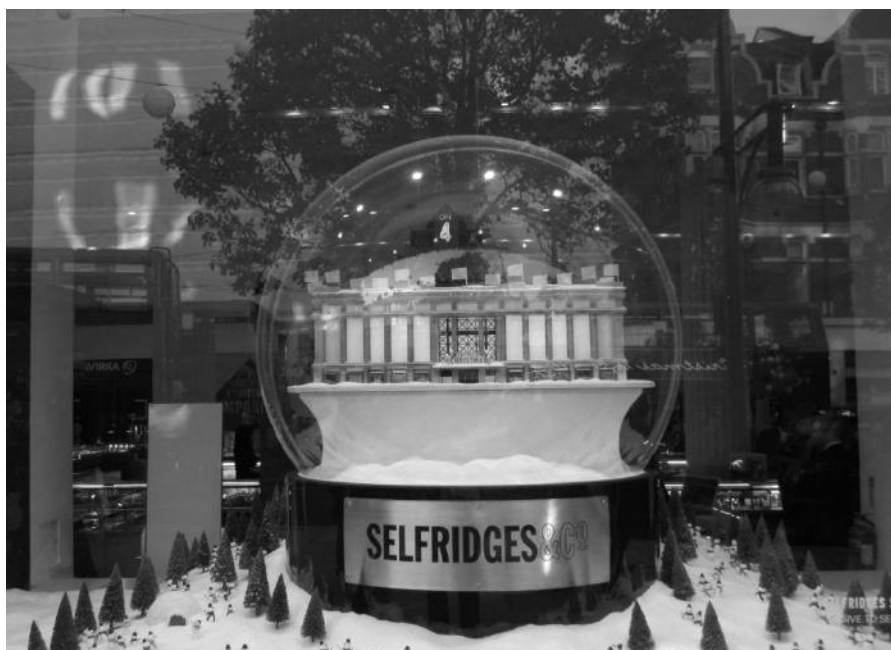


METROPOLITAN

The Journal of the
LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX
Family History Society



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December 2013

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CONTENTS

2	Editorial
3	Chairman's Comments
4	Letters to the Editors
6	What's in a Name?
10	William Leslie 1866-1937 Selfridges Superintendent of Horse Transport
14	Website News
16	Fashion Throughout the Ages, 1300-1800
21	George Alfred Pollard, Innkeeper
24	Mildmay Road, A Brief History. Part 1
28	A Brave Hussar & Glorious Gloucestershire
30	Jottings
32	<i>Help!</i>
37	Unwanted Certificates
38	Forthcoming Branch Meetings
40	I Am My Own Grandpa

Cover picture: Detail from one of Selfridge's Christmas windows, 2013

© Barbara Haswell

See article on page 10

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EDITORIAL

Very many thanks to the members who have sent us articles, snippets and *Help* requests. Please do not be disappointed if your contribution is not included in this journal. We try to use articles in the order of date received and this time we were in the enviable position of having too many! However, please do continue to send us your thoughts, memories and articles as there are four more journals to fill next year. Does anyone have knowledge of special collections such as wills, or electoral, court, military or naval records etc? If so, would you be prepared to write a short article on how to get the best out of them? We would love to hear from you.

We would like to remind members that there is a Forum in the Members' Area where Queries (pleas for help), Discussion (new ideas for the Society) and Sources (any new resource found) may be posted. This section is rather under-used at the moment and it would be good to see it used more often. Anyone can post a comment/question and hopefully another member will answer.

When you come to read the AGM section, you will realise that the Society is making a loss every year. Every little helps and we are asking members, if they write to us and want a reply or documents returned, to please enclose a stamped addressed envelope or postage stamps to cover the cost.

The Editorial Team wish you all a Very Happy Christmas and Best Wishes for 2014. We hope that you all have success in your research next year and that any 'brick walls' will be well and truly smashed!

The Editorial Team



**Please remember that the copy date for the next issue of
METROPOLITAN is 15 February 2014**

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

As a year-end approaches it is customary to review the past, take stock of the present and prepare for the future. This process can be applied to various spheres such as personal matters, our homes and institutions. Our Society's year ends on 30 September and reports on the last year's activities are to be found within the white insert of this issue of METROPOLITAN. You will also find details of our Conference and Annual General Meeting which takes place on Saturday 8 February 2014 at London Metropolitan Archives, the same popular venue as in 2013.

The Society aims 'To encourage the study of Family Historyprimarily in [our area].' In the year ended 30 September 2013 we have striven to do this against a backdrop of:

Ever-increasing costs some of which, such as postage rates, are beyond our control;

The presentation of two years' Accounts with deficits at the 2013 AGM by our new Treasurer who had taken on this position which had been vacant for some time;

More and more records becoming available online but mindful of the fact that some of our members do not use computers (and some of them have no wish to do so);

Reduced access to many Local Studies and Archives centres following changes to opening hours and/or off-site storage of records;

A continuing increase in the general level of interest in Family History generated by television programmes (and which can give the impression that the research required by an individual is an easier matter than it subsequently proves to be!).

However, family historians are accustomed to dealing with problems by applying some ingenuity and this has already been used to good effect.

But further changes are necessary so that we live within our means and these will be discussed at the AGM in February.

Wishing you a Happy Christmas and may 2014 be a rewarding one for your family history researches.

Rosemary A Roome

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Thank you for showing me how to look up a Scottish marriage certificate on: www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk. (*help!* section of METROPOLITAN, October 2013).

I got my money's worth. This document gave me the names, maiden names and professions of both parties' parents and threw up a whole new set of leads. I was intrigued to learn that:

- my physician-surgeon great-grandfather was the son of a superintendent of police.
- the bride's mother's maiden name was BRUCE. My father always said we were related to Robert the Bruce. Could this be the magic connection?
- the groom's parents were deceased by the time he married in 1901, aged 26. Why? Was life expectancy then so low?
- the couple was married not in the village of Embo, Dornoch, where the bride came from, but by agreement before a sheriff in Glasgow. Why not in church before a minister? Could Glasgow have been where my great grandfather studied medicine?

From *How to Trace Your Family Tree in England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales* by Kathy Chater, I learnt that before the 20th century, the Scots had a fairly standard pattern of naming children. This can help family historians trace grandparents. For example, eldest sons were named after the paternal grandfather and eldest daughters after the maternal grandmother. The third son or daughter was named after the father or mother. It was fairly common to create girls' names by adding '-a' or '-ina' to a man's name if there weren't enough sons to commemorate male relatives. This set me wondering about the bride's mother, who was called Joana, and how the naming system differed – if at all – in England.

Thank you very much again for your help.

Sally Cox, Member No. 7527

In his article entitled 'Great Grandad's Bible' in METROPOLITAN, October, 2013, Peter Todd (Member No. 7686) states on page 26 that 'Charlotte GAWEN was born about 1857 in Baghdad, Persia (now modern day Iraq)'.

Iraq was formerly called Mesopotamia, not Persia. Persia is now Iran.

Susan Hora, Member No 3289

Further to Denis Stacey's photograph of the original Archway Bridge, Archway Road (METROPOLITAN April 2013). The date of the photograph can be narrowed down to within twelve years between April 1886 when the original brick balustrade was removed and replaced by railings (shown in the photograph) and 1897 when the bridge began to be demolished as the new bridge, sited just south of the old bridge, was nearing completion. Although the new bridge carries the date 1897 it was not ready to carry traffic until July 1900, the date 1897 being put upon it to mark Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee.

Known to local inhabitants by various names, the most telling being 'Suicide Bridge', hence the railings, the exact number of suicides is not known although four are recorded in the two years before the parapet was removed.

After the opening of the new bridge a local resident wrote in a letter to a magazine that 'in the late forties on Saturdays when we Islington boys had a holiday, one of our great delights was to run along the parapets of the Highgate Archway'. He does not mention any accidents.

Source; *Gateway to the City - The Archway Story* by Simon Morris and Towyn Mason. Published 2000 by Hornsey Historical Society to mark the Archway Bridge Centenary in July 2000.

This book is available from LWMFHS: Bookstall £4.50; UK £5.70; EU £8.00 Rest of World Air £9.30 Surface £7.90

Anne Prudames, Bookstall Manager

Before emigrating to New Zealand in 1952 I lived with my family at 46 Mayfield Crescent so I was very interested in the article about Enfield Highway Co-op and Dr Keith Marshall's letter in the October issue of METROPOLITAN. I still have vivid memories of being sent to shop at the nearby Co-op in Lincoln Road. I recall a marble slab with a large block of cheese on it that was cut with a piece of wire. Another memory is of a big block of butter being reduced to small pieces with wooden paddles which had a design on them. If I went into the shop late in the afternoon I used to see the sawdust being swept up from the floor. There was always plenty around the huge wooden meat chopping block. Like Dr. Marshall I had the job of totting up the receipts for my mother's dividend.

I am not a member of the LWMFHS but receive METROPOLITAN on a round robin system from our branch of the NZ Society of Genealogists.

Ken Weeks, NZSG Member No. 15554

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

By Ron Purser, Member No. 1011

Yes, of course a rose would smell as sweet whatever label it bore. Nevertheless, all parents high and low, past and present, standing by the font at the baptism of their new-born babe would surely want to bestow forenames which they feel will ease their little darling along its journey through life. Some plump for inspirational celebrities like Victoria and Elvis.

However, parental choice of names is not always clear-cut, such as when there is pressure to show respect for some long-standing traditional name, or when tact requires inclusion of a grandmother's maiden surname. At times, this can cause distress later for the innocent recipient. My distant cousin, Doreen, grew up hating her middle name - 'Purser' - too boyish. We all knew her as Gig. In recent notable fiction, DCI Morse kept his first name Endeavour (awarded by a father dotting on Captain Cook's exploits) bottled up almost to the end of the series. And 'likely lad' Bob kept the 'S' in his name under wraps until the priest blurted out 'Scarborough' at the reading of his marriage banns, a location more concerned with his conception than his future welfare (fellow 'likely lad' Terry was greatly amused).

When we family historians have got beyond the comfort zone of centralised BMDs (1837) centralised wills/admons (1858) and the all-revealing censuses (1841), we have to hunt for more obscure ways of proving our genealogical theory. One of these is to take a keener look for out-of-the-ordinary Christian names in the records.

My GGG G/F's brother Richard PURSER dubbed his son Halford (1834), nothing more. Although Halford is quite familiar as a surname (not least to we motorists) its use as a Christian name is quite rare. Hard though I tried, I could never find a compelling argument for its use by Richard; it does not appear elsewhere in our family lines, neither is it a surname on the distaff side. The only vague possibility I came up with was that some seven miles from where Richard was born in the North Cotswolds there is a small Parish called Halford. But Richard had been brought to London when he was only two. Two years after Halford's birth, father Richard died (1836)

and the child, elder sister and mother were bundled into Fulham Workhouse.

Yet young Halford climbed life's challenging ladder to become a master mariner and was so content with his forename that he bestowed it on three of his sons from whence it moved forward to more recent generations. The uniqueness proved most helpful to me in tracing his living descendants.

By the time we get back to the 18th century, we find virtually all first names have slimmed down to a depressingly repetitive short-list of Williams, Johns, Samuels, Elizabeths, Marys, Sarahs and so on. But occasionally there comes a flash of light, an incomprehensible deviation from the straight and narrow.

My distant cousin, Janet BROWN and I share Richard and Elizabeth HILL as two of our mutual GGG G/Ps. HILL is a surname one could well do without, not so difficult to research as SMITH or JONES but as bountiful as a field undermined with a colony of moles, especially when the search area is London Town. Fortunately, Janet's diligent research revealed that Elizabeth's maiden name was ELDERFIELD, born in Harwell, Berkshire in 1789 and thereon that she married Richard HILL of Abingdon in 1811. Heigh-ho, we were off to the countryside.

Harwell's records revealed a nest of ELDERFIELDS there as far back as the start of its Parish registers. The ELDERFIELD first names came from the customary short-list - except that our GGGGG G/F William went right off the rails naming his first three sons Jethro (1746/7), Cyrus (1748) and Darius (1750). After this burst of eccentricity, he returned to the mundane short-list. What could have propelled him to these names?

There is a possible justification for 'Jethro'. Although the name is Jewish in origin (meaning 'bountiful' and 'excellence' - a promising start), more to the point is that Jethro TULL was a Berkshire man, born in Basildon (1674) just ten miles from Harwell. TULL was one of the early 18th century's thinking farmers who spurned centuries-old agricultural practices, setting the scene for the coming Agricultural Revolution. His horse-drawn mechanical seed-drill and planter provided order in place of the traditional hand-scattering by the plodding sower. His ideas for change provoked violent opposition from some but in due course his critics were won over.

When the Harwell farm workers quaffed their evening ales in the Chequers Inn, they could well have argued heatedly about the effect TULL would have on their work - and livelihood. One could picture William ELDERFIELD slamming down his pewter jug and barking: "I think he's right, and I'm going to christen my son Jethro after him."

Cyrus and Darius offer no such flight of imagination. Cyrus achieved his fame in 539 BC when he knocked together the semi-states of Mesopotamia, including Babylon, into the first vast Persian Empire. The Old Testament records that he was a benign ruler, sufficiently so to heed the pleas of Jews, still held in Babylonian bondage, to go home to Jerusalem and take with them the sacred and valuable artefacts which the Babylonians had plundered.

Among his successors were three named Darius. Darius I (dubbed 'the Great') ruled an empire stretching from the Dardanelles to the Indus. But he overdid things. He raised an army of nigh on a million men and marched them across the Bosphorus to subjugate the troublesome Greeks, but came to grief at the famous Battle of Marathon. He died soon after receiving the Marathon score-sheet.

In general terms, Darius II kept the Persian Empire intact but did nothing I know to make his name singularly noteworthy in the eyes of Harwell's Parishioners. Darius III made a wholesale mess of things. My *Brewster's* tells that when Alexander became King of the Macedonians, Darius called for the usual tribute of golden eggs. The precocious 20-year-old replied: "The bird which laid them is flown to the other world where Darius must seek them." Darius then sent a bat and a ball, mocking his youth. Alexander told the messengers that with the bat he would "beat the ball of power from their master's hand." (I love that bit - it sounds like a pre-Ashes-Tour press conference) Lastly, Darius sent bitter melon, a symbol of grief to come. Alexander replied he would make Darius eat his own fruit. The rest, as they say, is history. Alexander's army walloped the Persian multitude, Darius III fled the field and came to an inglorious death. Although the Old Testament mentions these names, there is nothing to suggest why Harwell should have found them inspiring.

The only other ELDERFIELD deviation from the conventional was in 1827 when Isaac named his daughter Cordelia. But Isaac was a schoolmaster and with Oxford's dreamy spires mere ten miles away he might have felt a subtle nudge that he knew his 'King Lear' might do his CV a bit of good.

So - Jethro, Cyrus, Darius and Cordelia. What really is in a name? It is the rare moment when we actually hear a whisper from our forebears as to what is in their mind. Have any other members come across perplexing eccentricities in the naming of their kith and kin?



Morning Post

25 December 1809

Meetings of Creditors at Guildhall, Tomorrow
 S PAULL, Laleham, Middlesex, baker
 G WOOTEN, Northchurch, Hants, straw-hat dealer
 P GROVE, Cardiff, Glamorganshire, straw-hat manufacturer
 J ALEXANDER, Duke Street, Aldgate, broker
 JS KILLICK, Hackney Mills, Lea Bridge, miller
 W SMITH, Portpool Lane, pump-maker
 J WILSON jun, and J WILLIAMS, Long Acre, coach makers
 J MITCHELL, Northowram, Yorkshire, brick-maker
 J LUDLAM, Wood Street, hosier
 J WORLEY jun, Fish Street Hill, linen draper
 JH HUTCHINSON, Poland Street, Oxford Street, victualler
 J CUFF jun, Barking, Essex, brewer
 W ALLEN, Old Jewry, tailor
 J WAKELING, Clare Suffolk, brewer
 T BURLAND, Hungerford, Berks, draper
 R SMITH, Coopers' Arms, Walbrook
 J CHAPMAN, Pavement, Moorfields, shoemaker
 R FREEBAIRN and J WILSON, Queen Street, warehousemen

WILLIAM LESLIE 1866-1937 **SELFRIDGES SUPERINTENDENT OF HORSE TRANSPORT**

By Lorraine Jeapes, Non-Member

After viewing the recent TV series *Selfridges*, I started to think about my husband's Great Grandfather William LESLIE who had worked at the store. William was part of the original management team, known as the 'A' team.

Selfridges department store opened its doors for the first time in March 1909. Queues had been forming outside due to the extensive advertising the week before. The newest department store in London was very lavish inside, employing around 1,000 staff. Its owner, Harry Gordon SELFRIDGE, had been introduced a year earlier by a banking friend to the unfashionable west end of Oxford Street. It was here that he decided to build his shopping emporium. It resembled more a hotel from the outside. Harry SELFRIDGE was from Chicago, USA and had made his fortune in retail commerce. The first day was a success and William LESLIE was part of that first day as Superintendent of Horse Transport.



William LESLIE was born in Newcastle upon Tyne on 28 November 1866, the first of three sons to William LESLIE Senior and Ann, née MURRAY. William Snr and Ann had travelled down from North East Scotland, possibly Aberdeen. William Snr was a journeyman dyer. In the mid 1800s Newcastle upon Tyne was rapidly expanding and so the conditions within the town were suffering from the increase of population. Many families lived in one room with no sanitary facilities or clean water. As the industries grew, more factories were expelling dangerous fumes. These fumes and smoke were adding to the stench over the town. Unsurprisingly, Newcastle had one of the highest

mortality rates in England at the time. There was a building reconstruction

of the quayside area of the town beginning in 1858 after a great fire a few years earlier. Included in this reconstruction were 'artisan' dwellings in Blandford Street. This is where the LESLIE family lived at the time of William's birth. As a dyer, William Snr may have worked in one of the smaller tanneries. These companies and factories are listed in J. Collingwood Bruce's *Handbook to Newcastle* in 1863. The family lived in the Newcastle area for about 10 years, only moving across the Tyne to Sunderland. Ann gave birth to two more boys Albert LESLIE (born 1869) and Thomas Edward LESLIE (born 1875). Unfortunately, 3 months after the birth of Thomas Edward, Ann LESLIE (MURRAY) passed away. The death certificate gives pneumonia and child birth as causes of death.

Finding himself being the breadwinner, a single parent to two small boys and a new born baby, William must have made the decision to head south to London. Maybe he had relatives there but no evidence can be found to support this. By the end of the 1870s William Snr and his sons were living in the Islington area. In March 1880 he marries again to Mary Ann PAGE, a widow with 7 children. The marriage does not appear to last long as in March 1883 he marries for a third time to Jane LAVIS, daughter of Thomas LAVIS and Jane, née HALL. The address for both is given as 7 John Street, Paddington, this being the family home of the LAVIS family.

William LESLIE Jnr appears not to be included in the 1881 census, but we do know that one of his first jobs was in the stable yard of the department store Whiteley's. William WHITELEY first opened a small fancy goods store in 4 Westbourne Grove, Bayswater during the 1860s. It later expanded to become a large department store and improved the status of the area. Disappointingly, there is no surviving archive material relating to William's time there. Whiteley's suffered several fires over the years, including a devastating one in 1887. In 1886 he had married Ann LAVIS. They had 2 children, Annie Louisa LESLIE (born 1888) and Albert Edward LESLIE (born 1889). Ann LAVIS was another daughter of Thomas LAVIS and Jane LAVIS (HALL). This surely made the family relationships complicated, two sisters married to a father and son!

Despite the fires at Whiteley's, William Jnr remained working at the store. Various documents found and addresses shown on census returns are thought to be employee residences. One address on his son's school

admission in 1902 is given as Whiteley's Yard, Hatherley Grove. This was an interesting address as on one side of Hatherley Grove was William Owen, Draper, another department store. It is said that both companies cooperated in attracting more business to the area. On the 1901 census the family is living at 1 York Mews, which looked likely to have been the stable yard. William was also by then the stable yard foreman. William LESLIE Snr and his third wife Jane, along with Albert and Thomas Edward did not remain in London. By 1901 they are all to be found in the Leicester area. The only family 'memento' we have, albeit a large one, from William Jnr's time at the Whiteley's store is an upright piano, circa 1890. The piano bears the store name.

In 1904, Ann LAVIS died, leaving William Jnr with two children. This was history repeating itself. Fortunately, this time, William has the support of the LAVIS family. A niece, Gertrude Rose LAVIS, is thought to have stepped in to look after the children. She was very close to the LESLIE family until her death in 1940, remaining a single woman. On 5 August 1906 William married Ada Violet BERRINGER, who shortly after in the same year gave birth to Ethel Violet LESLIE, my husband's Grandmother.

Around this time Harry Gordon SELFRIDGE had arrived in England and was making his plans for a London store. Also in 1907 William WHITELEY was murdered by an illegitimate son.

Ethel Violet LESLIE always said that her father William was asked to join the Selfridges staff. I suppose today we would say 'head hunted'. We will have to take her word for this. One other possibility is that when the Manager of Whiteley's Delivery and Receiving Departments, AE COWPER joined the Selfridges staff as Systems Manager in 1908, he may have asked William to go with him. Anyway, William did join the staff in February 1909, shortly before the store opened in March 1909. He was employed as Superintendent of Horse Transport. The family all lived at 21 Irongate Wharf Road, Paddington, at premises attached to the Selfridges stables. Irongate Wharf was situated on the Grand Union Canal, at Paddington Basin. It was not only the site of the stables but other Selfridge departments, such as warehouses, finance offices and a bakery at various times. When the store opened he was in charge of 16 horse-drawn delivery vehicles. William was also witness to the arrival of the motor delivery van

during the next few years and adapted to the change. A company photo proudly puts William outside the store with all the delivery vans, horse and motor, along with the management staff.

A second child, a son, Horace William LESLIE (born 1912) completed the LESLIE family at Irongate Wharf and then in 1916 Ada Violet LESLIE died of consumption. Once again Gertrude Rose LAVIS seems to have moved in or lived nearby to help with the children. Ethel Violet LESLIE had fond memories of Selfridges, including being able to play the grand pianos on the shop floor when it was closed. William LESLIE never married again. He remained at Selfridges until his death in 1937, celebrating 21 years service in 1930. William was also involved in the Selfridges Fire Brigade, being 3rd Officer. The Brigade was set up early in the formation of the company, perhaps learning from the past at William Whiteley. Irongate Wharf and Road are no longer there. The road has been renamed Harbet Road and there is now a hotel on the old Selfridges site.



Sources:

The History of Advertising Trust www.hatads.org.uk
Paddington by Brian Girling (Images of England series)
www.ancestry.co.uk

Selfridges by Gordon Honeycombe

Victorian Panorama by Alex Morgan - Newcastle Upon Tyne in the Reign of Queen Victoria.

WEBSITE NEWS

Workhouses

The creator of this comprehensive and large website is Peter Higginbotham. He is an acknowledged expert on the Workhouse and has written a number of books and articles on the subject. He has also regularly appeared on the radio and on TV in family history programmes such as BBC's *Who Do You Think You Are?*

This is a site for background information rather than one that will help you find an ancestor, although having said that, the references to source material that the site editor has provided can often be helpful in your own research. For example, my maternal grandmother was born in the Tonbridge Workhouse in 1878. When I looked up this Workhouse I was surprised to see how much information, both photographic and written, has been brought together on this website. Additionally, the source references included the fact that the records of this particular institution (the buildings of which were demolished in 2011 after having served several purposes including a hospital) were in the Kent Library Services archives. I am currently perusing their helpful website at: www.kentarchives.org.uk

The Workhouses website is available at: www.workhouses.org.uk

Lost Hospitals of London

This website is still under construction. According to the site's Home Page, 'it is in memory of all the hospitals that have closed in London since the NHS came into being in 1948'.

The resource is, in some respects, complementary to the previous site because many workhouse infirmaries became the forerunners of London hospitals, some of which are still around today.

I discovered from this site, for example, that my former local hospital, The Great Northern on Holloway Road which treated many a scraped knee as well as a fracture or two of mine when I was a child, was founded in 1856 by Dr Sherard Freeman STATHAM, an assistant surgeon 'who had been dismissed by University College Hospital for smacking a patient's bottom'. The hospital closed in 1992. There is a memorial garden located in Manor Gardens, which is off the Holloway Road in North London.

You can visit this site at: www.ezitis.myzen.co.uk

Thanks to Mr Peter Todd, Member No. 1034, for these two reviews.

Devon Wills Project

The Devon Probate Registry was destroyed in the bombing during the Exeter Blitz in 1942 and many of the records held within were, understandably, destroyed too. However, copies of these documents can be found in: the Archdeaconry Court of Barnstaple, Devon, Wills and Administrations Index 1563-1858; the Calendar of Devon and Cornwall Wills and Administrations proved in the court of the Principal Registry of the Bishop of Exeter, 1559-1799, and of Devon only, proved in the Court of the Archdeaconry of Exeter, 1540-1799 (BRS Vol. 35) and in the Calendar of Devon and Cornwall Wills and Administrations, proved in the Consistory Court of the Bishop of Exeter, 1532-1800 (BRS Vol. 46). These, over 130,000 records dating from 1312-1891, have now been indexed and can be searched for free online via Origins.net at: www.origins.net

London Memorials

London Remembers is a site which aims to record all of the memorials in London, whether blue plaques, war memorials, statues, on fountains, murals, obelisks or anything else for that matter. The website focuses on finding the memorials, photographing them, plotting them on a map and logging them in a, easily searchable database, thus providing a powerful research tool which is free to use. The authors treat all memorials equally, from the rich and famous to the poor and humble and so far they have found 49,734 subjects (people, events and so on) on 3,219 memorials, at 2,512 sites.

The Home Page shows the latest memorials added and has a section called 'On This Day', which shows memorials with a connection to the day in question. For example, when this piece was written on 14 October, the site was remembering the birth of Sir Roland Penrose, surrealist writer and exhibition organiser who was born at 44 Finchley Road on 14 October 1900. Also reached from the Home Page, Puzzle Corner contains mystery memorials which it is hoped that the public will be able to help solve.

To find out more, visit: <http://www.londonremembers.com/memorials>

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.

FASHION THROUGHOUT THE AGES (1300-1800)

By Lilian Gibbens, Member No. 818

Fashion in the middle ages was the way a person made his or her identity known, together with his status and values in life, especially among the aristocracy. Thomas De BERKELEY spent over ten per cent of his total income on clothes in 1345. Unfortunately for the modern historian, very few fabrics have survived from the period apart from one or two leather shoes found in waterlogged archaeological 'digs'. So, we rely upon illustrations and carvings to tell us what the small minority of the elite were wearing or expected to wear.

The Luttrell Psalter illustrated working labourers and farmers at their tasks but we have little knowledge of what they would wear at leisure (if, indeed, they had any). Fashion and clothing were associated with status and an attempt was made to prescribe exactly who could wear what by means of the sumptuary laws in the mid-fourteenth century. People were expected not merely to know their social standing, but to exhibit it, too. Before 1320 it was a matter of how many garments, and their quality, that counted. After that time there was a growth in the idea of 'fashion' due to the increased incidence of tailoring and style. From 1350 onwards buttons were used. Buttons facilitated the production of fitted garments and the differences between male and female fashion, and they could be used as ornamentation. However, pins were still used to fix together the parts of a gown well into the eighteenth century or later. Added to this an increased range of colours in fabrics was achieved by importing dyes and fabrics from the Continent and the Far East for the use of wealthier people; and there was a greater use of furs and embroidery. During the fifteenth century women's headgear became more complicated.

Evidence suggests that after the 1350s those lower down the social scale also indulged in the idea of 'fashion', albeit on a reduced scale of cost, and we know that there was a greater use of linen undergarments, tailored tunics, dyed hoods, hose and cloaks (even if their owners only had one of each item, and second-hand at that). By 1400 the shorter, closer fitting styles were being copied by those further down the social ladder. Cheap, mass-produced, jewellery was also available in greater quantities in towns and cities, and evidence suggests that this was an industry set up to meet the wants of the lower-class.

In sixteenth century England women were still subjected to restrictions in their form of dress, for instance, freeholders' daughters customarily wore 'felts' (a covering garment) over petticoats and waistcoats with handkerchiefs around their necks, with white cloths covering a coif on their heads. However, at this period many people were starting to rebel against such restrictions, both in life and clothing. Jane MARTINDALE, an independent-minded Lancashire girl, rebelled against the narrow life prescribed for a yeoman's daughter. Her brother (Adam MARTINDALE, the Nonconformist Minister) recorded her revolt in his autobiography and wrote: "Tis true the finest sort of them wore gold or silver lace upon their waistcoats, and good silk laces...about their petticoats. But the proudest of them below the Gentry durst no have offered to wear an hood, or a scarf...not so much as a gown 'til her wedding day." Sadly, Jane went against the wishes of her family and went to London where she caught the plague and died.

In 1700 the late Queen Mary's interest in fashion boosted trade for London Mercers, feathermen, milliners and hatters, haberdashers. She indulged herself with all the 'fripperies' of a lady of fashion: yards of ribbons, painted fans, patches. One shoemaker provided Her Majesty with seven pairs of shoes a month in 1694 to the value of £68 10s 0d. King William loved to see the Queen bedecked in rich silks and displaying the pearls and diamonds that he lavished upon her (some of them set by her favourite jeweller, the Huguenot Richard DE BEAUVOIR). Her lingerie was as luxurious as her outer clothing, her black stays embroidered with silver, her nightgowns and negligees of quilted scarlet and red and white striped silk.

Fashionable shopping took place around the Strand, the Temple and Covent Garden. Ladies still employed tailors to make their riding habits - one visiting nobleman remarking that English ladies tended to wear 'men's clothes and feathered hats when they went to the races at Epsom'. Benjamin COLE who traded in St Paul's Churchyard imported and sold all 'sorts of Cambricks, Lawn, Macklin and English Lace and Edgin.' He also traded materials wholesale. Indeed, it was the material itself with gold and silver threads, and lace edgings that were the most expensive part of a lady's outfit - the cost of making up was relatively small (the seamstress earned very little). Silk velvet cost 26s a yard, a mixture of silk and mohair 5s 0d a yard, worsted 10s 6d, serge 4s 6d. However, a tailor could augment his bill by providing everything that was required: silk linings, ribbons,

bindings, silver hooks and eyes, ordinary buttons: fashionable gold or silver buttons were purchased from the goldsmith and passed on to the tailor for his use. The charge for labour ranged from 10s to £1 for a suit of clothes for a gentleman. Ladies would buy the materials separately and then pass them on to their seamstress. Such riches lead to an outbreak of crime. A man wearing a wig was considered to be a prime target for theft. This is proved by trawling through the Old Bailey Sessions Papers

Many Londoners relied upon the second-hand clothes shops. Pedestrians were often accosted by shopmen as they traversed the streets, such traders trying either to sell clothes to them or, to buy the clothes in which they stood up. Two second-hand clothes dealers, George HARTLEY and Daniel JONES, traded in Monmouth Street and Godfrey GIMBART traded in Long Lane. In addition second-hand clothes could be purchased from markets in Monmouth Street, Rosemary Lane, Long Lane, East Smithfield, Houndsditch, the Minories, Petticoat Lane, Chick Lane and the Barbican.

In Dr Johnson's England (c1740-1770), poor children probably stole whatever garments they could find to cover themselves. A very poor woman wore, at the least, stays (often made of leather, frequently blackened and shiny with grime and wear) and a skirt. Stays could not be washed and, no doubt, carried an aroma and provided a home for small livestock! In contrast a working woman - or the wife of a working man - would have a larger, cleaner wardrobe, based similarly on the stays and skirt formula.

One writer of the history of the labouring classes of the time, F M EDEN, wrote in 1797 in his *The State of the Poor: A History of the Labouring Classes in England*, that working people '...seldom buy new clothes...their wives seldom make up an article of dress...except for children's clothes.' A woman's wardrobe would include a 'common stuff' gown [wool], a linsey-wolsey petticoat, a shift, a 'coarse' [ie working] apron, and a 'check' apron, stockings, shoes and a coloured neckerchief or neck-handkerchief, and a cap [a close-fitting white coif], a cheap sort of hat and a cloak. Both of the latter would last at least for two years. (Confusingly, stockings were also known as 'drawers'; knickers were not worn generally but occasionally by some 'blue stocking' women of the 'upper crust'.) She would also have a pair of stays that would last for six years. The entire wardrobe would cost, according to Eden, 37 shillings, ie under £2.

Stays were not items of out-of-sight underwear; they were to be seen. They were frequently displayed in shop windows. Unlike modern women, women in the eighteenth century did not have 'one on, one in the wash'. Stays were worn by all women from babyhood. Fashionable women who did not expect to exert themselves physically wore stays that were bone vertically and horizontally. Sometimes a high front was stiffened by a busk, made of wood or whalebone. Coverage of the bosom varied according to the occasion. Stays were usually made to order by a male staymaker. Alterations to them usually cost around five shillings compared to the making of a new pair for £1 8s 0d in 1761. The stays were worn over a knee-length chemise with a low-cut neckline, similar to that of the stays; over the top was worn a short, straight underskirt called a 'coat', tied around the waist. If the lady required fullness around the hips only, she could wear a 'false hip' worn in two parts. As skirts widened so the structure of the 'hoop' became more complicated. Constructed along engineering lines they were three metal U-shapes on each side of the body, connected front to back, and hinged so that they could be folded up. This was an ungainly fashion, but it was the 'de rigueur' until the 1760s when the 'hoops' were replaced by a smaller tulip shape. The hoop-maker to Lady Caroline RUSSELL charged £1 8s 0d for a blue hoop; sometime after this a 'professional saque maker' charged a guinea for making a black silk saque and petticoat.

Dresses were 'mantuas'. The Mantua was a skirt and bodice, open in the front to reveal the decorated stays. The sides of the bodice were pinned to the stays. Mantuas were made by women, but the fashionable 'Saque' dresses were made by men; the saque was more intricately cut with a back panel falling to the hem in two wide pleats held in place by invisible tapes. The bodice was fitted under the pleats by lacing at the back. An outfit was frequently topped with a filmy apron and a filmy scarf (fichu) covering the neckline of the dress. At this time woollen fabrics were out of fashion - cotton and silk were 'in'; with ravishing silks woven by the Huguenots in Spitalfields and gold and silver threads woven into the fabrics. The Countess of Falmouth fainted at a reception given for the Prince of Wales (Prince Regent) due to the weight of her clothing.

Shoes were made of silk, often embroidered, and with heels ranging from 4cm in height to 6cm. They also had pointed toes and in the 1740s toes turned up the ends just slightly. Unlike today there was no difference

between the left and right shoe. Wooden clogs (or pattens) were made for walking in the mud. Stockings were made from silk, linen thread or wool. Scarlet was the most popular colour. Elegant ladies carried fans. At first of an enormous width, by 1744 they had diminished in size to a mere two feet wide. Before the introduction of mountainous hairstyles (produced by wigs), caps were worn, with side pieces tying under the chin.

Of course, to finish off an outfit pearls or diamonds would be worn. If you could not afford the real thing then the Chinese produced artificial pearls. Around this time the cutting of diamonds was improved; paste was skillfully made to look like diamond, emeralds, and rubies. The jewellers in Paris and London flourished. Caps were secured with diamond pins or the pins could be stuck directly into the hair. Semi-precious gems were popular for 'everyday wear', with jewelled pins, brooches, crosses on fine chains, necklaces consisting of small jewels were all popular. The final touch to an outfit was often a small dog!

A working man most likely wore a cast-off coat and secondhand waistcoats, with breeches, stockings, strong shoes, coarse linen shirt and a handkerchief. Like his wife, he had no duplicates. Over the top he wore a good 'foul weather coat' which was expected to last for at least two years. To top it all he could buy a wig from the 'Holborn dip' for 3d; this was a shop where you could help yourself to a used wig, often for no payment at all, and a second hand hat. Unlike the working man, the aristocrat had his suits and long coats made from silk, as well as his shoes, for social occasions and good woollen cloth for outdoor activities. Outdoor shoes and riding boots were made from fine leather. A good silk or beaver hat could finish an outfit. In the earlier centuries men of wealth also wore jewellery; earrings of gold, silver with pearl drops or encrusted with gems. Men of high rank also wore chains around their necks to indicate their status.

Sources and References included:

Whittock, Martyn *Life in the Middle Ages*

Fraser, Antonia *The Weaker Vessel: Woman's Lot in Seventeenth Century England*.

Picard, Lisa Dr. *Johnson's London*

Waller, Maureen *1700: Scenes from London Life*

Martindale, Adam *The Life of Adam Martindale, written by himself*.

LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Members of the Society will be held at 3pm on Saturday 8 February 2014 in the Huntley Room at London Metropolitan Archives, 40 Northampton Road, London EC1R 0HB

The Business of the AGM

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

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

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

for the year ending 30 September 2013

Much of our activity involves communication within the Society or with other organisations and our Secretary receives a variety of correspondence from both sources. If you email or write to her, or any Committee member, please be sure to quote your Membership Number (on the address carrier sheet with your METROPOLITAN) and please direct your enquiry to the appropriate person; eg Membership matters to the *Membership* Secretary.

For the second year the annual Membership Renewal Form was included in the July issue of METROPOLITAN giving members good time to renew by the 1st of October and it spread the processing workload too. Membership declined overall - some deaths, some resignations due to ill-health, incapacity or to research elsewhere - but also new members.

METROPOLITAN, our main form of communication, was posted to all members and it has been good to see more contributions and accounts of mutual help from fellow members. In February the Guildhall in the City of London invited the Editorial Team to give a presentation about the Society and its journal METROPOLITAN at one of their lectures.

Our website www.lwmfhs.org.uk was frozen for a time in the summer to enable our Webmaster Peter Walker to undertake a major technical upgrade of it. Users were asked to report any mistakes they find. Many thanks go to Peter for this significant piece of work.

Monthly Branch Meetings with a variety of speakers and topics have continued at five venues – all except the Lunchtime City Meeting are held in the evening. Members' contributions help to contain costs.

A Bookstall is available at some meetings and it went to events at Woking (West Surrey FHS, November 2012), Bruce Castle Museum (Haringay Local History Fair, February 2013) and Aylesbury (Bucks FHS, July 2013). Thanks go to all who helped to promote the Society, in particular those who transported people, books, display material etc. As fewer people in the London area drive now, this is a much-appreciated contribution.

Project work continues on Parish Guides and photos of Parish Churches are still being added to the Website. Due to some quality problems, it has become apparent that the CD version of the microfiche is of limited use to the Society. Investigation is in hand to find a way of making our Monumental Inscription data available to a wider audience in a format(s) that might also benefit the Society financially. Our holdings are being catalogued.

All who help to run the Society are volunteers who give some of their time for our general benefit. So thank you to everyone who contributes – even the small ways are appreciated.

Rosemary A Roome

Chairman

TREASURER'S REPORT **for the year ending 30 September 2013**

Again there has been a decline in income and a decline in the overall net funds. The previous Treasurer indicated in his annual reports that at some point action would need to be taken to address this, and I believe this can be put off no longer. As this has been happening year on year the Society will need to look at fundraising (including subscriptions) and expenditure to see whether the trend can be reversed in future years.

The Executive Committee has been looking at various ways of cutting costs without compromising the service provided to members. Savings in the production costs of METROPOLITAN have been made and the potential to send out copies electronically rather than by post is being actively addressed. Savings have also been made in other areas of expenditure including administration, eg hire of rooms for Executive Committee meetings. It is worth pointing out that active members, particularly the Executive Committee, have provided their services to the Society eg transport costs to Executive Committee meetings and Fairs, selling publications, dealing with enquiries etc, over many years, at no cost to the Society. We are also fortunate to have the services of our webmaster Peter Walker without charge to the Society. As well as general maintenance, he has upgraded the website capacity for us during the year.

In addition, the Executive Committee supported my request to move £10,000 from the Deposit Account into a high-interest Bond in October 2012. This has earned £43.28 interest over the 12 month period, 17 October 2012 to 17 October 2013; pro-rata £41.20 of this has been included as income for the 2012-2013 accounts. Leaving it in the deposit account would have yielded approximately £6.00 so this has provided a welcome, if small, addition to income without tying up our funds for a long period. The remaining £2.08 interest will be attributed to next year's accounts. Both the £10,000 outlay and the interest earned have been reinvested in a new 12-month Bond.

April Vesey

Treasurer

LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Profit and loss account for the year ended 30 September 2013

	30 Sep 2013	<i>30 Sep 2012</i>
Income:		
Subscriptions	6,661.07	<i>10,623.56</i>
Publication sales revenue	1,066.31	<i>1,059.61</i>
Donations	525.25	<i>426.00</i>
Miscellaneous and help with research	87.00	<i>4.00</i>
Interest received	<u>47.21</u>	<u><i>11.73</i></u>
	8,386.84	<i>12,124.90</i>
 Expenditure:		
Metropolitan	-	<i>-6,043.24</i>
Journal	5,842.49	
Branch Lecture	-	<i>-3,828.45</i>
Costs	3,572.95	
AGM	-397.59	<i>-312.00</i>
FFHS Membership	-320.72	<i>-320.72</i>
Books, maps, etc	-	<i>-1,106.13</i>
	1,776.41	
Fair and open days	-50.00	<i>-70.00</i>
Administration & general expenses	-	<i>-1,544.03</i>
	1,017.31	
Depreciation	-67.00	<i>-90.00</i>
Bank charges	0.00	<i>-8.00</i>
Digitisation of Microfiche	0.00	<i>-421.20</i>
	<u>-13,044.47</u>	<u><i>-13,743.77</i></u>
Net Deficit	<u>-£4,657.63</u>	<i><u>-£1,618.87</u></i>

LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Balance Sheet as at 30 September 2013

	30 Sep 2013	<i>30 Sep 2012</i>
Fixed Assets		
Office equipment	200.00	267.00
Current Assets		
Stock of publications	1,617.21	2,766.42
Prepaid expenses	332.50	0.00
Cash and bank balances	<u>22,155.82</u>	<u>24,122.64</u>
	24,105.53	26,889.06
Total Assets	24,305.53	27,156.06
Current Liabilities		
Subs in Advance	-3,315.27	-1,477.00
Creditors & Accr'd Expenses	0.00	-258.70
Unpresented cheques	<u>-881.19</u>	-653.66
	<u>-4,196.46</u>	-2,389.36
	<u>£20,109.07</u>	<u>£24,766.70</u>
Financed by:		
Balance Brought Forward	24,766.70	26,385.57
Net Deficit/ Surplus for Year	-4,657.63	-1,618.87
Members' Net Funds	<u>£20,109.07</u>	<u>£24,766.70</u>

LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX FHS

CONFERENCE & ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday 8 February 2014 10am-4.00pm

The Huntley Room, London Metropolitan Archives

40 Northampton Road, London EC1R 0HB

The Programme for the Day

LMA is open from 9.30-4.45, so before the talks you may like to make use of the research facilities and take time to view the current exhibition *The Parish* or meet and chat with fellow members. Tea, coffee and other drinks and snacks can be purchased very reasonably from the machines in the visitor's lounge on the Mezzanine level. There is a lift to all floors.

Our extensive bookstall will be available from 10.30am as well as during the lunch break, so do take the opportunity to browse and buy.

- 11.15am Welcome
 Talk: *The London Labyrinth* by Kathy Chater
- 12.30 Lunch: you will need to bring a packed lunch
 or you may prefer to visit a nearby café.
- 1.00-1.30pm Registration for the AGM
- 1.30 Talk: *Tithes and Taxes* by Michael Gandy
- 2.45 Comfort break & Registration for those only attending
 the AGM
- 3pm The Business of the Annual General Meeting
 chaired by our President, Michael Gandy

Directions: The nearest stations are King's Cross St Pancras and Farringdon, served by Metropolitan and mainline trains. It is a 10 minute walk from Farringdon or you can catch a 63 bus from Kings Cross to Bowling Green Lane - 2 minutes from the LMA.

The 38 bus from Victoria, the 341 from Waterloo and the 19 from the Angel all stop at Tysoe Street, also a 2 minute walk to the LMA.

**LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX
FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY**

**Annual General Meeting
to be held on
Saturday 8 February 2014**

Nomination Form for Election of Officers

Position: CHAIRMAN

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

Proposed by:.....

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

Seconded by:.....

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

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

Position: HON. SECRETARY

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

Proposed by:.....

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

Seconded by:.....

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

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

CONTINUED OVERLEAF

Position: HON. TREASURER

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

Proposed by:.....

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

Seconded by:.....

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

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

Any Other Business

I wish to raise the following matter under Any Other Business

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

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

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

Please return this form to: Hon Secretary LWMFHS
141 Welbeck Road, West Harrow, Middlesex HA2 0RY
To be received no later than Monday 20 January 2014.

NEWS FROM THE BOOKSTALL

Following on from 'First World War' JOTTINGS (METROPOLITAN October 2013) and the number of centenary events which will be taking place worldwide, members may be interested to learn that a number of new books covering various aspects of the war have recently been published with many others due for release during 2014 and for at least four years after. As the list is quite large and the catalogue only recently received it has not been possible to prepare a list of all the titles currently available and a small selection with UK postal prices only is appended. Overseas postal costs can be obtained from the Bookstall Manager. New titles as and when they are due for release will be advised in forthcoming issues of METROPOLITAN.

In the Teeth of the Wind by Squadron Leader CPO Bartlett DSC

A unique and fascinating account of a pilot's life in the dawn of aerial warfare and of the first use of the bomber in war.

Paperback, 176 pages, 234mm x 156mm, 16 pages of black & white plates, October 2014

WW101 £12.99 Bookstall; £15.95 UK and EU

1914 Voices from the Battlefield by Matthew Richardson

Forward by Peter Liddle. New history of the British and German armies in the first battles of the Great War. Features previously unpublished photographs and eyewitness accounts. Describes experiences of young soldiers who later became famous: Bernard Montgomery, Brian Horrocks, Hitler and Rudolf Hess.

Hardback, 304 pages, 234mm x 156mm, 100 colour and black & white illustrations

WW102 £25.00 Bookstall; £28.00 UK and EU

In the Mind's Eye, The Blinded Veterans of St Dunstons by David Castleton.

St Dunstan's was founded in 1915 to support, rehabilitate and retrain blind veterans. In 2012 the organisation was renamed Blind Veterans UK. It continues to assist over 50,000 blind service men and women.

Hardback, 180 pages, 234mm x 156mm, 16 pages of black & white plates

WW103 £19.99 Bookstall; £22.99 UK and EU

Private Crawford's Great War Diaries, from Medical Orderly to Cabinet Minister edited by Christopher Amander.

Lord Crawford was the only Cabinet level politician to serve in 'the ranks' during WW1 as a private. A gifted author and diarist, his daily entries provide a fascinating insight into life in the front line over a 14 month period. A unique record without any competitor. Crawford was persuaded eventually to return to London and join Lloyd George's Cabinet.

Hardback, 240 pages, 234mm x 156mm, 24 pages of black & white plates

WW104 £19.99 Bookstall; £22.99 UK and EU

The Great War Handbook, a Guide for Family Historians & Students of the Conflict by Geoff Bridger, foreword by Correlli Barnett.

An authoritative introduction to the Great War. Covers army organization, trench warfare, weapons, equipment, special units, military medicine, casualties. Guide to research sources in archives, museums, libraries. Essential advice on battlefield visits.

Paperback, 240 pages, 234mm x 156mm, 40-50 black & white photos

WW105 £12.99 Bookstall; £15.99 UK and EU

Teenage Tommy by Richard Van Emden.

The real Warhorse's story, now a major film as well as play. Exceptional World War I account with an appeal to both male and female readers.

Hardback, 192 pages, 234mm x 156mm, 46 black & white pictures

WW106 £19.99 Bookstall; £22.99 UK and EU

Sailor in the Desert, the Adventures of Phillip Gunn, DSM, RN in the Mesopotamia Campaign, 1915 by David Gunn.

Based on previously unpublished diaries and conversations with the subject's son. Illustrated with black & white photos and Phillip Gunn's own oil paintings.

Hardback, 160 pages, 234mm x 156mm, approx 20 colour and 12 black & white paintings

WW107 £19.99 Bookstall; £22.99 UK and EU

Into Touch Rugby, Internationals Killed in the Great War by Nigel McCrery.

Combines Great War Centenary interest with the popular world of Rugby Internationals. Multi-national appeal - British Commonwealth and France. Plans to coordinate book with high profile exhibitions (National Portrait Gallery), Memorial unveiling (Hampden Park) and TV documentary.

Hardback, 256 pages, 234mm x 156mm, 250 illustrations, available January 2014

WW108 £19.99 Bookstall; £22.99 UK and EU £22.99

The German Army at Passchendaele by Jack Sheldon

Superbly researched and written by the author of *German Army on the Somme*.

Forward by Prof Peter Simkins

Paperback, 352 pages, 234mm x 156mm, 16 pages of black & white plates, available January 2014

WW109 £16.99 Bookstall; £22.99 UK and EU

Fateful Battleline edited by Michael Glover

Diary account of front line soldiers in the Great War along with sketches which illustrate the people and places mentioned in the text. One of the most remarkable and enduring works to have come out of the Great War. Edited and annotated by Michael Glover

Paperback, 224 pages, 234mm x 156mm, integrated images, available February 2014

WW110 £12.99 Bookstall; £15.99 UK; £22.99 EU

The Stockbrokers Battalion in the Great War, A History of the 10th Service Battalion, Royal Fusiliers 1914 - 1918

This was the first 'PALS' type battalion. The book contains superb images and well researched text. This is the latest in the publisher's series of Great War Battalions.

Hardback, 288 pages, 235mm x 170mm, 100 black & white photos, available February.

WW111 £25.00 Bookstall; £28.00 UK and EU

Pioneer Battalions of the Great War by KW Mitchison

Shows the history of the Pioneer Battalions and why they were established. Details of how they played a major role in the Allied victory. Also examines how and why Pioneers have never received the recognition they deserve.

Paperback, 352 pages, 234mm x 156mm, available February 2014

WW112 £16.99 Bookstall; £19.99 UK and EU

The Home Front in the Great War by David Bilton

By the author of the best selling *The Trench*. Strong national and local interest. The Home Front was essential to victory on the battlefield. Centenary appeal.

Paperback, 256 pages, 234mm x 156mm, illustrated, available March 2014

WW113 £14.99 Bookstall; £17.99 UK and EU

Londoners on the Western Front, The 58th (2/1st London) Division in the Great War by David Martin

This is the first book to cover the 58th London Division. Contains previously unpublished accounts and photographs. A must for all military enthusiasts and local historians.

Hardback, 224 pages, 234mm x 156mm, illustrated, available March 2014

WW114 £19.99 Bookstall; £22.99 UK and EU

GEORGE ALFRED POLLARD, INNKEEPER

By Marian Crew, Member No. 4718

I had known about George Alfred POLLARD for a long time, as he was a witness on two of my marriage certificates. Firstly to the marriage of my great grandfather, Frederick HAMILTON to his second wife Sarah Ann POLLARD in 1897 in Islington, and later to the marriage of my grandparents, Louisa HAMILTON and Alfred MUSGRAVE in 1914 in Camden Town. However, as he appeared to be a fairly distant relative, I did not investigate further.

Imagine my surprise therefore, after months of unsuccessful searching of the 1911 census for my grandmother Louisa HAMILTON, to find her staying with George Alfred POLLARD widower and Innkeeper of *The Organ Inn*, London Road, Ewell, Epsom, Surrey. Louisa is listed as 'at home'. More investigation definitely needed here!

My earliest known ancestor, Thomas POLLARD, came to London from Kenton in Suffolk and married Sarah Catherine DEARLE in Stepney in 1831. He is variously listed as a labourer or coach maker with addresses in Bishopsgate, Whitechapel, Mile End and Aldgate at the births of their 8 children.

His eldest son, Thomas John POLLARD, my great, great grandfather, born in Bishopsgate in 1832, married Sarah Ann EDMONDS in 1856 in Shoreditch. They also had 8 children including my great grandmother Catherine Elizabeth, born 1856, George Alfred in 1862 and Sarah Ann in 1867. The family lived at this time in Bishopsgate and then in Shoreditch, and his occupation is given as dyer.

Catherine Elizabeth POLLARD married Frederick HAMILTON in 1879 in South Hackney. The HAMILTON family had been settled in St Pancras since 1803 and had their own dying and cleaning business which remained in the family until about 1910. Catherine and Frederick had 6 girls between 1880 and 1891, including my grandmother Louisa, born in 1883. Tragedy was to strike this family however, as their eldest daughter, Florence, born 1880, died of pyaemia (a form of septicaemia) in 1888 and sadly Catherine was drowned in 1893 as the result of a horse and cart accident. Five little

girls were therefore left without their mother. Frederick went on to marry Catherine's sister, Sarah Ann POLLARD in 1897, and they had 2 boys.

Returning to George Alfred POLLARD we find him still with his parents in 1881 in Shoreditch and working as a porter. The 1891 census is still to be found, but by 1901 he was aged 38 and the innkeeper of *The Organ Inn* as previously mentioned. He is also listed as a widower with daughters Ethel (20), Eleanor (17) and Florence (15), all with the surname of LONG. The LONG family were to be found on the 1891 census at the *Queen Elizabeth Inn*, Forest Side, Chingford, Essex which lists the girls and four other children with their mother, Martha LONG, a widow, aged 40, who is the Public House Keeper. (This Inn was most probably what is now known as *The Queen Elizabeth Hunting Lodge*.)

It is therefore no surprise to eventually find a marriage between Martha Emma LONG and George Alfred POLLARD taking place in Chingford in October 1891!

It is at this point that I include the following: *Essex Weekly News*, Friday 17 November 1893 (from Essex County Council Archives)

“Shocking incident at Chingford.

Mr and Mrs Frederick Hamilton of 11 Queen Street, Camden Town were driving from the Queen Elizabeth Inn, Forest Side, Chingford on Saturday evening, when near East London Water Works Pumping Station the pony shied at something in the road. The animal plunged forward, and Mr Hamilton lost all control of it. The result was that the pony trap and occupants were precipitated bodily into the mill stream. Mr Pearce of Cherrydown Farm, Chingford, heard the splash, and immediately obtained assistance from Cooks Ferry Inn. George Prior, a bargeman, got Mr Hamilton out of the water, which was nearly 5 feet deep, but failed to find Mrs Hamilton. On turning the cart over, the poor woman was found dead beneath it. Dr Jones, divisional surgeon was summoned, and the body was removed to the Bull and Crown”.

Could it be that Frederick and Catherine were visiting Catherine's brother, George POLLARD, who perhaps by now was living with his new family at the Inn mentioned above? It certainly makes for interesting conjecture.

Returning to *The Organ Inn* in Ewell, near Epsom in Surrey, it sounds to be a fascinating place. The Inn started trading in the 1780s and was the drinking place of workmen who were fitting a new organ in St Mary's Church in Ewell. In recent times the inn, now called *The Organ & Dragon* has been a Thai restaurant, and is now closed and its future uncertain. *The Queen Elizabeth Hunting Lodge* in Chingford was originally built as a grandstand in 1543, but it is associated with Queen Elizabeth 1, as Royal Parties would assemble there to watch the hunt taking place. It is now a museum.

On my next visit to England from Australia, I hope to visit these areas and find out more about them, which even for a short time must have played a vital part in the lives of my ancestors.

Sources:

GRO certificates.

Census information & London Parish records from *Ancestry*.

Census information from *Find my Past*.

A to Z of Victorian England.

Information on the Inns from *Wikipedia & Chingford Historical Society*.

Essex weekly News from Essex County Council Archives.

Family Search.

Islington Gazette, Friday 6 October 1871

A Pair of Viragoes – Harriet COATES aged 17 and Sarah EVANS aged 17, who gave their addresses at Dobney's-court and White Lion-street, were charged with being on Pentonville-hill drunk and making a disturbance. When arrested they both threw themselves down and behaved in a disgraceful manner, necessitating their being conveyed to the police station on the stretcher. EVANS bit two of the constable's fingers, one of them through the flesh to the bone. Mr BARKER fined COATES 10s, or in default seven days' imprisonment; and sentences EVANS to two months' hard labour in the House of Correction without the option of a fine.

MILDMAY ROAD - A BRIEF HISTORY

Part 1

By Maria Kay, Member No. 7060

Mildmay Road is a street in north London situated between Newington Green, Stoke Newington High Street and Balls Pond Road. Some of my family lived here in the twentieth century. They told me quite a lot about the house and area where they grew up which made me interested to find out more about the road, the houses and the people who lived there. I was amazed when I was told me how many people lived in the house in the 1930s. There were four groups of people making a total of 15 people in 9 rooms plus the loft but excluding rooms like the scullery kitchen, indoor and outdoor toilet and cupboards on the landings. This comprised my family of 6 people who rented the house and the various lodgers to whom my family sub-let rooms.



History of Mildmay Road

I wanted to find out if the houses in Mildmay Road were always occupied by so many people or whether they were originally lived in by one family with perhaps servants on the upper floors.

I looked at various maps and histories as well as censuses to find out when the road was built. Maps from 1805 and 1841¹ show Mildmay Road as a country lane bordered by fields. However by 1853 the area was beginning to be developed and by the 1860s

¹ Benjamin Baker & R. Wilkinson, 1805 Map; A plan of the parish of St. Mary Islington, surveyed by R. Creighton, 1841, S. Lewis; ditto c.1853, engraved and published by John Dower.

building was extended over most of the surrounding Mildmay estate. Searching the census returns revealed that in 1861 the street was only partly built and number 113, the house my family lived in, (photographed opposite in 2001) did not exist. In April 1861 nine houses were occupied and forty were noted as being built. Islington Vestry Rate Book from 1860 reveals that Mildmay Road consisted of newly-built property. Robert RAYSON, John CLARENCE and James Alexander ROGERS appear in this rate book as occupiers (owners are not given). An advert from May 1861 shows 7- or 8- roomed houses in Mildmay Road available for rent or sale. The builder was Mr. HONEYWILL from St. Peter's Road, De Beauvoir Square.² I have not been able to find out the name of the developer, if there was one, and would be pleased to hear from anyone with more information about this. Henry RYDON developed much of the Newington Green area including the Highbury New Park Estate in the 1850s.

Stanford's map from 1862³ shows some houses at each end but nothing in the middle section of Mildmay Road. By 1863 the 52 residents of Mildmay Road requested that footpaths on either side of the road should be paved urgently.⁴ Anyone who has lived on a new estate will sympathise with them! The present numbering was established by 1867⁵ and a map from 1870 shows houses along both sides of the entire length of the road.⁶ By the 1871 census there are about 140 houses in Mildmay Road. These houses are three-storied stuccoed terraces with porticos and basements.

Whilst the census entries for my family's house, number 113, between 1871 and 1911 (*see* Appendix) confirmed my feeling that the houses were built initially for single families with servants, I also researched a sample of houses in the middle section of Mildmay Road. This shows that there were ordinary working class families with no servants alongside more affluent

² *Islington Gazette*, May 1861. I think this must have been Silas Honeywill of De Beauvoir Town who was a director of the North-eastern district Building Society which started on 16 August 1859. *Shoreditch Observer*, 15 October 1859.

³ Stanford's "Library map of London and its suburbs", 1862.

⁴ *Islington Gazette*, December 12, 1863.

⁵ *Islington Gazette*, October 8, 1867.

⁶ Dalston, Old Ordnance Survey maps. London Sheet 40, 1870. Alan Godfrey Maps.

families right from the early days of the road in 1861. And conversely there were still better-off families occupying an entire house and employing one or two servants in the street as late as 1911, even though the majority of the houses were by then in multiple occupancy. Most of the houses in the road now seem to be converted into flats.

Many heads of household, particularly widows, were living on independent means. In the 1871, 1881 and 1891 censuses they outnumbered those earning. The area must have been considered safe, affordable and respectable. By 1901 and 1911 the majority of heads of household were manual workers including book folders, people in newly developing industries such as an electrical switch fitter, gas fitter and machine fitter, as well as a carpenter, cabinet makers, a blacksmith, a plumber, home workers (a dressmaker, mantle maker, bonnet maker, tie maker, furriers and stick dresser as well as a silver worker) and clerical workers. This coincides with the findings of Charles BOOTH. In 1898/1899 his survey into life and labour in London from 1886 to 1903 shows Mildmay Road coloured pink which denoted the occupants had good ordinary earnings and were above the poverty line. Usually this meant the occupants were skilled workers with regular steady earnings.

Not all the buildings in the road were residential. There was a public house in the road, the *Woodville Arms*, a hospital at number 120 in 1881, while numbers 129, 131 and 133 were occupied by Rev PENNEFATHER's deaconesses. Rev William PENNEFATHER was the Vicar of St Jude's Church, round the corner from Mildmay Road. He founded the Mildmay Mission to help the poor in London's East End in 1866, pioneering the deaconess system of pastoral work by women in the community. Houses 129, 131 and 133 were used as a missionary training school for women in 1860s and 1870s. The trainees worked with the poor in London and abroad and also acted as nurses at Mildmay Cottage Hospital. The deaconesses eventually moved into Mildmay Park. The cottage hospital at number 120 moved first to number 133 in 1891 and then onto Newington Green at numbers 2, 3, and 4, as the Mildmay Memorial hospital and became a maternity hospital in the 20th century. There was also a synagogue in the road for a time (see Jewish connections below) and a dairy⁷.

⁷ "Cowhouse licenses in Islington A. Vicary, Upcott Dairy, Mildmay Road ...", *Islington Gazette*, November 15, 1872.

Appendix: Occupants of 113 Mildmay Road from the censuses & rate books

1861: house not built.

1871: one family – that of a Dorcas SHIRT, with her adult daughter, one servant and a cousin making a total of 4 people. Although she is noted as married rather than a widow, her husband is not present on census day and a rate book from 1870 records Dorcas as the occupier of number 113 not her husband. In the 1861 and 1851 censuses Dorcas's husband is recorded as a coffee merchant/dealer.

1881: again one family - Dorcas SHIRT, who was now described as a widow and pensioner. Two of three adult daughters with her were earning and one boarder lived with them – a total of 5 people. There was no longer a servant so presumably the family had less money.

1891: two families – Samuel WILLIAMS or WILHAMS, a mercantile clerk, aged 43 with 5 children, and Alfred POWER, a 28 year old traveller with a wife and young child. There were a total of 10 people in the house.

1901: four families and this census also gave the number of rooms each family lived in. Jane COSTIN a 76 year old widow lived on her 'own means' with one son, a solicitor's clerk, in 2 rooms. Frederick HALEY, a 32 year old carpenter and his wife lived in 3 rooms. George GOUDGE a 24 year old plumber lived in 2 rooms with his wife, while Louisa GARDNER a 29 year old book folder had 1 room. In total there were 7 people in 8 rooms

1911: three families rather than four but more people. Henry COLLINS, a 33 year old postal worker (a postman) lived with his wife and son in 3 rooms. In two rooms were Ernest SCHAFER a 32 year old furrier and his wife. Margaret SMITH, a 54 year old book folder, lived with a sister and two nieces, also book folders, in three rooms. So in total there were 9 people in eight rooms.

1915/16: Islington Rates Book shows that my relative Henry Denny COLLINS still occupied number 113 paying rates of £40 per year. The owner of the house was not given.

1921/1922: (Rates Book) reveals that my relative William HAKE was now the occupier of number 113 while the owner was 'Sonnybourne'. The SONNEBORNE family appear in various London Street Directories in Mildmay Road from 1899 to 1915. William HAKE's mother-in-law Ellen Louise GREEN née COLLINS lived with the family while her sister Emily RIX lived next door at number 111. Further research shows that another married sister Elizabeth LAWRENCE was probably the first family member to move to Mildmay Road. She lived in part of number 95 in 1901 with her railway worker husband.

Part 2 will appear in the next issue, April 2014



A BRAVE HUSSAR & GLORIOUS GLOUCESTERSHIRE

By Dennis Galvin, Member No. 1046

Perhaps this is a story with a difference and what makes family history research so intriguing; here goes. My 2x great grandmother (paternal side) was born Hannah Bubb DAY. She married at St Leonard's, Shoreditch Church in 1840. Quite exciting really with that unusual second Christian name but it made no difference, I still could not find her on the 1851 census.

I must have mentioned the names in a publication because one evening about 1990 I had a phone call from a gent who said he was updating a 1973 reference book about the men who took part in the famous 'Charge of the Light Brigade' and was I any relation to Robert BUBB of the 11th Hussars who was killed in the charge? As it happens I had done a few articles about the Crimean War so I was able to say to the gent: "No, no relation, my 2x great grandmother was solid east London". I also told him that I had researched Robert BUBB and found that he was born 7 May 1833 at York Terrace, St Marylebone, London where his father George was a coachman born Cheltenham, Gloucestershire and they lived above the mews.



11th Hussar Officer at the
time of the Crimean War

My telephone enquirer knew all this as it was mostly on the IGI. He was a bit disappointed I could not offer any further help for his book which has recently been published.

The plot thickens when I say that, amongst many others, I had been helping to transcribe the 1851 census for Whitechapel - an enormous job which finally got published I think about eight years later. But what a find for me!

I finally found my 2x great grandmother Hannah and her place of birth: Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire!

I have since done a lot of research in that county with enormous help from a local lady who turned out to be a relative; so I was able to help her with the branch of the family who left Tewkesbury for London at about the time when their stocking industry had collapsed - they even had soup kitchens. Apparently, Nottingham had invented a quicker and more efficient way to manufacture that particular product.

With all the help I received I managed to get back, astonishingly! to my 9x great grandparents' marriage: Samuel BUBB and Anne RUDGEDALE at St Michael and All Angels church, Tirley, Gloucestershire on 4 July 1622.



Dennis Galvin at St Michael and All Angels Church, Tirley

I had never seen the church until the terrible floods of 2008 when the *Daily Mail* filled the whole of their front page with a picture of the church virtually floating in a sea of River Severn. I have since visited Tirley on two occasions. The village is about 6 miles outside Cheltenham.

Returning to my original telephone enquirer, what conclusion would he have come to for his book research? (I favour still disappointed - perhaps promising speculation). I rest my case: Did 2% of me charge at Balaclava? I put it to our learned editors: a simple yes or no!

My special thanks to Miss N Day (a super lady).

There is now a memorial at Sebastopol in the Ukraine to all our soldiers who did not return from the Crimean War.

JOTTINGS

WO 95: First World War and Army of Occupation War Diaries

The National Archives, Kew, has been busy digitising its War Diary records. These are very popular records and some have been unavailable to view at TNA whilst the project was going ahead. Work on the diaries is now complete and the records can be seen once more in the Reading Room. The War Diaries contain ‘daily reports on operations, intelligence summaries and other pertinent material’. They do not usually have details about particular soldiers, although some do mention awards of the Military and Meritorious Service Medals. If you know your ancestor’s regiment and unit, then you can find out where he was and what was happening on any particular day. There are mentions of: what they had for lunch; the weather and how deep the mud was; plus all the daily routines of bayonet and bomb-throwing practice, parades, trench digging and, of course, battles with the enemy.

The records are now being put online and are free to view at The National Archives. There is a charge of £3.36 for each download if you want to access them from a home computer. My uncle was killed in action on 19 July 1915 at Hooze, Belgium. He was in 4th Battalion, Middlesex Regiment (3 Division, 8 Infantry Brigade). I typed ‘4 Middlesex War Diary 1914’ into the search box of ‘Discovery’ the Archives’ catalogue. From the resulting list, I found the record that I wanted, proceeded to the checkout, paid my £3.36 and downloaded 497 pages of diary. This batch of records covered three regiments for the years 1914-1915. Once opened, the diary was easy to scroll through and so I was able to re-trace the footsteps of my uncle. He is not mentioned by name but I now know where he was from mobilisation in August 1914 to the day he died on 19 July 1915.

Appendices in the diaries can give more information. One of them, a *Report on Operations at Hooze on 19/20 July 1915* by Major BRIDGMAN of 4th Middlesex describes the actions in detail. The major mentions ‘the extraordinary long and accurate [bomb] throwing of Private MATTHEWS and a Lance Corporal of the 1st Gordon Highlanders who drove back the enemy.’ (Private MATTHEWS is said to have thrown fully 70 yards from the fire step).

Included in the download was a detailed map of the battle area showing the position of trenches and the Front Line.

The Parish Exhibition

London Metropolitan Archives is currently holding an exhibition which focuses on the parish and its interaction with its community in London's many Anglican parishes. The parish collections vary in content, some with baptism, marriage and burial registers only, while others contain a full range of ecclesiastical and administrative material. The earliest parish records date from the early 15th century, predating the break with the Catholic Church in Rome, although there are some title deeds from the late 13th century. However, the display reflects how most of the parish archives date from after the establishment of the Church of England.

From assistance to the parish poor, the provision of fire engines, and the recording of baptisms, marriages and burials, the records demonstrate the wide civil obligations of the parish prior to the establishment of local government in the 19th century.

The exhibition runs from 14 October 2013 until February 13 2014 at: London Metropolitan Archives, 40 Northampton Road, Clerkenwell, EC1R 0HB. For more information, including opening times, phone 020 7332 3820 or email ask.lma@cityoflondon.gov.uk

London Probate Search Room

Since the 1970s researchers have visited First Avenue House to obtain copies of wills from 1858 to date. The search room has now moved to Court 38 at the Royal Courts of Justice in the Strand. It is open from 9-1pm and 2-4pm. Fees payable for copies of wills are to be paid to the Fees Office which is situated within the building. While the fees are unchanged the service level has altered. Copies of wills ordered for collection will be ready after 48 hours. If the postal option is taken then the copies will be posted within 14 days. If any queries, contact a member of the London Probate Team on 020 7947 6043.

West Surrey Open Day, 26 October 2013

Our group of helpers – Alan Baldwin, Eileen Bostle, Diana Copnall and myself – originally included 3 others who had succumbed to illnesses in the preceding weeks. It was a busy day and a successful one both in promoting our Society and financially. Maps, especially the Alan Godfrey series based on old Ordnance Survey maps, were particularly popular. They cost £2.20 each and for some areas there may be Alan Godfrey maps at 2 or 3 dates. They provide a useful understanding of the ways in which development took place. *Rosemary Roome*

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

All surnames should be in CAPITALS.

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

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



DAWSON

I am writing to seek help to solve a road block in my family history research. I am researching the DAWSON family of Bethnal Green, on this occasion my grandmother Sarah Elizabeth Lilian DAWSON. It has been mentioned that she was a seamstress to the Queen. However, I now find that at the age of 20 in the 1901 census her occupation was listed as a Regimental Outfitter.

Would there be someone that could advise how and where I might find the employment records that would confirm employment, the period, duties or other details should they be available.

Any assistance that may be provided would be appreciated.

Warwick Booth, Member No. 6980

11 Terrie Avenue, Figtree, New South Wales, Australia 2525

Email: wbooth4@bigpond.com

The Regiment for whom your Grandmother was a seamstress in the 1901 census was, no doubt, part of the Queen's Army so it is possible that this occupation was being made to sound more glamorous than it actually was. However, it will be easy for you to check as records from the Royal Archives, covering people who were members of the Royal Household Staff from the period 1526 to 1924, have recently been made available online via FindMyPast.

The records include detailed information about the nature of each staff member's employment, their salary and their reason for leaving service. Some also contain signatures of staff members. To search these records visit: <http://www.findmypast.co.uk/search/other-records/british-royal-archives/>

RICHARD MARTIN

I am trying to find information on my Great Grandfather, Richard MARTIN, who was born about 1782 in Cornwall. His father's name was Richard, no trace of his mother's name.

Richard MARTIN junior married Grace C BAWDEN (born 1786) at Helston Parish Church in 1806 after Banns. Richard did his copper assaying in 1815 with a Mr JENKINS of Redruth and sailed from Portreath to Cork in 1816 to work at the Allihies Copper Mines. After all this I cannot find a thing about him.

I think some time before 1841 Grace moved to Swansea in Wales to be near her two daughters. Grace was now Mrs REES and Sarah Puxley MARTIN was a teacher. Could Richard have died by this time? Not having a computer, Cornish record information is hard to come by.

Any help gratefully received.

Barbara Hubbarde, Member No. 5283
52 Hillier Close, Barnet, Herts EN5 1BE

Grace appears as a widow in the 1861 and 1871 censuses - we could not find her before this but it would be worth checking to see if she was a widow in 1841. If her husband died in Ireland then finding any records of this will be difficult.

However, working backwards in Cornwall is much easier. It is a shame you do not have a computer as Helston has an Online Parish Clerk (OPC). These wonderful people are all local to the area that they look after and they provide genealogical information free of charge. You can visit the Cornish ones at: www.cornwall-opc.org

The OPCs also have much information available on a searchable database. There are plenty of mentions of MARTINs in Helston, for instance, a Richard MARTIN was baptised in 1783 although he was the son of a Peter and Sabrina MARTIN. The marriage of Richard and Grace has the bride with a surname of CADDY, and Thomas BAWDEN as one of the witnesses. The date given for this event is 26 July 1807. Don't forget that you can often use computers in public libraries and Record Offices free of charge.

SMITH, HALFYARD, ECKETT

Eliza, née SMITH, wife of Albert HALFYARD, but known as Eliza ECKETT, of Fairfield Road, Edmonton, was charged with assault and accusing a Miss Annie SMITH of having an affair with Mr ECKETT. Letters were produced, supposedly from Miss SMITH, suggesting that he had fathered a child with her and intended to leave Eliza. It seems the letters were very odd. Annie SMITH was childless and the matter was thrown out of court: Eliza had to pay costs and was put on a good behaviour bond. She was said to be delusional. Eliza was my 2xgreat aunt. The report of this case appeared in *The Weekly Standard and Express* on the 12 October 1895. I have tried the British Library Newspaper Archive without success.

Was this a paper published in the Edmonton area in the late 19th century? In which court she might have appeared? Might there be a record in the Enfield archive?

Doreen Furby, Member No. 2018

9 St Albans Close, Oakham, Rutland, LE15 6EW

Email: d.furby@tiscali.co.uk

The *Weekly Standard and Express* was published in Blackburn, Lancashire. This story was also published in the *Pall Mall Gazette*, *Sheffield Daily and Evening Telegraph*, *Lloyd's Weekly Newspaper* and others. This sort of rather scandalous story, with its amusing details such as the baby being a girl in one letter and a boy in another were very popular with the reading public. It is worth reading all copies of seemingly similar reports because some report details that others do not. In the *Lloyds* report it states that Eliza was summoned at Edmonton and the *Sheffield Daily Telegraph* says she came before the Edmonton Bench. There is a County Court at 59 Fore Street, Edmonton which is probably the one mentioned in this case. Records from this court are held at London Metropolitan Archives, 40 Northampton Road, London EC1R 0HB.

I wonder who Mr ECKETT was? In the 1891, 1901 and 1911 censuses Eliza is stated as married and her two HALFYARD children are surnamed ECKETT in two of them but there is no sign of Mr ECKETT in any of the returns.

WILLIAM DAVIES AND HIS WELSH BIBLE OF 1746

William DAVIES was a tailor who, with his wife Ann, had their children christened at St James' Church, Clerkenwell. They also recorded the births of these children in their Welsh Bible. This bible is in my possession, having been handed down by my father (another William DAVIES) who was born in Bethnal Green. I have been told that it was our 'Family Bible' and that our family originally came from Wales.

The trouble is that I have a family tree for William the tailor, given me by one of his kind descendants, and a different tree for my ancestors, constructed through research over several years. I do not know where William the tailor came from, or when he was born. I only know that his wife's name was Ann and together they had five children – William 1820, Ann 1821, Henry Richard 1824, John Charles 1825 and Eleazer George 1829. Eleazer appears to have dropped his first name in later life, and I personally don't blame him for that.

My own family appears to have descended from a Liverpool sawyer called David DAVIES (born 1807) and his son Richard William DAVIES (born 1827). Richard's grandson was my grandfather, William Henry DAVIES (born 1891).

The question is 'How is it that I have a bible containing birth records of a DAVIES family with whom I appear to have no connection?' Any information that will help solve this puzzle will be gratefully received.

KW Davies, Member No. 7820

Email: ken.w.davies@uwclub.net

ST MICHAEL'S SCHOOL, BINGFIELD STREET, ISLINGTON

I have an interest in St Michael's School, Bingfield Street, Islington, around 1857. My great-grandparents were both born in Leicestershire but John STANTON was a master at St Michael's when he married Ellen LAKIN in 1857 where they set up home. When his sister Mary Jane married earlier, she and the groom gave their address as the school.

Several children were born to John and Ellen before they moved to Mortimer Road, de Beauvoir Square, where my grandmother Helen was born in 1875, their last child. One little girl died as the result of an accident in the Caledonian Road at the age of four.

Ellen became Headmistress of the Central Foundation School in Spital Square. I have followed the family from then on but I would like to know when John started at St Michael's, how long he taught there and how many of his family lived there.

I am also trying to find 6 Mawby Gardens, the home of Marie BARBER. I cannot find it on a modern map of London. I have a letter from her, dated 8 November 1880, to John. It tells of the death of her (their?) Grandma last night.

I will be very pleased if any of my queries can produce answers

Margaret S Ogburn, Member No. 7809

12 Summerdown Court, Westbury, Wilts BA13 3AS

In the 1871 census John, Ellen and family are living at St Michael's School, Islington - the older children were born in Leicestershire and then Edith Maud was born 1870 in Middlesex, so the family moved down to London after 1863 and before 1870. Census records will give you a snapshot of the family at 10-year intervals. These can usually be seen for free online at local record offices and public libraries. Mawbey Street and Mawbey Place are to be found in Lambeth in the 1881 census but we were unable to find a Mawby Gardens.

According to GRO records John STANTON married Ellen LAKEN in Loughborough, 1857.

HART/VALENTINE

My family history interests in Westminster/London includes Edmund VALENTINE who died 1836 - (he was variously a coachman, labourer and servant) and Lucy HART, died 18 March 1849. Edmund VALENTINE and Lucy HART were married at St Martin in the Fields on 28 May 1809 by banns (held in Westminster). Lucy HART had a son who became very famous as a violin maker, John Thomas HART, baptised 1 Feb 1806 in St Marylebone. The parents are listed as George and Lucy HART so Lucy may not have been born Lucy HART but I can't find a marriage for George and Lucy. There is lots about John Thomas Hart online, but not about whether his parents were married, and so what Lucy's maiden name was. I am hoping that by putting my interests in your journal that there may be someone interested in the ancestors of this couple.

Ms Angela C Auset, Member No. 7838

6 Selborne Road, Bristol BS7 9PH

Email: clare18acad@gmail.com

UNWANTED CERTIFICATES

Mrs Gillian Lee, Member No. 4702, has sent us the following unwanted certificates that she is happy to pass on to a fellow member if they are of benefit to their research. Please contact the Editors if you are interested in them.

The following are original certificates. They were among papers concerning the purchase of a house (in about 1932) in Woodside Lane, North Finchley.

Death: Anne ROGERS, widow of Linton Roynon ROGERS, Dentist, died 17 October 1883, aged 47 years, at 105 Seven Sisters Road, Islington East.

Death: Eliza WEATHERILL, widow of Richard WEATHERILL, Florist and Nurseryman, died 9 April 1900, aged 62 years, at 161 Upper Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells.

Richard WEATHERILL had a Nursery in North Finchley.

LWMFHS AGM 2014

The Huntley Room
at
London Metropolitan Archives,
40 Northampton Rd, London EC1R 0HB
has been booked for
8 February 2014.

Please make a note in your diaries!

British Library Newspapers at Colindale has now closed, and work is underway to move the Library's newspaper collections to a purpose-built Newspaper Storage Building (NSB) in Boston Spa, West Yorkshire. A News & Media Reading Room will open at the St Pancras site in March 2014.

FORTHCOMING BRANCH MEETINGS

Barnet Branch – 7.30pm for 8.00pm

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

Branch Contact: Rosemary A Roome

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| Thursday 16 January | <i>Friern Hospital</i>
by David Berguer |
| Thursday 20 February | Group visit to Barnet Museum, 31 Wood Street,
Barnet at 8pm (Note there is no Branch Meeting at
Lyonsdown Hall, note change of venue.) |
| Thursday 20 March | <i>The National Census & a House in Clerkenwell</i>
by Marlene McAndrew |
| Thursday 17 April | <i>St Pancras Station & St Pancras Old Church</i>
by John Neal |

City Branch – 12 noon for 12.30pm

Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre, Holborn Library,

32-38 Theobalds Road, London WC1X 8PA

Branch Contact: Barbara Haswell

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| Thursday 30 January | <i>Southwark in Archives</i>
by Stephen Humphrey |
| Thursday 27 February | <i>Bloomsbury and St Giles</i>
by Richard Knight |
| Thursday 27 March | Members' Meeting: Question Time |
| Thursday 24 April | TBA |

Enfield Branch – 7.30pm for 8.00pm

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

Branch Contact: Lilian Gibbens

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| Wednesday 1 January | No meeting |
| Wednesday 5 February | <i>A View of the New River</i>
by Rachael McDonald |

- Wednesday 5 March *Mr Bowles of Middleton House*
by Bryan Hewitt
- Wednesday 2 April *Family Bibles*
by Rena King

Rayners Lane Branch – 7.30pm for 8.00pm

Friends' Meeting House, 456 Rayners Lane, Harrow, Middlesex HA5 5DT
Branch Contact: Doreen Heywood

- Friday 10 January *Perivale*
by Tricia Sutton
- Friday 14 February No Meeting
- Friday 14 March *'Blige a Lady*
by John Neal
- Friday 11 April *Blocking, Bumping and Crabbing (Hatmaker*
Ancestors)
by Ian Waller

Wembley Branch – 7.30pm for 8.00pm

The Copeland Room, St. John's Church, 3 Crawford Avenue, Wembley,
Middlesex HA0 2HX
Branch Contact: William Pyemont

- Monday 27 January *Juvenile Delinquents*
by Kathy Chater
- Monday 24 February *Hounslow Local Airports*
by Andrea Cameron
- Monday 24 March *Letters from Home*
by Ian Waller
- Monday 28 April TBA

ADVERTISING RATES

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See inside front cover for address.

I AM MY OWN GRANDPA

Many many years ago, when I was twenty three
I got married to a widow who was pretty as could be.

This widow had a grown up daughter who had hair of red
So my father fell in love with her, and soon the two were wed.

This made my Dad my Son-in-law and changed my life
My daughter was my Mother, for she was my Father's wife.

To complicate matters worse, although it brought me joy,
I soon became the Father of a lovely bouncing boy.

My little baby became a Brother-in-law to Dad,
And so became my Uncle although it made me sad.

For if he was my Uncle, then that also made him a Brother
To the widow's grown up Daughter, who was my Step-Mother.

Father's wife then had a Son who kept them on the run
And he became my Grandson for he was my Daughter's son

My wife is now my Mother's Mother and it makes me blue
Because although she is my wife, she is my Grandma too.

If my wife is my Grandmother, then I'm her Grandchild,
And every time I think of that, it simply drives me wild

For now I have become the strangest case you ever saw
As the husband of my Grandma, I am my own Grandpa.

Chorus:

I'm my own grandpa, I'm my own grandpa
It sounds silly, I know, but it really is so,
I'm my own grandpa.

Novelty song by Dwight Latham and Moe Jaffe written in 1947 after
inspiration from a book of Mark Twain's anecdotes.

Sung by Willie Nelson, Ray Stevens - American Western music.

AIMS OF THE SOCIETY

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

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