

METROPOLITAN

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Family History Society



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Cover picture: Somerset House
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EDITORIAL

Various issues of METROPOLITAN happen to acquire mini themes from the material sent to the Editorial Team - bombs, war and markets are examples. Within these pages there are two mysteries concerning wedding photographs, coincidentally at a time when weddings are newsworthy as the Queen and Prince Philip celebrated their Diamond Wedding anniversary on 20 November. A little earlier Remembrance Day, the eleventh day of the eleventh month, was marked with gatherings at many memorials. The story of one individual is told on page 60.

The white central insert gives details of the Society's AGM Day on Saturday 19 January 2008 and the reports of the officers – Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer – at the end of their year of office. There are nomination forms for these three posts for 2008/2009. Nominations require a proposer, seconder and the signature of the nominee and as the forms must reach the current Secretary no later than 4 January 2008, action is required *soon*. There is also provision for members to raise questions for discussion at the AGM.

Access to Record Offices is more restricted than usual over the holiday period: the ground floor of the FRC is permanently closed; the LMA is closed for improvements and TNA at Kew is closed 21-26 January. Perhaps it is a good opportunity to stay at home, take stock of our research, deal with the paperwork and form a research plan for 2008. As part of this exercise, do remember to copy original documents, such as certificates and photographs. Some people take them to Record Offices, Family History Fairs etc but if they are lost, each certificate will cost at least £7 to replace!

It was good to have news of useful websites and the responses obtained from a *Help!* request and to learn that at least one contributor had been inspired by a previous article in METROPOLITAN. The Editorial Team thank all contributors and hope that others will be encouraged to share their knowledge and experiences with fellow members in the coming year. We are always pleased to receive your letters, articles, jottings about our area, snippets of information etc so just keep them coming!

Wishing you a joyful Christmas.

Rosemary A Roome

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S DESK

The change over to the new subscription renewal date for all members is now complete except for those members, over one hundred of you, who have yet to renew your subscription for the coming year. Please check that the renewal date on the address sheet of your copy of the December issue of METROPOLITAN shows the **NEW** Renewal date as 1.10.2008, or 1.10.2009 if you have renewed for two years. If it does not and you have not yet renewed your subscription then **PLEASE** do so as soon as possible. Failure to do this will result in your details being removed from the Membership Database and no further copies of METROPOLITAN being sent.

NB This does not apply to those members paying by Bankers Order as some of these have not yet been credited to the Society's Bank Account.

At monthly intervals since August 2006, a total of more than 1600 Renewal Notices have been sent to members. Over 680 of these were despatched during August and September. The final batch of 500 forms, for those members who had renewed during the year to 30 September only, were photo-copied in advance and had a return date of 10 September. Unfortunately adding a Membership Number and the old Renewal Date to each form and then addressing (by hand) 500 envelopes took much longer than anticipated. (Good job I had to forgo a holiday this year!) I did manage to correct some return dates but a relatively small number did slip through resulting in a few caustic comments from some members. For this unintentional lapse on my part I do apologise.

With daily post down to a mere trickle I now look forward to getting other vital work and correspondence up to date and, last but not least, take up my neglected 'Almshouse Project' again. This was due to be finished by December but now, thankfully, has had an additional six months added to the time scale for completion.

May I wish you all Health, Happiness and Peace for the coming year.

Anne Prudames



LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

CITY BRANCH LIVES ON!

I am very pleased to be able to tell you that City Branch is to continue. Jean HAYNES (an Honorary Life Member of our society) has very kindly offered to take on my duties as Programme Secretary. We are arranging a support team to chair meetings when I am unable to attend.

Our January and February 2008 meetings will be held at the Family Records Centre, 1 Myddelton Street, London, EC1R 1UW. Then from March 2008 we move to Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre, Holborn Library, 32-38 Theobalds Road, London, WC1X 8PA.

Hopefully, together, we will reach our 25th Birthday!

Raymer Lofts, Member No. 3116

Family Tree Forum opened its doors nearly one year ago, since when it has grown into one of the most complete Family History sites to be found on the Internet. It combines a lively research discussion forum, where there is always someone on hand to help you with your research, with a remarkable Reference Library (the wiki), where information can be found on anything from the GRO to researching ancestors in Prussia. In addition the newly launched online magazine gives members a chance to share their family stories. Membership to the site is free and open to all and enables you to access further community boards and the chance to add your expert knowledge to the Family Tree Forum wiki. This site can be found at: www.familytreeforum.co.uk

Elaine Wareham, Non Member

Has any Member tried this site? Let us know what you think.

After the publication of my *Help!* request for information about Klingers Stocking Factory in Edmonton in METROPOLITAN, December 2006 Vol. 29, No. 2, I received 15 replies. Although none were able to provide any more specific information about my father, William Edward BALDWIN, all replies were very interesting and helpful in that they greatly increased my knowledge of the firm. For instance, I was unaware that the Edmonton site was only one of many and that Klingers was in business many years before the 1930s, my period of interest. During

WW1 it was manufacturing gas masks under the stands at Tottenham Hotspur Football Club!

Most respondents related experiences of family members working at Klingers and also two, Brian Cockram (Member No. 5011) and Bernard Butcher (Member No. 5911), were able to provide very interesting photographs showing members of the staff in the 1930s and 1940s. The following photo of a formal dinner, date unknown but taken by Camera Craft of Palmers Green, was sent by Bernard Butcher. Does anyone recognise any of the faces?



Another respondent brought to my attention a little book about Tottenham, *How Things Were: Growing up in Tottenham 1890-1920* by Tottenham History Workshop 1981. I managed to obtain a copy via an internet search and would certainly recommend it to anyone interested in Tottenham's social history of that period. Finally, although I have replied to all respondents individually, I should like to thank them all once again for taking the trouble to reply to my query.

In the same edition as above was my article about 'The Harums' entertainment troupe. Initially response was disappointing: none! However, eventually I did have a reply as one member had spotted a family surname in the programme. Although no immediate connection could be made, it being a relatively uncommon name certainly merits further investigation and research. I certainly hope that a link is established.

I was pleased to send on copies of all eight photographs.

Alan Baldwin, Member No. 4425



Petitions of Insolvent Debtors to be heard at the Court House in Portugal Street, Lincolns Inn Fields on Monday the 16th May 1831 at Nine. Richard WHITTINGHAM, formerly of Southampton Street, Camberwell, Surrey, Baker, then of Berwick Street, Soho, Middlesex, Baker, then of Aldersgate Street near Jewin Street, London, Umbrella Manufacturer, then of Chapel Street, Salford, Manchester, Lancs, Boot, Shoe and Hat Warehouseman, then of No. 4 Edgbaston Street, Birmingham, Warwickshire, Shoe Manufacturer, then of High Street, Barnstaple, Devon, Shoe Manufacturer, then of Market Place, Salisbury, Wilts, Clicker and Traveller, then of Saint Phillips, Oxford in the City of Oxford, Baker, then of West Street, Reading, Berks, Boot and Shoemaker, then of Bartholomew Street, Newbury, Berks, Retail Brewer, then of Bellmont Row, Wandsworth, Surrey, Grocer and Cheesemonger, then of No. 14 Hatton Garden, Middlesex, Grocer, then of No. 21 White Hart Street, Kennington, Surrey, Grocer, then of No. 23 Castle Street, Holborn, London, Boot and Shoemaker and Picture Dealer, and late of No. 1 Great Surrey Street, Blackfriars Road, Surrey, Waiter.

The London Gazette, 22 April 1831

Obviously a man of many talents and many addresses.
Who said our ancestors did not move around much?

SOMERSET HOUSE

The front cover shows Somerset House as it is today, with its added winter attraction of a skating rink.

There has been an imposing building on this site since 16th Century. In 1547 ten year old Edward VI succeeded his father King Henry VIII. Edward's uncle, Edward SEYMORE, declared himself Lord Protector and Duke of Somerset and began to build a grand mansion. By 1551 Somerset House was finished. Later that year the Duke was arrested, tried for treason and in 1552 executed on Tower Hill. The building passed into the hands of the Crown and was the scene of royal entertainment for the next 200 years. In the mid 1700s the Horse Guards and Foot Guards were stationed in the house and it gradually fell into ruin, so demolition began in 1775.

The new Somerset House was designed to house government offices, including the Navy Board, and the learned societies (The Royal Academy of Arts, The Royal Society and the Society of Antiquaries) under one roof.

Sir William CHAMBERS, the architect, planned the building around a large courtyard. The Strand Block, to the north, and the Embankment Building overlooking the River Thames, were completed by 1786. The New Wing to the west, for the Inland Revenue, was completed in 1856. (King's College London to the east opened in 1831.)

In 1837 the Registrar General of Births, Marriages and Deaths set up office in the North Wing, allowing free public access to the national indexes. Family historians could consult the index books and order certificates here until 1970 when the books were moved to St Catherine's House, in Kingsway. After 27 years there, they were transferred to the Family Records Centre in Myddelton Street. Now, alas, the books are all in storage in Christchurch, Dorset with no public access to them!

The Civil Probate System for England and Wales, established in January 1858, replaced numerous Ecclesiastical Courts and Somerset House became the Principal Probate Registry. Annual indexes were on open shelves and Wills could be viewed and purchased. In 1998 the Registry moved to First Avenue House, High Holborn where it remains.

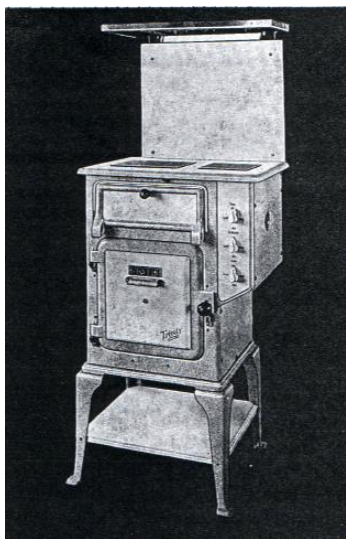
For further historical details visit: www.somerset-house.org.uk

SYDNEY THOMPSON AND TRICITY COOKERS

By Connie Precious, Member No. 2459

I was inspired by the article on the CRACKNELL family of Enfield, in the October issue of METROPOLITAN, to contribute the following story about my father, Sydney THOMPSON, born in Poplar on 14 July 1886.

On 12 May 1906 he married Mabel RUSSELL at the parish church of St Mary, Plaistow. Sydney, having served an apprenticeship, was then a Mechanic and he was still not quite 20. By the start of World War 1 there were already four children of the marriage, Sydney, Doris, George and Leslie and the family had moved to Finsbury Park. Sydney was now 28 and although he tried to volunteer for national service he was kept back because he was in a reserved occupation. At this time he was working for the British Electric Transformer Company at Hayes, Middlesex, with Mr AF BERRY, founder and owner of the infant firm of Tricity, which had been manufacturing Electric Cookers.



Model No. 770a

of the six cookers, stood in line on the counter. The restaurant earned a reputation as one of the best eating houses in London – a charge of seven shillings and sixpence for a dinner indicated the quality of the restaurant in

At the turn of the century Mr AF BERRY had opened a restaurant, the Tricity House Restaurant, at 48 Oxford Street, London W1, for the sole purpose of publicising cooking by electricity which people regarded with as much suspicion as transport by the motor car. Few people will remember now that some of the first queues ever seen in London were caused by electric cooking. Almost a century ago gentlemen in top hats, frock coats, striped trousers and patent leather boots, ‘toffs’ in the Victorian and Edwardian idiom, would form an orderly queue every Saturday morning to collect cakes ordered by them the previous day from the Tricity House Restaurant. The cakes, which would have been baked on one

days when two pence would buy a workman's breakfast of a pie and a pint of beer. The place became increasingly popular during the first World War and in 1918 the restaurant was moved to Wellington House in the Strand because the increasing patronage made larger premises essential. Tricity cookers were, at first, sold principally to catering firms but one of the first domestic cookers was produced in the early months of 1915 and sold for about twelve pounds. It was fitted with a cast iron front and the two hot plates stood on a platform at the side.

In the latter months of 1915 the Tricity Company found that their market had evaporated overnight and Mr BERRY promptly mobilized his small work force on war work. One subject which exercised the minds of the British Public at that time was the Zeppelin, which seemed to be able to fly over the coast and drop bombs without even being challenged. There were no anti-aircraft batteries in those days and it had only just become practicable to fix a machine gun to the open cockpit of aeroplanes, but the guns were not successful because the extreme cold caused the oil around the breech and the operating mechanism to freeze up, and there was no means of melting it until my father got to work. He experimented with a lightly loaded heating coil energized by current from a generator driven by the air thrust of the propeller and very soon he had perfected a device which could easily be fitted to the guns.

'An officer from the War Office visited me and was impressed with a demonstration I gave him' said my father. 'That was on a Wednesday and he requested fifty of the oil warmers by the following Saturday. I told him it was impossible, even if I had the parts. He then said he would deliver all the material I needed by the next morning and I agreed to make twenty-five by the Saturday'. My father kept his promise. The appliances were collected in a Rolls-Royce car and transported straight to France.

After the end of the war, all the sheet metal work for Tricity cookers was made in a small factory in Parsonage Lane, Enfield, which my father, then trading on his own account, had opened and by 1934 a new Tricity company was formed, with Mr BERRY as Chairman and my father as Managing Director. By this time our family, now eight in number, were all living in the house next door to the factory. My father designed and tested all the new cookers. He was a very good cook and he was designing and

patenting inventions almost up to the time of his death. Development work went on constantly by both Mr BERRY and my father and well before the second World War they were making cookers with thermostatic controls and with ten heat switches.

You may think that this narrative reads more like the history of Tricity Cookers than the life of my father, but the two were inextricably linked. Tricity Cookers was his life, seven days a week.

Upon declaration of the war in 1939, all cooker production ceased and the factory went over to war work, at first manufacturing sten gun parts and later radar equipment for the Admiralty. Now for the first time women were employed in the factory.

Prior to my father taking up occupancy the premises had belonged to a Confectioner named BUZZARD who, I imagine, planted our orchard which was behind the factory. It was here that a large air raid shelter was dug out for the use of the employees during daytime air raids and the family used it to sleep in at night.

At last came the cessation of hostilities and a large input of capital was needed to replace old machinery and to convert to the production of cookers once more. It was decided that Mr BERRY and my father would sell their shares. Tricity was the oldest and one of the most respected names in electric cooker manufacturing and it became part of the Thorn group. Mr BERRY divorced himself completely to concentrate on his other interests and while my father stayed on for a while with the new owners, he soon began to feel that there was no room for him.

He bought an electrical shop at Southgate which he ran for a short while until his retirement, when we moved back to Enfield. I was by then the only member of the family still at home.

My mother suffered a series of strokes and my father nursed her until her death in 1962. He survived her by only eighteen months and died in Chase Farm Hospital in 1963. They were both cremated and their ashes scattered at Enfield Crematorium.

The photo opposite shows Tricity staff on a works outing, circa 1948.



‘THAT WAS YOUR UNCLE TOM!’ One In A Million

By Dennis Stacey, Member No. 3248

There are many memorials commemorating the dead of the two World Wars throughout the United Kingdom. To the majority of the population these are just lists of names; the generation that was alive in World War 1 is gone, that of World War 2 is gradually slipping away, the names enshrined on the memorials are largely meaningless to the present generation.

My late mother’s brother features on a memorial to the Islington dead of the 1914/18 war. He was Thomas George SPILLER, aged 30 years and unmarried at the time of his death on 6 May 1915 in the Ypres salient near the notorious Hill 60 in Belgium. My mother pointed out his name to me on the Islington Memorial Arch at the Royal Northern Hospital in the 1930s when I was a small boy. ‘That was your Uncle Tom’ she said.



I thought little of it at the time but in recent years whilst researching family history the thought kept recurring that I knew virtually nothing of this uncle who died in the service of his country long before I was born. I have tried to find out more about Thomas and his short life, although there is little to tell. Thomas was the first child and only son of Thomas and Sarah SPILLER, born on 12 December 1884 at 23 Little Drummond Street, St Pancras in North London. St Pancras was a particularly unpleasant place, being described at the time as a squalid slum crowded with some of the more unsavoury members of the population. The living conditions there are difficult for us to imagine today. Thomas senior had been born in the area and as a lad of 17 had joined the army and seen service with the famous 2nd/24th Regiment in the Zulu Campaign. Young Thomas joined the Territorial Army as a lad and his enrollment states he was of slight build and just over 5 feet in height. Almost certainly he had given a false age on

joining; the Territorials were popular with working class lads as they got a uniform and boots plus time in camp each year for training with three square meals a day. Thomas was sent to South Africa with them in 1901 towards the end of the Boer War when he was barely 16 years of age. After the War ended he did several summer training camps back in England.

Thomas senior aged 46 died in October 1906 from tuberculosis. His own mother had died from the same disease at the same age in 1874. Thomas's wife, Sarah, was left with Thomas junior and five younger daughters. Thomas was 22 so presumably self supporting but his five sisters were between 18 and 3 years of age. There was little social provision at the time so life for the family could not have been easy and two of the younger children were taken into the care of the Roman Catholic Church at a nunnery at Whetstone, to the north of London, for a couple of years. Little is known of Thomas's life then. His occupation on his Territorial entry was given as a labourer. Apparently he did not get on too well with his mother and did not live at home. Around the outbreak of war in 1914, his youngest sister, Daisy, then just 11 years of age, met him in the Euston Road in what she thought a 'down and out' condition and suspected he was sleeping rough. She suggested he should go back to see their mother but he declined.

Today it is difficult to appreciate the scale of the patriotic fervour that seized the country at the time war broke out; a large proportion of the working classes had little to feel patriotic about. As citizens of what was then probably the richest and most powerful country in the world, many of them had spent years of abject misery living in cramped and insanitary conditions, poorly clothed, undernourished and with little prospect of improving their lot. Nevertheless young men flocked in their hundreds of thousands to join up, fired up by a vigorous advertising campaign, patriotic posters and even Music Hall artistes singing of the merits of being a soldier, eg *We Don't Want To Fight But By Jingo If We Do*.

At the time of the outbreak of the war, Thomas re-joined the Army and was posted to the 3rd Battalion of the Middlesex Regiment; as an experienced former soldier the army was no doubt glad to see him. In the latter part of April 1915 the 3rd battalion was sent into the ferocious bloody maelstrom that was the 2nd battle of Ypres, known to the ordinary soldiers as 'Wipers'. The area was fairly flat and the only high point was a huge heap

of soil that was excavated when a railway line was built many years earlier. It was 60 metres in height, hence its name Hill 60. As the only vantage point for miles that enabled its occupants to survey all the ground around for a considerable distance and monitor the enemy movements and so direct their artillery fire, this hill was highly prized by both sides. The Ypres Salient was a small area of Belgian territory held by the Allies after the rapid advance by the German Army through Belgium in the early part of the war. It was thought essential to hold this last part of Belgium for political reasons but the cost to both sides in casualties was horrendous. The flat nature of the land, with the exception of Hill 60, gave each side little cover. In many places trenches could not be dug so the only protection for the troops were sandbag ramparts that were constantly blown away by artillery. The ferocity of the fighting was almost unending with resources thrown in constantly by both sides. During this battle, around the 23rd April 1915, the Germans used poison gas for the first time. Without any protection available to the troops this caused initial panic. Those who were gassed died a slow terrible death, choking and drowning in their own blood. Ironically a sudden shift of wind blew much gas back into the German trenches but they did have rudimentary gas masks. It was into this situation that the 3rd Middlesex were thrust in the latter part of April 1915.

Apart from fierce levels of artillery fire there was constant machine gunning, sniper fire and hand grenade attacks by both sides; sometimes the opposing trenches were only a few yards apart. How any survived for more than a day or so is a miracle; sadly so many did not. The Military sometimes refer to a battlefield as a 'killing ground', there is no better description for the Ypres Salient. Added to this, there was the stench of death from decomposing bodies that could not be recovered and even the buried dead were often blown out of the ground again by the constant artillery barrages. This, the poor sanitary arrangements and the proliferation of rats only added to the privations of the troops.

On 3 May 1915 the remnants of the 3rd Battalion were relieved and marched back to barracks at Poperinghe. It must have been during this time that Thomas was wounded. The following is a description of the 3rd Battalion's experience taken from the unit's War Diary:

From 29th April to 3rd of May the 3rd Middx. occupied the fire trenches of the right sector of the Brigade line. During these days the battalion was

under close artillery fire, trench mortar fire, and constant bombing by the enemy, as well as being harrassed by hostile mining operations and reverse fire into most of the trenches. The Germans had a trench in between the fire and support trenches of the Middlesex, and from this trench kept up constant machine gun fire, at night being particularly active. There was no rest for the men, whose nerves were tried to the utmost by the continual vigilance. Every man, excepting sentries, was worked all night and every night and as much as possible during the day, in addition to constant long spells of standing to arms. As the whole battalion was in the fire trenches, no relief was possible, and there was a great shortage of water. But on the night of 3rd of May these intolerable conditions ended, for the battalion, in conformity with the general scheme in which that part of the salient was evacuated, withdrew to billets at Poperinghe.

The 3rd Battalion lost heavily during the fighting from the 22nd April to the 4th of May. The approximate strength of a battalion is around 900 men. In the time the battalion was engaged around Hill 60, about 13 days, they lost 325 other ranks killed, wounded or missing, plus six officers dead and five wounded; about 37% of its strength.

It was on the 6th of May that Thomas died of his wounds. His mother was notified as his next of kin. It is shocking to learn of the sheer horror of Tom's final days on earth. This is the sum total of our knowledge of Uncle Tom; the only mark of his existence is the name inscribed on the Memorial Arch, the gravestone in the Graveyard Extension at Bailleul in France and the single photo of him shown on page 12. In 1992 my brother John and I visited Tom's grave; no other family members had ever been, due no doubt, to a combination of the difficulty in travelling to France between the wars and a lack of money.

I am pleased to have been able to obtain some details of Uncle Tom's sad short life; but I am left wondering about the horrors of the War and the sacrifices made by him and the millions like him. Now they are just names carved into stone, mostly forgotten by today's generation. We really do not know how lucky we are to have been spared the horrors some of our forbears endured.

I am indebted to the staff of the Middlesex Museum at the National Army Museum for assistance in researching Uncle Tom's last days.

THE PARLIAMENTARY ARCHIVES

The Parliamentary Archives hold several million historical records relating to Parliament dating from 1497. These can be a rich source of information for family historians and the following may be of most interest:

- Private Acts of Parliament 1497 to date. These include Acts to effect naturalisations, divorces and changes of name. Before 1844, a foreign born resident could only become naturalised as a British citizen by means of an Act of Parliament. Until 1858, a full divorce, freeing both partners to marry, was rare, expensive and required an Act of Parliament.
- Protestation Returns 1692. Lists of the names of men over 18 years of age who made the protestation 'to maintain the true reformed Protestant religion'. For details of the areas covered and those returns which have been published see JG Gibson & A Dell, *The Protestation Returns 1641 - 1642* (FFHS Publications Ltd, 1995).
- Roman Catholic Returns 1680, 1706, 1767, 1781. The names of known or reputed Roman Catholics are listed for 1680 and 1706 but some may be suppressed for 1767 or not collected for 1781.
- Deposited plans 1794 to present. Annexed to plans deposited in connection with private Bills for the construction of railways, roads and so on are documents that list the names of owners, occupiers and lessees of land or property and subscribers of capital.
- Evidence on Opposed Private Bills 1771 to present. More than 200,000 witnesses have given evidence to committees on canals, roads, docks and especially railways, as well as Bills concerned with markets, town improvements and utility undertakings. A database of witnesses from 1771 to 1917 is accessible in the Search Room.
- Peers' Pedigrees. Between 1767 and 1802 every peer on first admission to the House of Lords delivered a pedigree 'fairly described on vellum'. These pedigrees are illustrated with coats of arms and include up to eight generations of the family line.

The Parliamentary website has information including news, recently acquired records, online exhibitions and features, copying services and publications.

Some parliamentary records are not here - archives of government departments, the Crown and the Court of Appeal can be found at The National Archives. Medieval records of Parliament are in the Chancery Records at TNA.

The Parliamentary Archives Search Room, a public office in the Palace of Westminster (the Houses of Parliament) London SW1A 0PW, is open Monday to Friday throughout the year, public holidays excepted, from 9.30 am to 5.00 pm. It is closed for annual stocktaking in the last two weeks of November.

The Search Room is open to everyone but space is limited, so please make contact in advance of your visit to book a seat and to check record availability. Tel: 020 7219 3074 or email: archives@parliament.uk



STRAYS

Marilyn Gardner, Non-Member, has recently been transcribing parish records for Suffolk and came across the following three baptisms that she thought might be of interest to our members:

Entry 228 in Redisham Parish Church records
29 Aug 1852 William John, son of James and Mary Ann CRIPPS of St John's Parish, Westminster. Father's occupation, coachmaker.

Entry 238 in Redisham Parish Church records
3 September 1854 Alice Mary, daughter of James and Marion CRIPPS of St John's Parish, Westminster. Father's occupation, coachmaker.

Entry 313 in Redisham Parish Church records
24 September 1871 Charles Thomas, son of John and Rebecca LAWN of Finchley, London. Father's occupation, servant.

THE CASE OF THE ALCOHOLIC FRENCHMEN AND THE DISAPPEARING GRANDMOTHER

By Fran Bannister, Member No. 6914

When I was a child in the 50s everything French was très chic and I was proud that I had French blood in my veins. It filtered down through my maternal grandmother, Eugenie Victoria ROUSSET, known to all us grandchildren as Nanny MILLS. It began with a man called Jean ROUSSET, a master carrier in France at the beginning of the 19th Century. His son, Alphonse ROUSSET was born in 1834 in Lyon and he married Eugenie SCHERRIER who was born in 1835 in Calais. The date of their marriage is not known, nor is the date of the couple's immigration to England.

They had four children: Lucie born 1857 in Middlesex who married as Lucy Jane in 1880 to John Joachin D STEIN who had been born in Germany. Next was Henri Victor (my great-grandfather) born in 1859 at 17½ Richmond Street, City Road. Then came Maria (Mary) born in 1865 who remained an unmarried servant and lastly was Eugene Jacque, born in 1868 who married Letitia GREEN in 1894.

Henri married Jane HARE in 1880 and they set up home at 44 Penton Place, Clerkenwell. His poor mother Eugenie, who worked as a laundress, died in 1880 of phthisis (TB) and Alphonse moved in with Henri and Jane. Here he met Ellen BOYCE and in 1881 they got married, producing a child, Alfred in 1882.

Alphonse had varied jobs. In 1859 he was an embosser, in 1871 a glazier, a silk weaver in 1880 but by 1881 he had become a billiard marker. The job of billiard marker entailed regulating the game of billiards in a club or hotel, keeping score and holding the stakes if wagers were made. I am sure that there would have been plenty of drink available in a job like this. In 1884 Alphonse died at the age of 48 of asthma and heart disease, no doubt exacerbated by the smoky billiard halls he worked in.

Henri and Jane had four children: Nelly Jane born in 1881 and died aged 6 months, Henry J born in 1882, Eugenie Victoria (my grandmother) born in 1888 and Rose Maud born in 1892. By 1891 Henri was a billiard marker

like his father and his brother Eugene was working as a potman in the Bull and Anchor in High Holborn. Obviously Eugene developed a taste for the drink and may have drained all the glasses he was collecting because he died in 1897 at the age of 28 of the DTs (delirium tremens). Henri didn't fare much better because the following year he died at the age of 38 of heart disease and acute nephritis.

So that left great-grandmother Jane with three young children to raise on her own. However, in the 1901 census she is living alone in Clerkenwell and working as a needlewoman. Where then are the children? A trawl through the census produced nothing. Of course my grandmother was alive and her sister Rose grew into an old lady who used to visit us at my childhood home in Tottenham. Of Henry I know nothing.



Jane (Hare) ROUSSET (1861), Rose MILLS (1910), Eugenie (Rousset) MILLS (1888) and Joseph MILLS (1913).

In June 1906 Eugenie Victoria got married to Albert James MILLS at St Paul's, Clerkenwell. On the marriage certificate the main witness was her uncle James HARE who I presume would have given her away.

A look back at the 1901 census found James HARE and his wife Rosina living in Hoxton with 2 servants and their niece 'Jane HARE' aged 12, born in North London. This surely must be grandmother.

This photograph, taken about 1914, shows, left to right, Albert MILLS (1906),

Eugenie and Albert moved to Holloway and had eight children. They also liked to spend a lot of time in the pub and I remember she liked her daily pint of stout. Albert died in 1955 and as for Nanny MILLS, well she never had a day's illness in her life, apart from being totally deaf in her latter years. She lived to see a rip-roaring party on her 100th birthday, got her telegram from the Queen then dropped down dead two weeks later. Now that's the way to go!!!!



UNWANTED CERTIFICATES

Angela Simco, a member of the Bedfordshire FHS, obtained the certificates below whilst following an apparent lead which turned out not to be related to her family. She is happy to pass them on free of charge to anyone interested.

Birth: George BOWLER, born 1 February 1860, son of John, costermonger, and Catherine née DRISCOL, North St Giles in the Fields (ref 1b.432)

Marriage: Rhoda Margaret BOWLER (father: Charles BOWLER) and Theodor FINCKE (father: Johann FINCKE) on 22 July 1861, St Jude's, Upper Chelsea (ref 1a.273)

Please contact Angela by post at: 13 Green Lane, Clapham, Bedfordshire MK41 6EP or by email: angela.simco@btinternet.com



Christina Steven, who acquired them whilst trying to find her great grandmother, donated the following unwanted certificates to us:

Birth: Elizabeth KEW, born 20 May 1850, daughter of William KEW, labourer, and Elizabeth née WILSHIRE of 7 Garden Row, St Luke's, City Road.

Death: Elizabeth KEW aged 2 who died of diarrhoea on 5 September 1852. She was the daughter of William KEW, labourer, of Slades Place, St James Clerkenwell.

If you would like these certificates please contact the Editors.

LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Members of the Society will be held in the Radnor Hall, Wesley's Chapel, 49 City Road, London EC1Y 1AU on Saturday 19 January 2008.

Business

- The Report of the Chairman
- The Report of the Secretary
- The Annual Accounts
- The appointment of an Auditor
- The election of the Officers of the Society:
 - a) Chairman
 - b) Secretary
 - c) Treasurer
- Any other ordinary business

Joan I Pyemont Hon. Sec.
57 Belvedere Way
Kenton
Harrow
Middlesex HA3 9XQ

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Throughout the year we have managed to keep the Society on an even keel, albeit with many resignations which seem to have been matched by new members coming in. The nature of our Society seems to be governed by the fact that many ancestors of new members were transient, moving in and out of London and Middlesex at a rapid rate looking for work. The workload with respect to enquiries has increased dramatically, mainly due to the *Who Do You Think You Are* influence watched by many on television. The trend for many of today's amateur researchers is to do it on the internet which as we all know is limited and when an answer cannot be found it is suggested that they contact the local FHS. Some of the requests seem to be asking us to finish off an individual's research, which of course we cannot do, only point them in the right direction.

We did not participate in the WDYTYA show in 2007 but you may be pleased to know that we have booked two tables for 2008. There will be close co-operation with both the West Middlesex Society and the Hillingdon Society. In fact all our tables will be joined in a row as the Middlesex Societies but each of course with its own identity. The time may come when there is just one Middlesex Society. Perhaps as a Society we should be asking ourselves what are we offering our members? Certainly nothing new. In the past, members would beaver away producing MIs, Guides and Indexes etc. Should we have more people on our committee doing things like look ups and giving out information? Other Societies have more people doing just this sort of thing. It is a fact that more hands make lighter work and can breed success. You only have to look at our Editorial Team to see what can be done when three people work together.

We must of course thank other people in the Society: the individual officers, who work hard to make the branches run so smoothly; the members who attend other Societies' open days to set up tables and sell our wares and make contacts; our Membership Secretary and Treasurer who have had a tough battle this year in order to align the common membership renewal date.

Thank you all.

William Pyemont
Chairman

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The past twelve months have absolutely flown by and it only seems a few weeks since our last AGM one year ago in February 2007.

I wish to announce that I will not be standing for re-election as Secretary of the Society. My successor, I am sure, will gain much satisfaction in helping to keep our Society running smoothly. I have enjoyed being Secretary for the last five years - the first two years as Joint Secretary with my husband Bill (2003 - 2005) and the past three years acting alone. I now feel it is time someone else stepped in. The job is quite time consuming on occasions and my other interests and hobbies need to be shelved from time to time. I will remain active in running the Wembley Branch and shall continue as Programme Organiser for both Wembley and the Rayners Lane Branch.

Within the Society a few changes have taken place. The new style METROPOLITAN has obtained good feed-back. The changes in subscription renewal dates are finally being accepted by Members with a few 'hiccups'. Changes regarding the loan of Exchange Journals are causing problems and we may yet again have to re-think the arrangement.

Our Executive Committee have held four meetings since the last AGM with a fifth to take place early in the New Year. Various meetings at our store-room at Avenue House have occurred, mainly for purposes of depositing and sorting of material in store. Material which had to be removed from Enfield Library due to their move, had to be collected, catalogued and deposited in store

Two very dedicated Members of the Rayners Lane Branch and one from the Barnet Branch have attended Fairs etc on behalf of the Society with great success in respect of book sales etc. Our thanks to them. The Enfield and Barnet Branches are well attended and appear to run successfully and efficiently with their appropriate and dedicated teams

Our Membership remains fairly static, quite a number of new members but also some losses caused by lapsed membership, people moving away and some deaths.

City Branch has experienced a problem due to the impending retirement of Raymer Lofts and it was feared that this Branch would have to close, particularly as the recent venue for meetings at the Family Records Centre is due for closure in the New Year. However, following considerable effort on Raymer's part new arrangements are now as follows: Jean Haynes, former Editor of the Journal, has kindly agreed to deal with the running of the City Branch and to deal with all the administration entailed. Although she will be unable to attend ALL meetings of the Branch, with the help of a

band of reliable members and helpers who are prepared to 'stand-in' on these occasions, meetings will continue. Meetings for January and February 2008 will still take place at the FRC, following which future meetings will take place at Camden Archives. The Society must thank Raymer for her dedication to the City Branch over the years.

With many thanks to all our stalwart Members who organise the running of each Branch and the reliability of regular helpers and volunteers who do so much to ensure the continued success of our Society.

Joan Pyemont

Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT for the year ending 30 September 2007

For the fifth year in succession, and as was predicted in my last report, the Society's expenses have exceeded its income. This was inevitable in view of the loss of subscriptions, estimated at about £6000.00, resulting from the realignment of all renewal dates. This should be looked on as a deferment of income rather than a loss, but of course it cannot be offset by a comparable deferment of expenses.

The £765.00 decrease in overall expenses, whilst welcome, is unlikely to be sustainable. The use of free FRC premises by City Branch has saved £528.00 this year, but a new location in the coming year will mean a new expense. The ultimate closure of City Branch still cannot be ruled out if attendances are so low as to make the cost unsustainable. Whilst the total number of speakers used throughout the Society has remained static, their fees have increased by an aggregate of £141.00 since last year. A similar situation obtains with regard to METROPOLITAN although the number of copies printed has been reduced from 8000 last year to 6150 this year, the overall costs, including distribution, have increased by £210.00.

With falling membership rolls and increasing costs the financial future cannot be said to be anything other than slightly depressing; some comfort can be taken from the fact that, although we are not profitable, we are still solvent, and should be for some years to come. Your Committee is fully aware of the need to contain expenses, but increasing revenue - other than by increasing subscriptions - is possibly the more intractable problem.

J Brian Green

Treasurer

LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Abbreviated profit and loss account for the year ended 30 September 2007

	30 Sep 2007	30 Sep 2006
Income:		
Subscriptions	7,707	13,630
Publication sales revenue (net)	396	495
Interest received & sundry receipts	<u>642</u>	<u>475</u>
	8,745	14,600
 Expenditure:		
Metropolitan Journal	7,179	6,969
Branch Lecture Costs	3,845	4,151
Members' Interests Booklets		339
Administration & general expenses	3,049	3,275
Depreciation	274	378
	<u>-14,347</u>	<u>-15,112</u>
Net Loss	£ -5,602	£ -512

Balance Sheet as at 30 September 2007

	30 Sep 2007	30 Sep 2006
Fixed Assets		
Office Equipment	832	1,106
 Current Assets		
Stock of Publications	4,300	4,250
Prepaid Expenses	600	268
Cash & Bank balances	<u>31,133</u>	<u>29,037</u>
	36,033	33,555
 Current Liabilities		
Subscriptions in Advance	-7,464	
Creditors & accrued expenses	<u>-1,440</u>	<u>-1,098</u>
	<u>27,129</u>	<u>32,457</u>
	£ 27,961	£ 33,563
 Financed by:		
Balance Brought forward	33,563	34,075
Net loss for year	<u>-5,602</u>	<u>-512</u>
Members' Net Funds	£ 27,961	£ 33,563

LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Saturday 19 January 2008
Radnor Hall, Wesley's Chapel
Programme

From 11.00am	Registration and refreshments Meet fellow members of the Society Visit the Bookstall - available all day.
12 noon	Talk: <i>Frank Castle Froest, My Hero!</i> Speaker: Mike Fountain
1.00pm	Lunch Break in the Radnor Hall Bring your own lunch Tea and Coffee will be available
1.45pm	Talk: <i>Entails, Recoveries and Releases</i> Speaker: Eve McLaughlin
2.45pm	Short break
2.55pm	Registration of Members attending the AGM only
3.00pm	Welcome by Society President, Mr Michael Gandy, followed by Annual General Meeting (attendance by Members only)
4pm	Departure



Travel to Wesley's Chapel

Nearest Underground Stations

Old Street: Northern Line - City Branch (leave by Exit 4)

Moorgate: Northern Line - City Branch, Circle and Metropolitan Lines

Rail Stations

Liverpool Street

Moorgate (First Capital Connect)

Buses

21, 43, 55, 76, 141, 205, 214, 243

**LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX
FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY**

**Annual General Meeting
to be held on
Saturday 19 January 2008.**

Nomination Form for Election of Officers

Position: CHAIRMAN

Nominee:..... Mem No.....

Proposed by:.....

Signature..... Mem No.....

Seconded by:..... Mem No.....

Signature..... Mem No.....

Date..... Agreed by Nominee.....

Position: HON. SECRETARY

Nominee:..... Mem No.....

Proposed by:.....

Signature..... Mem No.....

Seconded by:..... Mem No.....

Signature..... Mem No.....

Date..... Agreed by Nominee.....

CONTINUED OVERLEAF

Position: HON. TREASURER

Nominee:..... Mem No.....

Proposed by:.....

Signature..... Mem No.....

Seconded by:..... Mem No.....

Signature..... Mem No.....

Date..... Agreed by Nominee.....

Any Other Business

I wish to ask the following question under Any Other Business

.....
.....
.....
.....

Name:..... Mem No.....

Signature..... Date.....

Please return this form to: Hon Secretary LWMFHS
57 Belvedere Way, Kenton, Harrow, Middlesex HA3 9XQ
To be received no later than Friday 4 January 2008.

BEDFORDBURY, WESTMINSTER

Visiting Book for Bedfordbury from the Reverend KITTO, Vicar of St Martin in the Fields ACC 1831/9

9 ½ Bedfordbury, Ground floor 2nd front, Widow RUSSELL. Rather an old hag of evil reputation in her younger day supported by her son and grandson Charles.

13 Bedfordbury, Ground & first floor, George James PEARCE. Shop. Instrument makers. 3 children. The PEARCES have been in Bedfordbury nearly 50 years. Second wife. Day school Bedfordbury.

14 Bedfordbury, Ground 1st & top floors, James WILLIAMS. Chandlers shop. Williams is rather idle. Mrs W wants to be rather grand & patronizing, but I hope means well. Half church & half dissenters. Has single man lodgers; is very useful in letting us know sick cases & is a good judge of character.

22 Bedfordbury, 5 top Widow PARTRIDGE A good old woman, but exceedingly dirty. 40 years in parish. 74, Wesleyan.

Peabody Buildings Block A 20, BEALE. Often out of work. Mrs B is a dresser at a theatre; but she is fond of church matters & quite a critic about preaching Church St Martin's.

Bedfordbury Apprentice

Charlotte CHARLESWORTH, she was discharged at Guildhall for being a thief. Mother took her home - Larkhill Lane, Vauxhall - laundress.

3 September Strand Ward Sep 1834 (F6061)

Thanks to Margaret Garrod, Member No 5792 for this lovely snippet.

SOME 2007 ANNIVERSARIES

- 1607 Jamestown, commonly regarded as the first permanent English settlement in what is now the US was founded on 14 May.
- 1707 The Act of Union was ratified by the Parliament of Scotland on 16 January.
- 1707 Charles Wesley, a leader of the Methodist movement was born 18 December in Epworth, Lincolnshire.
- 1807 Act to Abolish the British Slave Trade was passed on 25 March.
- 1837 Publication of the Shorthand System, invented by educationalist Sir Isaac Pitman.
- 1837 Queen Victoria ascended to the throne 20 June.
- 1857 Edward Elgar, British composer, born 2 June at Lower Broadheath.
- 1857 First Victoria Cross investiture took place on 26 June at Hyde Park. Queen Victoria invested 62 of the 111 Crimean War recipients.
- 1897 Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee.
- 1907 Robert Baden-Powell held the first Scouting encampment at Brownsea Island.
- 1907 The first cabs with taxi meters began operating in London on 22 March.
- 1907 Golders Green station was opened by the Charing Cross, Euston and Hampstead Railway on 22 June.
- 1917 Battle of Passchendale – 31 July to 10 November. Also known as the 3rd Battle of Ypres.
- 1907 The first National Trust Act was passed by Parliament on 21 August.
- 1927 Inauguration of the Menin Gate, arguably the world's best known war memorial. It is carved with the names of the 54,896 men who died in the Ypres Salient and who have no known graves.
- 1937 Coronation of King George VI on 12 May at Westminster Abbey.
- 1947 Christian Dior brought out his 'New Look' on 30 October.
- 1947 The then Princess Elizabeth married Lieutenant Philip Mountbatten, RN, on 20 November.
- 1957 Premium Bonds were first issued on 1 June.
- 1967 The first colour television broadcast.
- 1987 The Great Storm in October was the worst to affect the south east of England since 1703.

LONDON, SUGAR & SLAVERY GALLERY

To mark the bicentenary of the abolition of the slave trade in Britain, Museum in Docklands has opened a new permanent gallery, *London, Sugar & Slavery*, examining the capital's involvement in transatlantic slavery and its legacy today and revealing how London's involvement in slavery has shaped the capital since the 17th Century.

Sugar cane is believed to have been introduced to South America by Christopher COLUMBUS, having originated in New Guinea. It was regarded as a luxury commodity in Europe as late as the 1600s and was only available to the wealthy. By the 1700s coffee had become increasingly popular and with this the demand for sugar increased. London merchants realised that there were vast profits to be made from growing sugar in the Caribbean. The plantation system relied on cheap labour which was satisfied by importing slaves from Africa.

Key artefacts in the new gallery are the surviving papers of Thomas and John MILLS, who owned plantations in St Kitts and Nevis, providing glimpses into the lives of both the enslaved and the slaver.

Reference to African men, women and children can be found in newspapers, paintings, studio portraits, baptism and other church records, wills and also prison and hospital records, although it will probably never be known precisely how many people of African origin lived in London during the 1800s.

Coming soon to the Museum's website is an interactive map that will reveal London's hidden links to the transatlantic slave trade and how over 100 different locations throughout the metropolis were involved in the trade and the fight to end it. This website is being developed by Museum in Docklands in collaboration with the Cuming Museum in Southwark, Bruce Castle Museum in Harringey and Fulham Palace Museum.

Museum in Docklands is housed in a former sugar warehouse built to store produce imported from the Caribbean plantations at West India Quay, London E14 4AL. For more information Tel: 0870 444 3865 or visit: www.museumindocklands.org.uk

THE WEST SURREY FHS OPEN DAY

At Woking on 3 November 2007

Early on a bright and sunny Saturday morning we drove out to set up our tables at the West Surrey Family History Society's 'Open Day' in the Woking Leisure Centre. There were many other societies there but all was ready by the time the doors opened. We were kept busy right from the start answering questions, selling books on family history and giving out leaflets about archival sources.

Doreen, Rosemary and I were especially pleased to meet those members of our society who came along to our stall and introduced themselves. It was great to see you. We do hope that we were able to give you advice and suggest other avenues for you to explore so that your own family research can progress.

Thank you for coming and supporting us.

Kay Payne, Member No. 5603

IMPORTANT – MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

The vast majority of members have renewed their membership for the year
1 October 2007-30 September 2008.

However, more than 100 members have not done so. If you are one of them, you need to renew as soon as possible, or this will be the last issue of METROPOLITAN that you receive.

DON'T DELAY!

ACT NOW!

DON'T MISS OUT!

No further reminder will be sent.

Anne Prudames, Membership Secretary

WEBSITE NEWS

The Origins Network

Origins claims to be the richest source of authentic British genealogical records online and features access to Society of Genealogists (SoG) records. The records are divided into three main groups based in England and Wales, Ireland and Scotland.

British Origins, the part concerned with England and Wales, has records under nine headings: Census, Marriage, Wills, Apprenticeships, Court, Burial, Militia, Passenger Lists and General records. The 1841 Census index is apparently the most accurate with an average of 20% more names found for any search than other indexes. Boyd's Marriage Index 1538-1840, Boyd's London Burials Index 1574-1840 and Boyd's Inhabitants of London 1209-1840 will be of particular interest to researchers of London residents, as will the City of London Burial Index 1813-1853, the London Apprenticeship Abstracts 1442-1850, the Bank of England Will Extracts 1717-1845, the London Consistory Court Depositors Index 1700-1713 and the Archdeaconry Court of London Wills Index 1267-1500. There are many other datasets available too. Where available, the SoG will provide a hard copy of original documents for £10 – these can be ordered online.

British Origins Library showcases rare vintage photos, maps and other publications from the UK which are of interest to the family researcher. These include *The Universal Pocket Companion* of 1741, a reference book which has tables of salaries and wages amongst other information useful to flesh out a family history and the *Children's Employment Commission Part II* of 1842 which has interviews with employees, adult workers and children.

The collection on Irish Origins includes the Index of Irish Wills 1484-1858, 1831 Tithe Defaulters, the Dublin City Census 1851 and William Smith O'Brien's Petition 1848-9. It also has the only surviving ships' passenger lists for ships returning to Britain and Ireland from North America between 1858 and 1870. The Irish government required these to be submitted because of the threat of an imminent uprising by Fenians and they contain over 42,000 names. Consequently these records were deposited at The National Archives of Ireland and are not available at the UK National Archives.

Scottish Origins has the 1861 and 1871 Census, free IGI searches and the Old Parish Registers. Origins also has a section with online articles such as

So you found a London Burial? and *Reflections on the 1841 Census*, a Discussion Group enabling users to share ideas, experiences and establish contact with others, plus a monthly Newsletter.

You can search the entire Origins site for £10.50 for a month or £47 for a year, or you can choose to just look at British Origins for £6.50 for 72 hours or £8.95 for a month. (Members of the SoG automatically have a free 72-hour search of SoG material on British Origins each quarter year and can order hard copy of these datasets for £8.)

You can visit this site at www.origins.net

Google Books

This is another site that can be reached from the Google home page. On top of the search term bar is a series of links which lead to such things as news and maps. The last link says 'more' and when you click on this it brings you to a page which includes 'Book Search'. The books come primarily from two sources: publishers and libraries and it is books from libraries which are of most use to family historians. The Google Library Project's aim is to make it easier to find relevant books, especially books such as those that are out of print, which it would be difficult to find any other way. In the search box you can enter any keyword or phrase and the full text of books will be looked at to find ones that interest you. These are then displayed in one of four ways:

Full view: If a book is out of copyright, or the publisher or copyright holder has given permission, you will be able to page through the entire book from start to finish, as many times as you like. If the book is in the public domain, you will also be able to download, save and print a PDF version to read at your own pace. *The Gentleman's Magazine* is an example of a book which displays full view.

Limited preview: If a publisher or author has joined Google's Partner Programme, you will be able to see a few full pages from the book as a preview. You can conduct multiple searches within the book, or browse through the available pages (there is a limit to the amount of the book you can view online).

Snippet view: Clicking on the book result will take you to the 'About this book' page. If you then search within the book, for each search term up to three snippets of text from the book, showing your search term in context, will be displayed. Baedeker's *London and it's Environs: Handbook for Travellers* published in 1911 can be viewed in snippet format.

No preview available: For these books you will see bibliographic information about the book plus links to help you locate a copy.

Each book includes an 'About this Book' page with basic bibliographic data like title, author, publication date, length and subject. For every book you will also see links directing you to shops where you can buy the book and libraries where you can borrow it.

This free site is well worth a visit and we would like to thank Meryl Catty who brought it to our attention when she gave a talk to the Barnet Branch.

City of London Burials

Did your ancestor die in the Square Mile between 1788 and 1855? Burials, including non-conformist burials, can now be searched free online at www.findmypast.com. The search will bring up full name, year and place of burial. For a cost of 4 units you can access other details such as age at death and place of residence (although the couple I looked at were rather vague, stating Workhouse, St Giles in the Fields and Golden Lane). Also new to this site are census records for 1871 for the counties of Essex, Lancashire, Somerset, Bedfordshire, Gloucestershire, Kent and Berkshire and Passenger Lists from the 1930s.

Publican Ancestors

If you have ancestors in Pubs, Inns, Taverns or Beer Houses of London, Essex or Kent then this site may well be worth visiting. The pages include information from the 1881 census (occasionally others), entries from the Post Office, Kelly's and Pigot's Trade Directories, Petty Session Victuallers' records and more. You will also find many modern and classical images of these public houses; and the occasional Telephone number. There are now nearly 10,000 London, Essex and Kent public houses and taverns represented on this site and many beer houses and retailers. You can find this site at: <http://londonpublichouse.com/>
Many thanks to Hazel Duxon, Member No. 6098 for letting us know of it.

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



A PHOTOGRAPHIC INVESTIGATION

By Dennis Galvin, Member No. 1046

When I moved into my house in 1977 it rained stair rods all day long, front and back gardens were overrun with 'Best in Show' weeds and none of my spanners fitted the gas connection - the fish & chip shop saved the day. Ever after that, unwanted water never stopped making life a misery. On one occasion the copper tank in the upstairs airing cupboard virtually disintegrated and over a period had gradually been saturating the floor and ceiling. When the tank was removed I found a wedding photograph, shown below. Just a snap which I decided to put away for another day.

Actually, it was 20 years before I came across it again, found it intriguing so set myself a challenge, not to identify the participants - that seemed impossible - but to research where and when the photo was taken.



Surprisingly there were some clues: the photo was obviously taken in winter and the location seemed to be a large London square and in particular a square with a church (or Register Office) but with no facility or steps for wedding pictures, hence the happy couple having to cross the road and be photographed from the church; that is if my conjecture was right! Another excellent clue was the missing railings which dated the snap to late 1939 onwards when all metal was taken for the war effort. However, I have to say it seemed strange that none of the men were in any kind of uniform so I still had to keep an open mind.

I then decided to take the bull by the horns and visit well known squares in central London to see if I could identify any of the buildings in the picture hoping, of course, that at least one was still extant. Anyway this proved fruitless and I soon realised that I would be better off studying my pre war maps and making a proper list just in case WW2 bombing had drastically altered some squares. Indeed, the first church I went to under the new plan of campaign was an ideal candidate but now had local authority housing on three sides of the square. I remained optimistic and carried on to the end of my list and there it was. Eureka! My doggedness had paid off!



Queen Square, Bloomsbury hadn't changed one bit except that the railings were back and the old church of St George the Martyr was, as expected, right in the corner of the square with just a narrow pavement and absolutely no chance of getting a decent wedding group picture. So countless wedding and christening parties have had to form up over the road for the photographer.

As my visit coincided with a lovely sunny day I was able to take a photo of the same view as the wedding photograph 68 years earlier. This I later proved by going along to the London Metropolitan Archives and looking up the Marriage Register for St George hoping that I might recognise a name. I started looking from October 1939 and in no time at all I found the marriage of the previous occupants of my house:

2 nd March 1940		
Christopher STOCKLEY	Soldier	Rissborough Barracks Shorncliffe Kent
Dorothy KINGSTON	-	Millman Street Holborn

So, what seemed to be an impossible quest turned out to be a fascinating bit of detective work and proves that some old photos are worth researching.

For the record the above Mrs STOCKLEY (widow) emigrated to Alice Springs, Australia in 1977 and I am still trying to find out which regiment was stationed at Rissborough Barracks in March 1940.

May I suggest that family historians go to check behind their copper tanks without delay!

LMA CLOSURE REMINDER

The public search rooms are being redesigned to provide a better environment for readers. This will affect the Reference Room and the Reading Room and will mean that the
LMA will be closed until 21 January 2008.

JOTTINGS FROM OUR SOCIETY'S AREA

St Pancras

'With the progress of that mutual passion which led to this now indissoluble connection we are unacquainted, but the circumstances that occurred at the altar will be found to be somewhat out of the usual routine of modern marriages.' So started a report in *The Times* of Thursday 20 June 1805, concerning the marriage of Lieutenant John WOODGATE of the Royal Navy and Lady Honora LAMBERT/LAMBART, eldest child of the 7th Earl of the County of Cavan.

Lieutenant WOODGATE had served under Lord CAVAN in Egypt where he received a wound in his leg which, without being amputated, obliged him nevertheless to make use of a wooden one. On Saturday 15 June Lieutenant WOODGATE gave notice to the Parish Clerk of St Pancras that he would turn up at the church on Sunday 16 June at a quarter past nine to be married to one Honora LAMBERT. He had a special licence and requested the Clergyman might be in attendance and particularly desired that no delay might take place.

On the same day Lord CAVAN and a friend also called on the Parish Clerk, to enquire if he had had notice of such a marriage. On being told that he had, his Lordship requested that he might be permitted to wait in the Clerk's house the next morning to see the parties pass to the church. This he did after having stationed some people opposite the church door to look out for his daughter and Lieutenant WOODGATE.

At about quarter past nine these people informed his Lordship that the parties were in the church. Lord CAVAN immediately entered the church accompanied by three friends and two 'stout servants' and demanded his daughter. The Lieutenant and his friends refused. A violent argument ensued and it was thought proper to call in the local constables. The Clergyman turned up an hour late and joined everyone in the vestry where, in the most positive terms, his Lordship forbade the marriage.

The Clergyman, perhaps thinking that there were no grounds to refuse to perform the ceremony, both parties being of age, commenced the service. In the middle of it Lord CAVAN rose and, in a loud voice, three times forbade the marriage. He was instantly answered by the Parson that the couple were already betrothed and that it was his duty to finish the ceremony, which he did. As soon as he had finished 'the naval hero bore away his prize'.

Lady Honora Elizabeth Hester LAMBART had been baptised on 26 May 1784 at Westminster, the daughter of General Richard Ford William LAMBART, 7th Earl of the County of Cavan and Honora Margaretta née GOULD.

Lady Honora LAMBART married John WOODGATE on 16 June 1805 at St Pancras. He died in 1806 and she subsequently married George F HARVEY in 1809, by whom she had a daughter. Lady Honora divorced him in 1816 and she died on 30 March 1856 aged 71.

Elizabeth Burling, Member No. 4992

Enfield

A description of the market place and its people can be found in Old Bailey Records. At 11pm on Saturday, 10 June 1732, Tom HOW, a market trader, stood at the door of *The Kings Head*, strapping his packs onto his horse by the light of a candle held aloft by an ostler. A man mounted upon a black horse rode into the light calling for a pint of beer. He looked long into the face of Tom HOW, turned around muttering that he was going to Dr WILSON's House, Redlingtons in Silver Street. Tom HOW and the ostler waited fearfully for him to return and when he did not, they hastened into the inn warning the market folk that 'Will SHELTON has come. If we don't leave our money here we shall be robbed'. Tom had taken £6 that day for his master. Placing three shillings in his pocket he gave the remainder of the money to the landlord for safe keeping, encouraging other traders to do likewise. Then bidding 'Goodnight' to one and all Tom and a companion, Ben JOHNSON, set off home together.

On reaching Forty Hall Will SHELTON appeared out of the dark shadows, crying: 'Stand and deliver! Give us yer bag, Tom!' he declared. 'I know you have taken money today'. 'Indeed, master, I have got but three shillings', Tom replied. Will enquired if Tom had had a bad day at the market, but Tom answered he had left his money behind. 'Then give me the three shillings' replied Will. Tom handed it over.

Lilian Gibbens, Member No. 818

This delightful snippet, illustrating life in 18th Century Enfield, was originally part of Lilian Gibbens' article about Enfield Market, Part 1, in the last issue. It was not included then for reasons of space.

Pinner

Pinner's development from a hamlet was due to an increase in agricultural output. In addition, the chalk mines would also have required labourers. This is shown in the increase of accommodation for labourers from 80 in 1802 to 134 in 1821.

People migrating from other areas filled this increasing need for workers. Documentation of this migration is sparse, probably due to the low literacy rate. However, the move of one family, the GUNTRIPs, to Pinner can be clearly followed. The family traces its origins to Long Crendon to the north west of Thame, in Oxfordshire. A William GUNTRIP is noted as marrying a Sophia FRYDAY in St Mary's Church in Long Crendon and some of their children were born in Pinner.

The movement of the GUNTRIP family from Thame in Oxfordshire to Pinner poses the question of how did they travel. Shenley, Herts, not too far off the route from Thame to Harrow, is noted as a stopping place for drovers and there is clear reference to people moving with drovers in other parts of the country, so it is possible that the GUNTRIPs utilised this facility.

One of William's sons, John (born in 1811 in Long Crendon) moved to Pinner, where was he an agricultural Labourer. Some of his brothers moved with him and one, James, married an Ann who was born in Pinner. John subsequently emigrated to America in about 1860 and descendants still live there. Two of John's brothers remained in England. The 1851 census shows them living in Pinner, while in 1861 one, James, is living in Sudbury and is noted as a game keeper.

The information on the GUNTRIPs came in part from Jim Golland's papers, but was supplemented by research carried out by myself. There is a goodly amount of information available to anyone interested.

Keith Rookledge, Member No. 7224

ADVERTISING RATES

Advertising rates per issue of METROPOLITAN are as follows:

Full page £40, Half Page £23, Quarter Page £14, Eighth Page £8.50

All copy, correspondence and remittances should be sent to the Editors.

See inside front cover for address.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

For the past 32 years Graham Dalling, who was born in Enfield, has been the Local History Officer for the London Borough of Enfield. Graham's knowledge of the area and its people past and present is legendary. He has been the author of several booklets for the Edmonton Hundred Historical Society as well as the author of *Edmonton and Southgate Past* and *Enfield Past*, both for Historical Publications.

Graham's second book on Enfield, for the same publisher, has been compiled in an easy A-Z format and covers almost every aspect of Enfield's historical past and of the many well known personalities who have been associated with it. With 169 illustrations of personalities and places this is a book to dip into again and again.

The Enfield Book by Graham Dalling, 120 pages. Fully indexed including three pages of 'Further Reading'.

PHL78 £14.50 + £2.55 pp UK, £14.50 + £3.75 pp Surface

My Ancestor was an Agricultural Labourer by Ian Waller.

The above eagerly awaited new publication from the Society of Genealogists should be available by December.

SOG45 £7.50 + £2.00 pp UK, £7.50 + £2.75 pp Airmail

Both publications are available from the Bookstall Manager (Address inside front cover).

Anne Prudames, Bookstall Manager

EXCHANGE JOURNALS

Our Society exchanges journals with a number of other family history societies. METROPOLITAN April 2007 gave details whereby UK members could borrow these journals by post on application to Mr J Brian Green, 38 Queens Avenue, Whetstone, London N20 0JD.

There has been little response so far. There is no point in having 400 journals from 100 other Societies lying unread in our archives and if the level of interest does not increase over the next few months the Society may have to discontinue this service.

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

Edward HART's Death Certificate gave his age as 39 in 1839. He was living at 95 Drury Lane and his occupation was stated as a Button and Trimming Seller.

His first wife was Prudence KENRICK and they married at St Saviour's Church, Southwark on 24 October 1824. They had three children, all christened at St Clement Danes, and the details given are as follows:

1825 - Anna Maria HART - 40 Holywell Street, Westminster

1827 - Edward James HART - 22 Wych Street, Westminster

1830 - Eliza Jane HART - 95 Drury Lane, Westminster

His wife Prudence died (in childbirth?) and Edward married Sarah McINTOSH on 19 Sept 1831. They had two children, both christened at St Clement Danes, Westminster:

1834 - Edward HART - 95 Drury Lane, Westminster

1836 - Frederick HART - 95 Drury Lane, Westminster

Edward HART's name appears in various Trade Directories 1830 to 1839 as a Trimming and Button Seller at Drury Lane and his wife and family were still there for the 1841 Census 2 years after his death. I wonder if, as a Tradesman, he would need to have registered with Westminster, or served an Apprenticeship of some form, paid taxes etc.

Only Edward Junior and Frederick survived and appear in subsequent Censuses, both up to 1891. Edward was a Solicitor's Managing Clerk and Frederick a Railway Estate Agent, both around London. These also served apprenticeships. Are there any registration sources that could be checked at Westminster or Camden for indentures etc?

I would like to know about Edward's ancestry, and to hear from any descendants.

Vic Hart, Member No. 6956

Mill House, Darsham, Saxmundham Suffolk IP17 3QD

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RICHS/McLAUGHLIN

Eliza WESTLAKE (1864-1940) had four children: Eliza WESTLAKE RICHES (1884-1925), Frank RICHES (1885-1954), George WESTLAKE (1887) and Alfred (1899-1965) all born in Marylebone. No marriage found but the father of the last three shown as Frank RICHES (shoemaker) probably the widower living at 18 Carlisle Street, Marylebone on the 1881 Census. He died in 1899 having left Eliza, according to family legend. Eliza married James BRADY in 1899 and then Joseph ANDERSON in 1917. She died in 1940.

Frank RICHES (1885) married Minnie McLAUGHLIN (1886-1931). They were my wife's parents. Minnie was the daughter of Henry McLAUGHLIN (1852-1910) and Clara GEERE (1855).

Anyone with more information please get in touch.

Kenneth Gallagher, Member No. 4298

119 Sheaveshill Avenue, Colindale, London NW9 6RZ

Email: ken@kendor.free-online.co.uk

UNKNOWN WEDDING PARTY

During a recent tidy up of a family property, a small photo album was



found. It contained a series of excellent black and white photographs from a wedding but with no additional details other than a handwritten comment on the inside cover that read 'Russie & Jack, 29 April 1933'. No one in my family recognises anyone in the photos or the location of the wedding, although the church has the look of a big city church rather than a smaller parish one. I sent copies of the photos to the current owner of the London business that took the shots originally. He's not been able to help so far but admits that

photos from that time would not be retained as the plates used take up a lot of space. The two photos reproduced here show some of the church but it would require finding someone who really knew their local churches to identify it. One thing of interest to note is that the choirboys are holding mortar hats, which I believe would normally indicate a school choir. I've visited the websites for all of today's UK choir schools but can't seem to match the church to theirs. It could be that the groom was a teacher and that the church used for the wedding was not that of the choir school. I also know for sure that the wedding was not at St Margaret's in Westminster as I've already checked.

I would love to identify the wedding party as I am not sure whether they are family or not. If I could identify the church I could then use their records to do this. Any assistance by LWMFHS members would be most gratefully received.

Simon Aldworth, Non-Member

36 York Close, Market Bosworth, Nuneaton, Warwickshire CV10 0TU

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MOUNT HERMON SCHOOL/ORPHANAGE, WILLESDEN

Does anyone know of the background of the above School existing 1870s through to 1901 at least? Census data for 1881, 1891 and 1901 show the address of the School as Nos. 47, 49 and 55 Cambridge Rd, Willesden.

The Director/Superintendent, Mary A COLES and her cousin, widowed Mary Ann PARRY, both born in Portsmouth, Hampshire in the 1830s appear in charge. Approximately 60 girls lodged at the School and were cared for and provided with both academic and domestic training.

In the 1881 Census, my grandmother, Harriet MONDAY/MUNDY was a little girl of just 9 years, born in Bethnal Green in 1872 and living at No. 47. Harriet was not an orphan as she returned to live with her widowed mother, Elizabeth MUNDY, a laundress, and is present at 27 Newby St, Clapham for the 1891 Census and later married Frederick James BATTERSHILL from that address.

The school's training appears to have prepared Harriet for a happy, hardworking life as she had 7 children and worked alongside her husband, a Provision Merchant with Shops in Clapham, and later with her sons to build their Provision business, as Battershill's of Balham

Helen Henton, nee Battershill, Member No. 7216

'Les Fleurs', 3 Allerton Garth, Alwalton, PE7 3UX

Email: helenhenton@talktalk.net

Note: Google Books (see Website News page 70) contains several books which mention Mount Hermon Girls' Home. For example *Woman's Mission* edited by Angela Georgina Burdett-Coutts and published in 2001 mentions Mount Hermon Girls' Orphan Homes of Cambridge Avenue, Kilburn and states that the late Miss Mary Ann COLE started the orphanage with two girls 'about 27 years ago'.

Lee Jackson's Victorian London website (www.victorianlondon.org) has a couple of mentions of Mount Hermon. Charles DICKENS Junior's *Dictionary of London* from 1879 mentions 'Girls' Orphan Homes, Mount Hermon, Miss COLE, 47 Weymouth Street, W, train for domestic service'. Also Herbert FRY's *Royal Guide to the London Charities* mentions a Mount Hermon at Hastings which was founded in 1884 to train girls of good character for domestic service. Could this be the same institution?

THE WELSH IN LONDON

Have any of your members come across the St David Singers? They were a Welsh male voice choir active in London in the 1930s and 1940s, performing on radio and even appearing in a film, *Passing By*. They made a record of *An Italian Salad*, often requested on radio programmes. Tom SEYES (my uncle) was secretary and soloist.

On a wider front, any useful archives/websites on the Welsh in London?

Alwyn James, Non-Member

7 Coates Gardens, Edinburgh EH12 5LG

Email: alwyn.james@virgin.net

HUDSON

My great great grandfather Thomas Edward HUDSON was a chairmaker who ran his business from 21 Little Wild Street, St Giles in the Fields, Middx from the 1830s until his death in 1878. An important aspect of his business was providing collapsible chairs to the British Army in India. A family bible gives his date of birth as 16 November 1801 but it contains no other information. In the 1861 census he lists his place of birth as St Marylebone but I have been unable to find any baptismal record and thus the names of his parents. He married Ann BISHOP, who was born 13 December 1804 at Great Berkhamstead, Herts, on 20 July 1828 at St Marylebone; he is listed as a widower but I have also been unable to find his first marriage. Their children were: George Thomas (1831), Charles (1834), Emily (1836), Alfred (1838), Thomas Henry my ancestor (1839), Edward (1842), Clara (1847), Mary (1849) and Henry (1850).

If anyone has any other information on Thomas and Ann HUDSON and their family I should be very pleased to hear from them.

Joan Buckley, Member No. 7123

3 Rossetti Gardens, Coulsdon, Surrey CR5 2LR

Email: jbtempone@btopenworld.com

BOOTH

I am seeking information on Charles BOOTH (Jeweller) born 1784 - died St James, Clerkenwell 1845. He was married to Martha PURSHOUSE.

His son Henry H BOOTH (Jeweller) was born about 1819 possibly in Clerkenwell. He married Amelia LEMAITRE in May 1845, in Islington, and she was the daughter of Thomas LEMAITRE (Jeweller).

Henry BOOTH'S son, Edwin BOOTH (Jeweller) was born 1860 and

married Sarah COPPIN April 1898 at Holborn.

I have been advised that as over three generations of my family have occupations of Goldsmith, Jeweller, watch and watchcase maker, that they may have been members of a trade guild of London or a freeman of the City of London. Others suggest if they lived/worked outside the City mile, they did not need to have a 'Mark' or be a member of a guild. Can someone advise me where I might find out about these people and in particular their occupations as Jewellers/Watchmakers? Where might I find Registers, Indexes or other references? Or is there a net address that I might try? Does anyone have any suggestions on how I might progress my research.

I would appreciate the assistance that any one could provide.

Warwick Booth, Member No. 6980

11 Terrie Avenue, Figtree, NSW, Australia 2525

Email: w_booth@optusnet.com.au

Note: A list of obituaries, which originally appeared in the *Horological Journal*, is online at: www.bhi.co.uk/hj/HJ%20Obituaries.htm

Guildhall Library, London, holds records relating to the City Guilds and their catalogue is available online via: www.cityoflondon.gov.uk

SEEX

George SEEX, born in 1789 in Chiswick, married Sarah, born in Epping in 1790. Their children were all born in Chiswick: John William born 1819, died 1887; George born 1821, died 1857; Alfred born 1823; Samuel born 1827, died 1894. John William married Susan PERRY midwife in the Chelsea area of Epping in 1846. George married Mary Ann OVERALL in 1847, believed to be a teacher at Kensington Hall School. Alfred worked as a grocer's shopman in Horsham until 1851 when his employer died. No further trace. Did he go abroad! Samuel married Eliza COVENTRY in 1855 at Clifton, Glos and moved to Barton Regis, Glos.

George and Sarah spent most of their lives in Chiswick where some records were lost. When George died in 1845 Sarah is traced at Poole, Dorset where she died in 1851. Any information to identify George and Sarah's parents would be greatly appreciated.

Brian Seex, Member No. 7148

11 Cumberland Road, Bromley BR2 0PG

Email: Briol5@sky.com

HENRY HAYES

I am looking for the birth of Henry HAYES and would like some clarification of London districts. I have a wedding certificate showing him married to Caroline Wilmott WHITE in Walworth but unfortunately they are both shown as being of full age. Their son was also Henry born in 1880 registered at St Olave. I am 99% certain I have found them in the 1881 and 1891 censuses using two Henrys and Caroline (the 1% being that Caroline is shown as Caroline M and not W in the 1891 census, could be a transcription error somewhere?). The censuses indicate that Henry senior was born 1854/55. The 1881 census says Cripplegate, the 1891 census says London. Looking at the BMDs there are three Henrys born at that time, places of birth being E. London, St James and Clerkenwell. How can I tell where he was born without sending for all the birth certificates?

Mr J Carmichael, Member No. 6124

41 Victoria Rd, Barry, Vale of Glamorgan, CF62 6PG

Email: carmic@ntlworld.com

Note: It would be worthwhile trying to find Henry HAYES on the 1861 and 1871 censuses first, to see where he says he was born on them. You should have the name of his father from his marriage certificate, which will make this easier.

QUICK – COLOUR & OIL SHOP

In the 1901 Census Ellen QUICK was living at 149 Leyton Road, West Ham – the shopkeeper of a colour and oil shop. I have been trying to find the location of this shop with no success. Does anyone have any information about this shop or where I might look to find out more?

Mrs Ann Bush, Member No. 3927

18 Herstone Close, Canford Heath, Poole, Dorset BH17 8AS

Note: Have you tried looking at local directories for the West Ham area, which will include both commercial and residential addresses? Some directories are available to look at online for free at: www.historicaldirectories.org If you do not have online access at home your local library may well be able to help.

FORTHCOMING BRANCH MEETINGS

Barnet Branch - 7.30pm for 8.00pm

Lyonsdown Hall, Lyonsdown Road, New Barnet, Hertfordshire

- Thursday 17 January *Country Poor and Town Poor*
by Michael Gandy
- Thursday 21 February *The Low-down on High Barnet*
by John Heathfield
- Thursday 20 March *An Enumerator's Tale*. A dramatic presentation
by Meryl Catty and Audrey Gillett
- Thursday 17 April *Mementos Evoke Memories*
Briefly Explaining Research Sagas
A variety of mini-contributions from members

City Branch - See Letters to the Editors, page 4

12 noon for 12.30pm

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

- Thursday 31 January *A Place in the Sun – Mile End and the use of*
Insurance Records by Derek Morris
- Thursday 28 February *Internet for Family History*
by Jeanne Bunting

12 noon for 12.30pm

Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre, Holborn Library,
32-38 Theobalds Road, London WC1.

- Thursday 27 March *In and Out of London* - by Ian Waller
- Thursday 24 April *Coroners' Records* - by Kathy Chater



Enfield Branch - 7.30pm for 8.00pm

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

- Tuesday 1 January No meeting
Tuesday 12 February *Life and Death in Chaucer's London*
 by Barbara Megson
Tuesday 4 March *The Salvation Army*
 by Ray Wiggins
Tuesday 1 April *The History of Trent Park*
 by Keith Hammond

Please note change of date for the February meeting.

Rayners Lane Branch - 7.30pm for 8.00pm

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

- Friday 11 January *'They're not There!'*
 by Jeanne Bunting
Friday 8 February *Understanding Family Search*
 by John Hanson
Friday 14 March Members' Evening
Friday 11 April *The Name Game*
 by Meryl Catty and Audrey Gillett

Wembley Branch - 7.30pm for 8.00pm

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

- Monday 28 January *Kensal Green Cemetery*
 by Henry Vivian-Neal
Monday 25 February Archive Evening
Monday 24 March EASTER – No Meeting
Monday 28 April *In and Out of London*
 by Ian Waller

THE LONDON METROPOLITAN ARCHIVES

At a recent meeting with the LMA management we were able to find out more details of their extensive improvement programme. The building itself will be altered with new windows, carpets and furniture in larger public rooms and a cooling system will improve working conditions.

A major digitisation project is underway which involves miles of electrical cabling being installed for the provision of computer terminals. The plan is to digitise the main family history resources from both the LMA and the Guildhall and to make them available fully indexed on-line. Agreement with the external provider to digitise film/original material has yet to be finalised. All original material is to be cleaned before scanning to provide high quality images. The records will be free to view at both the Guildhall and the LMA but also available by subscription or pay-per-view at home. Royalties will be used to invest in the care and repair of the collections.

Examples of documents to be digitised over the next few years include: Parish Registers from the LMA and Guildhall; Boards of Guardians' records; Bishops' Transcripts; Settlements; Electoral Registers up to 1965; Poor Law records; Nonconformist records; Original Wills etc.

First images of the microfilm collection will be ready early in 2008. As digitisation progresses, microfiche and film readers will be phased out. When the FRC closes in March 2008, the national census returns will be available free in digital form at the LMA.

A new cataloguing software system is currently being installed which will provide many advantages, including a better search facility eg by keyword, date or browse. A fully comprehensive catalogue will be on the internet to enable the ordering of documents from home in advance of a visit to the record offices. The catalogue will not be on the a2a web-site.

The LMA will re-open on 21 January 2008 *but with limited services*. (Don't all rush!) The Reference Room will be open and the Huntley Room, the previous meeting room, will be used temporarily as a small reading room. The new Reading Room will open on 1 April 2008, with further improvements following over the next year or so. The telephone enquiry service (020 7332 3820) will continue during alterations.

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 of £12 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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UK cheques payable to: LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX FHS

PAYMENT BY OVERSEAS MEMBERS

Payment must be made in Sterling by cheque, drawn upon a London Bank, made payable to: LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX FHS.

USA: Sterling cheques can be obtained from RUESCH INTERNATIONAL in Washington DC for a conversion fee of \$15.

Telephone them on 1-8000424-2923 in the first instance.

CANADA: Sterling cheques can be obtained through ACCU-RATE FOREIGN EXCHANGE Offices in Ottawa, Vancouver, London and Kitchener for exchange rate only. There is no additional charge for issuing the cheque.

Canadian Postal Money Orders cannot be accepted.

AUSTRALIA / NEW ZEALAND: Most banks will provide sterling cheques.

BANKERS: HSBC Bank plc, Angel Branch, 25 Islington High St, London N1 9LJ

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- The Editors reserve the right to edit contributions.

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

