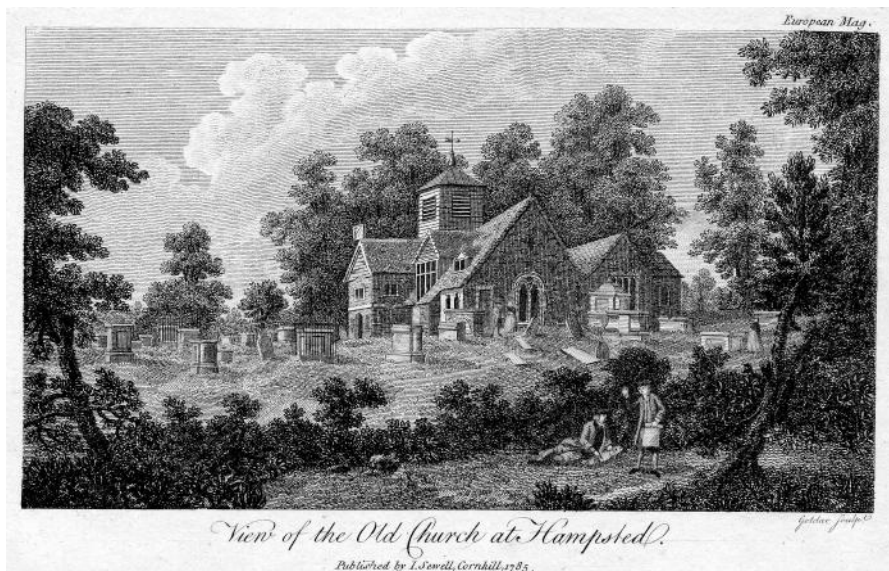


METROPOLITAN

The Journal of the

LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX

Family History Society



October 2007

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Patron : The Bishop of Edmonton
President : Mr Michael Gandy BA FSG
Vice President : Mr Michael Fountain

OFFICERS

Chairman : Mr William R Pyemont
Secretary : Mrs Joan Pyemont, 57 Belvedere Way,
Kenton, Harrow, Middlesex HA3 9XQ
Treasurer : Mr J Brian Green, 38 Queens Avenue,
Whetstone, London N20 0JD

OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES

Membership Secretary : Mrs Anne Prudames, 2 Canonbury Cottages,
Churchbury Lane, Enfield, Middx. EN1 3LR

Journal Editors : Rosemary A Roome, Elizabeth C Burling
& Barbara E Haswell
✉ c/o 14 Chandos Way, Wellgarth Road,
London NW11 7HF
✉ elizabeth.metropolitan@gmail.com

Branch Representatives

Barnet Branch : Miss Rosemary A Roome BA
City Branch : Mrs Raymer Lofts
Enfield Branch : Mrs Anne Prudames
Rayners Lane Branch : Miss Kay Payne
Wembley Branch : Mr William R Pyemont

Members' Interests : c/o Mrs Anne Prudames,
2 Canonbury Cottages, Churchbury Lane,
Enfield, Middx. EN1 3LR

Exchange Journals : Mr J Brian Green, 38 Queens Avenue,
Whetstone, London N20 0JD

Projects Co-ordinator : Miss Doreen Heywood

Monumental Inscriptions : Position Vacant
Co-ordinator

Bookstall Manager : Mrs Anne Prudames, 2 Canonbury Cottages,
& Postal Sales : Churchbury Lane, Enfield, Middx. EN1 3LR

All general enquiries concerning the Society should be addressed to the Secretary,
Mrs Joan Pyemont at the address given above – or ✉ william.pyemont@virgin.net

Information may also be found on the Society's website www.lnmfhs.dircon.uk
Webmaster : Mr William R Pyemont

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Cover picture: Hampstead Old Church c1785
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EDITORIAL

The Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre covers several areas of particular interest to our members and has much to help their researches. We are grateful for the feature on page 22 and for the illustration chosen for us on the cover of this issue of METROPOLITAN.

You will find several articles concerning markets, shopping etc. There are, of course, many other markets in our area so if you have a tale to tell about them, your ancestors or helpful records you have used please let us know.

Talk of shopping reminds us that preparations for Christmas have started. Here at METROPOLITAN we already have the next issue under way as planning ahead is particularly important for the last issue of the calendar year which is sent out before Christmas. This leaves just one month, rather than the usual six weeks, for the editors to receive your contributions. If you wish to have an article, jotting, snippet or other information considered for inclusion you must make sure that we receive it *before* the copy date which will be here before we all know it. The copy date for the next issue is 1 November as you will see from the inside back cover.

Items or articles with a Christmas flavour would be especially welcome.

Rosemary A Roome

WEST SURREY FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

will be holding an Open Day and Family History Fair
on Saturday 3 November from 10am – 4pm
at Woking Leisure Centre, Kingfield Road, Woking.

Admission for the public and car parking are free. There is a café and bar where light refreshments, including ‘all day’ breakfasts, are available.

London Westminster & Middlesex FHS will have a stand.

We look forward to seeing you there.

For more information visit the website:
www.wsfhs.org/Openday.htm

A NOTE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Due to a technical glitch, the first section of my piece in the last issue of METROPOLITAN was missed out, so here are the details again. The pictured logo is the one adopted by our Executive Committee as part of our corporate image. This will be used on all printed matter produced by our Society.

You will see the notice in this METROPOLITAN regarding the AGM which has been booked for Saturday 19 January 2008. It may seem a long way off but we should be giving serious thought about replacing some of the existing officers and committee members if our Society is to survive.

If anyone has any ideas for projects please let our co-ordinator know as we do not seem to have anything on the go at the moment. One avenue would be to seek out old pictures of our patch, so that distant members can get an idea of how each locality used to look, and maybe a contrasting scene of today. It calls for a rummage through your files and the attic.

We also need volunteers to do a fresh write up of the parishes within our boundaries.

William Pyemont

Note: You may have noticed that the word *her* somehow occurred one too many times in the 2nd sentence of 'A Note from the Chairman' in the last issue. 'One of those silly things which should never happen, but do' as someone once put it. We are sorry about that. The sentence should have read 'It was my pleasure to present her with a letter on behalf of the committee conferring on her the honour of life membership'.

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

The City Branch has a special place within our Society as it is the only one that meets during the day. Based in central London, which has good transport links, it attracts those who cannot get to the evening meetings of the other four branches and some people combine it with a visit to London for research or other purposes. Individuals come from a wide area – even overseas sometimes – and they benefit from the varied programme of talks and the opportunity to meet fellow members. A little mutual help can achieve great things!

However, after nearly 25 years, all this may soon come to an end. November 2007 will be the last meeting at the FRC due to the changes taking place there and unfortunately I will be stepping down then from my responsibilities for compiling the programme and chairing Branch meetings, due to changes in my circumstances.

Other potential venues in central London are being investigated but definite arrangements cannot be made unless someone can take over my roles. A suitable programme has to be arranged for eleven meetings a year: January to November. A *Directory of Speakers* listing the talks they offer etc helps with this. As meetings are held at 12 for 12.30pm and last for about an hour, the person chairing the meeting needs to be at the venue by noon and stay until about 2pm.

Please do consider whether *you* could help the Society in these ways for it would be a great shame if we were to lose our City Branch. To find out more or register an interest – which would not commit you to anything – do contact me (c/o the Editors please because of my circumstances).

I look forward to hearing from you.

Raymer Lofts, Member No. 3116

Kay Payne asked if we knew of places used as hospitals during the Great War. In Barnet, Ewen Hall, the Congregational (now URC) Church Hall was used for the same purpose.

It is well known that Glamis Castle was also used as a hospital. This was the home of the late Lady Elizabeth BOWES-LYON who nursed there during the Great War.

Just a drop in the ocean!

Doreen Willcocks, Member No. 132

Further to Gary Woodman-Simmons letter* (METROPOLITAN Vol. 29 No. 1) regarding the V1 rocket which fell in the King George V Reservoir on 18 June 1944. According to *Enfield at War 1939-1945* (see footnote) the reservoir, one of three in the Upper Lee Valley, straddles the border between Enfield and Chingford. Modern maps show the reservoir wholly within the administrative borders of the London Borough of Enfield. Initially this incident was claimed by Chingford but after a dispute was eventually awarded to Enfield. Enfield's first V1 had fallen in the north west of the district on open land near Ferny Hill Farm, Hadley Road, two days earlier. The only damage was to farm buildings and crops. On 25 June when a V1 fell on Heathsfield (between Baker Street and Churchbury Lane) eight hundred houses were damaged, twelve people were injured and a further four persons were slightly hurt. The site is now occupied by blocks of maisonettes and St Andrew's Primary School.

Source: *Enfield at War 1939-1945* by Geoffrey Gilham, Enfield Preservation Society

Anne Prudames, Member No. 245

* Note: We regret that in METROPOLITAN July 2007 this writer's name acquired an extra 'd' - a variant he may have encountered in census returns, transcriptions etc. Sorry!

I was interested to read Kay Payne's jotting on military hospitals. The North Branch of Islington Libraries, which recently celebrated its centenary, was used for such a purpose during World War I. Across the street stood the Royal Northern Hospital.

The hospital had difficulty in coping both with its civilian patients and the stream of wounded coming in. Negotiations were opened with Islington Council to use the library as an annexe to the hospital. While this was going on, the War Office stepped in and commandeered the building. The last soldier left the library in 1919.

After the war the library was used by the neighbouring Post Office Savings Headquarters as an office for dealing with War Bonds. Both the hospital and the Savings Headquarters have now been turned into luxury flats. There is a memorial on the hospital site but it is in a sad state of disrepair.

Roy Hidson, Member No. 80

Barnet Museum (run by volunteers from the Barnet & District Local History Society) holds a fascinating collection of material which is used by both local and family historians.

We were most interested to see Janet Trickett's postcard of the Old Market House which was featured in the last issue of METROPOLITAN (Vol. 29 No. 4 page 168) as it is not in our collection of postcards. We are very grateful to Janet for a copy of both sides for our archives.

We also thank Janet and the Editors of METROPOLITAN, as joint holders of the copyright, for permission to reproduce the whole article in the Local History Society's next Newsletter.

*Dr Gilliam Gear, Vice President, Barnet & District Local History Society
Barnet Museum, 31 Wood Street, Barnet, Herts EN5 4BE*

Are there any family historians out there with ancestors who served with the 95th Regiment of Foot, the Rifle Brigade or any of the later incarnations of this regiment?

On a recent trip to Kent we decided to visit the Shorncliffe Redoubt at Sandgate, the fort at which Sir John MOORE trained the troops in revolutionary tactics and ideas that were to gain victory at Waterloo with Wellington. We were shocked at the state of this historic site (many of you may have watched the recent Channel Four *Time Team* programme featuring it as 'Sharpe's Redoubt'). It is a wilderness and although there are no longer any buildings, the fort is still there in part as are the later historically important features and there is not so much as a sign to mark its existence.

The site is owned by the Ministry of Defence and it is under threat of being sold for development and therefore disappearing for ever. Due to its importance in our history this should not be allowed to happen. The Shorncliffe Preservation Society under the leadership of Chris Shaw wishes to preserve this important site.

The aims of the Society are to:

1. Erect a plaque to commemorate Sir John Moore, the 95th Battalion and the birthplace of modern military tactics.
2. To restore as much of the Redoubt and surrounding area as possible
3. To develop the site into an international living history and education site dedicated to the Riflemen, both British and Commonwealth, from 1800 to the present day who trained, lived and died within and around the Redoubt over the last 200 years.

New members and volunteers are welcome to help in this campaign. For further information and more details visit: www.shorncliffereadoubt.com/ or Email the Chairman: chris.shaw@shorncliffereadoubt.com

Mrs Sue Law, Non-Member

ST JOHN at HAMPSTEAD (CHURCH ROW)

The church of St John, shown on the cover, was built in 1745-7 to replace a smaller 14th century church which had been dedicated to St Mary. It was consecrated on 8 October 1747 by the Bishop of Llandaff and dedicated to St John. Whether this was John the Baptist or John the Evangelist was not recorded and the stained glass windows over the altar show both!

There were problems in rebuilding the church: a Parliamentary petition for money failed; the first architect, Henry FLITCROFT, withdrew when faced with competition; there were arguments with the next architect, John SANDERSON, about his plans, the third of which was chosen. This placed the tower at the east end and was cheaper than building it at the west end where the land fell away sharply. The spire was added c1783.

By 1827 the church was again too small for the population and also needed repairs but only in 1843 was a plan, by Robert HESKETH, accepted. Transepts were added, gas lighting installed and the first Willis organ was built in 1853. Henry WILLIS himself was the organist.

In 1871 a proposal to demolish the tower caused ‘the cream of artistic and literary London’, including William MORRIS, to sign a petition deploring the vogue for demolishing anything old just because it was old. He went on to form The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings. The Trustees yielded and a larger church was reconsecrated in June 1878 by the Bishop of London. It had also been re-orientated with the main entrance to the east end and the altar to the west end, a highly unusual arrangement in England. Among notable people buried in the churchyard are John HARRISON (1693-1776) of *Longitude* fame and John CONSTABLE RA (1776-1837), the landscape painter who lived at 40 Well Walk from 1827 until his death.

Parish registers date from 1560 and are available on a CD. This 2 disc set, supplied in a case, comprises baptisms 1560-1840, marriages 1560-1837, burials 1560-1842, names from the Monuments and Memorials and details from the Trustees, Minute Books 1744-1934. It can be obtained from the Bookstall Manager for £8.00 + £1.75pp UK, £8.00 + £2.00pp Airmail.

THE CRACKNELLS OF ENFIELD

By Keith Cracknell, Member No. 7184

The CRACKNELL family have farmed at Enfield for at least two centuries. The family were market gardeners who sold their fruit at Covent Garden for over a hundred years, their stall being positioned in a commanding spot in front of St Paul's Church.

Thomas CRACKNELL, 1749-1827, founded a market garden in Turkey Street, Enfield about 1770. In *Recollections of Old Enfield: First Published in the Enfield Observer 1910* by Edmonton Hundred Historical Society, the recollections of the late Mr E Gibbons mention the four chief market gardeners of the 1850s - WILSON, MITCHELL, COOMBES and CRACKNELL. Mr Gibbons says 'most of the land now well-known as orchards was planted by one or other of those four....what there was of the produce was sent to market [and] had to be got there over very bad roads in wintertime: sometimes fagots had to be placed in bad places before the wagons could be got across.'

We have not discovered a record of Thomas's marriage but information recently found on onegreatfamily.com (which we are currently investigating) says that he and his wife Anne, possibly Ann Mary DOWSETT, married on 26 April 1779 at St Leonard's, Shoreditch. The couple had five children baptised at St Andrew's, Enfield between 1784 and 1793. A Mr CRACKNELL appears in the British Directory for 1791 as a gardener and shopkeeper. In 1793 Thomas CRACKNELL was paying £12 rates for the Turkey Street farm and £24 for one at Bulls Cross nearby. The Turkey Street farm is still open land, near the M25 motorway, with Bullsmoor Lane as its northern boundary.

Thomas and Anne's eldest son was called Thomas William. He was born about 1783, we think in Stoke Newington. I have ordered a disc of parish records and hope to find St Mary's, Stoke Newington in it but I am told in the War they had a bad fire and many of the records were lost. Thomas William married Ann and had 9 children, all baptised in Enfield.

Charles, the second son, was baptised at Enfield on 3 October 1784. He later married Elizabeth Ann and had two children: Marie born 1817 and

Charles born 1818. This Charles married Mary Ann HOLLINGSWORTH in 1821, had one child Caroline (born 1838) who married Edwin SLADE on 20 March 1860 at Northaw in Hertfordshire.

Richard CRACKNELL the third son, who was baptised 17 September 1786 at St Andrew's, Enfield, sadly died aged six.

The fourth son, William (baptised 5 October 1788 at Enfield) married Rachel. They had two children in Cheshunt before moving to Enfield, where they farmed at Bulls Cross, appearing in the 1841 Census:

Bulls Cross, Enfield, MDX		HO 107 653 F7\26 P8	
William Cracknell	50	Market Gardener	Yes
Rachel Cracknell	50		No
Maria Cracknell	20		Yes
John Cracknell	15		Yes
Thomas Cracknell	10		Yes

Below is a photo of their house in Bulls Cross - end of the terrace next to the Pied Bull pub.



Nearby, in White Webbs Lane, William and Rachel's eldest son George (baptised 10 June 1816 at Cheshunt) was also a market gardener with his wife, Charlotte, and baby son William.

John CRACKNELL, the fifth son, was born at Churchbury Farm and baptised at Enfield on 19 May 1793. On 12 November 1822 at Enfield he married Elizabeth ENGLISH. John took a holding in Baker Street in 1826. The farmhouse was a timber-fronted building with a pan-tiled roof and brick extension which stood on the other side of a lane (which subsequently became known as Cracknell's Lane) to Carlton House. The farm and lands have now all been built on but the site of the farmhouse is the northwest corner of the Chace Community School playing field. Other buildings on the farm included barns, a granary, a cart shed, a cowshed and a huge baking oven. A large cherry orchard surrounded the house and other orchards of apples, pears, plums with gooseberries and soft fruit stretched as far as the New River to the east and Carterhatch Lane to the north.

Pigot's *Directory* of 1839 refers to John CRACKNELL of Baker Street, market gardener and Enfield Parochial Charities records in the London Metropolitan Archives (LMA) has a file dated 15 February 1844 of a lease for 14 years from Daniel CRESWELL, vicar of Enfield to the Master and Fellows of Trinity College Cambridge and others, which mentions John CRACKNELL, market gardener of 16 acres in Churchbury Fields. John appears in the 1841 census as a market gardener at Churchbury Lane with his wife, Elizabeth and seven of their children.

In the middle of the 19th century on a Sunday in July the cherry orchards would be opened and for the price of a 6d ticket the bearer was entitled to take away as much fruit as he/she wished. On these days Baker Street would be lined with carriages, carts and barrows.

John's son Charles, born 1838, was my great grandfather and I am the last of his line. His brother Thomas Henry, born 2 August 1841 was the one who carried on the market garden at Churchbury Road. He married Annie SLADE, daughter of Emmanuel SLADE and Elizabeth née HALL, on 23 November 1865 at the Parish Church, Edmonton. The couple had eight children.



This photograph, taken at Spitalfields Market probably in the late 19th century, shows Annie CRACKNELL in the centre surrounded by produce from the farm. Her husband is not in this picture but her sons, Walter and Ernest CRACKNELL, may well be.

Another file in LMA, dated 1 May 1878, details an agreement by the BRIDGEN family of Enfield to let over 3 acres of land with a barn in Carterhatch Lane (at a rent of £45 per year) which mentions Thomas CRACKNELL of Enfield, market gardener.

During the 1930s the land, which was not owned by the CRACKNELLS, was sold for development and the home orchard was felled in 1939. By then the tops of the cherry trees could not be reached by the largest ladders (which measured about 45 feet), had trunks of over 2 feet diameter and must have been a great age. Building of the school was held up by the War and it wasn't until 1952 that the farmhouse was finally demolished.

A CITY MARKET

By Rosemary A Roome, Member No. 2985

At the centre of the Saxon City of London was a long, straight, wide street where an open-air market and shops were situated from the late 9th century. It was named *chepe* or *ceap*, becoming Cheapside from the 15th century. (*Chepe* means to market or sell and gives us *Chipping* denoting a market town, eg Chipping Barnet which has had a market for over 800 years.)

The numerous medieval shops were very small with just a 6ft frontage and only 10ft deep. Behind them was the 'seld' - like private bazaars - with many small-scale retailers under a covered space. The market stalls were along the middle of the street.

A great asset was available from the 13th century: lead pipes brought water from Tyburn Spring. There was a pump, the Great Conduit, at the Poultry (East) end of the street and a smaller one at the St Paul's (West) end. By this time there were also shops, with craft workshops behind and over them, in the narrow side-streets leading off from Cheapside. The names still remain and describe the goods which were once available there. Hence Wood St, Milk St, Honey Lane and Ironmonger Lane to the north and Friday (or Fish) St, Bread St and Hosier (later Cordwainer, now Bow) Lane to the south. At this last junction stands the Church of St Mary le Bow, with its famous Bow Bells, one of the ten churches on or by Cheapside until the Great Fire. The Mercers' Company, first in the table of precedence of Livery Companies, built their Hall in Cheapside itself in 1647.

The Great Fire of London engulfed Cheapside from end to end on Monday 3 September 1666 and quickly destroyed the medieval wooden buildings. Churches, with thick stone walls, fared somewhat better but many were ruined. Only brick was used for building after the fire and the shops soon returned but many market stalls moved to a new market in Honey Lane or to others further afield.

Three two-storey shops built in 1687 survive on the corner of Wood Street. Each has just two rooms and they are the only remaining examples of the 'first and least sort of building' authorised by the Rebuilding Act of 1667. Behind them, in the churchyard which is all that remains of St Peter,

Westcheap, an ancient plane tree survives, thanks to a Preservation Order. The street pattern stayed much the same after the Fire but two new streets, King Street and Queen Street, crossed Cheapside to link Guildhall and the River. Cheapside developed to display up-market and profitable products from craftsmen and manufacturers - jewellery, silks, lace and metal work. By 1800 all the buildings had been numbered and the elegant Georgian street had become the venue for luxury shopping and promenading.

However, Society and its money had been moving westward and by the beginning of the 18th century many shops had been established in Covent Garden, The Strand and St James'. By the end of the century, the West End was the main shopping district. The workshops etc moved from Cheapside and in came wholesalers, financial and service organisations, and the professions. As the Victorian economy flourished, imposing office buildings (for a large workforce) and showy shop-fronts could be seen.



In 1940 more than half Cheapside was destroyed by bombing and areas north and south were damaged. Long grass and wild flowers grew between Friday Street and St Paul's before the 1950s

functional redevelopment. Today, radical change to Cheapside is again underway as the prosperous City adopts new working practices to remain competitive. Over half the buildings have been demolished in the past year and the street scene is full of scaffolding, cranes, building sites, noise etc. as development proceeds behind shrink-wrap. A great increase in office space is promised, together with shopping facilities to surpass any in Cheapside's long history as the City of London's market street.

Source: *The Changing Face of Cheapside: Four Centuries in Prints, Drawings and Photographs*. An exhibition at Guildhall Library Print Room (until 13 October 2007)

Further Reading: *800 years of Barnet Market* by Jennie Lee Cobban and Doreen Willcocks. Available from the Bookstall Manager.

BMP05 £3.50 +70p pp UK, £3.50 + £2.50pp Airmail.

300 YEARS OF FORTNUM & MASON

By Elizabeth Burling, Member No. 4992

Even those of you who do not live in London will no doubt have heard of Fortnum & Mason. This famous store, in Piccadilly, is celebrating its tercentenary this year, having been founded in October 1707 by William FORTNUM and Hugh MASON.

William FORTNUM arrived in London from Oxford in 1705 and took up a post as footman in Queen Anne's household. Every night he replaced the used candles considered unfit to display on the royal table with new ones. The used candles he promptly resold to ladies of the royal household for a profit. After doing a roaring trade in candles for a couple of years, he set up a small grocer's shop with his landlord, Hugh MASON, to cater for the aristocracy. William FORTNUM continued to work at the palace whilst running the grocery which enabled him to cultivate contacts with potential customers. Meanwhile, Hugh MASON set up a stables just off Duke Street in what is still known to this day as Mason's Yard. Although Fortnum & Mason were successful, it was up to subsequent generations of the founders to elevate the company to the status it enjoys today.

The British East India Company was important to the development of Fortnum & Mason's trade by introducing the British palate to spices and, above all, the world's best teas. There were several Fortnums on the East India payroll and these strong links with the Company meant that Fortnum & Mason was a unique emporium for goods sold nowhere else.

In 1761, Charles FORTNUM, grandson to William, went into the service of Queen Charlotte, wife of King George III, and the royal connection led to an increase in trade. By 1788 Charles had left her service to concentrate on the business. The store began to stock speciality items including ready-to-eat luxury meals such as 'poultry and game in aspic, hard-boiled eggs in forcemeat, dry and green turtle, boar's head, truffles, mangoes all decorated and prepared so as to require no cutting.' In the 1800s they branched out into hampers, filling them with these delicious delicacies. They would fill wicker baskets, in which bottles of Madeira had been delivered to the store, with food and sell them to theatre-goers. These hampers became very popular with Society and can still be seen at events such as Ascot, the Boat Race, the Derby, Henley, Lords, Twickenham and Wimbledon.

The Napoleonic Wars provided another boost to business, as many officers ordered packaged supplies from Fortnum & Mason for their sustenance on manoeuvres. Honey, dried fruits, spices and especially preserves were ideal for the campaigning soldier and were advertised as such in *The Times*. The store also regularly advertised new stocks in the pages of *The Times*. This example comes from the edition of Wednesday 6 November 1816:

NEW FOREIGN FRUITS – In addition to the variety of fine FRUITS already announced, FORTNUM and MASON beg most respectfully to inform their Friends and the Public, they have this day landed a supply of MUSCATELL RAISINS of most superior quality, in very handsome bunches, purposely selected for table, and may be had in large or small boxes for the convenience of families: also new Jordan Almonds, Pomegranites and very fine West India Preserved Ginger, the latter in jars, from 2 to 6 lb. – Foreign Fruit Warehouse, 183 Piccadilly, nearly opposite Albany

As part of the drive to find a way to preserve victuals to feed a marching army, Peter DURAND patented a process in the UK in 1810 of packaging food in sealed airtight wrought-iron cans. Initially, this process was slow and labour-intensive, as each can had to be hand-made and took up to six hours to cook properly. Tinned food was too expensive for ordinary people to buy, however it became rather a status symbol for the middle classes and Fortnum & Mason was the main place to purchase these goods. The shop also provided information on how to open cans with a pocket-knife, as the tin opener was not invented until about 1860.

Records for groceries supplied by Fortnum & Mason turn up all over the country. Petworth House Archives at the West Sussex Record Office, for example, has 'receipted vouchers for goods and services supplied by London tradesmen' which mention Fortnum & Mason dated 1810 and in 1814 included 'some goods for Emperor of Russia's visit to Petworth'.

Until the GPO came into being in 1839, the business of sending and receiving mail was open to anyone and Fortnum & Mason supplied this service from 1794. The shop had letterboxes for paid and unpaid letters which were picked up six times a day. This was before stamps and the recipient usually paid the bill. Soldiers and sailors, already among the company's best customers, received a discount.

Archive traces of Fortnum & Mason other than records for groceries also survive. The Sun Fire Office files at the Guildhall Library include an item dated 1 December 1824 ‘Insured: Richard FORTNUM and John MASON of 182 and 183 Piccadilly grocer’s.’ In 1832 they are also described as ‘Italian warehousemen and dealers in British wine’. The London Metropolitan Archives has a file detailing trustees’ consent to Mrs FORTNUM (Fanny Matilda née KEATS) advancing £4000 on mortgage to her husband Charles Drury Edward FORTNUM for the purpose of purchasing a mansion house [The Hill House] with cottages and appurtenances at Great Stanmore from the Rev. John BARRON, dated 22 September 1852.

In celebration of Queen Victoria’s birthday on Thursday 16 May 1850 *The Times* reported that, amongst many other tributes, ‘Messrs Fortnum and Mason, Italian warehousemen to Her Majesty’ had erected ‘A large imperial crown over a star, with the initial letters, in brilliant gas.’ The next year Fortnum & Mason won first prize as *importers of dried fruits and dessert goods* at the Great Exhibition, where the firm also sold picnic hampers to visitors.

The Crimean was the first war to be covered by on-the-spot reporters, so for once people in England were aware of the soldiers’ appalling conditions. When Florence NIGHTINGALE publicised the misery of the wounded men Queen Victoria took a personal interest, sending Fortnum & Mason an order ‘to dispatch without delay to Miss Nightingale in Scutari a huge consignment of concentrated beef tea’.

In 1886 Fortnum & Mason became the first shop to introduce baked beans to the national palate after an entrepreneur had brought them some samples from the USA.

All staff serving in France and Flanders in the first World War were guaranteed to keep their jobs on their return – which a surprising number managed. In the meantime the usual quantity of Fortnum & Mason food found its way to the trenches where it was soon discovered that only metal tins were any use against the ever-present rats.

Fortnum & Mason was the only store to have a department dedicated to ‘Expeditions’, at a time when huge consignments of home comforts

accompanied the English into the heart of Africa and up the Himalayas. The 1922 Everest expedition, for example, required 60 tins of quail in foie gras and four dozen bottles of champagne, amongst other items.

In 1925 the store introduced new departments, featuring kitchenware, perfumes and ladies' and children's clothes. Six years later the firm opened an American branch in Madison Avenue but this failed due to the Depression. It was not until 2004 that the firm opened another branch abroad – this time in Japan. In 1935 a special department was created to accommodate the dietary requirements of all the foreign princes and potentates who came from all over the Empire to celebrate the Jubilee of King George V.

An Officers' Department was opened during World War II which provided comestibles but also dealt in insect powder, exotic cigarettes and anything else the modern soldier might require, such as an EPNS tip for a bayonet and the *Spork*, a combination spoon and fork, which came silver-plated. At about this time the company apparently patented the *Fortknee*, a short stocking to cover the knees and lower thighs of lady drivers in the Services.

1964 saw a new landmark added to the front of the store – the famous Fortnum's clock, with bells from the same foundry as Big Ben. Every fifteen minutes a selection of airs is played on eighteen bells and once an hour Messrs Fortnum & Mason themselves turn and bow to each other.

In 1998 Fortnum & Mason went global by opening an online store launched with just hampers. The range has since grown and now has over 800 products.

In 2007 for the first time the company sponsored a garden at the Chelsea Flower Show to celebrate its 300th anniversary. The garden was awarded a Gold Medal.

Sources:

www.fortnumandmason.com

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fortnum_&_Mason

www.a2a.org.uk

The Times Digital Archive

HORNSEY PARISH

By Anne Prudames, Member No. 254

The former Borough of Hornsey, together with those of Tottenham and Wood Green were merged to form the London Borough of Haringey in 1965.

The Medieval Parish Church of Hornsey, dedicated to St Mary, was built pre 1500 and stood on the corner of Hornsey High Street and Church Lane. The nave was rebuilt in 1832 and the tower heightened. This nave was itself demolished in 1927. Only the west tower and churchyard, now part garden remain. In 1989 an independent group 'The Friends of Hornsey Church Tower', was established to raise funds to care for the tower and gardens. The tower can be ascended on open days organized by 'The Friends'.

A larger church was built nearby in 1888 but after a fall of masonry it was also demolished in 1968 as the ground on which it was built was found to be unsafe. Subsequent services were held in the Church Hall on the opposite side of Hornsey High Street.

The intention was to build a new church but this did not come to fruition. A final service was held in St Mary's Church Hall on Palm Sunday 1981. In June of the following year St Mary's was united with St George's Church, Cranley Gardens, which had been consecrated on 3 October 1959, the first St George's in Priory Road having been badly damaged when a bomb fell near the west end of the church on 3 October 1940. It is now dedicated to St Mary with St George, the Parish Church of Hornsey.

Among the monuments removed from St Mary's was the Edwardian reredos depicting Christ and the Angels. This fitted perfectly in an alcove on the left hand side aisle of St George's and flanked by the colours of the Middlesex Regiment, famously known as the 'Die Hards', makes a fitting memorial to the war dead of the 1/7th and 2/7th Battalions of the Middlesex Regiment 1914 - 1918. The altar with the memorial tablets was placed in front of the reredos. Beside the altar on a separate stand is a book listing the Roll of Honour of the Middlesex Regiment (Duke of Cambridge's Own) killed in the Great War. There is also a box containing square white boards

which list the names of over seven hundred war dead including officers and other ranks.

As well as the monuments from St Mary's there is also a beautiful stained glass window, now in the Parish Room at St George's, which was saved by the Rector and Wardens when Stationers' School merged with Langham School. It commemorates Stationers' Old Boys killed in WW2. Near the window is a bound volume listing former pupils of the school who died in both World Wars, and to the left of the window is a plaque to the memory of 270 former pupils who died in the Boer War and in both World Wars¹.



Returning again to the vicinity of the High Street. On the corner of Priory Road, the road that runs from the High Street to the gates of Alexandra Palace, and Nightingale Lane is Hornsey Drill Hall, headquarters of the Middlesex Regiment TA. During the late 1950's, after we had moved from Barnet to Enfield, my mother was working for Mrs A...., wife of Colonel P.... A...., who was based at Barnet Drill Hall. Colonel A claimed that mother was the best 'Batman' he had ever had! Mother and I attended several functions at Hornsey Drill Hall and the photograph shows some of the Middlesex Regiment 'wives'. Unfortunately I can now no longer put

names to faces apart from Mrs A...., who is seated to the right of the cake and my mother who is standing on the far left.

Running south from Hornsey High Street is Tottenham Lane. On the corner of Rokesley Avenue is the Little School House, formerly the National School (1884/5) and renamed Holy Innocents School (infants) in 1885. In 1981 it became the headquarters of the Hornsey Historical Society. On the same side of the road, going towards Muswell Hill Broadway, is the Hornsey YMCA, opened in May 1929 by Prince Arthur, Duke of Connaught, a younger son of Queen Victoria. On the other side of the High Street stood the Hornsey Citadel of the Salvation Army, now a Snooker Club. As a child, whenever staying at Crouch End with my mother's maternal aunt and her husband (both dedicated SA Officers), I was taken to the weekly Mothers Meetings at Hornsey Citadel.

Both Muswell Hill and Crouch End are within the Hornsey boundary. With the exception of Crouch End Clock Tower, built in 1895, and the former Hornsey Town Hall built in 1935 by the New Zealand Architect Reginald UREN - it won the RIBA bronze medal for the best London building 1933-35, there is now little of historical or architectural interest remaining. Like so many of London's outer suburbs the fine houses that once graced Hornsey have disappeared to urban development. In spite of this however, many of the open spaces within the Hornsey Boundary including Queens Wood, Coldfall Wood, Highgate Wood and Highgate Golf Course, the beautiful Priory Park and Finsbury Park remain.

Alexandra Palace although close to Muswell Hill is just outside the Hornsey boundary and is a subject on its own². Alexandra Park on which it stands, the southern part of which was in Hornsey Parish, was sold at auction by Lord Coleraine, then lord of the manor of Tottenham. The last Lord Coleraine died in 1749 leaving only a daughter (METROPOLITAN Vol. 29 No. 4).

Sources:

¹ *A Hundred Year History of St George's Church, Hornsey* by Thirza Meacock. 80 pages. Illustrated B/W. Hornsey Historical Society.

HHS40 £5.00 + 76p pp UK, £5.00 + £3.50pp Airmail.

² *Palace on the Hill: A History of Alexandra Palace and Park (3rd Ed.)* by Ken Gay. 40 pages. Illustrated B/W. Hornsey Historical Society.

HHS04 £4.95 + 76p pp UK, £4.95 + £3.50pp Airmail.

Further reading:

From Forest to Suburb: The Story of Hornsey by Ken Gay. Hornsey Historical Society 1986

HHS01 £3.00 + 76p pp UK, £3.00 + £2.50 pp Airmail.

In Times Past: Wood Green & Tottenham with West Green and Haringey (Archive Photographs) Hornsey Historical Society

HHS07 £5.95+ 76p pp UK, £5.95 + £2.75pp Airmail.

Hornsey and Crouch End by Ken Gay. Archive Photograph Series. Tempus Publishing 1988

TAP06 £10.99 + £2.00pp UK, £10.99 + £3.50pp Airmail

All of these are available from the Bookstall Manager. Address inside front cover.

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

The **Annual General Meeting**

of our Society
is to take place on

Saturday 19 January 2008

in the Radnor Hall at Wesley's Chapel,
49 City Road, London EC1Y 1AU.

Details of the day, together with Nomination Forms
and Reports of the Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary
will be included in the December issue of METROPOLITAN.

CAMDEN LOCAL STUDIES AND ARCHIVES CENTRE

By Richard Knight, Principal Officer: Local Studies and Archives

The Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre opened at Holborn Library in 1995, bringing together the local history and archive collections that were formerly at Swiss Cottage and Holborn Libraries. The London Borough of Camden was formed in 1965 from the Metropolitan Boroughs of Holborn, Hampstead and St Pancras and covers a fascinating part of London – stretching from Holborn and Bloomsbury in the south to Hampstead and Highgate in the north. The Metropolitan Boroughs were formed in 1900 from the parishes of Hampstead, St Pancras, St Andrew Holborn above Bars, St Giles in the Fields, St George Bloomsbury and St George the Martyr Queen Square.

To enable you to find out more about our collections before you visit we have published a guide to our holdings on our website as well as a number of free information sheets about different types of sources, including one on researching family history. You can keep up to date with what is happening in the Centre, by looking at the news section of our website or by subscribing to our free newsletter, *Backtracks*, which is published twice a year. Details of the website and how to contact us are given at the end of this article. Although it is likely to be a few years before it will be possible to search our catalogues on-line, we do have an extensive series of card indexes in our searchroom.

The Centre includes a wide range of sources that are of interest to family historians. Some of these will help you discover where people lived. These include various London and local directories dating from the mid-18th century until the 1980s. Local directories include some for Camden and Kentish Towns, Hampstead, Highgate, St Pancras and Kilburn. Electoral registers are also useful for tracing where people lived. Those for St Pancras commence in 1866, those for Hampstead and Holborn start in the 1890s.

We have microfilm copies of census returns for the whole of what is now Camden 1841-1901. We also hold the original census returns for Hampstead for 1801 and 1811. However, the latter only include the head of

household and the numbers living in each house and do not record addresses. Visitors to the Centre may also access The National Archives census website on-line by using our PCs.

Parish and borough ratebooks can also be used to establish how long someone occupied a property. These list the name of the person who paid the rates at a particular address, but do not have name indexes. Our earliest ratebook, for the Liberty of Saffron Hill, dates from 1726. Please note that ratebooks after 1900 are only available by appointment.

Our parish archives include other sources that are useful to family historians, for example poor law records, although only a limited number of these survive. We hold records up to 1834 or 1867 when parishes were formed into poor law unions. Later records are held in London Metropolitan Archives. Vestry and borough minutes may be useful if your ancestor was a vestryman or councillor and may also include references to an individual if he or she had some dealings or dispute with the parish or the local authority.

We hold microfilm copies of the registers of St John Hampstead 1560-c1837 and baptism registers for Ely Chapel 1782-1802. Other parish registers are held either in London Metropolitan Archives or Guildhall Library. We also have some marriage registers for a few non-conformist churches for the mid-20th century.

If you are searching for a burial of someone who lived in north London you may wish to search the burial registers for Highgate Cemetery which we hold from 1839. We also have monumental inscriptions for a number of burial grounds; often recorded before they were turned into gardens in the 19th century. In the 1980s the Camden History Society made a survey of all the surviving monumental inscriptions at St John Hampstead (Church Row).

We have copies of some Hampstead manorial records, including manor minutes 1742-1843 and extracts from the court rolls 1607-1843. Other records are held in London Metropolitan Archives. Many deeds and other documents have been deposited in the Centre and some have been indexed by name and address.

Local newspapers can provide information about local events and crimes, as well as obituaries and advertisements for businesses. Our earliest newspaper dates from 1866.

We have an extensive illustrations collection. Most are of places and buildings but there are a few portraits, mainly of local dignitaries, and some group photographs of clubs, organisations and school classes. Our earliest photographs date from the 1860s but most date from the 1890s onwards. Our Ordnance Survey maps and local parish maps will show how an area changed over the years and will help you locate your ancestor's home or business.

The Centre is on the 2nd floor of Holborn Library and a lift is available. The searchroom has 16 spaces for researchers. The staff are always happy to help you with your research and offer advice. We have a number of microfilm readers and printers, as well as PCs which can be used to search the Internet. The PCs also provide access to the Camden Libraries 'Virtual Library' which enables you to access a number of useful databases, such as *The Times on line*. Camden Library cardholders can also search these remotely. Our website has links to a number of useful family history databases, such as *Family Search*. A wide range of local publications are on sale which can also be supplied by post.

The Centre is open Monday 10.00am-7.00pm, Tuesday 10.00am-6.00pm, Thursday 10.00am-7.00pm, Friday 10.00am-6.00pm and Saturday 10.00am-1.00pm, 2.00pm-5.00pm. We are closed on Wednesdays and Sundays. It is not necessary to make an appointment to use the Centre, unless you wish to use any of the archives which are held in our outstore. The Centre is not open during the first week in December as this is our annual closure week.

For more details contact: Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre,
Holborn Library, 32-38 Theobalds Road, London WC1X 8PA
Tel: 020 7974 6342
E-mail: localstudies@camden.gov.uk
Website: www.camden.gov.uk/localstudies

OBITUARY

Mr Thomas Whitley (Membership number 1170)

It is with sadness that we report the death of Mr Thomas Whitley of Tower Hamlets, Dover, Kent. Mr Whitley was a long standing member of the Society and we send condolences to his wife Diana and family.



COMPANY RECORDS

Guildhall Library Manuscripts Section has recently received records from several City businesses including the following:

Arthur Brown and Company, traders in naval stores, turpentine, tallow etc, was founded by Arthur H BROWN in 1860. In 1871, when the firm was bought by William Thompson BURNINGHAM, it was listed as a firm of petroleum and colonial brokers. The firm expanded significantly after World War I when it became one of the first importers of Russian oil. In 1968 ABCO Petroleum Ltd, as it had become known, became a subsidiary of the Sinclair Oil Corporation. Amongst the handful of ledgers and other financial records, there are two interesting sketch books of staff, with caricatures and cartoons dating from 1931-47.

Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China was established by Royal Charter in 1853. It was an exchange bank, controlled from the City of London, with a network of branches and agencies throughout India and the Far East - it never actually operated in Australia. New material includes half-yearly head office balance sheets 1858-1971 and returns 1859-1976. Of particular interest to family historians are the returns of staff 1854-1960.

Gabriel, Wade & English was established by Christopher GABRIEL in 1770. From around 1812 the company concentrated on the importation and sale of timber. Material new to Guildhall Library includes a cash book 1822-48, lists of town and country debts 1822-46, rent accounts 1786-1848, and photographs of tree-felling, logging and timber constructions, 19th-mid 20th century.

For more information contact Guildhall Library Manuscripts Section, Aldermanbury, London EC2P 2EJ Tel: 020 7332 1863/2 Email: manuscripts.guildhall@cityoflondon.gov.uk

ROBERT ALEXANDER TILLCOCK
CITY OF LONDON POLICE FORCE - 1847 TO 1888
Warrant No. 1521, Division No. 2, PC No. 237
By Hazel Duxon, Member No. 6098

Robert Alexander TILLCOCK was born in Cheshunt and was the son of Alexander Hatt TILLCOCK and Frances TILLCOCK née CADMORE. They had a shop in Cheshunt High Street and on the 1851 census Alexander Hatt was recorded as a Master Grocer. Robert Alexander was my Great Great Grandfather.

Robert began working for Joseph FRENCH, Chemist and Druggist. On the 16 October 1847 he applied to become a Constable in the City of London Police. He was 21 years old and 5ft 10ins tall. He was required to complete a probationary period of 5 weeks, first taking the prescribed Oath, and for this he received a sum of 17 shillings.

He married Susannah BRISTOW in the Parish Church on 29 August 1861. They had eight children between 1862 and 1882: Ellen, Edward, Alice, Robert, Ernest, Harry, Percy and Sidney (Percy and Sidney were twins).

In 1862 he was living at 73 Cannon Street West where he was a Sergeant in the City Police (info from a Birth Certificate). In 1863 he was living at 38 Watling Street where he was a Police Station Sergeant (info from a Birth Certificate). When the twins were born the family were living over the Police Station in Snow Hill. I did have a problem looking for him and his family on the 1881 census but eventually found them under the name of SILCOCK and also the names of the people in the cells.

In 1865 he was promoted to Inspector of 6th Division at Bishopsgate and then the 5th Division at Tower Street, Seething Lane. He became Chief Inspector in 1876 until his death in 1888. He died at the City Police Hospital, Bishopsgate. According to the obituary in *The Police Chronicle and Guardian* he was for many years the police officer in charge at the Central Criminal Court. In those days Cheshunt wasn't as built up as it is

now and the funeral cortege began at the Bishopsgate Police Hospital and moved slowly to the cemetery at Bury Green Road, Cheshunt. The procession was nearly a mile long and I find it hard to picture this with overspill of London and traffic making it virtually impossible now. Robert was the President of the City of London Police Athletic Club and played for their cricket team.



I discovered the following article at the Guildhall Library, in *100 years of Heroes - City of London Police Athletic Club* (out of print):

‘Many years ago they formed a Cricket Club and they produced such a good eleven about the year 1875, that Dr WG Grace, then in the Zenith of his fame, took a kindly interest in them and got together a side to play them at the Oval. Dr Grace won the toss and in the very first over was clean bowled by Tillcock, the captain of the City Eleven, who prior to joining the force in 1847 had played for his county. The Dr took his defeat with great good humour, and as he walked back to the Pavilion he called out to Tillcock ‘Can all Bobbies bowl like you?’ ‘Far better, sir’, replied Tillcock. ‘I’m about the worst of the lot’.’

I am related to Robert’s son Edward Spittle TILLCOCK and thereafter to his son Richard Bernard TILLCOCK. Spittle is unusual and so far I haven’t discovered how or where this name comes from. I believe the name is derived from the last part of hospital and that monks had places of rest for travellers and these were called spittle.

Edward S TILCOCK (m Annie Elizabeth FINDER) and Richard B TILCOCK (m Florence Harriet DENHAM) were publicans. Richard took over from his father when he came back from the First World War. This is where I spent my childhood 'over the shop' so to speak.

Another of Robert's sons, Harry, lived in Margate with his family and ran the Imperial Hotel but unusually he was a Druid and held meetings at the Hotel. My mother mentioned this years ago but I thought it was a Chinese Whisper. I have been given two lovely photographs, one with robes and another with suits. It is quite a talking point.

I have quite a lot of information for this part of the TILCOCK family and would gladly share it.



FREEMASONRY STUDY DAY

The Library and Museum of Freemasonry houses one of the finest collections of Masonic material in the world and it is open to the public, Monday to Friday, free of charge.

On Saturday 13 October 2007 it will be hosting a free study day about freemasonry and family history. The day will provide an introduction to available research resources. Family heirlooms such as printed materials, archives, aprons or artefacts with possible Masonic associations or finding out about Masonic references in documents such as wills can prove difficult to identify or follow up, so this study day aims to help. There will also be guidance on sources of information on other Masonic orders and non-masonic organisations such as friendly and fraternal societies.

The study day will be held at Freemasons' Hall, 60 Great Queen Street, London WC2B 5AZ. It is free of charge but booking is essential. Further details and a booking form are available on the website at: www.freemasonry.london.museum/events.php or for more information Tel: 020 7395 9250

WEBSITE NEWS

Markets and Fairs

British History Online has produced a digitised gazetteer of markets and fairs in England and Wales with their dates of foundation, as published by Dr Samantha Letters in 2005. This can be searched by date or area. It gives you the date of inception of the market or fair and the valuation of the town in the Lay Subsidy of 1334, where known. This can be found at: www.british-history.ac.uk/source.asp?pubid=272

British History Online is a huge site full of gems and is well worth a browse. It is a digital library containing some of the core printed primary and secondary sources for the history of the British Isles from medieval times on. It was created by the Institute of Historical Research and the History of Parliament Trust and supports users in their studies, doing this by publishing these priceless resources in one place and free of charge.

For example, it contains an account from *A History of the County of Middlesex* in the Victoria County History Series concerning the fact that the location and extent of Holy Innocents Church, Westminster, and the houses within its parish are uncertain and tentatively reconstructs them using a variety of named sources, along the way mentioning local inhabitants such as Simon the weaver and Henry son of Reiner, both from the 13th century.

Another example, this time from the City of London, are extracts from Joshua JOHNSON's *Letterbook 1771-1774*. This is one of the few extant records of eighteenth-century London merchants and they are particularly noteworthy for their detail and candour, as Joshua Johnson explained to his American partners how business was managed in London.

If you have London ancestors this website is invaluable for filling in background information on their lives. You can visit it at: www.british-history.ac.uk

Women's War Records

Women entered the workplace in great numbers with the outbreak of the First World War. Some were acting out of patriotism, while others seized the opportunity to do work previously denied to them. The newly formed Ministry of Munitions was one of the main employers to take advantage of women's willingness to work. At the same time, there was great concern that men who could be fighting on the Front were being used for administrative tasks instead.

This became more worrying in 1916 following the heavy losses on the Western Front and new voluntary services were founded as a response to this. One of these was the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) which was founded in 1917. It was renamed the Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps (QMAAC) in April 1918. When the Royal Air Force (RAF) was created in 1918 a number of WAAC volunteers entered the Women's Royal Air Force (WRAF). The QMAAC disbanded in September 1921.

Records of more than 7000 women from Series WO 398 held at The National Archives at Kew have now been digitised and are available to search for free online. Of course, many more women enrolled, indeed some 57,000 served in the WAAC from January 1917 to November 1918 but many documents suffered severe damage as a result of a German air raid in September 1940. The surviving records contain documents such as an enrolment form including name, age, address, parent's nationality and marital status, statement of services which records grade, location, promotions and the name and address of next-of-kin, other documents such as: identification certificate, employer's and other references, application form, casualty form, clothing history sheet (with details about the uniform issued to each woman). These documents can be found at: www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documentsonline/waac.asp

Australian Convict Transportation Registers

These records cover the 90 year period from the start of convict deportation to Australia in 1788 to the arrival of the last convict fleet in 1868. Key information provided in the records includes; name, date and place of conviction, term of sentence, name of ship, departure date and colony to which they were sent. Occupation, physical description and religion may also be recorded in some instances. This index, containing over 160,000 names, has been compiled from a variety of sources most of which are in Australia and it can be found on pay-per-view site www.ancestry.co.uk

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.

**WILL THE CITY BRANCH REACH ITS 25th BIRTHDAY?
SEE PAGE 4.**

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE? MAGAZINE **Special Offer for LWMFHS Members**

Over 6 million people watched the last series of *Who Do You Think You Are?* and it prompted over a million viewers to go online and try to find out more about their family's history. The BBC is launching a new monthly magazine *Who Do You Think You Are?* which will reflect the style of the series and offer practical advice for anyone wanting to build their family tree. Every issue will have stories from the series, features on family history, social and local history and practical advice. Issue 1 will be on sale from 25 September and comes with a free *Who Do You Think You Are?* DVD.

London Westminster & Middlesex FHS members are being offered a 30% discount when subscribing by direct debit. This will mean paying £17.85 every six months, a saving of £15 over the year. You can subscribe by visiting: www.subscribeonline.co.uk/wdytyamagazine or by calling the order hotline on Tel: 0844 844 0939 - in either case quote reference FH107. It has been suggested that any interested member should purchase issue 1 from a bookstall and take up the offer from issue 2. This way they can see what is on offer prior to subscribing.

FEDERATION OF FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETIES ***EZINE***

Wanting to share and distribute family history news and other interesting and related information to as large an audience as possible, the Federation of Family History Societies (FFHS) embarked on an exciting new project early in 2007. This was the launch of the Federation *Ezine*, a topical and colourful email newsletter which carries family and local history news, reviews, competitions and more to thousands of individual researchers around the world, as well as the Federation's Member Societies in the UK and overseas.

You can view the *Ezine* at: www.ffhs.org.uk/ezine/intro.ph. But why not sign up to receive your own copy which will be emailed out around the middle of February, April, June, August, October and December of each year. You can subscribe on the Federation website at: www.ffhs.org.uk

ENFIELD MARKET

Part 1 - 1300 to 1880

By Lilian Gibbens, Member No. 818

ONE of the attractions of Enfield is the Town market, held mainly on Fridays and Saturdays. The market is good to visit if you wish to refill your larder, buy clothes, or plants for the garden. You will also find a couple of butchers' stalls. Markets in Enfield go back a long way and the early ones were primarily for the use of butchers and the provision of meat to local households.

In 1301 a charter was granted to Humphrey DE BOHUN, Earl of Hereford and Earl of Essex, to hold an annual fair in Enfield. In 1303 the Lord of the Manor (King Edward I alias the Duchy of Lancaster) granted a licence to DE BOHUN allowing a weekly market in the Town as well as two annual fairs. There is no evidence of any market functioning in Enfield for the best part of 300 years but a survey of c1340 records five shops set up upon the green next to the Manor House. Three of the shops were owned by one Robert RYNGE, the others by William GODDARD and Margaret MABBE, who each paid sixpence per year rental for each shop. The 1419 Manor Accounts reveal there were shambles (butchers' stalls) at the gate of the Manor. At least six shops stood on the green in 1470, in addition to the bakehouse next to the church.

Early in the seventeenth century a market charter was granted to Enfield by King James I. The new charter stipulated that there would be an enlarged, all-day market, not just in the mornings as previously, with a market court to ensure fair trading. The Vine public house was demolished and the site used to extend the market place around which there was a railing with gates. Fourteen tiled stalls were built, seven boarded stalls, with ninety tiled trestle tables for the use of peripatetic traders. A Market House was erected wherein the 'just and even scales and lawfully sealed weights' were kept. A pump was set up, with a sink to carry off the water into Whitlocks Lane on the western side of the market place and by 1648 the market was flourishing. The market, together with all its shops and stalls, The King's Head, the fair, and St Andrew's Close, were leased in 1648 to Robert PRENTICE for a term of twenty-one years, on payment of an initial sum of £20 and an annual rental of £12. In 1656, more shops were erected and

more stalls put up in the market on the order of the Vestry with Robert CURTIS being paid £20 for the work. Subsequently the properties were transferred to the parish, together with a shop built by Mary PIGGOTT and occupied by her son, Thomas, bought back by the parish for £3. In 1669, the market was leased to Robert PRENTICE, landlord of The King's Head, at an annual rent of £25. Such rent money was to be used for the relief of the poor of the parish.

The Market House in Market Place probably had open sides with an octagonal roof, all set upon wooden posts. There was also a small building called the Market Cross (removed in 1810). Adjoining the Market House was a shop owned by Habacuck KERBY, a glazier; there were four shops in the middle of the Square, one owned by Abraham BURNBY, a shoemaker, and twenty-four stalls for butchers. A new lease granted to Richard RIDDLE in 1693 for twenty-one years, demanded £100 down with a covenant for him to spend £60 on repairs during his first year. In the early eighteenth century the market flourished. In 1721 it was leased to an existing tenant, Robert SIMONDS, for forty-one years, at a rent of £25 per annum for the first seventeen years and £4 per annum for the remainder of the term.

Sadly, during the later part of the eighteenth century the market declined and closed in 1798. This is not surprising as an inspection of the market in 1784 declared it was in need of considerable repair. The then tenant, Thomas VAUGHAN was reluctant to make repairs as his lease was due for renewal, writing to the Vestry in 1786 that he would have nothing more to do with the market. Nevertheless, in 1789 he renewed at a reduced rent of £12 per annum agreeing to spend £50 over five years on repairs to shops and houses and undertaking to clear away dirt and rubbish on the afternoon of market day (the market being morning only then). It was but two years later that LYSONS in his *Environs of London* was writing that the market had long been discontinued. A portable pillory and stocks and a leaden pump (later to be replaced by a cast iron imitation) together with a milestone stood in the Market Place in 1805.

The Market Cross was removed in 1810 in the face of threatened legal action by the Trustees, but Thomas VAUGHAN remained adamant he would not replace it. The pillory was removed in 1823.

In 1826 the derelict Market House was replaced by a Gothic style Market Cross surrounded by iron railings, in an attempt to revive the market; the revival failed. The money to provide this Cross was raised by the Lessee, Mr John HILL, who organised a public subscription. In January 1830, Charles LAMB described the redundant market place in a letter to Mary SHELLEY: ‘Clowns stand about what was the market place and spit minutely to relieve ennui’. There were two public houses in the Market Square: The Greyhound, whose landlord in 1855 was Robert Edward DOCKING, soon lost its license; The King’s Head, run by William GLOVER, was rebuilt in 1899.

William LOCK’s Drapery Shop (formerly owned by Henry RISING and later acquired by the PEARSON Brothers) faced the market. Further along towards the fountain was the *Enfield Observer* Office, the paper founded in 1859, and the ancestor of the *Enfield Gazette*.

From around 1840 until about 1870 the market more or less did not exist. The 1826 Market Cross which had been constructed of soft stone and had not worn well was the centre around which swarms of ragged children congregated. Whitaker, in his *History of Enfield*, states that the Cross was preserved in the gardens of Myddelton House. By 1847 the wooden houses in market place were in such a state of dilapidation that an order was made for their demolition. The new cast iron pump was erected on the south side of the cross. In 1867 the widening of London Road to facilitate access to the market place was considered and c1870 new signs of market life were apparent. The *Enfield Observer* in 1879 said: ‘For a long time past a few stalls had been erected in the market place but not until the last few months have they been of sufficient importance to engage the attention of the authorities’ At night the market place was very dark and inhospitable so in 1880 the local Board decided to provide effective street lighting.

Sources:

A Parish near London. A History of Enfield, Parts I, II and III, by David Pam.

Enfield Past by Graham Dalling.

A History of Enfield by C W Whitaker, 1911.

Manorial Records, Duchy of Lancaster in TNA

METROPOLITAN BACK ISSUES

The Society has a limited stock of back issues of METROPOLITAN. In addition a stock of the multi-colour cover issues advertised in METROPOLITAN Vol. 29 No. 1 is still available.

Multi-Colour Cover

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Vol. 16 No. 4 July 1994	Vol. 17 No. 4 July 1995
Vol. 17 No. 1 October 1994	Vol. 18 No. 1 October 1995

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These copies are not available separately

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Vol. 27 No. 4 July 2005	

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ADVERTISING RATES

Advertising rates per issue of METROPOLITAN are as follows:

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

See inside front cover for address.

JOTTINGS FROM OUR SOCIETY'S AREA

Pinner

Kay DALLAS née IREDALE lived in Pamela Gardens in Pinner for some 25 years, moving to Gloucester in the 1990s. Kay had a lively correspondence with the late Jim GOLLAND, a Pinner Historian who had an extensive knowledge of Pinner People.

His papers contain a very extensive family tree of the IREDALE family going back to the 16th century and who were at that time residents of Woburn, Beds.

The family moved to Harrow and resided in Harrow on the Hill for several years and were buried in St Mary's on the Hill. One Richard was resident in Crown Street when his wife died in 1852. He was a steward of the Crown Inn Benefit Society. In the main the family were craftsmen and many were residents in the parish of Roxeth.

The papers of this family have been archived electronically and for further information please contact: keith.rookledge@virgin.net

Keith Rookledge, Member No. 7224

Southgate

Readers may be interested to know that the Southgate District Civic Trust have produced a series of postcards illustrating their local area.

Numbers 1-13 are modern photographs and 14-17 are replicas of old postcards.

No	Title	Location
1	Grovelands House, built 1797, architect John Nash	Southgate
2	Ye Olde Cherry Tree, The Green	Southgate
3	The Minchenden Oak and Christ Church	Southgate
4	The Fox, Green Lanes	Palmers Green
5	The Woodman, Bourne Hill	Southgate
6	Church Hill	Winchmore Hill
7	Grovelands Park and House	Winchmore Hill
8	The Green and The King's Head	Winchmore Hill
9	The Green	Winchmore Hill
10	The Green and Christ Church	Southgate
11	Georgian Cottages, The Green	Southgate

12	Underground Station and Chase Side	Southgate
13	Christ Church and Walker Cricket Ground	Southgate
14	The Pound, Fox Lane c1900	Palmers Green
15	The Fox Inn, Green Lanes c1900	Palmers Green
16	The Woodman, Bourne Hill c1910	Southgate
17	Church Hill c1910	Winchmore Hill

If readers would like copies of any of these, they are available for 25p each or £4.00 for all 17, plus 50p to cover postage. Please send details of your requirement with a cheque, made payable to Mrs Elaine Tyler, to me at 24 Ashurst Road, Barnet, Herts EN4 9LF. (Cheques are payable to me for ease of administration and payments will then be forwarded to the Civic Trust).

Elaine Tyler, Member No. 7102

The Savoy Vaults and the Poland Family

In last December's METROPOLITAN I reported on the unveiling of an information board at the section in New Southgate Cemetery referred to as the Queen Victoria Vaults or Savoy Vaults.

Just three days after the unveiling ceremony in September 2006, the cemetery manager was contacted by a lady enquiring about the location of graves of several of her ancestors, named POLAND who, she was told, had been re-interred in New Southgate from the graveyard of the German Lutheran Chapel in the Strand. She was just hoping to find the graves, so that she could visit and tidy them up, if necessary. This lady, Henrietta MORGAN, was unaware of the vaults, and she was thrilled to be given the details of nine members of her family, all in one of the vaults (No. XXVII). The manager forwarded the e-mails to me, and I continued the correspondence.

Henrietta said that four of the POLAND family were her direct ancestors, and that a distant cousin in Spain had been researching the family for three years. Unfortunately, the cousin had only confirmed the location as being New Southgate two days after the ceremony, but she also had copies of various documents which confirmed my information that the re-interments had taken place in 1875, and also confirmed the story that Queen Victoria had paid for the vaults, as the Duchy of Lancaster, on behalf of the Queen, had paid the cemetery company £354 7s 6d to purchase the area used for the vaults, plus £250 to maintain the ground and monuments in good order.

The POLAND family originated in Hof, Bavaria, and were fur merchants going back several generations there. Two brothers, Peter Raymond and John George, came to London in the 1780s and both started up separate and successful fur merchant businesses, in the Strand and the City. Peter's business lasted for nine generations.

Peter married Sarah HATCH, a London girl, in 1787, at St Martin in the Fields. Peter, John and Sarah are among those buried in the vault at New Southgate, and Henrietta has sent me portraits of Peter and Sarah. There can't be many of us who could boast of having pictures of our ancestors from 200 years ago! They also remind us that the vaults are not just a list of names and dates, but the remains of real people, who lived, worked and died in London.

Colin Barratt, Member No. 4427



Sarah POLAND nee HATCH
1761-1820

Peter Raymond POLAND
1762-1827

CITY BRANCH

- Born : Easter 1983
 At the Guildhall Library, London
 The third branch of the then North Middlesex FHS
- Occupation : Holding *lunchtime* meetings
- Moved to : St Bride's Institute, off Fleet Street – September 1993
 Originally as a temporary venue!
- Moved to : The Family Records Centre, Islington – January 2007
- Died : ? November 2007

SEE PAGE 4

18 Jan 1822

Antonio EMANUEL, 17, Purchased as a slave after being stolen away from Africa by an Italian Gentleman – and brought him to England. The Gentleman's name was Mr PALMELEUSE – when he was first brought to town his master took lodgings at 13 Oxendon Street and lived there two years and an half. His master did not pay him any wages nor was he ever hired. His master left Oxendon Street about three years ago and went to Portsmouth in a very ill state of health and died after being there a fortnight. After his master's death his master's mother gave him £13 to get him into another place but he soon spent it – and he afterwards worked about a year at 2/- a week besides his food for a coal heaver at Portsmouth. He went from Portsmouth to Chatham to endeavour to join a ship there and since that hire has got his living by working for different people and begging. No settlement.

St Martin in the Fields Rough Examination Book, page 171.

LMA CLOSURE REMINDER

The Reference Room and the Reading Room are being redesigned to provide a better environment for readers. This will mean that the


**LMA will be closed
 from 2 November 2007 to 21 January 2008.**

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.



ARNOLD

Amelia CARPENTER born c1845 in London married we believe in 1863 James ARNOLD also born c1845. They had the following children: Joseph born c1865, Josephina born c1866, Rose born c1868, Sarah born c1870, James born c1872, George born c1871, Milly born c1881, Alfred Alexander born 16 June 1882 died 1962, Lilly born c1886, William born c1888.

James ARNOLD senior was a builder working and living in Islington and is recorded as such in the 1901 Kelly's *Directory*. His son Alfred was working for him at this time. We believe one of Alfred's brothers (possibly William) had a builders' firm with his son called *Arnold & Son* in the Palmers Green area in the 1950s. Regrettably we do not know any more. Can anyone help please?

Erica Russell, Member No. 7146

52 Hatch Gardens, Tadworth, Surrey KT20 5JS

Email: erica.russell@talktalk.net

Note: For help with local history in Palmers Green, write to: The Enfield Local History Unit, Southgate Town Hall, Green Lanes, London N13 4XD.

WALSH

My great grandmother was Margaret WALSH, born 1883 England. She arrived in New Zealand in 1904, on the ship *Athenic* (with her daughter Mona WALSH) who married my great grandfather Edwin Henry WOODWARD in Auckland 1906.

Wayne Woodward, Non-Member

5 Tirangi Street, Hei Hei, Christchurch 8042, New Zealand

Email: wwoodward@paradise.net.nz

LEAHY

I'm seeking any information as to where this family lived prior to 1840. James LEAHY (born around 1816), his wife Ann née BYRN (born around 1811). Their first son was Alexander John LEAHY born 1834. Two further children; Theophilus born around 1836 and Victorine born 1840 at 2 Love Lane. According to the 1841 census they were living in Great Guildford Street, Southwark, St Saviour, Surrey. At the end of 1842 the family were living at 25 Little Queen Street, St Giles in the Field, Middlesex.

Paul Leahy, Member No7208

14 Reads Field, Four Marks, Hampshire, GU34 5XA

Email: leahy32@hotmail.com

Note: Theophilus' baptism is on the IGI (baptised 24 November 1844 St Anne, Soho, Westminster, but born 29 October 1835) however as you want information before 1840 this may not be much help.

WOODWARD/MOORE/LAW

I have been searching for information on my maternal gt gt gt grandfather, Charles or Charles James WOODWARD for quite some time. I have very little information to go on. He was born c1823-1826 St John, Middlesex, occupation baker, died 1889 Melbourne, Australia. He married Mary MOORE (1826-1829) about 1848-1851 at Heywood, Lancashire.

Sometime after the marriage Charles and Mary emigrated to Australia. They had five children: John George born c1851, Elizabeth born c1857, Charles born c1859, Mary born c1862 and Henry born 1863. In 1864 Charles enlisted with the 4th Waikato Militia, bringing his family to New Zealand. Two more children, William and Hannah, were born in New Zealand. Sometime after 1867 Charles moved his family to Auckland opening a bakery business until his wife died in 1876, when he moved back to Melbourne, Australia where he lived until his death, leaving his older children in New Zealand.

Sometime in the middle 1800s, Charles and Mary's daughter Mary left to live in England where she married James LAW in 1887 in Rochdale.

So far, I have found no record of the marriage of Charles WOODWARD and Mary MOORE, nor have I uncovered any trace of Charles' parents.

Wayne Woodward, Non-Member

5 Tirangi Street, Hei Hei, Christchurch 8042, New Zealand

Email: wwoodward@paradise.net.nz

KITCHINGMAN

The great grandfather of my wife Sylvia Mary OGIER, née KITCHINGMAN, was Jabez Richard KITCHINGMAN born 7 September 1817 Hackney, baptised in the Parish Church of Hackney and died 16 July 1911 at Christchurch New Zealand. He married a Jane Thomasine NEWNHAM on 22 September 1845 at the Parish Church of Hackney. Jane was from Chatham born 13 December 1819 and in the 1841 census was living in the same area at Church Street and died 18 August 1883 at Christchurch, New Zealand.

His father was Richard KITCHINGMAN a shoemaker born Hackney 29 June 1783 and buried 29 June 1817 a few months ahead of the birth of his first child, leaving his wife Susannah née YARDLEY born 21 June 1791 Bishops Stortford. She married again, a William ROSE, had four children by the second marriage and died at Bishops Stortford on 2 January 1860.

The father of Richard was also a Richard KITCHINGMAN, a labourer of Minster of Thanet in Kent born 1739 who had married an Ann YOUNG on 12 May 1766 at Minster-in-Thamet. Family records are silent on the move from Thanet to Hackney and the when and where of the marriage of Susannah YARDLEY to Richard KITCHINGMAN. We know that Jabez was a gardener, possibly at Kew, and that at about 16 years of age he became a Methodist and remained so for the rest of his life.

Egan Ogier Member No. 7262

40 Longmynd Drive, Shrewsbury Park, Katikati 3129, New Zealand

Email: ogiers_folly@xtra.co.nz

Note: On the IGI: Richard KITCHINGMAN married Susannah YARDLEY on 16 February 1813 at St Matthew, Bethnal Green, London.

TIPPETT/WILTON/HADDON/BODKIN

I am at present researching my maternal grandmother's line and would be pleased to hear from any reader interested in the following:

TIPPETT Islington and/or Lambeth

WILTON Strand, Holborn, Westminster, Islington and/or Shoreditch

HADDON Strand and/or Shoreditch

BODKIN Strand, Clerkenwell, Shoreditch, Holborn and/or Lambeth

Derrick Moore, Non-Member

9 Fairbourne Avenue, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 6JQ

Email: moorewilmslow@totalise.co.uk

WEBBERLEY

I am trying to trace information on Frances Emily WEBBERLEY, born 1861 in Islington. Frances married David George DODD in 1885 at St James's Church, Enfield. In 1881 they lived at 72 Green Street (a shop), in 1901 at Rose Cottage, Churchbury Road then in Sydney Road, Enfield. David and Francis had a daughter Mary Francis DODD born 1887. David's brother John lived with his family at 5 Lancaster Road.

David and Frances DODD adopted her niece Adelaide Violet WEBBERLEY born 1908 after her birth mother Adelaide Selina WEBBERLEY, a teacher at Eldon Road School, Edmonton died. They also adopted Thomas Dunbar Johnstone GRAY born in 1912 at 83 Chase Side, Enfield. He died in 1951. A Dr Gladys Margaret Campbell DUNBAR who had a practice at The Ridgeway may have arranged his adoption. Any information on these families would be gratefully received.

Lesley Cowing, Member No. 7238

Linden, Faulkners Road, Walton on Thames, Surrey KT12 5JB

Email: lesleycowing@talktalk.net

GOWEN

My ancestor John GOWEN was born in 'London' (1851 census) or 'London, Middlesex' (1861 census) between 1781 and 1786. The IGI has one birth, at St Botolph without Aldgate, 1784, son of Thomas and Hannah. The IGI has one marriage of a Thomas GOWEN and Hannah but in Devon in 1776. Does anyone know of any other births of a John GOWEN in Middlesex and/or London in the 1780s and any other marriage of a Thomas and Hannah at an appropriate time? I'd also like more information on the John GOWEN who died in 1825 aged 43 (London Burial Index, St Olave, Hart Street). Thank you for any help you can give me.

Linda Gowans, Non-Member

97 Hawarden Crescent, Sunderland SR4 7NL

Email: l.gowans@btinternet.com

WHELAN

My great grandfather, George WHELAN, was born to Peter WHELAN (or WHALEYN; 1816 - 1879; a native of Ireland) and Sarah Cordell BURR (bapt 2 August 1818 at Enfield, Middlesex). They were married 17 March 1838 in the parish of Edmonton, Middlesex. Their family consisted of the following children:

James WHELAN born 17 September 1839 (Clayhill, Enfield). He died at Byfleet, Surrey in November 1925. Gardener.

Peter WHELAN born 25 March 1842 (Clayhill, Enfield). Died 27 March 1880 at the Lunatic Asylum, Friern Barnet. Policeman.

George WHELAN born 14 April 1844 (Clayhill, Enfield). Died 14 August 1927, Ellison, BC, Canada. Farmer and rancher

Robert WHELAN bapt 26 May 1850 (St Andrews, Enfield). Died at 4 Manor Road, Barnet in October 1928. House painter.

John WHELAN bapt 1 August 1847 (Leatherhead, Surrey). Died 28 May 1914. Gardener and florist. Buried Bells Hill Burial Ground, Barnet. He did not marry.

Mary Ann WHELAN born 17 April 1855, married John Dowling PATCH in Barnet in 1881. She died 10 April 1905, Victoria, BC, Canada.

Ellen Florence WHELAN born 6 October 1861 (Chipping Barnet), married Thomas WOOD 1889. She died 18 June 1905, Victoria, BC, Canada.

I am especially interested in tracking down descendents of Peter WHELAN (1842-1880). He married Charlotte BARTLETT, 21 November 1867 at All Saints, Islington and they had four children:

Peter Thomas WHELAN born 7 August 1869 (Islington), married Mina HARRIES 15 April 1901 at Edmonton. Children: Percival Thomas WHELAN 1897-1969.

George WHELAN born 1871. He married Marie MEAD at the District Register Office, Woolwich in 1898. Children: Ethel WHELAN born 1900, Woolwich, possibly others.

Charlotte WHELAN born 5 August 1874 (Islington East). She married George William BALLARD, a labourer, at St John's, Tottenham in 1890 and died in 1954. Children: Annie M BALLARD born about 1896 – married William J BELL, Minnie Charlotte BALLARD born 1897 – married Thomas A BALL, George R BALLARD, 1899 –1968 – married Eliza A SIMONS/SIMMONDS, Daisy M BALLARD born 1918 – married Clifford T SADLER.

Robert WHELAN born 28 September 1876 (Hackney). Died from burns 25 December 1952 at Eade Road, Tottenham. He did not marry.

The above branch of my WHELAN family lived in various parts of Greater London: Islington, Edmonton, Tottenham and Hackney.

Robert M Hayes, Member No. 7258

1273 Mountainview Street, Kelowna, BC, V1Y 4M9, Canada

Email: bob22@telus.net

ALLEN

I understand from Army Records that Francis Percy ALLEN, my uncle, my father Norman and his twin Douglas went to Oldfield School in South Hornsey. Does anyone out there know anything about the school – whether there are any photographs or school records still available? Apparently the school is now a college of further education and comes under the jurisdiction of Hackney.

Any leads would be very gratefully received and any expenses incurred reimbursed without delay.

Sylvia Allen, Member No. 6935

28 Finucane Drive, Orpington, Kent BR5 4ED

Email: sylvianallen@aol.com

Note: Try the Hornsey Historical Society which can be contacted at: The Old Schoolhouse, 136 Tottenham Lane, London N8 7EL, Tel: 020 8348 8429 or <http://hornseyhistorical.awardspace.com/index.htm> or Hackney Archives could also prove useful. They are at 43 De Beauvoir Road, Hackney, N1 5SQ, Tel: 020 7241 2886 and their website is at: www.hackney.gov.uk/ca-archives

JOHNSON/BROWN

Does anyone have on their family tree a great Aunt Jane JOHNSON born c1859/1860 St Luke, City Road, London? Jane is reputed to have had an older sister Sarah and three brothers.

Jane produced six children by Christopher Megson BROWN (occupation Furrier): Charles 1879; Georgina 1882; Edith 1884; Frederick 1887; Thomas 1889; Theresa 1891.

In the 1891 census the family were living at 6 Peerless Street, St Luke, where Jane is recorded as Jane BROWN, wife of Christopher. However, so far no marriage can be found for Jane and Christopher. From 1907 until her death in 1941 Jane resided at Goldsmith Row, Hackney Road, London E2.

In the absence of a marriage certificate I need to locate descendants of Jane's siblings to establish the names of her parents to enable me to find her birth certificate. After 40 years of searching for my grandmother's birth certificate, this is my last hope!!

Miss DI Brown, Member No. 443

'Garmisch' 23 St Andrew's Close, Holme Hale, Thetford, Norfolk IP25 7EH

BUND(A)Y

Is anyone researching the name BUND(A)Y who lived in Middlesex from about 1800 but may have come from Hampshire/Isle of Wight? Any links to the bookbinding trade at all? If so, please get in touch.

Lynne Morley, Member No. 6974

12 Covert Close, Hucknall, Nottingham NG15 7RH

Email: lynnejean@hotmail.co.uk



BOOK REVIEW

For many years the standard beginners guide to Family History has been the late George Pelling's *Tracing Your Family History*, now in its 7th edition.

Stuart A Raymond, already well known as the author of the *County Bibliography* series and more recently *Family History on the Web* and *Tracing your Nineteenth Century Ancestors* etc, has now produced a new beginners guide, ***Introducing Family History***.

Each of the six chapters is divided into sub-headings within which every aspect of family history research has been covered. I particularly like the coloured blocks within each chapter - yellow for Web Pages, blue for Further Reading, green for Addresses and red for False Assumptions.

Appendix 1 contains a list of Abbreviations and Acronyms which can occur either in original sources or be used more generally. Appendix 2 lists the Chapman County Codes used extensively in indexes and in particular by compilers of Members' Interests in family history journals.

It is indexed and profusely illustrated with colour and black/white examples of documents used by family historians.

Although the author modestly describes it as a beginners book, this is a book that both beginners and more experienced researchers alike will want to dip into again and again.

FED10 *Introducing Family History* by Stuart A Raymond. 146 pages. Illustrated, colour and black/white. Federation of Family History Societies. £8.95 + £2.00pp UK, £8.95 + £3.95 Airmail.

This is available from the Bookstall Manager at the address inside front cover.

FORTHCOMING BRANCH MEETINGS

Barnet Branch – 7.30pm for 8.00pm

Lyonsdown Hall, Lyonsdown Road, New Barnet, Hertfordshire

Thursday 18 October	<i>The Fleet River Valley</i> by John Neal
Thursday 15 November	<i>In and Out of London</i> by Ian Waller
Thursday 20 December	No Meeting
Thursday 17 January	<i>Country Poor and Town Poor</i> by Michael Gandy

City Branch – 12 noon for 12.30pm

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

Thursday 25 October	<i>The Quest for the Marriage of my Great Grandparents</i> by Michael Hill
Thursday 29 November	<i>Leave no Stone Unturned</i> by Meryl Catty and Audrey Gillett
Thursday 27 December	No meeting
January 2008	See Letters to the Editors, page 4

Enfield Branch – 7.30pm for 8.00pm

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

Tuesday 2 October	<i>British Wills, Administrations and Death Duty, 1858 and later</i> by Eric Probert
Tuesday 6 November	<i>Tracing Other People's Family Histories</i> by Brian Warren
Monday 12 December	Christmas Social at St Paul's Centre, Old Park Avenue, Enfield
Tuesday 1 January	No meeting

Please note change of date and venue for the December meeting.

Rayners Lane Branch – 7.30pm for 8.00pm

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

Friday 12 October	Members' Activities
Friday 9 November	<i>Witchcraft in Hertfordshire</i> by Tom Doig
Friday 14 December	Christmas Celebrations
Friday 11 January	To be advised

Wembley Branch – 7.30pm for 8.00pm

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

Monday 22 October	Members' Evening
Monday 26 November	<i>Don't Rub it Out!</i> by Ian Waller
Monday 24 December	No meeting
Monday 28 January	To be advised

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, Email: brian.green@tesco.net

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.

To borrow journals, members must quote their membership number and pay both inwards and outwards postage – the cost will vary according to the size of the borrowed journal. Payment in stamps is acceptable. In fairness to other members wishing to borrow the same items, journals must be returned within 14 days of receipt.

FAMILY RECORDS CENTRE - EARLY CLOSURE

The Office for National Statistics has announced that the anticipated closure of its Public Search Room facilities at the Family Records Centre, which was due to happen by the end of March 2008, will now actually occur some 5 months earlier at the beginning of November 2007. The closure of the FRC was intended to go hand in hand with improved online indexes to birth, marriages and death records but as the GRO's Digitisation of Vital Events project is at least twelve months behind schedule this is no longer to be the case. No certificate ordering or collection service will be put in its place and the paper indexes will be moved to Christchurch, Dorset.

ONS maintains that the statutory provision for the GRO to provide a publicly accessible index to births, marriages and deaths will be satisfied by the existing online images and indexes provided by commercial companies, the provision of microfiche copies of the indexes in some libraries and an unspecified number of sets of the microfiche indexes which will be made available in The National Archives section of the FRC for a short while.

The Society of Genealogists and the Federation of Family History Societies do not believe these provisions satisfy the statutory requirements and are extremely concerned. They are asking family historians to lobby their MPs to support the early day motion issued by MP Jeremy Corbyn on 24 July 2007 which stated the following:

‘This House Deplores the decision by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) to close the FRC in Islington in 2008, leaving England and Wales without a Public Search Room for the first time since 1836 and resulting in the compulsory redundancy of 20 members of staff; believes that the provision of service online and or microfiche is a completely inadequate substitute, especially for customers requiring documents urgently, for example in support of passport applications or benefit claims; and therefore believes that the ONS' decision represents a complete withdrawal of services that the Registrar General has a duty to provide to customers ranging from legal firms to genealogy societies.’

To do this you could either complain in person at the FRC, write to your MP or sign an E-petition (which is open until 25 January 2008) against the early closure on the Downing Street website at: <http://petitions.pm.gov.uk/FRC-closure/>

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.

PAYMENT BY UK MEMBERS

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

- **METROPOLITAN** Copy Dates: **15 Feb, 15 May, 15 Aug, 1 Nov.**
- Articles, letters, requests and comment should be sent to the Editors.
- Material in **METROPOLITAN** may not be reproduced in any form without first obtaining written permission from the Editors.
- Contributors should indicate if copy is being distributed to other family history society journals or family history magazines.
- 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.

