

METROPOLITAN

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Family History Society



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

Cover picture: The Albert Memorial, 2011
© Barbara Haswell
See article on page 180

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EDITORIAL

Did you inherit old photographs of your family? Perhaps you are one of the fortunate people with a family album of neatly mounted photos, complete with full names, dates, places etc – or do you have a box of assorted pictures but with no indication of who the people are, or where, when or why some event was recorded? The *Help!* on p171 illustrates the problems this can cause so do help your descendants by putting relevant details (in pencil, please!) on the backs of your photos.

Some people also have diaries or letters written by their ancestors and they can be most illuminating although the story they tell may have inconsistencies. (See p140.) However, if you ask a group of your living relatives about a person or event you are bound to find differing view – it's human nature – and the process can be both instructive and entertaining on occasions.

The article on page 147 recounts some amusement which was found in dealing with Census returns and it came to the Editors in response to comments in the last Editorial. Surprisingly it was the only reaction but perhaps there are others, along with a few articles which we already know of, which are in the pipeline? We do hope so for *your* contribution to METROPOLITAN, whether an article, jotting or snippet, is keenly awaited. We have not heard from some previous contributors for a long time and it seems that some members have never considered the possibility of sharing their findings through the journal for the mutual benefit of members of our Society. If you are hesitant about doing this please contact the Editors who can discuss your idea and develop it with you. The process can be initiated by post, by email or in person if you are able to come to our stand when we make an Open Day visit. The next one is at Aylesbury on Saturday 30 July (see page 151). We look forward to seeing any members then. It is always good to meet you and help with problems – your feedback is welcome too.

You will find reports of other events within this issue: the Great Exhibition of 1851 (p180); the Centenary celebrations of the Society of Genealogists (p152); a 30th Birthday (p155) or a Pearl Anniversary. A pearl can be likened to your Family History as it starts with a small body or irritant (you or the itch to investigate your history) and is formed by a gradual build-up of layers around it (your research) to produce something valuable.

Rosemary A Roome

A NOTE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

At the time of writing no one has come forward to take over the post of Treasurer. Any Society or organisation can do without a Chairman or Secretary but it cannot function without a Treasurer. Therefore the Executive committee will have to review the situation very shortly.

Some members may have already noticed that the medal cards (class W372) for personnel who served in the first World War can now be searched and downloaded for just £2 per item on The National Archives website. The index, however, can be searched for free and a blanket search can be made just by entering the family name into the search box. You may even find relatives that you did not know had served in the war. The medal card list even extends to VAD Red Cross nurses that may well show another side to that little known and elusive Great Aunt.

The Waterloo medals list (class Mint 16/112) can also be searched but if it's Royal Naval Seamen you are interested in between the years 1853 and 1923 they can be searched for and the record downloaded for £3.50.

Another useful item on the TNA website is the Free Latin course that can be tackled in sections enabling one to learn each bit at leisure. It could save looking around for someone who learnt Latin at school willing to decipher that old document for you. Records like wills tend to follow the same format so once you get the gist of the preamble on a will written in Latin others follow a similar pattern. If you can't find the course just enter Latin into the search box.

Whilst on the site it is well worth signing up for the free newsletter that will wing its way to your email inbox each month giving all the latest news from The National Archives.

One last thing, why not become a friend of The National Archives to support their work in preserving many of the old documents. A very useful benefit is the 20% discount on purchases made via the TNA book shop, both in person and online.

Bill Pyemont

ALAN GODFREY OLD ORDNANCE SURVEY MAPS

Maps are an important research aid for family historians and County Record Offices /Archives and most larger libraries have maps relevant to their own area/s. The University of California for instance (METROPOLITAN Vol. 32 No 4), has old maps of London online including Cary's Map of 1818 as well as others dated 1846, 1856, 1859 and 1872. As these precede the earliest of the excellent series of Alan Godfrey Maps they are well worth consulting for those researching 'London' ancestors.

Alan Godfrey Maps have been publishing their series of Old Ordnance Survey Maps since September 1981. They are based on the Ordnance Survey 25" (or 1:2,500) plans and currently run to 2,500 titles with between 8 to 10 new maps published monthly. The coverage of London and Middlesex is exceptional and probably the largest of any county published to date. As well as showing the area covered by the map in question in great detail including houses, churches and other buildings of interest, Railways, Alleys, Courts etc are also shown. In addition each map has on the reverse a history of the area, written either by Alan Godfrey or a Local Historian. Also on the reverse is an extract from a contemporary Directory.

The maps are divided into three distinct categories viz. LONDON covering what is now Greater London excluding the City of London and those outer parishes which were formerly in the County of Middlesex. The latter are listed under MIDDLESEX and link up with the London Series. The third category comes under the heading LONDON LARGE SCALE PLANS and are from the 5" plans reduced to a scale of a yard to a mile.

Many of the maps particularly in the LONDON series now cover four periods with some maps dating to the third decade of the twentieth Century. The earliest date for the majority of maps is 1894 with a few maps dating some thirty years earlier. The latest catalogue (April 2011) has a number of new maps and a list of these is appended.

They are available from the Bookstall Manager: £2.50 Bookstall; £3.00 UK; £3.80 Europe; £4.60 Rest of World.

LONDON

Ealing 1934	AGM56(4)
Ealing Common, West Acton 1934	AGM57(4)
Finsbury Park 1870	AGM20(1)
Holborn 1873	AGM62(2)
Kensal Green & Queens Park 1935	AGM47(4)
Neasden 1936	AGM25(4)
Swiss Cottage 1866-7	AGM37(1)
Swiss Cottage 1937	AGM37(4)
Tottenham 1936	AGM13(4)
Willesden Green 1935	AGM36(4)
Willesden Junction 1935	AGM46(4)

LONDON Large Scale

Brompton 1862-72	AGM6.100
Camden Lock 1870	AGM7.12
Charing Cross 1871	AGM7.73
Gloucester Road 1865-72	AGM6.99
Kensington (Royal Albert Hall) 1872	AGM6.89
Paddington Green 1865-72	AGM6.60
Piccadilly 1869	AGM7.72
St James's 1869	AGM7.82

MIDDLESEX

Edgware 1935	AGM6.13b
Elstree 1895	AGM6.05
Enfield Chase 1895	AGM7.06
Enfield NW 1911	AGM7.02
Enfield (South) 1895	AGM7.07
Enfield Wash 1910	AGM2.16
Great Stanmore 1935	AGM5.16
Harrow-on-the-Hill 1935	AGM10.11
Harrow Weald 1935	AGM5.15
Hillingdon (South) 1935	AGM14.08
Kenton & Wealdstone 1912	AGM10.08
North Harrow 1935	AGM10.07
Pinner (North) 1935	AGM10.02
Pinner (South) 1940	AGM10.06

Ruislip 1939	AGM10.09
Ruislip (SE) 1940	AGM10.14
South Harrow 1935	AGM10.15
Sudbury 1936	AGM10.16
Wealdstone & Hatch End 1935	AGM10.03
Wembley 1935	AGM11.13b

Apropos the above, in the April edition of METROPOLITAN, Mr PA Draper (Member No. 7617) submitted a *help!* re Riding House Lane /Riding House Street. Were they the same?

Having worked for a large Retail and Manufacturing Chemists with several Royal Warrants in Mortimer Street between 1957 and 1964, almost opposite the Middlesex Hospital. (I was saddened to read that it has been demolished.) I knew Riding House Street well and in fact at that time it ran from Nash's All Souls Langham Place, behind the Middlesex Hospital to Cleveland Street, terminating just opposite the old Cleveland Street Workhouse.

Having consulted several maps in my possession, including the following Alan Godfrey Maps 'The West End 1870' and 'Langham Place and Fitzrovia 1870', Riding House Street at that time terminated at Great Titchfield Street. The section behind the Middlesex Hospital between Great Titchfield Street and Wells Street was then Charles Street and the change of name therefore probably occurred sometime between 1856 and 1870. Westminster Archives could probably help here and would also have contemporary Street Directories which should list all tradesmen in the area.

The *A-Z of Regency London* (Harry Margary 1985, in conjunction with Guildhall Library) is too early, being based on *Horwood's Maps 3rd Edition* published in 1807 (updated by William Faden 1813). However this shows Riding House Lane as it was before All Souls Church was built. The houses are numbered and although a very strong magnifying glass is required, No 27 appears to be situated on the south side of Riding House Lane at its junction with Great Titchfield Street.

Listed in the above new London Large Scale Maps is St James's & Buckingham Palace 1869. The reverse of this map is absolutely fascinating

listing THE ROYAL FAMILY at that time including Princes and Princesses, HER MAJESTY'S HOUSEHOLD which includes both the Lord Steward's and Lord Chamberlain's Departments. Under MEDICAL DEPARTMENT some twenty members of the Medical Profession are listed. Two names are immediately familiar. The first is Sir William JENNER, Physician in Ordinary to the Queen and Thomas Spencer WELLS, Surgeon to the Household.

During my time at Mortimer Street we supplied not only drugs and medicines to a number of companies which are still household names today but also had a Medical Hire Department. Among the instruments we stocked I particularly remember Spencer Wells Forceps and Cheetles Forceps, although I can find no reference to the latter in any Directory in my possession.

Over those seven eventful years working in Mortimer Street I served many stars of stage and screen - the BBC was just behind All Souls in Portland Place - and being close to the Middlesex Hospital many of the medical staff were regulars. We supplied four complete operating theatres in the early years of the 1960s, hence the Royal Warrants.

Two years after I left, Cory Bros. moved to new premises in East Finchley and eventually closed.

Anne Prudames

Prisoners in the Poultry Compter in the City of London

Joseph BIRKETT, late of Middlesex Street, Somers Town and formerly of Bell Court, Bell Yard, Doctor's Commons, London, Accountant, Coal Dealer and Confectioner.

Richard STOREY, late of Queen Square, Aldersgate Street and formerly of Clement's Lane, Lombard Street, both in the City of London, Tailor.

Moses HENRY, late of Union Court, Fashion Street, Brick Lane, Spitalfields in the County of Middlesex and formerly of Duke's Place, London, Toll Collector

The London Gazette 23 July 1811

GRIMMER

By Mary E. Davidson, Member No. 7605

My ancestor is Edward GRIMMER, who probably came from Filby, in Norfolk. Filby is connected to the parish of Great Yarmouth, Norfolk.

I have Edward's will dated 1833, in which he mentions his brother, James, who was with him at the time the will was written. The will says James GRIMMER was victualler of the *White Horse*, Bayton in Suffolk. There is no Bayton in Suffolk in my UK Ordnance road map. However, the scribe may have misspelled it, as there is a Beyton near Bury St Edmunds, as well as other possibilities. However, James is not to be found in any of the usual sources in Suffolk, which I have consulted. So I have only the sure knowledge that Edward GRIMMER had a brother, James GRIMMER, but nothing further on James

Searching the IGI, I have come up with:

Edward GRIMMER, christened 27 October 1780 at Filby, Norfolk

James GRIMMER, christened 29 August 1780 at Filby, Norfolk

Both were sons of Robert GRIMMER (born about 1754) and Elizabeth CHURCH (born about 1758) who were married by licence on 9 March 1779 in Filby. The boys might have been twins, or someone recorded the years of birth incorrectly. As the names of Edward's first born children are the same as above Edward's parents and that my Edward had a brother James, which is the name of his second son, makes me believe that I may have found the right connection. It is possible that victualling may have been a hereditary family occupation, so I looked, without success, for a Robert GRIMMER with a tavern or inn in Filby,

When Edward GRIMMER had his will written, he was living in the parish of St George the Martyr, Southwark, where he had been a victualler for some time. His address was William Street, New Kent Road. According to directories: in 1826-7 he was victualler of the *Crown Tavern*, 13 Phoenix Row, Blackfriars Road and also a wine and spirit merchant at 13 Phoenix Row, Great Surrey Street. In 1830, his establishment was the *Rising Sun* on Great Surrey Road. It could be that the name changed but the address remained the same. Previous to his victualling in Southwark, Edward

GRIMMER was listed as a publican and victualler in Hackney and he probably leased taverns in other parts of London as well.

The wife of Edward GRIMMER is listed as Sarah in the IGI birth entries of the children. No surname is given. Sarah is not mentioned in the 1833 will, so must have died before that date. The children of Edward GRIMMER and his wife Sarah are as follows:

Elizabeth GRIMMER, born 10 October 1812, baptized 2 March 1813 at St Leonard, Shoreditch

Robert GRIMMER, born 8 July 1814, baptized 29 July 1814 at St Leonard, Shoreditch

James GRIMMER, born 29 June 1816

Sarah GRIMMER, born 22 February 1823, baptized 12 March 1823 at St George the Martyr, Southwark.

I have not been able to find the death of Edward GRIMMER, or his place of burial, even though I searched the actual parish register microfilms for St George the Martyr.

Family tradition says that the eldest son, Robert GRIMMER, born 1814, was a lawyer. I have not yet researched that lead and would appreciate advice on how to proceed.

James GRIMMER, born 1816 (pictured right) is my ancestor. The birth date for James was obtained from his British Columbia death certificate as I could not locate it in any English records. While in London he too was a victualler for a short time, by inherited lease of the *King Alfred* 11 Lisson Grove North, Marylebone Parish. According to his granddaughter and my grandmother, Martha (née GRIMMER), James detested victualling and felt very put out that he was not supported to be a lawyer like his brother Robert, instead, being apprenticed as a plumber but apparently, also set up with the *King Alfred*. A history written by Washington GRIMMER, youngest son of James, tells a different story:



‘My father, James GRIMMER, owned a ninety-nine year lease on three, three storied houses, belonging to the Duke of Portland Estate in London, England. They were situated on Broadly Terrace, Lisson Grove, close to the Great Central Railroad Station and Hotel. He had married at 28; his wife being but 17 years of age. He had received more than an average education obtained through five years in a good boarding school, but in spite of his father’s plans for his future, he determined to be a plumber in London. He evidently was a good man at his calling as he worked on some important buildings such as the dome of St Paul’s Cathedral and the Old Italian Opera House. There were three boys in this family: Oliver, four years my senior and Lancelot, two years older than he. Two daughters died in infancy. My father did not restrict his activities in his calling to the City of London, but preferred working in various villages and this no doubt filled his veins with the necessary wanderlust which called him to America. After a restless two years of planning, etc., he sailed from Liverpool on the sailing vessel *Asia* for New York. Landing in America, he obtained a position as a deckhand on a boat on the Ohio River and later as a painter on one of the Mississippi River Boats. This was at the time of the great New York Panic, and also the phenomenal rapid growth of New Orleans towards an important sea and river port. After two years or so at this work he was called back to assist in settling his father’s estate. His father owned the lease on and kept the *King Alfred*, a famous London Stout-house, and this was left to him by his father’s will. My mother did not care for the business and they sold it out.’

Again, according to Martha, James was 15 years old when he ‘ran away’ to America. Family tradition says that while in America, James was amazed to see that peanuts grew under the ground.



On 6 February 1843, James GRIMMER married Mary Ann OLIVER (pictured left) in the Parish Church, Parish of St Marylebone in the County of Middlesex, after banns. He is listed as a plumber of full age and Mary Ann a minor and a spinster. His father is Edward GRIMMER, Victualler and her father is Lancelot OLIVER, Carpenter. A female

witness was Sophia WILKINS and the curate was George EVEGARD or EVERGARD.

The children of James GRIMMER and Mary Ann OLIVER, all born in the parish of St Marylebone, Christ Church, are as follows:

Alice Mary GRIMMER, born 30 November 1843 at the *King Alfred*, 11 Lisson Grove North. (Alice Mary died 26 December 1843 at the *King Alfred*, 11 Lisson Grove North.)

Lancelot Edward, born 20 February 1845 at 17 Broadley Terrace

Oliver GRIMMER, born 3 December 1846 at 20 Broadley Terrace

Amy GRIMMER, born 24 September 1848 at 20 Broadley Terrace (Amy GRIMMER died before 1851).

Washington GRIMMER, born 24 April 1851 at 20 Broadley Terrace, Blandford Square

According to the death certificates, the two infant daughters were 'blue' babies.

Edward GRIMMER, father of James GRIMMER had his will written in 1833, at which time James returned to London from his sojourn in America. Apparently in those days, wills were usually written while the testator was on the death bed and family tradition does say that James did not get back in time to see his father before he died.

After inheriting the lease of the *King Alfred*, the address of James and later his wife and family was the *King Alfred*, 11 Lisson Grove North, parish of St. Marylebone, so they must have lived on the premises. By 1845, James had sold his lease on the pub and purchased a ninety-nine year lease on Broadley Terrace. After the birth of his children, James sold Broadley Terrace and emigrated from London to Australia. He later followed his sons to North America.

Following is a continuation of the saga written by Washington GRIMMER:

'It was shortly after this that my father received a letter from an uncle, Alfred SPAIN, in Adelaide South Australia, relating the wonderful growth and expansion with the usual resultant opportunities in that far off country. Mr SPAIN told how he was reaping a fortune as a draper on Rundle Street, Adelaide. He told of the discovery of gold in Bathurst and Bendigo,

Victoria Colony, of men returning with quantities of the precious metal and purchasing the most expensive dresses and luxuries for their sweethearts, wives and families, paying for them with nuggets or gold-dust which Mr SPAIN would weigh out on his fine gold scales. The outcome was that my father decided to follow Mr SPAIN to South Australia and try his luck with his wife and family in that land of milk and honey, luxuries and gold.

Father sold out his leases at approximately five thousand dollars being a rather sacrifice price and endeavoured to obtain passage for the family to Australia. At last he managed to locate a sailing ship taking emigrants direct from London to the Port of Adelaide, a voyage of some 16,000 miles via the Cape of Good Hope. She had been a Dutch man-of-war named the *Wallwich (Woolwich)* and in those peace times, had been chartered by the British Government at a good fat charter price when the opportunity offered. This was one of two voyages she made in this service. She was, I believe, a fine, well manned, smart sailer with all the crew from captain down properly trained. They had regular drill on board and didn't forget to pipe all hands to grog (Square Gin). The result of this rather romantic charter compared with our modern system of filling up Britain's colonies was that some thirty or forty families of unassisted immigrants took passage to a land of broad, open spaces of fertile pasture land, to say nothing of the mineral wealth and where anyone with ordinary brains might soon acquire a snug fortune.

The *Wallwich* made the voyage in the smart time of 95 days from port to port and it was aboard this ship that I got my first lessons in walking as I was but 15 months old when we left London. It was rather good weather throughout the voyage with the exception of crossing the Bay of Biscay and rounding the Cape of Good Hope and off this Cape, I narrowly missed losing my life. The ship was rolling gently and as it was a fine warm afternoon, the passengers were lying around on deck-chairs. A couple of extra heavy rollers made the ship lurch with the result that a large barrel of water which had been lashed to the ship's side broke loose, rolled across the deck and into the scupper. As luck would have it, I was thrown into the scupper just ahead of the barrel and the passengers witnessing the accident thought sure that I had been crushed, but they pulled me out from under the barrel little if any the worse for the experience.. My father undoubtedly kept a record of the happenings on board during the trip as he had been quite a literary man and occasionally wrote for the papers as well as keeping his regular diary. Unfortunately, when later settled in Australia, his

house was burned, destroying the complete contents, including some priceless relics and his Old Country furniture.'

Having researched both ships' names, *Wallwich* and *Woolwich*, I have come to the conclusion that Great Uncle Wash probably thought that was the name of the immigrant ship, when, in fact, it was and is the name of the Thames port from which it sailed. I checked all of the departures from London for 1851 and 1852, all from Woolwich, but no ship bore either name. It is always important to have the name of the ship on which our ancestors emigrated but a slight misunderstanding has denied us that information.

Any assistance in finding the death date and place of burial of Edward GRIMMER, born 1780 in Filby, Norfolk and probably died in Southwark, Surrey about or after 1833 would be greatly appreciated.

'Uncle' Alfred SPAIN has not been identified in the family circle, so I would also appreciate any assistance in finding the identity of this gentleman, who might have been a draper in London. He may have married a sister of James GRIMMER or Mary Ann OLIVER (shown again right) and been an uncle by marriage only. Or perhaps a great uncle.



Sources:

Church of Latter Day Saints: International Genealogical Index and Family Search
Parish Registers for the Parishes: Filby, Yarmouth; St Marylebone; St Pancras Old Church; Shoreditch St Leonard; St George the Martyr Southwark;
Ancestry.com
Immigrant ships website for years 1851 and 1852
Family history written by Washington Grimmer, 1851-1930, North Pender Island, BC and family tradition
Last will and testament of Edward Grimmer, dated 1833.
Records of Victuallers, London Guildhall
Records of Plumbers, London Guildhall
Mr Stephen Humphrey, East Surrey FHS
Vital Statistics for the Province of British Columbia.

Note: Alfred SPAIN and his family appear often in the *South Australian Register* newspaper. Alfred SPAIN, wife and child are mentioned arriving in Australia on 25 September 1850. An advert placed by him in 1852 states that he pays the highest prices for gold dust, whilst noting drapery goods available. A family notice from 20 June 1855, informs that Mrs Alfred SPAIN of Woodbine Cottage was delivered of a son. Another later issue of the same paper mentions Alfred SPAIN, Draper of Rundle Street, whose child was interred at the public cemetery of the City of Adelaide. You can view Australian archive newspapers online at: www.trove.nla.gov.au

The South Australian Birth Index 1836-1854 contains Elizabeth Mary SPAIN, daughter of Alfred SPAIN and Sarah GRIMMER, who was born 12 November 1850 at Adelaide and George Alfred SPAIN, born 6 August 1853 at Norwood with the same parents. This free site is at: www.familyhistorysa.info

Having established that Alfred SPAIN married Sarah GRIMMER and that they arrived in Australia with a child, a look at FreeBMD shows that the marriage of Alfred SPAIN and Sarah GRIMMER took place at Sudbury, Suffolk (England) in the March quarter of 1849. If you obtained a copy of this certificate it would show Sarah GRIMMER's father and enable you to establish an exact relationship to 'Uncle' Alfred SPAIN.

CENSUS - WHAT ENTERTAINMENT!


By Dennis Galvin, Member No. 1714

I spent over two years transcribing my chosen part of the 1881 Census and then later a further 18 months on the very difficult Whitechapel district. I was naturally more than keen to locate some of my own ancestors. Almost every page was a battle and I did not get the added bonus of finding any kin. Nevertheless, transcribing was thoroughly entertaining and always full of interest.

I found that a powerful magnifying glass was essential as well as old maps and telephone directories - what after scrutiny still appeared to be an unlikely surname would in fact be confirmed by, say, half a dozen or so entries in the London phone book. My 1932 dictionary proved to be good for deciphering old occupations. I tried not to give up on anything and on many occasions something which appeared completely illegible one day was discernible the next. On my patch was the Regent's Canal, the old border between Hackney and Shoreditch. Three barges were moored on census night - *The Star*, *The Despatch* and *The Express*. I still chuckle at young Alfred STYLES son - unmarried 11 years - mate!

The enumerator must have been quite thrilled to go aboard the boats but I often wonder about a different situation as one of my kin was the Parish Clerk for Ayot St Peter, Hertfordshire and thus the enumerator in 1871 and 1881. He was a gardener at Brocket Hall but how did he get on when he had to knock on the door at the Hall; 'Place of birth m'lord, madam?' I like to think the occupants had a nice sense of humour!

As the 1881 project covered the whole country it was inevitable that some of us would be confronted by one or more of the celebrities of the day. I had one and was pleasantly surprised to come across a well known Music Hall artiste: George B BIGWOOD, lodger, widower aged 51 years, Comedian born Kennington, Surrey. He was resident comedian at the Britannia Theatre and appeared regularly at the *Hoxton Halls* and the *Surrey*. His middle name was Barnes and he was popularly known as Barney Bigwood. He appeared all over London, especially in pantomime. He eventually became stage manager at the *Britannia* and died age 84 in 1913.




BRITANNIA

THEATRE,

HOXTON

Sole Proprietress Mrs. SARA LANE.
Business Manager Mr. A. L. CRAUFORD.
Stage Manager Mr. G. B. BIGWOOD.
Musical Director Mr. H. LIPYEAT.

PROGRAMME 1d.



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Moving on in years, it is important to mention first and foremost the terrible loss of lives, animals and our precious buildings in WW2 but a secondary displeasure would be no 1941 Census, due of course to the war - it will be a great gap. How will historians and researchers know where all those people lived if the houses were destroyed or demolished after the war? Many who died will not even be on any national census, although I understand that there was a full enumeration on 29 September 1939. Perhaps somebody can tell us more about that.

On perhaps a more topical note, when my youngest daughter Gaye graduated at university she started work at the London Borough of Camden and eventually worked on the 2001 census. Payment was a set fee but when it came to 'rejected or not returned' the office would ring for a visit, at either £1 or £1.50 payment per call (she can't quite remember). Anyway, she returned to this block of flats to be confronted by no less than four policemen with guns who asked where she was going. She informed them that she was the local authority official dealing with the census and was visiting number whatever, as they hadn't completed and returned their census form. The policeman said, "Not in there you're not! We're about to carry out an arrest!"

Finally, my daughter's friend did similar census work in Leeds, where she got bitten by an Alsatian dog and finished up going to hospital for treatment, including a tetanus jab! However, it turned out alright in the end, as the two girls did so well out of the census that they went off to Tunisia for a short-break holiday!

Note: The 'enumeration' of September 1939 was carried out in order to issue Identity Cards for the entire population at the beginning of WWII. Everyone was allocated a National Identity Number. A family group of 2 parents and a child would have numbers of the form ABCD123/1 (father), ABCD123/2 (mother), ABCD123/3 (child).

These numbers became National Health numbers with the introduction of the National Health Service in 1948. Information on the 1939 Register is accessible via its custodian, The National Health Service Information Centre, but costs £42. For more information visit: www.ic.nhs.uk/services/1939-register-service

A CAUTIONARY TALE

By Margaret Luetchford, Member No. 5494

In the 1950s a history teacher commented on my family name of COGDELL as being unusual and that he had seen a brass monument to that family in a church somewhere near Watford. At that time there was little in the way of help, access to records or interest in tracing family history and questions within the family were met with a blank stare. People had survived a war and were more interested in reconstructing their living families than looking into the past and showed little interest in their ancestors.

Thirty years on and another generation of children were confronted with the task of building a family tree for a school project and I was asked to delve into the past to try and find out about our origins. Once again family questioning was unproductive and so I started to look at the available records. I have spent considerable time over the last twenty or more years visiting churches, looking at old parish records, becoming a familiar face at a number of county record offices, numerous visits to Kew and then in more recent years using the internet to trace this family.

The family were remarkably well documented and most stayed in the same area for hundreds of years. Combined with an unusual name this made research easier than I expected. My search took me through landed generations to the workhouse and back and eventually I found the connection with a church brass at St Lawrence, Abbots Langley, near Watford. It is a memorial to Thomas COGDELL, who died in February, 1607, and his two wives. I am sure this must be the one mentioned to me all those years ago. I was able to construct a family tree with related documents back as far as 1475, which seemed quite impressive and which carried me through a university degree, numerous talks and lectures and connected me with family members around the world that I had been previously unaware of.

In 2005 I developed a medical condition which defied diagnosis by numerous members of the medical profession. After several years of differing tests and theories it was decided that the problem was specific to those of eastern Mediterranean origin and must have been acquired from an

individual over the last three generations. I do not know what the odds are, but they must be quite high that I am not really a COGDELL at all and that someone in my recent past was not entirely truthful.

With the availability of genetic testing the query in the back of my mind may soon be solved. If you receive a postcard from the Middle East you will know that I am off in search of a new family history. So take a warning from this that you may not be “Who you think you are”.

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.

There will be two talks: one for beginners will be given by Dave Foster and Michael Gandy will give this year's Bill Torrens Memorial Lecture, the subject being *The Background to Non-Conformity*.

Tea/coffee available throughout the day but bring a packed lunch!
For more information visit: www.bucksfhs.org.uk

JOTTINGS

Society of Genealogists 1911-2011

Norma Allum and Margaret Christie were very happy to enjoy the Centenary Conference of the Society of Genealogists, held at the Royal Overseas League, St James's Street, London SW1 on 6 and 7 May 2011.

It began with a gathering on the Friday night of distinguished guests, members and friends at a Banquet followed by a few relevant speeches. HRH Prince Michael of Kent, the Society's President, opened the proceedings with a short welcoming speech but then had to leave for a prior engagement. Everybody seemed to enjoy the meal and the companionship – the evening passed very quickly.

Saturday began with a talk given by Dr Nick Barratt of *Who Do You Think You Are?* on *From Memory to Digital Records: Personal Heritage, Family History and Archives in the 21st Century* – interesting and well received. There were two strands of talks and choice had to be made as to which talk one joined. We stayed together and thus heard Dr Colin Chapman FSG describe *The Progress of our Profile – 100 Years of the SoG*. Again well received and followed by sandwiches etc. before the afternoon session.

This began with Dr Gill Draper who talked about *Beyond the Grave - Challenges of Family Reconstruction Before the 18C* explaining how today's incredible opening up of technical inventions have helped make the distant past more available.

We then followed with our choice of Sharon Hintze on *The Past, Present and Future of Record Preservation and Public Access*. After another little break we then heard Else Churchill on *I've Got a Little List – Digital and Other Sources for the 'Long 18th Century' 1688 – 1837*. A polished and interesting talk as indeed all were that we chose.

Our final talk was a resumé of her book *The Perfect Summer-Dancing into the Shadow in 1911* by Juliet Nicolson. Fascinating and highly entertaining readings from her descriptions of that very hot summer and life in England just before WWI.

The day closed with dinner and a short presentation – an amusing speech by a Society member and a musical entertainment.

Altogether a successful and well-organised celebration of the Society's centenary.

Norma Allum, Member No. 0430

Margaret Christie, Member No. 0129

Oral History

The Oral History Society and British Library are offering a new training course for family historians, to enable us to:

- understand what oral history is and how it can be applied to family research
- identify and access existing oral history material in local and national archives, and consider how to use it in our research
- be aware of the ethical issues that may arise when conducting oral history interviews with family members
- consider how we could leave a record of our own life for future generations of our family
- be aware of basic requirements for conducting our own interviews

If you are interested in attending, the next course will be held at the British Library in London on Wednesday 3 August 2011. There are further details at: <http://www.oralhistory.org.uk/training/family-historians.php>

Cynthia Brown, Oral History Society

New Barnet WWII Heroes



With reference to the jotting in METROPOLITAN, October 2010 about the East Barnet War Memorial, there is now news about the New Barnet War Memorial.



Officially called the East Barnet Valley War Memorial, it is situated at the junctions of East Barnet Road, Station Road, Lyonsdown Road and Lytton Road in a small area known as The Triangle. The memorial consists of a white obelisk supporting a bronze statue of the Angel of Victory (sculpted by Newbury Abbot Trent, 1885-1963) and is surrounded by a small garden. The names on the memorial belong to men, from both East and New Barnet, who were killed by enemy action in WWI.

Mrs Catherine Loveday, who researched and listed the WWII names for the East Barnet Memorial, again worked hard to find the names of men from New Barnet killed in that war and a Portland stone plaque, inscribed with the 137 names, was laid in the flower bed by the memorial.

On Sunday 10 April 2011 a re-dedication service was held, led by the Salvation Army supported by the Chaplain of the East Barnet Royal British Legion and clergy from the local churches. Many former servicemen and women, local residents and relatives of the fallen were present. The plaque was unveiled by the Mayor of Barnet and all the names read out. Wreaths were laid and children from the nearby Cromer Road School laid Poppy Crosses and Poppy Stars of David.

Barbara Haswell, Member No. 4224

A 30th Birthday

The Barnet Branch of the Society celebrated 30 years of its existence at its May meeting. Its origins can be traced to May 1980 when the late Doreen Willcocks decided to put her new-found hobby of Family History in the Hobbies Exhibition held at St John the Baptist, Chipping Barnet. This caught the attention of others who began attending meetings of the then North Middlesex Family History Society in Enfield where it had started in July 1978.

Various others expressed interest in joining if meetings could also be held in Barnet. A poster and the local press advertised the inaugural meeting, held on 19 May 1981, as reported in the Society's journal of the time. A committee was elected (and was represented at our Birthday meeting) and it was decided to call the branch Barnet which referred to both the London Borough and the Barnet Deanery. The plan was to have a speaker or discussion at monthly meetings and to transcribe records of churches in the area. Recording started in September 1981 with the transcription of tombstones in Monken Hadley churchyard. The Rector there was keen to have this job done and arranged to have the grass mown in readiness. Similar activities took place in subsequent years.

There have been a number of changes over the past 30 years both to our Society and the wider world of family history. The City Branch was created in 1983, initially meeting in the Guildhall; the Islington Branch followed in 1988 and ran successfully for a number of years until lack of volunteers to run it resulting in closure; The Society's name changed (1990) to clarify the area it covered; in 2001 the then Westminster and Central Middlesex FHS was incorporated into the Society and the present name was adopted in 2004 to reflect the extended area covered.

The Barnet Branch has retained its name for 30 years and although, like other Branches, its venues and meeting days have altered during that time, meetings continue to feature a speaker or discussion with participation by members.

In May the contributions took the form of sandwiches, cakes etc, the compilation of an intriguing quiz and display material from our archives recording special events and contrasting methods of journal production in the 1980s (very manual) with the 21st Century when there are computers to help the process.

Technology has also transformed our pursuit of family history. More sources, including the censuses for 1891, 1901 and 1911, are on the internet

and can be searched online by computer anywhere. Indexes to these records are readily available but beware of transcription errors! All this information accumulates as many a spare room, home office or loft can testify. Consequently the talk by Michael Gandy, who was there at the beginning and is now our Society's President, was very pertinent. He considered the matter of what to do with all the material that has been collected, especially with regard to what you will pass on to your family for future generations. Your purpose will affect your current research and methods. It was very thought-provoking and well received by all present – researchers for 30 years and newer members alike.



Our photograph shows Diana Copnall (left) and Margaret Garrod studying some of the puzzles from the quiz while Mollie Newman and Michael Gandy look on. These last two names appear in our records from 1981.
Rosemary A Roome, Member No. 2985

WEBSITE NEWS

BBC Archives

The BBC Archives online contain over 4 million TV and radio items comprising nearly a million hours worth of recorded material.

In the early days of television all programmes were live and it was then not possible to record them as the technology to do so had not been invented but by 1947 a way of keeping television pictures was developed. The quality is not good as basically they were putting a film camera in front of a monitor. By the mid-1970s librarians and archivists became more closely involved with the BBC resulting in a lot more material being kept. Currently, everything is recorded, everything is kept for a minimum of five years and before they dispose of any TV material it is offered to the British Film Institute. Radio material that is not being kept is offered to the British Library Sound Archive.

The Archive Collection is divided into the following categories: Arts and Artists; Books and Writers; Broadcasting and Performing Arts; Business; Finance and Industry; Cultural Heritage; Events; Family and Lifestyle; Health and Wellbeing; UK Locations; Nature and Environment; Politics and Government; Science and Technology; Society and Welfare; Sports; Transport and Travel; War and Conflict. These include many examples of oral history such as eyewitness accounts of how Operation Dynamo saved the Allied forces from the Nazis at Dunkirk in May 1940 and Suffragette Dame Ethel SMYTH remembering a window-breaking campaign from 1912 (recorded in 1937).

There is a useful list of all the contributors listed within the BBC Archive Collections; you can also browse by programme or by subject and it is free to access. This website can be found at: www.bbc.co.uk/archive

Haymarket Theatre.

Volunteers and staff at Westminster City Archives have just completed the first phase of a project to transcribe and publish letters from Alexander Meyrich BROADLEY's *Annals of the Haymarket* online.

The *Annals* are a series of four volumes on the history of the Haymarket, comprising portraits, cartoons, playbills and manuscript letters, and offering a remarkable insight into the history of London's theatre industry. The letters in the collection shed light on the thoughts and experiences of the major players – actors, singers, dancers, managers and impresarios –

involved in London's vibrant theatre industry from 1700 to the turn of the 20th Century. These letters appear along with biographical notes on the authors and recipients which have been researched by Westminster City Archives staff. You can view this website for free at: www.westminster.gov.uk/services/libraries/archives/indexes/theatre/research/broadley/

Sadler's Wells Theatre

Islington Local History Centre was recently awarded a grant of £32,724 to catalogue and preserve their Sadler's Wells Theatre archive.

This collection contains material dating from the 1730s onwards, representing all six theatres that have occupied the site since 1683. The funding has enabled them to employ an archivist for one year to catalogue and repackage the archive and work on the project began in May 2011.

As a result the collection will become much more accessible to researchers. When the catalogue is complete, it will be available online and will include digital images of key items from the collection so watch this space! Islington Local History Centre can be found online at: <http://www.islington.gov.uk/Leisure/heritage/default.asp>

East London Theatre Archive

Although the East London theatres (such as the Theatre Royal Stratford East, Hackney Empire, Wilton's Music Hall and the Half Moon Young People's Theatre) are mainly outside our area, this collection also houses the V&A-owned digitised collections of The Theatre Museum, whose Covent Garden home closed in 2007.

Resources range from playbills and posters through to rehearsal notes and perfumed programmes and covers dates from 1827 to the present day. The collection is free to look at, is easily searchable and you can download a scanned image of the actual artefact.

You can, for instance, look at the programme for the Standard Theatre, Shoreditch for the week commencing 27 April 1874. The performance was *East Lynne*, based on the novel by Mrs Wood and *This Side Up* by Leonard RAE (John T DOUGLASS). Performers mentioned were Mrs Charles VINER, Mr George HAMILTON, Mr W BRUNTON and Miss Kate NEVILLE. The Programme also has a full page advertisement for Rimmel's Choice Perfumery, whose new perfumes that year included a Duke of Edinburgh's Bouquet and a Livingstone Bouquet. This website is at: www.jisc-content.ac.uk/collections/east-london-theatre-archive-elta

City of London Burials

Over 30,000 burial records from St Botolph, Aldersgate 1754-1812 and St Giles, Cripplegate 1754-1812 have now been published on the FindMyPast website, which can be found at: www.findmypast.co.uk

Information includes name, date and place of burial and, where available, age and address at death.

British Overseas Records

The collections of births, marriages and deaths which took place overseas, actually at sea and from Army personnel have been rescanned and reindexed by FindMyPast. These collections are:

British overseas births 1818-2005

Births at sea 1854-1887

British armed forces births 1761-2005

British overseas marriages 1818-2005

Marriages at sea 1854-1908

British armed forces marriages 1796-2005

British Overseas Deaths 1818-2005

British deaths at sea 1854-1890

British armed forces deaths 1796-2005

Searching the birth, marriage and death collections on FindMyPast has also been improved. Previously, your search results showed a list of pages and only displayed the first and last names that appeared on each page. You had to check through numerous pages to find your ancestors.

Now, all these records are fully name indexed which means that you should be able to find who you are looking for straight away in the list of individual names. It is worth searching these records again for any ancestors you were previously unable to find.

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 SOCIETY NEEDS A TREASURER

Please contact the Chairman for more information.

BOOK REVIEWS

Tracing Your East End Ancestors A Guide For Family Historians by Jane Cox, published by Pen & Sword Books, 254 pages, illustrated, paperback, ISBN 978 1 84884 160 4.

Price: £14.99 Bookstall; £17.99 UK; £18.98 Europe; £21.50 Rest of World.

Few people today can claim that they did not have 'East End' ancestors. From earliest times migrants have flooded into this area of Middlesex east of the City of London. Its proximity to the London Docks brought them not only from other parts of the United Kingdom in search of work but also from different parts of Europe among them Walloons from Belgium, Huguenots from France and Jews from Spain and Russia. The majority of those from Europe were fleeing religious persecution in their own countries. As each of these group flourished they moved to better areas leaving other groups to take their place. In more recent times they have included migrants from Bangladesh.

The East End of today is within the London Borough of Tower Hamlets and includes Aldgate, Artillery Liberty, Bishopsgate, Bethnal Green, Blackwall, Bow, (Stratford le Bow), Bromley (by Bow), East Smithfield, Limehouse, Mile End, Mile End New Town, Millwall, Norton Folgate Liberty, Old Ford, Portsoken, Poplar, St Katherine's, Spitalfields, Stepney, The Isle of Dogs, Tower Liberty, Wapping and Whitechapel.

(NB. Both Bishopsgate and Aldgate are within The City of London Boundary and includes Bishopsgate Library and St Botolph's Church).

The first of nine chapters is headed 'Our Ancestors in Context: A Summary History of Tower Hamlets'. Other chapters cover Research, The Prime Sources, Other Major Sources, Records of Groups, Occupational Groups, The Second World War, The Street/House They Lived In, and Maps. Eight appendices cover Maps, Borough and Administrative Units, Parish Registers, Nonconformists, Marriage Venues, Summary List of Sources at Tower Hamlets Archives etc. There is also a Select Bibliography and a List of Organisations. Profusely illustrated with both maps and photographs this is an essential work for all those researching East End Ancestors.

With East End ancestors of her own, Jane Cox worked for twenty-five years at the National Archives and with her colleague Susan Lumas was, in 1983, a founding member of The City Branch of this Society.

Tracing Your London Ancestors A Guide For Family Historians by Jonathan Oates, published by Pen & Sword Books, 183 pages, illustrated, ISBN 978 1 84884 130 7.

Price: £12.99 Bookstall; £14.50 UK; £16.50 Europe; £19.50 Rest of World.

Tracing 'London' Ancestors is not very different from tracing East End Ancestors and Dr Jonathan Oates who is also an Archivist and Local History Librarian (London Borough of Ealing) is well qualified with regard to the relevant sources available for those tracing London ancestors.

Just as people migrated into the East End of London so they migrated also into the inner parishes of what was once the County of Middlesex, in particular the parishes of Westminster, Islington, Clerkenwell, Holborn, Marylebone and the City of London. Some stayed for short periods, others stayed for several generations before moving out to the leafier suburbs of rural Middlesex.

Dr Oates devotes the first chapter to an overview of London from Medieval times down to the present day. A further eleven chapters are devoted to every aspect of how to research your London Ancestors.

The Bibliography lists London-wide Institutions, among them a few less well publicised bodies such as Transport for London Group Archives and Barnardo's After Care Dept. Local Studies and Archive Centres/Libraries are also listed. A third list includes just two Museums of the many in London, The Museum of London and The National Army Museum. A fourth list includes Family History Societies in and around London.

(Here I take issue with Dr Oates with regard to the entry for own Society). Our entry reads: West London and Middlesex Family History Society. Covers London Boroughs of Barnet, Brent, Camden, Ealing (northern part), Enfield, Haringay, Harrow, Islington and Westminster. What has happened to the City of London and Hillingdon (part)? I have contacted the Publisher who has apologised and promised a correction in the next printing.

Finally there is a select Bibliography of Books as well as a list of books about London.

Anne Prudames
Bookstall Manager

TREASURER REQUIRED ASAP!!!
Please contact the Chairman for more information.

DISCOVERING JOHN WILLEY

By Elizabeth Burling, Member No. 4992

I have a little bible at home. In the front is written: Ann BAKER, 18 December 1843 and another hand (my grandma, Ann's granddaughter) has added 'aged 11'. In the back is written: Edward WILLEY senior. Departed this life 18 December 1862 aged 55 years. B[uried] at Tooting. No. of grave 340F; Julia Tryphena WILLEY died 6 October 1864, B[uried] at Victoria Cemetery, No. of grave 8798; Tryphena WILLEY departed this life 25 December 1882 aged 84 years. Buried at the Great Northern Cemetery Finchley, No. of grave 1564. I knew who Ann BAKER was and I knew that she had married John WILLEY but I had no idea who Edward Senior or Tryphena were. Julia Tryphena, according to grandma, was taken out in an open pony trap soon after she was born and later developed fits, dying aged 6 weeks.

As I said, this bible had belonged to my grandma's grandmother. I heard lots of stories about my great grandparents – John WILLEY was quite a character! I will tell you what she said and how we managed to find clues to his life from these stories. This is what she told me:

“As a boy my granddad had rheumatic fever. His father was a gentleman farmer in Devon/Cornwall but he lost all his money in a bank crash so John had to go to work. His uncle had a china warehouse down Duncannon Street beside St Martin in the Fields and Grandad went to work there.

Then he was a rent collector for a while. One day he was riding home across Hounslow Heath with all the rent money under his seat when he was waylaid by some men. Grandad was knocked out by the men but then the horse reared up and ran home so the men didn't get the money.

He also managed a brewery in Tenterden in Kent, living in Turnpike Road. Someone drowned in a beer vat while he was there. After this he bought and ran a hansom-cab rank in London.

Grandad went to America once, after his brother who owed him some money. When he got there he found his brother had married (even though he had a wife over here!) so he came back without his money. He brought back a clock which Len [grandma's brother] has now and a cabbage-leaf plate which I have.

All sorts of funny things happened to my grandad: a chimney pot fell off onto his head one windy day; he was rolled into a cellar with a barrel of beer as he passed a pub; once he tried to break up a fight between a man and his wife but they both set on him and beat him up.

Grandad called grandma 'my little teapot'. One day he came home and called to her from the street. She opened an upstairs window to see what he wanted and he threw up to her a live eel.

One day he was ill and the doctor said that he must have no solid food. Grandma went up to his bedroom to have what she thought would be her last meal with him, as he was so ill. She took her food upstairs set out on a tray with covers on the plates to keep the food warm. Just at that moment the doorbell rang and she had to go down and answer it. When she returned he was lying just as she had left him. However, when she lifted the covers off the food she found that he had eaten it all. 'I thought if it was going to be my last meal, it wouldn't matter if I ate something proper' he said. And what's more it did him good – he recovered!"



This was back in the old days, when the only census that had been indexed and was available to buy and view on disc was the 1881 (no internet then!). In 1881 John and Ann WILLEY were living at 1 Homer Row, St Marylebone. He was a brewer's carman aged 46, born Buckerell, Devon and she was aged 48, born Wimborne, Dorset. With them were Ed John aged 23, also a brewer's carman and born in Lambeth, Sid Alb aged 21, Sorter Post Office born Pimlico and Alice Sophia aged 19, Dressmaker, born Pimlico.

So John (pictured left) was born around 1835. People new to family history cannot imagine how hard it was trying to find someone in London by looking through reels and reels of census film (as we had to then). You could spend hours and hours

searching to no avail; eventually the person would turn up in the next street. However, looking through a small village is quite easy and it was no time at all before I found John in the 1841 Census as a 5-year-old at Avenhayes, Buckerell. Living with him were Edward WILLEY, farmer aged 33 and Tryfena WILLEY aged 37, probably his parents, 4 siblings and 3 servants. Edward and Tryfena! Could these be the people from the back of the bible?

At the next farm, Orchard Farm, were William WILLEY, farmer aged 70, Mary WILLEY aged 70 and William WILLEY aged 9, plus servants. I noted this down for future reference.

I had a look at the 1851 Census for Buckerell but they had all gone.



Devon Record Office have an indenture dated 1825 between Edward William GRINFIELD of Bath and William WILLEY leasing Avenhayes (pictured above) and nearby Orchard Farms for the sum of £400 per annum, which I think is an enormous amount for those days! This arrangement seemed to suit as the William WILLEY mentioned is the one aged 70 farming at Orchard Farm some 15 years later in 1841 and Edward WILLEY at Avenhayes is his son. Maybe grandma's story was right – John's father had been a gentleman farmer in Devon so perhaps he had lost his money and come to London. There were financial crises in 1847, 1857 and 1866. It was certainly conceivable that the money had been lost in 1847. Old William WILLEY died on 8 July 1847 – perhaps it was this that precipitated the move to London?

I found the marriage of Ann BAKER (pictured below) and John WILLEY by looking through those enormous leather-bound index books of marriages at St Catherine's House. The wedding took place at the Parish Church of St John, Drury Lane on 8 March 1857. John, aged 22, was described as a China Shopman and was living at 23 Broad Court. Ann, aged 27, was living at 2 Hungerford Market. The witnesses were Edward HAYNES, his father and Jemima BAKER, her sister.

It was quite easy to find the births of their children: Edward John was born on 19 July 1857 at 2 Roupell Street, Lambeth; Sidney Albert was born on 7 January 1860 at 8 Glasgow Terrace, Pimlico; Alice Sophia was born at the same address on 18 November 1861 and Julia Tryphena was born on 16 August 1864 at 18 Lacey Terrace, Newington. This was the Julia Tryphena from the bible – her death

certificate stated that she died of convulsions (4 days, certified) aged 7 weeks. On each of the birth certificates John WILLEY is described as a China and Glass Shopman or similar.

I rubbed my hands in glee at having two births at the same address on either side of a census night - unfortunately the 1861 Census for Pimlico is 'missing'!



A trip to City of Westminster Archives seemed the next step. Rate books place the family at 8 Glasgow Terrace in 1864 and 1865. In 1866 the house was occupied by a Bob POPE and before 1864 there appeared to be no Glasgow Terrace although when Sidney had been born in 1860 that was the address given.

Kelly's London Directories were interesting – at 18 Lacey Terrace in 1865 is listed Willey Brothers, Bakers. I had no idea John had been a baker and still don't know which brother he had been working with. However, in 1862 William FRANKS, baker is listed in *Kelly's* and in 1864 Lavinia and Louisa FRANKS, bakers. Perhaps the house was already fitted up for bakery and he thought he would give it a go? In 1866 and 1867 Willey Brothers, Bakers is listed at 16 Cirencester Street, Harrow Road West. This address seems to have been fitted for baking too as in 1868 the address is occupied by Francis QUICK, baker.

John WILLEY was not listed in *Kelly's* London Directories for 1873-1880 but Grandma's tales came to the rescue. Her mother, Alice Sophia WILLEY “went to the Hamden Guerne School which cost 1d or 2d per week to attend. The girls who went there were known as the Hurdy Gurdy girls and my mother as Alice A-fire.” The Hamden Guerne School is still a school today and we contacted them on the off-chance that they still had records. Happily they did: No 1108 WILLEY, Alice S. Admitted 5 May 1873, age 11 years 4 months, baptised, vaccinated, father John WILLEY, drayman of 17 Brunswick Mews, Previous school Tenterden British School, Kent.

This gave me the clue I needed for the 1871 census and the family turned up living at 49 Bishop Street, Tenterden. John WILLEY is not managing the wonderfully named Obediah Edwards brewery though, he is a drayman.

“After this he bought and ran a hansom-cab rank in London.” Grandma had said. He did not appear in the directories as a Cab Proprietor between 1872 and 1893 but when he died on 23 December 1890 (aged only 56) his occupation is listed as Cab Proprietor. He was living at 166 Cambridge Road, Willesden and the cause of death was bronchitis, 3 days and syncope [failure of the heart's action].

There were a couple of loose ends. Who was the uncle with a warehouse 'down Duncannon Street' and where was John in 1851?

John's father Edward had only one sister, Eliza, who married John DALLY in Ottery St Mary in 1832 and appears to have spent her whole life in Devon, so this uncle was no common-or-garden uncle.

In fact, he turned out to be George BAKER, uncle of John's wife Ann (which may be how the couple met). Although from labouring stock and a servant at his marriage (which took place at St George, Bloomsbury in 1843) at the birth of both of his children he described himself as 'gentleman'. *Kelly's Directories* show that he was a China & Glass Dealer from at least 1853-1871. In 1853 his place of work was at 2 Hungerford Market, Upper Area (the same address that his niece married from in 1857). Hungerford Market was pulled down to make way for Charing Cross railway station and it is at the end of Duncannon Street.

Finding him in the 1851 Census had to wait until it had been indexed. Thank you, all you lovely people who helped with this!

John WILLEY eventually turned up as a 15-year-old servant to a licensed victualler in Covent Garden. His parents, Edward and Tryphena are nearby in Exeter Street, Covent Garden. Edward is a Butterman. (When John was baptised on 12 November 1835 at Buckerell his father had been described as a Dairy Man so he was still in the same line of business.) When Edward died in 1862 his address was 60 High Street, Lambeth and he was buried at Lambeth Cemetery which is, indeed, in Tooting.

Tryphena moved in with her son Edwin and his family, eventually dying on Christmas Eve 1882 at Westminster Union Workhouse in Poland Street. Workhouse records show she was formerly of 10c Brewer Street, aged 81 and 'past work'. The cause of her death was 'decay of nature' and she is indeed buried at the Great Northern Cemetery (although the cemetery is not in Finchley but at New Southgate). I telephoned the cemetery and quoted the grave number mentioned in the bible. Their records had her as being 84 and said that she had been buried on 30 December 1882 in a common grave that had been grassed over some years ago.

UNWANTED CERTIFICATES

Neil Brine, Member No. 6169, has the following unwanted certificates. Please contact him if you are interested in them:

Birth: Henry BUSH, son of Stephen BUSH and Sarah, formerly COOPER, was born 13 April 1839 at Chaseside, Edmonton, Enfield, Middlesex

Birth: Sarah Elizabeth BULL, daughter of George BULL and Mary Ann, formerly MULLINS, was born 13 July 1847 at 12 Edward Street, Limehouse, Stepney, Middlesex

Birth: Charles William BRIEN, son of James Watts BRIEN and Mary Ann, formerly DENT, was born 31 October 1860 at Queens Cottages, Isle of Dogs, Poplar, Middlesex

Marriage: George LACEY, son of George LACEY, and Emily FREEMAN, daughter of James FREEMAN, were married on 4 December 1865 at St Mary's Church, Islington, Middlesex. Their residence at the time of the marriage was 11 Castle Terrace, Kilburn Lane

Death: Ann Maria BULL aged 61, widow of Robert BULL, Domestic Coachman. Died 17 October 1878 at St Giles North, Middlesex

Death: Henry LACEY aged 40, Harness Maker (Master) of Luton, died 24 September 1886. The informant mentioned on the certificate was Charles LACEY, brother, of Victoria Park, London

Death: Elizabeth LACEY aged 74, died 11 May 1887 in Edmonton Union Workhouse

You can contact Neil by post at: 2 Priestlands Corner, Priestlands Lane, Sherborne, Dorset DT9 4HJ or by email at: nrbrine@gmail.com



Mary H Oliver, Member No. 6972, also sent in some unwanted certificates, see opposite. Please contact the Editors if you are interested in these:

Birth: Henry OLIVER, son of James OLIVER (Wine Cooper) and Catherine, formerly ARGENT, was born January 1846 in Bethnal Green, Middlesex

Death: William BROWN aged 77, Cowkeeper, died of General Debility on 19 September 1838 at Isleworth, Middlesex

Death: William Pearson BROWN aged 2 years and 9 months died 3 March 1838 at 2 Gardener's Lane, King Street, Westminster St Margaret. The informant mentioned on the certificate was Mary BANKES, Grandmother of 16 Gardener's Lane

Death: Mary Ann BROWN aged 74, widow of David BROWN, Carman, died 20 March 1868 at Walworth, Surrey

Death: Amy TAYLOR aged 57, wife of Edward TAYLOR, Dock Labourer, died 24 February 1878 at 8 Norfolk Street, Islington, Middlesex

Death: Mary Ann TAYLOR aged 39, wife of Isaac TAYLOR, Gas Inspector, died of cirrhosis on 16 May 1882 at 13 Millbank Street, Westminster St John, Middlesex

Death: Mary Ann TAYLOR aged 40, Dressmaker, who was found dead because of suffocation by hanging due to suicide whilst of unsound mind on 14 March 1883 at 28 Park Place, St Mary Paddington, Middlesex

Death: Eliza Jane TAYLOR aged 47, wife of Henry TAYLOR, General Labourer of 33 Harvey Road, died 24 July 1910 at Camberwell Infirmary of tuberculosis

Death: Eliza TAYLOR aged 55, wife of Joseph TAYLOR, Porter of 97 Bemerton Street, Islington, died 5 May 1914 at Islington Infirmary, Highgate Hill, London

Death: William JOHNSON aged 57, Head Postman of 26 Stangate Buildings, Lambeth died 31 August 1921

Death: Arthur MOORE aged 64, Superannuated Gas Collector of 120 Eglinton Road, Plumstead died 8 June 1917. The informant mentioned on the certificate was Alice MOORE, sister, of 111 Langney Road, Eastbourne

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.



WRIGHT

I have been researching my father Thomas Albert WRIGHT's ancestors.

I have traced from my grandfather, Thomas Edward WRIGHT, back to my 3x great Grandfather Joshua WRIGHT, who married Mary BYHAM at Holy Trinity Church, Bengoe, Herts on 25 October 1802.

Sometime after 1814 Joshua and Mary WRIGHT moved to Turkey Street, Enfield where they both died of Typhus Fever in 1837.

What I am interested in discovering is if there was ever a family business in this area concerning Hay and Straw Dealing. On Joshua's death certificate his occupation is Hay Carter. His son also Joshua WRIGHT, lived in Turkey Street with his family according to the 1841 census and he was Straw Carter. In the 1851 and 1861 census he is described as a Hay & Straw Dealer and is at this time living at 1 Church Street, Edmonton.

His son Daniel WRIGHT is my great Grandfather and on the 1861 census is 18 years old and employed as a labourer in a Straw Yard. But in 1871 census he is living in Church Street Edmonton and trading as a Straw Dealer. In 1881 he and his family are living in Lime Tree Cottages, Edmonton and he is still a Straw Dealer but his eldest son is a bricklayer and none of his other sons become straw dealers. Daniel WRIGHT died in 1889. Daniel WRIGHT was the second eldest son of Joshua WRIGHT but he would have inherited any business of his father's as the eldest son Joshua George WRIGHT emigrated to Australia in 1857. I would think the Straw trade would be in decline in the latter part of the nineteenth century and any business Daniel had would have gone on his death. I would also be interested if anyone knows of a book about straw dealing in the 19C.

Mrs K Ladbrook, Member No. 7639

83 Rosemary Road, Poole, Dorset BH123HA

Email: ladbrook797@btinternet.com

Note: Have you tried looking at street directories?

ST JOHN'S WOOD

I have two queries which arise out of my STUMBKE family history research:

1. 'The Hermitage', Loudoun Road, St Johns Wood is an address which appears on the birth certificate of an illegitimate child (mother previously and subsequently resident in Mile End - birth was in the nearby Workhouse but she was stated as being resident in 'The Hermitage'). Does anyone know whether this was a private residence or a charitable foundation and who lived there circa 1885? Searches in census returns, directories, contemporary ordnance survey and electoral registers at Westminster Archive/discussion with archivist have failed to identify it. All sources searched show properties by street numbers only.

2. In our family album we have two photos, uncaptioned, of a stuccoed villa. One shows the property in pristine condition (below) the other in a semi-demolished/collapsed condition (overleaf).



The photographer in each case was Frank Briggs, St Johns Wood, the assumption being the house was in the St Johns Wood area. I have identified the places/residences of many family members (GRO certificates census returns etc) but none is in immediate vicinity of St John's Wood.

I have mused that this property may have been demolished to make way for the railway issuing from Marylebone. The dates the photographer apparently traded (1873-1901) are not incompatible with this view. A positive identification is too much to expect but ideas welcome.



*Jeff Stumbke, Non-member
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Note: By inspecting all of the dwellings on Loudoun Road in the 1891 Census, we found that number 10 was a 'Servant's Home', with a matron (Harriet RYE age 38 born London) as the head, an assistant matron and 8 inmates, all female and aged between 15 and 23. The 15-year-old is a nursemaid. One of the inmates has a baby aged 'under 1 month'. Could this be 'The Hermitage'? By 1901 this address was a private residence. The 'before' picture of the villa makes it look an idyllic place to live but what is that on the downstairs window-sills? Jam jars? This seems an



odd place to put jam jars - maybe they were selling them although nobody is in the photo to do this. If they are not jam jars, what could they be? The answer might give a clue to help unravel the mystery of this building.

According to Michael Pritchard's useful book *A Directory of London Photographers 1841-1908*, Frank Briggs

traded from 15 High Street, St John's Wood from 1859-1869 and from 40 High Street from 1870-1872. His son appears to join him at 40 High Street from 1873-1901 and by 1902 the firm had moved to 10 Queen's Terrace. Does the first photo have an actual address on the back? The fact that it is square cut (rather than rounded) certainly means it is earlier, even if the image did not confirm this!

GALLAGHER/SPINKS

Alma Edith GALLAGHER (born 1877 St Pancras) married Thomas Arthur SPINKS in 1900 at Paddington. They had two children: Leslie Stanley SPINKS (1902-1945) and Edward Charles SPINKS (1904-1981).

Thomas Arthur SPINKS died in 1909 but I cannot find Alma Edith's death. Did she remarry?

Any help much appreciated

Ken Gallagher, Member No. 4298

41 Swansholme Gardens Sandy Beds. SG19 1HL

Email: kengallagher@mypostoffice.co.uk

Note: Alma E SPINKS aged 82 died in the December quarter of 1959 in the Windsor Registration District, Berkshire.

HUGHES

I am looking for information on James Harry HUGHES, born 1886, who was killed when his home at 6 Gratton Road was bombed in 1940. He was buried on 3 October at Margravine Cemetery by permission given by his sister GE HUGHES, as his parents were already buried there. Also buried in the grave site on 29 October 1959 was Lucy Edith HUGHES, who lived at 6 Myrtle House, Sulgrave Road. Who is Lucy? Is she James' wife? Or what connection does she have to this HUGHES family?

The only other information I have regarding this grave site is that the owner was WE HUGHES who lived, in 1975, at 276 Morbey Road, Rayners Lane, Harrow, Middlesex.

Any information greatly appreciated.

Beryl Robbins, Member No. 4832

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Email: berrobb@mts.net

Note: James Harry HUGHES was born in 1886 and the birth was registered in the Fulham Registration District. In the 1891 and 1901 censuses the family was living at 70 Blythe Road, Hammersmith.

James H HUGHES married Lucy E DUDLEY in 1911 in the nearby Kensington Registration District. It is possible to search on the FreeBMD website for children surnamed HUGHES with a mother whose maiden name was DUDLEY. This brings up two in the Fulham Registration District: Lionel D HUGHES, born 1913 and William E HUGHES, born 1914. This latter child looks likely to be the owner of the gravesite where his parents are buried.

WHITE

While sorting out his house prior to moving, my brother David WHITE came across a prayer book. On the fly leaf it read: Elizabeth WHITE confirmed St Peter's, Eaton Square, Pimlico, 30 April 1857. Communion St Mary's, Tothill Fields, Westminster 31 May 1857. St Peter's have no records for that time and St Mary's is no more.

In the family tree so far I have found no-one residing there at that time. I have two branches of the WHITE family; one from Marlow, Buckinghamshire and one from St Mary Bourne, Hampshire. Both my Great Grandfathers, Eli WHITE (Marlow) and John WHITE (St Mary

Bourne) settled in Pinner, Middlesex, about 1900. My grandparents Albert WHITE (John) and Ethel WHITE (Eli) joined the two families together in 1910.

Elizabeth WHITE is a very common name in London as I have found out. Can anyone point me in the right direction so I can find out where she fits in my family tree?

Barbara Fox, Member No. 7641

38A Penydre Road, Clydach, Swansea SA6 5NE

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Note: St Mary, Tothill Fields may be no more but the Parish Registers are at City of Westminster Archives Centre, 10 St Ann's Street, London SW1P 2DE. Website: www.westminster.gov.uk

SEARS

I am trying to find my Great Grandmother's birth. Harriett SEARS was born in 1834 according to her marriage certificate, her father given as William SEARS, Draper.

My son found her on the 1841 census living at Weston Favell, which at that time was a small village on the outskirts of Northampton. She was living with a family named GEORGE, William 55, wife Elizabeth 50 and daughter Penolepy 12, my Great Grandmother was 7. This suggests that she was an orphan. Have you any suggestions as to where I can go from here? There appeared to be nothing on the IGI.

Mrs P James Member No. 5311

Hillcrest, Skelton, Penrith, Cumbria CA11 9SE

Note: The 1841 Census says that Harriett was not born in Northamptonshire. In 1851 she is a 16-year-old 'assistant in the house', to an Ann KNIGHT and her family (who have Weston Favell connections). Here she is said to have been born in London, Middlesex. It would be worth locating her in further censuses to see if a particular parish is mentioned as her place of birth.

The IGI does have a Harriet SCEARES, daughter of William and Mary SCEARES, who was baptised on 28 May 1834 at St Magnus the Martyr but you would need to research this further to see if there is any connection with your great grandmother.

CLARA EDWARDS

In last October's magazine in the *Help!* column you printed a request from me for any details on the history of my Grandfather's sister Clara EDWARDS after the 1881 London census. I am a member of Ancestry UK where I have been carrying out research on this matter. Recently I was told that Clara married Henry DICKENSON on 18 September 1881 and that the details would show on the Marriage Certificate which they would supply for £23. I purchased this only to find on receiving it that there are no details on it other than date, names, rank or profession, residence at time of marriage [Old St Pancras] parents both deceased. All this I had already found on my PC. The only real knowledge that would tie this certificate up with my Clara is if I managed to trace her birthplace, as I know all the rest of her history. Can anyone help?

Mr D W Phelps, Member No. 7591

30 Burnbush Close, Stockwood, Bristol BS14 8LQ

Note: As we mentioned in the reply to your previous letter, there were several Clara EDWARDS marrying in the London area between 1881 and 1891. There seems to be nothing to connect the one who married Henry DICKENS (as his name appears in the GRO indexes) with your family, indeed, by looking for Clara DICKENS in later censuses it becomes apparent that this Clara was born in Hampstead.

Marriage certificates cost £9.25 from the GRO but unfortunately there are other organisations that offer to provide certificates and these will charge much more. Please see the article on page 44 of October METROPOLITAN 2010.

LIZZIE TEIFY DAVIES

I am researching the family of Lizzie Teify DAVIES (1873-1964) from St. Dogmaels, Cardigan in West Wales as part of a local history project.

Madame Lizzie Teify Davies, a professional singer/teacher, married Walter MEYROWITZ in 1904.

Walter MEYROWITZ (1875-1945) was a composer and conductor and had been born in Germany.

They lived at 7 Denning Road Hampstead all their lives. Are they both buried in the Hampstead area?

They had 3 children:

1 Gerhard Adolph Evan MEYROWITZ (1906-1963) who later changed his name to Gerald Evan Davies. He married a Dorothy Catherine GRANT in 1938.

2 Lydia Angharad (1912-?) married George H WALLIS at St Stephen's Church in 1948.

3 Dorothy Enid (1912-1987) spinster. Dorothy and Lydia were twins. Both were professional musicians and resided at Clacton-on-Sea in the 1980s.

I would value any information on the above or even where I might look for assistance in my search.

Llinos Devonald, Non-member

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OLYMPIC GAMES

You may have noticed that London will be hosting the Olympic Games next year. This will be the third time that the Games will have visited our patch – the other times being 1908 and 1948.

The 1908 Games were originally scheduled to be hosted by Rome but the 1906 eruption of Mount Vesuvius (which killed over 100 people) caused the Games to be relocated. These were the first Games to have an opening ceremony. About 2000 athletes participated representing 22 countries.

1948 was, of course, just after the end of WWII and many of the participating European countries were still recovering. Germany and Japan were not invited to compete. There was no Olympic Village: male athletes were housed in an Army camp at Uxbridge and female athletes at Southlands College, Wimbledon (a teacher-training college whose members had been evacuated to Weston-Super-Mare in 1940). Everyone had to bring their own food. Some 4000 athletes participated this time.

Were you or your ancestors involved with either of these Games, either as participants, helpers or spectators? Do you have a story to tell? If so, the Editors would love to hear from you!

FORTHCOMING BRANCH MEETINGS

Barnet Branch – 7.30pm for 8.00pm

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

- Thursday 21 July *A Brief History of Clerkenwell*
by Mark Aston
- Thursday 18 August *Customs & Excise Past & Present with
personal recollections*
by Alan Ruston
- Thursday 15 September *From Poverty to Madness: from Stepney to
Colney Hatch*
by Louise Taylor
- Thursday 20 October *More Progress, Problems or Pitfalls*
Members' Contributions

City Branch – 12 noon for 12.30pm

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

- Thursday 28 July *Illegitimacy*
by Mari Alderman
- Thursday 25 August *The First Waitrose Shop*
by Janet Hobbs
- Thursday 29 September *Progress, Problems or Pitfalls*
Members' Contributions
- Thursday 27 October *Maps, especially for London*
by Alan Ruston

ADVERTISING RATES

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See inside front cover for address.

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

Wednesday 6 July *Hatch, Match & Dispatch*
by Sandy Highsted
Wednesday 3 August No meeting
Wednesday 7 September *British Red Cross/Awareness*
by a speaker from the Red Cross
Wednesday 5 October *How the Streets of London got their Names*
by Colin Oakes

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

Friday 8 July *Forgotten Heroes*
by Geoff Bridger
Friday August No Meeting
Friday 9 September *Home Office and Industrial Schools*
by Gillian Gear
Friday 14 October Members' Chat or Talk

Prisoners in the Giltspur Street Compter in the City of London
Thomas BUTCHER, late of Magpye Alley, Bouverie Street, Fleet Street
and formerly of Dorset Street, Salisbury Square, both in the City of
London, Lighterman.
James Hunter GRAY, late of Clark's Buildings, Skinners Street, Snow Hill
in the Parish of St Sepulchre and formerly of Scott's Tard, Cannon Street,
both in the City of London, Accountant.
Edward HARDWICK, late of Charles Street, Hatton Garden and formerly
of Hatton Wall, both in the County of Middlesex, Morocco Stand Maker.
John PREEDY, late of Bull Head Court, Cow Lane, West Smithfield in the
City of London and formerly of Upper Union Court, Holborn in the County
of Middlesex, Porter.
The London Gazette 23 July 1811

THE GREAT EXHIBITION

What do you think your ancestors were doing one hundred and sixty years ago today? Well, the chances are that some of them were visiting the Great Exhibition, which was open from 1 May until 15 October 1851 in the specially built Crystal Palace in Hyde Park, London. Over six million people visited the exhibition, 4.5 million on the cheap 'Shilling Days'. This is equivalent to a third of the population of Britain at that time!

The Great Exhibition of the Works of Industry of all Nations, to give it its full name, was conceived as a celebration of industrial design and technology and as a showcase for Great Britain as leader in these fields. It was organized by Henry COLE and other members of the Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce, with the enthusiastic support and patronage of Prince Albert. (Henry COLE had been educated at Christ's Hospital, London and worked as Assistant Keeper at the Public Record Office at the time of the Great Exhibition. Later he was assistant to Rowland Hill, postal reformer, but he is perhaps best known for the world's first commercial Christmas card.) The Great Exhibition housed over 100,000 exhibits and of nearly 14,000 exhibitors, 7,381 were British.

The Crystal Palace itself was designed by Joseph PAXTON, drawing on his experience designing greenhouses for the Duke of Devonshire, and took the form of a massive glass house. The ironwork came from Fox, Henderson & Co (also responsible for the roof of Paddington Station) and the glass from Chance Brothers of Smethwick who had to bring in extra specialist labourers from France to complete the work on time (some 10 French glass workers with their families appear in the 1851 census living in nearby Harbourne). The building was erected by some 5,000 navvies (maybe your ancestor was one of these?).

The legacy of the Great Exhibition lives on today. The surplus £186,000 was used to found the Science Museum, the Natural History Museum and the Victoria and Albert Museum in Exhibition Road, just south-west of Hyde Park. A memorial to the exhibition, crowned with a statue of Prince Albert, is located behind the Royal Albert Hall. It is inscribed with statistics from the exhibition, including the number of visitors and exhibitors (British and foreign) and the profit made.

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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