

METROPOLITAN

The Journal of the

LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX

Family History Society



ISSN 1359-8961
Volume 32 No. 3 (125)



April 2010

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Cover picture: Upper Street, Islington, circa 1840

© Islington Local History Centre

See article on page 91

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EDITORIAL

Our cover photograph repays careful study whether or not you had ancestors in the present London Borough of Islington for there is much information about mid 19c London to be gleaned from it-not least fashion, transport, architecture, street layout and lighting-and the sheep would have walked many miles along drovers' routes on their way to a London market. People also travelled long distances, sometimes on foot, seeking work to support their families. From members' interests and *help!* requests we know that many of our members had ancestors who passed through, or settled in, this area which includes three Ancient Parishes: St Mary, Islington; St James, Clerkenwell and St Luke's, Old Street.

The article on page 91 by Mark Aston gives a glimpse of the treasures to be unearthed at the Islington Local History Centre and Museum, which are both well worth a visit. Mark will be speaking to the City Branch in June. (See page 130) In arranging this, he gave, unprompted, the title of the talk plus a sub-title. This was very helpful as we have received requests from some members outside our area who would like to attend talks from time to time at a convenient branch if the subject is of particular interest to them. Visits for research purposes or to family or friends nearby could then be arranged for the appropriate day. To avoid disappointment, some indication of the subject was requested where the title of the talk is somewhat cryptic. Where such information is available, it has been included.

As you will see from the minutes of the recent 2010 AGM, fewer people attended than in 2009 when the mood at the end of that meeting was very low. See April 2009 METROPOLITAN (page 110 and 111) and the Chairman's comment ".....unless we are able to find both a new Treasurer and Chairman for next year the Society will have to wind up." It was against this unwelcome background, that I agreed to my nomination for the position of Chairman to go forward-with interesting results.

Following the comment in the December journal about New Year resolutions and contributions for METROPOLITAN, the Editors have welcomed several items already and we hope that there may be some others in the pipeline?

Rosemary A Roome

**Please remember that the copy date for the next issue is
15 MAY 2010**

A NOTE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

By the time you receive this copy of METROPOLITAN further threats of snow will be rarer and our AGM will be done and dusted. You will have heard of a proposal for a minor change in the constitution regarding membership renewals. A few of our members may not have sent in their subscriptions which may have resulted in an extra £2 to pay on top of the £12.

Some of you will have heard that our Treasurer Brian Green suffered a heart attack just after Christmas and was admitted to the Royal Free and then on to the Heart Hospital (London). He should be home before the end of February but will have to take things very quietly. Brian has done sterling work for the Society not only as Treasurer but also helping to steer the Executive Committee. I know everyone in the Society will want to wish Brian a full recovery.

The London-based members of a ripe age have been filing their applications for the next round of Freedom passes enabling free bus and underground travel, which I can see being used more often now with the introduction in April of a £5 parking fee at The National Archives. Due to the archives not being open on Mondays and a large influx of people following the *Who Do You Think You Are?* trend it is wise to arrive as early as possible as it can get very crowded.

As members were leaving The Friends Meeting House following the AGM, Anne our Membership Secretary/Bookstall Manager suffered a fall which resulted in a fractured hip. Joan accompanied her in the ambulance and waited while tests and a scan were done. Anne had a hip replacement the very next day, Sunday, and has nothing but praise for the treatment that she has received in Northwick Park Hospital. She is making a rapid recovery and would like to thank all those who have sent her get well wishes and have visited her in hospital. As a result there may be a period of delay dealing with membership matters, please be patient and feel free to contact either myself or the Hon. Secretary in the mean time.

Bill Pyemont

Further to *A Note From the Chairman* in December METROPOLITAN, Jeanette Spence, Member No. 4881, has offered do one hour's free research for members in the Essex Record Office.

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Some time ago I put an article in the Journal regarding a City of London Policeman (Robert Alexander TILLCOCK) who later became Chief Inspector, City of London Police at Snow Hill in London. He and his family lived over the Police Station.

I had traced his Grandson, Reginald A TILLCOCK, on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website and also other information about Belgian Battery Corner Cemetery, where he is buried. Generally I haven't heard this cemetery mentioned very much - usually the larger, more well-known cemeteries are headlined.

After receiving my METROPOLITAN this week with the article about the War Graves Photographic Project I decided to try the name and to my surprise they have photographed the gravestone of interest to me and I have now purchased a hard copy. The inscription on the wall of the cemetery reads: 'The land on which this cemetery stands is the free gift of the Belgian people for the final resting place of those allied armies who fell in the war of 1914-1918 and are honoured here.' In the past I had managed to find out a lot about this cemetery but the photo of that was the clearest one I've seen of the words that matter. It quite brought a lump to my throat actually seeing the gravestone.

This is a brilliant project and one which I am sure many people will take advantage of. Thanks for the item, I had no knowledge of the project before.

Hazel Duxon, Member No.6098

Note: Hazel's article appeared in METROPOLITAN Vol 30 No 1, dated October 2007.

My *Help!* request appeared in the December 2009 issue of METROPOLITAN and by 25 January 2010 I was thrilled to tear open a GRO envelope and look upon the death certificate of my maternal grandfather. At last I knew his real name – a privilege not granted to his second two children. It made me cry.

I would like to thank LWMFHS colleagues, Dave and Elizabeth, who emailed with tips and especially Kent-based Malcolm Morecroft who braved the snow to undertake research at LMA, Colindale and High Holborn for me. Malcolm found my grandfather in the 1938 electoral roll at

LMA. His real name was John William SYMONDS, not the Dudley Browne he went by. I'd assumed that because Grandfather hadn't appeared on the 1937 register, he wasn't going to register to vote at Grandma's address. He'd known her ten years by then after all.

Moral of the story: don't make assumptions, work methodically and be persistent. Oh, yes, and join a family history society. Thank you.

Sally Cox, Member No. 7527

PS I've also learnt that archivists occasionally 'guard' their directories if those volumes are in very poor condition. With the best intentions, they may tell you they can't do a search/don't have the directory in question. Fortunately, the directories in question were kept at more than one repository and Malcolm knew where to look.

Buckinghamshire Family History Society OPEN DAY

Saturday 24 July 2010 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

am writing a book on the BEBB, GREEN and KENNY families of Westminster. Paddy GREEN an ardent Catholic, well known and respected owner of Evans Supper Rooms & Music Hall, Covent Garden was born c1805 at St James, Westminster. He married Sarah and the couple had six children, Jessie born 1831 (married Henry BEBB, a solicitor), Alice born 1833, John born 1838, Thomas born 1839, Agnes born 1840, Adela born 1841 and Eliza born 1847 (married James KENNY).

Eliza and James KENNY had a son James born 1866. He married Frances and they had James born 1894, Eliza born 1867, Eleanor born 1869, Edward born 1871, Henry born 1875, Catherine born 1877, Albert born 1877, Lewis born 1880. All the children were born in Westminster, London.

James was a Tailor by trade and was living at 17 Saint James Place, Piccadilly in 1874 but had moved to 41 Broad Street by 1881. Two of the sons became London Tailors.

Any information on any of the BEBB and GREEN family up to the present day would be much appreciated.

Margaret Somers, Non-Member

7 Colworth St, Sunnybank Hills, Brisbane, Queensland 4109, Australia.

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I would like to invite members of your Society who may be researching BRITTON ancestors to join the Britton International DNA Project. All variants of the name are represented: BRITON, BRITTAIN, BRETTON, BRITEN, BRITTAN, etc.

As you probably know, Y-DNA testing is the newest tool used by genealogists to trace the male line. A simple cheek-swab test will determine whether two BRITTON families share a common ancestor within a genealogical timeframe. Membership in the Britton Project is free. Members are not required to order a DNA test in order to join the project and share genealogical information; however, testing is such a powerful tool that we hope they will eventually decide to participate. Since only males have Y-chromosomes, females must participate by finding a Britton relative (father, brother, cousin, etc.) to represent their line.

For more information on the Britton International DNA Project, please visit our main website at: www.worldfamilies.net/surnames/britton/home

Dr Lindsey Britton, Non-Member, Administrator of the Britton Project

Email: LPlantagenet@AOL.com

ISLINGTON LOCAL HISTORY CENTRE AND MUSEUM

By Mark Aston, Manager, Islington Local History Centre

Islington Local History Centre is located within Finsbury Library at 245 St John Street, London EC1. The Centre has a dual role as the local history centre and (historic) record office for the London Borough of Islington. With its partner Islington Museum, also located at Finsbury Library, the Local History Centre forms the borough's Heritage Service, which comes under the Borough council's wider Library and Cultural Services division.

The Centre's aims are to record life and events in Islington: its people, buildings, institutions and events past and present, by collecting local material and records and to make the collections available to users researching in person at the Centre, through the production of catalogues, indexes and other finding aids, through a postal, telephone and email enquiry service, and through publications, outreach and education activities.

If, for example, researchers are interested in discovering the history of their family, their home, a local business or landmark, or wish to undertake an academic project or are simply interested in the local history of the area, the four permanent Local History Centre staff can help researchers access the information they require. The total number of items held in the collection, including uncatalogued material, is now estimated at 100,000.

Anyone may make use of Local History Centre facilities - a researcher doesn't need to be a library member or live in Islington - but space in the search room is limited, so it's important for potential visitors to contact the Centre in advance of a visit (email: local.history@islington.gov.uk or tel: 020 7527 7988) to book a place to avoid disappointment. However, if researchers are unable to visit the Local History Centre, a paid-for postal research service is offered; the current rate is £12 per 30 minutes research. Alternatively, a list of independent researchers who are willing to undertake in-depth work for a fee is available.

Until seven years ago, the collections of the Local History Centre were traditionally divided between two locations, both reflecting the former administrative make-up of the London Borough of Islington. At Islington's

Central Library, Fieldway Crescent, dedicated staff dealt with material covering the former parish vestry of St Mary, Islington, and the later Metropolitan Borough of Islington created in 1900. Finsbury Library housed material covering the former parish vestries of St James, Clerkenwell, and St Luke's, Old Street, and the later Metropolitan Borough of Finsbury (1900). As the two former Metropolitan Boroughs came together in 1965 to form the London Borough of Islington, the two local history collections were amalgamated in 2003, following refurbishment of Finsbury Library.

The local history materials currently held include books, pamphlets and periodicals; London and local directories; electoral registers; London, parish, estate and Ordnance Survey maps; illustrations including photographs, prints, paintings and drawings; local newspapers and newscuttings; leaflets from local organisations and other ephemera; theatre programmes and playbills; posters; microfilms (including census returns and newspapers); and a small collection of audio-visual material. A number of special collections are also held, for example, the Sadler's Wells Archive and the Walter SICKERT Collection.



Albert Street Silver Jubilee Celebrations 1935

Archives of former parishes and boroughs of the London Borough of Islington are housed in the Centre, amongst which are kept the records of the vestry of St Mary's Islington (1662-1900) and of the vestries of St James, Clerkenwell and St Luke's, Old Street. Rating records are also held; the earliest rate book dating from 1661. Other archives have been deposited, including the records of local societies and bodies, some local business records, personal papers, title deeds and other documents.

The Centre is currently cataloguing all new acquisitions to its recently installed Adlib (Archive, Library and Museum) database; a programme of retrospective conversion of existing card catalogues is also underway. At present, the old Islington and Finsbury collections have separate card catalogues and indexes. Arranged by streets, names and a series of subject headings, these indexes include local information and contain entries to local newspapers, deeds, council and committee agendas and other documents.

Family history enquiries currently represent about 50% of enquiries. Although London's third smallest London authority, after The City of London and The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, Islington's historic population was immense. For example, in 1901 the area's population was approximately 436,000, a huge figure in comparison to today's figure of around 191,000 - Islington currently has the second highest residential density in England and Wales, after the City of London. As a result of its historically large population, Islington has been home to the ancestors of countless family historians, thus accounting for our high genealogical enquiry rate.

As researching family history becomes more involved, increasing demands for access to previously little-used material held at the Centre is being witnessed. Whilst online access to typical genealogical resources, such as census returns, civil registration indexes and trade directories, is made available direct to home and office computers, researchers are now exploiting information found in for example rating records, local newspapers, electoral registers and poor law records.

The Centre's rate books offer street by street listings of each property rated, the ratepayer and the amount paid. Some books are indexed by street. The earliest Finsbury rate book begins in 1661 and the earliest Islington rate

book is 1729. Local newspapers are increasingly popular: the *Islington Gazette* is available on microfilm from 1856 onwards and the (*Islington and*) *Holloway Press* is available from 1872 to 1942. Whilst there are a few gaps in the holdings of the registers of electors, these date from 1873 for the Parliamentary Borough of Finsbury and 1885 for its neighbour Islington; registers were not taken during the two world wars. The Centre's 18th and 19th century Poor Law records include settlement examination books (1771-1851) for Clerkenwell, indexed by surname, as well as admission and discharge books (1847-71) for the same area.

Mention must also be made of the Centre's special collections: the Sadler's Wells Theatre Archive, an archive of playbills, prints, photographs, cuttings, books, administrative records and other material relating to Sadler's Wells buildings, theatre, opera and ballet performances and management; the Sickert Collection, an assortment of books, photographs, radio documentary transcriptions, cuttings and a small picture collection relating to artists Walter SICKERT and Therese LESSORE; the PENTON Family and Estate, various papers relating to the Pentonville area; the Joe ORTON Collection, books, cuttings and reproductions of the Islington library book jackets defaced and altered by Joe ORTON and Kenneth HALLIWELL.

Other services offered to researchers include free information sheets. These reflect areas of the collection about which staff are frequently asked and include details about newspapers; cemeteries, burial grounds and crematoria; published histories of Islington and its districts; parish registers, and independent researchers. Regular exhibitions and displays are also enjoyed by visitors to the Centre. In 2009, four exhibitions were mounted, all featuring material found in the local history collection. Themes included Suffragettes and Holloway Prison, the Finsbury Health Centre, the history of Islington's Barnard Park and, for Black History Month, the pioneering Keskidee Centre, Britain's first arts centre for the black community, which was located in the borough during the 1970s and early 1980s. Forthcoming exhibitions include King's Cross Voices, an oral history project featuring reminiscences of residents and workers in this well-known part of north London, and Sadler's Wells, a display of material from the theatre's archive. Meanwhile behind the scenes, major work is due to start shortly to redesign the Centre and Museum's website. It's hoped that information sheets, past-exhibitions and the latest news about events and new

acquisitions will become regular online features. Visitors to the Centre will also notice that an extensive range of local history publications (including our own and Islington Archaeological and Historical Society titles) are available to buy.



Islington Carnival 1907

As well as the Islington Local History Centre, the following record offices, libraries and museums are also collecting certain material relating to the London Borough of Islington: Islington Museum; Guildhall Library; London Metropolitan Archives; London Metropolitan University (Irish Studies Centre) and The National Archives. The Centre also adopts a policy of co-operation with such organisations and neighbouring authorities, particularly concerning the exchange of information and copies of relevant finding aids.

The Centre's location is convenient to those searching other ancestors in the central London area, with London Metropolitan Archives, Museum of London, Guildhall Library, Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre, First Avenue House (for wills and probate) and the Post Office Archives all a short distance away; Islington Museum is even more conveniently located, sharing the same building as the Centre.

Islington opened its new museum in May 2008. It houses a gallery about Islington's history, with nine themes, ranging from wartime to leisure and childhood. The Museum holds a unique collection of over 1,500 objects and documents of local and historical significance. In conjunction with its exhibitions, Islington Museum offers a programme of school and family workshops, events and talks on Islington's past and present. There is also a thriving Museum Shop. The Museum is open every day from 10am to 5pm except for Wednesday and Sunday.

Note: See Many Friends, Few Helpers on page vii of the yellow insert.

WHERE DID I GO WRONG?

By Jeannette Spence, Member No. 4881

I've just watched a re-run of some of the *Who Do You Think You Are?* programmes and I am amazed at how quick and easy it is to research some celebrity's ancestry. No wonder so many people are now hooked on family history.

I have friends who have been researching, mostly on the Internet, for just a couple of years and have now closed their ancestral files, telling me smugly that they have done all their family tree, usually going back to pre Conquest. They are taking up new hobbies now – have been there, done that.

Am I thick-witted, where have I gone wrong? I grew up listening to Granny's tales of the family, little of which has ever been proven. Where are those two legacies she should have received, except that other relatives got to them first? Why is there no documentary proof the money ever existed? And where is the proof that the Italian 'Giant' was so large that a window had to be removed to get his body out of the house for burial?

I started my research proper in the late 1970s and I am still nowhere finished. As a young Mum I couldn't afford too many trips to archives, especially when I discovered ancestry in more distant places. Yet these celebrities go swanning off on trains and planes all over the place – and as they walk into some foreign archive there is the white-gloved archivist welcoming them with a book open at just the right page. And the ancestor is always someone who has made it in life – or perhaps been infamous. Mine were neither, just plain old Ag Labs mainly.

Do you remember the old census rooms at Portugal Street and Chancery Lane where one would often sit for hours waiting for a seat at a microfilm reader? If someone left the room, even if for a comfort stop, a little whisper would ask hopefully 'are you leaving?' As in St Cath's and the early days of FRC, silence was the order of the day, except the occasional quiet hoot of joy when an ancestor was traced. In the dying days of FRC there would be two or three people round a reader, having taken chairs from other readers, and all talking in such loud voices. Whilst it was interesting to

share tales with other researchers waiting in queues, it was very irritating when one was trying to concentrate on a microfilm. I even admit to missing those large tomes we hauled around at FRC – it was a good exercise and built muscles. I don't miss the petty squabbles which often took place.

I have made many dear friends through doing the fieldwork the hard way – and met a few people who refused to believe we were connected because the dates they found on Internet indexes differed from the ones I had found in original parish registers.

I can remember how puffed up I felt when I became a member of SoG when it was at Harrington Gardens. I had to be proposed and seconded by members who knew me! Nowadays there is no proposing, if you have the money you can join. I still prefer the SoG Fair which was held at Horticultural Hall, it was the highlight of my family history year. I have only been to the show at Olympia on one occasion and would not bother again, not least because of the entrance fee.

I know I am a real technophobe and don't trust information found on the Internet but I do have a computer and I have a subscription to FindmyPast. I already knew where my ancestors were back to pre-registration and censuses but I did try a few test exercises and found a couple of surprises. I still think it is a lonely life sitting at a computer looking up one's ancestry. My friends sit alone for hours on end, hating to be dragged away for a few minutes. It's only my opinion, but I long for the days when I would go off for the day with my notebook and pencils, and a lunch box – new archives, different towns to get to know, churchyards to wander through, making new friends and talking to the locals – and Oh, the joy when I had the tiniest breakthrough, a small snippet of information.

No, I don't envy those celebrities who have had all that research done for them in one quick episode. I don't envy the family historians at their computers believing everything that is written on the Internet. I still have my lifelong hobby which will hopefully see me to the grave – when I pray that very elusive ancestor of mine will tell me where he was born in 1823 – was it St Pancras or Chelsea, or neither! Perhaps I haven't gone so wrong after all.

NOT LOST BUT GONE BEFORE

By Timothy Baylis, Member No. 1755

It is doubtful whether most of us know where our forebears were living before the time of our grandparents. Many cannot even relate this far back, having been separated from parents or siblings at an early age. Some pretend a preference for making their way unencumbered by the shades of their predecessors. Vague family rumours, whispered in horror, may well deter further investigation.

Fortunately for the thriving Family History Industry, there are many of us with an abundance of natural curiosity. Naturally we would prefer to discover facts about our ancestors which bring them credit, even if only to bathe in their reflected glory. But hardened campaigners welcome whatever is revealed, be it ever-so-humble or downright criminal.

At one time Australians might shudder at the prospect of links to those thousands of transported convicts but today such connections are flaunted in the best company. Similarly, it was only a generation ago that a class of teenagers under my instruction expressed horror and denial when told of their distant links to the early tribes in East Africa. President Obama may finally put paid to such reactions. Hopefully now we most of us welcome the realisation that all of us have relatives somewhere who were immigrants. Sadly we also have to admit the frequent evidence of man's inhumanity to man.

Moving from the general to the particular, my father, Phillip BAYLIS, had been named after Port Phillip Bay, by whose shores his grandfather, Alfred Edward BAYLIS, had set up home in the 1890s at St Kilda, only a tram-ride from his business centre on the teeming waterfront in Melbourne. The import-export trade in merino wool and cotton goods was supervised back home in a Berlin warehouse by Alfred, son of Alfred Edward and father of Phillip. All went well for at least ten years, both in Newgate Street at the London end and in the Australian department but eventually 'market forces' and partner problems were responsible for a collapse of the whole enterprise around the turn of the 19th Century.

These bare facts were known about my family 30 years ago when I

attempted my first independent search backwards for the previous generation: my great great grandparents. Nobody had any knowledge of Alfred Edward's birthplace until, after several visits to the old Kingsway Record Office, I discovered its whereabouts, surprisingly a stone's throw from the later site of St Pancras Station. From the eagerly-awaited certificate I leaned that the infant's parents were William and Sarah. The mother's maiden name was HANSFORD, confirmed later in the 1841 and 1851 censuses. My father, approaching his 90th year, could never accept the fact of Alfred Edward's birthplace. It had been impressed upon him from an early age that he came from 'a very old Yorkshire family'. Certainly his grandmother, Emily BURSTALL, was a local lass, as was his mother too, but there is no evidence of the BAYLIS family spending more than thirty years in Kingston-upon-Hull.

The marriage of William BAYLIS and Sarah HANSFORD took place at St Mary, Newington, Surrey on 27 October 1835. St Mary, Newington was unknown territory made interesting by the proximity to Southwark Cathedral, the Borough High Street and their associations with Chaucer, Shakespeare and Charles Dickens. Today the Harvard Library attracts many people from all corners of the world who are trying to penetrate the maze of London records.

I am still looking for HANSFORD connections locally and also in the Yeovil area where, according to the 1851 Census, Sarah was born. Temptingly, a Sarah HANSFORD was born in nearby Dorset at the right time with an elder brother called John. By chance, in London at the time of Sarah's marriage another, or the same, John was arrested for stealing a watch and transported to Australia where he did well and founded another dynasty close by some of the BAYLIS clan.

With the aid of several huge soot-encrusted Rate Books from a warehouse near St Pancras and the 1841-61 Censuses I was able to build up a picture of William and Sarah's family which included five brothers and one sister. Two of the younger sons succumbed to Diphtheria, one of the many scourges of the 1850s in London. The marriage of their only daughter Harriet Elizabeth BAYLIS, seamstress and Gustavus HAASY, ship's steward was celebrated on the 13 September 1859 in St. Anne's Limehouse. The father of Gustavus was Fernando, a carpenter.

The eldest son, William Harling BAYLIS, was virtually adopted by his aunt, Harriet HARLING, before branching out thanks to a small legacy, into the business of Hotel Management and proprietor of the still-fashionable *Rules Restaurant* in Covent Garden. It was here in the 1890s that Prince Edward, Queen Victoria's successor, used to entertain his lady friends such as the famed Lily LANGTRY – the 'Jersey Lily' as she was affectionately known by her Music Hall fans.

Alfred Edward BAYLIS became engaged as a traveller in cotton goods and somehow arrived in Hull during the early 1860s. Within a few years he had developed a profitable business, married and moved to the popular Northern end of Hull near Pearson Park.

Two other sons of William and Sarah still untraced were Henry Thomas BAYLIS, born about 1843, and Walter George BAYLIS baptised at St Luke's, Old Street, in 1845. Their father, William BAYLIS, had worked at a variety of occupations to support his growing family, first as a Butcher in Clerkenwell and then for a brief spell down river at Gravesend as a Ginger Beer Manufacturer before settling either as a Traveller or a Commission Agent in various corners of North London such as Islington, Hornsey and Hackney. 'Fancy Goods' are mentioned as being his stock in trade and would certainly include embroidered material for the more prosperous ladies with time on their hands and cheap labour to do the dirty work around the house. Antimacassars also sold well especially for the front parlours where these ornately decorated pieces of cloth would be draped over arm chairs to counter the harmful effects of gentleman's hair oil from the East Indies.

Another decade passed before William and Sarah were re-discovered. Having searched through records of deaths and Emigrants' Lists I had reluctantly imagined them either victims of the Cholera or lost at sea in the Great Australian Bight. Meanwhile I had moved sideways with the Great Aunts and Uncles and backwards another generation to William's parents in Lambeth and Brighton.

In 1861 only two children were still with William and Sarah. Alfred Edward was about to set off for Yorkshire and Harriet, now married, awaited the call for passage to Australia. Recently I have been able to complete this chapter of the family saga, thanks to the efforts of my

computer-literate wife and confirmation from a professional. We learned first of Sarah's sad death in 1869 from Bright's disease and then surprisingly a few years later of William's second marriage to one Eliza PARSONS in the parish church of St Stephen's, Islington. The Bride appeared uncertain of her status, describing herself alternatively as a widow and a spinster at roughly the same time. She herself was certainly a Laundress and from previous Censuses had a daughter called Emily and two sons called John and Frank, who stayed where they were born in Sussex at New Shoreham.

William and Eliza spent five years together before he died at 16 Sebbon Street, Islington, of Cerebral Apoplexy and Exhaustion. At least they had each other's companionship in their last days and he was of 'Independent Means', unlike his brother Thomas in Hunslett (Yorkshire) who was despatched to die in the local workhouse.

Hopefully William may have left a small 'nest-egg' to his wife and step-daughter so that they could live in reasonable comfort. Perhaps there is some graveside in North London where I could pay my final tribute. This I was glad to do one sunny autumn day in Melbourne's leafy Kew Cemetery. Here under a lofty eucalyptus tree I sat by the graveside of Alfred Edward BAYLIS, William's son and my great grandfather.

Note: The John Harvard Library is at 211 Borough High Street, London SE1 1JA. The library bears the name of Southwark clergyman John HARVARD (1607-1638), who emigrated to Massachusetts and bequeathed most of his estate, including hundreds of books, to the college now known as Harvard University.

ADVERTISING RATES

Advertising rates per issue of METROPOLITAN are as follows:

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

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

See inside front cover for address.

JOTTINGS FROM OUR SOCIETY'S AREA

Haringay Local History Fair, Bruce Castle Museum

It was not until reminded by Valerie Crosbie, Assistant Archivist at Bruce Castle, that last year's event, weather wise, was not much different from this year with rain and snow leading up to the day of the Fair. What was different this year was the absence of Fred Carter who had to withdraw the previous day due to a very important family event, the celebration of his wife Rene's 80th birthday on St Valentine's Day, which had to be switched to Saturday at very short notice.

Fortunately, Society Chairman Bill Pyemont and his wife Joan had already arranged to help on the day and we arrived at Bruce Castle within minutes of each other. This was a great relief as I was the first person to arrive and did not relish unloading and transporting all the books, display stands etc up three flights of stairs to the first floor of the Museum on my own, particularly as there was not a member of staff available to work the electric hoist. In spite of this we soon transferred everything and were well set up by the time the first visitors drifted in. Although cold the event was quite well attended and book sales were up again this year despite the recession.

Next to our stand was the British Postal Museum and Archive (BPMA). Their connection to Bruce Castle was former resident Sir Rowland Hill, inventor of the 'Penny Black'. Throughout 2010 the BPMA is holding a number of events under the banner *London 2010: Festival of Stamps*. In the main these will be held at the British Postal Museum and Archive, Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1X.

For information of events and venues visit the BPMA website at www.london2010.org.uk or alternatively by telephone: 020 7239 5150 or email: info@postalheritage.org.uk.

Apropos the above, Bruce Castle Museum requires volunteers to help catalogue some 30,000 objects consisting of posters, newspaper cuttings, mail box models, photographs, drawings etc. Many of these were collected by former postal worker WV Morton who died in the 1920s. His original collection was donated to the Museum by the Union of Communication Workers and has expanded over the years to its present size.

If you are interested, contact Bettina Trabant, Postal Heritage Officer at Bruce Castle Museum by telephone on: 020 8802 8722 or alternatively by email: bettinatrabant@haringey.gov.org.

Bettina will be talking about the Bruce Castle Postal History Collection at BPMA on Thursday 8 April. To book a space telephone: 020 7239 2570 or email: info@postalheritage.org.uk.

Anne Prudames

British Library Newspaper Collection Update

On 16 October 2009 the British Library received a commitment of £33 million from the Government to implement the ambitious strategy to preserve the world's greatest newspaper collection and make its contents accessible to researchers through digital and microfilm copies available at their St Pancras site, also to ensure that as large a range of material as possible is gradually made available online.

Phase Two of the collection moves, which started earlier this year, involves moving hard copy newspapers and periodicals out of the Colindale sites, which don't provide adequate environmental conditions for preserving newspapers. (In addition, the main Newspaper Library at 130 Colindale Avenue will be full by the end of 2012, and the smaller building at 120 is already full, with its lease expiring in December 2010.)

A Press Release from the British Library states: The online newspaper archive will provide a treasure trove of content, and there are a number of advantages to having some of the newspapers online. You will no longer need to make the physical journey to look at the archive - you'll be able to search online both in the Reading Rooms at St Pancras and be able to view some of the newspaper content from the comfort of your own home. As well as being fully searchable, the service will also provide you with a context. We've already started digitising material, and £3 million of investment from the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC) has enabled us to digitise three million pages of out-of-copyright titles. As a result, you can now access nearly fifty 19th century newspaper titles on the Library's Newspapers website at: <http://newspapers.bl.uk/blcs/>

Doreen Heywood

1846 Diary of a Young Man

In 1974 Westminster Council bought a manuscript diary which had been written in 1846 by a 19 year old clerk, Nathaniel BRYCESON, who lived with his mother and stepfather in Soho and worked in a coal wharf in Pimlico. The diary runs from 1 January to 12 December 1846, and contains entries for 260 days. It was obviously not the only venture of its kind because Nathaniel refers to his 'log book' of the previous year and on 12

December he purchased one for the following year. However, the 1846 diary seems to be the sole survivor. The text of the diary is written in longhand, interspersed with Pitman's shorthand entries embracing private matters such as his financial affairs, his observations on activities at Eccleston Wharf (his place of work) and most of all his relationship with Ann FOX, his only regular companion.

Nathaniel BRYCESON was born in St Marylebone on 5 June 1826. His mother Mary had been married to John BRYCESON, who died in 1824 and from Nathaniel's baptism entry on 4 July 1826 it can be seen that his father was Nathaniel WHITE, a pauper in the St Marylebone Workhouse. Mary was married again in 1841 to Matthew WARD, a tailor 13 years her senior. Nathaniel seems to have been Mary's only child. In 1846 the Ward family were living at 9 Richmond Buildings, Soho. John Shepard, Nathaniel's maternal uncle, shared the accommodation with them, and in May of that year 'Granny' Shepard also moved in.

City of Westminster Archives will be serialising this diary on-line throughout the year, with each 1846 day's entry being published on the appropriate 2010 day. You can view Nathaniel BRYCESON's year at: www.westminster.gov.uk/services/libraries/archives/victorian-clerk

Jim Garrod

Victorian Artists of Camden Square

Camden New Town, a distinct neighbourhood to the north of Camden Town with Camden Square at its heart, was started around 1850 and completed by 1880. The Marquis of Camden, owner of the land, profited immensely by striking a deal with the Midland Railway in the 1860s, bringing the train lines right through the centre of the development to St Pancras Station. The smoke, noise and tremors of the steam train blighted the area making the houses close by cheap to rent. That, coupled with the closeness to central London (Bloomsbury was in walking distance) attracted artists. Camden New Town became home to many painters, engravers and sculptors, lots of them well known in their day but now mostly forgotten. Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre is holding an exhibition on these Victorian artists from 12 April until 26 June at Holborn Library, 32-38 Theobalds Road, London WC1X 8PA, Tel: 020 7974 6342 Website: camden.gov.uk/localstudies Information from this exhibition will eventually be added to the *Camden New Town History Project's* website.

For more details visit: www.camdennewtown.info

London Jews

Last month saw the reopening of the Jewish Museum, the leading organisation for Jewish heritage and history in Britain. This is the fulfilment of the merging, in 1995, of the Jewish Museum, which focussed on ceremonial artefacts, and the London Museum of Jewish Life, which reflected the social history of London's Jews. After working on their two separate sites for 12 years, both locations were closed in 2007 to allow for this major development to bring the collections together.

The new displays and exhibitions tell the story of Jewish history, culture and religion as part of the wider story of Britain. Displayed across four permanent galleries, the huge variety of objects, films, photography, hands-on exhibits and personal stories paint a rich picture of British Jewish life as well as exploring contemporary social issues around immigration and settlement. The story of the Jewish people reflects the experiences of other immigrant groups settling in a new country, seeking to make a new life while retaining their identity and traditions.

The Jewish Museum is at Raymond Burton House, 129-131 Albert Street, Camden Town, London NW1 7NB, Tel: 020 7284 7384, website: www.jewishmuseum.org.uk.

East of London FHS Fair

On 23 January we participated for the first time in the East of London FHS Fair, held in Barking, Essex. Travellers by public transport had to contend with London Underground's on-going programme of weekend engineering works (seven of the eleven lines were partially or wholly suspended that day!) but Family Historians are very resourceful.

The day's team of Alan Baldwin, Eileen Bostle, Jim Garrod, Margaret Garrod, Doreen Heywood and myself welcomed our visitors who were many and varied. There were family history beginners needing help with methods and resources, those unfamiliar with the area we cover and some of our out-of-area members who made themselves known to us. It was good to make or renew our acquaintance with them and some past and present contributors to METROPOLITAN.

It was a worthwhile day with good book and map sales. Among the usual wide range of queries were unusually several on one topic – taxi cabs/hackney carriages. London Metropolitan Archives information leaflet No. 12 *Vehicle Registration and Licensing Records* provides useful background information. Our next visit is to Bucks FHS – See page 89

Rosemary A Roome

LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2010

The following are the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the above Society held on 20 February 2010 at the Friends' Meeting House, Rayners Lane, Pinner, Middlesex.

PRESENT

President - Michael Gandy, BA, FSG, who welcomed members to the meeting

Chairman - William Pyemont

Secretary - Tricia Sutton

and 23 members

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from: Our Treasurer, Brian Green, Sue Lumas, Barbara Haswell, Diana Copnall, Grace Cowie and Marjorie Bridges.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Minutes of the AGM held 21 February 2009 were taken as read and approved.

MATTERS ARISING

Rosemary Roome complained that the meeting had been closed so quickly there had been no opportunity to raise any issues under Any Other Business.

REPORTS OF THE OFFICERS

The Chairman's Report was previously published in METROPOLITAN December 2009.

The Secretary's Report was previously published in METROPOLITAN December 2009.

The Treasurer's Report was previously published in METROPOLITAN December 2009

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

Rosemary Roome felt that the Reports should have covered the whole year's activities and included all aspects of the Society, such as the journal, projects, and the bookstall.

The Annual Accounts were adopted by the Meeting.

There followed a lengthy discussion on the state of the Society's finances during this time of economic crisis. Questions were asked about the current size of the membership and what was being done to recruit more members, especially locally, when the costs of premises and speakers is now so high and there is a downturn in the sale of books. The rising cost of postage is another worrying factor. There were questions about the sale of microfiches now that so much is available on the Internet and how much should be made available on our website. Our fiches are to be copied to CD and these should generate some income. There is also the problem of getting volunteers to do MIs. For overseas members our most valuable asset is our Journal. Many people have London ancestors in the 19th Century but do not have any interest in London before that. Some members only join for one year, presumably in order to have their interests published, and then do not renew. Bill said the Committee would continue to look into these matters.

Janet Kirwan queried the fact that the Society is not receiving extra funds via Gift Aided subscriptions and there was some discussion on why we were not a Registered Charity, as many other family history societies are. It was pointed out that we were only constituted in 2000 when two Societies amalgamated and the criteria for registering as a charitable society had become much tighter. Bill said Brian had looked into the matter within the last few years. However the Committee were asked to check again, as this could make a significant difference. Our President said the Treasurer had not expressed such concerns in his report.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Tricia said that she was willing to continue as Secretary.

Bill said that Brian was now home from hospital and was willing to continue as Treasurer. The AGM expressed its thanks to Brian and sent him their best wishes.

Two nomination papers had been received for the office of Chairman:

Bill Pyemont (proposed by Peter Baker, seconded by Tricia Sutton)

Rosemary Roome (proposed by Elaine Tyler, seconded by Elizabeth Burling)

Rosemary wished to speak to the meeting, however in view of the time and after a show of hands it was decided to continue immediately with the ballot.

In accordance with our Constitution two tellers were appointed: namely Elizabeth Burling and Mike Fountain, and the secret ballot ensued.

Our Vice-President, Mike Fountain, announced that Bill Pyemont had been elected.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Our Membership Secretary, Anne Prudames, proposed a minor change to Clause 5b of our Constitution, regarding late payment of membership subscriptions. Since 2008 there had been a late renewal charge of £2 to cover administrative costs and this had been clearly re-stated in the October Journal 2009. This year it had cost in excess of £100 to post out reminders. Some had refused to pay the extra £2 and Anne had received one extremely abusive letter. The current clause only allows one month before membership is deemed to have lapsed and then the membership secretary is supposed to send a reminder. With the change from four renewal dates to one fixed date of 1st October this had become impracticable. The proposal was that the time should be increased to two months and that no reminder would be sent. It was hoped that the fact that the December Journal did not arrive would alert any member of the need to renew. The proposed new clause 5b was as follows:

“Any member who is two months in arrears with his/her subscription shall be deemed to have lapsed and no reminder will be sent. A rejoining fee, to be determined by the Committee, shall be imposed on any member allowing their membership to lapse.”

The AGM voted on this proposed amendment to the Constitution and it was passed.

Rosemary Roome asked if our AGM could in future be held in Central London, as it would enable more members from outside London to attend. The cost was given as a major factor, especially as so few had attended last time the AGM was held at Wesley’s Chapel. The Chairman agreed to explore the possibility of a more central venue for next year’s AGM.

Our President thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 4.15pm.

MANY FRIENDS, FEW HELPERS: Eric A Willats 1919-2009

The passing of Eric Arthur WILLATS, or ‘Willie’ as he was known to generations of Islington libraries’ staff, has seen the breaking of the last link with the early days of libraries in the Borough. A resident of Ealing, he became Reference Librarian and Assistant Curator in the early 1950s. It was at this time I first met him when I was a schoolboy visiting one of his local history exhibitions.

He had been brought up in the depression years following World War I and had served in Italy during World War II, where he met his wife, Greta Ida Rita. Like most young librarians of the time, he struggled to raise a family while qualifying by means of evening classes and correspondence courses. He attempted to study for a degree but his health broke under the strain. It was a very different library from today’s modern computerised scene. The hours were long and the duties labour intensive. Some of the older staff had been trained by those who had founded the libraries. War and Austerity had taken their toll on the buildings which were beginning to show their age. There was little money for refurbishment or new books.

The Reference Library was in a particularly bad state as the roof had been badly damaged in the Blitz. The Borough Engineer had informed the Council that unless a new roof was put on he would have the building closed as a dangerous structure. It was into this situation that the young Eric Willats commenced his career. He was also assistant Curator of the Islington Museum. This had been founded by Councillor Percy OLIVE in 1935 but war and austerity had prevented anything from being done. The local history collection was housed in a small room in the basement but under Eric’s control it grew into a superb collection of rare items and such special collections as that of Walter SICKERT. There was a flourishing business section as Islington was then an area of businesses both large and small. The Reference Library also prided itself on answering such unusual enquiries as ‘Where can I hire an ape for the evening?’ or ‘Where can I buy glass eyes for tailors’ dummies?’ On the personal side Eric became the borough’s leading expert on local history and wrote many articles for the local press. He wrote a history of The Royal Agricultural Hall with the late Jim CONNELL but will be best remembered for his superbly researched

Streets with a Story: Islington Street by Street. He also made a number of broadcasts and took part in the series *The Long March of Everyman*.

Eric was respected for his hard work and good humour. At staff parties he would entertain colleagues with old-time music hall songs accompanying himself at the piano. He was an active member of the Library Association and acted as a tutor for their correspondence courses. Perhaps the best memory of him is sitting in our basement staff room. He had been coming back from a holiday in the West Country where he had bought a mug inscribed with the words 'Many Friends, Few Helpers'. He loved playing the piano and working on his allotment and was also a keen cyclist. He was a true professional and a gentleman and will be sorely missed.

Roy Hidson, Member No. 80



Islington High Street looking towards the Angel, 1920s

THERE'S A SMALL HOTEL...

The Value of Digression in Family History

By Dawn Adams, Member No. 6025

This is about following up a clue, finding a side branch of a tree and then taking a wander with the help of various books, maps and websites.

Looking for Ernest (otherwise Earnest) LANCASTER, I found the service record of Edward George LANCASTER, born 1887, who enlisted in the Middlesex Regiment on 27 May 1915. I wasn't expecting him to be in London. 'Next of kin: David and Sophia LANCASTER of Leiston, Suffolk' made the connection.

David Mark LANKESTER (sic) was born in the village of Grundisburgh, Suffolk. He was the son of George LANKESTER and his second wife, Mahala WADE, a dairymaid from Monewden, a village some 4 miles away. George drove a 'Thrashing engine', a steam powered beast (almost certainly owned by someone else). As the censuses unfold he is seen to move around the county, perhaps following the work. The son of his first marriage, also George, drove an agricultural engine too whereas younger son David became a blacksmith. Once married, David moved to Leiston where Richard Garrett & Sons were famous traction engine makers, employing many smiths.

David's sons Edward and Ernest also became blacksmiths. Ernest moved to Lowestoft for a career in motor manufacture. Between the wars he moved again, to North London, to promote his patent Bi-Metallic Piston and ended his days there in 1976. Edward went to Stratford in East London where he worked as a Hammerman. His address, Henniker Road, is hard by the Railway Works so perhaps he operated a drop hammer there. He was not a big man, 5' 5½" tall and weighing 10 st 8 lbs: his record describes tattoos of birds and flowers on his forearm - visualise him at work in his shirtsleeves, operating the machine. (A good picture of a drop hammer, taken in 1914, is at www.flickr.com/photos/library_of_congress/2179199512 – found via a Google image search.)

Soon after enlistment in August 1915, Edward married Primrose Elizabeth FLETCHER, who then became his next of kin. Had he married her earlier,

the link to the Suffolk LANCASTERS would not have been there. After various camps in England and a rise up the ranks to Sergeant, Edward went to France in June 1916. He was wounded and invalided home in October that year. Although a fragment remained lodged in his neck, in June 1917 he was deemed fit to return to active service in France and by March 1918 he was missing, presumed dead. Among the papers in his service record is a list of all his living relatives provided to the authorities by Primrose and dated 1919. This contains the previously unknown married names of his sisters.

All four sisters went into service.

Mary Jane (born 1885) was housemaid for the Works Manager in Leiston before marrying a local cowman, Thomas DRANE in 1909. They had children and remained in Leiston.

Lily Maud (born 1890) was, in 1911, one of three housemaids in a girls' boarding school, Buckhurst Hill College, in Woodford, Essex, catering largely for the daughters of Empire judging by pupils' birthplaces. In the December quarter 1912 (GRO Index) she married James CATLING and in the June quarter 1913 they had a son, James. In 1919 Primrose gave Lily's address as Gladstone Rd, a stone's throw from the school. Based on the CATLING name distribution at www.nationaltrustnames.org.uk, he could have been a Suffolk sweetheart come to find her but there are also CATLINGS in East London.

Florence (born 1893) was in her parents' house in Leiston in 1911, occupation domestic servant but in September quarter 1914 she married George FARROW in West Ham. They had two children: George in the June quarter 1915 and Gwendoline in the March quarter 1918. By 1919 Florence's address was Snakes Lane, Woodford, less than 2 miles from Lily Maud. (Identified from a current London streetfinder; also useful is the newly reprinted pre-war A-Z, which has a list of re-named roads.)

Ellen Sophia (born 1886) was the sister I found most interesting. In 1911 she was a servant, aged 25, in a Private Hotel at 41 Argyle Street, King's Cross, proprietor John BIRCHAM, 62, born Leiston, Suffolk. John's birthplace could have been a coincidence but I decided to look further, especially as her name on Primrose's list of 1919 was Mrs Ellen BIRCHAM of Kingston on Thames.

In 1861, blacksmith William BIRCHAM of Leiston and his wife Mary Ann (née WADE) had three young daughters aged under 6 – plus a son, John WADE aged 12, born in Monewden. They had married in the December quarter 1853 when John was about 4. Ellen Sophia's grandmother was Mahala LANCASTER née WADE, of Monewden. The website *A Vision of Britain* (www.visionofbritain.org.uk) shows Monewden to have had only 200 inhabitants. There had to be a connection. In 1851 when Mahala WADE was 8 her parents, James and Mahala, had in their home in Monewden, a 2 year-old grandson John WADE. Their eldest daughter, Mary Ann, was a house servant at Crown Farm, Leiston. So John WADE was probably Ellen Sophia's second cousin (though old enough to be an uncle), brought up by William BIRCHAM. (It seems unlikely that William was John's natural father. He was from Norfolk and in 1851 was in lodgings in Leiston, 15 miles away. Also, the child's name was clearly given as WADE for the 1861 census.)

By 1891, John BIRCHAM, born in Monewden, was the proprietor of the private hotel at 41 Argyle Street where he lived with his (older) wife, Augusta, born Augusta Mercy MUSCHAMP in Boston, Lincs in about 1836. He had married her in the December quarter 1871 in Romford, Essex, under the name John BIRCHAM. Augusta was the widow of a Boston-born engineer, John TURPIN, who in 1861 had been a works foreman in Neithrop, Oxfordshire. In 1871 she had been a widow in lodgings in Hammersmith but I have no idea where John BIRCHAM was, nor can I find John and Augusta in the 1881 census. However John WADE, a single man, born Molendon, Suffolk (sic – there is no such village) had part of 17 North St Clerkenwell, alone, as head of household, occupation coffee house keeper. Could this be he?

So, what sort of street was Argyle Street? If you ever saw the Ealing comedy *The Ladykillers* you may have noticed a view along a street towards St Pancras Station, establishing a location for the boarding house. That was Argyle Street. Pictures on www.flickr.com - via a Google images search for Argyle Street - show terraced houses from the early 19th century, with four floors. Censuses indicate that many were occupied by one family per floor - often with boarders and lodgers too. The families were artisans, clerks and even artistes. Trade Directories for 1891, 1895, 1910 and 1915 (www.historicaldirectories.org if your local library has none) show a wide

range of Letters of Rooms, Boarding House Keepers and Private Hotels in this short road. (Looking at a current map, Argyle Street has a clear bend - below the bend was formerly Manchester Street, according to my Alan Godfrey map of the area.) John BIRCHAM's private hotel appears in all those directories, though not in a Directory of 1882. (NB Directory entries can be somewhat in arrears.)

More colour can be drawn from Charles Booth's observations after he walked the street on 15 July 1898 with a local policeman (<http://booth.lse.ac.uk>): "...South down Argyle St. Home for fallen women at SW end. 'Have been a number of brothels in this street & there are still one or two houses I would not care to guarantee' said Hunter." "General remarks: Two things to be noticed in this walk ... The number of streets in the neighbourhood of Argyle Square containing disorderly houses - to supply a provincial demand arising by the GNR at Kings X & St Pancras by the Midland. The majority of the brothel keepers are foreign said Hunter."

John BIRCHAM seems to have kept a genuine Hotel: visitors in 1901 were a builder and his wife born in Manchester and in 1911 a photographer and his wife from Liverpool. Augusta BIRCHAM died in March 1898 and was buried in Old St Pancras Churchyard. In the 1901 census, John had an older woman servant. Did he then send to Suffolk for a younger female relative? On 19 June 1914 at St Pancras Register Office, John BIRCHAM, widower aged 65 married Ellen Sophia LANCASTER aged 30. John's death was registered in 1920, in Kingston Surrey.

What was happening in London when the LANCASTER sisters arrived to take up their posts in domestic service, and then to marry? Consulting a *Chronological Dictionary of Dates* found in a charity sale (ISBN 1 85813 418 8), I learnt that the first Labour Exchanges opened in 1910 and were flooded by applicants. Also that year, the case of Dr Crippen was something of a sensation, as was the Sidney Street siege early in 1911. In May 1911 the Great Festival of Empire opened at Crystal Palace - would this have been possible as a day out? By the end of August, the heat wave was so bad that London became one of the unhealthiest cities in Europe with a death rate of 19 per 1000. Suffragettes were very active, breaking windows in the West End and elsewhere. But maybe servant girls wouldn't

have ventured there. In April 1912 a total eclipse of the sun was visible in London – by May, 100,000 London dockers were on strike. Suffragettes were still smashing windows of Post Offices and Labour Exchanges. In September, 22 people were injured in the first ever Tube collision. By February 1913, more militant suffragettes had moved on to planting bombs – one was discovered in St Paul’s but others did explode eg at Yarmouth Pier and at Lloyd George’s house. Such terrorism might well have worried the sisters. By June 1914 builders and railway workers had joined the dockers to bring the total number of strikers to 2,000,000. In three hours on 14 June 1914, 10cm rain fell in a cloudburst on London.

Much else was happening – constitutional crises and the Home Rule question, for example – but they didn’t affect ordinary day to day life. Although it’s wonderful to be able to access *The Times* archive through our local library, the sisters are more likely to have read the *Graphic* or the *Illustrated Police News*, if they had time for any news at all. I wish we had pictures of them – but just as the pictures are better on radio, so imagination may help a little.



UNWANTED CERTIFICATES

The following certificates have been sent to Tricia Sutton, our Secretary. Please contact her if you are interested in them:

Birth: James THOMPSON, son of John and Jane, formerly DAVIS, born 24 February 1868 at Saint Luke Middlesex.

Birth: James THOMPSON, son of Henry William and Jane, formerly SHEPPARD, born 19 August 1870 at Bethnal Green Middlesex.

Death: James Edward THOMPSON aged 19 months, son of George THOMPSON (ticket collector) and Fanny of Clerkenwell, Middlesex died 21 September 1882.

WEBSITE NEWS

Hampstead Court Rolls

In 2000 the Camden History Society commissioned the translation and transcription of the Court Rolls of the Manor of Hampstead, actually copies of the proceedings of the Courts Baron, which are held at the London Metropolitan Archives.

These documents were exclusively concerned with the transfer of Manorial land and buildings and copies were made as proof to be held by the tenants of the copyhold property granted by the Lord of the Manor or given, mortgaged or bequeathed by other Customary tenants.

The earliest roll begins with a Court of 1572 in the reign of Elizabeth I and they extend over a large area, from West End (bordering on Kilburn) in present-day West Hampstead to the village of Pond Street in the east, and from North End to the border with Belsize and Chalcots in the south. Twelve Rolls have now been added to the website, covering the period from 1572 to 1693. More will be added as they are translated.

A list of names appearing in the rolls is being compiled and will appear on the website in due course.

An example of the information contained in the rolls is as follows: On the 29 May 1609 it is recorded that Ivor ANDREWES and his wife Rose together with John NORTH and his wife Emma went to the court asking for equal shares of one messuage and three acres of land at Kylborne Lane. Rose ANDREWES and Emma NORTH were both the daughters of Henry WRENCH who had left the house and land to them when he died.

You can search this easy-to-use free database online by visiting: www.camdenhistorysociety.org and then clicking on 'Hampstead Court Rolls'.

British Surname Distribution 1

National Trust Names is a website that presents the findings of a project which was based at University College London (UCL) whose remit was to investigate the distribution of surnames in Great Britain both in 1881 and in 1998.

The site is very easy to use and brings up a coloured map indicating the distribution of any given surname in either of the years mentioned above. A separate larger map shows London distribution.

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

British Surname Distribution 2

Another site created from the UCL data, which was initially started as a caching copy of their Surname Profiler, is www.britishsurnames.co.uk

Following the transfer of the UCL site to National Trust Names, UCL requested that their data was removed from britishsurnames.co.uk. This site was then rebuilt using data obtained from other sources, including public domain information, material available under redistributable licences and data used with permission by the suppliers. This is an ongoing project and there are still some significant chunks missing from the original version of the site. In time, it's hoped to restore the majority of these but there are likely to be some areas where this is simply impossible, the main problem being the availability of current surname distributions.

In this interesting website you can find information on surnames commonly found in Britain including similar surnames, most common surnames, surname meanings and etymologies as well as discussing surname queries in the forum.

You can browse by surname, which brings up a page of frequency comparisons between 1881 and now and between the UK, the USA and Australia. For example, there are currently 1238 people surnamed ROXBURGH in the UK, which is 27 per million people. In 1881 there were 927 people surnamed ROXBURGH in the UK, which was 31 per million people. There is no information on the surname in the USA but there are 220 people called ROXBURGH in Australia. Further down on this page is a list of all the names which have similar spellings or pronunciations as ROXBURGH, with the most likely listed first.

The 1881 page lists all of the counties of the UK with their most common surnames by total occurrences and also by population index. Whilst SMITH, JONES and BROWN are the top surnames by occurrence in Islington in 1881, LION, HUCKLE and KEMPTON were top there by population index.

Further pages show the most common British surnames that originally came from Ireland, KELLY being in the number 1 spot, Wales (JONES) and Scotland (WILSON).

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.

A FAMILY FROM EUROPE, Part 2

Eileen Blythe, Member No. 2

My STUHR family from Germany were living in Mile End and Stepney from 1824 onwards. Gerhard STUHR, 1805-1866, my ancestor, married Martha GROVES, 1826-1898, in June 1848 at St Leonard's Foster Lane, City. His brothers were also living in London: Henry, 1816-1849, no marriage found; William Frederick 1798-1837 who married Mary Ann MIDDLEDITCH in May 1824 in Spitalfields, London, and Luder, 1821-1849, who was married to Margareta GEILS. They were all working in the sugar refineries close to the London docks.

One family story which had been handed down to me was that Gerhard, while at work, had fallen into a vat of boiling sugar and died. However my research proved this to be incorrect as his death certificate of August 1866 says he died from Cholera (as did all his brothers). He was known to have had poor health for some months, as his daughter Martha Amelia 1851-1890, my Great grand mother, was taken out of the German School because of her father's poor health. An email from a Genes Reunited member in Australia 6 months ago, tells me we are related through Martha's sister Emma GROVES, born 1826, who also married a German sugar baker Hans RATHGEN and having read Bryan Mawer's book about the German Sugar bakers in the UK about a month before, I found it was Hans who died from falling into a vat of sugar in 1879 aged 69. He was the brother in law of Martha STUHR née GROVES and not my ancestor.

A second bit of information has come my way this past year in a very unusual way. We were visiting Poland this year and went to a book signing by Jerzy (George) STUHR, a Polish actor and film director, for his book *History of the Family Stuhr* as we were staying in Krakow on the day this was taking place, only 400 yards away from our Hotel. We were able to talk to him after the signing was over about his book and family tree. He had traced his family in Poland back to 1840 and before that in Austria where it is a common name. In Meyenburg, Germany which is 10k north of Bremen where my family came from, the name is not very common at all. The earliest STUHR family member I have found is Gerd STUHR who died in 1769 in Burhufe which is north of Bremen between Wilhelms-Haven and Bremer-Haven.

By using the website genealogy.net I have been able to grow my tree in Germany without having to go back to the record office in Hannover, so I now have the following new families on my tree: Baumann, Woltmann, Unbekannt, Gefken, Wendelken, Ficken, and Kuck, all from the same area close to Bremen.

While in the process of entering my new families on Genes Reunited, the very last entry was for Gevert KUCK bl629c-1708 buried in Scharmbeck. I am descended from his son Cordt bl657c-1715, and I noticed a label saying one contact-so I made contact with this person and found that he lived in the UK and he was a descendant of Cordt's brother Marten bl658c-1720. Now isn't it a small world?

The only reason I had made such good progress with my research was that on the London burial register for Luder in September 1849 (only a week after his brother Henry) his village of origin was written, (Luder's wife was German) but we had difficulty in reading it. All I knew from the census returns was that Gerhard was from Hannover and I did not know that they were brothers until I saw the printed Parish Register in their village church when we visited Meyenburg in September 2006.

Note: This article follows on from *A Family from Europe*, which appeared in the July 2008 issue of METROPOLITAN



GRO CERTIFICATE PRICE RISE

Stop Press: New charges for people ordering birth, marriage and death certificates were recently announced by Registrar General James Hall. The changes will ensure that the costs of providing the service are recovered from fees and not subsidised by the taxpayer.

From **Tuesday 6 April 2010** the eight separate fees currently charged by the General Register Office (GRO) for ordering a certificate will be reduced to two - one for standard orders and one for the priority service. The cost of ordering certificates online with a GRO reference number, using the standard service, **will rise from £7.00 to £9.25.**

For more information visit: www.ips.gov.uk or www.gro.gov.uk

THE RUNAWAY HORSE AND THE BOY HERO

By Fred Carter, Member No. 1915

During my search for the military history of my family I came across the story of a boy who lost his life stopping a runaway horse. The item 'rang a bell'. I thought I'd read in METROPOLITAN about there being a plaque to a boy hero that was on a wall of a school in Holloway. I did a long search back and found it in the issue of April 1994. It was in an article by Mr Desmond E Faulkner entitled *Recollections of an Islington Childhood*. The plaque was in a church school hall in Mitford Road, Holloway. I searched again for the report of the event. It took me two years to find it, and another year to copy it out by hand. I had to use a magnifying glass to read and decipher a great deal of it.

The Hornsey Journal, Friday 17 April 1914. Hornsey Road boy's gallant conduct. Killed in stopping a runaway. The Inquest.

A schoolboy named Albert Edward HATSWELL, aged 12 years, of Hatton House, Hornsey Road, Holloway, lost his life in attempting to stop a runaway horse near the corner of Holloway and Parkhurst Roads on Monday morning. It appears that at about quarter-past eight an unattended horse attached to a heavy four-wheeled van, was standing just north of the junction of Camden and Holloway Roads. The animal took fright from an unknown cause and galloped down Holloway Road in the direction of Highgate. There were many people about at the time and Hatswell, apparently realising the danger, ran by the side of the horse for some distance and then made a dash for its head. He caught hold of the reins and succeeded in pulling the animal towards the kerb on the near side of the road. The horse kept up its gallop but the boy stuck to his task. He was dragged along several yards until when opposite the *Nags Head* public house he was dashed heavily against a tramcar electric current section box at the corner of Holloway and Parkhurst Roads. The lad's skull was fractured. He died on the spot and the body was conveyed to Islington mortuary.

Hatswell was one of a fatherless family, his mother being a hard-working and respected woman, who is employed as a cleaner at the Great Northern Hospital. Three years ago she lost a baby, then her husband died and she is

now left with three young children to provide for. It is stated that the deceased was on his way to Hampstead to act as a caddie. He was a boy without fear. Last year he saved a little girl from drowning at the heath and six weeks ago he received twopence for stopping another runaway horse. Only on Sunday he climbed up the side of a house to regain a lost ball.

The inquest was conducted at Islington Coroners Court on Wednesday by Mr Walter SCHRODER. Mr H D HARTLEY appeared on behalf of the carman and his employers. Teresa Maud HATSWELL, widow of George Edward HATSWELL, identified the body of her son who was 12 years of age. He enjoyed good health and went to school regularly. On Easter Monday morning at 7.30 he left home intending to go to Hampstead Golf Links where he sometimes earned money. Witness heard later of the accident and saw the body at the mortuary. The coroner: 'Was he a plucky boy?' The mother: 'He was always plucky and never saw fear. He stopped a horse in a builder's cart in the same way some time ago. He earned twopence on that occasion, which he brought in and threw on the table. I said 'What's that for?' he answered 'Twopence, just stopped a horse'. When she told him he must not do that sort of thing or he would get injured, he replied, 'Well, I can't see little kids killed, can I?'

Walter HATSWELL aged 13, Albert's brother, said that Monday he was following some scouts when they were pulled up by a crowd in the road. He heard someone say 'He's dead,' and went to see what had happened. He saw the body of a boy and said 'I believe that is my brother'. Someone replied 'His name is Hatswell of Hatton House' and the witness said 'Yes, it is my brother'.

Charles John ROYAL, an LCC Tramway inspector, said about 8.12 on Monday morning he was standing at the junction of Parkhurst and Holloway Roads. The blowing of a whistle attracted his attention and he saw a runaway horse approaching from the direction of Highbury. It was attached to a four-wheeled van and was going at a sharp trot. There was no driver. The deceased was 30 yards off from witness on the same side of the road, nearer to Highbury. Witness ran into the middle of the road to attempt to stop the horse when the deceased dashed off the pathway in front of him and caught hold of the near side rein. The horse dragged the boy to the near side of the road and dashing onto the path. The boy who was still clinging

to it was crushed between the iron section box of the LCC and the shaft of the van. Witness believed that the horse kicked the deceased's head as he fell, death being instantaneous. The animal was brought to a standstill, as the tramway stopping post was wedged between the nearside front wheel of the van.

George McCARTHY, a labourer witnessed the accident from the corner of Parkhurst Road. He said the horse was stopping when the accident occurred. The coroner: 'What happened?' 'When he got near the tram stopping place I went to drag him away.' 'Did you touch him?' 'Yes. I had just got hold of him when the van seemed to jam him against the section box.' 'He fell down?' 'Yes, right backwards at once, and injured his head.'

A pointsman in the employ of the LCC said he saw the boy throw his overcoat on the pavement and rush at the horse's head.

George Henry TRET, foremen painter, said he was working on the premises of Jones Brothers, Holloway Road on the day in question. On leaving work to go to breakfast about 8.15, he noticed a one-horse van coming out of the yard into Holloway Road. The horse turned towards the *Nags Head* and after proceeding a few yards it started jibbing. The carman who was leading the horse did all he could to stop it but he entirely lost control and had to let it go. Witness saw someone jump from the pavement outside the Marlborough Theatre. He went to the scene of the accident and saw the boy was dead.

George HOBBS, carman in the employ of Mr W Watson, contractor said the van was loaded with manure. On leaving the yard by Messrs Jones Bros, to come into Holloway Road, he walked beside the horse on the rear side holding the reins. As he turned to go in the direction of the *Nags Head* a tramcar came along and the horse bolted off directly. The load including the van weighed three tons. Witness had been in the service of Mr WATSON for nineteen years and had never had an accident. By Mr HARTLEY: The horse weighed about 15cwt and it was perfectly quiet before the tramcar passed. Witness had not driven it before. Dr BULGER, Seven Sisters Road, said he saw deceased lying in the road, he was dead. There was a wound on the right side of the head, and blood was coming from his nose, mouth and both ears. The head was completely crushed.

Death must have been instantaneous. The coroner said it did not appear that the boy was up to any fool-hardy tricks, but his one aim was to render proper assistance. They had heard that he was a very plucky boy, and that he had done a very similar action on another occasion. He did what he did with the right intention, and if he had not come into contact with the section box he would probably have succeeded in his attempt.

They returned a verdict of ‘Accidental Death’ expressing their sympathy with the mother and their appreciation of the boy’s courage. Mr HARTLEY said he desired, on behalf of the employer of the carman, to express extreme regret for the accident and to say how they appreciated the boy’s extreme courage in what he did. It was an act which required a great deal of pluck for a boy of that size and age. Whilst there was no legal liability on his clients, they felt that they should do something to mark their regard for the plucky boy who lost his life. The boy’s heroism has aroused much admiration throughout the country and Mrs HATSWELL has received considerable sums of various amounts which had been handed to her through the Police, including a cheque for £1 from a lady at Folkstone. The funeral will take place on Saturday, leaving Hornsey Road at two o’clock. The interment will take place at Finchley Cemetery. An Islington Green undertaker will carry out the funeral arrangements free of charge.

Part 2, The Funeral, will appear in July’s METROPOLITAN

CENSUS SNIPPET

In the 1851 Census, a house in Kings Row, Leather Market, Bermondsey contained five women: Maze POWEL, the occupier, a needlewoman aged 22, Mary SULLIVAN, general servant aged 20, lodgers Ellen CRONIN, charwoman aged 22, Margarette CALLAN, charwoman aged 20 and Rachel POTT, Waiscott [sic] Maker aged 20.

The enumerator obviously had his own ideas about the real occupations of these young ladies as he has marked all but the servant as ‘fictitious’!

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.



FIGGETT

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

Also any information about his sisters (who were all born at Shoreditch): Emma, born 1828; Mary Ann, born 1831; Caroline Amelia, born 1836; Sarah Ann, born 1838; Louise, born 1845 and Maria, born 1849.

Their parents were William Henry FIGGETT (born 1805 St Luke's, died 1874 Shoreditch) and Ann, née ASHWELL (born 1806 East Smithfield, died 1867 Clerkenwell).

Mike Figgett, Member No 7401

50 Southfield Close, Driffield, East Yorks YO25 5YU

Note: It would definitely be worth your while looking at the vast amount of easily searchable material now available online, at your local library or Record Office if you do not have access to the internet at home.

With regard to William James FIGGETT's sisters, a quick search of the GRO indexes online via www.freebmd.co.uk and the census returns shows that Emma FIGGETT appears as an unmarried boarder in Upper Street, Islington in 1881, a Mary Ann FIGGETT died in Clerkenwell in 1850, Caroline FIGGETT married Henry Charles ABEL in 1860 and the couple are living at Church Street, Lambeth in the 1861 census. Sarah Ann FIGGETT died in Clerkenwell in 1846, Louisa Lydia married William BRUCE in 1865, Maria married Henry William BAKER in 1869 and then Thomas ROBBINS in 1870. Are any of these yours?

BEVAN/LATHAM

I have been a member of the LWMFHS for quite a few years. I have enjoyed the magazine and appreciated the hard work of those who compile it. I had hoped it would help with my BEVAN family but the London link only started with Richard BEVAN from Watchet, Somerset, who married Mary LATHAM from Minchinhampton, Gloucestershire, in 1821. The link ended when their daughter Sarah Matilda BEVAN left to be a teacher in Coleshill, Warwickshire in 1858.

Matilda's older sister Maryanne married John SHERRY and they stayed in London. Their descendants are still funeral directors there.

Another sister Martha Sophia married Henry MAGEE in June quarter 1863, his origins were Cambridge and Ely. They lived on the Isle of Wight and then Essex. Their family were Mary Elizabeth 1865, Eliza Mary Ann Emma 1866, Richard Duncan 1868, Flora Wilson 1870, Eleanor C 1872, Isabel S 1873, Katherine Emily 1875, Beatrix Latham 1878, Henrietta S A 1880, Grace C Matilda 1883.

I would be very interested to hear from anybody who fits into this family, especially if they have any photographs of any ancestors. I have photos of Sarah Matilda but nobody else then or before then.

Mary Astley, Member No. 5596

16 Cedar Avenue, Ellesmere, Shropshire SY12 9PA

Email: noeu-aja@t8o.org

CURTIS

I am looking for birth/baptism of Frederick Thomas CURTIS. According to the 1881 census he was born circa 1828/9 in 'London, Middx'. He became a barrister, living mainly in Kent and was twice married.

His parents were Henry Thomas and Emily CURTIS (née BURNELL) who married in Feltham in 1827.

Where are Feltham BMDs?

Mrs Judith Gascoigne, Member No. 2391

5 Berkeley Gardens, Claygate, Esher KT10 0TP

Email: judithgascony@yahoo.co.uk

Note: The Parish Registers of St Dunstan with St Catherine, Feltham, starting from 1648, are held at the London Metropolitan Archives, 40 Northampton Road, Clerkenwell, London EC1R 0HB.

JENKINS/MUNDAY

I am searching for information regarding my mother Winifred Joyce WHEYBREW, née JENKINS (14 October 1910-30 April 1975).

She was brought up by Henrietta Alice (née MUNDAY) and Charles Alexander JENKINS whom she believed to be her natural parents. It was not until she was in her fifties and needed a birth certificate to obtain a passport that she discovered that her birth was never registered. She was baptised on 18 September 1910 at St Barnabas Church, Holloway. The parents are said to be Charles and Stella JENKINS; however, we believe that the name Stella could have been wrongly transcribed from the register and should read Henrietta.

Charles (1862-1917) and Henrietta (1876-1932) appear to have been a stable couple. They married in 1894 in Clerkenwell and remained in the Clerkenwell/Islington area. My mother was not born until sixteen years later. She had no siblings, but both Charles and Henrietta came from large families. We have a lot of information about both families, but do not know which, if either, are blood relatives. My mother attended Tollington Park Central School, N4. Following the death of both parents she had little, if any support, from either family.

I have looked in birth registers for variations of JENKINS/MUNDAYS around 1909-1911 but without success. We have discovered a distant JENKINS relative but she has no relevant information. Can anyone suggest a way forward?

Jill Maynard Member No. 7541

18 Nash Gardens, Dawlish, Devon EX7 9RR

Email: jilltommaynard@falktalk.net

Note: Transcriptions are very useful as finding aids but you will definitely need to have a look at the Parish Register entry for your mother yourself, to see if it reads Henrietta or Stella. It would also be worth checking the parish register for a few years either side of Winifred's baptism - she may have had siblings who did not survive to adulthood whose baptism/s could provide you with useful information.

PUGH

I am searching for any information about William PUGH and his family who lived in Finchley, Middlesex from around 1885-86 to 1901. Records show the family were living at 'Hillside' 1 Elm Park Road, Finchley in

1889 (were they living there earlier?). In 1892 they are recorded living at 5 Carnarvon Terrace, Elm Park Road, Finchley and then in 1901 they were living at 141 Station Road, Finchley. In 1910, the family were found living in Epsom, Surrey.

William PUGH was born in 1856. He married Caroline Harriet EVANS (born 7 November 1851) at Hackney on 12 May 1877. They had five children: Russell Ashton PUGH (1881-1966), Norman Sheffield PUGH (1882-1957), Constance Hilda PUGH (1883-1962), Clifford Leslie PUGH (1885-1952) and Ethel Mildred PUGH (1893-1928).

Little is known about the children's education or social activities. It has been said they were educated in subjects such as music, languages, English literature and the arts. The men were keen chess players.

Is there any way I can discover more about the PUGHS - when they lived in Finchley (ie schooling, music, chess etc) or perhaps somebody may have information about them which might be helpful?

Norman S PUGH (my grandfather) was a playwright and children's author. Any assistance would be much appreciated.

David Randall Thomas, Non-Member

57 Haslemere Road, Bexleyheath, Kent DA7 4NE

Email: david_randall_thomas@sky.com

KEEN

Edward Wm KEEN born 1864 Henstridge Place, Marylebone and his wife Mary Ann (née BUDD) born 1864 Marylebone are on the 1891 census with their two children, Edward W aged 6 and Mary A aged 5, brother-in-law James BUDD aged 20 and parents Edward KEEN born 1835 Warwickshire and Eliza (née GARLICK) born 1856 Warwickshire.

I can trace the KEEN family forward but have found no trace on any census prior to 1891. I have tried various spellings and searching on first names only. Any suggestions?

Mrs P Johnson, Member No. 2526

85 Denver Road, Dartford, Kent DA1 3JU

Email: pauline_m_johnson@yahoo.co.uk

Note: Edward KEEN married Eliza GARLICK in the December quarter of 1863 in the Marylebone Registration District. It would be worth buying this certificate as it would provide you with the names of their fathers, which should help you trace the couple back.

NEWTON

I am asking for help to trace the baptism certificate of Thomas NEWTON, born in 1834 to an Alexander NEWTON.

Thomas may in his early years have worked for a London tea merchant. On 27 March 1857 he married a Harriet FOWLE, at The Parish Church in the Parish of St George, Hanover Square. At that time Thomas's address was King Street. His father Alexander was noted on the marriage certificate to be an office clerk. Witnesses were Edward BRISTOW and Eliza TOVEY.

In later years Thomas became the Postmaster of the post office at Westerham, Kent and I am able to follow his history until his death in 1909. If I can find the baptismal certificate, it will enable me to find his parentage.

The only Alexander I can find with a son the correct age on the 1841 Census was born about 1801 in Middlesex and lived in New Bond Street in the parish of St George's Hanover Sq. Married to a Mary born about 1804, aged 37 and their son Thomas was 7 years old.

On the 1851 census Alexander lived at 4 Duke Street, again in the Parish St George's Hanover Square. His son Thomas is now 17 years of age and Alexander was now married to an Ann who is 47 years old (born in Chippenham, Wilts). On the census Alexander is a 'watchman Police', Ann a launderess and Thomas a clerk at tea dealers.

On the 1871 census Alexander, aged 70, is in Regent Street, occupation is not legible.

Elizabeth Newton, Member No. 7529

2 Croft Cottages, Church Road, Crowborough, East Sussex TN6 1ED

Email: john_liz_newton@btinternet.com

Note: Alexander Newton is not a common name and as there was one with a son called Thomas of the right age in St George Hanover Square in both the 1841 and 1851 Censuses, it is likely that this is your family. He is employed as a Watchman on both dates and although he is stated to be a clerk on his son's marriage certificate this may be a red herring.

In the 1851 Census Thomas is said to have been born in St George Hanover Square parish so this should be your first port of call when looking for his baptism. These Registers are also at London Metropolitan Archives.

DOWNES

I am seeking information on the birth and death of a Robert DOWNES. According to the 1851 Census he was born in St Andrew's Parish, Hertford around 1815. No baptism is recorded there or in the neighbouring churches (Anglican or non-conformist) at that time. He appeared to have been supported by the Quakers after his father, Robert, a medical man, died aged 44 and was buried in Bengoe in 1816. Young Robert was then apprenticed to a Goldsmith in London from 1829 until 1836. He married at Holy Trinity, Marylebone in November 1836 and was promptly disowned by the local Quaker Monthly Meeting. He was practising the profession of Goldsmith/Silversmith in the City on the 1841 Census; was a bible clasp maker on the 1851, living in Walthamstow, where his first wife died. He married her widowed sister (illegal at the time) and moved back to Islington where he is shown on the 1861 as a bookseller. During this period he had a shop in Paternoster Row where he went bankrupt in late 1861. Here the trail runs cold.

Numerous TNA searches have failed to find any court proceeding over the bankruptcy; neither he nor his wife can be found on any subsequent Census; an expensive search by the GRO Southport has failed to find a Death registered despite two of his children marrying and one dying in the 1861-71 period, and all giving their Father as deceased. I have also trawled though Islington and other London Cemetery records in case he was buried and the GRO index omitted to index his death. Outward bound passenger lists have also failed to find him. I think I have exhausted all avenues but before I give up this is one last shot to see if anyone else has any information.

Norman Barnes, Member No. 3280

Poet's Corner, 35a High Street, Mundesley, Norfolk NR11 8LH

Email: poets@btinternet.com

BIRCH

Henry BIRCH married Anne Penelope KENNERLY in 1824 in Kensington. He then spent the next 20 years in Huddersfield trading as a Chemist/Drysalter/ Indigo Dealer as per 1841 Census, baptism records and Trade Directories. Then he disappears.

Anne returns to London. The 1851 and 1861 Censuses (London) show her as 'Wife of Provision Merchant' and 'Husband Abroad Colour Merchant'. The 1871 Census shows Anne BURCH with no mention of him.

Anne's death certificate in 1872 states that she is the widow of Henry BIRCH, Merchant. So he died between 1861 and 1872. Where? And where was he from 1844 onwards?

His eldest daughter married Julius LOWENTHAL/LOWETHALL in 1854 in London. Julius was born in Germany and travelled back and forth according to Passport Application records. There were LOWENTHAL's in the Wool Industry in Huddersfield and London.

Henry's third son, Hubert Kennerly BIRCH migrated to Australia in 1852 and is my gg grandfather. But there isn't any evidence of Henry being here. Sometimes I think Henry BIRCH ran off to France with the maid, or perhaps to India to deal in Indigo, but he may have relocated his business to Germany's textile industry.

Where can I go next in my search for Henry?

Pauline Judd, Member No. 7547

7 Kincaid Court, Norlane West 3214, Geelong, Victoria, Australia

Email: pjudd@westnet.com.au

Note: The Anglo German FHS may be able to help. They can be found online at: www.agfhs.org.uk

YOUNG

I am researching the YOUNG family in London and Middlesex but have little to go on. My grandfather Henry Frederick YOUNG was, we believe, born on 5 May 1876 (but could be 1877) in Middlesex. His father's name was George. Both George and Henry went to sea on ships going to Australia.

Family papers state that George was killed in an accident at Port Darwin in 1881 but we have no confirmation of this. The Port Darwin authorities have no record of his death. It may be that his death was not recorded and he may have been buried at sea. We know nothing else of George YOUNG.

Henry came to Australia c1895 and worked in Western Australia and South Australia for the WA Railways as a porter and steward and on cargo ships between Fremantle/Perth and Adelaide. He was known as Harry.

He married Augusta Louisa CLAYTON in 1903 in South Australia and died there in 1929.

There are two leads for Henry YOUNG from the 1881 England and Wales census. One is that he was an inmate of the Central London District School at Hanwell, aged 4/5 together with his siblings Ellen and Samuel.

The other is a Henry YOUNG who lived with his widowed mother, Ellen, born 1831, (a dressmaker) and his siblings, Jane, born 1864 (a ruler) and Edward, born 1868 (a printer) at 15 Holles Street, London (in 1891 census). The children were born at St Clement Danes, London, their mother Ellen was born at Clerkenwell, Middlesex.

If anyone can throw any light on either Henry Frederick YOUNG (Harry), or George YOUNG, his father, I would be most grateful.

Bonita Creswell-Young Member No. 7554

12 Golf Links Road, Hepburn Springs, Victoria 3461, Australia.

Email: corblimey.too@bigpond.com

Note: Unhelpfully, Henry Frederick YOUNG's birth does not appear in the GRO Indexes and Middlesex is too broad a term for a parish search. You could follow the two census clues, backwards to see if a George YOUNG was the father and forwards to check if these might be different Henry YOUNGS from your one.

As more information becomes available online you will need to chase every clue. For instance, a search of the Australian Newspaper Archive online at: <http://newspapers.nla.gov.au> has this: *The Mercury*, Hobart, 24 July 1883, 'During the voyage of the *Inverness*, from London, on May 28, a seaman named George Young, belonging from Williamstown, fell overboard. The sea was too dangerous for a boat to venture and the poor fellow was drowned.'

CRAGGS/CRAIGGS

Alfred CRAIGGS was born at St Pancras in July 1839, the son of Edward and Susanna née WILLIAMS. On the 1861 census Alfred CRAGG was living in St Pancras with wife Mary Ann, also here were his sister Fanny aged 10 and brother Edward aged 7. Mary Ann died in 1864.

In 1868 Alfred CRAIGGS married Louisa Elizabeth ACTON.

On the 1911 census Alfred CRAIGGS, a wheelwright's labourer, was living with 3 unmarried sons. Louisa Elizabeth CRAGGS was a patient in St Mary's Hospital, Paddington. It says there were 10 children, 8 living, 2 dead. I would be pleased to hear from anyone related to this family.

Helen L Butler, Member No. 5186

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

FORTHCOMING BRANCH MEETINGS

Barnet Branch – 7.30pm for 8.00pm

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

- Thursday 15 April *The Shocking History of Advertising!*
by David Berguer
- Thursday 20 May *The Past is Another Country (they do things
differently there!)*
by Audrey Gillett
- Thursday 17 June *Memorabilia etc*
Members' Contributions
- Thursday 15 July *The British in India (300 Years of Commercial,
Military and Other Matters)*
by Michael Gandy

City Branch – 12 noon for 12.30pm

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

- Thursday 29 April *Tackling your Brick Wall*
Members' Contributions
- Thursday 27 May *Identifying Victorian Photographs*
by Mari Alderman
- Thursday 24 June *The Clerkenwell Explosion of 1867 - The
Fenians and the House of Detention*
by Mark Aston
- Thursday 29 July *My Ancestor the Brothel Keeper*
(19C London Life!)
by Margaret Ward

Enfield Branch – 7.30pm for 8.00pm

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

- Wednesday 7 April *Do you have an Interesting Heirloom?*
Members' Contributions

- Wednesday 5 May *Tower Hamlets Cemetery, Park and Reserve*
by Kenneth Greenway
- Wednesday 2 June *Royal National Lifeboat Institution*
by Brian Kemp
- Wednesday 7 July *Historic Beaumont Manor*
by Keith Hammond

Rayners Lane Branch – 7.30pm for 8.00pm

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

- Friday 9 April *Why Harrison and Simmonds? The History of a*
Family Business
by Anne Simmonds
- Friday 14 May *County and Local Sources in the Society of*
Genealogists
by Sue Gibbons
- Friday 11 June Members' Evening
- Friday 9 July *Using Computers to Present Family History*
by Ian Waller

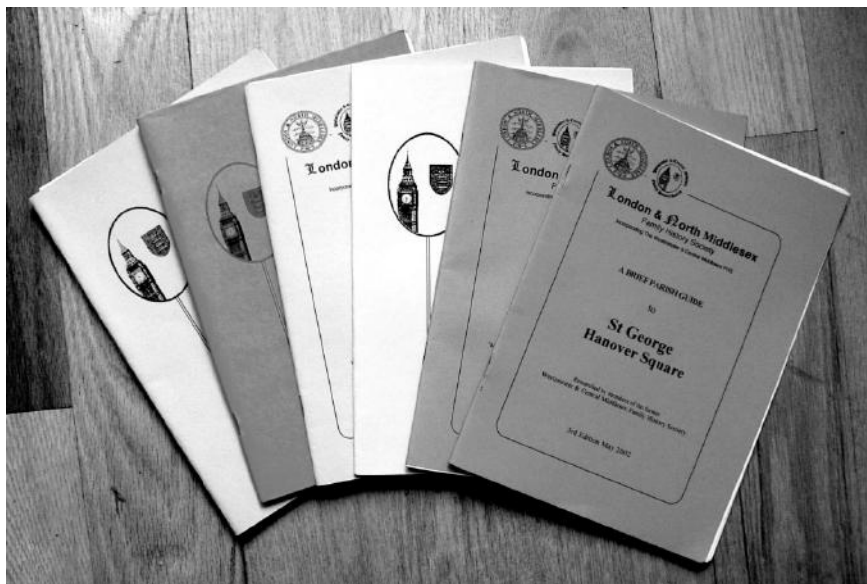
Wembley Branch – 7.30pm for 8.00pm

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

*** Please check the website as this venue may be out of action in the near future. ***

- Monday 26 April *The Indian Mutiny – Were Your Ancestors*
Involved?
by Ken Divall
- Monday 24 May *Power to the People*
by John Neal
- Monday 28 June *Old Photographs – Their Dating and*
Identification
by Tom Doig
- Monday 26 July *Reading Between the Lines*
by Jeanne Bunting

BRIEF PARISH GUIDES



The purpose of these useful *Brief Parish Guides*, produced by our Society, is to assemble in one publication a list of the main records and where they may be found, saving the reader from having to search through many different catalogues and reference books. The various types of record are clearly set out in alphabetical order and include information on, for instance, titles and publication dates of local newspapers, burial grounds, militia lists, school records and much more.

So far, guides have been produced for Paddington, St Anne Soho, St George Hanover Square, St James Westminster, Northolt and Greenford & Perivale. All cost only £3.50, including UK postage, except St Anne Soho which is £3.25, and can be purchased from the Bookstall Manager. Searching for ancestors in London is not easy but these little books could be a big help!

If anyone is interested in helping to produce one of these guides for another LWMFHS parish they should contact our Project Coordinator, Miss Doreen Heywood. She can be reached via our Secretary, Tricia Sutton, whose contact details are on our inside front cover.

AIMS OF THE SOCIETY

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

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