, Peckham; & 16, Denmark Hill.'

Another sibling of Mary Ann was Charles William WHITE (junior, 1872-1928), whose funeral card follows. According to a note I had made long ago from Beattie's information, it would appear that he had a family bible – whether this was the prayer book discussed in March or whether there is a WHITE family bible out there somewhere, I can only guess... Another odd little note I had originally scribbled was that 'there was some special reason for not getting the Wordsworth money – to do with name?' Perhaps it was WARDSWORTH after all, who knows? One other area of mystery though, is that Charles William is shown as a widower, when he married in 1898. The children from this 1898 marriage match names originally given to me by Beattie, but nothing at all is known about any previous marriage.

His funeral card reads: 'In ever loving memory of Charles William White, Who passed away 5th November 1928, Aged 72 Years. Interred at Camberwell New Cemetery'.



The poem on the reverse, pictured here says: 'My Father, as Thou wilt, if loved ones, must depart, Suffer not sorrow's flood to overwhelm my heart, For they are blest with Thee, their race and victory won, Let me but follow them,

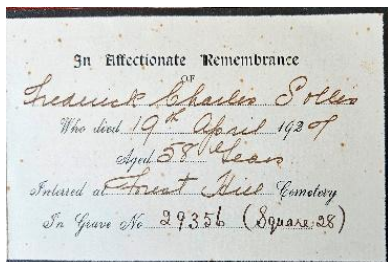
my Lord, Thy will be done.' The undertakers are noted here as H.A. KELLAWAY Ltd., Funeral Directors, 250-252 Camberwell Road; 104 Lordship Lane, E. Dulwich; and at Clive Road, W. Norwood.

The only other sibling of Mary Ann not mentioned so far was said to have christened his children 'WORDSWORTH-WHITE' and this would likely be Henry, born 1865, who I have in my old notes as 'Harry'. He himself does appear in some later records as WORDSWORTH-WHITE.

Amongst photographs given to me by Beattie, two were supposed to be of her uncles, one paternal (James) and one maternal (Harry). James has been identified by other relatives, so presumably the one on the right would be Harry, but I'm not entirely sure as I may have a note that this is from 1881, which would make him aged 16. Hopefully I will either find the note, or discover that the photo is from a few years later...



The next card is that of Frederick Charles SOLLIS, whose card appears here and shows he died on 19 April 1926 aged 58 and usefully includes the fact that he was interred at Forest Hill Cemetery in grave number 29365, square 28.



A poem is again included: 'A bitter grief, a shock severe, To part with one we loved so dear, Our loss is great-we'll not complain, But hope in Heaven to meet

again. In this case the undertakers are J.H. BILLES & Son of 282 Southampton Street, Camberwell, S.E.

The next card is for Susannah Maria WHITE (née WORDSWORTH). It reads: In ever loving memory of Our Dear Mother, Susannah Maria WHITE, Who passed away March 3rd 1909, Aged 81 Years. Interred at Hampstead Cemetery. No undertaker is mentioned but there is a memorial verse: 'Not dead, but gone to meet beyond the sky, The ones she loved on earth in days gone by; Not lost, but gone to wait, amid the blest, Loved ones who soon will follow her to rest.'



With all this unravelling of the WHITE family going on, I had turned my attention to Peter HINSON, one of the witnesses on the marriage certificate when Beattie's widowed father, Alfred, had married Mary Ann WHITE in



This photograph is marked 'with love from Elsie and children, Oct 1941'. I believe that this is Elsie Petherick and her children Roy and Pat.

1898. I discovered that he was a Covent Garden market porter, born at Crowland in Lincolnshire in 1846. He had earlier been widowed before marrying Matilda Maria BROWN (1863-1933) and the children of one daughter, Elsie PETHERICK (née HINSON) were known to have kept in touch with Beattie. But it was Matilda's mother, Mary Ann BROWN (b1837) who turned out to be the missing link to this, for she had been none

other than Mary Ann LANCASTER, who, as it turned out, would have been half-sister to Susannah Maria WORDSWORTH. Mary Ann had married Oliver BROWN (1833-1883) and, it seems, after becoming widowed, then married Emmanuel LYON becoming a stepmother to his son Henry (born ca 1866).

I have Matilda's funeral card, which reads: In ever loving memory of Matilda Maria HINSON, Who passed away 20th December 1933 aged 70 Years. Interred at Tooting Cemetery Grave No 1110 I 3rd Con. The undertakers were J. MARSHALL & Son, 52 Clapham Park Road, S.W. Tel Macaulay 2944. Matilda's poem says: God saw when the footsteps faltered, When the pathway had grown too steep, So He touched the drooping eyelids, And gave His loved one sleep.'

Much of this story has gradually emerged over a number of years of intermittent research. The funeral cards helped to make sense of things but there are plenty of loose ends and mysteries as yet unsolved. However I have long thought it would be useful to others to share what I have understood from this so far.

The baby Joyce COLLINS whose funeral card appears below, is one of the mysteries, though Beattie's' address book revealed a possible brother. Still, I don't really understand where she fits in as yet, but the family lived at 6 Lanhill Road in Paddington (one of many roads recalled by Beattie from her childhood). Her card reads: In loving memory of Joyce COLLINS, Who departed this life 2nd January 1927, Age 1 Month. Interred at Paddington Cemetery. Undertakers: Kenyon Funeral Furnishers, 25 Malvern Road, West Kilburn. 'The Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away; Blessed be the Name of the Lord'.



Perhaps someone out there recognises one of their own relatives in this tale. It's a story that continues to develop (as they say) whenever I happen to research it further and I believe it may yet shed some further light on the story of my own Andrews ancestors in Marylebone...

Sources:

Notes from Beattie's memory and items passed on to me

Census records 1841-1921

Civil Registration and Parish Records

Original Marriage Certificate for Alfred's second marriage 1898

Funeral Cards acquired from Beattie's estate

Family Photographs

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

Help!

subsequent entry and for all entries from non-members. Don't forget to include your contact details and your membership number.

Please send any replies to the Editors, who will pass them on to the appropriate member.

John RYLAND

My 3x great-grandfather was John RYLAND, not an uncommon name but his occupation was listed on children's marriage records as either drawing master, music master or artist. I found him listed in 1802 in Homerton in a directory and his marriage (as a widower) to Anna SAUNDERS of Buckinghamshire in 1804 in Hackney.

There are birth records for a John RYLAND in St James Piccadilly in 1761 to a Richard RYLAND and Sarah STREEKE (occupation?). There is a Richard RYLAND, son of Edward and Mary RYLAND born 31 October 1736 in St Sepulchre, Holborn.

The family line I was, perhaps erroneously, pursuing was another Edward and Mary (Ride) RYLAND, also having children at the same time in St Martin's Ludgate, London. (Their son Robert was born 18 days after Richard.) This second family were artists, engravers (parents of the infamous forger William Wynne RYLAND), print sellers, and stationers and that is why I tend to lean towards their artistic family for connections with John. A biography online of William Wynne states his father Edward, an engraver, had seven sons but I can only find four.

John's son Nestor (my 2x great grandfather) was a wheelwright and smith, but three of Nestor's young sons were listed in the 1861 census as stationer's assistants. Again I wondered if there is a family connection due to occupation.

It is so hard to have a set theory and not see a way around it. Hoping you can give me suggestions and direction to go forward!

Denise Mitchell, Member No. 8637

Note: Following likely ancestors to see what happened to them, as you are doing, is definitely the best way to proceed and there could well be

a family connection due to occupation. Engravers and stationers may have had to do an apprenticeship. These records and freedom registers from the Worshipful Company of Stationers and Newspaper Makers have been transcribed and are available for free on the Records of Livery Companies Online website here: <https://www.londonroll.org/> They date from 1534-1886 and 53 RYLAND people are mentioned here (including William Wynne RYLAND) so definitely worth a look. The whole Company archive is housed at the Tokefield Centre, Stationers' Hall, Ave Maria Lane, London EC4. You can contact their archivist for more information by emailing: clerk@stationers.org

George and Charles LEE

I'm seeking marriages for brothers Charles LEE (1787-?) and George LEE (1789-1831), both baptised at St Anne & St Agnes in the City of London, sons of George LEE [senior] and Hannah, whose marriage is also elusive.

Charles LEE (1787-?), son of George LEE of St Martin le Grand, carver and gilder was apprenticed from 1802 to January 1810 to William STROUD, silversmith and polisher of Burleigh Street, Strand. Charles was recorded as a carver and gilder of Fleet Lane when his son Charles (1818-?) was baptised at St Andrew Holborn. Charles junior's mother was Charlotte.

Charles senior's first two children by Sarah were baptised in 1828 and 1830. He was still a carver and gilder but of Mason Street, Lambeth. Subsequent children, baptised between 1833 and 1836 also at St John the Evangelist, Lambeth, show their father's occupation as Gentleman of Mason Street.

George LEE (1789-1831) son of George LEE of St Martin le Grand, carver and gilder was apprenticed to Samuel EWSTER, vellum binder of 39 St Martin le Grand. He married Jane and had 5 children. He was recorded to be a carver and gilder of Fleet Lane when his sons George (1819-1878) and Henry (1821-?) were baptised at St Andrew Holborn in 1821; and when daughters Jane (1823, died as an infant) and Jane Caroline, (1825) were both baptised at St Sepulchre, Holborn. His last child Sarah Ann was baptised in 1827 at St John the Evangelist, Lambeth, when George was a 'gent' of Mason Street. The children's mother Jane emigrated to Australia with her children after George's death. Jane's maiden may be BENNETT as stated on her death certificate by the husband of her youngest child born in Australia; no given name stated.

Her son George (1819-1878) may have emigrated separately as he is in the 1841 census in Mason Street, Lambeth staying with his uncle Charles LEE.

Hoping this is not too convoluted a story to find marriages of these two brothers and perhaps their parents.

Sue Hewitt, Member No. 8596

Note: Registers from churches in the area now known as Greater London are mainly at The London Archives and online on Ancestry. There is a George LEE marrying a Hannah KERSHAW on 15 October 1783 at St Andrew Holborn who might be worth investigating. The first child of your George and Hannah who was baptised at St Anne & St Agnes was a George, born 6 November, baptised 6 December 1784 (who may well be the one buried there on 17 October 1788) which would fit well with this marriage. We couldn't see any other children of this couple baptised in this church apart from the two you mention.

However, George LEE senior, frame maker, carver and gilder, is mentioned in the British and Irish Furniture Makers Online website (see Website News on page 196). He is shown as living at 49 St Martin le Grand in 1792, number 39 from 1807-1819, 49 Little Britain in 1820 (when he is listed as George Lee & Co) and 59 St Martin le Grand in 1825. Looking in our booklet *The Streets of the City of London in 1851*, the street of St Martin le Grand passed through 4 parishes: St Anne & St Agnes, St Leonard Foster Lane, St Michael le Querne and Christ Church Newgate Street. It might be worth checking these baptism registers too, to get a full picture of the family. These can be found in the 'All London, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1538-1812' database on Ancestry. St Leonard Foster Lane baptisms appear under Christ Church Newgate Street because the parishes were united following the Great Fire in 1666.

Looking on Ancestry, there are a few George LEEs marrying Janes in the correct time frame. These are mainly south of the river but would be worth investigating. Charles also appears in BIFMO as a carver and gilder at 23 Fleet Street in 1822. We could not see any likely looking marriages for him either to a Charlotte or a Sarah.

It is possible that the family were members of a City Livery Company. Maybe the Worshipful Company of Joiners and Ceilers? Their archive is at The London Archives and includes all sorts of potentially useful records. Or possibly the Worshipful Company of Carpenters, whose

archive is at the same place? The worshipful Company of Furniture Makers was only created in 1963 so it cannot be them.

John David SMITH

My great grandfather, John David SMITH was born on 19 December 1850 at 22 New Peter Street (a bad place according to police records. I think this was a very bad part of town and that the street name has been changed. More info required.) He worked at Broadwoods piano factory as a cabinet maker for 24 years. He met Mary Ann TIJOU (daughter of Henry TIJOU who did the gilding of the tabernacle at Wardour Castle) and got married on 16 January 1875 in Lambeth. These early years are what I am looking for.



The Smith family in about 1908. Louise Ethel, Gilbert Frank, Cecilia Jessie, Harold William, Walter John, May Kathleen, Teresa Margarite, Daisy Millicent, Charles Tijou.

They had a few kids and moved to Canada. The story goes that the family sold some silver so they could move to Canada where John David's sister was married to Frederick LOWER. They moved from Barrie to Gravenhurst and had 14 children, 5 died in child birth.

John David left with one son in 1897 to go back to England for a better job. John David got a girlfriend who was a second cousin called Maria DIXON. The son went home to Canada and told mom and she hung herself at age 45. John David married the cousin and had one kid, John Henry SMITH, and a year later John David died. I think that John Henry was given up for adoption to a family named BREWITT.

Always looking for more info. Where do I start with LWMFHS?

Dave Repol, Member No. 8695

Note: The SMITH family were in New Peter Street at the time of the 1861 census but by 1871 were at Winchester Terrace, which seems to have been near where Ponsonby Terrace is today, just north of Vauxhall Bridge Road and much nearer to the Thames. New Peter Street, by the way, can be seen on Horwood's *Plan of London* dated 1792-9 (which is online here: <https://www.romanticlondon.org/>). It runs south of Great Peter Street (opposite Perkins Rents) and turns west, ending on Horseferry Road. The houses are numbered on this plan and number 22 is towards the western end. The road is called Chadwick Street now and where 22 stood is Block K of the Horseferry Road Estate, part of the Peabody Estate. Perkins Rents and the surrounding area was a notorious slum in Victorian days, with very poor housing. Old Pye Street, at the northern end of Perkins Rents was the first to be cleared with new housing blocks constructed in 1862. The Horseferry Road Estate was the last to be built, in 1922. The Broadwood Piano factory was on Horseferry Road, so a short walk from either address or, indeed, from Lambeth.

Seven children born to John David and Mary Ann can be identified in the GRO Birth Indexes: May Kathleen SMITH born AMJ 1877, Lambeth; Louise Ethel SMITH born OND 1878, Lambeth; Walter John SMITH born JAS 1880, Lambeth; Harold William SMITH born JFM 1882 Lambeth; Theresa Marguerite SMITH born JAS 1883 Camberwell; Cecilia Jessie SMITH born OND 1884 Lambeth; Winifred Matilda SMITH born OND 1885 Lambeth. In all of these except May Kathleen (when it is TYON), the mother's maiden name is shown as TIJON.

Theresa Margaret SMITH died aged 0 in Lambeth in 1884 and Winifred Matilda aged 0 in Wandsworth in 1886. There was a Walter SMITH who

died aged 2 in Lambeth in 1883 who is also potentially their brother. You can get digital images of all of these for £3 each, should you wish to trace the family's addresses. These are delivered by email instantly:

<https://www.gov.uk/order-copy-birth-death-marriage-certificate>

John Henry SMITH, with a mother whose maiden name was DIXON, was born in AMJ 1900 at Lambeth. Again, you can obtain a digital image for £3. This would give you his exact date of birth, which you might be able to marry up with the many John Henry SMITHs who died later and/or locate him in the 1939 Register using his birth date. John Henry's baptism appears in the register of St Mary the Less, Lambeth, on 24 June. His parents are John David and Annie Maria SMITH, pianoforte maker of 10 Vauxhall Walk. This lets us find the marriage of John David SMITH and Annie Maria DIXON in OND 1899 at Lambeth. You can't get a digital copy of this one but you probably ought to get this certificate. In the 1901 census returns, the family can be seen at 12 Vauxhall Walk. Also living in the house are Maria DIXON, a widow aged 45 and her daughters Alice aged 19, Ethel B aged 14 and May, aged 9 (together with 3 boarders). Surely this is not a coincidence?

Louisa Worthington BROMLEY

I am researching Louisa Worthington BROMLEY (1776-1862) who appears on the 1841 and 1851 census returns living in Enfield Town, being recorded as an annuitant. Louisa's gravestone says that she was the only child of Henry BROMLEY (1754? and his wife Anna Maria, née WORTHINGTON (1750-1823?). I have not found her on the 1861 census. However she died on 18 August 1862 at Great Baddow, Essex, and was subsequently buried back at St Andrew's churchyard in Enfield.

We believe the house she died in was my 3x great grandfather's house at Great Baddow. In Louisa's probate record on Ancestry it says she left a sum of money (several thousand pounds) to my 3x great grandfather Henry RAYNER. Henry may have then used this money to build a new family house at South Hanningfield, Essex. The new house was named 'Bromley Lodge'.

Louisa's gravestone also makes reference to the fact that she could not be buried in the family vault (in London) as it had been closed by Act of Parliament. Does LWMFHS have access to details of any family vaults in

London closed by Acts of Parliament (assumed to be either for the family name of BROMLEY or WORTHINGTON)?

We believe Louisa may have been a relative of Henry RAYNER's wife Susannah SHEEHAN, whose mother was Sarah Wilhelmina WORTHINGTON? However we are yet to prove this is the case. Also my great grandfather continued the use of the Worthington name, as he was Albert Worthington JENKINS. Does anyone in the LWMFHS have an interest in either the BROMLEY or WORTHINGTON family names?

Also of interest to us is the fact that Louisa was an annuitant, so what was the source of this annuity?

Looking forward to hearing from you with details of any further possible sources of family history research that you may be able to suggest.

Andrew Jenkins, Member No. 8617

Note: The newspaper reports of her death mention that Louisa died at South Villa, Great Baddow on 18 Aug 1862. However, she does not appear in the 1861 Census returns for South Villa, Great Baddow, RG9 1082 F93 P13 Schedule 66. Living there is widow Anne CLARANCE with her three adult children, several boarders and a servant. It seems a little unusual that this elderly woman was not there just 16 months before she died. It might be worth checking the rates and other records for Great Baddow to see who lived where and when. These are at Essex Record Office. Could Louisa have been being looked after at some local hospital or with a relative?

The Burial Acts of the 1850s closed down just about all of the central London burial places, both churchyards and vaults. There is almost certainly no list of the vaults thus closed but the churches will probably be named in the archive of the Diocese of London at The London Archives, Ref: DL. Burials in these vaults will be listed in the burial registers of the various churches - they will probably not say that they are vault burials but you never know. These registers are on Ancestry UK but we've found that you need to specify the 'All London, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1538-1812' resource to get targeted results from London.

Being an annuitant just means you are receiving income from a source such as property, shares, a trust or similar. If you obtain a copy of her Will, it will almost certainly state the source of her money. Using details

from the probate record on Ancestry, you can download a copy of her Will for £1.50 here: <https://www.gov.uk/search-will-probate>

Have you managed to find a Will for her parents? These might also help with where Louisa's money came from and could also include a preferred place of burial for them. If they died before 1858 (as seems likely) then their Will/s would have been proved in the church courts. The first port of call should be the Prerogative Court of Canterbury (PCC) collection. There is a handy Research Guide, which contains more information about early Wills and how to find them, on The National Archives' website and post 1858 PCC Wills can also be downloaded from here. These are £3.50 each, or free if you sign in: <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/wills-or-administrations-before-1858/>

No one in LWMFHS is currently researching either the BROMLEY or WORTHINGTON family names but both appear in the Surname Index in the Members' Area of our website as being mentioned in local outer London graveyards and in our journal. You can access this here: <https://lwmfhs.org/members-area/>

Sarah Ann GOLDEN/GOLDING

I am trying to find anything about my ancestor Sarah Ann GOLDEN or possibly GOLDING. Her death entry in Guernsey states GOLDEN. She was born in 1813 in Middlesex with a possible father Charles GOLDEN, also born in Middlesex. I suspect he was in the Army (they are a nightmare to find). I cannot find a marriage for her to a soldier John THOMAS born in Whitechapel 1809. First child James born Middlesex 1833/34.

Sian Davies, Member No. 8585

Note: The General Register Office (GRO) kept a separate register of British Army regimental births and baptisms, which starts in 1761 in England and Wales and around 1790 in other countries, and continued until 1924. They include births in the United Kingdom and abroad. You should be able to obtain one from the usual GRO website: <https://www.gov.uk/order-copy-birth-death-marriage-certificate>

It could be worth looking at the Findmypast databases 'British Armed Forces and Overseas Births and Baptisms', and British Armed Forces and

Overseas Banns and Marriages', both of which include many potentially useful sources.

The Attestation and Discharge documents of John THOMAS from the 46th Regiment of Foot are provided on Findmypast. They show that he signed up on 17 October 1833, giving his age as 24 years and 9 months (hence born about January 1809) and stating that he was unmarried and by trade a white smith. Checking the date of birth, we noted that there was one James THOMAS baptised 6 October 1833 in Battersea, Surrey to parents John and Sarah Ann THOMAS. Although this is not the Middlesex location noted in your request, it does seem more likely correct than the James Tyrell THOMAS born 1831 and baptised 3 June 1832 at St. Marylebone to John Henry and Sarah THOMAS, even though this is obviously in Middlesex. Either baptism, however, may cast doubt on the truth of his statement that he was unmarried on enlistment, although this may have been connected to whether a wife would go on the regimental establishment (unlikely for a new recruit). We have not been able to find a marriage in the relevant time period either.

He was discharged as unfit for further service on 26 December 1854, with the rank of Serjeant, intending to live in Guernsey. This Regiment was active in the Crimea during his final year of service. Have you looked at the Medal Rolls from the Crimea to see if he is named there? He did not appear on Findmypast under "Medal Rolls and Honours" so perhaps he did not serve there but worth a look.

Also, as a serviceman 'unfit for further service', he might have been eligible for a pension. Army pension records are in the collection of the Royal Hospital Chelsea, which are at The National Archives, Ref: WO 97, with some (but not all) online at Findmypast. Some records here are also available to download as a digital microfilm from The National Archive's website. Check for details of which have been digitised here: <https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/C14305>



SURNAME INTERESTS

The research interests listed here were submitted by members between mid-May and mid-August 2025.

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: 8263; 8593; 8595; 8620; 8640; 8644; 8652; 8673; 8683; 8695; 8700; 8702; 8703; 8705; 8708

Name	Period	County	Parish / Area	Mem.No.
ALLMAN	All	ERY	All	8652
ARNALL	1870-1900	MDX	Holborn	8673
ARNELL	1870-1900	MDX	Holborn	8673
ARNOLD	1870-1900	MDX	Holborn	8673
BALLS	1790-1850	MDX	St Andrew, Holborn	8644
BALLS	1815-1850	MDX	St Bartholomew the Great, Smithfield	8644
BALLS	1820-1850	MDX	St James, Clerkenwell	8644
BALLS	1850-1870	MDX	St Botolph, Aldersgate	8644
BANKS	1820-1900	MDX	St George Hanover Squ.	8702
BEAVER	1700-1787	MDX	St James, Westminster	8595
BILLANEY	All	ERY	All	8652
BILLANY	All	ERY	All	8652
BOSWORTH	c1740-1900	MDX	Highgate, Hornsey	8700
BROOKS	Up to 1950	MDX	Palmers Green	8263
CHECUCCI	1760-1827	MDX	St George, Hanover Squ	8708
CHECUCCI	1760-1827	MDX	St James Piccadilly	8708
CHECUCCI	1700-1860	Any	Any	8708
CAYTON	c1700-1800	MDX	Ealing	8700
CUTLER	1600-1800	BKN	All	8640
DAINTREE	1741-1835	MDX	St Clement Danes	8683
DALBY	1810-1870	MDX	St Pancras	8703
DALBY	All	ERY	Howden	8703
DAVIS	1780-1810	MDX	St James, Paddington	8595
DAVIS	1810-1850	MDX	St Pancras	8595
DEWAR	1909-1912	MDX	Camden	8683
EVANS	1850-1900	MDX	St Margaret, New Fish Street	8703

FALKINGHAM	All	All	All	8652
FALKINGHAM	All	All	All	8652
FRY	1890-1894	MDX	Edmonton	8620
GOUGH	1750-1860	MDX	St James, Westminster	8705
GOUGH	1750-1860	MDX	Marylebone	8705
GRIMMOTT	1600-1800	GLS	All	8640
GRIMMOTT	1700-1900	OXF	All	8640
GRIMMOTT	1800-2000	LND	All	8640
GRIMMOTT	1700-2000	WOR	All	8640
GRIMMOTT	1700-2000	WAR	All	8640
HAMILTON	1820-1900	MDX	Islington	8702
HANSON	1850-1894	MDX	St Botolph, Aldersgate	8620
HENLEY	1600-1740	MDX	Hornsey, Finchley	8703
HENLEY	1800-1850	MDX	St Clement Danes and adjacent parishes	8703
HENLEY	1700-1900	BDF	Woburn	8703
HENLEY	1810	SSX	Brighton	8703
HERRICK	1800-1900	MDX	Clerkenwell	8702
HERRICK	1820-1900	MDX	Islington	8702
HERRICK	1820-1900	MDX	St George Hanover Squ.	8702
HINE	1700s-1813	MDX	Clerkenwell, St James	8593
HINE	1813-1835	MDX	St Luke, Old Street	8593
HINE	1835-1852	MDX	Clerkenwell, St James	8593
HINE	1838-1875	MDX	Islington, St Mary	8593
HOBART	c1650-1800	MDX	Aldgate, Clerkenwell, Cripplegate	8700
JARVIS	1715 to date	MDX	St Dunstan in the West	8620
KELSEY	1815-1850	MDX	St Bartholomew the Great, Smithfield	8644
KIRBY	c1730-1815	MDX	Barnet, Hendon	8700
LAKE	c1770-1870	MDX	Hendon	8700
LAMBORNE	c1700-1800	MDX	Hendon, Hornsey	8700
LAMMAS	c1770-1930	MDX	Barnet, Hendon	8700
LEWIS	1870-1900	MDX	Holborn	8673
LUCK	c1850-1900	MDX	Barnet	8700
MARSHALL	1874-1945	MDX	Islington, St Mary	8673
MOODY	1700-1900	BRK	All	8640
MURPHY	1780-1848	MDX	Bloomsbury, St George	8593
NORTH	1700-2000	LND	All	8640
NORTH	1700-2000	ERY	All	8640
QUICK	1750 to date	MDX	Westminster	8705
RACK	All	All	All	8652
RACKE	All	All	All	8652
RATHBONE	1825-1854	MDX	Islington and St Pancras	8595
RAWBONE	1825-1824	MDX	Islington and St Pancras	8595
RICHEY	1840-1860	MDX	Islington	8595

SEARS	1700-1900	BKM	All	8640
SEARS	1800-1900	BRK	All	8640
SEARS	1700-1900	OXF	All	8640
SEYMOUR	1785	MDX	Hanover Square, St George	8593
SEYMOUR	1805-1849	MDX	Somerstown	8593
SLEAP	c1700-1900	MDX	Hornsey	8700
SMITH	1800-1890	MDX	Westminster	8695
THISTLEWAITE	All	ERY	All	8652
TIJOU	1850-1890	MDX	Westminster	8695
TONGRACK	All	All	All	8652
TONG-RACK	All	All	All	8652
TONG-WRACK	All	All	All	8652
TRACE	1700 to date	MDX	Westminster	8705
TRICE	1700 to date	MDX	Westminster	8705
WARDELL	1770-2000	MDX	Islington, Ealing	8705
WEBB	1783-1874	MDX	Westminster, St Giles in the Fields	8593
WHITE	1700-1840	MDX	St Clement Danes	8703
WILLEY	1840-1900	MDX	St Margaret, New Fish Street	8703
WILLEY	All	WRY	Sheffield. Rotherham	8703
WRACK	All	All	All	8652

SPECIAL INTERESTS

8620	Henry HANSON , born in Germany. Son of Richard. Occupation - Tailor
8640	GRIMMETT , UK and worldwide, One name study. Including GRIMMITT and GRIMMETTE
8695	BROADWOODS Piano factory , 1865-1880 in New Peter Street.
8702	HERRICK , One name study
8703	HENLEY and WHITE families in service or trade suppliers to Dukes of Bedford
8703	WILLEY family , cutlers with links to Sheffield, Liverpool and Birmingham
8705	GOUGH where are their origins?
8705	Brick wall: Mary WARDELL and her illegitimate son John born in Gravel Lane workhouse, Islington in 1786
8708	CHECUCCI, CHECCUCCI

We welcome the new members, number 8690-8718 who have joined the Society over the past few months and wish them well with their research.



FORTHCOMING BRANCH MEETINGS

Virtual Branch – Talks are on the second Thursday of the month. ‘Doors’ open at 7.45 for an 8pm start. To attend, you have to initially register an interest by emailing: virtualbranch@lwmfhs.org (This is once only - you do not need to register for each talk). The details of each Zoom meeting will then be emailed to you a few days prior to the event as well as being announced in *Metropolitan*, on our website and Facebook page.

The talk will be recorded (with the speaker’s permission) and will be available in the Members’ Area of the website so that members who live abroad or those who can’t make the live event can watch it at a hopefully more convenient time.

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

- 11 September *Suffragettes and Suffragists* by Debbie Bradley
Debbie looks at how these movements started and introduces some of those involved in the first groups. She shows how to research your suffragette ancestors and provides information about the prominent ladies of Norfolk who campaigned to obtain the Vote for Women.
- 9 October *Brown’s Hotel, London* by Andy Williamson
Opened in 1832, Brown’s Hotel, which is London’s oldest luxury hotel, has hosted everyone from Agatha Christie to King Zog. For its first century it was run by two families: the Browns and the Fords. Andy, author of *Brown’s Hotel: A Family Affair*, reveals the trail of archive research and red herrings that led to the uncovering of the truth behind these owners.
- 14 November *Help! My Ancestor has Vanished!* by Simon Fowler
One common problem faced by family historians is that ancestors suddenly vanish from the records for no apparent reason. This presentation looks at three main reasons why this might be so: the researcher has made a mistake, there is a problem with the records, and the ancestor has genuinely gone missing.
- 11 December *Frost Fairs and Freezes* by Ian Currie
A look at 1000 years of famous winters when rivers including the mighty Thames froze and remarkable events took place on the ice.

Barnet Branch

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

Members who used to attend the Barnet Branch have been meeting informally on and off, usually in the café in Oak Hill Park, East Barnet. If you would like to join in, please leave your contact details with Clare at the email address above so that you can be informed of future get-togethers.

Rayners Lane Branch

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

It is no longer viable for the Branch to host monthly meetings in the Roxeth Church with visiting speakers. However a core of keen members would like to continue with meeting occasionally for discussions. Tony Allen has offered to host these in his house in Pinner.

It is on a convenient bus route (H12 to Wax Well Lane stop) that connects up stations on a variety of lines. (the stations are South Harrow, Rayners Lane, Pinner, Hatch End, and Stanmore). Car parking is also available. The first meeting will be on Monday 6 October 1.00 for 1.30. Please contact Tony using the email above for details.

LWMFHS members are also welcome to attend the following meetings:

Midland Ancestors London and Home Counties Group – Talks are held on the second Saturday of each quarter from 10.15am to noon at the LDS Hyde Park Chapel, 64-68 Princes Gate, Exhibition Road, South Kensington SW7 2PA. For more information you can visit the group's webpage: <https://midland-ancestors.uk/about/local-groups/london-group/>

East Surrey Southwark Group – Talks are held on a Monday, usually at John Harvard Library, 211 Borough High Street, Southwark SE1 1JA. Doors open at 11.30am and the talk starts at 12 noon. East Surrey FHS ask for a donation from visitors towards a cuppa. You can find their webpage here: <https://www.eastsurreyfhs.org.uk/index.php/event>



FOCUS ON FACEBOOK

By Elizabeth Burling, Member No. 4992

Andrew Redfern contacted us on our Facebook ‘London Westminster & Middlesex FHS help and discussion group’ looking for assistance in tracking down some addresses which were mentioned in a letter from 1824, an image of which he attached. Andrew is from New South Wales so perhaps not familiar with London streets. Andrew is also, it turns out, an enthusiastic family historian and accomplished speaker, whose innovative work with Artificial Intelligence is popular with family history organisations worldwide, not that he mentioned it.

He could make out the following addresses which he believed fell within the bounds of our group: 32 Foly Street, Putland Road and 10 Parliament Street, Westminster. He was particularly interested in the Foly Street address as that is where his 3rd great grandfather said he was living at the time he wrote the letter.

Jackie replied that there is a Foley Street not far from the Post Office Tower, could it be that? That would certainly seem to be correct. Foly Street is usually spelled Foley Street and it’s near Portland Road (rather than Putland – an easy mistake to make when interpreting old hand writing) in Marylebone. Both Foley Street and Parliament Street still exist today. Parliament Street is in the parish of St Margaret, Westminster.

Andrew was pleased to hear these results and further asked for ideas on how he could go about researching those addresses in terms of records available and where to look? Steve recommended doing a search in the Internet Archive. Searching for “32 Foley Street” as a quoted string in the text search field comes up with a few interesting results depending on the year you are researching.

Another way to search an address is through the census records. This is perhaps slightly easier on Findmypast but can be done on Ancestry too. When you have found names for various dates, the rates records can then be useful. Don’t forget that our little Parish Research Guides are full of useful information about how to find mentions of people in all sorts of records.

Andrew has an interesting website here: <https://andrewredfern.com/>

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

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The annual subscription covers all family members living at one address, with one journal and one vote per subscription.

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A labels-list of members is held on computer for the purposes of administration and distribution only.

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