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Family History Society



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Cover picture: First World War Memorial Plaque

© Barbara Haswell.

See article on page 18

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EDITORIAL

The Cenotaph in Whitehall is the focus of the nation's annual public commemoration of those who fought and died in war and the usual service and parade takes place this year on 8 November. Some more personal means of commemoration are described in the article *Remembering the Fallen* (see page 18) and illustrated by our cover photograph.

This year, a commemorative service was held in St Paul's Cathedral on 1 September to mark the 70th anniversary of the first evacuation of people on the eve of the Second World War. Perhaps some of our members were among the 2000 evacuees at the service?

It is important to capture personal wartime memories for our Family History while we can sensitively ask questions of living links with momentous times.

Researchers are always urged to contact any record office, archive centre etc before visiting and this is particularly important with regard to the Bishopsgate Institute's Library and its archive collections which were featured in the last issue of METROPOLITAN. As you will see from page 21 of this issue, access to the collections is currently restricted. (The Institute's busy programme of cultural events, talks, walks, debates, spoken word, literature, music continues.)

Reference is made on the next page to the *help!* section of our journal and 'whoever is responsible for giving a possible answer to some of the appeals for help'. It is no secret that the comments or suggestions come from the Editors and as previously noted **anything in this font is from the Editors**. Elizabeth Burling, Barbara Haswell and I pool our knowledge, experience etc in order to be of some assistance to the enquirer and to provide food for thought for others with similar problems. We know from periodic feedback that this is of use and of interest. After all, any society, be it for Family History or Fuchsias, brings together people with a shared interest who learn from each other for mutual benefit.

In order to continue your involvement there are two important dates to remember, as shown below.

Rosemary A Roome

**Subscriptions are due 1 October 2009
The Copy Date for the next issue is 1 November 2009**

A NOTE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

In the last issue of METROPOLITAN I broached the subject of what members expect from the Society, several replies were received as follows: A report on branch lectures published in METROPOLITAN would help members who are unable to get out to meetings. The member who made the above request likes the *help!* section and finds the answers given to some queries of particular interest and would like to congratulate whoever is responsible for giving a possible answer to some of the appeals for help, as she had not seen the same immediate response in any other Family History Magazine. However she was not enamoured with personal stories which took up a disproportionate amount of space but admitted to flitting through names on occasions for possible connections. A request was made for articles on such things as settlement returns and apprenticeship records. There were requests for us to organise volunteers to look up records in the various London record offices and the researcher could be paid reasonable expenses by the recipient of the information. A further request was made for the society to transcribe the parish records in our area. An idea from one of our New Zealand members is to negotiate with Camden Council for permission to photocopy pages of the burial registers from 1854 in respect of the Islington and St Pancras cemetery and transcribe to a spreadsheet with the aid of distant volunteers including the correspondent in NZ. The resultant data could be sold on DVD or CD Rom. I understand that details other than name of deceased are included: age, parents (for children), and spouses. Islington is the most sought-after area regarding requests for information on our patch. A suggestion to create a link between the New Zealand Society of Genealogists to our web site.

We will be discussing all the above proposals at our executive meeting next month. Regarding Parish Registers, this mammoth task is being undertaken by Ancestry. Please refer to our website for details.

We are closely watching developments and cutbacks at various record offices. The National Archives propose to close on Mondays and charge for car parking. The barrier is already in situ and one has to validate the car park ticket on leaving TNA building. With the closure of the Family Records Centre and influx of WDYTIA fans the TNA gets very crowded. With the announcement of our AGM at Rayners Lane, Pinner in February please give thought to nominations for the Society Officers.

Bill Pyemont

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

I was very interested in your article highlighting the *Missing Ancestors* website in METROPOLITAN July 2009. Last year I prepared a talk for the North Cheshire FHS, of which I am also a member, about what could be done to find 20th century ancestors while we were waiting for the 1911 Census to be released. In the process I looked at the *Missing Ancestors* website, gearing the talk to Stockport references for local members. There are some extracts from the Stockport Boys and Girls Industrial Schools Admission Registers on the site and I was amazed to see children from London listed.

Alfred BENNETT, aged 10, 1 Westerfield Gardens, Goldsmith Road, Peckham, London.

Alfred SWAILE, aged 9, 13 Vaughan Street, Ruby Street, Old Kent Road, London.

Richard WHORWELL, aged 10, 10 Brewer Place, Three Oak Lane, Horsleydown, London.

Richard ANDERSON, aged 11, 42 Garsdale Road, Peckham, London.

Wm Ha COWELL, aged 12, 10 Denton Street, Gravesend.

All these boys were admitted in 1880. There are many details given in the registers including photographs of the children.

My grandfather, Henry PASTORELLI and his brother, Thomas, lost their father Henry in 1882 when they were only 4 and 2 years old. I suspect they may have gone into a workhouse as in the 1891 Census the boys were found in the Holborn Union Industrial Schools at Mitcham, Surrey. I have no sightings of their mother, Lydia Lavinia, after the 1881 Census, until her death in 1923. This site is well worth a visit if you have lost children from your families.

Rita Walters, Member No. 1439

Re the letter from Biddy Shephard in the last METROPOLITAN. John Heathfield, in his book *Finchley and Whetstone Past*, mentions that Ellern Mead was built in 1877 for William AUSTIN who was a director of the London Necropolis Company and of a railway company and whose initials are on the front wall. The house was designed by R Norman SHAW and built by William BRASS. From 1948 Ellern Mead was let to A1 Dairies. I am not aware of any contacts of the descendants.

Edward A Green, Member No. 0462

T

he P*RR*TT Society will be holding its mid year meeting on Saturday 24 October 2009 from 10am – 4pm at Biddenham Village Hall, which is in Nodders Way, Biddenham, near Bedford MK40 4BJ. This is the opportunity to research data and glean advice from our experienced genealogists for all P*RR*TT surnames and a chance to sort out problems face to face. A buffet lunch will be available at £6.50 a head.

At 11.30 John Pestell from the Bunyan Meeting will give a talk about John BUNYAN, the great 17th Century preacher whose book *The Pilgrim's Progress* has been published worldwide.

Enquiries and bookings to: Mrs Rosina Hunter, 11 Donnelly Drive, Bedford MK41 9TT

Hilary Blanford, Non-Member

Further to the photograph which featured in 'Doreen Willcocks Remembered' (METROPOLITAN Vol 31 No 4 p176). It was taken as far as I can ascertain in the mid 1980s and the churchyard in question is that of St James the Great, Friern Barnet, the only one of the four churches recorded at Friern Barnet and Whetstone with a churchyard.

With Doreen Willcocks in the photograph are two other dedicated members of the Barnet Branch MI recording Team. The lady standing on the lifting apparatus with her arms seemingly wrapped around the upright is the late Felicity Jordan who for a number of years was the Society's Strays Co-ordinator. The figure kneeling and peering under the gravestone has their face obscured, nevertheless I am certain it is the late Robin Ford, former Editor of METROPOLITAN and Chairman of Barnet Branch. Robin accompanied Doreen on the majority if not all the Barnet Branch recording sessions and became adept at deciphering worn or difficult inscriptions.

However, what I found fascinating was the apparatus used to lift the gravestones at St James. It was, I believe, built by Mike Jordan, husband of Felicity and a Motor Engineer. Now I am no engineer, but I was married for forty-two years to a Marine and Diesel Engineer whose great love, for more than thirty of those years, was the Triple Expansion Engine of a Paddle Steamer, a former River Humber Ferry, which is permanently moored at Kings Reach, Westminster. Inevitably, some of the jargon and the workings of reciprocating engines has rubbed off on me and I can easily see that it is Felicity who is controlling the lifting and lowering of the gravestone with very little effort on her part by easing the upright she is clasping forward to raise the stone and backward to lower it. Or is it the other way round? Please correct me if I am wrong. However this would

not be possible or so easy without an important and integral part of the mechanism employed here. That is the black cylinder attached to part of the frame in the vicinity of Felicity's knees and from which a thinner rod protrudes. This in turn is attached to the horizontal beam and Felicity's movements back and forth make the rod move to and fro within the cylinder acting much like the piston rod and cylinder of a reciprocating engine.

In our back garden I have seen Terry using an upright post constructed from four inch angle iron which, with a rope slung over an iron flagstaff mounted on the front of his workshop and a pulley, he could raise and manoeuvre with ease a heavy rolled steel joist (RSJ).

Thank you for publishing the photograph which gives members a flavour of one of the ingenious methods employed, by our Society at least, to record vital gravestones before they are lost for ever.

Anne Prudames, Member No. 245

The Guild of One-Name Studies will be holding a Seminar at The National Archives on Saturday 21 November 2009.

The seminar is entitled *One-Name Sources at TNA*, however the content is very varied and we are sure of interest to all. Speakers include: Dave Annal talking about *The Hearth Tax*; Adrian Ailes on *Civil War Sequestration Papers*; *Chancery Records* by Amanda Bevan and *Certificates of Residence* by Michelle Hockley.

Further details are shown on the Guild website: www.one-name.org under the 'Events' tab. For any queries, the Guild Helpdesk, telephone 0800 011 2182 will be able to advise.

Rod Clayburn, Non-Member

Secretary, Seminar Sub-Committee, Guild of One-Name Studies

According to the facsimile edition of Pigot & Co's *A Directory of London and its Suburbs*, 1839, John VIRTUE was a carpenter and undertaker with addresses at 58 Newman Street, Oxford Street and 13 Alfred Mews, Tottenham Court Road. In the same directory is Patrick CROW (with no 'e'), coal porter and potato dealer of 11 Church Way, Somers Town.

I do hope that this is of some use to Walter Crowe, whose letter appeared in the July METROPOLITAN.

Anne Prudames, Member No. 245

FINDING YOUR ANCESTOR IN THE ROYAL FLYING CORPS

By Keith Rookledge, Member No. 7224

My father, Ivo Ernest ROOKLEDGE, served in the Royal Flying Corps (RFC) in the First World War. I have photographs of him, taken on glass



plates, wearing RFC Uniform, latterly with Corporal's Stripes. So what did he do and where did he serve?

Also I have a RFC Christmas card from him to his family at Christmas 1917, but this does not indicate where he was then. As there is no evidence of medals, then it is possible that he did not serve in a theatre of war overseas, unlike his brothers who served in the Army.

The next source I searched is the RAF Muster Rolls of 1918¹. This lists all men serving as of 1918, nearly 700,000, but again

I found no record of him. As this search was manual it is possible he was missed. I have yet to find any more information about his service in the RFC.

The name ROOKLEDGE is not common and during my searches others with that name were found serving in the RFC. I have found a JW ROOKLEDGE who enlisted in 1915 as a Wireless Operator and was promoted from Air mechanic 2 to Air mechanic 3. He earned the princely sum of 2/- (now 10p) per day!

Searching at the National Archives, I found John Norman ROOKLEDGE's application to the Officer Cadet Unit, showing him enlisted as a Private at

the Brockton Camp in Staffordshire. He was my father's cousin. His medal Card shows that he was successful in becoming an Officer, although there is no record of which medals he received, the card just states 'to be issued'. He did serve in an overseas theatre of war, in Belgium.

The Casualty Form B103c, (below) held at the RAF Museum Hendon, shows that he was posted to No 7 Squadron in June 1918. It seems that the casualty form was used for recording more than casualties, as it lists his posting as well. It shows that he left England on 31 May 1918, arriving at No 7 Squadron on the same day. Did he fly there I wonder?

CASUALTY FORM - OFFICERS.

RANK	DATE OF PROMOTION (London Gazette)		Christian Names		Surname	
	Temporary	Permanent				
2nd Lieut.			J.	N.	ROOKLEDGE.	
Lieut.			Regiment		Branch of Service	
Captain					Agent or Banker	
Major			Married or Single		Date of joining R.F.C.	
Lt.-Col.			Date of Birth	Next-of-kin and Address		
Colonel						Date of leaving R.F.C.
DATE OF REPORT	PARTICULARS				DATE OF CASUALTY	AUTHORITY AND FROM WHOM RECEIVED
	Emarked				31/5/18	LR. 2988.
	Disemlarked					
	9/18 Posted to No 7 Squadron				29/18	Ans 2050
	7/18 Leave 5-19/18					7/18
	4-19 Adm (Leavis)				28/12/18	436 44-668.
	19/2/19 To England per 9/1 Jan Braydon				25-1-19	W 3083

The locations of the Squadrons on the Western Front are recorded in *RAF Squadrons 2nd Edition*² and associated with this is a map showing their locations.

When John Norman arrived at No 7 Squadron it was situated at Proven, which is west of Ypres. On the 22 October 1918 the Squadron relocated to Besseghem, east of Ypres, then to Staceghem some few miles further east

on the 1 November 1918 and on the 5 November 1918 moved to Menin. On the 15 November 1918 it returned to Staceghem where it stayed for some 10 days, then relocating to Perone, France, possibly for leave and the squadron returned to Fort Cognelle near Brussels, Belgium and was there when the Armistice was declared. It formed part of the Army of Occupation till August 1919 in Germany, being posted to Cologne.

John Norman returned to England in February 1919 and was no longer listed in the records in 1920 as an Officer serving in the Royal Air Force, which was formed in April 1918.

So, I have been able to trace one of my Ancestors from his residence in Easingwold, Yorkshire, through his enlistment and training, to being posted to Belgium and, ultimately, Germany.

Sources:

¹ Muster Rolls of the RAF 1918, RAF Museum Hendon

² *RAF Squadrons, 2nd Edition* by Wing Commander CG Jefford MBE, BSc, RAF (Retired), published by Airline.



RAF MUSEUM HENDON EVENTS

On the weekend of 3-4 October the RAF Museum will be holding a Family History Weekend with information and guidance on how to trace your RAF ancestors. There will be exclusive talks by the curators and a chance to meet the staff and ask them questions.

Archive Awareness, on until 31 December, is a series of activities highlighting the Museum's archive collection which contains photographs, film and sound archive, aircrew logbooks, WWI Casualty Cards, personal papers and much more.

For further information on either of these telephone 020 8205 2266 or visit: www.rafmuseum.org.uk

ST THOMAS' HOSPITAL

Medieval Monastic Foundation to NHS Foundation Trust: Part 2

By Anne Prudames, Member No. 245

A Century of Change

The 17c was a difficult one for St Thomas' Hospital in many respects. Early in the new century meetings of the Court of Governors were reduced to once or twice yearly and gradually administration was transferred to various committees. From 1634, during the presidency of Sir James CAMPBELL, regular minutes of meetings were kept. Within two years there was greater co-operation between St Thomas' and St Bartholomew's hospitals, although James MOLINS, surgeon at St Thomas' had been operating at both hospitals before this time. Within a decade all five of the 'Royal' hospitals were complaining of increased costs and diminishing income. Statistics produced by St Thomas' showed that over 11,000 patients, many of them sailors, had been relieved that year.

In 1644 John EVELYN the diarist, in his capacity as one of the King's Commissioners for Wounded Sailors and Soldiers, delivered to the governors a letter from the Privy Council requesting half of all future vacancies be reserved for wounded sailors returning from the Dutch War. Later he recorded in his diary that he was given a good dinner at Fishmongers' Hall. In order to receive an agreed figure of 120 sailors, incurable and long term patients were removed. Wounded sailors remained a burden on the hospital until 1684 when a groat (4d) a day was granted to each man. In spite of these difficulties St Thomas' was fortunate to have many distinguished physicians and surgeons on its staff. They included Sir Frances PRUJEAN (1649-1652), physician to Charles II and President of the Royal College of Physicians. Among famous surgeons between 1605 and 1687 were three generations each of the MOLINS and HOLYER families, who were related through marriage. It was during this period that great strides were made in both surgery and treatment.

The Great Fire of London and its Effects

In the Autumn of 1666 arrangements to receive wounded sailors were jeopardised due to loss of rents totalling £600 when property in the City of London, principally in Old Bailey, Little Eastcheap, Fleet Lane, Threadneedle Street, St Pancras Lane and Watling Street, was consumed.

Further losses occurred in 1671 when a house in Wapping burnt down and five out of eight others blown up to prevent fire spreading. Five years later the hospital itself was under threat when some five hundred houses and six inns burnt down on Borough High Street. The fire raged for many hours and St Thomas' was only saved by a fortuitous change of wind direction after the house of surgeon Thomas HOLYER, which stood beside the gate to the hospital, was blown up.

In 1681 the hospital suffered further loss by fire of twenty four houses in Southwark. After this the Committee decided to erect a new front gate onto Borough High Street to replace the narrow original gate. Nathaniel HANWELL drew up four plans for which he received £5. Work on the new gateway, built in stone in keeping with other new buildings on Borough High Street, was carried out by Thomas CARTWRIGHT, the hospital mason. The frontispiece consisted of a statue of Edward VI and four statues depicting 'typical patients'. Beneath were the Royal Arms. The new gateway remained in situ until 1724 when a new gateway was financed by Thomas GUY, a governor. The frontispiece was re-erected on the east wall of the forecourt and remained there until 1871 when it was removed to Lambeth.

Charles II and the Writ of Quo Warrento

In 1682 Charles II was in conflict with the City of London. This resulted in the Writ of Quo Warrento in the final months of the year. The 1553 Letters Patent incorporating Christ's, Bridewell and St Thomas' was ratified but both the President and Treasurer as well as several governors were removed from office and the clerk and steward dismissed. Even Dr TORLESSE the physician was not safe and was replaced by two doctors. Another devastating effect of Quo Warrento concerned the loss of the City's right to choose its own rulers. This was not reinstated until 1690, after the election of Mayor Thomas PILKINGTON, who had the writ reversed by Act of Parliament.

Sir Robert Clayton – 'This Prince of Men'

Sir Robert CLAYTON, Draper, was described as the most impressive Lord Mayor during the reign of Charles II. Son of a small Northamptonshire farmer he came to London where he was apprenticed to his uncle Robert ABBOTT, a Scrivener. On the death of his uncle, CLAYTON inherited a

large sum of money and went into partnership with his fellow apprentice, John MORRIS. Together they became successful sorting out land ownerships after the Restoration, counting the Duke of BUCKINGHAM and the notorious Judge JEFFREYS among their clients. CLAYTON was a Director of the Bank of England at various times and he and MORRIS devised a successful system of deposit banking.

In 1671, the year CLAYTON became an Alderman of the City, he and MORRIS jointly purchased Marden Park, Bletchingly, Surrey which CLAYTON inherited after the death of MORRIS together with a large sum of money. His wealth was also enhanced by his marriage to Martha TROTT who brought to the marriage a large estate in Bermuda.

Described by EVELYN as 'This Prince of Men', CLAYTON used his wealth to rebuild the front of Christ's Hospital after the Great Fire at a cost of £10,000 and founded and endowed the Mathematical School there. In addition to being a Governor of Christ's, he was President of the Honourable Artillery Company, Commissioner of Customs, Governor of the Irish Society and President of the London Workhouse.

Robert CLAYTON was knighted in 1679 on his election as Lord Mayor and became President of the Governors of St Thomas' Hospital in 1692. He became a Whig Member of Parliament for the City and was responsible for a Bill to exclude Papists from the throne. In 1689 he was among a deputation sent to William of Orange to offer him the throne and lent him £50,000 to pay his troops. When he failed to get elected again for the City, CLAYTON stood for the Borough of Bletchingly, Surrey.

After he became President of the Court of Governors of St Thomas', CLAYTON was responsible for much of the building work which took place there in the latter part of the 17c. Clayton Court was named after him and his statue, executed by Grinling GIBBONS, was placed in the courtyard. Although there were those who criticised CLAYTON for his wealth and ostentation he was undoubtedly one of the outstanding figures of the late 17c. He died in 1707 at the age of seventy eight years and is buried in Bletchingly Church. A striking statue of CLAYTON in full Mayoral regalia, carved before his death, surmounts his tomb in Bletchingly Church. He left £2,300 to St Thomas' Hospital which enabled

them to purchase property in Essex. The marble statue which formerly stood in Clayton Court was later removed to Lambeth.

Richard Mead and Thomas Guy

Richard MEAD was born at Stepney in 1673, the eleventh son of Mathew MEAD, a dissenting Minister. In 1683 Mathew MEAD fled to Holland where his son Richard was tutored by Thomas SINGLETON, formerly a master at Eton College. MEAD attended Utrecht University for three years from 1689 where he studied medicine before continuing his studies at Leiden. He then travelled extensively in Italy taking a doctorate in physic at the medical school in Padua (1692), from which he graduated in 1695. The following year his father's financial difficulties forced MEAD to return to Stepney where he set up in Medical Practice. There he conducted a scientific study of poisons. In 1699 MEAD married his first wife, Ruth MARSH, the daughter of a merchant and by her had eight children.

In 1703 Richard MEAD was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society, having been proposed by his friend Dr Hans SLOANE and was elected to the Council in 1705 and again from 1707 until 1730. The year that MEAD was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society marked his appointment as a physician to St Thomas' Hospital. During his twelve years at the hospital he became a friend of Thomas GUY, a Governor who served on the Grand Committee.

GUY took a great interest in St Thomas' and financed at a cost of £1,100 three new women's wards there. It is MEAD who is credited with suggesting to GUY that he found his own hospital (opened in 1721), which would be complementary to St Thomas', taking the incurable long term and insane patients whom they did not accept. Today Guy's Hospital stands next to the original site of St Thomas' Hospital and is equally as famous as the older hospital. Together they form part of the Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Trust.

Following his retirement from St Thomas' Hospital in 1715, Richard MEAD had a large and very profitable private practice. He became a Governor not only of St Thomas' Hospital but also of St Bartholomew's, Bethlehem and Bridewell. A mark of his fame at that time was that he was physician not only to George II but also to Queen Anne and counted among

his many friends Dr, later Sir, Hans SLOANE, whose vast collections formed part of the original British Museum - SLOANE purchased the Manor of Chelsea and Sloane Square, Sloane Street and Hans Crescent, commemorate his name. Their friend and contemporary was Dr Richard RADCLIFFE whose trustees in 1770, some years after his death, built to his memory on adjacent sites at Oxford the Radcliffe Infirmary and the Radcliffe Observatory.

Richard MEAD died in 1754. The collections acquired during his travels in Italy were auctioned over a three day period. Many later became part of the collections of the British Museum and were considered to be far superior to the larger collections acquired by Hans SLOANE. Unlike SLOANE and RADCLIFFE, MEAD'S name is largely unknown today. His portrait nevertheless is treasured by the Foundling Museum, of which he was a founding patron. Neither is he forgotten at St Thomas' Hospital where his marble bust stands on a plinth in the Central Hall near to that of William CHESELDEN, surgeon at St Thomas' from 1718 until 1737.

Although CHESELDEN was completely different in character from MEAD and lacked his social skills, he nevertheless became surgeon to Queen Caroline. He resigned his appointment at St Thomas' and other hospitals in 1737 and became resident surgeon to Chelsea Hospital. Although he also had a private practice this left sufficient free time to work with the Barber Surgeons' Company of which he became Warden in 1744. It was CHESELDEN who was responsible for the separation of the surgeons from the barbers in the year following his appointment.

It was the fame of both MEAD and CHESELDEN, coupled with new buildings at St Thomas', which was to attract students not only from all over England but also from overseas and firmly establish the Medical School there in the 19c and set it on a firm basis.

To be continued.

WHO WAS CUMBERLAND CLARK?

By Dennis Galvin, Member No. 1046

Many years ago I rescued a sturdy-looking book with a bright red cover - well, 20p wasn't pricey! And the author had signed it. No, I thought it needed a bit of TLC and, as a patriot myself, I suppose *THE EMPIRE SONG BOOK* published by Golden Vista Press, Fetter Lane and printed by Wilding & Son of Shrewsbury in 1932 seemed too red, white and bluish to finish up on a skip. But who was this author with a most unusual forename? And did he have a story to tell?

Cumberland CLARK was born at Kensington, London in 1862 and indeed Chepstow Villas, Notting Hill where the family lived is still there. An elder brother was a member of the Stock Exchange and another was a clerk to an East India Merchant and Cumberland was clerk to Tea Brokers in Mincing Lane, City. However, due to ill health as a baby he went off to New Zealand for a couple of years and thence to Australia 1885-1900 where he did sheep farming and gold mining before taking studies and training for

the church at Sydney University. Our kith and kin down-under will be pleased to know that he officiated and conducted the very first marriage at Coolgardie, W. Australia. (I wonder who the happy couple were?)

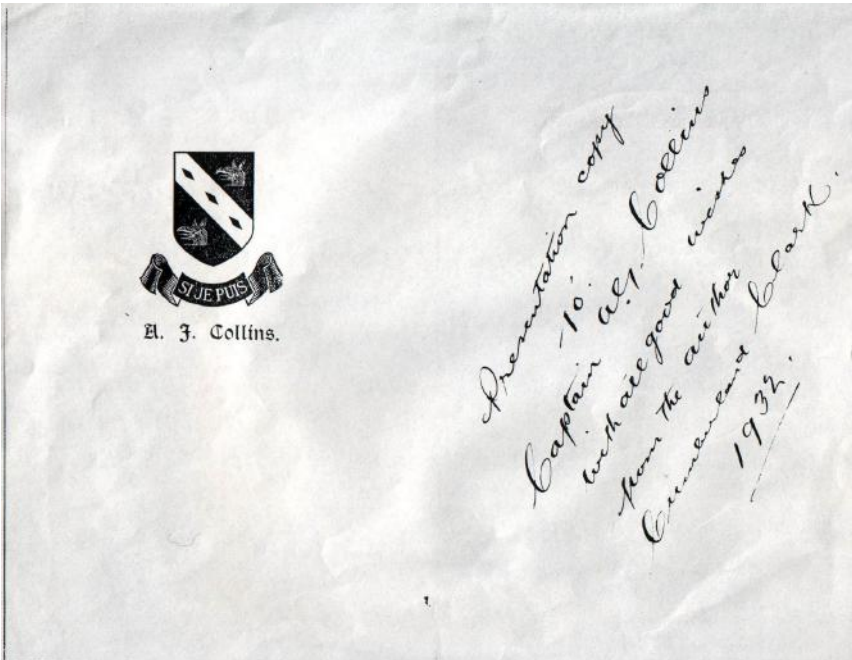


CUMBERLAND CLARK

He wrote something like 72 books, 15 on Shakespeare, and nine on Dickens, seven on the British Empire and 21 song books. Two of his plays were produced on a London stage and as a matter of fact he travelled a 5,000 mile journey to visit the Maharajah of Pithapuram in India who was a great admirer of his writings on Shakespeare. In spite of all this output he seemed to

find time to marry Bessie MILLIGAN at Kensington in 1902 who had quite an illustrious family history. Bessie was born in Rio, Brazil where her grandfather (CLIFFE) a Royal Navy surgeon became surgeon to the Emperor of Brazil, whilst her father Robert MILLIGAN was I believe the man who brought the railways to Brazil.

The couple made visits to Canada and South America (1909). During the Great War Cumberland was a lecturer for the army, also the Navy League, London County Council and the Royal Bethlem Hospital. He had numerous post nominals: Fellow Royal Geographical Society (elected); Fellow Royal Zoological Society (elected); Fellow Royal Astronomical Society (elected) and member of The Worshipful Company of Painter-Stainers. I am sure there are many others and I have not confirmed any Freeman of the City of London etc.



The book I have appears to have been presented to Captain Arthur Collins (ex Royal North Devon Hussars) who was Keeper of Manuscripts at the British Museum from 1918. The coat of arms must be his family.

Every story must have a good beginning and, perhaps, an end with a twist, so what about this one! After Bessie died in 1933 Cumberland moved down to Bournemouth where he worshipped at the Congregational church. On the night of 10-11 April 1941 a German bomb hit a small block of four flats and our prolific author was killed. I can only suggest that a German bomber had been shot up over the channel and decided to drop his load anywhere on English soil and turn back as quickly as possible. Not having any issue Cumberland left a good sum of money to the NSPCC (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children) and for the provision and upkeep of his memorial which is still in Bournemouth.

There seemed to be a niece or nephew in the 1930s but I doubt if there is any family today who will be interested in doing this research, however. I have to say that if there are kin, then no matter how hard they try they still will not find out why their ancestor was called Cumberland!

Sources:

Margaret Exton of Bournemouth.

Lansdowne Reference Library, Bournemouth.

The Royal Societies and Worshipful Companies.

Corporation of London RO

Is this your last METROPOLITAN?

It could be, unless you renew your membership promptly.

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The Membership Renewal Form is in the centre of this journal.

REMEMBERING THE FALLEN

By Barbara E Haswell, Member No. 4224

The cover of this journal pictures a First World War Memorial Plaque.

In 1916, at the time of the battle of the Somme, the Secretary of State for War, David LLOYD GEORGE set up a committee to organise a memorial which would be given to the next of kin of those who died 'in active service'. This idea was announced in *The Times* newspaper on Tuesday 7 November 1916 but it was not until 1917 at the time of the third battle of Ypres that the General Committee decided that it should take the form of a bronze plaque. There would be a public competition for the design with a first prize of £250. Eight hundred entries were received from around the Empire and Edward Carter PRESTON, a sculptor and medallist from Liverpool, was the winner. Large scale production of the plaques began at the end of 1918 and about 1,150,000 were made.

The plaque is 5 inches (12 cms) in diameter and cast in bronze. The figure of Britannia stands holding a wreath and a trident. In the foreground is a



lion and in the background two dolphins swim, symbolising Britain's sea power. Above the lion's head is a rectangle for the deceased's name. At the bottom a second lion is fighting the German eagle. Around the picture are the words 'HE DIED FOR FREEDOM AND HONOUR.' The reverse side is blank except for a stamp to show whether it was produced in the Acton or Woolwich factories.

Accompanying the plaque, but delivered separately in a cardboard tube, was a memorial scroll. Both plaque and scroll also

had a letter from King George V with his facsimile signature and read as follows 'I join with my grateful people in sending you this memorial of a brave life given for others in the Great War. George RI.'

The plaques, sometimes called 'The Dead Man's Penny', commemorated Service personnel who died between 4 August 1914 and 30 April 1920 from Home Establishments, Western Europe and the Dominions.

My grandparents had their plaque mounted on a wooden shield to hang on the wall and grandmother lovingly polished it for many years. Their eldest

son George John James LOWEN joined the Middlesex Regiment as a boy soldier and at the start of WW1 was a Sergeant stationed at Inglis Barracks in Mill Hill. George was part of the British Expeditionary Force which landed in Europe in August 1914. He fought through the early battles, but on 19 July 1915 he was 'killed in action' at Hooze, Belgium, with others of the 4th Battalion Middlesex Regiment. His name is on the Menin Gate Memorial, Ypres, one of the many soldiers with no known grave.

After WW2 and also the Korean War of the 1950s, a scroll was given to the next of kin of those killed. A picture of the WW2 scroll can be seen on the website www.ww2cemeteries.co.uk/research.htm. It reads 'This scroll commemorates, held in honour as one who served King and Country in the world war of 1939-1945 and gave his life to save mankind from tyranny. May his sacrifice help to bring the peace and freedom for which he died.'

We have seen this year the introduction of a new award that is to be given to the next of kin of UK Service personnel who have died on operations or as a result of an act of terrorism. This is The Elizabeth Cross, which is not a posthumous medal but an emblem which shows recognition to Service families for their loss.

The Elizabeth Cross is made of silver, in the shape of a cross with a laurel wreath behind. The arms of the cross bear a rose (England), a thistle (Scotland), shamrock (Ireland) and a daffodil (Wales). A crowned Cypher of Her Majesty the Queen is in the centre. The name of the Service person who died is engraved on the back.

The Cross plus a miniature version are presented in a black leather-style box with the Royal Cypher on the lid and on the silk lining inside is the Royal Coat of Arms.

A Memorial Scroll accompanies the Elizabeth Cross. The signature of Her Majesty the Queen is in the top left hand corner. The scroll, headed by the Royal Coat of Arms, reads: 'This Scroll Commemorates who gave his/her life for Queen and Country on

The next of kin of Service personnel who died between 1 January 1948 to date can apply for this award.

The first Elizabeth Cross was presented on 18 August 2009, to the widow of a soldier killed in Afghanistan.

See www.mod.uk for the Elizabeth Cross and www.iwm.org.uk for pictures and more information.

JOTTINGS FROM OUR SOCIETY'S AREA

Lest We Forget

With only a few weeks before the 70th Anniversary of the start of WW2, residents of the London Borough of Enfield were horrified and sickened to learn through the London local and national TV bulletins and local press that over the night of 13/14 August thieves entered Broomfield Park, Palmers Green and desecrated the Garden of Remembrance, stealing 15 of the 17 Bronze Plaques which commemorate the names of several hundred local servicemen killed in both world wars as well as civilian dead and injured during the blitz.



It is thought that the thieves, possibly six in number, used noisy angle grinders to cut through the bolts holding the plaques. The memorial was visited by the Chairman of Enfield British Legion who said “When I saw the damage that had been done I just felt like crying. People come from all over the world to see their relative’s name. We always do the Battle of Britain Parade at the memorial in September, but we will be back - with or without the plaques. The thieves are just low lifes.” The Chairman of Southgate and Wood Green branch of the Royal Airforce Association was reduced to tears when he saw the memorial and described the thieves as “evil.” The cabinet member for community safety in Enfield described the thieves as “scum” and said that Enfield Council will offer a £5,000 reward for the return of the plaques or information leading to the arrest of the

thieves. The council pledged that if the plaques are not recovered they will replace them. David BURROUGHS, MP for Southgate described the desecration as “a sad and sickening act.”

This is the second time in a year that thieves have targeted Enfield memorials. Last summer the graveside plaque of a soldier of the Royal Anglian Regiment, who was killed in 2007 in Afghanistan, was stolen from Enfield Crematorium along with other wall plaques to sell for scrap.

The Garden of Remembrance at Broomfield Park was constructed by Southgate Urban District Council and opened by Admiral of the Fleet, Lord JELLICOE on 27 July 1929. The Memorial was visited on 30 September 1933 by HRH Prince George, later Duke of Kent, who laid a wreath. Prince George also visited Southgate to present to the Council the Charter of Incorporation whereby Southgate became a Municipal Borough.

Note: An Angle Grinder, as far as I am aware, requires electricity to power it and makes quite a din. It is inconceivable that all the residents in the houses surrounding all four sides of the park would have slept through the noise. Much more likely the thieves may have used Bolt Cutters.

Anne Prudames

Visit to Bucks FHS Open Day

Among the many visitors to our stand on 25 July 2009 were a number of members of our society – some new, some long-standing, some from well outside our area. It was good to meet those who made themselves known to us.

As is usual on such occasions, we were presented with a wide variety of queries and problems about local matters, research methods, sources etc. Between us we provided information, suggested possible avenues for further investigation, recommended and sold books – and managed to visit some other stands with our own queries. Thanks to Alan Baldwin, Eileen Bostle, Diana Copnall and Doreen Heywood for their help.

We look forward to seeing you at our next Open Day visit (see overleaf).

Rosemary A Roome

Bishopsgate Library refurbishment project.

Bishopsgate Library is now closed until Spring 2010 for a building refurbishment project which will restore the beautiful historic features of this Grade II* listed building whilst sympathetically modernising it. During the closure access to the majority of the special collections will be available by appointment, although staff will require one week's notice to retrieve

items. These appointments are available between 10am-5pm on Mondays and Thursdays, and 2.30pm-5pm on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, with none on Fridays. The telephone and email enquiry service will operate as normal. For more information visit the website at: www.bishopsgate.org.uk or telephone: 020 7392 9200

Charles DARWIN: A Genius in the Heart of London

Charles DARWIN's book *On the Origin of Species* was published on the 24 November 1859 so this year marks its 150th anniversary. To celebrate this, Westminster City Archives and partner, the Linnean Society of London, have received a £50,000 Heritage Lottery Fund grant for a project named *Charles Darwin: A Genius in the Heart of London*. This project aims to celebrate how DARWIN came to refine his ideas through interaction with his peers at many of the key scientific bodies based in Westminster. However, it also highlights how DARWIN listened to views from outside these elite groups and in particular the story of his discussions with his dog-breeding Soho barber, William WILLIS.

Each of the Westminster societies that DARWIN was a member of (the Linnean Society, the Royal Society, the Royal Geographical Society with the Institute of British Geographers, the Zoological Society, and the Geological Society) and Westminster Abbey will contribute toward writing the exhibition which will be hosted at Westminster Abbey from 16-27 November 2009, after which it will be hosted at each of the Societies.

West Surrey FHS Open Day

Saturday 31 October 2009 from 10am-4.30pm

Woking Leisure Centre, Kingfield Road, Woking GU22 9BA

Free entry and free parking

The Main Hall will contain many stands manned by other FHSs including **London Westminster & Middlesex FHS**,

local history organisations and suppliers of family history products.

There will be a separate Research Room with computer help, a dedicated

Talks Room with free lectures, question time and a Help Desk.

Cafeteria and bar available all day.

For more information visit: www.wsfhs.org

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[Please remove it carefully]

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If you wish to pay your current or future subscriptions by this method, please request a form from the Treasurer, whose address is printed on the inside front cover.

LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX FHS

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Current Subscriptions are £12.00 per annum, payable in Sterling

Subscriptions are renewable on 1st October 2009 and if not paid by 30th November 2009, membership will be lapsed. Subsequent reinstatement will incur an extra administration charge of £2.00. Please make cheques payable to LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX FHS and return the completed form with your remittance no later than 30 November 2009 to:

Mrs A Prudames

2 Canonbury Cottages Churchbury Lane Enfield Middx EN1 3LR

If you do not wish to renew your membership, please use this form to advise the Membership Secretary and to prevent expensive and unnecessary reminders being sent to you. Your co-operation in complying with this request would be greatly appreciated. Over 100 members renewed late last year, some by as much as six months, creating additional work for the Membership Secretary during a very difficult period!

**** Please renew my/our membership of the Society for the year ending 30 September 2010.
My/our Sterling cheque in the sum of £12.00 made payable to LONDON WESTMINSTER &
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**** Please cancel my/our membership of the Society**

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Name.....Memb. Number.....

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The Society reserves the right to refuse membership

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Is this your last METROPOLITAN?

It could be, unless you renew your
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Subscriptions are due 1 October.

Don't delay – renew today!

The Membership Renewal Form is in the
centre of this journal.

**LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX
FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY**

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(a maximum of twelve items may be submitted)

(Please complete this form using block letters as per the example given)

Name..... Membership No.....
 Address.....

 Post/Zip Code.....
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Name	Period	Country	County	Parish
eg. WATTS	1850-1875	UK	MDX	Islington, St Mary
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Special Interests.....

(for example a One Name study may be used as one of your choices)

**Please send your completed form to:
 Members' Interests: c/o Mrs A Prudames,
 London Westminster & Middlesex FHS
 2 Canonbury Cottages, Churchbury Lane, Enfield, Middlesex EN1 3LR**

A GRANDMOTHER'S STORY, PART 4

By Linda Elliott, Member No. 5035

From the 1920s onwards Kate's life followed the same pattern of frequent moves and living from hand-to-mouth in poor accommodation. She always needed to work and her social life centred on several different Public Houses in the Chalk Farm area. She became a well-known figure in her community.

Kylie and his sister Ruby always kept in contact with their mother. This consisted of visiting Kate wherever she was living. I can never remember her visiting us at our home. I know my maternal grandmother and Kate were unfriendly. This would have caused problems because my maternal grandmother lived in the same house as our family.

I have no idea how often we saw her in the years following my father's marriage. Thus these years are a blank to me. Some information will help as and when further census records become available. The remainder of Kate's life will be explored as records for these times are published.

From my own memories of her I knew that despite Kate's hard life she was a supporter of the class system. She admired the aristocracy and felt they deserved their position. Likewise she was a staunch Tory and a Royalist.

She found time to write to the Royal family and prominent people. These letters were either to offer sympathy or support to them in difficult times. Some responses I have are: Letter dated 28 May 1946 from HM Queen Mary, Letter undated from HM Princess Elizabeth, Letter 22 May 1952 from Prime Minister and Mrs Churchill, Letter 29 January 1953 from HM Queen Elizabeth II. It is interesting to note that each time she wrote she used a different surname, perhaps she was in the habit of using various names at different times, according to her whim, or did she sometimes forget which of her surnames she had used before? The letter from Queen Mary shows that the court was still in mourning by the black edged paper. When she wrote to Queen Mary she had included a photograph of my two brothers - Kate's grandchildren.

When assembling the whole of the material one gathers in research of this kind it can be tempting to make judgements or offer opinions about the

person being researched. One's own biases come into play and it is an easy path to apportion blame.

In reviewing Kate's life it would be very easy to make harsh judgements about her. Perhaps an unrelated reader of the above will do so. What sort of woman was this? She gave birth to nine children and didn't manage to raise any of them. Three babies died and the rest all went to other people to be cared for.

In the days when marriage was sacrosanct (at least superficially) she left a husband and children for another man. This would not have been a thing to be done lightly in the early 1900s. Did she have good reason to make a new life with another man? At the time of her doing this she was pregnant and financially reliant on another. This again was an action not to be taken lightly; there were moral and social implications at play. From the 1901 census it can be seen that not only was she living with a single man but also was using his surname as her own.

Her prison term would have been a serious impediment socially and would have had implications in securing employment for herself as a single woman in the future.

What can be said in her defence? She married at 21 and to a man of 30, she had five children in 10 years. Her husband changed jobs as often as they moved. The effect of three children dying had to have its impact on the couple.

As she moved in with a new partner and then had three more children and this union ended, it must have been very traumatic. Without the help such a person could expect to receive today, her life must have been very difficult and maybe impossible to manage. She would have had to somehow find a way of surviving.

From the early 1900s her life was one of poverty and living at subsistence level. The task of caring for children as well as securing enough money to feed, clothe and house them would have been an enormous task. This was the role some women had put upon them, either through death of a spouse or his unemployment. Kate's way of coping was a way she found for herself and may not have been everyone's choice.

In recording the history of someone in the past it is important to remember that by carrying out such research that the facts and figures are just that. They are just a portion of their life and as such must be used in a measured way. The research can tell some of the story of this person and this is of great interest. However, one needs to assess what lies behind those facts and figures – the human being.

The majority of our ancestors are unknown to us. We look at the records of their existence and form some picture of them in our minds. This gives us some idea of their life and we can feel empathy with them. It can help our understanding if they leave diaries or written accounts of their lives. This puts flesh on the individual so more can be learned and understood of their lives. In most cases the historian can only try to fill in the life that lies behind the facts.

I feel very fortunate that I remember by gran and knew her for herself, a woman totally independent – a survivor. She had come through a very difficult life and one that we have no way of measuring what it was like for her. How many happy times did she have? How many terrible times? We cannot say how we would have lived a life like hers in those times. I loved her for the way she was, as I perceived her.

Perhaps it was for the best that her secrets went to the grave with her. If her family knew of her full history it is quite possible that this knowledge would have influenced our relationships for the worse. It is so much easier with the passing of time to evaluate such a life from a distance and not allow emotional judgements to be made on another human being.

She died on 22 November 1953 aged 87 years. Her name on her death certificate given as ‘Celia RANSOME otherwise GAY.’ Even on her death it wasn’t certain what her name was and her family were totally unaware of the turbulent life she had led.

The Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies is holding a free Family History Open Day on Saturday 17 October 2009 from 11am to 4pm at High Wycombe Library, 5 Eden Place, Eden, High Wycombe, Bucks HP11 2DH. Phone 01494 475900 for details.

WEBSITE NEWS

Army Campaigns Abroad

<http://surreygenealogist.com> is a website created by Rob Alexander, genealogist and researcher, who is currently on a sabbatical. He is leaving his website operational so that anybody who wishes to access his databases may do so. These databases are free and easy to use and have been compiled from information in various books: *Crimean War Casualty Roll* - these are casualties from the *London Gazette* of 1854-1855 and there are 16,315 entries. Original data is in the book *Casualty Roll of the Crimea* compiled by Frank and Andrea Cook (ISBN 0-903754-10); *Natal Field Force* - 11,188 casualties of the first part of the Boer War, 20 October 1898-26 October 1900; *Casualties of the Zulu and Basuto Wars 1877-1879* - 1,559 casualties from the book by I T Tavender (ISBN 0-903754-24X); *South Africa 1853 Medal Roll* - 10,958 recipients of this medal from the book by G R Everson (ISBN 0-906304-024); *Casualty Roll for the Indian Mutiny 1857-1859* - 7,457 casualties from the book compiled by I T Tavender (ISBN 0-903754-98-3); *Casualty Roll of the Army of the Sutlej 1845-1846* - 3,209 casualties compiled from the Sutlej Medal Rolls held at the India Office Library; *Officers of the Madras Army 1760-1834* - this book contains the dates of appointment of 4,627 officers who served from the beginning of the Madras Presidency, the British East India Company. The full entries often have the dates of promotions and death too and there is quite likely to be further data on individuals in all of the books.

The Clergy of the Church of England Database

The Clergy of the Church of England Database (CCed), relaunched earlier this year, aims to provide coverage of as many clerical lives as possible from 1540, when Henry VIII created the first of six new dioceses, to 1835, when reliable and regularly updated national lists of clergy and their livings, such as the *Clergy List*, became available. It draws on records from over 50 archives in England and Wales and from all 27 dioceses of England and Wales (plus the short-lived diocese of Westminster).

Major features of the database include: records relating to the major events of clerical careers such as ordination, appointments as curates, rectors and lecturers; information about parishes, chapelries and the many secular institutions and persons with chaplains; information about patrons, many of them women and information about schools and schoolteachers. By

December 2008 the database contained the key career events for over 105,000 individuals and this number is increasing all the time. Monthly upgrades often add some 2,000 new career narratives to the site.

There are two search engines, one basic and the other advanced and the database can be searched by place, date or clerical person. A browse facility allows you to peruse the lists of people, locations or bishops. The website also contains a host of useful aids such as descriptions and maps for dioceses, lists of bishops and parishes, a glossary of terms, and an Online Journal containing essays and 'notes and queries'. The main strength of this database is its national coverage across nearly three hundred years, so that for the first time you can trace individual career paths as they cross diocesan boundaries. It is worth bearing in mind that throughout the period covered by CCEd, the Church of England was the single most important employer of educated males in England and Wales.

This free site can be found at www.theclergydatabase.org.uk

Google It!

Google began in January 1996 as a research project by Larry PAGE and Sergey BRIN, students at Stanford University in California, USA. They hypothesized that a search engine that analysed the relationships between websites would produce better results than existing techniques and this has been jolly good news for everybody else!

Whatever you are searching for, it is ALWAYS worth putting your search term into Google and seeing what comes up, whether it is a personal name, a village, company or anything.

For more specialised searches Google Images contains pictures both ancient and modern, Google Maps also has Street View which is marvellous for seeing current views of where your ancestor lived, Google Books (which this column has mentioned before) has full copies of some old journals and books.

You will be amazed at what is out there. Try it and see!



If you have found a useful website perhaps you would consider writing a short review for METROPOLITAN or let the Editors know of it? See inside the front cover for email and postal addresses.

OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL MILITIAS, 1722

On the 9 May 1722, a proclamation was issued for enforcing the laws against papists and nonjurors and for expelling all the former to the distance of ten miles from the metropolis.

The government having resolved to take all the precautions imaginable for rendering abortive the designs of conspirators, orders were sent by the privy council to the several lieutenancies within the bill of mortality, to take account of the number of horses within their several jurisdictions; the returns thereof were as follows:

The returns of the number of horses made by the several officers of the militia of the City of London within their respective beats on the 22 May 1722.

Blue Regiment: Sir Gilbert HEATHCOTE, knight and alderman; Samuel WESTAL, lieutenant-colonel; John WIXKES, major; William BRIND, first captain; James INNOCENT, second captain; Hugh WINCHWORTH, third captain; Joseph EDWARDS, fourth captain; Joseph SPERINCK, fifth captain.

Red Regiment: Sir Samuel STAINER, knight and alderman, colonel; James PORTEN, lieutenant-col; Edward SEDLEY, major; William BEALE, first captain; Francis SMART, second captain; John WILLIAMS, third captain; Sir John SEDLEY, bart, fourth captain; William LEWIS, fifth captain.

Green Regiment: Sir William HUMFREYS, bart and alderman, col; Robert CROSHAW, lieutenant-col; Christopher PARKINSON, major; Ralph SNOW, first captain; Oliver COMBES, second captain, John SCRIMSHIRE, third captain; George STRAY, fourth captain; Henry TAME, fifth captain.

Yellow Regiment: Sir Charles PEERS, knight and alderman, colonel; Sir Peter Eaton, knight lieutenant-col; Thomas GILBERT, major; Alexander GARRET, first captain; Benjamin HODGES, second captain; John BASSANDINE, third captain; Nicholas FAULCON, fourth captain; John JOHNSON, fifth captain.

Orange Regiment: Sir Gerard CONYERS, knight and alderman, colonel; James SEAMER, lieutenant-col; George JENKINS, major; George JENKINS sen, first captain; Thomas CARTWRIGHT, second captain; Joseph BAWLER, third captain; William SAUNDERS, fourth captain; Samuel SANDERS, fifth captain.

White Regiment: Sir John EYLES, bart and alderman, colonel; John SHOREY, lieut-col; Noah de la FOUNTAIN, major; Peregrine PHILLIPS, first captain; Seth ADAMS, second captain; William BELL, third captain, William COWLEY, fourth captain; George GERARD, fifth captain.

The numbers of the several sorts of horses are coach-horses 1337, saddle-horses 2589, draught-horses 1182. Total 5108.

The returns made by the officers of the two regiments of Westminster:

Red Regiment of Westminster: Robert GARDINER esq, col; William GORE, lieut-col; Joseph WATTS, major; William HILL, first captain; Henry HOWARD, second captain; Daniel KING, third captain; Charles MADDOX, fourth captain; John RUSDEN, fifth captain; Miles HARPER, sixth captain; Thomas TREW, seventh captain; John WEST, eighth captain; Samuel WICKELL, ninth captain.

Blue Regiment of Westminster: Thomas MEDLYCOTT esq colonel; John ELLIS esq, lieut-col; Thomas WARD, major; Samuel HAWKINS, first captain; Valentine HILDER, second captain; William SMART, third captain, John HAWKINS, fourth captain; William HENN, fifth captain; Robert RIGGS, sixth captain. Total number of horses 9513.

The returns made by the officers of the two regiments of Tower Hamlets

First Regiment: The Earl of Carlisle, col; Peter LEKEUX esq, lieut-col; HARDWICK, major; Thomas TAYLOR, first captain; Raphell DUBOIS, second captain; David COOPER, third captain; John LOTE, fourth captain; James GUENIN, fifth captain.

Second Regiment: Sir Isaac TILLARD, knight, colonel; Doyly MITCHEL esq, Lieut-col; Thomas EXLEBEE, major; Charles KIPLING, first captain; Daniel WHITEHURST, second captain; Thomas JONES, third captain; Tobias HUNT, fourth captain; Thomas STIBBS, fifth captain. Total number of horses 2980.

It was thought that the number of horses reported was very defective, due to the careless omissions of the officers.


Taken from *The History and Antiquities of London, Westminster, Southwark and Parts Adjacent* by Thomas Allen, published by Cowie and Strange 1828.

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.



BOWES/SYKES

I've been researching my family history for three years but I am struggling with my London ancestors and wonder if anyone can help. If I could just find the births of Jack BOWES and Florence SYKES, I would be happy!

I know that they married in 1923, when Jack was 25 and Florence was 26. They lived at 24 Lofting Road, Islington then. Their fathers were Alfred BOWES (deceased, picture frame maker) and Edwin SYKES (house decorator) respectively.

I am unable to locate Jack in any census. I found Florence in 1901 and 1911 living in West Ham. Her parents were Edwin and Annie SYKES. One census states that Florence was born in West Ham; the other has her place of birth as Tottenham.

In 1926 Florence died, aged 30 and they were living at 155 Estcourt Road, Fulham. I then have a huge gap until the death of Jack BOWES in 1968, aged 73, living at 2 Dovehouse Street, Chelsea.

If anyone should come across my ancestors, I would love to know. I would also be interested in the history of the areas where they lived.

Mrs Jane Vaughan, Non-Member

11 Fenton Place, Lincoln, LN2 5DU

Email: jane.vaughan@clara.co.uk

Note: The 1901 census states that Florence's mother Annie was born in Edmonton. The FreeBMD website has an Edwin SYKES marrying a Clara Annie BYNORTH in the Edmonton Registration District in 1890, one year before Florence's eldest sister Nellie was born.

A Florence SYKES' birth was registered at Edmonton in the September quarter of 1896. Could this be your ancestor?

SMITH

I need some help in how I can find more information about the two marriages of Clement SMITH. He was baptised 4 July 1793 (source: Parish Records, St Botolph Without Aldersgate, London.) He died 25 September 1861 (source: Death Certificate). I know from Census records and Business Directories that he was a stockbroker, owned a brick building business and a pawnbroker's shop.

He married twice:

1. Clement SMITH married Elizabeth BENNETT in the parish of St George, Bloomsbury, about 1813. (Source: Pallot's Marriage Index for England 1780-1837 on www.ancestry.co.uk.—the date given was 1823 but I think this should be 1813).
2. I have found that Clement married Elizabeth WOODGATE in 1819 at St George, Hanover Square (Source: Boyd's Marriage Index, London & Middlesex. Vol 21, 1801-1837, p112, Grooms RE-Z).

I have checked www.familysearch.org and I find that they have filmed the records of St George, Hanover Square. The problem is that the records on film of St George, Bloomsbury are only baptisms. I would be grateful if anyone can help me find the marriage records for St George, Bloomsbury and how do I find out if these marriages were by licence which I understand may give me more information.

Theresa M Smith, Member No. 7230

292 Rio Drive South, Kelowna, British Columbia V1V 2B1, Canada

Email: tmsmith.rio@shaw.ca

Note: The parish records for St George, Bloomsbury are held at the London Metropolitan Archives. The Register of Marriages for Jan 1816-Aug 1821 appears in the London Generations database, reference number X053/006 and you can ask the Family History Research Service at the LMA to look at this for you. The minimum fee is £40 but is no doubt cheaper than coming here yourself! Visit: www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/Corporation/applications/family-research for more information about this option.

Failing that, LMA has a partnership with Ancestry with the objective of digitising genealogical sources and making them available over the internet. It is anticipated that parish records will be included in this digitisation and indexing program.

PROBERT

I am still seeking information on the children of John and Eliza PROBERT. They had four children and John was in the Royal Horse Guards, Albany Street Barracks, Regents Park, London.

William was born c1848 and he worked for Charles Steel & Co. Manufacturer of Playing Cards, 80 Long Acre, London. He died 6 December 1860, aged 12 years, at Kings College Hospital, Lincolns Inn Fields, as a result of an accident at work. The inquest on 8 December 1860, City of Westminster, confirms he was 12 years old. I cannot find his burial. His home address was Dudley Street, Middlesex.

George PROBERT, their second child, was born 25 July 1851 at Cheltenham, Gloucestershire. On the 1861 census George was at home Dudley Street, St Giles. I cannot find him on the 1871 census. The 1881 census shows he was a printer, unmarried and lodging at 31 Tysoe Street, Clerkenwell, London. I cannot find him after that.

Eliza PROBERT, the third child was born c1854 Somers Town, Middlesex. I cannot get a birth certificate - I have sent for a few but they are not mine. There is an Eliza PROBERT on the 1871 census, she was unmarried, aged 17 and a domestic servant, born Pancras, living at 37 Albert Street (by the Royal Horse Guards Barracks) is she mine? Where is she in 1881?

Emma PROBERT, the fourth child, was born 8 January 1856, 7 Princes Street, St Giles in the Field, Middlesex. Little Emma died of pneumonia, aged 5 years, on 29 June 1861 at Dudley Street, North St Giles. No burial found.

Also still searching for the burial of John PROBERT, their father, born 1827. He died 8 August 1873 in Albany Street Barracks, Regents Park, after serving in the Royal Horse Guards for 21 years. Where was he buried? He is not in Windsor Cemetery, Spital Road with his wife Eliza PROBERT who died 4 February 1875.

Mrs Margaret E. Probert, Member No. 7287

Camden House, Orchard Mead, Inkberrow, Worcs. WR7 4EH

ROBINSON

I am currently trying to solve a birth registration for my father-in-law. My son and I have for some years tried to find the birth of his grandfather, Roy Rice ROBINSON. Known: Grand-dad was known as Roy Rice ROBINSON, given date of birth 22 October 1898 (Naval Records). However, electoral roll for him queried year of birth to be 1897.

1911 Census found him at National School Knockholt in the guardianship of Alice WITHERS. Their school records give his date of birth as 22 October 1897. Nowhere have we found where he was born. 1911 says unknown. Naval records blank.

Recently we found, as a result of the 1911 Census, a VINCENT family we had been trying to find for some time. In the 1901 Census, David (my son) thinks he has found Roy Ric with Edward VINCENT aged 72 his grandfather, living at Winchester Street, St George Hanover Square. Roy Ric 3, born Kilburn. In this household is Ada VINCENT, 27, Dancer Exhib, Worker, born Barnet, MDX. This we know from previous searches and family lore to be his Mother. Ada and her sister Lizzie were well-known dancers in the late 1880-1900s at the Empire Theatre, London. We all knew Grand-dad was born illegitimate.

David found a registration for a Frederick Roy VINCENT born 22 October 1897 at 12 Callcott Road, Mother Ada VINCENT (formerly WILSON), Father Edward George VINCENT, Mariner.

Kelly's for Kilburn frustratingly does not give anyone at, or mention, 12 Callcott Road. 10 and 14 are listed!

David found Ada's sister, Lizzie also a dancer, married a sailor and had a child but both Mum and babe died before Roy was born. This was checked because one story was that Ada was his aunt and her sister his mum and died when he was born. Some truths and some lies!

I have given some basic outline to what we are looking for. I wonder if baptism records, school records may give us more information. How could and where do we find them? I have read that some Churchmen write comments about baptisms.

Is there anyone that could throw some light on this mystery? And give some clues where to go next?

Jean Robinson, Member No. 7494

60 Huntsman's Drive, Hereford HR4 0PN

Note: It is very unusual for a child to have a different surname to its mother - we wonder where the ROBINSON name came from - so it may well be that Frederick Roy VINCENT is your father-in-law. It would certainly be worth trying to find a baptism for him. There were only a couple of churches within walking distance of Callcott Road at that time. Their records are at London Metropolitan Archives, 40 Northampton Rd, London, EC1R 0HB.

BENNETT

I am trying to find my 3x G Grandfather. His name James William BENNETT, born 14 July 1814 at Paddington, London. He was, by profession, a ladies shoe maker. I know he married Amelia FITZPATRICK on 6 December 1834 in St James Westminster. I am trying to go back further to find his father and grandfather or siblings. I subscribe to Genes, Ancestry and Findmypast and do access Family Search (Utah) but cannot find anything that helps.

Is it possible you could help, or point me in the right direction?

Beryl Barnes, Member No. 7461

6 Norfolk Way, Bishop Stortford, Herts CM23 3PW

Email: beryl.barnes3@ntlworld.com

Note: As James William BENNETT was born before civil registration you will need to find where he was baptised. Hopefully this will be in the Paddington area. A trip to the London Metropolitan Archives is needed for you too.

JOLLIFFE

I am looking for the birth and burial place of a James JOLLIFFE who married Margaret GITTENS on 17 September 1820 at St Anne, Soho. James JOLLIFFE was a saddler and he had premises in King Street and Little Bridge Street, Westminster.

James and Margaret had five sons, James born 7 July 1823, Joseph born 11 November 1825, John born 30 November 1827, John William born 25 December 1829 and William born 26 February 1832. All of the children were baptised in Saint Margaret's, Westminster.

Their father died on 20 March 1832 but was not buried in Saint Margaret's Westminster. His date of death was found on an inventory obtained at The National Archives which confirms also his business address at the time of his death.

I have checked all the burials for the Westminster churches but there is no mention of a James JOLLIFFE.

I would be grateful for any assistance in tracing this death and hearing from anyone who has the surname JOLLIFFE in their family tree.

Malcolm Morecroft, Non-Member

Heathlands, Leeds Road, Langley, Nr. Maidstone, Kent. ME17 3JG

Email: toadflax@tiscali.co.uk

HORNE

I am looking for any information relating to the family of Hugh Matthew HORNE. He was born in 1844, either Jan or Jun, (writing blurred in family bible). Throughout his life he gives his birthplace as either London, or Middlesex, or both. He may have had a brother Edward (born 1848).

He married Flora McDonald DRUMMOND in 1872 in Sunderland. On his marriage certificate he gives his father's name as Edward HORNE and his father's occupation as Fireman of a screw steamer.

Hugh Matthew HORNE died in Sunderland in 1910. He gives his occupations as: Fireman; Fireman of screw steamer; Seaman/donkeyman; Seaman/fireman.

In 1871 he was serving on the vessel *Charlton*. In 1881 he was serving on the *SSRL Alston*. (The *Alston* was a revenue vessel and was later wrecked off the Irish coast).

I would be most grateful for any suggestions as, apart from the entry in the bible, I can find no record of him prior to the 1871 census.

Rod Gair, Member No. 7377

2 Greyside Bungalows, Newbrough, Northumberland, NE47 5AY.

Email: rod@hrgair.f9.co.uk

WRIGHT

I am seeking information on my Great Uncle Harry WRIGHT (born Birmingham 1882) who, in the 1901 Census, was boarding at 15 Victoria Road, Stoke Newington – occupation a butcher.

I would like to find out what sort of an area it was in those days, how I can discover the name of the butcher's shop he used to work for (as I do not know where his father Joseph came from, I hope he might have some WRIGHT connections locally).

I do know that in the 1891 Census Harry was living in Matlock, Derbyshire with his mother and siblings and that he later joined the Police Force in Nottingham. Any advice would be extremely helpful.

Julia Davey, Member No. 7392

69 St John's Road, Warminster, Wiltshire, BA12 9LZ

Note: The best way to find out about this area would be to find a local directory from around 1901. This will give you the names and addresses of local butchers and also a feel for the sort of place Stoke Newington was at that time.

MORRIS

I am looking for information to help me break down my brickwall, I don't know where to go next. I was told by my sister that my grandfather said we couldn't go back on his tree line because his father or grandfather was left on a doorstep, taken in by the man of the house, took his name MORRIS and married the man's daughter. He died many years ago so we cannot check this but his only child alive now (my aunt) has not heard this story.

Now what we do know. The facts: great grandfather Henry MORRIS aged 27, married Maria ELLIOTT in 1880 at St Marylebone parish church 'Holy Trinity' and stated his father's name on his wedding certificate as Henry MORRIS. The ELLIOTT family lived at Hanover Square.

Census records for 1881, 1891 and 1901 state that Henry was born in Notting Hill. I have not found him on the 1871 census yet. Looking at all the families with a father and son called Henry in 1861, I couldn't find one that fitted in with the jobs description of either Henries or else the son married someone else, until I found a 'Henry her son MORRIS' aged 7 living in Paddington workhouse with his mother Emma MORRIS. I sent for the birth certificate which states he was born 22 August 1853 at St Anne's Road, Kensington Town. His mother's maiden name was BAKER and his father was Henry MORRIS deceased, Labourer. I can't find a death certificate for Henry senior in the previous 9 months to Henry's birth or a wedding certificate for Emma BAKER or Henry MORRIS.

Emma MORRIS, born Wolverhampton, Staffordshire, lived in the workhouse for the remainder of her life, at least I think it is the same one in the 1871, 1881 and 1891 censuses.

The only death certificate for a Emma MORRIS I can find says she died in Kensington Infirmary on 16 October 1895 and was a domestic housekeeper age 86. Also there is an Emma MORRIS born London in a City of London Union Workhouse at Bow in the 1851 census. Could this be her as well?

1 How can I find info on Emma MORRIS née BAKER from workhouse records and where born in Staffordshire?

2 I can't find a death cert for Henry MORRIS senior in the nine months before his son's birth, also a wedding certificate.

3 If I have the right death of Emma, where will her last resting place be? With her husband?

Mrs Pat Atkin, Member No. 7413

98 Nunsfield Road, Buxton, Derbyshire SK17 7BW

Email: patricia.atkin@sky.com

Note: These workhouse records are held at London Metropolitan Archives. See the note on page 31 for how to access these without coming to London. It might also be worth checking the workhouses website: <http://www.workhouses.org.uk>

It is possible that Henry MORRIS did not marry Emma BAKER and did not die before his son was born. The stigma against single mothers was strong then and so Emma may have said she was a widow when she wasn't.

It is unlikely that Emma is buried with Henry MORRIS. She was probably buried in one of the large municipal cemeteries such as Brompton. The workhouse records might provide a clue.

BROOK(E)S

This request may inspire those researchers who like a mystery and a challenge. My wife and I have been researching FH now for something like thirty years, but this puzzle got us going.

We were talking with a friend of ours who lives in Oxford. Naturally we were talking FH. Our friend said that her sister had set out her father's line, but found her mother's side virtually impossible. Upon asking "Why?" we were told that her mother had been handed over at an early age to a couple living in the London area and the mother had gone to the USA. A post card had arrived later – from Virginia – and that was the last known contact made by this parent. Only a few facts exist to help the search. This is the story so far:

Our friend's mother was called Eve. Sadly, Eve has now passed on. She was brought up by a couple called Charles and Amelia JUCHAU – to be found on the census under JUCHAN.

On the 1911 census at 67 Monega Road, Forest Gate, Parish East Ham are: Charles JUCHAU aged 36, Amelia (wife) 32, and Eve–born Dunmow, Essex–5 years old. We next looked for a birth registration to coincide with this. The only Eve born in Dunmow at the correct time was an Eve Clement BROOKS. The certificate was sent for and has arrived. The mother is said to be Florence Louise BROOKS, unmarried, a domestic servant of Paddington and the birth took place at the Maternity Home, Great Easton, Dunmow.

The only item remaining from Eve's past is a post card sent by her mother from the USA clearly dated 5 August 1908 posted in Oak Ridge, Virginia.

Sent to Mrs JUCHAU at 36 Queens Road, Hoe Street, Walthamstow, London. The mother asks “How is Eve? – give my love to her.” She remarks about how hot it is, and signs off F L B which appears to tie up with Florence Louise BROOKS as above. Also, our friend informed us that they always celebrated her mother’s birthday on the 4 November each year – which is the date of birth on the certificate.

The next step is hard for a couple up here in Yorkshire to pursue. Has anyone—down there in the Middlesex area – any clue as to Florence Louise BROOKS? We found a few that may fit the bill – but at this time we can get no nearer. Born possibly about 1884 she appears to have been a Domestic Servant in the Paddington area and must have had connections with the JUCHAU family—found in Bethnal Green in 1881 and 1891. Charles JUCHAU married Amelia Maud FOULSER in Bethnal Green in the December quarter of 1902. Any help would be gratefully accepted. Who likes a challenge?

Trevor Bellamy, Member No. 6722,
 21 Franklin Mount, Harrogate, Yorkshire, HG1 5EJ.
 Email: trevor.bellamy1@ntlworld.com

MEAD/BRYANT

My Aunt, Ellen Emily MEAD, born 1899 in St Pancras, married George Arthur BRYANT in 1919 at St Michael’s, Camden Town. He was an American soldier. No family members attended the wedding. The couple appear in New York in the 1920 census and in Norfolk, Virginia in the 1930 census with 4 children. His father was a flower exporter but George was working as a cook.

My question is: How did my Aunt travel to America? Was provision made for GI Brides after the Great War by the American authorities?

Terry Mead, Member No. 4722
 43 Stanborough Avenue, Boreham Wood, Herts WD6 5LX
 Email: watersmead@waitrose.com

Note: Do look at this website: <http://ww1warbrides.blogspot.com> as it gives a lot of information on Canadian war brides of WWI. The Canadian government, in January 1919, passed an Order in council allowing the dependants of Canadian soldiers free third class passage from their home in Europe to a destination in Canada. Possibly the American government did the same?

LACEY

My G G Grandfather James LACEY, born circa 1808 Edmonton was a farmer in the Edmonton/Winchmore Hill area. He appears in the 1841 and 1851 Census as a farmer at Barrowell Farm, Barrowell Green and subsequently in the 1861 Census at Bush Hill Park Farm, Edmonton, where he died on 18 December 1866. He was the tenant farmer of the latter having leased it from John Samuel MOORAT Esq.

Under the terms of his Last Will & Testament he appointed his wife Elizabeth (née FRIENDLE) and son-in-law John GARRETT/GARRITT as executors and trustees. The beneficiaries were mainly his wife Elizabeth, daughter Selina MARTIN (née Lacey) born 1838, James LACEY (son) born 1834 and George LACEY (son) born 1844.

The other children of James and Elizabeth were: John born 1829; Elizabeth Ann born 1831 (wife of John GARRETT/GARRITT); Maria born 1832 married William John BISHOP in 1863; Sarah Susannah born 1837 married William Henry LOGSDON in 1865; Emma born 1840; Henry born 1847 married Lucy Maria BADHAM in 1869 (NB This branch is well documented thanks to the BADHAM One Name Society); Edward Thomas born 1850. All were born Edmonton.

I am hoping that amongst your readers there is someone who can give me any further information about the abovementioned farms, their subsequent history and perhaps throw some light on why his wife Elizabeth LACEY born circa 1807 came to die in the Edmonton Union Workhouse in 1887, and, of course, if a member has connections to any of the above named then I would be most pleased to hear from them.

Neil Brine, Member No. 6169

2 Priestlands Corner, Priestlands Lane, Sherborne, Dorset DT9 4HJ

Email: nrbrine@googlemail.com

Note: The Workhouse was also the local infirmary and it is likely that 80-year-old Elizabeth LACEY was old and infirm.

ADVERTISING RATES

Advertising rates per issue of METROPOLITAN are as follows:

Full Page £40, Half Page £23, Quarter Page £14, Eighth Page, £8.50

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

See inside front cover for address.

DAVIS/FOSTER

James Foster DAVIS was born 28 May 1817 at the Workhouse, St Clement Danes. His mother was Hannah FOSTER, servant, unmarried, his father, James DAVIS, Law Stationer of Hemlock Court, Carey St.

James Foster DAVIS married Louisa WRIGHT in 1839, Shoreditch and after her death married her sister Mary WRIGHT in 1845, Clerkenwell. Louisa and Mary were daughters of Thomas WRIGHT (a watchmaker) and Louisa COLEY of Clerkenwell. James Foster DAVIS was a clock-case maker, also of Clerkenwell.

The family moved to Birmingham c1850. Any information regarding the origins of these families would be much appreciated.

Sue Detheridge, Member No. 7484

33 Caldervale Drive, Wildwood, Staffs ST17 4RH

Email: anickgray@onetel.com

VASSELIN

Researching Alice Matilda VASSELIN (née LAWTON) although, I believe she was born WALLINGTON and took her stepfather's name.

Her contact Address for the mid 1920s (when her husband was in the Army) was given as 1 Eastern Cottages, New Southgate. Please can anyone help with who lived there at that time? Also, has anyone a photo of the cottages?

Also has anyone a photo of St Michael and All Angels Parish Church, South Barnet, Hertford, taken around 1920, which they would be prepared to copy for me. I am happy to pay any costs incurred.

Anne Vasselin, Member No. 7500

22, Levedale Close, Creswell Farm Estate, Stafford ST16 1JR

Email: anne.yvonne@talktalk.net

Note: The church was built on the corner of Oakleigh Road South and Brunswick Grove, New Southgate in 1902 but baptism records start in 1896. These possibly took place in Brunswick Hall which was on the same site that became part of the church. The church was demolished about 1973. St Michaels Court, N11 1HW stands on its site.

The records of the church were deposited at the London Metropolitan Archives.

ANYONE INTERESTED?

A friend of a member has old magazines of family history societies from Devon, Montgomeryshire and West Middlesex.

If you would like these or for more details please write to:

Joyce Horner, 11a Wood Lane, N6 5UE

The Gentleman's Magazine, Volume 102, 1832

London Deaths

September 12. At Tavistock-place, by bursting a blood vessel, whilst pulling on a boot, aged 56, James WOODHOUSE esq

September 14. After a few hours' illness, J CHEESE esq, late editor of The London Free Press.

October 7. In Furnival's-inn, by accident while engaged in making some chemical experiments, Alex BARRY esq, FRS Lecturer on Natural Philosophy and Chemistry at Guy's Hospital.

October. In Charles-court, Drury-lane, the notorious 'Lady BARRYMORE'. She had passed from the drawing-room of a profligate peer to the lowest grade of prostitution. She had been brought 150 times to Bow-street Office on charges of drunkenness and rioting and possessed great pugilistic skill and strength; but when kept sober in Tothill Fields Bridewell, proved an useful and trustworthy assistant as matron of the female prisoners.

METROPOLITAN POLICE HISTORICAL COLLECTION

Many police artefacts previously hidden from view are now on permanent public display at the Metropolitan Police's new heritage centre. Staff will rotate displays from the 15,000 items that make up the Metropolitan Police Historical Collection. These include uniforms, old maps of London, police equipment and a World War II display.

This collection is at Empress State Building, Empress Approach, Lillie Road, London SW6 1TR and is open from 10am-4pm on weekdays, entry free. For more information telephone: 020 7161 1234, extension 781234, or Email: historicstore@met.police.uk

FORTHCOMING BRANCH MEETINGS

Barnet Branch – 7.30pm for 8.00pm

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

- Thursday 15 October *Mrs Goodwin's Little Book*
by Meryl Catty
- Thursday 19 November *Three Little Maids from School*
by Richard Ratcliffe
- Thursday 17 December No Meeting
- Thursday 21 January *Kings Cross and St Pancras*
by John Neal

City Branch – 12 noon for 12.30pm

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

- Thursday 29 October *The Past is Another Country (they do things differently there!)*
by Audrey Gillett
- Thursday 26 November *Kings Cross Voices*
by Richard Knight
- Thursday 31 December No Meeting
- Thursday 28 January *The Story of Pears Soap*
by Andrea Cameron

Enfield Branch – 7.30pm for 8.00pm

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

- Wednesday 7 October *Courtship and Marriage*
by Tom Doig
- Wednesday 4 November *1911 Census Online Explained!*
by John Hanson
- Wednesday 2 December Christmas Social
- Wednesday 6 January *How Many Skeletons have you got in your Family Tree?*
by Richard Ratcliffe

Rayners Lane Branch – 7.30pm for 8.00pm

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

Friday 9 October *Before Parish Registers*

by Ian Waller

Friday 13 November *The Story of Pears Soap*

by Andrea Cameron

Friday 11 December Christmas Celebrations

Friday 8 January TBA

Wembley Branch – 7.30pm for 8.00pm

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

Monday 26 October Members' Gathering

Monday 23 November *Triple Cross*

by Fred Feather

Monday 28 December No Meeting

Monday 25 January TBA

ADVANCE NOTICE

The Society AGM will take place on

Saturday 20 February 2010

at The Friends' Meeting House
456 Rayners Lane, Pinner, Middlesex HA5 5DX

Details of the meeting and programme together with the Officers' reports
and nomination papers will be published
in the December METROPOLITAN.

AN ORIGINAL MYSTERY

By Rosemary A Roome, Member No. 2985

The annual Lord Mayor's Show takes place on the second Saturday of November (14 November in 2009) and marks the inauguration of the new Lord Mayor of London, the head of the City of London Corporation. He is elected by the Court of Aldermen and within the City, only the Sovereign takes precedence. On Lord Mayor's Day, he goes from Mansion House at 11am in his coach to the Royal Courts of Justice to swear an oath of allegiance to the Sovereign. The accompanying vibrant procession reflects all aspects of his and the City's roles and responsibilities with colourful floats, bands, military displays, etc. Taking pride of place in this pageantry is the magnificent Lord Mayor's Coach which is one of the star exhibits in the Museum of London, London Wall, EC2. The coach was designed by Sir Robert TAYLOR and was commissioned through an article of agreement between the Aldermen of the City of London and Joseph BERRY of Leather Lane, London in 1757.

The London Metropolitan Archives (LMA) has a copy of the agreement made in 1958 and notes which state that the original was then in the possession of a PK GLOVER Esquire. Research suggests that he comes from a long line of 18 and 19C coach makers based in Tottenham, Middx and that the family subsequently moved to Farnham Common, Bucks. These are the last known whereabouts of Mr GLOVER and the agreement but the Museum would like to locate it in time for its international conference on ceremonial coaches in mid November 2009.

Furthermore, when the museum's current refurbishment programme finishes in Spring 2010 the coach will be displayed in a purpose-built glass-fronted gallery which will be visible from the street 24 hours a day.

Beatrice BEHLEN, the museum's curator of Fashion and Decorative Arts feels it would 'be absolutely wonderful to display the original article of agreement with the Lord Mayor's Coach, or at least to know it is in safe hands. Many new documents relating to the coach have recently come to light and finding the original would be the icing on the cake.'

As family historians we can empathise with her for we are accustomed to tracking down elusive pieces of information and familiar with the thrill of discovery. If you have any information which could shed light on the matter, please contact Beatrice by telephone on 020 7814 5753 or email at: bbehlen@museumoflondon.org.uk Please let the editors know too!

AIMS OF THE SOCIETY

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

SUBSCRIPTIONS

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

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

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

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

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

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

Canadian Postal Money Orders cannot be accepted.

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

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