

METROPOLITAN

The Journal of the

LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX

Family History Society



ISSN 1359-8961

Volume 35 No. 2 (136)



December 2012

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CONTENTS

- 50 Editorial
51 New on the Bookstall
52 Letters to the Editors
56 Loose Connections: Hill & Saunders, Photographers
60 Thomas Coram and the Foundling Hospital
66 Servant's Letters
69 Another Problem Photo – Grandma's Secrets
72 Jottings
74 The Spanish Connection
75 Unwanted Certificates
76 Ancient Egyptian in Mornington Crescent
78 Website News
81 *Help!*
86 Forthcoming Branch Meetings
88 Brick Wall Smashed!

Cover picture: The Foundling Hospital, see article on page 60
Courtesy of Camden Local Studies and Archives
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EDITORIAL

We were delighted by the response to our appeal for more material for the journal; thank you so much to all who sent items in. We have included as many as we were able in this month's journal; those that we could not squeeze in will appear in future editions. If you have not yet sent us anything it is not too late. Articles, letters, snippets and so on are needed all the time so please keep them coming.

Many thanks also to the following members:

Mrs Eileen Blythe for her photos of: St Andrew, Enfield; All Saints, Chase Side and Jesus Church, Forty Hall.

Miss Kay Ealy for her photos of: All Saints, Harrow Weald; Holy Trinity, Wealdstone; St John, Great Stanmore and St Lawrence, Little Stanmore.

We are certainly making headway with our list of churches. We now need only two from Westminster: St Anne's Soho and St George Hanover Square. However, there are several churches in Middlesex to be photographed: St Margaret Edgware; All Saints Edmonton; St Mary Finchley; St James Friern Barnet; Holy Cross Greenford; St John Hampstead; St Mary Harrow; St Mary Hendon; St Mary Hornsey; St Andrew Kingsbury; St Mary the Virgin Perivale; St John the Baptist Pinner; St John Wembley; St Mary Twyford; St Mary Willesden and St Michael Wood Green.

Glynice Smith's article *Whatever Happened to Monty?* which appeared in the October issue of METROPOLITAN has elicited quite a lot of interest. We have several letters commenting on the article on page 52.

Christmas is coming and we shall soon be busy with all the preparations. Don't forget your family history though. Relatives may be visiting and it is a good time to reminisce and ask questions about the past.

The Editorial Team wish you all a very Happy Christmas, with Best Wishes and success with your research in 2013.

The Editorial Team

NEW ON THE BOOKSTALL

London's Forgotten Children: Thomas Coram and The Foundling Hospital

by Gillian Pugh, foreword by Kate Adie

Price: £9.99 Bookstall; £11.75 UK; £14.50 Europe; £17.00 overseas - air;
£14.50 overseas - surface

Bloomsbury & Fitzrovia Through Time by Brian Girling

(review on page iv) 96 pages; 187 photographs, 92 sepia, 95 colour

Price: £14.99 Bookstall; £16.60 UK; £19.25 Europe; £22.90 overseas - air;
£18.60 overseas - surface

My Ancestor was Scottish by Alan Stewart (SoG)

Price: £8.99 Bookstall; £10.20 UK; £12.50 Europe; £14.20 overseas - air

My Ancestor was Irish by Alan Stewart (SoG)

Price: £8.99 Bookstall; £10.20 UK; £12.50 Europe; £14.20 overseas - air

Alan Godfrey Old Ordnance Survey Maps - Middlesex Sheets

AGM09-12 Ickenham 1935

AGM10-01 Northwood Hills 1935

AGM10-05 Ruislip Common

AGM15-14 Southall Green 1935

Price: £2.50 Bookstall; £3.10 UK; £3.40 Europe

The Family History Record Sheets, The Family History Partnership

A collection of 21 master research record sheets including the most common research subjects; General Register Office (GRO) Indexes; Census proformas from 1841 to 1911; IGI/Family Search; Monumental Inscription searches; Wills; Pedigree Sheets; Family Group Sheets and Individual Record sheets.

Using pre-printed record sheets to record data onto standard forms ensures that all data is captured.

Also included is a CD containing all of the 21 record sheets which allows the purchaser to print off further copies as required for his or her personal family search only. Forms may also be photocopied.

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Note: Bookstall price is the price to members attending meetings and Family History Fairs.

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Having discovered relatively recently brothers/sisters of my Grandad that I never knew about, the Editorial in the October 2012 issue of METROPOLITAN on 'Members Interests' did more than catch my eye.

What were the Interests that I had registered with the Society? Who sees them? I then decided to check out the website, <http://www.lwmfhs.org.uk/> Although a Member now for quite a number of years I had not 'signed up' so that I could access the 'Members Area'. This was then done.

Once in the 'Members Area' it appears that one is unable to make a general search to see what 'Interest's' one had registered. Indeed, it seems that 'Members Interests' were in downloadable annual lists, and I had to go back to 2008 before I found mine.

Does this mean one must update annually? If not, how does anyone else find out what names members are interested in? Surely not do a check of each downloadable list? I would appreciate a fuller explanation of how 'Members Interests' work so that I can get the most from this area.

George Chappell, Member 5964

PS. For those who have not visited the website, I would like to remind Members about the 'Members Area' of the on-line site, which contains Members' Interests, Forum, Files and so on.

I actually like Forums, use them to view and have had help from them in the past. Indeed, also a member of East of London FHS, I have literally just posted an enquiry about the Forces-uk website and within a day got response(s). However, I thought East of London FHS's headings were better – probably personal choice, I know – which include Requests for Assistance and Family History Research Tips, whereas LWMFHS were Suggestions, New Sources, and Queries and their Forum is in an area that anyone can view albeit with advertising added (although to reply to a topic or view the Forum without any advertising, one then has to log on). And then also, theirs seem more active.

Note: You raise some very interesting points here which will need further discussion. We will report back in a later issue of METROPOLITAN.

I was motivated by the article on Express Dairies to write my memories. On Friday 30 June 1944, before going to school, I was tricycling along the pavement in Westmorland Road, North Harrow. I lived with my parents, Charles and Muriel HADDOCK and baby brother, Graham. My godmother Mrs DENNISH lived a few doors along, opposite Cumberland Road. The Air Raid Warning had sounded at 7.14am, but both this and the All Clear Siren had screamed out 10 times the day before and, as my mother said: "We just had to carry on".

The Express Dairy Milkman was leading his horse and milkfloat down the road. The peaceful scene was shattered by an incredibly loud, clattering, terrifying noise in the sky. I stopped, mesmerised by the huge, black, ominous shape above our heads. "Get home to your mother, Christine," the Milkman shouted. I pedalled furiously home.

I don't remember the sound of the crash of the V1 flying bomb, but it had fallen opposite my school, St Andrew's, in Cumberland Road. Seven people were killed in the houses opposite the school where my Headmistress Marjorie ROBERTS was "crushed under the door when the bomb exploded" she later recalled in a local paper.

Six houses were demolished along with a communal shelter and British Restaurant. 127 stretcher cases and 23 sitting cases, 200-300 houses damaged by the after-shock - including my godmother's where she was found, unharmed, under her bed with the chimney stack on top of it! Kath, her daughter, was blown under the staircase and rescuers discovered her with one leg wrapped round her neck. She survived, but had to wear a steel corset for the rest of her life.

Ten days after the V1 crash, which had obviously traumatized me, I went to Rotherham with my grandmother and was then unofficially evacuated. I wonder if records have survived for how the war years affected the milkmen and their horses. No doubt my parents will have warmly thanked our Milkman. If he hadn't been there, maybe I wouldn't be here now - 68 years later - campaigning against the use of Drones, the immoral, illegal, ghastly descendants of the 'doodle-bugs'.

The ARP War Diary in Harrow Archives is a fascinating and useful source for details of the effects of war in that area, and includes lists of times of Warnings and All Clears which give a real taste of what life must have been like in this otherwise leafy suburb.

Christine Dean, Member No. 5038

The London Underground Railway was extended to Edgware with Burnt Oak Station opening in 1924, a wooden hut on the Morden to Edgware line. The line ran from Golders Green to Edgware on the surface with the exception of the Hendon to Colindale section where it was mainly underground.

The London County Council began building the Watling Estate on Goldbeaters Farm on the east side of the Edgware Road (Roman Watling Street) with the construction of some 4000 houses and flats, some brick, some wooden and some steel. The first were completed in 1927. They were intended to relieve overcrowding in parts of London. My family moved from Hampstead around 1928 to Gervase Road and from the back garden you could watch the trains.

The first shops were built in Watling Avenue which ran from the Edgware Road through the Estate. Tesco's first shop opened there in 1929. Another early shop was Hassan's (Gents Outfitters) the counters of which were built by Mr HASSAN. Later two of his sons, Mr Fred and Mr Dick, took over and would, on arriving, walk up and down the shop greeting each assistant. My wife worked for some years on the Shirt Counter. Mr Fred's son Tony retired around 2009.

Watling Avenue was lined with barrows selling all sorts of goods which made it difficult for the buses which ran through to the station. Political parties held meetings on the corner of Barnfield Road on Saturdays with the Police there to keep the peace.

The Co-op baker pulled a barrow through the Estate, standing between two shafts rather like a horse! The Express Dairy horse that came through Gervase Road was a bad tempered beast, unlike Monty (October METROPOLITAN) - you had to keep your fingers clear of his teeth!

Blundell Road bordered on Hendon Aerodrome, the site of Grahame Whyte's Flying School in the days of very early aviation. Parks included Montrose (football and cricket), Watling (brass band on Sunday) and Silkstream). The Silk Stream runs through Montrose Park into the River Brent and on to the River Thames.

The parks also had swings, seesaws and roundabouts. There were flower beds and one had to keep off or get chased by the park keeper!

The residents chatted to each other over their front gates and were all pleased to live on such nice Estate.

Ken Gallagher, Member No. 4298

I also remember the Express Dairies. As a child I lived in Stanmore and the milk was delivered by horse and cart but I cannot remember the name of the horse. My parents lived there from 1930 until 1953 and my brother would help the milkman in the holidays. He remembers the horses very well and says how the horses remembered the rounds and no matter how tired they were, they sped up after the last delivery as they knew it was home time. Also the warmest place on a cold day was just under the horse's neck.

Can you remember collecting what the horse left behind? Very good for the garden and free!

We also drove past the farm at Finchley but I do not think we ever went in. The coal was also delivered by horse and cart and the daughter of the coal merchant gave riding lessons which I had when I was about 11 or 12.

Carole Webb, Member No. 7419

With regard to the gymnastics badges mentioned by Fiona Knight in the *Help!* Section of the last journal, one of the badges is quartered with the City of London, Kent, and Middlesex Coat of Arms. I don't know the third quarter, but suggest you try the Guildhall Library in City of London, EC2.

Colette McAlpine's letter about women prisoners sent to Tasmania made me wonder if she has read about Elizabeth FRY and her work with women prisoners in general? She made sure they were given a sewing kit and a Bible, organised one of them as a Matron for the voyage and started The Convict Ship Committee 1818. As these Ships left from London with convicts from all over the UK it might be worth trying Tower Hamlets Library, Bancroft Road, London E1. Elizabeth FRY also set up The Ladies Associations across the UK to help the poor women and convicts in jail. A good book to read is *Betsy* by Jean Hatton 2005.

Eileen Blythe, Member No. 2



**Please remember that the copy date for the next issue of
METROPOLITAN is 15 February 2013**

LOOSE CONNECTIONS

Hills & Saunders, Photographers

by David Sansom, Member No. 7665

On the wall of our living room are to be found two large picture frames; each contains a collection of photos of the family members we affectionately refer to as ‘The Oldies’. Great grandparents, grandparents, parents, aunts and uncles, they are all there, with many of the photographs dating back one hundred years or more.

We were fortunate to acquire a number of glass negatives of the photos of my paternal grandfather and his family which were taken at the studios of Hills & Saunders on Harrow Hill, just a few yards from where my grandfather served as a butler in the Head Master’s House of the renowned Harrow School. This is the story of how we came by the negatives.

Hills & Saunders was a leading Victorian photographic firm founded in the



1860s. They were photographers to the royal family and also social photographers with studios in London; Harrow, Eton and Rugby public schools; Oxford and Cambridge universities and Aldershot and Sandhurst military establishments.

A number of the studios failed and only their two main school branches (Harrow and Eton) continued well into the 20th Century. Today, only a studio at Eton remains to carry on the name.

It is believed that with one exception all the records and negatives held by the branches were destroyed as each studio was closed. Those of the

Harrow branch consisted of around 80,000 negatives, the majority in the form of glass plates, and towards the end of the 1980s, with the help of Old Harrovian Patrick Lichfield, these were taken into the care of Harrow School.



Over the years attempts were made to sort out the hundreds of boxes, tins and crates in which the negatives were stored but it was a major task and lack of funding meant that the

job was never completed. An index, covering a large part of the collection, was however available and it was this index which I discovered about four years ago on the web-site of Roger Vaughan, a passionate collector of Victorian, Edwardian and antique photographs. By searching for names and using the supplied descriptions I was able to identify with reasonable certainty the negatives of two photographs of my grandfather and his family of which we had copies.

Frustratingly, there was nothing further I could do to follow up this discovery until in 2009 the entire collection was acquired by Alasdair Kirk, a photographer, with a view to finally sorting, scanning and fully cataloguing the 80,000 negatives.

There was however one major issue to resolve, what to do with the collection when sorting was complete. It was too large for one museum or gallery to handle and the investment required would be considerable. In addition many of the subjects were either not identifiable or were not 'famous names'.

Having taken professional advice it was decided that the only way to ensure the preservation of at least the majority of the collection would be to offer each negative for sale; scans or prints would also be offered. Those that were of well known people, Winston CHURCHILL (a Harrow 'old boy') being an obvious example, could of course be offered to collectors at relatively high prices, thus ensuring a cash flow to fund the ongoing project.

I had followed the story of the collection during this time and contacted Alasdair through his company, Harrow Photos, to advise him of my interest in the two negatives I had identified some years earlier. To be honest I had little hope that the negatives would be found quickly, perhaps not for some years as the task of sorting and scanning was very much a long term project.

Luck was on our side however and in September 2011 Alasdair emailed to



let me know that he had found a set of negatives of my Grandfather, Edmund Charles SANSOM, taken in 1927 (I had previously sent him copies of the photographs so he was able to confirm that they were indeed the correct ones). I debated whether I should make the not inconsiderable investment to acquire these for our family and decided that they were an important part of our history and well worth buying. The photograph on the left is of my Grandfather. I scanned this directly from the glass negative.

Then, in early January 2012, I received a further email from Harrow Photos advising me that the second negative (a family group) had been located. I was extremely surprised as in my last conversation with Alasdair he had told me that at the current rate of scanning and re-indexing the whole project could take him

another nineteen years! I quickly arranged to purchase this plate, thus completing the 'set'.

Having received the negatives I was determined to preserve them in the best possible way. I discussed this with a local (Royston) picture framer, Kevin Jones, who enthusiastically offered some ideas which would allow them to be both preserved and displayed.

As a footnote to this story I discovered that Alasdair's family have a longstanding and close connection with both Harrow School and Christ Church Roxeth, just down the hill. His family were involved in the founding of the church and he worshipped there as a boy. My Grandfather, Grandmother and my uncle Reginald are buried in the Roxeth church graveyard and in 1930 my Uncle Cyril was married at the same church.

It is, as they say, a small world and these connections almost always come to light through a seemingly serendipitous process which is, I suppose, what makes life and in particular family history research so interesting.

The web-site for Harrow Photos is <http://www.harrowphotos.com> – there is a search facility and well worth a look if you have any connections with Harrow.

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THOMAS CORAM

and The Foundling Hospital

By Anne Prudames, Member No. 254

Thomas CORAM was born at Lyme Regis, Dorset in 1668 and at the age of eleven and a half years went to sea. Although poorly educated, his father apprenticed him to a shipwright when he was aged sixteen years. By 1691 he was working at shipyards in London.

Thomas sailed for New England in 1693 arriving at Boston that same year. Later he moved to Taunton, south of Boston, and set up as a shipbuilder, marrying Eunice WAYTE in 1700. Before long he fell out with the locals. His ships were burnt and he was fortunate to escape murder. Nevertheless before he left Thomas donated funds to build an Anglican church (St Thomas's). He intended to return to America but his plans were postponed following the failure of the South Sea Company in 1724.

Meanwhile new projects were formulating, influenced by the deaths of his mother and new born baby brother in 1671, the inability of his own wife to have children and not least an article in the *Guardian* in 1713 by Joseph ADDISON (d1719) highlighting the plight of London's foundlings. Thomas, now retired from the sea, worked on his plans to return to America but soon became aware that despite its wealth, London was a city of open sewers, cess pits and contaminated drinking water. Over it all hung a thick sulphurous pall of smoke from coal fires. Child mortality was high and the early deaths of so many led to a number of women being tried and executed for infanticide each year. Consequently a large number of babies were abandoned in hospitals, churches and the new Bishopsgate workhouse.

Thomas began work on his project to build a hospital for foundlings in London. He realised that members of the aristocracy, the church and rich merchants would not support him and turned to their wives instead. He gained the help of his friend the Revd Thomas BRAY, vicar of St Botolph without Aldgate, who also supported his work in America. BRAY had discovered that L'Hôpital pour les Enfants Trouvés in Paris was supported and run by women, prompting him to write a pamphlet proposing a similar hospital be set up in London.

The charter for establishing the *Hospital for the Maintenance and Education of Exposed and Deserted Children* was signed by the King on 14 August 1739. On 17 October the Great Seal, designed by Thomas CORAM and based on Pharoah's daughter Miriam finding the foundling Moses in the bulrushes was affixed. William HOGARTH later used the same theme in one of his paintings for the hospital. Four days later 33 of the 172 appointed governors, including Thomas, met and were elected to a General Committee. The seal was approved and plans were made for the opening of the hospital. The President of the Governors, the Duke of Bedford offered his own house (now the British Museum) for the hospital's use. This was declined and a house in Hatton Garden was leased while the new hospital was being built.

William HOGARTH, a Governor, greatly admired Thomas CORAM and, like him, had had a difficult childhood. He designed the heading for the fundraising letter and proposed painting Thomas's portrait and this, a full length portrait, was given to the hospital in May 1740. HOGARTH was also a great benefactor and encouraged other artists to donate paintings to display in the new hospital. In 1746 Thomas GAINSBOROUGH, Joshua REYNOLDS and a number of other artists gave paintings, making the Foundling Hospital London's first art gallery and among paintings HOGARTH donated was *March of the Guards to Finchley* in 1750.

Between 1740 and 1741 the General Committee met twice weekly. Thomas attended every meeting. They began to research how foundling hospitals in Europe were run and concluded that wet nurses living in the country should be used until the child was three years of age.

On 17 October 1740, one year after the charter was signed and following an agreement with the Earl of Salisbury, 56 acres of land in Ormand Street, between Lambs Conduit Street and Southampton Row, was purchased.

In March 1741 an announcement was made that the hospital in Hatton Garden was ready to receive children. At eight o'clock on the evening of 25 March the lights at the entrance to the hospital were extinguished and the door opened by the porter. By twelve o'clock thirty children, eighteen boys and twelve girls had been admitted. A detailed description was made of each child admitted and any notes or tokens were immediately sealed by

the Steward to protect the mother's identity. Each child was baptised in the Church of England unless already baptised and given names by the Governors. The first boy admitted was named Thomas CORAM and the first girl Eunice CORAM after Thomas and his beloved wife Eunice, who had died the previous year.

After a seventeen year-long campaign Thomas CORAM's 'darling project' had become a reality. Meanwhile Thomas was accused of spreading malicious rumours about two of the governors and not re-elected. Alienation from the institution he had fought so hard to establish was a terrible blow and as its chief fundraiser a great loss to the hospital.

One year later work begun on the Foundling Hospital at Lamb's Conduit Fields. Its boundaries were Queen Square and Great Ormond Street, Grey's Inn Road, Southampton Row and Woburn Place. Work commenced on the west wing in 1742 and the first children were admitted October 1745. The east wing and the Chapel were completed in 1748 and 1753 respectively. Each wing accommodated 172 children, two to a bed.

A significant development came in 1747 when a boys' band was formed and a bandmaster appointed. Several years later boys were entering the Royal Navy as bandsmen. In 1754 they played at the stone laying ceremony of the Royal Free Hospital and later at a Christmas Pantomime at Drury Lane Theatre. Other boys entered The Coldstream Guards as bandsmen, this tradition continuing until the Foundling Hospital closed in 1935. Older girls and boys sang in the Chapel choir and Sunday morning services were open to the public.

After an absence of four years during which he worked on plans for another hospital which came to nothing, Thomas CORAM began to visit the hospital again. He attended the christenings of twenty children to whom he became godfather. Thomas was in his eighties when the governors realised how poor he was and raised a subscription. The Prince of Wales made a substantial contribution enabling Thomas to live in relative comfort before he died in his eighty fourth year in March 1851.

An elaborate funeral, with choirs from Westminster Abbey and St Paul's Cathedral was held in the hospital Chapel which, although used for benefit

concerts since 1749, was not yet completed. The funeral was widely reported and the galleries were filled by ladies and gentlemen in mourning. Thomas was buried in the vaults and an inscription listing his many achievements both in England and the colonies of North America was placed in the Chapel. In 1960 his body was removed from the Chapel and interred at St Andrew Holborn.

George Frederic HANDEL became involved in the Hospital in May 1749. One of the pieces he performed was an especially composed anthem *Blessed are they that considereth the poor* (the *Foundling Hospital Anthem*). HANDEL's early years mirrored those of both CORAM and HOGARTH and although initially he declined, was elected a Governor in May 1750 and donated an organ to the Chapel. On 1 May he gave the first of many performances of the *Messiah*, an annual event, conducting for the last time in May 1754 when almost blind. The concerts raised considerable funds for the hospital. HANDEL died in 1759 and bequeathed to the hospital a 'fair' copy of the *Messiah* as well as his own conducting score of the *Foundling Hospital Anthem*. The organ was removed to St Andrew Holborn in 1954.

In April 1756 Parliament voted £10,000 to the Hospital providing that each child brought to the Hospital between 1 June and 31 December 1756 should be admitted. Over a hundred more wet-nurses were employed and 299 children were admitted the first week, many from the parishes of St James Westminster and St George Hanover Square. In that first year over 3,000 children were sent to wet-nurses in Berkshire, Derbyshire, Essex, Hampshire, Hertfordshire, Kent, Surrey and Yorkshire. Neither Derbyshire nor Yorkshire were used from 1794. The 1790s also saw the development of Brunswick Square and Mecklenburgh Square on land leased by the hospital after losing a parliamentary grant.

A number of branch hospitals were opened in areas where the children may gain employment in agriculture or the textile industry: Ackworth, Yorkshire (1757), Shrewsbury (1758), Aylesbury (1759), Westerham (1760) and Chester and 'Barnet' (at Monken Hadley) (1762). The 'Barnet' branch existed for six years. Ackworth is now a secondary school run by the Society of Friends and Shrewsbury was incorporated into Shrewsbury School.

From early in 1800 only illegitimate children were admitted. This brought accusations that giving money was the only way to get a child admitted. When accusations persisted parliament appointed a commission to enquire into methods of admission used by larger charities. Throughout the century the hospital continued to be attacked because the children in care were neither orphans or foundlings and the name Foundling Hospital no longer applied.

Difficulties arose after the passing of the 1918 Education Act. Two years later the Governors faced spiralling costs and decided to sell the school which, with the development of the surrounding area, was no longer in the country. In 1922 after two prospective sales had fallen through a property developer offered to purchase the whole of the Hospital's 56 acre estate in Bloomsbury and Holborn. A contract was agreed in 1925. When local residents learned that the developers planned to move Covent Garden Market onto the site they opposed the plan and formed themselves into the Foundling Estate Protection Association to preserve the estate as an open space for public use. A committee tried to raise funds to preserve the site as a playground for children. In this they had the help of Lord Rothermere and received funding from the LCC. Thus the large children's play area known as Coram's Fields, where no adult may enter unless accompanied by a child, was created. The northern portion of the site was purchased by the Governors to develop its infant welfare work for babies entering the hospital. Today it is the headquarters of Coram Family, a charity dealing with childcare services, particularly adoptions.

Before moving the children suitable temporary accommodation had to be found. The Governors purchased St Anne's Schools, Redhill. The children moved in 1926. Eventually a 200 acre site was purchased at Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire. The foundation stone was laid in 1933. Two years later 300 children were transferred there. In 1948 Hertfordshire County Council took over responsibility of The Thomas Coram School at the request of the governors. In 1952 it became a Secondary Modern school renamed Ashlyns School. Today there is still a Thomas Coram School at Berkhamsted separated from Ashlyns School by playing fields.

In the 1940s a number of children petitioned the Governors regarding the stigma of short birth certificates provided by the hospital. An Act of

Parliament in 1953 enabled the Registrar General to issue a short birth certificate to former pupils in their hospital name. A year later the Foundling Hospital became The Thomas Coram Foundation for children. Two years later the Old Coram Association was founded.

Number 40 Brunswick Square, situated in a leafy cul-de-sac between the British Museum and the British Library, was built in 1937 to house the Foundling Hospitals superb art collection and the Gerald Coke Handel Collection. The latter has a study centre in the archives open to readers by appointment. In 1998 it opened as the Foundling Museum and is the headquarters of the Thomas Coram Foundation. The Foundling Museum also runs events for all ages and interests, concerts, food and drink tastings and walking tours. There are also evening lectures and talks by former pupils of the Foundling Hospital. There is also a café.

From the end of November until mid January two exhibitions will take place in London and in Barnet.

The Foundling Voices Exhibition is the result of a project collecting oral histories donated by former residents of the Foundling Hospital. For details of open times; admission and group tours contact the Foundling Museum, 40 Brunswick Square, London, WC1N 1AZ.

Tel: 0207 7841 3600, Website: www.foundlingmuseum.org.uk

The second exhibition over the same period will be held at Barnet Museum, 31 Wood Street, Barnet EN5 4BE.

A variety of objects, some loaned by The Foundling Museum others by Coram, relating to the children in the 'Barnet Branch' of the Foundling Hospital at Monken Hadley will be on display.

Tel: 020 8440 8066, Website: www.barnetmuseum.co.uk

Sources:

1. *London's Forgotten Children; Thomas Coram and The Foundling Hospital* by Gillian Pugh. Forward by Kate Adie
2. The Foundling Museum publicity leaflet.
3. *Streets East of Bloomsbury* Camden History Society
4. Barnet Museum and Local History Society Newsletter autumn 2012

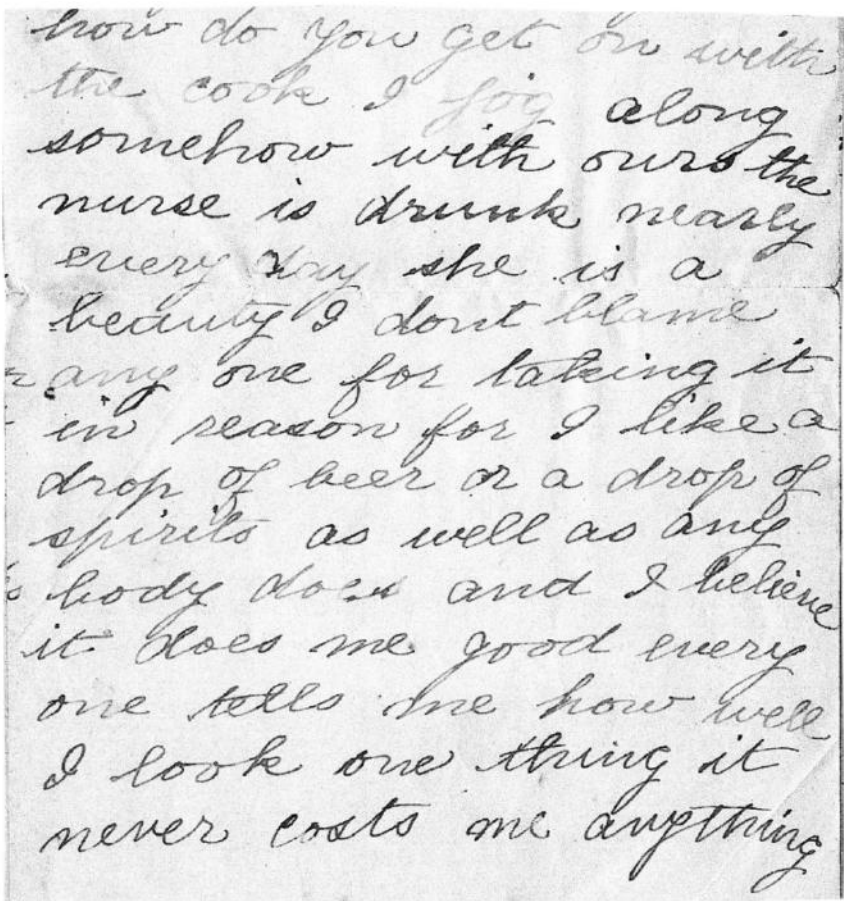
Note: *London's Forgotten Children* and *Streets East of Bloomsbury* are both available from the Bookstall Manager.

SERVANT'S LETTERS

By Peter Todd, Member No. 7686

This Jubilee year and the article by Elizabeth Burling (4772) in the October 2012 edition of METROPOLITAN has prompted me to submit the following for the next edition of the Society's excellent magazine.

Whilst researching my wife's Forest of Dean ancestors recently I had the good fortune to make contact with a Canadian resident, Rosemary who shares with my wife the same great grandparents.



how do you get on with
the cook I go along
somehow with our the
nurse is drunk nearly
every day she is a
beauty I don't blame
any one for taking it
in reason for I like a
drop of beer or a drop of
spirits as well as any
body does and I believe
it does me good every
one tells me how well
I look one thing it
never costs me anything

what

No you think we have
 got the salvation army
 about here I dont know
 how it will answer
 the people do not like
 it at present they seem
 to be such a noisy lot
 I expect there will be
 grand doings in London
 next month being the
 jubilee. I have no news
 to tell you about Streatham
 as I have not been there
 for such a time and
 I have not heard from
 Fannie lately the fireworks
 have begun at the Palace
 again now I have not
 been in for a long
 time I get invitations
 but no time to go.

Amongst the old photographs that we exchanged over the internet was a facsimile of a letter that had been written to Rosemary's grandmother in *May 1887 from a girl friend who was 'in service' in London.

According to Rosemary the two girls had attended a training school for young women entering domestic service at Ashleigh House, Streatham Common. This establishment is apparently listed in the 1881-1901 Census records but not in the 1911 Census.

The letter is four pages long and is mainly concerned with family matters and boyfriends. Rosemary's grandmother married in 1888 age 25 years. Following her husband's death in 1913 she emigrated to Canada with two of her three children.

The abstracts that I enclose, I think, will both interest and amuse those interested in social history.

*Queen Victoria's golden Jubilee celebrations were on the 2 June 1887.

BRUCE CASTLE MUSEUM LOCAL HISTORY DAY

Bruce Castle Museum are holding their annual Local History Day
at the Museum, Lordship Lane, London N17 8NU
on Saturday 23 February 2013.

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

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

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

LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Members of the Society will be held at 3pm on Saturday 9 March 2013 in the Huntley Room at London Metropolitan Archives, 40 Northampton Road, London EC1

The Business of the AGM

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

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

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

It is now twelve months since our former Chairman, William Pyemont, reported in METROPOLITAN that he intended to stand down from this position at the Annual General Meeting of the Society to be held in March 2012. As he went on to say, he had been in post for the previous seven years and for two years before that as joint Secretary with his wife Joan. As the position of Treasurer had been vacant, William had also kept things ticking over to the extent of writing cheques since the AGM in 2011.

At the end of the 2012 AGM held on 3 March the Society had a new Chairman, Rosemary Roome, a new Treasurer, April Vesey, our Secretary Tricia Sutton retained this position, giving some valuable continuity among the Officers, and the Executive Committee members had been re-elected. Two awards were made: joint Honorary Life Membership was conferred upon William and Joan Pyemont and there was a similar accolade for Brian Green, our Treasurer for many years.

Periodic change is good for a Society as newcomers to a role bring new ideas, fresh perspectives – plus questions about the way things are done (or not) – which act as a spur to stimulate thinking and evaluate possible alternative methods. There has been some change, not for the sake of it but with the aim of improving our efficiency. It's always necessary to remember that all those who help to run the Society are volunteers who give some of their time to do so and fit the work around their daily lives.

Secretary

Most communications to our Secretary are via email and queries from non-members predominate. Many name an ancestor who came from our area and want 'all the information you have about him' to be sent. Others may want to know about a building or street and want a photo if possible. The assumption that we have a huge archive of everyone and everything in our area is absolutely incorrect and enquirers are redirected to a relevant record source or perhaps another London Society which includes the place concerned. Where appropriate, a *help!* in our journal METROPOLITAN is suggested. News and information also comes from assorted outside organisations: mailing lists, Record Offices, commercial companies, other Family History Societies, the Federation of Family History Societies etc.

Treasurer

In order to compile accounts for the last two years, our new Treasurer has spent many hours trawling through documents and records produced by three different people: former Treasurer Brian Green and William Pyemont for 2010-2011; William Pyemont and herself for 2011-2012. In so doing she has acquired much knowledge of the Society and its financial affairs and we are indebted to her for her hard work for the Society.

Membership and Members' Interests

Although new members join us every month, our membership numbers are declining by a few per cent each year. A number of long-standing members have died this year, others have resigned due to ill-health or incapacity, some who joined to find 19th century ancestors who lived briefly in London, moved on. As a considerable number of members previously failed to renew at the appropriate time, the renewal form was put in the July issue of METROPOLITAN this year to give more notice. This helped to spread the load for the Membership Secretary but further analysis is needed to assess other effects.

METROPOLITAN

All members received our quarterly journal during the year. Its mix of letters to the Editors, articles, news of new or interesting websites, jottings (a miscellany of news and information concerning our area), *Help!* requests from members and non-members, and details of forthcoming Branch Meetings has been well-received. However, the last (October) issue included an appeal for more items for future journals: the summer of celebration distracted many! It has been good to see members responding to articles and problems – mutual help is a hallmark of the Society.

Our Website

This is an important source of news and information about the Society for members and non-members alike. During the year many pictures of Parish Churches have been added and thanks go to our Webmaster, Peter Walker, for keeping the site going for us.

Branch Meetings

Varied programmes of Family History or local interest were arranged to appeal to newcomers and the more experienced researcher. Some members' contributions, with short talks or presentations, helped to contain costs. The suspended Wembley Branch Meetings have resumed in rebuilt premises. There was no City Branch Meeting during the Olympics.

Bookstalls

A bookstall was taken to the Conference/AGM at Wesley's Chapel, to Branch Meetings held in Enfield, where the Bookstall Manager is based, and occasionally to other Branch Meetings. It was also taken to Open Day visits and formed a valuable part of our promotion of the Society, together with the advice and information given by a group of helpers on these occasions. Visits have been made during this financial year to West Surrey FHS (November), Haringay Local History Fair at Bruce Castle Museum (February), Bucks FHS (July) and West Middlesex FHS (September).

Projects

A change of responsibility within the Executive Committee after the AGM resulted in a new Projects Co-ordinator who has been busy assessing the current projects, establishing their present status, the type of work outstanding and those involved in carrying it forward. One of the on-going projects is the digitisation of the Society's microfiche. William Pyemont initiated this and, as reported in the minutes of the last AGM, he had negotiated with Townsweb Archiving for the work to be done. Two members of the Executive Committee are now working on the results.

Contributors to the Society

Members can contribute to the life of the Society in many ways. Appreciation and thanks go to all who give time and help, particularly Fellow Officers:

Tricia Sutton - Secretary

April Vesey - Treasurer

The Executive Committee:

Anne Prudames - Membership Secretary/Members' Interests
- Bookstall Manager/Postal Sales

Elizabeth Burling, Barbara Haswell & Rosemary Roome - Journal Editors

Elaine Tyler - Projects Co-ordinator

Branch Meeting Representatives - Lilian Gibbens, Enfield

Barbara Haswell, City

Doreen Heywood, Rayners Lane

William Pyemont, Wembley

Rosemary Roome, Barnet

And also to all who help at meetings with: signing-in, refreshments (where available), washing up, chairs and all the little jobs which make a big difference!

Looking Ahead

This is an interim report which will be updated at the AGM on 9 March 2013 at LMA (see page i). This important source of archives for Greater London is open on this Saturday from 9.30am-4.45pm. You may therefore be able to do a little research or see any exhibition during your day.

With the benefit of the Accounts for 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 we will have a platform from which to look ahead in these times of rising costs and consider a number of possibilities, eg a joining fee, an additional charge for PayPal payments, membership rates.

More members attended the AGM this year than in 2011. Those from outside the Society's area represented about a quarter of the total.

I look forward to meeting many of you in 2013.

Rosemary A Roome

Chairman



TREASURER'S REPORT **for the year ending 30 September 2012**

The Treasurer is revising the content and format of the Society's Accounts. They will be available at the Annual General Meeting to be held in The Huntley Room at London Metropolitan Archives on Saturday 9 March 2013.

If anyone wants a copy of the Accounts before then, please contact the Treasurer. See details on the inside of the cover. If you write to the Treasurer please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

April Vesey

Treasurer

LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX FHS

CONFERENCE & ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday 9 March 2013 10am-4.30pm

The Huntley Room, London Metropolitan Archives
40 Northampton Road, London EC1R 0HB

The Programme for the Day

Bookstall and Refreshments from 10.30am and during the lunch break.

- 11.15am Welcome
 Talk: *My Average Ancestor* by Ian Waller
- 12.30 Lunch: Tea and Coffee will be provided, but you will need to bring a packed lunch
- 1.00-1.30pm Registration for the AGM
- 1.45 Talk: *My Ancestor suffered from...* by Lilian Gibbens
 Ailments through the ages.
- 2.45 Comfort break & Registration for those only attending the AGM
- 3pm The Business of the Annual General Meeting
 chaired by our President, Michael Gandy

Directions: The nearest stations are King's Cross St Pancras and Farringdon, served by Metropolitan and mainline trains. It is a 10 minute walk from Farringdon or you can catch a 63 bus from Kings Cross to Bowling Green Lane which is then only a 2 minute walk to the LMA. The 38 bus from Victoria, the 341 from Waterloo and the 19 from the Angel all stop at Tysoe Street, also a 2 minute walk to the LMA.

**LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX
FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY**

**Annual General Meeting
to be held on
Saturday 9 March 2013**

Nomination Form for Election of Officers

Position: CHAIRMAN

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

Proposed by:.....

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

Secoded by:.....

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

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

Position: HON. SECRETARY

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

Proposed by:.....

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

Secoded by:.....

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

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

CONTINUED OVERLEAF

Position: HON. TREASURER

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

Proposed by:.....

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

Seconded by:.....

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

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

Any Other Business

I wish to raise the following matter under Any Other Business

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

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

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

Please return this form to: Hon Secretary LWMFHS
141 Welbeck Road, West Harrow, Middlesex HA2 0RY
To be received no later than Monday 18 February 2013.

Another Problem Photo: GRANDMA'S SECRET

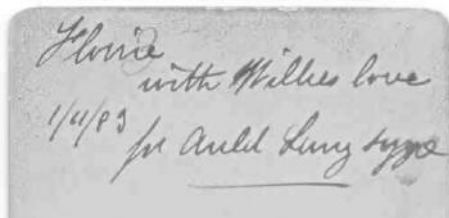
By Mavis Warner, Member No. 116

Many years ago I was fortunate to retrieve from a maiden aunt one of those lovely Victorian photograph albums – but only after she confessed to having thrown a second one away! The album belonged to my grandmother, Florence Maud HARRISON née POWNEY (1864-1957) and contained many photos of family members, most of whom my late father fortunately managed to identify.

When browsing through the album some time ago, my cousin cleverly noticed that the photo of a first cousin once removed seemed rather thick and she deftly extracted a hidden photo from underneath:



The photograph shows a man standing outside a shop named WJ DUST, Cabinetmaker, Upholsterer. The inscription on the back reads: 'Florrie with Willie's love 1/11/89 for Auld Lang Syne'.



What a story this hidden picture must tell, if only I could discover

it! It would appear that my grandmother had some sort of “friendship” with a Willie J DUST who was a cabinetmaker. She was born in 1864 in St Pancras where she grew up and married. I have found a William James DUST who was born in 1856 in St Pancras, so he seems likely to be our man. He was the son of William DUST and Elizabeth (née HORN); his father was a cab driver, who was convicted of cruelty to a horse in 1868 and fined 10s at Marlborough Street for the offence.

The 1861 census shows the family living at 5 Mableden Place in St Pancras when William was 4 years old. He had a younger sister called Sarah, aged 2, who died just after the census was taken. In 1871 the family were still there. William was by then a newsboy, aged 14 – his younger siblings were Edmund, Beatrice and Enid.

William disappears in the 1881 census. However, a William DUST aged 31 who was born in St Pancras pops up in the 1891 census. (The birth date is not quite right but I cannot find another William DUST born in St Pancras around that time). He was described as a ‘Head Soldier’, living at the Hut Encampment Barracks in Pembroke with his wife Elizabeth and one year old daughter Frederica who was born in Madras, India. I can find no trace of any of the family after this point and it is possible that they went abroad again.

I cannot find a marriage between William and Elizabeth, either. It seems likely that William sent my grand-mother the photo when he was about to get married and/or travel abroad, as Frederica was born just a year later in 1890.

Curiously, I have discovered William’s brother Edmund had a daughter Florence who was born in 1888 and died the next year - in Madras. Edmund’s second daughter, Dorothea, was also born in India, in 1890 (the same year as her cousin Frederica), while third daughter Lillian was born in 1892 in Wales – the year after her uncle William was recorded in the census there. It seems that William and Edmund were moving around together.

The other siblings, Beatrice and Edith, both disappear after the 1871 census. They may have died in infancy, but I can find no record.

I have been unable to find any trace of WJ DUST's business in any directory. It is likely to have been in the St Pancras area. Has anyone heard of it? Does anyone know anything about the DUST family?

Of course, this could all be just a big red herring! The shop front looks suspiciously like a cardboard cut-out, especially as there are no buildings around it – perhaps it is a stage set or something similar....or the photo was even taken in India?

As a postscript, I should add that grandmother married my grandfather Thomas HARRISON in Camden Town in 1894, five years after the photo was inscribed, at St Thomas's Church - where they both sang in the choir. She had four sons and one daughter and eventually died at the ripe age of 92. I remember her as a formidable old lady – but she obviously had a surprising past.....

If anyone can throw light on this mystery it would be much appreciated, as I would really love to solve it!

Mavis Warner

Email: mavis.warner@tesco.net

The Morning Post, Tuesday 3 November 1812

AN APARTMENT to be LETT, upon moderate terms, either with or without board, at one of those health-restoring and greatly admired cottages, near the Regency Park, Marylebone. For further particulars, enquire of Mrs Williams, at Miss William's Seminary, No 11, of the Alpha Cottages, Regency Park, Marylebone.

TO be LETT, Furnished or Unfurnished, in a healthy and pleasant situation, one mile from Oxford-street, a good FAMILY HOUSE; consisting of four attics, four rooms on the second floor, three drawing-rooms, good kitchen, servants-hall, scullery, pantry, three parlars, wash-house, and garden, to be let for 18 months, or a shorter time. The rent very low for the 18 months. Apply to AB, 65 Jermyn-street, St James's; or 2 Charlotte-row, New Road, Marylebone.

JOTTINGS

West Middlesex FHS Open Day: Sunday 23 September 2012

This small Family History Fair is held in alternate years at a Community Centre in Hampton. Eileen Bostle, Diana Copnall, Christine Ward and I travelled by diverse routes, taking account of the various Underground closures for the ever-present weekend engineering work.

The event itself was disappointing - for the organisations who were present and our hosts. It coincided with *London Open House* weekend which attracts numerous people to the capital, a local group had some involvement with that, and a Sunday, often a family or church day, is not ideal for some helpers or visitors. The very heavy rain in the afternoon didn't help at all! Consequently there were few visitors and minimal sales - but plenty of time to visit other stands.

Rosemary A Roome, Member No. 2985

West Surrey Open Day & Family History Fair: 3 November 2012

The West Surrey FHS website describes this annual event as 'the largest Saturday fair in the country after *Who Do You Think You Are?*' It was certainly the largest Open Day or Fair which our Society attended this year. Held as usual in Woking Leisure Centre, there were over sixty organisations in all - Family History Societies, local societies and commercial companies offering related products or services.

A separate Research Room with fiche readers and computers gave access to material from the Society's own collections and elsewhere. There were also Help Desks for specific areas of research such as adoption, army, documents, DNA, photos, Irish and Scottish records.

The considerable interest in our area kept Eileen Bostle, Margaret Garrod, Barbara Haswell, Doreen Heywood, Elaine Tyler and me busy that day - dispensing information and advice, selling books, meeting some members and recruiting a few more. We did manage to visit some other stands individually to pursue personal interests.

Rosemary A Roome, Member No. 2985

Cholera and the Thames

In 1831 an unknown and deadly disease arrived in Britain from Asia: cholera. This killer had no respect for wealth or class and caused havoc in Westminster (and beyond). Westminster City Archives have put together a

website to tell the story of cholera and the Thames, focussing on how the work of three local men, Dr John Snow, Reverend Whitehead and Joseph Bazalgette, helped to ensure that twentieth century London was free of this awful disease. This website, which features games and animations as well as articles and images, is at: <http://www.choleraandthethames.co.uk/>

Workhouses

London Metropolitan Archives (LMA) is holding a free exhibition on workhouses until 10 January 2013. The Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834 sought to abolish out-relief and make sure that all help for the poor was given within the confines of a workhouse. The records at LMA are a rich source for the social and architectural history of the period as well as for tracing the history of people admitted to the workhouses.

Inspired by Charles Dickens and his desire to reveal the horrors of nineteenth century poverty, LMA staff have searched their records for the stories of real Londoners, from Master to inmate, in the workhouse to uncover what the archives can tell about their lives.

LMA is at 40 Northampton Road, Clerkenwell, EC1R 0HB and more information on opening hours and so on can be found by contacting them by telephone: 020 7332 3820 or via the website: www.cityoflondon.gov.uk

Royal London Hospital Burial Ground

In 2006, archaeologists from the Museum of London excavated a burial ground at the Royal London Hospital in Whitechapel. They found some 262 burials containing a confusing mix of bones. There was extensive evidence of dissection, autopsy, amputation, bones wired for teaching and animals dissected for comparative anatomy. The Anatomy Act of 1832 had given the State the right to take 'unclaimed' bodies without consent for dissection and this burial ground dates to that time.

A new exhibition, *Doctors, Dissection and Resurrection Men*, is on at the Museum of London, 150 London Wall, London EC2Y 5HN until 14 April 2013. It brings together human and animal remains, exquisite anatomical models and drawings, documents and original artefacts revealing the intimate relationship between surgeons pushing forward anatomical study and the 'Resurrection men' who supplied them.

For information on prices, opening times or to book an entry time-slot, visit: www.museumoflondon.org.uk or telephone: 020 7001 9844. This exhibition is not recommended for under 12s, due to its subject matter.

THE SPANISH CONNECTION

By Sue Odell, Member No. 7756

My great x2 grandmother was born Harriet THOROUGHGOOD, of parents Thomas THOROUGHGOOD and Phillis CARTER, in November 1798 and baptised at St James's, Piccadilly. She had a younger sister Maria (born 1800) and three other siblings.

Harriet is reported to have been married for the first time to a Mr LAC(E)Y, in Bilbao, Spain, at the age of 20. Her second husband, my great x2 grandfather, was Thomas BLAKE (supposed to be of Irish descent, but born in London). Together, they kept a coffee house at 4 Postern Row, Tower Liberty (just north of the Tower), helped by Thomas's job as a carpenter and then as a pianoforte maker. They had four children: John, Harriet, William (1835) and Maria (1838). Thomas died in 1849 and by 1861, Harriet was living as a widow at 52 Clarendon Square, Somerstown, with her unmarried daughter Maria, and earning a living as a bugle collar maker (bugle collars are a type of jewellery). Harriet died in 1868.

Some interesting information has just come to light concerning these THOROUGHGOODS and the Spanish connection. I knew from a family tree handed down to me that Harriet's sister Maria, having first been married to a John GREATREX, had died in 1850 at 40 Argyle Square, a 'Lady' with the surname MENDIBEL, and a friend recently found details about Maria's husband Pablo MENDIBEL (full name Paul Leon Joseph MENDIBEL) on the web. It transpires that he was a Spanish exile in London, where he met and married Maria, in St Pancras Parish Chapel on 27 February 1830, although, sadly, the marriage was short-lived as he died on New Year's Day 1832. He and Maria lived at 8 Burton Street, St Pancras.

Pablo was born in Alegria, Spain, in 1788, moved to San Sebastian and was educated in Law at the University of Zaragoza. In 1813, he crossed to Bordeaux, France, because of his liberal tendencies in the face of the impending return to Spain of King Ferdinand, and earned a living by lecturing and writing. On his return in 1820, he became the editor of the Liberal newspaper Guipuzcoano. In 1825, however, he was obliged to emigrate a second time and came to London, where he was engaged in

literature and published several works. He was employed by publisher Rudolph ACKERMANN to translate textbooks and with two other Spanish friends founded a school in London in 1828 called El Ateneo Espanol for children of Spanish émigrés. In July 1831, he was appointed to the Chair of Spanish Language and Literature at King's College, University of London, but he died the following January, soon after receiving the news that friends of his who had returned to Spain to try to start a revolution had been shot and killed in Malaga.

Sources:

Obituary in journal of The Athenaeum, 1832

Bulletin of Spanish Studies, Vol 5, Issue 19, 1928 – article Pablo de Mendibel: A Spanish Exile by T N Wild

The British Book Trade and Spanish American Independence by Eugenia Roldan Vera 2003



UNWANTED CERTIFICATES

Carol A Goulden, Non-Member, sent us the following unwanted certificates, which she hopes will prove useful to somebody.

Birth: Emily Ruth STROUD, daughter of George STROUD (waiter) and Maria, formerly CURTIS, born 21 January 1864 at 132 Lillington Street, Westminster.

Birth: Jane HAYNES, daughter of Alfred HAYNES (Shoemaker) and Eliza, formerly WEEDON, born 20 December 1863 at 4 White Hart Court, Castle Street, Long Acre.

Death: James Thomas LANE died 18 October 1860, aged 3, son of John LANE, Toymaker, of 1 Church Row, Bethnal Green.

Death: Henry WELLS died 25 October 1883 aged 79 at 76 Clarence Road, Hackney. He was a pawnbroker.

Death: Mary WELLS died 12 January 1842 aged 54, wife of Richard WELLS, Carrier, of the Palatine Houses, Stoke Newington.

ANCIENT EGYPT IN MORNINGTON CRESCENT

By Dennis Galvin, Member No. 1714

Smoking has never been one of my vices; nevertheless, it was once a very big industry employing thousands in Bristol, Nottingham and London amongst other places. I often wonder if WD & HO Wills and John Player still have old staff records in their respective city archives.

One of the famous London manufacturers was 'Carreras'. They did have premises in Old Street, Finsbury but there cannot be many Middlesex people who have not seen the imposing building with the two large black cats keeping guard at the entrance to the offices in Hampstead Road (the company always used Mornington Crescent, which circled their premises).

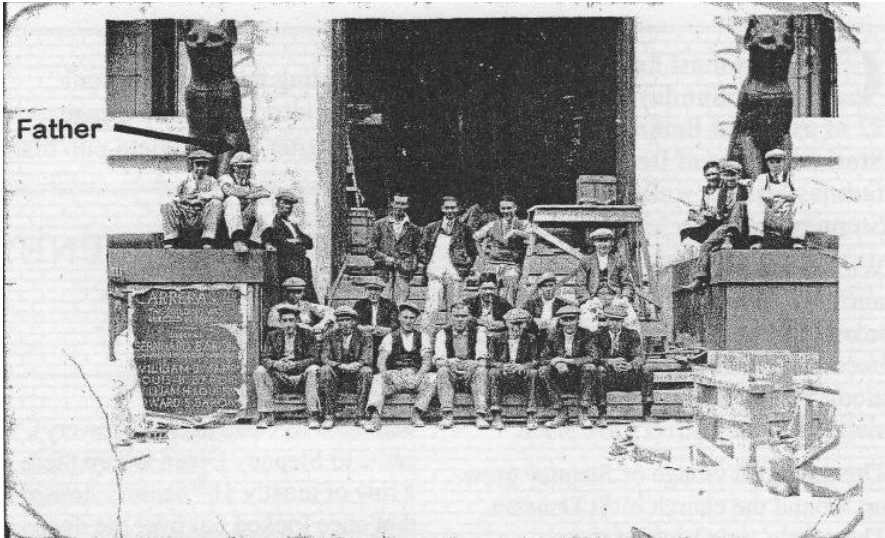
The business was established in 1788 by Spanish nobleman Don Jose Carreras FERRER and later became Carreras Tobacco Company owned by the Russian Jewish Philanthropist Bernard BARON. His new art deco building, built 1926-28 at Mornington Crescent, was influenced by all the Egyptian antiquities which were being discovered at that time. I have seen the building described as an Egyptian Temple and cat-goddess Babastis. I believe Bernard BARON named one of his tobacco brands 'Craven A' after his friend The Earl Craven.

I happened to be talking about the building when a friend of mine said: "Yes I know, my father and uncles were involved with its construction, I have a photo". I couldn't wait to see the picture, which turned out to be a real gem of a family photo, for all types of historians. The original black cat icons can clearly be seen and, all the workmen who, I understand are plasterers working for the Gano Metalic of Bakers Arms, Leyton. The two cats were cast at Haskings Foundry, 48 Old Bailey, London EC4. It appears they went missing in 1961 so what we see today are replacements. The building is now known as Greater London House. The Thompson Holidays firm was in residence at one time.

My friend David Wright can name four generations of his WRIGHT family: father: Henry born in Walthamstow, is marked clearly on the photo age 17 (some uncles are also in the gathering), the grandfather was Samuel born Deptford, and the great grandfather, also Samuel, originating at

Holbeach, Lincolnshire. He, no doubt, coming down by boat from Kings Lynn port to settle for a while on the Thames at Deptford.

Thank goodness the photograph the family has kept since the late 1920s did not go up in smoke!



Acknowledgement: Special thanks to David Wright.

The Morning Post, Tuesday 3 November 1812

COOK WANTED in a Gentleman's Family, eight miles from Town, a steady respectable Woman between 30 and 40 years of age; she must be a GOOD PLAIN COOK, and capable of sending up two courses occasionally; very neat and cleanly in her work and person, and undertake the management of a small dairy of two cows, milking not required; a twelvemonth's character will be expected. Apply at Mr Brown's, Fishmonger, Half-moon Passage, Leadenhall Market, Gracechurch-street, on Wednesday, November 4 and Friday November 6, between Eleven and One O'clock.

WEBSITE NEWS

Pub History of London etc

Apart from churches, there are few other buildings as prolific and enduring as the British public house. At some point in your family history research you are likely to find ancestors with strong connections to their local tavern – either as customers or as publicans.

The Pub History of London etc website (found at www.deadpubs.co.uk) is a fantastic resource covering, in some detail, the historic pubs of the capital and another 21 English counties. The website is practical rather than pretty and allows users to search by a surname, pub name or street address. It is updated regularly and has currently around 50,000 searchable pages.

Of most interest to METROPOLITAN readers are the sections covering London and Middlesex. Examples from the first include: a 1921 street directory with links back to pubs that appear in the listings; details of the publicans for each pub, drawn from various resources including Sun Fire Office records, directories and census returns etc; lists of London publicans for 1891, 1910 and 1934; some superb and really usable historic maps of London (some of which I have never come across before); and, much more. There are also more recent listings for 1971 and East London pubs for 1983 and 1991 – information here is sorted by postcode rather than the old parish system used in the earlier listings on the site.

Whether you have publicans in your family's history or not, pubs will have played a part in their lives – even if only as local landmarks. This is a website that is well worth a look and well worth bookmarking.

Thanks to Michael W. Paice, FRSA, Member No. 7728 for this review and recommendation.

The National Archives Documents Online

The National Archives (TNA) holds over 11 million historical government and public records and is one of the largest archive collections in the world with items ranging from the Domesday Book to modern digital files. Over 5% of TNA archives have been digitised (such as PCC Wills dating from 1384-1858 and photographs of prisoners in Wandsworth Prison 1872-1873) and these have been available to download via TNA's Documents Online delivery system. This system is becoming outdated and now a new, more intuitive system called Discovery is being developed.

Discovery features new ways to search their collection, in line with the raised expectations of today's web users. It allows people to explore and browse the collection in ways that do not require any prior knowledge of that collection, such as map-based geographical searches.

Discovery is currently running in a beta version, letting users provide feedback on the service and allowing TNA to develop it further and fix any bugs. Eventually, Discovery will replace Documents Online and the old Catalogue. For more information about these changes or to search the collection visit: <http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/SearchUI/Home/OnlineCollections>

New Zealand Archives

If you had relatives who went to live in New Zealand then the following websites will be of use to you.

<http://archives.govt.nz/> is the starting point for online searching for ancestors who went to New Zealand. The records held at Archives New Zealand relate to almost every aspect of life there and to the individual lives of New Zealanders from the beginning of British Government in 1840 to the present day. They cover a wide range of subjects, a lengthy time period and a variety of different media (the originals of which are held at the four main repositories in Auckland, Christchurch, Dunedin and Wellington). Archway is their archival management system but it also acts as the Archives New Zealand on-line finding aid.

Searching is easy. The page: <http://archway.archives.govt.nz/> brings up a search screen into which you can put your search terms. Results appear as a list with headings such as Former Servicemen's Rehabilitation Files, Wellington Land District Registered Files or Masterton Probate Files, along with a date and a colour-coded bar as to whether the record is open access or restricted. Even if documents are not available to download, important information can be gleaned just from the index. It is intended to make more archives made available digitally over time.

Mrs Kathleen Ladbrook, Member No. 7639, wrote telling us about some other useful New Zealand sites:

<http://www.yesteryears.co.nz/> is one. The ultimate goal of New Zealand Yesteryears is to locate, transcribe and make freely available online ALL lists of passengers coming to New Zealand between 1800 and 1900. The website is presented as a book with tabs on the left linking to pages on shipping (which includes passenger lists, shipboard diaries, immigration

schemes and miscellaneous) provinces (linking to photos, maps and more) general and online. This last page contains links to online genealogical resources such as the NZ Presbyterian Church Marriage Index and the Nelson City Council Early Settlers Database.

<http://www.christchurchcitylibraries.com/familyhistory/> is another useful site for those with New Zealand connections, containing information on basics such as which records are available and where they are.

The index to historical births, marriages and deaths is available to search at: <https://bdmhistoricalrecords.dia.govt.nz/search/> The Births index brings up the names of both parents as well as the child, the Marriage index gives the full name of both parties and the Death index gives a date of birth or an age at death. Mrs Ladbrook tells us that she found a birth very quickly and ordered a report which had a lot of information, cost just over £10 and she received it within a week.

Internet Archive

The Internet Archive was founded to build an Internet library with free access to all. Its purposes include offering permanent access for researchers, historians, scholars and the general public to historical collections that exist in digital format. Founded in 1996 and located in San Francisco, the Archive has been receiving data donations from many sources.

The search page is at: <http://archive.org/web/web.php> and by putting, for instance, 'Middlesex England' into the search box, all sorts of digitised books come up, including Phillimore's Middlesex parrish (sic) registers volume 4, which mostly covers parishes in the West Middlesex FHS area but has Pinner marriages 1654-1837. There are also some marriage registers for St George Hanover Square and St Marylebone, and a volume of BMBs from St Martin-in-the Fields. Also available are three volumes (volume 1 comes up some way below the others!) of Middlesex County records, mostly of a judicial nature, from the time of Elizabeth 1 to Charles II, with name indexes.

Thanks to Eileen Bostle, Member No. 7318, for informing us of this site.

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.

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

All surnames should be in *CAPITALS*.

Members may have one free entry per journal. There is a £3 charge for each

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

Help!

DRAGON ROADS CLUB

My father, William (Bill) SANSOM, was a keen amateur road and track cyclist in the late 1920s and early 30s. He frequently raced on the purpose-

built track at Paddington Recreation Ground and it may well have been there that he first met my mother who lived in nearby Elgin Terrace.

Despite spending much time searching the internet and contacting cycling forums I have been unable to find out very much about the activities at the track and in particular the 'Dragon Roads Club' which I believe was based at Harlesden and of which he was a member. I have a number of his medals from that club and also the 'Western NCU'.

I do have a history of Paddington

Recreation Ground but would welcome hearing from anyone who has any family connections with the track and the cycling clubs of that period especially the Dragon Roads Club which I understand was still in existence up to the 1970s.

David Sansom, Member No.7665

Email: davidwsansom@yahoo.co.uk

Note: There is a page about the Dragon Roads Club 1954-55 on the Friends Reunited website. The photographs there show cyclists so it may be worth contacting them to see if they have further information.

GUNN

My grand-parents Geoffrey Edward Spencer LOVATT and Joyce Frieda GUNN were married on 11 February 1926 at the register office in the district of St Giles. At the time of her marriage Joyce was 18 years old – under the legal age to be married – and would have needed the consent of her parents or guardian. Is there likely to be a written record of the person granting consent for the marriage and if so, where will it be? Further information: I have a copy of the marriage certificate – Joyce's address is given as 63 Gower Street, St Giles. This address is now a small hotel – I suspect it was a lodging house in the 1920s. I believe that Joyce's mother was Haidee Elizabeth HOWROYD (née GUNN) and she lived in Marylebone with her husband Frank HOWROYD. I suspect that Joyce was the illegitimate daughter of Haidee and AN OTHER. Any further information would be much appreciated.

Charles Lovatt, Member No. 7735

Email: Charles@licomp.com

Note: Frank William HOWROYD married Haidee Elizabeth GUNN in the September quarter of 1908 at Keighley in Yorkshire. The 1911 census has Haidee living with her husband's sister, Lily KEIGHLEY, at Steeton near Keighley, YKS. Haidee states that she has had no children, although one could see why she might want to hide the fact if she had had one out of wedlock. No little Joyce is living with her, nor can we find any little Joyce anywhere else. A Joyce Freda CLUER was registered in the GRO Birth Indexes in 1908 in Hendon; no other Joyce Freda/Frieda's were registered in 1907 or 1908.

A Diana B M HOWROYD was born in 1915 in Brentford whose mother's maiden name GUNN. Could this be a sister to Joyce? It might be worthwhile investigating Diana and any of her descendants in case they may be able to shed further light.

SMITH

My maiden name was SMITH. Joseph Arthur SMITH was born in September 1850 at Manns Lane, Winchmore Hill and then lived in Ponders End. His son, my grandfather, was born at South Street, Ponders End and when married was living at Edmonton Terrace, Bounces Road.

Joseph Arthur was the son of George SMITH and Eliza Marshall CORNELL, who married at St Leonards Church Shoreditch in April 1847. George stated he was born in Kingsland about 1825 and his father was Thomas, a carpenter.

Eliza's father was Marshall CORNELL and all his children male and female were given the middle name of Marshall.

I haven't been able to find out very much apart from the census returns. Can anyone help?

Mrs Carole D Webb, Member No 7419.

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WATKINS

I have traced my paternal line of WATKINS back to John WATKINS married Mary, giving birth to Robert in 1782 and Joseph in 1784 in Monken Hadley. There is no record in the church records to WATKINS before this in Monken Hadley and the sons came to live in and have children in St George Hanover Square, London.

Why might John and Mary have been in Monken Hadley, which seems largely a rural economy when the sons settled in London, one with an annuity, the other as a clothier? What was Monken Hadley like in the 1780s for the middle classes? I would appreciate some help as I am not sure where to go next.

Christine Kendall, Member No. 7722

23 Mount Street, Lincoln LN1 3JF

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Note: You are right. Hadley was always quite a rural community, being the south-western corner of Enfield Chase until it was enclosed in 1777. It has generally had a large number of wealthy residents, with 8 houses having ten or more hearths in 1664 according to British History Online. Was John WATKINS wealthy enough to have had a house at Hadley? Or was he a servant at one of the large houses? These are likely to be the choices.

You can view the British History Online piece, which is quite a substantial description of Monken Hadley, on: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=26963>

GOODHEART/RICHARDSON

My great great grandparents, James GOODHEART and Mary Ann RICHARDSON, married on 10 February 1812 at the church of Horsley Down St John. This is just south of the river near Tower Bridge.

They moved north of the river and their eleven children were baptised at various churches. My great grandfather Frederick, the 10th child, was baptised at St Bartholomew the Great in 1830. For some years James and Mary Ann lived in Long Lane. James was a cabinet maker.

In 1854 Frederick married Mary Ann RICHARDSON at St Giles, Cripplegate. Mary Ann's father, Robert, was also a cabinet maker.

Has anyone come across these two RICHARDSON families? A common name but maybe there is a connection.

James and Mary Ann died before the 1851 census and Frederick, then aged 21 years and his younger sister Emily then aged 19 years have not been found. Is it possible they may have been living with a RICHARDSON family and the name GOODHEART omitted?

Any help appreciated.

Beryl Jones, Member No. 3298

1 Northfield Gardens, Taunton TA1 1XN

Note: We have looked at various records. There are two marriages for Frederick GOODHEART: one in St Giles in 1854, the other 1857 in Southampton, Hampshire. At first glance the one in St Giles is most likely as they are a London family.

However, in the 1861 census there is a GOODHEART family in Clerkenwell - Frederick 31 years, wife Sarah 34 years, daughter Annie 1 year (born Southampton) and a sister, Emily 30 years. The 1857 marriage in Southampton lists a Sarah SUNLEY as a possible wife and the 1851 census finds a Sarah SUNLEY, born in St Leonards, Shoreditch, unmarried in Southampton. So perhaps the Southampton marriage is the correct one after all?



VINCENT

My great great grandmother's name was Elizabeth VINCENT and she was baptised in St Margaret's church in Edgware in 1811. Her parents were John VINCENT and Sarah, née HALSEY. I think Elizabeth had two brothers, John who was baptised 6 December 1807 and William who was baptised on 25 December 1808. I am interested in hearing from anybody who has an interest in these names.

Mrs Vivienne Allen, Member No. 7776

21 Widbury Gardens, Ware, Herts SG12 7AT

Note: The Parish Records of St Margaret, Edgware, are available to view on Ancestry.co.uk, which is free to view at libraries and record offices. William VINCENT, by the way, became a farrier and appears in the 1851 census in Chelsea and in 1861 in Kensington, along with his wife Ann, children Mary E born 1836, Jane born 1838 and David Edmund born 1844. David married Julia ABBOTT in 1888 in the Kensington Registration District and the couple had several children, so there may well be descendants about.

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

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See inside front cover for
address.

FORTHCOMING BRANCH MEETINGS

Barnet Branch – 7.30pm for 8.00pm

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

Branch Representative: Rosemary A Roome

- Thursday 17 January *Mending Bodies, Saving Souls*
An illustrated talk on medical advances and
funeral traditions in Victorian Britain
by Ian Waller
- Thursday 21 February *Looking for Lillian: Pursuing a Family Myth*
by Janet and John Pearson
- Thursday 21 March *Members' Presentations and Problems*
Members' Contributions
- Thursday 18 April *Prince Albert and the Crystal Palace*
by John Neal

City Branch – 12 noon for 12.30pm

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

Branch Representative: Barbara Haswell

- Thursday 31 January *A Critical Review of Whitechapel in the 18th
Century*
by Derek Morris
- Thursday 28 February *Somers Town*
by Malcolm Holmes
- Thursday 28 March No Meeting - Easter
- Thursday 25 April *My Ancestor was...*
Members' Contributions



Enfield Branch – 7.30pm for 8.00pm

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

Branch Representative: Lilian Gibbens

Wednesday 2 January	No meeting
Wednesday 6 February	<i>Inland Waterways</i> by Richard Moules
Wednesday 6 March	<i>A Lady and Her Spitfire</i> by Maggie Radcliffe
Wednesday 3 April	<i>Victorian Times/Dickens Festival</i> by Ian Torrance

Rayners Lane Branch – 7.30pm for 8.00pm

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

Branch Representative: Doreen Heywood

Friday 11 January	<i>Insanity</i> by Kathy Chater
Friday 8 February	<i>Dickens and the Workhouse</i> by Ruth Richardson
Friday 8 March	No meeting as the AGM is the next day
Friday 14 April	<i>The French Foreign Legion - a bolt-hole for disappearing ancestors.</i> by Ken Divall

Wembley Branch – 7.30pm for 8.00pm

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

Branch Representative: William Pyemont

Monday 28 January	Members' Evening
Monday 25 February	<i>Mending Bodies, Saving Souls</i> by Ian Waller
Monday 25 March	<i>Obituaries for the Family Historian</i> by Alan Ruston
Monday 29 April	TBA

BRICK WALL SMASHED!

By Eileen Blythe, Member No. 2

I have been trying to fill in all the details of my Great Grandmother Sophia Eunice BOWETT, born in Cambridge in 1851.

She married Henry James KEENE in Chelsea in 1872 and lived in Clapham, Fulham, and Paddington, West London with her family until her husband's death in 1913. At times Henry also used his stepfather's surname of ROBERTS.

I had not been able to find her after her husband's death, until recently. I found her in the 1901 census in Barnsbury, part of Holloway, and again in 1911 living with her married daughter Mary Ann Eunice HOWARD in Holloway, North London. She was then using the name ROBERTS and was aged 50.

Looking for a death certificate was still like looking for a needle in a haystack, until the London electoral lists were put onto the Ancestry website. I found her in Islington from 1924-39 living with her eldest son, Henry William (Keene) ROBERTS (born 1873). I still could not find a death certificate which looked right as I was sure the death must have happened in London.

However, I was always getting a reference to a death in Lancashire which I kept passing over but then, as it was in 1943 and I knew she was alive in 1939, and **there was a war on** I sent for it and blow me down, it was Grandma. She was aged 91, living in Birch Hill House, Rochdale, an old converted Workhouse looking after Londoners before the National Health Service was started in 1948. So she was probably sent there as the bombing of Islington North London was bad in 1940/1.

I wonder how many other Londoners were evacuated to Rochdale and are there records of who was sent and when?

Have you smashed through a brick wall? How did you do it? Your story could well help other people with their impossible family history mysteries - please send them in to the Editors.

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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METROPOLITAN Copy Dates: **15 Feb, 15 May, 15 Aug, 1 Nov.**

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