

# METROPOLITAN

The Journal of the

**LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX**

Family History Society



**October 2006**

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Information may also be found on the Society's website [www.lnmfhs.dircon.uk](http://www.lnmfhs.dircon.uk)  
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Cover Picture: The National Archives, Kew  
Photo by Barbara Haswell

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## EDITORIAL

The members of the Editorial Team were pleased by the responses to our first Journal and we thank all those who have sent in contributions or made unsolicited comments expressing approval or encouragement. As a result of your input, there is a varied collection of articles, comments, information and questions within this issue of METROPOLITAN. It has not been possible to include all the items received in this journal despite having extra pages: there is only so much space available and there is also a balance to be drawn with regard to subject matter, length of articles etc.

From the Editors' standpoint, however, it is reassuring to have some material in hand for future issues and we look forward to receiving more contributions. It would also be interesting to hear from people who have made use of the *Help!* section recently. What kind of responses did you receive? How long did you wait for them? Did they help much? Was your request for help made as a last resort or your first port of call?

Questions of various kinds were raised at the end of July when I joined Kay Payne and Doreen Heywood to help on the Society's stand at The Bucks FHS Open Day. It was an interesting day and it was good to meet a few members of our Society among the visitors to our stand. We shall also have a stand at the West Surrey FHS Open Day at Woking Leisure Centre, Kingfield Road, Woking on Saturday 4 November from 10-4.30. Free entry and parking. We look forward to seeing you there.

For more information visit [www.wsfhs.org](http://www.wsfhs.org)

Remember that the *final* copy date for the December issue of METROPOLITAN is 1 November, so please don't leave your contribution until the last minute!

**Rosemary A Roome**

## THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

The National Archives (TNA) is the repository for records of the UK Government from Domesday to the present day and is one of the largest archival collections in the world. You can see the collection at TNA, Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 4DU. Tel: 020 8876 3444. You can view the catalogue and certain documents online at [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk)

## **VENUE CHANGE FOR CITY BRANCH MEETINGS**

As from **January 2007** the City Branch meetings will be held at the Meeting Room on the first floor of the Family Records Centre, No. 1 Myddelton Street, London EC1R 1UW.

The times of the meetings will remain unchanged ie the last Thursday in each month, from January to November inclusive, at 12 noon for 12.30. The talks usually last about one hour. We do not hold a meeting in December. There is a lift available for public use.

Our group is small but very friendly, and we have excellent speakers. We look forward to meeting old and new members in **2007**.

## **MEMBERS WISHING TO PAY BY BANKERS ORDER**

Due to a number of recent changes within the Society, one of the matters overlooked was that the subscription reminder in the July METROPOLITAN should not have included an invitation to request a bankers order mandate for the payment of current or future subscriptions.

The move to a common renewal date of 1 October means that most subscriptions due between 1 October 2006 and 30 September 2007 will need to be adjusted so that all end on 30 September 2007. During this period we will write to each member individually, advising the proportionate subscription due and also asking whether or not the member would wish to pay by bankers order.

It would complicate matters for us if we were to set up bankers orders based on current subscription dates and amounts and we must therefore advise that no new bankers order mandates will be set up for existing members until we write to them as indicated.

We trust members will understand.

**Anne Prudames**  
Membership Secretary

**J Brian Green**  
Treasurer

## FAMILY RECORDS CENTRE TO CLOSE?

You may have heard of the statement issued on 21 June by The National Archives (TNA) and the Office for National Statistics (ONS) about the provision of services to family historians. For some time they have managed the Family Records Centre (FRC) in Myddelton Street, Islington, as a joint operation and it has been very popular. TNA runs the census returns part of the Centre and ONS the births, marriages and deaths part. These are the two main series of records needed for researching a family history and they are in a convenient location for Londoners and people travelling to the capital. Other major archive repositories are situated nearby. However, TNA states that they have already made most of their material housed at the FRC available online and so it is no longer essential to operate a central London base. This ignores the 30% of the public who do not have computer access at home. The Victorian censuses are indeed available online but only through licensed partners and you must pay to look at the census images (which are free at the FRC). As part of their *Vision for 2006-11*, TNA intends to move their FRC staff and services to Kew by the end of 2008 saving some £1.1 million rent to concentrate their funds on making as many documents as possible available online.

The move to Kew will mean that all TNA research services will be on the same site and, according to *Ancestors* August 2006, 'readers can move quickly and easily between the thousands of series of records without leaving their desks'. No mention is made of the time taken or expense incurred travelling to the far end of the District Line or the trouble trying to secure one of only 116 car parking spaces. TNA arranged public meetings on 7 and 14 September at Kew and FRC respectively to invite users to give them their views on how best to provide services to family historians, their biggest customer group, in the future. TNA itself admits that it did not consult the general public before making this decision, as it knew 'the vast majority of users would oppose the withdrawal from Myddelton Street.' If you missed these meetings and wish to make your views known you can pick up a form at Kew or FRC or contact them online at [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/contact/form/](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/contact/form/)

ONS is currently digitising registration records but has not yet made much of the data available online. The hard copy indexes at the FRC remain, for

now, the resource enabling the Registrar General to meet her statutory obligation to make indexes available to the public. Over the coming months ONS will be reviewing its future requirements for services at the FRC in the light of the digitisation and the decision of TNA to relocate to Kew.

The FRC Joint Service Development Programme 2005-2006 said 'we aim to build on the success of our joined-up services'. The current TNA plans seem unlikely to achieve this.

## **FROM THE CHAIRMAN**

The members of the executive committee are in the process of looking for ways to cut down on the Society's expenditure. Costs have been rising steadily, both in respect of venue rentals and speakers' fees, so we are pleased to hear that our City Branch has negotiated a new meeting place within the Family Records Centre which is to our advantage.

Many of you may have heard that The National Archives intend to move the services currently available in its part of the FRC out to Kew at some time in the future. It would seem that they too are having to cut costs.

A good tip if you are intending to visit Kew is to take the digital camera and get it registered by the reproduction department on arrival. There are some good camera stands available in the reading and map rooms. You could pay in the region of £21 for two or three digital copies of fragile parchment whereas the do-it-yourself route is free of charge.

The Secretary receives a lot of correspondence, by both post and email, and much of it could involve many hours of research which of course we are unable to do. Many people writing in assume that we must have a vast database of everyone who ever lived in our area. We don't! You can have a request for help from other readers inserted in the journal. This service is free for members. Please quote your membership number in any correspondence.

If like me you did not learn Latin at school, did you know that on The National Archives website there is a Latin course that you can log onto? You do in your own time, at your own pace, completely free of charge but there is no feedback. I think this may also serve as a refresher for those who did take Latin. Either way, it's a good service.

**William Pyemont**

## LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

**A**lthough not connected with the objects of our Society may I correct some facts in the short article from the Wembley Branch concerning an Australian cricket match played at Wembley in 1896. In that match Australia played Wembley Park, an England *representative* side assembled by a Mr. T.C. O'Brien. The match, however, was notable in that the Australian player Fred 'The Demon' Spofforth, nearing the end of his outstanding career, played for the England side. For completeness the Australian Eleven made 106 and 131 in their two innings thus easily defeating the English eleven. As far as I can tell this was the only first class match played on that ground. Incidentally the first international match played in England against Australia was in 1880 at the Oval, but at that time these matches had not yet acquired the epithet 'Test'.

*Norman Huxford, Member No. 4359*

**B**ill Pyemont's article (METROPOLITAN July 2006) about the way our forebears latched on to drovers when travelling to the large towns in search of a better livelihood is excellent, informative, and makes us all think.

To give a live example of such a route, an advertisement in (*Jacksons Oxford Journal* of 12 Dec 1836 gives one such itinerary. Drovers working for Thomas EVANS, beast and sheep salesman of Southfield (on the Warwickshire/Gloucestershire border), left Stow, Moreton-in-the-Marsh, Shipston, and Long Compton in the north Cotswolds on Mondays; Chipping Norton on Tuesdays; Glympton, Bletchingdon and Islip on Wednesdays; then onwards via Wheatley, Tetsworth, Postcombe, Stokenchurch, High Wycombe, Beaconsfield and Red Hill (i.e. Edgware) arriving at Smithfield by the following Monday. On today's road map, this is roughly the A3400 from Shipston to Glympton, the B4027 to Wheatley, and then the A40 to London deviating a bit north to Edgware. Imagine the scale of such operations and the number of legs involved! We can picture such scenes when we drive along these roads today.

By the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, Smithfield had become a hugely inefficient and immensely cruel market place, bringing misery to all our forebears who lived anywhere in the vicinity as well as the shepherded livestock. The 'Cally' (Caledonian Market) was originally intended to relieve the



Smithfield chaos but by the time it was opened – in 1855 – it was already too late. Thanks to the rapidly developing railway system most meat was already reaching London as carcasses and the procession of live animals pouring down the Islington and Clerkenwell funnels each weekend had become more of a trickle.

Seldom mentioned is that nineteen years earlier, another purpose-built cattle market was opened just a mile or so north of Smithfield to take away the ills of Smithfield. (*Jacksons Oxford Journal* of 23 Apr 1836 announced its opening and provided details. Mr Perkins of Bletchingley, Surrey was the entrepreneur. The Islington market was on a 15-acre site, twice the size of Smithfield, and could corral 50,000 animals. It had plentiful water for the animals, three wide approach roads, fences, lockable gates and ample business houses at its heart.

Many farmers sending stock to London pledged public support (in newspaper advertisements) for this new market. My forebear Samuel PURSER, a farmer near Moreton-in-the-Marsh, was one of a hundred in the Cotswolds area to do so (*Gloucester Journal* 16 Apr 1836). He already knew from his brother, my 3 x great grandfather and other members of our family who migrated to the north London parishes, how awful the Smithfield conditions were.

Alas, the City Fathers were not prepared to see their lucrative Smithfield usurped. [In 1400 the City of London was granted the tolls from the market by Charter.] In the first six months it held on to 90% of the million animals sold and not long afterwards the new venture folded. Smithfield tortured the lives of our forebears for two more decades. (Reports in *The Times* in 1837/8 record the gradual descent into failure of the 1836 market and provincial newspapers from other parts of the country would make reference to it).

***Ron Purser, Member No. 1011***

**A** propos William Pyemont's article on 'Drovers' (METROPOLITAN 28 No. 4), Barnet has had a Fair (now world famous) from 1588. Originally this was held twice yearly in June and October and was held first on Barnet Common (either side of Wood Street, west of the Parish Church), and in later years in early September off Barnet Lane. The sale of cattle brought from the Highlands and ponies brought from Wales netted the owners hundreds of pounds each year.

Barnet also had a thriving livestock market in the St Albans Road, although the actual market was sited between Strafford Road, (this section is now Chipping Close and inaccessible from the St Albans Road) and Bruce Road. In 1849 Harland's the Auctioneers and Surveyors acquired the rights in the livestock market and auctioned cattle and other animals there until the late 1950s when it closed and then became Barnet Stall Market. The sights and sounds, particularly the sounds, fascinated us as children and although we never ventured further than the entrance in Strafford Road, we could see the rows of cattle waiting to be auctioned and listen to the auctioneer at work. Goodness knows why we found it so fascinating. We could not understand one word!

It is not surprising that with all this activity each week (Wednesday as far as I can recall) Barnet had two 'Home Grown' Drovers in the 1851 census:

<b>Barnet Common, Wood Street</b>	<b>HO107/1701 folios 119 and 120</b>
HUNTLEY Henry son unm 23 Drover Chipping Barnet	
EYERS Thomas lodger unm 27 Drover Chipping Barnet	

(Thomas EYERS was lodging next door to Henry HUNTLEY with the OSBORN family)

*Anne Prudames, Member No. 0254*

**E**mboldened by your Editorial in the July 2006 copy of METROPOLITAN, I write to point out an error in the Rayners Lane item on page 97.

If the Air Raid damage referred to was due to a flying bomb, the date would have to be 1944, as they did not start to arrive until June 1944.

If however the 1941 date is correct, I would suggest the obviously extensive damage to Glaxo could have been caused by what we used to call a land-mine, more correctly a parachute-mine - a very large container packed with high explosive that floated down on a parachute.

As the National Archives at Kew are hardly likely to have got it wrong, I expect the date is 1944. But I am a bit surprised to find a flying bomb (V1) penetrating as far as Greenford. As we later learnt, the Germans had difficulty in getting them to reach as far as London, the Croydon area being unfortunate enough to receive the most. West of London seemed pretty secure, but there were 'rogue' bombs which behaved unpredictably.

I must say how much I enjoyed the 'new-look' journal, and hope you get plenty of support from members.

**Miss Elizabeth L. Gough, Member No. 1929**

Thank you for being bold! It is so important to *evaluate*, not just accept, information. See page 33 re dates. Sadly many people in N and NW London are only too aware that flying bombs reached these parts.

**H**ave you inherited an interesting diary? As a student studying for an MA in Documentary Research I am currently researching a television documentary about diaries and what we can learn through the existence of them. I am particularly looking at diaries covering World War II. These diaries can be children's or adults', civilian or forces, British or foreign. If you think they reveal an interesting story, or are written in an unusual style, I would love to hear about them.

I would also like to hear from anyone who has inherited material that contains fascinating, surprising and maybe even shocking revelations; i.e. information that would otherwise not have come to light had it not been for the diary.

In order to complete my research on time it would be helpful if you could e-mail me as soon as possible on: [valerie.letley@btinternet.com](mailto:valerie.letley@btinternet.com) or write to me c/o The Editors, London Westminster and Middlesex Family History Society at the address shown on the inside front cover.

**Valerie Letley, Non-Member**

*Email: [valerie.letley@btinternet.com](mailto:valerie.letley@btinternet.com)*

**J**ohn CLAY sailed from England on a ship called *The Treasurer*, and arrived in Virginia in America in 1613. He was the first CLAY to settle there and he raised a family which has descendants living in the USA today. It is not known from which part of Britain he came, hence a project by 'The Clay Family Society' of America to try and find his birthplace.

They would like any males with the surname of CLAY to take part in a DNA project, which they will organise and finance. They send you a kit through the post. It is quite a simple test which just requires rubbing the inside of your cheek with a small plastic spatula, which you put in a small container and send back for analysis.

If you are male with the surname of CLAY and would like to help with the project please contact:-

**'The Clay Family Society'**

**Nancy Acord-Greathouse, (Non-Member)**

2134 Medina Line Road, Akron, Ohio, 44333, USA.

Email: [jntgreatho@aol.com](mailto:jntgreatho@aol.com)

I have just read the article on Bunhill Fields Burial Ground in the July 2006 issue of METROPOLITAN with interest.

I am afraid that the information concerning the interment order books in the penultimate paragraph is incorrect. The dates covered are actually 1789-1854, and the records are held by us here in the Manuscripts Section of Guildhall Library, not at London Metropolitan Archives.

The Bunhill Fields Burial Ground Interment order books 1789-1854 (Ms. 1092/1-18) are arranged by date on which order for interment was given, and record names, ages and dates of burial of deceased, places from which bodies were brought, and undertakers' names and addresses. The order books may be seen on microfilm in the Manuscripts Section's reading room without prior formality during our usual opening hours.

There is an index to the years 1788-1853 on microform: *Bunhill Fields Burial Ground Index*, J Hanson and M Stevens, 1999.

Note: The original burial registers 1713-1854 are at Kew and there are microfilm copies at the Family Records Centre. There are no surviving burial registers for the period between 1665 and 1713; and for some years between 1713 and c. 1788 the original burial registers are believed to omit some names of persons buried.

**Mrs Philippa Smith, Deputy Keeper of Manuscripts**

*Guildhall Library, Aldermanbury, London EC2P 2EJ*

Thank you for your helpful letter clarifying the situation.

**PLEASE NOTE** that correspondence, orders for publications, help requests, members' interests and articles for the Society's journal should NOT be sent to 1d Uplands Park Road, Enfield, but to the appropriate person as listed inside the front cover of METROPOLITAN.

## IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS

Irrespective of renewal date, members are asked NOT TO RENEW  
their subscription until  
AFTER the OFFICIAL RENEWAL NOTICE  
from the Membership Secretary has been received.

## UNWANTED CERTIFICATES

June POTTS, Member No. 6771, has the following four certificates which she would like to pass on to anyone who has these people in their trees.

**Birth:** Emily ARNOLD, born 18 Nov 1860, daughter of Henry ARNOLD and Mary Ann (BUCKMAN). Registration District: Edmonton, MDX.

**Birth:** Emily ARNOLD, born 14 Mar 1857, daughter of Charles ARNOLD (tailor) and Emily (HUNT?). Registration District: Saint Pancras, Somers Town, MDX.

**Birth:** Emily Sophia ARNOLD, born 17 Apr 1856, daughter of George Richard ARNOLD (surgeon) and Sarah (ALMEROOTH). Registration District: Stepney, Ratcliff, MDX.

**Marriage:** Joseph ARNOLD to Eliza SHEPPARD on 27 May 1866 at St. Pancras Church, MDX. Witnesses: Henry SHEPPARD and Emily SHEPPARD.

You can contact June at 183 Birkham Road, Beckenham, Kent, BR3 4ST



Muriel BOWLER has the following two certificates which she would like to pass on:

**Death:** Elizabeth PAGE aged 62, widow of Samuel PAGE, Bricklayer, on 13 Nov 1884 at 51 Walton Street, Chelsea.

**Death:** Elizabeth PAGE aged 51, wife of Abraham PAGE, Poulterer, on 2 Jan 1875 at 2 Little Smith Street, Chelsea

You can contact Muriel at 4 Melia Place, Yamba, NSW, Australia

Email: [murielbo@tpg.com.au](mailto:murielbo@tpg.com.au)

## DUBLIN FOR A £ EACH WAY!

By David S. Chester, Member No. 1080

I have been conducting research into William ROBERTSON, my wife's Grandfather (born 2 November 1885, Dublin) who served in both World Wars only to be torpedoed on the 24<sup>th</sup> April 1945 on the *Monmouth Coast* 80 miles off Sligo, when all but one Crew were drowned /killed. He was a Chief Engineer in the Merchant Navy, Discharge Number: R253630. At his death he would have been 59 years of age. The *Monmouth Coast*, Official No:146413, was owned by Coast Lines Ltd., and registered in Liverpool. William died twelve days before the end of WWII and he was on the last but one Merchant Ship to be sunk. If there is such a thing as 'bad luck' then this certainly was!

Having wanted to go over to Dublin for some considerable time to continue my research into his Merchant Navy Career, how could I not take advantage of an offer - found on the Internet - by Aer Lingus to fly to 'Dublin for a £ each way' from Heathrow. Itinerary planning commenced!

On my first day I went to the National Archives of Ireland in Bishop Street, Dublin with a view to consulting Crew Lists. By 14.00 hours I had come up against a brick wall, which in hindsight I should have anticipated. Having found my William ROBERTSON in the 1912 & 1911 Crew Lists for the *City of Brussels* O/N:76384, he is then recorded as being on the *Paragon* O/N:95327. I then went to look at the Crew Lists for the Dublin Registered *Paragon* only to find that they did not have the Crew Lists for the *Paragon* for the year 1910 but they did for 1909 and 1908, but he was not there! Typical!

I was then left with a dilemma as to what to do with the remaining two and a half days. Purely on a whim I decided to look at the ROBERTSON name in the Will Indexes from 1885 when my William ROBERTSON was born. I hadn't been looking very long when I came across an entry for a different William ROBERTSON in 1894. The entry read as follows:

'1894 ROBERTSON. WILLIAM.

Letters of Administration of the Personal Estate of William R ROBERTSON, late of 46 Seville Place, Dublin, Mechanical Engineer, who died 9 January 1894 at same place, were granted at the Principal Registry to

James McCreddie ROBERTSON and William Bruce ROBERTSON, both of 46, Seville Place and Thomas Orr ROBERTSON of 45, Seville Place, Mechanical Engineers & Sons, £1607 10s 6d.’

[Note: £1607 10s 6d in 1894 is equivalent to £662,465.95 based on average earnings.]

I had a feeling that this entry was connected with my wife’s family, as she had mentioned a vague story, heard from her Mother, about ancestors having an Engineering Company in Dublin! Spirits raised I consulted the very efficient, free and manned Genealogical Service based at the National Archives of Ireland. My Advisor consulted a well worn Thorn’s Street Directory for Dublin 1901, and ROBERTSON was listed in the Trades Section of the Directory under Engineering Mechanical, the detail reading ‘Robertson & Co: Seville Engineering Works, Spencer Avenue, Dublin.’

The National Library of Ireland in Kildare Street, Dublin was open until 21.00 hours that evening and had a good run of these Directories, so you can guess where I headed!

Bleary eyed, I worked backwards from 1901 and was able to ascertain that the first entry in Thorn’s Directory for the Engineering Works was in 1873 and it was on a site like a modern Industrial Estate. The last entry in the Directory for the Company was in 1910. Whilst at the Library I was able to see how long the ROBERTSON Brothers lived at the addresses gleaned from the entry in the Will Register i.e. 45 and 46 Seville Place, Dublin. I have to say it was one of my most exhausting days ever connected with Family History Research.

On Day 2 it was back to the National Archives of Ireland to consult the 1901 Census. After nearly falling asleep at the Microfilm Reader, that certain feeling, that only Family Historians understand, overcame me as there was my William ROBERTSON at 45 Seville Place living with his father Thomas Orr ROBERTSON! There were added bonuses as well, as I discovered that William ROBERTSON had three sisters and two brothers, previously unknown. The most exciting of all was to find out that my William ROBERTSON was an Apprentice Engineer in the Family Business at fifteen and a half years of age, as I had been trying for some time to find out where he had done an Apprenticeship!

James McCreadie ROBERTSON, William Bruce ROBERTSON and their widowed mother Martha ROBERTSON were found living next door at 46 Seville Place. They were my William's uncles and grandmother. The William ROBERTSON - whose Letters of Administration in 1894 started this line of enquiry - can now be deduced to be the Grandfather of my William ROBERTSON.

Spurred on by this success, I then consulted the 1911 Census and again luck was on my side. There was the Robertson Family at 45 Seville Place, minus William - who by now was in the Merchant Navy and serving on the *City of Brussels* O/N: 76384 plus two more brothers, George Hector ROBERTSON and James Alexander ROBERTSON.

I also checked out 46 Seville Place, but James McCreadie ROBERTSON and his brother William Bruce ROBERTSON were not there, mother Martha ROBERTSON having died a few weeks after the 1901 Census.

A rapidly prepared plan was made for Day 3 which was to take me to the General Register Office at Joyce House, Lombard Street East, Dublin, to consult Birth, Marriage & Death Indexes. After being used to our Family Records Centre in London, this location comes as bit of shock as it is so tiny and cramped. Having said that, the Staff could not have been friendlier, more cheerful and willing to help but you have to PAY for the privilege of consulting the Indexes. You can either pay 20 euros as a one-off payment which will allow you to search all day, viewing un-limited Indexes, or 2 euros to view five consecutive years of Indexes. You can obtain photocopies of any entry for a payment of 4 euros with a strict quota of five copies per person per day. Any additional copies are posted to you. The two additional copies I ordered arrived on my doormat two days after I got home!

Saturday was time to go home, but not before I went to view the Parish Church of St. George where my William ROBERTSON had married his bride Agnes Florence LAIDLAW on the 10 June 1914. Unfortunately the Church was covered in scaffolding and hoarding, but there was no mistaking what a magnificent building it was and hopefully will be again, when restoration is completed.



I started to make my way to the Bus Station to get my connection to the Airport, but not before taking a detour to see where 45 and 46 Seville Place used to be, as my Advisor at the National Archives of Ireland had told me that the area had mostly been re-developed. Well, that feeling returned as past new blocks of housing there was 45 and 46 Seville Place still standing! Number 45 was boarded up but 46 was occupied, and all of a sudden I needed another three days in Dublin! What was the one piece of luggage that I forgot - a CAMERA! So if any of my Fellow Researcher Colleagues are going to Dublin in the near future, please let me know, as I need a favour!

On my return it was time to decipher my notes, file them accordingly, and start writing those letters to follow up all the leads this fascinating trip had un-earthed. Well that's what it's all about, isn't it!

Dublin for a £ each way. Total Expenditure for my visit £295.78.

Note: Official Government Censuses of Ireland have been carried out at 10 year intervals since 1821. However, the individual household returns for the years 1821 - 1851 were destroyed in a fire at the Public Record Office in 1921. Returns for the years 1861 -1871 were destroyed by Government Order to protect confidentiality, and the 1881 and 1891 returns were pulped during the First World War due to the shortage of paper. A full set of returns for the 1901 and 1911 Censuses are available for public inspection at the National Archives of Ireland.

Source /Acknowledgement:

*Tracing your Dublin Ancestors* by James G. Ryan and Brian Smith. c. 1998  
Flyleaf Press ISBN 0 9508466 9 4.

P.S. If there are any Merchant Navy Researchers within the Society, who have a special interest/knowledge in Medals awarded to Merchant Navy Personnel in both WWI and WWII, could they contact me? I NEED HELP!

**David S. Chester.**

35 Willow Drive, Seaford, East Sussex, BN25 4BZ

Email: davelyn84@hotmail.com

## **A BETTER CLASS OF PERSON**

By Mrs L Cogdell, Member No. 5495

Most of us have a part of the family who make it quite clear that they have married beneath themselves and when I approached the 'posh' side of my family for some basic information to enable me to start my research I was under the impression that I would certainly find that their side of the family was well connected.

I had already spent some time researching the 'poor side' and had unearthed a long line of peasants and yeoman farmers most of whom had owned their own property, however humble, to have been honest in their dealings, even paying their taxes. Their only connection with the Poor Law had been their occasional appearance on the Board of Guardians for their local union, with a few constables thrown in for good measure.

Exhaustive research could uncover no scandals and only one recorded illegitimacy in two hundred years, surely worthy of comment. They had good army records going back past the Crimea and well documented evidence of hard work. They appeared very respectable, almost dull and certainly unadventurous as, with only one exception, they had remained in the same area for centuries. About to embark on the 'other side', I felt that things would now look up, the good connections would now reveal themselves. With the facilities of the Berkshire Record Office at my disposal I began with the Parish Records in the area where I had been assured that they lived as men of note. I had already located some of their addresses here on the census returns from 1851 onwards.

The names appeared on cue and I began to work back in time, but could I be looking at the correct names and persons? It was a fairly common name, there may be some mistake but double checking names and dates with the Parish Poor Law Guardians' record I confirmed that many of my characters were born and lived in the workhouse throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century, mostly only escaping into apprenticeships. My own great grandfather had made his way to the Metropolis by being apprenticed to the Great Western Railway. According to the register, he, with his nine brothers and sisters had been born in the workhouse, which, as this Union workhouse segregated husbands and wives, was a considerable achievement by his mother.

A fair proportion of other members of the family had been illegitimate according to the baptismal records and many had died in infancy, probably reflecting the conditions of their poverty. There can be no disgrace in being forced into the workhouse, due to the social pressures of the time when many were deprived of their living on the land, as small rural communities were destroyed by the Enclosures of the 19th century, but no doubt they were honest, I thought.

The only other record to hand was the County Sessions Book and this was to tell a different story. On their days out from the workhouse a considerable number of the family appear to have indulged in various degrees of crime from poaching and sheep rustling to gun theft and burglary. Whilst they were busy breaking the law, their patriarch was for some of this time in Reading Jail, serving a sentence for a life-threatening assault on his wife.

Having established that they were a somewhat troublesome family I requested the book of nuisances. There they were again, overflowing cesspits into a neighbour's garden, privies in a bad state, just the sort of folk to avoid living next to. They did have legitimate occupations, however, and it's good to know that you have a candle maker, a ratcatcher and a manure manufacturer to look back on, even if they had some more interesting sidelines.

Having only produced rogues and paupers, living in tiny workmen's cottages, I felt that there must be someone or something more exciting around the corner, these better connections that had been hinted at must just be elusive. Never believe family tales. After detailed research, the only other character to emerge bearing the family name has been a lady suspected of being a witch!

I am now left with a problem. How do I present the evidence to the gentle elderly relative from the posh side of the family, who provided me with the starting point, when instead of aristocracy I can only find skeletons in my cupboard?

This lovely article first appeared in *Greentrees*, the Journal of the Westminster & Central Middlesex FHS, Vol. 14 No. 1, Nov 1994.

## **METROPOLITAN – BACK COPIES AT GREATLY REDUCED PRICES**

The Society has a limited quantity of back copies of METROPOLITAN for sale at greatly reduced prices on a first come, first served basis.

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(Only the main articles have been itemised here).

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- Vol.16 No.4 July 1994: 1994 Conference Report ▪ Family Bible Inscriptions Index ▪ 1881 Census Project ▪ Markets
- Vol.17 No.1 October 1994: House of Detention 1616-1890 (Clerkenwell) ▪ Sources for Royal Naval Research ▪ To Walk in an Admiral’s Garden ▪ ...and they went to Sea in a Beautiful Pea Green Boat
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- Vol.16 No.1 October 1993

b) Editors: Jean and Harvey Haynes

- Vol. 19 No. 3 April 1997
- Vol. 20 No. 1 October 1997
- Vol. 20 No. 3 April 1998
- Vol. 20 No. 4 July 1998
- Vol. 21 No. 2 December 1998
- Vol. 21 No. 3 April 1999
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## **CITY OF WESTMINSTER ARCHIVES CENTRE**

You may be interested to know that Westminster Libraries, including the  
City of Westminster Archives Centre, are now offering free access to  
[Ancestry.co.uk](http://Ancestry.co.uk)

For more information telephone: 020 7641 1039

## WEBSITE NEWS

### Workhouses

This site, created by Peter Higginbotham, is dedicated to the workhouse – its buildings, inmates, staff and administrators. There is a wealth of information on more than 2000 web pages including 4000 photographs and illustrations and 1000 maps and plans of individual workhouses, contemporary accounts from the Illustrated London News and much more.

For example there is a page about the Central London Sick Asylum District (see *Help!* on page 44). This was built as a direct result of the Metropolitan Poor Law Act passed in 1867 to improve the provision of care for the sick poor in London. Initially the Central London District made use of the St. Pancras Union Infirmary at Highgate and then from 1874 it used the former Strand Union infirmary site at Cleveland Street. A new Central London District Sick Asylum was erected in 1898-1900 ‘in the country’ at Colindale, Hendon, with separate wards for TB patients, children and so on. There is a plan of the site from 1915 and numerous photographs, dating from 1930 to 2005, of the buildings. This page has links to many other pages both on this site and elsewhere, including the London Metropolitan Archives, where records from the Central London Sick Asylum District are kept.

If you had ancestors in a workhouse then it will be worth your while to visit this useful site, which is at [www.workhouses.org.uk](http://www.workhouses.org.uk)

### Hospital Records Online

The National Archives and the Wellcome Library have joined together in a project to put information about hospital records on the internet. It can be searched by the name, past or present, of the hospital or by the town in which the hospital is situated.

A search for St. Charles’s Hospital, Exmoor Street, Marylebone revealed that it was founded in 1881 as St. Marylebone Infirmary under the Poor Law, becoming St. Marylebone Hospital in 1923 and then in 1930 St. Charles’s Hospital, the name it still operates under today.

The website tells us that the hospital’s records are held in the London Metropolitan Archives and a link to the Access to Archives online catalogue details them. For instance, there are group photographs of nurses from 1901-1906 and admission and discharge records from 1884-1983.

This website can be found at [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/hospitalrecords](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/hospitalrecords)

## **London Cemeteries**

Sue Bailey, the author of this website, initially intended to photograph the 140 plus cemeteries of London. She has taken London to be the area within the M25 motorway, although other cemeteries of special interest to Londoners, for instance, Brookwood – London's Necropolis at Woking, have been included.

There is a useful list of all the cemeteries included together with their year of opening and a map of their location. There may also be photographs of some of the headstones.

London Cemeteries has links to other relevant websites and can be found at [www.londoncemeteries.co.uk](http://www.londoncemeteries.co.uk)

## **Access to Archives**

The Access to Archives (A2A) contains catalogues describing archives held locally in England and Wales dating from the 8<sup>th</sup> Century to the present day and can be a very useful finding aid, not only to see if a particular record office contains the documents you are searching for before you plan a trip but also to see where family names may occur in places you were not expecting.

The level of detail provided in the catalogues varies as the archivists who care for the archives have drawn them up over time. Some describe individual documents in great detail, others only give summary information.

There are currently 9.6 million records of items held in 403 record offices and other repositories. More records are being added all the time so this is a site worth revisiting at regular intervals.

There is also a facility for a 'global search', which consists of all the catalogues in A2A plus 10 other online resources which are based at TNA.

Recent additions for the London, Westminster and Middlesex area include English Heritage National Monuments Record: Buildings of England, London, The City of London and Docklands.

Access to Archives can be found at [www.a2a.org.uk](http://www.a2a.org.uk)

All of the sites mentioned in Website News for October are free to use.

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

## HEIRLOOMS AND ANCESTORS

By Betty Howat, Member No. 1301

A visitor to a recent Barnet Branch meeting was told beforehand that “you cannot tell from the title of the talk just what the evening will be like – but it’s always interesting!” This is definitely the case with an *Heirlooms and Ancestors* evening when people are encouraged to bring along something which an ancestor owned and talk about it and/or them – just for two or three minutes.

On one of these occasions I took along a smock which had belonged to an ancestor of mine. It was chance that it came to me, the youngest of my siblings. It was worn by William BOND a farmer who lived in Linton, Herefordshire about 1876. My husband Andrew took a photograph and scanned it into the computer. It is shown opposite and I hope you can see that the smock has definitely been well used. Odd buttons on the long sleeves have replaced some of the originals and there are signs of sundry repairs. The material is coarse and there is smocking across the top. The garment is whitish in colour and below knee length.

Everyone at the meeting was interested in the smock and asked various questions about it but I could not answer them all, I could only say what I knew, and there the matter rested.

However, not long after this meeting our Branch Chairman, Rosemary, met someone at the Barnet & District Local History Society who said I should contact the Victoria & Albert Museum in Cromwell Road, South Kensington, London to find out more. This I did and discovered that the museum holds an ‘Opinions’ afternoon on the first Tuesday of every month, when anyone can take objects along to the departments for the curators to give an opinion.

In due course I went along and the staff were very helpful so I now know that the shoulder collar is a feature very common in smocks from Herefordshire and Wales. The smock is made of calico (known as twill) impregnated with linseed oil and worked in glazed thread. The smocking is decorative but also gives the garment shape and a certain amount of elasticity, giving freedom of movement.





Sometimes the smocking incorporates illustrations of the man's job e.g. a crook for a shepherd, sheaves of corn, a plough or rakes. The stitches used

were simple, usually feather stitch, chain stitch or French knots.

Smocks were sometimes made by the bride for the bridegroom and the farmer often had two – one for the fields and one for ‘best’ – for Church, weddings and funerals. They were worn over trousers which were tied beneath the knees. Finally, I was told that the buttons are made of bone and were hand-made by someone in the village.

All this information has made me appreciate the smock much more and I am very grateful to all who helped me – through a series of coincidences really.

P.S. At the next *Heirlooms and Ancestors* meeting I had to take the smock along again, to give everyone an update.



## V&A OPINIONS SERVICE

Staff at the V&A Museum are available to give opinions on art and design objects brought by their owners for inspection. Where it is impractical to bring a particular object, a photo may be adequate.

The Museum provides opinions only on objects that fall within the scope of its collections – mainly furniture, textiles, fashion, sculpture, metalwork, ceramics and glass from Europe, Asia and North America.

The Opinion Service operates on the first Tuesday of each month between 14.30 and 17.00. Staff at the Information Desks will direct visitors to the appropriate section. Valuations cannot be provided, and the Opinions Service is provided subject to staff availability, so please check before you go.

For more details: visit: [www.vam.ac.uk](http://www.vam.ac.uk)

Tel: 020 7942 2000

Email: [vandal@vam.ac.uk](mailto:vandal@vam.ac.uk) or the specific department  
(full list of email addresses on the website.)

# CHAPMAN COUNTY CODES

Before 1974

When you send in your Members' Interests you should use the Chapman County codes shown below.

These codes, devised by Colin Chapman for the Federation of Family History Societies in the 1970s, were designed to give each county its own unique three-letter code for easy identification and are used by all family historians.

<b>ENG</b>	<b>England</b>	SAL	Shropshire	ANS	Angus
BDF	Bedfordshire	SFK	Suffolk	ARL	Argyllshire
BKM	Buckinghamshire	SOM	Somerset	AYR	Ayrshire
BRK	Berkshire	SRY	Surrey	BAN	Banffshire
CAM	Cambridge	SSX	Sussex	BEW	Berwickshire
CHS	Cheshire	STS	Staffordshire	BUT	Bute
CON	Cornwall	WAR	Warwickshire	CAI	Caithness
CUL	Cumberland	WES	Westmoreland	CLK	Clackmannanshire
DBY	Derbyshire	WIL	Wiltshire	DFS	Dumfriesshire
DEV	Devon	WOR	Worcester	DNB	Dunbartonshire
DOR	Dorset	YKS	Yorkshire	ELN	East Lothian
DUR	Durham	ERY	Yks East Riding	FIF	Fife
ESS	Essex	NRY	Yks North Riding	INV	Inverness-shire
GLS	Gloucestershire	WRY	Yks West Riding	KCD	Kincardineshire
HAM	Hampshire			KKD	Kirkcudbrightshire
HEF	Herefordshire	<b>WLS</b>	<b>Wales</b>	KRS	Kinross-shire
HRT	Hertfordshire	AGY	Anglesey	LKS	Lanarkshire
HUN	Huntingdonshire	BRE	Brecknockshire	MLN	Midlothian
IOM	Isle of Man	CAE	Caernarvonshire	MOR	Moray
IOW	Isle of Wight	CGN	Cardiganshire	NAI	Nairnshire
KEN	Kent	CMN	Carmarthenshire	OKI	Orkney Isles
LAN	Lancashire	DEN	Denbighshire	PEE	Peebleshire
LEI	Leicestershire	FLN	Flintshire	PER	Perthshire
LIN	Lincoln	GLA	Glamorgan	RFW	Renfrewshire
LND	London	MER	Merionethshire	ROC	Ross & Cromarty
MDX	Middlesex	MGY	Montgomeryshire	ROX	Roxburghshire
NBL	Northumberland	MON	Monmouthshire	SEL	Selkirkshire
NFK	Norfolk	PEM	Pembrokeshire	SHI	Shetland Isles
NTH	Northamptonshire	RAD	Radnorshire	STI	Stirlingshire
NTT	Nottinghamshire			SUT	Sutherland
OXF	Oxfordshire	<b>SCT</b>	<b>Scotland</b>	WLN	West Lothian
RUT	Rutland	ABD	Aberdeenshire	WIG	Wigtownshire

**CHAPMAN COUNTY CODES****Before 1974 continued**

<b>CHI</b>	<b>Channel Islands</b>	<b>IRL</b>	<b>Ireland</b>	<b>LOG</b>	<b>Longford</b>
ALD	Alderney	CAR	Carlow	LOU	Louth
JSY	Jersey	CAV	Cavan	MAY	Mayo
GSY	Guernsey	CLA	Clare	MEA	Meath
SRK	Sark	COR	Cork	MOG	Monaghan
		DON	Donegal	OFF	Offaly
<b>NIR</b>	<b>N. Ireland</b>	DUB	Dublin	ROS	Roscommon
ANT	Antrim	GAL	Galway	SLI	Sligo
ARM	Armagh	KER	Kerry	TIP	Tipperary
DOW	Down	KID	Kildare	WAT	Waterford
FER	Fermanagh	KIK	Kilkenny	WEM	Westmeath
LDY	Londonderry	LET	Leitrim	WEX	Wexford
TYR	Tyrone	LEX	Leix	WIC	Wicklow
		LIM	Limerick		

**COUNTY CODES AFTER 1975**

<b>ENG</b>	<b>England</b>	<b>LIN</b>	<b>Lincolnshire</b>	<b>WLS</b>	<b>Wales</b>
AVN	Avon	LND	London	CWD	Clwyd
BDF	Bedfordshire	MSY	Merseyside	DFD	Dyfed
BRK	Berkshire	NFK	Norfolk	GWN	Gwynedd
BKM	Buckinghamshire	NTH	Northamptonshire	GNT	Gwent
CAM	Cambridgeshire	NBL	Northumberland	MGM	Mid Glamorgan
CHS	Cheshire	NTT	Nottinghamshire	POW	Powys
CON	Cornwall	OXF	Oxfordshire	SGM	South Glamorgan
CLV	Cleveland	SAL	Shropshire	WGM	West Glamorgan
CMA	Cumbria	SOM	Somersetshire		
DBY	Derbyshire	STS	Staffordshire	<b>SCT</b>	<b>Scotland</b>
DEV	Devon	SFK	Suffolk	BOR	Borders
DOR	Dorset	SRY	Surrey	CEN	Central Region
DUR	Durham	SXE	East Sussex	DGY	Dumfries & Gall.
ESS	Essex	SXW	West Sussex	FIF	Fife
GLS	Gloucestershire	TWR	Tyne & Wear	GMP	Grampian
GTM	Greater Manchester	WAR	Warwickshire	HLD	Highland
HAM	Hampshire	WMD	West Midlands	LTN	Lothian
HWR	Hereford & Worcs.	WIL	Wiltshire	OKI	Orkney Isles
HRT	Hertfordshire	NYK	North Yorkshire	STD	Strathclyde
HUM	Humberside	SYK	South Yorkshire	TAY	Tayside
KEN	Kent	WYK	West Yorkshire	WIS	Western Isles
LAN	Lancashire	IOW	Isle of Wight	SHI	Shetland Isles
LEI	Leicestershire	IOM	Isle of Man		

## **MANN FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH**

By Elspeth Bradbury, Member No. 6939

‘Start with yourself’ they said - so I did! The passage was fairly easy up to a certain point - but - as my Grandfather died before I came along, and my Father died when I was five years old, my step back in time to trace my paternal ancestors had to rely on old photos (no names on backs of course) and messages on old postcards kept in a collection. Using this limited knowledge the journey so far has been revealing. To reach my goal to date, I have found myself sidetracked on many occasions following branches in this my MANN family history research. Now, I hope, by submitting my story to your Journal it may lead me further! Bear with me while I recount some of my findings:

### **My Paternal Grandfather**

\* Charles Henry MANN, born in St. Pancras in 1862, was the first son of  
\*\* Charles MANN and Phoebe HEMINGTON, who married in St. Pancras Old Church in 1861. Charles and Phoebe were in service, Charles, although his occupation was given as a Tailor in the 1861 Census, carried on as a Waiter for much of his life, but turned his hand to Upholstery and Building at times. He and his family resided at 14 Stanley St., Paddington St. James, MDX, and it was here that he departed this life in 1902 with Phoebe following in 1916. They both rest in Paddington Old Cemetery.

\*Charles Henry (born 1862) an Upholsterer by trade married Annie COLLINS in 1886 at St. Michael’s All Angels, Paddington and was the only member of this family to wander o’er the pond. He brought his wife and one year old son Walter Charles to Australia in 1888.

Of the other siblings, all that is known follows:

Phoebe, (born 1864) was a house maid age 16 for solicitor Charles BAKER, in Westboume Ave, Paddington 1881 census, and on 1901 Census was living with her parents in Stanley Street aged 34.

Emily (born 1866) never married, at one time (circa 1909/11) she had a hand laundry in Pondtail Road, Fleet, HAM, and then resided with her mother in Wimbledon and Paddington till 1916.

Walter Frederick (born 1868) married Catherine Ann LONGSTER in 1894 at Paddington, MDX - Walter was a solicitors Clerk with Druces & Atlee in

London. I have unravelled Walter Frederick's story and have found descendants in Worthing, SSX and in my own backyard.

Arthur Edward (born 1869) was a Whitesmith, Fitters Engineer, married Rose MAYHEAD in 1899 in All Saints Church, Paddington and had one child, Florence, up to 1901.

Harry Gordon (born 1875) married Emily Ellen BRYANT in 1899 at the Register Office Kensington. They had one son Harry, born 1900. Harry G's trade was Breeches Maker (A Tailor) and he was residing in St. Marylebone in 1901.

Stepping back further in time to find the parents of \*\*Charles (my Great Grandfather) I found his birth in Uxbridge, September 1840. His Father was \*\*\*Richard MANN and mother Mary Ann (MARKS) who were married at St. Mary's Church, Amersham, BKM in 1829. Richard was a Tailor of Hillingdon.

I list his family and all that is known of them to date:

David Walter (bapt. 1829 Amersham), Henry (bapt. 1835 Amersham), Frederick Edward (bapt. 1835 Amersham joined the Royal Marines at the age of 18, married Ann Elizabeth JACKSON at St. Mary Newington 1857, resided in Bermondsey with family and died there 1910), Eliza (bapt. 1837 Hillingdon), Charles (born 1840 Uxbridge, bapt. 1840 Hillingdon, my Great Grandfather), Mary Ann (born circa 1841 Uxbridge, married Thomas WALKER at Weld Chapel, Southgate, MDX 1868), Richard (born 1844, died 1844 Hillingdon), Harriett Caroline (born 1845 Uxbridge, married Thomas Edward PERKINS in St. Andrews Church, Enfield in 1866. Thomas was the son of Joseph Edward PERKINS, Gardener of Enfield), Henry (born 1850 Islington, bapt. 1868 St. Mary Magdalene, Woolwich, KEN.)

My search for my Great Great Grandfather

\*\*\*Richard MANN has to this time eluded me and information regarding his birth still continues, after reading the 1851 Census for Enfield I have found his wife Mary Ann and family at 6 Baker Street, Enfield, but Richard is not at home! He died in 1858 aged 48 at Baker Street, Enfield, his occupation given was Tailor, Master. On his son Henry's birth certificate in 1850 his occupation is given as Beer Seller. In 1861 Mary Ann and son Charles are at 'The Fox' 5 Baker Street, Enfield, a widow whose

occupation is Beer house keeper - From Gary Boudiers *A-Z of Enfield Pubs* I have gathered that Richard MANN was the first publican of 'The Fox', and that after Mary Ann left it was taken over in 1871 by a Mr. Edward GALE who was a bootmaker at Enfield. He used it as a public lodging house for a few years, and then it was demolished. In the late 1890s a company named Manns Builders was situated next to the 'Wheatsheaf', because of the location and name, it is possible that they were part of the same family.

Richard may have been the son of

\*\*\*\*Richard MANN and Elizabeth MASON, whose marriage in 1806 appears on the Bishop's Transcripts for St. John the Baptist Church, Hillingdon. MDX \* however a birth has not been cited for Richard, although I estimate his arrival to be around 1810 - IGI has a (submitted entry) for Richard born about 1801 Uxbridge - but where they found that I can not establish.

Thank you for reading my story. As you will no doubt conclude there are a lot more certificates and records to read before I am through with this family. At this point in time, I am submitting this report for your Journal as your Group covers all areas mentioned. I would dearly love to learn more about my Baker Street ancestors, especially where Richard was buried, to find out more of his daughters' marriages - and if possible find more about the Paddington folk, so if you can help with any information on these families, places, business, etc., I would love to hear from you.

(\*Grandfather, \*\* Great Grandfather, \*\*\*2XGGrandfather, \*\*\*\*3XGGrandfather)

### **Elsbeth Bradbury**

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**Congratulations** to Susan Lumas FSG, Member No. 481, who was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation by the Society of Genealogists at their AGM in June 2006. Susan is archiving documents deposited or bequeathed to the SoG.

## COTTAGE ROW CHORISTERS

By Michael Fountain, Member No. 5423

Nowadays Arthur Seymour Sullivan, 1842-1900, is mainly remembered for his collaboration with William S. Gilbert which produced the popularly known 'Savoy' operas. Born in Lambeth in humble circumstances, he came from a family with a strong musical tradition and when his father Thomas became bandmaster at the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, young Arthur discovered, and tried playing, the many instruments to be found in military bands.

He received a first rate musical training, starting as a chorister of HM Chapel Royal, St. James's Palace. Here he caught the eye of several noted personages including the Duke of Wellington who patted his head and gave him half a sovereign (10s = 50p). Chosen to sing a solo at the baptism of Queen Victoria's eighth child in 1853, Arthur was rewarded with a half sovereign from Prince Albert no less.

In 1856, when only 14 years old, he became the first Mendelssohn Scholar at the Royal Academy of Music in Hanover Square. He studied further in Leipzig, returning to London in May 1861 as a thoroughly trained classical musician and composer with ballads, sonnets, hymns and psalms to his credit. Nevertheless, the problem of making a living had to be addressed for then, as now, a musician led a precarious existence until such time as he became well known and fashionable. Therefore, in order to secure a steady income in his early days, Arthur Sullivan obtained the post of organist at the fashionable Belgravia Church of St. Michael, Chester Square where he remained until 1867.

He found the Church Choir well supplied with Sopranos and Mezzo Sopranos but there was a decided lack of male voices and to remedy this deficiency, he approached Chief Superintendent Gibbs of B Division, Metropolitan Police, with a view to obtaining 'volunteers' from the local Cottage Row Police Station. His request was, apparently, greeted with enthusiasm by the good Superintendent and soon were gathered six tenors and six bases together with a small reserve for emergencies. Since at that time Sir Richard Mayne (first joint Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police Force on its formation in 1829) was a member of the congregation, I



do wonder if Mr. Gibbs received hints from above as to the desirability of rendering assistance to the new organist. Superintendent Gibbs served in the division until 13<sup>th</sup> February 1867 when he resigned to pension. *Worn out!* Perhaps making sure his men regularly attended choir practice in addition to his constabulary duties proved too much for him.

Hesketh Pearson's biography of Gilbert & Sullivan relates the following account of an early choral practice. Sullivan would strike a chord on the piano. "Now my men, what key is this in?" No response. "Don't all speak at once, one at a time if you please." One of the tenors diffidently offered: "B sir?" This may have been because his collar number was B47. To this, Sullivan asked "I see. Major or minor?" More confidently by now, the answer was: "Minor sir." B47 had vindicated the honour of the force. Or had he? Sullivan slowly shook his head. "No, that won't do I'm afraid, it is in fact G Minor." In spite of this 'Minor' hiccup Arthur Sullivan produced one of the finest choirs in London, his enthusiasm was infectious and as he later related: "However tired they were when they came off duty, they never missed a practice."



Police records suggest that, at that time, PC B47 could have been Charles W. Clark who joined the Force in October 1859. Unfortunately my efforts to find policemen in that area in 1861 who might have been among his choir have proved unsuccessful. The piece number of the census return relating to Cottage Row Police Station disappeared many years ago leaving gaps in that area.

It is quite likely that this connection with the constabulary later influenced the content of one of the Savoy Operas.

For copyright reasons the first performance of 'The Pirates of Penzance' was given at the Bijou Theatre, Paignton on 3 April 1880 and it was there that was first heard the policemen's resounding chorus "*When the foeman bares his steel, Tarantara Tarantara Tarantara, you uncomfortable feel*

*Tarantara!*” I have always enjoyed the rousing, toe tapping rhythm of this piece though I do have my doubts about the sentiments expressed by the ladies who then enjoin the men to: *“Go ye heroes go to glory, though you die in combat gory, ye shall live in song or story, go to immortality.”* A colleague and I were singing this one evening as we left New Scotland Yard after a meeting of the Metropolitan Police History Society and one of the officers on duty outside said, with a sad shake of the head: *“Oh dear.”* My voice has been described as the rumblings of a flatulent warthog so I consider myself fortunate not to have been charged with behaviour likely to cause a breach of the peace.



**Now Now Chaps, Steady**

**On**

My other favourite from this operetta is the well known song ‘A Policeman's Lot Is Not A Happy One’: *“When a felon’s not engaged in his employment or maturing his felonious little plans, his capacity for innocent enjoyment is just as great as any honest man’s.”*

I recently went into St. Michael's Church, sat thinking of their famous organist and his choir and wondered if any descendants of Sullivan's Constabulary Choir exist today. Are there stories in some 21<sup>st</sup> Century families of how great-grandfather was a policeman and actually sang in that choir? I don't suppose I'll ever know but my guess is that these people do exist somewhere even if their forebear's claim to fame has been long since forgotten.

For those unfortunates who have not been exposed to the delights of Sullivan's music why not give his works a hearing? His music is delightful and, together with Gilbert's libretti, the Savoy Operas seem as relevant today as they were 120 years ago. The quotation from ‘The Yeoman of the Guard’ on the memorial to Arthur Sullivan in the Victoria Embankment Gardens has always struck me as being very appropriate:

*“Is life a boon?  
If so it must befall  
That death when e’re he call  
Must call too soon”*

Too soon indeed, Arthur Sullivan died on 22 November 1900 aged 58.

Gilbert, the provider of the words for the policemen in ‘The Pirates of Penzance’, lasted another eleven years, dying at his home at Harrow Weald. His attacks on pomposity are reflected on his memorial on the Thames Embankment which reads:

*“His foe was folly and his weapon wit.”*

For those wishing to investigate musical families, *Grove’s Dictionary of Music and Musicians*, the *Dictionary of National Biography* and the London Livery Company of Musicians may be useful sources of help. Information on the Metropolitan Police can be found at The National Archives, Kew and of course policemen are listed in the census returns.

Note. This article was specially revised for our readers from a piece which appeared in Issue 9 (2005) of the *Peeler*, the magazine for the Friends of the Metropolitan Police Historic Collection.



**PLEASE NOTE** that in the minutes of the AGM held in March 2006, which were included in the last issue of METROPOLITAN (Volume 28 No. 4) under Any Other Business, item 2 (page 106), Rena King’s name is incorrectly shown as Carena (Rena) King. The Executive Committee regrets this misrepresentation. The minutes will be amended appropriately before they are submitted for approval at the next AGM in 2007.

**Joan Pyemont**  
Secretary

## AROUND THE BRANCHES

### City Branch

In times past the water of London was a source of infection to all who drank it. In the 16<sup>th</sup> Century it was sold door to door by water carriers. The rich had cisterns in the basements of their houses which, together with the stand pipes, were supplied with water pumped from the Thames. The wealthy Hugh Myddelton, son of Richard Myddelton, 1<sup>st</sup> Baronet of Galch Hill, Denbighshire, North Wales, came to London as a goldsmith. He made money backing the enterprises of Sir Walter Raleigh and became MP for Denbigh.

In 1606 the New River Co was formed to bring water from the Chadwell spring, the Amwell spring and the River Lea, near Ware in Hertfordshire, to a reservoir at New River Head in Clerkenwell. Hugh Myddelton took over the scheme and a 61km (nearly 40 miles) open channel 3m (10ft) wide and 1.2m (4ft) deep was built.

The water was distributed through leaky wooden pipes, made from elm trees, to different parts of London. The scheme was completed in 1613 with the help of money from King James I.

The New River Head is near Sadler's Wells theatre in Rosebery Avenue, very near the Family Records Centre, No. 1 Myddelton Street. Other street names in the area remind us of this scheme eg Chadwell Street, Amwell Street and River Street.

A statue of Hugh Myddelton stands on Islington Green which is at the junction of Upper Street and Essex Road.

**Pam White, Member No. 2546**

### Enfield Branch

There was much focus in July on the start of the Battle of the Somme. On the first day, 1 July 1916, 19,000 British soldiers were killed and 38,000 wounded (figures vary depending on what you read). Twenty-seven men from Enfield were killed at Gommecourt, recognised as the strongest position in the German lines. Among those killed were 18-year-old Edward JOHNSON of Uplands Park Road and 26-year-old George CARR from Birkbeck Road. The Enfield Branch of the Royal British Legion are currently trying to get a commemorative memorial raised in Enfield Town. (Source: *Enfield Independent* 3 July 2006)

Throughout the war there were a number of Military Convalescent Hospitals in Enfield. The Edmonton Workhouse in Silver Street, Edmonton, became a Military Hospital in 1915. Men were brought to the hospital by train to Lower Edmonton Low Level Station.

Both Silver Street and Angel Road Stations were nearer to the hospital but were inconvenient to unload stretcher cases. The first train-load of wounded arrived at the station at 6.15pm on 14 May 1915. Those convalescing were dispersed to twenty-nine auxiliary hospitals. Two new temporary wards were built in 1916 by which time 1,600 beds were available. In all 40,000 patients passed through the hospital, the last in July 1919. In March 1920 the hospital opened as the North Middlesex Hospital. Other Military Convalescent Hospitals in Enfield, some of them owned by well-known local families, included: Grovelands, Winchmore Hill (TAYLOR family); Roseneath Voluntary Hospital, Vicars Moor Lane, Winchmore Hill (formerly home of the MANN family); Elm House, Gentlemans Row, Enfield (the LEGGATT brothers) and The Military Hospital, St Marks Institute, Bush Hill Park. The WALKER family sold Grovelands in 1921 and it became an annex of the Royal Northern Hospital, Holloway Road.

A complete roll of honour of the men who died is included in a special appendix of 'Pro Patria Mori - the 56<sup>th</sup> (1<sup>st</sup> London) Division at Gommecourt 1st July 1916' by Alan MacDonald (privately printed). (*Enfield Independent* as above) Website: [www.gommecourt.co.uk](http://www.gommecourt.co.uk)

Recommended reading: SOMME by Lyn MacDonald. Published by Penguin 1993 (One of three volumes on the history of the First World War by the same author).

Note: As a child of the Second World War I have never had an interest in the 'Great War'. This eminently readable book has opened my eyes to the horrors and carnage of what was described as the 'War to end all Wars' as seen through the eyes of those men fortunate enough to have lived through it and then lived long enough to relate their own harrowing experiences to the author.

**Anne Prudames, Member No. 0254**

### **Rayners Lane Branch**

The Editors spoke to me regarding the letter on page 8 and I decided to have another look when I next visited The National Archives.

In HO 192/620 the Report is entitled 'Air Raid Damage No. 5 Region London 20-8-44. Glaxo Industries Ltd., Greenford – Flying Bomb No. 3.' The incident occurred at 10.40 hours on 20 August 1944.

Glaxo were involved in 'Blending & Packing of Baby Foods and Pharmaceutical Products (including penicillin)' – all this under Government control.

Thank you to Miss Elizabeth L. Gough for pointing out the incorrect date. I have to say that it was probably due to my writing or typographical error some considerable time ago.

**Kay Payne, Member No. 5603**

### **Wembley Branch**

It is estimated that approximately 9,000 bombs and incendiary devices were dropped on Wembley during World War II.

The inhabitants of St. Anne's Road, Wembley may have felt personally under threat from the Luftwaffe in January 1943, when they came under attack from a bombing raid. This quiet cul-de-sac ran parallel to the main railway line, with a small industrial estate on the other side of the embankment.

One particular raid appeared to be aiming at this estate, in which a number of small factories were carrying out war work, but it is more probable that the object of the attack was the point at which two major railway lines travelling north from London crossed. At the end of St. Anne's Road, in Lancelot Road, the LNER line from Marylebone crossed the LMS line from Euston and both carried essential war materials to and from the Midlands. The residents were used to the sound of heavy loads of tanks and machinery as they travelled the line at night, often slipping back on the rails when the weight was too much for the locomotive on the slight incline towards Barham Park.

One particular night the industrial estate suffered considerable damage from a mixture of bombs and incendiary devices. One of these incendiary devices fell heavily to the pavement between Nos. 24 and 26 St. Anne's Road. Fortunately, although the shock sent one resident into premature labour and caused another to fall from top to bottom of the staircase there was no lasting damage to either and the properties were not damaged, however, the scar on the paving stone can be seen to this day.

**Margaret Luetchford, Member No. 5494**

### **Barnet Branch**

There is a group of burial vaults at New Southgate Cemetery, Brunswick Park Road, London N11, known as the Savoy Vaults or Queen Victoria Vaults. They contain the remains of well over 200 people who were originally buried in the graveyards of the Lutheran Chapel (St. Marienkirche) and the Savoy Chapel, both in The Strand, London, many of whom had connections with the Royal Hanoverian court of the 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> Centuries. The vaults have stone covers, engraved with the names and details of those interred. They are of particular interest to the Anglo-German FHS, and for some time I have wanted an information board erected at these vaults to explain their history to visitors. After much discussion with the cemetery management and the Anglo-German FHS, the project was approved and the board and graphics were ordered.

An unveiling ceremony was set for Saturday 9 September, The Anglo-German FHS and local history societies were invited to attend, and there will be a report of the event in the next issue of METROPOLITAN.

This cemetery, previously known as the Great Northern London Cemetery, was opened in 1861. All burial registers are held at the cemetery office and you can arrange to search them free of charge, Tel 020 8361 1713. If you are unable to visit personally the staff will do a search which is also free *if* you have at least an approximate date of death. Otherwise there is a charge of £15 (after 1933 – names are indexed) or £25 (before 1933 – no index). See the cemetery website for more details: [www.newsouthgate.com](http://www.newsouthgate.com)

**Colin Barratt, Member No. 4427**

## **POPPIES FOR REMEMBRANCE**

A famous poem of the First World War was written by Lt Colonel John McRae, a Canadian medical officer, around the time of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battle of Ypres in 1915. Utter devastation and a morass of mud surrounded his medical post near a military cemetery, yet poppies still grew. Hence: ‘In Flanders Fields the poppies blow/ Between the crosses, row on row.....’

The poem moved an American, Miss Moina Michael, to reply. In 1918 she chaired a YMCA seminar in New York, trying to help those, especially the disabled, returning from WW1. She gave a poppy to each delegate and resolved to wear one herself as a remembrance.

In London the Royal British Legion held the first Remembrance Service at the Cenotaph in 1921. Artificial poppies were sold for this first poppy day to help ex-servicemen and their families. They came through a French delegate to New York whose family was in the artificial flower business.

There were British-made poppies in 1922 thanks to Major George Howson MC (1886-1936). Injured himself in WW1 he was very concerned about the difficulties faced by disabled men. He founded the Disabled Society and aimed to set up factories to give these men something to do, to work at and to work for. In a letter to his parents he wrote: "I have been given a cheque for £2000 to make poppies with: it is a large responsibility and will be very difficult. If the experiment is successful it will be the start of an industry to employ 150 men. I do not think it can be a great success, but it's worth trying. I consider the attempt ought to be made if only to give the disabled their chance." He set up the first poppy factory off the Old Kent Road with five ex-servicemen and in a few months there were 50 there. Demand for more space resulted in a move to Richmond, Surrey in 1925.

Most of today's workforce of about 50 are disabled and either ex-service people or their dependants. Machines cut red paper to poppy shapes and cut petals from fireproof taffeta silk for the Royal British Legion's annual Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall. One petal for every serviceman killed since the start of WW1 floats down on those present. Much of the poppy assembly and all the wreaths are still done by hand. There are some 80 homeworkers, often housebound through sickness or disability, and some in residential homes who also help.

The year-long activity produces around 36 million basic poppies, about 100,000 wreaths with special poppies, petals for the Royal Albert Hall and small wooden remembrance crosses. Boxes are filled by weight, labelled with the name of the person who made the contents and despatched to Poppy Appeal HQ for distribution throughout the Commonwealth.

An annual Field of Remembrance is laid out between Westminster Abbey and St Margaret's Church - Thursday 9 Nov to Thursday 16 Nov in 2006 - for anyone to plant a cross in memory of fallen comrades and loved ones. A visit is a very moving experience.

Thanks to all at the poppy factory especially our excellent guide Ron.



## THE STONEMASONS INDEX

By Kath Shaw

In 2002, whilst browsing through a Family History magazine, I found an article about the Stonemasons Index. Its then owner, Michael Miller, a fellow family historian, had decided to relinquish the job of maintaining and developing the work started some 5 years previously in order to concentrate on his own family history research. He wanted to find a new home for the work so I contacted him and we agreed the transfer of ownership.

When I first received the Index, it arrived in a rather large cardboard box. There were 2 floppy discs containing the database and 25 A4-size ring files, full of information such as letters, photographs and family trees etc. My first task was to develop the database to accept far more information, then cut down on the amount of paperwork being generated and finally improve the transmission of information between enquirers and submitters. My husband kindly took on the role of 'system design and software engineer' and nowadays the Index runs as an Excel Database. The majority of enquiries are received and dealt with by e-mail and a Submission Form that can be completed on-line has also been introduced. I do however still get the occasional treat of receiving a 'proper' letter!

Although many people find they have stonemason ancestors, tracking them over the years can prove difficult even though there are certain sources of information available. It was very much an 'itinerant trade'. Many stonemasons were journeymen, travelling far and wide to take-up work, in the course of which they and their families were often 'lost' to the census enumerators and parish records. Apprenticeship records are somewhat sparse mainly because, in the early days of the trade, training was very much a family affair, with skills being passed from fathers to sons (and, in some cases, wives and daughters...) The Index was initially a personal attempt to find other members of a particular family, but it has now far outgrown that original aim and become a much wider general research source.

The Index is a collection of the biographical details of over 4500 stonemasons, created by submissions from over 1500 contributors. In the

early days, the majority of submitters were in the United Kingdom but with the growth of internet access, I now receive enquiries and information from all over the world. The entries for each stonemason vary in the amount of detail included but the aim is to provide a VERIFIABLE and TRACEABLE record for each craftsman. The minimum information held is name, date and place of birth, but many records also include parentage information, as well as marriage and death details. Indeed, some records even have employment history attached. There are also a great number of paperwork sources attached to many of the submissions, which can be copied to the enquirer if a successful match is found. These include copy BMDs, extracts from family trees, old photographs of stonemasons' businesses and many other 'snippets' of information.

One of the main problems involved with running the Index is that of personal privacy so allowing general access is not really an option. Contributors these days *are* asked to give permission (or otherwise) for their own details to be made available on a general basis, whereas in the early days of the Index, permission was only given to pass contributors' details to 'same-name' enquirers. This really restricted the exchange of information and even now presents a slight problem for present-day operations when enquiries are received relating to those earlier records. These days, fortunately, most submitters are more than happy for their own contact details to be passed on to anyone researching the same family name.

### **Coverage of the Index**

In its early stages, the whole purpose of the work was to try and locate stonemasons who had lived and worked specifically around the Liverpool/West Derby area, particularly on the Knowsley Estate of the 16<sup>th</sup> Earl of Derby. This means that the greatest number of records held at the current time are actually for the Lancashire and Yorkshire region. The table following is a rough breakdown of the numbers of records of stonemasons born in each county. There are however a number of records, particularly the early ones, which do not have any birth details at all.

The Index is a totally voluntary project, and there are no charges made either for searches or for including information within the database. However, contributions towards its running costs are always appreciated, as

is the provision of an sae for any enquiries requiring a postal response. The main purpose of the work is simply to offer yet another source of information for those who are seeking to find their Stonemason Ancestors.

### Analysis by County of Birth

AVN*	6	HAM	24	OXF	60
BDF	18	HEF	28	RUT	1
BKM	6	HRT	11	SAL	42
CAM	6	HUN	4	SFK	30
CHS	64	IOM	14	SOM	181
CUL	142	KEN	35	SRY	25
CLV*	2	LAN	535	SSX	24
CON	55	LEI	21	STS	51
DBY	92	LIN	34	TWR*	30
DEV	196	LND/MDX	180	WAR	45
DOR	83	NBL	45	WES	40
DUR	49	NFK	19	WIL	86
ESS	9	NTH	62	WOR	51
GLS	166	NTT	18	YKS	433

\* These are Chapman Codes for counties formed following the local Government reorganisation of England and Wales after 1 April 1974.

### Outside England

Ireland (North & South)	150	Australia	9
Scotland	231	Germany	3
Wales	80	France	1
		USA	11

Any contributions of information or enquiries for searches are most welcome as it is this process which helps to develop the Project.

Any enquiries should be directed to the Owner and Administrator:

### Mrs Kath Shaw

5 New Mills Road, BIRCH VALE, High Peak SK22 1BT

Email: [kathshaw39@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:kathshaw39@yahoo.co.uk)

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 £2 charge for each

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



## HART

Trying to find the origins of my Gt Gt Grandfather Edward HART. He died aged 39 in 1839 at 95 Drury Lane, where he ran a business as a Button and Trimming Seller. He married Prudence KENRICK in 1824 at St. Saviours Southwark and their 3 children were all christened at St. Clement Danes. He married his second wife Sarah McINTOSH in 1831 and moved to Drury Lane in about 1830.

***Mr V A Hart, Member No. 6956***

*Mill House, Darsham, Saxmundham, Suffolk IP17 3QD*

*Email: darshamtoo@yahoo.co.uk*

## LEVISTON

Parents, date and place of birth wanted for Susannah LEVISTON who married Edward KINGSMAN on 26 Mar 1804 at St. Andrews, Holborn. The couple had seven children: Elizabeth, Richard, Harriett, Robert, Joseph, George and Henry. Susannah died on 26 Sep 1840 whilst living at 31 St. Helena Place, Clerkenwell.

***Mrs Barbara McDeson, Member No. 6866***

*60 Harwood Street, London NW1 8DP*

## SCHOLEY

Trying to find the baptism of William SCHOLEY who married Susanna LANGLEY in 1780 at St. Leonard, Shoreditch. According to the IGI possibilities include baptisms in 1749 at St. Botolph Without Aldgate, 1750 at St. Katherine by the Tower, 1752 St. Nicholas Acons. Can anyone shed further light on these please?

***Teresa Buckley, Member No. 6940***

*47 Shaftesbury Avenue, Chandler's Ford, Eastleigh, Hants SO53 3BR*

*Email: teresa@atbuckley.co.uk*

## WHO IS THIS?

Does anybody recognise this lady? Known only to me as Aunt Elsie she lived around the Islington area and, I believe, died in the 1950s. This photo was taken in 1951.

**Mr George Chappell, Member No. 5964**  
*3 The Avenue, Hoddesdon, Herts EN11 8BA*  
Email: [gchappell@talktalk.net](mailto:gchappell@talktalk.net)



## CURNO

I would like to hear from anyone who has come across the surname CURNO during their research. Several members of this family moved from Plymouth to Bloomsbury in the early 1800s. They lived in Little Queen Street, Parker Street and Compton Street and were wheelwrights. I would particularly like to find details of the death of my great grandfather, Douglas James CURNO born 1835, a merchant seaman who married Elizabeth COATH on 19 Jun 1855 at St. Margaret's, Westminster (she was a widow by 1871). Their son Douglas John CURNO (my grandfather) was born 24 May 1855 but the birth was not registered and I don't know which church he would have been baptised in. Any information would be welcome.

**Mike Curno, Member No. 6692**  
*8 Periwinkle Drive, Plymouth, PL7 2WR*  
Email: [mike.curno@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:mike.curno@blueyonder.co.uk)

Note: Masters of British ships had to surrender any wages or effects of seamen who had died during a voyage to the Board of Trade from 1851. Series BT 153 at The National Archives is a register of these wages and effects from 1852-1881, and gives other details including the seaman's date and place of engagement as well. BT 154 is a register of seamen's names.

You mention that Douglas John CURNO was born before his parents' marriage so it might be worth checking the birth indexes under the name COATH.

**BARLING**

I am very keen to find out anything about James BARLING, who married Dorothy Margaret ARNOLD about 1934/5. The couple had two children, one of whom died aged three at Paddington in 1938. The other is unwell and it would greatly aid his recovery if I could trace James BARLING. The family moved to Devon during the War where they remained.

There is a James Chegwedden BARLING born May 1891 in Penge, son of Kate IMPEY of 123 Sharncliffe Gardens, St. Johns Wood who may be him. In the 1901 Census there is a James BARLING, Foster Child aged 10, born Penge, Living at 8 Barnfield Road, Lambeth. Is this him?

James Chegwedden BARLING married Ethel Annie WILLIAMS August 1916 Marylebone Road (separated 1929) and had two children: Ivor James BARLING (1918-1986) and Linden Leslie BARLING (1920-1999).

James enlisted 7 Sep 1917 at Marylebone 7<sup>th</sup> Bn. South Wales Borderers Corporal but was discharged 7 Dec 1917 (unfit due to stomach trouble). He may have re-enlisted in 1939 with the Royal Fusiliers 1<sup>st</sup> Bn.

James BARLING was employed at times as an electrical engineer, at some point at Battersea Power Station, and may have worked at the Army Pay Corps at Exeter.

Any information about James BARLING would be most welcome.

***Graham R A Jansen***

*Burley House, 20 Main Road, Longfield, Kent DA3 7QZ*

*Email: gray912@tiscali.co.uk*

**CAMPION**

I am trying to trace the descendants of John and Sarah CAMPION in order to arrange our third 'Gathering', which will take place in North Yorkshire. The couple are shown on 1901 Census living in Hillfield Road, Hampstead with their four children Thompson aged 19, Robert aged 16, Arthur aged 13 and Florence aged 9 (who married Reginald Gough in 1910). John CAMPION was a master tailor and worked in Cork Street (off Bond Street) at least until the middle of WWI. Sarah was the second daughter of seven children of Hannah and Robert HOGGARTH of Upleatham in North Yorkshire. I would be grateful for any scrap of knowledge about the CAMPIONS.

***Rita Riddell, Non-Member***

*3 Coats Place, Dundonald, Kilmarnock, Ayrshire KA2 9DJ*

*Email: the2Rs@coatsplace.fsnet.co.uk*

### **NORBURN/MEDHURST/STOKES**

Seeking the whereabouts of Alan NORBURN, born April/May/June 1943 and/or Marion NORBURN born April/May/June 1946.

Eileen Gladys MEDHURST (née STOKES) married Albert Alexander NORBURN in 1942 at Islington Register Office. His father was Albert Archibald NORBURN, her father Arthur Edward STOKES.

**Mr John Bingham, Member No. 7048**

*14 Cedar Close, Amptill, Beds MK45 2UD*

*Tel: 01525 402888*

Note: The General Record Office (GRO) operates a national service, *Traceline*, which aims to track down living relatives by using lists of persons registered with general practitioners throughout Britain. The basic cost of this service is £30 to search for the person and then, if successful, another £25 for a letter to be delivered to them via their doctor's surgery.

To contact *Traceline* in the first instance telephone them between 9am and 4.30pm, Monday to Friday on 0151 471 4811 or visit the website at [www.gro.gov.uk](http://www.gro.gov.uk)

### **RANDALL**

Looking for William RANDALL, a hairdresser, perfumer, bookbinder and undertaker, who spent some time between 1810 and 1820 in Middlesex. Does anyone have a copy of the 1841 Census name index? I would be quite happy to pay anyone to have a look for the name RANDALL for me.

**Lynne Morley, Member No. 6974**

*12 Covert Close, Hucknall, Nottinghamshire NE15 7RH*

### **STORER/STOREY**

Looking for the birth and marriage records of Joseph STORER/STOREY. He was born about 1735 and married Mary about 1756. He had 11 children born in Lambeth, SRY, where he spent his life as a gardener. The first child was born 1758. Any info very much appreciated.

**Fiona Knight, Member No. 6142**

*68 Curtis Street, Wellington 6005, New Zealand*

*Email: cresmere.hse@actrix.co.nz*

**PATRICK**

My maternal grandmother Ellen PATRICK was born about 1859. When she married Charles ELLIOTT in 1892 in Camberwell she gave her father's name as William PATRICK, a packer. After pursuing many Ellens and purchasing many certificates I now think she gave the wrong name for her father. The 1901 Census stated that Ellen was born in Bloomsbury and I have found a family containing an Ellen with a John (born Oxfordshire) as head of household. This family disappear after the 1881 census and I have not been able to locate Ellen in the 1891 Census. I had a meeting with the Brickwall Surgery at the FRC but the records they suggested following have not survived. Can I safely assume that I have the right family? I would be tremendously grateful for any help available.

***Doreen Knights, Member No. 5788***

*26 Bishops Green, Upper Park Road, Bromley BR1 3HS*

Note: Unfortunately you cannot assume (ie accept without proof) anything in family history! Have you tried finding her in the 1861 or 1871 censuses, which can be searched online for free at the Family Records Centre? Furthermore, you need to consider name variants such as E, Ellie, Helen, Nell or Nellie in any document.

**WOHLGEMUTH/PAUL**

My great grandfather John WOHLGEMUTH died in Hendon about 1903. I have found only a Death Certificate for John PAUL (a name he used), who died of TB in Central London Sick Asylum at this time. No family attended the funeral? Does anybody know where he is likely to be buried?

***Mike Wohlgemuth, Member No. 6894***

*39 Great Mead, Denmead, Waterlooville, Hants PO7 6HH*

*Email: michael.wohlgemuth@ntlworld.com*

Note: The Central London District Sick Asylum was erected at Colindale in 1898-1900 so your great grandfather may well be buried in this area. Hendon Cemetery, located at Holder's Hill Road, is the nearest and was opened in 1899. (Mill Hill Cemetery is also nearby but only opened in 1936.) Information on these and other cemeteries can be found at [www.londoncemeteries.co.uk](http://www.londoncemeteries.co.uk)

See **WEBSITE NEWS** on page 20.



**OLIVER**

Endeavouring to locate any information on a Mrs Mary OLIVER, born 1776 Middlesex – living at 1 South Hampton Court, St. George Bloomsbury, according to the 1841 Census. Died September 1842.

The family (licensed victuallers) operated a pub at 1 Cosmo Place, St. George Bloomsbury for many years and the business continued to operate under the son-in-law, William John EDWARDS (1810-1866), and also his son William EDWARDS (1842-1876). I was unable to obtain Bloomsbury Parish information as the LDS advises the parish records are classified as ‘non circulating’. Any assistance would be most appreciated.

**Michael J Hewett, Member No. 5870**

*4808 Sea Ridge Drive, Victoria, BC, V8Y 3B6, Canada*

*Email: hewet@shaw.ca*

**ANTOINE**

I live in hope of making contact with the musical family of ANTOINE, who were originally from Belgium. My great great aunt Nannie HARVEY married Théophile Joseph ANTOINE (Professor of Music at St. Peter’s, Eaton Square, Pimlico) on 15 Nov 1851. They had 5 children, Joseph, Adolphus, Mary Elizabeth, Louise and Henry Charles and I have some details of them. I am 87 years old and without access to the internet and would be most grateful for any information your members could supply.

**Mrs R O Morgan (née Harvey), Non-Member**

*31 St David’s Close, West Wickham, Kent BR4 0QY*

**GORRINGES DEPARTMENT STORE**

I have recently found out that my grandmother worked at Gorrings department store in Buckingham Palace Road. She lived ‘above the shop’ with a group of drapers and milliners in 1891. As the shop is no longer there I would like to find out any information about it – it’s history etc.

In 1881 my grandmother, Ellen SHARP, with her friend Connie PLANNER were living in Westmoreland Street, W1 with 30 or so young ladies probably training to be dressmakers and milliners.

**Beryl Fudge, Member No. 6932**

*12 Compton Drive, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 2DD*

*Email: berylfudge@hotmail.com*

Please send requests and any payment due to the Editors.

Cheques payable to: LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX FHS

## FORTHCOMING BRANCH MEETINGS

**Barnet Branch** – 7.30pm for 8.00pm

Lyonsdown Hall, Lyonsdown Road, New Barnet, Hertfordshire

- |                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| Thursday 19 October  | <i>Finding Genealogy on the Internet</i><br>by Peter Christian   |
| Thursday 16 November | <i>Nonconformity &amp; Dr Williams' Library. An Introduction for Family Historians</i><br>by Alan Ruston |
| Thursday 21 December | No Meeting   |
| Thursday 18 January  | <i>Militia Lists and Muster Rolls</i> – by Ken Divall  |



**City Branch** – 12 noon for 12.30pm

Salisbury Room, St. Bride Foundation Institute, Bride Lane, London EC4

- |                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| Thursday 26 October  | <i>Appreciating Parish Records</i><br>by Peter Lawrence              |
| Thursday 30 November | <i>The Society of Genealogists and its Library</i><br>by Sue Gibbons |
| Thursday 28 December | No Meeting   |

**City Branch** – 12 noon for 12.30pm     **\*NOTE NEW VENUE\***

Meeting Room, First Floor, Family Records Centre, No. 1 Myddelton Street, London EC1

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Thursday 25 January | <i>Tracing your Ancestors at the FRC</i><br>by Gerry Toop |
|---------------------|---|



**Enfield Branch** – 7.30pm for 8.00pm

Church Hall, St. Mary Magdalene Church, Windmill Hill, Enfield, Middlesex

Tuesday 3 October

*The Idle Women* – by Runnalls Davis

Tuesday 7 November

*Freemen of the City of London and Liverymen of the Stationers' Company*

by Andrea Cameron

Tuesday 5 December

Branch Social

Tuesday 4 January

Questions and Answers Members Evening



**Rayners Lane Branch** – 7.30pm for 8.00pm

Friends' Meeting House, 456 Rayners Lane, Harrow, Middlesex

Friday 13 October

*Freemen of the City of London and Liverymen of the Stationers' Company*

by Andrea Cameron

Friday 10 November

*Go on – Prove It!* – by Audrey Gillett

Friday 8 December

Christmas Celebrations

Friday 12 January

To be advised



**Wembley Branch** – 7.30pm for 8.00pm

St. John's Church, Crawford Avenue, Wembley, Middlesex

Monday 23 October

*Family History at your fingertips*

by Meryl Catty

Monday 27 November

*Record Keeping – Agh!!* – by Ian Waller

Monday 25 December

No Meeting

Monday 29 January

To be advised

## BOOK REVIEW

By the time you read this journal the darker evenings will be with us and maybe we are looking for some reading matter, perhaps not connected with our ancestors directly but with the area in which they lived and the things that took place in that vicinity.

There are several titles connected with our area, one of which is *Foul Deeds & Suspicious Deaths in Hampstead Holborn & St Pancras* by Mark Aston, priced at £10.99. This is a most readable book that is very hard to put down especially if you know the area concerned. If you do manage to put the book down it is excellent for dipping into as the fancy takes you. Described within its pages is the murder of Sarah by her 17-year-old husband, who became the first hanged person to be sent to Surgeons' Hall for dissection in 1752. The first Metropolitan Police deaths between 1830-1832 are recorded. There is also a picture depicting the discovery of a grisly murder, as published in *The Illustrated Police News* of 30 March 1884. The book concludes with the case against Ruth Ellis and the hanging, by Albert Pierrepoint, at 9am Wednesday 13 July 1955 at Holloway Prison.

Another title is *Foul Deeds & Suspicious Deaths in London's West End* by Geoffrey Howse, £10.99. It includes The Cato Street Conspiracy 1820, Quartering of an Embezzler 1377, and Murder and Mutilation in Long Acre in 1687. I preferred the previous book, probably because of my interest in the Hampstead area.

Further to the above two books there is *Foul Deeds & Suspicious Deaths in The East End* also by Geoffrey Howse, £10.99. This has to be the ultimate in respect of the amount of murders, pictures of locations and buildings from the past, together with plenty of graphics from *The Illustrated Police News*. It goes without saying it includes Jack the Ripper.

All these books are published by Wharncliffe Books (Pen and Sword Books) 47 Church Street, Barnsley, South Yorkshire, S70 2BR.

There are many more books in this series covering other parts of Great Britain. Website: [www.wharncliffebooks.co.uk](http://www.wharncliffebooks.co.uk)

**William Pyemont**

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

The subscription is effective 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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