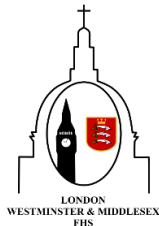


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METROPOLITAN

The Journal of the
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Family History Society



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September 2026

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Cover picture: Lock & Co's shop dressed up for their anniversary.
Thank you to Lock & Co for the image. See page 216.

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EDITORIAL

Apart from two articles which mention criminals, ‘The Vine brothers’ on page 194 and a fabulous description from an American visitor in ‘To see ourselves and others see us’ on page 224, there is no predominant theme in this journal. Instead there is a pot pourri of articles which we hope will appeal to you in different ways, possibly highlighting resources you may not have heard of.

We’d like to welcome to the team new volunteer Mark Hammersley, who answered our call for someone to write about the goings on in our Forum. You can read his first report on page 213.

Have you heard the Stanley HOLLOWAY song *Let’s All Go Down the Strand?* It was published in 1909 so you might not have done, but it was inspired by the numerous theatres, music halls and hotels which lined the Strand. It was apparently popular with British Soldiers in the First World War and a possible military addition was the phrase ‘Have a banana’, which was added to the chorus in the 1920s – its exact origins remain a mystery. If you did not hear the 1910 version by Harry Fay or the 1958 one by Stanley HOLLOWAY, you may have heard the Blur version, which was released in 1993. You can hear all three versions on YouTube. Anyway, our Spotlight On article is about the Strand this time – you can see it on page 221.

As editors, we feel privileged to be part of a network of diverse organisations which share information for our mutual benefit. There are several examples in this journal. Lock & Co in Piccadilly is one, Cunningsburgh History Group in Shetland another and Union Chapel in Islington is a third and there are others. It is great to be able to collaborate in this way.

Did you know that in using the online journal on our website, even if you receive a paper copy, you can zoom in if the text or illustrations are too small. For example, if you wanted to look at the names on the Protestation Return for Willesden on page 192 or the transport company war memorials on page 209, it is very easy to do so in the Members’ area at: <https://lwmfhs.org/> Do check out the new exclusive resources here too – see page 230 for details.

Barbara, Elizabeth and Paul, the Editorial Team

PS Do you have that *Let’s All Go Down the Strand* earworm now?

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

I last spoke to Michael Gandy in January just before our AGM, when he told me he was ill and could not chair the meeting as he usually did. He knew that he might not have much longer to live but said to me that he was at peace with his fate, and that he had written his own obituary for the Society of Genealogists from which we could take what we liked. He always was a stickler for getting the paperwork right. Our obituary to him on page 188 is the result.

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 his busiest time of year. This will also ensure that you will be able to attend our Virtual Branch meeting in October, receive the December copy of *Metropolitan*, and participate in our forum. Of course, there are other benefits to renewing your 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, we hope you will agree that it is very good value!

This year, we have a new membership database. It is easier to use for Society officers who need it, for instance in letting people in to the Virtual Branch meetings, but also it now allows you, our members, to be able to update your address, email and preferences, check out your payment history, and the Members Only page has all sorts of useful information for you. I received a lovely email from Sharon in the USA about her experience of using it: 'Thought I'd give you the report on my renewal on the new Membermojo system. It was very quick and easy...easier than many organizations. Thanks to all the officers who make this organization click!!'. If you have not yet renewed, you can do so here: <https://membermojo.co.uk/lwmfhs>

Thank you to all who have made a donation to the Society recently. The Committee have decided that a really good use for this money is to add a constantly updated interesting feed which also promotes our Society to our website home page. For this we will be using our Facebook page feed, as this is something which I update anyway so would require no more work from anyone but does need to be paid for. Anybody looking at the website will be able see it, you do not have to have anything to do with Facebook.

Elizabeth Burling

MICHAEL JOHN GANDY

26 June 1949-16 May 2026

Michael Gandy, London Westminster and Middlesex Family History Society Member No. 38 and our President since 1991, died in May.

Michael had been brought up in Sydenham, south east London. His mother's ancestry was all from East Surrey and West Kent and she had ancestors in Sydenham Common 150 years earlier. His father's family was mainly from South Lancashire and central Cheshire, where the Quaker meeting began in 1654 at the Gandy farm in Frandley. However, it was the story of his Swedish great grandfather which first inspired him to research.



Michael and Eileen Blythe cutting the cake at our 40th anniversary celebration.

of the Society's publications in the series *My Ancestors were...* and wrote the first account of how to trace Jewish families behind the Iron Curtain as it then was.

Michael studied Italian at the University of Canterbury and then became a teacher (1972-1992). His hobby had widened to compiling a Kent marriage index 1813-1837 and then an East Kent index 1754-1812 and when family history blossomed he was already known and quickly went on various committees. He was a founder member and later vice-president of Kent FHS and president of Hillingdon FHS.

With regard to our Society, he was a founder member of the North Middlesex FHS and attended its first meeting on 17 July 1978 at St Andrew's Parish Centre, Enfield. He was member number 38 and chaired our Society from 1983 to 1991, overseeing the addition of 'London' to the name in 1990 when the Society became London & North Middlesex FHS. In 1991 Michael became our first and only President and continued in this role when the London & North Middlesex FHS merged with the Westminster & Central Middlesex FHS in 2002, becoming the LWMFHS we are today.

Michael was also on the Executive of the Federation of Family History Societies and vice-Chairman for a period. He and Penny Pattinson suggested and established the Strays Clearing House which did excellent work before the arrival of macro-indexes of both parish registers and censuses.

Parallel with this Michael increasingly wrote and lectured. He was a founder member of the Quaker FHS and at the founding meeting of the Jewish Genealogical Society. He knew a bit about everything (!) [Michael's comment and so true!] but particularly specialised in the nonconformist groups. He was Chairman of the Catholic FHS for many years, Research Officer of the Huguenot Society for 14 years and frequently researched in Paris, on the British Library's list of researchers for the East India Company and later records of the British in India. He was a founder member of FIBIS (Families in British India). He was a member of many other societies and particularly active in the Romany and Traveller FHS.



Michael enjoying a cup of coffee at the party.

During the 1970s and 80s Michael built up a professional practice and was joint Secretary of the Association of Genealogists and Record Agents from 1979 to 1985. He was on The National Archives list of researchers and specialised in older records often partly in Latin. He wrote *Latin for Family Historians* for the FFHS and *Cultures and Faiths* for The National Archives,

a survey of all the religions of this country and the first to describe the situation for South Asian research in England and Wales.

Michael went full-time in 1992 and was keynote speaker at a number of conferences in Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the USA as well as many day conferences in England and a couple in Ireland where he specialised in explaining the many vital sources in London for tracing Irish people who did not emigrate eg, Post Office and military.

In the 1980s Michael edited *Prophile*, the magazine of the Friends of the PRO (as it was then). He edited *British Families in India*, *Quaker Connections* and *Catholic Ancestor*. He wrote a regular column for 84 issues of *Practical Family History*. He compiled six volumes of Catholic Missions and Registers 1700-1880 and the enormous Index of Nuns to 1914. He re-indexed from scratch the whole of *Besse's Sufferings of the People called Quakers for the Testimony of a Good Conscience* in ten volumes. He took over editing the *Genealogists' Magazine* in 1999. Michael was also one of only three researchers allowed access to the records of the Duchy of Cornwall.

In 1971 Michael married Mary Adams, a fellow student, who had been inspired to trace her Scottish ancestry by knowing that her McColl ancestors fought as Jacobites at the Battle of Culloden (under Stewart of Appin). They lived almost all their married life in Whetstone, North London. As young people their daughters Isabel and Rachel were in an episode of *Family Tree* in 1982 and were often also at conferences helping on bookstalls etc.

Long-standing LWMFHS member Jane Lauder summed Michael up in a way which will resonate with many of us: Michael was such an inspiration to many family historians, including myself. His talks were given with such enthusiasm, knowledge and love of each topic, showing that genealogy is the best hobby or career to do. Michael's talks were not to be missed.



Note: The last talk Michael gave to us was in August 2024 and was about Records of English Nonconformity. If you have never heard Michael speak, the article he wrote for us following this appeared in *Metropolitan* Volume 11, Number 1, dated December 2024, and can be seen via our website.

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

I found the June edition most interesting and in particular Dr Cliff Roffey's article. I live in Islington and spent my entire career in the International Meat Industry. I am a Past Chairman and now a Vice President of Highgate Cemetery where, I'm sure Cliff is aware, horse slaughterer ATCHELER is interred, appropriately, beneath the statue of a horse (pictured below).
Ian Kelly, Member No. 8107



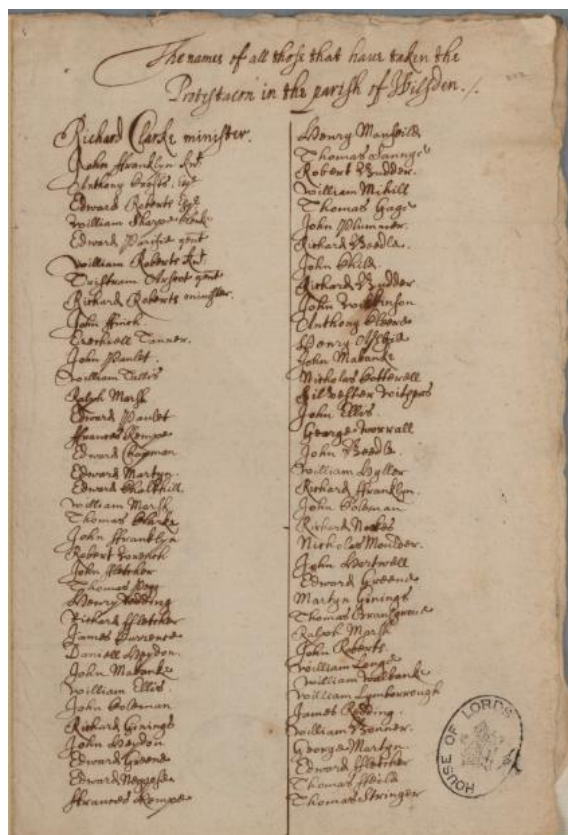
PROTESTATION RETURNS

Have you managed to get your family back to 1642? If so, have you found their names (well, the men) in the Protestation returns? King Charles I had not liked Parliament's intervention in what he felt was his divine right to tax

and rule and so he dismissed his ministers and attempted to rule on his own.

His endeavours to unite the Church of Scotland and the Church of England led the Scots to rebel and Charles had to recall the English Parliament in 1640 in order to raise funds to suppress the rebellion.

This new Parliament took the opportunity to force various reforming measures into law but also tried to avoid conflict by requiring all adult men in each parish to swear an oath of allegiance to the king. These are the Protestation returns.



The first page of the Protestation Returns from the parish of Willesden.

The lists were returned to Parliament and about a third of them survived in

the Parliamentary Archives, now held at The National Archives. However, they have been digitised and can be downloaded for free using the online catalogue. Go to 'Search the catalogue' from The National Archives' Discovery website here: <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/> and put the reference overleaf into the search box.

There are quite a few from our part of North London:

Parish	Hundred	Reference
Edgware	Ossulston	YHL/PO/JO/10/1/99/25
Edmonton	Edmonton	YHL/PO/JO/10/1/99/1
Enfield	Edmonton	YHL/PO/JO/10/1/99/2
Finchley	Ossulston	YHL/PO/JO/10/1/99/37
Fryern Barnet [sic]	Ossulston	YHL/PO/JO/10/1/99/38
Greenford Magna	Elthorne	YHL/PO/JO/10/1/99/11
Greenford Parva [Perivale]	Elthorne	YHL/PO/JO/10/1/99/12
Hadley	Edmonton	YHL/PO/JO/10/1/99/3
Hampstead	Ossulston	YHL/PO/JO/10/1/99/39
Harefield	Elthorne	YHL/PO/JO/10/1/99/14
Harrow	Ossulston	YHL/PO/JO/10/1/99/26
Hendon	Ossulston	YHL/PO/JO/10/1/99/27
Hornsey and Highgate	Ossulston	YHL/PO/JO/10/1/99/40
Ickenham	Elthorne	YHL/PO/JO/10/1/99/19
Islington and Stoke Newington	Ossulston	YHL/PO/JO/10/1/99/41
Kingsbury	Ossulston	YHL/PO/JO/10/1/99/28
Northolt	Elthorne	YHL/PO/JO/10/1/99/20
Pinner	Ossulston	YHL/PO/JO/10/1/99/29
Ruislip	Elthorne	YHL/PO/JO/10/1/99/22
South Mimms	Edmonton	YHL/PO/JO/10/1/99/4
St Giles, Cripplegate	Ossulston	YHL/PO/JO/10/1/99/42
St James, Clerkenwell	Ossulston	YHL/PO/JO/10/1/99/44
St Sepulchre	Ossulston	YHL/PO/JO/10/1/99/45
Stanmore Magna	Ossulston	YHL/PO/JO/10/1/99/30
Tottenham	Edmonton	YHL/PO/JO/10/1/99/5
Whitchurch or Stanmore Parva	Ossulston	YHL/PO/JO/10/1/99/31
Willesden	Ossulston	YHL/PO/JO/10/1/99/46

There is also a copy of the these on Findmypast.

Note

Image: Contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0.



THE VINE BROTHERS: HARDENED CRIMINALS OR VICTIMS?

Steve Henley, Member No. 8703

Not in the same league as the Krays, Edward Augustus VINE (born 1856) and Harry Reginald VINE (born 1862) were hardened criminals – or were they victims of a cruel system?

They were grandsons of William VINE (1782-1836), that rarest of people, an honest miller. A member and elder of the Particular Baptists' Salem Chapel in Brighton, William owned a mill on Clifton Hill, Brighton. He worked hard and lived by a strict moral code. He married Mary BRADFORD, a member of a long-established Sussex family. They had six daughters between 1809 and 1822. Their third daughter Lydia died in early childhood, but the other five survived to adulthood and married 'respectable' skilled tradesmen, all from similar nonconformist backgrounds. Sarah married tailor Obediah WOODHAMS, Mary married carpenter Henry BODLE, Rhoda married Kent hop farmer and maltster John WATERMAN, Martha married joiner Jabez TILLEY from Portsmouth, and Esther married tailor John HENLEY (they were my great-great-grandparents). And then in about 1824 William and Mary had a son, James William Stringer VINE. 'Stringer' was the surname of William's trusted assistant at the mill.

The family faced a great challenge when William died unexpectedly in September 1836 – just 6 days after formally welcoming John HENLEY into the Salem Chapel. Esther was 14, and James was just 12. William's wife Mary was left to manage the mill herself, with the help of William and Elizabeth STRINGER, and 12-year-old James – too young while his father was alive to have started his apprenticeship and learn the skills needed to operate a large windmill. In 1842 Mary VINE, in failing health, was forced to give up running the mill, and sold it to an old family friend and member of the Salem Chapel, another miller Edward CUTRESS.

James continued to work there for a while, but his life was now rudderless. In 1844, at the age of 20, he married Jane PATTEN. In 1846 they had a child, named Jane, but both baby and mother died within weeks of the birth. James had a second relationship, with Ruth Olive REDMAN, barely 15 years old, with a child Clara Jane. The relationship clearly met with disapproval of both James's mother and Ruth Olive's parents, and Clara Jane was adopted by

Ruth Olive's brother John and his wife Mary. She subsequently married her first cousin, John, eldest son of Esther VINE and John HENLEY, and they emigrated to New Zealand in 1874. Over subsequent generations the New Zealand family became involved in arts and entertainment, and one of Clara Jane's living descendants is the actor Russell CROWE.

James had a series of jobs at other mills in Sussex. Aged 27, he met and married Eliza WILLIS in Brighton in 1852. Eliza was then just 17, working in Brighton as an apprentice dressmaker. Her father Robert WILLIS was a journeyman carpenter from Worcestershire, whose family frequently moved around southern England wherever he could find work. In 1851 Robert was working in Wolverhampton, and his wife Ann was working as a cook in Westminster, while Eliza's younger sisters Cornelia and Mary Ann were at school in Elstree, Hertfordshire, where Cornelia had already been living for several years with her maternal aunt Betsy and uncle Joseph HALL.

The first child of James and Eliza was William James, born in Preston, Sussex, in 1853. The second, Charles Alphonso, was born in 1855 at Horsebridge, Sussex (where James was working at the watermill), as was their third, Edward Augustus, in 1856.

However, James either gave up the work or was attracted by the big city, and by 1860 the family were living in London, and he was working as a self-employed 'vanman', much like today's 'white van man'. The 1861 census shows James at 1 Phoenix Place, St Pancras, with the two sons and a daughter Julia (who died in infancy), as well as his mother-in-law Ann WILLIS and 20-year-old sister-in-law Mary Ann. Cornelia was still in Elstree, living in the school and working as organist at the church – but James's wife Eliza is unaccountably missing and seems to have evaded record anywhere in this census. However, she soon returned, and their next child, Harry Reginald, was born in December 1862.

One further child, Arthur Adolphus, born in 1865 lived only two years, and sometime around the date of his death Eliza disappears from the records again - though she reappeared much later, with her eldest son William James in the 1891 census.

After 1865 and Eliza's departure, another woman entered James's life: Julia Eleanor PERKINS. There was no question of marriage, as Eliza was still living, and Julia was also already married to John Duncan WELFORD (they

had married in 1858 when both were only 16). On 31 January 1868, their son James Albert VINE was born, son of Julia Eleanor PERKINS and James VINE. By now, James had steady work as a drayman, delivering beer from a brewery to pubs in north London, and the family were living at 6 Stanley Street, Shoreditch. Julia PERKINS was a witness at the marriage of James's eldest son William James VINE to Elizabeth HURLOCK in 1874.

The next blows to the family came when Julia died in 1875 and James died in 1877. The family had clearly been dysfunctional for some years already, but this was a crisis for young James Albert, losing both parents by the age of 9, without any state support for orphans. By then all his brothers had moved away or were incarcerated. He was lucky enough to be taken in by Dr Barnardo's home in Stepney, where he was given a basic education and learned a trade. When he was just 19, with a reliable trade as a French polisher, on 20 November 1887 he married Margrette Louisa MÜLLER, the daughter of German immigrants. They lived at 1 Baythorne Street, Mile End, and had three children, but tragedy struck the family when James Albert died in 1901. However, Margrette married again, to William PEACH, in 1907. We have traced the family further, but again this is another story.

James's eldest son, William James, was born in Preston, Sussex, but moved to London with the family. He left home as a young teenager for a job as a gardener in Hampstead, boarding in the house of Henry FRANKLIN, jobbing gardener, just two doors away from relatives of Elizabeth HURLOCK, whom he married in 1874. They lived initially at 6 Upper John Street, Hoxton Old Town, Shoreditch, later moving to 35 Ely Place, a few doors from her parents' home at 40 Ely Place, where they were living in 1881. William James eventually became a self-employed firewood dealer, and had several children, not all with Elizabeth. A living descendant is Ian COUCHER, currently the chairman of Ofwat, formerly CEO of Network Rail (until he resigned some years ago, subject to allegations, which he denied, of sleaze and nepotism), but this, again, is another story.

James's second son Charles Alphonso VINE (1855-1909) was just 12 when his parents separated in about 1867, and joined the army as a cadet (a 'drummer-boy'), with the opportunity to be paid while learning a trade – effectively a musical apprenticeship. This was an intelligent decision to escape the sudden insecurity at home in Victorian north London. In 1871 he was with 1st Battalion, H Company, the Kings Own Royal Regiment in Aldershot, and learning to become a skilled musician – a bandsman, able to

play a variety of instruments. He went on to a successful career as bandmaster and music teacher for schools and the Royal Navy, which included 10 years at Harrow School – but again, this is another story.

It seems that both Edward Augustus and Harry Reginald lacked the drive or the determination of their elder brothers. The lives of these two ‘likely lads’ are closely intertwined. Although Edward was born in rural Sussex, his parents moved to London when he was still a toddler, and he grew up knowing only the gritty streets of London’s inner-city St Pancras and Islington. Harry was born there and knew nothing else. Their father had unpredictable income from his trade as a van man, and the family were often hungry as a result. Edward’s first recorded offence was in 1865 when he was only 9: simple larceny, with a 9 months prison sentence, though it is unclear whether he actually served this sentence. What is certain is that in 1871 at the age of 15 he was recorded in the census as a juvenile offender in Middlesex Industrial School, Feltham. At the same time, Harry, then 8 years old, was living with their father James, stepmother Julia, and two little half-siblings James Albert and baby Julia: we don’t know where his mother Eliza was. Harry’s two elder brothers, William and Charles, had both departed long before to make their own way in the world.

In the early 1870s after release from Feltham, it seems that Edward did not get caught – but Harry was caught and punished several times – for stealing grapes (1874), stealing cigars (1875), and stealing milk (1875). For each of these he received a few days or weeks of prison sentence, twice including whipping. The third time he was sentenced to 3 years in reformatory – which was on the training ship *HMS Cornwall* moored at Purfleet, Essex.

Meanwhile, in July 1875 Edward (using an alias ‘Henry Thompson’) was convicted for stealing cloth and sentenced to a year’s imprisonment. Very soon after he was released in 1876 he stole again, this time 44 yards of linen, for which he was sentenced on 8 August to 7 years penal servitude plus 2 years supervision. Initially he was sent to Pentonville prison, but on 8 May 1877 was transferred to Portland, a particularly severe punishment, working in the limestone quarries.

While Edward was in Portland, Harry, after leaving the reformatory, unreformed, was arrested and sentenced to 6 weeks imprisonment for stealing boots. On release he joined the Islington Shoeblack Brigade, a well-meaning organisation intended to give young offenders a legitimate source

of income. He was then arrested and convicted for stealing a handkerchief and trousers, two waistcoats and a hat from another member of the Shoeblack Brigade (no honour among thieves!). He was sentenced to 8 months in Cold Bath Fields Prison – notorious for its harsh conditions.



Edward Augustus Vine, prison mugshot 1 September 1876.

Image credit: The National Archives

On 23 January 1881 Edward was released from prison to 40 Ely Place, Hoxton. His eldest brother William James was living at 35 Ely Place, and No. 40 was the home of William's HURLOCK in-laws.

But Harry's one-man crime wave continued. On 18 April 1881 he was convicted for stealing boots (again), and sentenced to 3 months. On release he stole a locket and on 21 July was sentenced to 6 months with hard labour. When released he stole ham and bacon and was caught and convicted again. This time he pleaded guilty, and his sentence was 15 months in Cold Bath Fields Prison – without hard labour.

In August 1883 Harry was arrested, but dismissed, on two charges of burglary for lack of evidence. However, on 12 September, both Edward and Harry were arrested for several counts of burglary. On 16 October, both were found guilty – Edward on one count, Harry on two, and Harry was sentenced to 5 years penal servitude – again at Cold Bath Fields Prison, but later transferred to Wormwood Scrubs.

Edward's sentence was shorter, but that only gave him the opportunity to offend again, and on 10 April 1884 he was convicted for stealing a till and money, and sentenced to 12 months in Wandsworth Prison.

Both brothers were out of prison by September 1887, and carried out their next crime together with Emma DAUGHTERS, the wife of a friend who apparently wasn't involved. They had planned and carried out a major burglary at 55 Ferntower Road, Highbury, stealing linen and jewellery while the owner and his family were away on holiday in Germany. It became clear in the trial that Edward had planned the theft and had played the major role. Harry knew of the plan but had tried to distance himself from it, and Emma DAUGHTERS was simply responsible for the getaway cart.

The press reports are interesting. It was covered extensively by the *Evening Standard*: here are two of the more detailed accounts.

13 Oct 1887, CLERKENWELL

Henry Vine, aged 22, who described himself as a seaman, was charged with being concerned, with Edward Vine and Emma Daughters, now in custody, in breaking and entering No.55, Ferntower-road, and stealing

jewellery, clothing, and other articles to the value of 250£.- Inspector Belton said he received the Prisoner from the custody of the police at Southgate, where he had been arrested on telegraphic information. At the police-station the Prisoner made a statement, which Witness took down in writing, to the effect that he and his brother Edward and the female Prisoner were together on Thursday evening. The two male Prisoners hired a van, and then the three went to the Pavilion Music-Hall, after which they walked about the streets for the rest of the night. In the early morning the Prisoner gave his brother the slip, as he did not wish to engage in the house-breaking which he knew was planned. - Inspector Belton stated that jewellery and other property valued at 50£, and which had been found in the female prisoner's box, had been stolen from 55, Ferntower-road, and nearly all the movable contents of the house were found made up into bundles ready for removal. All the stolen property



Harry Reginald Vine, prison mugshot
18 December 1883

Image credit: The National Archives

had, however, been recovered. - The Prisoner was remanded till Friday, when the three will be brought up together.

14 Oct 1887, *THE FERNTOWER-ROAD BURGLARY*

Edward Vine, 28, carman, Emma Daughters, 25, married woman, and Harry Vine, 22, seaman, were charged on remand at the Clerkenwell Police-court to-day with breaking and entering the dwelling house, 55 Ferntower-road, and stealing therein and therefrom jewellery and other articles to the value of 250£, the property of Theodore Held.- The circumstances of the case have already been reported. It may be remembered that the Prosecutor with his family had left the house to spend their holiday in Germany. No one was left in charge of the house, but on the 5th inst. it was found that it had been entered by the drawing-room window, and the whole of the moveable property in the house had been packed up ready for removal. The police entered the place, and on the morning of the 6th, while Detective Knott and two constables were concealed, the Prisoner, Edward Vine, forced his way into the house by bursting open the area-door. He was seized and taken into custody, and on the way to the station the female Prisoner was seen with a horse and van in the street. She saw the man in custody and drove away, but subsequently she was arrested by Inspector Belton, who also effected the apprehension of the Prisoner Harry Vine. In the rook occupied by the elder Vine and Daughnters was found over 50£ worth of jewellery, which the Prosecutor identified as his.- The Prisoners made various statements implicating each other, but Harry Vine said that although he knew of the burglary he had taken no part in it.-Other Witnesses were called, and the Prisoners were again remanded.

All three were found guilty. On 24th October 1887, Edward was sentenced to 6 years penal servitude, to be served in Portsmouth. Harry and Emma were tried on 21 November. Harry was sentenced to just one month prison without hard labour, dating from 24 October - and thus had only three more days to serve. Emma Daughters was sentenced to 3 months from 24 October.

Edward was released from Portsmouth on 6 July 1892 to St Giles Christian Mission London, which provided breakfasts and small amounts of travel money to released prisoners.

In 1895 he married Emma BEARD in Shoreditch, where they lived at 22 Paul Street. It appears that he was then running a business as a dog dealer – and on 29 June 1895 was charged with theft of a dog.

His marriage continued for at least 16 years, though his criminal activities also recurred. In 1906 he was tried as a “rogue and vagabond” (astonishingly this is still a crime in England under the 1824 Vagrancy Act. see

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/Geo4/5/83/section/4>) and sentenced to 6 weeks prison with hard labour. This was colourfully reported in the *Illustrated Police News*.

6 Oct 1906, **GUILDHALL**.

AN ECCENTRIC APPEAL.- A somewhat eccentric-looking individual, giving the name of Edward Vine, forty, was placed in the dock on remand, charged with being a rogue and a vagabond. The allegation was that he haunted the various lanes and alleys in the Wood Street district, where vans and trucks always congregate, and on one occasion moved a pile of boxes from a trolley. It turned out that the accused had a prison record. The last time he was arrested was for house-breaking, and he was then dealt with as a lunatic and sent to an asylum. The Prisoner (whining): I do the best I can to get an honest living, sir, but I'm going wrong again. (Laughter). I would be better in an asylum or anywhere where I can be looked after - and I don't mind an honest day's work. (Laughter). Alderman Burnett: Look at your record. The Prisoner: Sir, what I do is contrary to my own will. Nothing but 'unger 'as drove me to do it. Wot can a man do when 'e is starvin'? Eleven year ago I started afresh, and I married a respectable, 'ard-workin' woman, so as to 'ave a sort o' pattern to go by. (Loud laughter). The Alderman: But you haven't followed the pattern, The Prisoner (in a pleading tone): Send me to an asylum, sir, and see 'ow I get on there - but not to prison. Give me this 'ere one chance. The Alderman: I have formed a very unfavourable opinion of your character. I believe this is all put on. You will go to prison for six weeks with hard labour.

Then in 1909 he was again arrested and convicted for housebreaking, with 6 months prison sentence.

His marriage to Emma survived all of this: they were living at 5 Windsor Terrace, City Road, in 1911. But he was fined for two traffic offences – 14 Jan 1916 for being drunk in charge of horse and trolley (20s or 13 days prison), 6 Oct 1916, not having proper lights on his vehicle (7s 6d).

He is missing from the 1921 census, and the next mention is the death from heart failure of Edward Augustus VINE at Reigate Institution, Earlswood, Surrey, on 28 April 1930: the very same place that his brother Charles Alphonso had his first job as bandmaster 50 years earlier. At the inquest, relief officer at the institution, Orlando James KING, said that he had known Edward VINE as a 'casual' (labourer) for about 12 years.

After 1887 Harry just seems to vanish. He was possibly the Henry Vine, dock labourer, age 38, "found by police" in Southampton, in the 1901 census. Or

he may simply have used other names: it is already known from their conviction records that both Edward and Harry used a number of aliases.

On 18 May 1915, a window cleaner Harry VINE (who described himself as a carman) was convicted on two counts of theft of jewellery from 178 Gloucester Terrace, Kensington, worth £1000. He pleaded guilty on both counts and was sentenced to 21 months prison with hard labour. The jewellery had been recovered but by then the most valuable item, a pearl necklace, had been pawned (by Harry VINE), sold and re-sold three times, and ownership was disputed. His age was quoted as 48, which is not a particularly close match for 'our' Harry Reginald VINE who would have been 52. The complicated story of the 1915 jewellery theft is given in full in the Pawnbrokers Gazette, as it directly concerned the liability of pawnbrokers themselves: some of the jewellery had been recovered but had changed hands several times, and was the subject of civil suits by its legitimate owners.

On 20 August 1929, a Harry VINE aged 66 was buried at Highgate Cemetery.

Edward and Harry made a mess of their lives, victims of a broken family, but also of a harsh criminal justice system and the lack of any system of public support.

But we have seen also that other branches of James's family successfully navigated the system so that we see Clara Jane's descendant Russell Crowe, William James's descendant Ian Coucher, and James's own son Charles Alphonso Vine, bandmaster.

Note: If you have criminal ancestors, you may be interested in the Metropolitan Police Habitual Criminals Register. This has details of over 151,330 criminals dated 1881-1936 and include a physical description noting all distinguishing marks and a full criminal record. These were regularly circulated among the force. Some records are from the *Police Gazette* appendix which has photos of certain prisoners. Also here is a list of 5,824 habitual drunkards from the period 1903 to 1914, which would have been shared weekly to licensed premises. They usually contain two photos of each drunkard: face-on and profile. The original is at The National Archives, Ref: MEPO 6 and online on Findmypast.

SURNAME INTERESTS

The research interests listed here were submitted by members between June and August 2026.

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 member 8780.

Name	Period	County	Parish / Area	Mem.No.
RACKLEY	Any	MDX	Harrow	8780
EVANS	Any	MDX	Harrow	8780
DELL	Any	MDX	Harrow	8780
BENNETT	Any	MDX	Islington	8780

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the new members, numbers 8779 to 8798 who have joined the Society over the past few months and wish them well with their research.

OBITUARIES

It is with sadness that we report the deaths of the following members of the Society. We send condolences to their family and friends.

Anita Moore Membership number 8741

Michael John Gandy Membership number 38. See obituary on page 188.



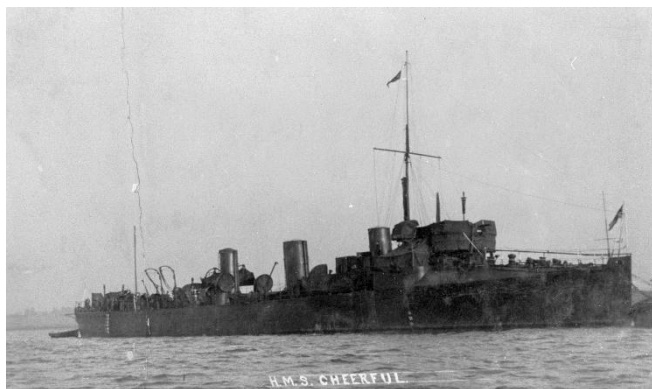
THE LOSS OF *HMS CHEERFUL*

By Jon Sandison, Cunningsburgh History Group

The Cunningsburgh History Group up in Shetland are researching the loss of *HMS Cheerful*, a Mermaid class destroyer, which took place on 30 June 1917. Some of the crew were from London. The Cunningsburgh History Group are hoping to make contact with any family of these men.

HMS Cheerful was built in 1896 at the RW Hawthorn Leslie and Company shipyard at Hebburn-on-Tyne. It was launched in 1897 and, after trials,

entered into the Royal Navy in 1900.



HMS Cheerful. Thanks to Shetland Museum and Archives for this photo.

During the First World War, *HMS Cheerful* served as an escort with the 8th Destroyer Flotilla. The group left the Humber on 28 June with four ships. Seven more ships joined and one left the convoy

at the Tyne. Another ship left at Blyth. The nine remaining merchant ships then headed north for Lerwick. The convoy sailed in two columns, with *HMS Cheerful* guarding the port side (west) and *HMS Ness*, a 1904-19 River (or E)-class destroyer built by White of Cowes, pennant D26, on the starboard side (east).

At 11.50 GMT on 30 June the convoy was south of Lerwick and east of Helli Ness when the drifter *Boy Charlie* (skipper Edmund Dan FRARY) approached from Lerwick flying the signal "LOOK OUT FOR MINES". The Naval Staff Monograph has it that *Boy Charlie* had just found a mine 4 miles away off Bard Head. She went down the 1.75 mile-wide channel that had been swept that morning to warn the oncoming convoy. *HMS Ness* made contact with the drifter by megaphone and was told that mines had been

found off Bard Head, Bressay but that the main channel to Lerwick had been cleared.

Around 12.00 there was an explosion on the port side of the convoy. *HMS Cheerful* had hit a mine a few hundred yards (the Naval Staff Monograph says 1 mile) west of the swept channel in an area known locally as the North Groin. The trawler *Gloria II* and drifter *Boy Charlie* proceeded to assist with rescuing survivors as *HMS Cheerful* had apparently sunk. *Gloria II* picked up 3 officers, 15 men and *Boy Charlie* picked up 1 officer, 3 men. 40 men were lost in this incident, and there were 22 survivors – suggesting a total crew of 62. This is the single largest loss of life on Shetland during either World War.

The skipper of *Gloria II* reported that she had arrived before *HMS Cheerful* sank and initially picked up four swimming men. The rescued men reported that Lieutenant Harman Arthur Lewis BOND (Commanding Officer, *HMS Cheerful*) had gone to the stern of the damaged vessel and had made the dangerous depth charges safe, thereby saving lives and potential damage to rescuing vessels.

After all the observed crew were rescued, it was noticed that the forepart of *HMS Cheerful* was still floating upside down and the knocking of one or more survivors could be heard from inside the hull in the region of the seamen's mess deck. Lieutenant BOND told the men of *Gloria II* to get all available tools to try to assist the men inside. The men worked with an axe and a hammer but once a hole was made the air rushed out and she sank like a stone.



The headland of Helli Ness, where *HMS Cheerful* went down.

The Cunningsburgh History Group has embarked on a project to research the lost men and the survivors, to erect a memorial to commemorate the casualties, and to hold a dedication ceremony sometime in June 2027. They

would like to trace the family of these men so that they can get in touch and inform them of their project.

Men from the area covered by LWMFHS are as follows:

James Valentine DUNN, stoker, died aged 24. He was born on 14 February 1893 in Islington to James Fredrick DUNN (railway gateman) and Mary Ann (née BARNARD). In 1917 they were living at 25 Sheen Grove, Richmond Road, Barnsbury, Islington.

Louie Francis DYSON, stoker, died aged 26. He was born on 15 September 1890 in Islington and was the son of John DYSON (railway porter) and Jane (née BEATTIE), living at 10 Hemingford Road, Barnsbury, Islington in 1917.

Arthur Frederick Bevan FLINDALL, leading stoker, died aged 29. He was born on 21 November 1887 in Islington and was the son of Arthur FLINDALL (market porter) and Eliza (née HEARD). The family had spent much of the 1890s living in Tottenham. At the time of Arthur's death, his parents were living at 2 Clifton Avenue, Blackhorse Lane, Walthamstow.



The Shetland memorial

Edward Albert TAYLOR, stoker) died aged 28. He had been born on 24 October 1889 in Marylebone and was the son of Edward John TAYLOR,

living at 90 Princes Road, West Kensington in 1917.

If anyone can assist, please contact Jon Sandison: jonsandison@hotmail.com

More information

There is much information on this website, which remembers the First World War naval losses off mainland Scotland, the Western Isles, Orkney and Shetland: <https://lostinwatersdeep.co.uk/hms-cheerful.html>

Note: John has provided a lot more researched information about the people who died on *HMS Cheerful* and their families, for example from the census returns. Names of their siblings and so on is included to help locate living relatives. If you would like to see this, a copy will be placed on our forum at <https://groups.io/g/LWMFHS> or contact the editors at editors@lwmfhs.org for one to be emailed to you.

JOTTINGS

All About That Place 2026

This is a free online event which runs for 10 days from 7-16 October and contains over 100 recorded 10-minute talks on genealogy and local history, each based on one particular place.

Each day has a theme and here is the schedule for this year:

- 7 October: Getting Started
- 8 October: Health and Medicine
- 9 October: Tools
- 10 October: Military and War
- 11 October: Work and Fun
- 12 October: Collections and Archives
- 13 October: Changing Places
- 14 October: Innovation
- 15 October: Politics and Rights
- 16 October: Sharing Stories

Of course, family history societies are all based on places and one of the talks is from our chairman, Elizabeth Burling, who will be speaking about where people who lived in the ancient parish of Islington might be buried. This will appear under the 'Getting Started' theme. LWMFHS members have had access to this talk since last November and can see more 'Where Were They Buried' talks in the Members' Area of our website (see page 230 for the latest ones). Other talks on the Getting Started day include ones about the digitised content of the wonderful Victoria County History books, how to find place names in Ireland, Australian records and Simon Fowler's '10 tips to finding missing ancestors in 9 minutes 35 seconds'. Simon gave us a longer version of this talk in November last year so if you missed that, this might be particularly useful. Each recording will be released at a set time (about one an hour) and will then be available to watch until at least 31 October.

During All About This Place there will be opportunities to learn research techniques, social history, tools, websites, archives, record keeping tips, ways of creating and sharing your findings and more. There are also challenge activities, should you wish to put your learning into practice.

You can also win prizes and winners will be invited to choose from those still available on the prize page. LWMFHS has donated one, which is the choice of one of our Parish Research Guides.

All About That Place is organised by the Society of Genealogists and supported by the Society for One Place Studies, A Few Forgotten Women,

British Association for Local History and the Federation of Family History Societies. You can find more information about the event and its speakers here: <https://sog.org.uk/welcome-to-all-about-that-place/>

North Finchley War Memorials renovated

Outside the United Services Club in North Finchley is a small fenced enclosure fronting Ballards Lane with the words ‘St Kilda’ on the gates. This houses the local municipal war memorial, which is dedicated to the 1,000 servicemen from Finchley who died in the First World War.



On either side of it, were two memorial plaques, laid almost flat on the ground, as can be seen in the image above. This position meant that they were deteriorating and in June of this year they were cleaned and re-erected vertically, using funds supplied by the Railways Heritage Trust and the Friends of London Transport Museum, with further donations from the Finchley Society and the Barnet War Memorials Association.

To the right of the War Memorial is the Metropolitan Electric Tramways Finchley Depot War Memorial which commemorates 18 members of staff who died in the First World War. The Finchley depot, later a bus garage, occupied a site surrounded by High Road, Rosemount Avenue, Woodberry Grove and Christchurch Avenue at North Finchley which was closed in 1994 and subsequently demolished.

To the left of the War Memorial is the Hendon Garage War Memorial, which names 31 workers who lost their lives in the Great War. Their occupations are also recorded here. The memorial had previously been at Hendon Bus

Garage, The Burroughs, Hendon, which closed in 1987 and was later demolished,



Their new positions mean the two memorials will be much less prone to weathering and should now last much longer.

Thank you very much to the Finchley Society, in particular chair Mick Crick, for the above photograph of the renovated memorials in their new positions.

London Museum to reopen on 28 November

The long-delayed reopening of the former Museum of London was finally announced in June. The Museum closed at its London Wall site in December 2022 with a move to the old Smithfield Meat Market expected to be open in 2024. The Museum of London had been formed in 1976 from the merger of the Guildhall Museum in the City of London and the London Museum in South Kensington, so this year marks its 50th anniversary.

The building itself, the Victorian Smithfield General Market, had been out of public use for over 30 years but has now been restored to house the collections. New free galleries will showcase iconic objects and never-before-seen items such as Roman writing tablets, the Cheapside Hoard of Jacobean jewellery and Emmeline Pankhurst's Hunger Strike Medal.

You can find out more on their website: <https://www.londonmuseum.org.uk/>

Trent Park House of Secrets is now open

Originally part of King George III's estate at Enfield, a 99-year lease was granted to doctor Sir Richard JEBB who had saved the life of the king's brother the Duke of Gloucester, in Trento, Italy. A small house was built on the estate and named Trent in commemoration.

After JEBB's death, the house passed through several hands, ending up with the Quaker BEVAN family of bankers who remodelled the house and grounds. In 1908 the lease was acquired by Sir Edward SASSOON, head of a Jewish merchant dynasty, who died in 1912 leaving it to his son Philip.

In the 1930s, Sir Philip SASSOON, one of the wealthiest men in England, remodelled the mansion to the highest standards with their Flemish tapestries, Georgian furniture and stunning Chinese lacquer cabinets. In this beautiful setting he entertained the future King Edward VIII, Winston CHURCHILL, George Bernard SHAW, Charlie CHAPLIN and Fred ASTAIRE, amongst others. Sir Philip died in 1939 and the house was put to a different use during the Second World War.

The house was transformed into a surveillance centre, with bugging devices hidden all over the place, unbeknownst to the high-ranking German prisoners of war who were housed in comfort in the mansion. These hidden microphones secretly recorded the captured generals, relaying their words to secret listeners in the basement who then fed the intelligence to British forces. This extremely covert operation ranked alongside Bletchley Park in importance.

After the War, the mansion became a teacher training college and then part of Middlesex Polytechnic/University. This shut in 2012 and in 2014 a campaign was launched to secure a publicly accessible future for the House, and ensure its incredible story can be shared with the public. This resulted in the redevelopment of the site into housing with the hope that a museum showcasing its war-time past would be incorporated. This, named Trent Park House of Secrets, opened on 21 July. Information about the museum and a detailed illustrated history of the house can be seen here: <https://trentparkhouse.org.uk/>

Parliament's Archive Collections

This collection used to be housed in the Victoria Tower at the southern end of the Houses of Parliament. The tower was constructed specifically to care for what was initially called the House of Lords Record Office, despite it serving the House of Commons as well. More recently this collection was called the Parliamentary Archives.

All of these records have now all been transferred to The National Archives, where they are becoming available in phases as 'Parliament's Archive Collections'. Records start in 1497 and priority is being given to the most popular archives.

The Journals and Proceedings of the House of Commons and House of Lords are already available, as are Original Acts from the Public Bill Office and the Private Bill Office. Public Acts of Parliament affect the whole country whereas Private Acts relate to the interests of particular individuals, organisations or localities. Since 1797, Private acts have been divided between Local Acts, which relate to the interests of organisations or localities and Personal Acts, which concern the interests of particular individuals. Most of these have been printed and easily accessible although some are only in manuscript form. Original Acts, both Public and Private, dating up to 2019 can now be seen here.

You can find out more about this collection and its digitisation progress here:

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/accessing-parliaments-archive-collections/>

Enfield civilian war memorial granted listed building status

The Lavender Hill Civilian War Memorial at Lavender Hill Cemetery in Enfield has been added to the List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport as a Grade II Building. This means it is designated as being of special architectural or historic interest, warranting every effort to preserve it. It commemorates the 109 Enfield people killed by air raids and flying bombs in the Second World War. It is currently fenced off due to its poor condition.

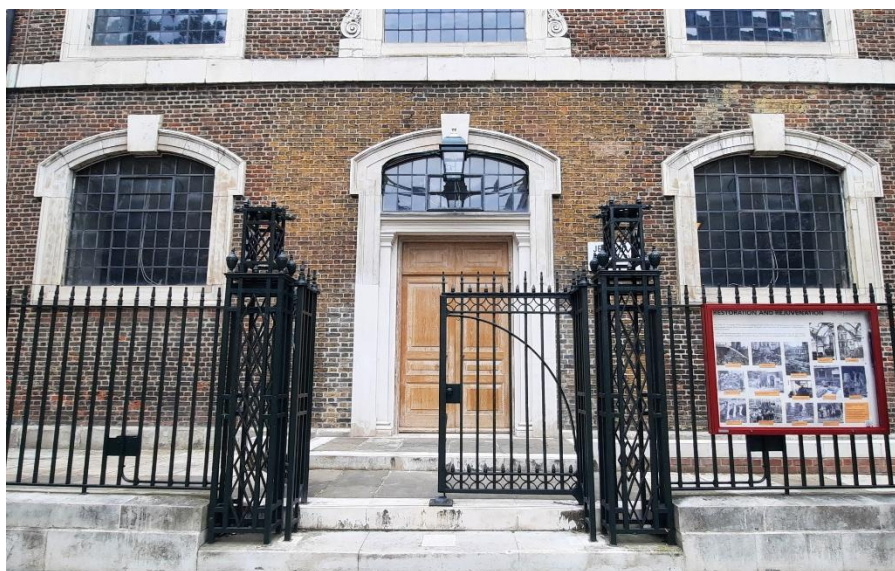
St James Piccadilly restoration

This church, designed by Sir Christopher Wren in 1684, has been awarded National Lottery Heritage Fund money to help towards conserving the historic building and adapting it for modern use. This will be known as the Wren Project. One of the things which has already been done is the incorporation of ledger stones from St James Hampstead Road, the former parish burial ground at Euston which was dug up for the HS2 rail link.

Another completed part is the recreation of Wren's South Door onto Jermyn Street, which was walled up in the 1840s to allow for more pews. This will also provide step-free access to the church.

The organ, which was commissioned for the use of King James II at Whitehall Palace and given to the church by his daughter Queen Mary, is to

be restored and a new organ will also be commissioned for the historic Grinling Gibbons organ case, alongside a ten-year music scholarship programme to nurture emerging talent.



The new South Door

The project also aims to fully relandscape the churchyard, open up access and plant to support biodiversity. There are two churchyards attached to St James itself. Immediately to the west of the church on Jermyn Street was the Green Ground, now much raised above ground level (presumably due to the number of interments there) and reached via some steps. This was converted into a garden of remembrance after the Second World War and is now known as the Southwood Garden. On the Piccadilly side of the church was a burial ground which was called The North Churchyard. This seems to have been paved over from about the middle of the 18th century and burials made in vaults beneath it.

A wide-ranging public programme will accompany the redevelopment, including a digital archive, behind-the-scenes tours, and an initiative offering moments of quiet reflection beyond the city's usual pace. You can keep up to date with the restoration on St James's church website here: <https://www.sjp.org.uk/wren-project/>

FROM THE FORUM

By Mark Hammersley, Member No. 8749

Our Forum is a private and secure space where members and the Society can share news, information and ask questions.

News of the death of Michael Gandy came through just as the previous edition of *Metropolitan* was going to print. Elizabeth posted details of his funeral arrangements to Forum members, as Michael's daughter had said that everybody would be welcome to remember and celebrate his life with his family. Gillian, Patricia, Ken, Linda, Robert, Stevie, Diana, Cathy, Jane and Annie shared memories of Michael and sent their condolences to his family.

Elizabeth kept Forum members updated with information about new resources as they became available, as well as reminders about Virtual Branch meetings.

Graham started a discussion about recent problems with Ancestry and was quickly joined by others including Janet, Sarah, Janice and Giz, who shared their own experiences and suggestions. Geoff added that he'd experienced difficulties with the Ancestry app, broadening the conversation to its advantages and disadvantages. Mark shared information from other online forums about changes taking place behind the scenes, while Janice and Sarah offered practical advice on contacting Ancestry's technical support. Messenger was recommended because it provides a permanent record of conversations, although requesting a telephone call back also proved successful despite a long wait.

Sharon was hoping to find images of the ships that carried her ancestors from London to New York in 1852 and to Quebec in 1850. Members suggested that, although this was generally too early for photography, paintings might exist, particularly if a vessel had been associated with a notable person or featured in a captain's portrait. Other suggestions included Ancestry's *New York Port, Ship Images, 1851–1891* collection, the Guildhall Library's maritime collections and the possibility of finding illustrations of sister ships built to the same design.

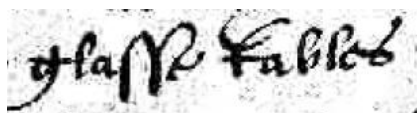
If you would like to join our Forum, you can do so by emailing Graham on: membership@lwmfhs.org

TUDOR WILLS

By Elizabeth Burling, Member No. 4992

I have recently been transcribing two Tudor Wills – the earliest I have attempted. They were the Wills of father and son, William and Anthony THOROLD. William's Will was dated 9 June 1568 (actually 'a thousandde five hundreth threscore and eighte') and it runs to some 3 pages. Anthony's Will is unhelpfully dated in Latin although the bulk of the rest of it is in English, which is handy as it is 13 pages long. On the last page the date is mentioned again, now in English, as 'eleaventhe Daye of April Anno Dm A thousand five hundreth ninety Foure'.

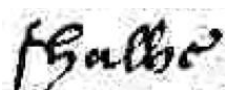
I like to think I am not bad at reading old handwriting but I very much appreciated Paul Feetum's advice in his article in the March issue of *Metropolitan*. I wrote myself out an alphabetical Letter Chart, as he suggested, and underneath copied out how the letters were written in the Will. I found myself referring to this an awful lot. Especially with words I



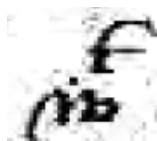
did not get first time. Some letters were written in several different ways, quite apart from lower case and upper case, 's' being especially noticeable in

this regard. In this snippet you can see the words 'glasse tables' with two examples of 's'.

There were some features in these Wills which I had not seen before. One was the tendency to run two words together, such as the 'threscore' above. One that puzzled me for some time was 'the' without its 'e' attached to the next word, if that started with a vowel. The key to understanding this was when 'thone' was followed by 'thother'. Another one was 'shalbe'. We have 'maybe' still but 'shalbe' seems to have fallen out of favour.

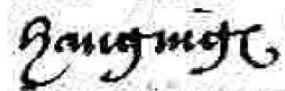


The abbreviations were a challenge too. A few, such as the 'Anno Dom' from the date above were pretty obvious but they were the exception. This on the right turned up all the time and I really struggled with it. The letters are actually a 'w' with a superscript 't', and eventually I realised it was short for 'with'.

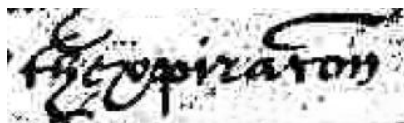


A 'w' with a superscript 'h' was less common but was short for 'which'.

There was another version of ‘s’ at the ends of words which I thought initially was just a spelling difference (and there were many) but turned out to actually be short for ‘es’, seen here in the word ‘hanginges’.



This word on the right is an example of ‘the’ and the next word being combined but is also shows it is abbreviated by the line above it. They went to all that trouble just to miss out the ‘i’ from ‘thexpiration’, that is ‘the expiration’. Quite often words we would spell ‘tion’ at the end had a ‘c’ instead.



A quick search of the internet revealed that the University of Nottingham have a useful web page regarding letter forms and abbreviations here: <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/manuscriptsandspecialcollections/researchguidance/medievaldocuments/letterformsandabbreviations.aspx>

I found Paul’s advice to concentrate on the individual letters of a word was spot on too, especially for words that are really tricky to read.



The second word of this phrase took me quite a while to work out. The context did not really help. It is a bequest of one something ‘waying three Angells’. I’d never heard of an angell as a unit of weight but it corresponds to a gold coin of the same name introduced in 1465. I initially thought the word must be ‘knife’ – an odd bequest! – but eventually worked out it was ‘ringe’.

I have been through both Wills three times so far. There are still words I cannot make out but I’m sure with more practice I will discover what they say!



LOCK & CO, HATTER OF ST JAMES

350th Anniversary

Lock & Co has its origins in a hat shop which was opened in 1676 by Robert DAVIS on the west side of St James's Street. St James's Palace, just yards away from the hat shop, was a royal base for King Charles II and provided many customers, including the Bedford, Devonshire, Marlborough and Walpole families.

Ten years later, George LOCK opened a coffee shop on the other side of the road at 6 St James's Street. George had a son James, who married Elizabeth. Their child, James was baptised on 28 January 1732 at St James, Piccadilly.

This James, George's grandson, was apprenticed to Robert DAVIS's son Charles and later married Charles's daughter Mary DAVIS. When Mary inherited the family business, they moved to the sunnier shop owned by the LOCK family and Lock & Co are still a family firm trading from the same address today.

James LOCK died in 1806 and his son, George James LOCK (born about 1773) inherited the business. George James married Caroline HALL on 14 May 1799 by licence at the church of St George Hanover Square. George and Caroline had a family which included James (baptised May 1800 at St James Piccadilly), Caroline (baptised December 1801 at St James), George (baptised August 1803 at Mortlake, Surrey), Emily (baptised December 1807 at St James), and Anne (baptised January 1811 at Richmond, Surrey).



George James LOCK

LOCK (born 1800) was then apprenticed to Robert LINCOLN. The partnership was dissolved in 1819.

Caroline LOCK died aged 48 in 1821 and was buried at St Mary Abbots, Kensington. At this time, George James passed the shop on to his two sons James and George, who formed their own partnership in 1826.

James has proved pretty elusive in the census returns and has only been located in one, if this is indeed him. In 1861 there is a James who was described as a 60-year-old hatter journeyman who had been born in St James and was living at Buckingham Street, St Martin-in-the-Fields, less than a mile from the shop. It appears that he did not marry until 1872, when he wed Amy Marianne SELOT at St George Hanover Square by licence. The couple had a daughter, also Amy, in 1874 at which time James was described as a gentleman, and was living at 12 Lower Berkeley Street, St Marylebone. Sadly, the baby died aged 6 weeks and was buried at Brompton Cemetery. James died aged 76 at 12 Lower Berkeley Street on 13 July 1876. The London Archives states that James was a 'natural' son of George James. If this is the case, he may appear under his mother's maiden name in census and other records. However, his baptism entry is under the names of George James and Caroline LOCK, and state he was born on 28 April 1800.

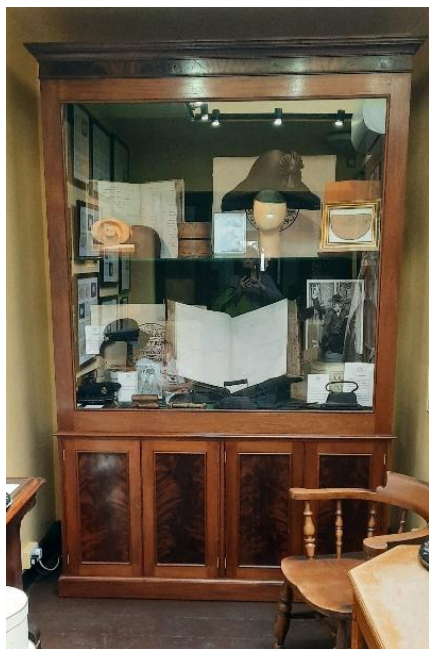
James's brother, however, lived at the hat shop. George married Louisa PRATER of Marylebone in 1835 by licence at St James's church, Piccadilly, with James LOCK as one of the witnesses. George and Louisa appear living at the shop at 6 St James's Street in the 1841 census returns. George is a hatter aged 38, his wife is 32 and with them is their daughter, Louisa, aged 5. They have 2 servants, Amelia JENKINS aged 22 and Mary NORSFOLD aged 20. The couple can be seen there in the 1851 and 1861 census returns, by which time George is described as 'Hatter Master employing 3 men and 1 boy'.



The shop at 6 St James's Street.

George died aged 61 on 10 September 1864 at his house at 22 Talbot Square, Hyde Park. He is stated to be 'of this address and of St James's Street' in the National Probate Calendar, with his effects 'under £12,000' being administered by his widow, the sole executrix. George was buried at All Souls' Cemetery on 15 September. Louisa herself died on 25 February 1893 at 22 Talbot Square.

No. 6 was not lived in by the family after this date. In 1871, Antonio CORATI, a merchant, is there along with lodgers and servants. The living accommodation above the shop was empty in the 1881 and 1891 returns, with Alfred Leonard LAWLEY, civil engineer, and 3 servants there in 1901. It was empty again in 1911 but 1921 saw George Burton HARVEY, a dealer in old engravings and his wife Fanny there.



Part of the museum at the back of the shop.

After George died, James formed another partnership in 1871, this one being with his nephew Charles Richard WHITBOURN and shop manager James BENNING, which secured the business for future generations. James BENNING's grandson George James STEPHENSON joined in 1899 and Lock & Co is still a family-owned business selling bespoke hats today.

There is a small museum at the back of the shop, which includes one of their ledgers but the bulk of the archive is at The London Archives,

Ref; B/LK. Of course, much of it refers to their customers. Their first international customer was Mr MALLET of New York, who requested a 'fine beaver hat' in 1781. Admiral Lord NELSON purchased his 'cocked hat with cockade' from the shop in 1805. Oscar WILDE, Sir Winston CHURCHILL and Charlie CHAPLIN all bought hats here and royal patronage continues under King Charles III.

In the archives is a series of day books which record the customer's name and address, a description of the order, the cost and delivery details. These date from 1781 to 1969, although there are some gaps. Also here are order books (1805-1998, with gaps), rough order books known as waste books (1798-1819), job books (1875-1976) and special-order books, all of which contain similar information about customers, namely their name and address, description of hat ordered and the total cost. Financial ledgers start in 1796 and continue up to 1914, with tradesmen's ledgers dating from 1796-1855. There are other financial records and also 20th century staff records.

The ledger on show in the shop is the order book dated 1849-1851, which includes the first order from Lord COKE. A commission came in from Lord COKE, Earl of Leicester, in 1849, who wanted a hat for the gamekeepers on his Holkham Hall estate in Norfolk. Lock & Co asked their felt suppliers in Southwark to make it. These were William and Thomas BOWLER and the new hat is now the iconic Coke or Bowler hat.

Hard hats such as these needed precise head measurements and a device for doing this, the conformateur, was invented in Paris in 1852 by haberdashery partnership Allié-Maillard. This is still used to ensure that a hat fits its owner perfectly. The device is put on the head and as the levers and shaped crown adapt to the contours, the conformateur generates a detailed paper or cardboard template which can be kept for future reference.



The conformateur.

You might have thought that it would be easy to find the BOWLER hatters in the 1851 census returns for Southwark. Sadly not! William BOWLER, hatter, was living at 1 Crescent, Southwark Bridge Road, aged 44 and was described as a hatter employing 17 men, 13 women and 3 boys. He had apparently been born in Scotland. Surely this was him? However, no accompanying Thomas BOWLER was mentioned here. Indeed, by 1856, James BOWLER, hatter at this address, was giving dividends. He had been in the bankruptcy courts in 1850.

Another William BOWLER was living at Lemon Street in the 1851 census returns, a widowed 43-year-old hatter from Manchester. His eldest three children also worked in the business, with Hannah aged 17 being a hat crown maker, Alfred aged 15 a hat plush cutter and daughter Esther aged 13 also a hat crown maker. Thomas BOWLER was at 1 Bridge Place, a 24-year-old hatter who had been born in Lancashire. His household includes his widowed mother Mary, aged 46, a John BOWLER, widow aged 50 who is a hatter and Benjamin BOWLER aged 20, also a hatter – all born in Lancashire.



We wish Lock & Co a very happy 350th anniversary.

Sources

Ancestry.co.uk, <https://www.ancestry.co.uk/>

Findmypast, <https://www.findmypast.co.uk/home>

Lock & Co, <https://www.lockhatters.com/>

The London Archives, <https://www.thelondonarchives.org/>



ADVERTISING RATES

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See inside front cover for address.

SPOTLIGHT ON: THE STRAND

The name ‘strand’ means ‘bank’ or ‘shore’ and the road known as the Strand formerly ran along the edge of the Thames. For centuries it was a rough, muddy track extending across the fields outside the City of London to Thorney Island, on which the Palace of Westminster was situated. Nowadays the Strand runs from Temple Bar (the old gate to the City) westwards to Trafalgar Square.

Between the 12th and 17th centuries, many important mansions were built between the Strand and the river. Most of these were on the south side and had their own river gates and landings allowing easy access to the Thames, which was then a major transport artery. One of these large houses the Savoy Palace was built in 1245 by Peter, Count of Savoy, uncle of Eleanor of Provence, wife of King Henry III. It was used as a royal residence, ending up as the house of prince John of Gaunt. His involvement with the introduction of the Poll Tax meant that he was hated by ordinary people. During the Peasants’ Revolt of 1381, the rebels decided that all of John of Gaunt’s belongings were to be destroyed. Items were smashed, thrown in the river or burnt, resulting in unopened boxes of gunpowder being flung onto the flames, greatly adding to the destruction.



Somerset House

Edward SEYMOUR, Duke of Somerset also built a mansion on the Strand, Somerset House, which was constructed in 1547. When Edward (brother of Jane SEYMOUR) was executed in 1552, the property passed to the Crown.

The mansion was rebuilt in 1776 and has been used for various purposes by the government. It was the central record office for births, marriages and deaths, housed the Principal Probate Registry, and is now occupied by HM Revenue & Customs.

Other mansions included Arundel House, town house of the bishops of Bath and Wells; Durham House, the London residence of the bishops of Durham and later home of Anne BOLEYN; Essex House, originally an Outer Temple of the Knights Templar and subsequently owned by Robert DEVEREAUX, Earl of Essex; Exeter House, built by Lord BURGHLEY and home in the 18th century to a menagerie of lions, tigers, monkeys and hippos; and York House, built for the bishop of Norwich and later acquired by George VILLIERS, Duke of Buckingham – traces of these can often be seen in nearby street names today.

The creation of the Victoria Embankment in 1865-1870 meant that buildings on the south side of the Strand no longer had direct access to the Thames. Some 37 acres of land was reclaimed. Victoria Embankment Gardens still contain York Watergate, the private river gate built in 1626 by Inigo JONES for George VILLIERS' York House but now languishing some 130 metres from the Thames.

The aristocracy moved to the West End during the 17th century and the Strand became the centre of theatreland. Three of the many theatres survive to this day: the Adelphi, now into its fourth building, was founded by merchant John SCOTT and his daughter Jane in 1806 as the Sans Pareil; the Savoy, which was designed for Richard D'OYLY CARTE to showcase the comic operas of William S GILBERT and Arthur SULLIVAN; and the Vaudeville which opened in 1870 to show musical reviews and still contains some early stage mechanisms such as thunder drums.

Others did not survive. The Strand Musick Hall was established at Aldwych in 1864 and rebuilt in 1868 by John HOLLINGSHEAD, opening then as the Gaiety Theatre. Primarily the venue for lighter-hearted productions, the theatre was known for its Gaiety Girls, well-behaved, elegant chorus girls. This theatre was a casualty to road-widening of the Strand and was demolished in 1903. Also a victim of road-widening, Terry's Theatre had been built in 1887 near Fountain's Court by Edward TERRY, who had been the leading comedian at the Royal Strand Theatre, which was itself demolished in 1905 to make way for Aldwych tube station.



The Strand in front of St Mary's Church is now pedestrianised.

The Strand underwent extensive redevelopment in the 20th century with Aldwych and Kingsway being created in 1902 and four theatres demolished to make way for the roads. These were the Gaiety Theatre (which was rebuilt nearby), the Globe Theatre, the Olympic Theatre, and the Opéra Comique. The scheme also left the Strand's two churches, St Clement Danes and St Mary le Strand, 'stranded' on islands in the middle of a very busy road.

Now, in the 21st century, further redevelopment has meant road traffic that ran along the Strand has been diverted to go around Aldwych. This has created a large pedestrian area outside Somerset House with places to sit and new flowerbeds. This space, with the church of St Mary le Strand at its centre, won the Small Park Gold Award at the 2024 London in Bloom Awards.

Sources:

400 Years of York Watergate (City of London Archaeological Society, 2022), available here: <https://colas.org.uk/2022/05/15/400-years-of-york-watergate/>
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The Creation of the Aldwych and Kingsway in 1902 - 1904,
<http://www.arthurlloyd.co.uk/Aldwych1902.htm>

The Strand at British History Online, <https://www.british-history.ac.uk/old-new-london/vol3/pp59-63>

Picture credits, April Vesey and Elizabeth Burling

TO SEE OURSELVES AS OTHERS SEE US

By Sheila Clarke, Member No.7900

‘Oh, would some power give us the gift/see ourselves as others see us’

Robert Burns, *To A Louse*, 1786



Trafalgar Square by Arnout Louis Jules, 1847-1856, public domain

In 1852 my 3xgreat aunts Matilda Jane BAKER and Amelia Julia HEADLAND were preparing to emigrate. The destination was New Zealand and the following year they left on *The Māori* along with Matilda's husband Andrew and their three children. They had been living in Islington and working as milliners but increasing development had changed the rural suburb into another densely populated part of the City. The coming of the railways further swelled the numbers by those moving in to seek work, and the prospect of a new life on the other side of the world and what it may offer must have seemed an attractive proposition.

But what exactly were my family members leaving behind? For that we have the eye witness account of a young American writer, David W BARTLETT, who made two year-long visits to London in the late 1840s. These prolonged stays gave him ample opportunity to observe us in our native habitat and the result is a wide ranging essay on all aspects of London life. With typical American frankness, and the slightly gossipy tone we are so familiar with

today, we learn that many of his fellow countrymen considered Queen Victoria a ‘woman of no intellect’ and even ‘partially insane’. The Duke of Wellington ‘although very old’ was seen ‘galloping off on his horse like a young officer’, while Charles DICKENS - ‘physically well-made but with peculiar eyes’ – could be observed striding around London, ‘a burley head of hair giving him a continental aspect, not suited to London streets or drawing rooms’. Robert BROWNING (‘not a popular poet’) was ‘one of the finest looking men among the literary celebrities of London’ whereas TENNYSON was ‘rarely seen in society’.

Entertaining as he is about our celebrities, it is in descriptions of the City and day to day life where he comes into his own. From the grandeur of the buildings to the abject poverty existing alongside them we are transported to the extremes of life in City. On first visiting the East End he is ‘astonished beyond words’ at the contrast between the affluent West End and conditions in the likes of Spitalfields, Bethnal Green and Whitechapel where ‘horrible wretchedness’ made his blood run cold. Home to the poorest of the poor, the houses were low, black, badly ventilated and crowded, the streets ‘almost too disgusting to describe’. In this hotbed of misery was an immense number of thieves and prostitutes, the latter estimated at around 80,000. Showing an admirable social conscience, our visitor lays the blame firmly with the state – and our deplorable habit of beer drinking. Temperance had apparently moved slowly here in comparison to America and he had no doubt it was to blame for most of society’s ills. The answer was to ensure ‘the great class of English working men’ were given their civil rights: ‘make a man a citizen and you add to their dignity of character ... and you will see difficulties vanish’.

Our aristocracy too comes under scrutiny: while crediting them with being more dignified than in America - and even superior to that of any country in Europe – he discourages any danger of complacency by adding ‘they never use their own talents to any purpose – if they are blessed with any, which is not often the case’. Warming to his subject he continues ‘a member of the humble classes cannot gain admittance into noble society. The tendency of the Aristocratical [sic] system is to keep the masses degraded’ so ‘enterprising minds are crushed to the earth’.

An early morning visit to Billingsgate Market begins with a policeman eyeing BARTLETT and his friend with suspicion as they walk the silent

streets. On arrival they are confronted with a scene of noise, bustle and confusion as hundreds of men - and the odd woman – go about the business of selling fish. We learn the name originated with Belin, a (legendary) King of the Britons who built a gate on the site, but had now come to mean any ‘foul and dirty language’ due to its usage on the market floor by the ‘low and dirty class doing business there’. However, BARTLETT does not omit to mention that it is an honour to belong to the Society of Fishmongers and that their hall is one of the finest in London. Also, more than one member has become Lord Mayor, somewhat disproving his comments on our rigid class distinctions.

Arriving at London Bridge he pauses to admire the sight of London laid out before him and reflect on the WORDSWORTH poem about another Thames crossing *Upon Westminster Bridge*, 1802.

Then it's on to the London Fire Monument – sixpence to pay, three hundred and forty five steps to climb – where an even more breathtaking view awaits. All London and its suburbs can be seen and it is some time before the writer can waken from the trance of contemplating the world at his feet. The monument's top has been enclosed by an iron network to prevent suicides, the most recent being that of a young woman from a wealthy family seduced with the promise of marriage by a suitor who refused to commit and eventually became engaged to someone else. ‘Realising she had ‘loved wisely, but alas, too well’ ... the half-mad girl’ travelled to the monument and ascended ‘to stand alone on the giddy edge’ before plunging to the ground to the horror of the crowd below who were unable to prevent the tragedy. ‘This is the tradition of the monument’ is the somewhat pithy closing comment.

Drama of a different kind is on offer at Madame Tassaud's [sic] Madame TUSSAUD herself collects his one shilling entrance fee, sitting as motionless as one of her own wax figures. Once inside he is confronted by a sight ‘gorgeous beyond description’. The room in which many of the most popular figures are displayed is decorated in the French style with splendid ottomans, sofas, draperies and gilt ornaments, all accentuated by lights and mirrors. Amid this drama there is still room for the odd whimsical tale and our writer is reminded of the supposedly private viewing by the Queen and Prince Albert. Somehow the news that it was closed to the public had not reached an ‘original specimen of a Cheshire farmer’ who walked straight up to the

Royal Family group exhibit not realizing he was standing next to the real thing, and asked ‘Well, now, I doan’t [sic] think they be so fine looking after all – do you?’ On being advised by a horrified official who he was addressing, the ‘old man’s hat flew off, and his knees bent with a quickness that would surprise an unused republican’.

At the Old Bailey BARTLETT was greeted ‘in a very gentlemanly manner’ by the Governor, the appropriately named Mr HOPE, and given a tour of the prison and court. ‘No object in London ... has such a dismal aspect as this prison’, was the conclusion ‘its massive walls, so grim and dark, strike the beholder with an awe which chills him to the heart’. Levity is restored by the sight of ‘a couple of lawyers in full costume ... and their profusion of wrangling’ which, he confessed, ‘always excites our laughing, rather than reverential faculties’.

He learned the prisoners were provided with meat four times a week, soup for three and an allowance of bread and potatoes. In the exercise yard there were ‘some pleasant faces, but on the majority crime was written in plain characters’. The convicts were a different matter, with a ‘general expression of low cunning – eyes keen but their foreheads low’. He heard stories of the ‘daring burglar’ who broke into the house of an American near Regent’s Park, and the barely credible feat of a sweep prisoner who had run up forty feet of bare wall to climb over a fence of iron spikes. Conceding it was ‘impossible to conceive how it was done’, the authorities were taking no chances and the walls were now guarded by a row of projecting iron teeth. Unsurprisingly, the condemned cell was ‘a gloomy little spot’ with hardly any light creeping in.

He finishes by musing on the ‘clear difference’ between appearance of male and female prisoners. ‘Why is it’, he wonders, ‘that an utterly depraved woman looks so much worse than a depraved man? Perhaps the reason is that we all expect to see virtue and beauty in women, but we are not so confident in men and when we are disappointed the look of vice upon the woman’s face looks more hideous than on a man’s’.

No such disappointment was evident in some other encounters. On first entering an English drawing room BARTLETT was struck by ‘How robust the English ladies are ... not one of those present sallow or faded, much less wrinkled with age’. This he puts down to the habit of exercising ‘much in the

open air'. Their offspring also meet with his approval: 'red cheeked, of stout muscle and nimble gait' they also benefit from an outdoor lifestyle. He much admires the Englishwoman's capacity to walk 'half a dozen miles' and 'think nothing of riding on horseback twenty ... leaping over hedges on the back of a trusty steed'. A four or five mile journey to Epping Forest is taken on foot (he had expected his hosts to provide a carriage) and stopping for a brief rest on the way back asks his female companion 'Are you not very tired?' only to be told she 'could walk half a dozen miles yet'. But we do not escape entirely without criticism: it seems English tourists are given to 'ridiculing the excessive prudery of American women' whereas 'we much prefer that delicate sense of what is improper which characterizes them'. Apparently 'English women of certain classes are coarser' influenced by the Continent being so near that they imbibe a certain laxity. 'Not,' he hastens to add, 'in their morals but in their modes of expression, dress, and manners which the best classes of American women would not tolerate'. He would rather have 'the exquisite purity of mind and manners to be found among our women than the less refined habits of English ladies'. Also, he cannot help but notice that our womenfolk have larger feet. However, he finishes by admitting 'in the matter of physical health, we can learn a useful lesson from England'.

'Perhaps no country in the world had paid more attention to all pomp and circumstance of dress than England', is the assessment of our attitude to appearance 'but now black is the predominant colour for men, causing artists to complain that everyone now looked alike'.

Whereas once a feature of the clerical profession it was now 'common to all classes making it impossible to tell a peer from a shopman, although generally the peer was the plainer dressed of the two'. Lawyers were allowed to sport whiskers whereas formerly 'those hairy appendages to the human face' had been confined to the military.

Boots and shoes were generally made to last longer than American footwear (no doubt with the notoriously muddy London streets in mind) but as for style they were 'altogether lacking in beauty and shape'.

Some journeys around the Capital were made by public transport and these occasions provide perhaps the greatest contrast between the two countries. BARTLETT was much taken with the pygmy steamers plying up and down the Thames from early morning to late at night. These were very popular due

to being the cheapest form of travel but they did have the drawback of being open to all weathers which 'would not suit the American public, but Englishmen, though great grumblers, are not so luxurious in their tastes as we are'.

In matters of communication the differences are even more marked. 'We doubt if there is a people under the sun, that so murders its own language as the English. A well-educated man cannot understand the working-people in country parts,' London speech was a challenge due to differences in pronunciation and word significance, with instances of 'vulgar expressions which are common in comparatively good society, which would not suit American ears'.

'Londoners do not pronounce many of their words as Americans do' he bemoans, 'and have the habit of giving every letter the wrong sound'. Omnibus travel was particularly trying due to conductors' 'wretched habit' of abbreviating place names and he gives the example of Kingsland announced as "Kings-la!" Kings-la!" by the 'unmannerly fellows'. 'Surely it ill becomes any one belonging to such a country to find fault with American pronunciation'.

So there we have it: how the city of our ancestors appeared to the foreign visitor in the mid-19th century. Some observations I found surprising, some wryly amusing, and others still recognizable today. David BARTLETT was a talented young writer who went on to have a successful career as a journalist and author and I hope this account of his time here may be of interest as we continue to research the fascinating subject of our ancestry.

Source

London by Day and Night or, Men and Things in the Great Metropolis by David W Bartlett, New York (1852 Hurst & Co).

Note: The Robert Burns original stanza 8, ll.1-2:

To a louse on seeing one on a lady's bonnet at Church.

'O wad some Power the giftie gie us/To see oursel's as ithers see us!'

It concludes: 'It wad frae monie a blunder free us,/An' foolish notion:/What airs in dress an' gait wad lea'e us,/An' ev'n devotion!'



WEBSITE NEWS

LWMFHS Archive in the Members Area of our website:

<https://lwmfhs.org/members-area/>

The Members' Area of our website now contains a new menu item called Archive. It will take you to a new page where you can search a number of different data sets found in the Society's archive. Available as fully searchable indexes they are:

Births - over 500 GRO certificates (or similar) donated by members where you can also see a scanned copy of the original document.

Marriages – 300 plus GRO certificates (or similar) donated by members where you can also see a scanned copy of the original document. Each bride and groom is indexed separately.

Deaths - over 650 GRO certificates (or similar) donated by members where you can also see a scanned copy of the original document.

Baptisms – Originally transcribed and donated by members you will find nearly 4,000 baptisms for: Union Chapel, Islington 1805-1839, St Giles in the Fields 1749-1751, St James Piccadilly 1765-1766.

Harland Papers – An index to 79 documents which a member had rescued from the 'dust-bin' several years ago. They relate to a Barnet firm of Surveyors and auctioneers for the years 1890, 1891, 1899, 1902, 1907, 1909. 390 names and places listed and you can see a copy of the original index.

1723 Oaths of Allegiance – A transcription donated to the Society in 2008 which contains about 6,500 names of adults over the age of 18 years in the City of London in 1723, nearly 200 being Quakers. Now available as a fully searchable index.

Surnames in our Monumental Inscription books - Here you can find the surname indexes as they appear in our updated and republished Monumental Inscription series of books. There are currently five titles and each book relates to an individual parish church and/or churchyard, or burial ground. Each entry identifies the book a given surname appears in with the associated references indicating the number of inscriptions involved.

Elaine and Barbara, the LWMFHS Website Team

Union Chapel, Highbury, new online archive

This chapel was formed by the union of a group of 26 Anglicans and Nonconformists in 1799 – hence its name. Initially the congregation worshipped at Highbury Grove Chapel, then they moved to Compton Terrace, Upper Street, in 1806. Anglican worship was dropped in 1845 and

the church joined the Congregational Union in 1847. The current building off Upper Street was built in 1877 and is now Grade I Listed. As it looks ahead to its 150th-anniversary celebrations in 2027, it has launched a heritage collection on its website.

There is an interactive timeline, many short films about the chapel and its conservation, archive stories and access to their archive collection which can also be seen in person by appointment. Perhaps more important from a family history point of view is that the baptism registers include an extra 41 years which have not been available before, so covering the years 1805-1878. Also here is a list of members of the church dating from 1880-1929. For more information about the history of the church and to look at the online catalogue, visit: <https://unionchapel.org.uk/projects/heritage>

London Borough of Barnet online archives

A tranche of new digitisations have recently gone online, all of which can be searched by any key word and are free to view. These are council minutes, council magazines and electoral registers as detailed below.

Council minutes comprise Barnet Council ones dated 1895-1963, East Barnet Council minutes from 1895-1964, Finchley Council minutes 1878-1898, Friern Barnet Council minutes 1884-1964 and Hendon Council minutes 1879-1964 are now included. These minute books contain many decisions and reports regarding council matters including about public parks, planning permissions, sanitation and sewage, schools, roads, etc.

All the surviving council magazines produced by the Municipal Borough of Hendon and the London Borough of Barnet between 1964 and 2022 from the Barnet Libraries Local History Collection have now been digitised. These provide a good chronicle of the doings of the council and other local organisations.

The collection of electoral registers includes the constituencies of Barnet from 1930-1966, Finchley 1908-1964 and Hendon 1901-1965, and covers areas like Edgware and Friern Barnet. Also here is the Hendon Register of Jury Service 1903-1923 and Hendon Absent Votes List 1919-1928. The collection has gaps.

The London Borough of Barnet's online collection is proving very popular with over 600,000 downloads of the documents in the last 2 years. The whole collection can be found here: <https://open.barnet.gov.uk/dataset/barnet-history-2rpm1>

(Please note that the images are not in the public domain and you would need permission from Barnet Libraries Local History Collection for reuse.)

Where Were They Buried

Where Were They Buried talks for Stanmore and Willesden can now be seen in the Members; Area of the website. The Stanmore talk became available in June and the Willesden one in July.



‘Where Were They Buried: Stanmore’ is about where people are likely to have been buried who lived in the ancient parishes of Great Stanmore or Little Stanmore, or their districts of Belmont, Canon’s Park,

parts of Elstree and Whitchurch. These are now in the London Borough of Harrow.

‘Where Were They Buried: Willesden’ covers the districts of Brondesbury, Church End, part of Cricklewood, Dollis Hill, Dudden Hill, East Twyford, Harlesden, Kensal Rise, Kilburn (west of Edgware Road), Mapesbury, Neasden, Park Royal, Stonebridge, Willesden and Willesden Green, which are all now part of the London Borough of Brent. In these talks we show which records are available and where they can be found.

We do hope you will find our new additions useful!

HAVE YOU RENEWED?

The Society’s year ends on 30 September 2026 and it is now time to renew your subscription. This will mean that you will be able to attend the October Virtual Branch meeting, benefit from the Members’ Area of our website and receive December’s *Metropolitan*. The new password to this will be sent out to members in due course, so keep an eye on your emails then.

Our new online renewal system is here: <https://membermojo.co.uk/lwmfhs>

If you wish to renew by post, the renewal form was in the centre of the June issue of *Metropolitan*.

Thank you to all those members who have already renewed.

OUT AND ABOUT

Coming up...

London Westminster & Middlesex FHS will be going to the following events in the next few months. Maybe we are coming to an event near you? We are always happy to welcome some 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 of these events for an hour or two, please contact Karen at: events@lwmfhs.org

The Family History Show, 3 October



Describing itself as London's most popular genealogy event, this will take place at

Kempton Park Racecourse on Saturday 3 October from 10am-4pm. As we went to press, Early Bird tickets could still be had for £8.50 for a single or £6.00 for multiple ones. Of course, you can still get in free by helping at our stand – contact Karen to volunteer.

Oxfordshire Family History Society Fair, 24 October



This fair will be held on Saturday 24 October from 10am-4pm at Cherwell School North Site, Marston Ferry Road, Oxford, OX2 7EE.

This is a fair which we regularly attend. There is plenty of on-site parking and an excellent café, apart from all the family history help!

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.

There is free admission to the fair and free parking for 3 hours. Again, this is one we usually attend.



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.

FEMALE EMIGRATION SOCIETY

My great great grandmother, Ann Waller JOHNSON CHANEY, left London for America on 5 August 1850 with her 4 daughters, under the auspices of the Female Emigration Society created by Sir Sidney Herbert and William Quekett, Curate of St George's in the East. They joined a group of young women who were first housed in Holborn before proceeding to Blackfriars and Gravesend for departure. My ancestors were in the 7th group sent from London. Is there information about this home for women in Holborn? Other information about the Female Emigration Society?

Sharon Cook. Member No. 8758

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Note: There is much to be found out about the Female Emigration Society in the historic newspapers, available at the British Newspaper Archive and on Findmypast. For instance, *The Hertford Mercury* of 2 March 1850 is one of several newspapers which reported that the first group of 38 women left London from Blackwall on a steamer to join the *Culloden* at Gravesend in March 1850, bound for Port Phillip (Melbourne) in Australia. *The Illustrated London News* of 12 March 1853 has two engravings of the 30th group and much information about both the Fund, which had been established in the winter of 1849, and the women helped. *The Northampton Mercury* of 21 May 1853 writes that the 32nd group, which consisted of 40 women, was being sent abroad on the *Walmer Castle* from Gravesend. A document was presented by Mr Haly, the secretary, which showed that 1,701 emigrants had been sent out previous to 1 January 1853 and £3,500 remained in the fund. The Hon.

Mr KINNARD gave a speech stating that it was believed that this might be the last such group, as the Government, formerly adverse to sending our single women, were now supporting such emigration to such an extent that the committee felt it was no longer necessary or convenient to grant free passage. The *Dublin Evening Packet* of 14 June 1853 records that by this time 'upwards of 1,200' women had been sent out 'to the colonies' at a cost of some £24,000. The address of the Society is given as 4 St Martin's Place, Trafalgar Square, London.

So far, all mentions were of women going to Australia, where it seems the vast majority of them ended up. Looking specifically for America, there is a report about the Female Emigration Fund in *Lloyd's Weekly London Newspaper* of 27 October 1850. In it, it is recorded that it was intended to ship 50 young women to the Cape colony on 15 November and that emigrants sent out to Canada in the *Elsbeth* had arrived safely and had all obtained work within one week.

There is mention of the Home belonging to the Society in some of these and other articles. Women could present themselves here or were found elsewhere and housed here for a short time, under the care of a matron, before their voyage.

There is an archive of documents relating to the Female Emigration Fund in the papers of Sidney HERBERT at Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre at Chippenham. You can contact them or search their online catalogue here: <https://wshc.org.uk/>

MIDDLESHIP

Has anyone managed to unravel the 18th and early 19th century MIDDLESHIPs in/around London? MIDDLESHIP is an unusual name, and you'd think they'd be easy to find, but they're doing my head in, especially as they are almost entirely prior to registration and censuses.

I'm descended from Ann Louisa MIDDLESHIP, who was baptised 30 May 1802 at St James Piccadilly; parents Daniel MIDDLESHIP and Ann. The parish register is online.

Ann Louisa MIDDLESHIP married William WRENCH on 30 May 1822 at St Martin-in-the-Fields. They're my 3x great-grand parents. My line down from them is pretty well as secure as it can be.

Ann Louisa also appears to witness the marriage of William HIGGINS to Frances MIDDLESHIP at St Anne Soho, 30 May 1819. But who is Frances

MIDDLESHIP? I don't know!

And that is as much as I can find out. I have no convincing line backwards from Daniel MIDDLESHIP, nor anything on his ?wife? Ann. However ...

A Daniel MIDDLESHIP, marries Eleanor BRACE (baptised 13 May 1775, Abergavenny) on 18 July 1802 at St George the Martyr, Southwark. They appear to then live in Collingwood Street, Chelsea until he dies in 1838, and she in 1854. They have at least 4 (and possibly 7) children. He's a coach wheelwright. And yes, Eleanor BRACE can be traced back to Abergavenny via the 1851 census and her sister!

This Daniel appears to be the son of Robert MIDDLESHIP (1746-1817) and Mary WALL. Daniel is born 9 September 1774, baptised 9 October 1774 at St Mary, Ealing. He's one of 10 children (including two boy-girl pairs of twins) all baptised in Ealing.

Daniel is apprenticed in 1790 to Francis BERNARD of London, wheelwright; the record of the tax paid for the indenture is dated 9 February 1790 and online.

Robert MIDDLESHIP (born 1746, St George Hanover Square) appears to be the son of Robert MIDDLESHIP (buried 21 April 1778, St George Hanover Square), but I've found nothing to definitively prove this.

BUT ... I can find no other Daniel MIDDLESHIPS anywhere in England (or any likely name variant!), so I can't tie Daniel (father of Ann Louisa) with Daniel (wheelwright). It looks possible, even likely, but how and why? The only clue is that Daniel (wheelwright) has a sister Martha Louisa and a daughter Mary Louisa (born 12 August 1812 but not baptised until 28 May 1829, St Luke, Chelsea); and there's Ann Louisa. Now Louisa is not uncommon as a name, but maybe, just maybe, this is a clue – Louisa appears nowhere else amongst the MIDDLESHIPS that I've found. I'm clutching at straws.

There are quite a few MIDDLESHIPS in London: St James, Piccadilly; St George, Hanover Square; St Anne, Soho are the main areas. Also there are lots around Kew and Richmond. But no Daniel MIDDLESHIPS and nothing that obviously connects up to him. I've been trying to piece together the Kew/Richmond MIDDLESHIPS in the hope that they may help – they're interesting, but don't obviously help.

I've trawled the major family history sites, National Archives for wills (two relating to the Richmond crowd) and the internet generally. There are a handful of other documents indexed but not online, although from the indexes they don't look at all likely to be useful.

I don't expect anyone to spend time hunting for these people (you all have your own research to do!), but if anyone has already done the work, or has any better clues, I would be very interested, please.

Dr Keith Marshall, Member No. 7692

Note: We note there is another MIDDLESHIP tree on Ancestry with the same details. It might be useful to contact the owner.

Otherwise, it might be worth having a look at rates records for all of the places the families were at. These will only show the (mainly) male heads-of-household but they were taken twice a year so can show how long people were at a particular place. These early rates records are generally found in the parish chest collections. The transcriptions of Westminster Rate Books dated from 1634-1900 (there may be gaps) can be seen on Findmypast. You can specify the parish when searching if necessary, although there do not seem to be any MIDDLESHIPS at first glance. The originals can be seen digitised on FamilySearch.



NEW EMAIL ADDRESS?

Please let us know: membership@lwmfhs.org

Don't forget to include your membership number whenever you contact the Society – it makes it easier for our volunteers.

NEXT COPY DATE

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

1 November 2026

FORTHCOMING BRANCH MEETINGS

Virtual Branch – Talks are on the second Thursday of the month. ‘Doors’ open at 7.45 for an 8pm start. If you would like to come, the very first time you need to let us know by emailing: virtualbranch@lwmfhs.org.

The details of how to join each Zoom meeting will then be emailed to you a few days before the event. 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: Elizabeth Burling, Email: virtualbranch@lwmfhs.org

10 September *Hidden legacies: what Chancery Courts reveal about our ancestors* by Sarah Pettyfer

Chancery records are one of the most under used resources for family history but can reveal much about our ancestors’ lives, their family, social and business connections, and property. This talk will look at why our ancestors may have become involved in Chancery court case and explore the hidden stories to be found.

8 October *Family Search Fantastic and Free* by Steve Manning
Learn about FamilySearch - an amazing FREE family history resource.

12 November *Navigating the archival maze* by Graham Ford
Understanding archives, their catalogues and top tips for searching them. Graham Ford, LWMFHS Membership Secretary, explains the fundamentals of how archives are arranged, what this means for family historians and gives his tips for finding their amazing treasures that can help breakdown our brick walls.

10 December *Christmas Crackers* by Janet Few
From Advent to mince pies and mistletoe to yule logs. What are the origins of the traditions that make up our modern Christmas? This presentation takes us on an alphabetical journey of many aspects of Christmas celebrations and considers how our ancestors may have observed Christmas in the past.

Barnet Branch

Branch Contact: Elizabeth Burling, Email: barnetbranch@lwmfhs.org

If you would like to meet, please leave your contact details with Elizabeth 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

Members who can get to Pinner have been meeting occasionally for discussions at the house of former Chairman Tony Allen. It is on a convenient bus route (H12 to Waxwell Lane stop) that connects up stations on a variety of lines. Car parking is also available. Meetings are usually on the first Monday of the month, 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 11am to 1pm 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 FHS 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 for a 12 noon start. East Surrey FHS ask for a donation from visitors towards a cuppa. Sometimes they go for a guided walk instead. You can find more information here:

<https://www.eastsurreyfhs.org.uk/index.php/events.html>



The 3 St Botolph churches

FOCUS ON FACEBOOK

By Elizabeth Burling, Member No. 4992

On the feast day of St Botolph (17 June, as I am sure you all know!) I posted a little piece about him. Otherwise called Botwulf of Thorney, he was an abbot and is regarded as the patron saint of wayfarers. Because of this, there were churches named after him at 4 of the main gates of the City of London: Aldgate, Aldersgate, Billingsgate and Bishopsgate.

Peter asked where was the St Botolph's Church by the Billingsgate medieval water gate. This church burnt down in the Great Fire of 1666 and was not replaced but Botolph's Lane gives a clue. A fraction of the Upper Graveyard of the church survives as One Tree Park at the corner of Monument Street and Botolph Lane.

Lionel shared a page from the Lost London Churches project, containing further information about the vanished church, and pinpointing its location to the south side of Lower Thames Street and almost next door to St Magnus the Martyr. Indeed, the remains of the church were uncovered during archaeological work on the lorry park next door to the old Billingsgate Fish Market. You can see much of interest in the article on the Lost London Churches page here: <https://lostlcp.com/st-botolph-billingsgate/>

Lionel had further useful information. He wrote that the site of St Botolph Billingsgate is marked on the 1873 OS map *The Monument & Pool of London*, London sheet 7.76 (and, indeed, many other lost churches). It is worth bearing in mind that the Billingsgate shown nearby isn't the former market building of today (as pictured in the Lost London Churches article) but the previous building. Sir Horace Jones's market of 1878 was clearly larger than its predecessor and had a different footprint. Meanwhile, Monument Street wasn't created until 1887, so the junction by the upper churchyard fragment didn't exist yet. The rectangular open space on the east side of Botolph Lane (the one closer to the church site) is probably One Tree Park.

In 2017 the City of London Corporation produced Statements of Significance for the surviving churchyards. The One Tree Park document says Monument Street truncated the churchyard. It also records that there are some tombs set into the paving and that there are in fact two trees planted here.

AIMS OF THE SOCIETY

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

SUBSCRIPTIONS

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

There are three subscription rates: £12, £15 and £20 depending on where you live and how your journal *Metropolitan* is delivered.

Our year runs from 1 October until 30 September the following year.

Members joining during the Society's year will receive back copies of journals.

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Please refer to our Privacy Policy on our website at <https://lwmfhs.org>

METROPOLITAN COPY DATES:

Latest dates to receive submissions for each issue are 1 Feb, 1 May, 1 Aug, 1 Nov.