

METROPOLITAN

The Journal of the

LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX

Family History Society

30th Anniversary Edition

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July 2008

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

OFFICERS

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

OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES

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

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

Branch Representatives

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

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

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

Projects Co-ordinator : Miss Doreen Heywood

Monumental Inscriptions : Position Vacant
Co-ordinator

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

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

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

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Cover picture: Temple Bar
© Barbara Haswell

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A NOTE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Our Society set up a stall at the *Who Do You Think You Are?* show on 2-4 May at Olympia. I would like to thank all those members of our Society who helped out on the various days. Some stalwarts made the three days. Our sales were down compared to previous events hosted by the SoG at the Horticultural Hall in previous years. Despite the poor sales figures we were kept very busy pointing people in the right direction with respect to their family history and giving details of our area.

Our friends from the West Middlesex FHS had an adjoining stand, which was something we had planned at the time of booking so that we could present a united front covering most of the Middlesex area. We were able to compare notes with our colleagues from the other part of Middlesex and renew old friendships as many members belong to both Societies.

Closer working with our neighbours is something we have to think of if our Societies are to survive into the future. This has been recognised by both West Middlesex FHS, Hillingdon FHS and ourselves and on the evening of Sunday 11 May a meeting was held between Chairmen, Secretaries and Treasurers of the three Societies for an informal discussion as to how we can cooperate more closely in the future. We were able to compare notes on membership figures, journal printing costs, facilities offered to our members and publications. As a positive outcome to our talks it was suggested that (1) Each Society could publicise the other Societies' meetings. (2) A publication list of the three Societies could be put together. We all thought that the day of the microfiche was at an end and most things should be published on CDR. Furthermore as a lot of commercial firms were dealing with census, BMDs and parish registers we should stick to projects that the firms were not interested in such as MIs etc.

There is a big difference in the three societies. Whereas we have 5 branches the other two have just the one meeting. Hillingdon, although the smaller, concentrates on their local area, have a research room that is open one day each week where a member is charged £1.00. Non-members can use the facility for £2.00. There are five computers available for research purposes and of course they have the IGI and are able to go on line. As the meeting was deemed to be a success it was resolved that we have another get-together towards the end of the year.

Our Web Site is due for a revamp and following our request for help a web designer will be submitting a proposal for a web layout but we do need

photos of our area, either historical in nature or relating to our parishes. The committee has decided that the next AGM is to be held at Enfield in St Paul's Centre, 102 Church Street, Enfield EN2 6AR on 17 February 2009.

Bill Pyemont

EDITORIAL

As this METROPOLITAN marks the 30th Anniversary of the Society, the Editorial Team decided that the cover should be distinctive! The first three journals of the then North Middlesex FHS featured Temple Bar on the cover. At the time it was the gateway of the mansion at Theobalds, situated between Enfield and Cheshunt, Herts and had been removed from the City boundary at the Fleet Street/Strand junction in 1878 due to traffic congestion.

Despite its name, the Society had Enfield, Middlesex at its Northern end and the City of London at the southern one. (Indeed the name was changed to the London and North Middlesex FHS in 1990 for clarity.)

We don't know whether Temple Bar was chosen for the covers because of its proximity to Enfield or as a symbolic link between the two ends of the area but it seemed to be the obvious choice for this Anniversary cover.

Temple Bar itself was wonderfully restored from a very dilapidated condition and then installed in 2004 between St Paul's Cathedral and Paternoster Square. (The cover photo is taken from the St Paul's side.) Its original location by the Royal Courts of Justice is now marked by a plinth surmounted by one of the dragons which denote City Boundary points.

In 2001, London and North Middlesex FHS incorporated the former Westminster & Central Middlesex FHS with its two branches. Rayners Lane was the original and Joan Pyemont tells us that Wembley Branch was initially set up by Doris Jones in 1984. The meetings took place in her own house for six years until 1990, when the venue was changed to St John's Church Hall, Wembley, by which time there were too many members to continue meeting at Doris's home. The W&CM journal was called *Greentrees* and an article reprinted from November 1994 is on page 161.

The memories included in this issue of METROPOLITAN may well evoke others from our members and we would be pleased to hear of any of them.

Rosemary A Roome

Note: See METROPOLITAN Vol 29 No 2 December 2006 p87 for more about Temple Bar by L Denchfield.

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Further to Peter Jackson's article on Wills (METROPOLITAN Volume 30 No. 3) and in particular the 1672 Will of Joane Jackson.

The 'Pierepool Lane near Graise in the County of Middlesex' referred to in this Will takes its name from the Manor of Purpoole, Holborn, residence of Sir Reginald Gray, Chief Justice of Chester (died 1308). The site of the Manor House is now occupied by Gray's Inn, one of the Inns of Court. *

Gray's Inn Road runs north from High Holborn to Kings Cross. On the left hand side between High Holborn and Theobalds Road is Gray's Inn Square and Verulam Buildings. Opposite Verulam Buildings is Portpool Lane which appears to be a corruption of Purpoole.

* Source: *The London Encyclopaedia*. Editors Ben Weinreb and Christopher Hibbert. Published by Papermac. ISBN 0-333-45817. This publication is an invaluable source to virtually everything connected to London and its environs both past and present and is highly recommended.

Anne Prudames, Member No. 254

When I was reading the current issue of METROPOLITAN, I noticed what Anne Prudames said in her report of the Haringay Local History Day about the need for an Anglo-Polish FHS.

I would just like to point out that the Anglo-German FHS can advise on Polish research, indeed about half or more of what is now Poland was part of Germany or Austria-Hungary from the 1770s until the 20th Century. The rest was Russian but we can still help. Of course, if your ancestry was Jewish, the Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain can help, wherever your ancestors come from.

While there is no Polish Family History Society in the UK, I can recommend the Polish Genealogical Society of America, who are at: www.pgsa.org They publish an excellent quarterly magazine, *Rodziny* (in English!) and US\$ membership fees and prices are currently very cheap! You can subscribe online.

Perhaps I should stress that, in the absence of other Societies, the Anglo-German FHS will try to help with advice on research in any country that used to be part of the German or Austro-Hungarian empires – and that covers most of east and central Europe! I hope that this is of some help.

Peter Towey, Non-Member, Anglo-German FHS

I am a new member of the London Westminster & Middlesex FHS and you have kindly sent 2 previous editions of METROPOLITAN. In the December 2007 one, page 53, there is a photo and Alan Baldwin asks if anyone recognises any faces.

The gentleman with glasses on the right-hand end of table D – sat twisting round for the photo – I believe is my Grandad. He was Edward John BARNES (born in Canfield Place, Finchley Road) and I believe it to be a ‘ladies night’ at a Masonic dinner. The lady sat next to him I believe is Doris Minnie (née FELTHAM) my Grandma, although she died before I was born. I am currently trying to find out all that I can about Thomas Edward BARNES – his father – who I believe was born in Rotherhithe in 1871 or 1872.

Really enjoyed reading the magazines.

Iona Armitage, Member No. 7308

I have been researching my family history for about 25 years now and have, for some time, been a member of various Family History Societies in areas where my ancestors originated. I decided to join our Society, which covers the area where I live, for two main reasons. One was that I could attend meetings where I could meet other local researchers and learn from the lecturers. The other was that exchange journals were available to borrow at these meetings. I could have a quick look at an issue to see if it contained anything of interest to me and then take it or not.

Inevitably, almost immediately the exchange journals ceased to be available at meetings. Sometime later they reappeared again but due, I believe, to the poor health of the person organising this, stopped once more. I have been eagerly awaiting their return ever since.

The Postal Borrowing Scheme does not appeal to me. There has been no mention in METROPOLITAN or elsewhere of any article that has appeared in any of the Exchange Journals, which might have tempted me to borrow one. I am a very busy woman and it would be a waste of my time and money borrowing journals on the off-chance that there would be something interesting in them for me. Just because the Postal Borrowing Scheme for exchange journals has failed it does not mean that they are not wanted.

I, for one, would be delighted to see a return to the previous system whereby exchange journals were available to borrow at branch meetings.

Elizabeth Burling, Member No. 4992

Jackie Cassidy asked, in April's METROPOLITAN, whether any members of LWMFHS had discovered links between their ancestors. Janet Trickett, Member No. 418, and I have stood beside each other at the refreshment table at our Society's AGM for the past three years and helped out at our stall at the annual SoG FH Fair for several years, but had never had time to discuss our respective family histories. So there we were again this year at the AGM in January and we started talking....

- Janet - 'I'm researching a Thomas BURGESS'
 Doreen - 'Are you? So am I'
 Janet - 'Mine is in Hertfordshire'
 Doreen - 'So is mine'
 Janet - 'Funnily enough, my Thomas married an Emma BURGESS'
 Doreen - 'So did mine – at North Mimms'

At which point we gaped at each other and then launched excitedly into further discussion and it transpired that Janet's Great Grandfather, Thomas BURGESS, was the brother of my Great Grandmother, Sarah SHEPPARD (née BURGESS) and they were born at Peters Green, in the Parish of Kimpton, Herts, which makes us third cousins.

Various documents and photos have been exchanged as we bring each other up to date on our respective sides of the family.

Doreen Heywood, Member No. 1694

In preparing a handwritten receipt book for publication (*Georgian Cookery: Recipes and Remedies from 18th century Totteridge*) we encountered the flourishing BENNETT (variously spelt) family and their successors in some activities, the WITHALLS. Merely listing their appearances on the Totteridge vestry, often as parish officers, fills some 7 typescript A4 pages.

Between 1761 and 1805, 5 members of this clan were buried in Totteridge after having died nearby in Whetstone. One other, William GILBEY, an ostler who worked in Whetstone for one of the clan, was similarly transported for burial in Totteridge.

Movement from Whetstone to Totteridge meant not only changing the parish but also the ecclesiastical district and the county from Middlesex to Hertfordshire. That struck us as unusual. Is it? Have members of LWMFHS met this situation? It has left us wondering whether we – and others in

similar circumstances – should have pursued our enquiries more assiduously in nearby parishes.

The BENNETTS and WITHALLS seem to have virtually died out before the change of century – or have they instead come to be buried – and perhaps baptised and married – elsewhere? Might they still reside in Totteridge but not appear in the scant non-vestry records of the time?

Veronica and Philip O'Donoghue, Non-Members

Note: According to *The National Gazetteer* 1868 Whetstone was a hamlet and chapelry in the parishes of Friern Barnet and Finchley and it did not have a churchyard of its own in the 18th Century. The family obviously had close connections with Totteridge and it is probably for this reason that they are buried there.

It is always awkward at county boundaries - by just moving across a street people could change parish and county. Ecclesiastical jurisdictions are not defined by county. Phillimore's *Atlas of Parish Registers* shows parishes, counties and ecclesiastical jurisdictions, details of records and where they are deposited. An invaluable work of reference - a copy should be available in local libraries.

I would like to advise you of some forthcoming meetings of the London Branch of the Birmingham and Midland Society for Genealogy and Heraldry in the hope that the topics may be of interest to your members.

Our next meeting is at 10.30am on Saturday 5 July at the SoG, 14 Charterhouse Buildings, Goswell Road, London EC1M 7BA. The subject is *Off the Beaten Track: The West Midlands* and the speaker is Doreen Hopwood. Doreen is based at Birmingham Central Library and is a regular contributor to family history magazines and journals. Her talk will be particularly useful for anyone researching ancestors in the West Midlands.

Our following meeting will be on Saturday 4 October, again at 10.30am at the SoG, when Fred Feather will talk on *Police Records*.

There is a small charge of £1 for attending each meeting and I hope that some of your members may be able to join us. If any of your members would like to go on a mailing list they should feel free to contact me.

David Kerr, Non-Member

Chairman, London Branch, BMSGH

Email: david.b.kerr@btinternet.com

The Phillips Worldwide DNA Project was started several years ago in the USA. At present, most of the participants are Americans, although there are also Canadians, Britons and Australians. More participation from the British Isles and mainland Europe is sought in an attempt to identify the deep roots of all Phillips families worldwide and help prove geographic migration patterns. As of April 2008, the project has more than 260 participants and 32 separate, unrelated families of Phillips have been identified through Y-DNA analysis. In addition, the project has over 70 men whose Y-DNA does not match anyone else in the project, proving that all men named Phillips do not descend from a single Phillips family. If you are a male Phillips (or any variation of the name Phillips) and you live in the United Kingdom, Ireland or mainland Europe, the Phillips Worldwide DNA Project may be willing to pay for your basic 12 marker Y-DNA test if you are willing to supply a Phillips pedigree that traces back at least five generations. If you would like to take advantage of this offer to participate in a fascinating and informative project, please contact Shannon Phillips at phillipsdnaproj@aol.com or Nancy Kiser at nancy2kiser@yahoo.com. You may also contact Richard Phillips at 4 High Street, Badsey, Evesham, WR11 7EW by regular mail. To read more about the project and how DNA analysis works in conjunction with traditional genealogical research, see the project websites at <http://www.worldfamilies.net/surnames/p/phillips/index.html> and also at <http://www.familytreedna.com/public/PhillipsWorldwide/>

Richard Phillips, Non-Member

We recently read in the *Daily Telegraph* a letter regarding grottoes. We both remember these before WWII in North London but have no idea why they were made. Does anyone know the history of these - is there a special date or tradition of making them - is it primarily a London tradition? Your memories would be appreciated

Dee West, Member Nos. 1523 and 1539

Federation of Family History Societies

All general correspondence should now be sent to: The Federation of Family History Societies, PO Box 8857, Lutterworth, LE17 9BJ
Telephone: 01455 203133, Email: info@ffhs.org.uk

WANTED – A NEW TREASURER

After almost ten years in the post I have decided that the time has come for me to spend more time with my family. I will therefore stand down as Treasurer effective from the end of the Society's financial year-end on 30 September 2008. This date will give my replacement the opportunity to start a new year under his/her own steam and using a preferred bookkeeping system.

In brief, the Treasurer's duties comprise:

Prompt payment of all the Society's debts, but ensuring that the bank account is not overdrawn.

Drawing, signing and despatch of cheques, obtaining countersignatures where appropriate. The majority of bank deposits are made by the Membership Secretary, with only rare deposits by the Treasurer.

The recording of all receipts and payments (in liaison with the Membership Secretary and others).

Presentation of reports to the Executive Committee at its periodic meetings and attendance at those meetings.

Preparation of annual accounts for presentation to the Executive Committee and to the members at the Annual General Meeting.

Skills required are:

Elementary bookkeeping. All that is required is an analysed cash book system, although this could be a manual cash book, computer spreadsheets or computer bookkeeping software.

Some knowledge of the preparation of annual accounts on an accruals basis rather than a cash basis. I can be on hand to give assistance or guidance if this is required.

Time required is variable but under normal conditions does not exceed more than a few hours in a week. Society debts need to be paid promptly, but the actual bookkeeping can often be done later when convenient.

Anyone interested, and living in a convenient neighbourhood, should contact me in the first instance at brian.green@tesco.net. Without a Treasurer, as with any other Officer, the Society cannot function.

J Brian Green, Treasurer Pro Tem.

SUBSCRIPTION RENEWALS

Current subscriptions are £12.00 per annum, payable in Sterling.

Members are reminded that **all** subscriptions are now renewable on the 1 October each year and if not paid by 31 December, membership may be lapsed. A renewal form will be included in the October METROPOLITAN, individual reminders will not be sent to members, but a final general reminder will be inserted in the December journal.

A number of you pay your subscriptions by bank standing order and need take no action. This method has the benefit of ensuring that subscriptions are paid promptly and relieves members of the need to remember to write a cheque and post it. It also relieves the Membership Secretary of some of her work, particularly the need to bank large numbers of cheques.

It would be helpful if more members would use a standing order and if you would like to take advantage of the facility, now is the time to request a bank mandate form from the Treasurer. If you are ultra modern and use online or telephone banking, please inform the Treasurer in advance of the renewal date.

A WORD OF CAUTION

As a member paying by bank standing order it is **your** responsibility to ensure that your bank pays the correct amount on the correct date. There have been instances of banks paying old and new subscriptions, either in the same or different months; in one case a new subscription was paid monthly instead of annually. The refunding of such overpayments also places an unnecessary burden on the Treasurer and Membership Secretary. The Society cannot issue instructions to members' banks and each mandate clearly states that it cancels all pre-existing mandates in favour of the Society. Will those of you who use bank standing orders to pay subscriptions please check your bank statements and, if any extra subscription is noted, instruct your bank to claim a refund through the Society's bank. Please make it clear that, as the incorrect payment arose from a bank error, the bank should initiate any correcting action.

A FAMILY FROM EUROPE

By Eileen Blythe, Member No. 2

If like me, you are confronted with a family from overseas who you know nothing about and there is no older generation to help you, where do you start?

Well I had a marriage certificate dated June 1848, from the London City Church of St Leonard's, Foster Lane, which I had found on the IGI index many years ago. That's when I first found out that my father's grandmother was half German, although born in East London.

Grandmother was born Martha STUHR in May 1851 in St George in the East, Stepney, East London, daughter of Martha GROVES and Gerhard STUHR. He was 43 and she was 24, he was a Sugar Baker, his father Henry STUHR was a Farmer, Martha's father Samuel GROVES was a Ticket Porter. With the help of Martha's birth certificate I found them in the 1851 census, but that was not easy as they were listed as STEWART. So I found them by using their first names, which is only possible now because of computers. Gerhard had given Germany as his place of birth and I had no other information and no one to ask about his origins.

Having made contact with the Anglo-German FHS there was help to hand - an Index of German sugar workers who were employed in the sugar refining business in London, Liverpool and other large cities, where the workers were employed by the many small sugar refiners. Gerhard was not listed, but there was a Luder, a Henry, and William STUHR in this index. This did help me, as it led me on to the Church Registers of the German Lutheran Church in Great Alie Street, Stepney, East London which I had never heard of before and are not on the IGI. Again there was an index to help via the AGFHS. At this stage I was just collecting any information on the STUHR family and hoping that they might be related to my Gerhard. The registers contained the lives of these 3 men:

Baptism Index

Heinrich Herman, baptised April 1828, son of Wilhelm & Maria Ann STUHR (née MIDDLEDITCH)

Thomas Casper, baptised October 1848, son of Luder & Margartha STUHR (née GEILS) of Maienbach.

Marriage Index

Nil

Burial Index

Heinrich STUHR aged 35 was buried September 1849

Luder STUHR aged 28 from Maienbach was buried September 1849

William STUHR aged 39 was buried January 1837

I sent to Tower Hamlets Library at Bancroft Road for a copy of the Burial Register entries, as at the time I was doing this research the deaths were not listed online in the RGO death records of Ancestors.co. In the entries for Luder there was the name Maienbach and in the 1861 Census I found my Gerhard still alive, his place of birth was given as Hanover. Slowly I was making progress and it was so much easier with a computer. Later I found Gerhard's death certificate dated August 1866 in Whitechapel.

More help from AGFHS: Firstly a list of passengers arriving in the UK from the ports of Germany from 1848 onwards. There was H STUHR and the name of the ship *John Bull*, Hamburg to London December 1848; then, an index of names from the German Lutheran School in Great Alie Street. Martha was listed for a few terms in 1859 and 1860 but marked as leaving after two years; thirdly an index from the Ladies Clothing Society who helped families in need. Mary Ann and her 9-year-old son Heinrich Herman are listed as receiving help in 1837.

So now I needed to find out where Maienbach was in 1850 as this was my only lead. It proved to be a bit difficult as the spellings have changed over the years with all the changes that have taken place in Germany. I used the search services of the AGFHS to no avail (thanks to Ted for his time and efforts). Then I tried the modern telephone directories and wrote to 10 people with the name STUHR living in and around Hanover, Germany - no luck with that avenue. I did have two replies but they only had information back to their grandfathers and they both came from small towns along the river Elbe which I discounted as being too far away from Hanover. Next I tried going on a trip to Hanover in February, which turned out to be a much better idea. I found that there are two Record Offices in Hanover, one for the City records and the other for Church records in the State of Hanover, which happens to be a very large area. The very helpful staff found the right village for me in the north of Hanover State, which was Meyenburg,

just 10 km north of Bremen; I had a quick look at the microfiche for the village and found a reference to a member of the STUHR family in 1808 so it looked very promising. As I do not speak or read German, I felt I had been very fortunate to make some positive progress, as I had arrived to do my research without an appointment and 10 minutes before closing time, which is 12 noon on Fridays. The very helpful staff had let me stay for an hour after they had officially shut.



Milk maids in front of the Stuhr Hoff, taken about 1924

On my return home I wrote a letter to the village Church in Meyenburg in English and found how to translate it into German on my computer, printed it and sent it off. I found it was very uplifting at last to make my own requests in German. Four months later, still no news from Germany, so as my husband was planning to travel by car and ferry to Cologne and visit friends in the Ahr valley in the September, I was planning to go with him via Bremen !!

We arrived in the village on a sunny Sunday in September and made straight for the Church and looked round the Churchyard but did not find any headstones for my family. So on Monday morning we visited the Church office, my letter was sitting on the desk and had not been dealt with

but ‘Not to worry’ said the very busy clerk and produced the Parish Registers all neatly typed up and in alphabetical order. I was so taken aback, within 10 minutes I had Gerhard and all his siblings, his parents, and grandparents and great grandparents. I was overjoyed and amazed how quickly I had all my German ancestors. So I took photocopies and we were done. I could not believe how quickly the search had been done - I had been looking on and off for many years. I was lucky again as the young female clerk spoke very good English. We gave her a present when we left as there was no charge made for her assistance, we had arrived without any appointment and had delayed her day’s office work.



Inside the Stuhr Hoff, Meyenberg, taken about 1924

So now I had all Gerhard’s family, his father, Henry a shepherd, and his mother Margreth BAUMANN. His siblings were: Frederick Wilhelm born November 1798, Anna November 1800, Herman December 1802, Gerhard February 1805, Anton September 1807, Johann Friedrich January 1810, Claus Friedrich March 1813, Hinrich February 1816, Hermann Otto June 1818, Luder February 1821. All these births are recorded as a.m. and the names of two witnesses are also recorded. Deaths are given with the age in years, months and days!

We spent 3 days in the village; we met the local historian who gave us pictures from his collection taken about the village in the 1920s which included a picture of the Stuhr Hoff, an old woman sitting inside the Stuhr family house and another with a group of people standing in front of the Stuhr Hoff. We also had a tour of the village, met the neighbour who remembers the Stuhr Hoff being pulled down in 1948; we met the man who had typed out the Parish Registers and put them online, plus other villages nearby. But sadly there was not any Stuhr family to meet as at least 3 of them came to London and died in the 1849 Cholera outbreak, because we found out that Luder and Henry were Gerhard's brothers and Wilhelm might have been the eldest brother born 1798, baptised Frederick Wilhelm.

The village is a conservation area so had not changed very much. There was still strip farming going on, (the soil was just grey sand) and most of the houses had a date over the door which was mainly between 1845-1870. The houses were really barns, single storey and very long, with high steep roofs. The walls were brick with hardly any windows, some roofs were still thatched and they still survived in about 75% of the village. Farming was still the main occupation although Bremen was getting closer.

All in all it was a very successful trip and we were able to pass on the family history news from London. Back home I was soon on the website for Meyenburg and I found my family lines back a few more generations plus a few more side shoots back to 1645. So my new family includes, BAUMANN, FICKEN, KUCK SUHR, TIETJEN, WENDELKEN and WOLTMANN.

Web sites used: www.familysearch.org
Hanover Research: www.hist.de/KB-hannover
Shipping List: www.uni-oldenburg.de/nausa/passfe
Sugar Bakers Index: www.mawer.clara.net/allsouces
Meyenburg Parish Registers: www.genealogy.net

Note: The Anglo-German FHS, a self-help group for anyone interested in researching the family history of people from the German speaking parts of Europe who have emigrated and settled in the UK, can be contacted at: www.agfhs.org.uk

SOME WENT T'OTHER WAY!

By Mike Fountain, Member No. 5423

Whilst tracing the history of our families, most of us find that our forbears had made their way into London from all over the British Isles. It was a chance remark from my son that made me realise that on occasion the reverse could also happen. He had asked about his forbears on his mother's side. His 'Grandpa' MORTON was born in glorious Devon, so what could I find out about this side of his ancestry? I made a start with the birth certificate of my late father-in-law Herbert Richard MORTON, born indeed at Sidmouth on 21 December 1900, the firstborn son of William George MORTON a general labourer and Emma, formerly ASHTON.

So far so good but searches through the 1901 census returns for that area failed to find any traces of these three. I recall that he had once told me that his father had served with the Manchester Regiment but nothing came to light in the Army Records at Kew. Another comment was that his grandfather, also William MORTON, had at one time been the Chief Constable of Winchester and since I have an interest in police history I decided to follow this line. My copy of *The British Police, Police Forces and Chief Officers 1829 to 2000* by Martin Stallion and David Wall shows a William MORTON holding this office from 1873 to 1892. It took a while to locate him in Winchester in the 1881 census as his name had been misspelled in the index but the entry soon demolished the claim to Devonshire ancestry as his birthplace was shown as Westminster, Middlesex.

The 1891 return gave the same information and his birth certificate then confirmed that William MORTON was born at 11 George Place, Vincent Street, Westminster on 16 April 1843, the son of yet another William (a stonemason) and Phoebe, formerly BATES. Although he was born two years after the 1841 census, William's parents William and Phoebe, together with their children George, Mary A and two year old Phoebe appear in that return living at George Place and all born in the county. The entire family seems to be missing from the 1851 and 1861 listings but 'Chief Constable' William turns up in 1871 as a 28 year old Metropolitan Police Inspector at the Hanwell police station. Since it is doubtful that he joined the MET before he was 20 years old, promotion from PC to Inspector in eight years seems to indicate rapid promotion based on ability.

I think that he was head-hunted to fill the vacancy in Winchester caused by the resignation of H HUBBERSTY, their first chief officer who served from the formation of the force in 1853 until 1873.

William MORTON died at Sidmouth on 1 February 1903 and was described as a Chief Constable of the Police (retired); the informant being his daughter Emily of Yately, Hampshire. He had shown up in the 1901 census living at Southcombe Villas, Sidmouth which might explain the Devon connection but does not account for the absence of his son William and his grandson (my Pa-in-law) Herbert Richard. There is still the question of finding more about his service with the MET and the whereabouts of his family in 1851 and 1861.

There's enough to keep me busy for a while and what I've found so far confirms that not all of our ancestors left the countryside seeking employment in London. On the contrary, some went t'other way!

THE METROPOLITAN POLICE HISTORICAL COLLECTION

Some 30,000 items of Police history, comprising the Metropolitan Police Historical Collection, are stored in a warehouse in Charlton, South London. It is hoped eventually to create a Resource Centre enabling the records to be made available to the public.

The Friends of the Metropolitan Police Historic Store are sorting the records and putting them into a database. The Friends would like to see the establishment of a Metropolitan Police Museum which will reflect the long and distinguished history of this police service and are continuing to support it by collecting artefacts, written material and other items of police history to add to the collection. Former members of the Metropolitan Police can do their bit by providing a photo together with details and stories of their time in office to add to the People File, which is still very small at the moment. This will help establish a fantastic collection of police history for the future.

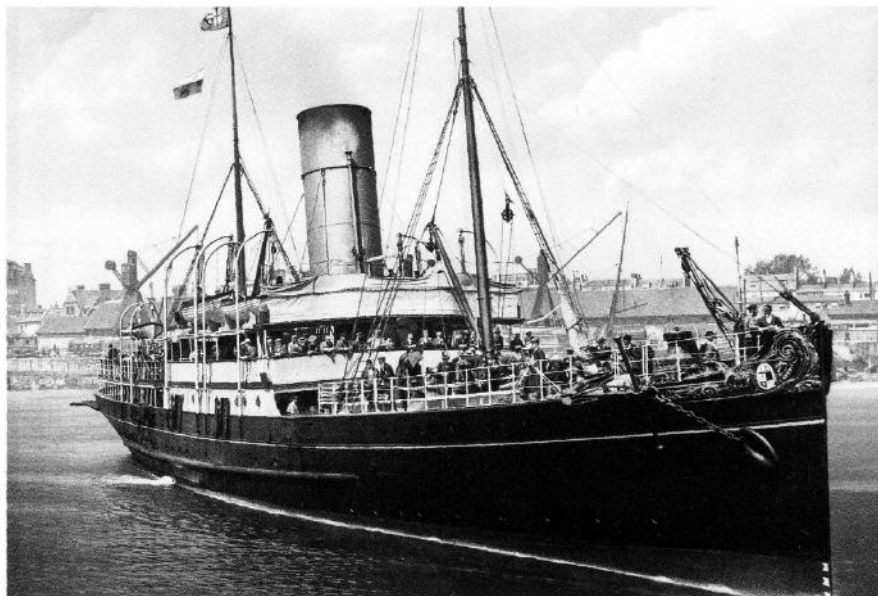
For more information visit the website (which has a lot of information for those researching police ancestors) at: www.friendsofmethistory.co.uk or write to them at: FOMPHC, PO Box 27970, London SE7 7XY

SERENDIPITY AT THE CITY

By Pauline Milner, Member No. 6993

At the long-awaited release of the 1901 census I was disappointed not to find my grandmother, Winifred WESTWICK and family. Computer searching showed two of her brothers at the Commercial Travellers' School for Orphans and Necessitous Children, in Middlesex; then a sister and two year-old brother with maternal grandparents in Herne Bay. What had happened to her parents, Thomas and Emily Mary WESTWICK? And where were my Nan and other siblings?

I read that the LMA held documents from some London schools and institutions, so was pleased to learn they did indeed hold the records of the Pinner school and looked forward to my first visit there. It was a strange feeling opening the box containing old books and papers tied with ribbon. Matron's reports on sick children and head lice made very poignant reading but the most exciting find was the new entrants' register, with a column for reason for acceptance: Albert and Roland WESTWICK, father drowned in *Stella*, 1899.



The Stella

Once home, I typed 'Stella 1899' into Google and up came many pages on this shipwreck, including reference to a book *The Wreck of the Stella: Titanic of the Channel Islands* by John Ovenden and David Shayer, published by Guernsey Museums and Galleries. This told the dramatic story of the loss of the London and South Western Railway ship, including coroner's proceedings. It also contained beautiful pictures of retrieved objects (almost 100 years later) now in the museum but the special part for me was that my great granddad was named, with a young Channel Islands boy, as first to be found and that his funeral had been held in Stoke Newington. Now, as often happens, one eventual answer raises another question: as all his adult life had been spent in South London and his parents had lived and died in Epsom, Surrey, why was he buried in Stoke Newington?

I was warmly welcomed to my first meeting at the City Branch in April. I mentioned my long-standing puzzle after the talk on Coroners' Records and two sisters advised me to try the Abney Park Cemetery website. What a lucky day meeting these ladies! I had never heard of this 1840 non-denominational garden cemetery, yet here was a burial index leading me to full reference details of not only Thomas but also his parents and four other WESTWICK relatives! (His mother and family were staunch members of the Sion Meeting House in Alnwick, Northumberland before she moved to London after marriage to a City spice merchant.) I have had other 'serendipity' days, but you will all know that they are few and far between!

Re Emily Mary WESTWICK: A witness on my grandmother's wedding certificate of 1906 was an Emily Mary WILSON. Surely another good clue? Back to the 1901 census and there she was, remarried to William Anderson WILSON with the remaining three 'lost' children under the step-father's surname. Fortunate for me that her baby was only nine weeks old at the time of the shipwreck or my distillery salesman great grandfather may have taken the whole family to Jersey for the Easter week-end and I wouldn't be here today!

Note: Abney Park Trust has a website index which will tell if a person is buried there and what details are held. It is hosted by RootsWeb and can be found via: www.abney-park.org.uk

WEBSITE NEWS

Blogs

If you don't use the Web, a blog is a 'web log' or an online diary. I have never been very interested in blogs. Those I arrived at either accidentally or through a search seemed in the main to be egotistical ramblings that were of little interest to anyone else. I have never been very interested in blogs – that is, until recently. It was a strange set of circumstances that led me to visit my first useful blog. Having been brought up in north London I feel a great affection for the 'Tube' and follow links that will lead me to anything that seems interesting about it: and there are a lot of interesting and unusual things on the Web about the Tube!

On this occasion I was on one of the photo printing sites looking at the range of print styles that were available. I liked one of the examples and clicked on it to see more and as well as giving me details of the product there was also a link to the site of the photographer of the picture they were using as their example. This was a blog called 'Diamond Geezer' and it was completely different from any I had seen before. Looking at some of his entries I realised that here was a fellow Tube lover. Another item which caught my eye was an open day earlier in the year at the Acton Depot of London Transport. I had been to that so followed a further link to see his photos of it and who should be on the first one but my husband and I queuing to get in! Since then I keep DG's blog address on my toolbar favourites and visit it almost every day. There is a search function and an index so you can look up any part of London and the outskirts to see what he has found there and his photos are on Flickr (see below).

DG also lists other blogs and again following one of these links I came upon 'London Daily Photo'. Not much writing but it does what it says: provides a photo each day of some part of London – well-known, obscure, beautiful or showing the ugly side of life. One of his collections of photos is of elephants in London. He has 23 of these so far with one being a pair of Minton elephants over 6' tall in the window of Goode's of Mayfair. They were made for the Paris Exhibition of 1889 and are the largest majolica items ever made and have a price tag of £6,000,000!

I now have a short list of blogs that I look at daily and have found them to be a great treasure store of information about London past and present. They keep me in touch with my roots and when you are writing about your

ancestors and want some background information these blogs are well worth a visit.

<http://diamondgeezer.blogspot.com/>

<http://londondailyphoto.blogspot.com/>

<http://www.ianvisits.co.uk/blog/>

<http://www.flickr.com>

Kit Heald, Member No. 3618

Mormon Emigrants to Utah, USA

Between 1847 and 1868, about 60,000 Mormon emigrants travelled on the pioneer trail across America in more than 250 companies. These companies (informal groups of people) which included freight trains, independent companies, handcart companies and various types of other companies, departed from various outfitting places. By its very nature, travel on the trail was unavoidably informal and disarrayed which may account for discrepancies in reports and accounts. Companies often divided into small divisions en route or travelled in a scattered condition, thereby arriving in the Salt Lake Valley over the period of several days.

The Latter Day Saints have a free online database which comprises the most complete listing of these individuals and companies of Mormon pioneer emigrants. It focuses on trail travel rather than railways and identifies about two thirds of the individuals who journeyed to Utah in this manner. Companies are listed under the name of their Captain and basic information is provided for each company, including a photograph of the captain where available. Where possible, a bibliography containing diaries, journals, letters and reminiscences written by company members or contemporary reports about the company are also listed, as well as details of where the source material can be found today.

To access this site you need to visit: www.lds.org and then click on About the Church, followed by Church History. At the bottom of that page is a logo of a covered wagon headed Mormon Pioneer Overland Travel (1847-1868). You can easily search the site by typing in a name. Information provided often includes birth and death dates, age at time of travel and, occasionally, contains fascinating details from contemporary diaries.

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.

EARLY DAYS

By Various Members

In the April edition of METROPOLITAN we asked if you had any memories of the early days of the former London and North Middlesex FHS (originally North Middlesex FHS) and the former Westminster & Central Middlesex FHS, which were both founded in 1978:

In 1978 I was living in Whetstone. I had been involved in family history since 1963 but was then a South Londoner and it was a very brave adventure to come north of the river (by bike) to go through the parish registers of Edmonton where my mother's ancestors had come from Hertfordshire in 1800. (I have earlier ancestors in Tottenham but those registers were already deposited in the old Middlesex Town Hall in Parliament Square).

Since 1974 it had been very interesting to see our world change dramatically as family history societies suddenly began to spring up all over the country. I was particularly involved with the Kent Family History Society as almost half my ancestry is from Kent and I had been compiling the Kent marriage index since 1969. I am Member No. 3 there (I am Member No. 6 at SoG but I didn't join in 1911!).

Access to records had also just got a lot easier as the first Mormon IGI suddenly appeared and produced a massive index to baptism and marriage registers. This was the first time we really became aware of the Mormon involvement in genealogy and the facilities they had in Salt Lake City.

The mushrooming of family history societies was just right for the enormous growth in interest which was sparked by the BBC programme *Discovering Your Family History* (1979) using the ancestry of TV presenter Gordon Honeycombe as the main example. Then came the Parochial Measures Act of 1979 which more or less compelled most Anglican parishes to deposit their parish registers in the County Record Office or equivalent. Suddenly you could search for a baptism in ten registers in a morning rather than having to make individual arrangements with each Vicar or parish clerk.

The centralisation of parish registers encouraged more transcription work by people who liked to sit indoors while the outdoors brigade began to work on monumental inscriptions. Census transcription also got underway and with the release of the 1881 census the Mormons suggested a

mammoth national indexing project, funded and organised by them and utilising FHS members.

As usual London was a special problem. Family history societies did not grow up naturally there, presumably because no group of people had the courage to found a society for the whole city. In central London much of what was wanted (lecture programme, bookshop, mutual help-groups, project work etc) was very well provided by SoG so the biggest need was for local evening meetings in the suburbs. The area south of the river was divided up naturally between the East Surrey FHS and the NW Kent FHS but north of the river nothing happened.

In the end the Federation 'took steps'. They decided to divide the area into four sections - West Middlesex, Central Middlesex, North Middlesex and East of London (not East London). This reflected the fact that the rural parts of Middlesex aren't a cohesive area and you could hardly form a Middlesex society without London. There was no point having a society for literally the square mile of the City. If you founded a 'London Family History Society' where would the boundaries be?

Then as now the people who wish to preserve the name Middlesex were very vocal. And what about Westminster which is neither London nor Middlesex though it is in both? All names which actually represented the area were unwieldy as we have found in trying to change our name in 2004. The names North Middlesex, Central Middlesex and West Middlesex did actually represent the truth up to 1888 when even areas as central as Clerkenwell and St Martin-in-the-Fields were not legally in London. Presumably someone originally suggested an East Middlesex Society and got shot down in flames.

A circular was sent round to people in the area who had recently joined SoG and they were invited to found committees. They then approached other members of SoG and all the various local history societies etc to see what interest there was and invite them to a founding meeting at St Andrew's Church Hall, Enfield.

So we all turned up on Monday 17 July 1978, liked the look of each other - and the rest is History.

Michael Gandy, President, Member No. 38

Well, I do have a few memories of 1978 and the early days of starting our own FHS. We had a lot of help from John Rayment, Chairman of the Essex FHS, Fred Filby, who helped establish the Guild of One Name Studies and the East of London FHS and Royston Gambier, Chairman of the Federation

of Family History Societies, all very experienced in the Family History world and I was not in the same league by any means.

Our first major decision was where to have a base. I lived in Enfield Town and it seemed that the East of London FHS and the FFHS had already decided on the areas of London and where the boundaries would be. Some of our group wanted our meetings to be in Hampstead or Highgate and it was very hard to ensure Enfield became the centre for our group.

I was the Treasurer and my husband became the Secretary although he did not have any interest in family history.

My memories are about putting the magazine to bed! This happened in the Editor's (Glenda Jones) sitting room, who lived nearby and we became good friends. She had the Editorial skills and I just helped to paste it up and stick all the fancy lettering in the right places, which was not easy as we both became a bit high on the fumes of the glue.

I remember my first attempt at writing an article for the magazine. I was unwell and in bed for a few days but decided to have a go.

We were amazed at how many members wanted to join. I also remember the enthusiasm of the membership and the committee. We were so excited to meet up every month and swap our latest find.

Before long we had groups meeting in different parts of our area, a courier service for ordering certificates for members who did not come to London and we started recording Monumental Inscriptions. Someone said their son had a computer (what's that?) and that we should be using one.

I made a lot of friends and learnt a lot as well.

Eileen (Moore) Blythe, Member No. 2

Do you remember.....

-Wills at Somerset House in massive tomes with iron clasps.

-Census Returns

First at Portugal Street, having to fill in a form to request a microfilm and then waiting for it to arrive.

Next in the basement of the Public Record Office at Chancery Lane where uniformed officials patrolled to ensure that rules were obeyed, eg PENCILS only.

Then on to the Family Record Centre which we all loved and miss.

CONGRATUALTIONS

Congratulations to Rufus Barnes, Member No. 6653, of Merton Road, Enfield, who retired in March after thirty years with Travel Watch, a consumer organisation involved with transport in and around London. To mark his twenty-five years as CEO of the organisation. Rufus was

rewarded with the singular honour to have a Capital Connect train named after him. The ceremony,

which took place on Thursday 19 March 2008 at Gordon Hill Station, Lavender Hill,



Enfield was attended by Elaine Holt, Managing Director of Capital Connect.



OBITUARIES

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

Mrs Valerie Birtles (membership number 2033)

Mrs Barbara Ann Williams (membership number 3925)

Mrs Williams' brother, Mr John Stratfull, wrote informing our Secretary that his sister had died on 26 January 2008 and that she had very kindly remembered the Society in her Will. We greatly appreciate this gesture.

Mrs Eileen Kewn (membership number 4907)

WHERE'S MY GYPSY?

By Mrs M Luetchford, Member No. 5494

My family had inherited their dark colouring from the paternal side and were always under the impression that it was attributed to their Great Grandfather, who it was assumed was a gypsy. He was known in the family as 'Quicksilver', a nickname earned by his speed in disappearing when there was work to be done! Those old enough to remember him told of his annual trip to Barnet Fair, a renowned horse trading venue, as his sole means of finance, and took this as an indication that he was of gypsy stock.

When I started to research his past I was daunted at the prospect of looking for a person, first name unknown, occupation none, somewhere in West London, anytime around 1870. However, experienced members of the group assured me that all things are possible with a little perseverance. Older members of the family were unable to provide me with any clues and I was wondering where to begin when I found myself in Barnet with an hour or so to spare. Mindful of 'Quicksilver's' visits I thought I'd try a 'wild card' and look around the churchyard. Sadly few gravestones remained, but I was advised that the original parish registers were intact and being held at the Hertfordshire County Record Office.

Convinced that I was on a wasted journey I made a visit to Hertford, to what has proved to be the most user-friendly of the many record offices I have been referred to. The parish records for Chipping Barnet duly revealed repeated references to the family name through the 18th and 19th Centuries. I had unwittingly found myself right in the middle, but able to work both forward and backward in time, following all the males, and by process of elimination arriving at my 'gypsy'.

His father had been born in 1821 and orphaned as a child of twelve, at which time he had been apprenticed to a chimney sweep. He was resident in the sweep's house until his marriage in 1841 to the daughter of a wheelwright from Radlett, at which time he moved to London, became a coal merchant around the Paddington canal basin, and produced a family who were easily traceable now that I had accurate names and dates to work with.

Having found no gypsy connections from the male line, I tried their wives but they were all recorded with monotonous regularity in birth, marriage and death registers and, apart from one shown on the 1881 census as 'insane', all with occupations expected for their time as laundresses, nurses or housewives and all appeared to be solid English country stock.

I then started working backwards - the Parish Records of Barnet occasionally produced references to individuals marrying from 'Idelsree' (now Elstree), Aldenham and St Albans and I turned to these areas for more clues. From here it has been possible to trace the family through the changing social patterns that history has produced, from a yeoman farmer marrying in Abbots Langley in 1558, with his considerable land interests, through the dissipation of the family property leading to pauperism and so on to the present time.

The early generation appears to have been quite lively - the Court Records for Hertfordshire in 1598 show one in trouble 'for allowing dauncing in his alehouse, at the time of evening prayer', whilst another 'insisted on profanely working his horses on the Sabbath day'. The earliest traceable gentleman, their father Thomas, married twice and had a number of sons who disputed his Will, as he had left most of his possessions to the eldest, Alexander.

His second wife appears to have been instrumental in contesting this Will with her son, William, no doubt wanting her own children included. The Wills in Latin, of his and the next generation are donating everything including their clothes. One of the Wills of 1624 left 'fustian doublet and hose, a pair of cloth hose' to a brother-in-law, 'two dozen silver buttons' to godchildren, to a horseman 'my horseman's cote', for the children on the estate 12 pence each, but William Alexander only received 'an ould suit'.

Despite this dissipation of treasure the estates appear to have remained intact and the family name appears on numerous Land Transfer documents throughout the 16th, 17th and 18th Centuries, covering large tracts of land in Hertfordshire. They were certainly paying their taxes throughout the period and in 1670 five brothers, resident in Elstree, are shown in the parish records as having paid into the fund 'towards the Redemption of English Captives in slavery under the Turk'.

From this time the parish records show only too clearly the waves of plagues and tragic child mortality. Some of the families produced ten or more children, to have only two survive infancy. In some instances whole families were buried in the same week, one can assume from plague or diphtheria epidemics, but it cannot be verified as diagnosis at that time was very vague. One old lady, who having been buried in the church crypt, was moved a week later to make way for a more illustrious parishioner and then crammed back into a corner sideways, according to a note in the burial register.

The family began to sell off large pieces of land and leaseholds in the early 18th Century, possibly because of the large number of girls they were producing, with too few boys to work the land. The money soon ran out and the remaining land was sold off during the Enclosure Movements in the area. Larger families led to further dividing of the remaining funds and as these ran out the next generation of boys became waged labourers on the land, often working on the farms that the earlier generations had owned! The second generation of labourers gravitated to larger centres including St Albans and Barnet and it was here that I completed the link.

I had one more surprise in store however - an index card at Hertford Record Office referred to a monumental brass at Abbots Langley. On visiting this, having confirmed that the brass was that of my original Thomas with his two wives, I was amazed to find the representation of a tall gaunt man, slightly stooped, with curly hair and beard framing his long face ... he could be one of the present generation! I may be biased but the experts on church brasses assure me that whilst women were usually stylised on brasses, an effort was made to represent men as faithfully as possible. As exciting as it is to find such a permanent record of one's family, it is frustrating to have to prove a family story as being inaccurate. I can find no gypsy connections despite trying all avenues and can only assume that our dark colouring was inherited along with the original Thomas's stature and looks.

But I have only gone back to the 1500s, perhaps I should look further!

This article previously appeared in *Greentrees*, the Journal of the Westminster and Central Middlesex Family History Society, Vol.14 No. 1 November 1994.

...SO WHERE WERE THEY BURIED?

By Rosemary A Roome, Member No. 2985

When the Society has a stand at a Family History Fair or similar event this question is frequently among those put to us, perhaps by a beginner who may be unfamiliar with the London area or perhaps by someone who is only too aware of the difficulties in tracking down the spot where an ancestor rests. In either case we do our best to help and we explain that there is no central record of burials as there is for deaths. With the introduction of Civil Registration in 1837, the death certificate shows the date, place and cause of death among other information and burial cannot be carried out without it but burials are recorded where they take place. Traditionally, this occurred in the parish churchyard and some of the Church of England parish registers date from 1538. From the 17th Century other religious groups such as Baptists, Independents and Quakers (and later Catholics) founded their own chapels and made their own records. (The Jews, banished from England in 1290 and only allowed to return legally in 1655, had separate arrangements.)

The Great Plague of 1665 resulted in many deaths as burial registers testify. Churchyards in the City of London were especially overwhelmed and plague pits were dug outside the City in order to cope with the number of dead. Those buried in the churchyards were recorded in the Parish Registers but there was no ceremony or mourning or record for those buried in the plague pits. (Their locations are largely unknown and have long since been built over.)

Before the Great Fire of London in 1666 there were 97 parish churches, with tiny churchyards, within the City walls. The fire destroyed or damaged most of them and 35 were not rebuilt. The parishes still existed however and each was united with a surviving one, although they often maintained their own separate registers for a time. City of London parish registers are held by the Guildhall and its very useful *Research Guide 4* (7th Edition 1999) gives details of them, register transcripts and related records. It also shows the union of parishes at the time of the Great Fire and those which have taken place subsequently.

Although the Churches were lost, the churchyards have often survived but

they are not necessarily obvious. Visitors to the garden alongside St Paul's Cathedral usually ignore the notice board which reads:

St Paul's Churchyard

This garden was first laid out as an open space in 1878 and combines the ancient burial grounds of the Cathedral Church of St Paul, St Gregory by St Paul and St Faith under St Paul.

The restored railings are a very early example of cast iron work dating from 1714.

St Paul's Churchyard is managed by the Corporation of London, by agreement with the Dean and Chapter of St Paul's.

Banned from Churchyard burial by their refusal to use the Church of England Prayer Book, Nonconformists were buried without the ministrations of Anglican Clergy in their own burial grounds. The well-known Bunhill Fields burial ground is just north of the City in the London Borough of Islington. By the time it closed in 1854 around 123,000 people had been buried there and the records for 1713-1854 are at The National Archives, Kew (TNA). The Guildhall has other Bunhill material including interment order books for



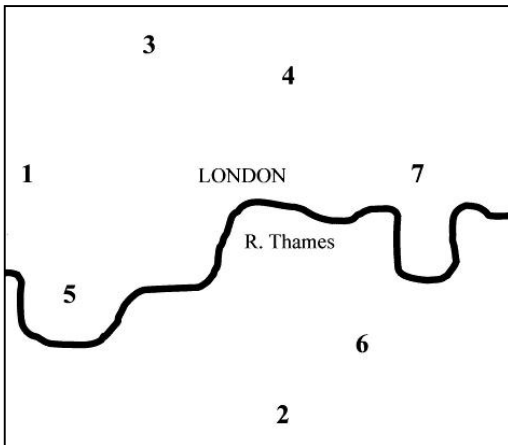
Bunhill Fields

1789-1854 and a record of the Monumental Inscriptions as they were in 1869. Family Historians who visit the London Metropolitan Archives (LMA) may not know that, thanks to the Countess of Huntingdon, the small park opposite called Spa Fields was also a Nonconformist burial ground from 1795-1854 with over 100,000 burials. These records are also at TNA.

The increasing population brought pressure for burial space in London so Churches sought space in areas on what was then the outskirts of town. Thus, for example, in 1788 Parliament granted the parish of St James, Piccadilly permission to acquire an additional burial ground at Hampstead

Road, near what is now Euston Station. Much greater demand for burial space was to follow as London's population more than doubled (from around 1 million) during the first half of the 19th Century. Indeed by about 1820 many of the parish churchyards were full, especially in the City, and bodies were scarcely buried, causing health hazards to the living. Cholera came to London for the first time in October 1831, killing more than 6,000 people in a few months. Again, parishes were overwhelmed as in 1665 and the burial pit system had to be revived.

Private enterprise provided a solution to the overcrowding with the formation of cemetery companies. They bought land out of town, sold shares to raise finance for development, building Chapels etc and then sold plots to the public. The Act of Parliament to establish a 'General Cemetery Company for the internment of the Dead in the Neighbourhood of the Metropolis' received Royal Assent in July 1832. Thus Kensal Green, London's first commercial cemetery, was established. (Shown as **1** in the



plan, left.) It covered 72 acres of land with separate chapels for Anglicans and Dissenters and the Bishop of London consecrated the 47 acres of the Anglican part on 24 January 1833. In a similar way, six other cemeteries were established around London by various companies within ten years. They are collectively known as The Magnificent Seven.

2 West Norwood Cemetery was consecrated in 1837 as the South Metropolitan Cemetery and has 40 acres.

3 Highgate Cemetery (1839) has 37 acres.

4 Abney Park Cemetery, Stoke Newington, 32 acres, was for Dissenters, as Bunhill Fields was becoming full. It was therefore not consecrated by a Bishop but was opened by the Lord Mayor of London in 1840.

5 Brompton Cemetery was consecrated in 1840 as the West of London and Westminster Cemetery and consists of 40 acres.

6 Nunhead Cemetery (1840) has 52 acres.

7 Tower Hamlets, consecrated in 1841 as the City of London and Tower Hamlets Cemetery, has 29 acres.

Legislation in the 1850s forced inner London churchyards or burial grounds to close and the parish burial registers ceased. After this, burials took place at non-denominational cemeteries further out of London. The movement of London's people, whether living or dead, was ever outwards.

Some new Legislation, 1852-1857, established Burial Boards across the country and these public authorities provided most of the new cemeteries. Among those which were established around this time were:

- Victoria Park Cemetery, Hackney, London E3, consecrated 1853
 - City of Westminster Cemetery and Kensington Cemetery, both on one site, (1854) and now known as Hanwell Cemetery, London W7. The parish of St George Hanover Square bought land at this site
 - Islington Cemetery and St Pancras Cemetery, East Finchley, London N2, (1854)
 - Brookwood Cemetery, Woking, Surrey (1854). A vast multicultural cemetery of 500 acres with over a quarter of a million people buried in it and with its own private railway until 1941 to transport coffins and mourners from Waterloo. The parishes of St Anne, Soho, St Margaret and St John, Westminster bought parcels of land at Brookwood. The cemetery competed with others for annual contracts tendered by several London Boroughs for the burial of their poor and 'probably buried half of East London'
 - Paddington Old Cemetery, Kilburn, London NW6 (1855)
 - St Marylebone Cemetery, East Finchley, London N2 (1855) and now known as East Finchley Cemetery
 - City of London Cemetery, Manor Park, London E12 (1856)
 - Tottenham Cemetery, White Hart Lane, Tottenham, London N17 (1856)
- Many others have followed. Cremation became legal in 1884 and Golders Green crematorium opened in 1902. Subsequently crematoria have been added to many cemeteries.

Some information about an individual should have been gathered before seeking a burial place in Greater London. For a death after 1837 there should be a death certificate, there could also be birth/marriage certificates and census information from 1841 with family details, places of birth and abode. There is less information pre 1837 but, in addition to churchyards and burial grounds, there is only Kensal Green Cemetery to consider.

As always, ask relatives about the existence of a family grave, wills with burial instructions, grave plot deeds, newspaper reports, service sheets etc.

Details of burial registers for the City of London parishes are in the *Guildhall Library Research Guide 4** (see text) and registers for Middlesex parishes are at the LMA or Westminster City Archives. NB Local Studies and Archives Centres often have useful background information.

Useful indexes: Boyd's London Burial Index (at Guildhall and SoG) covers 243,000 adult male burials in London and Middlesex 1538-1853 *but* it omits many parishes, burial registers, cemeteries and years; the City of London Burial Index of over 35,000 entries, 1813-1853. Both are online at: www.originsnetwork.com. The National Burial Index has 149,000 burials in our area and can be found at: www.findmypast.com.

Greater London Cemeteries and Crematoria, 7th Edition, 2005* compiled by Patricia S Wolfson, revised by Cliff Webb is *essential* reading as it lists:

- local cemeteries/crematoria within the present local authority and shows the pre-1965 authority also

- non-denominational cemeteries/crematoria alphabetically, showing: name and address of cemetery, location of Burial Registers, date Registers begin, whether you can carry out research (and fee if applicable)

- restricted cemeteries/crematoria (Army, Navy, Roman Catholic) with details as above

- Jewish Cemeteries, under four headings: Orthodox-Ashkenazi; Orthodox-Sephardi; Reform; Liberal

A cemetery may have: an information leaflet about its history etc; plot books and grave books; a website (a few include records); periodic tours.

Photographs of many London Cemeteries are available online at: www.londoncemeteries.co.uk

London Cemeteries by Darren Beach, Metro Publications 2006, £6.99, This chunky pocket sized book is of general interest and includes practical information such as access details.

Finding a burial may not be easy. Maps may help with the nearest possible locations but cemetery burial could be far away. Good Luck!

* From our Bookstall Manager:

Guildhall Library Research Guide 4: City of London Parish Registers
133 pages

GLP04 £5.95 Bookstall, £7.10 UK, £8.45 Europe, £8.75 Surface

Greater London Cemeteries and Crematoria 46 pages

SOG06 £4.95 Bookstall, £5.65 UK, £6.15 Europe, £6.65 Airmail

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Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, NR31 ONL
Tel. 01493 655222
E-mail: david@ppfimages.co.uk

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.

UNWANTED CERTIFICATES

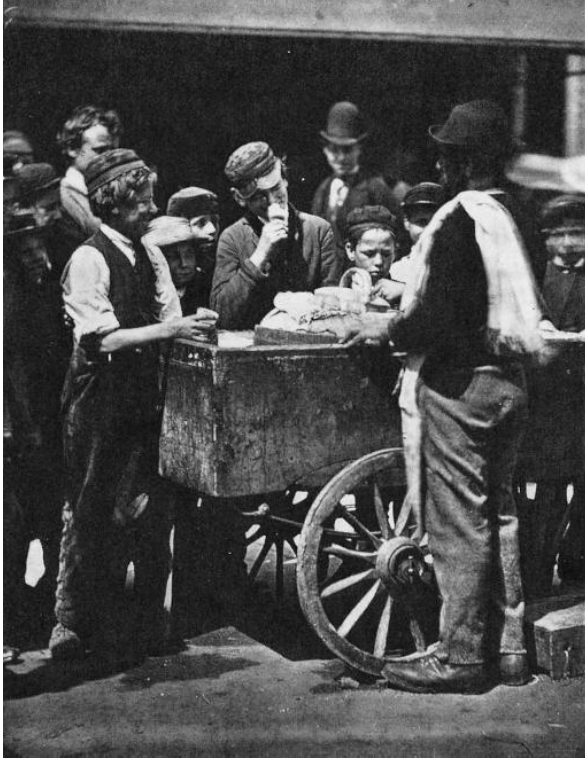
Jean Barnes, Member No. 6649 has sent in the following certificate in case it might be of use to someone else. Please contact the Editors if you would like it.

Birth: Ann JENNINGS, daughter of John JENNINGS, shoe master and Elizabeth, formerly ELWOOD, born 1 June 1840 at 43 Maria Street, Pearson Street, Shoreditch.

JOTTINGS FROM OUR SOCIETY'S AREA

Holborn

Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre currently has a free exhibition on the subject of 'Little Italy'. Using photographs and other archival



documents, this historical exhibition will tell the fascinating story of London's original 'Little Italy', the Italian quarter in Holborn. It will cover the history of the community from its origins in the early 19th Century through its height in the late 19th and early 20th Centuries up to its decline in the post Second World War period.

The exhibition will cover all aspects of the Italian quarter – the occupations, the living conditions, the leisure pursuits and the

institutions of Holborn's Italian people. With its organ grinders, colourful processions, ice cream sellers (see picture above), and dramatic incidents, it is a story full of life and colour.

The venue is Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre, 2nd Floor, Holborn Library, 32-38 Theobalds Road, London and the exhibition will run until Saturday 27 September 2008. It is open at the following times: Monday 10am-7pm, Tuesday 10am-6pm, Thursday 10am-7pm, Friday 10am-6pm, Saturday 10am-1pm and 2pm-5pm.

**Tudor Allen, Senior Archivist,
Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre**

British Library Newspaper Collection (at Colindale)

The British Library holds the finest newspaper collection in the world, providing extensive coverage of the UK over the past 300 years. The collection comprises 150 million items from Chinese oracle bones dating from 300BC to modern-day e-journals. The British Library national newspaper collection, which is housed at Colindale in northwest London, is used by over 30,000 people every year. The Colindale library, which has a complete collection of British and Irish newspapers dating back to 1840 many of which do not exist elsewhere, was built in 1902 and started storing newspapers from 1934. It receives a free copy of every issue of UK newspapers and magazines through Legal Deposit bringing in 13,000 issues every month.

Newspapers deteriorate quickly because of the poor quality of the paper they are printed on and there are growing concerns about the fragility of the collection. 15% of the collection cannot be viewed because of its poor condition and a further 19% is at high risk and will soon have to be withdrawn from use. On 1 March 2007 the British Library announced major plans to move its historic newspaper collection to a new storage facility at Boston Spa, West Yorkshire, that will provide improved preservation facilities in order to safeguard the collection for future generations. No viewing of original copies was to be allowed at Boston Spa, the intention being that digital or microfilm copies would be made available at the British Library's St Pancras site instead.

Removal of the paper copies of newspapers was to be phased in over the period 2007 to 2011 with Colindale closing in 2012. Concerns were raised that it seemed unlikely that sufficient digital copies would have been produced by 2012 to maintain the scope of newspapers available to view. It was thought that a further five years would be needed before digitisation replaced all viewable copies placed in storage. It has now been decided that paper copies will not now be removed until 2011 and where no digital or microfilm copies exist, it will be possible to view the paper copies at Boston Spa, provided the quality of the material is not too poor. Where digital copies exist, it is expected they will be freely viewable in both St Pancras and Boston Spa. Where copies are on microfilm it is believed that they will be viewable only in London.

British Library Newspapers is at Colindale Avenue, London NW9 5HE. Open from 10am-5pm, Monday-Saturday. For more information Tel: 020 7412 7353 or visit: www.bl.uk

City of Westminster Archives Centre

The GRO microfiche are now all at City of Westminster Archives so that Londoners can still search these for free without the need to travel to Kew. There are two new fiche readers to help cope with demand. These fiche include:

Births and Deaths to 2007

Marriages to 2006 and Civil Partnerships 2005-2007

Adoptions to 2007

Overseas Records to 2006

You can contact City of Westminster Archives Centre at 10 St Ann's Street, London SW1P 2DE, website: www.westminster.gov.uk/archives or telephone: 020 7641 5180.

Dorset FHS Open Day, Sunday 9 March

We made an early start and as Glynice Smith drove from North London to Poole spring sunshine appeared. There was a warm welcome for us and we were able to unload the car quickly thanks to the helpers and trolleys provided. (A great service – and tea/coffee too!) Maps of London and of our area helped in dealing with a range of queries and it was good to meet some of our Southern members during a lengthy but worthwhile day.

Rosemary A Roome

Buckinghamshire Family History Society OPEN DAY

Saturday 26 July 2008 from 10am – 4pm
The Grange School, Wendover Way, Aylesbury.
Free entry and free parking

Bucks FHS databases, libraries and publications will be available to help you search for your Buckinghamshire ancestors.

Other FHSs, including **London Westminster & Middlesex FHS**, Buckinghamshire local history organisations and suppliers of family history products will also be there making a great day out for family historians.

Guest speaker will be Nick Barratt from *Who Do You Think You Are?*

Tea/coffee available throughout the day but bring a packed lunch!

For more information visit: www.bucksfhs.org.uk

Please set out your *Help!* request as clearly and succinctly as possible.

All surnames should be in CAPITALS.

Members may have one free entry per journal. There is a £2 charge for each

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



THREE ANNIE BRADFORDS

To say my husband's grandfather was elusive would be an understatement. Alfred Ronald LEE died in June 1953, his death was registered by one of his sons. But for most of his lifetime he was known as either Frederick LEE or Frederick MARSHALL. He had six, or possibly seven, children. To some he gave the surname LEE, to others MARSHALL. The one constant factor on all the birth certificates was the mother's name, which was Annie LEE, or sometimes MARSHALL, formerly BRADFORD. Tracing Annie BRADFORD has been a joy compared to her husband although one of the main difficulties in tracking down the pair of them is the lack of a marriage certificate and therefore no indication of who their parents were.

The 1901 Census shows the family living in Hornsey, North London, with their nine month old son. Both Annie and her son, Frederick, were born in Tottenham. The only trouble is I can find no record of a Frederick LEE having been born in Tottenham in the year before the census was taken. However I did find an Alfred Frederick BRADFORD born in June 1900 at Mile End New Town. The records for Whitechapel Infirmary indicate that Annie BRADFORD, a servant aged 20 was admitted from 20 King Street on 26 May and her son was born on 30 June. They were both discharged on 23 July but the records did not indicate where they had gone.

The 1901 census shows that Annie LEE/BRADFORD was born about 1880 and sure enough I found a birth certificate for her and traced other members of her family. She had an older brother and sister and another sister was born in 1884. Life was not kind to this family. Their father, a general labourer, died in March 1891. The children were put into Chase Farm residential school between 1891 and 1900. Their mother appears to have been in the workhouse during most of this time. The records for Chase Farm show that Annie went into service.

So I have three Annie BRADFORDs. One was mother to all the LEE/MARSHALL children. The second was born in Tottenham, spent time in

an orphanage after her father died and then went into service and the third gave birth to a son in Whitechapel. Are they one and the same? I feel they are but can't prove it. I have tried to find marriage certificates for her siblings, Sarah Louise, William James and Ellen, just in case she was a witness at a wedding but it is like looking for a needle in a haystack.

I would be very pleased to hear from anyone who may be related to this BRADFORD family from Tottenham or who have had similar problems in proving a relationship.

Mrs Gillian LEE, Member No. 4702

106 Alverstone Avenue, East Barnet, Herts EN4 8EE

Email: gillianlee07@btinternet.com

Note: According to FreeBMD an Annie Therza BRADFORD and a Rose Margaret ROSKELL married a Frederick William LEE and a Cornelius John BRYAN in the December quarter of 1898 at Westminster. I was unable to find either Cornelius or Rose in the 1901 Census so was unable to ascertain who married whom. A Cornelius BRYAN emigrated to Canada in 1901 and a Rose BRYAN in 1903, so it is possible that the other two are your husband's grandparents.

It might be worth tracking all the Annie BRADFORDs back through the 1891 and 1881 census to try to see if they are one and the same.

COLLINS/ANDERSON

I am looking for Edward Alfred COLLINS, born 1891 South Finchley. He married my great aunt Hannah Jane GOSS, known as Annie, on 4 January 1911, children unknown. Hannah was born 28 Sept 1892 at 2 The Avenue, Friern Barnet. They used to run or own a Greengrocer's shop in Finchley High Street and also had a stall in Wood Green High Road, London N22.

I am also looking for Frederick ANDERSON 1865 who married Harriet GINGER. They also had a shop in The Avenue, Friern Barnet. Their children were: Frederick Charles ANDERSON born 1889, Reginald ANDERSON born 1894 and Lillie Frances ANDERSON born 1897.

I would like to know if anyone knew any of these people and I would like to know what happened to them. Could anyone help me please?

Mrs Joan Ames, Member No. 7303

4 St John's Close, Mildenhall, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP28 7NT

Email: joanames@tiscali.co.uk

SKIPSEY/HARRIS

As an 81 year old out of town member, is there some kind person who will help me? I have been given a marriage entry at St George Hanover Square (1899-1809) for Jane SKIPSEY and John HARRIS on the 11 April 1790. I believe the Parish records would be at the Westminster Archives. I am very anxious to obtain as much information as possible, that is banns or licence. A photocopy of the marriage entry, and any further information, would be much appreciated. All expenses would be refunded.

Hopefully this will prove that my grandparents were second cousins.

Shirley Rowe, Member No. 1636

26 Aberdeen Gardens, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex SS9 3RH

Note: In the absence of some kind person helping you, Westminster City Archives will supply copies of parish register entries where the exact date and church are known for £4 per entry. Cheques should be made payable to the City of Westminster and posted, along with full details of the request, to City of Westminster Archives Centre, 10 St Ann's Street, London, SW1P 2DE. Tel: 020 7641 5180.

Banns for St George Hanover Square (1789-1994) are also there.

STANFORD

My Great Grandfather was Josephus STANFORD, born February 1849. He married Mary ASTON in May 1869 and they had children Samuel 1871, Minnie Maude 1873, Lizzie Florence 1876, Frederick Ernest 1879, Martha Virginia 1881, Josephus 1886 and Daphnis 1889.

On the 1881 Census they are living in Dudley and Josephus is described as 'Civil Engineer - Master of 10 men'. I failed to find them anywhere in the Midlands on the 1891 Census but when the 1901 Census became available I discovered that they were then in West Bromwich and that Daphnis, the youngest child had been born at Wood Green, Middlesex. The copy Certificate shows that this occurred in November 1889 at 4 Suffolk Villas, Pellatt Grove. I found them there on the 1891 Census but unfortunately Josephus is not listed, although Mary is described as 'Wife - Married'.

From evidence, which I know to be correct, I found that they must have returned to the Midlands at the very latest in January 1893 and that by September of that year, if not before, Josephus was dead. Assuming that Josephus was 'away from home' when the 1891 Census was taken this leaves a very short period when he could have passed away.

I have searched through the BMDs for many years looking for the death of Josephus STANFORD - plus all the mis-spellings of the name that I can think of but nowhere can I find a death registered. It would appear that the poor man just vanished!

I purchased an old Ordnance Survey Map of Wood Green in 1894 from which it would appear that the area is very well populated. I can see that Alexandra Park is nearby and wonder if this contains Alexandra Palace. Whatever the description 'Civil Engineer' actually meant, whether he was a road maker or builder presumably he had moved to the area for work. I wonder if there was an accident of some kind, possibly an explosion; would this make a difference to the registration of the death? Can you tell me where to look for an actual burial, be it in a municipal or church ground, also the name of the local newspaper at the time to see if there was such an accident, was it reported.

Mrs F Stocks, Member No. 6568

3 Northcote Road, Bramhall, Stockport SK7 2HJ

UN-NAMED CHURCH IN SOMERS TOWN

I have recently found an IGI Christening Record for an Agnes Elizabeth MORGAN whom I believe to be an ancestor. However, the entry merely states 'Christening 27 May 1888 Somers Town, London, England' but does not name the Church.

I have searched all the Somers Town Churches but have not been able to locate the entry. The Batch Number (1020724) relates to numerous other entries for christenings but all similarly stating 'Somers Town', so I wondered if any member had encountered the same problem and solved the question of where this Church or location was?

David Morgan, Member No. 6673

53 Mitchley Hill, Sanderstead, Croydon, CR2 9HG

Email: davidjohnmorgan@dsl.pipex.com

Note: The Batch Number mentioned appears to have originated in Honolulu, Hawaii, which seems odd and possibly incorrect! Have you checked it with The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints?

It might be worth purchasing Agnes's birth certificate (she was registered in the June quarter of 1888 at Islington) to check her address and then see where the nearest church was.

AMNER, SIMPSON, TREBBLE/COCK

I am in desperate need of help as I have hit several brick walls!

On 9 June 1856 William SIMPSON, widower of 41, (no father's name) married Ann TREBBLE, widow of 40, (Father George AMNER, Publican, deceased), they were both of 16 Great Titchfield Street, Marylebone, MDX.

On 7 February 1857 their daughter Caroline was born at 25 Union Street, All Souls, MDX. William was a Journeyman Gas Fitter and Ann was recorded as late TREBBLECOCK, formerly AMNER. I have not found them in 1851 nor 1861 Census returns, so I do not know where they were born. Neither have I found the previous marriages.

On 14 August 1876 Caroline married William HOOKER in Lambeth, SRY and Richard TREBBLECOCK was one of the witnesses. I have found no trace of him either. William SIMPSON was recorded as a Glazier but he does not appear in the 1871 Census.

I would be grateful for any info or suggestions on how I could proceed.

Gillian Shield, Member No. 2929

Bramble End, Alandale Road, Birdham, Chichester, West Sussex PO20 7QN

CORNEY

Eleanor Florence CORNEY was born 20 September 1923 at 28 Marloes Road, Kensington to Albert Charles CORNEY, coal porter and Eleanor Lucy formerly REDMAN of 36 Southam Street, Kensington. They had married on 6 July 1921.

At the age of 4 she was placed in a boarding school. She never saw her parents again. She stayed at the boarding school until she was 16. She never had any visitors and she stayed there during school holidays. Can anyone help me to unravel the mystery of my mother's Corney family? What happened to them? Who paid the school fees?

Mrs Sue Spence, Non Member

11 Brahman Court, Tallebudgera, Qld, 4228, Australia

Email: helpprogram@hotmail.com

Note: An Eleanor L REDMAN aged 2 appears in the 1901 Census at Hazelwood Court, Kensington, with her parents and two half-brothers: James R WOODHAM aged 8 and George J WOODHAM aged 7. It might be worth trying to trace descendants of these or other family members to see if family stories remain which relate to your mother.

LINTON/YEOMANS

My great-grandfather Henry LINTON married Eleanor YEOMANS on 18 May 1828 at St Martin-in-the-Fields. I'm trying to find their baptisms and parents. I've looked at several parish records round about St Martin's but no joy. Can anyone help? Any suggestions welcome.

Mrs L Milliken, Member No. 7017

36 Watling Road, Norwich NR9 9TF

Email: lmilliken36@ntlworld.com

Note: Henry and Eleanor appear at 3 Bell Street, Westminster St John the Evangelist in the 1841 census. Henry, aged 38, states that he was not born in Middlesex and then he inconveniently dies a few months before the 1851 census. With no further clues it will be virtually impossible to trace his baptism.

Eleanor is another matter. She is traceable in every census up to and including the 1881 one and in each she says that she was born about 1811 in Westminster, two specify St John the Evangelist. Have you checked there?

In 1881 she is living in Bethnal Green, described as the aunt of George HINE. He is 34 and was born in Camberwell, Surrey. It might be worth checking him back through the censuses to find out more about Eleanor's family.

WESTMINSTER

Would anyone have an old map of the Westminster area of London around the year 1700? I am especially interested in the area around and including the churches of St Margaret's and St Martin in the Fields. Also of interest, a residential square known as Hanover Square, Westminster. Is this the same square as the one we know of today?

I would require only a copy of the map, or area involved, which I would like to use to accompany an article I have written to offer for publication in an English journal. Also required, therefore, would be the owner's permission in writing to publish the map, thus enabling me to proceed.

Ms CS Teale, Member No. 7301

33 Witherden Street, Nakara, NT 0810, Australia.

Email: cs_teale@hotmail.com

BETHEL LLOYD

I have over the years been able to trace my husband's family back to 1758! but I've hit the brick wall. My husbands 4x great grandfather Evan Bethel LLOYD was born in Shoreditch (St Leonard's) on 19 January 1758, the son of John and Mary LLOYD, who went on to have 3 more children in Shoreditch before moving to Enfield, where they had 4 more. All children had BETHEL as part of their given name! The last child I have traced is Richard Bethel LLOYD, born April 1776 in St Andrews Enfield.

Did John LLOYD die in Enfield? I am trying to find a Burial or Will to establish an age for John; but where to start? None of the baptismal records in Enfield give addresses, so where could he have died?

I have searched the IGI for John LLOYDs born 1720/30 who have a BETHEL connection. Likewise John LLOYDs marrying Marys 1756ish (there are dozens) but so far no luck.

I live in Devon; time searching in London is limited, I wonder if any member has come across this Bethel obsessed family or can make any suggestions. Yours with hope.

Chris Lloyd, Member No. 7306

Westridge, Warren Rd, Bigbury on Sea TQ7 4AZ

Email: chris.clive@virgin.net

WATERS

I have followed my family back to the marriage of my maternal great grandmother Jennie ELLIOTT née WATERS, but cannot trace her any further back – I believe I have found her family but she does not appear. A Mary Jane WATERS does appear (same age) and I have come to the conclusion that Jennie was known as Mary Jane before she was married. Before following this branch of the family back further I would like to try and find something official confirming that Jennie was born as Mary Jane and to this end I am looking for the marriages of her two sisters, Elizabeth and Louisa. Both appear with their parents George and Louisa WATERS in Kensington in 1901. Elizabeth was 19, a Dyer's Ironer born in Hornsey and Louisa was 3, born Kensington. Can anybody help me?

Linda Agnew, Member No. 7256

The Moorings, 95 Bursledon Road, Hedge End, Southampton, SO30 0BU

Email: lca@soton.ac.uk

Note: Linda sent us a lot of supporting evidence for this family, too much to print here. Can anyone help her?

BARRETT

A few years ago I purchased a postcard dated 1905 of my local Dorset church, from a London Postcard Fair. In the last couple of years I decided to try and find out some information about the family involved and some social background. I have found the search fascinating (more so than my own family tree) and have come across *The Booth Report* and various other snippets of information. I don't wish to travel too far forward with the family as I don't wish to infringe on what might be considered personal information, but I would like to find out whether the individuals concerned married, had children, occupations, where they moved to and death dates. I have recently become a member in the hope of finding some new information. The request is as follows:

I am seeking information on the following BARRETT family members who were living at 4 Sheldon Street, Paddington during the 1901 census. Matthew b1851 Filkins, OXF, Elizabeth b1852 Northfleet, KEN and children: Arthur b1879 (later to become Mayor of Paddington?), Edith b1880, Walter b1882, Horace b1884, Cecil b1886, Ethel b1889, Dora b1892 and Elsie b1897, all born in Paddington, MDX. Also seeking information/photos of Sheldon Street, Paddington.

Mr R Sutton, Member No. 7341

8 Thistle Close, Christchurch, Dorset. BH23 4UP

Email: suttons@tiscali.co.uk

OVENDEN

I have an old photograph of four ladies and written on the back is '4 Generations of Ovendens'. Unfortunately no names and no date! My grandfather, Henry Bertrand OVENDEN, was born at Dean Street, Islington in 1862. His father Albert OVENDEN was an undertaker at Islington and Albert's brother Edwin William OVENDEN was an undertaker at Leyton. Henry Bertrand emigrated to Australia about 1914, nominating his wife, Edith Alice, and a son, Albert William, for passage in March 1915. I feel the photograph has something to do with his family. My father, his son Harry, was sponsored by an uncle on his mother's side and arrived in Australia in 1912 on his own, aged 17. Can anyone help me to identify the ladies in the photograph (shown opposite)?

Grace Parker, Non-Member

28 Carnation Drive, Mooroolbool, Qld 4870, Australia

Email: grace.parker@bigpond.com



FORTHCOMING BRANCH MEETINGS

Barnet Branch - 7.30pm for 8.00pm

Lyonsdown Hall, Lyonsdown Road, New Barnet, Hertfordshire

- Thursday 17 July *The Society of Genealogists and its Library*
by Sue Gibbons
- Thursday 21 August *Dating Victorian Photographs* by Tom Doig
- Thursday 18 September *My Ancestor the Brothel Keeper*
by Margaret Ward
- Thursday 16 October *Freeman of the City of London and Liverymen*
of the Stationers' Company
by Andrea Cameron

City Branch - 12 noon for 12.30pm

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

- Thursday 31 July *Lesser Known Sources for Family History*
by Eric Probert
- Thursday 28 August *Family History and DNA*
by Richard Thornton
- Thursday 25 September *Attitudes to Child Employment*
by Dr Pamela Horn
- Thursday 30 October *'Promiscuous Letters' – Naval History*
by Meryl Catty

Enfield Branch - 7.30pm for 8.00pm

St Paul's Centre, Church Street, Enfield, Middlesex

- Wednesday 2 July *Members' Stories (30th Anniversary)*
- Wednesday 6 August *Childhood in the 1920s* by Fred Carter
- Wednesday 3 September *Child Crime in the Victorian Age*
by George Smith
- Wednesday 8 October *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* a film

Please note that the October meeting is being held on the **second** Wednesday.

Rayners Lane Branch - 7.30pm for 8.00pm

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

Friday 11 July	Members' Archive Evening
Friday 8 August	No Meeting
Friday 12 September	<i>Turning your Family Tree into a Tale</i> by Kathy Chater
Friday 10 October	Personal Research Discussion amongst Members or local Branch Talk

Wembley Branch - 7.30pm for 8.00pm

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

Monday 28 July	<i>The Lloyd George Domesday and National Farm Survey</i> by Paul Blake
Monday 25 August	No Meeting – Bank Holiday
Monday 22 September	Members gathering – Branch Speaker – Chat about your own Personal History
Monday 27 October	<i>Mrs Goodwin's Little Book</i> by Meryl Catty

**West Middlesex Family History Society
OPEN DAY**

Sunday 28 September 2008 from 10am – 4pm
The White House Community Centre,
45 The Avenue, Hampton, Middlesex TW12 3RN.
Free admission and free parking. Refreshments available

West Middlesex FHS library and other resources will be available, with help and advice for those researching their families in our area.

Also attending are **London Westminster & Middlesex FHS** and other FHSs, local history societies, local archives and museums plus providers of research materials, books, postcards, etc.

For more information visit: www.west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk

**THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
and ENFIELD BRANCH**

cordially invite all members to attend a

30TH ANNIVERSARY OPEN DAY

to be held on

SATURDAY 19 JULY 2008

at

**ST PAUL'S CENTRE
CHURCH STREET, ENFIELD**

from

11.0am to 4.30pm

Come along and meet Members of the Executive Committee

Get help and advice on your research problems

Look at the displays

Browse the extensive Bookstall of Local History publications,
Research Aids and Maps for sale

or

just come along for a chat with fellow members
over a welcome cup of tea with biscuits and cake

AIMS OF THE SOCIETY

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

SUBSCRIPTIONS

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

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

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

PAYMENT BY UK MEMBERS

UK cheques payable to: LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX FHS

PAYMENT BY OVERSEAS MEMBERS

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

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

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

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

Canadian Postal Money Orders cannot be accepted.

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

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

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

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- Data from the members' list will NOT be given out to commercial enterprises.
- Anyone objecting to his or her name being on this list should write to the Membership Secretary.

