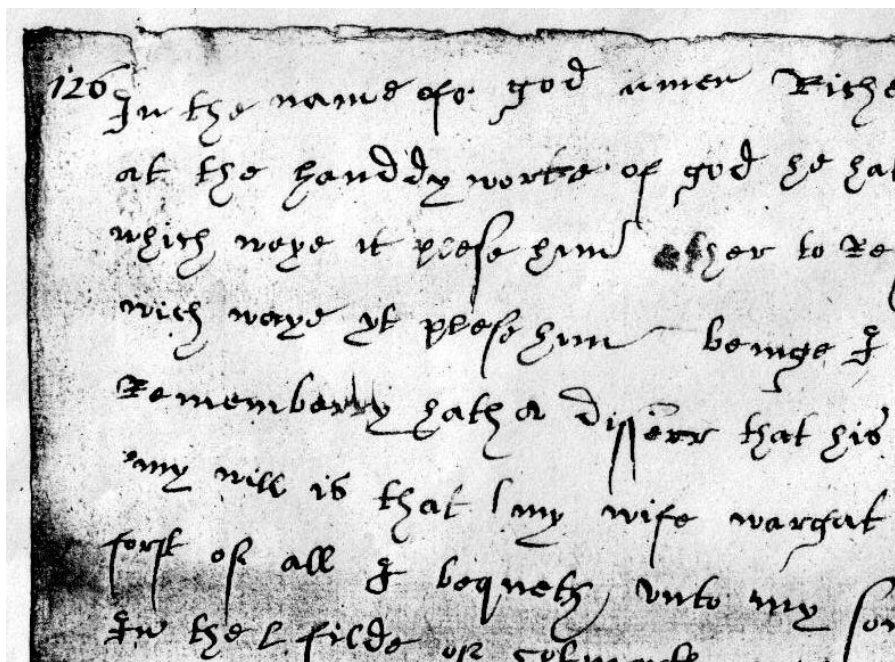


METROPOLITAN

The Journal of the

LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX

Family History Society



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Cover picture: Part of a will written in 1610

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EDITORIAL

Daffodils flourished in the February sunshine but were checked from time to time by sharp night frosts. Nevertheless, they survived. Individuals also suffer occasional setbacks as indeed do organisations. Recently the survival of the City Branch was a concern but this situation has been resolved with ingenuity and co-operation and it has now reached its 25th birthday.

Our Society also has a birthday, in fact a double one, this year. Both the former London and North Middlesex FHS (originally North Middlesex FHS) and the former Westminster & Central Middlesex FHS were founded in 1978. In the July issue of METROPOLITAN we will be celebrating this 30th anniversary. If you have any memories of the early days of these Societies and what family history research was like at that time we should be very pleased to hear from you.

Rosemary A Roome



CITY BRANCH

MAUNDY THURSDAY 31 MARCH 1983 - Looking back it is hard to believe that twenty-five years have passed since the City Branch was born in the Lecture Theatre of the Guildhall Library in the City of London. The proposal to create the branch came initially from the Guildhall Library via the Federation of Family History Societies. That it was an immediate success was apparent and over the years, when it appeared on more than one occasion that its future may not be as assured as we would wish, it has been nurtured and cherished by a dedicated band of Officers and helpers (far too many to name here) who have not only kept it buoyant but ensured that it reached maturity. The next twenty-five years, still meeting on the last Thursday of the month, will start on 27 March 2008 at a brand new venue: Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre, Holborn Library, 32-38 Theobalds Road, WC1X 8PA.

**HAPPY 25th BIRTHDAY CITY BRANCH
LONG MAY YOU FLOURISH**

Anne Prudames

A NOTE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

As we are only into the first month since our Annual General Meeting there is very little to report. However we appear to be in a very precarious situation, as we are due to lose our Hon. Secretary and if no one is able to take over it will be impossible for the Society to carry on.

The attendance at the AGM was a disappointment! 18 people turned up out of a membership of almost a 1000. If ever we do have another AGM we may have to find a cheaper venue.

Our main problem seems to be the lack of new younger blood coming into the Society. We also need a larger active committee, other smaller organisations seem to have a Committee size of 12 or more together with about 18 key volunteers helping out whereas we are running our Society with three officers and three other committee members plus the Editorial team. So we do need other volunteers.

I hope there will be better news next time.

Bill Pyemont

Footnote:

Following matters discussed at the AGM and in particular the difficulty experienced in finding a new Secretary, an advert was to have been placed in METROPOLITAN stating that if no one came forward by early June we would have to call an EGM to discuss what could be done to save the Society and put off the possibility of having to close down. However, just as we are about to go into print, Tricia Sutton has kindly come forward to take over the post. Joan will carry on until Tricia is able to take over the Secretary's role.

We are also looking for any member who has time to help out in any way with our website.

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE? LIVE

Volunteers are required to help on our stand.

This event will take place at the Grand Hall, Olympia on Friday 2 May from 10am-6pm, Saturday 3 May from 10am-6pm and on Sunday 4 May from 10am-5pm. If you are able to help for all or part of a day please contact the Chairman/Secretary.

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

May I start by saying how much I enjoy reading METROPOLITAN. There is always so much of interest even though at present I find I do not have much time for researching my family and have never been able to attend any branch meetings as I live so far away.

I would like to send you my comments on two recent articles which particularly interested me.

In Volume 29 Number 4 (the July 2007 issue) Kay Payne, Member No. 5603, mentions Eastcote 'Hospital', now a Hotel, but which was used as a hospital in the Great War. The illustration of the certificate issued to the building immediately rang a bell with me and I knew that I had seen a similar one recently. The mystery was solved when having lunch with friends at The Dales Country House Hotel, in Upper Sheringham, Norfolk. Sure enough, there on the wall in Reception was a similar certificate. I managed to find a leaflet about the history of The Dales, which states that 'it was bought by Commodore Henry Douglas KING MP in 1910, as his private residence' and that 'he allowed the house to be used as a military hospital and convalescent home for wounded soldiers during the First World War'. Although the hotel is not in the Society's area, this information may be of interest to Kay Payne and I can thoroughly recommend a visit!

The second item which interested me was in the recent December 2007 issue of the journal. Vic Hart, Member No. 6956, is asking for help in regard to Edward HART of Drury Lane, who was a Trimming and Button Seller from 1830 to 1839. I can't help with information about Edward HART, but was set on a train of thought, as my grandmother, Rosetta HARRIS, was born (in 1880) and grew up in Betterton Street, just round the corner from Drury Lane. She was a tailoress before she married and I seem to remember her telling me that she made costumes for Drury Lane Theatre for a while. I have been able to find out that her grandfather, James Stephen HARRIS, was a tailor and he married Sarah Ann GREENTREE, daughter of a tailor, at St Leonard, Shoreditch in 1857. I have yet to trace the father of James HARRIS, who would have been contemporary with Edward HART, but there seems a possibility that he was also a tailor. This all set me thinking, whether my 3X great grandfather might have bought his buttons from Edward HART!

It is an interesting thought that, given the relatively small geographical area

of central London, many of the ancestors of LWMFHS members may have crossed paths at some time in the past. Have any other members discovered any similar links?

Jackie Cassidy, Member No. 6191

Thank you to Jackie Cassidy for the above letter regarding the use of 'The Dales' as a military hospital and convalescent home for wounded soldiers during the 'Great War' of 1914-1918. There were many places, throughout the British Isles, used for this purpose at the time. Typical of the Army, the men were given a 'uniform', blue jacket and trousers.

Another letter that I have received on this topic shows the variety of buildings used. It was from Michael Fountain, the author of *Researching in Willesden*. Here is an extract:

'In St. Mary's Road, Harlesden, off Craven Park, stands the brick-built Church of St Matthew that had been consecrated around 1901. Prior to this, the area was served by a corrugated iron 'Mission Church' built in 1895 and this building was later used as the parish hall. The booklet *Willessden at War* by the late Ken Valentine states that in January 1915 a 30-bed establishment was opened in St Matthews Hall and called Willessden Military Hospital. Anyone wishing to find any further details will probably discover information at the Brent Community History Library at Olive Road, Cricklewood.

A second church hall built of brick was later erected, but in WW2 this was hit by a bomb causing fatalities among people sheltering in the boiler house. The 'Tin Hall' did survive and in the 1940s was the headquarters of the 22nd Willessden Boy Scout Troop. The vicarage built in the 1950s now stands on this site.'

Kay Payne, Member No. 5603

I have two complete years of the *Family Tree Magazine*, for 2004 and 2005. If there are any members who would like to have them (free of course) I could bring them to a meeting or they could collect, if they live near enough. (I live on a direct railway line to Liverpool Street and drive so delivery should not be a problem). It would be a pity to throw them away if they could be of use to anyone. I do have other earlier years and although they are not complete, they too are available if wanted.

Irene Dalton, Member No. 5756

Please contact the Editors if you are interested.

I was very interested in the article by Anne Prudames in Volume 30 Number 1 [on Hornsey Parish] as my great grandparents were married there on 24 August 1881, the bride's 26th birthday.

James Walter BARNES was from the Brompton Road, Knightsbridge where his mother and her new husband were running a grocery shop, which in 1893 was bought out by Harrods. On the marriage certificate, his address is given as Ebenezers Cottages.

His wife Emily POOLE gave her address as Ebenezers Cottages which used to stand in Clarendon Road, Hornsey where the gasometers are at the end of the road. In fact this was the address of her parents John POOLE and his wife Jane (née EDWARDS) to which Emily returned for her wedding. The 1881 census shows that Emily was living with a family for whom she worked, a bit further along the same block as her husband on the Harrods site in Knightsbridge. I have the original marriage certificate. Several years ago I did venture across to Hornsey and discovered that only the Tower of the church remains.

James and Emily first made their home in Chelsea, then Battersea and finally Hammersmith. James Walter BARNES died in 1913 and Emily BARNES died in 1935, both in Hammersmith, and are buried in the family grave (now unmarked) in Margravine Road Cemetery, Hammersmith.

Alan Sabey, Member No. 5270

Do your ancestors have Bloomsbury connections? If so, we'd like your help in creating an archive of 19th Century literary, medical and scientific Bloomsbury (1800-1904), a period which saw its metamorphosis from swampy rubbish-dump to centre of intellectual life.

The Leverhulme-funded Bloomsbury Project is a University College London initiative that will trace the foundations of many diverse local institutions including Great Ormond Street Hospital, the British Museum Round Reading Room, the Swedenborg Society and Mudie's Circulating Library. It will also feature many of the individuals who made significant contributions to learning in the area. A website will be launched in Spring 2008 and added to as the project progresses over three years.

However, we're also keen to receive information about the ordinary professional and working people of Bloomsbury – the writers, journalists, publishers, librarians, hospital employees, doctors, dentists, scientists – who contributed to this increasingly vibrant and unique area of London. Bloomsbury is defined as the area of central London bounded by Euston

Road (north), Gray's Inn Road (east), New Oxford Street/High Holborn (south) and Tottenham Court Road (west).

If you'd like to become involved in the project, please contact: Dr Carole Reeves, Outreach Historian, The Wellcome Trust Centre for the History of Medicine at UCL, 183 Euston Road, London NW1 2BE. Tel: 0207 679 8135, Email: c.reeves@ucl.ac.uk

Dr Carole Reeves, Non-Member

I want to thank you for the way you have presented my story about Robert Alexander TILLCOCK in the October journal. The photograph was a photocopy of the original and it has come out extremely well. There is only one minor detail: the name FINDER within the text should actually be PINDER.

I obtained all the information about him from Roger Appley, the Curator of the City of London Police Museum, at Wood Street, EC2. He sent me the photo plus date of Robert's entry into the force together with photocopies of a Requisition Surgeon's Certificate and Certificate of Character. The surgeon's certificate gave all the personal details of him - colour of eyes etc. He also sent me a detailed history of Robert's wife and children and their dates of birth and so on. The twins were born in the accommodation over Snow Hill. So you can imagine that I was thrilled to receive so much information AND a photo. The reason I mention this is that on a later visit to the London Metropolitan Archives, where the City of London Police papers are now held, I thought I would look at his box of records to see the originals and his Warrant Book. Unfortunately whoever took them out - presumably at the Police Museum - didn't put them back and various papers are missing. A real shame.

Thank you all again for a very interesting journal this month.

Hazel Duxon, Member No. 6098

13 March 1843. By direction of the Commissioners of Woods and Forests, several houses in the line of the new street to lead from Oxford-street to Holborn, and which is to be called 'Oxford-street East' were sold by auction, in order to be immediately pulled down. The new street will be in a straight line, about 1300 feet long and 30 feet wide.

The Gentleman's Magazine, May 1843

WILLS

By Peter Jackson, Member No. 4121

For just over a year I have been a volunteer at the London Metropolitan Archives (LMA). The project on which I first worked was one to produce an index of the wills from the Consistory Court of London. The jurisdiction of the court covers the City of London, the eastern part of the old county of Middlesex, plus parts of Essex. The wills date from 1513 to 1857. The index of wills has now been finished and as a contributing volunteer I was offered a copy of the database that has been produced. I was under the impression that access to this data was to be made available via the LMA website but so far it has not appeared. In the interim, I am very happy to offer a lookup service to any member of the LWMFHS who cares to contact me: either email me or write (please enclose a reply paid envelope) giving the name of the person whose will you seek, and the approximate date of death. The will books, into which the wills were copied when probate was granted (the original wills often do not survive), are all available on microfilm at the LMA. I can obtain a photocopy and attempt a transcription, for those unable to visit the LMA, although I will charge for that to cover the cost of copying, postage, and my time.

Wills can be an invaluable source of information: they may help tie together members of a family – widows' wills seem to be particularly good at this: a man, when he died first, often just left everything to this wife, but the widow often remembered, and named, quite a few members of the family. Those possessed of £5-worth of goods, or more, were supposed to leave a will, and some very humble people did so, but that said, not everyone left a will. Prior to the introduction of the central registry in 1858, wills were proved in a variety of church courts (probate jurisdictions), of which there were some 350 in England and Wales. There were numerous 'peculiar', where some one other than the local bishop and his court had probate jurisdiction, and these are detailed in the maps in the *Phillimore Atlas and Index of Parish Register*. A copy of this essential guide should be available in any good Family History Library. The court in which the will was proved also depended on where the testator held property: a wealthy person whose lands lay in the areas of several local courts would have his will proved in a higher court, the highest being the Prerogative Court of Canterbury (PCC), for which there are a number of published indexes by

year. This means that if your ancestor is not recorded as leaving a will in a local index, do not give up, try a neighbouring or higher jurisdiction. There are number of useful guides, such as Camp's *Wills and Their Whereabouts* (pub. 1974, perhaps now a little dated), Gibson's *Wills and Where to Find Them* and the FFHS Guide *Probate Jurisdictions: Where to Look for Wills*.

Here are some of the wills for my own surname, starting with one of the oldest in the LMA index, for Peter JACKSON (my own name). Peter's will (LMA ref. X019/012 folio 223r) is quite an early one; it was proved in 1559 and he wrote it on 26 July 1559. It was normal in the 16th and 17th centuries for wills to be made close to death, for very few are dated more than 6 months before the date of probate. Peter was obviously quite comfortably off, he was a citizen and clothworker of the city of London (ie a member of the clothworkers' guild, which was founded 1528, the last of the 'Great Twelve') and you needed a bit of money to attain that status. The first bequest in his will is 40s (£2) to the poor: you need to allow a factor of at least 200, and 400 may be nearer the mark, for the devaluation of the pound in the years from 1559 to 2007, so 40s is over £400. He left 4 angels to his 'brother' John MIDDLETONN of York, a merchant, 'to make him a ringe' (anything I put in quotes is as shown in the will, and I have left the spelling unmodernised, as to me this is part of the fascination of the documents) An angel was a coin named from the image of an angel embossed on it, often taken as worth half a mark, 6/8d, but sometimes 10s, just to confuse, and unless there is something in the context we cannot be sure; there are specific references to the sum of 6/8d in this will, so I wonder whether, by an angel, Peter means a different amount. If it was 6/8d, 4 angels makes £1-6-8d, or £260 at 200/£. It then becomes clear why his brother has a different surname, as in the next bequest Peter leaves 2 angels to his sister, John's wife whom, sadly, he does not name. (We would call John a brother-in-law.) Bequests are made to Peter RICHMOND my godson ('six shillings and eight pence' written out in words, and not called an angel), and 'my friend and cossin' George MIDDLETON, described as a London saddler, who receives £4, whilst his wife Johan gets 2 angels; George also gets 'my readd taffata dublett' (taffeta at that time was a form of silk: the OED quotes 'taffeta or other silk' from 1561).

Peter bestows quite a few items of clothing, but he was a clothworker, so we might assume they were of good quality. In addition to the doublet to George, examples are a 'taffata dublett to Edmond LANE my Clark'; 'my

black gowne faced with taffeta' to Thomas PRESTON; 'my black cloke' and 6/8d for wages are given to 'good wife PRYSTON', probably Thomas' wife, in spite of the slight difference in spelling. Peter then writes 'I do hereby acquit and discharge Thomas PRESTON for all such reaconinges as is betwixt us att this present daye', so it looks as if Thomas owed him money. To Richard BILLAM 'my best Spanish feltt' and later 'I will my executors doe bestow iijs iiijd upon a yearde of worsted and to be given to Elizabeth BILLAM'; was she Richard's wife or sister? Thomas BILLAM is given two shirts, and he would appear to be another member of the same family. Richard BILLAM is remembered again as, along with John DOWNES, George MIDDLETON, and Raphe MARSHE 'to be equally divided amongst them, viij aces [? I am not sure about this word] of linen cloth now in the hands of Mrs MIDDLETON.' After disposing of some more clothes, he then leaves the residue, debts and funeral expenses paid, to 'my brother-in-lawe Thomas PRESTON and Edmund LANE whom I doe institute and make my full and whole executors of this my last will and testament'. George MYDDLETON sadler, Richard BILLAM draper, and John DOWNES ironmonger are appointed supervisors 'to see this my will performed' for which they get a further 5s. At the very end, three witnesses are named and their occupations given. Peter had a wide circle of friends and acquaintance on whom he could call.

There is no mention anywhere of a wife or children, so I am tempted to conclude that he died a bachelor, or if he married it was a childless marriage and his wife predeceased him. Was his family from York, which would explain his sister living there, or did she marry into a family from there? I have chosen a bad example here as, unless Peter was a from a very well-to-do family that kept its own records, his birth (which might have been as early as the 1490's) was too early to be recorded in a parish register. The endless fascination of family history is that as you explore one source it answers one question and opens two more.

A much shorter will is that of John JACKSON, written 20 July 1621, for which probate was granted 11 October 1621. He says he is a pewterer of East Smithfield in the parish of St Botolph without Aldgate, and makes essentially 2 bequests, one to 'my sonne Startup JACKSON £40, to be paid within 4 years 'after my departure', and the residue to his wife Joane JACKSON. Startup seems an unusual name, I may have misread it, but it is there in the will twice and I cannot make out any other reading.

The will of Joane JACKSON (written 20 June 1627, probate 13 August 1627), starts generously by remitting John BIRD of London ‘in the countie of Essex all that hee oweth unto mee by bill or bonde or anie waie’, but then a note of acrimony creeps in as she writes: ‘Mr William PARNNELL of Piarepoole lane nearr Graise in the county of Midd a bonde of tenn pounds wherein he standeth bound with Jonas PARNELL his son unto my late deceased husbände Roger JACKSON. And whereas it is reported that the saide Mr William PARNELL hath a deade of gift or some other con[v]eyance frome me of all or parte of my moveable goodes Cattell and chattells, to this I answere and affirme untill my last breath that I never made him any nor ever sett my hande or deale to anie and therefore if he showe anie it is forged and ought to be of none effect.’ I guess that ‘Graise’ is the scribe’s spelling of Grays, which fits with the reference to Essex: would an old map locate ‘Piarepoole Lane’? She ends on a more domestic note, leaving to brother-in-law ‘Edwarde COLEBOURE of Watford, Heart ff[ord], one blacke ewe with a white face’, and ‘my blacke pide Cowe’ to her servant Anne LOUATH (although the film shows damage at this point and the name cannot be read for certain).

Sarah JACKSON of Green Street, Leicester Fields, St Martin in the Fields, Middlesex, was a widow who wrote her will 25 Aug 1792, (proved 18 Sept that year). She asks ‘to be buried in Mitcham Surry by my father and mother’, suggesting an origin there. She makes a bequest to her sister Ann YEATS, widow of Jarvis YEATS, and leaves 2 guineas to her son Henry ‘now abroad’. At the end of the will she wills that all her remaining effects be sold and the money put to the best advantage for her three grandchildren at age 21. These are named as ‘Henry JACKSON son of Henry JACKSON aforesaid; Samuel William Augustus EVANS son of my eldest daughter Sarah EVANS deceased, and Mary Ann DONOWHOUS daughter of my youngest daughter Martha DONOWHOUS deceased’, which gives all sorts of clues on family links.

I hope the above samples give a picture of what wills can reveal: there is not only family history, but a bit of community history in them too: we find what was thought to be valuable.

Peter Jackson

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THE HALE FAMILY OF HIGHGATE

By Roger Sutton, Member No. 7290

My great grandmother, Louisa Elizabeth HALE (1848-1940) was a Londoner. She was born on 26 June 1848 at the Waterloo Hotel, 85 Jermyn Street, Westminster. In the early 19th Century this road was noted for its hotels. Her father, Stephen HALE (1810-1883) was a hotelier, who, when he died, left an estate of £16,477. Louisa's grandfather, James ROWE, was the first of my ancestors to run the Waterloo Hotel in 1823 and it was owned by my family for about 50 years. James ROWE had married Mary PAIN on 11 September 1813 at Cannington, Somerset and there is every indication that both families were from Somerset.

But the HALE family was from Highgate and Stephen HALE was the son of Thomas HALE (1772-1833) and Sarah DRAKE (1779-1857). The first definite ancestor was Stephen HALE who was a shoemaker of Highgate.



He was buried on 12 January 1777 at Highgate Chapel. A Congregational Chapel had been established in Southwood Lane, Highgate, in 1622. Such chapels had been banned within five miles of the City of London and Highgate is just outside this boundary.

This photograph shows Stephen HALE (1810-1883) and was taken at The Broadway Studio.

Stephen's son, John HALE (1740-1807), was baptised on 26 May 1740 at Highgate Chapel. He married Elizabeth DAY on 28 August 1766 at St Mary, Hornsey. They lived in

Southwood Lane, Highgate. John HALE started the family coaching business. The HALE family made and hired out coaches and carriages from their premises at 58 West Hill, Highgate. In his biography of John BETJEMAN, AN WILSON describes West Hill, Highgate as one of the steepest streets in London. BETJEMAN spent part of his childhood at 31 West Hill and AN WILSON describes how behind the house stretched miles of thick woodland and rolling hills. I discovered recently that BETJEMAN's mistress, Elizabeth CAVENDISH, is a distant cousin of mine.

By 1823, Hales Coaches left Highgate for London nine times a day. By this time the business was being run by John's son Abraham HALE (1778-1843). He retired from coaching in 1832, which was probably a good time to depart because England's transport infrastructure was about to be transformed by the coming of the railways. When Abraham HALE died in 1843 he left an extensive property portfolio, which suggests that the family coaching business had been successful.

Meanwhile Abraham's brother Thomas HALE (1772-1833) had established himself as a merchant of 12 Cophthall Court, Throgmorton Street in the City of London. He married Sarah DRAKE of Highgate on 19 July 1800 at St Mary, Hornsey. He was also a member of Lloyd's and at one time there was an oil painting of him in Lloyd's insurance office. When his widow died in 1857 in Wavertree, Liverpool, a notice in *The Times* dated 27 May 1857 confirmed that Sarah DRAKE was the widow of Thomas HALE of Lloyd's.

The best known member of the HALE family was John William HALE (1803-1886) who followed his father Thomas HALE by making a name for himself in the City of London. In the 1839 *London Commercial Directory* he is shown as an Insurance Broker and Accountant. He was also a member of Lloyd's and a Director of the Bank of England. An obituary notice in *The Times* dated 14 April 1886 describes John William HALE as 'Founder and Treasurer of the Governesses' Benevolent Institution'.

Arising from the unprecedented mid-Victorian economic boom there was a huge increase in the number of governesses. Many families in the middle classes, particularly in London, could afford to educate their daughters at

home for the first time. One such daughter was my grandmother, Florence Amy GERRETT (1877-1967), daughter of Louisa Elizabeth HALE and her husband Charles GERRETT of 7 Old Cavendish Street, Marylebone. Florence's cousin Alice Amy GERRETT was also educated by a governess, at 100 Westbourne Grove, Paddington.

The Governesses' Benevolent Institution was a formidable body, Incorporated by Royal Charter and under the patronage of various members of the Royal Family, including Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. The Institution was 'established to raise the character of Governesses as a class, and thus improve the tone of Female Education; to assist Governesses in making provision for their old age; and to assist in distress and age those Governesses whose exertions for their parents or families have prevented such a provision'.

Supporters of the Governesses' Benevolent Institution were concerned that women who educated others should themselves receive education. As a result, Queen's College of 43-49 Harley Street was founded in 1848 and was the first school in the country established for the higher education of women. Among the famous pupils of Queen's College was Frances Mary BUSS, who was to become the first Headmistress of the North London Collegiate School for Girls. John William HALE financed Frances Mary BUSS in this venture. Her father was one of the illustrators of *The Pickwick Papers* by Charles DICKENS. John William HALE was a close friend of the BUSS family, who lived at 46 Camden Street, Camden Town where the North London Collegiate School opened with 35 pupils in April 1850.

All were daughters of gentlemen and respectable tradesmen who paid fees of 2 guineas a quarter. The syllabus included natural philosophy, Latin and branches of science, as well as basic subjects. Within a year the number of pupils had increased to 115. In 1870 larger premises were acquired in Camden Road and in 1879, with considerable help from City Livery Companies, new buildings were opened in Sandall Road. The establishment was run on the lines of a boys' public school. Discipline was strict. The educational aim was to prepare girls for public examinations and acceptance at universities, for training as teachers and for professional careers. In 1944 it became a direct grant school but reverted to private status in 1976.

ANZAC DAY and HAREFIELD

By Barbara E Haswell, Member No. 4224

ANZAC stands for Australian and New Zealand Army Corps. ANZAC day is 25 April and is the anniversary of the first major military action fought by Australian and New Zealand forces in the First World War. It is the day when, all over the world, there are ceremonies to remember ANZACs who died in war.

At dawn on 25 April 1915 the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) and troops from New Zealand, Britain and France landed at Gallipoli to capture Constantinople (capital of the Ottoman Empire and an ally of Germany) and therefore open up the area of the Black Sea for the allied navies. The forces met very strong resistance from the Turkish defenders and the campaign continued for eight months with heavy casualties on both sides. In December 1915 the allied forces were evacuated. Over 8,000 Australian soldiers lost their lives during this battle. Australian forces went on to fight in campaigns on the Western Front and Middle East.

Australian and New Zealand casualties were brought back to Great Britain and hospitalised. Mr and Mrs Charles BILLYARD-LEAKE, Australians living in Harefield, Middlesex, offered their property 'Harefield Park' to the Australian Government as a treatment centre and convalescent home for wounded soldiers of the AIF. Harefield, a village in the borough of Hillingdon, lies in the far north-west corner of the Society's area. Harefield Park consisted of a house, outbuildings and large grounds and it was thought that the house would accommodate about 50 soldiers. In the end the house held over 1,000 beds, with a large nursing and support staff and began to take over the whole estate. It had the title 'No.1 Australian Auxiliary Hospital'. By 1919 the hospital had 50 huts in the grounds as workshops, stores, recreation hall, canteen, cookhouse and mortuary and had assumed all the functions of a normal hospital.

Military funerals were held and burials took place at St Mary the Virgin, Harefield. Through the actions of Mr F NEWDEGATE MP (later Sir Francis), a portion of the churchyard was reserved for the burial of Australian soldiers from the Hospital. The churchyard now contains war graves from both world wars (120 from WW1 and 6 from WW2).

The graves are marked by scroll-shaped headstones and there is a memorial obelisk (shown below), erected by Sir Francis NEWDEGATE, late Governor of Tasmania and of Western Australia, and Mr Charles AM BILLYARD-LEAKE of Harefield Park.



On the third anniversary of the Gallipoli landings, a parade of staff and patients was held which then marched through Harefield village to the church where a memorial service was held.

After the war, the estate was sold to Middlesex County Council and the hospital was used as a tuberculosis sanatorium. (Lots of fresh country air was the treatment back then.) In the mid 1940s Harefield became a general hospital, developing expertise in chest and heart disease and in surgery.

Every year since 1921, on ANZAC Day, a commemoration service has been held at the Church of St Mary the Virgin. Afterwards, the congregation form up around the ANZAC memorial where the *Last Post* and *Reveille* are played. In attendance are representatives of the Australian and New Zealand High Commissions. Wreaths are placed on the memorial and local schoolchildren, Scouts and Brownies put their flowers on the many graves.

My late neighbour, Bob JONES, was an Australian in the Royal Australian Air Force. He came over to Britain in 1940 and worked as ground crew servicing Lancaster bombers. He and his wife, Joan, used to go to the ANZAC Ceremony at Harefield and it is his photographs that illustrate this article. They laid their flowers on the grave of a young man named 'JONES'*. Not a relative, but a young man who like so very many lost their lives on a battlefield.

The Australian War Memorial website-www.awm.gov.au (type 'Harefield' into the search box) gives much more information about the hospital, its staff, local benefactors and includes many photographs of patients.



ANZAC Day, Church of St Mary the Virgin, Harefield

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission website-www.cwgc.org gives more details on Harefield and also lists names of the dead. It was here that I found:

* Oscar Harold JONES, Private in the Australian Army Medical Corps, 13th Field Ambulance. Service number 8894. Died on 23 June 1918 aged 25 years. Son of George Edward Richard and Elizabeth JONES of Oxley, Queensland. Grave ref: Aust 54, Harefield (St Mary) churchyard.

Note: The National Archives of Australia website has records relating to servicemen and women in the Australian defence forces from 1901. Digital copies of many original records, including enrolment papers, can be viewed for free at www.naa.gov.au

BETHLEM HOSPITAL AND FORTNUM & MASON A Nineteenth Century Connection

By Anne Prudames, Member No. 254

In 1247 Simon Fitz Mary founded the Priory Hospital of St Mary of Bethlehem on the west side of Bishopsgate, the Roman Ermine Street (now part A10) which runs north through the east Middlesex Parishes of Shoreditch, Tottenham, Edmonton and Enfield, exiting the latter at Bulls Cross, crossing the Hertfordshire border at Theobalds, and thence to York.

St Mary of Bethlehem was not the earliest Monastic foundation in the area. In 1197 Walter BRUNE and his wife Rosaria founded the New Hospital Without Bishopsgate, known as St Mary Spital, on the east side of Bishopsgate and of which only the annual Spital Sermon, given each year at St Lawrence Jewry Church, remains. Although many similar Monastic foundations did at this time have Hospital in their title and some were built specifically to care for lepers, it should be stressed that they were not hospitals in the true medical sense. Their main function was to care for the sick and infirm and to offer hospitality (hence Hospital, Spittle or Spital), to travellers and to pilgrims in particular as they travelled between shrines such as at Canterbury, Walsingham and Lincoln.

The Priory Hospital of St Mary of Bethlehem however, did have a hospital attached by 1329 and some fifty years later began caring for 'distressed' patients who, when violent, were kept chained to the walls and either whipped or doused in cold water. In 1346 the Master of the Hospital appealed to the City of London for patronage and protection. At the Reformation when all such foundations were suppressed the Priory was purchased by the Corporation in 1548 and established as an lunatic asylum which was to become more famously known as 'Bedlam'.

In 1676 a new Bethlem Hospital was built at Moorfields at a cost of £17,000. The diarist John EVELYN compared the new building to the Tuileries in Paris. After the Moorfields site became unsafe the hospital moved to a third site at St George's Fields, Lambeth. When the hospital moved later to a fourth site at Addington, Surrey the grounds at St George's Fields were purchased in 1830 by Lord Rothermere as a park. It was named Geraldine Mary Harmsworth Park after his mother. The central portion of the building became the Imperial War Museum following the removal of the two wings.

In 1851 Dr (later Sir) Charles HOOD became the Bethlem Hospital's first resident Medical Officer. Augustus PUGIN (1812-1852), the 'God of Gothic', who over a period of fifteen years designed 6 Cathedrals and some 40 Churches as well as fulfilling commissions on a number of other well known buildings, including the Palace of Westminster, became his first patient. By 1864 criminal patients were removed to Broadmoor. Today the Bethlem Royal Hospital, now annexed to the Maudsley Hospital, continues its work at Monks Orchard, Beckenham, Kent.

During its 760 year history the Bethlem Hospital had acquired property for its maintenance, not only in London but also in other parts of the country. All of its buildings have plaques signifying their ownership and if you stand in front of Fortnum & Mason the famous Piccadilly store and cast your eyes up above the fascia bearing the names of the founders, you will see a small oblong plaque on either side of the central window upon which the Royal Arms of HM Queen Elizabeth II are mounted. Each bears the Bethlem Hospital Arms.

This poses an interesting question concerning the connection between the Bethlem Hospital and Fortnum & Mason, the answer to which may be traced to Charing Cross where the hospital formerly held property. It is said that part of its foundations now lie beneath one of the Lions on the south side of Trafalgar Square. When the Charing Cross property was taken compulsorily in 1830 for the laying out of Trafalgar Square the hospital received property in Piccadilly in exchange. As well as the building currently occupied by Fortnum & Mason, this also included the Cavendish Hotel (already in situ in Jermyn Street) and the building now occupied by Hatchards the celebrated bookshop. Four years later Mr Richard FORTNUM and Mr John MASON, descendants of the founders, became one of the Bethlem Hospital's most famous tenants.

A Corporation of London Blue and Gold Plaque recording the site and date of the Bethlem Hospital (1247-1675) is affixed to the wall of the Great Eastern Hotel, Liverpool Street which is part of the Liverpool Street Railway Station complex.

Bethlem Hospital retained ownership of the site at Bishopsgate until it was sold to the Great Eastern Railway Company. After five years of delays and setbacks the company finally purchased the site in 1870. The Station was completed in 1874 and until the 1970s was the busiest in London. Over the

years thousands of commuters have streamed daily into Liverpool Street from north and north east London, Hertfordshire and East Anglia. I cannot help but wonder if any of them were aware that they traversed what was once the site of the notorious ‘Bedlam’, the first established lunatic asylum and, in the case of the former Broad Street Station ticket office, its burial ground.

Source:

Bethlem Hospital 1247–1997, A Pictorial Record by Patricia Allderidge. Phillimore

PHL80 £19.49 + £3.00 pp UK, Airmail/Surface on application to the Bookstall Manager

NB: For clarification Bishopsgate Within and Bishopsgate Without are both in the City of London. The City boundary is shown by a ‘City Dragon’ bearing the arms of the Corporation of London just north of Liverpool Street where Bishopsgate meets Norton Folgate. The Registration District is East London 1851–1861 and London City 1871+. It includes St Botolph, Bishopsgate and St Giles, Cripplegate both of which are outside the City Wall. The City boundary circles the west side of the Tower of London then turns east to Aldgate and then north through Middlesex Street (Petticoat Lane) to Norton Folgate.

A leaflet listing both Inner and Outer London Registration Districts and their Sub-districts 1851-61 and 1871+ is in preparation and will be obtainable from the Membership Secretary on receipt of an SAE.

Note: Bethlem Royal Hospital Archives and Museum is located at Monks Orchard Road, Beckenham, Kent BR3 3BX.

The Museum, Tel: 020 3228 4307, is open Monday-Friday 9.30am-4.30pm except for Bank Holidays. The Archives, Tel: 020 3228 4053, are open during the same hours but by appointment only.

A small number of items, including the minutes of the Court of Governors of Bridewell and Bethlem from 1559-1713, have been digitally imaged and will be available for consultation on their online archives catalogue, currently under trial.

For more information on both collections visit the website at: www.bethlemheritage.org.uk

NEW ON THE BOOKSTALL

London: A Century in the City by Brian Girling. 128 pages. Tempus Publishing Ltd 2007

Profusely illustrated with rare and unseen photographs in black/white and colour, dating between c1850 and 1960. Spread over five chapters with the headings: The Maritime City; City Streets and Byways; Traders' Places; Around St Paul's Cathedral; Aspects of the City. Contains photographs of both Bishopsgate Street Within and Bishopsgate Street Without c1850. Also the 'old' Bishopsgate Station, Liverpool Street Station, Broad Street Station (closed 1984 and now redeveloped as Broadgate) and the Bishopsgate Churches of Great St Helens and St Ethelburga.

TAP20 £14.94 + £2.00 pp UK, £14.94 + £2.75 pp Airmail

Who was Heinrich Faulenhach? A case study in Family and Local History by Pat Keeble and Robert Musgrove. Edmonton Hundred Historical Society

EDH28 £2.00 Bookstall, £2.55 UK, £3.00 Airmail

Enfield Town: Village Green to Shopping Precinct by David Pam FR Hist S. Edmonton Hundred Historical Society

EDH29 £4.00 Bookstall, £5.30 UK, £6.00 Airmail

Edmonton: Ancient Village to Working Class Suburb by David Pam FR Hist S. Edmonton Hundred Historical Society

EDH30 £4.50 Bookstall, £5.30 UK, £6.00 Airmail

A History of Crews Hill and a Step Beyond by Roy Martin.

This book covers Crews Hill, Clay Hill and Botany Bay areas of Enfield.

MAP01 £13 .99 Bookstall, £15.75 UK, Airmail on application

The Lads of Enfield Lock: 127 years of Apprentice Training at the Royal Small Arms Factory Enfield 1816 - 1988 by Graham Birchmore and Roy Burges. Lists all known apprentices 1840s - 1886.

MAP02 £10.00 Bookstall, £12.50 UK, Airmail on application



HAWKERS IN HAMPSTEAD

By Charles Hawker, Member No. 4166

My great great grandfather John HAWKER arrived in Hampstead with his son Alfred Christopher and Alfred's wife Caroline, between 1861 (when they are shown in St Pancras) and John's death in Mansfield Place in 1865. John had arrived in St Pancras from Dorset circa 1830. Alfred Christopher was a paper hanger and is shown in censuses at Perrin's Court, then Flask Walk and finally at 75 Heath Street, where he died in 1894.

My grandfather Edmund Edgar, was born in 1863 in Islington and married there in 1892. He was the nephew of Alfred Christopher and was also a paperhanger. He is shown living at 2 Flask Cottages, Flask Walk in 1896. He died in what later became New End hospital, but his death certificate records the place of death as workhouse. He was residing at Wildwood Grove, North End before his death.

My father was born at Church Lane in 1894, but spent his early childhood at Wildwood Grove. He had a 'knife and boot' job at Fern Lodge, which was badly damaged in the Second World War. My father later moved with his siblings and widowed mother to the recently built Grove Place Flats. He sang in Christ Church choir and attended its school. He was unable to completely straighten the middle finger of his left hand and claimed that this was because of the number of cannings he received from the headmaster Mr WREN. He transferred to New End school soon afterwards!

I spent the first twenty-five years of my life in Grove Place Flats. My earliest memories are of helping to fill sandbags on the heath, so that must have been in 1939, and starting at New End school in Miss GREEN's class. The air-raid alarm was located next to the police box by Whitestone Pond. We lived on the ground floor and when the alarm sounded we lay under a dresser and a quarter-size billiard table with heavy slate base and substantial legs. It got quite noisy during the raids and initially my parents told me that it was our soldiers practising but my schoolfriends soon corrected this well-meaning inaccuracy. A barrage balloon was located on the edge of the heath, near Well Road and a battery of anti-aircraft rocket guns near The Pryors in East Heath Road. When the guns fired it sounded more like bombs coming down. There were a number of bombs, flying

bombs and rockets which landed in Hampstead, as witnessed by the mass grave in The Hampstead Cemetery at Fortune Green.

We children treated the war as a bit of an adventure playing war games and hunting for shrapnel on the heath. One day my father and I were fishing in the Vale of Health pond. An older boy who was well-known for his colourful language had caught a pike and was about to tie it onto the cross-bar of his bike. At that moment the air-raid siren sounded and simultaneously the unmistakable sound of the ram-jet engine of a doodlebug could be heard. We could see it and then the engine cut out. We ran and lay in a depression. There was an explosion and I believe the doodlebug landed in or near Highgate school. Fortunately it was the summer holidays. We returned to the pond just in time to see the pike disappearing back into the water. The thwarted fisherman cursed Hitler, not seeming to realize how lucky we had been. There was great concern with regard to incendiary bombs and Grove Place had residents trained as fire wardens. The training for this included practising with stirrup pumps. The children joined in with great enthusiasm. We had an explosion near our flat, I believe it was in New End Square. The blast blew out some of our windows and sucked open the locked back door. Strangely, some tea towels hanging from a rack screwed to the door were undisturbed.

All the children at New End school used to be assembled on the ground floor during an air-raid. The time was spent singing or sometimes practising times tables. The school was only partly occupied, since many children had been evacuated.

I joined the choir at St John's parish church where the Vicar was Dr CARNEGIE and the organist Mr SIDWELL. The soldiers from St John's Wood barracks would attend for church parade and their band would often fill the balcony. Some soldiers would join us in the choir and I recall that on one Remembrance Day service Mackenzie KING, the Canadian prime minister, took part in the wreath-laying ceremony.

New End hospital had been built with circular wards and balconies overlooking Mansfield Place. When my father was admitted with a serious hand infection, he used to go onto the balcony at lunch time and I would come out from school and wave. Little did we realize that the cottage in

front of which I stood was the very one in which my great great grandfather had died some seventy years earlier.

Grove Place Flats were built for 'Artisans' by the local benefactor Henry MARHAM about 1914. The housewives would bring their mats out each morning and beat them against the trees. All the stone stairs and entrance passages were regularly scrubbed with hand brushes.

Apart from all the celebrations when the war ended, I remember the excitement when children were allowed a ration of bananas and I went to Hill's in Flask Walk for my issue. Like most young teenagers, I had a paper round, but mine was in the Church Row, Froggnal area. This was very rewarding at Christmas time. At the tradesman's entrance on many of the large houses a note would read 'paper boy please ring'. The housekeeper would hand me an envelope, inside of which was quite often a large white five pound note. This was a great deal of money in those days.

My friends and I used to spend most of our free time playing football or cricket on the heath behind The Pryors. Afterwards we would go to a friend's house in Worsley Road where the front door was always unlocked and we were made most welcome.

I moved from Hampstead after my marriage and my father died at Grove Place in 1977, so the association of my Hawker line with Hampstead ended.

10 Feb 1842. In Bouverie-street, aged 52, Mr Richard CARLISLE, formerly a publisher of deistical books and papers in Fleet-street. Of his former opinions and doctrines there are and will be but few admirers, but for the last ten years these had become gradually modified. About a month ago he returned from Enfield, where for the last five years he had resided, and started a weekly peridiodical, called the *Christian Mirror*, which only reached three numbers, the fourth being finished only the day before his death. His body was removed to St Thomas's Hospital for dissection, in compliance with his dying request.

The Gentleman's Magazine, 1842

LONDON WESTMINSTER AND MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2008

The following are the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the above Society held on 19 January 2008 at Radnor Hall, Wesley's Chapel, City Road, London.

PRESENT:

President - Michael Gandy
Chairman - William Pyemont
Secretary - Joan Pyemont

APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from:

Treasurer - Brian Green, Anne Prudames, Kay Payne, Margaret Paine, Sue Lumas, Mo Baker, Raymer Lofts, Margaret Christie, Gwen Webb, Grace Cowie, Marjorie Bridges and Elizabeth Burling.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

The Minutes of the AGM held 3 February 2007 were approved.

MATTERS ARISING:

1) Rosemary Roome:

Correction: Re: AGM Minutes 3 February 2007, Chairman's Report - Item 2. In respect of her comments reported in the Minutes, Ms Roome stated she had not wished any disrespect to Lilian, her remarks had been misunderstood and should not have been minuted.

2) Rosemary Roome:

Re: Chairman's Report AGM Minutes 3 February 2007 - Item 3.

Queried why little progress appears to have been made in up-dating the website.

REPORTS OF THE OFFICERS:

Chairman's Report:

The Chairman's Report was previously published in METROPOLITAN in December 2007.

Additions to the published report as follows:

1) In reply to a query from the floor, the Chairman replied that the Society will be attending the 'Who Do You Think You Are' Fair to be held in May.

2) In reply to a query made by R Roome in respect of the Web-site, it was explained that a lot of work still needs to be done and a great deal of time must be

spent working on it to bring it up to date. It was pointed out however, that Membership Application Forms can be down-loaded efficiently from the site. A request was made by the President, Mr Gandy, that a Web-master be appointed urgently. He stated that a note to this effect should be placed in the Journal.

Secretary's Report:

The Secretary's Report was previously published in METROPOLITAN in December 2007. Nil else to add.

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer's Report was previously published in METROPOLITAN in December 2007.

In respect of the above Report Rosemary Roome disputed the Treasurer's statement regarding the costs of producing the Metropolitan Journal with an expenditure at September 2007 of £210 more than in September 2006. She stated that in previous years Members' Interests were published as a separate booklet, but these are now included in the Journal on separate yellow pages. This, subsequently, has an effect on the cost of the Journal.

Lilian Gibbens, however, pointed out that Members' Interests pages are rather sparse in the December Journal with 8 pages, of which only 4 actually deal with Members' Interests.

The President therefore suggested existing Members, and in particular, long-standing Members, should up-date their interests.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

No Nomination Forms had been returned.

Chairman - William Pyemont agreed to continue as Chairman of the Society.

Treasurer - Brian Green had previously agreed to continue as Treasurer of the Society.

As retiring Secretary, Joan Pyemont agreed to continue on a temporary basis for a few more months until a new Secretary comes forward.

If no candidates offer their services as Secretary by June, an Extraordinary General Meeting will be arranged for July to discuss the future of the Society.

Without a Secretary, the Society cannot function and may have to be wound up or consider amalgamation with another Society(ies).

In the event of an Extraordinary meeting having to be arranged, venue and date etc., will be published in the July Journal

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Nil.

CLOSE OF MEETING:

The President formally closed the meeting at 3.50 p.m.

A NOTE FROM THE TREASURER

I must apologise for my absence from the Society's Annual General Meeting, I and my wife were both struck down by one of those 48 hour upsets.

I would like to take the opportunity to respond to Rosemary Roome's question on the cost of the METROPOLITAN, which I knew she was going to raise. Even if one accepts Rosemary's contention – which I do not – that the cost has decreased from £7308.00 in 2006 to £7179.00 in 2007, rather than increased, one must accept that in 2006 £7308 bought 8000 copies of our journal, whilst in 2007 £7179 bought only 6150 copies. On a like for like basis, 6150 copies should only have cost £5618 i.e. there has been an increase of £1561 in the journal costs.

The cost of the journal continues to be the Society's largest single financial outlay and, for reasons I will not detail, attempts to control that cost have been unsuccessful.

J Brian Green, Treasurer

EXCHANGE JOURNALS

As stated in the two previous issues of METROPOLITAN, there has been very little response from members. In fact, since April 2007, when the exchange scheme was re-launched, there have been only 5 requests to borrow journals and, whilst these have come from as far afield as Nottingham, Accrington and even France, not one has come from members in the areas of our four main branches. It is understood that members at Barnet meetings have sometimes asked to see exchange journals, but their interest was insufficient for them to put in a request to me.

In view of this underwhelming lack of interest, the Executive Committee has agreed that as from the end of March 2008, exchange journals will cease to be available.

J Brian Green

WEBSITE NEWS

Rootschat

Rootschat (www.rootschat.com) is a message forum for British family history which is wide ranging, easy to use and free.

The site is split into notice boards, one per county. There are also boards for occupations, unwanted certificates, family bibles, emigrants to Canada and so on. Once you've registered, it's easy to post a query or reply to one. The range of queries is wide, from 'how do I get started in family history?' through 'where was such and such a street?' to 'can anyone find my ancestor in the 1851 census?' or 'what does this census image say?' The site is refreshing for the wide range of topics under discussion and for the patience and skill of people who respond to queries. There is a powerful search engine, and a list of surname interests which contained over 60,000 names the last time I looked. Advertising is kept to an absolute minimum.

Each county board includes a list of people offering look-ups and other resources. For the London board, this includes such items as links to the St Martins in the Fields Settlement Examinations (put online by Westminster archives), Stow's map of Shoreditch 1755, a list of streets missing from the Lambeth census of 1861, links to lists of common lodging houses by police division, and much, much more.

I have found this fascinating site exceptionally user friendly. I would encourage any reader of METROPOLITAN to have a look if they have not already done so.

James McCarthy, Member No. 7249

BMDregister.co.uk

This website was set up by S&N in collaboration with TNA to make available the millions of records of (mostly pre-1837) nonconformist baptisms, a few marriages, and burials deposited with TNA. The records come from Methodist and Baptist chapels, Dr Williams' library, and Bunhill Fields burial ground among other places. TNA hold the records in classes RG4 and RG5 but they have not been indexed.

The new website has digitised the records. Searching is free. Enter a surname and you get a list of associated events detailing first and last name, year and county. To get further details you have to pay 5 units (£2.50) for a transcript and a further 5 to see the original image. The advanced search

option, costing one unit, is useful for common surnames or to get a more precise match to the event you are looking for.

The wealth of information contained in some of the results is startling. Baptism details can reveal not only the place and date of baptism, date of birth, and parents' names, but also the names of maternal grandparents – a marvellous bonus. Within minutes of entering the site, I discovered that my 3x great uncle William VERNON was born in Chingford on 3 September 1824, baptised in Waltham Abbey Methodist chapel two months later and that his maternal grandparents, my 4x great grandparents, were James and Elizabeth COWLAND. This took me back a generation beyond my previous research and made the expenditure of £3 seem very good value indeed.

Most of the records are post 1750, and so far baptisms and burials vastly outnumber marriages. Interestingly, the emphasis in baptisms on maiden names means that many of us may uncover our ancestor's maternal line before knowing the corresponding details on the father's side. The site has plenty of records available now, with the promise of more to come as the digitisation proceeds. This is a potentially invaluable site which is likely to take its place alongside the IGI as time goes by as a standard resource for non-conformists.

James McCarthy, Member No. 7249

Note: Few marriages appear because non-conformists had to marry in the parish churches until civil registration started in 1837.

Old Handwriting

The National Archives has a free interactive online palaeography tutorial which will help you learn to read handwriting found in documents written in English between 1500 and 1800. There are practical tips and you can work through documents in order of difficulty. This tutorial has been developed in partnership with University College, London and can be found at www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/palaeography

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.

JOTTINGS FROM OUR SOCIETY'S AREA

Hampstead and the Transatlantic Slave Trade

Did you know that William WILBERFORCE once lived in Hampstead? Did you know that the family of the 'uncrowned king of Jamaica', William BECKFORD, lived in West Hampstead? Did you know that Dr GIBBONS, who lived in Burgh House in Hampstead, introduced mahogany from the West Indies into the country?

2007 marked the bicentenary of the abolition in Britain of the transatlantic slave trade. The influence of this pernicious trade extended into all parts of eighteenth and early nineteenth-century life, even in areas far from the slave trading ports. A new exhibition, supported with a grant from the London Borough of Camden and originally displayed at the Hampstead Museum at Burgh House, explores many surprising local links and explores how the slave trade permeated many aspects of late eighteenth-century life - how fortunes made in the West Indies financed house building in Hampstead; how closely Hampstead was linked with the abolitionist movement through men like Samuel HOARE and Thomas Fowell BUXTON; and whether there was a black population in eighteenth-century Hampstead.

The exhibition is on until 22 April 2008 at Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre, Holborn Library, 32-38 Theobalds Road, London WC1X 8PA. Tel: 020 7974 6342 Website: www.camden.gov.uk/localstudies

Richard Knight, Camden Local Studies & Archives

London Borough of Haringay Local History Day

Some years ago I coined the phrase 'A YEAR IS ONLY A MONTH LONG IN FAMILY HISTORY'. At least that is how it seemed back then when I was more actively involved not only with the Society but also with research and fully employed as well. Even so it does not seem possible that a year has passed since Fred Carter and I took the Society's Bookstall to Bruce Castle Museum, Tottenham for the annual Borough of Haringay's Local History Day.

After a frosty start Saturday 9 February turned out hot and sunny and this brought people into the park and the Museum to look at the displays on various aspects of the history of the area, to listen to the scheduled lectures and, in between, visit the archives or the stands of the varied participating organisations.

This year we shared the main exhibitors room with both the Hornsey Historical Society and the Edmonton Hundred Historical Society. Unfortunately, unlike last year when the Museum provided each of us with a sign showing who we were, we had no way to advertise the Society. However that did not deter us and although sales of books were down on last year - always a good barometer of the current financial climate - we did have much more time to chat with visitors between the lectures and this turned up a few surprises!

Not having been notified of this event in time to advertise it in METROPOLITAN, something we have assured will not happen next year, we were surprised and pleased to welcome two of our 'Out of Town' members who had seen it advertised in the January edition of Family Tree Magazine. The first member we talked with was John Bingham who had travelled down from Amptill, Bedfordshire. Later we had a chat with member Anne Hughes who had travelled up from Hadlow, Kent. The biggest surprise however came when I was chatting with a couple - the wife was interested in Islington. Fred had some old copies of METROPOLITAN which had been donated to the Enfield Branch and two had an article on Islington. Handing them to her I asked for their address in order to forward further literature on the Society and was handed a business card. You could have 'knocked me down with a feather' as they say. The gentleman was Roger Lewry, Archives Liaison and Legislation Monitoring (Federation of Family History Societies) who, with his wife, had travelled down from their home in Northamptonshire for the event. Thus proving the power of advertising!

During the day Fred and I were separately engaged in offering advice to lady visitors at the same time. It was only after they had gone and we were comparing notes that we discovered both were keen to research their Polish ancestry. Fred had two other enquiries in a similar vein. Subsequent enquiries at SoG confirm that as yet there is not an Anglo-Polish FHS in the UK. (Unless you know different!). I also chatted with a charming young man who told me that his parents were Turkish Cypriots. It transpired that he and his family were Muslim and, curious to learn where his parents had married at a time when there were very few Mosques in this country, I was informed they had married in Cyprus. He also was interested in his family origins. All this was food for thought and set me thinking that just as there are already Societies for those researching Anglo-Indian, Anglo-German, Huguenot, Italian and Jewish ancestry how many years will it be before we have similar organisations for those wishing to research their Polish or Muslim roots?

Another young man told me that his grandfather, I think the name was Harmsworth, had built a lot of the property in the Tottenham area. Grandfather had also written an account of his life. Just before the event closed, he was spied poring over some of the large scale maps of the area on the Hornsey Historical Society stand.

Driving home Fred and I assessed the day and were in agreement that this years Haringay Local History Day was definitely the best so far. Unfortunately we don't always get to hear of other similar local events in our area. If you know of any during the year please let our Secretary know and we can put them on the Society's Website.

Postscript: Fred Carter has since received a postcard from the Museum thanking us for participating. Their sentiments regarding the success of the event exactly mirrored our own.

Anne Prudames, Member No. 254

London Borough of Barnet

An online image database of pictures from Barnet Local Studies & Archives Centre was launched in January. The Local Studies Centre holds a unique collection of 10,000 photographs, paintings and drawings dating from the 19th Century, which covers all areas of the borough. The Borough of Barnet was created in 1965, amalgamating former administrative authorities that today cover the areas of Barnet, East Barnet, Friern Barnet, Finchley, Hampstead Garden Suburb, Golders Green, Childs Hill, Hendon and Edgware. Take a tour of the image database and look at some of the most memorable views recorded of our changing landscape. Initially 500 pictures have been included but we intend to continue loading images over time, so please revisit this site.

In addition to material gathered by ourselves, we are fortunate to have received donations from local people concerned with documenting the rapid change the borough has experienced since 1900 and who have collected and photographed views that have contributed to the development of the collection. Donations or copies of original images would be gratefully accepted to enhance the collection and provide new material for public research. Some of the images in the collection have very few details and we welcome any further information you may have. Please use the forms provided on the website. (No personal details will be published or passed on to a third party.)

The pictures can be viewed at: www.barnetimagebank.co.uk

Yasmine Webb, Barnet Local Studies & Archives Centre

London Borough of Camden

Camden History Society have now finished the enormous task of surveying the history of every street in the London Borough of Camden right back to Roman times. This project has taken them 35 years and encompasses the old Metropolitan Boroughs of Hampstead, St Pancras and part of Holborn.

The survey, published in thirteen books, includes the structure of the manorial or prebendal estates; any churches, institutions, businesses that appear, or have appeared and been demolished; the name and character of the builders, and a short biography of notable residents.

Members of the Society took photographs of all of Camden's 1300 streets in the year 2000 for the benefit of future historians but these do not appear in the books, where drawings and photographs from the past are used. However, these more modern photographs are stored at Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre, Holborn Library, 32-38 Theobalds Road, London WC1X 8PA.

Dr F Peter Woodford, Camden History Society

Hornsey

The following advertisement, for a sale by auction, was found in *The Times*, Saturday 18 April 1795:

A valuable leasehold estate; held under the Bishop of London, consisting of a spacious substantial residence, pleasantly situate, in the preferable part of Highgate, detached from the Road by a large Sweep and Lawn in front, enclosed by Gates and Rails, with numerous attached and detached Offices, lately repaired at a considerable expense, extensive Pleasure Grounds, ornamented with Shrubs, Pleasure and Kitchen Gardens partly walled and fully stocked with Fruit Trees, several pieces or Parcels of rich Meadow Land, containing together 77 Acres, called Hornsey Little Park, laying contiguous, near the High Road, leading to Barnet, extending to Muswell-hill, in the occupation of Robert Kirby COX, Esq, at a clear Rent of Three Hundred and Fifty-Four Pounds per annum, with a large Ale and Beer Brewhouse, a Farm-yard, and Out Buildings, together with the Gate-house and Tolls, receivable for Carriages and Cattle passing through Highgate. May be viewed and Particulars had of Francis GREGG, Jun, Esq, Skinner's-hall, Dowgate-hill; at Garraway's, and of Mr SMITH, Broad-street. To be sold at Garraway's on Friday the 22nd May at 12 o'clock, by order of the Executors of Mrs GREGG, deceased.

UNWANTED CERTIFICATES

Dawn Adams, Member No. 6025, has some death certificates which are not relevant to her researches but which may be of use to other members.

Death: Hannah FINLEY aged 59, wife of John FINLEY, 87 Packington Street, Islington, died 9th December 1906 in Islington Infirmary.

Death: Annie FINDLAY, aged 75, widow of James FINDLAY, of 14 Finstock Road, North Kensington, died 18th August 1921, Aubert (?) Park. (Informant H H MACDONALD, son.)

Contact Dawn at 34 Station Rd, Topsham, Exeter, Devon EX3 0DS

Email: fhmid@adamslancaster.net



Christine Dean, Member No. 5038 has sent in the following certificate, which turned out not to refer to her great grandmother, in case it might be of use to someone else.

Birth: Maria Sarah DAVIS, daughter of Maria DAVIS, born 30 November 1860 at the Workhouse, Princes Road, Lambeth.

Please contact the Editors if this is relevant to you.



Marianne Faull kindly sent the following to our Secretary:

I am not a member of your society, but as journal editor of Shoalhaven Family History Society Inc, Australia, I read all the incoming journals and always look forward to your METROPOLITAN.

In the search for the birth of my great-grandmother, Mary Ann RAY, I have purchased the originals of the enclosed certificates, which have either been incorrect or inconclusive.

Your members, however, may have a need for them, so I would like to pass them on to any interested party and wish them more luck than I have had.

Birth: Mary Ann RAY, daughter of Eliza RAY, was born 11 April 1852 at Union Workhouse, Grays Inn.

Birth: Mary Ann RAY, born 16 October 1851, daughter of William RAY, coachman, and Ann née SPEKINS of 3 Montague Mews, Bloomsbury.

Birth: Mary Ann RAY, born 24 July 1852, daughter of John RAY, labourer, and Catherine, née EVANS of 25 Tottenham Place, St Pancras.

Marriage: Jacob RAY, widower of full age, builder of 3 Osborne Street, son of Joseph RAY, builder married Mary Ann HOPSON, spinster of full age of 3 Osborne Street, daughter of Mary Ann HOPSON [sic], shoemaker, on 9 February 1847 by banns at Whitechapel District Church. Witnesses were George SEAGER and Elizabeth SEAGER.

Marriage: Jacob Watkins, bachelor of full age, tailor of 11 Church Road, son of Edward WATKINS, labourer, married May O'CONNELL [sic], spinster of full age of 11 Church Road, daughter of Michael O'CONNEL, labourer on 2 February 1847 by banns at Whitechapel District Church. Witnesses were John Henry O'CONNEL and Anne O'CONNEL.

If you are interested, contact Marianne by email at: mfaull@tpg.com.au



SOLDIERS OF THE QUEEN

The Victorian Military Society, in conjunction with the Royal Engineers' Museum, will be holding a 2-day event at The Royal Engineers' Museum, Prince Arthur Road, Chatham, Kent ME4 4UG, on Saturday 31 May 2008 and Sunday 1 June 2008, from 10am to 4.30pm. You can come along and find out all about Queen Victoria's soldiers and the things they did.

In addition to various lectures, re-enactment groups, trade stands and displays, there will be a 'help desk' giving advice to family historians and other researchers. If anyone has a photo, medals or a cap badge that they would like identified, or needs advice about records and sources of information, our experts will do their best to help. There is no charge for this service but a donation to the Society's funds would be welcomed! (Please note the Society cannot give a valuation on any item.)

Entry is £6.35 (adult), £3.30 (concession) or £16.00 (family). Entry includes admission to the Royal Engineers' Museum. There is free car parking and Chatham station is close by (the route is clearly signposted).

For further details contact: The Publicity Officer, Victorian Military Society, 20 Priory Road, Newbury, Berkshire RG14 7QN. Tel: 01635 48628. Email: vmsdan@msn.com

POSTCARD MYSTERY SOLVED

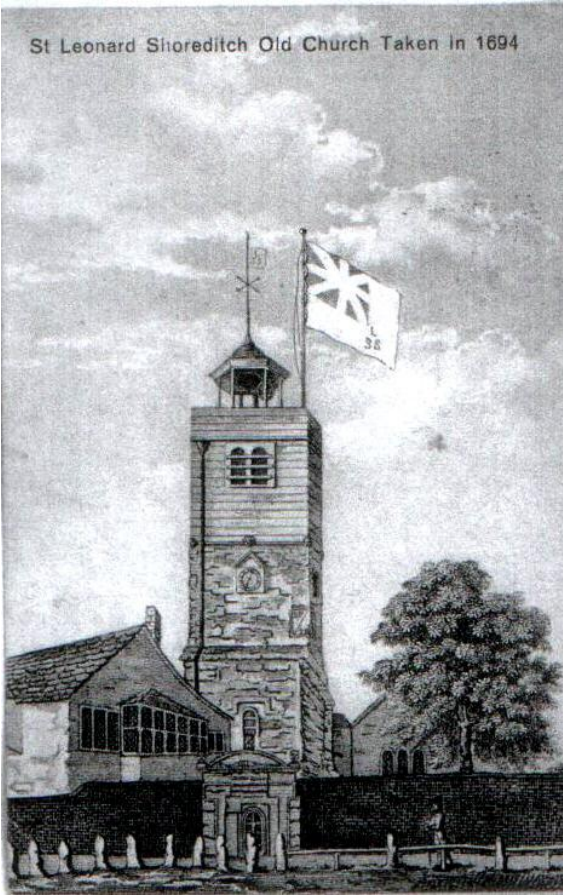
By Dennis Galvin, Member No. 1046

Those marvellous old postcards are a wonderful way of illustrating a family history portfolio and indeed I am still searching for one of St Paul's Church, Pear Tree St, Finsbury (now demolished) where my grandparents married in 1904. (I still do not know what the church looked like).

During the course of my looking around for postcards at antique fairs etc I purchased one of old Shoreditch Church which I placed in my appropriate family file. However, I also noticed an interesting message on the reverse and wondered what it was all about:



I was intrigued and determined to solve the mystery; why was the sender, George H RADFORD so interested in one of our London churches and why did he mistake the initials SLS (St Leonard's, Shoreditch) on the flag, for numbers? There were some clues: the last word on the card, 'division' was the key and I had already deduced that the message either concerned our army of WW1 in France, backed up by a possible regimental number, which was under the full signature or was he a Member of Parliament and one of the four members who stand in front of the Speaker of the House with the result of a vote?



After looking at the card for the umpteenth time it suddenly hit me - the number under the signature was the date! 17 March 1914, which immediately eliminated the Great War - it had not yet started.

I then moved my attention back to the George V postage stamp and in particular the cancellation which I had previously noticed started with the letters HOU. I originally thought this would probably be Hounslow or Houndsditch but with further scrutiny under the magnifying glass - and a bit of logic. I was able to determine the mark was in fact House of Commons SW1.

I thought perhaps there was a chance he might have married at St Leonard's but subsequent investigation revealed that he was born in Plymouth in 1851 and was married in Tavistock in 1882 to Emma Louisa RADFORD, daughter of a JP. He was a member of the old LCC (London County Council) for West Islington 1895-1907, was knighted in 1916 and the Liberal MP for East Islington until his death in 1917.



He obviously spent a considerable number of years at Westminster. The 'victorious' division he wrote about was because he spoke and voted in the debate on the LCC (General Powers) Bill on the 16 March 1914 (Hansard); so he was a teller.

Research at the British Library informed me that he was the author of three books, on Shylock, Sir John Falstaff and one of verse. I therefore surmise that in the absence - at that time - of any illustration of the 'Theatre', he wanted to use old Shoreditch church (Shakespeare would have known both) to illustrate one of his books or articles. Indeed, there is a 'Shakespeare in Shoreditch Society' still concerned with that very subject.

Regarding the initials on the flag, they are not clear and could be mistaken for L35 if his specs were not up to scratch, but I really think he meant to write the word card instead of flag, thus referring to publisher TH Read's number 2800.

Finally, I would not be at all surprised if the Mrs Stopes he refers to is the famous Marie STOPES; as well as science she did have a strong interest in verse and Shakespeare.

In conclusion I can't imagine a more fascinating postcard than this one and I have to say I thoroughly enjoyed the research and felt there was a real chance the mystery could be solved. So check those old postcards, they might reveal an interesting bit of history.

Acknowledgments:
House of Lords Record Office
The British Library
Guildhall Library

ADVERTISING RATES

Advertising rates per issue of METROPOLITAN are as follows:
Full page £40, Half Page £23, Quarter Page £14, Eighth Page £8.50
All copy, correspondence and remittances should be sent to the Editors.
See inside front cover for address.

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.



FANCOURT

From information in *Alumni Cantabrigiensis*, I know my ancestor William FANCOURT was born in London. The IGI lists a William FANCOURT born in 1736 in St Clement Danes to Edward and Sarah FANCOURT. Edward is listed in the Westminster Poll Book in 1749 living in Temple Bar, St Clement and St Mary.

If anyone has any information on either William or Sarah FANCOURT, I should be very pleased to hear from them.

Mrs P Picton, Member No. 7280

9 Goodways Drive, Bracknell, Berks RG12 9AU

Email: robert.picton@virgin.net

Note: This IGI reference is actually a baptism and William could have been born several years before this - a point to bear in mind when looking for him in other sources.

JENNINGS

Seeking any info about the following JENNINGS family. In the 1901 Census, living in the Acton area, is Thomas JENNINGS aged 40, bricklayer, Emmeline JENNINGS aged 31, wife and George Arthur JENNINGS aged 9, son, all born in Chiswick, MDX.

George Arthur JENNINGS married Emma Susanna ELLIS in 1915 in Edmonton, MDX. Emma died some time later and George married for a second time to Elsie Harriet Rose ELLIS, née SYMONDS, in 1924 in Edmonton. Elsie also died some time later and George moved to Devon.

George worked for Wyne & Selby Engineers, Seven Sisters Road, Tottenham.

NT Bond, Member No. 7264

14 Barn Lane, Budleigh Salterton, Devon EX9 6QG

PROBERT

John PROBERT (born 1827 Berkeley, GLS) was married on 21 January 1851 at Gloucester to Eliza Witmarsh SLOPER (born 1828 Devizes, WLT). Their first child, George PROBERT, was born 21 July 1851 at Cheltenham, GLS.

On 1 March 1852 John PROBERT enlisted in the Royal Horse Guards (Pay List No 1208) and the second child, Eliza PROBERT, was born in 1854 at Somers Town, MDX. The third child, Emma PROBERT, was born on 8 January 1856 at 7 Princes Street, St Giles, MDX (info from birth certificate.)

By the 1861 census the family had moved to 70 Dudley Street, St Giles. John was down twice on this census, once with the family and secondly in Albany Street Barracks, Regents Park.

On the 1871 census John (still in the Royal Horse Guards) and Eliza are at 24 Redhill Street, St Pancras but are mistranscribed as ROBERT.

On 8 August 1873 John passed away in Albany Street Barracks, Regents Park (info from death certificate). He was ill for 64 days. The Army Chaplain, Henry SPENCE, registered the death. I cannot find a burial for John PROBERT in 1873. Where would a Trooper from The Household Cavalry be buried? Where are the burial registers for Albany Street Barracks?

Eliza PROBERT, John's wife, died 18 months later on 4 February 1875 at Spital Road, New Windsor, BRK, (info from death certificate). I cannot find her burial.

On the 1881 census George PROBERT (their son) was unmarried, a printer, lodging at 31 Tysoe Street, Clerkenwell, MDX. I cannot find him after that. I cannot find his sisters, Eliza (1854) and Emma (1856) after the 1861 census.

Any help would be very much appreciated.

Mrs Margaret E. Probert, Member No. 7287

Camden House, Orchard Mead, Inkberrow, Worcestershire WR7 4EH

Note: The FreeBMD website shows an Emma PROBERT died in the September quarter of 1861 in St Giles and an Eliza PROBERT died in the December quarter of 1864 in Shoreditch.

There was a George PROBERT aged 40 living in Islington in 1891. Have you checked him out?

DIXE/CHRISTIE/EDWARDS

For many years I have been unable to find birth details for my grandfather Arthur Edward CHRISTIE. His mother was Catherine DIXE and he appears on 1871 census as Arthur DIXE aged 4 in St George Hanover Square. Catherine married George CHRISTIE in 1876 in Upper Chelsea. There were 3 daughters who were likely to be half sisters to Arthur: Lucy Jane born 1879, Daisy Catherine born 1882 and Mary Ann Leah born 1885, all in Mile End Old Town. Lucy married Edward Ernest EDWARDS in 1908 in Bermondsey. I have found 2 children, Elizabeth Edith born 1912 and Edward Ernest born 1919 both in Bermondsey.

Does anyone have information on the Edwards family or any information which may lead to birth details of Arthur?

Christabel Bramley, Member No. 6538

213 Kirkintilloch Rd, Bishopbriggs, Glasgow G64 2JB

Email: christabel.bramley@ntlworld.com

LANSBURY/PRITCHARD

The marriage of Edward LANSBURY to Mary Ann PRITCHARD has eluded me for a number of years. Edward, born about 1827, was christened at St Mary The Virgin, Monken Hadley. He died in 1867 aged 40. Mary Ann PRITCHARD was born about 1840. In the 1861 census Mary Ann is listed as from Radnor, South Wales.

According to the IGI a family of PRITCHARDS were living at Farm Pentering, Gladestry, Radnorshire. In the 1841 Census, Mary Ann is listed as a 1 year old with her father William and mother Mary Ann at Gladestry. The family do not appear on the 1851 census. The marriage of Edward and Mary Ann may have taken place in the Shoreditch area. Their first child, a daughter christened Mary Ann, was born at 101 Brunswick Street, Haggerstone West, Shoreditch on the 13 April 1858. Siblings Henry and Edward were born in Barnet. Their mother Mary Ann on all subsequent censuses, 1871-1891, gave her place of birth as Barnet/Arkley, Herts. On the 1891 census Mary Ann LANSBURY is the head of the family and her occupation is Publican. Edward, her youngest son, took over the *Brickmakers Arms*, Arkley and was the Licensee. Date of Protection 28 October 1889, Date of Transfer 6 January 1890. Edward held the Licence until he died in November 1929.

Ivor Lansbury, Member No. 4400

10 Chilswell Road, Oxford OX1 4PJ.

YELVERTON

I am looking for the marriage and birth of William YELVERTON. He is listed as a Goldsmith at 115 Great Portland Street between 1782 and 1793. Between 1774 and 1789 he and his wife Lydia had eight children all christened at St Marylebone.

He appears as a juror at the Old Bailey in 1784, 1785 and 1787. He died in 1791 aged 59 and was buried in the graveyard attached to the Whitefield Tabernacle in Tottenham Court Road. In his Will he leaves everything to his wife.

In the search for his marriage I have looked at Parish records in the area around the City for the period 1740-1770 and also marriage indexes for most counties throughout England.

I would be pleased to hear from anyone who may have come across his name or has any idea where to look next.

James Schaffer, Member No. 7161

The Iron House, Rock Channel, Rye, East Sussex TN31 7LR.

Email: schaffer.jandk@virgin.net

Note: Whitefield's Tabernacle was built in 1756 for the Methodist preacher George WHITEFIELD and when it was extended in 1760 it was the largest non-conformist church in the world, with seating for 7-8000. So it seems that William YELVERTON was a non-conformist. His baptism may appear in TNA records RG4 and RG5, see Website News on page 116.

The Guildhall has records of goldsmiths.

HUDSON

If anyone has any information on Thomas Edward HUDSON (born 1801) who married Ann BISHOP (born 1804) on 20 July 1828 at St Marylebone, I should be very pleased to hear from them.

Joan Buckley, Member No. 7123

31 Rossetti Gardens, Coulsdon, Surrey CR5 2LR

Email: jbtempone@btopenworld.com

Note: This *help!* has been included again in shortened form as the house number was incorrect in the last issue of METROPOLITAN.

GEORGE MONEY FREEMAN aka FERMOR

My maternal grandfather, George Money FREEMAN, was born in 1861 at 9 Suffolk Street, (off Pall Mall). His mother was Jane FREEMAN, 'formerly FREEMAN'. Little is known about her, except she kept a private hotel and died in Putney.

I have evidence that George went to Sherborne School, Dorset, in 1875 for 3 years when he was aged 14. I have inherited his Latin and Greek dictionaries which he used there. It is thought that he previously went to a Preparatory School in Harrow. Does anyone know the names of any such schools so that I can inspect their Registers?

About 5 years after leaving Sherborne he went to the Royal College of Music in London, 1883-85, where he studied pianoforte and singing. It is thought that during those 5 years he very likely had private music lessons, probably near his Westminster home. Has anyone come across names of music teachers in that area?

The inclusion of his second forename of Money is intriguing. Family gossip has it that he was the illegitimate son of George Henry MONEY, who in 1865 is known to have been living in Jermyn Street, St James'. I have some evidence of his life-style; he died in Cairo in 1888 and left a will. Is this name known to anyone?

Grandfather changed his name to FERMOR when he registered at the RCM; the reasons for the change to, and choice of, this name are not known. He used it for the rest of his life in Brentford, where he was a music teacher and organist at a Wesleyan Church, and where he brought up his family; he died there in 1927.

Ron Phelps, Member No. 7284

'Lyndley Croft', Bridge Road, Cranleigh. Surrey, GU6 7HH

Email: ron@ronphelps.orangehome.co.uk

WILLIAM COOPER

In the 1891 census, William COOPER aged 14, an errand lad, was living in Atherstone in the household of a William and Frances TAYLOR, Baker and Grocer. His birthplace was given as simply London and his birth year would therefore seem to be 1877.

It appears from the Minute Book of Atherstone Union, WAR, that William's mother was married and that she, with two other infant children, were inmates of the Burton on Trent Union Workhouse in 1885, her husband having deserted her.

On 30 May 1897 giving his age as 21, he married Sarah Jane WEBSTER at Atherstone Register Office. There was no father's name for William, who was working as a coal miner. Sarah Jane's father was John WEBSTER and the witnesses were John and Elizabeth WEBSTER.

In the 1901 Census William gave his age as 24 and his birthplace as Paddington, Middlesex. As yet, no trace of William's birth in Paddington has been found. William's daughter, May Lillian, gave the information that he had given her an old photograph (since stolen) of her Grandfather and Great Grandfather standing beside a horse and dray which they used in their work as draymen. She recalls that they had 'a foreign look' about them, but that this may have come from working outdoors.

She also said that William's father was killed by his horse when it bolted. She had no knowledge of his mother's name, but knew that he had a brother named James whom she met once as a child, and who gave her a sovereign.

Joan Randle, Member No. 7272

125 Ansley Common, Nuneaton, Warwickshire CV10 0PR

Note: Burton-upon-Trent Union Workhouse records, including admissions and discharges 1880-1930, are at Lichfield Record Office.

BREDGAR ROAD

For many years I have tried without success to find a photograph of Bredgar Road before it was developed in the ?1970s.

My maternal grandparents, Maud and William GERMAN lived at No. 23. When they moved there about 1908 it was called Langdon Road, its name being changed to Bredgar in 1937. It runs into Junction Road near the Archway Station, this location being variously described as in Upper Holloway, Highgate or Islington, N19.

Whilst having family photographs taken in the garden at the rear of the house, any of the facade have eluded me despite contacting numerous archives. Any new clues would be very much appreciated.

Ms Christine Dean, Member No. 5038

5 Garnett Street, Otley, West Yorkshire LS21 1AL

Note: Have you tried Camden Local Studies and Archives? They have over 20,000 local photographs and can be found at Holborn Library, 32-38 Theobalds Road, London WC1, Email: localstudies@camden.gov.uk

WILLMOTH/HOWSON/HOWARD

After my father-in-law died we found his birth certificate, which showed that as a child his surname was WILLMOTH. I am now seeking any information about George Aldred WILLMOTH, electro-plater, whose son Frank Leslie WILLMOTH was born in Islington on 18 April 1915 and about any marriage between George Aldred WILLMOTH and Eleanora Anne (or Annie) HOWSON, 'formerly HOWARD' (local birth certificate). Eleanora was a 'native of Horncastle' and returned to Lincolnshire with her son soon after 1915, where she married William WILSON, dying at Cranwell, aged 71, in 1951 (newspaper report of her funeral). She also had one daughter, who died in childhood.

We know nothing of George Aldred's family, and would dearly like to find out more about his fate.

John Wilson, Member No. 7299

19 Cardiff Avenue, Grimsby, North East Lincolnshire, DN36 4QD

Email: ajwilson89@hotmail.com

Note: The WILLMOTHs certainly seem to be tricky to find in the GRO indexes and also proved impossible to locate in the 1881 Census. However, there were four George WILLMOTHs in the north London area in the 1891 Census: George aged 14 in Islington; George A E aged 16 in Holborn; George F aged 29 in Hackney and Geo aged 39 in Islington. It might be worth following up these people.

PROCTOR FAMILY BIBLE

I have a large, leather-bound Cassell's *Illustrated Family Bible*, two books, which contain pages entitled 'The Family Register'. One book contains details of the marriage between John Michael PROCTOR and Alice Elizabeth ABEL in 1883; also details of births of Eunice Mary PROCTOR (1895) and John Howard PROCTOR (1897).

Free on proof of relationship or fuller details.

Margaret M. Dyson, Member No. 2603

'Braeside', Whitehough, Chinley, High Peak, Derbyshire, SK23 6EJ

Email: m_m_dyson@hotmail.com

FORTHCOMING BRANCH MEETINGS

Barnet Branch - 7.30pm for 8.00pm

Lyonsdown Hall, Lyonsdown Road, New Barnet, Hertfordshire

Thursday 17 April

Mementos Evoke Memories

Briefly Explaining Research Sagas

A variety of mini-contributions from members

Thursday 15 May

Little Italy – Clerkenwell by Tudor Allen

Thursday 19 June

Research Methods Old and New

by Jeanne Bunting

Thursday 17 July

The Society of Genealogists and its Library

by Sue Gibbons

City Branch - 12 noon for 12.30pm

Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre, Holborn Library,

32-38 Theobalds Road, London WC1.

Thursday 24 April

Coroners' Records by Kathy Chater

Thursday 29 May

Marriage by Licence by John Hurley

Thursday 26 June

Researching your Ancestor's Military Medals

by Ken Divall

Thursday 31 July

Lesser Known Sources for Family History

by Eric Probert

Enfield Branch - 7.30pm for 8.00pm

The April and May meetings will be held on a Tuesday at the Church Hall, St Mary Magdalene Church, Windmill Hill, Enfield, Middlesex.

The June and all subsequent meetings will be held on a Wednesday at St Paul's Centre, Church Street, Enfield, Middlesex

Tuesday 1 April

The History of Trent Park

by Keith Hammond

Tuesday 6 May

Master of the Seas by Meryl Catty

Wednesday 4 June

Circus Life and Families by Robert Barltrop

Wednesday 2 July

Members' Stories (30th Anniversary)

Rayners Lane Branch - 7.30pm for 8.00pm

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

Friday 11 April

The Name Game

by Meryl Catty and Audrey Gillett

Friday 9 May

The India Connection by Ian Waller

Friday 13 June

Jessie's Journal, Migration in the late 19th

Century by Geoff Bridger

Friday 11 July

Members' Archive Evening

Wembley Branch - 7.30pm for 8.00pm

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

Monday 28 April

In and Out of London by Ian Waller

Monday 26 May

No Meeting

Monday 23 June

New Southgate Cemetery by John Neal

Monday 28 July

The Lloyd George Domesday and National Farm Survey by Paul Blake

BRITISH ISLES FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY - USA

BIFHS-USA, an overseas member of the Federation of Family History Societies, is very pleased to announce the 20th Annual Seminar

Sail Into your Past Aboard the Queen Mary!

which will be held Thursday - Saturday, 7-9 August 2008,
at the Queen Mary Hotel in Long Beach, California.

Michael Gandy will be a speaker at this event.

For more information visit the website at:

www.rootsweb.com/~bifhsusa/seminar

GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE INDEXES

The General Register Office made an announcement in January regarding interim measures for viewing indexes now that the Family Records Centre has closed. This is in response to the very strong representations made by the Federation of Family History Societies and other members of the FRC User Group. It is gratifying to note that family historians have been listened to on this occasion.

The announcement stated that the Registrar General has a statutory responsibility to provide a searchable index of registration events for the general public and the intention was to fulfil this by making the indexes available at The National Archives, Kew. Many people have expressed concern about the need to travel to Kew to access these indexes.

GRO has recently reviewed its position on the availability of the indexes and has now entered into discussions with a number of sites in England and Wales on hosting the full range of GRO indexes on microfiche. Subject to arrangements being finalised, it is planned that the Society of Genealogists will provide a central London venue for access to these indexes. They will also be made available at Greater Manchester County Record Office, Birmingham Central Library, Bridgend Reference and Information Library and Plymouth Central Library, as well as TNA. Each of these sites will receive updates and replacements so that the level of GRO index information mirrors the former arrangements at the FRC. These arrangements are expected to continue until such time as the GRO is able to implement the project which will deliver free, on-line access to the GRO indexes. This is unlikely to be before early 2010, but costs and timescales will need to be discussed with the Identity and Passport Service, to which GRO will have transferred on 1 April this year.

HELP REQUIRED!

Please is anyone able to help in any way with our **website**?

Please contact the Chairman.

AIMS OF THE SOCIETY

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

SUBSCRIPTIONS

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

The subscription of £12 is effective from 1 October until 30 September the following year.

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

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UK cheques payable to: LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX FHS

PAYMENT BY OVERSEAS MEMBERS

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

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

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

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

Canadian Postal Money Orders cannot be accepted.

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

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

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