

# METROPOLITAN

The Journal of the

**LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX**

Family History Society



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**October 2008**

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Cover picture: Field of Remembrance  
© Barbara Haswell

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## A NOTE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

You may remember a request in METROPOLITAN for help with our website. This has resulted in a very kind response from Peter Walker who has set up many sites in the past. Peter is a keen genealogist who has been a member of the Society since the early 1990s and has his roots in our area. Although he now lives in Hertfordshire, he was born, raised and married in Enfield. He attended Enfield Grammar School, following which he graduated from Queens' College Cambridge with a degree in Electrical Engineering. His career of some 37 years has been spent in the telecoms industry, first in BT and then as Director of Technology at the former telecoms regulator OfTel. He is now an independent consultant. Three of his grandparents were born in Enfield and he has ancestors from there back to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. But his WALKER ancestry hails from Greenford on the other side of the County. Other ancestors came from Stanmore. He has done a lot of research on his HOLLYER antecedents which caused him to start a one-name study on the name and this led him to the role by which he is probably best known, as Chairman of the Guild of One-Name Studies.

Changes have been made to our committee structure in that Branch Representatives are no longer a feature; instead we intend to develop the Society embracing the full Society area. The Editorial Team will exist as a sub committee and following our next executive meeting we should have someone organising the input of data onto disks and transferring our microfiche to the same media. The Editorial Team and Data Entry Team can meet with the main Committee as and when required.

By the time you receive your next METROPOLITAN the new website will be up and running. With it comes some exciting and for us new possibilities, for instance we can have a members' only area accessed by password, where a plea for help can be posted and hopefully another member could supply an answer. Members' interests may well be included. Please let us know what you would like to see on the new website. We will be including old pictures together with present day photographs of Churches and places of interest within our area, so if anyone can help out in this respect it would be greatly appreciated. In the meantime I am collecting details and photographs of Parishes that were included in the former Westminster and Central Middlesex FHS Society. These will need to be amended and added to as time goes by and you may be able to assist as we may set up part of the site as a 'Wiki'.

I hear members asking: "What is the new address?" <http://www.lwmfhs.org.uk> will take you to the home page of our new site which is still under construction but progressing apace.

To mark the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Society, an Open Day was held at the St. Paul's Centre, Enfield on 19 July. A cake was provided which was decorated with 30 yrs and a family tree showing the two original societies with links coming down to their respective branches. The day turned out to be quite successful. Joan and I returned to Enfield on 6 August and enjoyed a talk given by Fred Carter, one of our members who spoke about his early childhood in Muswell Hill.

Due to storage, distribution and lack of interest by members, the committee decided to cease the exchange journal system. Several other Societies also seem to be dropping out of the scheme.

However we will be developing our new website and members are being encouraged to submit suggestions for the site which should be forwarded to: [webmaster@lwmfhs.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@lwmfhs.org.uk)

**Bill Pyemont**

## **ADVANCE NOTICE**

The Society AGM will take place on

**Saturday 21 February 2009**

at St. Paul's Centre, Church Street, Enfield.

Details of the meeting and programme together with reports of the Officers for 2008 will be published in the December METROPOLITAN.

**Joan Pyemont**

Hon Secretary

## EDITORIAL

After the special cover for the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary edition of METROPOLITAN in July we revert to the usual colour. The cover photograph is of the annual Field of Remembrance, between Westminster Abbey and St Margaret's Church, which is organised and run by The Royal British Legion Poppy Factory at Richmond, Surrey. One of two large wreaths is shown and some of the plots laid out for more than 200 Regimental and other Associations.



The Field was started in 1928 by Major George HOWSON MC (1886-1936) who had set up the original poppy factory off the Old Kent Road in 1922. He and a few of the disabled ex-servicemen from the Factory grouped around a battlefield cross which would have been familiar to those who had served in Flanders and on the Western Front. With a tray of poppies they invited passers-by to plant a poppy in the vicinity of the cross.

Today, small wooden Remembrance crosses are provided so that ex-servicemen and women, as well as members of the public,

can plant a cross in memory of their fallen comrades and loved ones.

The Field is opened on the Thursday before Remembrance Sunday and remains open until the following Thursday evening. The dates this year are therefore: Thursday 6 to Thursday 13 November 2008.

The theme of remembrance runs through this issue. 2008 is the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of two significant events: the end of WW1 (see *Lest We Forget* by Keith Rookledge on page 22) and the formation of the Royal Air Force on 1 April 1918 by merging the Royal Naval Air Service (formed in 1912)

and the Royal Flying Corps (formed in 1914). The anniversary on Tuesday 1 April 2008 was marked by a spectacular flypast up the Thames by the Red Arrows in formation, with red, white and blue vapour trails, and a diamond order of four Typhoon aircraft in the centre. Photos of it featured in several national newspapers.

The first headquarters of the RAF was established in the Hotel Cecil, Strand, London which had been requisitioned in 1917 and the HQ remained there until the end of 1919. The hotel was demolished in 1930 and Shell-Mex House was built on the site. This large white building with its prominent clock is a familiar sight to passengers on Thames river-boats. Since its sale a few years ago it is now prosaically 80 Strand but Cecil Chambers can still be seen on the shops fronting the street.

In the entrance to No. 80, Westminster City Council has one of its Green Plaques which reads:



Underneath is the English version of the RAF motto: *Through Adversity to the Stars*, known to so many in the more familiar Latin: *Per Ardua ad Astra*. The plaque was unveiled on Sunday 30 March 2008 by Air Chief Marshal Sir Glenn TORPY, Chief of the Air Staff, prior to a full regimental parade of 61 RAF Association Standards from Lincoln's

Inn Fields to St Clement Danes Church at the eastern end of the Strand, for the annual RAF Service of Remembrance.

Note: There are new email addresses for Society contacts – see inside of front cover. The developing website looks professional, friendly and informative with links to many useful sites. Do visit it and don't forget to register for access to the Members' Area.

**Rosemary A Roome**

**Please remember that the copy date for the next issue is  
1 NOVEMBER.**

## LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

**F**urther to Linda Agnew's *Help!* piece about her **WATERS** family, my grandmother was named Jane Emily but was always known as Jennie from an early age. I have various possessions of hers, postcards, Prayer and Communion books with that name. She is in the family Bible as Jane Emily and was married using those names.

I know she got Emily from her mother and Jane was her mother's mother.

*Alan Sabey, Member No. 5270*

**R**e METROPOLITAN July 2008 article 'So Where Were They Buried'. I was wondering whether or not there is a cemetery in London called Bow Street. My relative John LETHERBARROW, born 1802, lived Poplar, Bromley MDX and died 15 October 1880 in Bromley, buried in Bow Street Cemetery.

I read METROPOLITAN on a round robin system which our local branch of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists provides for contributing members.

*Ian Waller, Non-Member*

Note: The City of London and Tower Hamlets Cemetery was known locally as Bow Cemetery. The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park have a website at: [www.towerhamletscemetery.org](http://www.towerhamletscemetery.org)

**I**n the last edition of METROPOLITAN there was reference to a useful book called *The London Encyclopaedia* by Ben Weinreb and Christopher Hibbert. The ISBN number quoted was 0-333-45817.

I made enquiries shortly after the issue of the last METROPOLITAN in July 2008 at my local book shop and established a new edition had just been published by Papermac. The new edition was to be released on the 15 August 2008 and the new ISBN is 9-7814-0504-9245. The cost to me was £50.00p. My book arrived yesterday.

*Mr John Derek Jones, Member No. 6803*

**A**s Elizabeth Burling has used METROPOLITAN to voice her objections to the withdrawal of the Exchange Journals scheme, I feel entitled to claim a right of reply through the same medium.



I have it on the best authority that, when there were branches only at Enfield, Barnet and City, the reason exchange journals ceased to be taken to Barnet, (Elizabeth's local branch) was that no one there was willing to collect the journals from Enfield and to subsequently return them. I am also advised that, then as now, there was insufficient interest to make the service worthwhile and very few journals were actually borrowed; a postal system was also available but was never used.

Elizabeth comments that just because the postal borrowing scheme has failed does not mean that exchange journals are not wanted. What is her evidence for saying this? No one, not even Elizabeth herself, in the last twelve months or so, has let me - or the Society Secretary - know that they would like a return to the old system. I am reminded of the spoilt child who, not having played with an old toy for a long time, only screams when that toy is consigned to the dustbin. She says she is a very busy woman - not too busy to spend an hour or more at a Barnet lecture and further time browsing through the exchange journals? What does she think I am doing - sitting around doing nothing? What I hoped I was doing was again providing a service which members would actually use. Another reason for discontinuing is the waste of my time and effort. Approximately 100 other societies are involved, usually issuing four journals per year. These arrive by post almost daily and it is time consuming to add new issues to stock, remove and recycle old stock, keep stock tidily in the confines of my home (a minimum twelve foot run of shelving is required.) and all to no purpose. Historically only the transport of journals between Barnet and Enfield was required, but with four branches, excluding City Branch, the problems would have multiplied. Borrowings and returns would need to be more strictly controlled, outstanding requests dealt with and journals would need to be moved promptly - to Barnet on Thursday and to Wembley on the following Monday in two successive months as a current example. An alternative system was mooted but was considered even more complicated and difficult to control. Perhaps Elizabeth would like to take on that task; as the old adage has it - if you want a job done quickly, give it to a busy person!

At the insistence of one member, the Committee has agreed to consider exchanging journals with other London area societies, and some overseas societies, but this is of no use to those members whose interests lie in more distant counties. One person is understood to be willing to be responsible for storage and distribution of journals at Barnet, but what about the other

three branches?

Elizabeth's criticisms might have been better received were it not for the fact that she lives only ten or fifteen minutes away from me by car - within walking distance if one uses the pedestrian short cut. She could have had any number of journals delivered to her door - she had but to ask. Unlike Elizabeth, the very few members who did use the postal borrowing system did not want to browse on the off chance - they knew precisely in which other societies they were interested but, as I have indicated on two previous occasions, it was the total lack of interest shown by the generality of members - and particularly local members - that killed off the exchange journals scheme.

***J Brian Green, Member No. 2449***

Elizabeth Burling replies:

Wow! - I was hoping that my letter might elicit some opinions from other members of our Society and I got it in spades - a vituperative and personal attack!!

**I**would like to invite all people with ROPER connections to attend our Family Meeting. The last meeting was in October 2006 at Bury St Edmunds and was well attended by many ROPERS.

The next Family Meeting, which is called a Union, will be held at Lynsted Parish Church, Kent on Saturday 18 October 2008 from 9am to 5pm. Come and meet with nine different ROPER families, many connected by DNA, in a church with a ROPER chapel. There will be the opportunity for some ROPERS attending to have their DNA tested to see to which if any ROPER group they belong to.

For further information or indication of attendance please contact me by post at Clonway, Yelverton, Devon PL20 6EG, by email: derekroper@btinternet.com or visit [www.roperd.com](http://www.roperd.com)

***Derek Roper, Non-Member***



## THE CARTER'S MILITARY HISTORY

### The 1914/1918 War

By Fred Carter, Member No. 1915

When I was in Belgium in 1944 Mum wrote to me and asked if I could find Uncle Reg's grave. She said that she understood that it was in Reservoir Cemetery. I was in Ypres at the time so I used my spare time to do so. I searched Popperinge, Vlamingtinge, Hill 60, Zillebeck and other Military Cemeteries in the area but could not trace it.

When I started the Family History, I decided to research the life of Uncle Reg and our four other uncles that were in the army in the First World War. I started off by reading every *Hornsey Journal* in the archives in Bruce Castle from 1913 till 1919. I started in 1913 because I wanted to know if they had joined the Territorial Army before the war started. Dad had once told me that when the war broke out they were in camp in Aldershot with the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Middlesex Regt. The first item I found in the paper in August 1914 was that they had been called back from camp, been given three days leave and then were recalled to a camp in a field in Potters Bar. It was situated where the M25 crosses the Barnet Road opposite Hill Rise. They were then sent to Gibraltar. Dad's memory was correct, he even had the site of the field right.

Grace and Ron (my sister and her husband) told me that they had seen a grave in a Gibraltar Military Cemetery of a Reg CARTER who was killed by a stroke of lightning that had struck his bayonet. I found the report of the incident, but their memories were a little at fault. The report said that three men were involved but none of them was called CARTER and the one that was killed was a Sergeant. They were on guard duty. I ploughed on picking up many of the Regiment's activities. There does not seem to have been any censorship as we had in the 1939/1945 Conflict.

The next thing that I found was a list of every soldier of the Diehards who were in Gibraltar. Dated 23 October 1914 I found living at 13 Halliwick Parade, Colney Hatch Lane, Muswell Hill (it is the parade of shops opposite Sydney Road) the CARTER brothers, Privates Claude Charles, Reginald G, Vernon and Wallace Osborn. Whilst they were there the

government passed a bill that made the Territorial Army part of the regular forces. They were recalled in March 1915, given a few days leave and were then landed at Le Havre France on the 12 March. I have found no references to where they went to from there. Perhaps the censorship had started. I am sure that they were at the battle of Ypres. One day I hope to read the full history of the Diehards in the Imperial War Museum and find out where they did go.

Hearing of my search Uncle Septimus's son Harold Dudley told me that his father told him that either Uncle Wally or Uncle Claude shot the man who shot Uncle Reg. I disbelieved him because I knew that you blaze away to keep their heads down and you don't know who shot whom. I ploughed on. I also remembered that years ago I had seen, in a tin trunk, a cutting from the *Hornsey Journal* that had a picture of Uncle Reg in it with a report of his death. I found the report of Uncle Reg's death on the 28 July 1915. I recognised it straight away from the circled photo which says that he was killed by a stray bullet whilst digging reserve trenches. A short while after I came across a report in the *Journal* that said that two brothers of the Middlesex Regiment who were 'resting' behind the lines saw a French farmer creep out of his house and, thinking that he was acting suspiciously, decided to follow him. They saw him stop at a hedge and pick up a rifle. They continued to follow him and saw him enter a mill. Whilst they were discussing their next move they heard a rifle shot. They crept up the stairs and saw the man lying on the floor taking pot shots at men who were digging reserve trenches behind the lines. One of the two brothers shot him and they reported the matter to their superior officer. What I did not tell you was that Uncle Reg was killed within 100 yards of a mill. I do not know if this item vindicated Uncle Sony's assertion to his children, but it does seem to do so.

I started this record by saying that Mum had told me that Reg was buried in Reservoir Cemetery. I went to the military archives in Kew and found all their medals records. These included their regimental numbers. Using Reg's information I wrote to the War Graves Commission asking if they could tell me where he was buried. They wrote back to say that he was buried in The Rue David Military Cemetery, in Fleurbaix France (Fr. 347) Plot No. 1, Grave number 24. I have now remembered that when a soldier is killed they are temporarily buried in the nearest place that could be found

and these were called reserve plots. I can now see why Mum got the name wrong. The other three brothers survived. One was gassed, one invalided out. One went on to the end.

I still have a lot of research to do in the National Archives at Kew and the Imperial War Museum to finish this part of the our family's history. I do know that Mum told me that Uncle Claude and Uncle Vernon used to argue about the 'Angels of Mons' legend, as to whether angels were seen overhead during the battle or not. She said that Uncle Vernon said that it was true; whereas Uncle Claude said that it was the gun smoke. One day I will find out whether the Regiment was at Mons or not.

My father and his other brother Frank were also in the army. They were both in the army in the Motorised Division driving ambulances and troop carriers. Dad did not go abroad, he did attend at the Silvertown explosion on 19 January 1917, which killed hundreds of munition workers, and injured many more. I have not yet found uncle Frank's story as yet. My mother also had a brother-in-law in the Iniskilling Fusiliers, who won the Military Medal on the Somme, and two cousins in the cavalry.

In the 1935/39 War my parents had three sons and a daughter in the army. Brother Reg in the Middle East, Ted in Burma, myself in Normandy/Germany and Joan in the ATS. I also had four brothers-in-law in the army and one in the RAF. My three younger brothers did their two-year National Service in the infantry, and their two-year reserve in the Diehards. There were five of us in the TA at one time and I have the twenty years long service medal.

I am proud of my family, and even prouder of my parents who successfully brought up twelve children through two world wars and the recession and never complained.

© Fred Carter 2008

Note: Fred is preparing a book for publication. We are grateful to him for permission to print this extract.

Fred remembers a song he sang as a member of the Local Defence Volunteers, which appears on page 43.

## THE PICKERING FAMILY AND THE CITY OF LONDON

By Roger Sutton, Member No. 7290

In 1961 I left school and started working in the City of London. I knew that 50 years earlier my grandfather, Arthur Edwin PICKERING (1875-1918), had worked as an architect in Broad Street, City of London but I was unaware that there was a business run by my PICKERING family from 41 Crutched Friars in 1961.

The precise date of origin of the business in London is unknown; but by 1833 a Samuel PICKERING (1802-1857) had set up business as a drug broker dealing in quicksilver (mercury) at 33 Great St Helen's. Samuel PICKERING married Charlotte HOLT on 13 December 1836 at Folkestone. *The Times* reported that she was the seventh daughter of the late Richard HART Esq. of Folkestone. Samuel was to be joined as a partner by his brother John PICKERING (1808-1852) who married Rebecca Elizabeth TURNEY on 16 September 1837 at St Mary the Virgin, Westerham, Kent.

Despite the relative youth of the two brothers, their business partnership was not a long one. John PICKERING died on 1 December 1852 aged 44 'after a lingering illness', as reported by *The Times* on 3 December. He left five sons and a daughter. I know that his son, John Turney PICKERING (1839-1906) was a boarder at Fairfield House School in Addiscombe, Surrey. At this time the PICKERING family business operated from 10 Lime Street Square. Samuel PICKERING died on 23 July 1857 aged 55 and *The Times* reported on 25 July that he was 'much respected'. Charlotte PICKERING died on 25 November 1858. The administrator of Charlotte's estate was her brother, Richard HART, who was described as a Gentleman of 16 Austin Friars in the City of London.

Samuel and Charlotte PICKERING were childless and so the business was inherited by John PICKERING's children, the youngest of whom was only 5 years old. This must have posed a potentially lethal blow to the future of the business. It is a tribute to the strength of character of Samuel PICKERING Junior, still only a teenager, that he was able to keep the business going.

If only for a short time, it looks as if his brother William Baugh PICKERING also played a part in the business as the 1861 Census records that he was a mercantile clerk. Incidentally, William Baugh PICKERING was named after William BAUGH, a Hatter of Southwark Square, Borough. William BAUGH was married to the sister of John PICKERING and was one of John PICKERING's executors, although on 10 July 1852 this appointment was revoked. A possibly relevant fact is that in the 19<sup>th</sup> century mercury was used to make hats. Each hatmaker had a vat of mercury nitrate heating away in his workshop which often resulted in mercury poisoning, one of the symptoms of which was dementia. Hence the expression 'as mad as a hatter'. So did William BAUGH go mad?

Two of Samuel's other brothers, John Turney PICKERING and Thomas Turney PICKERING, decided to become bank clerks in preference to the family business. John Turney PICKERING (1839-1906) married Annette ROLLS (1843-1933) and had seven children, one of whom was my grandfather, Arthur Edwin. His artistic ability was inherited from his maternal grandfather Henry ROLLS (1806-1871). Henry ROLLS, together with his brothers Joseph and Charles, were well-known artists and engravers. Examples of their work are on display at the British Museum. The photograph overleaf is of John Turney PICKERING and Annette ROLLS taken before their wedding on 1 May 1866.

For many years Samuel PICKERING Junior ran the family business, as shown by the census returns for 1861, 1871 and 1881. In 1881 his youngest brother Alexander Schlusser PICKERING was shown as a clerk to a chemical and metal broker. In 1882 he took over the business when Samuel PICKERING retired aged only 44. Was Samuel PICKERING also suffering from mercury poisoning?

Alexander Schlusser PICKERING's middle name is puzzling. Schlusser is either German or Jewish. The 1881 Census shows that an Alexander SCHLUSSER lived at 80 Marine Parade, Brighton. He was 77 years old, a retired merchant and had been born in Russia. Alexander SCHLUSSER and his unmarried sister Dorothy (also born in Russia) had eight servants, including two footmen. It seems reasonable to assume that John PICKERING and Alexander SCHLUSSER were business associates.



From 1882 onwards it is possible to trace the PICKERING family business through telephone directories. The first telephone book, released for London in 1880, contained just 248 entries, so the PICKERING family business, under Alexander Schlusser PICKERING, was among the first to appreciate the commercial advantages of this new invention. He remained in charge of the business for 32 years. We know this because a codicil to



his will informs us that he retired as a Quicksilver and Chemical Broker on 31 December 1914 when he would have been 62. He handed over the business to his son, Alexander Henry PICKERING. At this time the business was based as Dunster House, Dunster Court, Mincing Lane. Alexander Schlusser PICKERING died on 23 August 1919 aged 67. The net value of his estate was £55,586, which suggests that the business was very successful. Under the terms of his Will those on the payroll for 5 years received £50 each; those for 10 years £100. The PICKERING family had a paternalistic approach to running their business. There were various changes of address of the business over the next 13 years. By 1932 it had become a limited liability company called Alexander PICKERING & Co Ltd of Marlow House, Lloyds Avenue, London EC3.

The next change of control came with the death of Alexander Henry PICKERING on 14 April 1951 aged 71. He was described as the Governing Director of Alexander PICKERING & Co Ltd, which presumably means that he had a majority shareholding. It is clear from his Will that at some stage he had acquired a controlling interest in Premier Tobacco Manufacturers Limited, the Directors of which were James Bernard ROPER, John LAMB and John Alexander PICKERING. Under the terms of his Will ownership of both companies passed jointly to his wife and to their son John Alexander PICKERING. Both businesses were fairly large, with references in the Will to various Departments of each company. They were also both paternalistic companies with numerous employees benefiting from the Will. Accorded special mention and special treatment was Lois LEVONNE, trading as 'Margaret DAVIS' of 18 Thayer Street, London W1. She inherited £3,000 free of duty and she was to receive this sum in any event, whereas other legacies were to be reduced to 75% if the net estate amounted to less than £50,000. One can only speculate why Lois LEVONNE was accorded such privileged treatment. The net value of John Alexander PICKERING's estate was £81,157, with £36,248 being paid in Estate Duty.

In 1964 the business operated from both 41 Crutched Friars EC3 and IbeX House, Minories, EC3 but by 1968 it had been transferred to a Slough trading estate. It remained there until 1981 when it disappeared from the telephone directories, suggesting that it had ceased trading. John Alexander PICKERING, of Marine Gate, Marine Drive, Brighton, died on 17 December 1988 aged 83 leaving an estate worth £21,517.

## ARMY MEDAL ROLL 1801

By Christine Glover, Non-Member

We are Helen and Chris, two friends who share an interest in Family and Local History and have a love of old books. We scour Auctions, Antique Fairs and Car Boots to obtain them. Whilst browsing at an antiques fair, we came across a leather-bound book which had in it all the medal recipients for the Peninsula Campaign 1801. These were hand-written with the name of each Regiment and an alphabetical list of the award winners of medals



and bars or bars only; other ranks but no Officers. The Military General Service Medal was instituted in 1847 for the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars fought between 1793 and 1814. Veterans had to claim their medals years after the end of the Napoleonic Wars at a time when many had since died. Some 26,000 medals were issued with 84,000 clasps but many have sadly been destroyed or lost, making this medal somewhat rare and sought-after. The obverse of this medal is the head of Queen Victoria with the inscription 'VICTORIA REGINA' while the reverse depicts the Queen placing the victor's laurels on the head of the Duke of Wellington with the inscription 'TO THE BRITISH ARMY' and the dates '1793-1814'. The swivelling suspender is plain and straight.

The Battles mentioned in the book, both in full and abbreviation, are: Busaco, Ciudad, Corunna, Fuentes D'Onor, Maida, Nive, Nivelles, Pyrenees, Rodrigo, Salamanca, Talavera, Toulouse, Vittoria, and Waterloo.

An example of an entry: Allen SCOTT of the 79<sup>th</sup> Foot who was awarded a bar for the Egyptian Peninsula War. The note states bars for Pyr, Nivelles, Waterloo and six others which were sold on the 27th of March 1914 for 11

pounds and 10 shillings according to the Glendining Co Ltd Medal Sales records.

We have transcribed the contents of this Army Medal Roll book onto a spreadsheet and have produced a CD which also contains a PDF file of scanned images from the book. The columns in the book are headed Rank, Name, Medal and Bar, Bar Only, Remarks and Notes, although in the spreadsheet we have added extra columns for ease of reference and explanatory notes. The names have been transcribed to the best of our ability although some of the handwriting is difficult to make out, so there are numbered notes included in the spreadsheet where we are unsure.

The last page of the book is a list of Medal Sales Of Glendining Co Ltd, which date from January 1907 to June 1917, together with the auction price achieved and cross-referenced with a number against the original award entry.

There is a separate loose sheet of paper with the auction sale price achieved for four Officer's medals from Egypt 1801.

Another loose page with details of auction price achieved for the medals of Sergeant Thomas BOOTH of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Foot plus notes; this is from Glendinings and therefore dates to 1917.

A third loose page, contemporary with the original entries, appears to be notes made by the original compiler, for the 26<sup>th</sup>, afterwards 23<sup>rd</sup>, Light Dragoons.

Notes have been added in pencil within the last few years mentioning where the medal is now and auction prices in the 1980s for other medals.

The CD may be purchased from: C Glover, 39 Rose Walk, Scunthorpe, Lincolnshire DN15 6BU

Email: [christine.glover1@ntlworld.com](mailto:christine.glover1@ntlworld.com)

The cost is £10 plus £1.50 post and packing

If any LWMFHS members contact Chris to buy a CD please say that you saw it mentioned in METROPOLITAN and she will donate £1 to our Society for each CD sold.

## GROTTOES

By Elizabeth Gough, Member No. 1929

In reading Dee West's letter in METROPOLITAN of July 2008 regarding grottoes - I have to say I can just remember them.

I lived in North London and played in the streets in the 1930s. I must have been very young because I cannot remember making a grotto. They just happened in the summer time, as did Guy Fawkes in the autumn. Games and activities all came round in season.

Years later I read an explanation for grottoes in a book by HV Morton on London customs (*Ghosts of London*, published 1939). Apparently it was a survival from the Middle Ages, when going on pilgrimages was popular and the most favoured in Europe was to the shrine of St James at Santiago de Compostela in Spain. There is a well-known pilgrim route through France and over the Pyrenees but from this country people also went to the south coast and crossed by ship to Spain, braving the Bay of Biscay instead of the mountains. After visiting the shrine, they went down to the beach and picked up shells to wear in their hat. This was a sign to all they would meet on their way home that they had been on pilgrimage.

Those left at home unable to go for St James' Day on 25 July, would make decorative altars in their churches and along the highways. The fact that children took part in this activity and also begged, perhaps stemmed from hardship of being abandoned by pilgrim parents. The rhyme that was chanted I can only remember a part of but Mr Morton quotes it thus:

'Please to remember the grotter  
It's only once a year,  
Father's gone to sea and Mother's gone to fetch him back  
So please remember me  
'A' penny won't hurt yer:  
Tuppence won't put yer in the work'us'

Probably about 40 years ago I thought to ask several elderly ladies if they remembered grottoes - and they did! The fullest explanation of their making came from an aunt of mine. Using the same favoured place every

year, she first hunted for three builder's bricks to frame the grotto. Then from home acquired a small mirror, a piece of candle, odd bits of ribbon and artificial flowers - anything to make a pretty scene. Most importantly, however, she took quite a long walk to where there was a fishmonger's stall and scabbled about underneath it to pick up discarded scallop shells. These she knew were essential for the grotto, but did not know why.

She was very surprised to hear, when I told her, that she had taken part in a custom that had survived for over 400 years.

Note: The earliest records of pilgrims travelling to Santiago de Compostela from England date from around the year 1100. Soon after this the pilgrimage had become a highly organised affair. The *Codex Calixtinus*, a 12<sup>th</sup> Century illuminated manuscript, contains a wealth of practical advice for pilgrims. It shows four main routes all starting in France and details where pilgrims should stop en route, which relics they should venerate and which sanctuaries they should visit. A series of hospitals and hospices, often identified by a scallop shell, catered for the needs of the pilgrims on their way to the shrine.

Scallops are native to the seas around northern Spain and their shells are often found on the shore. By having one, pilgrims could more or less prove that they had finished the pilgrimage and on the way home it gave them privileges such as being able to sleep in churches and ask for free meals.

The Black Death, the Reformation and political unrest in 16<sup>th</sup> Century Europe all resulted in the decline in numbers of people travelling to Santiago de Compostela.

## UNWANTED CERTIFICATE

Janet Bryden 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:** Herbert Edwin, son of William George LANCASTER, cabman and Florence, formerly GREENWOOD, born 11 July 1903 at 12 Girdlestone Road, Islington.

## WOODS AND WOETS

By Hans Harmsen

One of my ancestors was born in London in about 1590. He probably came to my country, The Netherlands, as captain in a regiment with Sir Edward VERE (he died during the Siege of 's-Hertogenbosch in 1629) or Sir Henry SUTTON during our freedom fight of 80 years for the Republic of the Seven United Netherlands, established in 1648.

When he married (as a widower) a Dutch lady of noble birth between 1629 and 1632, his name was written down as Johan WOOD. The text in the church register is:

‘City: Woudrichem, archive: SAHA, DTB: 13 folio 9, church: NG (protestant): bridegroom: Johan WOOD, widower, place of birth London (With note: the bridegroom is nobleman and captain) and bride: Elizabeth van ECK, young lady, place of birth Woudrichem’.

So his name is most likely John (or James) WOOD or WOODS or something that looks/sounds like that. I translated to nobleman from the Dutch word ‘jonker’; here it means, son of a nobleman. So whether he is Sir John or his father had some kind of elevated position, I don’t know. He died before 1640, when his wife remarried as widow a Dutch lord.

His sons are called Jacobus (James or Jacob) and Laurens (Laurence or Lawrence), both studied medicine, and his daughters Margaret, Sara and Elisabeth. Nowadays the family name is WOETS, which sounds exactly like WOODS. It is the family name of the mother of my grandfather.

I found a gentleman, named Thomas WOOD of Clapton House in Hackney. The WOOD family were quite prominent in Hackney in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Centuries. Thomas, son of Henry WOOD was baptised at Hackney on 27 March 1565. He was Clerk of the Pantry and was a vestryman in 1627. At some point he married Susanna CRANMER, who had been born in 1570 at Hacklington, Kent. Thomas WOOD was buried on 18 May 1649 at St John’s, Hackney, an event commemorated by a marble wall monument, and his wife was buried there on 17 October 1650.

The couple had nine children. The eldest, Henry WOOD was baptised at Hackney on 17 October 1597. He was Treasurer of the Household of the Queen Dowager, Henrietta, one of the Council of Queen Catherine, and Clerk of the Board of Green Cloth. He was Member of Parliament for Hythe from 1661 to 1671 and lived at Loudham Hall, near Woodbridge, Suffolk. His first marriage, which took place on 7 April 1630 at St James's, Bury St Edmunds, was to Anne WEBB (baptised 12 August 1610 at St Martin's, Chichester, daughter of Thomas WEBB). She died on 9 June 1648 and Henry subsequently married Mary GARDINER in November 1651 in Paris, France. (Mary GARDINER, daughter of Sir Thomas GARDINER, Solicitor-General, was born on 26 February 1627 and died on 17 March 1664.) Henry was created 1<sup>st</sup> Baronet WOOD of Loudham in 1642 and 1<sup>st</sup> Baronet WOOD of Hackney in 1657, according to George Edward Cockayne in his *The Complete Baronetage*.

Sir Henry's daughter and heiress Lady Mary WOOD was born in 1664. She was attendant to two queens, as Maid of Honour to Henrietta-Maria STUART and as Dresser and Woman of the Bedchamber to Catherine of Braganza. At 16 she was contracted to marry Sir Charles FITZROY, 1st Duke of Southampton, who was the illegitimate son of King Charles II by Barbara VILLIERS. The couple had no children. Lady Mary died of smallpox on 15 November 1680 and was buried at Westminster Abbey.

The second child of Thomas and Susanna was John WOOD, who was baptised on 20 January 1599 at Hackney.

Dorothy came next, baptised on 14 March 1691 at Hackney. She died on 23 August 1606.

Mary WOOD, the fourth child, was born at Loudham, but baptised on 2 August 1604 at Hackney. She married firstly widower Samuel CRANMER Esq on 4 July 1633 at St Margaret's, Westminster and then Sir Henry CHESTER. Her son, Sir Caeser CRANMER, acquired considerable property under the Will of his uncle Sir Henry WOOD in 1676 and took the name of WOOD. Sir Caeser and his children all seem to have been born at Loudham Hall. According to Mr Gage ROKEWOOD, in his *History of the Hundred of Thingoe*, the Estate passed to Charles WOOD, surviving son of

Sir Caesar and as Charles died without issue it then passed to the co-heirs of Sir Henry WOOD's youngest sister Elizabeth.

Thomas and Susanna's fifth child was Thomas, baptised on 17 July 1607. After attending Christ Church, Oxford, Dr Thomas WOOD became bishop of Lichfield and Coventry in 1671 until his death in 1692.

The sixth child, William WOOD was baptised at Hackney on 14 January 1609. He became Clerk of His Majesty's Spicery and was buried on 7 February 1627. Joan came next. She was born about 1611 and nothing further is known of her. The last child, Elizabeth was baptised on 2 July 1612 at Hackney. She married Anthony WEBB on 27 August 1633 at St Margaret's, Westminster and died on 22 October 1689.

Could John WOOD, the second son of Thomas and Susanna be my ancestor? Could the Hackney family's connections with the Court lead them to say they were 'of London'? I don't know. Maybe it is just a coincidence that names of their neighbours were VERE and SUTTON.

Any help with this family would be much appreciated.

***Hans Harmsen, Non-Member***

*Laan van Vollenhove 2622, 3706 H1 Zeist, The Netherlands*

*Email: 3706hl2611@hetnet.nl.*

## EXCHANGE JOURNALS

As indicated in previous issues of METROPOLITAN, there has been an almost total lack of interest among our members in the journals of other Societies.

Will other participating Societies please take note that this [October 2008] issue of METROPOLITAN is the last issue which they will receive under this scheme. Will they therefore please remove our name from their mailing lists.

**J Brian Green**

Exchange Journals Co-ordinator [Retired]



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**\*\* Please renew my/our membership of the Society for the year ending 30<sup>th</sup> September 2009;  
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If you prefer to use online or telephone banking, please inform the Treasurer in advance of your payment so that it can be identified on the Society's bank statements. It would be helpful if you could confirm that you have set this up as a regular annual payment similar to a bankers order.

## LEST WE FORGET

By Keith Rookledge, Member No. 7224

This year is the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the signing of the Armistice on the 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month in 1918, marking the cessation of hostilities in what we now refer to as World War 1.

So what were the effects of this on everyday life of people in a township? My family were resident in Easingwold, in Yorkshire, from the mid 1700s to the 1920s and the town was lucky in that there was an excellent weekly newspaper published by Smith's, who are still publishing in Market Place. There is no reason to think that daily activities in this rural township with agriculture as its mainstay of commerce were any different from any other rural townships.

Sport was well documented, with football in the winter months and cricket in the spring. The football ceased to take place in the autumn of 1915, as all the young men had joined the colours and no adult football was played for the remainder of the hostilities. The *Easingwold Advertiser* in late 1914 published a Roll of Honour of all the footballers who had joined up. In addition it published other lists of those serving at various times. The absence of this group of men had a profound effect on agriculture and it is evident that this occurred across the country. There is some evidence of the shortage of labour in the harvest of 1915 and this became more acute as the years of war passed. Requests made to authorities to allow the delay of joining up in late summer, especially when conscription was introduced, were evident. The delay of return to the war by soldiers home on leave also occurred, so they could assist on the land.

Yorkshire was one of the places where prisoner of war camps were set up. One from the second war, the Eden Camp, is still preserved. German soldiers were allowed to assist in the harvest and at other times and discussion at a local level was lively, to say the least, about remuneration. Those Germans labouring were housed in the Easingwold Union with a guard.

Other activities were affected. Local Councillors became police officers for the duration of the war and retired schoolteachers returned to their profession to allow those who were called to arms to go.

Of those who were not yet eligible to serve, the young and the elderly, the utilisation of their services gradually developed. As with any agricultural community many could shoot. In one edition of the *Easingwold Advertiser*, Francis Eyre ROOKLEDGE, the brother of my grandfather and coincidentally the first President of the Easingwold Rifle Club, wrote fervently extolling the virtues of getting young men to learn to shoot and also to join the Volunteer Reserve.

Francis Eyre was active in the Volunteer Reserve, later to become the North Riding Volunteer Reserve in Easingwold, a Company of the Green Howards. He joined this reserve and in 1915 was Quartermaster Sergeant, later being commissioned and eventually rising to the rank of First Lieutenant, which was documented in *The London Gazette*.

Regular notices were placed in the *Advertiser* giving notice of training activities, which were held weekly. It is evident that early activities were rudimentary, the volunteers having neither arms nor uniform at first, but with the passage of time this was rectified and reports of ‘manovers’ showed that training was under the instruction of a regular non-commissioned sergeant. Digging trenches and throwing grenades were frequently reported, as were route marches with a band, also depleted due to members serving in the ranks.

The lot of the wounded soldier was clearly not good. In 1915 people were encouraged to donate eggs for the wounded in hospitals in England. Over the following years this became highly organised and was a national effort.

Likewise local ladies, generally under the auspices of the gentry, were active in providing ‘comforts’ for the soldiers at the front. In 1915 a whole page is devoted to a list of those soldiers from Easingwold and the surrounding hamlets in receipt of these.

Sources of information on soldiers who served and died are plentiful both at national and local level. I have searched the following: The Commonwealth War Graves Commission; The Navy and Soldiers who died in the War; Imperial War Museum War Memorial Project; The London Gazette and local War memorials to mention but a few.

The War Graves Commission website is searchable online only by name, but I asked if it was possible for them to carry out a search by place and this they kindly did and supplied me with hard copy using Easingwold as a key word.

The Naval and Military Press CD *Soldiers Died 1914-19* is very expensive but I borrowed a copy from Harrow Library. I have not compared online information recently made available on [www.findmypast.com](http://www.findmypast.com) with this but would suspect that both sources should be searched, as data entry fields could vary.

The local memorial in Easingwold presents a conundrum. The War Graves Commission gives data on those killed and buried in France, but some are not on the Memorial in the Market Place. Further research revealed that there was also a memorial in St John's Church, Easingwold. The Imperial War Museum has an ongoing project to record every War Memorial in England. They did not have a picture of the memorial in Market Place and furthermore were not aware of the one in the Church!

I have attempted to cross-reference the various sources I have searched and it quickly became evident that while the War Office recorded all those killed in the War there are anomalies, so if you are searching for an ancestor who served or was killed in the First War, then you need to be aware that no one source is definitive.

Blackout infringements were evident in fines in the local court. Zeppelin Raids were not restricted to London! The Local Reserve not only prepared men for service but also formed an important force designed to tackle invasion, which thankfully never occurred. The Imperial German Navy heavily shelled Yorkshire and it is evident that there was a fear of invasion throughout the War.

This brief vignette of the effect of World War 1 is just that, and in the main has been derived from a local newspaper. Thus, if you are looking for relatives at that time newspapers are a most valuable source.

Please feel free to contact me if you want any further information.  
Email: [keith.rookledge@virgin.net](mailto:keith.rookledge@virgin.net)

## 30TH ANNIVERSARY OPEN DAY 19 July 2008

The day started out as a disaster. To begin with we could not get into St Paul's Centre for nearly two hours because the keys we had refused to open the door. No sooner had my car been unloaded than the heavens opened.



Fortunately the books etc were in plastic boxes complete with lids. Reloading everything into my car again when the rain eased, we all got damp. Nigel, Caretaker at St Paul's, was unavailable and Fred Carter meanwhile had gone to Trinity Church opposite

to see if their caretaker was available with her keys. She was not and Fred got quite wet in the process. Eventually, almost two hours after our arrival when we were beginning to think we may have to abandon any hope of a celebration, Arthur Parker made a last determined assault on the door and EUREKA, the lock turned to our great relief.

We had barely set up the hall by 11.00am when members began to arrive. In spite of this everyone pitched in, setting out tables and chairs and Doreen, our Enfield Branch 'tea lady' soon had a welcome 'cuppa' ready for those present.

Arthur Parker set up a varied display along the long wall of the hall and the Editorial Team had an interesting display showing how the journal was produced 'in house' in the early years (see Eileen Moore's article in the July issue of METROPOLITAN) and how it had progressed under different editors down to the present day. Norma Allum brought along the Society Photograph Album of various events in the Society's history,



including our 10th Anniversary celebration at SoG which, incidentally, Norma had organised. There were some groans as well as giggles - did we really look like that back then?



Connie and Michael Austin were kept busy on the extensive bookstall and did very well considering the poor attendance. Kay Payne and Doreen Heywood were in charge of the Society's own publications of microfiche and our Parish Guides. Rena King was on the 'Help' desk with various research guides. We also had a fiche reader and the IGI as well as Society Publications on fiche. The fiche reader however was mainly neglected as those present seemed quite content just to sit and chat over a cup of tea or coffee or to browse the displays and the bookstall.

As the day drew to a close, Joan, our Secretary, cut the splendid iced Anniversary Cake she had made to mark the occasion. Thank you Joan.



To summarise, although the day started so disastrously and the attendance, considering we have over one thousand members, was appalling, all those present appeared to have enjoyed the day.

**Anne Prudames**  
Enfield Branch

Photos by Arthur Parker and William Pyemont

## WEBSITE NEWS

### **United Kingdom National Inventory of War Memorials**

This charity is working to compile a record of all war memorials in the UK and to promote their appreciation, use and preservation. War memorials are a useful resource for Family Historians but it does depend upon the period you are looking at as to the amount of information you can obtain.

The Inventory was established as an art history project but it soon became obvious that any complete definition would have to be far broader than just figurative sculpture crosses, obelisks or columns. In the end, any object can be considered a war memorial as long as the inscription and/or purpose behind its erection or placement links it to a war or war casualty in some way or another. The collecting of information from memorials is done by volunteers and so far over 56,000 memorials have been recorded. This information has been put into a free database which can be searched in a number of different ways, including just by surname. An example is: A marble tablet measuring 33cm by 45cm in St Gabriel's and St Michael's Church, Walm Lane, Cricklewood, London NW2, which states 'To the Glory of God and in loving memory of Leslie Vane BROWN, London Rifle Brigade, only son of George and Mary Florence BROWN, killed in action at Ypres, 27 April 1915, aged 21 years. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.' There is a lot of useful information on the website about the details one is likely to find from different times and on different sorts of sites.

This website can be found at: [www.ukniwm.org.uk](http://www.ukniwm.org.uk)

### **Genuki**

The aim of GENUKI is to serve as a 'virtual reference library' of genealogical information that is of particular relevance to England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. It is a non-commercial service, provided by an ever-growing group of volunteers in co-operation with the Federation of Family History Societies and a number of its member societies. In the main, the information that is provided in GENUKI relates to primary historical material, rather than material resulting from genealogists' on-going research. As with any library the information contained in or linked to this site is vast and very comprehensive but ordered in a logical way as a geographical hierarchy.

The page relating to England contains links to individual county pages as well as subjects concerning to the whole of England, such as Archives and Libraries, Newspapers and Town Records. The County pages are likewise divided into subject areas and parishes. If you look in a Parish page, for instance Islington, you will find quotes from a Victorian Gazetteer describing places in Islington in 1868, information about Anglican churches of Islington, links to old maps of the parish and a useful sideways link to neighbouring parishes.

There is also an alphabetical list of subjects relating to all the British Isles. These include such diverse headings as: 'Dwellings', which contains information on present and demolished county houses including history, owners and so on; 'Medical Records', containing such things as a list of Medical Officers from the Navy List 1870 and old disease names frequently found on Death Certificates; 'Social Life and Customs' has a link to a book of Village Games in which the author describes games from the 1920s and 30s.

If you need to know more about the places in which your ancestors lived, where to find the local records or information about what happened to the church your Grandparents were married in, or many other subjects, this is the site for you.

GENUKI is free to access and can be found at: [www.genuki.org.uk](http://www.genuki.org.uk)

### **Commonwealth War Graves Commission**

Established by Royal Charter in 1917, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission pays tribute to the men and women of the Commonwealth forces who died in the two World Wars. Since its inception, the CWGC has constructed 2,500 war cemeteries and plots, erecting headstones over graves and, in instances where the remains are missing, inscribing the names of the dead on permanent memorials. Over one million casualties are now commemorated at military and civil sites in some 150 countries.

The CWGC has a searchable database, The Debt of Honour Register, listing the 1.7 million men and women of the Commonwealth forces who died during the two World Wars and the 23,000 cemeteries, memorials and other locations worldwide where they are commemorated. An example of the information held: Albert Edward HORNE, Gunner of the Royal Artillery, Service No. 1435075, died aged 35 on 5 March 1941, buried Cons Sec Grave 818, Tottenham Cemetery, son of William Arthur and Jessie HORNE, husband of Emily Elizabeth HORNE of Greenwich,

London. Clicking on the Cemetery link provides details, including photos and often plans of the cemeteries.

The register can also be searched for details of the 67,000 Commonwealth civilians who died as a result of enemy action in the Second World War. An example of the information held: Elsie Frances HORNE aged 22 died 30 November 1940 at home at 59 Grantock Road, buried at Walthamstow, daughter of EA and M ALDER, wife of Robert HORNE. When you follow the link to Cemetery Reports you find that her husband, Robert HORNE aged 30, son of J and G HORNE, died at the same time.

This site is easy to use, free and can be found at: [www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org)

A section called *Histories* is an on-going collaboration between the Imperial War Museum and CWGC. It gives insight into the major campaigns, battles and events of the two world wars. Currently this contains information on The Battle of the Somme, 1916, The Ypres Salient and the Western Front 1918: The German Offensives.

### **The Great War Archive**

The Great War Archive is a major project run by the University of Oxford, the aim of which was to collect together material related to the First World War held by members of the public. They were asked to contribute family stories or items relating to WWI to help keep the memory alive of the sacrifices made. The final collection will be made available free of charge on 11 November 2008, the 90th anniversary of the Armistice, at [www.thegreatwararchive.org](http://www.thegreatwararchive.org)

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.

## **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.

## JOTTINGS FROM OUR SOCIETY'S AREA

### **London Records to be made available online**

London Metropolitan Archives and Guildhall Library Manuscripts Section have recently announced a new partnership with online genealogical company Ancestry to digitise genealogical sources. Eventually this will include some 77 million names from over 500 years. The first records will be launched on Ancestry.co.uk in early 2009, with the following prioritised for launch in the coming year:

Parish records - records from more than 10,000 Greater London parish registers of baptisms, marriages and burials dating from the 1530s to the 20th Century;

Poor Law documents - relating to the administration of poor relief, including workhouse registers from 1834 onwards;

London school admissions - records from 843 individual London schools dating from the early Victorian times through to 1911, providing admission and personal details for millions of London students.

It is anticipated that the full digitisation and indexing program will include: Parish baptisms, marriages and burials; Bishops transcripts; Parish poor law records; Boards of Guardians records; Diocesan marriage bonds and allegations; Non-conformist baptisms, marriages and burials; Wills; School admission and discharge registers; Electoral registers, overseers returns and poll books; Land tax records; City of London Freedoms; Middlesex Sessions - Transportation Contracts; Consistory Court of London Matrimonial and Testamentary Papers.

Free access to view the indexes and images via Ancestry.co.uk will be provided on the computer terminals in the public rooms at the Guildhall and the LMA. The program will start shortly and further information about the project will be released over the coming months.

You can keep up-to-date with news about this project on the Guildhall Library Manuscripts' website at: [www.history.ac.uk/gh/digitisation.htm](http://www.history.ac.uk/gh/digitisation.htm).

### **Open Day Visits**

Eileen Bostle, Diana Copnall, Doreen Heywood and I were on our stand at the Bucks FHS Open Day in Aylesbury at the end of July.

Two of our number were unfortunately delayed by travel problems – weekend railway engineering works etc *and* a bus which broke down – but an all-out effort completed the setting-up of the stand as our first visitors

began to trickle in. Their numbers fluctuated during the day, rising after each of the lectures in the day's programme.

Some visitors to our stand were members, whom we were very pleased to meet, some sought information about our area or had specific questions about research problems. We were therefore kept busy dealing with these matters and selling books, maps etc and thanks are due to all who helped to make this a good day for our Society.

We now have a group of half a dozen volunteers drawn from different areas of the Society and therefore with a broad range of local knowledge. This means that we can spread the load, over the year and on the day, and accommodate non-availability on any particular occasion.

Our next visit is to the West Middlesex FHS Open Day on Sunday 28 September 2008.

**Rosemary A Roome, Member No. 2985**

### **Hampstead**

Following on from Mike Fountain's article *Some Went T'Other Way* (July 2008) this report from a local newspaper shows that some people left London for other areas but not necessarily by choice.

*Hampstead & Highgate Express*, Saturday 25 April 1908

Hampstead Petty Sessions, Wednesday 22 April, Before Dr WEAVER, Dr GAYTON, Dr MACDONALD BROWN and Mr H BLEASBY.

Neglected Children - Maggie LIVINGSTONE, aged nine, Jessie LIVINGSTONE, seven and Arthur LIVINGSTONE, five, no home, were charged on remand with being found wandering abroad in John-street, having no home or visible means of subsistence, on April 11<sup>th</sup>.

Mr WHELAN, industrial schools officer, said that for years past the children had had a very hard life - in and out of the workhouse and sleeping out of doors, in the company of drunken parents. During the four weeks preceding their arrest they had been sleeping out. He had previously spoken to the mother about them, and advised her to go into the Workhouse, as her husband would not support her, but she said that was what her husband wanted and she would not go. The Rev. Walter PLATT, minister of Gospel-oak Wesleyan Church, had helped the parents financially, and had also got them to sign the pledge, but they did not keep it. Arrangements were now being made to get the children into industrial school. The Bench made an order for the two girls to go to a school at Lichfield in Staffordshire and the boy to one near Manchester.

### **Where did the Chocolate Go?**

Were you evacuated by the London County Council in 1939? My husband lived in North London and I lived in South London. We both remember being issued with a carrier bag containing a tin of corned beef and a packet of biscuits as a token gift for our hosts. My husband was also given chocolate – a quarter of a pound block of Cadbury’s Dairy Milk (he can still taste it!). He was evacuated to Rugby whereas I went to the Isle of Sheppey and we both suffered standing in line to be chosen by would-be foster parents. Siblings and friends were often separated. The next day I found that my hosts’ garden backed on to an airfield and when the siren sounded we watched the planes take off. There was plenty of room for us at the local school – the Sheppey children had been evacuated!!

I wonder if they were given chocolate.

### **Pam White, Member No. 2546**

Barbara Haswell adds: My brother and I were evacuated in 1944 from North London. I do not remember the carrier bag let alone the chocolate.

We were sent to a coal mining area in Nottingham. One day at school I remember that there was an explosion from the mines and I dived under my school desk. The whole class laughed at me. The teacher had to explain that down in London, if there was not time to go to the air-raid shelter during a bombing raid, children were told to crouch under school desks to protect themselves from falling ceilings and flying window glass.

We hated it in Nottingham and returned home after three months.

Audio clips from evacuees can be found on the BBC website at: [www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk)

### ***The Daily News*, 22 January 1846**

Police - Marlborough-Street. - Captain Charles RANDALL summoned Jonathan MORTIMER, an omnibus driver, for using abusive language.

Captain RANDALL was standing in Oxford-street, when the ‘cad’ of the omnibus which the defendant drove, asked him ‘What part he was going to?’ which the Captain thought a very impertinent question, and threatened a summons; the driver repeated the question, and the gallant Captain rushed into a shop, called for ink and paper, took down the driver’s words, posted off to Somerset-house, was referred thence to Arundel-street and finally sought redress and a summons of this office.

As Mr MALTBY found it extremely difficult to perceive that any abuse

had been resorted to, except some very strong expressions which, it came out in evidence, were used by the Captain himself, he at once dismissed the case.

Upon this, Captain RANDALL, remarking that there was no safety for gentlemen while cads were allowed to ask them where they were going with impunity, threatened that the affair should not end there and took a very unceremonious leave of the worthy magistrate.

**Sent in by H Sharp, Member No. 1379**

### **The Family History Event**

This event is being organised by family historians for family historians at the Barbican Centre on Sunday 3 May 2009. To find out more Tel: 0844 478 0410 or visit: [www.theFHevent.info](http://www.theFHevent.info)

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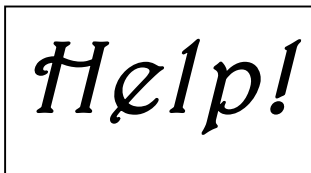


Please set out your *Help!* request as clearly and succinctly as possible.

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.



## **McCONCHY**

Can anyone shed any light on Robert McCONCHY and his wife/partner Mary McCONCHY aka BATTIN, whom I suspect of being the parents of Louisa, my three-times great grandmother. Louisa's birth (from census records) is about 1782 in Chelsea. No trace has been found, although an earlier child, Sophia, daughter of Robert and Mary McCONCHY was baptised at St Lukes, Chelsea in 1773 and died a few months later. Robert and Mary both made Wills: her Will refers to her as 'Mary McCONCHY otherwise BATTIN' and she leaves her estate to Robert (Will proved 1800). Robert lived another five years and left most of his estate to his 'adopted daughter Louisa (surname illegible but looks a bit like LORIOT)'. Robert was buried at St Lukes in February 1805 but Mary's burial has not been found. In her Will she gives her address as Chapel Row, Little Chelsea, Robert's merely says 'of Kensington'. Louisa gives the names Robert and Mary to two of her children and several of them have McConchy as an additional forename. I'm pretty sure she is the right person but would love to be able to place her more accurately. The only other clue is that Robert had property in Claypool, Lincolnshire.

***Judith Bennett, Member No. 4934***

*Newton Cottage, Orchard Close, Sturminster Newton DT10 2HN*

*Email: judith@tuppence.mail1.co.uk*

## **TORRY/ERSKINE**

David TORRY, a hairdresser, married Ann Statia ERSKINE on 28 June 1838 in St Pancras Church. He was born in Scotland about 1796. They had four sons all born in Clerkenwell: James b1839; Charles b1841; Albert b1844 and Frederick b1846. David died in the Pancras district in 1858. I would be grateful for any information about this family.

***Miss Helen L Butler, Member No. 5186***

*28 Andorra Court, 151 Widmore Road, Bromley, Kent BR1 3A*

**MOSS/HIPPISLEY**

Recently during the sad task of clearing my parent's home of 60+ years, a dusty package was discovered tucked away in the back of a cupboard. To our surprise this was revealed as a Family Bible begun by my great-grandparents Henry Thomas MOSS and Elizabeth HIPPISELEY, presumably on their marriage at St Pancras Parish Church on 13 January 1883. Henry was born in Lambeth on 20 January 1855 and Elizabeth born on 23 September 1856.

Details of their children are given as:

1. Percy Henry MOSS born 25 December 1883
2. Reginald Albert MOSS born 7 September 1885
3. Harry Hippisley MOSS born 18 July 1889
4. Hilda Elizabeth MOSS born 14 March 1891
5. Daisy Florence MOSS born 6 November 1893

The marriages of the children follow:

Percy MOSS and Kate RINGER (my Mother's parents) on 2 April 1910

Reginald MOSS and Annie NOAD on 15 May 1912

Harry MOSS and Margaret CHERRY in 1915

Hilda MOSS and Frederick FRY (no date)

Elizabeth MOSS died on 6 March 1914, her husband on 26 June 1918 and their son Harry on 27 June 1918. All 3 are buried together at Willesden New Cemetery but, for the moment, the mystery remains as to how Henry and his son Harry died within a day of each other (they were buried on the same day) - was it an accident or illness? I still have more searches to do but any ideas about that or other information about the family would be gratefully received.

***Mrs R A Norman, Member No. 7329***

*4 St Ursula Grove, Pinner, Middlesex HA5 1LN*

*Email: peterose.norman@btinternet.com*

**Note:** The best way to discover why Henry and Harry died within a day of each other is to purchase their death certificates, which will give a cause of death for each of them.

Of course, 1918 was the year of the Spanish flu pandemic and it could be that Henry and Harry were among its victims. Unusually for influenza, most of those who died of Spanish flu were healthy young adults.

**MARGRAVE**

My maternal grandmother often used to say: 'We MARGRAVES are of ROYAL BIRTH, you know - through the Margraves of Baden Baden, the Brandenburgs, etc.' My immediate family would dearly like to prove that she was right!

My proven blood line is presently traced to a somewhat elusive character named Lofthouse MARGRAVE. He was probably born in Westminster, London, circa 1795; he married Hannah (later known as Anna) BOOTH on 17 October 1824 at Birstall, Yorkshire, having then recently moved from London. [His marriage certificate shows his Christian name only as Lofthouse, but the IGI record shows 'Lofthouse or Stephen']. His first son, Thomas MARGRAVE was baptised in Bradford Parish Church, Yorkshire, on 26 March 1825. The family then moved to Llangennech, Carmarthenshire, where Anna (Junior), Lofthouse (Junior), Mary, Robert, Alice, John, Frederick and William were born - either at Plasiffa House or Penlan, Llangennech.

Lofthouse MARGRAVE, Senior, appears to have been involved in the coal/steel industry in Llangennech in a managerial capacity and is described in a Trade Directory as being one of the Landed Gentry of the County. I suspect, however, that he experienced financial difficulties with his business - possibly because of involvement with the Llangennech Coal Company (circa 1840-44) which carried coal to (inter alia) the port of London - and I finally traced him in Canada, he having left his wife and children in South Wales for whatever reason. He died in Halifax, Nova Scotia on 23 February 1845; the IGI record of the death gives his place of birth as South Wales, but I am convinced that he was almost certainly born in London and of well-to-do parents.

Having failed to find his birth/christening records, I tried to trace such evidence by researching his brother Thomas MARGRAVE, who appears to have been a wealthy businessman in the City of London. Thomas' date and place of birth are unknown, but his 1834 Will gives his address as New Broad Street Court, City of London, and it refers to his sons Robert MARGRAVE and Thomas Jones MARGRAVE. His wife was Mary [née ?]. Thomas obviously also resided in Llangennech (probably at 'The Plas') from time to time, as well as in London, because he sired an illegitimate son, William, by a servant called Mary ROBERT, there in 1825! Thomas' Will was proved in 1837 by his then surviving son, Thomas Jones MARGRAVE, himself a wealthy man and (unlike his father?) a good man

of the Church. Thomas Jones MARGRAVE died, a bachelor, in Turkey on 20 June 1881. However, Thomas Jones MARGRAVE was christened on 20 May 1807 at St. Botolph, Bishopsgate, London – so that is one of the trails which I am still pursuing to order to find that promised Royal Blood.

But this may not help me to trace fully the Lofthouse family ascendants, so here is a cry for help for the Society's Members to help the MARGRAVES of London, Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, Wales and wherever to open the Brandenburg Gate with crowning glory!

***Roy Margrave-Jones, Member No. 7178***

*Fayre Oaks, Cefnlllys Lane, Llandrindod Wells, Powys LD1 5LE*

*Email: roymargrave@keme.co.uk*

## **SIMMONDS**

Searching for information about my Grandfather Henry SIMMONDS. His age was given as 86 on his death certificate in 1968.

On my father's birth certificate, dated 1928, Henry's occupation is given as Master Draper. Any help would be appreciated as I would dearly like to obtain a birth certificate for Henry.

From 1928-1938 he was known to be living at 166 Long Lane, Finchley and 45 Bow Lane, Finchley with Jeanne HAWARD née FAVEZ. In 1938 the couple moved to Woodford Green, apparently to run a greengrocery business which had previously been run by Henry's sister, Mrs BLACKWELL and her son.

***Lynda Amos, Member No. 7273***

*1 Ravenswood Road, Chesterfield, Derby S40 4XS*

*Email: lyndaamosdwnsmithnet.co.uk*

Note: A search on the FreeBMD website found only one marriage (between 1890 and 1930) for SIMMONDS and BLACKWELL with a female SIMMONDS. This was in 1922 between Ethel E SIMMONDS and William A BLACKWELL and took place in the Hackney Registration District. Ethel was fairly easy to follow back in the censuses but did not appear to have a brother called Henry. FreeBMD is not yet complete and it may be that another SIMMONDS/BLACKWELL marriage may appear at a later date.

Have you tried local directories for both SIMMONDS drapers and BLACKWELL grocers?

**ROBERT EDWARD PARISH**

I have reached a brick wall in finding out about Robert E PARISH (my great uncle). I should like to know what trade he had on leaving school, when the above left Enfield and/or if he went to Canada or the US and hope someone can come up with some pointers in the right direction for me.

Robert, who was born in Enfield in July 1887, was one of the younger brothers of my grandfather Frank Alfred PARISH. The parents were Alfred and Anne PARISH and at the time of the 1901 census lived in Cecil Avenue, Enfield. In that census, Robert is aged 13 and a scholar so I do not know what trade he went into on leaving school, so it has not been easy trying to find him. His older brother Frederick, a printer, went to Canada, where I have recently found he died in 1935. It has taken me many years to find Frederick! I have not come across Robert PARISH in Canada or on the US census. The family story was that Robert also went abroad but so far I have not found him on any of the US censuses on Ancestry or on Rootsweb.com. I know what happened to the rest of this PARISH family.

In October 1907 when Alfred, his father, died the family were living at Warboys, St Marks Road, Bush Hill Park, Enfield.

I would really appreciate any help with ideas of where I can look to see where Robert went to school, worked in Enfield or where he lived after 1907 and when he left Enfield.

***Mrs Jackie Ade, Member No. 7244***

*84 Hailsham Road, Polegate, East Sussex BN26 6NP,*

*Email: Gregory.ade@btinternet.com*

**Note:** Robert E PARISH, born 1887, left the port of London in 1914 for Melbourne, Australia according to the Ancestors Onboard database.

**BOUND**

I am currently trying to locate siblings and/or parents of Thomas BOUND, born around 1783, died 1830.

Thomas BOUND married Fanny PARISH at St Marylebone Parish Church on 1 May 1830. The LMA stated that they believed that the two witnesses were William George PILLET and RG PANCHARD but the handwriting is very poor in the marriage register. This marriage is also in Pallot's Marriage Index.

Thomas and Fanny had one son, also called Thomas. When he was baptised on 5 December 1830 Fanny was already a widow, living at 8 Riding House

Lane, according to the register of baptisms. Thomas senior, aged 47, was buried on 23 September 1830, his abode was Great Portland Street.

I have searched for possible links with other BOUND families in the Marylebone area, searched the records on FamilySearch, looked into the PILLET and PANCHARD connection and searched around Ninfield, SSX where Fanny PARISH was born. I would be very grateful if anyone has any suggestions on further avenues of research that could be carried out.

***Maighread Bound, Member No. 7370***

*2703-1529 West Pender Street, Vancouver, BC, V6G 3J3, Canada*

*Email: adb\_mmb@btinternet.com*

### **NICHOLAS PLAYLE**

I am looking for Nicholas PLAYLE or PLAIL. He was married to Lydia SPICER, at St Leonard's, Shoreditch on 2 October 1823. His daughter Elizabeth Matilda was baptised at St Mary, Marylebone, on 6 June 1823.

There is no apparent reference to him in the 1841 census but 1851 finds him living in Sudbury, Suffolk. His daughter in fact married in Braintree, Essex in 1843, so Nicholas could have moved away from Middlesex some time before 1851 but I have no more precise idea as to when his move took place. Nicholas's occupation is given in the censuses in which he appears as a shoemaker. His place of birth is given as Middlesex, or simply London, sometime between 1796 and 1802. I have searched as many Middlesex parish baptism records as I can but I can find no trace of Nicholas. Can anyone help me advance my research please?

***Terry Kaye, Member No. 7345***

*116 Hermitage Woods Crescent, St Johns, Woking, Surrey, GU21 8UF*

*Email: telboy47@hotmail.com*

**Note:** *Pigots Directory of London and its Suburbs, September 1839, shows a John James PLAYLL, Boot &c maker, 120 Bishopsgate Street Without. Could this be a connection?*

### **WILLIAM GAY**

I have been trying to trace my uncle for some 20 years. His name was William GAY and he was born about 1903, son of William George GAY and Celia Catherine RANSOME née JUDD (birth unregistered). Around 1930 he travelled to Australia working as a steward. He returned to

England but subsequently went again shortly afterwards, this time not coming back. He went from King George V dock in London. I have no idea which ship he went on nor where he landed in Australia. I know he was alive in 1943 because he sent a carcass of a lamb to his relatives in war-torn London. I would love to find any cousins I may have in Australia and find out what happened to my uncle.

**Mrs Linda Elliott, Member No. 5035**

*18 Heather Close, Tavistock, Devon PL19 9QS*

*Email: lindagelliott@aol.com*

Note: Are you sure he was not registered? If William's parents were not married he might well be registered under his mother's name. There is a William George G RANSOME who was registered in 1903 in Edmonton. Could this be him?

## **CRACKNELLS**

I wish to make contact with CRACKNELLS who lived east of the A10 from the M25 south to Tottenham and who were nursery or market gardeners. It has come to my attention that there were more than three families working this area. Enfield Lock, Beaconsfield Road, and Brookfield Gardens were built on Alfred and Mary CRACKNELLS' land up to the 1960s. Another Alfred CRACKNELL had a nursery in the Cheshunt area.

The Ride and Durants Park are also said to be the place of many nurseries and it is believed that CRACKNELLS were involved in this area, again into the 1960s. Any help would be appreciated.

**Keith Cracknell, Member No. 7184**

*12 Ashton Street, Woodley, Stockport SK6 1PB*

*Email: keithjc1@tiscali.co.uk*

## **WANTED – A NEW TREASURER**

After almost ten years in the post I have decided to stand down as Treasurer effective from 30 September 2008.

Anyone interested should contact me at: [treasurer@lwmfhs.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@lwmfhs.org.uk)

Without a Treasurer, as with any other Officer, the Society cannot function.

**J Brian Green, Treasurer Pro Tem.**

## FORTHCOMING BRANCH MEETINGS

### **Barnet Branch** - 7.30pm for 8.00pm

Lyonsdown Hall, Lyonsdown Road, New Barnet, Hertfordshire

- |                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| Thursday 16 October  | <i>Freeman of the City of London and Liverymen of the Stationers' Company: A Personal View</i> by Andrea Cameron |
| Thursday 20 November | <i>Christmases Past – Some Festive Customs and Traditions</i> by Dr Colin Chapman                                |
| Thursday 18 December | No Meeting   |
| Thursday 15 January  | <i>Documents I Can't Read!</i> by Ian Waller   |

### **City Branch** - 12 noon for 12.30pm

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

- |                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| Thursday 30 October  | <i>'Promiscuous Letters' – Naval History</i> by Meryl Catty              |
| Thursday 27 November | <i>Thespian Background; Family History in the Theatre</i> by Alan Ruston |
| Thursday 25 December | No Meeting   |
| Thursday 29 January  | TBA  |

### **Enfield Branch** - 7.30pm for 8.00pm

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

- |                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| Wednesday 8 October  | <i>Commonwealth War Graves Commission</i> a film  |
| Wednesday 5 November | <i>History of Enfield Part 2</i> by Frank Bayford |
| Wednesday 3 December | Christmas Social                                  |
| Wednesday 7 January  | TBA   |

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 10 October	Personal Research Discussion amongst Members or local Branch Talk
Friday 14 November	<i>Southwark in Archives</i> by Stephen Humphrey
Friday 12 December	Christmas Festivities
Friday 9 January	TBA

**Wembley Branch - 7.30pm for 8.00pm**

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

Monday 27 October	<i>Mrs Goodwin's Little Book</i> by Meryl Catty
Monday 24 November	<i>Dicken's London</i> by Muriel Jones
Monday 22 December	No Meeting
Monday 26 January	TBA



A song which was sung by the Local Defence Volunteers (later called the Home Guard in 1940) as remembered by Fred Carter (see page 9):

There's an old tin helmet hanging on the wall,  
An old tin helmet hanging on the wall,  
It's rusty, dusty, dented here and there,  
A relic of a uniform that I was proud to wear,  
There's an old brown kitbag underneath the bed,  
With a Crown & Anchor board and all,  
And if there's any trouble, I'll be coming at the double,  
With the old tin helmet that's hanging on the wall.

### **London Recorder: by Word, Map and Camera Conference**

London & Middlesex Archaeological Society is organizing a conference entitled *London Recorder: by Word, Map and Camera*. This will take place on Saturday 15 November from 10am-5pm at City of London School for Girls, Barbican. There will be displays by Local History Societies and a series of talks, by various speakers, on: London from Fitzstephen to John Stow - the Eye of the Beholder; Fixing the Image - the Mapping of London to 1900; To Make Nobler and More Humanely Enjoyable the Life of the Great City - the Work of the Survey of London; Life and Labour in the 1930s - London's Forgotten Survey; Recording London by Camera - the LAMAS Slide Collection at the Bishopsgate Institute. Tickets, including afternoon tea, are £10 and are available from: Local History Conference, 24 Orchard Close, Ruislip, Middx HA4 7LS (enclose a cheque, payable to LAMAS, and an SAE) or online via Paypal at: [www.lamas.org.uk](http://www.lamas.org.uk)

### **London Maze**

The London Maze is a free local history fair devoted to London and its past. It is organised by Guildhall Library and Art Gallery and will take place in the Guildhall complex in the City of London, on Saturday 11 October. There will be stalls showcasing London's museums, archives, local history libraries, historical groups and societies as well as walks, talks and activities. Speakers will include Ann Saunders, the noted London historian. Visitors can gain free entry to the Gallery, including the 2,000-year-old Roman Amphitheatre and a renowned collection of Victorian paintings and sculpture. Further details will appear on the London Maze web page: [www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/londonmaze](http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/londonmaze)

### **'The Boys': Triumph over Adversity Exhibition**

Following the Second World War Britain agreed to take in 1,000 young Holocaust survivors - in fact only 732 could be found. This close-knit group of young people (both boys and girls) have become known simply as 'The Boys'. This exhibition tells the inspirational story of how they survived and rebuilt their lives, going on to take their place in London's vibrant community. The exhibition is on loan from the Jewish Museum and can be seen at Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre, Holborn Library, 32-38 Theobalds Road London WC1X 8PA from 9 October until 31 January 2009. Admission is free. For more information Tel: 020 7974 6342 or visit: [www.camden.gov.uk/localstudies](http://www.camden.gov.uk/localstudies)

## 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

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