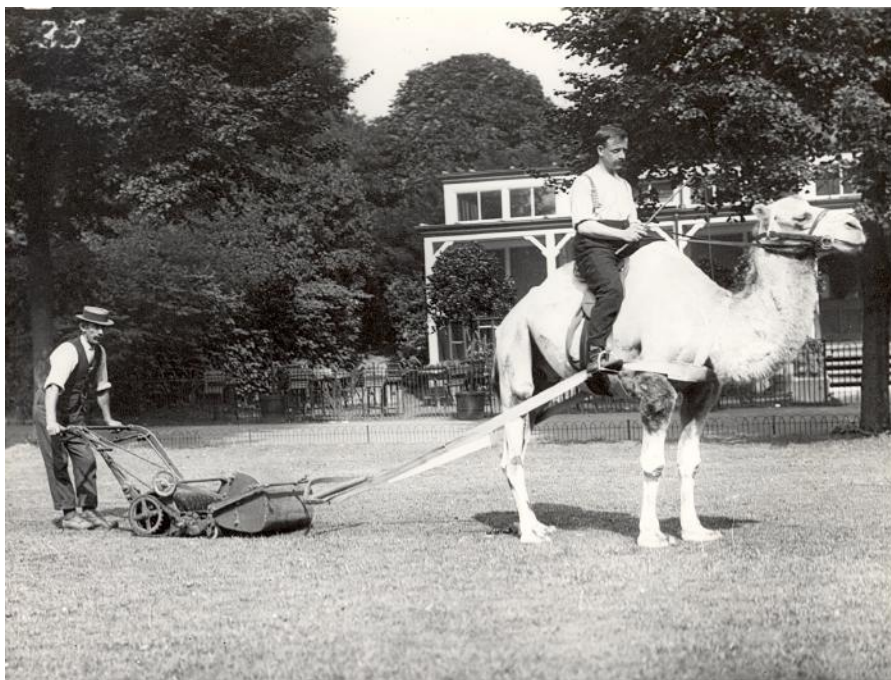


METROPOLITAN

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Family History Society



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President : Mr Michael Gandy BA FSG
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OFFICERS

Chairman : Mr William R Pyemont, 57 Belvedere Way,
Kenton, Harrow, Middx HA3 9XQ
✉ chairman@lwmfhs.org.uk
Secretary : Mrs Tricia Sutton, 141 Welbeck Road,
West Harrow, Middx HA2 0RY
✉ secretary@lwmfhs.org.uk
Treasurer : Mr J Brian Green, 38 Queens Avenue,
Whetstone, London N20 0JD
✉ treasurer@lwmfhs.org.uk

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
✉ editors@lwmfhs.org.uk
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
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Monumental Inscriptions
Co-ordinator : Position Vacant
Bookstall Manager
& Postal Sales : Mrs Anne Prudames, 2 Canonbury Cottages,
Churchbury Lane, Enfield, Middx. EN1 3LR

All general enquiries concerning the Society should be addressed to the Secretary,
Mrs Tricia Sutton at the address given above – or ✉ secretary@lwmfhs.org.uk

Information may also be found on the Society's website www.lwfmfhs.org.uk

Webmaster : Mr Peter Walker
✉ webmaster@lwmfhs.org.uk

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Cover picture: Fred PERRY riding a camel lawn mower, 1913 © ZSL
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EDITORIAL

Signs of spring are apparent: crocuses provide a colourful display; there are some early daffodils; birds are building nests and shops promote products for the traditional 'spring clean'. Perhaps our Family History needs some spring cleaning too? With more and more information becoming available, especially the latest Census release, it all needs to be related to our existing data and the relevant records/files carefully updated.

Some new information will add to our current knowledge, some may contradict it, perhaps because assumptions were made previously. 'That *must* be him/her!' is a common understandable reaction to an apparent gem of a discovery by relative newcomers to family history research. But basic principles apply to us all: work methodically backwards a step at a time from the known to the unknown; note the sources (Great Aunt ...'s memory could be unreliable!); keep an open mind; seek corroborative evidence to prove connections; etc, etc. We all want *our* family trees, not those of someone else. If you *are* new to family history, perhaps inspired by TV programmes which suggest that it is easier than it is, then do read a book about the basics. *Discovering Your Family Tree* by D Iredale and J Barrett is available from our Bookstall Manager (see address inside front cover) Ref: SGP01, price £7.99.

Fellow members of our Society are also sources of help as illustrated in these pages by several of the Letters to the Editors. These are responding to previous articles and will help both their authors and other members. The articles in this issue include topical matters, the second part of a 'serial', a mystery, an account of meticulously documented research and a cautionary tale - a varied collection. The Editors thank all who heeded the comments in the last Editorial about sending material to us *before* the copy date, which helps our schedule. We try to provide a little guidance to some *Help!*

requests and hope that this assists the enquirer and other members who may have similar problems. We would be interested to hear of responses received: what were the results? when did they come?

Rosemary A Roome

**Please remember that the copy date for the next issue is
15 MAY 2009**

ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON

By Elizabeth Burling, Member No. 4992

Our cover photograph, reproduced by kind permission of the Zoological Society of London, shows a camel lawn mower being driven by gardener Fred PERRY in 1913. This lovely image is one from a collection of archive photographs of keepers and other staff members housed in the Library of the ZSL. The archives, which range from manuscript minutes to computer print-outs, are important to family historians in two major ways. There are those documents relating to Fellows of the ZSL and there are those relating to the animal keepers and other people who worked at the Zoo.

If your ancestor was a Fellow, he or she may appear initially in the books of ZSL Council minutes. These start from the very first meeting of the Council which took place on 5 May 1826 and has the signature of the first President, Sir Stamford RAFFLES. These minutes mention those attending meetings, new members elected, including Charles DARWIN in 1831, and members resigning. In the early days one could only visit the Zoo upon 'payment of a shilling and presentation of a member's order, obtainable of any of the subscribers, of whom a list may be seen at the Society's office, No. 57 Pall Mall' according to a guide book dated 1844. Lists of members and their guests also appear in the minute book, for instance, on 3 February 1830 Henry BUCKLEY Esq requested a ticket as did the Rev George CHANDLER, for his sister-in-law, Mrs FOREMAN.

Another useful series of books is the *Lists of Fellows* which details when people became Members and often includes an address too. As an example, in 1876 John Wreford BUDD Esq of 21 Craven Hill Gardens, Hyde Park W2 became a Fellow and so too, in 1918, did Warwick BROOKES Esq of 38 Park Lane, Piccadilly W1.

Keepers, gardeners and other staff members are principally represented by the Staff Record Cards. These show when a person commenced employment with ZSL, indicate any promotions, any pension awarded, state when employment ceased and often when the employee died. The reverse of the card shows any addresses for the employee. The Staff Record Card for Fred PERRY (mentioned above) notes that he was actually FG PERRY, he was born in 1883 and was married. He started as a garden

labourer on 24 May 1909 at 4/6 per day, joined the army on 30 January 1917, was subsequently discharged from the army and left the Zoo of his own accord on 6 May 1919. It gives his address as 14 Henry Street, St John's Wood, NW.

There is a Staff Record Card for another PERRY, F PERRY, who was born on 2 October 1855. The front of the card is shown below. The reverse shows three addresses, the first two being crossed out: 267 High Road, Willesden Green; 6 Henry Street, NW8 (8/6/22) and 33 Hemstal Road, West Hampstead NW6.

F Perry. Married.		Born Oct. 2. 1855	
1876	May 11	Garden labourer.	
1877	Jan.	Garden labourer.	@ 3/4 per day.
1700	May 16		@ 4/- . . .
1907	Apr 17		@ 4/6 . . .
1919	May 27	Gardener	@ 5/8 . . .
		+ Wash Bonus	@ 10/6. wash
1919	Oct 15	do.	@ 20/- from May.
"		do.	@ 8/7 per day.
1920	Apr 1	do	@ 3/7 p. day. + 13/- bonus p/w
"	Sept 21	do	@ 8/1/2 " "
1927	Sept 15	Pensioned (20/-)	@ 4/8 per annum . . .
1928	Apr 16	Seed	Entered Army Jan. 20 1917 Pension paid to. Apr 15. 1928.

Staff Record Card of F Perry

© ZSL

A search of the censuses reveals a Francis PERRY, born about 1855 in Bulkington, Wiltshire, living in Charles Street, St John's Wood in 1891 and Charlbert Street, St John's Wood in 1901, who had a son Frederick G PERRY born about 1883. It is quite possible that this son is the Fred PERRY shown riding a camel on our cover.

Keepers may also be mentioned in the Daily Occurrence Books but these are mainly concerned with the animals.

There is also a collection of letters written to the Zoo in the 19th Century and arranged alphabetically by author. These include letters from Charles DARWIN and others from Phineas Taylor BARNUM, the circus owner who bought Jumbo the elephant from the Zoo in 1882.

The Library, founded in 1826, is one of the major zoological libraries of the world and it contains a unique collection of journals and books on zoology and animal conservation. Books dating from 16th century to the present day, ranging from popular to technical, are available with modern books on open access in the Reading Room available to all visitors. Included are past guides to London Zoo and Whipsnade Zoo, photographic books of London Zoo from times past and much more, for example, *Reports of the Zoological Society 1849-1853* (one of a whole set of Annual Reports) which lists donors of animals, amongst whose number was ET DRAX, Esq who donated a pig tailed monkey.

The ZSL library catalogue at: <http://library.zsl.org/GLASOPAC/index.asp> is the default catalogue but the artworks and archives catalogues can be accessed by clicking the link 'Switch Database' at the top of the screen. Then choose 'ART' or 'ARC' on the pop-up screen, and then 'Switch'. You can use a number of methods to search the catalogue. The easiest is to type one or two keywords into the Simple Search. This should produce a list of archives; just click the link to be taken to the full description. The archives have not yet been fully catalogued and so finding specific information can be time consuming. A project to list the archives is being carried out but is still in the early stages of development and only a small number of archives are listed on it at present. This includes such gems as 'Subscription from the Keepers to the Royal Patriotic Fund 1885', which lists the keepers and the amounts they subscribed.

The Library is open Monday-Friday 9.30am-5.30pm. It is essential to take proof of address and photo ID. Anyone can use the archives but you must make an appointment in advance of your visit as the archivist may not be available. Please contact the archivist, Michael Palmer, at: library@zsl.org.

The Editorial Team would like to thank Michael Palmer for his kind assistance in the preparation of this article.

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Many thanks to the various Members who sent information on Grottoes, which I have enjoyed reading; I wonder whether their findings will be of interest to others and attach a summary of the assorted views.

The general opinion seems to be that 5 August (St James Day), or 25 July after the conversion to the Gregorian calendar, was when grottoes were built by Cockney children on the pavement and decorated with flowers and greenery and surrounded by oyster shells; they also had a candle inside, the light of which shone out through small holes in the surround. Oysters were apparently brought to London at that time and were a 'food for the poor'! In the 19th and early 20th century the custom was primarily confined to the Greater London area but was previously found along the south coast from South Wales to Great Yarmouth.

Apparently writers in the early 1800s thought there was an historical connection to St James and the pilgrimages made to his shrine in Santiago de Compostela in Spain and that returning pilgrims took oyster (or scallop) shells from the beach there to decorate their hats to prove that they had reached their goal.

There appear to be two forms of grotto - a beehive shaped one about 2ft high and also a 'flat' one, also made of earth and decorated with flowers and shells, which is more like what was called a 'spring garden' in other parts of London.

Another letter I had in reply to my query mentioned the rather grander grottoes which were built in large gardens and public parks.

The song the children sang to attract attention - and money - was:

Please to remember the grotto
 Father's gone to sea
 Mother's gone to fetch him back
 Please remember me.

Some of the reference books mentioned are:

London Lore (2008) by Steve Roud; *The English Year* (2006) by Steve Roud; *Chambers Book of Days*; *The Lore & Language of Schoolchildren* by Iona & Peter Opie; *Memories of Grottoes* (1977) by A & M Vickery.

Dee West, Member No. 1523

D

oreen Heywood's article 'Family Stories' (METROPOLITAN December 2008) mentions her German 3x great grandfather. She gives a couple of variations of his name, so here is a third! British writers seemed to be not unreasonably confused by German names and seem to have recorded him as: Pte. Ludwig KNOCKE (no forename Carl). He was cavalryman in the 2nd Regiment of Hussars, King's German Legion. They played a part in just one battle of the Peninsular War, this was 'Barrosa' 5 March 1811. 3000 French were killed, just over 200 British died and a thousand plus wounded.

Both Houses of Parliament gave a vote of thanks for the victory. The King's German Legion were mostly Hanoverians or Brunswickers (from North West Germany, adjoining the Dutch border). If Doreen wishes to pursue her research she could try the State Archives in Hanover, they could still have archives - if they survived WW2.

Her kin, whether it be KNOCKE, KNOLLEKE or KNOLK was still alive in 1848 when he claimed his medal.

I hope Doreen Heywood will keep us informed as to how she progresses with this particularly interesting project.

Dennis Galvin, Member No 1046

I am researching the life and career of Sir John Lewes PEDDER for a doctoral thesis at the University of Tasmania. He was born in 1793 in London, died in 1859 in Brighton and was Chief Justice of Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania) from 1824-1854.

In the absence of a confirmed image of Pedder in Tasmania, it is my hope that a photograph or portrait of him survives among his family in England. Pedder had no children of his own, but his younger brother, Captain William PEDDER (1796-1837) of the 63rd Regiment of Foot, had a daughter, Jane Ann PEDDER (born c1833 VDL) and son, William Lewes PEDDER (born c1837 Madras).

Jane Ann married Loftus John NUNN (c1831-1910), an officer in the 99th Regiment, and returned to Britain with their family in the 1850s. Their daughters were: Maria Louisa, first wife of (Admiral Sir) Sackville Hamilton CARDEN; Jane Fanny; Jessie Helen; Catherine Douglas (born c1857 Ireland), married Frank BRADSHAW; Alice M (born c1865 Jersey); and Yvonne W (born c1870 Suffolk). The family ultimately settled at Portsea, Hants, living in Shaftesbury Road in 1881 and 1891.

William Lewes PEDDER disappears from the historical record after his return to England with his uncle in 1856, so it is unclear whether he has any descendants. Sir John's unmarried sister, Jane PEDDER, lived at Brighton in the 1850s. Sir John PEDDER died at Brighton in March 1859.

Any information about this family, and specifically a likeness of Sir John PEDDER, will be most gratefully acknowledged in any publications resulting from my research.

Jacqueline Fox, Non-Member

School of History and Classics, University of Tasmania, Private Bag 81, Hobart 7001, Tasmania, Australia

Email: Jacqueline.Fox@utas.edu.au

Admiring the lovely picture on the front of the December METROPOLITAN and, having read the article entitled *Our Cover Photograph* on page 47, I thought how nice it would be if a live, rooted tree could be sent from Norway (instead of a cut tree) which could be planted in Trafalgar Square as a permanent reminder of their gratitude - as well as being an attractive addition to the square.

Anyone in agreement with my suggestion would be welcome to take the idea up with the authorities concerned.

Ms Christine Teale, Member No. 7301

I read with great interest the item by Barbara about the Temple Bar monument and other shields to be found in London. Unfortunately I must disagree when she calls the statue on top of the Monument a Dragon. It is not a dragon. It is a Griffin. (Alternately spelt Griffon or Gryphon.) A dragon is a mythical creature of Arab biblical times with a crocodile or snake-like body with wings and claws that breathed fire in defence of treasures and female chastity. A griffin was a creature with head, claws and wings of an eagle and the body of a lion and gets its name from a Greek word meaning hooked in reference to its beak and claws. It is one of the Queen's beasts statues that can be found in front of the palm house in Kew Gardens. It became one of the Royal beasts when King Henry VII was crowned in 1485. He was born in Pembrokeshire in Wales in 1457. It was presented to the burgers of London as their shield in return for the financial help given to him for the battle of Bosworth Field, where he defeated King Richard III. I have a dictionary dated 1911. It states that the beast can be found on the top of Temple Bar. It can also be found in the window in

Henry VII's Chapel in Westminster Abbey. I have also seen it inscribed in a Heraldry Family Tree in either Hever Castle or Windsor Castle. The item on the shield is not a sword, it is Wat TYLER's dagger. King Edward III presented it to the City of London in 1381 when he met Wat TYLER the leader of the Peasant's Revolt, on London Bridge. The King was accompanied by the Lord Mayor who grabbed Wat's own dagger and killed him with it.

I rest my case.

Fred Carter, Member No. 1915

Note: Unfortunately you appear to be in a minority on this one, Fred.

The Temple Bar website (at: www.thetemplebar.info) states that 'Temple Bar Memorial was erected in 1880. The monument, a tall pedestal surmounted by a dragon or "griffin" stands in the middle of the roadway.' It is a common misconception that this beast is a griffin but it can be clearly seen that the statue does not have an eagle's beak, as a griffin would. The dragon comes from the City of London's arms, where there is documentary evidence of dragons supporting the coat of arms since at least 1609.

The earliest specific mention of the armorial bearings of the City of London appears on 17 April 1381 when it was ordered that the old mayoralty seal should be broken as it was 'ill-befitting the honour of the City'. St Thomas Becket and St Paul featured in the design of the old seal and were also incorporated in the new one. A contemporary description records that it was commissioned by the Mayor, William WALWORTH, and depicted 'beneath the feet of the said figures a shield of the arms of the said City ... with two lions guarding the same'. The shield contains a cross charged with a dagger or sword in its first quarter and is similar to the modern design. This evidence means that the popular belief that the dagger or sword represents the weapon with which WALWORTH killed the rebel, Wat TYLER, during the Peasants' Revolt cannot be true as the seal was designed and executed several months before Tyler's death in June 1381. The sword almost certainly represents the sword of St Paul. This information comes from the City of London's own website at: www.cityoflondon.gov.uk

A GRANDMOTHER'S STORY, PART 2

By Linda Elliott, Member No. 5035

The first census that included my Grandma Kate is in 1871, she was then 5 years old and she was living with her maternal grandparents, Charles and Hannah JUDD in Fyfield, Essex. The JUDD family all originated in Essex right back to Daniel JUDD in 1692². The men were mostly Carpenters and Kate's grandfather was a Master Carpenter.

For some unknown reason Kate then went to live with the LEADER family in Wroughton, Wiltshire. It is possible her maternal grandparents could no longer look after her. Perhaps her unknown father agreed to take her in. Knowledge of this period in her life lies heavily on her own recollections. Some conjecture has been necessary to make sense of this period. The man she called 'grandfather' was probably Isaac LEADER³. It is quite feasible that if indeed Isaac actually was her grandfather, then his son John¹ who was born in 1844 (so the same age as Kate's mother, Drusilla) could have been her father. Isaac was listed as a 'Carrier' in the 1861 census and he was related to the LEADER family. He probably worked for his relatives, as Kate remembered going with him to collect rents from the local cottages owned by the LEADERS. Kate always said she lived with 'grandfather' during this time. At some stage in her childhood Kate gained an education and learned to read music and play the piano. This may have been in Wroughton; unfortunately no records of the local school exist.

For some reason Kate cannot be found on either the 1871 and 1881 census. She always said that she ran away from Wroughton to London. She also claimed she had worked at Windsor Castle. Possibly her position in the household was very lowly and this may account for the fact that she was not entered on the census.

The next recorded date of Kate is at her marriage on 3 March 1888¹ when she married a Moses Garner RANSOME (known as Garner) at St Mary's Parish Church, Islington. She was 21 years old and he was 30. His occupation was given as a Publican. Garner was born on 27 October 1858 at Hogsthorpe, Lincolnshire¹. His parents, Moses Butcher RANSOME and Alice Maria GARNER were married at North Witchford in Cambridgeshire¹ and originated from there. Garner was one of five children

and the only boy. His family moved around the country at various times and this was probably because Moses Senior was a Police Sergeant.

From the time of her marriage Public Houses played a significant part in Kate's life. Kate and Garner began their married life living at the *Queens Head* Winchmore Hill, where Garner was the Publican of this establishment. Their first child, Charles Garner Harvey RANSOME¹ was born there on 5 December 1888. It was a short tenancy at the *Queens Head* because by 18 February 1890¹ the pair were Publicans of the *Black Horse* Waterloo Road, Hillingdon and here their second child, Frederick Garner Butcher RANSOME¹ was born.

Later in that year they had again moved, this time to Baker Street, Enfield and this was where their first tragedy occurred. Garner was at this time unemployed when their eldest child Charles, aged 1 year 9 months, died¹. The cause of death on his certificate states that he died from Asphyxiation caused by smouldering linen in a cupboard and a Coroner's inquest occurred. Because of the circumstances of this death searches were made to find if the details of this case were still in existence. The Coroner's Court records do not appear to have survived. However, the following report was found:

From *The Enfield Observer* dated 26 September 1890⁴.

“A CHILD SUFFOCATED

On Thursday evening, at the Wheatsheaf Inn, Baker Street, Enfield, Mr Arthur Langham, deputy coroner, held an inquiry relative to the death of Charles Garner Harvey Ransome, an infant one year and nine months old, whose parents live in Baker Street, Enfield.

Mrs Ransome, the mother of the deceased, who evidently was greatly affected by her loss, deposed that at ten minutes past seven in the evening of Monday, she left her child lying asleep in his cot, and went out to the Great Northern Railway Station. On her return she found the home full of smoke. She rushed upstairs, and found her child dead. Prior to going out she has been upstairs with a lighted candle, and had opened a cupboard in which there was linen. There was no fire in the grate in that room or in any room downstairs. The child's life was not insured.

Garner Ransome, the husband of the last witness and the father of the boy, said he last saw the child alive at about three o'clock, and then went out

with his wife into the town. There he stayed listening to “Sequah” while his wife went to the Great Northern Railway Station. They went home together at half past nine o’clock and found the house full of smoke. He rushed into the front bedroom, picked up the child, and carried him into the back yard and rubbed him until he found that the boy was dead. Dr Briand was sent for, and came almost immediately.

By the jury: His other and younger child was downstairs in a cradle. He and his wife had left the children for an hour or two occasionally, while they had been out shopping. There had been a fire in the kitchen during the day, but he thought that had gone out, so that the cause of the cupboard catching fire could not have been the passage of a chimney behind. His furniture was not insured. The only cause of the fire that he could imagine was that a spark dropped from the candle, which his wife had when she went to the cupboard.

Dr Briand said he was called and found the child in the arms of a woman in the front room downstairs. To all appearances it was dead, however, he tried to restore animation, but without success. He had since made a post mortem examination. There were no external marks of violence. The child’s lungs and liver were slightly congested. The cause of death was asphyxia, caused by an excess of carbonic acid in the blood due to the inhalation of smoke. The body was quite warm when he first saw it and evidently the child had not been dead more than 10 or 15 minutes. The Coroner and jury expressed sympathy with the parents of the child. A verdict of accidental death was recorded.

After the court had been closed a subscription for the parents was made among those present.”

Although the report in the paper gives a full account of the accident, it leaves many unanswered questions. Did Kate and Garner regularly leave their two babies for several hours at a time? It is important to remember that the babies were 1 year 9 months and the other 7 months only. When Kate said she was going to The Great Northern Railway Station it would most certainly have been that she was visiting a Public House there, although this information wasn’t given. Garner’s whereabouts at the time of the accident were not ascertained, but it seems very doubtful that the couple would have much money to spend or needed so long to shop when it is stated on the death certificate that Garner was unemployed? Finally, the report says that the when the court was closed a subscription for the parents

was made among those present. The couple must have presented as a poor, downtrodden pair and people felt sorry for them. There was no admonishment for their behaviour. It is difficult to understand how in so short a time (7 months) that this couple had gone from being Publicans and running Public Houses to this level of existence. One wonders what instigated this change of circumstance?

The next record found is in the 1891 Census when Garner is now living away from home at Cadbury House, North Cadbury, Somerset and employed as a Footman. Kate isn't recorded at this address or at any other address so it can be assumed they were living apart. She gave birth to a girl, Emily Katherine Cecilia RANSOME¹ on 17 October 1891 and she was living at 19 Argyle Street, Brettenham, Edmonton.

On 29 November 1893 Edgar Garner Thomas RANSOME¹ was born to Kate and Garner. At this time the couple were living together and still at Argyle Street. Garner's occupation was given as an Insurance Agent.

In 1894 the family were living at 126 Palmerston Road, Islington. They lived here for some 3 years, the longest period they spent in one place. In this year two of their little boys died. Frederick, on 21 May 1894, aged 4 years¹. The cause of his death was given as Whooping Cough, Measles and Broncho-pneumonia. Then sadly, Edgar died on 11 November 1894 aged 11 months¹. The death certificate gives the cause of death as Bronchitis.

Kate and Garner's last child, a girl, Ruby Rose RANSOME was born on 16 February 1896¹. In eight years this couple had five children but only two little girls survived.

The 1901 Census was awaited with some impatience. What events would have happened to the troubled RANSOME family?

It was with some shock that I found on the census that Garner, aged 42 years, was living on his own as a boarder at 30 Froam Street, Islington. The marriage of Kate and Garner was over and had lasted some 10 years. The documented evidence shows that in that time they had had 5 children, three now dead. They had moved at least 5 times and Garner had held 4 different occupations, Publican, Insurance Agent, Footman and Waiter as well as

being unemployed at the time of his first son's death. It is quite possible that their moves were even more frequent than this and that more pregnancies occurred and miscarriages happened. The life this family had lived must have been a very turbulent one.

The two little girls, Emily and Ruby aged 9 and 5 years were living at another address with a widow aged 62 and at 38 Hanover Street, Islington. Family legend has it that relatives took Emily but what happened to Ruby during her childhood isn't known.

Sources:

¹ Register of Births, Deaths & Marriage, General Register Office

² Margaret Roding Parish Record (Essex Record Office)

³ Wroughton Parish Record (Wiltshire Record Office)

⁴ Enfield Local History Unit



LWMFHS WEBSITE UPDATE

James Sanderson, Member No. 949, has kindly donated copies of the following transcriptions he has made for our website.

The Liberty of Saffron Hill Settlement Examinations including Bastardy Examinations, Volumes 1-4 (1775-1812 with gaps)

St Andrew (City) Paupers Voluntary Examinations 1782-1789.

St Andrew & St George Martyr: Payments to Militia Wives 1801-2; Payments to Women who Nurse their own Children 1791-92, 1796-97, 1798-99; Bartholomew's Hospital Account 1788-1792; Payments to Casual Poor 1785-1786 and 1798-1799; Workhouse Admissions & Discharges 1750-1759.

St. John Hampstead: 1811 Census; Burials 1788-1813; Burials 1813-1837; Overseers of the Poor Accounts 1826-1837; Settlement and Bastardy Examinations 1804-1814.

Union Chapel Baptisms 1805-1839

Visit: www.lwmfhs.org.uk Members' Area to look at them.

WHAT HAPPENED IN 1911?

By Colin Barratt, Member No. 4427

Not a lot, you may think. No special events are linked to it (apart from a revolution in China). King Edward VII died the previous year and the following year Captain Scott died near the South Pole and the *Titanic* sank. The First World War was three years away. However, for me it was a special year because my father was born in the January. It is also special for that strange breed, Family Historians for, as we know, on 2 April 1911 the ten yearly census was taken.

Censuses contain a goldmine of information for anyone interested in researching their family history but the details are normally closed to public view for 100 years. The 1901 census was released in January 2002 and the system was designed to cope with 1 million visits a day. Unfortunately, in the first few days it received 30 million a day and promptly crashed! However, it was eventually sorted out and has been in constant use since. Now that all the censuses from 1841 to 1901 are online, we have quickly become used to just typing in a name and date and watching all the options appear in a flash. Yet it is only seven years since this magic has become available.

When it came to preparing for the next census, 1911, the lessons from the 1901 release needed to be learnt. The continuing increase in interest in family history, helped by TV programmes such as *Who do you think you are?* made it more important than ever to get it right. So how come this census is being released almost three years early? Due to the Freedom of Information Act, The National Archives was pressured into releasing a limited amount of information a couple of years ago and this prompted the decision to relax the 100 year rule for this census and last year it was announced that it would be released, not in January 2012, but this year!

One of the major family history websites (www.findmypast.com) took on the task of putting the census online, in conjunction with The National Archives. This was a much bigger job than the 1901, as it contained more people (36 million) and more information. It's also the first census where the original documents filled in by the individuals have been kept, so you will be able to see the handwriting of your ancestors!

The other difference with this census was the plan to release it online region by region, spread over a period of a few months, starting with London and southern counties. This was sensible, to prevent another crash of the system. For those of us with deep local roots, it was great to hear that London would be the first area to be released. An official 1911 website was set up (www.1911census.co.uk) to keep people up to date on progress and shortly before Christmas I registered on this. I discovered that the website had offered the chance for people to test the proposed online search system for a couple of weeks, with a trial release which allowed access to London and other areas. The only request they made was for users to fill in an online questionnaire about the site.

The trial had almost finished when I learned about it via the website, but then they extended it to the end of December, so I took advantage of this, as searching was free, and transcriptions or original documents could be viewed by purchasing credits. Any unused ones could be used over the next 12 months. I was quickly able to find where both sets of grandparents were living, and with whom. My BARRATT family, with my 2 month old father and his parents and elder sister were shown at their house in Stoke Newington, and my mother's HUNT family, with her parents, older siblings and various other relations, living in New Southgate, although this was before my mother was born. I also checked a couple of other family groups and their addresses during this brief trial but the time I had was tantalisingly short, as it was during the Christmas period when I was away much of the time.

I dutifully completed the questionnaire and looked forward to the release date. I checked the website a few times, but no updates were shown so it was a surprise when, on 13 January, the morning BBC news announced that the census had been released at midnight! Strangely, even that day, there appeared to be no mention of the release on the website. Obviously, a lot of people did know exactly when the release was, as many were using it within hours, or even minutes, after it came online. The regions made available were also more extended than originally announced. Not just London and the Home Counties, but all of southern England up to Lincolnshire. By the time you read this, the census will have been online for some weeks and you will have your own views on it but I will give my thoughts anyway, having used it regularly since its release.

The search page looks much the same as the trial, so no major changes were made. The list of possible matches from the free search gives location at the time of the census but I wish it also showed place of birth, as this would help in selecting the right name. This is important, as mistakes can be costly. If you buy 280 credits, as I did, a transcription costs 90p and an original page is £2.70. If you only buy the so called 'entry package' of 60 credits, this is only enough for viewing two original pages, so costing £3.48 each! Transcriptions are normally sufficient but I have found some odd names or places on these, which could be resolved by viewing the original, using local or family knowledge, but is it worth paying £2.70 or more for this? Many users have already complained of the high cost and it does seem extortionate, after the far less expensive access we have enjoyed for the other censuses. Findypast have promised fixed fee access later this year, but I don't know how much this will be.

One of the special features claimed for this census was that the original documents could be viewed, not just the enumerator's transcription. It's interesting to see your ancestor's handwriting but a limitation is that you don't see the houses and neighbours either side, without paying again. I understand that the enumerators' sheets will be available later.

I have also tried several 'place' searches. One was of the small house in New Southgate where I was born and grew up. I lived there in a family of four but in 1911 it was home to nine! My grandparents lived in an identical house two doors away and I was told they had up to eleven living there during WWII! (To make things even more cosy, my nan followed the common practice at the time of keeping the front room 'for best' or out of bounds except when having visitors.)

There was great anticipation around the country for this next instalment of the family history soap opera. I know that some have turned their nose up at this census, saying that it wouldn't add anything to their family tree, as they already had everybody but this is at the edge of living memory and the last one before the tragic losses of WWI, when the world changed forever. I for one am looking forward to tracking down more of my family, and expanding my knowledge of where they lived and what they were doing.

ST THOMAS' HOSPITAL

Medieval Monastic Hospital to NHS Foundation Trust: Part 1

By Anne Prudames, Member No. 254

Monastic Beginnings

Behind the modern facade of St Thomas' Hospital, Lambeth lies a history dating back some 900 years. Although the exact date of its foundation has not survived in any documents it is thought that St Thomas' originated in the Dispensary attached to the Augustinian Priory of St Mary Overie, which stood south of London Bridge on the site of the present day Southwark Cathedral. In keeping with the teachings of the Augustinian Order the hospital would have given accommodation to travellers, particularly pilgrims, provided food and shelter to the aged poor and nursed the sick and infirm.

In 1212 the Priory of St Mary Overie suffered a disastrous fire and, although advised not to rebuild on the same site, did so. Three years later the Hospital of St Thomas began a separate existence on the east side of Long Southwark (now Borough High Street) where there was more space and a better water supply. At that time, little Medieval Southwark consisted of Bankside, Long Southwark and Short Southwark (Tooley Street). Of these the most important was Long Southwark, the southern approach to London Bridge and the convergence of two Roman Roads, Watling Street (now A2) and Stane Street. Both were important to the defence of the City of London.

Although St Thomas' was never prosperous it did receive gifts from benefactors and against the edicts of the Augustinian Order held property for its upkeep, although at this time it was never sufficient to maintain it. Consequently in 1348 the hospital was granted a licence by the Bishop of Winchester, in whose Diocese it lay, to beg for Alms. St Thomas' most famous benefactor was Richard WHITTINGTON, a rich merchant who, before he became Lord Mayor, endowed a new chamber of 8 beds for 'young women that have done amiss in trust of good amendment'.

By 1434 the hospital buildings were in a parlous state and its total income just £200 per annum. After the Canonisation of Thomas BECKETT it became known as the Hospital of St Thomas the Martyr and continued its

monastic work, although it did not expand until late in the reign of Henry VIII.

The Reformation and its Effects

Henry VIII was always short of money and he and his Commissioner, Thomas CROMWELL, cast covetous eyes on the wealth of the monasteries. Together the King and Cromwell sought a satisfactory excuse to close the monasteries and annex their wealth. The excuse used was Reform, whereby irregularities were to be corrected and abuses, where proven, would result in closure.

Early in 1538 visitations of all religious foundations including monasteries, almshouses and chantries began. Richard LAYTON, Cromwell's Deputy, had already made clear his intention to visit the 'bawdy' hospital of St Thomas, Southwark and did so in September of that year. As a consequence the Master of the hospital, Richard MABBOTT, was charged with theft, immorality and exacting excessive fees.

Richard MABBOTT's death soon after the visitation was timely and he was succeeded by Dr Thomas THURLEBY (later Bishop of Winchester). One month later however on 14 January 1540 the hospital was surrendered to the King and its brethren and sisters dispersed. Sir Richard GRESHAM, a former Lord Mayor (1537), having realised the hardships which would be caused to the poor and sick of London with the closure of so many hospitals, had already petitioned the King to allow the City to have governance of St Thomas' and three other hospitals; St Bartholomew's, Bethlem and Christ's. His petition was refused. Consequently the hospital of St Thomas the Martyr, together with hundreds of other monastic foundations throughout the country was closed. The majority never reopened. Meanwhile the plight of the poor and the sick was exacerbated by wounded soldiers returning from the Irish Wars.

St Thomas' Hospital and the City of London

In 1546 attempts were begun to reopen St Thomas' with a small staff but this came to nothing. In 1551 Bishop RIDLEY and Richard DOBBS the Lord Mayor appealed to Edward VI, who had succeeded his father. The result was that St Thomas', its parish and remaining estates were sold to the City of London. Letters Patent relating to

the sale assessed the hospital at £154.17s.0d per annum. Whereas in 1536 the hospital was assessed at £346 per annum, the difference being accounted for by the hospital's estates which had been lost. The former sum was just sufficient to support 20 beds for which linen was desperately required. This was to come from an unexpected source when all linen not required by London churches was given to both St Thomas' and Christ's hospitals as being the most needy.

Staff for the new hospital were appointed in the autumn of 1552 and consisted of an Hospitaler or Chaplain, clerk, steward, butler and cook whose salaries totalled £39.13s per annum. Six surgeons at £15 per annum were to be engaged but in fact there were only three. In addition there was a matron and six sisters, one for each of the six Great Wards. There were no nurses as such and watchers were employed on a temporary basis to sit with frail patients during the night. The number of patients to be admitted was fixed at 300 but this figure was later reduced to 250. To increase the endowments of St Thomas' the estates of the Savoy Hospital, which had never reopened, were transferred to it.

In 1555 a large area of Southwark was purchased by the City from Edward VI. Bridge Ward Without, to distinguish it from Bridge Ward Within which included London Bridge and its northern approach, became the 26th Ward of the City of London. It included Southwark Cathedral which stood on or near the former Priory of St Mary Overie and St Thomas' Hospital which had been granted to the City of London in 1551 by Edward VI. In 1556 the hospital of St Thomas the Apostle as it was now known, was to become one of five 'Royal' hospitals with Bethlem, Bridewell, Christ's and St Bartholomew's which had been refounded either by Henry VIII or by his son Edward VI.

The fifteen governors of St Thomas', referred to as Almoners, were representatives of the City of London. Of these, three were Aldermen and the rest Common Councillors. The senior Alderman was President and next to him was the Treasurer whose post was honorary and non resident. All the Almoners were astute business men and had great experience. They gave not only of their time but often their wealth and their knowledge and expertise helped to establish the hospital on a firm footing.

At first St Thomas', Bridewell and Christ's were administered from Christ's Hospital but from 1557 St Thomas' was administered separately. It is from this date that surviving records including account books and minute books begin. The election of governors took place at Christ's but eventually this was dropped and St Thomas' became completely independent, although up until 1948 important documents, including leases, were made out in the name of the Lord Mayor, Commonalty and Citizens of the City of London, Governors of the Hospitals of Christ's, Bridewell and St Thomas the Apostle.

Footnote: Having completed the above I was pleasantly surprised and pleased to note in the December issue of METROPOLITAN that Barbara Haswell had been out and about with her camera in the City of London taking photographs of some of the City's 'Boundary Dragons' and that two of them, which are relevant to the above article, are those on the south side of both London Bridge and Blackfriars Bridge respectively.



NEW ON THE BOOKSTALL

Available from the Bookstall Manager:

LITTLE ITALY - The Story of London's Italian Quarter by Tudor Allen. Illustrated. 60 pages. ISBN 9781 900841 21.9. Covers the history of the Italian community in Holbom from the early 19th century up to its decline in post World War 2.

CLS09 £5.99 Bookstall, £6.99 UK, £7.60 overseas

Copies of the above arrived just before I left home on Saturday in time to take to Bruce Castle. A follow up order has already been placed!

Having worked in both wholesale and retail chemists and the electrical trade over very many years, the names Negretti and Zambra, renowned manufacturers of thermometers, barometers, and cameras, was instantly familiar.

Tudor Allen will be talking about *Little Italy* at the City Branch on 28 May. See page 130 for details.

WEBSITE NEWS

Great Ormond Street Hospital

This website, called 'Small and Special' is a collection of resources relating to the early years of The Hospital for Sick Children at Great Ormond Street, England's first in-patient children's hospital.

The Admission Registers of the Hospital, from its opening in February 1852 until 31 December 1914, form the core of the project, complemented by Registers of Cromwell House, the hospital's convalescent home in Highgate, from 1869 until December 1904. The Registers are of relatively uniform format in both institutions, giving the hospital number of each child, followed by the child's name, age, sex, and address. Further columns provide diagnosis, date of admission into the hospital and date of attack. The date of discharge is recorded, along with the result of treatment, which is given as 'Recovered', 'Relieved', 'Not Relieved' and 'Died'. A column for remarks gives such details as operations performed, drugs issued, brief post-mortem results or an explanation for a premature discharge of the child from the hospital. The final column gives the name of the hospital governor or medical officer who sponsored the patient. The Cromwell House Registers contain similar information, and for a small number of children include details of the child's vaccination status (against small pox) and history of childhood diseases. Cromwell House Registers recorded children entering, and moving between, the convalescent wards (used in the main for children who were in need of strengthening before being sent home) and the chronic wards, which were used to house children still in need of nursing care, but who were taking up valuable beds needed for acutely sick children in the main hospital.

Small and Special also contains a library of articles on subjects connected to the Hospital including a history of the Hospital for Sick Children at Great Ormond St, pen portraits of some of the medical officers, nurses and patients and articles on the buildings which made up the Victorian and Edwardian institution. The articles are complemented by a collection of images of the Hospital from the period.

The site is completely free and very easy to use. Visitors are encouraged to register with the site, which grants access to more detailed information, such as the patient's address and case notes and also allows one to print and download results of searches.

This website can be found at: www.smallandspecial.org

A2A update

A2A (Access to Archives) allows you to search online for information, in records dating from the eighth century to the present day, in collections housed in England and Wales. It was reviewed in this column in October 2006.

This useful database is now hosted by The National Archives and so has a new web address, which can be found at: www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/a2a

Curious Fox

This website, at: www.curiousfox.org.uk is a list of villages throughout the UK, with the facility for visitors to enter a message which remains on the site for others to read and respond to. The site is overwhelmingly used by family historians seeking information on their ancestors.

CuriousFox covers every village and town in the UK but not all villages contain entries. In Middlesex, 13 of a possible 33 'villages' beginning with C are listed. There are 4 messages for Cricklewood and 156 for Clerkenwell. The site has recently expanded to include Ireland, the Channel Islands and Isle of Man. There is scope for confusion in the naming of villages in urban areas like London, but the site's ease of navigation means that in practice this is not a problem.

There are two categories of membership. Free 'red' members can leave messages and reply to entries posted by full 'green' members. Green members can both leave messages and send replies, and can enter the URL of their website. Full membership costs £5 a year.

All messages are sent via the website, thus assuring confidentiality of email addresses. There is a facility for full members to receive alerts for each new entry in selected villages. There is also, most usefully, a surname search which works across the whole site.

This is an excellent resource, simple in purpose, uncluttered to look at and easy to move around. It can be used to make contact with living people in unexpected ways. I was thrilled, a year after leaving a message about my great-great grandfather who lived in the tiny Devon village of Broadwoodkelly, to receive a message from the person who now lives in his house. She had done a lot of research into the house's occupants and was able to tell me a great deal about the lives of my early 19th century ancestors.

This is a website I can thoroughly recommend.

James McCarthy, Member No. 7249

Free BMD update

FreeBMD is well on the way to completing its transcriptions up to 1930. This amazing website (<http://freebmd.rootsweb.com/>) is now first port of call for a huge variety of post-1837 family history enquiries. Amazing not only for its size - over 162 million records to date (Feb 2009), searched over 300,000 times a day - and for the accuracy of its transcriptions, but also for the fact that it represents a collaborative effort by an army of enthusiasts, all volunteers. One feature likely to grow in popularity is the 'post-it' system. Some records on the site now have the means for researchers to leave a brief message giving their contact details. This could lead to important links being made with other researchers and is a feature which is warmly welcomed.

James McCarthy, Member No. 7249

FreeREG

Of FreeBMD's two sister sites, FreeCEN and FreeREG, the latter is likely to be of more immediate value to family historians. Aiming to transcribe and make freely available on the internet all UK parish register entries, the site now lists some 1.1 million baptisms, 3.9 million marriages and 1.9 million burials. Marriage entries include the names of witnesses, and these are searchable like bride and groom. Coverage varies enormously, with some counties having few or no entries. A search for BAKER baptisms, 1790-1810, gives no results for Middlesex and just one for the City of London; Lincolnshire produces 125. The remedy is more transcribers. The work can be done at home, at your own time and pace, by anyone with a computer and an internet connection. LWMFHS members should consider volunteering.

James McCarthy, Member No. 7249

Hyde Park Family History Centre

This, the largest of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Family History Centres outside of North America, has been renamed the London Family History Centre.

It holds a significant collection of primary records, mostly on microfilm, and a growing collection of finding aids such as cemetery records. Its microfilm catalogue is available to search over the internet using the new web address: www.londonfhc.org

LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2009

The following are the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the above Society held on 21 February 2009 at St. Paul's Centre, 102 Church Street, Enfield.

PRESENT

Vice-President - Mike Fountain, who welcomed members to the meeting
Chairman - William Pyemont
Treasurer - Brian Green
and 38 members.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from: Sue Lumas, Raymer Lofts, Peter Baker, Doris Jones, Grace Cowie and Marjorie Bridges.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Minutes of the AGM held 19 January 2008 were taken as read and approved.

MATTERS ARISING

None.

REPORTS OF THE OFFICERS

The Chairman's Report was previously published in METROPOLITAN December 2008.

The Secretary's Report was previously published in METROPOLITAN December 2008.

The Treasurer's Report was previously published in METROPOLITAN December 2008

There was nothing to add to any of the reports and they were taken as read.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

One nomination paper had been received for the office of Secretary from Tricia Sutton. The nomination was proposed by Margaret Paine, seconded by Doreen Heywood and carried by the meeting.

On a point of order Lilian Gibbens suggested that the Officers' Reports should be accepted by the meeting before moving on. The reports were accepted.

As both Bill Pyemont and Brian Green had said that they were standing down from office, our Vice-President, Mike Fountain, pointed out that without a Chairman or

a Treasurer the Society could not function and would have to be wound up. Bill and Brian both then graciously agreed to continue for one year. A member thanked them from the floor.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There being no other business the meeting concluded at 3.10 p.m.



A NOTE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The only change to come out of the AGM on Saturday 21 February was in the appointment of Tricia Sutton as our new Secretary. Tricia has recently retired from teaching and has offered some of her time to serve on the Executive. Joan, after six years, is looking forward to being able to carry on with some of her own personal research. In the absence of volunteers to take over the positions of Treasurer and Chairman, both Brian Green and I have agreed to carry on for a further year.

The two talks, although very much different in content were excellent. Fred Carter, a much respected member, spoke about his early childhood but unfortunately was taken ill towards the end of his talk. He received a loud round of applause and I am pleased to report that due to his general fitness he soon made a full recovery. Ian Waller gave us the pros and cons of visiting Salt Lake City but said it is an experience not to be missed, especially if used as a holiday as well.

The AGM itself was over very quickly due mainly to the absence of questions and proposals from the delegates. Without some feedback, the Executive is unable to judge what members require from the Society. This also carries some responsibility on the membership as to how they can help our Society. Also please bear in mind that unless we are able to find both a new Treasurer and Chairman for next year the Society will have to wind up.

On a brighter note the 1911 census is on line and we are now a registered seller of the vouchers. We will be taking part in the Family History Event at the Barbican on 3 May 2009 in Exhibition Hall 2. The nearest underground station is Barbican. The SoG will be present and their premises will also be open on the day. It is within walking distance. Tickets for the event are priced at £8.00 and include three lectures so it is well worth attending.

William Pyemont

DOREEN WILLCOCKS

14 September 1933-20 January 2009

Soon after joining the then North Middlesex Family History Society at Enfield in 1982, I became aware that the small, slight lady who arrived at meetings in the Children's Library in Cecil Road, Enfield with cartons of Exchange Journals, was the Society's Librarian, Doreen Willcocks.

Later that year, having agreed to take over the post of Treasurer from Eileen Moore, I discovered, somewhat belatedly, that I was also responsible not only for Members Interests but also for Projects. Doreen was already on the Executive Committee at that time and in addition to her post as Librarian, was also greatly involved with recording Monumental Inscriptions in the Barnet area.

Visits to the house of Doreen and her husband Peter (then Barnet Branch Chairman) at Manor Road, Barnet to discuss whatever project was in hand at the time, invariably ended up with me staring bemusedly at the Willcocks's huge family computer while Doreen patiently explained the process of inputting the relevant data of whatever project was in hand prior to sending it out to the volunteer typists or sending the finished transcript to the printers for fiche production. I was always greatly relieved when we retired to the garden - much safer ground. Doreen was as enthusiastic about gardening as she was about MIs.

As my workload increased Doreen took over the post of Monumental Inscriptions Co-ordinator and over a number of years was responsible not only for compiling the various indexes but also for compiling a huge 'Master Index' of all the Society's MI recordings which she christened *The Willcocks Index*.

Over the years Doreen willingly helped hundreds of members not only with enquiries about their ancestors who lived or were buried in our area but, as a keen local historian, with local history enquiries on the Barnet area as well. Doreen retired from the Executive in the early 1990s and was made a Life Member of the Society in appreciation of all her hard work over the years.

Unfortunately I was unable to attend Doreen's funeral at New Southgate Cemetery or at Barnet Museum afterwards. Nevertheless my thoughts were with Peter and their children, Philip, Graham, Keith and Diana on this sad occasion.

Anne Prudames

MYSTERY AT THE AUCTION

By Roger Thompson

When I am not poring over old family diaries, reading e-mails from long lost family members (or in many cases not family members!), I do like to visit the local auction houses and I specialise in the 'job lot'. Often referred to as ephemera, these lots usually consist of the contents of the drawers from some deceased person's house after the family have removed those items which they wish to retain. Hours of endless fun for me, searching for the very occasional hidden gem.

Sometimes however what I find fills me with sadness and just such a lot came my way recently. After I had removed a couple of old newspapers which interested me and some old postcards for resale, I was left with the following collection:

- Marriage certificate for Reginald Reuben FAIRHURST and Muriel Cecille HAYES dated 17 March 1917
- Marriage Certificate for Sydney George McGEE and Bertha PLUMMER dated 10 May 1919
- Birth Certificate for Reginald Robin FAIRHURST dated 22 August 1893 (there is a note in the margin to say that Robin was later changed to Reuben after the parents pointed out the mistake, making this the birth certificate of the Reginald Reuben FAIRHURST married above)
- Photograph of 'Post 12 D Division Edmonton 1945'. The Insignia on the jackets is a crown with the letters 'CD' underneath
- Copy of a Legal Charge dated 8 October 1956 between Mr LVH.FAIRHURST and the Enfield Building Society on the premises of 138 Sketty Road Enfield, Middlesex
- Two school photographs with no identification

- Some wedding photographs for a Laura and Roy WOOD and an American address, 1608 Jackson Street, Durham, North Carolina

I cannot be certain if these are all from the same family although the name of FAIRHURST features in several places. Perhaps some of your readers could cast some light on ownership and I should be very pleased to return them to the rightful owners should we be able to trace them.

As a keen researcher in to my own family history, these are just the sort of items which are disposed of and which can help to fill the gaps in fleshing out details. If you are interested in any of these items please contact me on: RCT211946@aol.com

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WILLIAM RUSSELL'S ORIGINS

By Bruce Murduck, Member No. 7315

Jonathan RUSSELL, aged 31, emigrated to Toronto, Canada in 1871. Sadly, just a few weeks after his wife and four small children joined him there, he died following an unfortunate accident. All connections with the RUSSELL family back in England were lost at that time.

Recent research has revealed that Jonathan had been born in Frampton Cotterell, Gloucestershire on 1 April 1839 and his birth registration shows that he was the son of William RUSSELL and Jane PRICE¹. William RUSSELL was said at the time of his son's birth to be a 'grocer'. This is indeed the line of employment that Jonathan undertook throughout his short life, from at least the time of his marriage to Elizabeth Jane WERRETT at St Philip and Jacob, Bristol, on 23 June 1862², when he was said to be residing on Old Market Street, until his death in Toronto in 1871.

Census enumerator's schedules from 1841 show that William RUSSELL was employed at that time as a 'draper & grocer', while living on Bridge Street in Frampton Cotterell³. The enumerator duly noted that William had been born within Gloucestershire borders. William's age was recorded here as 35, and if the directions given to enumerators prior to the 1841 enumeration were accurately followed in this instance, we can surmise that William must have been between 35 and 40 years of age on Census Day. This would put his birth year somewhere between about 1801 and 1806.

The 1851 census record for William RUSSELL shows something different, however. At this time, described as a 'grocer & draper', living now in Coalpit Heath (Frampton Cotterell), William was said to have been born in 'Middlesex, London'⁴. William's age was noted in this record to be 55 years, which would put his birth year around 1796.

William RUSSELL was married to Jane PRICE at St James church in the Parish of Westerleigh, Gloucestershire, on 10 September 1825⁵. There were no Russell witnesses and no notations in the register suggesting that William might have been under normal marrying age. Of course, there are no notations in the marriage register which help identify who William's parents might have been, or which might help identify the place of his

birth, either. If we treat 21 years as the lowest age at which marriage could be celebrated in England in 1825 without parental consent, then we can speculate that William was probably born some time before mid-September, 1804.

William RUSSELL died in Frampton Cotterell on the 20 February 1858⁶, so no other census records than those from 1841 and 1851 are available to help establish when and where William might have been born. At the time of his death William was described as a ‘general shopkeeper’. He was also said to have been 62 years of age, which if correct, again implies a birth year of about 1796. No Will seems to have been proved in Gloucestershire courts, which might help identify other relations.

So, we have one census record which indicates that William was born somewhere in Gloucestershire (1841), and another which indicates that his place of birth was London, Middlesex (1851). We have, as well, two records which suggest a birth year of about 1796 (1851 census and death registration, 1858); a third which suggests that his birth occurred some time before autumn, 1804 (marriage register, 1825); and a fourth which suggests that William was born between about 1801 and 1806 (1841 census).

All of William’s youngest children were baptised in the Zion Independent Chapel in Frampton Cotterell⁷, so this might give us a clue as to William’s parents’ religious preferences. William’s and Jane’s male children were named as follows, in sequence: William, Thomas, Henry, Charles, Jonathan and James, so these might provide clues as to his father’s name. William’s and Jane’s second daughter was named Sarah Jane (we know of three daughters: Mary Ann, Sarah Jane, and Elizabeth), so we really have no sense whether the ‘normal’ naming patterns might prevail in this family, or not. The fact that William was a ‘draper & grocer’, sided with the fact that at least three of his sons followed in those footsteps (William, Charles, and Jonathan) suggests that William the elder might also have followed *his* father’s footsteps into this type of business.

To thoroughly confuse things, there was *another* grocer named William RUSSELL living in the area around Frampton Cotterell during the time of ‘my’ William’s life. This is probably the boy who was baptised in Westerleigh parish on 17 August 1800, the son of yet another William and

his wife Elizabeth⁸. I suspect that this other William was married to an almost 20 years older woman named Mary at some time prior to Census Day, 1841. This couple were found to be residing in Westerleigh on enumeration day, 1841⁹. No children of this couple are known and it is believed that there were none. By 1851 they had moved to the High Street in Chipping Sodbury, where they remained until at least the time of this other William's death, probably in 1878¹⁰.

Pointers to other christening records from Gloucestershire, 1795-1805, for boys named William RUSSELL can be found in the IGI. None of these, upon examination of the original records, seem to have any obvious pertinence to my William so, for our purposes here, I'll leave aside the possibility that William RUSSELL was born and baptised in Gloucester, and focus on the likelihood that he was born in Middlesex (London).

A survey of the non-conformist registers held at The National Archives¹¹ reveals nothing about the birth or baptism of a boy named William, in either Gloucestershire or Middlesex, between 1795 and 1804.

The IGI contained (when I searched it last) 47 birth and baptism entries for events involving boys named William RUSSELL in 'London Greater' for the years 1795 through to 1804, inclusive. By eliminating birth events submitted by LDS church members, and others not derived from an original record extraction program, the number of individuals concerned reduces to 22. Even so, from a distance, this leaves a lot of legwork to be attended to, if we wished to examine each original record to see what additional information might be found.

There seem to be no obviously interesting records in the Diocese of London's Consistory Court Wills collection, at the LMA, which might have any bearing on this case. None of the index entries under RUSSELL shows an occupation as either a grocer or a draper. There are a couple of 'William RUSSELL's listed, and a few widows, whose Estates were proved in a period that could be pertinent to my William¹². In time, these will have to be checked to see what can be gleaned from them.

A Will in The National Archives' collection of Prerogative Court of Canterbury Wills, attributed to William RUSSELL, grocer, was deemed to

be of interest¹³. The original document reveals that a man so named was residing on Great George Street in Kentish Town, St Pancras Parish, when he wrote his Will on 18 June 1838, giving all of his real and personal property to his wife Sarah. That he had died by 16 November 1844 can be adduced from the fact that Sarah proved his Will at London on this day. With no other beneficiaries named, it would seem that this man named William RUSSELL was probably not my William RUSSELL's father, even though there's a commonality of occupations.

So, I have done everything I can think of to establish my William RUSSELL's origins. If you can think of anything else please let me know.
Bruce Murduck, 820 Allum Ave, Kingston ON, Canada, K7M 7A1
Email: bruce.murduck@family-historian.com

Sources:

¹ Birth No. 260, 1839, Iron Acton Sub-district, Chipping Sodbury Registration District, County of Gloucester; Indexed June Quarter, 1839, Chipping Sodbury, Volume 11, Page 237.

² Marriage No. 395 (Page 198), Marriage Register (1860-1862), St Philip and Jacob, Bristol, Gloucestershire; Bristol Record Office: P/STP.J/R/3Q.

³ 1841 Census: Page 15, Folio 41 reverse, Enumeration District 10, Book 20, Piece 361; HO 107.

⁴ 1851 Census: Schedule No. 56, Page 14, Folio 616, Piece 1956; HO 107.

⁵ Marriage No. 87 (Page 29), Marriage Register (1813-1837), St James, Westerleigh, Gloucestershire; Bristol Record Office: P/W/R/9.

⁶ Death No. 432, 1858, Iron Acton Sub-district, Chipping Sodbury Registration District, County of Gloucester; Indexed March Quarter, 1858, Chipping Sodbury, Volume 6a, Page 143.

⁷ This statement pertains only to those children for whom a baptismal record is known to exist. The records for this congregation which are held at The National Archives [RG 4/770] cover only those events which were celebrated until the middle of July 1837. William and Jane's last child was born about 1849.

⁸ According to the Mormon's International Genealogical Index (IGI), accessible online at: www.familysearch.org, and an entry in an original Westerleigh parish register from the Bristol Record Office: P/W/R/.

⁹ 1841 Census; Page 11, Folio 8, Enumeration District 12, Book 6, Piece 363; HO 107.

¹⁰ 1851 Census: Schedule No. 92, Page 23, Folio 124 reverse, Piece 1956; HO 107; 1861 Census: Schedule No. 47, Page 9, Folio 105, Piece 1743; RG 9; The death of a William RUSSELL, aged 77 years – probably this other man, was registered in the Chipping Sodbury Registration District - March, 1878, Volume 6a, Page 135, as found at: <http://freebmd.rootsweb.com>.

¹¹ RG 4, RG 7, and RG 8, accessible through: www.bmdregisters.com. The index search is free, although pay-per-view is required to examine any individual record in more detail.

¹² The Diocese of London's Consistory Court Wills Index was accessed on 17 July 2008, through: http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/Corporation/LGNL_Services/Leisure_and_culture/Records_and_archives/About_LMA/Volunteers.htm

¹³ At The National Archives, Kew; PROB 11/2007; Accessible through: <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documentsonline/>.

Buckinghamshire Family History Society OPEN DAY

Saturday 25 July 2009 from 10am-4pm
The Grange School, Wendover Way, Aylesbury, HP21 7NH
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.

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

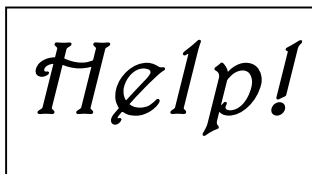
For more information visit: www.bucksfhs.org.uk

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.



NORTONS OF CLERKENWELL

Researching my family tree, I was always mindful of the fact that we were very proud of our Coventry heritage. It soon became clear, however, that my great-grandfather George Watton NORTON came up from Clerkenwell to marry the daughter of a 'serjeant in the army'.

Thus far I have traced the Norton family to 14 Cumming Street, Clerkenwell. In the 1841 Census, John and Susan NORTON lived there with Ellen aged 10, John aged 7, Phoebe aged 5, George W aged 3, Ann DAVIES aged 70 (dependant, Susan's mother), James B aged 18 months and servant Elizabeth PEPPER aged 18.

The eldest child was clearly born when John NORTON was 39 and his wife Susan was about 36. Could this mean that John had been in military service until then? Two of his sons have unusual middle names, George Watton NORTON and James Bourne NORTON. Are there clues here to his earlier whereabouts? John NORTON died at 16 Chapel Row on 16 January 1862.

I would be most grateful for anyone who could now point me in the direction to obtain more information on John NORTON prior to 1838.

Robert Norton, Member No. 7417

66 Ashlawn Road, Hillmorton, Rugby, Warwickshire CV22 5ES

Email: covkid@rmnorton.co.uk

Note: According to the IGI Eleanor, John and Phoebe Bourne were all baptised at St Andrew Holborn; George Watson [sic], James Bourne and Frances were baptised at Pentonville. It could be worth checking the originals of these.

Surely John senior was about 33 and Susan 26 when Eleanor, the eldest child, was born? John was an optician and so unlikely to have been in military service.

HICKEY

My grandfather married Johanna HICKEY in 1890 and the marriage certificate shows her father as being Alfred HICKEY (deceased). However I know that Johanna appeared on the 1881 Census in the household of Jeremiah HICKEY and that at the time of her marriage she was living at Young's Buildings in Old Street.

Alfred HICKEY was born in Cork County in 1820 and died in January 1871 when residing at Golden Lane in the Holborn District of London. His occupation was shown as Tailor and his widow Mary appeared on the 1881 Census as living with her daughter Hanna at 1 John's Place, E1, off Commercial Road.

I believe that possibly the families were related and that somehow Johanna changed households.

Jeremiah HICKEY was born about 1826 in Cork County and married Ellen DALY possibly in 1850. The 1881 Census showed them living in Grays Buildings in the Marylebone district of London.

I am trying to establish a link between the two men (possibly brothers) but unfortunately have been unable to find any records of birth or marriage certificates to substantiate my belief.

Any information or assistance would be greatly appreciated.

Norman Sharpling, Member No. 6617

18 Tudor Close, Grayshott, Surrey GU26 6HP

Email: normansharpling@hotmail.com

Note: The Johanna HICKEY living with Jeremiah and Ellen HICKEY in 1881 is their own daughter, born about 1867 in Marylebone, who was also living with them in 1871. Another Johanna HICKEY appears in the 1871 census. She is the daughter of James and Johanna HICKEY and was born about 1870 in Holborn.

Your grandmother is probably the Hannah HICKEY living with her mother and siblings in 1881 as she was in 1871, albeit she appears then as Johna.

Both of the Johanna's fathers said they were born in Cork, as did another 5 HICKEY men aged 34 to 56 living in the London area in 1871. Many other HICKEY men in London did not specify which area of Ireland they came from but it is entirely possible that some of them are related.

CHAPERLIN

Is anyone researching the name CHAPERLIN? I have an ancestor James CHAPERLIN, born 1825 (1851 and 1861 censuses say MDX, 1871 Census says St Giles, MDX) married to Martha CHAPMAN.

His father was Thomas CHAPERLIN. I am trying to find a record of Baptism for James to find out his mother's name. Can anyone help?

Marion Allen, Non-Member

2 Sycamore Street, Springwood Village, Kelso, Roxburghshire TD5 8NH

Email: johnallen422@btinternet.com

JONES/SPEED

I expected the surname 'JONES' might prove a bit challenging to research and certainly so far I've not had a great deal of success in discovering much about my Grandad, Herbert John JONES. I think he was born between 1870-1880 and he died in Wembley sometime during the 1950s.

I do know he married Gertrude Annie SPEED in Willesden in 1910. She was born in Chester in 1880. Her parents were Henry SPEED born around 1840-1850 and Catherine JOHNSON born 1852. I have traced the JOHNSON line back to about 1790 but would also like to find out more about the SPEED branch.

Herbert JONES may have been a tailor by trade but at the time of the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley in 1924 he had a newsagents shop opposite the Exhibition site. It seems he did rather well out of it too and was able to take early retirement! My father spent his boyhood living over the shop but neither he nor his elder brother had an inclination to take the business over so it was sold and the family moved to another Wembley address.

It would be great if anybody out there could add anything to what I have.

Mrs R A Norman, Member No. 7329

4 St Ursula Grove, Pinner, Middlesex HA5 1LN

Email: peterose.norman@btinternet.com

Note: From the information you have given, it is possible to trace Henry SPEED back through the censuses to Bradley in Staffordshire, where he was born in 1852. His parents were James SPEED (who had apparently been born about 1819 in Tilston, Cheshire) and Mary.

ASHBY

We have a painting of *The Castle Inn*, Old Kent Road (about 1830). This was run for some years by John ASHBY.

1851 Census: Wimbledon High Street

John Ashby	Butcher	Aged 36	Beddington
Mary Ashby	Wife	34	Bletchington
Charles Wm Ashby		11	Wimbledon
Ellen Mary Ashby		9	Wimbledon
James Ashby		7	Wimbledon
Mary Eliz Ashby		2	Wimbledon

1881 Census: Castle Inn, Old Kent Road

John Ashby	Widowed	67	Beddington
Agnes Ashby	Daughter	25	
Allen Ashby	Nephew	29	Tullsdale

John ASHBY was born in 1814 at Beddington, son of John Robert ASHBY and Harriet, née LAMBERT.

We would be interested to hear from anyone with a connection to this family.

Iris Ashby, Member No. 7355

Woodlands, 3 Llandough Hill, Penarth, Vale of Glamorgan CF64 2NA

MOGER/WILDING

My Great Great Grandfather was George MOGER. He was married to Helen Elizabeth (JOHNSON). However, in the 1881 census he was shown together with an Annie as his wife. On 20 January 1882 my Great Grandmother, Alice Hester MOGER was born in Amwell, Holborn, MDX with Annie MOGER, formerly WILDING, registering the birth, as her mother. The address on the birth certificate was 25 Great Bath Street.

Meanwhile on 19 October 1881, Helen registered the birth of a daughter, Annie Martha, giving George's name as the father. The birth was registered in Finsbury, Holborn, MDX. Her address was 30 Cowper Street. Helen Elizabeth later married a William GARMONSWAY claiming to be a widow - in fact George died some years after her second 'marriage'.

I did wonder if George might have followed the same bigamous route, but have found no record of a marriage between him and Annie, and although

he states that he is married in the 1891 census, there is no sign of Annie and I have been unable to find another marriage or death record for her. Apart from the one census entry and Alice's birth certificate, I have found no trace of her own birth (according to the census this was in Norfolk) or any other record. I did hope that the LMA might have had some school records showing who registered Alice, but unfortunately no luck there.

I'm hoping somebody might either have some idea as to where to look next, or perhaps might even have one of these names in their own records that would move my research on.

Maureen Naylor, Member No. 7327

17 Florida Court, Hull HU5 1AG

Email: maureennaylor@lineone.net

Note: The 1881 Census shows George MOGER and Annie living with George aged 7 and Charlotte aged 3. According to the IGI George is actually the child of Helen Elizabeth. Helen Elizabeth is living with her mother in 1881 at 30 Cowper Street along with MOGER children Mary A aged 5 and Helen E aged 1.

The 1891 census is quite interesting as George MOGER is living with four of his children, two who have Annie as their mother and two who have Helen. The fact that he is employing a housekeeper would seem to indicate that both of his 'wives' had scarpered and left him to it!

You might have to purchase the birth certificates of all of the MOGER children to see if any further clues can be found there.

ZOLLER

My grt grt grandfather Adam Joseph ZOLLER was born 1817 in Bavaria. In 1840 he arrived in the UK and by 1854 he was married and taking up naturalization in order to purchase 22 Carnaby Street London. The family remained in Carnaby Street as ZOLLER BAKERY until approx 1965 having passed through the generations. I understand it was sold to CRANKS the famous vegetarian restaurant.

Please can anyone help me with information or pictures of Carnaby Street and in particular the bakery?

Elizabeth Grimes Member No. 7042

Gosmore Hill Cottage, Preston Road, Gosmore, Hitchin. Herts SG4 7QR

Email egrimes@talktalk.net

CROWE

Can anyone give advice to help locate the origin and early history of Patrick CROWE?

He was born in Ireland [1841 Census] possibly about 1781. He lived in London from at least 1827 as he married Maria BARRIT at All Hallows, Bread Street on 17 April 1827. He remarried on 6 May 1828, to Mary FITZGERALD (née DALY). She was the widow of John FITZGERALD of Denmark Street, St Giles.

Patrick owned property in Gloucester Street, Bloomsbury: [now Old Gloucester Street] numbers 33, 32 and 31, as well as property in Somers Town. The Royal Blue Book of 1858 shows P CROWE, Gentleman of 33 Gloucester Street. He died on 11 August 1858 aged 77 and is buried in St Mary's Catholic Cemetery, Kensal Green (Grave 4565).

I know that discovering origins in Ireland is difficult (impossible?) but trust that some member will overcome this and give me information.

Walter Crowe, Member No. 3683

RR5 Owen Sound, Ontario, Canada N4K 5NR

Email: crowe@log.on.ca

Note: Whilst we are not able to help you with the origins of Patrick CROWE, we did find out that he and his future wife insured 2 Little Titchfield Street together from 1827, before their marriage, until 1831 via the Sun Fire Office. Sun Fire Office records also show that Patrick CROWE and John VIRTUE were insuring 33 Gloucester Street together in 1836. Both men are described as executors of the late Patrick FLAWRY. Perhaps this Will will provide more clues for you?

CRACKNELL

I have now got my family tree back to 1536 and it includes 11 generations. In doing this I have got 1900 names on file. Now I am asking others to join me in a quest to link all the branches together.

Early dates show a possible link with the families of Faulkbourne in Essex 1589, Balsham in Cambridgeshire 1558 and Worlingworth in Suffolk 1536. There are others but they appear to be in the 1600s in Buckinghamshire, Norfolk, Hertfordshire and Surrey.

Mr Keith J Cracknell, Member No. 7184

12 Ashton Street, Woodley, Stockport SK6 1PB

Email: keithjc1@tiscali.co.uk

FIGGETT

I am seeking any information or direction on my great, great, grandfather William James FIGGETT, born 30 January 1842, St Leonard's, Shoreditch, a jeweller journeyman by profession, and his second wife Rebecca Emily (née BINNIE) aged 25 at their wedding in Bethnal Green on 22 September 1873.

Also any ancillary information about his sisters Emma born 1828, Mary Ann born 1831, Caroline Amelia born 1836, Sarah Ann born 1838, Louise born 1845 and Maria born 1849, all born at Shoreditch; or his parents William, born 1805 St Luke's, died 1874 Shoreditch, and Ann, born 1806 East Smithfield, died 1867 Clerkenwell.

Mike Figgett, Member No. 7401

50 Southfield Close, Driffield, East Yorks YO25 5YU

BUTLER

Rosetta Jane BUTLER was born 10 February 1891 in Marylebone, daughter of Alfred Joseph and Laura Jane, née LINES. Rosetta was last seen on the 1891 Census with her family at 90 Boston Place, Marylebone.

I have searched the 1901 Census, Marriages and Deaths trying to trace her but can find no sign of her. I would be most grateful to hear from anyone who has news of Rosetta.

Miss Helen L Butler, Member No. 5186

28 Andorra Court, 151 Widmore Road, Bromley, Kent BR1 3AE

Note: At 90 Boston Place in 1891, Alfred Joseph BUTTER appears with his wife Louisa, daughters Jane aged 2 and Rosette aged 2 months.

Rosette was registered as Rosetta Jane BUTLER in 1891. we have not been able to find any trace of Jane's birth, about 1889, as BUTLER although as she is also called Jane she may have been a child of just Louisa and so have a different surname. Alfred Joseph BUTLER only married Laura Jane LINES in 1892. Is Louisa the same person as Laura?

A Rosetta BUTLER, born 1891, left Queenstown for New York in 1909. Could this be her?

RAMSAY

My ancestor John RAMSAY born in Scotland about 1790, married a woman called Elizabeth (possibly Elizabeth McLEAN who married a John RAMSAY on 2 April 1815 at St Martin-in-the-Fields). John and Elizabeth had 4 children that I know of: Robert Alexander bapt 15 September 1816 at St Anne's, Soho; Elizabeth born c1820; James born c1826 and William born c1828. I have never found any baptisms of the latter three. Is this because church records have not been filmed by the Church of Latter Day Saints or because they were Non-Conformists? If the latter can anybody suggest where I would look, bearing in mind that I live in Australia.

John RAMSAY and his sons Robert and William were builders in the Islington area and built houses in Upper Penton Street and St James Street that I am aware of. There would have been others. I believe that 1 Upper Penton Street became 1 Barnsbury Road and they were living at this address from at least 1841 until their deaths, Elizabeth on 6 June 1867 and John on 25 April 1873. I cannot find their burial places. Is it likely that they could have been buried in the local church?

I cannot find a Will for Elizabeth or John but Elizabeth, their daughter, was living in the house at her death on 24 June 1897. She left a comprehensive Will valued at £4,934 13s 6d with bequests to her various nephews and nieces and the house and all its contents to her friend Elizabeth M BOND.

Can anybody suggest: how I can discover whereabouts in Scotland John RAMSAY was born; how I can find out the maiden name of his wife; how I can find out where the children were baptised; where John and Elizabeth might be buried; how could Elizabeth the daughter take ownership of the house without a Will; where I could find records of the business, which I believe was in Westbourne Road?

All ideas and suggestions gratefully received.

Teri Comans, Member No. 7031

13 Brighton Street, Bundeena, NSW 2230, Australia

Note: It might be possible to find where in Scotland John Ramsay was born as there is a fantastic website: www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk This is the official Scottish government source of genealogical data and, of course, is easily accessible from Australia.

Only a small proportion of London church records appear on the IGI and most of the others do not appear online. Until they do, it will not be possible for you to find out where the children were baptised

It is unlikely that the RAMSAYS were buried in their local church - see article 'So Where Were They Buried?' in METROPOLITAN July 2008. Camden Local Studies & Archives Centre might have more information about the business. Their website is: [www.camden.gov.uk /localstudies](http://www.camden.gov.uk/localstudies)

JARVIS/WESTON/SQUIBB

My query concerns the WESTONs, particularly William, born circa 1823, father James, grainer.

1851 Census: 6 Parker Street, Islington

William Weston	Railway Porter CCR	Aged 29	Russell Sq, Mdx
Ann Weston	Wife	26	Bethnal Green
William H Weston		4	Shoreditch
Charles D Weston		5w	Shoreditch
Daniel Squibb	Fat Collector	55	St Brides City

Missing was Sarah Ann, 3, with her widowed grandmother Mary WESTON, 60 (born Markfield, LEI) in Stanton-under-Barton, LEI.

By 1861 Census, Ann was married to Charles FISHER in Hoxton with two daughters both aged 8 (his? theirs?) and William, 14, stepson. Her father Daniel was in Mile End Workhouse. Sarah Ann, 11, was with Joseph TAYLOR 62, carpenter and wife Sarah 41 in Pancras, Marylebone as 'visitors'. She was in service 1871 census and married Simon JARVIS 1877. What happened to father William?

Naomi Jarvis, Non-Member

20 Dawnhaven Drive, Te Atatu, Auckland 0610, New Zealand

Email: naomi.jarvis@xtra.co.nz

FORD

Seeking relatives of a Benjamin FORD, born about 1833 in London MDX. Became a mariner. In 1864 he married Sarah DAVISON at South Shields. Marriage cert shows his father, Henry John FORD to be a Master Mariner. (I have census entry for him 1881, 1891, died 1894.) Would so appreciate your help as for 3 years I have continued to draw a blank and you are my last hope!

Judi Lawton, Non-member

The Land of Green Ginger, Stubb Road, Hickling, Norwich NR12 0YS

Email: myra.lawton@homecall.co.uk

JOTTINGS FROM OUR SOCIETY'S AREA

City of Westminster Archives Centre

Archives added to their collection in 2008 include: Christian Union Almshouses, founded 1832 at 28 John Street (now Crawford Place) which mainly accommodated retired female servants or seamstresses of St Marylebone; St Michael's School, Pimlico; United Westminster Schools and registers from the Savoy Chapel starting in 1680. For more information contact the Centre at 10 St Ann's Street, London SW1, Tel: 020 7641 5180, website: www.westminster.gov.uk/librariesarchives/index.cfm

Stepney Fair

This article was found in *The Times*, Thursday 20 April 1843. Although not in our area, many of the 50,000 persons visiting the fair must have been from London, Westminster and Middlesex.

'Stepney Fair - This fair, which was revived on Monday, terminated for the Easter holidays last night and certainly no fair was ever better conducted. The absence of all violence or acts of outrage on the part of the people formed a striking contrast with the disgraceful and tumultuous scenes which characterised this and other suburban fairs 20 or 30 years ago and exhibits a marked improvement in the behaviour and habits of the poorer classes. On Tuesday 50,000 persons visited the fair and the amusements were kept up until 12 o'clock while some of the public-houses were not cleared of the company in them till nearly 4 o'clock in the morning. Yesterday there was not a single police charge arising out of the fair brought before the magistrate sitting at the Thames Police Court which now occupies the centre of the field where the fair was formerly held. Some of the booths were splendidly lighted with gas furnished by the Commercial Gas Company, who introduced some new and ingenious devices. Employment was given to more than 500 individuals, among whom were 100 coal-whippers, who had no work on the river while the fair lasted, and it has proved very beneficial to the shopkeepers, publicans and inhabitants generally of the surrounding district. It is intended to hold another fair on a larger scale at Stepney on Whitsuntide, which will be a powerful rival to the one at Greenwich and we understand that neither the Commissioners of Police nor magistrates are at all disposed to interfere with these harmless recreations of the people at the proper seasons. The excellent arrangements

of the police of the K division, their great forbearance and their disposition to afford every facility to the visitors are deserving of great praise and reflect much credit on Mr YOUNG, the superintendent, Inspectors WATTS and RUTT who had the management. The showmen and the proprietors of booths had every reason to be pleased with their receipts.'

Haringey Local History Fair, Bruce Castle Museum, 14 February 2009

The morning of Saturday 14th February was, thankfully, devoid of snow or rain as Fred Carter and I set out for Bruce Castle and our fourth annual Haringey Local History Fair.

Our stand was set up in good time for the first visitors to arrive at 11am, but this year it was relatively quiet - it was Valentines Day after all - until after the first session of talks finished at 12.15pm. The first talk *Introduction to Valentines* by former member David Groen was a topical start to the day. David was followed by local historian and author Steven Denford whose talk was based on his latest book *Hornsey Past*. (I will be acquiring copies for the Bookstall).

Each year, with a few exceptions, we see the same faces and here I am not talking about members of our Society. A surprise visitor, and a first as far as we were concerned, was the Mayor of Haringey who I am unable to name as he visited all the other stands but not ours! We were pleased however to welcome our Chairman Bill Pyemont, Secretary Joan and Mo and Peter Baker. Rosemary Roome was an early visitor and was followed later by Roy Hidson, Lesley Denchfield, Eileen Bostle and Rachel MacDonald. Member Albert Pinching was busy on the Hornsey Historical Society stand and former member Brian Warren was on the Edmonton Hundred Historical Society stand.

The first talk after lunch was *Tiptoe Through the Tombstones* by the Friends of Hornsey Church Tower. Bridget and David Cherry of the 'Friends' had a stand and both came to speak to me about a recording of the Monuments in St Mary's Churchyard carried out in the 1970s by two members of this Society and 'Friends'. The Society published this on microfiche in 1987. I was later able to inform David that the original transcript of the recording was deposited with Bruce Castle Archives.

Although this event appeared to be less well attended than in the last few years, I was pleasantly surprised to find that sales this year topped those of the three previous years.

Anne Prudames

FORTHCOMING BRANCH MEETINGS

Barnet Branch – 7.30pm for 8.00pm

Lyonsdown Hall, Lyonsdown Road, New Barnet, Hertfordshire EN5 1JB

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| Thursday 16 April | <i>The Life and Times of an Edwardian Cyclist</i>
by John Pearson |
| Thursday 21 May | <i>Around the City Wall</i>
by John Neal |
| Thursday 18 June | <i>The Story of Pears Soap</i>
by Andrea Cameron |
| Thursday 16 July | Members' Miscellany |

City Branch – 12 noon for 12.30pm

Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre, Holborn Library,
32-38 Theobalds Road, London WC1X 8PA

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| Thursday 30 April | <i>Bishopsgate Library and its Collections</i>
by Stefan Dickers |
| Thursday 28 May | <i>Little Italy</i>
by Tudor Allen |
| Thursday 25 June | <i>King's Cross Voices</i>
by Richard Knight |
| Thursday 30 July | <i>The British Army and the Soldier's Family</i>
by Ken Divall |

Change but continuity - the City Branch lives on! Barbara Haswell and Rosemary Roome have taken over responsibility for the City Branch and are arranging the programme with effect from April 2009. They, and those who attend these meetings, wish to record their grateful thanks to Raymer Lofts who has run the Branch for the last ten years. Raymer will attend future meetings as her circumstances permit.

The venue is unchanged - Camden Local Studies and Archives is on the 2nd floor of the building (a lift is available) which also houses Holborn Library. This is the only Branch which meets during the day and its central location also draws members from outside our area, eg Essex, Kent, Surrey and Sussex. Some people go on to Record Offices which are within easy reach to further their research.

Enfield Branch – 7.30pm for 8.00pm

St Paul's Centre, Church Street, Enfield, Middlesex EN2 6AR

Wednesday 1 April *The British Schools Museum*

by Terry Ransome

Wednesday 6 May To be advised

Wednesday 3 June To be advised

Wednesday 1 July To be advised

Rayners Lane Branch – 7.30pm for 8.00pm

Friends' Meeting House, 456 Rayners Lane, Harrow, Middlesex HA5 5DT

Friday 10 April No Meeting – Good Friday

Friday 8 May *Family History at your Finger Tips*

by Meryl Catty

Friday 12 June Members' Gathering

Friday 10 July *The Woollen Industry*

by Edgar Holroyd-Doveton

Wembley Branch – 7.30pm for 8.00pm

St. John's Church, Crawford Avenue, Wembley, Middlesex HA0 2HX

Monday 27 April *Success in Family History*

by Ian Waller

Monday 25 May No meeting – Bank Holiday

Monday 22 June *St Pancras and King's Cross*

by John Neal

Monday 27 July *Marriage and Courtship*

by Tom Doig

Hampstead & Highgate Express, Saturday 25 April 1908

Highgate Petty Sessions.

Anthony Hector KIRCALDY of Regent's-park-road was summoned for driving a motor car at the rate of 36 miles 640 yards an hour in Regent's park-road, Finchley ... Sidney PRECIOUS of North View, Brodie-road, Enfield, summoned for driving a motor car at the rate of 33 miles 1693 yards an hour in the same road, was also fined 40s and costs.

A CAUTIONARY TALE

By Ron Coleman, Member No. 36

This is the story of not following through your research properly. I come from one of the many older families that had lived in Whitstable for many years and can take the family line back to William COLEMAN who died in 1708 and had married Tamsin HOLLANDS in Margate on 18 January 1688. The name still exists in Whitstable even today and there are many references in old copies of the *Whitstable Times* and to do with the Oyster Fishery company as well. But my story concerns more recent times.

My father was Henry Pearson James COLEMAN born in 1900 and I was born in Cromwell Road South in Whitstable in 1928 but my parents parted when I was only a few weeks old. Later in his life my father married Violet Louise TYLER on 2 August 1937 at Bermondsey, where he was living. Basic details came from the BMD Registers at St Catherine's House, as did the year of my father's death, 1982, but I never followed this through to obtain the actual certificate.

Earlier this year my wife passed away and I was supplied with a certificate which made me think that I ought to get one for other family members, just to prove facts.

This led me to getting a copy of my father's Death Certificate which showed that the informant to the Registrar was Evelyn Maureen KEMP, who was quoted as daughter. This was a great surprise to me as I had known nothing of any children during his lifetime and though the address given for this daughter was out of date it was still possible to trace her through various websites, whereupon my daughter got in touch with her and gave her as much of a shock as I had received as she never knew about having a brother. After many emails and then telephone calls it has now been arranged for us to meet. It will be a very joyful occasion and just goes to show that you must follow every clue through to the end.

The Brisbane Courier, Wednesday 2 April 1879

Death - SENYARD - On the 29th March, at Wickham-street, Fortitude Valley, Joseph Senyard, late of Camden Town, London, aged 42 years.

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- 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.
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