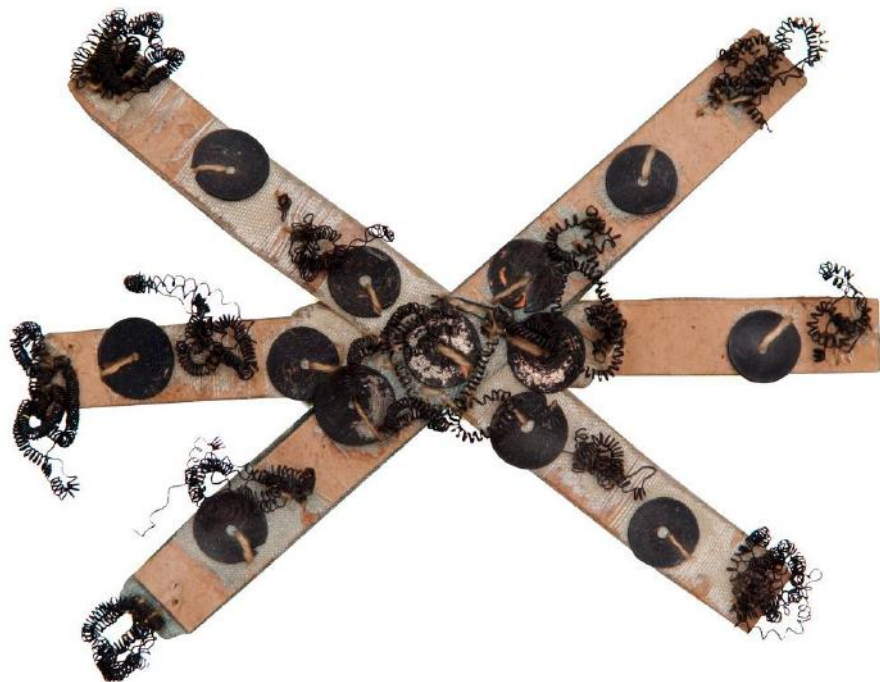


# METROPOLITAN

The Journal of the

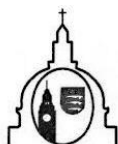
**LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX**

Family History Society



ISSN 1359-8961

Volume 35 No. 3 (137)



**April 2013**

Patron : The Bishop of Edmonton  
President : Mr Michael Gandy BA FSG

#### OFFICERS

Chairman : Miss Rosemary A Roome, c/o 14 Chandos Way,  
Wellgarth Road, London NW11 7HF  
✉ chairman@lwmfhs.org.uk

Secretary : Mrs Tricia Sutton, 141 Welbeck Road,  
West Harrow, Middlesex HA2 0RY  
✉ secretary@lwmfhs.org.uk

Treasurer : Ms April Vesey, 290 Woodlands Avenue,  
Eastcote, Ruislip, Middlesex HA4 9QZ  
✉ treasurer@lwmfhs.org.uk

#### OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES

Membership Secretary : Mrs Anne Prudames, 2 Canonbury Cottages,  
Churchbury Lane, Enfield, Middlesex EN1 3LR  
✉ membership@lwmfhs.org.uk

Journal Editors : Rosemary A Roome, Elizabeth C Burling &  
Barbara E Haswell  
✉ c/o 93 Leicester Road, New Barnet, Herts  
EN5 5EL  
✉ editors@lwmfhs.org.uk

Members' Interests : c/o Mrs Anne Prudames, 2 Canonbury Cottages,  
Churchbury Lane, Enfield, Middx EN1 3LR  
✉ membership@lwmfhs.org.uk

Projects Co-ordinator : Mrs Elaine Tyler, 24 Ashurst Road, Barnet, Herts  
EN4 9LF  
✉ projects@lwmfhs.org.uk

Bookstall Manager &  
Postal Sales : Mrs Anne Prudames, 2 Canonbury Cottages,  
Churchbury Lane, Enfield, Middlesex EN1 3LR  
✉ sales@lwmfhs.org.uk

All general enquiries concerning the Society should be addressed to the Secretary,  
Mrs Tricia Sutton at the address given above – or ✉ secretary@lwmfhs.org.uk

Information may also be found on the Society's website [www.lwmfhs.org.uk](http://www.lwmfhs.org.uk)

Webmaster : Mr Peter Walker  
✉ webmaster@lwmfhs.org.uk

# METROPOLITAN

Volume 35 No. 3 (137)

ISSN 1359-8961

April 2013

---

## CONTENTS

90	Editorial
91	Chairman's Comments
92	Letters to the Editors
94	Lewis Asasa
97	Family History and the Apple iPad
100	Fate, Hope and Charity
102	Another Problem Photo – Archway Bridge
104	The Former Cat Hill Campus
106	Forthcoming Branch Meetings
108	Loose Connections: The <i>Titanic</i>
113	AGM Minutes
122	Jottings
125	My Tillcock Publicans
127	Website News
131	<i>Help!</i>
134	Proof of Bigamy!
136	The Royal Connection

Cover picture: *Foundling Hospital Token* © Foundling Museum, London  
See article on page 100  
© 2013 LWMFHS and contributors

## EDITORIAL

Complimenting Anne Prudames' article on the Foundling Hospital (which appeared in the December issue of METROPOLITAN), this time we have an article from Janette Bright, Member No. 5959, who was one of researchers for the Foundling Museum's current exhibition, *Fate, Hope and Charity*. You can read Janette's piece on page 100.

Express Dairies is also still proving a popular topic, with two letters from members contributing their memories.

We have also received a few letters about the way we display the Members' Interests on the website. With much thought and discussion the committee decided to make some changes and our webmaster has produced a new system. Please read about this on page vi in the yellow pages. Only interests submitted in 2012 and 2013 are on the website list. We now need you all to update and re-submit your name interests and do include your current email address. There are Members' Interest forms on the website and we have also included one on the last page of the yellow section. Please photocopy this if you do not want to tear it out of the journal.

Do you use an iPad? On page 97 there are some ideas on how to use one for family history. Please let us know about any apps that you have found useful and can recommend.

We have had some lovely articles and photographs sent to us recently. Please keep up the good work and send us more! Our task is made so much easier when we have input from our members. Do you have any special 'tricks of the trade' that you use when searching online indexes? Do you have expertise on any aspect of family history? Please share your knowledge and help us all!

We look forward to hearing from you.

### The Editorial Team

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

## CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

It was good to see some new faces among more familiar ones at our Conference on 9 March 2013 at the London Metropolitan Archives (LMA). I hope that you all enjoyed the programme and the opportunity to meet some fellow members of the Society in person rather than through the pages of our journal METROPOLITAN.

The LMA is open once a month on a Saturday from, 9.30am to 4.45pm, and this was one of the factors that influenced the date of our Conference & AGM. It meant that there was an opportunity for some to do a little research into records of the Greater London area at the beginning of the day or at lunchtime.

Our Bookstall with a wide range of books and maps attracted attention from many and a number of people visited the LMA Exhibition *Frozen London 1693 to 1895* that runs until 25 April 2013. During this period with many severe winters, Frost Fairs took place on the River Thames with various attractions and entertainments but daily life had its problems. (LMA planners could not have foreseen that London would be suffering freezing temperatures, snow and strong bitter winds in mid March 2013!)

The talk in the morning, *My Average Ancestor* by Ian Waller, considered the many documents that are created by or about an individual during a lifetime. Birth, Marriage and Death records are obvious but there are records of Baptism, Confirmation, School, University, employment, residence, insurance, sports teams, societies, associations, professional bodies - to mention just a few of the dozens that were described. There was a lot to take in but much food for thought for future research.

The first part of the afternoon talk *My Ancestor suffered from...* by Lilian Gibbens was a fascinating description and definition of ailments through the ages from ancient times to the present century. The study of skeletons discovered by archaeologists can reveal disease, injury or deformity (sometimes the effects of lifestyle), age at death etc. We felt grateful for modern day medicine! The second part of the talk presented a most interesting study of six generations of Lilian's family and that of her husband. The illnesses and cause of death of these various ancestors showed patterns of disease running through some parts of their family trees. The day ended with our Annual General Meeting and you will find the Minutes of the meeting on page 113.

**Rosemary A Roome**

## LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

**A**s a follow up to Ken Gallagher's excellent article (December 2012) I lived on the Watling Estate, Burnt Oak, from 1948 to 1961 with my parents, brothers and sister in one of the steel houses in Walter Walk.

Some of the original families from 1927 were still resident at that time. On Saturdays I helped the Co-op baker pull the barrow from the depot on the road to Edgware, opposite the Edgware Town football club, uphill along Deansbrook Road to the round on the estate. Loaded with bread and cakes it was a hard job and there were the Co-op dividend slips to write with each customer's unique number.

The United Dairies horse seemed to know where to stop for each call as the milkman chatted to the housewives. The stables were just off Station Road, Edgware, in Penshurst Gardens.

When I left Orange Hill Grammar School in 1951, I travelled each day up to London on the Underground Railway, usually known as 'The Tube'. The walk home through Watling Park every evening was a breath of fresh air quite literally. There was a wisteria-covered pergola at the entrance to the park, then following the Deans Brook past the tennis courts you arrived at the allotments in Abbots Road. What a change from the crowded smoky streets of Kentish Town where we lived during the war.

Hassan's the gents' outfitters in Watling Avenue has gone but about 2 years ago, on a trip down memory lane, I was lucky enough to attend the closing-down sale.

There was another railway line which ran from Mill Hill East to Edgware Goods yard. This was a once a day steam train during the time I lived there and we could hear it and see the smoke as it passed along the back of Dryfield Road. It had been proposed to extend the Northern Line along this route but the line was closed in the late 1950s

I hope the residents still chat to each other over their front gates taking care to avoid the cars now parked in their front gardens.

***Terry Mead, Member No. 4722***

**I** have recently returned to LW&MFHS, and was very interested to read the letters about the Express Dairy in Burleigh Road, and thought I would like to add something to the mixture.

My association with the Express Dairy began just after WW2, when I asked if I could help our local milkman on his round, which covered Sketty Road and Ladysmith Road. My friend Eric HEAD was the main helper and I was

his subordinate, being only about 11 or 12. Our horse was called Mary and like Monty she knew the whole round, where to stop and when to get a move on so she could get back to her stable. She was a Welsh cob and had a beautiful nature. My love of horses has been with me all my life and I think this was the main reason for helping. I remember the dairy yard well; it was very big to me and noisy, especially when all the milkmen were loading up their carts. I loved it though and couldn't wait to get there to help.

Eric went on to be a milkman himself, serving Southbury Road and beyond. And your correspondent was right, the horses certainly didn't need any guidance and they made some of us children very happy. In the meantime I had defected to the Enfield Co-op in London Road.

Behind the Co-op store there were the stables which had 8 horses, 4 in the main block and 4 outside in another stable. There were 6 bread-round horses and 2 coal horses (Shires). The shires were adorable but their two stablemates, Doreen and Pam were nasty and nippy. On the round I helped with was Jenny, quite a big horse and very determined, because at certain houses, my mum's included, she would position herself on the pavement waiting for her bucket of water or whatever tit-bit the person would give her and lo betide you if you tried to go past her! When it was the end of the round she was so keen that she would gallop straight past the Co-op and Mac, the baker, had to turn her around at the Police station and go back. He used to swear at her but it didn't make any difference. We also had another horse we used sometimes, called Mary, who was much more docile and did as she was told, but we had a soft spot for Jenny as she was a bit naughty.

I would go out on the round with Mac in the morning, when we stopped for lunch he would pay for mine and at the end of the round when we got back to London Road, I would then continue with my favourite occupation, which was helping the groom to muck out the horses, feed them and clean their tack. My mum used to make me bath when I got home because she said I smelt of horse but I thought it was great. For doing that day, Mac would give me 2/6 and to me well worth it. Sad, isn't it!

Anyway, I have been trying to get any photos or documentation about the stables but so far no luck. People I have spoken to either don't remember the stables or didn't know about them. I wonder if any of our Enfield members can shed any light on the subject? I have tried the Co-op archives but it seems the Enfield Highway Co-op has sunk without trace.

***Jean Singleton, Member No. 1448***

**F**urther to the letter from George Chappell (5964) re Members' Interests (METROPOLITAN December 2012).

As the compiler of the Members Interests section of the journal over very many years and currently from 2006, I was surprised that Mr Chappell, also a long standing member of the Society, had forgotten the names he registered with the Society. (Two in December 2008.)

Submitting one's research interests on joining the Society and at two or three yearly intervals thereafter ensures that the majority of our members see them. There are Interest forms on the website and one is put, from time to time, in the journal along with a request to update your interests. The onus is on members to do this and to also provide current email and postal addresses. For many years Members' Interests were published only in our journal and the occasional booklet. In 2008 we started a website and began to put annual lists of names there - surely an added bonus.

We have recently changed to an entirely new system and this is now up and running. Please see page vi in the yellow pages for details.

**Anne Prudames, Membership Secretary**



## LEWIS ASASA

By Tony Thatcher, Member No. 6802

On 9 December 1825 the French brig *Perle* arrived in St Ives, Cornwall. Driven by bad weather from the coast of Africa, with the Captain, First and Second Lieutenants, doctor, supercargo and five seamen dead, and with the Mate unable to come on deck, the French ship had little option but to make port in England. Once in port, however, it became apparent that the *Perle* was a slave ship, having on board 5 young Africans, one of whom was called Louis ASA-ASA – a name given by his French Owner.

The Press soon carried stories of the ship 'fitted up with all the apparatus for the horrid traffic; chains, thumb screws &c.' Claims by the ship's owners that the young Africans were '...kept from a cargo lately landed in the West Indies, to assist in the navigation of the vessel' – claims that in effect the men were crew – were soon disproved by their ignorance of nautical terms and inability to speak French. On Boxing Day the five men were taken ashore by writ of Habeas Corpus, clothed and ordered to



London in the company of George STEPHEN, solicitor to the anti-slavery campaigner William WILBERFORCE.

At this point the severe weather encountered in England appears to have taken its toll on the men whose constitutions had been severely weakened by their time at sea, and it was almost 5 weeks before the journey to London could be made. Finally appearing before Lord Chief Justice BEST on 11 February, the men were freed and placed under the charge of George STEPHEN until the Government decided upon a course of action. By May it had been decided to take the men to Sierra Leone, or allow them to stay on in England; the decision came too late for two of the men who died from measles, and whilst two did decide to return to Africa, Louis opted to stay in England.

Louis' intelligence had been commented upon by many of the papers of the day, and he quickly learned to speak English - he told George STEPHEN of his early life in a village, possibly on The Gold Coast (present-day Ghana) and how the village was attacked by another tribe who killed some of the villagers and took away others to be sold as slaves. He was one of the captured and was sold several times before being put aboard the *Perle*. He claimed to be about 13 years old at the time.

George STEPHEN passed the narrative on to Thomas PRINGLE who was Secretary of the Anti-Slavery society founded by William WILBERFORCE and Thomas CLARKSON. At the time Pringle was editing *The History of Mary Prince, a West Indian Slave*. The book was the first account of the life of a black woman to be published in England, and had a profound effect upon the abolitionist movement. Louis ASA-ASA's narrative was included in the Mary PRINCE book when it was published in 1831.

Also in that year a man giving his name as Lewis ASASA married Elizabeth COOK in St Marylebone, London. Elizabeth COOKE came from Wookey in Somerset, and it appears that along with Lewis she was in service at the time. They subsequently had at least four children. Frances born 1832, Rosetta born 1838, Frederick born 1839 and Martha born 1846. All were using the surname ASA and Rosetta's birth certificate states that father Lewis was a servant.

In March 1841 Lewis ASASA joined the Royal Navy as an Able Seaman on *HMS Wilberforce* to go on the ill-fated expedition to the River Niger. According to records his previous trade was Footman and he was of dark complexion with black hair. The expedition was sent by the British Government on the back of the Abolition of Slavery Act 1833 and its purpose seems to have been to help African tribal chiefs to give up selling people into slavery by encouraging agriculture in the form of growing coffee, sugar and rice; even a model farm was taken. They were also to teach religion and morality.

Three ships were designed and built by John LAIRDS of Birkenhead, flat bottomed for river navigation, and paddle driven. They were *HMS Albert*, *HMS Soudan*, and *HMS Wilberforce*. The expedition was beset by problems especially disease with many crew members dying from 'river fever'. The black crew were taken on in London (Woolwich) and were mainly West Indian with some African, including Lewis, as it was thought that such men would be better able to withstand the heat and disease. As the official record states, only 24 'coloured' men were found willing to join in England, and so a further 108 seamen were recruited on the coast of Africa. Of the 303 men who embarked upon the expedition in 1841, 141 contracted fever, of which 44 died by the end of the expedition in 1842.

Lewis, who was one of the few Africans recruited in England to avoid the fever, stayed on with the Royal Navy, serving on *HMS Isis*, *HMS Vesuvius* where he became a stoker, *HMS Teazer* and *HMS Volcano*.

When continuous service started in 1854 he then signed on for seven years serving on *HMS Archer*, *HMS Jasper*, and *HMS Warrior* from the ship's commissioning in August 1861 until 9 November the same year when he was discharged from the ship and sent to Haslar being invalided. He did not re-join the service; although for a brief time was borne on the books of the *Fisgard*.

According to records he was later admitted to Greenwich Hospital – 4 February 1869. The details are as follows: Trade: Labourer, Last Ship: *HMS Fisgard*, Address: North Street, Lisson Grove, London, Middlesex. Lewis ASASA died in April 1869. He was my Great-Great-Grandfather.

## FAMILY HISTORY AND THE APPLE iPad

(The iPad is not just for playing *Angry Birds!*)

By Barbara Haswell, Member No. 4224

With the ever growing popularity of the Apple iPad, I thought that we should explore the various apps that are available and how they can be used for family history. The iPad is small (24 x 18.5cms), light to carry around and can easily link to the Internet in libraries, record offices and coffee shops making it possible to check emails and do online research away from home. To connect to the internet the iPad must be WiFi and/or cellular.

This is my experience with the iPad. When I bought it, the first thing my family said was that I had to download the game *Angry Birds!* After doing that, I set up my email, began to explore the various apps installed and bookmarked my favourite Genealogy websites.

‘App’ is an abbreviation of ‘application software’ – these days ‘app’ has come to mean computer software written specifically for mobile devices like the iPad, tablets and phones. There are thousands of apps available from the Apple App Store and an app for almost anything!

*Ancestry.co.uk* seemed to be the first commercial genealogical company to be compatible with the iPad and from the start I was able to search their website and download images. *Findmypast* was a bit slower off the mark and their images would not open at first; this problem is now fixed and using the main site direct from the iPad is fine. Images from both websites can be downloaded and saved in the Photos app.

The next step was to find a way to put my family trees onto the iPad. There are apps available from the App Store which allow this – with some being companion apps to desktop software, for example *Reunion*, *Ancestry*, *Heredis* and *RootsMagic*. These apps can sync with family trees already written on a computer. *Ancestry*, *Heredis* and *RootsMagic* are free but the *Reunion* app is £10.45. I use *Reunion* on my Mac laptop but on reading reviews, am not convinced that the app will be compatible with my older version of *Reunion* and my four-year old Mac.

In the end I downloaded the free *Heredis* app from the App Store. I made a GEDCOM file of my *Reunion* family tree which was on the laptop computer, attached it to an email and sent it to myself. I opened the email on the iPad and tapped the attachment. From the list that appeared, I selected *Heredis* and with another tap the file immediately copied to the app. There were a couple of problems; no photos transferred and baptism information ended up as a separate event as *Heredis* uses 'christening' as the field name. My iPad Photos app contains many of the missing photos so they were dragged and dropped into the empty media space of a person file.

I have now installed the full *Heredis for Mac* onto the laptop and if I alter my tree on the iPad, then sync the two machines, the laptop tree will also update. Photos do transfer between machines when syncing. The manual for *Heredis*, a pdf document, can be downloaded, saved and opened in iBooks.

It is possible to use the *Heredis* app as 'stand alone' software and just have it on an iPad. It is easy to use and navigate. Birth, christening, marriage, death and burial dates can be typed into their allotted spaces and photos and videos can be added to individuals and families. There is also a space for notes. The charts are designed to fit on one A4 page and this limits the generations to four on a coloured pictorial chart and six on a plain black and white chart.

I have no experience with family trees put online using *Ancestry / RootsMagic* or their apps. Perhaps another member who uses these will write to us and share their knowledge?

There is a camera on the iPad and it is useful to photograph records, people and places. The already installed Photos app has simple editing functions; rotate, enhance, red-eye and crop. Other photo-editing apps can be obtained from the App Store. At the moment I use iPhoto which was £2.99 and Adobe Photoshop Express which was free.

An optional extra is the Apple Camera Connection Kit (about £25) which allows the import of photos and videos from a digital camera or memory card directly into the iPad. This connector has a USB slot for the connecting cable of a camera and a card slot for the memory card.

The Podcast app links to the iTunes store. The National Archives at Kew organizes a wide range of talks. Most of these are available as free podcasts and can be downloaded to the Podcast app via iTunes. An ear-phone jack can be plugged in so that listening to a talk will not disturb others.

There is a Map app for finding your way around and seeing where your ancestor lived; a Notes app to use as a notebook and a Calculator app for help with dates when searching census returns and your mind goes blank trying to subtract 87 years from 1861! My iBooks app is filling up with books from the iBook store, Kindle and Amazon. It is also where I keep any pdf files such as my camera, *Heredis*, and iPad manuals. There is a British Library app and this is where I found the book '*London Burial Grounds, Notes on their History from the earliest times to the present day*' by Mrs Basil Holmes. Published in 1896 'the present day' is 117 years ago!

So, just a few ideas about how I use my iPad for family history. Do let the editors know of any apps that you have found useful and can recommend. There could be an occasional 'App News' as well as a 'Website News' in the journal.

## **IRISH ANCESTORS**

Comprehensive research by a qualified researcher, as well as a pair of local Irish feet can be offered to source your Irish Ancestors.

Dublin based. Records for all Ireland can be investigated.

### **Good rates.**

Sharon Bofin,  
13 Westminster Lawns,  
Foxrock, Dublin 18.

Tel: 00353 1 2832109

E-mail:

**sharonbofin@eircom.net**

## **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.

## FATE, HOPE AND CHARITY

By Janette Bright, Member No. 5959

When I saw in the December 2012 edition of METROPOLITAN an article about Thomas CORAM, it reminded me how often I had thought about writing a similar article for the journal. I have spent the last eight years researching their archives and have been one of the researchers for the Foundling Museum's current exhibition, *Fate, Hope and Charity*. It gave me a wakeup call to stop thinking and get on with the writing!

My involvement has involved several years of researching, along with Dr Gillian Clark, the eighteenth century tokens that are held in the London Metropolitan Archives and the Foundling Museum; the tokens being the notes and objects left with the children on admission as identifiers in case a child is ever reclaimed. What the exhibition explains is not only about the tokens and how they work as identifiers, but also how some of the tokens removed from the archives in the Victorian era have been reconnected with their archive records. It also sets out to tell something of the lives of ordinary men and women from the 1740s to the early 1800s.



*Foundling Hospital Token* © Foundling Museum, London

With almost continual war during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, one of the sections focused on is how this impacted on the women left at home - caring for children with little financial resources. We

have reference to a possible camp follower, an orphan whose parents both died in Antigua, and children abandoned when the mother died and the father disappeared into the army.

Another section looks at how the tokens tell us about peoples' interests – lectures, pleasure gardens, Masonry, card games etc. In an age when people had few possessions there is a section on 'pocket pieces' – precious objects designed to be literally kept in a pocket. We can also see how many parents planned the child's admission, creating personalised objects either with elaborate engravings or punching holes in low denomination coinage or medals. The Age of the Enlightenment is well documented in the records of the rich and famous, but how did it impact on ordinary lives? The exhibition shows how many still relied on good luck charms even while, or perhaps because of, developments in medicine that were being made.

One area of medicine that was going through great changes in the late eighteenth century was that of midwifery. What was once a female only activity was now being threatened (or assisted) by the male-midwife. Men were allowed to use surgical instruments where the female midwife was not and now lying-in hospitals were being built as a training ground for these male surgeons. Were they help for the poor or practice for the surgeons?

Finally the exhibition focuses on five individual lives – the peer's daughter whose reputation was saved, the mother executed at Tyburn, the infant whose father had disappeared to Jamaica, the baby whose nurse took as much care as the mother and the blind girl who spent her whole life in the confines of the hospital.

Even if you have no interest in the Foundling Hospital itself, it is hoped that this exhibition also gives an interesting glimpse into the everyday lives of those who did need its services.

The exhibition continues until Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2013 at the Foundling Museum, Brunswick Square, London, WC1N 1AZ. The museum is closed on Mondays. The nearest underground station is Russell Square, but it is also within walking distance of King's Cross/St Pancras station. For more information on opening times, special events, etc – [www.foundlingmuseum.org.uk](http://www.foundlingmuseum.org.uk) or telephone 020 7841 3600.

## **Another Problem Photo: ARCHWAY BRIDGE**

By Dennis Stacey. Member No. 3248

I attach a photo which was among my late parents' effects. I was given to understand it is a picture of the new Archway Bridge being built over the old structure. If this is so can anyone put a date to when it was, presumably late 19th century?

Note: What a fabulous photograph to have in your collection! This picture is actually of only one bridge, which was designed by John NASH and built in 1813. The design had a top tier of three arches carrying Hornsey Lane over a lower central arch. A diagram clearly showing the complexities of design of this bridge can be seen at: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Nash's\\_original\\_Archway\\_Bridge.jpg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Nash's_original_Archway_Bridge.jpg) The central arch was only 18 feet wide and this proved too narrow for traffic, even after pathways for pedestrians had been opened up in the sides. In this photo a passage can be seen leading off to the right, just behind the foreground lamp-post. This may well lead to a pedestrian footpath.

Unfortunately it is not possible to read the poster on the right hand side to help with dating the photo but milk perambulators, such as the one just passing through the arch, were only introduced in the mid 1860s, as roads surfaces started to improve.

The current bridge at Archway was constructed in 1896-1900, a few yards to the south of this one. So your photo must date from about 1865-1895, you were spot on when you said late 19<sup>th</sup> Century.

### ***Morning Post, Wednesday 12 October 1814***

Bow Street.

WILLIAMS, the driver of the hackney coach No 564, was summoned by Dr BRODUM, for refusing to take him and some Ladies on Friday night, from the City Road to his house in Coram Street. It being an aggravated case, the prisoner was convicted in the penalty of 2l and costs. The Doctor said he should give the penalty to the Lying-in Hospital.





## **THE FORMER CAT HILL CAMPUS**

### **A Brief History**

By Elaine Tyler, Member No. 7102

From earliest times the area known as the former Middlesex University Cat Hill Campus was dense forest, part of what came to be known from the 12th century as Enfield Chase. The forest had been common property up until the 9th century but then a manorial system was introduced which caused it to become private property where peasants retained the right to use the land. This system remained in place until Geoffrey de Manderville was granted ownership after the Norman Conquest. Over the following centuries the land passed down through Manderville descendants eventually enjoying Royal ownership (Henry V) via Henry IV's marriage to Mary, the daughter and co-heir of Humphrey de Bohun. In 1421 Enfield Manor and Chase was allocated to the King as part of the Duchy of Lancaster, even when Enfield Chase was divided under the 1777 Enclosure Act the site remained part of the Duchy of Lancaster as it fell within the King's allotment. The Duchy had released virtually all of its Enfield Chase holdings by 1937.

Purchased in 1954 by Southgate Borough Council for educational use what became known as The Cat Hill Campus was opened in 1970 to house Hornsey College of Art. Historically the site had remained undeveloped until the Art College buildings were erected in the late 1960's, it has been used for educational purposes ever since. The campus consisted of the main building, which housed a library and teaching and workshop facilities, fine art studios, and a student accommodation block. The MoDA (Museum of Domestic Design & Architecture) building opened in 2001 with the aid of a £1.6 million Heritage Lottery Fund grant and was a particularly useful resource for local primary schools. The employment generated by the university, both directly and indirectly, has been very important to the local economy.

Middlesex University came into existence in 1992, previously known as Middlesex Polytechnic, and grew out of a merger between schools and colleges in North London, the most prominent of these constituent establishments being the Hornsey College of Art. In 1993 London Borough of Enfield transferred the Cat Hill Campus to Middlesex University under

the 1992 Further and Higher Education Act. Almost all of the campus site was sold by Middlesex University to London and Quadrant (L&Q) Housing Association for residential development in February 2011.

Enfield Council unanimously rejected L&Q's first planning application for 250 residential units in March 2012. A decision on a new application submitted in September 2012 for 232 residential units is expected early in 2013. If planning permission is granted an educational site will be lost, over 100 trees, some hundreds of years old, will be felled, a wildlife haven, which includes protected species, will be disrupted, a lottery funded building less than 15 years old will be demolished, over 1,000 new residents will be added to the local population with no extra provision for schools, doctors, dentists, hospitals etc, to mention just a few outcomes. The area around Cat Hill roundabout will be changed forever.

Enfield Council Planning Application Reference: P12-02266PLA  
Campaign for Cat Hill: [www.spanglefish.com/campaignforcathill/](http://www.spanglefish.com/campaignforcathill/)

This article was first published in the January 2013 newsletter (No. 223) of the Southgate District Civic Trust, website [n21.net/southgate-district-civic-trust.html](http://n21.net/southgate-district-civic-trust.html)

***Morning Post, Wednesday 12 October 1814***

Queen Square.

J COOPER of Drury Lane, Chemist, was summoned on an information for selling LAVENDER, the officer, six fireworks, called *Detonating Balls*, contrary to the statute of William, which for the prevention of such mischiefs and accidents as had happened from squibs, &c made it a penalty of 5l to sell or expose to sale 'squibbs, rockets or other fireworks'.

The case of Pianca, reported yesterday, was for selling a similar article, although named *Fulminating Peas*.

The Magistrates (Mr COLQUHOUN and Mr FIELDING) then pronounced Mr COOPER to stand convicted, it having been proved that the *Detonating Balls* were fireworks of a dangerous and mischievous quality and, what was not necessary to the conviction, that the flame or fire which came from the balls would ignite gunpowder. Penalty 5l

## 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 18 April | <i>Prince Albert and the Crystal Palace</i><br>by John Neal           |
| Thursday 16 May   | <i>Researching from Newspapers</i><br>by Roy Stockdill                |
| Thursday 20 June  | <i>The Great Courts: Chancery, Exchequer, etc</i><br>by Michael Gandy |
| Thursday 18 July  | TBA                                                                   |

### **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 25 April | <i>My Ancestor was...</i><br>Members' Contributions                                                          |
| Thursday 30 May   | <i>FamilySearch Resources for the Family Historian</i><br>by a speaker from the London Family History Centre |
| Thursday 27 June  | <i>Monumental Inscriptions? A Good Source?</i><br>by Alan Ruston                                             |
| Thursday 25 July  | TBA                                                                                                          |

### **Enfield Branch** – 7.30pm for 8.00pm

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

Branch Representative: Lilian Gibbens

- |                   |                                                            |
|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| Wednesday 3 April | <i>Victorian Times/Dickens Festival</i><br>by Ian Torrance |
|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|

- Wednesday 1 May            *Britain in the Fifties*  
by Steve Jennings
- Wednesday 5 June         *Oranges & Lemons: Churches of Nursery Rhymes*  
by Colin Oakes
- Wednesday 3 July         *Family History Stories*  
by Lilian Gibbens and Arthur Parker

**Rayners Lane Branch** – 7.30pm for 8.00pm

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

Branch Representative: Doreen Heywood

- Friday 12 April            *The French Foreign Legion - a bolt-hole for disappearing ancestors.*  
by Ken Divall
- Friday 10 May             *Leave No Stone Unturned*  
by Meryl Catty and Audrey Gillett
- Friday 14 June             Members' Evening
- Friday 12 July             *The Victorian Way of Death*  
by Tom Doig

**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 22 April           *Dating Victorian Photographs*  
by Tom Doig
- Monday 27 May            No meeting – spring Bank Holiday
- Monday 24 June            *London's History of Tea*  
by John Neal
- Monday 22 July            *Inns and Taverns of London*  
by John Neal



## LOOSE CONNECTIONS

### *The Titanic*

by David Sansom, Member No. 7665

April 1912 will be long remembered as the month that saw the sinking of the *RMS Titanic* in the North Atlantic. One hundred years later the response from the media approached almost hysterical proportions as the anniversary of that dramatic event came ever closer.

It was an excuse for a series of programmes of varying merit being broadcast, particularly on television, and included, naturally, the American *Titanic* movie of 1997 (although the 1958 British film, *A Night to Remember* is still regarded by many as the definitive cinematic version of the story).

The most informative and poignant programmes and published articles were however those that told stories of the ‘ordinary’ passengers and crew; men and women, many of whom lost their lives in that cruel, cold sea and whose stories have rarely been aired in any depth previously.

How many of you were tempted to search the records on the Ancestry website just in case there were any relations on board of whom you knew little or nothing? I admit that I did search for a few of my more common family surnames and in fact I found the names of two people whom I thought could be related to my family, albeit somewhat distantly.

I recently reviewed my research and was pleased to discover that in the past year even more information has been published which related to the two men whose stories I had unearthed.

The first name that I had come across which looked interesting was one ‘W SNOOKS, aged 26 years, a trimmer from Bristol’. My 2x paternal great grandmother Mary was a SNOOK. The family came from the Taunton area of Somerset and her brother Edmund lived in Bristol; could there be a connection?

Starting with the information I already had regarding the SNOOK family I spent some time checking various census returns and births for the Bristol

area covering the period 1881 to 1911; I was unable to identify any ‘W SNOOKs’. Although the information given on the *Titanic* documents is limited and of course there is the question of the surname being slightly different, there is a high probability that he is William Henry SNOOK, the grandson of Edmund. ‘My’ William SNOOK had a brother, Edwin, who

served as an ordinary seaman on the battleship *Victorious* and their father was a dock labourer.



The *Titanic* records for W SNOOKS state that he previously served on the *RMS Royal Edward* which sailed from Avonmouth, only a few miles from Bristol, and his last known address was the Sailors’ Home, Southampton, pictured left. So, quite a few ‘boxes ticked’ but not sufficient to be certain enough to add him to my family tree!

Thanks to Wikipedia I did however find out exactly what role a trimmer played on the

ships of the period - not a pleasant occupation judging by this account;

*‘A trimmer worked within the engineering department of a coal-fired ship and was responsible for handling the coal from loading into the ship to delivery to the stoker.*

*They worked inside the coal bunkers located on top of and between the boilers using shovels and wheelbarrows to move coal around to keep it level and to shovel the coal down the chute to the firemen below who fed it into the furnaces. If too much coal built up on one side of a bunker the ship would actually list to that side.*

*Trimmers were also involved in extinguishing fires in the bunkers which occurred frequently due to spontaneous combustion of the coal and had to*

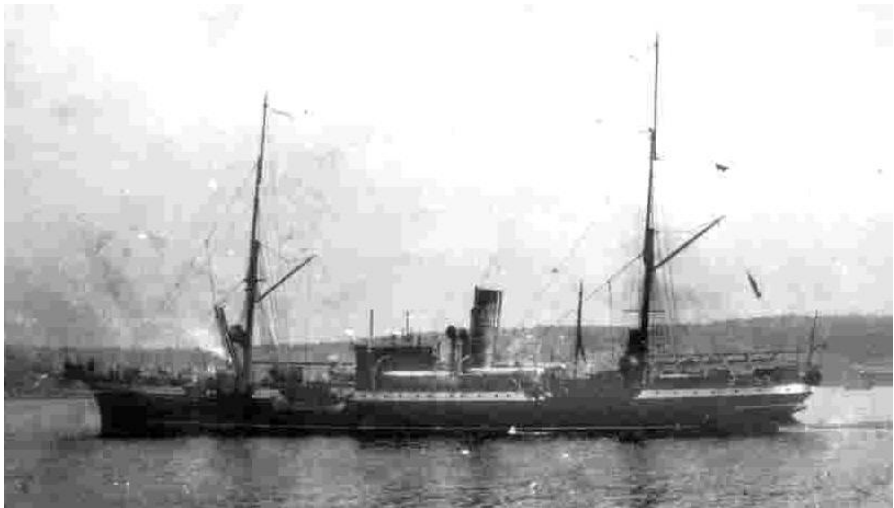
*be extinguished with fire hoses and by feeding the burning coal into the furnace.*

*Of the engineering crew, the trimmers were paid the least and the working conditions were poor. All the residual heat from the boilers rose up into the coal bunkers which were poorly lit and full of coal dust.'*

W SNOOKS was reported as 'presumed drowned' suggesting that he may have been one of the many who went down with the ship.

The second name I found was 'Edward LOCKYER aged twenty-one years', a third class passenger who also lost his life that night. The published documents offer an interesting account of how Edward's body and those of many others who did not survive were dealt with in the immediate aftermath of the sinking. This is certainly an aspect of the tragedy of which I was not previously aware.

The cable ship *Mackay-Bennett*, pictured below, was contracted by the White Star Line to recover bodies from the area of the sinking. She recovered 306 bodies in total (of which 116 were buried at sea). All were first logged with a number, identified if possible and any personal effects recorded.





Edward LOCKYER's body was one of those returned to the sea but we do have a description of him, what he was wearing and the items which he carried. Letters were found on him which enabled accurate identification including his home address.

Again, I checked the information which was available against my existing records and found that Edward, a grocer's assistant, was a member of an extended family of LOCKYERs who came originally from Sandhurst in Kent. My maternal great Aunt Emma was a member of this family, her daughter married my mother's brother in Paddington in 1938. Thanks to a contact on Ancestry I have established the link between Emma's grandfather and Edward LOCKYER which goes back to the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. Most definitely a loose connection!

I came across a poignant story relating to Edward which I have been able to verify through a number of sources.



Among the passengers on the *Titanic* was one Emily BADMAN, an eighteen year old girl from Clevedon in Somerset (pictured left). Just before the collision with the iceberg Emily was one of a number of young people playing with a skipping rope on the deck and Edward LOCKYER was part of this group. Emily asked Edward to look after her glasses while she was jumping. Subsequently and despite her reluctance to leave the ship Edward insisted on lifting Emily into a lifeboat and she survived.

The pair of glasses were found on Edward's body and returned to his parents together with his other possessions. Emily later traced Edward LOCKYER's family and let them know that he had in effect saved her life. When his mother Jane replied she enclosed with the letter Emily's broken spectacles.

Hopefully I have found two of my (distant) relations on board the *Titanic* when she set off on her maiden voyage one hundred years ago. I have also learnt a little about what life may have been like for the men working deep in the ship and the way in which those who died in the sea were treated by the authorities. The captain and crew of the *Mackay-Bennett* sponsored the burial in Halifax, Nova Scotia of an unidentified two-year old boy who they had recovered from the sea; he was just one of the 150 people buried in three Halifax cemeteries. His gravestone bears the inscription;

*'Erected to the memory of an unknown child whose remains were recovered after the disaster to the Titanic, April 15th, 1912.'*

The unknown child was identified incorrectly on two occasions over a period of ninety years and finally, in 2008, a positive (with a 98% certainty) identification using DNA samples was made. The family of the child, 19-month old Sidney Leslie GOODWIN, decided to leave the original inscription unchanged as a memorial to all the children who died in the disaster.

## **Buckinghamshire Family History Society OPEN DAY**

Saturday 27 July 2013 from 10am-4pm  
The Grange School  
Wendover Way  
Aylesbury, HP21 7NH

Bucks FHS databases, libraries and publications will be available to help you search for your Buckinghamshire ancestors.

**London Westminster & Middlesex FHS**, other FHSs, Buckinghamshire local history organisations and suppliers of family history products will also be there making a great day out for family historians.

Free entry and free parking

Tea/coffee available throughout the day but bring a packed lunch!

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

**LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX  
FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY**

**Members' Interests and Family Research**  
(a maximum of twelve items may be submitted)

(Please complete this form as per the example given)

Name..... Membership No.....

Address.....

Post/Zip Code.....

Email address.....

(Please complete Email address clearly)

<b>Name</b>	<b>Period</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Parish</b>
eg. WATTS	1850-1875	UK	MDX	Islington, St Mary
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

Special Interests.....  
(for example a One Name study may be used as one of your choices)

All the above information will be published in METROPOLITAN. For the online Members' Interests, contact is via anonymous e-mail. However, please tick here or enter information if you wish the following information to be shown:

Address:  e-mail address:  Phone: .....  Mobile: .....

**Please send your completed form to: Members' Interests:  
c/o Mrs A Prudames, London Westminster & Middlesex FHS,**

# **LONDON WESTMINSTER AND MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2013**

The following are the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the above Society held on 9 March 2013 in the Huntley Room at London Metropolitan Archives, 40 Northampton Road, London EC1.

Our President, Michael Gandy, B.A., FSG, took the chair and welcomed 29 members.

## **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from:- Vivienne Allen, Elizabeth Burling, Marjorie Bridges, Barbara Haswell, Doreen Heywood, Ann Randell and Geoff Young.

## **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The Minutes of the AGM held on 3 March 2012 were taken as read and approved.

## **MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising.

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman's Report was previously published in METROPOLITAN December 2012.

Rosemary added further information on various aspects of the Society. She noted that Membership is still declining and a significant number were not renewing on time. The form for renewals had been included in the July Journal to encourage members to renew promptly.

Our journal METROPOLITAN has been well received and has attracted new members.

Appreciation of the New Members' Pack has been noted and Anne now emails overseas members to let them know when they can expect to receive it.

The Website has a new feature. It is now possible to input a name of interest and discover whether a member of the Society is also researching it. It is hoped this will encourage non-members to join the Society.

The Bookstall is taken to some Branch Meetings and also to Fairs and Open Days to help newcomers to Family History and to promote the Society.

Projects: The Parish Guides will need updating and Doreen Heywood is currently working on a new one. Work continues on the CD containing digitised images of our microfiche. This has highlighted some quality issues and the Executive Committee will be looking at the implications of this.

Church photographs have been added to the website.

We often receive unwanted GRO certificates and the details are published in METROPOLITAN. We intend to index them and eventually put that on the Website as well.

Lilian Gibbens asked that we note the deaths in 2012 of two very active and long-standing members of the Society: Fred Carter and our Vice President Mike Fountain.

#### TREASURER'S REPORTS

Our Treasurer, April Vesey, reported on the state of the Society's finances in 2010-11 and 2011-12, and presented the two sets of Accounts. (see pages 116-120)

#### THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

The two sets of annual accounts were circulated prior to the meeting. There was considerable discussion on ways to deal with the ongoing deficit. The major problems were the fall in membership and the rising costs of the Journal and the Branch meetings.

Our President pointed out that a 20% lapse in membership is about the norm according to the FFHS as long as new members are being recruited. We need to make our meetings more relevant to the needs of those who are researching their family history in the digital age and attract younger members. He suggested we should make more use of in-house speakers who don't charge a fee. (He is more than willing to give free talks at Branch meetings himself). Other possibilities for members' evenings could be investigated, such as projects. Charging a small fee for attending talks was also suggested, although April pointed out that the major expense is the hire of premises in our area. She will do an analysis of meeting costs.

One member asked about the possibility of producing the Journal online,

which would save on postage and printing costs. However, some members were adamant that they would still want a paper copy. If the number of printed copies fell we would pay more per copy, which would outweigh any savings. It might be a way of attracting overseas members who cannot attend meetings, but they would then expect to pay a reduced subscription fee. The Executive Committee will look into this. A further question was asked about advertising in newspapers or magazines. It was pointed out that this has already been tried but the costs are prohibitive and the results disappointing.

The two sets of Annual Accounts were adopted by the meeting *nem con* and April was thanked for all she had done and given a round of applause.

#### ELECTION OF OFFICERS

No nominations had been received for any of the posts.

Rosemary Roome was willing to continue as Chairman for the coming year.

Tricia Sutton was willing to continue as Secretary

April Vesey was willing to continue as Treasurer.

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

The following members were willing to continue to serve on the Executive Committee

Anne Prudames	Membership Secretary (and also Bookstall manager)
Elaine Tyler	Projects Co-ordinator
Rosemary Roome	Chairman of Barnet Branch
Barbara Haswell	Representative for City Branch
Lilian Gibbens	Chairman of Enfield Branch
Doreen Heywood	Representative for Rayners Lane Branch
William Pyemont	Chairman of Wembley Branch
The Editorial Team	(Elizabeth Burling, Barbara Haswell and Rosemary Roome) is also represented by one member on the Committee

The Officers and other members of the Executive Committee were elected *nem.con*.

#### ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No items had been previously noted for discussion.

Dorothy Stevens proposed a vote of thanks to all those who volunteer to

make the Society and the Branch meetings possible.

Elaine Tyler expressed appreciation of the Huntley Room at LMA as a venue for our AGM.

Our President formally closed the meeting at .4.15 pm.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

### **1 October 2010 to 30 September 2011**

In taking on the role of Treasurer at the Annual General Meeting on 3 March 2012, I stepped into a post which had been vacant for some time. I became responsible not only for the work going forward, but also some historical work. Although the day-to-day payments had been covered by the then Chairman Bill Pyemont and basic records maintained, in the absence of a Treasurer no accounting records had been kept and no accounts produced. Therefore I have had to create the necessary records from the documents I inherited. In this respect I am grateful to Mr Pyemont for keeping invoices, bank statements and cheque stubs in good order. Similarly I appreciate the work of the Membership Secretary Anne Prudames in maintaining detailed records of payments into the bank of subscriptions and publication sales.

Revenue in 2010 to 2011 remained about the same as the previous year; although it appears slightly higher this is because I have not included a "net" figure for publications sales revenue. Revenue from publications sales is shown this year as income, and the purchase of the books, maps etc is shown as a cost on the Profit and Loss Account. I have also provided more details of expenditure in the Profit and Loss Account, for clarity. Overall, there is a smaller deficit in the year to end of September 2011; however, there is still a deficit, which is disappointing.

April Vesey  
Treasurer  
25 February 2013

# LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

## Profit and loss account for the year ended 30 September 2011

	30 Sep 2011	30 Sep 2010
<b>Income:</b>		
Subscriptions	10,193.75	10,705.00
Publication sales	633.75	<i>(net)</i> -499.00
revenue (net)		
Donations	123.00	
Misc incl help with research	50.99	
Interest received & sundry receipts	<u>12.75</u>	<u>236.00</u>
	11,014.24	10,442.00
 <b>Expenditure:</b>		
Metropolitan Journal	-6,298.34	6,343.00
Branch Lecture Costs	-2,877.27	4,209.00
AGM	-222.00	
FFHS Membership	-283.61	
Books, maps, etc	-778.65	
Fair and open days	-42.50	
Administration & general expenses	-1,296.30	1,460.00
Depreciation	-119.00	135.00
Bank charges	-8.00	
	<u>-11,925.67</u>	<u>-12,147.00</u>
<b>Net Deficit</b>	<b><u>-911.43</u></b>	<b><u>£ -1,705.00</u></b>
	=====	=====



# LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

## Balance Sheet as at 30 September 2011

	30 Sep 2011		30 Sep 2010
<b>Fixed Assets</b>			
Office equipment	357.00		476.00
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Stock of publications	3,073.95	3,120.00	
Prepaid expenses	471.00	125.00	
Cash and bank balances	<u>23,641.57</u>	27,186.52	<u>25,767.00</u>
			29,012.00
<b>Total Assets</b>	27,543.52		29,488.00
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Subs in Advance	-48.00	-477.00	
Creditors & Accr'd Expenses	-193.32	<u>-1,714.00</u>	-2,191.00
Unpresented cheques	<u>-916.63</u>		
		<u>1,157.95</u>	
	£ <u>26,385.57</u>		£ <u>26,821.00</u>
	=====		=====
<b>Financed by:</b>			
Balance Brought Forward	27,197.00		29,002.00
Net Deficit/ Surplus for Year	-911.43		-1,705.00
<b>Members' Net Funds</b>	£ <u>26,385.57</u>		£ <u>27,297.00</u>
	=====		=====

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

### **1 October 2011 to 30 September 2012**

As with the previous year's accounts, having taken on the role of Treasurer halfway through this financial year, I became responsible not only for the work going forward, but also some historical work. Again, I am grateful to Bill Pyemont and Anne Prudames for maintaining the basic records. I have created the necessary accounting records from the documents I inherited, and kept them up to date during the rest of the year.

Cheques can be problematic if they are not honoured by the bank. Each time they are presented to the bank, but unpaid ("bounced") we have to pay a £4:00 bank charge. This is not a major problem but it is still an unwelcome cost to the Society. Therefore in future it does not seem unreasonable that the Society makes it clear to members and prospective members that such bank charges incurred must be refunded to us and membership will be dependent on that, even if a cheque is subsequently successfully presented to the bank. This issue will be addressed by the Executive Committee.

Again there has been a small increase in the deficit and a decline in the overall net funds. The impact is minor but the Society will need to look at fundraising and expenditure to see whether the trend can be reversed in future years.

April Vesey  
Treasurer  
28 February 2013

# LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

## Profit and loss account for the year ended 30 September 2012

	30 Sep 2012	<i>30 Sep 2011</i>
<b>Income:</b>		
Subscriptions	10,623.56	<i>10,193.75</i>
Publication sales revenue	1,059.61	<i>633.75</i>
Donations	426.00	<i>123.00</i>
Help with research	4.00	<i>50.99</i>
Interest received	<u>11.73</u>	<u><i>12.75</i></u>
	12,124.90	<i>11,014.24</i>
 <b>Expenditure:</b>		
Metropolitan Journal	-6,043.24	<i>-6,298.34</i>
Branch Lecture Costs	-3,828.45	<i>-2,877.27</i>
AGM	-312.00	<i>-222.00</i>
FFHS Membership	-320.72	<i>-283.61</i>
Books, maps, etc	-1,106.13	<i>-778.65</i>
Fair and open days	-70.00	<i>-42.50</i>
Administration & general expenses	-1,544.03	<i>-1,296.30</i>
Depreciation	-90.00	<i>-119.00</i>
Bank charges	-8.00	<i>-8.00</i>
Digitisation of microfiche	-421.20	<i>0.00</i>
	<u>-13,743.77</u>	<u><i>-11,925.67</i></u>
<b>Net Deficit</b>	<u><b>-1,618.87</b></u>	<u><i>-911.43</i></u>

# LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

## Balance Sheet as at 30 September 2012

	30 Sep 2012	30 Sep 2011
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
Office equipment	267.00	357.00
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Stock of publications	2,766.42	3,073.95
Prepaid expenses	0.00	471.00
Cash and bank balances	<u>24,122.64</u>	<u>23,641.57</u>
	26,889.06	27,186.52
<b>Total Assets</b>	27,156.06	27,543.52
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Subs in Advance	-1,477.00	-48.00
Creditors & Accrud Expenses	-258.70	-193.32
Unpresented cheques	<u>-653.66</u>	<u>-916.63</u>
	<u>-2,389.36</u>	<u>1,157.95</u>
	<b>£ <u>24,766.70</u></b>	<b>£ <u>26,385.57</u></b>
<b>Financed by:</b>		
Balance Brought Forward	26,385.57	27,197.00
Net Deficit/ Surplus for Year	<u>-1,618.87</u>	-911.43
<b>Members' Net Funds</b>	£ 24,766.70	£ 26,385.57

## JOTTINGS

### **Enfield Museum**

Enfield Museum has recently doubled in size with the addition of the new 'Enfield Life' Gallery on the first floor of the Dugdale Centre. Enfield Life is the first permanent local history exhibition in Enfield and tells the story of the people who have lived and worked in Enfield and helped to shape the present borough. It covers the three former boroughs of Enfield, Edmonton and Southgate which now form the London Borough of Enfield. On display are a number of artefacts, images and room sets to tell the story of the area to the present day. It is complemented by an art gallery called 'People and Places' and a large selection of paintings, drawings, photographs and prints feature places in the borough and the people linked with them.

Enfield Museum is at The Dugdale Centre, 39 London Road, Enfield EN2 6DS. Opening times: 10am - 5pm Monday-Saturday and 10am - 1.00pm Sunday. The exhibition is adjacent to the Local Studies Library and Archives. Opening times: 9.30am-5pm Monday to Friday.

### **Christ's Hospital**

The records of Christ's Hospital were transferred from storage at Guildhall Library to London Metropolitan Archives (LMA) in Clerkenwell in February.

Christ's Hospital was founded in Newgate Street in the City of London by Edward VI in 1552. It was intended to relieve poverty by educating poor children, both boys and girls, who were born in the London area. It was known as the 'bluecoat school' on account of the children's uniform which consisted of a blue, ankle-length coat over yellow knee-high socks and knee breeches.

The records held at LMA include minute and account books; estate papers; and a single series of admission and discharge registers for children admitted between 1563 and 1911 (boys only from 1891) and to the Royal Mathematical School between 1673 and 1911. Admissions for the period between the foundation and the first register are recorded in the earliest court minute book, 1556-62. These have been published in Christ's Hospital Admissions, vol.1, 1554-1599 (London, 1937). There is also an incomplete series of presentation papers, containing petitions submitted by parents, guardians etc., which provide some personal and financial details of children's families, up to 1911 for boys and up to 1890 for girls.

Information about boys admitted after 1911 and girls admitted after 1890 should be sought from the Clerk of Christ's Hospital, the Counting House, Christ's Hospital, Horsham, West Sussex, RH13 7YP.

For further information contact LMA by telephone on: 020 7332 3820 or email on: [ask.lma@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:ask.lma@cityoflondon.gov.uk)

### **St Paul's Cathedral**

The records of St Paul's Cathedral were also transferred to London Metropolitan Archives (LMA) in Clerkenwell in February from storage at Guildhall Library. A leaflet detailing the archive is currently being prepared but it does include probate records and others relating to the finances and fabric of the cathedral itself.

Contact LMA (details as above) for more information on this collection.

### **Bubbles and Bancruptcy**

On in Room 69a at the British Museum, this free exhibition looks at bubbles, mania and crashes in Britain from the 1700s until the present day. The first major speculative bubble was caused by the South Sea Company in 1720 and our ancestors may well have had their fingers burnt in this and subsequent crises. The display uses original share certificates, prospectuses and more to illustrate how, why and when these crashes occurred. The British Museum is at Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3DG and is open daily from 10am until 5.30pm.

### **Workhouse Lives**

The Florence Nightingale Museum is hosting an exhibition called *Workhouse – Segregated Lives*. It intends to explore the experience of workhouse inmates by looking at their diet, health and work through first-hand accounts, by examining the design of the buildings and looking at surviving workhouse artefacts. A series of public lectures on workhouse subjects by such historians Ruth Richardson and Peter Higginbotham is also being held at the Museum. The exhibition is on until 5 July 2013 and the Museum is at 2 Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1 7EW. For more information visit: <http://www.florence-nightingale.co.uk/what-s-on.html> or telephone them on: 020 7620 0374.

See opposite for a Table of Diet from Enfield Workhouse from 1806. Thanks to Enfield Local Studies who have kindly given us permission to reproduce it.

## ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

TABLE of DIET for the PAUPERS in *Enfield Workhouse*, which is to be taken into Consideration by the Vestry, on Thursday, the 6th Day of February, 1806.

### *Sundays, Tuesdays & Thursdays.*

	MEN & WOMEN.	BOYS & GIRLS.
BREAKFAST.....	Water Gruel	Water Gruel
DINNER.....	8 oz. of Meat	6 oz. of Meat.—Sunday 4 oz. ditto —Tuesday and Thursday
	12 oz. of Potatoes	8 oz. of Potatoes
SUPPER.....	1 oz. of Cheese or ½ oz. of Butter	1 oz. of Cheese or ½ oz. of Butter,—on Sunday
	16 oz. of Bread and 1 quart of Beer } for the Day	12 oz. of Rice, on Tuesday & Thursday 7 oz. of Bread, on Tuesday & Thursday. 11 oz. do } for the Day Sunday, & ¼ pint of Beer

### *Wednesdays and Fridays.*

BREAKFAST.....	Water Gruel	Water Gruel
DINNER.....	1 Quart of Pea-Soup	1 Pint of Pea-Soup
SUPPER.....	1 oz. of Cheese or ½ oz. of Butter 12 oz. of Bread and 1 Pint of Beer } for the Day	1 oz. of Cheese or ½ oz. of Butter 8 oz. of Bread for the Day

### *Mondays.*

BREAKFAST.....	1 Pint of Pea-Soup	½ Pint of Pea-Soup
DINNER.....	16 oz. of Suet Dumpling	12 oz. of Rice Pudding
SUPPER.....	1 Pint of Pea-Soup 1 Pint of Beer for the Day	½ Pint of Pea-Soup ½ Pint of Beer for the Day

### *Saturdays.*

BREAKFAST.....	Water Gruel	Water Gruel
DINNER.....	16 oz. of Suet Dumpling	12 oz. of Rice Pudding
SUPPER.....	1 oz. of Cheese or ½ oz. of Butter 12 oz. of Bread and 1 Quart of Beer } for the Day	1 oz. of Cheese or ½ oz. of Butter 8 oz. of Bread and ½ Pint of Beer } for the Day

## OBSERVATIONS.

- 1st. AS A Means of checking Extravagance, and of leading to a Detection of Short-Weight or other Frauds, a regular TABLE of DIET is necessary and expedient.
- 2nd. This Table contains more Food by Weight than is now the Workhouse Allowance.
- 3rd. The estimated Expence of the proposed Allowance is after the Rate of 2s. 6d. per Week for each Person, from the tenderest Infancy to old Age.
- 4th. Dividing the Paupers into imaginary Messes, corresponding with Families, we then perceive that Three Paupers cost IN FOOD ALONE 30s. 6d. per Week —Six Paupers cost £1 : 1 : 0 per Week —and Nine Paupers cost £1 : 11 : 6 per Week; while the highest Earnings of a Labourer in Husbandry that came to the Knowledge of the Committee were 17s. per Week the Year round; upon which, the Man, his Wife, and Seven Children, (being a Family of Nine Persons) are maintained not merely in Food alone, but also in Clothing and Fuel, exclusive of Household Furniture and Necessaries, the Payment of £5 : 5 : 0 a Year Rent, and occasional Medical Assistance.
- 5th. After this Comparison, and after reflecting on the Difficulties that have attended the Collection of the Rates, and the Complaints of their Pressure, the Committee fear they stand in need of an Apology for the above Table of Diet as extravagant and still holding out a strong Temptation to abandon Labour for a Life of Idleness, and of comparative Luxury in the Workhouse; notwithstanding the Adoption of what is now proposed, would save the Parish full £200. a Year.
- 6th. Adverting to the Difficulty of purchasing every Thing by Contract on good Terms, on which the Committee calculate, and the Necessity of purchasing from Hand to Mouth at the high Prices of the small Retail Dealers, as the Labourer is obliged to supply his Family, the latter can have still less Food in proportion, and the Pauper receives still more than appears from the Comparison of Expence at which they would respectively be maintained as above-mentioned.

## MY TILCOCK PUBLICANS

By Hazel Duxon, Member No. 6098

I read the Website News article by Mike Paice in the 2012 December Journal with interest. I found this website some time ago and have my 'publican' family history there. Kevan was my contact - I emailed him photos and general information which he has added to the site.

My father had left me lots of memorabilia including photos of the pub outings and copies of the *The Licensing World*. One edition, from 1948, contained the obituary for my grandfather Richard Bernard TILCOCK. This potted history, together with what I already knew, gave me a head start.

My Great Grandparents, Edward S TILCOCK and Annie, began running *The Two Brewers*, 32 Gough Street, London WC1 in 1894. Edward died in 1903 and Annie took over the tenancy. They had 3 children, Reginald Alexander, Richard Bernard and Dorothy Alexandra - all born at No 32. Reginald died from wounds in WW1 and is buried in Belgium.

Richard also served in France but was invalided out as he was badly injured. In 1920, after his recovery, he took over the running of *The Two Brewers* and in the same year he married Florence Harriet DENHAM aka Eva. They had 3 children all born at No 32, Ronald Stanley, Eileen Vera and Bernard Alexander (who sadly died aged 6 months).

Opposite *The Two Brewers*, in Coley Street, a lot of houses were bombed and these backed on to St Bartholomew's Church in Gray's Inn Road. There was a crater where the church had stood so the lower floor of the church hall was transformed into a church. The upper room was used for meetings and Brownies, bazaars and other functions. Sunday School was held on the ground floor in what must have been the Vestry.

*The Two Brewers* was also badly damaged. I have a photo of this propped by a huge oak post (see opposite). This was eventually repaired and this is where our family lived.





After my grandfather's death in 1948, my father took over the running of this public house.

Across the road was Kemsley House, where they printed *The Daily Sketch* and *The Sunday Graphic*. This building managed to escape the bombing. My brother and I could watch the printing machines working as we were able to see through the lower windows. The paper in huge rolls was delivered on lorries.

The customers of *The Two Brewers* were mainly journalists, post office workers and also a lot of Italian people.

Many Italians had moved into the area which became known as 'Little Italy'.

In 1957 the decision was made to leave No 32. I was 14 at the time and was obviously not included in conversations about the pub. Only recently, have I found out, by searching at the Post Office Museum, that the pub was compulsorily purchased by the Post Office and subsequently demolished. This is the only thing I find hard to understand now. Nothing has been built on this land and part of it is used as a car park. The rest just left as it was when they demolished the pub along with a substantial building which sat behind it housing the firm called Slaters and later Fortés - catering firms I think. On this site they say that the land was a bomb site but there were definitely buildings surrounding the pub. A very expensive piece of land, still unused.

My Grandfather also had another Whitbread pub called *The Two Blue Posts* at 79 Mount Pleasant, London WC1 - on the corner of Laystall Street. The beer for both was delivered on wagons pulled by shire horses.

This area was heavily bombed during the war and the buildings surrounding both pubs were hit. *The Two Blue Posts* took a direct hit and I have a photo of Richard standing in what is left of the public bar - wearing his bowler hat and looking very sad as you might expect (see below).



A pub called *The Churchill* was built on the site of *The Two Blue Posts* but I have a feeling that it did not do very well and has now gone.

I have many more memories of growing up in this area impossible to include them all.

(This Tillcock family all descend from Robert Alexander TILLCOCK, who was a Chief Inspector in the City of London Police. A piece appeared in METROPOLITAN, October 2007, about him.)



## WEBSITE NEWS

### **Westminster Parish Records**

Parish records held by the City of Westminster Archives Centre have been published online via FindMyPast. The Westminster Collection of 3 million records from the period 1538-1945 comprises searchable transcripts and scanned images of the parish registers. Over 50 Westminster churches feature in this database including St Anne, Soho, St Clement Danes, St George Hanover Square, St James Westminster, St Margaret Westminster, St Martin-in-the-Fields, St Mary-le-Strand and St Paul Covent Garden.

Other records will be added in the coming months, including non-conformist registers 1694-1945, cemetery registers 1855-1990, Workhouse admission and discharge books 1725-1869, Militia records 1780-1816, Wills and probate records 1504-1829, Watch, constable and beadles' records 1736-1830 and much more.

You can access these records at: <http://www.findmypast.co.uk>

### **The Railways Archive**

I discovered this website when following-up details on a cemetery memorial I transcribed for the Find-A-Grave website I reviewed in the July 2012 edition of METROPOLITAN. The grave's occupant stated that she had been killed in a railway disaster and gave the date of her death but nothing more. Thanks to the Railways Archive I was able to find a report of the accident giving full details.

The website houses more than 3,800 documents and details of 8,835 railway accidents dating back to 1828. The documents include: accident reports and inquiry documents; newspaper articles; letters and telegraphs; press releases and statements etc. The accidents and documents are actually held in two separate archives but they are expertly linked, so whichever way you search, the information will all be presented together on your results page.

Railways Archive was created by a private individual in 2004 and is free to use. It keeps totally up-to-date, with details of current day accidents being detailed virtually in real-time. Many of us have ancestors involved with the railways and often caught up in the many accidents that have occurred through the years and this website might just clear up that mystery about exactly what happened. The website is at: [www.railwaysarchive.co.uk](http://www.railwaysarchive.co.uk)

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

### **Britain From Above**

This website contains more than 16,000 images taken from the unique Aerofilms Collection of aerial photographs. This Collection was acquired for the nation in 2007 when the company was facing financial difficulties. Due to their age and fragility, many of the earliest plate glass negatives were close to being lost forever but, with the support of the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Foyle Foundation, English Heritage and the Royal Commissions in Scotland and Wales have embarked on a programme to conserve, catalogue and digitise the collection and make it freely available online. The photographs on the website date from 1919 to 1953. Many shots were taken in the early days of aviation by ex-First World War pilots from extremely low altitudes, a technique which was very dangerous. The number of images available to view will continue to grow and by 2014, some 95,000 images will be visible online.

The Britain from Above website is designed to encourage wide public participation. Users can download images, customise their own themed photo galleries, share personal memories, and add information to enrich the understanding for each of the images. They are also invited to identify the locations of a number of ‘mystery’ images that have left the experts stumped. You can view all the images, and contribute if you wish, at: <http://www.britainfromabove.org.uk/>

### **The High Road, N17**

This website is about Tottenham High Road, principally that part of it between Tottenham High Cross and the Edmonton Boundary, although the bit between Stamford Hill and the Cross (N15) will get a look-in too.

The creator of the site, Mick Bruff, says, ‘Obviously, this is going to be a constantly-evolving site, with bits and pieces being added as and when I have time — so, please bookmark and pop back every now and again to see what’s new. Comment, criticism and suggestions are very welcome — I’d like above all for this site to become a really useful resource for the family and local historian with interests in this area of North London (or Middlesex, as I prefer in my contrary manner)’.

There are pages on maps, details of the local Parish Registers, quotes from trade directories and more. Although in its infancy, this website is one to keep an eye on if you had relatives in the area. You can find it at: <http://www.mickbruff.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk/highroad/index.html>

Thanks to Eileen Bostle, Member No. 7312 for letting us know about this site.

### **Road Name Changes in Inner London**

This website gives old and new versions of streets names that have changed, mainly in central London, and so can be very useful if you cannot find a road from a Victorian census on a modern map, albeit that the site has no dates for these changes.

You can search by old or new name, and also by district, eg E1, NW3. These pages are part of the Rayment Society, is free to view and can be found at: [www.rayment.info/general/road\\_name\\_changes/](http://www.rayment.info/general/road_name_changes/)

### **A Vision of Britain Through Time**

This website brings together historical surveys of Britain to create a record of how the country and its localities have changed from 1801 to 2001. It is based in the University of Plymouth but contains information from the whole of Britain.

You can easily search by name; a search for Marylebone brings up a series of historical topographical, land use and administration maps from the Ordnance Survey, the British War Office and others together with a description of the area from 1887. Other pages have historical photographs, texts from books describing journeys through Marylebone (in this case by Daniel DEFOE, Charles WESLEY, John BYNG and Celia FIENNES) a page on population and other statistics and another containing links to related websites such as Wikipedia, GenUKI and Workhouses.org

You can reach this site at: [www.visionofbritain.org.uk](http://www.visionofbritain.org.uk)

### **Criminal Records**

Over half a million records of criminals and their victims, from the period 1817-1931, have been transcribed and scanned from TNA and are available at FindMyPast (see address above). More records will be added to cover from 1770-1934 in the coming months.

Records can include a detailed physical description of the offender and sometimes a photograph.

One of the Editorial Team found proof of a suspected bigamist on this site! (See page 134)

Have a look – you never know what you may discover.

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.



### LEYTONSTONE WW2 BOMB

In the late 1930s I lived with my parents, Harry and Alice PASTORELLI at 15 Arundel Road, Leytonstone, London E15. In 1939 my mother and I were evacuated to somewhere on the southeast coast. We didn't stay long as my mother didn't like the house to which we were evacuated.

In the summer of 1940 I was evacuated, with other children from my school in Leytonstone, to Devon. I was very lucky and stayed in a public house in the village of Bradninch where I and another little girl called Shirley were well looked after.

Whilst we were there our house in London was destroyed when the church behind us received a direct hit. My father was an Air Raid Warden and I have his card which shows he joined the Warden service in September, 1939. Fortunately neither of my parents was in the house at the time and although the house was damaged some of our furniture was salvaged and eventually went with us to Wiltshire where we lived for some years. I stayed at Bradninch until the spring of 1941.

I would like to know more about these events, as although I know the general story I don't know any details. Is there a way of finding out about my school, learning more about the neighbourhood and what it was like before and after the bombing, and about the raid which changed our lives.

It is only now, after researching the history of many of my ancestors for over 30 years, that I am looking more at my own story: hopefully better late than never.

I would be grateful if you could point me towards any online information about that period. I live in the Manchester area and I don't travel to London these days.

***Rita Walters, Member No. 1439***

*Email: ritawalters2005@yahoo.co.uk*

Some detective work is required here and luckily more and more information is becoming available online. There is no longer an Arundel Road in Leytonstone. According to British History Online, the old vicarage continued to be used as a church house until it was destroyed by bombing in 1941. This stood on the north side of Church Road at the junction with Leyton High Road. The parish church of St Mary the Virgin stands on the north side of Church Road. St John the Baptist was opened in 1845 and by 1903 there were 9 parish churches and 12 missions, including a small Y.W.C.A. mission, in the urban district. The church of St Columba, Wanstead Slip in Ravenstone Road was wrecked by bombing in 1944. St Luke, Ruckholt Road, Leyton was badly damaged in WW2 but subsequently restored.

There is an online list of V2 bomb hits on London (also containing information submitted by members of the public about the damage) which includes those that fell on Leytonstone, at: [http://londonist.com/2009/01/london\\_v2\\_rocket\\_sitesmapped.php](http://londonist.com/2009/01/london_v2_rocket_sitesmapped.php)

## **HENRY GEORGE**

I am trying to find out about Henry GEORGE, son of William H GEORGE and Louisa, née STENNETT (d1946). In 1946, aged 56, Henry GEORGE was a drapery packer in the Geldeston Road area, London E5.

***Miss Sarah Goudge, Member No. 7786***

*165 Alresford Road, Winchester, Hants SO23 0JZ*

*Email: Sten18349@aol.com*

Have you checked the censuses? In 1891 Henry appears with his parents in Tottenham, where he is stated to have been born. By 1901 the family are already living in Geldeston Road, Hackney. Henry had followed his father into the Drapery Warehouseman business by 1911.

As the family appear to have lived in Hackney for at least 45 years, it might be worth contacting Hackney Archives and Local History to see what they have that might help your search. You can contact them online via: <http://www.hackney.gov.uk/ca-archives.htm> or by telephone on: 020 8356 8925

**CHELSEA HOSPITAL**

My great-grandmother, Cordelia Davey, was not at home with her family in Hackney in the 1891 census. I eventually found her, correctly aged 35, as a patient in the District Cancer Hospital in Fulham Road, Chelsea. In the 1901 census she was back with her family, although now widowed. Clearly she did not have a terminal cancer, or maybe not cancer at all, as she later remarried and lived until 1932. It seems strange that a resident of Hackney, although born in Westminster, should be taken into a hospital in Chelsea.

I have been unable to trace this hospital on the internet and wonder if any member can advise me if it changed its name, or where I might find patients' records.

**Brian Hasler, Member No. 7704**

*21 Moorlands Drive, Mayfield, Ashbourne, Derbyshire DE6 2LP*

*Email: brianhasler@btinternet.com*

There is a wonderful database of hospital records at The National Archives which can be easily searched via the internet at: [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/hospitalrecords/search.asp](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/hospitalrecords/search.asp)

Nothing appeared under District Cancer Hospital but by browsing through hospitals in London we came across the Chelsea Hospital for Women, which was located in the Fulham Road from about 1880-1916. Patients' records, according to this website, may be found at London Metropolitan Archives, 40 Northampton Road, London EC1R 0HB

Further information might be found on the Lost Hospitals of London website at: [www.ezitis.myzen.co.uk](http://www.ezitis.myzen.co.uk), a site dedicated to chronicling all the hospitals that have closed or merged into others since 1948 when the NHS was founded.

***London Daily News, Saturday 9 May 1846***

**MARRIAGE.**

At St James's Church, Paddington, the Rev. Charles Henry RAMSDEN, second son of Riobert RAMDEN, Esq., of Carlton Hall, Notts., to Mary HAMILTON, second daughter of the Rev Henry Hamilton BEAMISH, minister of Trinity Chapel, Conduit Street.



## **WILLIAM FIGGETT**

I am seeking any information or direction upon the forefathers of my great, great, great grandfather William FIGGETT, born circa 1806 at St Lukes, Middlesex. He was a jeweller and married Ann ASHWELL at St John's, Clerkenwell on 13 May 1827.

I am trying to link him to a legend that my grandfather's younger brother reported shortly before he died, that the surname is Italian and should be FIGGETTI. The forefather was called Vinetta FIGGETTI, who originated from Southern Italy and was involved in the London wine trade, presumably during the 18<sup>th</sup> Century. He became a British National and dropped the 'I' from his surname. He then married Emily TYLER who was the daughter of a Brighton prize-fighter nicknamed 'Boss Tyler'.

***Mike Figgett, Member No. 7401***

*50 Southfield Close, Driffield, East Yorkshire YO25 5YU*

*Email: mkfiggett@gmail.com*



## **PROOF OF BIGAMY!**

By Barbara Haswell, Member No. 4224

Researching my sea-faring great uncle George William LOWEN has been fascinating. He was born on 25 October 1848 at Woodford Bridge, Essex, a son of James LOWEN and Ann PLUCKROSE. George entered the Royal Navy on 1 February 1864 as Boy 2 Class, for 10 years. I have his service records and in these ten years he served on HMS Rattlesnake, Penelope and Audacious. George rose from Boy 2 Class to able seaman during this time. On 15 March 1874 he married his cousin Harriet Rebecca PLUCKROSE in Deptford, Kent. On 17 September 1874 George 'ran' from HMS Audacious for eleven days. Back in the Royal Navy by 28 September 1874, he spent the next few years as a bit of a rebel, spending time in the cells and in gaol. By 1879 he was a leading seaman on HMS London.

On 1881 census George was on HMS President (Drill ship of Royal Navy Reserve, moored in South West India Docks, London) and also listed with his wife Harriet at 2 Thames Street, Greenwich.

In 1891, Harriet was listed as married, a laundress and still in Greenwich. George, however, was found in Woodford, Essex, with a wife Alice and one-year old son George. I bought the marriage certificate and George, bachelor, had married Alice POLWARTH on 18 November 1888. They went on to have two more sons. Was my George a bigamist or was there another George LOWEN?

Last month FindmyPast published criminal records on its website (see page 130). As usual, when I find a new online index, I searched for all my name interests and there was George William. The Law had caught up with him. The records for 1897 state:

George William LOWEN, age 49, stoker, was on trial for ‘Feloniously marrying Alice Polwarth, his wife being then alive’. George pleaded ‘Guilty of Bigamy’ and was sentenced to 20 calendar months hard labour in Pentonville Prison.

In 1901, Alice calling herself a widow and named POLWARTH, was living in Woodford with three LOWEN sons, George, Samson and William.

Harriet Rebecca, still a laundress was living in Lewisham as the wife of Thomas KEDZLIE. I have not found a marriage for these two.

George had gone back to the Navy and was living in a Boarding House in Whitechapel. He was listed as a sailor and single.

In 1911, Alice was a LOWEN again, widow and living in Woodford with two sons at home. Harriet Rebecca was also back to being a LOWEN; still a laundress, the census states that she had had one child who had died. George William LOWEN was eventually found as an inmate in the West Derby Union Workhouse.

Harriet Rebecca died in 1914 aged 65 years. Alice died in 1929 aged 78 years and George died in 1920 aged 70 years.

Quite a journey for all of us and it is thanks to FindmyPast and the Criminal Records online that I have been able to bring their story to a close.



## THE ROYAL CONNECTION

Both genealogy and DNA testing were in the news because the lost grave and skeleton of Richard III have been located by a project team from the University of Leicester. When the search was announced many people contacted the University claiming to be descended from Richard III (1452-1485). This was not surprising in view of the number of generations since then and the large family sizes in times past. Indeed Dr Turi King of the University's Department of Genetics said: "We are all related to Richard III. It's just a matter of degree."

For DNA comparison purposes however a particular person was needed; one whose descent from Richard's mother, Cecily Neville (1415-1475) was proven to be through an entirely female line. (The University explained that you can always be sure who someone's mother was but the identity of the 'father' and the genetic male parent do not always coincide.)

In 2003 Dr John Ashdown-Hill, an Historian, a member of the Royal History Society, the Society of Genealogists and the Richard the Third Society, had carried out a project to identify the possible remains of Margaret of York, sister of Richard III and Edward IV. In so doing he traced all the female lines of descent from another sister, Anne of York, to Mrs Joy Ibsen, née Brown, a retired journalist, in Canada. She died in 2008 but her son Michael, a cabinet-maker now living in Highgate, provided a DNA sample which matched that taken from Richard III's skeleton.

However, with respect to Dr Ashdown-Hill, the University 'had to be absolutely sure that all the female line of descent was rock solid' in order to use this DNA as a benchmark. Hence Professor Kevin Schürer, University Pro-Vice Chancellor for Research and Enterprise, built on published work from 16<sup>th</sup> Century Visitations by the College of Arms when the rights to bear Coats of Arms were verified - and then tracked documentary evidence for all the links to Michael Ibsen, born in 1957 and the King's 17<sup>th</sup> generation nephew. Even the passenger-list for the *SS Mauretania* on which Joy Brown and her mother went to Canada in 1948 was examined.

"It's difficult to articulate how I feel" [about the discovery] Michael Ibsen told *The Hampstead & Highgate Express*, "It was a huge shock, in the nicest possible way, it was startling and shocking in equal measure."

## **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

## **SUBSCRIPTIONS**

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.

## **PAYMENT BY UK MEMBERS**

UK cheques payable to: LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX FHS

## **PAYMENT BY OVERSEAS MEMBERS**

Payment must be made in pounds sterling by cheque, drawn upon a London Bank, made payable to: LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX FHS.

CANADA: Canadian Postal Money Orders cannot be accepted.

AUSTRALIA / NEW ZEALAND: Most banks will provide sterling cheques.

## **PAYMENT BY PAYPAL**

Please visit our website for details.

**BANKERS**: HSBC Bank plc, Angel Branch, 25 Islington High St, London N1 9LJ

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

Articles, letters, requests and comment should be sent to the Editors.

Material in **METROPOLITAN** may not be reproduced in any form without first obtaining written permission from the Editors.

Contributors should indicate if copy is being distributed to other family history society journals or family history magazines.

The Editors reserve the right to edit contributions.

## **MEMBERS' DATA**

A labels-list of members is held on computer for the purposes of administration and distribution only.

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.