

METROPOLITAN

The Journal of the
LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX
Family History Society



ISSN 1359-8961
Volume 36 No. 3 (141)



April 2014

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Cover picture: Charabanc trip 1910-1920

© Maria Kay

See article on page 96

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EDITORIAL

We are in the happy position of having several articles in hand at the moment. Readers have been particularly inspired to tell us of their war stories whilst others have been busy investigating areas where their ancestors lived. We will be spreading these articles out throughout the year so that METROPOLITAN continues to have an interesting mix. If you have written in and your article is not in this issue, don't worry – it is coming soon!

One of our articles this time is a collaboration between two members who discovered they had a common ancestor after one of them, Peter TODD, wrote an article for METROPOLITAN which appeared in the October 2013 issue. This article was about the discovery of Peter's great grandfather's Bible, with its list of ancestors on the fly leaves. Coral STILL read the article and realised that they shared some ancestors and were both descended from an itinerant tailor called John BAILEY who lived about 200 years ago. Read their story on page 100.

This only goes to show how important it is to join a family history society! You may very well meet up with distant cousins who have information, perhaps including photographs, to share. (One of the members of the Editorial Team was astounded to receive a picture of an otherwise unknown pair of great grandparents this way.) Even if no relatives are found, the vast pool of knowledge of our members is a wonderful resource and people are happy to share. See for instance our Letters page. Two of the letters are in reply to previous articles, containing information and images which will no doubt be of interest to many people.

The Editorial Team

Please remember that the copy date for the next issue of

METROPOLITAN is 15 May 2014

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

The Conference and Annual General Meeting of the Society took place at London Metropolitan Archives on Saturday 8 February 2014.

The Conference part of the day included two excellent talks: Kathy Chater led us through the hundreds of national and local records held in London in Record Offices, Museums and Libraries and opened our eyes to the wealth of information available to help in our research; Michael Gandy spoke about the nature and history of Tithes and then a range of the numerous Taxes to which our ancestors were subjected and the records which can provide the basis for some very useful background to their lives.

It was a busy and enjoyable day when some took the opportunity to do a little research, or visit the exhibition *The Parish*, or see how the means of producing our journal has changed over time, to buy books and maps from our bookstall or meet and chat with fellow members and put faces to names which appear in METROPOLITAN.

The Officers and Executive Committee members were all re-elected at the AGM so there is continuity there but certain other changes will be taking place during the rest of 2014. The main business item on the agenda related to subscription rates which have concerned the Executive Committee for some time in view of rising costs, especially those of postage rates.

The present universal subscription rate will cease to apply with effect from 1 October 2014 which is the beginning of our next financial year.

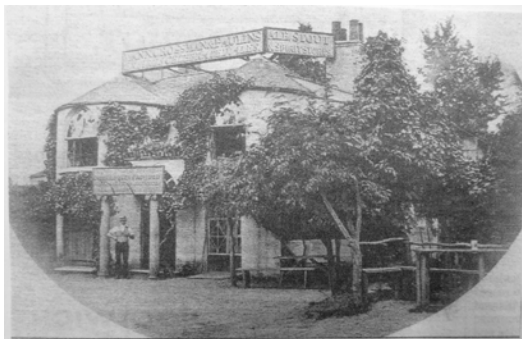
It will be replaced by rates which depend on location and the mode of delivery chosen to receive METROPOLITAN: either by email in PDF format or as a paper copy. An information sheet, which set out the background to these changes and the transitional arrangements which will be made quarter by quarter to implement them, was provided with the AGM papers on the day and it is included with the Minutes which you will find on page 113.

Rosemary A Roome

PS 28 February: Royal Mail announced yet another increase in rates from 31 March 2014!

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

In response to the article by Marian Crew in METROPOLITAN 140, December 2013, she mentions her ancestor's abode—the Queen Elizabeth

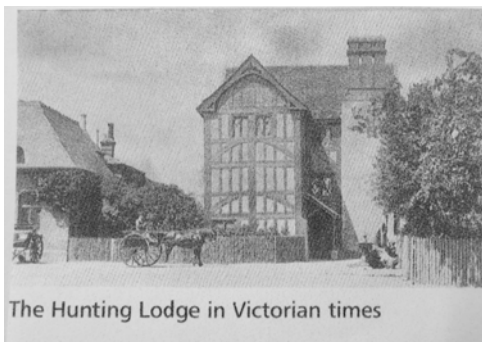


QUEEN OF HEARTS: The Queen Elizabeth at Forest Side, Chingford, pictured in 1872, which was replaced in the early 20th century by today's building

Inn, Forest Side, Chingford. She thought that the Queen Elizabeth Hunting Lodge, Rangers Road, Chingford and the Inn were one and the same building. She will be pleased to know that these are in fact two separate buildings about one third of a mile apart. The illustration (left) shows exactly how the Inn looked in 1872.

There is still a Queen Elizabeth pub which also does meals. However, this one was built on the same spot c1910 and there is a large stable yard adjoining (for approximately 30 horses).

The Queen Elizabeth Hunting Lodge (pictured right and, more recently, below) has recently been renovated and is a very attractive and popular visitor



The Hunting Lodge in Victorian times

attraction with museum and beautiful view over Epping Forest from the upper floor (visitors can dress up in Elizabethan attire).

Dennis Galvin, Member No. 1046

Note: The Queen Elizabeth Hunting Lodge is open from 10am until 5pm every day and is located at 8 Ranger's Road, London E4 7QH, Tel: 020 8529 6681.



We at the Royal Welch Fusiliers Museum in Caernarfon are starting the mammoth task of looking for photos of individual soldiers from the RWF who were killed in the Great War.

We are trying to put each man's name on display on a screen on the centenary of his death and would dearly love to be able to add a photograph of each man to go with his name. It is a huge undertaking as there were over 10,400 men from the RWF that were killed. But even if we only get a fraction of the photographs we believe it is worth doing. Many of the RWF were from all over so we are asking please could you help?

Many families have photographs tucked away so this might prompt them to seek them out. We accept scans or copies and any that appeared in newspapers, which often carried obituaries including photographs.

We need as much information as possible to go with the photo to make sure we fit the right photo to the right man – but sometimes a name and date of death might be all we need.

Please email us on: rwmuseum1@btconnect.com for more details or to send us a photo.

Shirley Williams, Non-member

Museum Education Officer, Royal Welch Fusiliers Museum

Morning Post, Wednesday 6 May 1857

Sixty children, all of whom, except three, were under four years of age, died of hooping [sic] cough; the average of weekly numbers is 54. Four fatal cases occurred in the sub-district of Kensington; also four in that of Saint John, Westminster.

Not a single case of small-pox was registered, although a child died from 'varicella' in Mile End. The deaths from measles rose to 36, which occurred principally in the central and east districts; except 4 in the district of Lambeth, there were none on the south side of the river.

Typhus was fatal in 36 cases, nearly half of which occurred in the south districts. Five persons are recorded as the victims of intemperance, besides two who died from delirium tremens.

Three nonagenarians are returned, the oldest a man 93 years old, who died in the Shoreditch workhouse.

Two photos have come in my possession which I think will be of particular interest to Christine Dean (Member No. 5838). It is to do with her article last December 2012.

I was staying with my grandmother Ethel SIMMONS (she worked at the British Restaurant) and my aunts at 35 Canterbury Road, North Harrow. My mother Lilian WHITE and brothers John, Geoffrey and David were at number 19 Canterbury Road when the VI came down. It landed in the back garden of 53 Cumberland Road (see picture below). Edith FOX was in the kitchen at the back and was killed (had she lived she would have been my mother-in-law).



What a lot of people don't know is that this VI had got as far as Tring and turned and came back. When the VIs were over open country their wings were tipped to bring them down. Unfortunately this one did not, it turned back. None apart from my grandmother was hurt and she came home with her head completely bandaged. My mother and we children were evacuated for a few months while our house was repaired.



Edith FOX and others killed during the war have their names in the Book of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey and at West House, Pinner.

Barbara Fox, Member No. 7641

In a relatively recent issue of METROPOLITAN you carried an article, that of all articles appearing in FHS Journals I have read, is this one that has really stuck in my mind. It related to the vast amount of information that the writer had obtained about her family from regular visits over a number of years to the British Newspaper Library at Colindale.

Well, we cannot now visit Colindale but I have recently taken out a subscription to the Newspaper Library and so wonder if the writer had a system, or was it just random searching? I would love to learn any tips and know how to effectively look for anything about one's ancestors. There must be something there!

George Chappell, Member No. 5964

Doreen Heywood's article appeared in METROPOLITAN, October 2013. Can anyone help Mr Chappell with tips for effectively searching online newspapers collections?

MILDMAY ROAD - A BRIEF HISTORY

Part 2

By Maria Kay, Member No. 7060

The origins of 'Mildmay' name

I wondered why so many streets in the area, including Mildmay Road, Mildmay Park, Mildmay Grove North and Mildmay Grove South, had the Mildmay name. In fact the Mildmay Estate, which all these roads were built on, was originally held by William HALLIDAY (c1565-1623) an Alderman of the City of London, and passed to the Mildmay family when one of William's daughters married Sir Henry MILDMAY. Eventually heiress Jane MILDMAY married Sir Henry Paulet ST JOHN. Her husband added the surname MILDMAY to his, making her Lady ST JOHN MILDMAY.

The Mildmay estate covered 64½ acres when Lady Jane was widowed in 1808. In 1827 she obtained an Act to allow her to grant building leases on the estate although it was not until the 1840s and 1850s that it was leased for building. Lady ST JOHN MILDMAY died in 1857 leaving many debts on her Islington Estate which was then offered for sale in lots in 1859.

As well as roads in the district carrying the name Mildmay, a pub built in the 1860s in nearby Wolsey Road was named the *Lady Mildmay* and the cover picture of METROPOLITAN shows a group of residents including several of my relatives preparing to go on an outing from outside the pub in an HB VINEY charabanc in the late 1910s/early 1920s.

Jewish connections in the area

I was told there was a 'mezuzah' (a container used by Jewish families to display religious scrolls) outside the street door in the basement of my family's house so I was interested to find out which family might have placed this there and more about Jewish occupants in the area.

A search on the internet revealed that in 1876 a plot of land in the garden of 120 Mildmay Road was leased as Dalston and Balls Pond Road's Synagogue¹.

¹ Wasserzug, D. 'The Dalston Synagogue: an historical sketch'. 1910. <http://www.onread.com/book/The-Dalston-Synagogue-An-Historical-Sketch-60464>.

The opening of the new synagogue took place on 17 September 1876.¹ The Dalston and Balls Pond Road synagogue then moved to Poet's Road off Newington Green in 1885 while the South Hackney synagogue moved to Mildmay Road between 1885 and 1892. It, too, moved out of Mildmay Road - to Devonshire Road, in Hackney.² Although I could not find any mention of the synagogue in Mildmay Road in the 1881 and 1891 censuses, in 1881 Edward ALTMAN and his family lived at number 120. He was a picture dealer from Germany and certainly had connections with the Dalston synagogue as his wife was mentioned in a history of the synagogue.³ By 1891 a William DICKINSON had moved into number 120.

The Jewish connection with Mildmay Road continued. A Post Office London Street Directory dated 1910 shows that 81 Mildmay Road was the Mildmay Mission to the Jews (a home for Hebrew Christian young men) with Mrs SAMUEL as the lady superintendent.

Mildmay road in the first half of the 20th Century

As elsewhere in Islington, social changes took place in the 20th century. A railway station which had been opened on the east side of Mildmay Park in 1880 was closed in 1934 because residents worked mainly in local industry instead of commuting into the city.

A bomb fell on 50 Mildmay Road during World War 1 and the area suffered plenty of bomb damage in the Second World War. More of my relatives lived in Queen Margaret Grove behind Mildmay Road where another bomb landed. These families had to be rehoused as their houses were unsafe and eventually pulled down. A block of flats was built on the site after the war.

Conclusion

The censuses confirm that house number 113 moved from single families to multiple occupancy by 1891. There also seemed to be a change in occupations from a coffee dealer's wife to a widow living on her own means through to manual and clerical workers. My researches of the road

¹ *The Morning Post*, September 18 1876, p.5.

² 'Islington: Judaism', *A History of the County of Middlesex: Volume 8: Islington and Stoke Newington parishes* (1985), p. 117. URL: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.asp?compid=5284>.

³ Wasserzug. *Op.cit.*

seem to indicate that the developer of the road probably failed to attract the intended wealthy middle classes and instead it was occupied for its first 50 or so years by respectable people who worked for the more wealthy. In the later decades of the twentieth century, instead of taking in lodgers the houses were divided into flats and updated with kitchens and indoor bathrooms rather than the minute scullery and the tin bath in which my family washed themselves in front of the fire.

Number 113 Mildmay Road: My family's memories Maria Kay

My family did not own number 113, but rented it from a landlord and then sub-let parts of it to various lodgers. No. 113 consisted of 4 floors including the basement, two of which were occupied by my family. The kitchen, scullery and sitting room were in the basement below street level. There was a coal hole in the pavement which delivered coal into a cupboard near the street door. There were also 3 or 4 cupboards under the stairs where fishing tackle was kept. There was an outside toilet in the back garden which you reached through the kitchen/living room. The copper and gas stove were in the small scullery tacked on to the back of the house which looked out onto the back garden. There was a range in the kitchen/living room which was blacked, and the hearth was whitened. I can remember the large dresser with a curtain which covered the bottom shelves where I used to hide as a child.

The basement sitting room, facing the street, was only rarely used. The dustbin was kept in the back garden and had to be brought through the house to be emptied. There was a cinder path in the garden with an edging of shells and a square of grass. There was an arch with an Alexandra rose over it. The basement street door opened onto a small yard which was known as 'the area'. On the wall was a mezuzah so it would seem that a Jewish family lived here at some point. Our family entered the house through this basement door.

Stairs went up from the corridor outside the kitchen and sitting room. On the first half landing was a toilet with stained glass in the door. This was the only indoor toilet in the house. Would that have been installed when the house was first built I wonder? There was also a walk-in cupboard. Three or four stairs then took you to the back bedroom. A few more steps took you up to the first floor. Here two largish bedrooms were divided by a folding door. A piano was kept in one of these. For family get-togethers,

parties or weddings the screen was folded back to make one large room. Presumably the furniture was also re-arranged! At the front of the house on this floor was the main door which led to the street down some steps. This entrance was the one used by all the lodgers. At the next half-landing a window looked out onto a water tank on top of the outside toilet. This was probably the main cold water supply for the house (which perhaps originally didn't have running water). The water tank did not have a very secure lid and birds did occasionally drown in there apparently!

On the next floor, the second, were two more rooms. The front room was at one point great grandmother's bed-sitting room. There was no oven here, just an open fire. She did have a small camping stove for making drinks but paid her daughter a small amount to have her meals cooked. However she didn't come down to eat it with the family. Her meals were taken up to her. Younger members of the extended family were often sent out for a jug of ale which granny then put a red-hot poker in to make it froth. Granny's sewing machine was by the front window and she liked to have geraniums in a window box on the window ledge which she often watered, soaking people waiting at the front door! Granny and her daughter were mantle makers, tailors, working as out-workers for Careys from Albion Grove. They had to work very long hours to make a reasonable income. Granny was working on her sewing machine until a few days before she died aged 84 years.

A lodger had the other room on this floor. At the next half-landing was a sink which Granny and the lodgers used to get water to wash themselves and their dishes. Up to the third floor and two more rooms. At one time a family with four children were lodgers. Up again to the attic where a middle aged couple had converted the loft into living space and a kitchen. There was no bathroom in the house while my family lived there, even as late as 1959. They had to bathe in front of the living room range in a tin bath that was hung up outside the back door when not in use. I wonder where the other occupants washed themselves. A sink on the landing would not have given much privacy! They probably carried water into their rooms. I also remember mention of visits to the nearby public baths. Life was not easy for my family. They only survived by the additional money brought in by sub-letting to lodgers and the women working long hours on their sewing machines as out-workers.

A TALE OF TWO SISTERS

By Peter Todd, Member No. 7686 and Coral Still, Member No. 6864

In the October 2013 edition of METROPOLITAN I wrote about the discovery of my great grandfather's Bible with its list of some of my ancestors and the dates of their births, marriages and deaths written on the fly-leaves.

Amongst the people named was Eliza ROLPH, who was one of John BAILEY's daughters. John and Mary BAILEY had five daughters and one son. Two daughters and the son did not survive the first year of their lives. The remaining three daughters all married, but only two bore children. Emma Margaret BAILEY (1826-1865) became my great grandmother when she married John William TODD in 1846 at St Mary's Church, Paddington Green, London. Eliza Elizabeth Jane BAILEY (1822-1875), Emma's elder sister married coachman John ROLPH (1809-1878) in 1850 at St Pancras Church, London. Witnesses were Edward and Mary CORSER. Mary was the third BAILEY daughter.

When I mentioned the ROLPHs previously I said that I had not researched them yet, although I did know that the couple had seven children.

A few days after METROPOLITAN (Volume 36 No. 1) had dropped through my letter box I had a telephone call from a Coral STILL (née THORNE). She had seen my article and realised that since she knew from her own research that there were ROLPHs in her lineage, she wondered whether they might be the same as mine? Perhaps I should add here that since that call and after many more hours at the computer I am surprised just how relatively common the surnames of ROLPH and THORNE are and how serendipitous it was that Coral and I should have had these particular families as our ancestors.

Eliza ROLPH was born on the 20 March 1848 at 11 Berwick Street, Westminster. She was christened at St Andrew's Church, Marylebone on the 27 May 1849. You will have noted that Eliza's parents weren't married at the time of her birth. However the birth certificate, registered on the 12 April 1848, unambiguously states that she was the daughter of Eliza ROLPH, formerly BAILEY and that the father was John ROLPH, coachman.

On the 19 August 1879 Eliza ROLPH, a 'spinster', married Frederick Stockwell THORNE (1847-1928), a 'bachelor' at Pancras Register Office. The couple were both over thirty years of age. The groom was the second son and last child of Mary Anne (née STOCKWELL) and William Puckett THORNE. Both of Frederick's parents were dead by this time. Similar to Eliza ROLPH's parents, Eliza and Frederick had already had six children by the time of their marriage. All the children were registered in the name of THORNE on their birth certificates and the Census records for 1871 through to 1901 proclaimed the couple's married status. Coral's paternal great grandfather was Charles Arthur THORNE, born 7 April 1872.

A year after Eliza was born the ROLPHs had a son, Henry, who died soon after birth. Their next child was another daughter Emma Elizabeth ROLPH (1853-after 1939). There then followed at approximately two yearly intervals Samuel John ROLPH (1856-1897); Mary Sarah ROLPH (1858-After 1939); George William ROLPH (1861-1930) and finally Edward Henry ROLPH (1863-1919).

The two sisters Emma and Mary ROLPH never married and according to the electoral registers, lived at 4 Roehampton Street, Westminster from 1907-1939. It is presumed that they died in the 1940s, because so far I have been unable to find a death notification for either of them. Interestingly, in the light of the centenary of the outbreak of the Great War next year, in the 1911 Census both sisters were said to be working as tailoresses in the Army & Navy Clothing Store in London.

George William ROLPH married Margaret MILLROSS (1862-1942) on 23 February 1881 at Old St Pancras Church. Margaret has the rare (I believe!) distinction of being recorded in the Census (1881) in two different places at the same time. Firstly at her parents' house as the married daughter and then next door as the incumbent housewife. Edward Henry ROLPH (1863-1919) married Eliza HUGHES (1862-1904) in 1884 at St Andrew's Church, Islington. Sadly, their eldest son, Edward Henry was killed on 1 June 1918 in Flanders. He had married Ellen Mary SKINNER (1884-?) just seven months earlier.

Sources:

Ancestry.co.uk

Findmypast.co.uk

BOOK REVIEWS

By J Brian Green, Member No. 2449

The Friern Hospital Story by David Berguer, published by Chaville Press, ISBN 978 0 7524 5875 5, 179 pages, paperback.

Price £14.99

The sub-title – ‘The history of a Victorian Lunatic Asylum’ might be a little off-putting, but a potential reader should persevere, as the author comments, there are so many strands to the story and his problem was as much what to include as to omit.

The book includes a chronology of events from the 1847 selection of Colney Hatch as the site for a Middlesex County Pauper Lunatic Asylum through the building’s closure as a hospital in 1993 and on to the subsequent conversion into apartments and the building of an estate of houses. Twenty five chapters, together with too many illustrations to count, cover some of the many strands of the story including the design and building of the asylum, housekeeping, the patients and their treatment, wartime events, changes and improvements and preparations for the end of the establishment as a hospital.

Interesting minutiae recorded include some “Causes of Admission – 1851/52” showing that one man was admitted due to his loss of several cows, whilst another suffered from over-excitement at the Great Exhibition. At a more mundane level, the maintenance engineer’s time records for May 1981 include 1½ hours turning a knob for a blow lamp pump stem, the same time to repair two dining chairs and 3 hours finishing off mixing bowl trolleys in the kitchen.

Hornsey Historical Society: Bulletin No. 54 – 2013

49 pages with 50 illustrations and maps

Two important local anniversaries are acknowledged by this Annual Bulletin; 400 years since the completion of the New River and 200 years since the Hornsey Enclosure Act. For both of these articles, I found it useful to have my London A-Z at hand.

The New River article briefly records the building, maintenance and subsequent alterations and improvements of the originally 40 mile long river, with the emphasis on the section that runs through the modern Borough of Haringey.

The article on the Enclosure Act describes how, in a little over three years, a total area of just over 232 acres of common and waste land was enclosed and allotted. The author questions whether the Act achieved its stated objective of considerably improving the said commons and waste lands.

Also included is a history of Hornsey Cottage Hospital from 1897 to its closure in 2001, with some memories from a lady who worked there in its later years, an article on Hornsey resistance to the 1902 Education Act and another on the 1960s battle for control of Alexandra Palace and Park.

The Journal is rounded out by five shorter - but still interesting - essays on subjects as diverse as a Coat of Arms, a rather special key, some portraits and a Cricket Club fire.

The Rookfield Estate by David Frith, published by Hornsey Historical Society 2013, ISBN 978-0-905794-47-1, 50 pages, paperback.

Price £9.99 Bookstall

The book is sub-titled 'Muswell Hill's Garden Suburb' and from the many illustrations, mostly in colour, it is clear that the sub-title is well earned. The relatively small estate of six roads is unusual in that it was built over a long period of time, in 13 phases between 1901 and 1934. It thus has a variety of architectural styles and the differing levels of the original site prevented a monotonously regular layout. From my, literally, passing acquaintance with the estate I can only heartily agree with the author.

The book begins by describing the early history of the largely undeveloped site prior to 1899, including the various property transactions following the Hornsey Enclosure Act of 1813. The estate takes its name from one of the large houses which had been purchased, and inhabited, by the Collins family, responsible for the subsequent development. A chapter is devoted to a short history of the family.

The various stages of the development of the estate are then described and lavishly illustrated, followed by a chapter detailing some of the architectural influences, including the Garden City and Arts and Crafts Movements

A final chapter gives brief details of some of the noteworthy residents, including two members of the Collins family, and their occupations. As might be expected, the original residents were largely substantial middle class, with over one third having live-in servants

ALFRED KITCHENER 1899-1915

By Jim Rising Member No. 5560

In preparation for the centenary of the beginning of the First World War I thought it appropriate to record the short life of my great uncle on the maternal side of my family who sadly perished in the failed WW1 Gallipoli campaign. The following is a mixture of his life events and how I came to find him.

My maternal grandmother, Emily Elizabeth HIGGS (née KITCHENER) was born 9 February 1894, her parents were Daniel and Annie Louise (née KNIGHTS) KITCHENER. Her younger brother Alfred KITCHENER was born on 25 September 1899 and baptised on 15 October 1899 at St Matthews in Marylebone. His parents are noted on both documents as being Daniel and Annie KITCHENER of 48 and 84 Richmond Street, Marylebone respectively. I suspect someone was dyslectic with the entries rather than the family moving in three weeks!

On the 1901 census Alfred, aged 1, appears with his father Daniel, mother Annie, six siblings and half-brother James KNIGHTS, living at 15 Weston Place, Marylebone.

On the 1911 census Alfred appears with his father Daniel, mother Annie and six siblings living in six rooms at 87 Salisbury Street, Marylebone. Alfred, although at school, also has an occupation as a 'milk boy'.

In 2003 while idly searching the CWGC website, Alfred appeared as Private Alfred KITCHENER 2651, 3rd Battalion London Regiment (Royal Fusiliers) who died on 29 November 1915 aged 17. It confirmed his parents to be Daniel and Annie KITCHENER of 11 Exeter Street, Lisson Grove, Marylebone, London. This Alfred was indeed my great uncle. The search was on for more information.

I contacted the CWGC to see if they had any more information, unfortunately they did not but suggested I contact The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers City of London at their headquarters, HM Tower of London. They too were apologetic as it seemed that information on the Battalion in Gallipoli was very scant within the War Diaries. They did however provide a short account of the regiment covering WW1.

In the ensuing 10 years the only progress made was Alfred's Medal Index Card (MIC) which I purchased from TNA.

In 2013 I checked Ancestry.co.uk to find out if Alfred's records were amongst the 'Burnt Records', unfortunately they were not. Being a member of The Genealogist I located Alfred's Death Certificate reference and applied for the certificate knowing that it would probably contain no further information than that known already. When it arrived I was surprised to note that Alfred didn't die by the bullet or any other war type injury but by exposure, no less. Intrigued, I had to discover more but there was a small brick wall in front of me and I decided to seek assistance.

The result was a breakdown of Alfred's time in the Army.

The 2/3rd (City of London) Battalion (Royal Fusiliers) was formed in London in September 1914. Shortly after this Alfred, at ripe old age of 16 years, volunteers to enlist at the drill hall based at 21 Edward Street, Hampstead Road, London NW and is obviously accepted. There is a six month period for training. By December 1914, the Battalion had moved to Epsom Downs and then to Tonbridge in Kent to undergo further training.

On 23 December 1914 the Regiment embarks for Malta, arriving on 31 December but without Alfred who is still under training.

On 19 April 1915 Alfred disembarks overseas as a reinforcement draft, probably in Malta joining his battalion, however the MIC says 'Egypt', which was his final destination.

On 27 August 1915 Alfred moves to Egypt, before landing on 23 September 1915 (still aged just 16) at Cape Helles, Gallipoli, joining up with 86th Brigade in the 29th Division. Fortunately he missed the fierce battle of Seimitar Hill, Sulva on 21 August. There were no major battles in Gallipoli after that date, the only action was either bombing, shrapnel or sniper fire by the enemy.

The next we know is that on 29 November 1915 at the age of 17 Alfred dies of exposure.

Unfortunately there is no War Dairy for 2/3rd (City of London) Battalion (Royal Fusiliers) covering their time at Gallipoli, however the 86th Brigade War Dairy does exist and the following excerpt describes the harrowing conditions leading to poor Alfred's sad demise:

Gallipoli Peninsula 26/11/1915:

At 19:00 Very severe thunderstorm, with very strong gale, and torrents of rain, began.

At 20:00 all telephone communication Battalions cut off, Brigade Headquarters dugouts flooded out.

At 21:00 Orderly arrived from the 2nd Royal Fusiliers with a message from Major Cripps commanding 2nd Royal Fusiliers, stating that all the trenches were full of water and were falling in, that the water had come into the trenches as though it had been a tidal wave, that many of the men must have been drowned and that few had been able to save their rifles or equipment. The men were standing up to their knees in water behind the parapets of the trenches. Later officers arrived bringing messages from their commanding officers from the 1st Royal Munster Fusiliers and 3rd London Regiment, all giving the same story. Orders were issued to all Battalions to do their best to dig their men in behind the parapets and that the line of trenches was to be held at all cost. The 2/3rd London Regiment who had evacuated their trenches and retired to higher ground behind, were ordered to at once re-occupy the trench line.

Report as above sent to the 29th Division.

Gallipoli Peninsula 27/11/1915:

Soon after midnight last night telephone communication was obtained with the 2nd Royal Fusiliers & about one hour later with the 1st Lancashire Fusiliers and 1st Royal Munster Fusiliers. Reports came in continually as to the very bad conditions of the trenches and men, the cold being very intense and the heavy rain and wind continuing.

By daylight the men who were capable of work had thrown up for themselves in most cases sufficient cover to protect them from shrapnel fire. The water had subsided in the trenches to an average depth of about 4 feet. A few rifles, a few overcoats & a certain amount of ammunition were recovered. Great difficulty was found in bringing up rations for the men, but eventually Bully Beef, biscuits & a little rum was issued.

The conditions during the day were extremely trying. Men were huddled together in shallow trenches dug behind the parapets during the night with any implement they could lay their hands on, nearly all without overcoats. Anyone who worked about ran a great risk of being shot, in fact during the day casualties were fairly heavy from the enemy's snipers including 4 officers killed & 2 wounded. A great deal of shrapnel was fired during the

day, chiefly at parties of men who were given permission to leave the trenches, all in various stages of exhaustion, to go to the ambulances. Of these there's no doubt that a great number failed to reach the ambulances, and died from exhaustion on the way. A cold NE wind blew all day through with a little rain and sleet at intervals & it is feared that a great number of men died from exposure.

It is interesting to note that on the night of the 26th when the flood in the trenches came with such suddenness, one pony, a mule, a pig, & 2 dead Turks were swept over a barricade together. Towards evening the weather, which had been steadily getting worse, developed into a snow blizzard, with intense cold and men were still struggling down to the ambulances in large quantities.

Gallipoli Peninsula 28/11/1915:

The blizzard continued all through the night & the condition of the men was so deplorable owing to the weather that the Brigadier issued an order at 02:00 to Battalion that all men who were not capable of firing a rifle were to be at once sent back to field ambulances.

At 04:00 Reports from commanding officers as to the condition of the few remaining men were so serious that F.O.C. Division gave permission for all four Battalions to be withdrawn into reserve nullahs, but that "Dublin Castle" was to be held, & that posts near saps 1 and 2 and in the vicinity of C.5v were to be held. This order was issued to all Battalions & in the early hours of the morning a continuous stream of men, mostly in a very deplorable condition from exposure, was seen for some hours coming back to the reserve nullahs. It was very fortunate that during this time the blizzard became even heavier & hid this movement of troops from the enemy, consequently there was no shelling. As soon as Battalions had been sorted out to their respective bivouacs, carts with corrugated iron, tarpaulins, braziers, fuel, medical comforts & clothing were issued to Battalions. All through the day large numbers of stretchers were going backwards and forwards from the nullahs to the ambulances carrying men suffering from exposure and frozen feet.

The weather during the day continued to be very cold, with a hard frost & bitter wind, but there was no more snow. The 3 posts mentioned above were relieved during the evening by officers and men in the Brigade who were found fit to do so.

Gallipoli Peninsula 29/11/1915:

All through the day a great number of officers and men who had done their best to stick it out were forced to go to hospital, the strength of the Brigade having now fallen from 97 officers and 2791 other ranks to 69 officers and 976 other ranks.

During the day the men who were left with the Battalion were all entirely relothed and it is hoped that a large number may recover from their very severe experience.

The water in the trenches had fallen a great deal during the day, leaving thick slushy mud of an average depth of about 2½ feet.

The 88th Brigade was ordered to relieve the posts still being held by the 86th Brigade in the trenches, & were ordered to increase them to a total of 200 men in the front line & with two posts in rear.

During the night small parties from each Battalion were sent to the trenches to commence recovering rifles and equipment.

Every available man from the Brigade was turned on to improve communication trenches to the firing line. This work was very difficult & and very arduous owing to the deep mud, & owing to a great many trenches having fallen in. A large number of trench boots had been issued on the previous day enabling men to work without the risk of getting frozen feet.

Small drafts arrived during the day for the 2nd Royal Fusiliers and 1st Lancashire Fusiliers.

Parties from the Battalions were up in the trenches continually night and day, collecting rifles & equipment & burying the dead.

Weather improved a great deal during the day, with a cold wind but warmer sun.

Nullah is an Asian word for a Ravine or Gully

Parados is a bank of earth built behind a trench or military emplacement to protect soldiers from a surprise attack from the rear

Author Ray Westlake states that in the aftermath of the storms, floods and blizzard the Regiment suffered 50 drowned or died of exposure and over 300 evacuated with frostbite.

Therefore 67 days after Alfred landed in Turkey he was dead. And only 13 days after his death, his regiment were pulled out of the line ready for evacuation.

I returned to CWGC web site intrigued to know who had perished from the Regiment, sadly not all are identified by an age or next of kin. What is clear though is my Alfred was one of two 17 year olds identified. Many of those who perished are only mentioned on a panel at Helles Memorial, Alfred was more fortunate in that respect, he has an individual grave marked at Hill 10.

According to his Will that I obtained from the TNA, Alfred, in the event of his death bequeaths all of his property to his father Daniel KITCHENER. The document also mentions that Alfred died at 54 Casualty Clearing Station but the TNA document WO/95/4356 has not yet been digitised so I guess I'll have to wait a bit longer to see what it says about events on the three days in question.

Unfortunately I have no picture of Alfred or have any idea what has happened to his war medals or 'Dead Man's Penny' but I am forever the optimist, so if anyone reading this knows anything about these I would be grateful if they could contact me.

I intend to visit Alfred's grave on the centenary of his death, I suspect I will be the only relative to have made the journey. I shall of course be hoping that the weather is kinder to me.

I am indebted to Graham Caldwell for his assistance.

I feel sure that as the Regiment was part of our FHS catchment area this article will touch other members.

Islington Gazette, Tuesday 13 February 1866

DEATH

On the 6th inst., at his residence, William-street, Camden-road, Holloway, Mr James WILSON (formerly of Chapel House, Chapel-street, Pentonville) in his 59th year

UNWANTED CERTIFICATES

Mr Terry Kaye, Member No. 7345, has sent us the following unwanted certificates that he 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 any of these.

Birth: William SCEARLES, son of James SCEARLES and Eleanor, formerly BROWN, born 25 June 1838 in the parish of Bulmer, Essex.

Birth: William BARRINGTON, son of Samuel BARRINGTON and Harriet, formerly HAYWARD, born 27 April 1838 at Great Cornard.

Birth: Alma Doris WEBSTER, daughter of Jane GABRIEL, formerly JONES, a needlewoman, born 2 November 1906 at 36 Ling Road, Canning Town. No father named.

Birth: James William CANT, son of James CANT, baker and Susannah, formerly HARVEY, born 14 June 1850, Southminster.

Marriage: James CANT and Susannah HARVEY were married on 5 September 1849 in the Parish Church, Southminster.

Marriage: James CANT and Mary HEARD were married on 20 May 1839 in the Parish Church of West Bergholt, Essex.

Marriage: Joseph NASH and Keturah CHURCH were married on 29 September 1853 in the Parish Church, Braintree.

Marriage: William WORT and Hannah REEVES were married on 26 April 1893 in the Parish Church, Breamore, Southampton.

Marriage: William Henry REEVES and Mary FORD were married on 13 October 1884 in the Parish Church of St Mary's Southampton.

Marriage: Charles TUTTON and Mary REEVES were married on 13 March 1839 in the Parish Church of Droxford, Southampton.

Marriage: William REEVES and Harriet HICKMAN were married on 25 December 1889 in the Parish Church of St Mary's Southampton.

Marriage: William James McKEE and Margaret MARSHALL were married on 30 August 1911 by certificate in the Register Office, Chatham, Kent.

Marriage: Percy Ernest HUME and Ada CANT were married on 15 April 1914 in the Parish Church of Mount Bures, Essex.

Marriage: Henry John SCOTT and Ellen CANT were married on 13 February 1910 in the Parish Church of St Andrew, Cornard Magna, West Suffolk.

Marriage: John BONES and Elizabeth MORGAN were married on 30 June 1860 in the Parish Church of Great Oakley, Essex.

Marriage: Arthur BONES and Mary Ann ELLIS were married on 14 October 1875 in the Parish Church of Great Ilford, Essex.

Death: Elizabeth GABRIEL, late teacher, died on 3 March 1873 aged 38 at London Hospital, Whitechapel.

Death: Edmond REEVES, son of James and Ann REEVES, smith, died on 21 August 1846 age 9 days at Botley, Southampton.

Death: Henry REEVES, pensioned sail maker, died 22 February 1870 aged 58 years at 15 Newport Street, Southsea.

Death: Hannah BUDDEN, wife of John BUDDEN, gamekeeper, died on 1 October 1898 age 75 years in Union Workhouse, Christchurch.

Death: Hannah RICE, widow of William RICE, cow keeper and farmer, died 29 July 1899 aged 84 years in Glencourt, Brondesbury Park.

Death: Jane HATCH, daughter of Simon HATCH, grocer, died 19 August 1846 aged 22 hours at 22 Butcher Street, Portsea.

Death: Jane HATCH, died 14 August 1837 age 70, in Southsea.

Death: Elizabeth MERSH, wife of Henry MERSH, farmer, died 2 September 1856 in Harting, Sussex.

Death: Ann NEWBERY, singlewoman, died 26 April 1846 aged 26 years in Portsea Workhouse.

Death: Elizabeth WATSON, widow of George WATSON, died 9 August 1893 aged 70 years, in The Sick Asylum, Poplar.

Death: Elizabeth WATSON, widow of John WATSON, bank? messenger, died 12 February 1892 aged 70 years at 124 Fenchurch Street, Allhallows Barking.

Death: Elizabeth WATSON, widow of – WATSON, carpenter, died 19 December 1891 aged 68 years at 280 City Road, London.

Death: Elizabeth WATSON, wife of William WATSON, master baker, died 17 September 1891 aged 68 years at 26 Clipstone Street, Marylebone.

Death: Elizabeth WATSON, widow of John WATSON, joiner, died 9 April 1880 aged 56 years at 34 Burnham Street, Plaistow.

Death: Emma WATSON, daughter of Thomas WATSON, mole catcher, died on 5 May 1858 aged 10 years, in Melford, West Suffolk.

Death: James CANT, wheelwright, died 20 November 1864 aged 50 years in Bradwell, Essex.

Death: James CANT, formerly gelatine? labourer, died 5 September 1911 aged 66 years at Grange Hill, Little Coggeshall, Essex.



Artillery In The Great War by Paul Strong and I Sanders Martin

An incisive study of artillery tactics throughout the Great War. Compares artillery tactics of Britain, France, Germany, Austria, Italy, Turkey and the United States. Detailed reconstructions of role of artillery in key battles including La Cateau, the Somme and Valenciennes.

Paperback, 272 pages, 234mm x 156mm, 30 illustrations

WW115 £12.99 Bookstall; £15.99 UK; £17.99 EU

The Great War Illustrated, Archive and Colour Photographs of WWI by William Langford

First of a series of five titles which will cover the war graphically. Commencing with the year 1914 the series will include many rarely seen images. Subsequently they will be lodged with the Taylor Library Archive. Covers the outbreak of hostilities, the early battles, the war at sea, forming the trench line from the coast to the Swiss border and the Christmas truce.

Hardback, 368 pages, 246mm x 189mm, 1,000 + black & white images plus colour section

WW116 £25.00 Bookstall; £28.00 UK and EU. Rest of World by request

Doctors In The Great War by Ian R Whitehead

A comprehensive study of the British Medical Services during the Great War and how they dealt with a conflict of this scale. For those with an interest in both the First World War and the medical profession.

Paperback, 224 pages, 234mm x 156mm, 12 pages black & white plates

WW117 £12.99 Bookstall; £15.99 UK; £17.99 EU

British Army in Italy by Dr and Mrs Wilks

A superbly researched and well written account of the campaign in Italy which has not received sufficient recognition.

Paperback, 256 pages, 234mm x 156mm, 16 pages black & white plates

WW118 £12.99 bookstall; £15.99 UK; £17.99 EU

The German Army on Vimy Ridge 1914 -1917 by Jack Sheldon

Another title in the authors acclaimed German Army Series. Describes from the German perspective the 30 month period when the Imperial German Army controlled the key terrain of Vimy Ridge. Superbly researched and written by the leading authority on the German Army in the Great War.

Paperback, 384 pages, 234mm x 156mm, 16 pages of black & white photos

WW119 £16.99 Bookstall; £19.99 UK and EU. Rest of World by request

The Great War by Field Marshal Von Hindenburg

Field Marshal Paul von Hindenburg was one of the most popular and dominant figures of the Great War and of Germany. Gives a fascinating insight into German Military thinking during World War One. Gripping first-hand recollections of the battles of Tannenburg and the Masurian Lakes. Edited and with a new introduction by Charles Messenger.

Paperback; 240 pages; 234mm x 156mm

WW120 £10.99 Bookstall; £13.50 UK; £15.00 EU

A German Tommy: The Secrets of a War Hero by Ken Anders

The story of a young British Army officer, Lieutenant Walter Lancelot Merritt MC who, east of Ledegem, Belgium, in spite of being badly injured held the flag aloft ensuring troops maintain the line as they move on to take long-entrenched German territory. For this Merritt was awarded a Bar to his Military Cross. In Britain for post war treatment he confessed in a petition to King George V that his real name was Walter Schwarz and that he had deserted from the Imperial Australian Force in 1915 because he feared his German ancestry would prevent him being sent into battle. The King who had decorated Merritt at Buckingham Palace accepted his story and pardoned him. The mystery of how Schwarz maintained his true identity for six long years remains to this day.

Hardback, 256 pages, 234mm x 156mm, 20 black & white photos

WW121 £19.99 Bookstall; £22.99 UK and EU, Rest of World on request

The Russian Army In The First World War; Rare Photographs from Wartime Archives by Nik Cornish

Photographic history of the Russian Army during the First World War. Rare photographs of the Tsar and his commanders. Covers all the major episodes - Tannenburg, Premysl, the Gorlice-Tannow and Brusiln offences, the fall of the Tsar and the fall of the Imperial Army under the Bolsheviks.

Paperback, 192 pages, 234mm x 156mm. 16 pages black & white photos

WW122 £14.99 Bookstall; £17.99 UK; £19.99 EU

A Nation In Arms; The British Army In The First World War Edited by FW Beckett and Keith Simpson. Forward by Sir John Keegan

A classic account of the British army during the First World War with a wide ranging analyses of every aspect of army life and organisation. A vivid portrait of an army at war written by leading experts in the field.

Paperback; 288 pages; 234mm x 156mm;

WW123 £14.99 Bookstall; £17.99 UK; £19.99 EU

The Battles of Coronel and the Falklands by Geoffrey Bennett

On 8 December 1914 the German Squadron steamed towards Port Stanley unaware that two of Britain's great battle-cruisers the *Invincible* and *Inflexible* lay in the harbour. Von Spee had no option but to flee. As the British ships closed in Spee was forced to confront the enemy. Although they fought with great courage against hopeless odds the German cruisers fought to the end. At five thirty that afternoon the last German ship turned and sank. Rear Admiral Sir Christopher Craddock who had suffered defeat at Coronel at the hands of Von Spee had been avenged. New preface and addendum by Rodney Bennett the author's son.

Paperback; 192 pages; 234mm x 156mm; 16 pages black & white plates
WW124 £10.99 Bookstall; £13.99 UK; £15.99 EU

Battleships; The First Big Guns by Philip Kaplan

This new edition to the author's Images of War series focuses on the early Big Gun Battleships that saw development and deployment during the First World War. Iconic ships such as *HMS Warspite* and *HMS Malaya* feature in this pictorial history. Rare black and white images trace the history of the formidable Big Gun Battleships. Philip Kaplan is an experienced contributor to the Images of War Series.

Paperback; 192 pages; 246mm x 189mm; 150 black & white images
WW125 £14.99 Bookstall; £17.99 UK; £19.99 EU

A Military Atlas of the First World War by Arthur Banks, Alex Wanston and Alan Palmer

Arthur Banks' atlas was first published in 1975. The maps were painstakingly drawn in black-white. This new publication takes the information laid down by Banks and interprets it in full colour, computer modelled cartography. The book covers the reasons why the major powers entered the conflict and the individual battles fought on the Western Front as well as in depth coverage of war in eastern Europe. The war at sea is mapped in great detail including the clashes at Dogger Bank and Jutland as well as the German submarine campaigns and the first major seaborne landings at Gallipoli. Maps show the routes taken by the first German Zeppelin raids on eastern England as well as the Allied strategic bombing efforts at the end of the war.

Hardback; 352 pages; 246mm x 189mm; Over 350 colour maps and diagrams

WW126 £25.00 Bookstall; £28.00 UK

The Battle of Jutland by John Sutherland and Diane Canwell

The Battle of Jutland was the greatest naval engagement of the First World War. Admiral Scheer had adopted a policy of launching attacks at the British coast. What he did not know was that the British had broken his naval codes and knew of his plans. Consequently when he threw his entire fleet on a mission to attack the British mainland in May 1916 he was not aware that the Royal Navy at Scapa Flow was underway. Drawn on released official records and personal accounts, the controversy of whether or not it was a victory still rages 90 years on.

Paperback; 224 pages; 234mm x 156mm; 16 pages black & white photos
WW127 £12.99 Bookstall; £15.99 UK; £17.99 EU



A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITORS

Letters, articles, comments, *help!* requests and all contributions for the journal should be sent to the Editors. You may send them by email or by post – both addresses are inside the front cover of METROPOLITAN.

Please quote your membership number on all correspondence to any member of the Society.

Please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you require an acknowledgement, need a reply or if you want any items returned.

Contributions must not have been published in other journals. If photographs are included in your article, please make sure that any necessary copyright clearance has been obtained. Note that copies of records obtained from Record Offices and Local Archives can also be subject to copyright and therefore we may not be able to reproduce them in the journal.

Finally, we thank all the members who have written to us on such a huge variety of subjects. (Please continue to do so!) We cannot produce the journal without your contributions.

HARINGEY LOCAL HISTORY DAY AT BRUCE CASTLE MUSEUM

Early in January I received notice from Debra Hedgecock, Archivist at Bruce Castle Museum, that the annual Local History Day would be held on Saturday 22 February from 11am until 4pm. I booked our usual two tables. On 24 January I was the victim of 'Distraction Burglary' and my handbag, containing both house and car keys, was stolen. My neighbour who was home that afternoon disabled my car 'just in case'.

The Thursday before the Local History Day I asked my neighbour to reconnect the battery. This he did early Friday morning. I had already decided that Bruce Castle was not an option and planned to phone Debra that afternoon and explain.

However, early Friday pm Debra phoned me to confirm that we would be there the following day. On the spur of the moment I said, "Yes!" Then panic set in. With part of the bookstall elsewhere would I have the right books etc to take? Would I be able to manage getting boxes and bags up two flights of stairs at the Museum and man our stand on my own?

I need not have worried. I packed a good selection of books and maps and when I arrived the staff at the Museum were most helpful, as usual, as were some of the other stallholders and all was transported upstairs at 10am.

The morning was very slow. Around lunch time I spied member Eileen Bostle from Harrow, who has attended for a number of years. Shortly after Eileen saw me and came as she does every year to offer her help. In previous years Bill and Joan Pyemont had helped throughout the day and I was more than pleased to have Eileen's assistance. This was just as well as the glorious sunshine had brought people into both the park and the Museum. During the afternoon we became very busy. The Society's *About Ourselves* booklet was given out to two prospective new members and we had a number of enquiries about our area.

During the afternoon Eileen introduced me to member Robert Missen (7683) of Oakwood who was wearing a blue top bearing the logo 'Friend of Bruce Castle Museum'.

I am pleased to report that sales were considerably more than in previous years and could have been higher had we been able to supply all the requests for Godfrey maps. Nevertheless, in spite of this it was a very satisfying day and I remain most grateful to Eileen for her invaluable help and support.

Anne Prudames, Bookstall Manager

LONDON WESTMINSTER AND MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2014

The following are the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the above Society held on 8 February 2014 in the Huntley Room at London Metropolitan Archives, 40 Northampton Road, London EC1.

Our President Michael Gandy BA FSG took the chair and welcomed 28 members.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Peter and Lynette Adams, Jackie Gemmell, Lilian Gibbens, Ann Lee, Sue Lumas, Jasmine and Robin Marson, Anne Prudames and Dorothy Stevens.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Minutes of the AGM held on 9 March 2013 were taken as read and approved.

MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman's report to 30 September 2013 was published in METROPOLITAN in December 2013. In updating this, Rosemary noted that overall membership continued its decline (41 fewer this year) yet members still join us and promotional activity includes visits to Fairs and Open Days with our Bookstall. In October we had a very good time at the West Surrey Fair in Woking and in 2014 we will be at Haringey (February); Aylesbury, Bucks (July); Woking again (in November). We will have a 'presence' but not a stand at *WhoDoYouThinkYouAre?LIVE* at Olympia (February) by means of a section in a video loop on the Federation of Family History Societies stand. Our leaflets will be there too and also on the Westminster City Archives and West Middlesex stands. For next year we will investigate the cost and logistics of having our own stand. An advertisement has been placed in the 2014 FFHS *Really Useful Leaflet*. We are making an agreement with the FFHS to pave the way for putting

some of our MIs on FindMyPast. This gives a better return than dealing with FMP directly. Good progress is being made with cataloguing our holdings and we are investigating the most appropriate storage media, containers and facilities.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Our Treasurer April Vesey reported on the current state of the Society's finances, noting that the major problem is the continuing decline in our funds caused by falling membership and rising costs, especially of the journal and branch meetings. AGM costs have also risen as a consequence of hiring a central London venue. Some issues had already been addressed and general administration costs, for example, had been reduced by a third. The Committee has also been looking at ways of reducing our storage costs, currently £300 per annum.

She pointed out that PayPal charge us 61p-79p per £12 subscription, so while this is a good option for overseas members, the Society would be grateful if UK members could pay by cheque or Standing Order. A member raised a question from the floor about Bank charges for paying in cheques. April replied that we are not charged for cheques unless they bounce. In future any such charges will be recouped from members.

THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

The annual accounts had been previously published in the December edition of METROPOLITAN. They were adopted by the meeting nem.con.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

No nominations had been received for any of the posts.

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

Tricia Sutton was willing to continue as Secretary

April Vesey was willing to continue as Treasurer.

ELECTION OF OTHER COMMITTEE MEMBERS (en bloc)

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

Anne Prudames, Membership Secretary (and also Bookstall manager)

Elaine Tyler, Projects Co-ordinator

Rosemary Roome, Chairman of Barnet Branch

Barbara Haswell, Representative for City Branch

Lilian Gibbens, Chairman of Enfield Branch

Doreen Heywood, Representative for Rayners Lane Branch

William Pyemont, Chairman of Wembley Branch

The Editorial Team: (Elizabeth Burling, Barbara Haswell and Rosemary Roome) is also represented by one member on the Committee

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

An information sheet (reproduced below) outlining the details and thinking behind the Committee's plans had been circulated to all attendees earlier in the day for perusal prior to the meeting.

The Committee's new rates were confirmed nem.con.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No items had been previously noted for discussion.

Marjorie Stevens proposed a vote of thanks to all those who volunteer to make the Society and the Branch meetings possible. This was greeted with acclamation by all present.

Our President formally closed the meeting at 3.45 pm.



NOTES ON SUBSCRIPTIONS

The current subscription covering the Society's year from 1 October 2013 to 30 September 2014 is £12. This standard subscription covers all family members living at one address, wherever that may be, with one copy of each quarterly journal METROPOLITAN, access to the members-only area of the website and one vote per subscription. New members are sent a new New Members' Pack and those joining during the Society's year receive back copies of Journals.

That subscription rate of £12 was set with effect from 1 October 2007.

Since then, general costs have risen and postal costs in particular have increased significantly - as everyone knows from personal experience.

Moving with the times and technology our Website was set up in 2008 and the facility to pay subscriptions by PayPal was subsequently introduced. For the last two years the July issue of METROPOLITAN included the Subscription Renewal Form to allow members more time to pay their dues by 1 October. A rejoining fee applies to those who allow their membership to lapse unduly.

During discussion of our ongoing deficits at last year's AGM a member raised the possibility of producing the journal online, thereby saving print and postal costs. However some members were adamant that they still wanted a paper copy.

Subsequent investigation by the Executive Committee has covered:

- the technicalities of providing a digital version of the journal
- the need to provide a choice of a digital or paper copy
- the substantial cost of printing
- the significant effect of postal costs (the cost of production, packaging and dispatch which to some destinations exceeds the current subscription)
- the impact on all administrative processing and procedures, aiming for simplicity

Accordingly the Executive Committee has decided that with effect from 1 October 2014 there will be three different subscription rates which reflect the mode of delivery and the increases necessary due to the cost of postage:

1. £12 sterling Worldwide, with the journal by email in PDF format
2. £15 sterling UK, with paper copies of the journal by post
3. £20 sterling Overseas, with paper copies of the journal by post

These rates apply whether payment is made by cheque, standing order or PayPal.

The following transitional arrangements will enable the changes to be implemented:

April 2014 Journal: A paper copy to everyone and a PDF version in the Members Area of the website so that members can see what a digital version would be like.

July 2014 Journal: As for April. The paper copy will include a revised Subscription Renewal Form.

Subscription Rates, due by 1 October 2014, for the year to 30 September 2015 will depend on location and the option taken to receive an email or paper copy.

October 2014 Journal: A paper copy posted to all members

December 2014 Journal: The first issue produced with both an email and paper version.

The Executive Committee
February 2014

Buckinghamshire Family History Society OPEN DAY

Saturday 26 July 2014 from 10am-4pm
The Grange School
Wendover Way
Aylesbury HP21 7NH

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

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

Free entry and free parking

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

For more information visit: www.bucksfhs.org.uk

WINSCOMBE STREET

Part 2

By Christine Dean, Member No. 5038

My great grandparents, Maria DAVIS and Charles GILLINGHAM were lovers. The story was that they never married because Charles' wife was in a padded cell in an asylum. I've traced no wedding certificate and think this tale was an excuse used to silence gossips.



Charles GILLINGHAM and Maria DAVIS

My great half aunt, Connie LARNER (née DINSMORE) told me “Charles and Maria didn't actually live together – they went on holiday together. With Charles and Maria it was a romantic first love.” Charles was born in 1853 in Milborne Port, Somerset, so was 28 years old in 1881 when my grandmother Maud GILLINGHAM DAVIS was born. Maria was 22, having been born to Sarah Ann and Caleb DAVIS at 19 Argyle Street, off Gray's Inn Road in 1859.

Charles' Printing Company first appears in 1882 at 282 Kentish Town Road, but the next year he had crossed the street to number 257 where this

photo on page 120 was taken. The image is photo 282 from the wonderful resource of Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre. It was one of a record series taken between 1903-1904 of all the buildings above the proposed route of the Northern Line Underground, presumably in case they should collapse into the workings below!

Maria stayed with her parents at 3 Winscombe Street, helping to support her daughters Maud and Ethel, pictured below, (born 1883), by ironing and delivering babies. When I was little I often stayed with my grandmother, Maud GERMAN in her home at 23 Bredgar Road, N19, a house I loved. We would cuddle up together at night in an attempt to keep warm in her large oak bed, and she would reminisce.



“All the family used to come to my mother Maria’s house to have their babies. I remember three drawers on the floor with a baby wrapped up in each. Two of them were relations’ and the third a friend’s. Drawers were ideal as you could keep the baby away from draughts deep down - and they couldn’t fall out,” she laughed.

In 1886 an Irishman moved into 7 Winscombe Street. He

was Samuel DINSMORE, born in Ballymena to Jane and William DINSMORE of Balley Portrey, County Antrim. He had two brothers and two sisters. When he was 18, Samuel learned that he had been written out of his father’s Will, so packed his bags and sailed for Glasgow where he enlisted as Private No. 1541 in the 77th Infantry Regiment.



When Maria met her new neighbour, Samuel had served 21 years and 267 days which included 12 years and 304 days in India, Egypt & Afghanistan. According to the certificate of Discharge 'His conduct and character while with the Colours have been good for he is in possession of 4 good conduct badges and a third class certificate of education'. Despite this, one week of

his shilling a week pension was to be stopped. 'for being caught giving water to a prisoner' according to his grand-daughter, Connie. That's Victorian Christianity for you. It wasn't fabulous was it?

Samuel DINSMORE and Maria DAVIS were married on 5 July 1886 at St Anne's Church, Highgate Rise. Six weeks after leaving the Army and calling himself a 'laborer', when Samuel put on his wedding suit the certificate mysteriously called him a 'printer'. Perhaps he thought, 'Blow it, I'm as good as Charles!' but labouring was to be his future.

Their grand-daughter, Connie, told me that Maria had two children. She knew Charles would never marry her and then Samuel comes along and she takes him. The newlyweds crossed the road and moved into 16 Winscombe Street with Maria's little girls.

Connie said: "Charles paid for the photo," perhaps wanting it to keep on his desk at the printing works. "He also sent round a gold sovereign for one of the girl's birthdays, or it might have been Christmas, I don't know". But I do know that a message was sent back by Samuel: "I married her and I will support her children". On Samuel's shilling a week pension, as time would prove, that was going to be very hard.

London Standard, Friday 25 July 1862

DEATHS

BANKS, On the 17th inst, at Kew, Surrey, Mary Augusta, only daughter of the late Francis BANKS, Esq, Liverpool, aged 27.

JOLLIFFE, On the 23rd inst, at 16 Stratton Street, Lady JOLLIFFE

PETERS, On the 21st inst, at Priory, Fratton, near Portsmouth, in the 44th year of her age, Helen, the beloved wife of Mr Alfred PETERS, late of Wolverhampton

RAPER, On the 22nd inst, at his residence, Hoe Court, Herefordshire, Lieut Col RAPER, late her Majesty's 19th Foot, in his 73rd year.

RAVENSROFT, On the 20th inst, at Paris, AW RAVENSROFT Esq, late of the Bombay Civil Service.

WILSON, On the 21st inst, at STONARD House, Stamford Hill, Josiah WILSON Esq aged 69.

WEBSITE NEWS

First World War Diaries

To mark the centenary of the start of WWI, The National Archives is digitising its file series WO 95, the unit war diaries from France and Flanders. These diaries were kept in order to provide an accurate record of operations to use when preparing the official history of the war and to collect information that would help make improvements in preparing the army for war in the future.

For researchers and family historians, the war diaries contain a wealth of information of far greater interest than the army could ever have predicted. They provide unrivalled insight into daily events on the front line, and are full of fascinating detail about the decisions that were made and the activities that resulted from them. War diaries are still kept by the armed services to this day and historical diaries such as these are still referred to.

The war diaries are arranged by operational theatre (front) first, then by GHQ, then Army, then Corps, then division, then by the units within each division. They cover the entire period of the unit's involvement in the war, from their arrival on the front to their departure at the end of the war.

The war diaries include details of the unit's activities, often on a daily basis. While not personal diaries, they do often refer to individuals and in some cases offer personal insights into life (and inevitably death) on the front line.

So far, 1.5 million pages have been digitised. TNA is hoping that members of the public will assist them in tagging these records. You do not have to be an expert to do this and there is a ten-minute tutorial that takes you through the process. What this involves is highlighting key words, place names, weather observations and other features. When they have all been tagged it means that the data-set will become searchable for these words, greatly aiding any future researcher (even you!). If everyone could do a little bit it would mean that the task will soon get done. To find out more, visit: <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/first-world-war/>

The Long, Long Trail

The Long, Long Trail is a site all about the soldiers, units, regiments and battles of the British Army from the First World War. You can find details of each regiment and each unit of the army, their history, where they fought, any memorials to them and so on.

There are articles on each officially-named battle, including maps and timelines of the action. Other pages have the order of battle, including transfers of brigades, set out clearly and information about how the army worked and soldiers' lives in it.

The website, created by Chris Baker, a freelance military historian and battlefield guide, former Chairman of the Western Front Association and founder of the Great War Forum, can be found at: <http://www.1914-1918.net/army.htm>

Welsh Ancestors

The National Library of Wales has recently added 200,000 pages from another 27 publications to join their newspaper archive online. This free-to-use website now has over 630,000 pages from nearly 100 newspaper publications and more will be added this year. The publications date from 1804 to 1919 and include *Y Drych*, the weekly newspaper for the Welsh diaspora in America.

Searches can be limited by date range, newspaper title or article category (such as Family Notices, Advertisements or News). You can also browse a newspaper without specifying a search term.

This website must surely help those of us with JONES ancestors although I should warn you – some of the items are written in Welsh!

You can find this website at: www.llgc.org.uk

Kensal Green Cemetery

The General Cemetery Company opened this cemetery in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea in 1833 and it is the oldest of London's Magnificent Seven. Many of London's rich and famous are buried there including engineer Isambard Kingdom BRUNEL authors William Makepeace THACKERY and Anthony TROLLOPE.

Deceased Online recently announced that all the records for Kensal Green Cemetery have now been digitised and are available on their website. The last tranche of records added covered the period between 1901 and 2010, meaning that there are now about 330,000 records available. These images include scans of the original burial reference books, details of those buried in each grave and pages from the original cremation registers.

To search this website or for more information visit: www.deceasedonline.com

JOTTINGS

Enfield Library and Museum Service Honoured

Earlier this year Enfield's library and museum service was honoured with a Customer Services Excellence award from the Cabinet Office. This prestigious award was presented to 30 members of staff, volunteers and customers at The Dugdale Centre in Enfield.

Cllr Bambos Charalambous, Enfield Council's Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure, said, "This fantastic award reflects the hard work and dedication of all of our staff and shows their commitment to providing a brilliant service to our residents."



WW1 Military Tribunals

Those who were recruited at the beginning of the First World War were volunteers but conscription was introduced in January 1916. Some appealed against this demand to fight and the records for the County of Middlesex are now online and searchable by name and place. This is a rare archive as the County records were destroyed by the Government in 1922 – except those for Middlesex (and Lothian and Peebles in Scotland) which were to be kept as a benchmark for possible future use. They have been released now as part of the Centenary Commemoration of WW1. Only about 5% of Middlesex cases concern conscientious objectors. Others give an insight into the effects of the War on the home front and life at the time. However for other counties, where these records were destroyed, some detective work is necessary to uncover any information about individual objectors from various sources.

On Thursday 15 May the talk at the Barnet Branch meeting will be *WW1 Military Tribunals* given by Jon Mein who will speak about the purpose of and procedures in the whole system.

Jon is involved with a project looking for Hertfordshire objectors so the talk will be of interest to everyone, wherever their ancestors were. So do come along if you can. (See page 134)

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.



CLARA ELIZABETH RETALLICK

I am trying to find the fate of my great grandfather, Joseph John RETALLICK's first wife, Clara Eliza RETALLICK née BIRCH. Born 1854 in Northampton to parents James BIRCH and Anne BIRCH née TILLEY, she married Joseph John RETALLICK on 28 May 1871 at St John the Baptist, Hoxton. Three children were born of the marriage between 1872-1874 and all died in infancy before 1874. Their addresses at this time included Bethnal Green Road and Featherstone Street, Holborn.

Joseph John RETALLICK married again on 25 December 1875 to Elizabeth Anne AUSTING at Pancras Registry Office and gave his marital status as 'bachelor'. His given occupation and father's details confirm it is the same man as the previous marriage. The marriage would appear to be bigamous. Elizabeth AUSTING died on 24 September 1878.

Joseph John married for the third time my great grandmother, Sarah Ann CLARK, on 16 February 1885 at St Jude, Bethnal Green. His marital status was given as widower. He died in 1893 at Poplar.

I have been unable to trace anything of Clara Eliza after 1874 in either the censuses or the usual BMD and LMA records. Had she and Joseph John 'separated' and gone their own ways?

Any help or assistance would be most appreciated.

Terence Gibbs, Member No. 7844

2 Juniper Court, College Hill Road, Harrow, Middlesex HA3 7JF

Email: terry@tgibbs.fslife.co.uk

Note: A Clara BIRCH appears in the 1881 census at 27 Richmond Street, Holborn St Luke, stating that she is single. This Clara was born in 1854 in Northampton so seems to be the same one. It does look as if she and her husband may have gone their separate ways.

DOBNEY

I am seeking origins of Thomas DOBNEY, buried 27 January 1691 in Prestwold. His son Thomas (Thomas and Alice) was buried in Prestwold on 16 September 1727. He was a servant to Esquire PACKE, Prestwold Hall. There were various children: Sarah, Elizabeth, Rachel, Thomas (baptised 1686) and Samuel.

Thomas (baptised 1686) had a son Thomas, who died 6 April 1726 aged 3 years. There is a monumental inscription in Prestwold Church which records Thomas (burial 1726) as being the son of Thomas DOBNEY of London in Kensington parish, Inn Holder.

Does anybody know any more about the DOBNEYS?

Stephen Sleath, Member No. 7812

98 The Ringway, Queniborough, Leicestershire LE7 3DL

Note: London Lives 1690-1800 contains a digitised copy of a Paper from the Middlesex Sessions dated April 1720 which names the Constables and Head boroughs of Kensington and Thomas DOBNEY is mentioned as one of the latter.

To view this document visit: www.londonlives.org

WW1 HONOUR ROLL

Can anyone please advise me where I may find the Roll of Honour for The Westminster Guildhall for servicemen from Middlesex who died in WW1?

I have a copy of signed letter from the Middlesex War Memorial Committee dated November 1924 which thanks my Grandmother for the information for inclusion in the Roll of Honour for Middlesex men who died in the Great War.

Terry Hills, Non-member

The Old Farmhouse, Pevensy Village, East Sussex BN24 5LF

Email: gypieboy@gmail.com

Note: The War Memorials Online includes the Middlesex Guildhall Staff WW1 memorial. This is located at the Middlesex Guildhall, now the UK Supreme Court at Little George Street, Westminster, London SW1P 3BB. Could this be it?

For more information about this or any other War Memorial of any kind visit: www.warmemorialsonline.org.uk

HAYMAN-LEWINGTON



This is a photograph of my grandparent's wedding in November 1902. The bride, Julia LEWINGTON, lived in Grafton Street (now Eburne Road), Crouch End and they were married in St Barnabas Church.

Where are all the missing men? Perhaps they were in the pub or perhaps they did not want to be photographed.

Can anyone identify this location please?

Ruth Rattenbury. Member No. 7848

Upper Wallis, Wallis, Haverfordwest. SA62 5RB

E-mail: ruth@rattenbury.com

Note: It looks as if the wedding party are being photographed at the bottom of their garden. The houses in this picture appear to be the back views of the houses that would be in the next road, whose gardens adjoin the one belonging to this house. Looking at Eburne Road and neighbouring Salterton Road using Google Maps Street View it is

certainly possible that the location of the photograph is the bride's parents' house. Could those be sheds, or maybe privys, just behind the wedding party? We wonder what the E ... R' means on the little building in the centre of the picture.

There are 5 men (plus 2 youths and 3 boys) and 15 women, which does seem rather out of proportion but maybe the bride and/or groom had mainly sisters and aunts rather than male relatives? Alternatively, the groom is a military man. Could his friends still be in South Africa following service in the Boer War?

BATTYE

I am looking for any information on student attendance etc for Kensington School (The Kensington Proprietary Grammar School 1830-1896) and those who subsequently joined the East India Company, plus any other related information to those mentioned below?

This is the background:

In the late 1770s John BATTYE left Huddersfield for London and became a Stock Broker. In 1805 he became the first Chairman of the newly formed London Stock Exchange.

In the 1820s his grandson George Wynyard BATTYE joined the East India Company and went to work as a civil servant in India. He had married Marian Patty MONEY, the great granddaughter of King George III. The King's daughter Princess Elizabeth had secretly married the son of the King's page at the Palace called George RAMUS, they had a daughter Eliza who married James MONEY.

George and Marian BATTYE had 11 children over the next 18 years, 10 sons and 1 daughter, all surviving into adulthood, which was unusual for European families in India at that time. When they reached school age, the children were each, in turn, sent back to London to stay with their grandmother at either Holly Lodge, Campden Hill or 28 Chester Square and attended school in London, followed by joining the East India Company and training to be officers.

On return to India they joined either the 'Guides' regiment, or the Ghurkhas. These were the two regiments of the 'Army of the Punjab' which protected 'The North West Frontier' against raiding parties of Afghan tribesmen, who regularly came down out of the hill into what was then India but now Pakistan.

In the Indian Mutiny of 1857, elements of the army which now included 3 of the brothers were ordered to march to the relief of Delhi. In what became known as the 'Long March' they covered 589 miles in 22 days at the hottest time of the year and then went straight into battle.

Lieutenant Quintin Henry BATTYE was one of the first into the city but was mortally wounded. His father's sister had married James MALCOLMSON, and their son John MALCOLMSON, his cousin, was just behind and went to his aid. Quintin's last words were 'Dulce et decorum est pro patria' a line from a Roman poem, which translates as 'It is sweet and right to die for your country'. James MALCOLMSON went on to avenge his cousin and for his gallantry was awarded the Victoria Cross. This was the first of the brothers to die in the service of their country.

The brothers took part in many skirmishes along the Afghan border but occasionally these flared up into a full war and in 1878-1881 what became known as the 'Second Afghan War' took place. Major Wigram BATTYE led the charge at the head of the Guides Cavalry up the Khyber Pass to clear the way for the main body of the army. They succeeded in capturing a fort but in a subsequent skirmish on 2 April 1879 he was shot through the heart and killed. The fort was subsequently renamed 'Fort Battye' in his honour.

His men knew that the Afghans desecrated Christian graves; therefore upon their eventual return to India, his coffin was dug up and placed on a raft manned by volunteers and sailed back down the gorge. Afghan rebels were hiding amongst the rocks of the steep sided gorge and the coffin sustained many bullet holes. He was eventually buried with military honours back at their base.

Officers and men of the regiment had a commemorative plaque to these two brothers erected in the crypt of St Paul's Cathedral, plus a separate one for Wigram. Many of their medals are on display at the National Army Museum at Chelsea.

The ten brothers, christened by the newspapers of the day as the Battling Battye's, were:

Maj. Gen. George Money BATTYE (1829-1912)

Lt. Quintin Henry BATTYE (1832-1857)

Gen. Henry Doveton BATTYE (1833-1915)

Maj. Wynyard BATTYE (1835-1882)

Lt. Col. Montague McPherson BATTYE (1836-1929)

Cpt. Charles Forbes BATTYE (1838-1918)

Lt. Gen Arthur BATTYE CB (1839-1909)

Maj. Wigram BATTYE (1842-1879)

Maj. Leigh Richmond BATTYE (1845-1888)

Lt. Col. Frederick Drummond BATTYE (1847-1895)

Other close members of the family moved to London and were mainly in the legal profession or the church.

Norman Battye, Member No. 7837

88, Dryclough Road, Beaumont Park, Huddersfield HD4 5JB

Email: norman.battye@ntlworld.com

Note: All sorts of information may be found in the records of the school, which are held by the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea Central Library, Philmore Walk, London W8 7RX.

India Office records and private papers are held at the British Library, 96 Euston Road, London NW1 2DB. FindMyPast has recently added these records to their website. These 2.3 million records comprise the archives of the East India Company (1600-1858), the Board of Control or Board of Commissioners for the Affairs of India (1784 - 1858), the India Office (1858-1947), the Burma Office (1937-1947), and a number of related British agencies. View these collections at: www.findmypast.co.uk

Some of these records appear on a free-to-use database compiled by the Families in British India Society (FIBIS). These transcripts contain an estimated 35,000 records from 1698 to 1947. They include baptisms, marriage and burial indexes, register office marriages, cadetship application papers, wills index, Indian Navy pension funds, orphan society, civil servant deaths, military family fund, cadet patrons and allocations. They can be searched at: www.fibis.org

BETSY WATSON

I am trying to find Betsy WATSON and her birth family and would be most grateful for any help or information. Betsy married Percy TOMPSETT on 18 August 1913 in Paddington. I have a copy of that Wedding certificate so found her father's name.

I believe Betsy was baptised on 10 September 1893 at St John the Evangelist, Kensal Green, Westminster. This record shows her parents as Alexander Henry and Mary WATSON, née PORTER. I believe at the time

of her baptism they lived 46 Earlsmead Road, Willesden, Middlesex. This address appears on the 1911 Census, which is the only census on which I can find the WATSONS.

I found the marriage of Alexander Henry WATSON to Mary Elizabeth PORTER in Kensington in December 1888 though have not yet sent for the certificate but still can't find either parent on earlier census records. Nor any birth records for Alexander or Mary.

Family folk lore says her father (Alexander) may have been born in Scotland. So far this has been impossible to confirm as Alexander WATSON seems a common Scottish name.

If anyone has any information or ideas about how I can move this forward it would be so good to hear from you.

Sylvia Arthur-Davies, Non-Member

99 Stratford Road, Stroud, Gloucestershire, GL5 4AL

Email: sylviaarthur@hotmail.co.uk

Note: Looking in the 1891 census using the 'address' search facility, it is found that Earlsmead Road, Willesden is in the Hendon Registration District. The GRO Indexes show there was the birth of a Betsy WATSON in the September quarter of 1893 at Hendon so it is likely that this is your girl.

The family appears at 4 Richmond Mews, Paddington in the 1901 census, with Alexander saying he was born in Blackfriars. Betsy appears as Bessie in this. The 1911 census has her again as Bessie - the family are at 19 Convent Garden, Kensington with Alexander saying this time that he was born in Lambeth.

Both Lambeth and Blackfriars are near the Thames in London. There was an Alexander H WATSON born in 1866 in St Saviour Southwark who might be worth investigating. His wife, Mary says on the census that she was born in Norfolk in 1868 and there was a Mary Elizabeth PORTER in the GRO Birth Indexes for Downham, Norfolk in 1868.

You will need to purchase the marriage certificate of Alexander and Mary, as this will give you the names of their fathers, which will then help you locate them on the earlier censuses and confirm whether these births are actually them.

ANDRE/SMITH/RANFT/SCHNEBERGER

I am seeking the origins of Charlotte SMITH (1810-1832). She married Charles ANDRAE (sic ENDRIE), Baker (1797-1875) at St George, Hanover Square on 24 September 1828. Charlotte ANDRAE was born in Francis Street, (now Pettyward Lane) Chelsea and baptised 13 June 1829 at St Luke's. Charlotte was raised by the SCHMID family in Gillingham Street, Pimlico.

Esther SCHMID's maiden name was SMITH. She was born 18 January 1796 in Kingsland Road, where her father James was a baker, and baptised at St Leonard, Shoreditch. Her husband Christian Henry SCHMID was a warfinger, born Germany. Esther's sister Susan married Johann? George RANFT, plumber, at St Mary Abchurch on 28 August 1821 and, after his death, William GANNELL. Susan RANFT witnessed the marriage of her sister Esther and also the marriage of Charlotte ANDRAE and John Simon SCHNEBERGER*, baker on 23 April 1840 at Holy Trinity Brompton.

Can any member supply answers to the following questions;

1. When and where was Charlotte SMITH born?
2. Susan RANFT witnessed the marriage of Charlotte SMITH and Charles ANDRAE. Her daughter Susan witnessed the marriage of Charlotte ANDRAE and John Simon SCHNEBERGER.
3. Were Charlotte SMITH and Esther SMITH sisters or half sisters?
4. Charlotte ANDRAE and Mary ANDRAE, daughters of Charles and Charlotte ANDRAE were baptised 28 August 1831 at St George Hanover Square. What became of them? Did they die young and were they sisters of the Charlotte ANDRAE baptised at St Luke, Chelsea in 1829?

*John Simon SCHNEBERGER was born in Horbach, Germany on 5 November 1824. In 1888 he was invited to become Chairman of the London Master Bakers' Charity Committee. In April 1903, sixteen months before his death at Putney, he presented his portrait in oils to the committee.

Mrs Elisabeth Roller, Member No. 7822

Denzenberg Strasse 46 72074 Tubingen, Germany

Note: There appear to be several family trees on Ancestry.co.uk which contain John Simon SCHNEBERGER and Charlotte ANDRAE. It might be worth your while to have a look here at what others have found out about the family.

BOOTH

I am attempting to gather details on the BOOTH family of Clerkenwell, Islington and Hackney areas and their involvement in the jewellery, gold and watch making trades. I want to find out if they owned their own businesses or if they worked for others. Were they recorded in guild records? Is there other information to be found about their occupations?

The families involved in these trades include Charles BOOTH, jeweller aged 55 in the 1841 census.

In the 1851 census his son, Henry Harlow BOOTH, aged 32 was described as 'Gold and Jeweller'.

From 1861-1881 his occupation was 'Jeweller' and by the time of his death he was referred to as a diamond setter. Henry married Amelia LEMAITRE, (whose father was a watch maker) and their son Edward O BOOTH appears in the 1901 census as a gold jeweller.

I feel there must be some record with at least three generations in related trades!

Warwick Booth, Member No. 6980

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

Email: wbooth4@bigpond.com

Note: If your ancestors traded in London they should have been members of the Goldsmiths or Clockmakers Livery Companies. Records of these are held at London Guildhall, Aldermanbury, London EC2V 7HH, where there is also a clock museum.

CANT

I am unable to find a birth for my great grandfather Henry CANT, born 1859/1860 in the St Pancras area. He was the son of Andrew, a Lastmaker and Eliza.

In 1861 he is listed as Andrew CANT but on subsequent census returns/marriage and death certificates, his name is Henry.

Can anyone give me guidance as to why I am unable to find other births and marriages for the Marylebone/St Pancras areas between approximately 1857-1864, as neither Ancestry, Findmypast nor freebmd have any registrations I am seeking.

Janet Hewitt Winch, Member No. 7643

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

Email: j_hewittwinch@o2.co.uk

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 17 April | <i>St Pancras Station & St Pancras Old Church</i> by John Neal |
| Thursday 15 May | <i>WW1 Military Tribunals</i> by Jon Mein |
| Thursday 19 June | Members' Evening |
| Thursday 17 July | TBA |

City Branch – 12 noon for 12.30pm

Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre, Holborn Library,

32-38 Theobalds Road, London WC1X 8PA

Branch Contact: Barbara Haswell

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Thursday 24 April | <i>Starting, and Revisiting, your Family History</i> by Mari Alderman |
| Thursday 29 May | <i>City Churches and their Gardens</i> by Barbara Haswell and Rosemary Roome |
| Thursday 26 June | <i>Streets East of Bloomsbury (round and about Holborn Library)</i> by Tudor Allen |
| Thursday 31 July | Members' Meeting |

Enfield Branch – 7.30pm for 8.00pm

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

Branch Contact: Lilian Gibbens

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Wednesday 2 April | <i>Family Bibles</i> by Rena King |
| Wednesday 7 May | <i>WW2 Evacuees</i> by Mike Brown |
| Wednesday 4 June | <i>Changes in Fashion</i> by Lilian Gibbens |
| Wednesday 2 July | <i>Britain in the Fifties</i> by Steve Jennings |

Rayners Lane Branch – 7.30pm for 8.00pm

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

Branch Contact: Doreen Heywood

- Friday 11 April *Blocking, Bumping and Crabbing (Hatmaker Ancestors)*
by Ian Waller
- Friday 9 May *What's New at Family Search?*
by Sharon Hintze
- Friday 13 June *My Favourite Ancestor*
Members' Evening
- Friday 11 July *Robert Peel to PC Neal*
by John Neal

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 28 April *Annie Besant and the Match Girl Strike*
by Jef Page
- Monday 26 May No meeting – Bank Holiday
- Monday 23 June *Dark Side of Marylebone*
by John Neal
- Monday 28 July Members' Evening

ADVERTISING RATES

Advertising rates per issue of METROPOLITAN are as follows:

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

All copy, correspondence and remittances should be sent to the Editors.

See inside front cover for address.

A PUZZLING MARRIAGE

A recent query concerned a couple who were married in the church of St Botolph without Aldgate in the mid nineteenth century yet their families were in Woolwich, Kent. Why would this have happened? The church is one of four St Botolph's built in the 10th/11th centuries beside the City's main gates 'for the spiritual comfort of travellers.'

The most common reason for marrying in another area was the wish to go where the couple were not known. There could be a variety of reasons for that ranging from family disapproval to bigamy as divorce was not possible for most people. Occasionally, a wedding in a 'posh' place was desirable. Maybe there were family members living in the area?

Examination of the marriage certificate may reveal some clues by considering a few fairly standard questions:

Are the couple at the same address? Perhaps an accommodation address to establish residence while banns were called on three successive Sundays at the church? Is the marriage by banns or licence?

Are the witnesses family members (including in-laws, married sisters etc). Or, say, just the Parish Clerk and a passer-by?

Are the couple stated to be Bachelor and Spinster or Widower/Widow? Could they sign their names? Are the fathers shown as deceased?

What are their ages? (These may be inaccurate, especially if there is a large age difference, the bride is actually older than the groom or either were really under age. In an unfamiliar place, statements may not be queried.)

Then there are considerations from other sources:

Where were the couple in the 1851 Census? And in subsequent Censuses?

When and where were the children born? (Consider dates before marriage too, when registration could be in the mother's maiden name.)

When and where were the children baptised?

Are there any family myths or comments that "so and so would never talk about him/her/that?" Those are just the things which need investigation!

The results may be surprising, and could even be a bit upsetting at times perhaps, but one must remember that social conventions and the law etc have changed markedly over time and family historians must be prepared to find all kinds of things - that's what makes it interesting! And it's no reflection on the researcher - the past is the past and can't be changed. We are just trying to build a picture and then understand it.

AIMS OF THE SOCIETY

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

SUBSCRIPTIONS

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

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

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

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