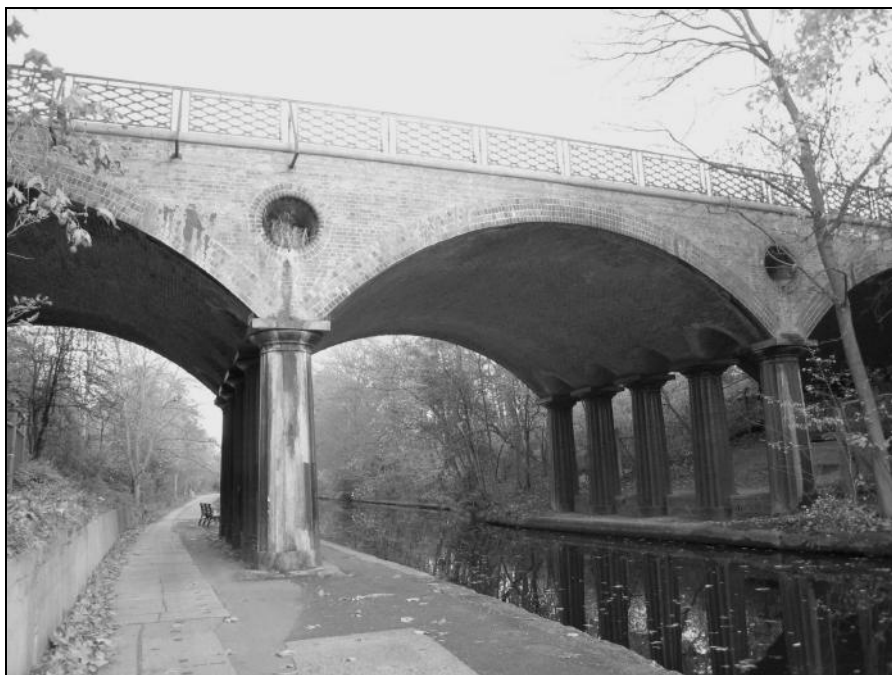


# METROPOLITAN

The Journal of the

**LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX**

Family History Society



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**Please remember that the copy date for the next issue is  
15 February 2012**

Cover picture: Macclesfield Bridge, Regent's Park, London  
© Barbara Haswell  
See article on page 51

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## EDITORIAL

This issue of METROPOLITAN is the first of the Society's year which started on 1 October 2011 so there is a special welcome for new members who joined us then.

We have also reached the end of a calendar year when it is customary to review the past and look to improvements for the year ahead. The Society's review will occur on Saturday 3 March 2012 at the Open Day and AGM. Details of the day and the reports of the Chairman and Secretary are on the white pages in the centre of this journal. There is no Treasurer's report: we have had no Treasurer since Brian Green stepped down with effect from the 3 March 2011. Despite entries in METROPOLITAN and other enquiries the position has not yet been filled. The Chairman and Membership Secretary/Bookstall Manager have kept things ticking over on a day-to-day basis but, as you will see on the page opposite, the Chairman will be stepping down at the AGM so the need for a Treasurer becomes more necessary. Please do consider whether you could help the Society by taking on this role – or if you know someone such as a relative or friend who could. Note that the period of office for all three officers is one year and the nomination forms are included within the AGM pages.

On a personal level, people are making New Year resolutions to improve their circumstances in 2012 – the usual considerations range from more exercise to seriously doing something about a cherished ambition, whatever that may be! But what about your hobby of Family History? Have you reviewed your achievements in 2011 and compiled an action plan for 2012? Is there a branch of your tree which has been neglected or previously thought to be in the 'too difficult' category? With more and more information becoming available there are numerous ways of trying to fill the gaps and, although the Society cannot do your research for you and research in the London area can be difficult, help is at hand through experienced members at Branch Meetings, if you are able to attend, or the *help!* section where you are appealing to hundreds of our members. Do remember that members may have one free *help!* entry per journal but there is a charge, increased by the Committee to £3 from January 2012, for further entries and for non-members. Mutual help and the sharing of information or expertise between members is an aim of any Society so let's help each other. Perhaps the greatest help you could give is to fill the post of Treasurer.

The Editorial Team wish you all a Happy Christmas and success with your research in 2012 when we look forward to receiving your contributions to METROPOLITAN.

**The Editorial Team**



## **A NOTE FROM THE CHAIRMAN**

First of all I have to report that it is my intention to stand down as Chairman at the next AGM in March. I have been in post for the past 7 years plus a further 2 years prior to this as joint Secretary with my wife Joan. I hope to carry on as Chairman of Wembley, where we hope to develop the branch in our new premises.

Our Executive Committee is still meeting every other month to explore ways in which the Society can survive the downturn in falling membership numbers. We also have to deal with rising costs of hall hire, speaker's fees and printing. With more members we would be more able to withstand the rising pressures. Our Membership Secretary tells me that at the time of writing, our membership figures stand at 840 with 193 members having failed to renew. Some of our members, especially those overseas, have taken advantage of the easy way of paying through our website using PayPal. Hopefully the next stage will be the ability to pay for sales items on our website.

I think that there are two main reasons for falling membership, one being the evermore data available on line and people new to family history have latched onto this method of research due to both lack of time and a basic education in Genealogy and History of the Family, which often results in a lack of detail that one can gain from little publicised data which can be found in many record offices and archives. The second reason is one of a local nature due to the large scale of immigration into London and the subsequent outward movement of the old population. This could explain why out of London Societies are faring much better than us. I would appeal to all our existing members to assist in promoting our Society.

Meanwhile. I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

**Bill Pyemont**

## LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

**D**id you have ancestors named Nathaniel CARPENTER and Jessie MALLINSON, who married 1912 and had children Wilfred, Stanley and Winifred, in the Edmonton area? If so then I have a family heirloom that belongs to you! Contact me, no obligation required, for further details:

***Jenny Towey, Non-Member***

*20 Skylark Rise, Woolwell, Plymouth, Devon PL6 7SN*

*Email: jtowey@sky.com*

**L**ike most family historians I have an avid interest in collecting original personal information and artefacts about my ancestors. As part of this hobby I purchased a large box of original historical documents knowing that some related to my personal family history.

Having spent many hours trawling through them all, and finding those that relate to my family tree (eureka!!), I am now left with a large number that have no personal relevance to me. This gave rise to the question as to what to do with the rest.

Given that these remaining documents will have relevance to other family historians, I decided that approaching Family History Societies would offer others the opportunity to add fascinating original documents to their family trees (and resolve my 'custodial' duties!). I have produced a computerized, fully searchable, list in alphabetical surname order giving full details of the documents available. I would appreciate it if you could make your FHS group members aware of the documents.

These original antique documents, some written on parchment and others on vellum, are Certificates of Acknowledgement of Deeds by Married Women pursuant to an Act passed in the third and fourth years of the reign of His late Majesty King William the Fourth entitled 'An Act of the abolition of Fines and Recoveries and for the substitution of more simple modes of assurance'. What a mouthful!!

The Certificates were to ensure that a married woman was of full age (over 21) and fully understood what was happening where she was selling or mortgaging property jointly with her husband. It was intended to stop a man taking advantage of his position if he had inherited property through marriage to his wife. It was later superseded by the Married Women's Property acts of 1882 and 1907. Some of these documents are hand written in the most beautiful 'copper plate' script writing, some have embossed

seals with real silver centres, some have stamps, some have additional orders – and some have it all!!

Some of the documents give great detail - individual addresses, details of stocks, named companies, and so on. Some of the other people (called interested parties) named on the documents can be helpful in expanding a family tree. They could be relations, perhaps siblings, in-laws or cousins, or they may be business partners or friends (I got a couple of previously unknown leads from them on my family tree!). Sometimes, most unusually, the other interested party is a company rather than a person – another avenue to be followed up maybe?!

These fascinating original historical certificates are of enormous interest to family historians by helping to build a picture of the individuals named and their lives in the 1800s - each of them telling their own story. They are particularly significant in giving a rare insight into the lives of women at that time and are also of great value in understanding social, regional and women's history generally.

I hope that this letter will enable these remaining documents to find homes where they will be cherished and kept for posterity rather than lying, anonymous and unloved, in a box in my home.

***Ann Evans, Non-Member***

*Email: family.history.documents@hotmail.co.uk*

**Note:** The list with details of the documents available will be put on our website: [www.lwmfhs.org](http://www.lwmfhs.org) and will also appear at Branch Meetings.

**J**ust writing to say how much I still enjoy the magazine and always read it through from cover to cover!

The members may be interested in a book by Jean Hatton called *Betsy – The Dramatic Biography of Prison Reformer Elizabeth Fry* published by Monarch books in 2005. It covers her life in detail in Norfolk and London, gives lots of insight into her travels, her family, her letters, her visits to prisons and small schools, travelling in UK and Europe, her family life and her faith as a outspoken conscientious Quaker, and the weather, etc. She started small schools in many of the towns where she lived, and later The Ladies Associations/Committees for helping the poor.

My own German immigrant family STUHR got help in Whitechapel - when widowed Mary STUHR was trying to manage on her own with 2 children in 1830s. Also of interest to me for my MATTHEWS family were

details of a small school in Borough Road Southwark, in 1801. Run by Joseph LANCASTER this was the forerunner of the British and Foreign Schools' Society. These records are now held by The Dr Williams Library in London.

***Eileen Blythe, Member No. 2***

Note: The Dr Williams Library was established under the will of Dr Daniel Williams, who died in January 1715/6, and is the pre-eminent research library of English Protestant nonconformity. It is located at 14 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0AR and is open from Monday to Thursday. For more information visit: [www.dwlib.co.uk](http://www.dwlib.co.uk)

**F**urther to my *Help!* within the last METROPOLITAN (October 2011), I should like to thank the Editors for their suggestions, which I shall follow up.

I also apologise for some confusion as I didn't make it clear that 'He' ('may have worked in the East End') in paragraph three refers to George LYALL and not William POWRIE, likewise 'His son George' is a LYALL.

Cousin Graham LYALL believes the two young men seated in the sidecar with George LYALL senior (man with moustache) on the bike, are two members of the KAY family (the maiden name of George LYALL senior's mother-in-law was KAY) rather than sons of Grace and David ROUGH. Also that the picture of an unmoustached man on the motorbike with Ann LYALL and her son sitting in the swan-necked sidecar, is possibly another KAY relative. I must admit I hadn't noticed the moustache or lack of so, as in all family history, it does pay to check and check again!

***Mrs Angela Golding, Member No. 829***

**T**he Gold Coast Family History Society in Queensland, Australia, has launched a new Members' Interest List that can be accessed by any researcher, worldwide. All enquiries are secure and are passed on to the relevant member via the facilitators. We would be grateful if you could pass this information on to your members.

The list can be found on our website at [www.goldcoastfhs.org.au](http://www.goldcoastfhs.org.au)

***Ann Metcher, President, Gold Coast FHS***





## EXPLOSION!

By Barbara E Haswell, Member No. 4224

In the July issue of METROPOLITAN on pages 171-173, we printed a *help!* from Mr Jeff STUMBKE, asking about two photographs of a house in his old family album – one is of a house in beautiful condition with a lovely garden and the other is the same house in a tumbledown state with rubble covering the garden. He thought the house could have been in Loudoun Road, St John's Wood where an ancestor of his was cared for after giving birth to an illegitimate child – but why would a professional photographer take photos of a small nursing home?

The photographs were taken by a London photographer (Frank BRIGGS of St John's Wood) but the chances of identifying the house seemed impossible, although it was likely to be in the St John's Wood area.

The Editors have had several suggestions about the house – one being that it looked as if it had been hit by a bomb.

Bomb damage/explosions/London – this set my brain working and I remembered that there had been a huge explosion in the London area in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, but where? Then I heard from Jeff Stumbke again “How about the Macclesfield Bridge explosion?” he said. Then everything clicked into place and I looked at maps of the area again. Macclesfield Bridge crossed over the Regent's Park canal which, at that point, was channelled in a deep cutting along the northern edge of Regent's Park (near London Zoo) and was also in Mr Briggs the photographer's area. Loudoun Road was not far away to the north.

Some years ago I had visited the Canal Museum in Kings Cross, London and had seen an exhibit about a huge explosion on the Regent's Park canal. There must be more information on the internet! Soon I found an article published in the magazine *Canals & Rivers* and dated January 2007. The article by Richard Hill gives a detailed account of the explosion and its aftermath. Around 3 am on 2 October 1874, a tug was pulling a train of barges along the canal. One of the barges, the *Tilbury*, was carrying a cargo of sugar, nuts, coffee, 2 or 3 containers of petroleum and five tons of gunpowder in barrels. As the *Tilbury* passed under the bridge, the explosion

occurred. The *Tilbury* exploded and the four crew members were killed. The bridge was completely destroyed, several nearby houses were badly damaged and throughout the whole area many windows were broken.

The article included a copy of the cover of the *Illustrated London News*. This showed a damaged house, North Gate Park Lodge and to my surprise this drawing matched the photograph of the house! Not only had the house been found but it had a name! The artist Eliza TURCK (1832-1891) who lived in Islington, must have visited the scene as she painted a picture of the damaged Lodge and the canal after the explosion.

Looking at Weller's map of London 1868, the canal, Macclesfield Bridge and a house by the bridge (North Gate Park Lodge) are clearly marked. The *Godfrey* map of the area (St John's Wood) after 1874, shows the bridge but no house nearby, so the house was demolished and not rebuilt. Today there is no sign that a house was ever there. The bridge has since acquired the nickname 'Blow-up Bridge'. I looked at the 1871 Census Return and found the family living at North Gate Lodge:

Charles EDWARDS, head, widower, age 73 years, Park Superintendent  
 Charles EDWARDS, son, age 31, Merchant Clerk  
 William EDWARDS, son, age 30, Assistant Park Superintendent  
 George EDWARDS, son, age 29, married, Master Butcher  
 Eleanor EDWARDS, daughter, age 23, single, no occupation  
 James EDWARDS, son, age 23, Clerk in the employ of Parish Vestry  
 Mary EDWARDS, daughter in law, age 23, married, no occupation  
 George EDWARDS, grandson, age 2  
 Kate LAWN, age 17, Domestic Servant

Luckily, only Charles EDWARDS senior was slightly hurt in the explosion; one son jumped out of a window, another son slept through the noise and woke up to find one wall of his bedroom gone.

Unfortunately, Jeff Stumbke has not been able to link the family living in North Gate Lodge to his own family tree, so he still does not know why the photos were in his ancestors' family album. He needs another 'Eureka' moment!

There are several reports in *The Times* newspaper which describe the explosion, the inquests and the insurance claims that took place. The Edwards family had to give evidence. The animals in the Zoo were upset by the noise and several birds escaped from the aviary.

Camden Local Studies & Archives Centre ran a competition for poetry inspired by items in its collection. The second prize went to Anna Cookson for a poem called *Regent's Canal: 4.55 Friday 2 October*. The poem tells the story of the 1874 explosion. Visit [www.camden.gov.uk](http://www.camden.gov.uk) Click 'Local History' then at end of page click 'Versed in History'.

### Notes

1. *The Times* Archive (to 1985) can be searched from home, via your local library website in their 24/7 Reference Library. Sign in with your library card number and view several reference books and the newspaper archive for free.
2. Type 'Eliza Turck and Macclesfield Bridge' into *Google* to find her painting of the scene.
3. Visit: [www.richardhill.co.uk/blowupbridge.pdf](http://www.richardhill.co.uk/blowupbridge.pdf) to see a full account of the event and to see the picture of the house.
4. [www.canalmuseum.co.uk](http://www.canalmuseum.co.uk)
5. Go to: <http://london1868.com> for Weller's map of London

## JOTTING

### **Cleveland Street Workhouse**

Update, re METROPOLITAN December 2010, page 60. It is good to learn that this early Strand Union Workhouse has been saved from demolition after a campaign led by Dr Ruth Richardson of the Camden History Society. The building has now been listed and will probably be converted into residential use.

In the meantime, unfortunately, the residents entrusted with responsibility of keeping the site occupied and secure have been asked to vacate, leaving the building exposed to possible decay as well as squatting.

For more information visit: <http://clevelandstreetworkhouse.org>

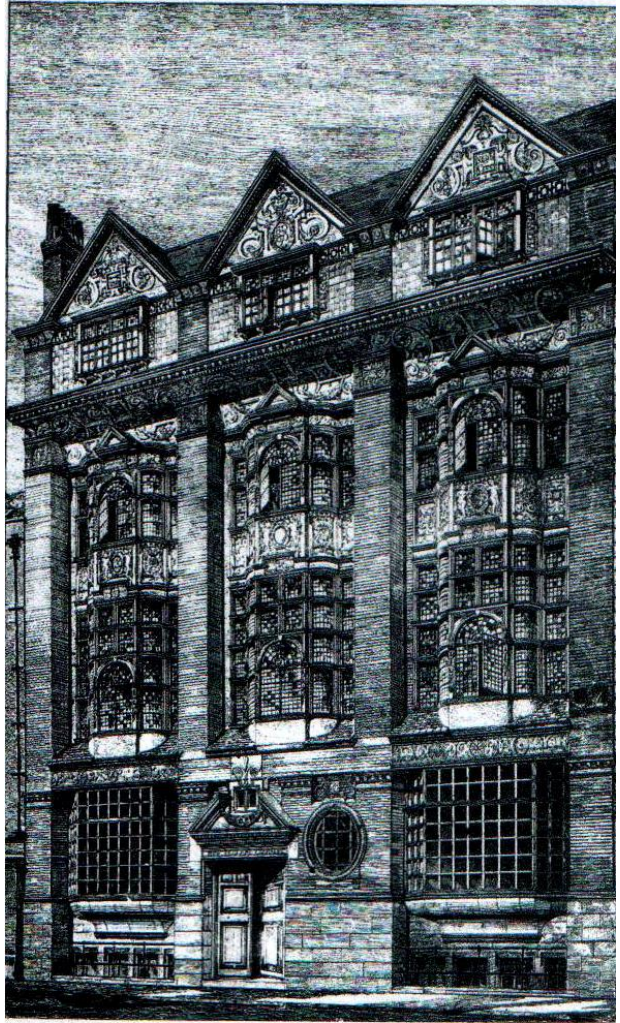
Dr Richardson will be giving a talk to the Barnet Branch in March – see page 82 for details.

## SHAW SAVILL & ALBION SHIPPING LINE 1939-45

By Dennis Galvin, Member No. 1046

A general researcher could go to Hay-on-Wye for the grand Book Festival and come away with nothing but pop up the road to one of the local boot fairs and you sometimes pick up a precious gem for 20p.

I have an eye for any unusual reference books and in 1985 this particular one was looking very sorry for itself. It had obviously been in somebody's shed where some awful liquid had dropped on it and penetrated the thick cover and a couple of pages but even though stained I could still see the gold embossed title *The Flag of the Southern Cross*. The book was privately published circa 1947 by the Shaw Savill & Albion Company Ltd shipping company as a dedication to its World War 2 staff.



34, LEADENHALL STREET, LONDON.

DESTROYED BY ENEMY ACTION, MAY 11th, 1941.

The company lost 473 members of its sea-going staff - 6 Commanders, 120 Officers and 347 ratings plus a further 4 members of its shore staff. All their names are recorded in the Company's 'Roll of Honour'. However, trying to locate that, I am sure, would take a major investigation! Nevertheless there are 72 names in my book (64 sea and 8 shore) with short citations for their honours and awards. The book has some excellent photographs of many of the company's ships and four head-and-shoulders photos of senior staff but what really stood out for me was an outstanding illustration of the company offices at 34 Leadenhall Street, City of London. These magnificent offices had some words above the double front doors: NEW ZEALAND CHAMBERS and in the three gables: St Andrew Unde; St Cath Cree: and the middle gable AD1873: so a mock baroque building. The two churches, St Catherine Cree and St Andrew Undershaft, are of course in Leadenhall Street. If it was a sunny City day on 10 of May 1941 the building must have looked resplendent but on the following day, 11 May, the premises were sadly no more, destroyed. What a terrible loss. I like to think those bits of Portland stone with the words are still under Hackney Marshes somewhere.

Thankfully all records of any importance were moved to Hadley Wood, Hertfordshire (now in the London Borough of Enfield). All staff had also been located there while a skeleton staff moved in with the Port Line at 88 Leadenhall Street. When Japan entered the war they were able to take over the NYK Line (Nippon Yokohama) offices. I do wonder if Enfield Archives know about this piece of wartime history and indeed would consider putting up a blue plaque on one of the two large houses (hopefully still extant) which were used for important convoy planning during the war.

With about ninety names mentioned in the book most readers are sure to notice at least one family name. In my case there were two (neither of them kin) so I naturally decided to research them. Actually, one of the names is not in the book but on the front cover as it is the author! Frank C BOWEN.

Frank was born in Barnet (now also the name of a London Borough) in 1894. His parents must have been regular visitors to Ramsgate as that is where he became interested in anything that floats. He joined the Royal Navy in WW1 and served in the Dardenelles. He also became a Naval Intelligence Officer - I think for WW2. He lived in London for a bit but

spent most of his life at Gravesend, Kent where he had a regular nautical column in the local paper. He also wrote many articles for the *Sea Breeze*, a well known maritime magazine. Quite a few books also bear his name including one about Thames barges. He died in 1959. All in all his contribution to naval and maritime research was considerable and I am glad he was on our side during two world wars! He had an enormous amount of ephemera, cuttings, photos etc much of which can be seen in the libraries and archives at Gravesend and Southampton. I discovered that Frank's middle name was Charles but it intrigued me that he preferred to use just the single letter C. I am convinced, and in no doubt, that he and probably his family liked that because of the phonetics!

The company had 26 ships at the start of the war, most had Maori names; *Taranaki*, *Wairangi* etc. As well as passengers they brought wool, meat and dairy products back from Australia and New Zealand the losses were great. The Ministry of Transport for War also gave them additional ships including US Liberty ships to run later in the war.



M.V. "ZEALANDIC"

Arthur James GALVIN was born in 1902 at 29 Cumberland Street, Pimlico (GRO Index gives Marylebone). In 1911 he was living with his mother Kate (plus two siblings) and father James Joseph (Restaurant

Superintendent, City Restaurant) at 31 Mulready Buildings, Westminster. It is possible that young Arthur attended the Merchant Marine College at Pangbourne before later joining the Shaw Savill Company and Royal Naval Reserve when he was called up for WW2 and what turned out to be a most distinguished service. On Sunday 27 August 1944 four British minesweepers were clearing mines off the French coast when a report was received that these were enemy ships so 16 Typhoons were sent to attack. The Wing Commander radioed back several times that the ships were British but was still ordered to carry out the mission.

As a result HM Ships *Britomart*, *Jason* and *Hussar* were all sunk, *Salamander* was a floating wreck, 78 officers and men were killed and 149 were wounded. Three Senior Naval Officers were court martialled.

Lieut.-Commander Arthur James GALVIN DSC RD MID HMS *Britomart* has no known grave but the sea and is commemorated on the Plymouth Naval Memorial panel 92 column 2. A terrible tragedy but I was pleased to have salvaged the book and thus - with a lot of extra research - tell the aforementioned stories.

### **Acknowledgements:**

Commonwealth War Graves Commission  
Family Records Centre (now closed)  
The National Archives



## **UNWANTED CERTIFICATE**

Janet Hewitt-Winch, Member No. 7643, has an unwanted birth certificate which she would be pleased to pass on to any interested member free of charge:

Birth: Henry CANT, son of James CANT and Elizabeth, formerly VINCENT, was born 19 March 1862 in Islington.

You can contact Janet by post at: Dolphin Cottage, 65 Downview Road, Felpham, West Sussex PO22 8JA or by email at: [j\\_hewittwinch@o2.co.uk](mailto:j_hewittwinch@o2.co.uk)

## LOOSE CONNECTIONS

### The Coat Hanger

By David Sansom, Member No. 7665

For as long as I can remember I have had, in my wardrobe, a wooden coat hanger. Hardly unusual you may think, isn't a wardrobe where most people keep a collection of coat hangers?



This coat hanger is however a bit special. It has affixed to it a thin, rigid plastic label reading: 'Charkham - Civil & Military Tailor'. I have always felt that this very ordinary object was akin to a family heirloom and over the years have used it only for my 'best' suits or jackets.

A couple of years ago, when I first became involved in our Family History, I tried to track down the company 'Charkham' but with no success. Recently however I decided to approach my quest in a different way, by researching the surname Charkham. What emerged was a fascinating story.

In the late 1890s a Russian Jew by the name of Morris CHARKUIM brought his family from the Ukraine to England. It is thought that America was their intended destination but they ended up in the East End of London, in Spitalfields.

From the 1901 census we learn that Morris was a rag merchant and his older children and step-children worked as trouser machiners, many of their



neighbours being tailors. By 1911 the family surname had been anglicised to CHARKHAM.

Over the next thirty years Morris built up his 'Horsehair, Feathers and Fibres' business (as described in the 1936 *Post Office Directory*) which eventually became 'Morris Charkham Ltd' a thriving bed and pillow manufacturer. The business was sold in 1963 to 'Rest Assured', a company which is still trading today.

Meanwhile one of Morris's sons, Abraham (who was born in Russia in 1882), was building up an equally successful chain of tailors. By 1936 he had three shops in central and west London as well as a head office in the prestigious Southampton Row, Holborn. This business was 'Charkham - Civil & Military Tailor'.

My father was married in 1936, in west London. My mother and a number of other relations lived in the area which had two of Abraham's shops in close proximity.

It is quite possible that the coat hanger in question was acquired, as these items are, by some totally random means but, having a romantic streak in me, I like to think that it is more significant and could be the coat hanger upon which hung my father's wedding suit.



In either case I will continue to regard it as 'a bit special'. I'm sure my children would be thrilled to have bequeathed to them a wooden coat hanger with such a history.

## WEBSITE NEWS

### **Websites which will help you begin your family history research.**

If you are a complete beginner and wondering how to start researching your family history, there are a number of websites that will give you guidance.

To start with, our own website [www.lwmfhs.org.uk](http://www.lwmfhs.org.uk) can help.

- Click 'Links' from the column on the left hand side of our Home page. This will lead to a further list of subjects. Click on 'Guidance', then click on '*BBC Family History*' and this leads to the BBC website where you can learn about getting started, 'Basics' and 'Next Steps' etc.
- Scroll to the end of our Home page and under 'More Articles' is a piece entitled *Are you a beginner?* Click on this and you will find links to two other starter tutorials. (Please note that the *Newbie* guide is a little out of date in that it refers to the *Family Records Centre* in Islington, which no longer exists!)
- Look at our Members' Interests lists to see if anyone is researching the names you want to research: log in to the Members' Area; click 'Files' and then click 'LWMFHS Files'; and you will see the Members' Interests Files for the last three years which can be downloaded to your computer.
- Explore the 'Links' area - try everything!

*Society of Genealogists* – The National Library & Education Centre for Family History. Website: [www.sog.org.uk](http://www.sog.org.uk) On the Home page, click 'Get Help and Advice' from the list across the top of the page. This leads to the Education Centre where free leaflets about starting your family history can be looked at or printed.

Before long, you will need to order Birth, Death and Marriage certificates and to look at Census Returns. We are now in the Computer Age and this is done online. It also costs money, if you want the convenience and comfort that comes with research done at home. [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk) and [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk) are two of the main sites and both are subscription services. Both sites have Birth, Marriage and Death indexes and 1841 to 1911 census returns. They also offer other databases such as; military records, wills, parish registers etc. and also 'Help' sections for beginners.

Subscriptions can be yearly, monthly or Pay As You Go. Explore the content of websites before paying a subscription and make use of the free 14 day trial period.

For Birth, Marriage and Death indexes, the website [www.freebmd.org.uk](http://www.freebmd.org.uk) is free to use and will give the year or reference number that is needed before a certificate is ordered. See METROPOLITAN July 2010 page 162, for tips on how to make the most of this site.

If you want to order certificates online, do use the Government website [www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/default.asp](http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/default.asp) - the cost is £9.25 per certificate. Be aware that some commercial organisations also offer this service but at a much higher price.

[www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) is another free-to-use site. FamilySearch is the largest genealogy organisation in the world and all its resources are free for use by everyone. This service is provided by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints - connection with their ancestors is rooted in their beliefs. From the Home page, click 'Learn' and scroll down the page and click 'Get started now' to watch videos about beginning your family history. This is the site to use when you need to look at parish registers (mainly baptisms and marriages) before civil registration (1837). The site is being updated and is expanding all the time.

The websites mentioned above are just a few of the vast number of genealogy sites on the internet.

Most Record Offices and public libraries now offer free use of *Ancestry.co.uk*

See page 69 for Beginner's Books!

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.

## THE McLAREN FAMILY OF ISLINGTON

**Do you know of them and where they are now?**

By Anne Prudames Member No. 0254

For three and a half years my husband Terry's workshop has remained virtually untouched. Early in October I attempted to make some clearance of both the workbench and the floor. Prior to locking up I opened a drawer under the workbench. Under some manuals I found a tattered A5 brown manila envelope. It contained fourteen letters, two photographs, thirty-three postcards and two water colour scenes on card. The letters were quickly perused and returned to their envelopes. The postcards, a number of them were scenes of Hanover and places I knew Terry had visited before we met (May 1960) were saved for later.

There were nine scenes of Hanover and I knew Terry had done his National Service there just after the end of WW2. Turning one PC over I saw to my surprise that not only were they written in German in a very small hand but were addressed to Mrs Irmtraute McLAREN, 236 Liverpool Road, Islington, London N1. They were signed 'Mutti'. My own knowledge of German is limited, gleaned mainly from the operas of Richard Wagner. I knew however that Mutter is German for Mother and put two and two together.

The postcards had been written between 23 July 1952 and 18 September 1956. How had Terry come by them? Had Irmtraute's husband Frank McLAREN served with Terry in Hanover? Had Terry been given the postcards because the McLARENS were moving?

On a visit to Barbara Haswell (one of our Editors) I showed her the postcards. In no time at all using [www.FindmyPast](http://www.FindmyPast), Barbara had found the marriage of Frank E McLAREN and Irmtraute LS VELLAGE in the December Quarter of 1949 at Islington Register Office. The birth of a son Steven F McLAREN was registered at Islington in the June quarter of 1953. Barbara then found in the December quarter of 1928 the birth entry of Frank McLAREN, son of Archie McLAREN and Ellen née HOWELL who had married at Islington in 1923. This meant that Terry and Frank McLAREN were the same age. We also looked at 236 Liverpool Road in *Streetview* on Google Maps.

It is odd that during the time that the late Denis Hall was Secretary of the Society, Executive meetings were held at his house (375 Liverpool Road). Terry had even taken me there but I cannot ever recall any mention of the McLARENs or of 236 Liverpool Road.

Could the meticulously kept diaries of Terry's father, Thomas Henry, a retired Master Mariner provide an answer? There were a number of useful clues - when Terry had his medical, his call-up date (December 1948), Square Bashing at Bury St Edmonds in the freezing winter of 1946 (this I already knew), a posting to Didcot and then in April 1947 'Terence for Germany or Jamaica'.....?Jamaica.

A letter in May 1947 advised that Terry was in Minden, Germany. But after leave in November he returned to 17, RSD, RAOC, Hanover, BAOR. He completed his service there until Monday 31 January 1949 when, with the rank of Corporal, he was demobbed at Aldershot.

There was nothing more of relevance until an entry in June 1950. 'Terence went to Islington'. Then in December 1951, 'Mac and his wife here'. I felt sure Mac and his wife were the McLARENs.

Terry's father had only one acquaintance whose name was prefixed Mc. He was always referred to in the diaries by his full name, D McB...e. Unfortunately the diaries for the years 1957, 58 and 59 are missing.

There the matter rested for some days until I looked through all the letters again. One addressed to Terry and postmarked 5.15pm 5 October 1953 had been completely overlooked.

It had been written by Frank McLAREN who apologised for not having written before. "I think it is at least 18 months since we last saw you and a lot can happen in 18 months it seems. We have a son six months old. His name is Steven." Frank McLAREN pointed out that when Terry was there last they were looking forward to their visit to Hanover. "Hanover is full of Canadian Troops so is the 17 RSD"... "How is your Mum and Dad...when the baby is a little older we will be coming to see them. If it is possible can you come to see us....that is all my news I can write in a Letter...Mac-Blondie and baby".

That baby would be in his early fifties now. Is he living in London? Did the McLaren's go to Germany to live? I would like to make contact with him or his descendants if only to return the postcards and the letter written by his father. Terry was obviously in contact with the McLARENS up until late 1956 at least.

The diaries cease in January 1958 when Thomas Henry died, two years before Terry and I met.

The PRUDAMES family moved into Canonbury Cottages in August 1933 and I have already found the diaries and an absolute wealth of family documents in Thomas Henry's old wooden Sea Chest (now empty). If the missing diaries have survived they should to be here somewhere and I intend to find them.

## **Huntingdonshire Family History Society**

### **THE BIG FAMILY HISTORY FAIR**

Saturday 21 April 2012 from 10am-4pm  
at The Burgess Hall, St Ives, Cambs PE27 6WU

Free entry and free parking

**London Westminster & Middlesex FHS** will be there  
along with other FHSs, various commercial traders  
and researchers including Tom Doig,  
who will be helping to date any old photos which the public might bring

There will be 4 free lectures  
booked on the day on a first come first served basis.  
Refreshments will be available

For more information visit: [www.huntsfhs.org.uk](http://www.huntsfhs.org.uk)

# LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Members of the Society will be held in the Radnor Hall, Wesley's Chapel, 49 City Road, London EC1Y 1AU at 3pm on Saturday 3rd March 2012

## **Business**

- The Report of the Chairman
- The Report of the Secretary
- The Annual Accounts
- The Election of the Officers of the Society:
- The Appointment of other members of the Executive Committee
- Any Other Business (previously notified)

Tricia Sutton, Hon. Sec.  
141 Welbeck Road  
West Harrow  
Middlesex HA2 0RY

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I mentioned in my last report that I would not be standing as Chairman at the AGM in March. I have been in post for the past seven years plus a further 2 years prior to this as joint Secretary with my wife Joan. I hope to carry on as Chairman of Wembley where we hope to develop the branch in our new premises.

Our membership today on the 2 November stands at 840 with 193 not yet renewed. Quite a few members have taken advantage of the new PayPal facility on our website to pay their subscriptions. It also makes it easier for people overseas to make payments. PayPal is something that I have been proposing for several years now and we are indebted to Peter Walker our Webmaster for setting up this feature. Whilst on the subject of membership our Committee are endeavouring to extend local publicity to try and boost membership.

We are still without a Treasurer so I am still writing cheques. However Brian Green our old Treasurer has been attending some of our executive meetings in an advisory capacity. At the present time we are meeting every second month at Avenue House, Finchley, a Grade II listed building which was the home of Henry (Inky) STEPHENS, son of the inventor of blue black ink. The executive consists of Chairman, Secretary, Branch Chairmen or a representative from the five branches together with the Membership Secretary, Projects Coordinator and this year we have been joined by Elaine Tyler. Some representatives have dual roles such as Rosemary Roome and Barbara Haswell who run the Barnet and City branches and are also part of the Editorial Team. Anne of course is Membership Secretary and Bookstall Manager. Joan looks after the microfiche but is now not on our Committee. Elizabeth Burling is the third member of the Editorial Team. I would like to thank them all for their support throughout my term of office.

Another function of our Society is to attend the open days of some other Societies where our publications are on sale and advice is given



on our London Westminster and Middlesex area by Rosemary Roome and Doreen Heywood together with other helpers. Thanks are due to them as well and to all those that have kept the five branches together, no mean task.

***William Pyemont***

*Chairman*



## SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Executive Committee has met bi-monthly this year and has been debating ways in which the Society can move forward in these times of economic difficulty. We are actively trying to boost our membership and to encourage member and non-member family historians in the London area to attend Branch meetings. I have been arranging for a new publicity leaflet to be placed in all local libraries, museums and archives in our area and an advertisement has been inserted in the first edition of a new Family History publication, *Discover Your Ancestors*.

I enjoy receiving emails from members and non-members and do my best to answer your questions or at least point you in the right direction, but I cannot do your research for you, so please don't ask. I would encourage everyone to make full use of all the information and links on our website and you can email your queries to the Editors of METROPOLITAN for inclusion in the *Help!* section. Now that our Membership Secretary can be contacted directly by email, I should receive fewer enquiries about membership matters.

Over the year I have had the privilege of representing the Society at several 'User Group' meetings. In February I attended a very informative meeting at the Home Office with other FHS users and staff from the GRO. In April there was a similar meeting of representatives of Family History Societies within Greater London at

London Metropolitan Archives. Proposed cuts to services were outlined and discussed and a representative from Ancestry updated us on the continuing digitisation and indexing of LMA's records. I was also invited to a meeting at the British Library to mark Deceased Online's launch of the records of the St Pancras & Islington Cemetery, the largest in London. Apart from family historians, there were also those who had interests in or responsibility for maintaining other cemeteries in the London area. It was useful to find out more about this website, how they operate and whether our Society could benefit from working with them. We decided in committee, however, that our Monumental Inscriptions would not fit into their scheme.

I was disappointed by the low turn-out at the AGM last February and hope more of you will be able to come to Wesley's Chapel next March. Apart from the Business meeting I have been able to book two excellent speakers for the day and we will have the opportunity to visit the Chapel, John Wesley's House and the Museum of Methodism as well as browsing the Bookstall.

All in all this has been a very busy but worthwhile year. The highlights for me have been publicising our Society on the FFHS stand at the *Who Do You Think You Are? Live* event and a special Open Day for FHS representatives at the Society of Genealogists that I recently attended with Doreen Heywood. Amazingly, I've even found time to do some family history of my own.

***Tricia Sutton***  
*Secretary*



**TREASURER'S REPORT**  
**for the year ending 30 September 2011**

As we currently have no Treasurer,  
there are no Treasurer's Report or Accounts

# LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX FHS

## CONFERENCE & ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, 3 March 2012 10.30am-4.30pm

**The Radnor Hall, Wesley's Chapel  
49 City Road, London EC1Y 1AU**

### The Programme for the Day

Registration and Refreshments from 10.30am.

Between 10.30 and 11.30am and in the Lunch Hour our Bookstall will be open. There will also be opportunity to visit the Chapel, John Wesley's House and the Museum of Methodism (open from 10am-4pm-last entry 3.30) or you may like to visit Bunhill Fields, the large non-conformist cemetery over the road.

- 11.30am            Welcome  
                      Talk: *The Happiest Days* by Dr. Ron Cox  
                      School as illustrated by Head Teachers' Log Books
- 12.30                Lunch: Tea and Coffee will be provided, but you will need  
                      to bring a packed lunch
- 1.45                 Talk: *Turning your Tree into a Tale* by Kathy Chater
- 2.45                 Registration for those only attending the AGM
- 3pm                 The Business of the Annual General Meeting  
                      chaired by our President, Michael Gandy
- 4pm                 Meeting closes

Directions:        The nearest Underground Stations are Old Street (Northern Line) and Moorgate (Metropolitan).It is then a short walk to the Chapel  
The nearest Main line stations are Moorgate and Liverpool Street.  
Liverpool Street (also Central Line) is further so take 205/214 bus  
Bus: 205 runs from Marylebone Station via Euston and Kings Cross/St Pancras, along City Road past Wesley's Chapel to Liverpool Street.

**LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX  
FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY**

**Annual General Meeting  
to be held on  
Saturday 3 March 2012**

**Nomination Form for Election of Officers**

**Position: CHAIRMAN**

Nominee:..... Mem No.....

Proposed by:.....

Signature..... Mem No.....

Secoded by:.....

Signature..... Mem No.....

Date..... Agreed by Nominee.....

**Position: HON. SECRETARY**

Nominee:..... Mem No.....

Proposed by:.....

Signature..... Mem No.....

Secoded by:.....

Signature..... Mem No.....

Date..... Agreed by Nominee.....

CONTINUED OVERLEAF

**Position: HON. TREASURER**

Nominee:..... Mem No.....

Proposed by:.....

Signature..... Mem No.....

Seconded by:.....

Signature..... Mem No.....

Date..... Agreed by Nominee.....

**Any Other Business**

I wish to raise the following matter under Any Other Business

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

Name:..... Mem No.....

Signature..... Date.....

Please return this form to: Hon Secretary LWMFHS  
141 Welbeck Road, West Harrow, Middlesex HA2 0RY  
To be received no later than Tuesday 17 February 2012.

## A FRENCH SAMPLER

By Sylvia Thompson, Member No. 6801

My Scottish Granddad, Charles ROBERTS, was a coal miner and lived in Musselburgh near Edinburgh. In 1914, at the start of WW1, he was 31 and married with 3 young boys. He joined the Highland Light Infantry and became a 'Lewis Gunner'. In 1915 he was in Armentieres in Northern France. He and his fellow soldiers were looking for somewhere to sleep overnight and they found a burned out house. In the morning, in daylight, he had a look around the house and found a tapestry.



On it was the alphabet and some numbers and also the little girl's name Zoe LOOR, her age of 11 years and the year she made it 1900. He knew that his wife would like it and so he put it in his kitbag. Soon he went on leave and was able to hand it to Grannie. She was delighted. Granddad went back to fight in the war and sadly was killed in August 1916.

The tapestry was the last gift given by Granddad and so it was cherished. Grannie was left a widow with no job and 3 young boys to bring up. She trained as a Midwife and qualified about 1918. She was the local Midwife in Musselburgh and worked till the late 1950s. By 1970 Grannie had gone blind and was due to be re-housed. Her 3 sons all moved to London to find work and married. Although living independently it was felt that Grannie should come to live with us in Harrow. The tapestry came too. My dad was so proud of it that he got it framed and it had pride of place on the sitting room wall. Every visitor to our house was given the history of it.

I inherited the tapestry about 8 years ago. My hobby is genealogy and social history. I felt very strongly that although I really did not want to part with it that it should be with Zoe LOOR's family. About 3 years ago I attempted to trace them but was unsuccessful.

About a year ago I got a new work colleague called Myriam who is French. I chatted to her about it in the summer. She said that all birth, marriage and death records are kept in local Town Halls. Also, LOOR is an uncommon name in France and so that gave us a fair chance. She said if I wrote to the Mayor of Armentieres she would translate it into French as I do not speak French. A week later we got a reply from Monsieur Cazier who was the Archivist at the Town Hall. He told us that Zoe LOOR had died in 1957 but had had 3 children and the youngest was still living in Armentieres and was 81 years old. He gave us her address. He also said if by any chance the family did not want it he would be honoured to hang it in their archive as 90% of Armentieres was destroyed in WW1.

We wrote to her. She wrote back saying she knew nothing of her mother's tapestry but would be pleased to receive it from me. About this time there was a postal strike in France so Myriam suggested we gave an email address. The granddaughter emailed back and wanted to know why I wanted to hand it back to the family. She also could not understand the history of it and was quite suspicious of me saying that her grandmother was very upset by it. She said on no account was I to go to their house and she would only meet me in a public place and she wanted a photo of me to identify me. To whom? She then suggested that I post it to them. As if I would trust a 110 year old tapestry to Royal Mail. I suggested that they meet me at EuroStar in London to hand over the tapestry and I offered to



pay their travel fares. After many more not so nice emails I made a decision to donate it to the Archive.

Myriam, her husband and I went to Armentieres on 18 December. I handed the tapestry to Monsieur Cazier. He was so pleased. Zoe LOOR's family were invited to meet us at the Archive but declined. There was a local and a national newspaper reporter and the whole thing was filmed. Monsieur Cazier showed us about 40 large black and white photos taken by an Army Photographer of the soldiers fighting in Armentieres. He also told us that about 10 years ago a British family had contacted him as they wanted to return the hands of the Town Hall clock that their relative had stolen during WW1. The tapestry is now hanging on the wall in the Reading Room for all to see. I understand that the LOOR family have been to visit the Archive and have seen the tapestry.



## **BRUCE CASTLE MUSEUM LOCAL HISTORY DAY**

Bruce Castle Museum are holding their annual Local History Day  
at the Museum, Lordship Lane, London N17 8NU  
on Saturday 18 February 2012.

As the date has only just been confirmed by the Museum, details of talks  
etc are not yet available.

The LWMFHS will have a Bookstall. Local history societies including  
Edmonton Hundred and Hornsey Historical are usually present as are a  
number of other local history based organisations.

Further details may be found on the Museum website:  
[www.haringey.gov.uk/brucecastlemuseum](http://www.haringey.gov.uk/brucecastlemuseum)  
Tel: 020 8808 8772

## 2011: A SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY YEAR

The Royal British Legion described this year's two minutes silence on Remembrance Day as a unique occasion: 11.11.11.11.

This year also marks the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the organisation, just one of a number of anniversaries in 2011. Those on the list below were jotted down as they were discovered, not the results of a piece of research, so they range from the significant to the more trivial.

Such timelines can be extremely helpful to Family Historians when putting ancestor's lives in context as they can reveal possible reasons why particular actions were taken. (Try doing this under column headings such as Wars/Conflicts, Politics, Religious Events, Civil Events, Scientific Discoveries, Legislation etc.)

<b>Anniversary</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Event</b>
650	1351	A statute of Edward III created the office of Justice of the Peace (Magistrates) in all English counties
600	1411	London's Guildhall established
350	1651	King James' Bible published
300	1711	St Paul's Cathedral rebuilt
250	1761	A new road from Paddington to Islington was built (the first London by-pass)
200	1811	Paper money is made legal tender in Britain
170	1841	Census on 6 June
160	1851	Census on 30/31 March, Great Exhibition, Religious Census, Colney Hatch, Gold Rush in Australia, King's Cross Railway Station opened
150	1861	Census on 7/8 April, Great Northern Cemetery opened
145	1866	Age at death on GRO death indexes
140	1871	Census on 2/3 April, Whit Monday became Britain's first Bank Holiday
130	1881	Census on 3/4 April
125	1886	Wimbledon, Canadian Pacific Railway, first Daimler car, the 'Avon Lady' Company founded
120	1891	Census on 5/6 April
110	1901	Queen Victoria died, Census on 31 March/1 April

100	1911	Census on 2 April, SoG founded, National Insurance introduced, MPs paid for the first time, Amundsen reaches the South Pole, Mother's maiden names on GRO birth indexes
90	1921	Prince Philip born, Royal British Legion
85	1926	Queen Elizabeth II born
75	1936	Red telephone box, first Butlins Holiday Camp, first TV from Alexandra Palace
60	1951	Festival of Britain
50	1961	Songs of Praise first televised, Private Eye magazine
25	1986	Opening of M25, Big (financial) Bang

## **BEGINNERS' GUIDES**

**which are available from our Bookstall Manager.**

1. *Starting your Family History* by Margaret Ward (Ref FED 78)  
Price: £5.99 Bookstall; £7.25 UK; £8.50 Europe; £10.25 Rest of World
2. *Introducing Family History* by Stuart A Raymonde (Ref FED 10)  
Price: £8.95 Bookstall; £10.25 UK; £12.30 Europe; £13.20 Rest of World
3. *Finding out about your Family History* By Kathy Chater and Simon Fowler (Ref FED 23)  
Price: £2.99 Bookstall; £ 3.75 UK; £4.55 Europe; £ 5.25 Rest of World
4. *Easy Family History* by David Annal (Ref FED 96)  
Price: £6.99 Bookstall; £8.55 UK; £9.75 Europe; £11.25 Rest of World
5. *Tracing Your East End Ancestors A Guide for Family Historians* by Jane Cox  
Price: £14.99 Bookstall; £17.99 UK; £18.98 Europe; £21.50 Rest of World.
6. *Tracing Your London Ancestors A Guide for Family Historians* by Jonathan Oates  
Price: £12.99 Bookstall; £14.50 UK; £16.50 Europe; £19.50 Rest of World

The last two books were reviewed in July 2011 METROPOLITAN pages 160 and 161.

## BOOK REVIEWS

*Under The Wires at Tally Ho, Trams and Trolleybuses of North London 1905 – 1962* by David Berguer, published by The History Press, 128 pages, paperback, 74 black and white photographs  
Price: £12.99 Bookstall; £14.50 UK; £15.60 Europe; £17.25 Rest of World.

‘You should never judge a book by its cover’ runs the old saying but having seen the colour cover of this book I just could not resist buying it. Not that I am a tram or trolleybus enthusiast but my first twenty eight years were spent living in Barnet and the last thirty years of my working life were spent on the island at Tally-Ho, North Finchley. Although both trams and trolleybuses had ceased running by 1964 they were nevertheless a very important part of our daily lives, whether for business or for pleasure. As children we went to Holloway Road (Jones Bros) and then walked along Seven Sisters Road to the North London Provident Company for new clothes etc or to Wood Green, again for clothes or shoes. How uncomplicated and tranquil life seemed then.

David Berguer, a founding member of the Friern Barnet and District Local History Society, paints an evocative picture of the electric vehicles that ran from the 1900s up until 1962 on the streets of London. His account of what life was like then whether working on these modes of transport or travelling on them for work or for pleasure during those years is sure to evoke many happy memories.

David Berguer has used newspaper reports, oral histories and council minutes together with many unpublished photographs from both local and private collections.

Eight appendices give details of each route travelled and the period of operation.

Places mentioned en route include - Acton, Barnet, Camden, City Road, Colindale, Edmonton, Friern Barnet, North Finchley, Haringey, Harlesden, Highbury, Holborn Circus, Holloway, Islington, King’s Cross, Moorgate, Shepherds Bush, West Hendon, Willesden and Wood Green.

### **Anne Prudames**

*Pimlico Through Time* by Brian Girling, published by Amberly Publishing ISBN 978-1-84868-995-4.

Price: £14.99 Bookstall; £16.50 UK; £17.60 Europe; £19.30 Rest of World

*Pimlico Through Time* is a fascinating pictorial history of that part of London bounded by Westminster to the North East, the Thames to the South and the Chelsea Waterworks canal to the west. Two hundred years ago the area in question was covered in market gardens called The Neathouses which was a flood plain and being of a rural nature was used by Londoners seeking the outside country air.

The Neathouses were part of the estate belonging to the Grosvenor family who began to develop the area aided by the Master builder and planner Thomas Cubitt. The Cubitt houses began to appear just prior to the 1840s and were mainly of the fashionable Italian style terraces with columns and a stucco finish. 1860 saw a change in the area with the coming of Victoria Station followed in the 1930s by the Victoria coach station. Both of these transport hubs carry the name Victoria but are in fact part of Pimlico.

Most of the early photographs date from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, many shown as 1906. On the same page there is a modern picture of the same view, for instance there is a picture of a large crowd of people accompanied by dogs, ponies and rabbits stood outside the Our Dumb Friends League Blue Cross Animal Hospital in Hugh Street, c1908. The accompanying picture shows the new smart entrance to the animal hospital opened by the Queen in 2001.

This book will be of interest to anyone who had family living in Pimlico during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century or to anyone familiar with the Victoria area in recent years. Members interested in social history would also find the book of interest as there are illustrations of old buildings, shops, transport and much of the early clothing can be seen.

The author lives in Harrow and is available for talks.

### **Bill Pyemont**

*A Vision of Middlesex* by Janet Owen and John Hinshelwood, published by Hornsey Historical Society (2011) ISBN 978-0-905794-42-6, 120 pages, paperback.

Price: £15.00 Bookstall; £17.00 UK

Issued to mark 40 years of the activities of the Hornsey HS this book should really be titled *A Vision of North Middlesex*, covering as it does 15 specific areas ranging from Enfield and Edmonton over to Hampstead and Muswell Hill.

It comprises 118 photographs dating from 1863 to 1920 and selected from a collection of over 800 assembled by the North Middlesex Photographic Society between 1903 and 1920 – a time when north Middlesex was beginning the change from a rural to an urban environment. As well as the location, each picture is identified by its print number in the NMPS collection, the year it was taken and the photographer. A commentary on each print, based on the information on the print plus a variety of other sources, is also provided, together with the useful addition of the modern day location of the subject. As well as the almost obligatory pictures of large houses, subjects as diverse as public houses, ramshackle cottages, and narrow alleyways are recorded as well as two farmyards, several country lanes and a scattering of people from various levels of society - even some haymakers in a field in Crouch End.

The slightly uncommon A4 landscape format does allow for most of the prints to be shown presumably in full without any cropping; all would almost certainly have been taken on plate cameras. Print quality is almost universally excellent, as one might expect from members of a photographic society. Overall a fascinating book worthy of a place on the shelves of anyone interested in the local history of the area.

**Brian Green**

## JOTTING

### **West Surrey FHS Open Day, 5 November 2011**

Warnings had been given about road and building works in the area round Woking Leisure Centre so those transporting books, maps, display stands etc made an early start and arrived in very good time. Train travellers soon followed and all was ready before the 10am start and its expected influx of visitors. There was only a trickle then as many were affected by the works and car parking problems. Indeed an overall reduction in numbers was apparent compared with previous years.

Despite this, our team – Eileen Bostle, Jim and Margaret Garrod, Doreen Heywood, Barbara Hubbarde, Margaret Irvine and I – were able to suggest ways of dealing with a wide range of enquiries about our area and we were pleased that our sales increased this year.

See page 64 for our next Open Day visit


**Rosemary Roome**

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 £3 charge for each

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



## HOOD

Please could somebody check the original registers for any baptismal or other records of the people mentioned below as I do not want to rely on online transcriptions as omissions and errors can sometimes occur and I am in Australia.

Thomas Frederick HOOD was born about 1792-1796, probably in London, Middlesex. He was a Carver and Gilder, as were many in the HOOD family, including Robin Vaughan HOOD who came to Australia in 1833. Thomas Frederick HOOD lived at 27 Meredith Street, Clerkenwell. His parents, Joseph Frederick HOOD and Mary MAYO were married in Lugwardine, Herefordshire but the Hereford Record Office has no record of the births of father or son.

Joseph George Mayo HOOD, labourer, was born about 1793, possibly at St John, London. He married Mary Ann CLARK on 18 September 1815 at St Dunstan, Stepney, when Mary Ann was described as a manglewoman. Their first child was born 17 January 1821, St George East, Stepney.

Other parishes connected with the HOODs are St James Clerkenwell and Westminster, where Joseph Frederick HOOD, son of John or Joseph HOOD and brother of Robin Vaughan HOOD, was baptised.

Is there a record of a Guild for Carvers and Gilders or apprenticeship records of London Directories?

***Cecil J E Rae, Member No. 7670***

*3/184 Weatherall Road, Beaumaris, Victoria, 3193 Australia*

*Email: cecrae@ozemail.com.au*

Note: London Parish Registers are being added to the Ancestry website. For example, it already includes the marriage of Joseph George Mayo HOOD to Mary Ann CLARK in 1815 and you can see a scan of the original entry in the Marriage Register.

**JACKSON**

(1) My great grandfather was Thomas James JACKSON and he was born on 1 February 1838, for some reason in Willesden (the family have connections with the Marylebone area). He married Louisa AVES in Marylebone in August 1867.

(2) His parents were John JACKSON, baptised 24 January 1808, Marylebone and Louisa BUCKLAND, baptised 11 March 1809: they married in Marylebone on 27 November 1834. They can all be found in the 1851 census, when Louisa was recorded as being 40 years old, John 39 (although if the baptism I have noted is correct, he was in fact 42). Louisa also appears in the 1861 census as a widow; I have not tried to find the death of John (there are two candidates in FreeBMD).

(3) John JACKSON could be the son of Thomas JACKSON (baptised May 1773) and Mary MARSHALL who married in 1795. They appear to have had seven children Elizabeth (1799), Thomas (1802), William (1803), George and James (both 1806), John (1808, my ancestor), and Robert (1810).

(4) Thomas JACKSON could be the son of Thomas JACKSON who married Elizabeth MORGAN in July 1770: they had four sons, John, Thomas, Nathan and Amos, and as there was a tradition that the first 2 sons were named after grandfather and father, I wonder if the elder Thomas was the son of another John. However, I have not found a plausible birth/baptism for the elder Thomas, so my family tree stops there. If anyone has any links with this family, or can extend or correct my tree I would be very interested to make contact and exchange information.

***Peter Jackson, Member No. 3141***

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**GUDGIN/BOUSWORTH**

John GUDGIN entered this world in 1850 at Southgate in Middlesex, the son of George GUDGIN and Sarah (née ANDERSON). In the 1871 Census he is living with his married sister, Susan WILDMAN, in Southgate and is working as a butcher.

Maria PARRY was born at Broadoak on the banks of the River Severn in Gloucestershire in 1851, the daughter of William PARRY and Elizabeth (née KNIGHT). In the 1871 census she is working as a laundress at the Gloucester Lunatic Asylum, where she also lived as a member of the staff.



In September 1874 John GUDGIN married Maria PARRY, using the assumed name of George BOWSWORTH, in the Parish Church of St. Stephens, Hulme, to the south side of Manchester. He also gave his father's name as George BOWSWORTH. Over the next seven years whilst living in Manchester, Maria gave birth to four children: Charles (my great grandfather), Eliza (who died in infancy), Hatley and William. In the 1881 census they were living in Chorlton-cum-Medlock, Manchester, with George now working as a milk dealer. About 1882 the family moved to Liverpool where George was working as a labourer and over the next five years Maria had two additional children, Rose and Walter.

By 1887 the family have returned to Southgate and John GUDGIN, now working as a labourer, has reverted to his birth name. All of the children have taken the GUDGIN surname with the boys adopting Bousworth as their middle name. Maria and John had a further four children whilst living in Southgate, Tilley (who also died in infancy), Hannah, Andy and Flora. Incidentally, the 1911 census tells us that Maria in fact had 5 children who were not surviving but to date I have only been able to identify Eliza and Tilley. John and Maria separated in 1895; John died in 1922 and Maria in 1937, both in North London.

We know that John GUDGIN and George BOWSWORTH are one and the same person as Maria's death certificate tells us that she is the widow of John GUDGIN otherwise BOUSWORTH.

I would like to piece together the story of how a butcher from Southgate met a laundress from Gloucester and decided to use an assumed name to get married in Manchester. Did Maria know about this deception when she married him and why did John GUDGIN revert to his birth name about 1887 and move his family back to his old stamping ground?

But where do I look next? Is there a local newspaper in the Southgate area for the period 1871 to 1874 that could give me a clue and can I search their archive on line? Any suggestions of where to look next would be most welcome, or if anyone knows this story, I would be pleased to hear from them.

***Gary Gudgin, Member No: 7496.***

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**Note:** The British Library Integrated Catalogue (Newspaper Catalogue subset), reached via: <http://catalogue.bl.uk>, contains details of all

newspapers and periodicals held at British Library Newspapers, Colindale. *The Tottenham and Edmonton Weekly Herald, Southgate Messenger, North Middlesex and West Essex Advertiser etc* appears as having been published from 1869 to 1970. This newspaper is not available to view online but the collection is due to move to Boston Spa, Lincolnshire at some point in the future which will be nearer to you in Harrogate.

## **FOXWELL**

I am looking at the life of my g-g-grandfather John Green FOXWELL (1823-1889) who seems to have spent much of his adult life in London. He was baptised on 20 April 1823 in Colchester, Essex, the son of Rachel FOXWELL (no father mentioned).

As an adult he works as a hairdresser on or near Essex Road, Islington. He makes an appearance in most of the censuses apart from 1841 and 1881, marries three times, leaves a will and at death has 5 children at least, who benefit nicely from his hard work.

Family tradition, from several of his grandchildren, has it that he was a wonderful man and was loved dearly. But I would dearly love a photo of him or a contemporary biography. Unfortunately my informants are long dead and I hoped that perhaps someone within the Society could advise me. I would also like to discover what it was like being a hairdresser in Islington, 1850-1889, and I wonder how my g-g-grandfather managed to acquire quite a number of houses. And how do I climb over the brick wall of his birth and parentage?

***Joy Shaw, Member No 7604***

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Note: John appears in the 1841 census as a hairdresser's apprentice, aged 19, living at Balkerne Lane, Colchester, with Ephraim WATSON and household. In 1881, four of John's children are at a Boarding School in Hastings but John himself is proving to be quite elusive!

A biography and possibly a photograph of him might be included in his obituary, if one was published. Have you looked at the local press? Camden Council list many contemporary Islington newspapers in their local history collections on their website at: [www.camden.gov.uk](http://www.camden.gov.uk)

**CLAYTON**

I am looking for the death records for Ellen CLAYTON née BAGLIN, born Bath 1832 and her husband, Thomas CLAYTON, born Knaresborough, Yorkshire, a tailor by trade. They lived mostly in the Marylebone, St Pancras, Regent's Park area of London. Confusingly, there was another Thomas and Ellen CLAYTON living in Islington at the same time as my Clayton ancestors. I believe that these are the Thomas and Ellen CLAYTON who died at Islington and are, therefore, not my Clayton ancestors.

On the 1881 census, Charles F CLAYTON, aged 3, is listed as the son of Thomas and Ellen CLAYTON. He appears in the GRO Indexes as Charles Frank CLAYTON born in 1878 at Chelsea, Registration number 1a 315. I believe he was in fact their grandson. Who were the mother and father of Charles F CLAYTON?

In the 1891 census a grandson Francis C GIBSON appears, born 1878, living with his grandparents, Thomas and Ellen CLAYTON, and Charles F CLAYTON disappears. I believe that Charles Frank CLAYTON changed his name to Francis C GIBSON. Can anyone throw any light on this mystery?

***Bonita Creswell-Young Member No. 7554***

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**Note:** If you buy the birth certificate of Charles Frank CLAYTON it should give you the name of his mother, if not both of his parents.

**HARRIS SPINET MAKERS**

Author researching the History of The British Spinnet is anxious to contact anyone who has been working on a Harris Family Tree for London in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Centuries. Particularly interested in John HARRIS, Joseph HARRIS and William HARRIS, the latter two associated with Holborn. Other Harris Families were also involved in producing Musical Instruments such as Organs and Silver Trumpets.

I would be most grateful for any help you can give me in this matter and, hopefully, we can forward Research in this area.

***Graham S. Gadd, Non-Member***

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**Note:** Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre holds 18<sup>th</sup> century rate books for Holborn, which may be of help.

### **WILLIAM SANSOM AND CATHERINE HENDERSON**

First sighting of the family is in the 1851 census in Glasgow: Catherine SANSOM, widow, with four children all born in Ireland. Margaret c1831, William c1832, Catherine Anne c1836, John c1841, all married and died in Glasgow. I already had army records of son William but no clues.

After 12 years research found William had been a soldier in the 44<sup>th</sup> Regiment. He was born in London, MDX, Parish of St Allens (typed transcription on army record). The original, barely legible, could be St Alban's? William enlisted in the 44<sup>th</sup> Regiment at Worcester in 1803. He was wounded in 1810 manning a gunboat, became a Chelsea Outpensioner on his return from India in 1826 and requested discharge to Strabane, Co Tyrone, Northern Ireland.

I cannot find trace of William and Catherine's marriage, births of children, or William's death 1841-1851. Catherine died in Glasgow in 1858 and the certificate names John HENDERSON, farmer, and Susanna LEGG as parents.

Where was William SANSOM stationed between 1810 and 1822? Does TNA at Kew have the quarterly returns of Chelsea Outpensioners?

Any information greatly appreciated.

***Tina Delves, Member No: 7655***

*3 Merrivale Grove, Parklands, Swindon, Wilts SN3 1EH*

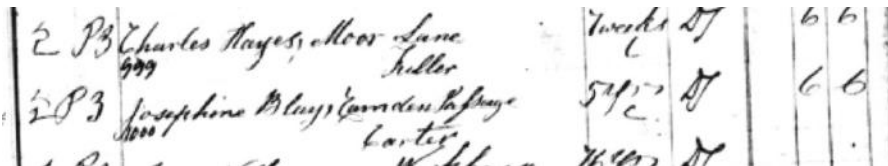
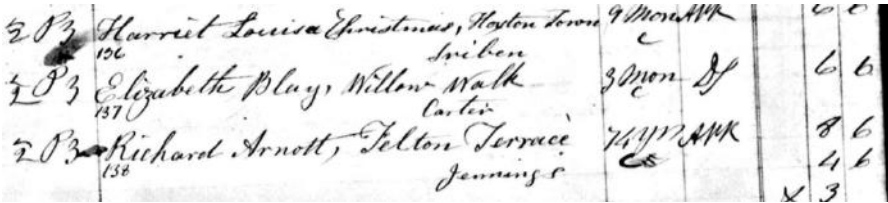
*Email: delves84@btinternet.com*

**Note:** It seems likely that William SANSOM married and died in Ireland, where all his children were reputedly born. We at London Westminster and Middlesex Family History Society are not experts in Irish records; perhaps the North of Ireland FHS could help you? Their website is at: [www.nifhs.org](http://www.nifhs.org)

The Chelsea Pensioners British Army Service Records 1760-1913 appear online at: [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk). Sometimes these include details of where a soldier was serving but not in the case of William, unfortunately. To find out where he was stationed between 1810 and 1822 you could look at the website of the 44<sup>th</sup> Regiment, which is at: [www.44theast-esssex.com](http://www.44theast-esssex.com)

**BURIAL RECORD PUZZLE**

I am researching children of a BLAY family (father: William Thomas BLAY, mother Sophia THORTON). Of their children one daughter, Elizabeth BLAY died in 1853 and another Josephine BLAY in 1855. I have copies of the entry for both but I am puzzled by the fact that in both cases below all entries on the page there is another surname that appears unrelated. In my case both entries have the name CARTER entered underneath.



The strange thing is that a BLAY sister (Sarah Josephine) married a Walter FAIRWEATHER in 1881 and then in 1899 a 'Josephine FAIRWEATHER, formerly BLAY' married a CARTER.

So later on there is a CARTER/BLAY connection but CARTER is not associated with the BLAYs at the time of the earlier deaths.

I would like to know the significance of the entry of apparently unrelated names under each burial record. Could it be the name of who reported the death, or a witness to the burial, or who paid for the burial, or who requested a certificate?

Is the format of the entries peculiar to the particular church (St John the Baptist, Hoxton)?

**Lionel Carter, Member No. 7520**

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Note: Could the names be the undertakers? We have not come across this sort of thing before. Can any of our readers help?

**SIR THOMAS PLEDGER 1530-1599**

My family comes from a brother of Sir Thomas PLEDGER 1530 – 1599 born in Horseheath Cambridgeshire. When he died he was living in Bottisham Hall, Cambridgeshire and there is a memorial to him and his wife Margaret in the local Church (which needs repairing). He is wearing a suit of Green, which means he was a steward in the household of Queen Elizabeth 1.

I have tried to find his coat of arms and more about him. He was knighted in Elizabeth 6 but he's not in my CD of Knights Bachelors and I can only find him in Fairbairn's book of crests 1905. His father-in-law was Sir William CONINGSBY 1480c-1540; his Grandfather was Sir John HIGHAM (knighted 1579?) and his father was Thomas PLEDGERARDE 1490c-1556. His will is not very great. I don't know how to find out more about Sir Thomas, who later moved in very high circles. He's not listed as going to any of the Cambridge colleges, he's not in the DNB, or the Worthies of England 1662, and some of the books on Cambridge churches don't call him Sir or even mention the family memorial in Bottisham church!

His wife Margaret was first married to Robert ALINGTON (son of Sir Giles ALINGTON) who died in 1552 at the age of 31 and left her with 10 children. Sir Thomas and Margaret did not have any children of their own, so there are no direct descendents. In his will Sir Thomas leaves money and land to over 30 different family members.

I have found a bit in the 1619 Visitation of Essex and Suffolk, Heralds Pedigrees for Cambridge and Essex by Sims and Smith 1849, and reference to the British Library. This I found was under Harley in the Manuscripts Department but I have not been able to read it.

Where else can I find out about Sir Thomas and how he was in the Queen's employment, any help welcome please.

***Eileen Blythe, Member No. 2***

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**Note:** The official records of the College of Arms include the registers of grants of arms so it might be worth contacting them with regard to Sir Thomas PLEDGER. You can contact the College of Arms by post at Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4BT, by telephone at: 020 7248 2762, or on the website: [www.college-of-arms.gov.uk](http://www.college-of-arms.gov.uk)

**CAMERON/PIPPETT/WIGMORE**

I am a member of the North West Kent FHS and I am hoping that someone in LWMFHS may be able to help me with my family which were centred around Willesden and Kilburn in the 20th/21st centuries.

My Great Grandparents were James CAMERON and either Mary Jane CHARTERS/CHARTRES or Jane SHIELD(S). This very fact I am having difficulty in proving as I understand they came from County Antrim, Northern Ireland and most of the census returns were destroyed, which makes accurate research that much more difficult. The couple came over to England in the 1870s.

The BROWN side of my family were from St Paul's Deptford and Camberwell in southeast London. Some of them moved to Willesden and Kilburn in the early part of 20th century, close to where my CAMERONS had made their home.

I am currently research my Grandfather's siblings and would love to find living relatives or at least information of those who lived in these more modern times.

So the families below are all inter-related that I am very keen to find more about are (mainly 20th C): CAMERON married PIPPETT 1887; (There were 3 PIPPETT sisters part of the Metro Concert Party c1930s) CAMERON married WIGMORE 1891; CAMERON married BURROWS 1876; CAMERON married MATTOCKS 1924; CAMERON married SMITH 1930; CAMERON married LAWRENCE 1899; PIPPETT married ATKINSON 1930; PIPPETT married BALDING (later Dulwich);PIPPETT married JOHNSTON 1929; PIPPETT married GATES 1927; WIGMORE married CAMISH 1929; WIGMORE married LANE 1915; WIGMORE married MITCHELL 1924; WIGMORE married OAK 1923; BRIGHT married BROWN (also Camberwell) 1927; BROWN married TAYLOR (a jockey) c1901; TAYLOR married HOARE (later Southend-on-Sea) 1924.

I look forward to hearing from anyone for whom this rings some bells.

***Tony Brown, Non-Member***

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## FORTHCOMING BRANCH MEETINGS

**Barnet Branch** – 7.30pm for 8.00pm

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

- Thursday 19 January      *All Roads Lead to Smithfield*  
by Ian Waller
- Thursday 16 February    *The Story of the Telephone*  
by David Hay
- Thursday 15 March        *Dickens and the Workhouse*  
by Dr Ruth Richardson
- Thursday 19 April        *From Cornhill to Costa – the History of London*  
*Coffee Houses*  
by John Neal

**City Branch** – 12 noon for 12.30pm

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

- Thursday 26 January      *Phoenix – Tracing Ancestors who Survived the*  
*Great Fire*  
by Trevor Spinage
- Thursday 23 February    *What Happened to Lucy?*  
*A talk about adoptees, foundlings, orphans and*  
*the Empire Children*  
by Ian Waller
- Thursday 29 March        *Concorde*  
by David Hodges
- Thursday 26 April        *City Churches Plus a Dragon or Two*  
by Barbara Haswell and Rosemary Roome

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See inside front cover for address.



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

Wednesday 4 January	No meeting
Wednesday 1 February	<i>Markfield Beam Engine Museum</i> by Ken Brereton
Wednesday 7 March	<i>London, Here and There – Part 2</i> by Frank Bayford
Wednesday 4 April	<i>39 Years at the Royal Opera House</i> by Georgie Perrott

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

Friday 13 January	TBA
Friday 10 February	TBA
Friday 9 March	TBA
Friday 13 April	TBA

## **ADVANCE NOTICE**

The Society AGM and Open Day  
will take place from 10am-5pm on

**Saturday 3 March 2012**

at Radnor Hall, Wesley's Chapel  
49 City Road, London EC1Y 1AU

Details of the day's programme, together with the reports of the  
Officers for 2011, are published in this METROPOLITAN

**Tricia Sutton**  
Hon. Secretary

## MISSING FROM THE CENSUS?

How frustrating it is to accumulate some information about an individual – such as birth or marriage or death details – but fail to find them on one or more census returns!

There are various possible reasons for this:

perhaps the relevant returns are missing – not mislaid but destroyed by fire, flood, mice or insect infestation due to inadequate storage and/or conservation in earlier times;

the data may have been incorrectly indexed due to the interpretation by the indexer of old handwriting which has possibly faded. (Try another website index.);

perhaps the person is actually recorded but with a Christian name which you do not recognise; names which were used in the family or among friends may differ from the ‘official’ name but the former may have been recorded by the enumerator when interviewing a semi-literate head of the household. Spelling was also variable! Some such variations are:

**Ann, Anne,** Annie, Nan, Nancie, Nancy,

**Eleanor,** Ellen, Helen, Nellie, Nelly,

**Elizabeth,** Liz, Lizzie, Lizzy, Bess, Bessie, Bessy, Bet, Beth, Libby, Lily, Lise,

**Margaret,** Meg, Peg, Peggy, Maggie, Margery, Marjorie, Megan, Greta, Rita,

**Mary,** Molly, Polly,

**Sarah,** Sal, Sallie, Sally,

**Queenie** from Alexandra, Victoria, Mary, Elizabeth, for example

**William,** Will, Willie, Bill, Billie, Billy. No doubt such variations were necessary in this family:

In the 1851 census for Ramsbury, Wiltshire, Henry FOX, Cordwainer employing 1 man, and his wife Jemima have the following children:

William James FOX aged 11

William John FOX aged 9

William Thomas FOX aged 7

Elizabeth Twine FOX aged 5

William Joseph FOX aged 3

William FOX aged 1

Perhaps a cry of ‘William’ summoned them to meals!

## **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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