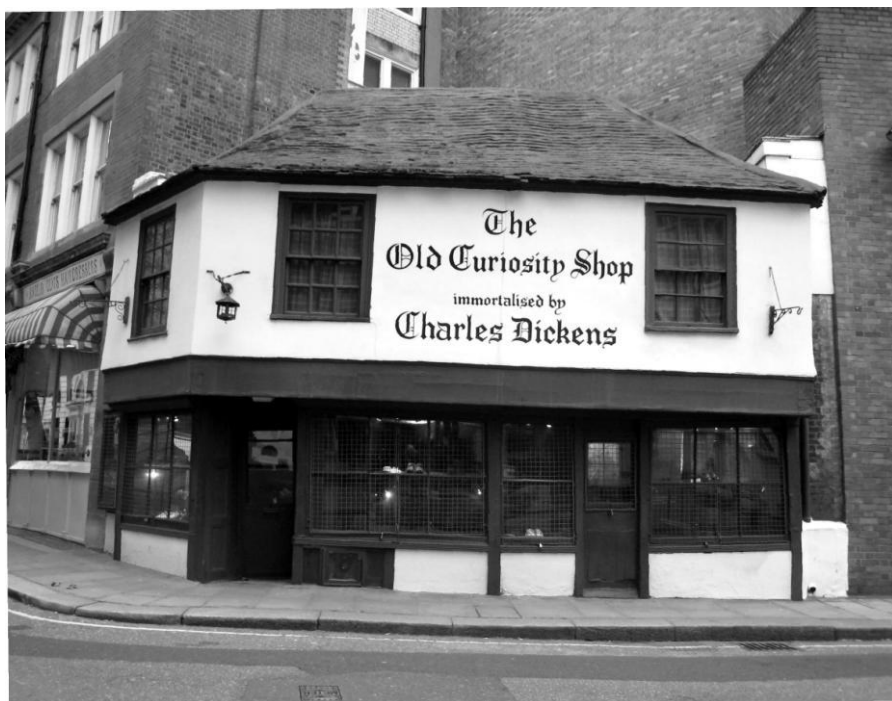


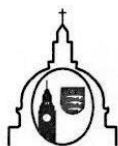
# METROPOLITAN

The Journal of the  
LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX

Family History Society



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April 2011

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Cover picture: The Old Curiosity Shop, 2011

© Barbara Haswell

See article on page 98

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## EDITORIAL

By the time you read this issue of METROPOLITAN the UK census for 2011 will have taken place on Sunday 27 March and some of you may have volunteered to help with the process. If so, we would be interested to hear of your experiences. Was it worthwhile? Would you recommend it?

It is 100 years since householders were required to fill in the forms themselves (see page 132) and the information to be provided increases on every occasion. There is some talk that this census could be the last as the necessary data could be obtained apparently from other sources at reduced cost – a suggestion firmly resisted by historians. The continuity of information is invaluable for family history research as we track our ancestors' progress. (The occasional odd entry or enumerator's pithy comment can be revealing or amusing so if you have found any examples do let the Editors have them for use as snippets.)

Our cover photo of the Old Curiosity Shop in Portsmouth Street, WC2 was taken in February 2011. The *London Encyclopaedia* published in 2008 describes it as a picturesque house built in about 1567, thought to be the oldest shop in London and selling (2008) gifts, antiques and mementoes. In 2011 it sells boots and shoes. The picture complements the article on page 98 which, in common with some other items in this issue of METROPOLITAN, includes various twists and should arouse *your* curiosity.

As usual our *Help!* section contains a wide range of requests and we hope that help may be forthcoming from those who have encountered similar problems. The article on page 104 about Sugar Bakers shows how one member's articles were of help to another on the opposite side of the world. Do tell us of similar occurrences.

Rosemary A Roome

Please remember that the copy date for the next issue is  
15 May 2011

## A NOTE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Our AGM this year was held in central London so that members who live in the Shires could get to the meeting. It had been suggested our recent venues had been out of the way for many members but on looking at the attendance sheet it became apparent that not many members had come in from outside London, there were 11 members from North West London, 9 from the North East side, 2 from Essex and 1 from Surrey. Our attempt to lure more people in seems to have failed and it has now been suggested that we revert to our old meeting time in March.

The venue itself was very interesting with members of the LDS Church obviously very busy with various activities and a few of our members beavering away downstairs in the Family History Research rooms. I think they may have had a job tearing themselves away as a few went back after the AGM had finished.

The talk given by Rachel Robins on the Family Search website was very informative and interesting even to those not into computing. The demonstration was live to the internet with Rachel using a laptop to access various features of the site which we all could follow on the large projection screen. The message to take away was that the site is forever changing as the system evolves over time. This does cause a few hiccups and problems even to the staff of the Family History Centre. The advice given was, be persistent and approach the site from different angles.

The AGM itself went quite smoothly but our retiring Treasurer Brian Green was unable to attend due to ill health. However I must take this opportunity to thank him on behalf of the Society for all his unstinting hard work over many years. We are still looking for a Treasurer and Brian will still be a member of our Society and is willing to give any advice if required.  
Bill Pyemont

## LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

I am writing in response to *A Note From The Chairman* in the December 2010 METROPOLITAN. Our daughter bought a hardback notebook last Father's Day for me for just such a purpose. Whilst I have already started jotting down those memories, I am thankful for the Chairman reminding me of further long forgotten memories that I should include. I was again reminded, just before Christmas, of the 40s and 50s when talking to our 9 year old Grandson who was just about to have a Class Birthday Party. When I told him that I only remember having one birthday party as a child in which three friends attended, he asked me 'if my Mum was mean?' This would have been the time after the War when we were all suffering from shortages. So perhaps this 'book' of mine will help to understand what life was like for my future family generations.

My other intention in writing though was to illustrate how one can take these 'jottings' to another level. My own hope and aim is to expand the idea and put together a (number of) family 'slideshow/audio visual(s)', enhanced by music, perhaps pan/zoom effects, comments by either or both text and audio, together with some of those now fading photos languishing in a family photo album. How it will work out remains to be seen but I have just purchased a couple of Alan Godfrey Maps for the time my father was born which will probably prompt me to visit the area with a camera. The theme and content though is only limited by one's imagination and direction.

Having used a couple of different programs, I now use PicturesToExe program which I am finding is quite easy to use and has quite widespread universal support for those FAQs. I have in the past with previous programs been disappointed at some stage afterwards when I find the DVD produced now starts to stick in the DVD player. (All that time and effort wasted!) PicturesToExe allows me not only to produce a DVD but also publish on Youtube or Facebook and/or also produce an exe file that can then be played on any computer. It supports not only the normal jpeg but also png, gif and bmp. Another advantage I found is that you are not limited to the number of pictures you include so the audio visual can be as short or long as you want.

This slideshow/audio visual program has opened up a new hobby, direction, and brand new learning curve as I am also now using my photo editing suite more as I try to improve my images and add layers.

Although not really local, I have also found that Upminster Camera Club has a monthly meeting on the first Friday of the month specifically on audio visual that, for me, has been very helpful.

There are many websites that can be found specifically about PicturesToExe which illustrate its appeal. However the main site for Information/forum on PicturesToExe can be found on: [www.wnsoft.com](http://www.wnsoft.com)

Upminster Camera Club is at: [www.upminstercameraclub.org.uk](http://www.upminstercameraclub.org.uk)

*George Chappell, Member No. 5964*

**A**mongst my late father-in-law's possessions was an old glass photograph dated 10 September 1870. With it was the following note:

‘My friend Francis Grenville (Smith) of Epsom told me that his grandfather was the last man in UK to die of ‘bubonic plague’. He lived at 310 Pentonville Road where he had a basket-making business. In the late 1800s masses of different types and sizes of baskets were required everywhere. The germ that caused his fever and death came to this country in a bundle of basket making material from Cyprus. This an early glass photograph dated 10/9/1870 of his grandfather's shop and shows the many types of baskets they made and sold on display.’

On the back of the photograph is written: ‘Mrs Leech, No 2 Treed(?) Terrace, Waverley Road, Park, Tottenham’.

If these names mean anything to one of your members I would be happy to pass it on. As a family historian (and a member of several FHS) I hate the idea of throwing away such a piece of history which must mean something to someone!

*John Williams, Non-Member*

*Email: [ourmail@chez-williams.com](mailto:ourmail@chez-williams.com)*

**I**n October 2010, a message went out from the Director of the Libraries, Archives and Guildhall Art Gallery Department explaining that the Department would have to make savings of 5.9% as its contribution to the budget reductions required by the City of London Corporation. In November the Comprehensive Spending Review led to a further 10% of savings being required, so the Department has to make savings of 15.9% in its budget for 2011-12.

It is not yet clear what the full range of savings will be as the situation is constantly changing. However, it is likely that for London Metropolitan

Archives this will mean closing on Saturdays and on an additional weekday, increasing charges, and some reduction in our conservation for access programme.

David Pearson, the Director of the Libraries, Archives and Guildhall Art Gallery Department, held two drop-in meetings in March to discuss the budget savings with users.

If you were unable to attend but would like to comment in writing, you may do so by emailing: lagagconsult@cityoflondon.gov.uk.

The deadline for comments is Monday 25 April 2011.

*City of London's Libraries, Archives and Guildhall Art Gallery's Heritage Services Division*

One of your members, Dennis STACEY, Member No. 3248, sent me a copy of December's METROPOLITAN in which you published an article about my Great Great Grandmother Charlotte BURNAGE.

I was fortunate enough to inherit a lovely family album which included the photograph you published. I happened across Dennis' website, contacted him and eventually forwarded a copy as a swap for a photo of her husband Joseph, so they were reunited in two family trees!

Jane STACEY married George ARKEY not ARKLE, an Omnibus Driver for the Great Northern Railway, on 3 July 1892 at St Anne's Church, Islington. Jane's brother Samuel STACEY signed as one of the witnesses. George was 21 and Jane 26 years old.

In the family group photograph (which was on page 76) my Grandmother, Sarah ARKEY, stands between her mother and father.

I have attached two photographs taken at York Road School, Islington. Sarah ARKEY stands in the back row on the left in the 1906 photo and stands 3rd left in a dark dress in the middle standing row in 1902. I have a feeling that these photographs were taken on Empire Day (24th May).

If these photos are of any interest, or you know of any other possible interested party, I would be happy to supply better quality versions.

I enjoyed reading your magazine.

*Ray Fairwood, Non-Member  
Wilpshire, Blackburn, Lancs.*

Mr Fairwood's photographs are shown opposite.





York Road School, Islington 1902



York Road School, Islington 1906

## THE HUNTING OF HEPHZIBAH

By Jim Nelhams, Member No. 7361

We decided that when we retired, we would try to trace our family histories. So began a challenging project. That it turned out to be so was unexpected. This is the story – so far.

Following advice to start with what we knew, we decided to concentrate first on my wife's family. We knew a lot about them. The age gaps between generations were large and going back just three generations took us to 1821. That is when William WILLOWS was born in the little village of Coton just west of Cambridge. He lived all his life there and is buried with his wife Margaret in the churchyard at the parish church. He had had 6 children and we knew the location of all their graves. Grandfather, William's son Eli, also had 6 children, by now all dead, and their deaths were all known. So off we went to the Cambridgeshire Record Office to confirm the dates and fill in a few blanks.

The Cambridgeshire Records Office holds the records of most churches in Cambridgeshire. Better still, most of them have been transcribed and indexed by members of the Cambridgeshire Family History Society, so locating entries is straightforward. Working backwards at the Record Office, we found all 6 children, but there were another five who had died in infancy. Some of the names had been re-used, so three of the eleven were named Peter and two Margaret. Next we found the marriage, in 1849, and to our surprise read that William was then a widower. Back further to find his first marriage on 18 November 1841 to a lady named Hannah ELLARD, and another surprise – there was a daughter named Hephzibah.

We have not been able to find Hannah's death but her burial is recorded at Coton on 19 October 1843. And although no birth was registered, Hephzibah WILLOWS was baptised at Coton on 23 December 1842. Perhaps Hannah died in childbirth with her second child. But what happened to Hephzibah? Searching the 1851 census, we found her with Hannah's parents, with her name shown as Elizebeth WILLOWES. Their surname is shown as ELWOOD rather than ELLARD, and they have a daughter Emily just one year older than Hephzibah. The family are in the village of Boxworth where Hannah had been born and where she married William.

In 1861, Hephzibah is in the village of Swavesey, working as housemaid to Mr William WICKHAM, a maltster and brewer. This time she appears as Hephzibah WILLIS. Her aunt Emily is working as a servant in the same village.

In 1871, her name is shown correctly, though she has moved to Ware in Hertfordshire, where she is working for the same employer – now shown as William WYCKHAM.

In 1876, she is back in Swavesey where on 24 August she married William WILLIAMS at the parish church. Tracking back to 1861, William is shown as the son of a Swavesey bootmaker living just a few doors from Hephzibah and Mr WICKHAM.

By the following September, Hephzibah and William had moved to Altofts, near Wakefield in Yorkshire, and a daughter, Ethel, was baptised at All Saints Church, Normanton on 2 September 1877. Shortly after that, a new church was completed in Altofts, and son Sidney Richard was baptised at St Mary Magdalene Church, Altofts on 8 June 1879. The four appear in Altofts in the 1881 census.

Then for a time, a brick wall, nothing being found in the 1891, 1901 or 1911 census records and no deaths. Some 18 months elapsed before records came online showing assisted passage emigration to Australia. And there we found them – arriving in Sydney in October 1883. The hunt resumed.

Older New South Wales birth, deaths and marriages records are now online and are quite informative with the birth and death certificate records showing the names of both parents when known. The records showed that Hephzibah and William had another son, Ernest William, after they had arrived, that all three children had married and that William had died in 1899 and Hephzibah (shown as Hepzibah) in 1920. Both deaths were recorded in the town of Gosford, some 60 miles north of Sydney.

Hephzibah's daughter, Ethel, had married a gentleman named Jesse DYER in Sydney in 1903 and searching the birth records, we found Jesse W DYER born in 1878 to Jesse and Charlotte. His age was close to that of Ethel and death records showed his death in 1941 in Sydney. Also shown were the deaths of Jesse, son of Jesse and Ethel in 1915, and Jesse son of William and Elizabeth in 1914 in Gosford. The birth records showed that Jesse and Charlotte had recorded 7 sons and had named their eldest after his

father. All seemed clear – Jesse (died 1914) and Charlotte had a son named Jesse who married Ethel and died in 1941, and they in turn had a son named Jesse (1905-1915). This proved to be wrong. The first Jesse had married Charlotte WHITE in 1877 and produced 7 sons, including Jesse William, before Charlotte died in 1901. Two years later, he married Ethel, who bore him another 5 sons, including another Jesse. Between 1903 and 1914, all three Jesses were alive – the father and his two sons, half-brothers.

Checking the death records, I found that Ethel DYER had died in 1972 at the age of 95 in Gosford, so using Google, I searched for DYER and GOSFORD and came up with a number of matches. Most showed a street named Dyer Crescent but three people were named. One of these worked as a DJ at a local radio station and, since he took requests, his email address was shown. I sent off a message.

36 hours later, I received a reply starting off ‘Hello relatives’ and attaching some photos. I had found Norman Keith (Tubby) DYER, grandson of Ethel and great grandson of Hephzibah. Tubby noted that he had not previously understood why his father’s middle name was Willows and now understood that it was Hephzibah’s maiden name.

My wife and I have family and friends scattered around the globe but we had never visited my wife’s niece in Sydney. For the beginning of 2010, we planned a trip round the world to visit some places we had always wanted to see and to catch up with various people. Dates agreed with the niece in Sydney, we booked all the flights and looked for hotels. We told Tubby that we would be around Sydney for several days and would visit Gosford to take a look around. To our surprise, he invited us to stay with him. Then a great friend of the niece was taken ill and she flew to London to see him – so that when we reached Sydney, she was in Ealing.

On our way to Sydney, we stopped for three nights in Johannesburg. Perhaps it was an omen, but the plane that took us on to Sydney was named Gosford. Our visit to Gosford proved eventful. First we visited the local library, where we found newspaper extracts including obituaries for Hephzibah and William. It transpired that Jesse DYER had a provisions shop close to Sydney harbour, supplying the shipping. He also had a fruit

farm in Gosford growing oranges and lemons (with the vitamins needed on voyages to combat scurvy) and apples. At some point, William became the manager of Jesse's farm.

Gosford must have been a new town in Victorian times, and William WILLIAMS is listed on the council website as a 'Pioneer'. In the Pioneers' Cemetery, we found his grave. Hephzibah was buried with him, and the next grave was of Jesse junior (1905-1915).

Tubby took us to the Central Coast Family History Society where we gathered more information, including the address of Jesse's shop and the graveyard where he was buried. Next a visit to Tubby's cousin Duncan, another of Ethel's grandsons, stopping en route at Dyer Crescent, which it transpired was named after Ethel when some of the farm land was sold. When Duncan's father died at the end of 2008, they had found some old framed photographs. These were of Ethel, Jesse senior, Jesse Junior (1905) and Hephzibah. So we had found her grave and her picture. The resemblance to pictures of her half-sisters from Coton was clear.

Back in Sydney, we set out to find the shop. Luckily it is in a conservation area, so the building still stands – today a branch of Burberry's. At the end of the alley next to the shop stood the local records office where we found records of Hephzibah's voyage – 75 days from Plymouth and when they arrived, the ship was quarantined as there had been outbreaks of measles and croup on the voyage and four children had died. We also found a copy of Jesse's will.

The following day, we found Jesse's grave. Oddly, he is buried with his first wife and their four sons who had died in infancy, thus confirming the relationships. So ended our time in Australia. We had followed Hephzibah and her family, found her grave and even had her photograph.

But there was a twist still to come. We, and Tubby, wanted to find where Jesse had come from. Looking at the immigration records, there seemed to be one obvious candidate, arriving at the age of 22 in 1876, and shown as a farmer from Oxfordshire. The 1861 census shows just one Jesse DYER of the right age in Oxfordshire, in the hamlet of Crawley, near Witney with his parents William and Elizabeth – names matching the death entry in NSW - and two brothers and a sister. William is a farmer. The 1871 census shows

Jesse in Witney working as an apprentice grocer. The rest of the family are now in the village of Hailey, close to Crawley.

Jesse's death certificate proved to be almost like a CV. It notes both his wives, the number of his children in each marriage, and the names of those still living at the time and lists his birthplace as Witney and his parents as William DYER and Elizabeth COX. Parish records show that William DYER married Elizabeth COX at Witney St Mary on 13 November 1839. Clearly I had found the correct Jesse.

When I visited the churchyard in Hailey just north of Witney, which covers Crawley, I found 5 graves for the DYER family – Jesse's parents, one sister, two brothers and their respective wives. Later, re-checking the newspaper report of Hephzibah's death, I noticed that Ethel's address was shown as Hailey Orchard.

Tracking the descendents of William and Elizabeth proved straightforward. I found them in a number of trees on Genes Reunited and Ancestry – all of which had not been able to trace Jesse after 1871. I was able to fill that gap, and in turn, the tree owners helped with mine.

Following the line of Jesse's brother Robert, I found that he had a daughter, Ada Fanny DYER, who in Hailey in 1898 married Ernest John CHANDLER from Derbyshire and moved with him to Ealing. One of their sons, Robert Storer CANDLER, had a son named Robert Hugh CHANDLER. That name rang a bell.

Robert Hugh CHANDLER in 1959 married Patricia Ann WILLOWS in Ealing and they had two daughters. Patricia is my wife's sister and one of her daughters was the niece we had planned to visit in Sydney.

So William WILLOWS' grand daughter Ethel WILLIAMS married William DYER's son Jesse in Sydney, Australia, in 1903 and William WILLOWS' great grand daughter Patricia Ann WILLOWS married William DYER's great great grandson Robert Hugh CHANDLER in 1959 in Ealing.

I started by saying that this was the story so far. Can there be any more twists?

## BOOK REVIEW

*Cinemas of Haringey* by Jeremy Buck, published by Hornsey Historical Society (2010) ISBN 978-0-905794-41-9, 140pages, paperback, price £9.99

This well-illustrated book has obviously required a great deal of careful and loving research by its author. It will be of interest to anybody who remembers the cinemas of pre-multiplex days or who has an interest in local social history or architecture.

As its title suggests the book covers the north London districts of Wood Green, Tottenham, Muswell Hill, Hornsey, Haringay and Finsbury Park. It lists a total of 44 cinemas, many no longer in existence, and gives a potted history of each, with details of dates of opening and closure, owners, changes of name, changes of use and, in most cases, a photograph or two of the establishment, including some interiors. Descriptions of the architecture and interior decoration of each cinema are included as well as, in many cases, recollections of people who were either employees or patrons.

It is a reminder of how popular ‘pictures’ or ‘flicks’ were in their pre-television heyday, not forgetting the Saturday morning sixpenny (or cheaper) rush.

Although the format is of necessity somewhat repetitive some nuggets of separate interest can be gleaned. In its 90 year history one cinema of my acquaintance opened and closed three times becoming, in the intervening periods, a bingo hall, a laser games centre and, twice, a place of worship. Other cinemas were also utilised for a variety of purposes when they were eventually overtaken by bigger or more modern competitors. The use of an organist or an orchestra, to entertain patrons during the customary interval, is also documented as is the query, by the cashier of one cinema, whether or not one would require tea and biscuits in the interval. Those were the – popcorn free – days!

Brian Green, Member No. 2449



## WHICH ONE WAS THE ‘OLD CURIOSITY SHOP’?

By Dennis Galvin, Member No. 1714

Sometimes, interesting stories present themselves in a most unexpected way. On this occasion I had been leading my local Ramblers group on a walk which included a visit to the ‘Old Curiosity Shop’, Portsmouth Street, which is a 16c building in an area of London known in earlier days as Clare Market, now Kingsway.

The ‘Old Curiosity Shop’ was once purported to be the residence of Charles DICKENS’s character Little Nell (Nell Trent) in the famous novel written between 1840-41. One reason for this was because Dickens visited the USA and made quite an impact during the five months he was there and thus many Americans who later came to London included the Old Curiosity Shop in their itinerary. The owner of the building was of course quite happy not to spoil the myth by displaying in quite large letters ‘immortalised by Charles Dickens’ on the wall and much memorabilia would have been sold through the years. However, it has to be said that Dickens certainly visited the shop as it is recorded that he went there to discuss a bookbinding order and indeed I cannot see any way that he would have missed a place like that in his travels around London.

Having said all that, the Dickens Society and other learned people quite clearly feel that the actual location of the Old Curiosity Shop was the corner of Green Street (now Orange Street) and Charing Cross Road. The north-west corner of the National Gallery, Trafalgar Square probably covers the site.

Now this is where the intriguing business starts. One of my fellow walkers said: “No, no, no! My ancestor’s antique and library shop was the original Old Curiosity shop at 24 Fetter Lane in the City”. Quite a bold statement and in due course I was given an absolute plethora of documentation which seems to prove beyond doubt that this is correct.

Pigot’s Directory of 1839 gives the following information: William HAINES printer & bookseller, 24 Fetter Lane. Also living at the address would have been wife Jane (born 1803 City of London) and daughter Jane (born 1831 City of London) as well as other siblings. Jane junior married



William CANE and they and their seven children were still living at the property, with widow Jane senior, in 1881. However, by this time the shop had become a china dealers.

I have a copy of an extensive article in the *Pall Mall Gazette* of 5 January 1884, it is headed 'The Old Lady of Fetter Lane'. Amazingly this publication also includes a sketch of Jane HAINES in her shop (shown below) with all the curios and library books in the background.



The article refers to much earlier days and describes the very old shop and many of the curios on display. It goes on to say 'Dickens must have burned much midnight oil as he never went away without a pile of books under his arm, which he had to return at his next visit. Dickens was generally

accompanied by a friend named WIFFEN, who was apprenticed to a gold-and-silversmith close by. These two and her husband, who was a master printer, used to sit long together in the little shop, when the details of the last new novel were discussed'. The report also mentions the chair which 'Dickens invariably used during his visit to the circulating library' and it is actually illustrated and captioned 'Dickens' Chair'.

A copy of an American publication dated 1911 called *Bookplates of America* has one particularly interesting snippet recalling the past: 'I bought this painting from Charles Dickens' friend, old Mrs Haines, as it hung in her inner parlour or sanctum. I also bought from the old lady an old crockery clock-case depicting the young Pretender and Flora MacDonald. The old dame talked of her recollections of folk such as Lord Byron and Charles Dickens and her own father, a Thames waterman. Then she pointed with pride to the plain chair in which Dickens, in later years, spent many an hour of many a day reading her husband's library books' and 'Here I have seen Dickens sit many hundreds of times, he used to lean his shoulder on the counter'.



The argument seemed to rage all over the English speaking world. A New Zealand *Evening Post* of 1911 has a long piece headed 'Is it Genuine? A question of authenticity' which mentions the owner of the Portsmouth Street building, a Mr PHILLIPS, not being prepared to sell the land for the erection of offices as he wanted it to continue as a national Dickens memorial. In fact £1,000 was raised in 1910 for this very purpose - £2,000 was the target. The publication also refers to articles (1902 and 1903) in the *New York Times*. Australia was of course also involved.

Well, there is all the evidence. I am now convinced that 24 Fetter Lane was what Dickens had in mind for his book albeit he may well have used licence with regard to what was in and around the building. Perhaps he

used a combination of all three of the aforementioned locations for the Old Curiosity Shop. One thing is certain, London is a fascinating place and Charles DICKENS certainly does his stint to make it even more interesting.

My thanks to Rosemary SIVITER (née CANE) the great great granddaughter of William and Jane HAINES, for loaning me all the remarkable ephemera. Wouldn't we all like to have a sketch of just one of our Georgian ancestors in their place of occupation! But then, if you do the research, you get the reward!

Footnote; my 3x great grandfather (Charles LOWTHER) was a City of London policeman 1832-1857. He lived close to Ludgate Circus and must have been based in the Police Station at Blackhorse Court, Fleet Street - for many of those years patrolling Fetter Lane on a regular basis. Therefore, I

think it not unreasonable to boldly say that my great great grandfather knew the shopkeepers (Mr and Mrs HAINES) who knew Charles DICKENS!!

Evam. 6,100 - March 1882.

**H. POOLE,**  
Waste Paper Dealer,



**WASTE PAPER DEALER,**

**"THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP,"**  
(Immortalized by CHARLES DICKENS)

**13 & 14, PORTSMOUTH STREET,**  
LINCOLN'S INN FIELDS.

Gives the best prices for all kinds of  
**PAPER FOR RE-MANUFACTURE,**  
Old Ledgers, Letters, Invoices, Briefs,  
PARLIAMENTARY REPORTS,  
And Waste Paper of every description  
Offices Cleared on the shortest notice  
**OLD PARCHMENT BOUGHT.**  
Communications by Post promptly attended to

NOTE: The 'Old Curiosity Shop' in Portsmouth Street (pictured left in an advert) was built using the wood from old ships in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century and miraculously survived the flames of the Great Fire of 1666 and the bombs of the Second World War. At one time it functioned as a dairy on an estate given by King Charles II to one of his many mistresses and it is still in use today as a boot and shoe shop.

## JOTTINGS

### 19<sup>th</sup> Century Photographs of Camden

The Local Studies and Archives Centre at Camden holds over 40,000 images of Camden past and present. Although this may sound a lot, they have several gaps in their picture collection. There are many photographs of the area for the early years of the 20th Century but very little representing the 1920s, 1930s, 1940s and 1950s.

For future generations of researchers, an old photo may unlock a door to the past. If you have any old pictures of streets that you perhaps once played in or places that you once visited on a family outing in Camden, a visit to the fair on Hampstead Heath perhaps, why not contribute to history and send a copy in? You can send them by email as a jpeg file via: [www.camden.gov.uk](http://www.camden.gov.uk)

The Centre's collections, including illustrations, are made available to all those wishing to research the history of Camden and illustrations are an important source of information.

### Colney Hatch

Until the mid 19 century, Colney Hatch was a rural hamlet near Friern Barnet, some eight miles north of London but it became very well-known due to the arrival of The Second Middlesex County Pauper Lunatic Asylum which opened in 1851. That same year the then Great Northern Railway opened the adjacent Colney Hatch Station (now called New Southgate) providing for commuters into London and both patients and staff to the Asylum.

It was the largest mental hospital in Europe with 1250 patients and in time the name came to be associated with madness as Bedlam had done in earlier times. With 140 acres of land the establishment was largely self-supporting with its own farms, water supply, gas works, brewery and laundry etc – even its own graveyard. Much of the work was done by the patients (which reduced costs and therefore the county rate) and gave them various occupations.

The London County Council took over responsibility for Colney Hatch in 1889, by which time there were more than 2000 beds. This number increased to about 3000 beds in WWI. In 1937 the asylum was renamed Friern Hospital (so no reference to Lunatic) and it closed in 1993. Most of the land was sold for housing and a Retail Park but the building was

converted into luxury flats. One local paper reported that ‘You would have to be mad not to live here!’

This year, 160 years after its opening, the Friern Barnet & District Local History Society wants to produce a comprehensive history of the Asylum/Hospital. Contributions are welcome, so if you or your ancestors were associated with the area or the hospital and you have any anecdotes, memories, memorabilia or photographs then please let David Berguer of Friern Barnet & District Local History Society have details.

Contact him at: 46 Raleigh Drive, London N20 0JD

Email: friernbarnethistory@hotmail.co.uk

### The List of Strays

The last two issues of METROPOLITAN featured London & Middlesex strays. One of our members who requested a copy of an obituary asked the Editors to ‘thank the person who sent such a comprehensive list’. In fact we just received a bundle of newspaper cuttings.



These came in all shapes and sizes and were completely random. The contents needed to be assessed and a plan devised for their presentation in METROPOLITAN. Then they had to be sorted alphabetically within the area of birth, either London or Middlesex. The next step was to extract the names, their associated births and the death dates and Country. Last of all everything had to be typed

into the pages for the journal.

So, thanks to the person who sent the cuttings to us and also to Barbara Haswell who had the patience to deal with it!

### The National Archives

The latest news from TNA is that charges for the car park have been put off for another 12 months - unless anything happens to make them think again.

## SUGAR BAKER ANCESTORS FROM GERMANY

By Marian Crew, Member No. 4718

Firstly, I would like to thank your committee for the wonderful work you have done over the years for the Society and also in the production of the magazine, and certainly hope that interested people are able to come forward to help. I read the magazine most avidly and from some fairly recent articles was able to piece together some information of my husband's ancestor who was a sugar baker from Hanover in Germany.

The articles in question were from the July 2008 and April 2010 issues of METROPOLITAN and were written by Eileen Blythe. I was able to follow up her suggested research and also to purchase the book to which she referred (*Sugarbakers From Sweat To Sweetness*, by Bryan Mawer, published 2007 by the Anglo-German FHS) over the internet.

The sugar refining industry commenced in Britain in 1554, reaching its peak between 1700 and 1900. In 1864, there were 23 producers of the sugar-loaf sugar in London alone, many of them situated in the East End of London. Thousands of men were employed in the trade but the work was so hazardous that even Irish immigrants refused to work there and so labourers had to be imported, many of them coming directly from Germany. The refineries were very prone to fires, explosions and other accidents and the hours worked were long and the conditions terrible.

I had known for some years that my husband's great, great grandfather, Friederick HEINRICHSEN (various spellings) was a sugar baker, who had married Catherine TEAPE (family from Ireland) on 23 January 1859 at St Peter's Church, Stepney. Frederick's father was a ship's carpenter. The 1861 census showed the family living in Albert Street, Shadwell and Frederick's place of birth given as Hanover. I therefore put this particular family away in the 'too hard basket'!

However, by the time I read Eileen Blythe's article in 2010, the years had moved on and research was at my fingertips. Using the website ancestry.com, I was able to find the following: from Alien arrivals 1826-1869, I found that Frederick HINRICHSEN arrived from the port of Bremen in Hanover on the screwboat *Pt Neptune*. Travelling with him were

Johann Heinrich BOYERS and Heinrich HINKUT, all sugarbakers – another avenue for research.

The 1851 census of St George in the East showed Frederick with several dozen other workers, many of them German, listed as working for Messrs Hall & Boyd, Sugar Refiners, Breezer's Hill. This refinery was well documented in Bryan Mawer's book which lists a boiler explosion which took place in 1855, from which 6 people died.

Birth and baptismal records for the children of Frederick and Catherine HENRICHSEN had Annie Margaret HENRICHSEN born 1859 in Red Lion Street, Stepney, with Henrietta (1860), Henry (1862) and Kate (1863) all born in Albert Street, Shadwell. At the baptism of the last child the father's occupation had changed from that of sugarbaker to mariner.

I had also known for a long time that Catherine HENRICHSEN, then a widow, was remarried on 2 August 1868 at St Olave, Southwark, to Valentine JEAL who was originally from Orpington in Kent. However, I was surprised recently to find from the London Parish records that Valentine and Catherine had 2 children together before their marriage – Elizabeth HENRICHSEN JEAL (1865) and Valentine HENRICHSEN JEAL (1867) both born in Camberwell. They had a total of seven children together between 1865 and 1878.

However, what happened to Frederick HENRICHSEN? Did he perhaps 'sail away' and return to his native land? I have tried in vain to find his death, which must have occurred between the years 1863, with the birth of his last child, and 1868 when the 2nd marriage took place, and would appreciate any comments or suggestions. I will however, join the Anglo-German Family History Society, a self-help organisation who can perhaps assist me in some way. It will be very interesting to establish a connection to the family in Germany and learn more about these very interesting ancestors.

Address: 1 Fraser Street, Gingin, Western Australia 6503  
Email: crewcm@bigpond.com

## DEATH ON THE LINE

By Hilary Holt, Member No. 7581

On 30 January 30 1924 Arthur Edward ROBINS, known to his family as Ted, was found dead on the LMS line out of Kentish Town. His duties that day were to be fog man, ie set explosive charges along the track to alert train drivers to signals ahead. According to evidence given at the subsequent inquest, he was walking along the tracks and in the foggy conditions was run over and killed by a goods train under a railway bridge. A witness at the inquest was quoted in the newspaper as saying that had he walked along by the wall of the bridge he would have 'escaped'.

Ted ROBINS was my mother's paternal uncle. When talking to my mother about her father's family, she mentioned that my grandfather's brother Ted had died in an accident on the railways, although she didn't know the details. My great grandfather, William ROBINS, was a train driver, and lived in Kentish town near the Chalk Farm railway depot. He and his wife had eleven children, and several of his sons followed him into railway employment, including my grandfather, Percy, so it seemed plausible that Arthur Edward (Ted) should have done so too. My mother knew no further details about Ted's death, so I decided to look into it.

I had assumed that Ted died young, but this was not the case. I found an entry in the 1911 Census for an address in Kentish Town where an Arthur E. ROBINS, a lodger, was described as a carman, aged 27. After searching FreeBMD for possible matches I obtained a marriage certificate for the marriage of Arthur Edward ROBINS to Lucy ROSE in November 1911. Lucy lived in Rhyl Street, which backs onto Marsden Street, where William ROBINS owned a house. Ted was 28 at the outbreak of the First World War and must have served in the armed forces: there is a photograph of him in military uniform taken by a photographer based in Derby, in which he is wearing two campaign ribbons on his uniform (see photo).

Ted and Lucy had four children. I assumed that Ted must have survived the First World War, or at any rate until the end of 1918, because his son Arthur Edward ROBINS was born in the September quarter of 1919, so I searched FreeBMD for possible deaths from 1918 onwards, and struck lucky, ordering the death certificate for the right Arthur Edward ROBINS





at the first try. The death certificate, which was issued after the inquest into Ted's death, gave me a lot of detailed information about the circumstances.

When Ted died he was 38 and working as a platelayer. At the time of his death he and Lucy lived at 35 Hadley Street, ten minutes walk from Kentish Town station in an area settled by the families of railway workers. The ROBINS family home in Marsden Street was a few minutes walk away from Hadley Street. The death certificate states that he died near the Mitre Bridge on Carlton Road. Carlton Road has been renamed Grafton Road, although the Mitre Pub, which stood on Carlton Road, and presumably gave its name to the bridge, is still standing.

According to Frank Hardy in his book *My Ancestor was a Railway Worker* 'the railway industry was one of the most dangerous after coal mining and quarrying' which means that many family histories must contain stories like this one. Ted's father William ROBINS died shortly after Ted in March 1924 and I wonder whether Ted's death hastened his father's. It struck me as poignant that, apart from his war service, Ted's life was lived within a very small area of London and the place where he died was not more than twenty minutes walk from his home.

From the *Holborn and Finsbury Guardian*, Friday 8 February 1924, Page 8  
'FOG TRAGEDY ON THE LINE

While proceeding to his duties – the laying of fog signals – on the L.M. and S. Railway at Kentish Town, Arthur Edward ROBINS (38), a platelayer, of Hadley street, N.W.1, was knocked down and killed by a goods train. Giving evidence at the inquest, a witness said that not only was it very foggy at the time, but under the bridge where deceased was, there was an accumulation of smoke and steam. Had he kept walking along by the side of the wall of the bridge instead of being on the railway track he would have escaped. The coroner recorded a verdict of 'Accidental death'.

Postscript: Ted and Lucy's children were: Priscilla E E ROBINS born June quarter 1912; William C ROBINS born December quarter 1913; Ralph V F ROBINS born March quarter 1916; Arthur E ROBINS born September quarter 1919. I have not done any more research into the children and what became of them, but maybe the names may mean something to one of my readers, in which case I would be pleased to hear from them.

Email: hilaryholtmail-01@yahoo.co.uk

*The Daily News*, 22 January 1846

Police-Hammersmith – Hocussing a carman – Yesterday a young man, named Samuel YOUNG, was bought up before Mr G CLIVE, the sitting magistrate, in the custody of the police, charged under the following circumstances – Policeman WARDEN, T211, deposed that about 23 minutes after 1 o'clock that morning he found the defendant in King-street, Hammersmith, driving the street cab No. 2341. Defendant was very drunk, and quite incapable of taking care of himself, as he was lying down on the foot board of his box, with his head hanging down over the wheel. Two gentlemen were inside the cab, who on it being stopped, got out and ran away. Witness took the defendant to the station-house.

The defendant, in answer to the charge, said he was not the regular driver of the cab in question, but the driver having been taken ill, he was on the previous evening put in charge of the cab by the proprietor. About 11 o'clock on the previous night, while on the stand in King William-street, City, he was hailed by two gentlemen, who desired him to drive them to Kew-bridge. When they got through Kensington turnpike they told him to pull up at a public-house on the right, which he did. The gentlemen went inside, and when they came out they gave him a bottle to drink out of which tasted of peppermint and in about five minutes afterwards a most extraordinary feeling came over him, and he had no distinct recollection of anything afterwards. He believed that they afterwards stopped at other houses along the road and had drink; then at Kew-bridge his hat was knocked off his head; but whether the two gentlemen left him there, or he brought them back to Hammersmith, and they there got out and ran away, as stated by the policeman, he did not know, but he knew he had no money for their fare.

Mr CLIVE asked what had become of the horse and cab and if the proprietor had any charge to prefer against the defendant.

Warden said the proprietor had fetched the cab away, and from what he had said there was every reason to believe that the defendant's statement was the truth.

Mr CLIVE said, under these circumstances, he should fine the defendant only five shillings for being drunk.

Sent in by H Sharp, Member No. 1379

# LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2011

The following are the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the above Society held on 12 February 2011 in the Institute Room at the London Family History Centre, 64-68 Exhibition Road, London, SW7 2PA.

Our President, Michael Gandy, BA, FSG, took the chair and welcomed 24 members to the meeting

## APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from: Our Treasurer, Brian Green, Elizabeth Burling, Raymer Lofts, Fiona Knight, Peter and Mo Baker, Anne Biesty and Eileen Bostle.

## MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Minutes of the AGM held on 20 February 2010 were taken as read and approved.

## MATTERS ARISING

The Committee had acted upon the suggestion made last year under Any Other Business, that a more central venue for the AGM would make it possible for more members to attend, and had booked the Institute Room at the London Family History Centre at no cost, although we would be making a donation to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

## REPORTS OF THE OFFICERS

The Chairman's Report was previously published in METROPOLITAN December 2010. Bill added that we are in the advanced stages of setting up a PayPal system for renewing membership subscriptions online. It would also be possible for people to join the Society direct from the website. He also reported that there had been a drop in membership from 966 last year to 783 to date. Membership was now half what it had been four years ago. There followed some discussion on the possible causes of this decline and the Secretary agreed to contact the Federation of Family History Societies to see if this is a national trend.

The Secretary's Report was previously published in METROPOLITAN

December 2010. There was nothing to add.

The Treasurer's Report had been made available to members prior to the meeting and was taken as read. Rosemary Roome explained that the rise in the cost per unit of the Journal was due to the annual April increase in postal changes, rather than printing costs.

The Officers' Reports were accepted by the meeting.

#### THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

The annual accounts were circulated prior to the meeting. It was established that the Treasurer had not expressed the need for raising the level of subscriptions at this time and that, in spite of the deficit for the year, there were sufficient funds to continue for a few more years. The Annual Accounts were adopted by the meeting.

#### ELECTION OF OFFICERS

No nominations had been received for any of the posts.

Tricia Sutton said she was willing to continue as Secretary.

William Pyemont agreed to continue as Chairman for the time being, at least until a new Treasurer is in post.

Our President asked for volunteers for the office of Treasurer, but none was forthcoming. Anne Prudames said that she currently does the banking and Bill said he can also sign cheques. Our President said the Society could continue for the time being without a Treasurer, but suggested that we might find a non-member friend or relative who would be able to keep the books, if no-one within the Society was able and willing to take on the task.

#### ELECTION OF OTHER COMMITTEE MEMBERS (en bloc)

The following members were willing to continue in post

|                        |                   |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Membership Secretary:  | Anne Prudames     |
| Projects Co-ordinator: | Doreen Heywood    |
| Editorial Team:        | Rosemary Roome    |
|                        | Barbara Haswell   |
|                        | Elizabeth Burling |

It was noted that the Editorial team only sends one member to Executive Committee meetings as of right and that each Branch is represented by a Committee member.

Our President asked the meeting if anyone else would like to join the Committee. Elaine Tyler offered to serve on the Committee and was

elected nem.con.

### ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was a recommendation that in future the AGM should be held later, preferably in March, subject to availability of venue, to avoid the dates of other events, such as the Haringey Local History Fair at Bruce Castle and the Who Do You Think You Are? Live event, which both take place in February. The Secretary agreed to this. However, she pointed out that the current venue was booked last July, long before other dates were published. A member from the floor thanked the Committee and Branch organisers for their hard work on behalf of the Society and for arranging the central London venue.

Our President formally closed the meeting at 3.40 pm.

## Buckinghamshire Family History Society OPEN DAY

Saturday 30 July 2011 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.

London Westminster & Middlesex FHS, other FHSs, 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](http://www.bucksfhs.org.uk)

## **TREASURER'S REPORT** for the year ending 30 September 2010

The decline in the Society's financial fortunes noted for 2009 continued during 2010. The decrease of £2,169 in subscription income indicates a reduction in membership of approximately 180 members and follows a loss of about 70 members in the previous year. The sale of publications is also down on last year and additionally £700 has been written off the value of the stock of microfiche which are less and less saleable due to the gradual universal move to the CD format. The overall cost of METROPOLITAN has decreased but this is due to a reduction in the number of copies produced and distributed; the unit cost per distributed copy has risen by 20p during the year. Branch meeting costs have remained almost unchanged, although it must be mentioned that hall hire charges do increase each year and savings can only be achieved by using fewer or less expensive speakers or fewer meetings. The overall reduction in general administration expenses arises from small savings in several areas, including membership expenses, attendance at fairs and website expenses. The increase of £1,318 in bank balances is more apparent than real; when amounts owing to and by the Society are taken into account, there has been a decrease of £974 in available funds.

To repeat what I seem to say every year, we have money in the bank sufficient to keep us solvent for a period, but the time period is gradually reducing – from 27 months at 30 September 2007 to 21 months at 30 September 2010. I see no immediate need to increase subscriptions but they ought to be at a level sufficient to meet all the Society's running costs, which they have not done for the last two years.

I must also repeat my stated intention to stand down as Treasurer from 31 March 2011: a suitable custodian of the Society's funds needs to be found in the very near future.

*J Brian Green*  
*Treasurer*

## **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT** for the year ending 30 September 2010

In accordance with instructions given to me and without conducting an audit, I have examined the books and records of the Society and carried out such checks as I considered necessary. In my opinion such books and records have been properly maintained and the accounts produced therefrom represent an accurate statement of the Society's affairs at 30 September 2010 and of the deficit for the year to that date.

# LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Abbreviated profit and loss account for the year ended 30 September 2010

|                                     | 30 Sep 2010    | 30 Sep 2009    |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>Income:</b>                      |                |                |
| Subscriptions                       | 10,705         | 12,874         |
| Publication sales revenue (net)     | -499           | 172            |
| Interest received & sundry receipts | <u>236</u>     | <u>93</u>      |
|                                     | 10,442         | 13,139         |
| <b>Expenditure:</b>                 |                |                |
| Metropolitan Journal                | 6,343          | 6,877          |
| Branch Lecture Costs                | 4,209          | 4,227          |
| Administration & general expenses   | 1,460          | 2,457          |
| Depreciation                        | 135            | 201            |
|                                     | <u>-12,147</u> | <u>-13,762</u> |
| <b>Net Deficit/Surplus</b>          | £ -1,705       | £ -623         |
|                                     | =====          | =====          |

Balance Sheet as at 30 September 2010

|                              | 30 Sep 2010   | 30 Sep 2009   |
|------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| <b>Fixed Assets</b>          |               |               |
| Office Equipment             | 476           | 611           |
| <b>Current Assets</b>        |               |               |
| Stock of Publications        | 3,120         | 3,717         |
| Prepaid Expenses             | 125           | 2,095         |
| Cash & Bank balances         | <u>25,767</u> | <u>24,449</u> |
|                              | 29,012        | 30,261        |
| <b>Current Liabilities</b>   |               |               |
| Subscriptions in Advance     | -477          | -350          |
| Creditors & accrued expenses | <u>-1,714</u> | <u>-1,520</u> |
|                              | <u>26,821</u> | <u>28,391</u> |
|                              | £ 27,297      | £ 29,002      |
|                              | =====         | =====         |
| <b>Financed by:</b>          |               |               |
| Balance Brought forward      | 29,002        | 29,625        |
| Net deficit/surplus for year | <u>-1,705</u> | <u>-623</u>   |
| <b>Members' Net Funds</b>    | £ 27,297      | £ 29,002      |
|                              | =====         | =====         |



## WEBSITE NEWS

### Virtual Tour of Hampstead

If you are at all interested in Hampstead (and even if you are not, I find!) then this website will be of interest to you. The Hampstead area is split into four: West Heath; Sandy Heath; East Heath and Hampstead Village and each of these parts contains photographs, paintings and information on the local buildings and other features.

This site is now expanding into nearby parishes such as Willesden, Kentish Town, St Pancras and King's Cross. Useful pages contain a name index to Hampstead people mentioned in *The Times* from 1785-1985 and a handy Family History page with lists of local schools, benevolent institutions, pubs with their landlords and more. Some births, marriages and burials in St John-at-Hampstead have been transcribed and are available to view for free. Do explore this knowledgeable site. It can be found at: [thevirtuallourofhamptstead.co.uk](http://thevirtuallourofhamptstead.co.uk)

For those of you with Epsom or Ewell (Surrey) ancestors there is a similar site at: [www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk](http://www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk)

If you click on 'Site Map', which is found on the left-hand side of the Home page, an alphabetical list appears. Under E you can reach Epsom and Ewell cemetery burials and under F is a family history page with BMDs for various churches and much more.

### The West End and the Blitz

Westminster City Archives has launched a new community website as part of a larger project to mark the 70th anniversary of the Blitz. The site features never before seen colour film, summaries of bomb incidents, eye-witness accounts of the Blitz and contemporary art works commissioned to record the impact of the Blitz.

A large part of this website has been put together by volunteers and contributions from members of the public are most welcome. If you have memories of London at war all you need to do is register with the site and follow the simple on-screen instructions. You can include words and/or pictures, as much or as little as you like and it is possible to go back and edit your work later before you submit it. Hazel Kirby, for instance, has written about her experiences working for the Ministry of Aircraft Production and Florrie Webb's page is all about the Black Market.

This website is at: [www.westendatwar.org.uk](http://www.westendatwar.org.uk)

## Metropolitan Police Book of Remembrance

As a tribute to officers who died before the Roll of Honour started in 1920, and in recognition of other officers who have died in the course of their duties but whose names have not been formally recorded, a new Roll of Honour has been compiled and is contained in a Book of Remembrance. The original is displayed at the Peel Centre, Hendon and a copy is available to view for free online.

It starts with PC Joseph GRANTHAM, who was kicked in the head attempting to arrest a drunken man at a disturbance in Somers Town in 1830, mentions en route PC Henry Samuel GRAHAM who died from injuries sustained in an accident while on mounted duty at the Lord Mayor's Show in 1892 and also PC James Warrender THOMSON KPM who was struck and killed in 1935 while trying to clear a crowd from the path of a lorry at Barnet Fair.

Altogether over 500 policemen are remembered on this site which is at: [www.met.police.uk/history/remembrance2.htm](http://www.met.police.uk/history/remembrance2.htm)

## A Date With History: a new online project in Westminster

During 2011 Westminster's history for each day can be viewed, as Westminster City Archives are publishing images from their collections on their website. You can find out what was happening on today's date 50, 100, or even 200 years ago, experiencing the celebrations, disasters, traditions and changes witnessed by Londoners past and present.

For example, 2 January shows a picture of the Open Air School in St James's Park, with Miss WALSH taking a lesson and about 16 children sitting at desks on the snowy grass. On 21 February the image featured was 'Engraved for the Rev. Southwell's New Book of Martyrs' and shows the murder of Sir Edmund Berry GODFREY, magistrate and vestryman of St Martin-in-the Fields, who was run through with his own sword on Primrose Hill. Robert GREEN, Lawrence HILL and Henry BERRY were executed for this murder on 21 February 1679.

All the previous days of the year are available to view too. You can visit this website at: [www.westminster.gov.uk/services/libraries/archives/day-by-day/](http://www.westminster.gov.uk/services/libraries/archives/day-by-day/)

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.

## ARISTOCRAT OR NOT?

By Ron Bowyer, Member No. 4416

My interest in Family History arose after the passing of my mother in 1994 when the original marriage certificate of my Grandparents came into my possession. George James PERSCHKY (pictures below) married Louisa Jane DEPRADINES on 13 January 1879 at Holy Trinity Church, Cloudesley Square, Islington.



When I was about the age of ten my father went to work as a civilian driver for the Royal Air Force. Governmental security checks had to be made on the family background as access to MOD sites would be involved. The information that came back has intrigued me from then to this present day. The name PERSCHKY was of Prussian origin and DEPRADINES was of French origin and we were

possibly descended from a French count.

I began my research by delving back through the IGI and the first record found was the marriage of Martin Benjamin PERSCHKY, a Puke maker, to Rebecca TOLLEY on 2 April 1738 at St Anne and St Agnes, Aldersgate. Going further back on the female line through the IGI took me as far as a Samuel GARRETT in Enfield, born about 1594.

Martin and Rebecca had three daughters and a son, Daniel Benjamin PERSCHKY born 12 December 1743. He married Mary WALKER on 28 March 1768 at St Leonard's, Shoreditch. They had two daughters and two sons between 1769 and 1787 and possibly another two sons. I presumed that they were my 2x Great Grandfather, George James PERSCHKY born c1799, and John James PERSCHKEY of whom it is known married Ann WATSON on 17 February 1824 at St Andrew's Parish Church, Holborn. Census shows that he had died before the 1841 census. Their baptisms have not been found from researches made so far.

George James, a Shoemaker, married Harriet Catherine STRONG on 28 January 1823 at St Luke's, Old Street, Finsbury. Up until his death in 1841



the family were living at 12 Green Arbour Court, Finsbury. This was just yards from the gate of Newgate Prison on what is now the site of Holborn Viaduct Station. There were four children from this marriage, the second of which was my Great Grandfather, George James PERSCHKY, born on 26 January 1827. He married Susan Ann SOMERVILLE (born 1825, pictured left) at Harefield, Middlesex on 4 December 1853. In the 1861 census George and Susan are residing with their three children at 44 Chatham

Gardens, Hoxton, Shoreditch. The youngest child was my Grandfather, George James PERSCHKY who was born there on 4 September 1859.

My Grandmother, Louisa Jane DEPRADINES (shown below), was born on 25 May 1865 at 31a Wellesley Street, Mile End, London, the fifth child of eleven. My Great Grandfather, Augustus James DEPRADINES a Lighterman, was born on 1 November 1835 in Whitechapel. He was the fifth child of my 2x Great Grandfather Stephen Armand De PRADINES a Coppersmith, born 1793 in the West Indies and Ann. Augustus James had six siblings; Charles Joseph (1820), Elizabeth (1821), Armand (1823), Mary Ann (1825), Benjamin Reed (1837) and Thomas Ernest who was born on 9 February 1840, at Bedford Street, Whitechapel.



It is said, according to Thomas Ernest's daughter Albertina Stephina

DePRADINES (born 1884 in Pretoria) that Thomas went to sea at the age of eleven years and had sailed round the globe three times by the age of twenty one. In that time he had claimed to have worked with Florence NIGHTINGALE and eventually landed in Durban, South Africa. Next he served under Sir Walter CURRIE in the Cape Mounted Rifles. I have a copy of a letter from Stephen Armand DePRADINES to the Secretary of the Colonial Office dated 5 February 1860, in which he is asking if knowledge could be obtained of his son's whereabouts in South Africa. Thomas Ernest was the first baker in Pretoria and then went on to open the first Hotel in the town. His descendants are still around Pretoria and as far afield as Australia.

Seven months after the baptism of their son Thomas Ernest, Stephen Armand and Ann LALAND felt it was time they wed. The ceremony took place on 2 November 1846 at All Hallows, Barking. Their residence was given as The Czars Head, Tower Street, Barking. Stephen gave his father's name as Leon Gabriel DePRADINES a planter. Ann named her father as George LALAND, a baker.

Further research then took us to the island of Grenada in the West Indies.

Through the internet we came across two French genealogists, one Serge RADIGUET who sent a message to the list GHCarib in 2006, subject FOURNIER de CARLES de PRADINES (Grenada, Martinique), the other Jean GALLIAN who had produced a colourful heraldic family tree which is worth viewing on these two links:

<http://jean.gallian.free.fr/comm2/Images/genealog/fournier/p1a.pdf>

<http://jean.gallian.free.fr/comm2/Images/genealog/fournier/p1b.pdf>

The tree starts with a Girard FOURNIER (Chevalier) c1327. It is the marriage of his 5x Great Grandson Charles FOURNIER (Squire) on 27 August 1578 to Philippine-Germaine de CARLES (Dame de Pradine) by which the full family name comes together. Their second son was Charles FOURNIER de CARLES (Knight, Lord of Pradines) who was rewarded for his dedicated allegiance to King LOUIS XIII. On 25 April 1637 he was made an Ordinary Gentleman of the Chamber of the King.

The Great Grandson of Charles FOURNIER, b1582, was Jean Leon de

FOURNIER de CARLES de PRADINES (Knight) born 5 May 1673. After the death of his brothers, he became head of the family, inheriting a small estate. Eventually he sold his possessions and went to America. He was a Lieutenant in Martinique in 1694. He married Dorothee de SAINT-MARTHE on 9 October 1697 at Fort Royal, Martinique. Her father was the Governor of Martinique in 1672. Jean-Leon was made a Lieutenant of the King in Grenada on 27 April 1716 and made a Knight of the Order of St Louis on 28 June 1718. King LOUIS XV made him Governor of Grenada 1734-1748.

Their son Jean-Baptiste, Gabriel de FOURNIER de CARLES de PRADINES born c1718, started out as a naval officer. He was sent to France by his father in 1738, to prepare for studying a Musketeer military career. He participated in the Battle of Dettingen in 1743 and was wounded in the knee at Fontenoy. He left the Musketeers in 1745 and returned to Grenada to serve as Assistant-Major under his father, the Governor. He was injured in the retaking of the island from the English on 2 July 1779, under the leadership of the Count of ESTAING. On 22 June 1784, like his father, he was made a Knight of the Order of St Louis and on 28 June 1784, the position of Lieutenant General was his. He received a letter of congratulations from LOUIS XVI, naming him the Marquis of Pradines. After his return to Grenada in 1745, he married Marie-Madeleine AUDIFFREDY, actual date unknown, and there was no issue. His second marriage was to Elizabeth Marguerite de GANNES de la CHANCELLERIE who gave him two sons. Jean-Louis Leon de FOURNIER de CARLES de PRADINES (Marquis de Pradines) was born, it is believed, in Martinique c1760 - his death was c1828 in Grenada. Their second son was Elie-Gabriel de FOURNIER de CARLES de PRADINES (Comte de Pradines) born 18 November 1777 in Grenada. Also there were six daughters from the marriage.

Elie-Gabriel was in Marylebone, London on 1 May 1806 (an address of St Paul Court Gardens, Middlesex was shown) where he married Louise Victoire de SIMONY de BROUTIERES. They returned to Grenada where he died on 5 October 1812.

With the release of the Slave Registers by The National Archives on Ancestry more light was thrown on plantation owners on Grenada. A return

of 6 May 1817 gives a list of Slaves belonging to or owned by Leon De PRADINES with further returns in 1820/1 which give names of children, one of which is named Armand. Is this my 2x Great Grandfather or a younger brother? With the Fedon Uprising in the 1790s life on Grenada was dangerous and maybe that was when the aristocracy decided to drop their titles and anglicise their names. Other family members decided to return to France, rather than give allegiance to the British crown.

A cousin, Trevor BANKS went to Grenada in June 2010 and met the former Curator of the Grenadian Museum, who is also a local historian. He made it possible for my cousin to have access to various archives normally not available. He was allowed to photograph pages and pages of Indentures, Surveys and Church Registers. He was able to pinpoint the location of the various De PRADINES properties one of which is now Government House. Unfortunately the birth of Stephen Armand DePRADINES has not been found. Maybe this time next year I will know, as Trevor is thinking of making another visit in 2011.

So, do I have noble blood flowing through my veins, or not? That is the question!



## THE LONDON MAZE

Saturday 16 April 2011  
from 10am to 4pm  
at Guildhall, Aldermanbury, London EC2P

For one day the City of London opens up the whole of the Guildhall complex to host displays by community history groups, local societies, museums, archives and libraries; talks; guided walks; tours of the Guildhall Art Gallery and the Roman Amphitheatre; film shows from the City's archives and performances from youth and adult groups.

For more information visit: [www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/londonmaze](http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/londonmaze)

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.



## GEORGE WILLIAM SMITH

I should be very grateful if you could help me in finding out what happened to my Great Uncle George William SMITH who was born 24 November 1854 in Shadwell, Middlesex.

He became a baker in his father's business but committed some misdemeanour and left the family home in 1876 to enrol in the Army. He spent 10 months at Aldershot and was then at Chelsea Barracks until June 1879 when he volunteered for the Zulu War and was later involved in the 1<sup>st</sup> Anglo-Boer War. His army number was 1683 and he was a baker in the Commissariat Section of the Army Service Corps.

I have many of the letters he wrote from South Africa during 1880/1881. These were to his sister (my Grandmother) but later, at her request, to his parents, the first one to them expressing his deep penitence for his misdeed. His descriptions of some of the battles that took place are extremely vivid as it was fighting with swords. The last letter I have is dated 18 December 1881 in which he talks about his return to England and his anticipated pleasure at seeing the family again. I am trying to find out what happened to him after his return and know from records at Kew, identified by his Army No., that he was discharged by purchase on 10 May 1882 at Aldershot. After that I have no other information.

PS His father Joseph SMITH mentions George in his will dated 12 February 1900 (although he incorrectly calls him George Alexander) and says that he hasn't heard from him in more than 12 years.

Further confusion is that another GWS was born in Shoreditch in 1853/54 but I believe he died in 1889.

I found a George SMITH (no middle name) baker age 46 on the 1901 census as a convict in Portland Prison, Dorset! Perhaps he reverted to his old ways! Dorset County Archives did not have relevant records and neither did Portland Prison so I am not able to confirm this and hope you might have some other suggestion. I found three George William (or W)



SMITHs on the 1911 census but have been able to eliminate them all.

I am wondering how best to keep the letters. I have had photocopies made for myself and my brother and the originals are preserved in special folders – would you know if a museum might be interested in having the originals on indefinite loan? My children are not very interested in family history at the moment but, who knows, neither was I at their ages!

*Sylvia Mann, Member No. 5254*

*18, Waterlow Road, Reigate, Surrey, RH2 7EX*

*Email: sylvia898@btinternet.com*

Note: It is never going to be easy locating someone with a common surname like SMITH. You are going about things the best way by following all leads and eliminating those that are definitely not your great uncle. It might be worth pursuing Portland Prison records. If you could find out when and where this George SMITH was convicted you might then be able to find him in a local paper.

The National Army Museum at Royal Hospital Road, Chelsea, London SW3 4HT, email: info@nam.ac.uk, phone: 020 7730 0717 or the relevant Regimental Museum, which is the Royal Logistic Corps Museum, Princess Royal Barracks, Blackdown Road, Deepcut, Camberley, Surrey GU16 6RW, email: information@rlcmuseum.com, phone: 01252 833371, might very well be interested in your letters.

## DRAPER

I am trying to trace Richard DRAPER. I have no birth or death date but know he was married to Ellen DRAPER, formerly BURDEN. The couple had one son, John DRAPER, born 19 June 1856 at 27 Riding House Lane, Marylebone. This was registered on 29 July 1856 (Sub-district All Souls). The only possible trade Richard DRAPER had was a butcher master.

Is Riding House Lane now Riding House Street?

*Mr P A Draper, Member No. 7617*

*Little Park, Westchilla, Beaworthy, Devon EX21 5XQ*

*Email: philandrew1@hotmail.com*

Note: There is no Riding House Lane in Marylebone in the 1861 census and there is no Riding House Street in Marylebone in the 1851 census. The numbering of the houses shows great similarity so probably the two roads are one and the same.

## MARTIN/ PRATT/ ISRAEL/ HARKER

I was told that my father, Frederick George Clifford MARTIN, was born 22 February 1894/95 at Marylebone, LDN. I have tried without success to obtain copies of his birth or death certificates. Difficulties have been mainly due to his and his mother's domestic arrangements!

His mother, Mary Ann Polly MARTIN née HARKER, was born in 1866 at Westminster, LDN and died 1937 at Mill Hill, MDX. We have a birth, death and a Hendon Cemetery burial certificate for her. The burial plot was taken out by her son, my father, Frederick MARTIN in 1937, and this information has been confirmed by the existing family members and Hendon Cemetery register.

Mary Ann's father was George HARKER, born c 1827 (gunsmith) and her mother was named as Helen Frances SIBLEY. Mary had three siblings: Jane Maud Mary born c 1863; Ada Annie born c 1868 and Ellen born c 1871.

Mary Ann appears to have first married a Henry ISRAEL (boot maker) on 25 December 1890 at Paddington, LDN. The relationship produced a daughter Rose ISRAEL born 1887 Paddington. Witnesses to the marriage were Mary Ann's sister Ada Annie FINBOW, née HARKER and her husband Henry FINBOW.

The 1901 census shows Rose (S or I) PRATT aged 14 living with mother Mary (J or I) PRATT, Fredk PRATT aged six and Walter PRATT aged one month. They lived at 44 Bayham Street, Paddington. The head of the household was a Henry PRATT aged 28 years. We have a copy of the birth certificate for Walter Henry PRATT from 1901 which shows his mother as Mary Ann PRATT formerly HARKER and father Henry PRATT.

The 1911 census shows Henry MARTIN, MARTIN (wife), F. MARTIN (son) aged 16 years and W MARTIN (son) aged 10 years. They are now living at 20 Loveridge Road, Kilburn MDX. It is stated that they have been married 17 years and have had 4 children born alive, 3 children still living. Rose by now is 24 years old and married. We have a copy of her marriage certificate to William CROFT dated 27 July 1907, Hendon, Willesden, MDX and it shows her father as Henry ISRAEL deceased.

On leaving school, my father Frederick was employed as a boot salesman (census 1911) then in the army 1914-1918 as a driver RASC (army records); in civilian life he was a munitions worker, music hall artist, LCC painting instructor, commercial artist, sign writer and lastly a motor mechanic. His surname in the 1901 census is PRATT, in the 1911 census MARTIN, army records in 1914 have him as MARTIN, he married as

MARTIN in 1915. His first child 1916, second 1918 and third 1936 all bear the surname of MARTIN, yet when his brother Walter Henry PRATT MARTIN married in 1924, Frederick signed the register (as witness) as Frederick George PRATT MARTIN. Father Henry, now deceased, is referred to as Henry PRATT MARTIN. Walter's three children by his first marriage all use the surname MARTIN and not PRATT, as does the one child of his second marriage.

We can find no trace of marriages to a Henry PRATT, Henry MARTIN or Henry PRATT MARTIN!

Frederick's father was said to have died in Hanwell Asylum, Uxbridge, MDX but who was his father - Henry ISRAEL, PRATT or MARTIN? Perhaps they did not like the surname PRATT!

If anyone can throw any more light on this my family, I would greatly appreciate the help.

*Miriam A Saunders, Member No. 7614*

*53 Station Road, Purton, Swindon, Wiltshire SN5 4EL*

*Email: mirron@talktalk.net*

Note: Rose Elizabeth ISRAEL's birth was registered in the September quarter of 1888 at Paddington, Volume 1a Page 44. This was before Henry ISRAEL married Mary Ann HARKER in 1890. Going by past experience, if Rose was registered as ISRAEL then Mary Ann was probably not her mother. It would be worth purchasing this certificate for the additional information it may give to your search.

We also could not find a marriage for Mary Ann HARKER or Mary Ann ISRAEL with a Henry PRATT, a Henry MARTIN or with anyone else, for that matter, between 1891 and 1901.

It might help to find out what happened to Henry ISRAEL. He appears to be quite tricky to find too, however he appears on two trees on Genes Reunited. Perhaps you could contact these two people to see if they know what became of him. The Genes Reunited website can be found at: [www.genesreunited.co.uk](http://www.genesreunited.co.uk)

Records for Hanwell Asylum are at: London Metropolitan Archives, 40 Northampton Road London EC1R 0HB, website: [cityoflondon.gov.uk/lma](http://cityoflondon.gov.uk/lma); telephone: 020 7332 3820.

## BISHOP

Seeking help with my BISHOP family.

Sophia Mary BISHOP married James HARRIS in Kensington on 20 January 1833. Sophia's parents are Henry BISHOP and Mary. According to census returns Henry was born 1788 and Mary 1782/4. Both were born in Harrow, Middlesex.

I cannot find their marriage or their baptisms. If anyone can help, do please contact me.

*Mrs Iris Needham, Member No. 7598*

*23 Vesper Lane, Kirkstall, Leeds LS5 3NR*

*Email: needham958@btinternet.com*

## John Francis VEITCH.

My late uncle Douglas SAUNDERS was a navigator and killed when his plane crashed in Algeria on 7 April 1944. The pilot was Flying Officer John Francis VEITCH, RAFVR number 136470, 256 Squadron and I am trying to piece together his life story.

John Francis VEITCH was born on 4 April 1917 at 3 Lady Somerset Road, Kentish Town. His parents were Alfred John VEITCH, cabinet maker/journeyman, born 1872 and Bertha May PURKIS (daughter of John PURKIS, organ builder).

In 1911, the VEITCH family lived at 197 Great College Street, Camden Town and in 1917, at 3 Lady Somerset Road. By 1924, they had moved to 7A Burghley Road and John Francis attended Burghley Road School. In 1944, when John Francis was killed, his parents were living in Reigate, Surrey.

The years between the time he left school and his death are still a mystery. If anyone can help, please contact me at the address below. Most of all, I would love to have a photo of him.

*Douglas Saunders Non-member*

*29 Lyndsey Place, Anlaby Road, Hull HU4 6AE*

## THE FAMILY HISTORY EVENT

Due to take place on Sunday 29 May 2011

at Exhibition Hall 1, Barbican, Golden Lane, London EC2Y 8DL

HAS BEEN CANCELLED

For more information visit: [www.thefhevent.net](http://www.thefhevent.net)

## CLAYTON

Thomas Clayton born Scriven, near Knaresborough, Yorkshire in 1820 (father William) married in London in 1855 Ellen BAGLIN, born Bath 1833 (father Thomas BAGLIN born Uley, Gloucestershire 1809, mother Martha ?, born Dorset c1810).

They lived mostly in the St Marylebone, St Pancras, Paddington areas of London and their children were born in Westminster St James.

Thomas and his family disappeared for 20 years between the 1871 and 1891 census when they reappeared.

Their children were born between 1856 and 1872: Louisa Ellen (born 1856); William Marcus; Marion Martha; Mary Jane; Matilda Eliza Sophia; Henry Eugene; Frederick George; Isabella Edith and Elizabeth Ann (born 1872) and they married into the following families: MONK, LAUCHS, GIBSON, COCKER, JONES, LAPWORTH (i) HUGHES (ii), WOODSELL, TOMPKINS AND PARKER.

Some of the family moved to Lancashire (Haslingden, Accrington, Clayton le Moors) and their descendants remained in Lancashire. William Marcus CLAYTON, seaman, went to South Australia in the late 1870s and founded another branch of the CLAYTON family there.

I would be interested to hear from anyone with any information about the CLAYTON family and in particular Thomas CLAYTON and his ancestors (from Knaresborough, Yorkshire) and Ellen BAGLIN and her ancestors (from Uley, Gloucestershire).

I would also appreciate any information about Lynda Marion CLAYTON born St Pancras 1894 who married William Meechan/Meecham in London in 1928 and her twin Marjorie Helen CLAYTON who married Henry Ashton in Haslingden, Lancs in 1917 and their descendants.

*Bonita Creswell-Young, Member No. 7554*

*12 Golf Links Road, Hepburn Springs, VIC 3461, Australia*

*Email: corblimey.too@bigpond.com*

Note: The family do appear in the 1881 census but their name has been mistranscribed and indexed as CLAXTON. (You can see why when you look at the original.)

They were living at 34 Howland Street, St Pancras: Thomas, a tailor aged 61, born Yorkshire; Ellen his wife aged 47, born Bath, Somerset; Maria aged 20; Henry aged 13; Frederick aged 11; Edith aged 9 and Charles aged 3.

## ARTHUR RANSOM

Although I have researched a considerable amount of information regarding my Grandfather, I wondered if you could possibly help me in finding any records of his school (possibly the British School, later it was the Rothschild School, Brentford High Street), his possible connections with the Brentford Football Club and him being a member of the Freemasons.

His details are as follows: Arthur RANSOM was born on 25 August 1887 at The Butts, Brentford, Middlesex. His father, William, was a manufacturing confectioner and biscuit baker (whose business was situated at 203 High Street and ran under the name of Pescud & Ransom) and his mother was Mary Eliza formerly MEADS.

I have a Certificate of Merit dated 29 July 1896 which was presented to Arthur from his school. It also states he was in Caversham House. I believe Lord Rothschild - I don't know which one - was a Governor and he offered Arthur a job in the bank when he was due to leave school. He did not take it as he trained in butchery instead. He became a very successful businessman, owning several properties and with his own family butchery business at 35 Wick Road, Teddington.

I do hope you are able to help me in some way to unravel these mysteries.

*Mrs Joyce A Smith, Member No. 7595*

*3 Spinners Close, West Moors, Ferndown, Dorset BH22 0PN*

*Email: joyce182@hotmail.co.uk*

Note: Brentford Football Club are still around and even have a small history section on their website: [www.brentfordfc.co.uk](http://www.brentfordfc.co.uk) It might be worth contacting them to see if they have any archive material mentioning your grandfather.

In your longer letter you mention that the school in Brentford High Street closed in 1930. It is possible that records survive and the London Metropolitan Archives has a good collection.

Google Images may have a picture of the school.

The Library and Museum of Freemasonry are based at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, London WC2B 5AZ. It is open to the public on Monday-Friday from 10am until 5pm. There is an Enquiry Desk, Tel: 020 7395 9257, where staff will be able to advise you about the best way to conduct your research there.

## ELSIE MAY HALL

I am trying to find a record of an adoption. Elsie (May) HALL was born on 23 November 1910 and the adoption could have been arranged through the Baptist Church. Can anyone tell me if/where I could find out more information?

*Liz Brindley, Member No. 7477*

*134 Maybank Road, South Woodford, London E18 1EL*

Note: Formal adoption did not exist in England and Wales until 1927. Before then adoptions were usually informal (and sometimes within the extended family) with little or no legal documentation and there is no central register, so it will not be easy locating information on this matter.

Do you know where Elsie (May) HALL was born? There are not many in the GRO Birth Register Index for 1910. You could try and locate any Baptist churches in the appropriate area and contact them for assistance.

There is a Contact Register for adults affected by adoption at AAA-NORCAP, which has been active in this field for 28 years and so has a certain amount of experience. There are 66,000 people registered here hoping to find family members. You can contact AAA-NORCAP by email on: [enquiries@norcap.org](mailto:enquiries@norcap.org) or by phone on: 01865 875000

## ALBERT L WHITBREAD

Whilst doing my family tree on my wife's side, I have traced her mother's family and come across the following problem. Her mother's mother's maiden name is Caroline CRANE and she married an Albert L WHITBREAD. The marriage took place in 1921 in Kingston, Surrey. I cannot trace any details of Albert L WHITBREAD's birth or place of residence. I have tried Find My Past, BMD and the census from 1861, 1871, 1881 and 1891 to avail. Can you help me either to where I could go or any direct details. I thank you for any advice in advance.

*Robert Wickens. Member No. 7424*

*29 Cody Road, Clapham, Bedford MK4 16ED*

*Email: [photobob@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:photobob@tiscali.co.uk)*

Note: Do you have the marriage certificate? If not you should purchase it as it will give you the name of Albert's father.

There is one Albert L WHITBREAD in the 1901 census, according to FindMyPast. He was born in 1900 at Waltham Abbey and in 1901 is living with his parents William and Alice WHITBREAD at 3 Alma Road, Hayes Terrace, Enfield, MDX. If William WHITBREAD is named as the groom's father on the marriage certificate then we may have our man!

### CEATON/NETCHER/BUER

My 3x great grandfather William Thomas CEATON was born in April 1810 and baptised on 31 December 1810 at St Luke's, Old Street, Islington. He became a schoolmaster teaching at St George's School, Hanover Square and married Mary Ann BUER on 26 May 1832 at St George's Hanover Square. He had a twin brother Henry Netcher CEATON who also taught but in the Dorking, Surrey area. I am trying to research more about their parentage. Baptism entry shows only the father as another William Thomas CEATON. Maybe the mother's maiden name was NETCHER – Henry's middle name. Help appreciated.

Mary Ann BUER, born 4 February 1812 at St Clement Danes, came from a family who were mainly butchers. Trying to find out more about her grandfather William BUER, born about 1749, buried 1829 at St Paul's, Covent Garden. I cannot trace where he was born or his parentage. Help appreciated.

*Georgina Hassall, Member No. 7624*

*28 Massey Close, Hardingstone, Northampton NN4 6DW*

*Email: gb.hassall@o2.co.uk*

Note: CEATON and, indeed, NETCHER can both be spelled in various ways and you will need to chase up all possibilities to see if you can locate William Thomas senior. For instance, a Joseph James SEATON, son of William Thomas SEATON and Sarah was baptised 7 Mar 1800 at St Sepulchre, London, according to [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org). Maybe there were other children too, whom you could trace for clues?



## FORTHCOMING BRANCH MEETINGS

Barnet Branch – 7.30pm for 8.00pm

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

\* Please note that the April meeting will be held in one of the Holy Trinity Church rooms, 18 Lyonsdown Road (entrance in Somerset Road via a small red door). This is because of work on the floor of our usual venue. \*

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Thursday 21 April | <i>The Thames in London</i><br>by John Neal            |
| Thursday 19 May   | 30 Year Celebration with Michael Gandy                 |
| Thursday 16 June  | <i>Do You Remember?</i><br>by Mavis Wright             |
| Thursday 21 July  | <i>A Brief History of Clerkenwell</i><br>by Mark Aston |

City Branch – 12 noon for 12.30pm

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

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Thursday 28 April | <i>Industrial Schools</i><br>by Gillian Gear                                  |
| Thursday 26 May   | <i>The Pros and Cons of Family History Websites</i><br>Members' Contributions |
| Thursday 30 June  | <i>A Brief History of St Luke, Finsbury</i><br>by Mark Aston                  |
| Thursday 28 July  | <i>Illegitimacy</i><br>by Mari Alderman                                       |

### 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.

Enfield Branch – 7.30pm for 8.00pm  
St Paul's Centre, Church Street, Enfield, Middlesex EN2 6AR

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Wednesday 4 April | Members' Question and Answer Session                              |
| Wednesday 4 May   | <i>The History of Pears Transparent Soap</i><br>by Andrea Cameron |
| Wednesday 1 June  | TBA   |
| Wednesday 6 July  | TBA   |

Rayners Lane Branch – 7.30pm for 8.00pm  
Friends' Meeting House, 456 Rayners Lane, Harrow, Middlesex HA5 5DT

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| Friday 8 April | <i>History of Clerkenwell</i><br>by Muriel Jones |
| Friday 13 May  | <i>History of Hanworth</i><br>by Andrea Cameron  |
| Friday 10 June | Members' Evening                                 |
| Friday 8 July  | <i>Forgotten Heroes</i><br>by Geoff Bridger      |

## CENSUS & SOCIETY: WHY EVERYONE COUNTS

An exhibition examining the development of the census is on until Sunday 29 May at the British Library.

Exhibits include the first edition of Thomas Malthus's *Essay* on the principle of population, 19<sup>th</sup> century maps showing population distribution and cartoons satirising the census and our attitudes to completing the forms.

This free event can be found at the Folio Society Gallery, British Library, 96 Euston Road, London NW1 2DB. For more information please visit the website at: [www.bl.uk](http://www.bl.uk)

## THE 1911 CENSUS

The 1911 Census was the first to be filled in by householders themselves, rather than by an enumerator. King George set an example by arranging an accurate and complete list of Buckingham Palace occupants, according to contemporary news reports.

Every night in London there were hundreds of people lacking the necessary two- or four-pence for a bed in a shelter or common lodging-house. The Salvation Army sent search parties out collecting up these people. For example, they trawled along the Embankment, collecting 1400 homeless people (including 70 boys) who were each given a ticket reading:

Salvation Army (Census 1911). Admit one to supper, shelter, rest and breakfast with free use of hot water etc at the Salvation Army shelter. Doors open at midnight.'

Salvation Army scouts gathered hundreds of homeless people altogether into various shelters where they were fed bread and mutton soup and enumerated. Instead of the usual entry as to their relation to the head of a family, there was a special column entitled 'Where found?'

The suffragettes, in order to bring attention to their campaign to obtain the votes for women, demonstrated in Trafalgar Square. On census night all-night entertainments were arranged keeping people away from home to avoid making the returns, causing considerable anxiety in official circles. Mrs PANKHURST and a large party padlocked themselves in at the Aldwych Skating Rink. 'The tedium of the night was beguiled by short plays and songs. There was much rowdyism, a number of medical students breaking the door and securing admission' according to a report by *Reuters*. Similar gatherings were held at Edinburgh, Bradford, Portsmouth and elsewhere, the suffragettes spending the night in cafés. It is understood that the police roughly numbered them but to enumerate them properly was hopeless.

A Kingston woman claimed to be regarded as 'Head' of her family as her husband had not worked for years and she had to keep him but this was not allowed, according to a report in *The Advertiser*, Adelaide

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

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

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Data from the members' list will NOT be given out to commercial enterprises.

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