

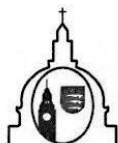
METROPOLITAN

The Journal of the
LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX

Family History Society



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October 2011

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CONTENTS

- 2 Editorial
- 3 A Note from the Chairman
- 4 Letters to the Editors
- 6 Hot on the Trail
- 8 1851 Great Exhibition
- 11 Jottings
- 14 Serendipity 2
- 16 The Fate of Lancaster ND443
- 23 Website News
- 26 Coincidence!
- 30 Loose Connections
- 32 Book Review
- 33 *Help!*
- 42 Forthcoming Branch Meetings
- 44 Come and Join Us!

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

Cover picture: A Sandum Sidecar
© Angela Golding
See *Help!* on page 38

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EDITORIAL

As the season changes, we are approaching a time of remembrance and there are a number of items in this issue of METROPOLITAN which relate to this general theme. Remembrance Day itself, 11 November, is a fixture in the nation's calendar when we remember those who died in wars and conflicts, especially any among our ancestors. Warfare inevitably has repercussions: inter-nation relations alter as does policy; nationally, rebuilding is necessary whether property, communities or rehabilitation of the injured; family life is affected, perhaps to a significant degree. The article on page 16 is a family story, carefully researched with personal, national and international elements.

Remember, remember the fifth of November, gunpowder, treason and plot is familiar to us as are the widespread firework displays – subject to health'n'safety considerations these days! It is also the date of the West Surrey Open Day where our Society will be present. (See page vi of the yellow pages.)

The first of October 2011 is imminent and is the beginning of our Society's year. Hence there is a white form in the centre of this journal which everyone is asked to complete, stating their membership and subscription plans for the year to 30 September 2012.

On page 6 there is an article from a member whose research was given a boost by talking to people at a City Branch meeting. (See also page 44.) Communicating with others about our research problems can be rewarding as many meetings with contributions from members have shown. Our *Help!* Section is also a way of learning from the experience of others.

The responses to the question posed in the last METROPOLITAN: "What do you think your ancestors were doing one hundred and sixty years ago today?" are on page 4 and page 8 and make fascinating reading. We have also received two items about previous London Olympics which will be published later so any other contributions are still welcome. Finally, please remember that the copy date for the next METROPOLITAN is 1 November 2011 so we look forward to receiving articles, letters, jottings and so on, especially any with a Christmas flavour.

Rosemary A Roome

A NOTE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Members familiar with our website will notice that we now have the PayPal facility linked to the membership application form for both new members and those wishing to renew their existing membership. This service will be of help mainly for our overseas members.

Our executive committee are holding meetings to determine the future of the Society. In common with many other organisations there is a falling membership and at the same time we are faced with rising costs and a lack of people able to take on an active part in the running of the Society. This is not altogether surprising as most of our London based members are in their seventies, eighties - at least one of our ex project coordinators is into her nineties.

In respect of the Wembley branch the new hall should be ready to move into this coming October. The building work has been delayed in the first instance due to the adverse weather conditions during the winter period. The heavy snows filled the trenches which hampered the foundation work. The building itself, like the new vicarage, has very high green credentials boasting solar panels on the roof and a water recycling system using rainwater collected on the roof and piped down to storage tanks housed beneath the buildings. There is also a modern version of the weaver's window installed to maximise the available daylight. The window itself caused a further delay due to the unavailability of a large section of glass needed to complete the large roof window. It is planned to hold a joint Wembley and Rayners Lane Christmas celebration in the new Wembley meeting hall.

Who Do You Think You Are Live has been arranged to take place next year from 24 to 26 February 2012 at Olympia. The cost of entry does not appear to have been decided yet.

Finally a date for the diary, our AGM is to be held in the Radnor Hall at Wesley's Chapel on Saturday 3 March 2012.

Bill Pyemont

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

I was very interested to read the article about the Great Exhibition in the July edition of METROPOLITAN. The article started by asking “What do you think your ancestors were doing one hundred and sixty years ago today?” In my family there is a snapshot into the experience of the Great Exhibition.

My maternal great grandmother came from the tiny village of Berwick in East Sussex. There is no through road and you only find Berwick if you are actually going there! In the 19th century they had a wonderful Rector called Edward Boys ELLMAN who was at Berwick for 60 years from 1846 until he died in 1906 (and he had been Curate in Charge from 1838-44). His memoirs were published just after his death and in it he mentions my great grandmother’s uncle, William WHITE, who had married Ellman’s widowed domestic servant in 1839.

In Ellman’s memoirs, entitled *Recollections of a Sussex Parson*, there is a paragraph about William and Lucy (his wife) which goes as follows:

“.....One of her (Lucy’s) daughters by her former marriage, was married to a painter in London, and during the time of the 1851 Exhibition, Mrs William White and her little husband took advantage of a week’s cheap excursion ticket to visit her daughter. There was an old gentleman lodging at the daughter’s house who took great interest in the elderly couple, and he gave his landlady five shillings to take them to see the Exhibition. The son-in-law took half a day’s holiday to go with them. On arriving at the Exhibition buildings, they first walked all round the outside, and then came away without even entering the building, saying they had seen as much as they could carry away with them.”

I think one can understand that coming from a tiny agricultural village tucked in the middle of the South Downs the whole experience of London and the Great Exhibition site and the crowds and noise etc would have been just too much for them. I would think that many older people coming from the country on excursion tickets might have been similarly affected.

Ellman states that William and Lucy were elderly – they were in their early 50s which although I know was old at the time suddenly makes me feel very old indeed!

Vivien Chandler, Member No. 0092

The article on old Ordnance Survey maps in the July issue of METROPOLITAN prompts me to recommend a book, the *Topography of London*, a facsimile of John Lockie's *Gazetteer*, 1813, which was published in 1994 by the London Topographical Society (publication no. 148). The ISBN is 0 902087 39 8.

If anyone is looking for the humble abode of their Regency ancestor, this is likely to be the nearest they will get to pinpointing it. The title page of the original work describes it as 'giving a concise local description of, and accurate direction to, every Square, Street, Lane, Court, Dock, Wharf, Inn, Public-office, &c. in the Metropolis and its Environs, including The New Buildings to the present Time, upon a plan never hitherto attempted.'

Among its 10,000 or so place names the book lists - alphabetically - courts, buildings and yards as well as streets and roads, eg 'Steven's Builds. Bell-St. Paddington, - 12 doors on the L. from Lisson-green,' 'Bull-Yard, Gray's Inn-Lane, - at 62, 6 doors S. of Liquor-pond-st.,' or 'Strand, - extends from Charing-cross, where there are 1 and 487, to Temple-bar, where there is 236, about 3/4 of a mile in length.' It's fascinating just to browse: 'Middle-Row, Holborn, - a pile of houses which stand out in the street op. Gray's-inn-lane,' for example, or 'Vaccine-Institution,' which was apparently at the Jennerian Society's Central House, 14 Salisbury Square, or 'Friendly-Pl. Sun-Tavern-Fields, Shadwell, - S. side the Rope-ground, entrance by the 1st on the R. in King David-lane from No. 193, Shadwell High-Street.' The descriptions bring the places to life much more than a map.

Another advantage of the book is mentioned in the introduction to the reprint. As you may know, in 1985 the London Topographical Society published the A-Z of Regency London, and they point out that in the index to that 'you will find 39 New Courts, 23 Union Places, and even 5 Queen's Head Courts. To find the New Court you need you may have to turn up 39 map references, turning then 39 times to the map sheets.' In Lockie's work you can distinguish between all these identically-named roads, which makes life so much easier.

On a different topic, regarding the house in St. John's Wood (pp.171-173) - are the objects on the windowsills not pots of flowers, rather than jam jars?
Barbara Roberts, Member No. 5091

Note: John Lockie's *Topography of London* (version dated 1810) is available to view for free on Google Books and other sites.

HOT ON THE TRAIL

By Sally Cox, Member No. 7527

Sometimes researching your family history is like running the London Marathon with a piano strapped to your back. At others, you feel like you've borrowed Lewis Hamilton's McLaren-Mercedes. I'm still all a-quiver after my recent Formula One trip so let me share it. Within hours, I went from knowing only the names of my maternal grandfather's two children to knowing the name of his grandson who I hope is still alive.

But first the back story. I joined the London Westminster & Middlesex Family History Society (LWMFHS) in 2008 to find my maternal grandfather. My mum (b1929) was one of his two illegitimate children and she never knew her dad's real name. With the help of fellow Society members, I discovered Grandfather's identity, how, when and where he died, who he married, his Masonic lodge memberships and the addresses of his four hairdressing salons. It felt great. I even had the birth certificates of his first two, legitimate children: Agnes Victoria SYMONDS (b1908) and John Dalton de Dale SYMONDS (b1913).

Then I stopped. First, I wasn't sure I wanted to unearth living relatives and second, I'd been warned that it's much harder to find people in the recent past. I'm lazy and was more than satisfied with what I'd found out to date.

Eighteen months passed. On Thursday 28 July this year I went to a talk on *Illegitimacy* at our City branch and it rekindled my enthusiasm. The next afternoon, on a whim, I decided to google John Dalton de Dale SYMONDS and see what came up.

To my astonishment, top of the Google list was an extract from the *London Gazette* dated April 1942 telling me that John D de D (as we'll call him from now on) was in the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. (Ah, yes, the *London Gazette*. Their archives can be very helpful. They'd already revealed details of Grandfather's bankruptcy and the addresses of his salons.) So I went on london-gazette.co.uk which gave me a second entry for John Dalton de Dale SYMONDS dated January 1956. It informed me that John D SYMONDS, *chartered surveyor*, was dissolving his partnership with Haydn and George NYE but would continue in business at

74 Chapel Road, Worthing. Wow! So he was no longer in Middlesex where he was born. I had a profession and an address.

Hot on the trail, I googled Worthing Family History Society and soon had the number of Worthing Reference Library. I asked the librarian if she'd mind looking up the electoral roll for 1956 and while I held on, she told me the listings for 74 Chapel Road. It was disappointing. No John D de D. It was perfectly plausible, however, that the flat over the shop was rented out to tenants; two of the four residents listed had his former partner's surname, NYE. I asked the librarian if she'd kindly search the phone book and electoral roll for 1955-1958 to see if she had anything at all for John D Symonds & Co, and she said: "Phone back in an hour". By now it was 5pm. By 6.15pm she had given me John's home and business addresses. At his home address there were three names on the electoral roll: Gwendoline Marjorie SYMONDS (wife?), Charlotte S SYMONDS (daughter?) and John. My spirits soared, then slumped. By 1956, John D would have been 43. Charlotte S wasn't his daughter but Grandfather's widow, aged 74. So unless the children were away at college, he had none and it was the end of the line.

Luckily, I soon remembered that electoral rolls list only those of voting age. If I could track down wife Gwendoline's maiden name, I could search for possible children. So it was on to freebmd.org.uk where I soon found a marriage in 1941 of John D de D SYMONDS and a Gwendoline Marjorie FEARNES. Next step was to search the same site under SYMONDS for births and sure enough, in Brighton in 1950, John D de D and Gwen (née FEARNES) had a baby boy.

The place and dates fitted. What convinced me was the middle name, Christopher J de D SYMONDS. I'm so grateful this unusual middle name - reflecting Charlotte's maiden name - was kept in the family. I applied for Christopher's birth certificate - £9.25 from gro.gov.uk - and by 6 August, was perusing it at my kitchen table.

The next challenge will be to find my half-cousin who, if still alive, is 61. Wish me luck. Let's hope it's another Formula One race, not another inch-by-inch schlep weighed down with a piano.

1851 GREAT EXHIBITION

A small proof that some of my family went to the Great Exhibition.

By Jasmine E Marson, Member No. 0168

My Gr Gr Gr Grandfather was Christopher SOUTHGATE and he married a Mary but as yet no surname has been proven. Their first child was born and died the same day, 19 December 1769. My Gr Gr Grandfather was born to them, after many more siblings had been born, on 12 June 1785. Interestingly his Gr Gr Gr Grandson (my son) was born on the same day in 1964! The children were mostly christened at Carey Street New Court Independent Foundation thus the family were 'Dissenters'. The Church once stood where the Public Record Office was then and where I found this information. I was fortunate to see the actual christening records for this church.

The family had connections with the City of London but as yet we cannot establish where they originated from. My cousin Susan LUMAS (Member No. 0481) and I feel possibly in East Anglia where there are many SOUTHGATE families.

My Gr Gr Grandfather James Webb SOUTHGATE was a Floor Cloth Manufacturer and also later a Book Auctioneer. His son Henry had several books of poems, either by him or collected by him, published and pretty dry reading they are! James' business was at St George's Fields as seen on a bill head. The floor cloth business was also mentioned at 88 Fleet Market as far back as 1805. By 1827 James was a Book Auctioneer at 22 Fleet Street.

James married Susannah MITCHELL around 1810-12. Their first child recorded is Susannah born 1812 who married Samuel BELLIN the artist. Susan LUMAS is descended from this couple and she is the same generation line as my own children although we are both of similar age! I am not sure whether this makes me feel very old or Susan very young!! Susan is descended from the first child born to James and Susannah and I am descended from the youngest of eleven children. My Great Grandmother Emily SOUTHGATE was born in 1833 so there is a gap of approximately 20 years between the first and last recorded child. Susan and

I are fortunate to have inherited between us five of the 'Life Books' Susannah SOUTHGATE kept on each of her eleven children.

James Webb SOUTHGATE was at one time a Common Councillor for Farringdon Within and Farringdon Without. He was a member of the Barber Surgeon's Guild by Redemption. We found the details at The Chamberlain's Office at Guildhall London. James was admitted to the Guild as recorded in their Minute Book 2 May 1809 'and each of the four admitted paid £10 for their Livery Fines and were cloathed in court'.

We also found that on the 5 September 1815, James and two other gentlemen were excused of being Stewards on the Lord Mayor's Day and paid the, at that time, huge sum of £15 each! James became a Freedman [sic] of the City of London January 1818.

This brings me to the Great Exhibition. In the Life Books of Elizabeth born 1828, Frances born 1830 and my own Great Grandmother Emily born 1833 they record their visits to The Crystal Palace. Emily went on 1 July, Elizabeth on 6 July and Frances on 10 July 1851.



I have a small card recording the event which Emma (born 1818) gave to her 'dear friend Lizzie February 11th 1851'. In fact with the Exhibition not yet opened we now realise that the card could have been an advertisement for the forthcoming Exhibition with all the details of the building and its designers. Now this could be to Emma's sister Lizzie because this was how they would often write to each other in those times. On the 23 September 1851 we have Elizabeth making a second visit to the Crystal Palace.

Alas, James died early 1848 thus missing this Great Exhibition which I am sure he would have appreciated very much.

Never missing the chance to get a plug in - always with the hope of a lead - the young James SOUTHGATE, who was born in 1813, married at St James' Westminster on 27 July 1837 Ann PARKES of Golden Square. Ann's father was Marmaduke who was a Whitesmith. Looking for more family information from the siblings' Life Books such as children or deaths in the family, I found an entry for October 1848 saying that whilst bound for Australia on board the *SS Gleneig*, James was taken ashore off Deal having died of Asiatic cholera on 26 October 1848. No record has been found regarding his wife or if they had any children, something to check on in future. However, this was at the start of the massive epidemic of Cholera claiming some 56,000 lives.

When looking up James' death in the GRO Indexes I came across a John SOUTHGATE in the same quarter, place and with the same reference number. Ah, a son perhaps, who also died from Cholera? However the certificate shows that it was incorrectly made out originally and then corrections shown at the side of it were made in February 1949: 'For John substitute James' and 'Correct the age (column 4) from about 50 years to 35 years'. What had the then Registrar been suffering from to make so many mistakes and is there a John SOUTHGATE with James' details? The cause of death is still shown as Natural Causes whereas his mother records it as Asiatic cholera.

The 4 November 1848 edition of the *Dover Telegraph* reports on the front page that a passenger on board the ship *Gleneig* died after a short illness and his body brought to Deal. The report went on to record that this gave rise to an inquiry into the circumstances when it was thought he had died

from Cholera. The Surgeon on board and a passenger stated that poor young James had eaten rather freely of herrings that evening! However, a local surgeon was called to give evidence and, after seeing the body, did think that James died from Cholera. James is buried in Deal churchyard but no headstone is recorded.



JOTTINGS

Foundling Voices

Foundling Voices tells the stories of the last children brought up in the care of the Foundling Hospital, Britain's first home for abandoned children, which was established in 1739. It features the experiences of 74 former foundlings whose memories of their childhoods in the first half of the 20th century are preserved in audio interviews, photographs and film. Tales of family separation, the stigma of illegitimacy, a spartan school education, wartime heroism and the search for birth mothers are all part of this rich social history. This free exhibition runs until 30 October 2011 at the Foundling Museum, 40 Brunswick Square, London WC1N 1AZ.

A related touring exhibition (which can also be viewed online at: <http://foundlingvoices.foundlingmuseum.org.uk>) connects some of the stories told to other locations in the south of England. The next three are in Hertfordshire. From 17 October to 20 November it will be at Kings Langley Library, moving to Hemel Hempstead Library from 21 November to 2 January 2012 and then on to Berkhamsted Library from 3 January 2012 to 6 February 2012.

Shaftesbury Avenue Baptist Chapel

Records from this congregation, which originally met in Gower Street in 1843 and moved to Shaftesbury Avenue from 1917-2002, have been given to Camden Studies and Local Archives. Visit www.camden.gov.uk for more information.

London Family History Centre

The London Family History Centre (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints) has temporarily relocated its services from South Kensington to The National Archives in Kew. This move is as a result of building refurbishment and will last for several months. The National Archives' reading room services will not be affected during this time.

Patrons of the London Family History Centre will be able to use the microfilm collection, which will also be temporarily located at Kew. Film ordering should be completed as usual at: www.londonfhc.org as should group research visits (which will be subject to confirmation of space availability at Kew). The Tuesday talks are planned to start in October, again depending on space availability.

It is estimated that the stay in Kew will last 7-8 months but the exact date will only be available nearer to project completion. If you would like to be informed about the return to Exhibition Road by email, send a message titled ADD ME to: UK_london@ldsmail.net. Please include your name in the body of the message.

Westminster City Archives

All visitors must now be members of Westminster Libraries and Archives. To join you have to be over 16 and show proof of your permanent UK address – a recent utilities bill, pension book, bank statement or current driving licence will do for this. You can complete the joining form online and then pick up your membership card at a later date, on presentation of your proof of address (useful if you do not live in Westminster). Benefits of membership include free use of PCs in Westminster Libraries and free access to a range of online resources.

Camden Streets Index

The series of thirteen *Street* books, compiled and published by the Camden History Society, are most useful sources for local information and the history of the areas they cover. A list of titles, from *The Streets of Hampstead...* to *The Streets of Highgate* appeared in METROPOLITAN July 2010, page 136, and they are available from our Bookstall Manager (more information on our website). In looking for a particular street however, it is not always immediately obvious which volume is required but this can now be identified by means of an index which has been added to the Camden History Society website at: www.camdenhistorysociety.org Click on 'downloads' in the main menu.

Open Day Visits

Buckinghamshire FHS: 30 July 2011

Not only did our Society have a stand at this event but Michael Gandy, our President, gave one of the lectures. The subject *The Background to Nonconformity*, attracted keen interest with all places booked. At that time there was certainly a detectable temporary reduction in the large number of visitors to our stand where Alan Baldwin, Eileen Bostle, Diana Copnall, Doreen Heywood and I dealt with research queries, requests for information and sales from our extensive range of books, maps etc throughout the day. It was good to meet some of our members.

West Surrey FHS: 5 November 2011

This will be our next visit, see details on page vi of the yellow pages. It is always a popular occasion with many FH Societies and other organisations coming from a wide area. There are good transport links and free parking so we look forward to meeting some of our out-of-area members among the visitors.

Rosemary A Roome

London Metropolitan Archives

The LMA will be closed from 4.45pm on 28 October 2011 for its annual stocktaking, reopening at 9.30am on 14 November 2011.

With effect from that date opening hours will change in that the LMA will be closed on a Friday, open later on a Wednesday and open on a Saturday only once per month.

Until 28 October 2011

Monday, Wednesday, Friday
9.30-4.45

Tuesday, Thursday
9.30-7.30

Saturday
Twice per month

From 14 November 2011

Monday 9.30-4.45

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
9.30-7.30

Friday closed

Saturday
Once per month

Camden Studies and Local Archives Catalogue

Camden Studies and Local Archives catalogue is now live online at: <http://adlib.camden.gov.uk/search.aspx>. Some illustrations are available to view on the internet and you can listen to all oral history recordings.

SERENDIPITY 2

By Dennis Stacey, Member No. 3248



Uncle Tom



Cousin Peter



My brother John

Way back in 1992, my late brother John and I made a long delayed journey to visit the grave of our cousin Peter who was killed in March 1945 in the last weeks of the war in Europe, whilst serving in the Middlesex Regiment.

He was a lovely young man, barely 19 years of age, a friendly, happy-go-lucky companion to us both in our teenage years; a talented footballer and keen angler. His death was an awful blow to us all in the wider family, especially to his mother who lost her only son, just as we thought the end of nearly six years of wartime trauma and shortages was in sight.

My brother John was also involved in the war from 1943 but he was in the RAF as a despatch rider serving in Belgium at the time of our cousin's death.

The journey was also to visit the grave of our mother's only brother, Uncle Tom, who died of wounds on the 6 of May 1915 during the second battle of Ypres. We also intended to visit a small town in Belgium where my brother was stationed for a time in 1945.

Having visited our Uncle Tom's grave in Baillieu, France, we travelled on to Belgium and arrived at the small town where my brother had spent some time. He had told me how the locals at the time were in very poor straits as a result of the years of occupation by the Germans. A local woman had offered to do any washing and ironing for the men in my brother's unit in

exchange for food. This they gladly accepted as the woman had a family of small children to feed and it saved them the chore.

When we arrived in the town centre my brother was trying to identify the places he remembered from nearly 50 years before and not having much luck. It was early evening and there was barely a soul in sight from whom to seek assistance. Then a middle-aged man came into view crossing the town square, so my brother asked him if he spoke English and if so, was he a local? The man replied that he did indeed speak some English. John asked him about any changes that had been made to the town centre as he could not quite get his bearings. The man explained that it had been changed quite a bit since the war and finally John was able to recognize the town as he remembered it. The man enquired the purpose of our visit and was very keen to show us around the town. We were able to visit a club which had been John's unit canteen during the time he was stationed there. We were invited to his home to meet his wife and a son who spoke excellent English, having spent time in the UK at college. It was during the ensuing conversation that John mentioned the woman who did his washing and her brood of small children. Surprise, surprise, it transpired that the man we met, who was the town librarian, was one of the small children John remembered as belonging to the woman who did the washing. Of all the people in that small town, the one we sought information from just happened to be that woman's son. He indeed remembered that his mother did washing for the local unit; a case of serendipity indeed. We were given accommodation for the night and a tour of the town the following morning and went on our way astounded at the coincidence.

From there we travelled to the Reichwald Forest just over the German border to find our cousin Peter's grave. It was a very sad moment as we stood by his grave and recalled the many happy times of our youth. Of the eight thousand plus graves in that cemetery about half were of aircrew. To read the inscriptions on the headstones and see the ages of those that died, most, like Peter, in their late teens and twenties, brought home the utter futility and waste of war in pursuit of political ideology. Further visits to the bridge at Nijmegen and the town of Arnhem only served to underline the thought.

What was perhaps most surprising was the accidental meeting of the son of that woman who had done John's washing way back in 1944/5.

THE FATE OF LANCASTER ND443

By Alan Baldwin, Member No. 4425

At 22.08 on the night of 30 March 1944, Lancaster ND443, of 7 Squadron, took off from RAF Oakington, Cambridge, one of 779 aircraft assembled for the raid on Nuremburg which was to result in probably the biggest Bomber Command losses of the Second World War. A total of 96 aircraft failed to return and 545 aircrew were killed. 7 Squadron was a Pathfinder Squadron, flying ahead of the main bomber stream to identify, mark and illuminate the target with flares. They would also have carried a full bomb load. At approximately 00.15 ND443 was attacked by a Luftwaffe Me.110 nightfighter and crashed at Ober-Moos, 4km north-west of Freiensteinau, Germany. All the crew were killed and are now buried in Hanover War Cemetery. My cousin Sergeant Kenneth Geoffrey FRANCIS RAFVR, the Wireless Operator, was less than an hour into his 22nd birthday when he died. The Pilot, Squadron Leader Colin Howard WILSON DFC, was, at 38, the oldest man to die on the raid. The Flight Engineer, Sergeant Wycliffe JENKINS was half his age. The other members of the crew were Flying Officer James Stewart FERRIER RCAF, Air Bomber; Sergeant Joseph STEVENS, Navigator; Sergeant Thomas Burgess LIDDLE, Air Gunner and Sergeant Frank Tilden FULLER, Rear Gunner.



Kenneth (pictured left) was the only child of Joseph Herbert FRANCIS and Dorothy ('Dolly') Emily (née HEUDEBOURCK), born on 31 March 1922 at 65 Winchelsea Road, Tottenham. He attended Down Lane Central School between 1933 and 1936, then worked as a Postman before volunteering for the RAF on 25 March 1941. After extensive training he was posted to 218 Squadron at Downham Market and completed his first 'tour' of operations. Transferred to 7 Squadron (Pathfinder) he was on the fourth operation of his second tour when he died. His death was too much for Dolly. She suffered a serious

breakdown and eventually was admitted to Napsbury Mental Hospital near St Albans, Herts where she remained until her death in 1951.

The remaining family had a number of unanswered questions. What had actually happened to ND443? The basic facts of its loss are to be found in *Bomber Command Losses of WW2* by WR Chorley but where was the actual crash site? Was ND443 on fire as it crashed? Had any of the crew bailed out and died of wounds? Were there any records or accounts of the crash? Could there still be eye-witnesses? My other cousins, Alfred LAWRENCE, who was especially close to Kenneth, and Colin BROWN, who had visited the graves of the crew in Hanover War Cemetery, were particularly keen to know.

I contacted the RAF Historical Archives at Hendon and established that no useful records existed in the UK. The Luftwaffe kept meticulous records of crashes but these had either been burnt and not survived the war, or were later removed to the United States. Those relevant to the RAF were eventually returned but were then absorbed into other records, making the task of searching daunting to say the least. The most likely source of information would be in Germany, in the locality of the crash. The German Embassy was very helpful in providing initial contacts. Struggling a bit with my limited German, I began the trail which led me to local newspapers, Local History Groups and administrative centres. A slow process but at each stage I found a willingness to try and help. Eventually, after contact with a Local History Association in Freiensteinau, near the crash site, I had this email:

Dear Mr. Baldwin,

Mr Helmut Kersten from the Geschichtsverein Freiensteinau redirected your request to me. I am from Bermuthshain, the neighboring village of Ober-Moos. The bomber, in which your cousin was killed, crashed between these two villages.

The crash was described by Mr Robert Keller in his 2004 published book 'Luftkrieg über dem Vogelsberg' on pages 63 and 64. Mr Keller relied essentially on a contemporary report of the Gendarmerieposten (police station) in Freiensteinau (near Ober-Moos) of 31 March 1944.

The four-engined Lancaster Mk III ND 443 bomber crashed against clock 00:30 on 31 March 1944 three kilometers west of Ober-Moos in the so-called 'Tullwiese' and then was shattered, for the most part.

All crew members were killed immediately. These were: Squadron Leader C H Wilson (RAF), Sergeant W Jenkins (RAF), Sergeant J Stevens (RAF),

Flying Officer J S Ferrier (RCAF), Sergeant K G Francis (RAF), Sergeant T B Liddle (RAF), Sergeant F T Fuller (RAF).

Almost their bodies were torn by the explosion on impact. Only the body of Sergeant Fuller could be identified at the crash site.

According to contemporary accounts from my home village Bermuthshain the crash site was the next day the goal of some onlookers from the neighboring villages. However, the crash site itself was secured by members of the German Luftwaffe. Witnesses report, that they saw many airplane debris and body parts lying around or hanging in the trees. Someone also found an airman jacket. One witness described the killed crew as 'Canadians', perhaps because the Flying Officer was a member of the RCAF. The crash itself should not have been clearly perceived, however, but the motor noise of the British bombers and the attacks of the German fighters.

At the same time two other downed bombers crashed at Nieder-Moos and Freiensteinau, not very far from Ober-Moos. In the case of the crash at Nieder-Moos three crew members escaped their burning Halifax bomber by parachuting and were captured on the ground.

*The Lancaster bomber was shot down by Hauptmann Martin Drewes of the III./NJG 1, who was started with his Messerschmitt Bf 110 in Laon (France). Very probably, this attack on the bomber (from the perspective of Drewes and his radio operator Erich Handke and gunner Georg Petz) was described in the book 'Angriffshöhe 4000. Ein Kriegstagebuch der deutschen Luftwaffe' by Gajus Bekker on pages 443-444. * see note*

According to this book, the plane of Drewes approached from an angle below the Lancaster. The first attack occurred at an altitude of 7000 meters, but failed because of a jammed upward machine gun. Then the bomber tried to avoid, but after a time Drewes flew a second attack with his forward-looking machine guns. The bomber burned immediately and fell steeply towards the ground. It was to be exploded still in the air and the debris were scattered across the landscape. Maybe this explains why nobody of the crew members was able to eject and survive the attack.

The bodies of the crew members were initially buried in the village cemetery of Ober-Moos. After the war, they were reburied in the British military cemetery in Hannover-Ahlem. They are buried there in row 6 E.

There are still living several persons who were children at that time and remember the crash. However, there are actually no historic photos known from the crash site. But the position of the crash site is still known very

*well. Actually there are plans to erect there a memorial cross for the killed crew members in March next year.
I hope I could help you to learn more about this tragic event.
Sincerely
Carsten Eigner*

This was exciting news but tempered by the account of the gruesome end to the lives of these brave men. We were very moved that the local communities were planning a memorial and wondered what had stimulated them to do this. Now we needed to take this further and find relatives of the other crew members to let them know all of this.

The records of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission had provided the parents' names and home town of all the crew, with the exception of Sergeant Joseph STEVENS. These gave me a starting point, at least, to begin to construct records of the families of these men. A search of Family Trees on the internet yielded contacts for F/O James FERRIER, S/Leader Colin WILSON and Sergeant Frank FULLER. I had prompt replies from James FERRIER'S cousin Gordon HURLEY and Frank FULLER's cousin Maurice BURL who were both grateful and excited by the news. Disappointingly, I had no response to two attempts to contact the tree owner regarding Colin WILSON. Frustrating, as I could see he had a son and two daughters still living. (Why do people put their trees on the internet but fail to reply to a query?). However, I had found that Colin WILSON came from Chapel-en-le-Frith in Derbyshire and that his family owned the Wilson Felt Hat Company in Denton, Manchester. The Denton Local History Society found a telephone number, deep in their files of many years ago, for one of the Wilson family. Success! Yes, Colin WILSON's son Bill WILSON was living in Chapel-en-le-Frith. Within a couple of hours I was speaking to him. He was quite overcome with what I had to tell him.

So far there has been no luck with the remaining crew, partly due to lack of time having concentrated on organising the crash site visit but also to a reluctance to spend money on BMD certificates without strong evidence of being on the right track. Letters to local newspapers have yielded nothing so far. However, although inching along, definitely progress.

Correspondence continued with Carsten Eigner and various documents arrived by email. Then a large package arrived in the post from Gemeinde Freiensteinau (Council) Historical Club which contained photocopies of documents, research notes, maps and eye-witness accounts relating to the crash.

Colin Brown and I met Maurice Burl and Bill Wilson and his wife Lynn. Bill had a number of interesting documents to show us, relating to his father, including letters written to Bill's mother by the next of kin of the rest of the crew. These were very poignant and also valuable in providing their addresses at the time of the crash. Although we had all hoped to go to Ober-Moos together, to visit the crash site and the memorial, it proved too difficult to arrange mutually convenient dates. Due to bad winter weather, there was a delay in the placement of the memorial stone at the crash site. Eventually the week-end of 6–9 May was agreed.

Cousin Colin Brown, his grandson Jack and I made the trip. It was a most successful visit as we were made to feel so welcome and felt a bit overwhelmed by the hospitality. Lovely people, who tried so hard to make it a success. It was also helpful for us to have a liaison person, Joyce Szameitat, who is Scottish by birth but married a German after the war.



There was a reception at the hotel on Saturday morning, with speeches of welcome and small gifts for us. We then drove to the crash site on the Moellersberg; the actual crater has now been filled in and planted with trees to ensure that any remaining wreckage or remains lie undisturbed. It was a very moving

experience. Colin, Jack and I laid wreaths, a 7 Squadron RAF roundel remembering all the crew, one for our cousin Sgt. Kenneth Francis, one in memory of Squ. Leader Colin Wilson DFC on behalf of the Wilson family

and another in memory of Sgt. Frank Fuller on behalf of the Burl/Waters families. Martin Oechler, who is also a German army reservist, saluted the memorial. It was originally Martin's idea to erect the memorial, '*....to show future generations that the war also created victims (of other nations) in our homeland.*'¹

The memorial, a specially selected piece of local rock, is in a perfect setting by the side of a walking track (pictured right); indeed after our ceremony a couple of groups of walkers came by and stopped to look at the wreaths.



Later that day we visited the Luftmunitionsanstalt Hartmannshain



Luftwaffe Ammunition Depot (MUNA), a vast expanse of over 150 concrete storage bunkers, hidden in the hills among the trees. Also a complex of workshops and accommodation blocks for the mainly Ukrainian forced labour workforce still exist.

Sunday saw the opening of the MUNA Museum, with a ceremony very much of peace and reconciliation. Whilst at the exhibition there, we were introduced to three crash eye-witnesses, all telling a similar account of the crash, which was

good. The Lancaster was seen ablaze, losing height and turning, and then began to spiral out of control; one suggested the pilot was attempting an emergency landing. The tail broke off and the plane then hit the slope of the hill and exploded. There was still snow on the ground at the time, the crater apparently was enormous and some 20m deep. Sergeant Fuller, the rear gunner, must have been thrown out of his turret and had come down through the trees and lay on his back, arms outstretched above his head; the tail lay some yards away on open ground. We understand that the plane crashed into potato fields. Only one other body was recovered but was unidentifiable at the time. As we already knew wreckage and remains were spread over a wide area. More pieces of wreckage have been recovered in recent years but much is still believed to be buried, as later the crater was filled in with earth from above the site. There are no plans to search or recover more wreckage (an engine is thought to be still down there), out of respect for the crew.

Very sociable lunches and evening meals were all taken together at the hotel. The hospitality was so genuine. This was a weekend of remembrance and reconciliation. It was a great success and we certainly intend to keep in touch with them all and indeed, visit again. We have made some wonderful new friends.

It is very satisfying to know that all the information regarding the crash, sad though it is, has been so gratefully received. We have all achieved the closure we had hoped for and can now concentrate on finding further relatives of the crew of ND443. Further articles and requests for information will be placed in the relevant local press, with Family History Societies and internet military 'chat rooms'. Hopefully, when we make another visit to Ober-Moos, we will be a larger party of relatives to pay our respects to this little 'family' of brave young men to whom we all feel much closer.

* Note

Doubt exists as to the identity of the Nightfighter pilot responsible. Theo Boiten in his *Luftwaffe Nightfighter War Diaries* also gives credit to Lt. Gunther Wolf of 9./NJG5 or Fw. Klaus Möller of 12./NJG3. The fog of war!

Reference

1. Martin Oechler. e-mail 20/02/2011

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The following schoolboys were found at the BUXTON Industrial School, Marsham, Norfolk. Ref; RG13, Piece 1831, Folio 77 and Page 23

ALLEN John	11	MDX	Bloomsbury
ALLEN Richard	6	MDX	Bloomsbury
ASHLEY William	14		London
BARNES Alfred	7	MDX	Hoxton
BARTLETT Albert	14	MDX	Islington
BECKER Alexander	6	MDX	Kentish Town
BECKER Conrad	9	LND	Kentish Town
BECKER William	7	MDX	Kentish Town
BRISTOW James	11	MDX	Hoxton
CASEY John	13	MDX	Islington
DEEKS? George	12	MDX	Paddington
DIXON Henry	11	LND	Paddington
FELSTEAD Charles	10	MDX	Greys Inn
FEW Benjamin	13	MDX	Vauxhall
FOWLER George	14	SUR	Croydon
GODWIN Garth	15	MDX	Hampstead
GOUGH George	10		London
GRIMBLE George	8	MDX	Pimlico
HARDING James	15	MDX	Clerkenwell
HASWELL Robert	11	MDX	Islington
HERITAGE Sidney	11	LND	Lewisham
HUDSON Charles	13	LND	Peckham
HUNTS? Alfred	16	MDX	London
JONES John	7	MDX	Hammersmith
KEEN Charles	14	LND	Chelsea
LAUNDRY George	10	LND	Southwark
OWEN Joseph	11	LND	Bermondsey
SIMMONS William	11	LND	Walworth
SNELL William	14	MDX	Paddington
TEMPLE William	11	LND	Clerkenwell
THURSBY George	11	MDX	Marylebone
UNDERWOOD Clifford	10	LND	Brixton
WALLER Charles	11	MDX	Islington
WARD Robert	12	MDX	Borough?
WARRIOR Edward	12	MDX	London
WARRIOR James	13	MDX	Bethnal Green
WHITE Charles	10	LND	Camberwell
WICKS William	13	LND	Peckham
WINN William	12	LND	Peckham
WISE Arthur	8	MDX	Childs Hill

Anne Prudames

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For more information visit: www.wsfhs.org

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LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX
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Name	Period	Country	County	Parish
eg. WATTS	1850-1875	UK	MDX	Islington, St Mary
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WEBSITE NEWS

Gazettes

A considerable number of issues of the London, Edinburgh and Belfast gazettes are online at www.gazettes-online.co.uk and are free to search.

It was law from 1712 to declare bankruptcies in *The London Gazette*. Sometimes, for purposes of discretion, these notices appeared in *The Edinburgh* or *Belfast Gazette* even if the person lived in London. You can search all three by going on the website above.

The Gazette listed: bankruptcies; civil service appointments; patents (if your ancestor invented something); naturalizations; people who changed their name; people who dissolved a business partnership; details of military awards and promotions.

Finally, for those with Irish connections, there's *The Dublin Gazette*, founded in 1706. From 1922 it was called *Iris Oifigiuil* and it can be searched at: www.irisoifigiuil.ie

Sally Cox

The Inhabitants of London in 1638

British History Online has published *The Inhabitants of London in 1638* on their website. This book was originally published in two volumes (the second containing the index and errata) in 1931 and contained data edited from Manuscript 272 from Lambeth Palace Library. This manuscript was compiled by the clergy of London in response to an order of King Charles I dated 22 April 1638 which attempted to address the fact that the clergy felt that they were not being paid their due tithes.

This data lists householders by parish, with rental and tithe data, and covers 93 of the 107 parishes in the City of London. No returns were made for eleven parishes: St Alphege London Wall, St Anne Blackfriars, St Benet Paul's Wharf, St Katherine Cree, St Mary Aldermanbury, St Michael Wood Street, St Peter le Poer, St Sepulchre, St Stephen Coleman Street and St Swithin. Returns are summarised for the parishes of All Hallows Bread Street, St Bartholomew the Great, Christ Church Newgate Street and St Mary Colechurch, but no names of the inhabitants are given. One parish, of which only a small part lay within the Liberties of London, St Olave Southwark, is included but no names are given.

Of the parishes which did submit returns the amount of information included is variable. Some parishes include just the name and rent, for

instance, Mr WIGGINS of St Andrew Undershaft paid £15 and Haberdashers' Hall of St Alban's, Wood Street paid £15. Other parishes have a little more detail. The returns for St Magnus by London Bridge list the buildings that were actually on London Bridge: Stephen BEALE had '1 faire house and shop, part of little Nonesuch' for £40 and Andrew WESTON and BROWN the other part, also for £40. Mr BARNARD of the Spread Eagle in the parish of St John the Evangelist in Watling Street paid a 'moderated' rent of £48.

At the end is a file of corrections, an index of persons and an index of places. This invaluable resource is free to use and well worth a look if you have London ancestors or are just interested in London history.

The Inhabitants of London in 1638 can be found at: www.british-history.ac.uk/source.aspx?pubid=176&page=1&sort=1

Community Archives

This website has been set up to support and promote community archives in the UK and is run by the Community Archives and Heritage Group. (A community archive is an archive or collection managed by a community organisation, that is, an organisation which is not-for-profit and non-governmental.)

The Directory of community archives is arranged mainly by area, with pins appearing on a map which, if you click on them, take you to that particular archive's website. For example, in our area the Directory includes such things as the Archive of Anglo-Saxon Pottery Stamps in West Hampstead, St Luke's Hospice in Harrow, Harringay Online Archive of Harringay History, Barnet Museum and lots more.

Also nearby is the St Albans Out of Sight Out of Mind site, which is a record of the former mental hospitals in the St Albans area, including Hill End, Napsbury, Harperry, Leavesden and Shenley. (see page 16)

Other pages list black, minority and ethnic communities, including the Cypriot Diaspora Project at Bruce Castle Museum, and various special interest pages covering war, trade & industry, transport and so on.

The site welcomes contributions in the form of new additions to the Directory, notice of events connected to a local archive for their 'What's On' page or small articles about particular items in a collection or projects being undertaken.

Thanks to Anne Prudames for letting us know about this useful website, which is at: www.communityarchives.org.uk.

Business Index Collection

This collection contains UK records from various trade directories and books dating from 1893 to 1927. There are nearly 10,000 entries each containing at least a paragraph, and often a photograph, of businessmen and women. The initial source material is a series of books published in the 1890s by the London Printing and Engraving Company and the Brighton firm of Robinson, Son and Pike, who seem to have travelled to large towns and cities all over the British Isles, offering the local corporation and businesses the opportunity to appear in a book containing a history of the area, its attractions, major institutions and its commercial life.

An example is the piece from 1895 about Mr TR ROBERTS, General and Fancy Drapery and Mantle Warehouse, China, Glass and General Furnishing Emporium, 216-225 Upper Street, Islington. The article mentions that he started in business 32 years previously, details the size of his carpet room and the assistants' dining room, exactly what is for sale in each room of this emporium and much more!

Produced in collaboration with the Society of Genealogists, this collection appears on www.findmypast.co.uk

1861 Worldwide Army Index and other Military Records

The Worldwide Army Index details the whereabouts of some 245,000 soldiers serving around the world at the time of the 1861 census. It is drawn from a series of muster rolls and may include a soldier's rank, regiment and location. This index also appears on www.findmypast.co.uk

Other new military indexes on this site include: The Paddington Rifles 1860-1912, The Royal Fusiliers 1863-1905, Surrey Recruitment Registers 1908-1933. For example, Albert BAKER, shopman aged 18, enlisted in the Paddington Rifles in 1900 but was struck off on 20 March 1901.

The Chelsea Pensioners' British Army Service Records 1769-1913 have been added to the Militia Service Records 1806-1915 in the British Army Service Records database on FindMyPast and provide rich detail. Unlike the indexes above, these are images taken from the records themselves and include a wealth of information such as a description of the soldier on joining the army, his medical and service records and next of kin.

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.

COINCIDENCE!

By Alan Perry, Member No. 2501

I think it was about 1990 when I first became interested in my family history which was brought about by a cousin of my wife turning up on our doorstep one night with a printout of his research into their NEWMAN ancestors. A couple of years went by without any action on my part and I cannot recall what finally made me start this interesting, satisfying, frustrating and sometimes annoying hobby but start I did. So I joined the L&NMFHS as it was then and went from there.

My first line of research was my paternal name of PERRY understandably so not only because it was my name but was the only one I knew of at that time apart from my Mother's maiden name of BOSWELL.

The only Grandparent I had known, albeit not that well, was my Grandfather John Augustus PERRY (1883-1971) the other three had died before I was born. So off I went to the record office which at that time was at the junction of Kingsway and Aldwych, St Catherine's House if my memory serves me correctly. Now this in itself was a trip back into my own personal past for as a teenager in 1964 aged 16 I was a Messenger Boy for A B Pathe (based in Wardour Street, W1) and often had to deliver various items to St Cats when it was the HQ of ATV. It seemed strange walking back through those doors all those years later and venturing further into the building than I had ever done before as then I never got past reception. What a coincidence I thought. Which is the subject of this article really: coincidence!

I had always assumed my family were born and bred Londoners from the beginning of time - an assumption that was dispelled when I found that my PERRY line came from Suffolk. OK, I thought, so they were Ag Labs, nothing wrong with that.

Over the years I found out more about different lines but one that really had me up against that 'brick wall' was on my Mother's side. Her parents were John Davis BOSWELL (1872-1939) and Harriet Maud Louise SAMBIDGE/SAMBRIDGE, (1875-1945) both born in Shoreditch. I have found both spellings were used over the years but my Aunt Rose, Harriet's

daughter, swore it was SAMBIDGE. Harriet's parents were John William SAMBIDGE (1840-1893) and Elizabeth CRANE (b 1854). John William was born on 1 June 1840 at Number 4 Macclesfield Road, Islington. So it was from his birth certificate that I found his parents' names which were Henry SAMBIDGE (1801-1846) born in Stratford-upon-Avon and Elizabeth SKUDDER and it was with Elizabeth that I hit the brick wall.

Already on the SAMBIDGE case, I decided to find out more about the SKUDDERS. So off to the FRC in Myddleton Street where I obtained a printout of the 1841 census only for it to show that Elizabeth was aged 30 and not born in the county of Middlesex. Blast. So I then looked for her in the 1851 census but had no luck so put her to one side and followed other lines. A lot of SKUDDERS originate in Kent so I assumed that was where she was from and left it like that. Those were the days before computers and it was much more fulfilling doing one's research then - heaving those big books and jostling with other researchers, some of a friendly nature and some not, for a place on those long desks and the large census printouts of which I have many to this very day.

So the years passed by and in 2002 we moved to Martham in Norfolk mainly because we holidayed on the Broads and liked the area. And so the time of emails and some records becoming available online, courtesy of Ancestry and Find My Past, came about. Having had mainly good results into my various ancestors' pasts my thoughts turned again to Elizabeth SKUDDER not long after we moved here. It was another SAMBIDGE researcher who pointed me in the right direction and enabled me to uncover from whence she came. The reason I could not find her in the 1851 census was because Henry SAMBIDGE had died in 1846 and she had remarried a Richard WILLIAMS in 1847. There she was in the 1851 census with three of her children from her marriage to Henry, Elizabeth aged 15, Henry aged 17 and my own great Grandfather John aged 11. Why did I not look for him or his siblings in 1851 as they were all on the 1841 census for goodness sake ! Who knows? Maybe I did and had no luck but what I found out about her birthplace was the coincidence which was to lead to another brick wall which I am still banging my head against.

So it turned out that Elizabeth SKUDDER was born in Yarmouth, Norfolk on the 16 June 1802 and baptised 22 June 1802 (source IGI). Her parents

were John SKUDDER and Elizabeth FLEMING. Great Yarmouth is approximately 10 miles south of where I now live. I had come back to my roots or one of them at least. Mystery solved and another about to begin. Now my research centred on her parents.

John SKUDDER was born circa 1777, place of birth unknown, and Elizabeth FLEMING born in Great Yarmouth circa (conflicting dates) 1769 or 1773. They were married on 10 June 1798 in Great Yarmouth. From the IGI and Norfolk Transcription Archive (NTA) I was able to ascertain that an Elizabeth FLEMING was christened on the 6 April 1769 at St Nicholas Church, Great Yarmouth, parents William FLEMING and Sarah née GIBBS. I have also found an early very interesting census taken in 1803 on the Great Yarmouth, Norfolk page of GENUKI which lists a John SCUDDER and his wife Elizabeth aged 30. John's occupation is shown as 'Guard to Tel h Coach' (telegraph?) and they have two children aged 4 and 2. I believe one of these to be Elizabeth b 1802. Also on the same page above them are Thomas FLEMING aged 25 and Sarah FLEMING widow aged 68 who were brother and mother to Elizabeth the elder. I have found a Thomas FLEMING's baptism on the NTA in 1779 with parents William and Sarah. Also listed below them on the census is Maria FLEMING aged 28 spinster. For anyone not familiar with Great Yarmouth it is famous for its Rows. These were narrow alleyways that ran east to west most of which have now disappeared but some still exist. Each Row consisted of very small dwellings. This is where the SKUDDERS and FLEMINGS lived. I thought I had managed to pinpoint the exact Row they lived in until I started writing this and now see that the first three pages of the street index are shown as unknown. Oh well, back to the drawing board I suppose on that part.

John Caplin SKUDDER and Elizabeth FLEMING had the following children that I have found up to now:

John Caplin SKUDDER, baptised 8 March 1799 Great Yarmouth, who went on to marry Susannah SAMBIDGE, younger sister of Henry, in 1832. Susannah appears in the records of Clerkenwell Assizes in 1849 charged with 'Keeping a Bawdy House'. Found guilty and discharged on sureties.

Mary Ann SKUDDER, baptised 23 November 1800 in Great Yarmouth, married a Garnet Benjamin FRANCIS on the 14 November 1820 at St Botolph, London.

Elizabeth, baptised 16 June 1802 in Great Yarmouth, my G/G/Grandmother
Charles Fleming SKUDDER, baptised 14 April 1804 in Great Yarmouth
Sarah SKUDDER baptised 31 July 1806 in Great Yarmouth
Thomas SKUDDER, baptised 10 December 1808 in Great Yarmouth,
married Mary Ann BORLISON on the 30 July 1827 in Shoreditch.

I have found various records relating to them on Ancestry. Now though my interest lies with the Caplin name. Recently I came across a record on Find My Past concerning the marriage of a John SKUDDER and Ann CAPLIN. Could they be the link I was looking for? Unfortunately when I received the printout it was barely legible so the jury is still out on that one. I did find a Henry CAPLYN christened 20 September 1607 in Martham on the IGI but have not found a link yet. Now that *would* be a coincidence!

Sources:

ancestry.co.uk

findmypast.co.uk

IGI

Norfolk Transcription Archive



SNIPPET

On the 1901 census the occupation of my Grandfather John Augustus Perry was transcribed as MACKING SLICK THRUSTER.

Luckily I knew what he did and it should have been WALKING STICK FINISHER. Although looking at the actual census page I can see why so. The mind boggles as to what a Mackling Stick Thruster would have done if it was an occupation.

Alan Perry, Member No. 2501

LOOSE CONNECTIONS

from a 1911 Harrow School Census
by David Sansom, Member No. 7665

My paternal grandfather Edmund Charles SANSOM, was born in Bristol, 'migrated' to London and became a butler in the Head Master's House at Harrow School in the early 20th century. The Head Master at the time was

the Reverend Lionel FORD (pictured left) who later took up the post of Dean of York Minster. 'Bear' Grylls, who was appointed Chief Scout in 2009 is the maternal great grandson of Lionel FORD.



Among the boarders (pupils) listed is one 'Bernard DOCKER'. He later became a leading industrialist and was the Managing Director of the Birmingham Small Arms Company group of companies (BSA); he also chaired the Daimler Motor Company. However, he is probably best remembered as Lord Docker, who with his wife Lady Docker was renowned for a lavish 'playboy' (and playgirl) lifestyle. They could be regarded as the Posh and Becks of the 1950s.

Another of the sixty or so boys in the house at the time was Percy VESTHEY, a member of the Vestey family international food conglomerate which was established in 1897.

William Frederick PLAYER was also a pupil in the Head Master's House in 1911. He was the son of William Goodacre PLAYER of the Players

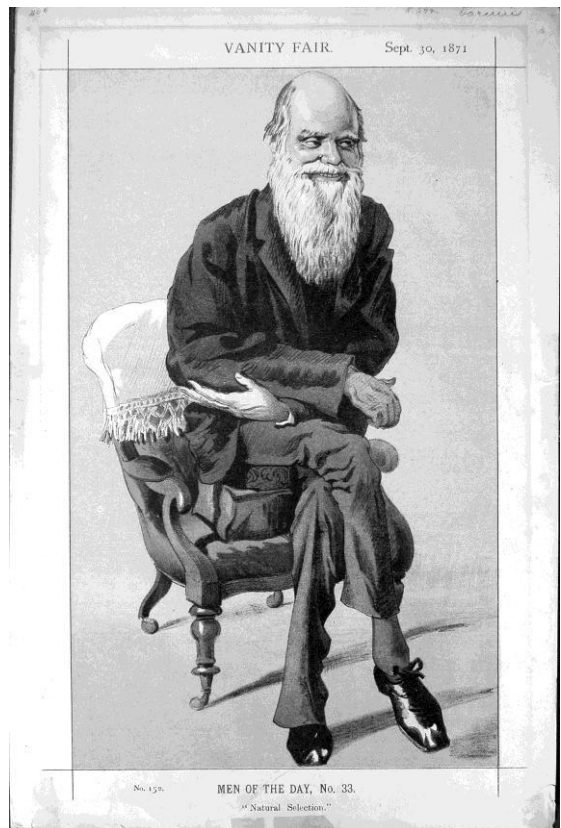
cigarette company. In 1901 Players merged with the Imperial Tobacco Group based in Bristol which also owned W D & H O Wills. My grandfather's sister worked at Wills in Bristol for many years in the hand-made cigar department.

How many more future leading politicians, industrialists and religious leaders are on that list? I have picked only the names that stand out for me.

The final name on the census record is Grace HOOKES (a Visitor) shown on a certain family history web-site as an Ant Collector. Examination of the original census return suggests she was actually an Art Collector – not nearly as much fun!

Further examination of the actual return reveals that Grace's surname was in fact 'HOOKER'. With a little detective work we find that she was the daughter of Joseph Dalton HOOKER a leading botanist and explorer who was Director of the Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew for twenty years. He was also a very close friend of Charles DARWIN.

Charles DARWIN (right) was one of the first scientists to be a subject of the British version of the 19th century *Vanity Fair* magazine caricatures and the Reverend Lionel FORD was the last headmaster to be featured before the magazine finally closed in 1914.



BOOK REVIEW

Hornsey Historical Society – Bulletin No. 52, 45 pages with 35 illustrations and maps, price £6 plus £1.50 P&P

This Bulletin celebrates the 40th Anniversary of the founding of the Hornsey Historical Society in 1971 – the year in which I left that area. The issue includes a brief review of past events within the Society and a résumé of events in Hornsey between January and May 1971 as recorded by the local newspaper, whose interest in the area's history was to some extent instrumental in the founding of the Hornsey HS.

Among the 11 articles included are a detailed investigation of a conundrum on the naming and ownership of a plot of land which subsequently became Priory Park and another querying whether a certain part of Crouch End – including that in which I lived – was originally part of the ancient manor of Topsfield or the manor of Fernfield.

Another investigative article delves into the so called 'Blackwell Collection' of watercolour paintings, fourteen of which were photographed by members of the North Middlesex Photographic Society and included in its photographic collection. The identity of Blackwell is left as a matter of speculation but the paintings included here again emphasise the rural nature of districts to the north of London up to the end of the 19th century.

Other contributions include items on Old Highgate, the twinning of the Borough of Haringey with six other towns, Quakers in Muswell Hill and memories of trade unionism in Hornsey.

As before, a limited number of copies of the Bulletin are available for sale to non-members and can be obtained via our Bookstall manager, Anne Prudames. The cost has increased to £6.00 plus postage, but still represents good value for money.

Brian Green

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.



UNKNOWN PHOTOS

I thought I had collected all the family photos I could lay my hands on but when I was clearing out my late mother's effects I came across a another box of old photos. I believe these came from when my father acted as executor to other family members and Dad has been able to put names to several photos. However, these two intrigue me and I would love to know more about them, if possible.



From conversations with Mum and Dad we guess this shop is in the London area, possibly North London as our families were for the most part

north of the Thames, the Shoreditch, Hackney, St Pancras, Walthamstow, Finchley, Clerkenwell, Holborn and Edmonton areas. Dad recalls that in the 1940/50s part of the family had a shop, but not where it was or what it sold. We don't have any HUTCHINSONS in our direct family line but there was one who married into the PENNYFATHER line who is not related, or not that I can find at the moment. Doris Amy HUTCHINSON married Ernest PENNYFATHER in 1941. Their children were; Allen 1944, Brenda 1946 and Eric 1954.

I have traced this line back to 1862 with no link to my line so far. Other than the normal births, marriages, deaths I have no other details except on Ernest's marriage certificate and Brenda's birth certificate, where Ernest's occupation was given as Gas Fitter.



The army photo is not of my direct line, ie my grandfathers, as I have photos of them.

*Dennis Pennyfather, Member No. 6677
90 Crawford Road, Hatfield, Herts AL10 0PE
Email: d.pennyfather@welhat.gov.uk*

Note: The shop photograph looks as though it may have been taken in the very early years of the 20th Century. As you think it was possibly in North London, the 1901 and 1911 censuses are worth a search for a HUTCHINSON family who are tobacconists and confectioners. So, too, are any local directories you are able to find.

There does not seem to be a house number on the shop and the sign between the legs of the man on the left (which looks a little like a road sign) is probably an advert for Colman's Mustard.

JOHN AND CATHERINE RICHARDSON

I am trying to trace the marriage of John RICHARDSON to Catherine ?

John died aged 48 on 24 October 1843 at 2 Jones Row, Tottenham Place, St Pancras. He was a bricklayer.

Catherine died aged 41 on 28th February 1842 at 2 Phillips Gardens, Tottenham, St Pancras. The informant was Mary HITCHEN. I wondered if she was Catherine's sister and perhaps HITCHEN was Mary's married name.

Mr C Hawker, Member No.4166

2 Little Park, Berryfield Road, Princes Risborough, Bucks HP27 0HS

Email: charles_hawker@o2.co.uk

Note: It is certainly possible that Mary HITCHEN was Catherine's sister. Of course, HITCHEN could be her maiden name too. Have you tried tracing Mary in the 1841 and 1851 census to find out about her?

It might also be worth checking for John and Catherine's marriage in the London Parish Register records on www.ancestry.co.uk This may be free to view at your local library/local studies centre or similar.

THE BUFFS REUNIONS

I am told my Grandfather, George BAGLEY was in the East Kent Regiment – 'The Buffs' and he used to hold reunion meetings in the large white house opposite the Hornsey Drill Hall and next to the entrance to the Park. Does anybody recall their family members talking about this, pre 1940? Any information would be most welcome.

JD Carter, Non-Member

23 March Place, Clare, Suffolk. CO10 8RH

Email: olivejohn@btinternet.com

BETRAUN

My maternal great grandmother's maiden name was BETRAUN. We have spent much time researching her family and have what we believe to be a complete record of all its members in the UK. There were, as far as we can ascertain, only twenty-four people with that surname and they are all members of the same family. Needless to say we have explored similarly spelt surnames. We can find no evidence of anyone with the surname BETRAUN living in the UK today.

The story of the BETRAUN family name in England took place in London and lasted little more than 100 years. It started with one Angelious BETRAUN who was born in 1799 and ended with Caroline BETRAUN who died in 1932.

The origin of the surname is somewhat obscure. Despite many hours of research we are no nearer to finding out where the name came from. The only references on the internet are to Angelious and to an extended family of BETRAUNs in North America.

The BETRAUN families in the USA are descendents of a family which emigrated to Canada in the early 20th century and we have made contact with some of the family members.

As stated previously we are confident that we have a record of all the members of the family; our question is, is there anyone within the membership of the society who may have a connection with the BETRAUN family?

David Sansom, Member No: 7665

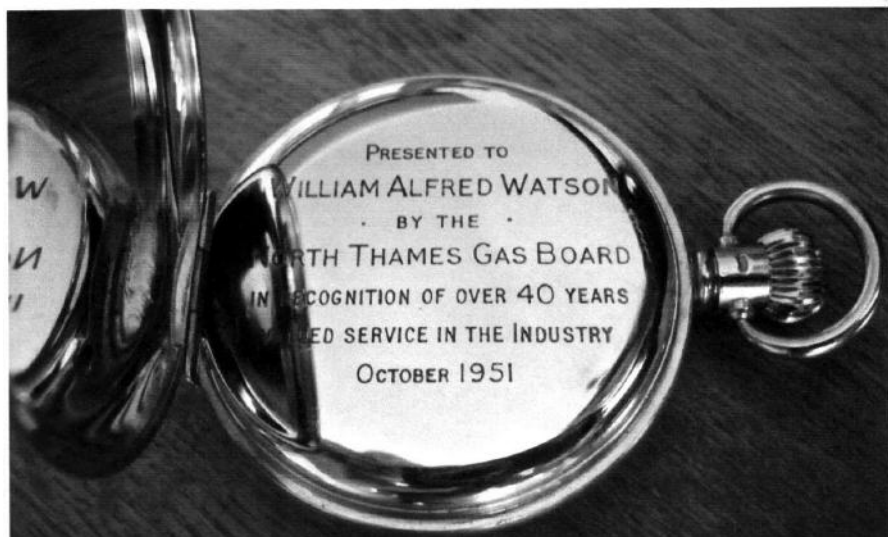
8 Cedar Close, Melbourn, Royston, Herts SG8 6BL

Email: davidwsansom@yahoo.co.uk

WATSON

I am researching my WATSON family history and just recently my cousin showed me a gold pocket watch that she had found whilst clearing out her father's house, with the inscription 'Presented to William Alfred Watson by the North Thames Gas Board in recognition of over 40 Years Valued Service in the Industry October 1951'. We have no idea who this person was or how he fits into our tree. I was wondering if any of our members could shine a light on this. Enclosed is a photo of the gold watch. If there are any records for the Gas Board with workers' date of birth, I could order a birth certificate; perhaps announcements were made in the local papers in

1951. He must have been working for the Gas Board at the time of the 1911 census if anybody has access to the censuses.



Also if anybody could help me find out where John WATSON, a Silversmith, was born in 1800. He was living in St Pancras on the 1841 census but unfortunately was not born in London and died before 1851.

*Mrs June Gardiner, Member No. 7661
48 Frizinghall Road, Bradford BD9 4LD
Email: junemgardiner@blueyonder.co.uk*

Note: The North Thames Gas Board was established on 1 May 1949 and became part of the British Gas Corporation in 1973. Any surviving records are held at the National Gas Archive at Unit 1, Europa Court, Europa Boulevard, Warrington WA5 7TN, Tel: 01925 425748, Email: enquiries@gasarchive.org

The NGA holds up to two kilometres of records covering the history and development of the UK gas industry. The records date from about 1812 to the present day and include many of the administrative, financial, legal, technical, property and personnel records of the industry. A search fee applies for all enquiries - you will need to contact them for details.

LYALL FAMILY AND SIDECAR MANUFACTURING.

I have two photos which both include George LYALL (born 1875 Edinburgh, died 1939 Islington) who at the time of his marriage to Ann Black FITZCHARLES in Bethnal Green in 1895 he was a fancy cane furniture maker (Journeyman) living at 303 Wilmot Street, Bethnal Green. In 1923 when his son George LYALL married Alice Frances Elizabeth JOHNSON of Mersea Island, Essex he is described as a manufacturer and although the date of these photos is uncertain, we understand he was the first person to make a cane-woven sidecar. I have been advised by a London Museum that Sandum Sidecars of Islington, who began manufacture in 1905 and endured until 1957, were the first company to produce a fabric-covered sidecar body in 1915, followed by cane ones but could tell me nothing else. I am unclear as to whether great grandfather perhaps owned Sandum or was a foreman there. A cousin (Graham Lyall) recalls visiting the factory in his youth.



In one picture (above) he is featured with his wife (Ann Black née FITZCHARLES) and their son (my Grandfather George, born 1899 Hoxton). In the other picture (see the front cover) he is featured with two young men, who we believe may be family members (possibly sons of his

sister-in-law Grace FITZCHARLES who married David ROUGH). If this is the case this latter couple married 1900 in Hoxton, so this photo has to be taken in at least the 1920s or a little before.

We are not sure why or exactly when George came to London but he first appears 'down south' in the 1881 census living at Lambeth in Surrey with his married aunt, husband and family - William and Marion POWRIE. His place of birth here is given as Manchester, Lancs (which is incorrect) but his aunt is shown as being born in Edinburgh and we have details of her marriage in Edinburgh to William POWRIE. He may have worked in the East end of London, as his first child is born 1897 Shoreditch (followed by three others there) and then three more are born at Holborn. His son George later moved to Edmonton, Middlesex a few years after his marriage to Alice JOHNSON.

While travelling a motorway in the south east during 2002 a cane sidecar was spotted on a trailer in the next lane, but we couldn't overtake the other car before it turned off, and we were in the wrong lane to follow them.

If anyone has any information about the 'factory', its exact whereabouts, or knows someone who owns a cane sidecar I should be very pleased to hear from them.

Mrs Angela Golding, Member No. 829

17 Siddons Road, Hampton Dene, Hereford, Herefordshire, HR1 1XD

Email: lyjo2go@aol.com

Note: Sandum Sidecars were made by Sandham Engineering Co Ltd.

This company first appears in telephone directories in 1919 at 336 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1. Subsequently their showroom was at the Gray's Inn Road address with the factory at 162-165 Pentonville Road, N1. By 1928 they were only operating out of Pentonville Road and in 1930 they had moved to 20 Alpha Place, N1. According to *The London Gazette* the company was dissolved in 1933.

It might be worth contacting the Islington Local History Collection, which is at Finsbury Library, 245 St John Street, London EC1V 4NB. Tel: 020 7527 7988. Email: local.history@islington.gov.uk

Perhaps the National Motorcycle Museum will have some leads to follow? You can reach them at: Coventry Road, Bickenhill, Solihull, West Midlands, B92 0EJ, Tel: 01675 443311 or via their website: www.nationalmotorcyclemuseum.co.uk

FOX/SHEEHAN

My ancestor, Mark John FOX, the son of Robert FOX, labourer and Harriet FOX née HARDY, was born on 25 April 1835 at Thornage, Norfolk.

Mark John FOX was a miller and he moved from Thornage to London somewhere between 1861-1865, when he shows up on a marriage certificate. He appears on the 1851 census in Norfolk but I cannot find him on the 1861 census. Any ideas as to where he worked please? I presume that it was either a windmill or watermill? He married his cousin Elizabeth FOX (the daughter of Henry FOX and Maria FOX) who came from Fakenham, Norfolk in 1865. The couple were married in Islington; the address on the marriage certificate is 12 Edward Street. When their eldest daughter Louisa Hyde FOX was born on 8 April 1867 at St John's, Westminster, Mark is still shown as a Miller. Louisa's sister Rose Maria FOX was born in 1869 at Lambeth Road, Westminster whilst her brother Henry Mark FOX (born 1872) appears at St Olave, London, which indicates that the family frequently moved around.

Louisa Hyde FOX married William REEVES on 26 July at Southwark Park Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, Rotherhithe. At the time of the marriage they lived at 14 Moodkee Street, Rotherhithe. Their eldest son Frederick William REEVES married May Matilda SHEEHAN, who was my grandmother and I am also looking for my SHEEHAN ancestors. When May Matilda married my grandfather, Frederick William REEVES, they lived in the area of Wood Green. Fred Reeves was a printer.

May's parents were George Ernest SHEEHAN, born 1871 at Bermondsey, and Mary née DAVEY, born 1870 at Chaste Water, Cornwall. After George Ernest SHEEHAN died in 1913, Mary married a second time to Samuel RULE (born 1863). They were married at St Mark's, Noel Park, N22 on 25 October 1913. Sam's parents were Samuel and Sarah RULE.

The parents of George Ernest SHEEHAN were Charles Henry Lee SHEEHAN (born 1844 at Bristol St Michael's) a bookbinder who died in 1889. His wife was Emily was born in 1844 at Bristol Radcliff. All of their children were born in Bermondsey.

Any info on the FOX, REEVES, RULE, and SHEEHAN families would be of interest. Is anyone else researching these families?

Maureen Copping, Member No. 7651

Flat 8 Wannock House, 2 Wannock Lane, Lower Willingdon, Eastbourne, East Sussex, BN20 9SA

Email: maureencopping@yahoo.co.uk

HEWETT

I have received 2 death certificates both indicating inquests that had been held. The first is for Richard HEWETT my g g grandfather who died aged 56 on 1 October 1877 at 28 Melcombe Mews, Marylebone from suicide by poisoning from oxalic acid. The coroner for Middlesex was William Hardwicke and an inquest was held on 4 October 1877.

The second is for Charles HEWETT my g grandfather who died aged 61 on 11 August 1903 at 2 Colville Terrace, Kensington. He was found dead at home from Syncope, a dramatic fall in blood pressure. The certificate was received from the London Coroner (unfortunately the name is very indistinct) with an inquest held on 14 August 1903.

Can anyone inform me as to where I can find copies of these inquests as I am sure they will hold a lot more information pertaining to other family members and the circumstances surrounding these deaths, especially Richard's.

If anyone has other information on this particular HEWETT (also spelt HEWITT) I would be delighted to hear from them. Thank you very much.

Janet Hewitt Winch, Member No. 7643

Dolphin Cottage, 65 Downview Road, Felpham, West Sussex PO22 8JA

Email: j_hewittwinch@o2.co.uk

Note: Any surviving Coroner's records for Marylebone will be held at London Metropolitan Archives. Their catalogue is easily searchable online via: http://search.lma.gov.uk/opac_lma/index.htm

Similarly, Kensington records, if available, will be held at WESTCAT, the catalogue of City of Westminster Archives Centre at: <http://www.westminster.gov.uk/services/libraries/archives/indexes/>

It would also be worth searching in the relevant local newspapers as reports of inquests were often included. For further information on newspapers visit the British Library British Newspapers 1800-1900 at: <http://newspapers.bl.uk/blcs/>

FORTHCOMING BRANCH MEETINGS

Barnet Branch – 7.30pm for 8.00pm

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

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| Thursday 20 October | More Progress, Problems or Pitfalls |
| Thursday 17 November | <i>From Battlebridge to Bleeding Heart Yard –
Place Names of Camden etc</i>
by Tudor Allen |
| Thursday 15 December | No meeting |
| Thursday 19 January | <i>All Roads Lead to Smithfield</i>
by Ian Waller |

City Branch – 12 noon for 12.30pm

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

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| Thursday 27 October | <i>Maps, especially for London</i>
by Alan Ruston |
| Thursday 24 November | <i>BT Archives</i>
by David Hay |
| Thursday 29 December | No meeting |
| Thursday 26 January | <i>Phoenix – Tracing Ancestors who Survived the
Great Fire</i>
by Trevor Spinage |

ADVERTISING RATES

Advertising rates per issue of METROPOLITAN are as follows:
Full Page £40, Half Page £23, Quarter Page £14, Eighth Page, £8.50
All copy, correspondence and remittances should be sent to the Editors.
See inside front cover for address.

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

Wednesday 5 October *How the Streets of London got their Names*
by Colin Oakes
Wednesday 2 November *Lawrence of Arabia*
by Maggie Radcliffe
Wednesday 7 December Members' Christmas Celebration
Wednesday 4 January No meeting

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

Friday 14 October Members' Chat or Talk
Friday 11 November *From Notion to Presentation*
by Meryl Catty
Friday 9 December Christmas Celebrations
Friday 13 January TBA

ADVANCE NOTICE

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

Saturday 3 March 2011

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, will be published in the December METROPOLITAN

Tricia Sutton
Hon. Secretary

COME AND JOIN US!

The City Branch of the London Westminster & Middlesex Family History Society meets on the last Thursday of the month (except December) at:

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

The Archives are on the second floor via a lift. We meet at 12 mid-day for 12.30pm start and finish by 2pm. This leaves plenty of time for exploring the surrounding area, both before the meeting and after.

So, do come to London for the day; visit museums or Record Offices, attend our meeting where you can relax and listen to an hour's talk, and then go off for more exploring.

Are you looking for Wills or divorce records after 1858? The index to Wills, known as the National Probate Calendar, can be looked at in the search room at: First Avenue House, 42-49 High Holborn, WC1V 6NP which is a ten minute walk from Holborn Library and is open until 4.30pm. Order your Will in the morning and collect it after our meeting.

Would you like to use *Ancestry.com*? In the Local Studies and Archives Centre at Holborn Library (open until 7pm on Thursdays) you have free use of *Ancestry.com* and three computers are available.

There are museums and archives within walking distance: the Dickens Museum at 48 Doughty Street; Sir John Soane's Museum at 13 Lincoln's Inn Fields; the BT Archives at 268-270 High Holborn; the Royal Mail Archive at Freeling House, Phoenix Place.

A walk/short bus ride away (on bus numbers 55 or 243) is the Society of Genealogists (open to 8pm) at 14 Charterhouse Buildings, Goswell Road and the Museum of the Order of St John, St John's Gate, St John's Lane, Clerkenwell.

Buses 19 and 38 pass near the London Metropolitan Archives (open to 7.30pm) at 40 Northampton Road, Clerkenwell and also the Islington Local History Centre and Islington Museum (open to 8pm) at Finsbury Library, 245 St John Street.

AIMS OF THE SOCIETY

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

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The standard annual subscription covers all family members living at one address, with one journal and one vote per subscription.

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

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

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

Anyone objecting to his or her name being on this list should write to the Membership Secretary.

