

METROPOLITAN

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Family History Society



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

Cover picture: The Lord Mayor's Coach
© Barbara Haswell
See article on page 14

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EDITORIAL

Just as the natural world gives us the annual cycle of the seasons, so there are a series of ‘man-made’ events, traditions, etc which are associated with particular periods. Recently a number of significant wartime anniversaries have occurred and the Battle of Britain was marked by a service at St Paul’s. Memories from those who were involved, in the various theatres of war or on the Home Front, are being passed on to younger generations before they are lost. The National Service of Remembrance will of course take place on Sunday 14 November at the Cenotaph in central London. Acts of remembrance will also take place at local war memorials, some of which have been in the news lately (see page 34). Local newspapers can be a very valuable source of detailed information as some of our members have found - see page 18, *St Pancras Gazette*, page 11, colonial obituaries and page 27, Website News. Another annual event in November in London is the Lord Mayor’s Show, see page 14.

By the time you read this, other yearly events will have occurred: school children and students will have moved on and adults may have enrolled for courses - such as those for family history - to gain basic knowledge or get up to date. A complementary source of information could be a book from our Society, see page 23 and our website.

The first of October marked the beginning of our Society’s year so subscriptions are due and you will find details in the white central insert in this issue of METROPOLITAN. It requires the attention of *everyone*, whether you choose to pay by

- sterling cheque
- existing banker’s order - you need to check with your bank that the correct annual amount (currently £12) is being paid on the due date (1 October each year)
- setting up a banker’s order for current and future renewals – you need to obtain a form from the Treasurer

or you do not wish to renew your membership.

There is much to be done to bring records up to date and prepare mailing lists for the December issue of METROPOLITAN so your speedy co-operation will be much appreciated. As no reminders will be sent this could be your last METROPOLITAN unless you take action using the form enclosed.

Your membership number is shown on the address carrier sheet which accompanies METROPOLITAN.

Rosemary A Roome



A NOTE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

It is with regret that we have to suspend meetings at our Wembley Branch, at least for the time being. We could still have use of the vestry at St John's but the problem is that the car park has disappeared within the building site. The old hall has been demolished, new footings have appeared in the vicarage garden as a start to the housing development that will cover the land. The Church will gain two new halls one above the other with just 20 parking spaces. The present vicarage is to be pulled down and replaced by the first vicarage in the UK to meet the Government's rigorous Code for Sustainable Homes Level 6. An artist's impression and details can be viewed at: - <http://www.calfordseaden.co.uk/news/263/St-John-s-Church-Wembley>. However at the present time the whole site is enclosed behind hoardings and visitors have to park in Crawford avenue and carry equipment around the corner into the Harrow Road and in through the Lych-gate and across the Church yard. This situation is unfair to speakers and has resulted in a lack of support from all but some of our most stalwart members.

Our next AGM will be something completely different when we meet up at the London Family History centre (formerly the Hyde Park Family History Centre). This will ensure better travelling access for those living outside London. Just having the one talk by a member of the LDS Church will hopefully free up time on the day for members to carry out a bit of research or maybe have a good browse through publications followed by our Meeting in the afternoon.

Just one other thought, despite the recession there is a lot of redevelopment taking place in London at the moment and a lot of the old buildings such as pubs etc., are disappearing so before it happens get the camera out and take a picture.

Bill Pyemont

ADVANCE NOTICE

The Society AGM will take place on

Saturday 12 February 2011

at the London Family History Centre
64-68 Exhibition Road, London SW7 2PA

Details of the day's programme, together with the reports of the Officers for 2010, will be published in the December METROPOLITAN

Tricia Sutton
Hon. Secretary

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Sorry but I am not able to give any reason as to why the name SUNBEKANNT is on my German family tree. I have been given this information by the webmaster and it is taken from the Church records.

Eileen Blythe, Member No. 2

I'm a member of the Sinclair/St Clair family. I run their worldwide DNA study and we're recruiting folks in the UK who might be interested in helping with this study by taking the simple DNA test.

If you have members who have a derivative of the Sinclair surname - St Clair, Sinkler, Saint Claire, etc - or if you know anyone in your area, would you please request they take a look at the extensive website I've built about our family? This can be found at: www.StClairResearch.com

In some cases, we can help to defray the cost of the test, but this will have to be a determination based on how we view the value of the test subject's genealogy documents.

Thank you for any help in identifying folks from our family who may benefit from such a genealogy study.

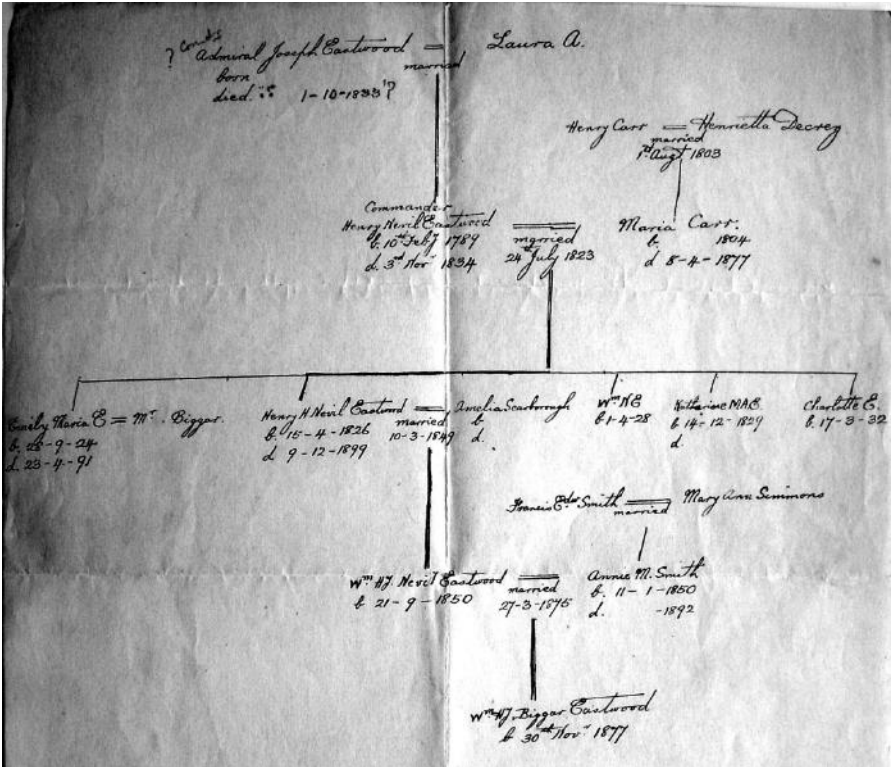
Steve St Clair, Non-Member

EASTWOOD FAMILY DOCUMENTS UNCOVERED

By Alison Mayes, Non-Member

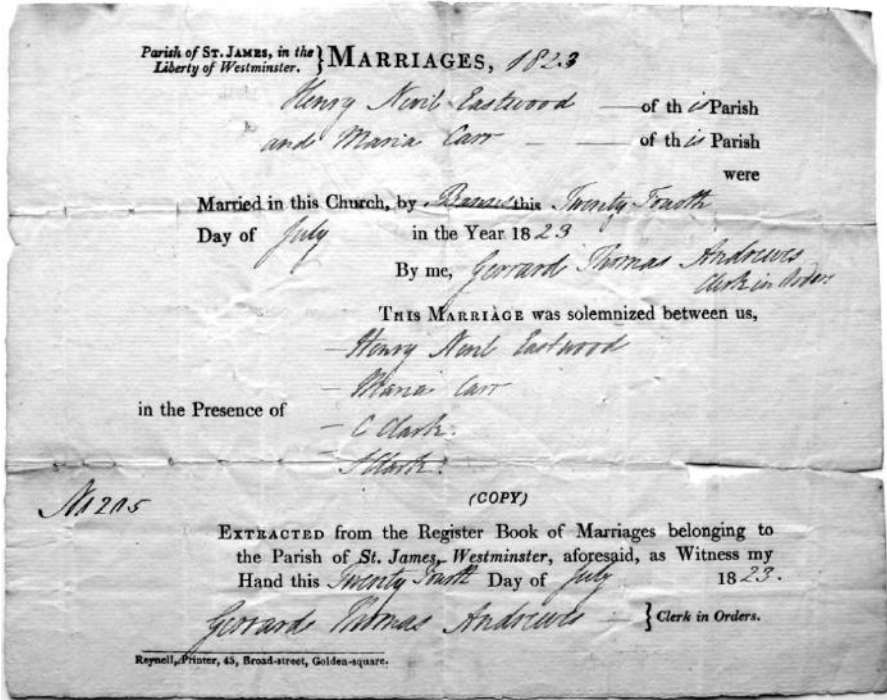
In 2009 my father-in-law came across a collection of historical documents which had been in the possession of his late father. These documents appeared to relate to a family called EASTWOOD and knowing that I have a keen interest in family history, my father-in-law allowed me to borrow the papers in the hope that I could find out more about them.

I started by writing a transcript of the 27 documents which include letters, certificates, wills and handwritten poems. The documents detail the naval career of Henry Nevil EASTWOOD (1789-1834) and they have enabled me to piece together a history of Henry's life, and that of his wife and children.



EASTWOOD Family Tree

One of the most valuable documents is a family tree (page 5) which traces the EASTWOOD family from c1760 to 1877. This states that Henry Nevil EASTWOOD was born on 10 February 1789, the son of Joseph and Laura EASTWOOD. A marriage certificate (below) dated 1823 records the union between Henry EASTWOOD and Maria CARR which took place on 24 July at St James Church in Westminster.



Marriage Certificate of Henry EASTWOOD and Maria CARR

Within six months Maria had fallen pregnant with their first child. A handwritten document lists the birth dates and times of the couples first four children as:

- 'Emily Maria Eastwood born 28 Sept 1824. 7 o'clock morning
- Henry Nevil Eastwood born 15 Apr 1826, 2 o'clock
- William Nevil Eastwood born 1st Apr 1828, 10 o'clock night
- Katherine Mary Ann Eastwood 14th Dec 1829, 7 o'clock evening'

A later document notes the dates of birth of all five children including Charlotte 'born March 17th 1832'.

Henry spent his life serving in the Royal Navy and a brief account of his career was published in 1835 in the Royal Navy Biography. It states that Henry Nevil EASTWOOD was the ‘Son of superannuated Commander Joseph N. Eastwood, RN. The officer passed his examination in May 1811; obtained his first commission on the 21st Mar. 1812; and was a lieutenant of the Impregnable 98, flag-ship of Admiral William Young, on the North Sea station, in 1813-4. His promotion to the rank of commander took place June 15th, 1827.’ Amongst the papers are two documents entitled ‘Memorandum of the service of Henry Nevil Eastwood’ which charts Henry’s naval career from 1805 to 1827.

Henry joined the navy aged 15, serving for 16 months as a Midshipman on board *HMS Leopard*. Deployed on the French coast at Boulogne and then around America, *HMS Leopard* was commanded by Admiral Billy DOUGLAS and later by Captain Richard RAGGETT who wrote a letter of efficiency for Henry dated 16 August 1806. It states that Henry had commenced work on ‘the 4th day of April 1805 to the date hereof during which time he behaved with Deligence [sic] attention and sobriety and was always obedient to command.’

Henry was next appointed as a Midshipman on board *HMS Leander* and then transferred to *HMS Africane*. Henry served onboard for three and a half years and during this time was promoted from Midshipmen to Masters Mate. Henry left *HMS Africane* in 1810 and was then deployed on *HMS Defiance* served from 18 August 1810. Another letter of efficiency dated 2 April 1811 again commended Henry as a diligent and obedient worker and concluded ‘in my opinion highly deserving of promotion.’

Henry was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant on 21 May 1812 and his first posting was aboard *HMS Jor Rank* which commenced on 27 March 1812. The list detailing his career history however, states that Henry was paid off within a month. The term ‘paid off’ refers to the crews being given their pay when their service on the ship was complete.

His next posting was aboard *HMS Impregnable*. A letter from the Admiralty Office dated 2 April 1812 instructs Henry to go directly to Commissioner Grey for his appointment. Henry served on *Impregnable* which was stationed in the North Sea until 16 August 1814.

Henry spent the next 15 months on board *HMS Cadmus* where he served as Lieutenant. The ship was again posted in the North Sea and Henry was paid off in March 1816.

On 10 June 1816 he was appointed Lieutenant of *HMS Primrose*. His letter of appointment states that ‘...having appointed you Lieutenant of His Majesty’s ship the *Primrose* at Jamaica it is their Lordships direction that you repair immediately to this office for your appointment & apply to Mr Edward Thornbury for a passage in the active to join her.’ Henry’s address at this time was 4 Spa Place, Spa Fields in Clerkenwell.

There is a gap in Henry’s career history as the next document relates to his appointment to command His Majesty’s New Ship the *Kite* on 2 April 1824. By this date Henry was residing at 4 Foundling Terrace, Mecklenburgh Square in Bloomsbury. Henry is instructed to ‘...repair immediately to the Commissioner of Custom.’ And in a letter dated 5 April 1824 from William BOWLES Esq. ‘Captain of the Royal Navy and Comptroller General of the Revenue Coast Guard in England, Wales Guernsey, Jersey, Sark and the Isle of Man’ at the Coast Guard Office, Custom House in London, Henry was given written instruction regarding his appointment to the ‘Command of His Majesty’s Revenue Cruiser the *Kite* now at Ireland’.

The last posting noted on Henry’s memorandum of service is aboard *HMS Hornet* although no dates or stations are recorded for this period. It is unclear where Henry served after leaving *Hornet* but by 15 June 1827 Henry had been appointed to the rank of Commander.

The last documents relating to Henry’s career was written by John LYTHAN on 7 April 1832 and is addressed from Downing Street, London. The letter refers to Henry’s appointment as stipendiary magistrate of the Island of Grenada in the West Indies. The letter directs Henry to embark for Grenada as soon as possible and advised him that £75 can be drawn upon from the Lord and Commissioner of the Treasury for his passage. Enclosed with the letter was a written introduction from the Lieutenant Governor of Grenada which states that ‘we have assigned you the said Henry Nevil Eastwood our Justice of the Peace in our said Island of Grenada and its Dependencies’. This appointment must have been a great honour for Henry

but it seems that he did not take up the post for long as on 3 November 1834 Henry died aged 45.

On 27 March 1835 probate was granted on Henry's Will which was dated 17 May 1834. In this will he leaves all of his property to his wife Maria EASTWOOD who he also appoints as Executrix. Henry's address is given as Thornhill Place, Pentonville but it states that Henry died in St Georges, Grenada.



Probate Document

Following Henry's death, Maria inherited all of Henry's property and goods and in a letter dated 22 December 1835 was informed that she was entitled to a pension of £70 per annum.

By using census and parish records I have been able to follow the history of Maria and her children following Henry's death. Maria remained living in Islington; the 1841 census records her aged 35 living with her children; Henry aged 15, William 13, Katherine 11 and Charlotte 9. Ten years later the census records Maria lodging in Carter Street in Westminster and by 1861 Maria had moved to Clarence Road in St Pancras where she lived with her son William and daughter Charlotte. Maria's employment is recorded as 'Income from Government' which relates to her pension. By 1871 Maria had left London and was now living in Brighton, East Sussex. She was a boarder and her occupation is recorded as 'Annuitant'. Maria returned to London where she died in 1877. Her death is recorded in Hackney.

Henry and Maria's eldest daughter Emily EASTWOOD married Douglas BIGGAR on 31 May 1845 at the Parish Church of St Botolphs in Aldersgate. The 1851 census records Emily and Douglas residing at 66

Aldersgate Street, living with Douglas' two sisters and Emily's sister Charlotte, aged 19. Ten years later however Emily is recorded as a widower, Douglas having passed away in Croydon, Surrey in 1869. She is living at St John's Street in Litchfield with Douglas' sisters and her occupation is 'Income from Property'. Emily died aged 66 in on 23 April 1891 without children.

Henry Horatio Nevil EASTWOOD married twice in his lifetime. First to Amelia SCARBOROUGH on 10 March 1849 with whom he had a son named William Henry Nevil EASTWOOD, born in 1850. Amelia died in 1854 and Henry then married Caroline TOMKINS. Together the couple had 6 children; Henry, Ezra, Maria, Adolphe, Alfred and Frank.

William Nevil EASTWOOD was baptised on 30 January 1831 in the Parish of St Pancras. I have been unable to trace William beyond the 1861 census when he was residing with his mother.

I have also been unable to find any record of Katherine EASTWOOD on either census or parish records beyond her baptism at Pentonville Chapel in the Parish of St James, Clerkenwell. Both Katherine and her younger sister, Charlotte were baptised on 11 April 1834.

Charlotte was the youngest EASTWOOD child and she appears living with her mother in the 1841 and 1861 census and with her elder sister in 1851. However it appears that Charlotte spent the rest of her life in Camberwell House Lunatic Asylum. In 1871 and 1891 Charlotte EASTWOOD was recorded residing there as a patient. Her place of birth is unknown and she is classified as a lunatic.

These fascinating documents provide a wonderful record of the life and career of Henry Nevil EASTWOOD and have provided an invaluable recourse during my research into the family. How they came into the possession of my husband's grandfather however shall remain a mystery and I would be very pleased to hear from anyone who may have an answer!

You can contact me at: 27 Torlais Street, Newbridge, Newport NP11 4GE or by email on: alimayes@hotmail.co.uk

LONDON AND MIDDLESEX STRAYS

The Society has been sent a package containing obituaries cut from Australian, Canadian and American newspapers (many include a photo). Listed below are the names of the people born in **Middlesex**. If you are interested in a copy of the obituary, please contact the editors by email or post, enclosing a stamped and self-addressed envelope.

Name	Died	Country	Born	Née
Askie , Dennis Sidney	2009 age 88	Canada	Edmonton	
Atkin , Charles George	2009 age 94	Canada	MDX	
Bannard-Hoar , Harold Francis (Bill)	2004 age 83	Canada	MDX	
Barlow-Woods , Benita	2008 age 37	Canada	Ruislip	
Bevis , Herbert William	2008 age 76	Canada	Tottenham	
Bond , Doris (Jo)	2006 age 96	Canada	Norwood	
Burnand , Margaret Joan	2000 age 92	Canada	Teddington	
Clarke , Robert WG	2007 age 67	Canada	Ashford	
Cole , Dorothy	2008 age 95	Canada	Southfields	Waring
Cumming , William R M	2006 age 67	Canada	Hammersmith	
Duff , Dorothy May	2007 age 92	Canada	Harrow	Purdey
Eardley , Jenny	2008 age 87	Canada	Hendon	Boatwright
Freeman , Raymond A	2009 age 83	Canada	Tottenham	
Greenwood , Richard F	2006 age 59	Aus	North London	
Gregory , Dorothy M S	2006 age 89	Canada	Teddington	Shaw
Hamber , Charles Reg.	2004 age 90	Aus	Chelsea	
Harriott , Derick Ron.	2008	Canada	MDX	
Hawkins , George Ed.	2007 age 95	Canada	Stoke Newington	
Holloway , Maurice B.	1999 age 82	Aus	Ealing	
Ives , Charles William	2007 age 92	Canada	Fulham	
Johnson , Iris Eliz. Annie	2007 age 93	Canada	MDX	Simpson
Jonas , Grace	2008 age 96	Canada	Willesden	O'Mant
Langridge , Pat Mary	2005 age 80	Canada	MDX	
Long , Daphne J	2007 age 79	Canada	Yiewsley	Benn
Mangold , Shirley Rose	2009 age 72	USA	Edgware	
Mannall-Fretwell , Alan	2009 age 81	Canada	Islington	
Monier-Williams , C	2009 age 87	Canada	Hampstead	
Parker , Sybil Winnifred	2008 age 100	Aus	Harrow	Robinson
Parker , Valerie Jeanne	2006 age 61	Canada	Hanwell	Guntrip
Richmond , Judith L	2001 age 58	Canada	London	Clark
Rogers , John Charles	1998 age 91	Aus	Hendon	
Sandford , Kathleen	2006 age 101	Aus	Westminster	Shannon
Scott , Laurence	2008 age 94	Canada	Tottenham	
Smith , Roy Ernest	2006 age 73	Canada	MDX	

Sutherland , Gladys V	2009 age 103	Canada	Hackney	Roe
Taylor , Louise Winifred	2005 age 87	Canada	Paddington Green	Burns
Tompson , Edward	2008 age 94	Canada	Harrow	
Townsend , Winifred B	2001 age 93	Canada	Sth Hammersmith	
Wigg-Porter , George	2006 age 85	USA	Ealing	
Weyler , Leonard Will.	2008 age 93	Canada	Hackney	
White , Ivy Gladys	1998 age 83	Aus	Enfield	Dike
Wieb , Florence May	2006 age 104	Canada	MDX	Earl
Yarrill , Eric Herbert	2005 age 91	Canada	Brentford	

The following table (A-J) lists people born in **London**, England.

Name	Born	Died	Country	Née
Adams , Marcelle	24 May ????	18 March 2009	Canada	
Allen , Joyce Irene	24 March 1921	16 Dec 2007	Canada	Milefanti
Alne , Mary Rose	28 Sept 1936	7 Dec 2006	USA	Ablitt
Ames , John Cuthbert	12 Nov 1919	24 Sept 2006	Canada	
Arnold , Lydia Beatrice	1926	26 April 2007	Canada	
Aston , Murray Adrian	1953	29 July 2009	Canada	
Baines , Dorothy Alma	31 Jan 1920	20 March 2009	Canada	
Baird , David Hugh	6 May 1932	18 March 2008	Canada	
Baldwin , Cecy Margaret	6 Aug 1913	6 Sept 2009	Canada	
Balipap , Winifred D	1925	5 May 2007	Canada	Lecoq
Barnard , John	24 May 1927	8 July 2009	Canada	
Basti(en) , Clifford (Kid)	21 Nov 1937	8 Feb 2003	Canada	
Bateman , Mary Mitton	1914	22 Nov 2008	Canada	Williams
Bean , James Henry	29 May 1921	2 Oct 2006	Canada	
Bell , Kathleen Muriel	28 May 1915	3 Feb 2003	Canada	Peak
Bell , Reginald Cyril	21 April 1921	31 Aug 2009	Canada	
Bidgood , Helen	15 Nov 1926	2 Dec 2007	Canada	Wolffers
Bishop , Edward John	16 Aug 1921	4 April 2009	Canada	
Bitten , Frederick Victor	27 March 1926	3 Oct 2008	Canada	
Blom , Mae	13 April 1905	1 Oct 2008	Canada	
Brabant , Ada Mary C	28 Oct 1911	6 March 2003	Canada	
Britton , Elsie	17 May 1926	18 Dec 2008	Canada	Spear
Bryant , Nellie Anne	1924	5 Sept 2006	Canada	Straw
Buckle , Bernard Charles	5 March 1932	17 Sept 2009	Canada	
Burton , Joseph Will. J	7 May 1921	31 Jan 2006	Canada	
Bush , Betty F (Zandra)	?	13 March 2004	USA	Poulton
Carvell , Nita	1908	27 Feb 2005	USA	
Carver , Richard Eugene	15 Nov 1937	28 June 2009	Canada	
Cassidy Shirley Margaret	8 Jan 1936	13 Feb 2006	USA	
Chamberlain , Grace	1919	13 Jan 2006	Canada	Phillips
Chapman , Charley John	31 July 1920	30 Jan 2000	Canada	
Chmiel , Iris Rosina	6 Oct 1932	12 March 2008	Canada	Laker
Clark , Lillian Mary	3 March 1910	9 June 2006	Aus	Mahoney

Clark , Kathleen E	20 Sept 1918	28 June 2007	USA	Beever
Clee , Capt. John CD ret.	14 June 1929	25 Feb 2009	Canada	
Clifton , Peter John M	1926	2 June 2009	Canada	
Cole , Geoffrey Stephen	24 Oct 1921	20 Sept 2008	Canada	
Colton , Margaret	3 May 1920	2008	Canada	
Comey , Mildred M	1921	28 Oct 2008	USA	Lincoln
Connolly , Iris	7 April 1919	13 July 2009	Canada	
Coventry , Jean Dorothy	13 Oct 1934	6 Feb 2008	Canada	
Cue , Dorothy Pamela	3 May 1934	25 April 2009	Canada	Muller
Czuboka , Mabel	1920	20 July 2008	Canada	
Dale , Roney Margaret	19 May 1911	22 Dec 2005	Canada	Spurr
Dobbie , May Ellen	1915	2006	Canada	Collins
Drake , Kenneth	17 June 1933	16 March 2003	Canada	
Duffy , Leslie George	20 Jan 1933	5 Feb 2006	Canada	
Elliott , Clarence James	1920	16 Oct 2008	Canada	
Ellis , Joseph	1912	29 Aug 2001	Canada	
Elmslie , Gordon	1926	7 July 2008	USA	
Elworthy , Angela Mary	2 Oct 1924	22 March 2009	Canada	Poppleton
Emmerson , F.Charles	26 March 1918	8 Nov 2005	Canada	
Fievez , Leon William	1940	8 July 1998	Aus	
Fleming , Pamela Doreen	21 March 1926	1 Oct 2007	Canada	
Fridfinnson ,Lilian Helen	8 Oct 1914	13 June 2006	Canada	Clarke
Frith , John	13 June 1906	21 Sept 2000	Aus	
Garrison , Eileen D	8 July 1918	13 March 2008	Canada	
Geist , Joan N	1930	4 Oct 2007	USA	
Gigun , Joyce Olive	1928	2009	Canada	Yearsley
Gilbert , Doris P	1921	14 May 2007	USA	Gager
Goddard , Elizabeth May	20 Sept 1918	17 Jan 2009	Canada	Neal
Goldstein , Shirley	28 March 1934	17 Sept 2007	Canada	Godfrey
Gullet , Henry Baynton S	16 Dec 1914	24 Aug 1999	Aus	
Gusek , Winnifred AL	1914	5 June 2005	Canada	Rimbey
Haldane-Wilson e, KM	10 Sept 1944	22 Aug 2007	Canada	Rudolph
Hatt , Frederick Harold	23 June 1927	16 Aug 2008	Canada	
Hayhurst , Brian	1 March 1935	7 April 2007	Canada	
Hazelwood , John	19 May 1924	4 Sept 1998	Aus	
Hearn , Richard C	1920	3 July 2007	USA	
Heath , John (Jack)	19 June 1916	28 Jan 2008	Canada	
Hebert , Mary (Mickey)	10 Dec 1937	15 Sept 2006	Canada	
Hollingshead , David A	26 Sept 1934	22 March 2003	Canada	
Honour , Robert C	1917	20 March 2008	Canada	
Horth , Evelyn	25 Jan 1921	11 March 2009	Canada	
Jamieson , Victor Greg.	10 May 1910	19 Sept 2001	Canada	
Jolly , William Robert	27 July 1923	19 April 2008	Canada	
Jones , Arthur Edwin	1915	8 Jan 2009	Canada	
Joycey , Irene Amelia	19 July 1916	7 March 2007	Canada	Watts

THE LORD MAYOR'S COACH

By Rosemary A Roome, Member No. 2985

The City of London Corporation provides local government services to the 'Square Mile' and its head is the Lord Mayor of London who is the chief magistrate for the City and chairman of its governing bodies, the Court of Aldermen and the Court of Common Council. It is a prestigious office for within the City, only the Sovereign takes precedence. The first recorded holder of this position was Henry FITZ-AILWYN in 1189. It was in 1215, just weeks before signing the *Magna Carta*, which specified that the City would retain all its ancient liberties, that King John gave the citizens of London the right to elect their own chief magistrate on condition that the Lord Mayor presented himself to the King or his justices for approval and to swear an oath of allegiance.

In order to become Lord Mayor, an individual must have served as a Sheriff which is the oldest office in the City of London. It existed before the Norman Conquest and William I recognised the ancient rights of the citizens in a Charter of 1067. The word sheriff comes from shire-reeve, the King's representative, who exercised his authority over the citizens, collecting royal revenues and enforcing royal justice. It is interesting to find that the City of London and the County of Middlesex had been grouped together before the Norman Conquest and that the citizens had the privilege of choosing the Sheriffs of the City of London and Middlesex by a charter of King John of 1199. This continued until the Local Government Act of 1888 when the two City Sheriffs ceased to represent Middlesex but were appointed for the City only. Perhaps this explains why birthplaces in Census returns may be shown as London Middlesex or Middlesex London? Today the City Sheriffs are elected by the liverymen.

The Court of Common Council has effectively been the City's governing body since the 18th Century. Councilmen are elected annually by the 25 Wards in the City, the number per ward varying from 4 to 12 according to ward size. Most are liverymen of the City Livery Companies and they are entirely non-political.

An Alderman (ie an elder man) is also elected by one of the 25 wards. He must be a freeman and a JP. The aldermen sit in judgement at the Mansion

House, the Lord Mayor's official residence, and at the Guildhall, the centre of civic government. The City has its own Police Force so there are responsibilities there for the Court of Aldermen and the creation and conduct of the Livery Companies is also part of its remit.

Every Michaelmas Day, 29 September, the Court of Aldermen elects one of their number to be the Lord Mayor and he presents or 'shows' himself to the Lord Chief Justice and judges of the Queen's Bench Division who receive his formal oath of allegiance on the second Saturday in November at the Royal Courts of Justice in the Strand.

This 'showing' has become a show in a somewhat different sense over the centuries because the Lord Mayor has been accompanied on his journey from the Mansion House by supporters.

In 1378 some Aldermen 'in coloured clothing' rode with the Mayor to Westminster; there was a procession of the Mayor, Sheriffs, Aldermen and crafts in 1392 – and with the addition of minstrels in 1401; from 1422 to 1857 the journey was by river with a ceremonial barge. The rich barges of the Livery Companies made a fine display and hence the word 'float' which now describes the vehicles in the modern road procession, free for all to view, which is around three miles long.

In the early 18th Century a carriage was hired for transport from the Thames to the Guildhall, as in 1711 Sir Gilbert HEATHCOTE had fallen off his horse and broken his leg. From then on the Lord Mayor has always travelled by coach. In 1757 a new Grand State Coach, to be pulled by six horses, was ordered that has been used for the Lord Mayor's Show ever since.

The coach is one of the star exhibits at the Museum of London, London Wall, EC2 and, since the refurbishment programme finished in the spring, it is housed in the City Gallery, one of the new Modern Galleries which bring the story of London up to the present time. It is certainly magnificent and so it is not surprising that some young visitors ask if it is the Queen's Coronation coach.

There is only a brief impression to be gained on seeing the coach in the Lord Mayor's Show but at the museum there is the opportunity to

appreciate the symbolism of its features. Many of them emphasise the importance of London as a port and of the City's trade at the time it was built. The coachman's seat is supported by tritons, mythical sea creatures, and his footrest is in the shape of a scallop shell. At each corner, child angels, or cherubs, support the coach and they represent four continents – Asia, Africa, America and Europe. The back of the coach is decorated by the City's coat of arms, including fire-breathing dragons. Three of the main panels show the City's guardian spirit, or Genius. She is shown, in the back panel, receiving goods from around the world, such



as elephant tusks, an Arabian horse and a lion. The front panel has a female figure, representing Hope, pointing at the dome of St Paul's Cathedral. The smaller side panels represent moral qualities or virtues: Truth, Temperance, Justice and Fortitude.

The Museum of London is open Monday to Saturday from 10am until 6pm, last admission 5.30pm. For more information telephone: 020 7001 9844 or visit: www.museumoflondon.org.uk
Admission is free.

Note: The records of the Corporation of London are now held at London Metropolitan Archives, 40 Northampton Road, London EC1R OHB, telephone: 020 7332 3820, website: www.cityoflondon.gov.uk

Sources:

City of London Corporation publications

Museum of London displays

The London Encyclopaedia

A TALE OF TRAGEDY AND TALL TALES IN SOMERS TOWN

By Peter Daly, Member No. 7545

Seasoned family historians will know that we often have to follow a hunch to make a breakthrough in our research and ordering up doubtful certificates is a means of speculating to accumulate. When we hit a brick wall it is sometimes necessary to follow implausible hunches that go against the available evidence and this happened when establishing the fate of my Great Great Grandfather William WILSON of Somers Town.

William WILSON lived a conventional working class life in the densely-packed streets just east of Euston station with his wife Charlotte, née MILES. They appeared there with their several children in the 1861 and 1871 Censuses.

But in 1881 Charlotte appeared married to a Robert LAGDON and in addition to the previous offspring she had a 3 year-old son also named Robert. There was nothing particularly unusual in this, but what was the exact sequence of events; the death of William, the birth of her son and her remarriage?

Working backwards, the marriage to Mr LAGDON took place on 5 May 1878 and young Robert had been born exactly six months earlier, on 5 November 1877, with William WILSON clearly registered by Charlotte as the father. This means that William must have died no earlier than February 1877, and as he was not listed as deceased, more likely in those first six months of baby Robert's life.

William had been consistent about his age on the 1861 and 1871 Censuses, indicating that he was born in 1825/26, although his almost illegible marriage certificate suggested he was younger than this, creating some uncertainty when searching. Nothing jumped off the GRO index of deaths in London in 1877/78, the closest being a 54 year old in Shoreditch, the district in which Charlotte was born and they had married, so a possibility. This William died in April 1878 and the informant was his sister; trawls

back to older records for these two quickly established that this was another family altogether.

So the precise sequence of events was a mystery, but one could be forgiven for speculating about two possible scenarios. If William had not died within this narrow timeframe, either Charlotte's marriage to Mr LAGDON was bigamous and William had gone off somewhere (and with his name almost impossible to trace) or Charlotte had misled the registrar when recording the 1877 birth, with William already dead. Was this worth pursuing?

Going back to the GRO death index, this time all the way to 1871, revealed a William WILSON in Pancras district aged 48 in the Spring of 1874 – a perfect fit. This is where following a seemingly implausible hunch comes in: to get the certificate and see whether this was our William, with Charlotte as the informant, to resolve the mystery. But the information on this certificate had been supplied by the Coroner for Middlesex because William had died of 'Concussion by fall from a ladder', which had necessitated an inquest. However, the place of death was a former address of the couple, so it looked very promising. Perhaps the local newspaper covered the inquest and would provide answers in what was becoming a detective story!

Next stop was the Camden Local Studies Centre, where the ever-helpful staff produced microfilms of the local papers. The *St Pancras Gazette* of 11 April 1874 did not disappoint, with this full report:

"Dr Lankester the Coroner for Central Middlesex was engaged for some length of time on Thursday at the Prince Alfred, Crowndale road, St Pancras investigating the cause of death of six persons. The first case taken was that of William Wilson aged 48. - Charlotte Wilson, the wife of the deceased, stated that she lived at 17 Clarendon street, St Pancras and the deceased was a jobbing man. On Thursday, the 26th of last month, he was employed by the landlord to paint down the front of the house, and while on a ladder so doing, the ladder moved and he fell heavily to the ground, and was rendered insensible. He lingered till Tuesday, when he expired from the injuries."

So the truth surrounding William's demise is uncovered, despite the best effort of Charlotte to mislead us with the phoney paternity three years later. From this distance we should not be too harsh as we cannot know her or Mr LAGDON'S personal circumstances, but it gives a salutary lesson in not believing everything one reads, even on official documents.

The web of intrigue surrounding Charlotte did not end with this event, however. She and Mr LAGDON seem to disappear from the records after their appearance in the 1881 Census, but where was young Robert in 1891, as he was still only 13? A search soon revealed that he was still in Somers Town and with his mother Charlotte – only by now she had reverted to the WILSON surname with no trace of the second husband. A Charlotte WILSON appears in Somers Town in the 1901 Census and may well be her, but the birth location does not tally and there are insufficient circumstantial pointers to be certain. Mr LAGDON does seem to have disappeared – out of her life and the records. A trawl for Charlotte WILSON through the GRO death index after 1891 does not show any obvious entries in terms of age and location, so having resolved the fate of William, the search for the conclusion of Charlotte's story goes on.

West Surrey FHS Open Day

Saturday 6 November 2010 from 10am-4.30pm
Woking Leisure Centre, Kingfield Road, Woking GU22 9BA

Free entry and free parking

The Main Hall will contain many stands manned by other FHSs including **London Westminster & Middlesex FHS**, local history organisations and suppliers of family history products. There will be a separate Research Room with computer help, a dedicated Talks Room with free lectures, question time and a Help Desk. Cafeteria and bar available all day.

For more information visit: www.wsfhs.org

RAYFIELDS

By Anthony Rayfield, Member No. 6924

Having just received the July 2010 copy of METROPOLITAN and read it from cover to cover, I have been jolted into writing of some of my experiences while attempting to trace my family name. So here goes.

My interest goes back many years to the time I noticed a brief article in the *Daily Telegraph* dated 26 June 1968 which mentioned a Mr Jack RAYFIELD who was at that time the chairman of the Lord's Taverners and was publicising the sale of grass cuttings from Lord's Cricket Ground to raise funds for the National Playing Field's Association. At this time I was aged 30 and newly married.

I wrote to Jack RAYFIELD and in his reply he suggested that the name was possibly Huguenot and Jewish. I have come across many variations in the spelling and the suggestion that it may be an anglicized version of RAPHEL or RAPHAEL and may even be Spanish or Portuguese.

I collected as much information from my paternal grandmother as she was able to recall (she was 98 at the time) which included a look at the notes she had made in her family bible. She was very reluctant to talk about her husband (my grandfather's) family in any detail. However I do know Alfred RAYFIELD was born, the youngest of 13 children who survived, on 9 August 1866 and lived at 4 Lower Rosoman Street, Clerkenwell.

He married Alice Maud SMITH on 21 May 1893 at St Stephen's Church, Canonbury and had 5 children, my father Frank Leslie RAYFIELD being the youngest who was 24 years old when his father died on 21 November 1927 while living at 54 Downhills Avenue, Tottenham. I have been unable to find the reasons, as at the time of his death he had 5 children out at work, but he was buried in a common or general (paupers) grave in Tottenham Cemetery. Although the officials at the local authority were able to furnish me with the grave number and an approximate location, my brothers and I were unable to find any trace of our grandfather's burial site when we visited the cemetery earlier this year. We think we were close as we came across some graves numbered very close to his.

Alfred's father was Richard RAYFIELD (b1824, d 31 August 1870) and he was married to Ann KEEN who marked the birth certificates of their children with an X. I have some details of their children which are as follows.

James (b1845 m Phoebe GOSFORTH)

Charles (b1847)

Thomas (b1849)

Ann (b1851)

Esther (b1853 m John HUNT)

Emily (b1854 m Charles TURNER)

John (b1857 m Eliza GIBBS)

Henry (b1858 m Mary BAKER)

William (b1859 m unknown EATON)

Caroline (b1861 m Colin BARNES)

Elizabeth (b1863 m Gustav BACKMAN)

Alfred (b1866 m Alice Maud SMITH)

I am still searching for the one missing from the above list.

Richard RAYFIELD (b.1824) was the son of Richard RAYFIELD (a blind musician) who was born 1794 and married to Sarah DAY. His father was Thomas RAYFIELD (b c1770) who was married to Elizabeth unknown.

There had been a rumour in the family that one of Alfred RAYFIELD'S siblings had been 'sent' to Barnado's so on the off chance, I wrote to ask whether they had any details.

It turned out that it was not Barnado's but a similar type of establishment where not one but two siblings lived. Known as the Marchmont Home, and for which Barnado's now keeps the records, it had been set up by a trio of sisters from Scotland called Macpherson, both William and Henry were admitted to the Marchmont on an unknown date.

William aged 12 arrived in Quebec, Canada on 25 June 1872 and lived at a Marchmont Home in Montreal. He later married a Miss EATON, lived in Toronto and by 1894 had 2 children.

Henry also arrived in Quebec but on 17 August 1872 aged 14 and also lived at the Montreal Marchmont Home. According to the records he had returned to England by 1880 and following his marriage in September 1881 at Holborn had 3 children. His full name was given as Henry Samuel RAYFIELD and his mother was shown as living at 4, Lower Rosoman Terrace, Clerkenwell as Mrs RAYFIELD.

I am in touch with descendants of Caroline RAYFIELD who married Colin BARNES (they were known as Cal & Col) as they are members of our wider family circle, and I am in contact with descendants of 2 of Alfred's other siblings via Genes Reunited but I would be interested to hear from other family members to whom I am related and about whom I know nothing. (You can contact me at 9 Delta Way, Maltby, Rotherham, South Yorkshire S66 7SJ.)

Other addresses which appear on various documents I have include those at 5 Pear Tree Court, 12 Red Lion Gardens, 2 Brunswick Place, 14 Brunswick Place and 9 Coburgh Street.

There is a large number of Rayfields living in Kent and I have been in touch with a couple of them, again through Genes Reunited, but so far any link there may be between the Rayfields of Clerkenwell and Kent has yet to be established. Rayfields are fairly well scattered throughout the English speaking world albeit thinly except maybe for the USA.



STRAY

Gravestone at Raymond Terrace Pioneer Hill Cemetery, NSW Australia:

In Loving Memory of Maria, widow of Richard WINDEYER, Member of the First Legislative Council of the Colony. Born 18 August 1785. Died 7 Dec 1878.

And in memory of their son William Charles WINDEYER, born at Westminster 29 Sep 1834, died at Bologna Italy 12 Sep 1897

Sent in by Peter Levarre-Waters, Non-member

BOOKSTALL

As Bookstall Manager I fully endorse the contents of Christine Dean's letter in the July 2010 METROPOLITAN concerning the Camden History Society's 'Streets' series. All thirteen titles were listed at the end of Christine's letter and this has generated several postal sales. However since acquiring new stock I note that several titles have been reprinted and prices therefore have increased. Postal costs have also risen since the Booklist was last updated. A full list of titles therefore with current costs is appended.

Each of the titles in the series consists of walks which have been undertaken in a specific area of the London Borough of Camden by a research team from the Camden History Society. Walks vary within each volume and can be as few as four walks or as many as ten walks depending on the area covered. In addition there is a diagram map of each of the walks covered as well as 'An Historical Overview' of the area surveyed. A list of illustrations as well as list of sources is also given. Last but not least is a comprehensive Index listing principal Streets, buildings and former, in the main well-known, residents. Each book is A5 in size with slight variations in thickness (the price gives an indication of this) and can easily be slipped in a handbag or holdall.

Following the publication of Christine's letter and the full list of titles, I have received a letter from a member who writes, "the series sounds most interesting but which to purchase.....without details." To help members who may have similar concerns with regard to the exact areas of the former Boroughs of Highgate, Camden and Holborn covered by the thirteen books, a leaflet giving the principal streets surveyed is in preparation and will be available to members on receipt of an A5 SAE (Large Letter) to the Bookstall Manager.

All Europe and Rest of World deliveries are by air mail.

Streets of Hampstead (3rd revised edition) Editor: Christopher Wade.
6 Walks covering Old Hampstead.

CHS02 £6.95 Bookstall, £7.95 UK, £9.50 Europe, £10.95 Rest of World

Streets of West Hampstead (2nd edition) Editor: Christopher Wade.

5 Walks covering Hampstead West End.

CHS03 £5.95 Bookstall, £6.95 UK, £8.50 Europe, £9.95 Rest of World

Streets of Belsize (2nd edition) Editor Christopher Wade.

4 Walks covering Haverstock Hill area and east and west of the Hill: Eton College Estate south and north: The Fitzjohns area: Belsize Central: The Lyndhurst area and Pond Street to Parliament Hill.

CHS04 £8.95 Bookstall, £9.95 UK, £11.50 Europe, £13.25 Rest of World

Streets of Bloomsbury and Fitzrovia (1997) Editor: Peter Woodford.

3 Walks covering Fitzrovia, Bloomsbury and New Oxford Street.

CHS05 £5.95 Bookstall, £6.95 UK, £8.50 Europe, £9.95 Rest of World

Streets East of Bloomsbury (1998) Editors: Steven Denford and David A Hayes.

10 Walks in an area bounded by High Holborn; Southampton Row: Woburn Place: Euston Road: King's Cross Road: Gray's Inn Road: Russell Square and Guildford Street.

CHS06 £7.95 Bookstall, £8.95 UK, £10.50 Europe, £12.25 Rest of World

Streets of Old Holborn (revised 2010) Editors: Steven Denford and David Hayes.

7 Walks covering High Holborn to Gray's Inn: Holborn Bars and Charterhouse Street: By the Valley of the Fleet: Around Little Italy: Gray's Inn and adjacent Gray's Inn Road and adjoining streets.

CHS08 £9.50 Bookstall, £10.50 UK, £11.95 Europe, £13.50 Rest of World

Streets of St Giles (2000) Editors: Steven Denford and David A Hayes. 6 Walks covering an area bounded by New Oxford Street (Tottenham Court Road to Holborn): Kingsway: Lincoln's Inn Fields: Wild Street: Parker Street: Endell Street: Shelton Street: Shaftesbury Avenue: West Street and Charing Cross Road.

CHS09 £6.95 Bookstall, £7.95 UK, £9.50 Europe, £10.95 Rest of World

From Primrose Hill to Euston Road (1995) Editor Peter Woodford.

8 Walks covering the Crown Estate (Nash Terraces and Park Villages): East of the Crown Estate: East of the Railway (Chalk Farm to Parkway):

Between the Railway and Primrose Hill (Chalk Farm via Regents Park Road): Old Tavern Gardens to Princes Road: The 'York and Albany' to Primrose Hill.

CHS12 £5.95 Bookstall, £6.95 UK, £8.50 Europe, £9.95 Rest of World

Streets of St Pancras (2000) Editors: Steven Denford and Peter F Woodford.

7 Walks in an area of St Pancras bounded by Hampstead Road between Warren Street and Mornington Crescent Tube Stations: Crowndale Road: St Pancras Way: Agar Grove: York Way: and that section of Euston Road between Kings Cross and Warren Street stations.

CHS15 £6.95 Bookstall, £7.95 UK, £9.50 Europe, £10.95 Rest of World

Streets of Camden Town (2003) Editors: Steven Denford and Peter F Woodford.

8 Walks in an area bounded by Chalk Farm Road: Camden Road: Agar Grove: St Pancras Way: Crowndale Road and the West Coast Main Line Railway.

CHS16 £5.95 Bookstall, £6.95 UK, £8.50 Europe, £9.95 Rest of World

Streets of Kentish Town (2005) Editors: Steven Denford and David Hayes.

10 Walks within an area which includes Kentish Town Road: Highgate Road to Fortress Road: Grove, Green and Common: The Camden Estate: The Hawley-Buck Estate: The 'Crimean' area and Holmes Estate: 'New' Kentish Town: Into the Torriano Estate: Leighton Road to Fortress Road, Dartmouth Park

CHS17 £7.50 Bookstall, £8.50 UK, £9.95 Europe, £11.50 Rest of World

Streets of Highgate (2007) Editors: Steven Denford and David A Hayes.

6 Walks covering Highgate Village: Waterlow Park and Highgate Hill: Around Fitzroy Park: Highgate West Hill and Millfield Lane: Highgate New Town: Holly Lodge and the Coutts Estate.

CHS19 £7.50 Bookstall, £8.50 UK, £9.95 Europe, £11.50 Rest of World

Anne Prudames

Bookstall Manager

WEBSITE NEWS

Many people emigrated from the UK to Australia, either of their own free will or otherwise and this Website News looks at some of the records available to view online.

Australian BMD Indexes

Australian historical BMD Indexes are not held as country-wide indexes as in England but are split up into states, each of which has slightly different arrangements but are available to view online and usually for free.

New South Wales has the following information. Births are searchable from 1788-1909 and the indexes show the full name of the infant together with the first names of both parents, the district in which the birth was registered and a Registration Number (which is required if you wish to purchase the certificate). Death indexes are from 1788-1979 and give you the same basic information as the births. (To have the parents' first names, albeit without the surname, from the death index is very useful in helping to confirm a marriage – if Jane Smith, daughter of Peter and Alice marries Joe Bloggs, then Jane Bloggs in the death index, daughter of Peter and Alice is very likely to be her.) Marriages are searchable from 1788-1959 with the indexes showing the full names of the groom and bride and the district where the marriage took place, along with the Registration Number and year of the marriage.

Queensland records start in 1829, births go up to 1914, deaths to 1964 and marriages to 1934. Information supplied is much the same as for NSW although the death indexes often give the mother's maiden name.

South Australia has a new database of births from 1836 up to 1854 which includes those before civil registration (mid 1842) and others not registered. Most of the pre-registration birth records are derived from church baptism registers and the date of birth and mother's maiden name are usually added. Deaths indexes are for 1836-1842 with age, date of death and burial place being noted. Marriages are from 1836-1855 with the names of both parties, including any previous married names of wives along with the date of the marriage.

The Colonial **Tasmanian** Family Links database is different from the other states in that while the information about individuals is based primarily on records of births, deaths and marriages held in the Archives Office, there is no direct link to this office and you cannot purchase certificates from this

site. Also, in the 1990s family historians associated with the former National Heritage Foundation linked individuals into families. Records covered are from 1803-1899 and there are approximately five hundred thousand entries in the database.

The **Western Australian** registry offers free index searching from 1841 when compulsory registration started in this State. Births are available up to 1932, deaths to 1965 and marriages to 1936.

Victoria state is the only one where payment is required but it is very cheap. For example, each page of records, containing about 18 items, costs \$0.99, which can be easily paid for by following the onscreen links. You can search births 1853-1908, deaths 1853-1985 and marriages 1853-1942.

All of these websites, and many other Australian databases, can be accessed using Cora Num's excellent gateway site at: www.coraweb.com.au

Australian Newspapers

The National Library of Australia (NLA) in collaboration the Australian State and Territory libraries began a program to digitise out-of-copyright newspapers in March 2007. 20 million articles are currently available to view for free online, with the program due for completion with another 20 million in July 2011. This website is very user-friendly and it is easy to restrict a search by newspaper title, decade, word count and/or category of article. There are many Family Notices which can be very useful when trying to link families together! News coverage starts with Australia's first paper, the *Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser* which was first published in 1803 and continues, via about 50 different newspaper titles, up to 1954.

This newspaper database has now been included into the NLA's new 'Trove' service. Trove provides a single access point to over 90 million resources of different types which can be searched simultaneously, comprising the Australian National Bibliographic Database, Australian Newspapers, Picture Australia, Australian Research Online, PANDORA, OAIster, Open Library, the Hathi Trust, the Internet Archive and the Library of Congress tables of contents, publishers' descriptions and sample book chapters. This website can be found at: <http://trove.nla.gov.au>

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.

SERENDIPITY

By Dennis Stacey, Member No. 3248

The word serendipity means a happy accident. We meet many accidents in life; a few of them can be called happy. However I had a recent experience which was not only an accident but a very happy one in searching for family history details.

A contact through my STACEY family website was descended from Jane STACEY, a sister of my great grandfather. I had no information on her apart from the details of her birth in 1865. The contact sent me some photos of Jane and her husband, George ARKEY, with their family and the house, called Rose Cottage, where they had lived in Potters Bar, Hertfordshire*.



This photo of Rose Cottage, reproduced above, was taken around 1914. For some reason the photo of my great great Aunt Jane (who died in 1925) seemed to bug me and I kept looking at it and wondering why it was bothering me. I decided to see if I could find the house which was in

Station Road, Potters Bar. A thorough search around the area of the railway station was of no avail. As there has been much development in the past ninety odd years I decided to check whether the names of the roads have been changed, so some time later I went to the Hertfordshire Record Office to see if I could find any street maps of the time. I arrived at the County Hall in Hertford and made my way to the record office. There were but a couple of people in there at that time and I looked around for a staff member to make my enquiry. He was talking to a gentleman by the map chests and as I approached he asked how he might help me. I said I was looking for old maps of Potters Bar circa 1920 and he said 'Perhaps you should speak to this gentleman here', indicating the chap he had been talking to.

Now here is the scary part; this man was the archivist of the Potters Bar History Society. He knew where Rose Cottage was (Station Road was now called Mutton Lane) and he indicated where to find the house. He also knew of the family name as he had done a survey of the old cemetery and he told me that the grave of Jane and George ARKEY was in the second row on the right as you entered the gate.

I found the house, now largely extended. The cemetery was but a few



hundred yards away and I found a moss covered gravestone (pictured left) with just the name Jane visible, in the second row on the right. I repaired to the local Tesco store and returned with bucket, scrubbing brush, bottle of water and washing up liquid and proceeded to give the gravestone a good scrub. Sure enough it

was great, great Aunt Jane's grave and also her husband George's, who had died in 1939. A few photos were taken and then it just remained to place a small floral tribute on the grave before I left.



The cleaned gravestone

When I started the search the one person among the one million plus population of Hertfordshire I could wish to see was a local historian of Potters Bar. The fact that he was in the record office, on the day, and at the hour at which I arrived was serendipity indeed! If only flukes like this could happen more often!

* Potters Bar was in Middlesex pre 1965.

Note: The Editors would be pleased to hear from any other readers with tales of serendipity from their family research.

JOTTINGS

Imperial War Museum and Family History

When the Imperial War Museum London was founded in 1917, one of its functions was to be a memorial to those who had died and suffered in the First World War. The Museum has since expanded its remit to include all conflicts, concentrating on British and Commonwealth involvement from 1914 to the present day. The Imperial War Museum archives offer a wealth of material for the family history researcher and to showcase these there will be a Family History Day at the Museum on Saturday 6 November 2010 from 10am to 6pm.

The focus will be the Blitz and the Homefront of the 1940s, however the Museum welcomes all enquiries about the ways in which it and its collections can assist with Family History research. The Imperial War Museum experts will be joined by lots of other organisations working in the field including: National Inventory of UK War Memorials, Evacuees Reunion Association, Metropolitan Police Historical Collection and the London Fire Brigade Museum. Everybody is invited to bring along any documents, photographs, medals or other objects relating to their family history in the 20th Century and the experts on hand will try to help you learn more about them.

A series of special lectures offering more in-depth advice on how to find out more about your family will also be taking place (tickets on sale soon - check the website for updates www.iwm.org.uk/whatson) and there will be the opportunity to visit the Explore History Centre, a specially-designed public space where anyone can drop in for free.

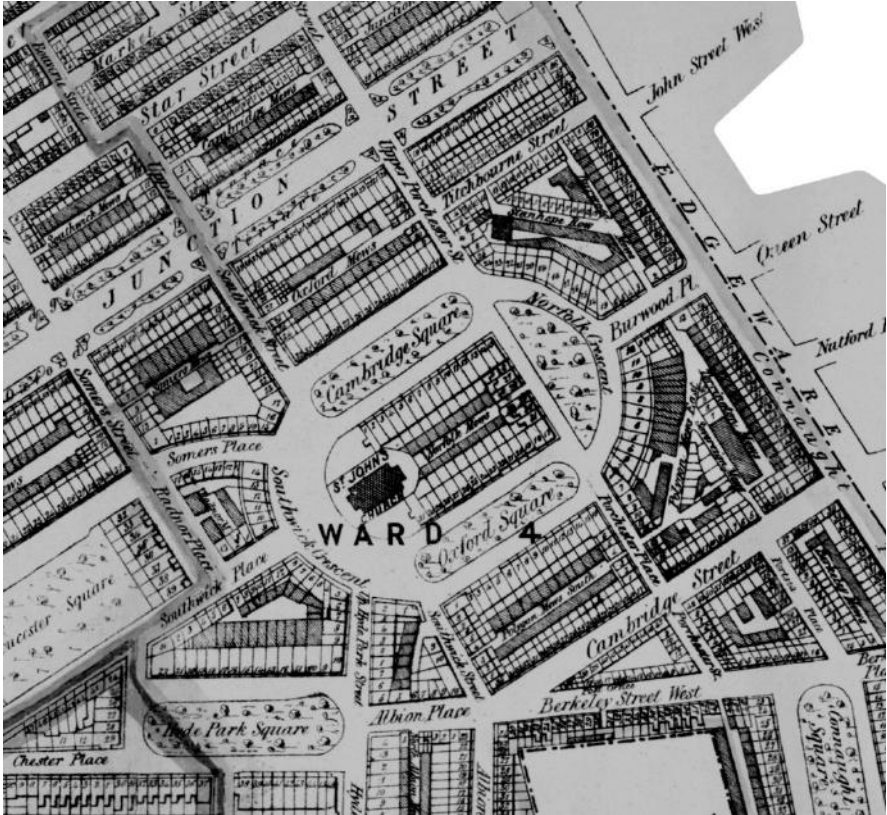
Entrance to the Museum is also free, as is access to the helpdesks. The Imperial War Museum London is at: Lambeth Road, London SE1 6HZ

For more information visit: <http://london.iwm.org.uk> or telephone: 020 7416 5000

Westminster Maps

City of Westminster Archives Centre have recently produced a CD of Paddington maps which joins the CD of Marylebone maps which they produced last year. The *Paddington Through the Ages* disc contains a selection of plans dating from 1742 to 1901 showing the development of the varied urban landscape of Paddington. Incorporating advanced timeline technology, the disc overlays maps to show the transport network of roads,

railways and canals running through the areas of grand stucco terraces in Bayswater and Maida Vale and charming artisans' houses in Queen's Park. The disc starts with a short history by Alison Kenney, archivist, to set the maps in context and includes a select bibliography.



Similarly, the *St Marylebone Through the Ages* disc contains a selection of plans dating from 1708 to 1862 showing the development of the fashionable area of St Marylebone, which contains some of London's finest Georgian town planning. Using the same timeline technology, the disc overlays maps to show how the grid pattern of the grand 18th century streets and squares north of Oxford Street gave way to spacious mid-19th century villas in the leafy suburb of St John's Wood via the more densely populated area of small terraces around Marylebone Station and Church Street. This disc also has a short history by Alison Kenney.

GOONS 'Born Abroad' Seminar

The Guild of One-Name Studies is holding a seminar entitled *Born Abroad* on 20 November 2010 at Quinnell Hall, Sevenoaks Community Centre, Otford Road, Sevenoaks TN14 5DN

The programme is led by Michael Gandy, who will speak about Huguenot Ancestry, and includes Kathy Chater speaking about Black Ancestry in Britain, Jeanette Rosenberg talking about Jewish Genealogy and Peter Bailey imparting knowledge on Researching Ancestors in British India 1600-1947. The cost of the seminar will be £20 per person including drinks and a light buffet lunch and you do not have to be a member of the Guild of One-Name Studies to attend. For more information or to book a place visit: www.one-name.org or telephone: 08000 112 182

Brent Burial Records

Burial records from the London Borough of Brent are among the 250,000 records recently added to www.deceasedonline.com, which is a pay-per-view central database for UK burials and cremations.

Currently added are approximately: 15,000 burials 1917-2008 from Alperton Cemetery; 10,000 burials 1954- 2010 from Carpenders Park Cemetery (although this lies outside the Borough); 12,000 burials 1865-2006 from Willesden Old Burial Ground (St Mary's) and 1,400 burials 1877-1977 from Wembley Old Burial Ground (St John's).

Some of the places within the London Borough of Brent are: Alperton, Brondesbury, Dollis Hill, Harlesden, Kensal Green (and Rise), Kilburn, Kingsbury, Neasden, Park Royal, Preston, Stonebridge, Sudbury, Tokyngton, Wembley (and Park), Willesden (and Green).

Friern Barnet Workers

A new booklet, *Reminiscences of Friern Barnet Residents on Work and Apprenticeships* is now available to view on the Barnet Local Studies website at: www.barnet.gov.uk/reminiscences-booklet.pdf

This publication contains a fascinating mix of experiences about leaving school and starting work related by Friern Barnet residents. Supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, this oral history project captures the mood of change post Second World War and provides an insight into the opportunities and choices available to this generation. Many of the people participating were long-term Barnet residents and the booklet has photographs illustrating their association with the borough. The recordings are unique personal views on employment at a local level.

Open Day Visits

A lovely sunny day on 24 July brought the crowds to the Bucks FHS Open Day in Aylesbury. Many of them, members and visitors alike, found their way to our stand where Alan Baldwin, Eileen Bostle, Doreen Heywood and I enjoyed a brisk trade in books, maps, leaflets etc all day while dealing with a wide variety of questions. It was all very worthwhile.

As noted in the last METROPOLITAN we had expected to go to the West Middlesex Open Day in Hampton on 26 September but they cancelled the event due to unforeseen circumstances.

On Saturday 6 November we will be at the West Surrey Open Day in Woking (see page 19) and we look forward to meeting many of you then and renewing our acquaintance with members from outside our area. As usual, there will be a good selection of books, maps and so on but we obviously cannot take all the titles from the Society's list (see www.lwmfhs.org.uk). If you intend to come and want a specific item from the list, a relevant note to the Bookstall Manager would help her selection and avoid disappointment.

Rosemary A Roome

Barnet Local Studies & Archives Move

The Barnet Local Studies and Archives Centre at Daws Lane, Mill Hill, closed on 14 August and it will re-open at Hendon Library, The Burroughs, Hendon, London NW4 4BQ on Monday 8 November.

East Barnet WWII Heroes

For many years the war memorial in East Barnet village has commemorated the 51 local servicemen who were killed in action during WWI but the side reserved for those killed in WWII has remained blank.

This puzzled Mrs Catherine Loveday as a small child - she could not understand why her grandfather, killed aged 47 in 1917, had his name on the memorial whilst her father, killed aged 27 in the North Atlantic in 1941, had not. She determined to get her father's name on the plaque and finally persuaded the council to agree to this in 1995.

A comment from the then Mayor of Barnet that it would be nice to find all the other local heroes then prompted Mrs Loveday to begin a quest, which involved years of hunting through war archives, rolls of honour and church records to find these men and to raise the necessary funds to have their names added to the memorial.



A granite plaque (pictured above) with the names of the 46 men from East Barnet Village who were killed in WW2 was added to the memorial and a service of dedication, attended by more than 400 former servicemen and women, relatives of those who died and local residents was held on Sunday 17 July.

Mrs Loveday is now trying to achieve the same goal for the New Barnet War Memorial, also known as the East Barnet Valley War Memorial, where 135 names of WW2 heroes should justifiably be added.

RAF Hendon

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

On the weekend of 20-21 November 2010 there will be a Military Family History Weekend with information and help on how to trace your RAF and Army ancestors.

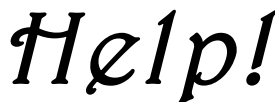
For further information on either of these telephone: 020 8205 2266 or visit: www.rafmuseum.org.uk

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

All surnames should be in CAPITALS.

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

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



CLARA EDWARDS

My Grandfather's sister, Clara EDWARDS, was born at Much Marcle, Herefordshire in 1857, the daughter of Mary EDWARDS. Can anyone help me trace her after 1881? The details that I have are as follows:

Clara appears as a 14-year-old nurse in the 1871 Herefordshire census for Ledbury Union Workhouse. In the 1881 London census she is living with Frederick J PATTON and family in New Cromwell Road, Kensington as a nursemaid aged 23. No further trace of Clara has been found.

Frederick J PATTON, a 30-year-old Barrister at the time of the 1881 census, was born in India. No trace of him is found in the 1891 census but in the 1901 London census Frederick J PATTON appears as a visitor from India, occupation Justice of Peace Bombay, together with his wife Edith. I have also found that there was a son, Frederick born in India about 1885 to Frederick J and Edith Patton. As Clara was a nursemaid to the children on the 1881 census and the family returned to India shortly afterwards, did she go with them? This would account for the loss of any further information. I do not know how to find this.

Mr DW Phelps, Member No. 7591

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Note: Frederick J PATTON was living in Folkestone with his wife and daughters (no sign of son Frederick) at the time of the 1891 Census - Clara is not one of the 4 servants listed as living in the household. (By the way the 1901 Census only says that Frederick J Patton was *born* in India, not that he was visiting from there - he could have been visiting from Folkestone!)

There is the possibility that Clara married. FreeBMD lists several Clara EDWARDSs marrying in the London area between 1881 and 1891.

ROSSON/DRURY LANE

My great grandparents Emma and Richard ROSSON and children were living at 9 Betterton Street, St Giles in the 1881 Census but when Emma died aged 33 in Stockwell Smallpox Hospital in 1884, her address was given on the Death Certificate as 165 Drury Lane.

On investigating this address, I was told that 165 Drury Lane and houses around were pulled down in the 1880s. Does anyone know why? I did wonder whether this had been a Workhouse as when Emma died, her younger children were put into Barnardo's and the older sent into service. I assume Richard could no longer look after the children on his own but he lived on until 1902.

Any information on that area of London during that period would be appreciated.

Sue Dunne, Member No. 7572

Penskeber, 1 Rockwell Barns, Rockwell Farm, Yeolmbridge, Launceston, Devon PL15 8TJ

Email: ennuds@btinternet.com

Note: Drury Lane was a dreadful slum which was cleared from the mid 19th Century and it is quite likely that 165 Drury Lane was pulled down for this reason.

In 1880 J Ewing Ritchie wrote in his book *Days and Nights in London*, in the chapter on 'The Low Lodging House' - It is chiefly to be found in Whitechapel, in Westminster, and in Drury Lane. It is in such places the majority of our working men live, especially when they are out of work or given to drink; and the drinking that goes on in these places is often truly frightful, especially where the sexes are mixed, and married people, or men and women supposed to be such, abound. In some of these lodging- houses as many as two or three hundred people live.'

Whilst we are not suggesting that your great grandparents lived in a 'low lodging house' or were 'given to drink', this extract contains eye-witness contemporary accounts of the local area. This book, and others detailing the sometimes appalling living conditions in London at this time, make fascinating reading and are available to view for free online at: www.victorianlondon.org

PROBERT

Please can anyone help me with any of the following?

William PROBERT, son of John and Eliza PROBERT, died aged 12 years on 6 December 1860 at Kings College Hospital. An inquest was held at Westminster on 8 December 1860. The Death certificate is dated 15 December 1860 and states that his home address was Dudley Street, St Giles. I would like to find where he was buried.

Emma PROBERT, daughter of John and Eliza PROBERT was born December 1856 and died of pneumonia aged 5 years at Dudley Street, North St Giles. No burial has been found for her either.

John PROBERT aged 46 years died on 8 August 1873. He served in the Royal Horse Guards for 21 years and died in Albany Street Barracks, Regents Park. I cannot find the burial. He is not in Windsor Cemetery, Spital Road, with his wife Emma PROBERT who died 4 February 1875.

Eliza PROBERT, born about 1854 in Somers Town, Middlesex. I cannot get a birth certificate - I have sent for a few but they are not mine. On the 1881 census there is an Eliza BAKER, wife, aged 27 born Somers Town, a Mantle Maker. She is the wife of a Benjamin BAKER, married, aged 33. carrier, born Somers Town, living at 25 Sidney Street, St Pancras. I need to find a marriage of an Eliza PROBERT to a Benjamin BAKER. Can anyone help, please?

Margaret E Probert, Member No. 7287

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

Note: We could not find a marriage between Benjamin BAKER and Eliza PROBERT but FreeBMD has, in the June quarter of 1878 at Pancras, a Benjamin BAKER and a George POINTS marrying an Eliza BUSBY and a Susan STONE. Annoyingly, the 1881 Census has both a Benjamin and Eliza BAKER and a Benjamin and Susan BAKER living in Pancras but no trace of a George POINTS to cross-check with. It is more likely that the Eliza in the 1881 Census is the Eliza BUSBY who married in 1878 but you would need to check further to know for sure.

1855 ST LUKE'S BURIAL

My 3x great grandparents were Charles HEAP and Elizabeth GREENAWAY who had married at St Luke's, Finsbury in 1802. Charles died in St Luke's 1855. Unfortunately, St Luke's closed its graveyard in

1854 and I still have not been able to find where Charles was buried. I know there may have been a Heap plot in the churchyard but there does not appear to be any records for such events taking place after 1854. I have, so far, searched Highgate, St Pancras, Victoria Park, Gibraltar Row and Abney Park (City of London did not start until 1856) without success. It would be interesting to know if any other St Luke's researcher has a late 1850s burial and knows where it took place?

Regarding my 3x great grandmother Elizabeth GREENAWAY, I wonder if she is connected to the extensive family tree of the well-known children's books illustrator Kate GREENAWAY (1846-1901) who exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1877. There have been many articles about her so I know she came from the Finsbury area and I have often wondered if any family historian has her family tree?

Dennis Galvin, Member No. 1046

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LADY ANN McCALL

I have a lovely charcoal picture and on the back it says 'Lady Ann McCall – Hampstead 1914' I have searched everywhere I can possibly think of to try and find out more about her but with no luck. Have any of your members ever come across her?

The picture was purchased from a family I think in Norfolk who were short of cash about 15 years ago. (The artist is John Arthur Machray HAY RP, born Aberdeen 1887, died London 1960, whose life is well documented.)

I have tried everywhere I can think of to find out about the sitter, Ann: The House of Lords; Who was Who; the internet; Burkes Peerage (they were very unhelpful); Census records; even marriage records looking for a Mr McCall marrying Ann with and without an E - that search took hours – and numerous and other places I have even forgotten about. It has been suggested by the local museum that being as the portrait was drawn in 1914 that it was done before her husband went off to war, apparently it was 'the done thing' at the time. Someone else also suggested that it was drawn at the time of her marriage. If you can think of anywhere or anybody else I can try please let me know.

Bryony Simpson, Non-member

Bridge House, Sepycoc Lane, Longford, Ashbourne, Derby DE6 3DR

Email:

bsimpson070@aol.com



Lady Ann McCall

Note: You seem to have searched extensively for Lady Ann MCCALL with no success. Are you *sure* that you have transcribed the name correctly? A phonetic search for MCCALL in online indexes brought names such as, MCCOOL, MCGILL, MCAULEY and MCCOLL. As the portrait was drawn in 1914 it might be worth searching the war records using these and any other alternative spellings you can think of.

YOUNG

Can anyone help with information on records held at London Metropolitan Archives (LMA)? I have the following information about Henry YOUNG, who could be my grandfather.

In the 1881 census Henry YOUNG aged 4 was an inmate of the Central London District School at Hanwell, Middlesex. I have the following information but this is not enough to establish whether he is my grandfather. I would like to find out who his parents were and what happened to him after 1881. Four children by the name of YOUNG lived at the Central London District School, Hanwell in 1881. Three were admitted on 7 October 1880 and I have the following extract from available records: Henry YOUNG, aged 4; Ellen YOUNG aged 5; and Samuel YOUNG aged 12 were all admitted to the Central London District School on 7 Oct 1880. Their religion was given as Church of England. The informant was the Clerk to the Guardians. Name and address of nearest known relatives - Not known.

No discharge date(s) given. There is no evidence that these three are siblings, but it is highly likely. Ref: LMA X 020/408. Available documents: Creed Registers 1869-1885 (Ref: CLSD/217-219)

Would anyone be able to help me to find out whether these three were siblings, who their family members were, when they were discharged, what they did at the school, or any other information that might be helpful.

Bonita Creswell-Young, Member No. 7554

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

Email: corblimey.too@bigpond.com

FORTHCOMING BRANCH MEETINGS

Barnet Branch – 7.30pm for 8.00pm

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

- Thursday 21 October *Putting the Meat on the Bones*
by Jeanne Bunting
- Thursday 18 November *Look Who's Behind You!*
(The evolution of pantomime from medieval
mystery plays to bands of travelling players.)
A presentation by Alan Ruston.
- Thursday 16 December No meeting
- Thursday 20 January *From Kruger to Kaiser*
(A soldier's career from private to RSM)
by John Pearson

City Branch – 12 noon for 12.30pm

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

- Thursday 28 October *Hatton Garden and Ely Palace*
by Malcolm Holmes
- Thursday 25 November *The History of Postboxes*
(To mark London 2010 : Festival of Stamps)
by Neil Lloyd
- Thursday 30 December No meeting
- Thursday 27 January *From Battlebridge to Bleeding Heart Yard –
The Place Names of Camden*
by Tudor Allen

ADVERTISING RATES

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

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See inside front cover for address.

Enfield Branch – 7.30pm for 8.00pm

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

- Wednesday 6 October *St Mary's Church, Hornsey*
by Bridget Cherry
- Wednesday 3 November *Enfield-Cuffley Railway Extension*
by Dave Cockle
- Wednesday 1 December Christmas Social
- Wednesday 5 January TBA

Rayners Lane Branch – 7.30pm for 8.00pm

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

- Friday 8 October Members' discussion on their own family
history research
- Friday 12 November *First World War Experiences*
by Ken Divall
- Friday 10 December Christmas Celebrations
- Friday 14 January TBA

Wembley Branch – 7.30pm for 8.00pm

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

- Monday 25 October *The Gentleman's Magazine*
by Alan Ruston
- Monday 22 November Pre Christmas Members' Evening

***** Meetings are suspended at the Wembley branch until further notice – see A Note from the Chairman on page 3 *****

COPYCAT BMD WEBSITES

The General Record Office (GRO) is the best place to go when you wish to buy a birth, marriage or death certificate. This can very easily be done online.

If you supply the GRO index reference the certificate is sent within four working days and for the standard service there is a fee of £9.25 which includes postal charges to anywhere in the world.

If you do not have the GRO reference the cost is the same but the certificate is sent within 15 working days.

There is a priority service whereby if you order by 4pm on a working day the certificate is sent by first class post the next working day. The charge for this priority service is £23.40 per certificate.

The GRO website is at: www.gro.gov.uk

However if you search online for, for example 'birth certificates' your search engine will probably bring up what are known as 'copycat' websites and these may well appear higher up the results page than the real thing.

Unfortunately a lot of these sites, which look very official, will charge you much more for performing these tasks. Typical prices for a birth certificate via these sites are £15.99 from www.UKOfficialServices.co.uk, £16.95 from www.vitalCertificates.co.uk and Ancestry charge £22.99 for a certificate delivered in up to 16 days and a massive £39.99 for one delivered in up to 6 days.

By the way, other internet sites such as shops are also affected by these copycats. You will need to check carefully that you have the correct website whatever you are buying!

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

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