

# METROPOLITAN

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**LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX**  
Family History Society



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Cover picture: The Thiepval Memorial

© Charles Hawker

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## EDITORIAL

This year marks the one hundredth anniversary of the start of the First World War and we will be featuring many family tales of those days in this and future issues, courtesy of LWMFHS members.

Talking of articles – the Editors are always on the look-out for more pieces for the journal. We are asking members to gather their thoughts together and write something for us – articles, letters, memories and *tips!* all add up to give a varied journal.

There have been quite a few replies to other readers in this issue. It is great to get this feedback from you – the experts. Between us we have expertise in many areas and it is lovely when people share this.

There are not many Members' Interests in this issue and strangely, the problem seems to be in common with other Society's journals that we have been reading. Do make use of this facility as it is one way to spread your interest names throughout the world.

Football fever is taking hold of the country, with events in Rio making headline news. You can also read about football in our journal! See the article on page 154.

The following information is for those of you who have registered with the website. It is up to members themselves to keep their website profile up-to-date. There are instructions in the Members' Area on how to do this and on the back page of this journal. Remember also that if you choose to receive the electronic version of the journal, you must be registered with the website in order to download your journal.

### The Editorial Team

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

## CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

This year, 2014, will be seen as a landmark in the history of our Society: the year that an electronic version of METROPOLITAN was introduced as an option;

when the one universal subscription rate, covering all family members at one address wherever that may be, ceased to apply;

when there were three new subscription rates applicable for the Society's year, which runs from 1 October to 30 September of the following year, in order to reflect both the location of a member and the choice to receive an electronic or paper version of the journal.

A paper copy of the April journal was sent to everyone as usual and a PDF version was placed in the Member's Area of the website so that members could see what a digital version would be like.

This July issue will be dealt with in the same way. However this is also the time to renew subscriptions, due by 1 October, for the year to 30 September 2015. The white renewal form will be found in the centre of this journal together with notes to read before completing it. A renewal form can also be found on the website, as can a standing order form.

The new subscription rates are:

£12 sterling UK and Overseas, with the journal as a PDF download

£15 sterling UK, with a paper copy of the journal by post

£20 sterling Overseas, with a paper copy of the journal by airmail post

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

**Important Note:** if you pay your subscription by standing order, it is essential that you contact your bank to ensure that the correct amount will be paid by 1 October 2014.

So the choice is yours: an electronic version, which we know some of you are very keen to have, or a paper copy as now?

**Rosemary A Roome**

## LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Many thanks to Dennis Galvin for the information about the Queen Elizabeth Inn and Queen Elizabeth Hunting Lodge in Chingford, Essex, which appeared in the April 2014 magazine. It has been very helpful in my research of one of my ancestors, George Alfred POLLARD. (Article in December 2013 METROPOLITAN)

I was able to do a Google search which even listed the publicans/residents of the Queen Elizabeth Inn, Forest Side, Chingford from Kelly's and Post Office directories. Not only did it show George POLLARD's wife Martha Emma POLLARD as the publican from 1890-1896 (she died in 1899) but listed her former husband, Joseph LONG (who died in 1888) and her father-in-law John LONG working at the Inn with dates going back to 1862. I was also able through *Ancestry* to trace John LONG and his family who came originally from London and must have arrived to live in Forest Side, Chingford by 1848 as Joseph LONG was born there.

It all adds more information leading to the fateful day in November 1893 when my great grandmother, Elizabeth HAMILTON with her husband Frederick, were no doubt visiting her brother, George POLLARD at the Elizabeth Inn. Sadly on the journey home there was an accident, and Elizabeth was drowned when crossing the Mill Stream near Chingford.

### Sources:

Google information about the Queen Elizabeth Inn, Chingford.

British Newspapers.

Ancestry.co.uk – UK City & County Directories; Censuses 1841-1891; BMD records.

***Marian Crew, Member No. 4718***

I was interested to read of the HAYMAN-LEWINGTON wedding mentioned in the latest METROPOLITAN. My mother was born in nearby Mayton Street in that year of 1902. Eburne Road is situated in Upper Holloway, not Crouch End as stated in the article.

I think the ER relates to the coronation celebrations for the crowning of King Edward VII. It was to have taken place earlier in the year but had to be postponed due to the king's appendicitis.

***Roy Hidson, Member No. 80***



Note: this does seem to be a common thing. Here is another example we found of celebratory lettering marking the coronation of Edward VII

Regarding the letters E...R on the shed (?) in the background of the photo on page 127 of April's METROPOLITAN: King Edward VII's coronation had taken place in August 1902 and as the photo was taken in November of that year I would think that there had been some sort of celebratory decoration up there. This might also account for the two things which look like holes above the letters.

*Barbara Roberts, Member No. 5091*

In the April Journal, George Chappell asked if research in newspapers was done using a system, or just a random search. I use both methods.

**System** – draw up a list – firstly by place and county.

Under each county list the people with their birth, marriage and death dates (if known). Also any event which may have happened.

**Random searching** – draw up another list as above but – if dates are not known, look for possible births, marriages and deaths in GRO indexes and note the Registration District, Quarter and Year. (If you know the Parish, you may be able to check the records to see if there is any mention of the baptism, marriage or burial). Then any events which may have happened locally and perhaps details of weather.

For the British Newspaper Archive online and Gales online newspaper archive, I usually select the County to be searched and then type in a name, or event, in inverted commas, which does help to cut down the number of hits.

*Doreen Heywood, Member No. 1694*

**W**ith reference to the request for information about the WW1 Honour Roll inside St Paul's Cathedral there are about 3 different parts on the left of the main seating area where the Middlesex Regiment have their Flags and the names of the men who died, I think.

*Eileen Blythe, Member No. 2*

**I** am contacting you as the Membership Secretary of the Clan MacLeod Society of England, which last year celebrated 75 years since its founding in 1938.

We would like to reach out to any MacLeods (however spelt) you might have in your membership. Over the centuries the two ancient branches of Clan MacLeod, the MACLEODS of Harris and Dunvegan and the MACLEODS of Lewis and Raasay, have garnered a number of 'Sept surnames' (which are listed at the end \*). Individuals with these surnames are often also interested in making Clan connections too.

We are the **England** branch of the Clan MacLeod Society and so our membership and activities are mainly south of the border; however we are linked to seven other Clan MacLeod societies around the world through a global coordinating body called ACMS, website: [www.clanmacleod.org](http://www.clanmacleod.org)

We also have a strong interest in genealogical DNA testing and linkage and have MacLeod and Septs surname study groups with around 500 participants linked through the Family Tree DNA database and website in the United States.

*Alasdair McLeod, Membership Secretary,*

*Clan MacLeod Society of England, 74 St Stephen's Road, Hounslow, Middlesex TW3 2BN*

*Email: [al@mcleod.uk.com](mailto:al@mcleod.uk.com)*

\*MacLeod Sept names: Andie, Askey, Aulay, Beaton, Bethune, Callum, Caskie, Grimmond, Harrold, Lewis, MacAndie, MacAskill, MacAulay, MacCabe, MacCaig, MacCallum, MacCaskie, MacClure, MacCorkill, MacCorkindale, MacCorquodale, MacCrimmon, MacGillechallum, MacHarold, MacLewis, MacRaidl, MacWilliam, Malcolmson, Nicol, Nicolson, Norman, Norn, Norrie, Tolmie, Williamson





## **A VISIT TO THE FIRST WORLD WAR BATTLEFIELDS OF THE SOMME**

Charles Hawker, Member No. 4166

For a number of years I had felt the desire to visit the area where my uncle Robert John PANK had been killed in September 1916. He had been born in St Pancras in 1883. The centenary of the start of the war in 2014 and the plans being made to commemorate it increased that desire.

Using the Commonwealth War Graves Commissions' 'Find War Dead' site, I established that he was remembered on the Thiepval Memorial. This was designed by Sir Edwin LUTYENS and lists 72,191 names of the missing. I wanted to see the inscription of his name, almost certainly the only member of the family to do so, and had obtained from Kew copies of the War Diaries for his brigade at the time that he was reported missing. This I hoped would enable me to see the area where he had died.

It was to this end that, earlier this year, my son and I travelled by Eurostar to Lille and from there to Albert. We had arranged with the tourist office in Albert for a taxi to take us around the various sites.

The Thiepval Memorial at 46 metres high dominates the surrounding area (see front cover). Its size and the vast number of recorded names is overpowering. Adjacent to the Memorial is a cemetery, divided into two. In one half are buried Commonwealth fallen and in the other French casualties. There is a visitors' centre nearby, where films detailing the Somme conflict are shown. The other normal facilities are also available. We spent almost two hours at Thiepval. The taxi driver, having stopped the meter, asked us to phone his firm when we wished to continue with the tour.

We next drove to The Lochnagar Crater, near the village of La Boisselle. This was formed at 7.28am on Saturday 1 July 1916, the first day of The Battle of the Somme. Tunnellers had excavated under a German strong point, from a trench named Lochnagar Street. So much explosive was used that debris was flung almost a mile in the air. As with the Thiepval Memorial, the sheer scale is overwhelming. It is almost 300 feet in diameter and 70 feet deep. It was purchased by Richard DUNNING, on the

1 July 1978 to prevent it being filled in by a local farmer. A remembrance ceremony is held on 1 July each year, starting at 7.28am.



The Lochnagar Crater

There is a large wooden cross near the lip of the crater and a number of wreaths had been placed at its base. More wreaths were positioned around the perimeter from regimental associations. In the calm of a June morning, it was hard to imagine the slaughter that had occurred in this part of France.

We then moved to the Newfoundland Memorial, near Beaumont-Hamel. This 74 acre site has been preserved, so that one can see the trenches and view the nature of the area which provided little cover. The centre piece of the memorial is a bronze caribou, standing atop a cairn of Newfoundland granite. The regiment attacked during the 1 July 1916 and in 30 minutes had lost most of its men. The memorial site encompasses the grounds over which the regiment fought.

We asked the driver to return to Albert, via Mailly-Maillet and Bertrancourt, which was the area occupied by my uncle's battalion when

they attacked north of the river Ancre on the 3 September and he became one of the 176 other ranks missing on that day.



The Newfoundland Memorial

It was poignant to see the poppies, which have from that time been synonymous with The Great War. We took photographs of the fields and picked one poppy to press, to remind us of how we felt at that moment - a connection with events nearly a hundred years ago.

***North London News, 22 June 1861***

On Thursday afternoon M. Blondin gave another of his rope-walking exhibitions in the grand transept of the Crystal Palace. It was intended that the performance should take place in the grounds, on the rope which has been erected over the fountains, but the rain rendered the adventure dangerous and it was abandoned. His performances were of the usual surprising and extraordinary description, consisting of evolutions alternately exciting admiration and terror.

## ISLINGTON WORKHOUSE RECORDS 1895-1916

By Dawn Adams, Member No. 6025

Working my way through these, on-line, looking for my great-grandfather, Benjamin George ADAMS, I have made some observations that may be of interest to members. The records are not indexed, so need to be consulted page by page, in the old-fashioned way. This has its own pitfalls, of which more below, but can be worth the effort.

My main source has been Admission and Discharge Registers for St John's Road Workhouse, on Ancestry.co.uk. The Master of the Workhouse, or another authority, would issue an individual Order of Admission. When recipients were admitted, this was recorded on the Admissions page of the Register. A baby born in the Workhouse was also an admission. For each date, the record shows the day of the week, the inmate's name, the first meal eaten in the House, occupation, religion, and, though the column heading is 'When born', their age. The spelling is noticeably better than that of the census enumerators. Also noted is the date of the Order of Admission, who issued it and the inmate's parish, just in case they could be sent, or charged, to somewhere else.

After about 1906, the inmate's previous address is also shown: this is easy to miss in the on-line images, as, being on the extreme right of the admissions page, it appears on the left hand side of the next image. You may need to count the lines to match it up. From this information I deduced that B G ADAMS did not go home to his wife and family (see METROPOLITAN October 2013).

Sometimes the words 'Hagar' and 'Ishmael' appear alongside an entry. The meaning of this I found via an Admission Register for the 'alleged female lunatics of Hagar Ward'. I assume Ishmael is the male equivalent – why were they named after Abraham's handmaid and his son by her?

The Discharge page for each date follows the Admissions page and contains the day of the week, inmate's name, last meal eaten, reason for discharge and either 'comments' or 'conduct' (which I have not seen ever completed, alas). 'If reason for discharge is "Dead", write "Dead" '. If an inmate moved to another establishment, even one within the Islington

Union, it counted as a discharge from St John's Road, perhaps to the Highgate Hill Infirmary, perhaps to Cornwallis Road (CRW) (which was taken over by Islington in 1895 from the West London Union). There was regular traffic to Claybury and Colney Hatch Asylums and of children to the Hornsey Road Receiving Homes. St John's Road appears to have been the first point of entry, a clearing house.

Workhouses were not prisons, so inmates could leave at their own request, and many did. My great-grandfather appears to have taken a day or two out every few months. As the Discharge page *follows* the Admissions page for each day, days out can be confusing, unless the record of meals eaten is consulted (discharged after breakfast, back to eat supper).

A good half of each admission/discharge page is taken up by the diet category into which the inmate was placed. Until 1901, Islington maintained 11 categories, numbered but not specified. Number 1- 4a seem to have been for males, both adults and children, 5-8a were female and 9 was for infants. After 1901, a national list was adopted, which is set out on Peter Higginbotham's excellent website: [www.workhouses.org.uk](http://www.workhouses.org.uk). In Islington the categories were specified as Plain diet (1 and 1a for men, 3 and 3a for women), Infirm diet (2 and 2a for men, 4 and 4a for women) and Feeble diet (2b men, 4b, women) Children were grouped by age: 3-8, 8-16, under 3.

Daily running totals for each category were kept. Feeding the inmates was an unpredictable but significant cost for the Master of the Workhouse to manage. When BG ADAMS first entered St John's Road Workhouse, in 1898, there were 717 inmates; by the time he died there in 1916, there were 1693, and totals in the interim had approached 1800. It would be unrealistic to try to cost the inmates' actual diet – though they ate a lot of bread, for example, it was more substantial than today's sliced white. The allowance for feeding inmates of our 21st century prisons and hospitals is around £1.50 a day. On that basis, the Master's outlay in today's money might vary between £400,000 and £1million a year for food alone.

When the number of inmates grew to 1700, a group of them were sent to Workhouses in other Unions: to St Giles (from which B G ADAMS was sent straight back by the Master of St Giles) or even to North Witchford, a

much better-off Union near Ely in Cambridgeshire, where he and several others spent 11 weeks in the winter of 1905-6.

One advantage in looking for my great-grandfather was his first name, Benjamin. Studies have shown that it is easier to pick up a familiar word than an unfamiliar – eg first names, rather than surnames. Less than a dozen people, in all the years I scanned, were named Benjamin (or Benj'n). Scanning lists of names, rather than carefully transcribing, brings several pitfalls:

- *Habituation*: studies of wartime sonar operators showed that after quite a short period they genuinely failed to see the very blips they were looking for. Their visual systems had become habituated, and needed to rest for a while. When I realise that I have a discharge date with no corresponding admission, I have usually missed an entry. Fortunately there can be a short-cut via the Creed Register, a log derived from the Admission and Discharge Register. Someone transcribed the details of every inmate into another Register with numbered pages, whose column headings were: Date of the entry, Date of admission, Name, Whence admitted, Religious Creed, Name of informant (ie who said this was their religion), Discharged or dead. Helpfully, 'whence admitted' sometimes gives an address as well as the parish, and 'discharged' can give a reason, a date and/or a destination. Even more helpfully, in some years the numbered pages are preceded by 'alphabetical' lists – a page of A's, a page of B's etc. (though not in full alphabetical order). Each name entered on these also has the inmate's age and the number of the page on which they appear in the Creed Register. A person may appear more than once on the 'alphabetical' pages, as they were clearly completed by going through the Creed Register pages in order. But having found the missing admission there, one can go back to that date in the main Register.
- *Assumptions* 'Never assume, check!' was a motto given me by the widow of an RAF pilot, and it fits family history well. Even though the website has labelled the Register as covering a certain period, it is as well to note the dates written in the Register being used. Thus, the records for 3 spring months in 1904 and 3 spring months in

1905 are not in the online images of the Admission and Discharge Registers for St John's Road. The Creed Registers labelled 1909-1910 actually cover the calendar year 1908; 1908-1909 Creed Registers cover March 1909-January 1910 and 1907-1908 includes as an extra December 1908-March 1909.

Another important find was a set of registers labelled 'Liverpool Road Workhouse', covering my period of interest. Liverpool Road was the predecessor to St John's Road, and by that time was used only for out relief and as a dispensary. No one was being admitted there – so what were these books? Examination revealed pages of a different format of Admission and Discharge Register, again 'alphabetical', by inmate name, followed by age (always useful as an identity check), parish to which chargeable, then column after column of admission and discharge dates, sometimes with a note of where the inmate had gone. Again, this is a derived Register, whose accuracy depends on the person who completed it, but with missing records and researcher fallibility, it is a helpful source.

- *Distraction* Lists of Register entries will always contain clues to stories that seem more interesting. How did Aubrey VEALL and his family fall into the Workhouse, when he was a printer's compositor by profession, always an elite trade? (The VEALLs were not in the Workhouse for any census – would someone working on that line welcome my finding?) Who were the wonderfully named Malvina GREENWOLD, tailoress, and Obadiah PRIME, sawyer? It is tempting to follow up especially when page after page has no reference to the man I am seeking. Iron discipline weakens in the face of a potentially interesting story.

There is always more to learn and I'm sure others understand these records better than I – but using them has been fascinating as well as frustrating. They're well worth a look.



## WINSCOMBE STREET – PART 3

### The Price of Poverty

By Christine Dean, Member No. 5038

My great grandmother Maria DINSMORE and her husband Samuel's new home at number 16 saw the birth in 1887 of Evelina - Samuel's first child and Maria's third - after Maud, my grandmother and her sister Ethel. Eve's father was an 'Army Pensioner' as he still was two years later when Sarah Ann was born; but by then Samuel had ushered his family across the road to number 11. Maud told me: Maria said: "I filled the house with girls before I had a boy".



Maria and Samuel DINSMORE

Upstairs in one room (to my amazement) was my paternal grandmother, Alice Rosa GERMAN, a widowed Char Woman; her 12 year old son William (my grandfather), daughter Alice and sons Albert 5 and Walter 2.

The boy was Samuel Godfrey, born January 1891 in number 8 where the seven DINSMORES were now. It was to be here that what their granddaughter, Connie LARNER, described to me as "a rock solid marriage" was to be sorely tested.

When, in April, the Census Enumerator knocked on the door of number 8 he found on the ground floor John GUNTRIPP, Railway Coal Porter, wife Fanny, sons Henry 15, William 9 and Albert 3 - plus 17 year old lodger William VENABLES.



Then - in two rooms - were the DINSMOREs - Samuel 43, Maria 30, Maud 9, Ethel 8, Eve 3, Sarah 2 and baby Samuel. It is difficult to imagine the crowded, insanitary conditions.

On Sunday 27 September 1891, baby Samuel crawled out of his high chair, where Maud had sat him, across a table and fell 12 feet to the ground below, out of an open window. Maud had turned round for the water jug, turned back and saw her little brother falling. Maria had gone downstairs for water (which Maud did not know) and heard her son fall.

When my mother, Muriel HADDOCK, told me this terrible tale we both thought it had happened in Lulot Street as Winscombe Street was never spoken of by her mother Maud. It was as if this trauma had expunged the memory of the street where my ancestors had lived at numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11, 16 and 20.

Maud told me: "I was blamed." But the Coroner's Court where, two days later, she had to appear to make a statement certainly did not blame her. My dear, kind, loving grandmother said how she "really loved her grandmother" (Sarah Ann DAVIS), but "didn't really like my mother" (Maria DINSMORE). Perhaps poor Maria had taken out her anguish on her oldest daughter, then just 10 years.

Family history throws up many surprises, not least for me when I discovered my grandparents had lived in the same house as children; but nothing so traumatic as when I read about the tragic events described in both the *St Pancras Gazette* and *Guardian*. (Thank goodness I was seated in the gentle atmosphere of the wonderful Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre). Samuel must have been at work, then a General labourer. Imagine the turmoil in Winscombe Street when he went home! He was to move his family to Lulot Street.

In 1890 the *Hampstead & Highgate Express* complained that the 'whole district' (Lulot and Redcar Streets) 'has obtained an unenviable reputation of being hopelessly insanitary .... many houses have no damp courses or foundations & floor boards are laid straight on the ground'. (*Streets of Highgate*, Camden History Society).

Four years later the next DINSMORE baby, Robert, was born at 50 Lulot Street; followed in 1896 by twins Doris and Sarah, the latter dying 17 days

later. In 1898, when Charles BOOTH described the poorer class of occupants in Lulot Street, baby Charles DINSMORE was his parents' last son, followed in 1900 by Ada their last daughter. Maria had borne 10 children, 2 of whom had died as babies.

Along the road at number 26 Lulot Street lived Alice Rosa GERMAN with her 4 children. Her eldest son, William Alfred, then a Piano Maker, had the morning off on Thursday 3 August 1905 to marry Maud DINSMORE from number 50. Maud had been working as a Clerk in her father, Charles GILLINGHAM's Printing works office at 257 Kentish Town Road.

My mother said: "They had a coach and horses for their wedding at St Anne's. GILLINGHAM must have paid for that."



Wedding photo of William Alfred GERMAN and Maud DINSMORE

Centre row: Samuel and Evelina DINSMORE, William and Maud GERMAN, Ethel and Sarah DINSMORE,  
 Back row: (obscured) Robert DINSMORE, Alice GERMAN (in dark dress) and her daughter Lily and ? Maria DINSMORE  
 Front row: Doris DINSMORE, Maria's niece Doris DAVIS and Ada DINSMORE with flower basket.

Although this photograph on thick card had lost its top when I first saw it as a little girl, it does show how much 'needling' had gone on to dress everyone up for this special event.

My grandparents, Maud and William GERMAN moved in to number 42 Grovedale Road. They had one whole room to themselves! In the corner, in a cupboard, was a tap providing cold running water.



## **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](http://www.bucksfhs.org.uk)

## **IT'S A GOAL!**

### **Football Tales From Enfield**

By Glynice Smith, Member No. 7210

Researching family history can become an addictive hobby – the curious will want to create a picture of the real individuals behind birth, marriage and death certificates. When we reach those inevitable brick walls, it is worth exploring lesser-used sources for breakthroughs – especially if an ancestor has an unusual occupation or hobby. Recording life stories can provide a fascinating insight into, and provide important clues about, characters in a family and fill in the gaps in the story discovered so far. Recollections may not be totally accurate, however they still offer a unique insight into a family's past.

Members with footballers in the family may be interested in two unusual resources in Enfield. The first relates to a project entitled 'Enfield Football Tales' and the second is a book on the history of the sport in Enfield entitled *From a Spartan Beginning, a statistical record of Enfield Football Club 1893-2007* by Graham Frost.

As a volunteer with Enfield Local Studies Library and Archive I joined a programme for people from different generations to share and learn about football heritage in Enfield, whilst leaving a legacy for the future. The Beth Johnson Foundation, a leading intergenerational charity, received funding through the Heritage Lottery Fund to work with Enfield Town FC and other local agencies, including Enfield Age UK, to capture and record stories and memories people have of the clubs and football in Enfield. Project co-ordinator was Suzannah Yianni.

My knowledge and interest in football is limited to a love of Georgie BEST in the 1970s, so I was surprised to find interviewing former footballers, supporters and organisers of the Kid 'E's' Club at Enfield Football Club so enjoyable. I also sat in on reminiscence sessions at the Age UK Enfield dementia care centre.

Former footballer Peter TERRY played in the 1950/60s. He told how he was forced to miss the Amateur Cup Final at Wembley in the 1963/64 season because he hurt his back lifting his son, Steve, the week before the

game. (Steve later went on to play for Watford in the FA Cup Final). In the same match, Malcolm MITCHELL recalled breaking his arm after 25 minutes play. Yet, after treatment, he returned to play up front in the second half! When I asked why he went back onto the pitch he told me he could not let his side down. When the players met after all those years their camaraderie and team spirit still shone brightly. An extremely committed couple ran the Kid 'E's' Club. They recalled players signing autographs and answering questions during half time. There was also a very active Ladies team at Enfield Town whose members significantly influenced the sport. It really was a family affair. When Enfield won a major cup, the team paraded through Enfield Town in an open top bus with the street crammed with people joining in the celebration.

Now there is a resource on record to support local history studies in schools and reminiscence projects. It includes handling boxes containing a wooden rattle, boots and shin pads, pop-up posters, scrap books 1950-1970s, bobble hat and scarf. Programmes and a jar of Bovril are also available! A website for the project has been created and some of the interviews are on YouTube.

In addition to Suzannah Yianni and the Beth Johnston Foundation, a major force behind this project was local author Graham Frost whose book *From a Spartan Beginning, a statistical record of Enfield Football Club 1893-2007* offers so much more than just a statistical record. Whilst it does contain lists of team members, leagues tables, fixtures lists and grounds, it provides examples of tickets, programmes, posters and other interesting ephemera plus snippets of detail giving a glimpse back to local life of the period, including the effect that two world wars had on the sport.

For example, when Valentine BROWN and George DRAGE founded the Club in 1893, the team's 'ground' was accessed through the yard of the *Jolly Butchers* pub in Silver Street, Enfield. The 18-19 year old players washed in a shared bucket after the game. By the time Spartans entered the Tottenham & District Junior Alliance (1894) they found the new ground they needed in 'Mrs TUCKER'S Field'. No wonder the players of the 1960s and 1970s found facilities at Wembley 'luxurious'.



1961 London Senior Cup Winners

Today's supporters might be surprised to learn that in 1904/5 a season ticket cost 3s (15p in today's money). In 1896/7 it was even less – admission was 3d and ladies were admitted for free!

In 1914/15 season, war was declared on Germany on 4 August. The Athenian League was suspended and former Enfield players killed in action included: Charles BLAKE, 26, killed in the Battle of Passchendaele; Frank GANE, a Boer War veteran who died in the Battle of Arras; Dick SHELDRAKE, 26, lost in the Somme and Tom PIDGEON, 24, killed in the Battlefields of Northern France.

In 1934 a general meeting was convened in the tea rooms of the *Hop Poles* pub in Baker Street, Enfield to invite people to form a Supporters Club. On 7 November 1936 a new stadium was officially opened in Southbury Road.

Players from the 1963/64 season were interviewed for the Football Tales project. Those appearing for the club that season included Malcolm NEALE, Stuart NEALE, SEDGLEY, STEPHENS, HORGAN, HOWARD, KINGSLAND, LAWLOR, LAWRENCE, MENDUM, MITCHELL and BAMBRIDGE. Other key players were D'ARCY, DAY, QUAIL and PAYNE. Are any of them related to your family?

People I interviewed for the 'Football Tales Project' praised this book very highly. They told me it contained everything they needed to remind them of happy days. Copies of the book may be purchased through Enfield Local Studies Library and Archive.

Family stories may not always be accurate but as one person's perception and recollection of history they are invaluable. They can help provide missing pieces in our past, bringing the characters to life. If you have footballers or supporters in your family from Enfield or North London, take a look at the Enfield Tales website, consider purchasing the above book. Begin by interviewing relatives and write down your own tales too.

Enfield Local Studies Library and Archive is an excellent place to start. John Clark and his staff are extremely knowledgeable and helpful. If you wish to access Ancestry or Find My Past for free on one of the four computers, it is best to book a place in advance.

#### Acknowledgements:

Thanks to Graham Frost for permission to quote from his book and Enfield Football Tales ([www.enfieldfootballtales.co.uk](http://www.enfieldfootballtales.co.uk))

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Beth Johnson Foundation ([www.bjf.org.uk](http://www.bjf.org.uk)) working with Enfield Town Supporters Trust, Enfield Town FC, local schools, Enfield Voluntary Action, Enfield Over 50s Forum, Enfield Race Equality Council, Enfield Age UK and North London Hospice

## WEBSITE NEWS

### **Local Population Studies**

The Local Population Studies Society was created in 1972 to bring together individuals interested in all aspects of local population history. In 2005 it merged with *Local Population Studies*, a magazine and newsletter (started in 1968) which contained articles and notes relating to local population studies and related topics.

Their journal, *Local Population Studies*, is published twice a year and back copies from 1968-2008 are available to view for free as pdf files via their website at: <http://www.localpopulationstudies.org.uk/index.htm>.

These journals contain many interesting articles, some of which are pertinent to our area. For instance, *Local Population Studies* Number 52 (Spring 1994) contains an article about the 1891 census in Spitalfields and specifically about where the foreign-born inhabitants came from; issue Number 77 (Autumn 2006) takes a look at mortality in 18<sup>th</sup> century London by examining the contemporary Bills of Mortality and issue Number 2 (Spring 1969) features male occupations in Tottenham High Cross, then a rural Middlesex parish, from 1574-92.

Thank you to Eileen Blythe, Member No. 2, for letting us know about this website.

### **University College London Bloomsbury Project**

The UCL Bloomsbury Project, carried out between October 2007 and April 2011, has a very useful website that is well worth a visit if you are interested in the development of the area in the nineteenth century. It is fully searchable and divided into three categories – Bloomsbury Institutions, Bloomsbury Streets and Squares, and Bloomsbury and the Bloomsbury Project. There is a helpful diagram of the estates in Bloomsbury as well as a collection of maps showing the growth of the area from c1800. An introduction, written by Professor Rosemary Ashton who led the project, gives an overview of its coverage and the contents of the website. I came across this website when researching Dyott Street where my ancestors lived c1875-1905 and was pleasantly surprised not only by the detailed information but also by further links given. I would recommend it to anyone researching Bloomsbury ancestors. You can find this website at: [www.ucl.ac.uk/bloomsbury-project](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/bloomsbury-project).

Many thanks to Pam Chambers, Member No. 908, for this write-up.



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Members are reminded that subscriptions for the coming year are due for renewal by 1 October 2014. From this year 2014-2015 there are now three categories of membership, each with a different rate.

Please read the following notes before completing the form.

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Members wishing to pay future subscriptions by Standing Order should send an SSAE to the Membership Secretary to obtain a form.

You may renew by **PayPal** via our website but note that the Society is charged a fee per transaction.

Renewal reminders will not be sent and a rejoining fee applies to those who allow their membership to lapse unduly.

If you require a receipt for your cheque, then please include an SSAE with your completed form and remittance. It takes several weeks for the Membership Secretary to process and bank hundreds of cheques. Please bear this in mind and contact her only if your payment has not appeared on a Bank Statement.

# **LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY**

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## NEWS FROM THE BOOKSTALL

Although a third list of nine publications covering various aspects of the First World War to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of that war had been prepared for publication in the July issue of METROPOLITAN, the Bookstall Manager made the decision, based on the lack of interest shown in the previous lists, to discontinue the series altogether.

As the 6 June 2014 commemorates the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D Day, a list of publications some previously featured in earlier editions of METROPOLITAN and covering various aspects of World War Two are periodically being reissued with new, striking cover designs by heritage author and designer, Peter Ashley. Those already reissued have an \* after the title.

Prices shown are Bookstall prices. Postal costs for UK, Europe and Rest of World are appended at the end of the list and should be added to the Bookstall price shown.

Members who attended the Enfield Branch meeting on 7 May will recall author Mike Brown's excellent and well received talk, *WW2 Evacuees*. Two other titles by Mike Brown in this series are listed below. A third title by Mike Brown, *Wartime Britain*, is currently out of print but to clear existing stock is offered at a reduced price of £4.99 + PP while stocks last. (See SLH09 Below).

**Anne Prudames, Bookstall Manager**

<i>Animals in the First World War</i> *	SLI 790	Bookstall £6.99
by Neil R Storey		+ PP
<i>Army Childhood</i>	SLI 671	Bookstall £6.99
by Clare Gibson		+ PP
<i>ARP and Civil Defence in the Second World War</i>	SLI 581	Bookstall £6.99
by Peter Doyle		+ PP
<i>The Battle of Britain</i>	SLI 644	Bookstall £6.99
by Neil R Storey		+ PP
<i>The Blitz</i>	SLI 606	Bookstall £6.99
by Peter Doyle*		+ PP
<i>The British Airman of the First World War*</i>	SLI 791	Bookstall £6.99
by David Hadaway and Stuart Hadaway		+ PP
<i>The British Airman of the Second World War</i>	SLI 728	Bookstall £6.99
by Stuart Hadaway		+ PP
<i>British and Commonwealth War Cemeteries</i>	SLI 596	Bookstall £6.99
by Julie Summers		+ PP
<i>The British Sailor of the Second World War</i>	SLI 739	Bookstall £6.99
by Angus Costam		+ PP

<i>The British Soldier of the First World War*</i> by Peter Doyle	SLI 471	Bookstall £5.99 + PP
<i>Evacuees of the Second World War*</i> by Mike Brown	SLI 570	Bookstall £5.99 + PP
<i>The Home Front</i> by Guy de la Bedoyere	SLI 400	Bookstall £4.99 + PP
<i>The Home Guard</i> by Neil R Storey	SLI 574	Bookstall £6.99 + PP
<i>Medical Services in the First World War*</i> by Susan Cohen	SLI 792	Bookstall £6.99 + PP
<i>National Service</i> by Peter Doyle and Paul Evans	SLI 664	Bookstall £6.99 + PP
<i>Prisoner of War in Germany</i> by Peter Doyle	SLI 473	Bookstall £5.99 +PP
<i>RAF Bomber Crewman*</i> by Jonathan Falconer	SLI 602	Bookstall £6.99 + PP
<i>Railways in Wartime</i> by Tim Bryan	SLI 647	Bookstall £6.99 + PP
<i>The WAAF</i> by Beryl E Escott	SLI 422	Bookstall £4.99 + PP
<i>Wartime Childhood</i> by Mike Brown	SLI 567	Bookstall £6.99 + PP
<i>Winston Churchill</i> by Kevin Theakstone	SLI 642	Bookstall £6.99 + PP
<i>Women in the First World War*</i> by Neil R Storey and Molly Housego	SLI 575	Bookstall £5.99 + PP
<i>Wartime Britain</i> by Mike Brown (Normally £6.99 but reduced while current stock lasts)	SLH 09	Bookstall £4.99 + PP
<i>What Tommy took to War 1914-1918</i> -Hard back by Peter Doyle and Chris Foster	SGN 7	Bookstall £6.99 +UK PP of £1.65
<i>Posters of the First World War</i> by David Bownes and Robert Fleming-Hard back and large format. In association with the Imperial War Museum	SGN 8	Bookstall £10 +UK PP of £1.65

## POSTAL COSTS

UK, Book price + £1.25; EU, Book price + £3.70; Rest of World Book price + £5.  
Please note Hardback publications SGN 7 and SGN 8 above are individually priced.

## OUR VERY GOOD FRIEND THE MILKMAN

By Roy Hidson, Member No. 80

A song made popular by the American entertainer, Fats Waller, was entitled *My Very Good Friend the Milkman*. At one time the milkman was a familiar sight on our streets but today he is a rarity. At one time the fields around London contained dairy farms, and hayfields for fodder. They supplied the capital with dairy produce and cattle were driven in by Welsh drovers.

Some drovers settled in London and opened shops which supplied dairy produce which they delivered to their neighbours. Some shops even had cowsheds where the animals could be milked. Holloway cheesecake was hawked around the streets by men on horseback. However, these goods had to be distributed quickly as there was no means of refrigeration. Things came to a head in 1865 when many of the cattle died in an outbreak of Rinderpest [cattle plague].

The trade began to advance with the coming of the railways. Churns of milk could now move quickly and be picked up at the station by dairymen. Milk delivery was by push barrows or 'prams' or the bigger rounds would have a chariot-like horse-drawn vehicle known as a 'float'. Milk was delivered from churns to the customers in metal cans. A splendid picture of this is to be seen on the walls of the Friern Manor Dairy in Stroud Green. These early milkmen still wore their countryman's dress of smock and gaiters, perhaps crowned with a bowler hat. There was no protective clothing and the men were exposed to the elements. Their street cry was 'Milk below maids', later abbreviated to 'Milko' and finally to a high pitched yodel.

It was against this background that my father, George HIDSON began his career as a milkman in the year 1913. He was born on the newly-built Noel Park Estate in Moselle Avenue in 1897. He began with the firm of RO Bennett of Harringay who later merged with other small dairies to form Excelsior Dairies, later Welford & Premier and finally becoming United Dairies. He pushed his pram around the streets of Harringay until service in the First World War.



Mr George Hidson and Bovril

He returned to a very different world. Although there were still many small dairies, this was now the age of the big combines such as the Express, the London Co-Op and United Dairies. Although many small firms were being bought up they would not sell unless the deal included their shops. My

father now worked for United Dairies which served bottled milk and had smart orange horse-drawn vehicles. The vans displayed the company logo, which was a map of Great Britain, and the Royal Arms as it held the Royal Warrant. The milkman now had to make two deliveries. The first was to deliver milk and the second was to deliver dairy produce. In 1930, my father and his round moved into the new depot at Finsbury Park. It was a large building with a refrigerated store, artesian wells and room for the wagons. At the end of the day the men would drive into the back entrance in Goodwin Street. Once inside, the horses would be unharnessed and would walk up a slope to their overhead stables where they were fed and enjoyed the services of horsekeepers and a farrier. When the pantomime *Cinderella* was playing at the nearby Finsbury Park Empire, the horses for Cinderella's coach were stabled here.

The wartime years were hard with many men being conscripted and milk was rationed. My father was now training milkwomen. During air-raids it was proposed that the horses be taken out and tied to trees in Finsbury Park. This proved a disastrous failure as, maddened by the anti-aircraft guns, they tore away from the trees and galloped around the Park until rounded up by the keepers. The post-war period was still harsh with rationing still in place and fuel shortages. The appalling winter of 1947 saw my father delivering milk by sledge. On a brighter note the United Dairies sent the largest contingent of horses and vehicles to the Annual Parade and came away with many prizes. My Father's favourite was a splendid prizewinning horse named *Bovril*. Time was now moving on and horses were being replaced by electric vehicles and years of working in all weathers were taking its toll on my father's health.

In 1953 he completed forty years service and received an inscribed gold watch. He also became a member of the Long Service Corps which gave him a silver badge with the Company logo. Every year the Corps held a dinner at the Connaught Rooms in Holborn. Before every dinner the trumpeters of the Royal Artillery sounded the Last Post in honour of those who had passed away since the previous year. My father retired in 1964 after 51 years service. He was given a tobacco pouch and a table lighter. Sadly his retirement was short as he died from cancer later in the year.



## **EXPLOSION AT THE COTTON POWDER WORKS**

By Peter Todd, Member No. 7686

Shortly before ten o'clock on Tuesday night, 4 August 1914, an explosion shook the town of Faversham, Kent. People at first feared that a German aeroplane had dropped a bomb, as on that very day Britain had declared war on Kaiser's Germany, after their troops had invaded Belgium in violation of the 1839 Treaty of London guaranteeing Belgium's neutrality. However, it soon became clear that the explosion had emanated from the local guncotton factory. Sometime later, and under the curious gazes of the town's populace who had turned out in strength, motor cars containing the local doctors and three injured men arrived at the Cottage Hospital.

Fortunately no one was killed in this incident and the damage to property was minimal and production of explosives for the impending war soon resumed. My maternal grandfather, Albert WELLS was one of the men who were injured; their injuries however were not serious and he and his mates were allowed home within a day or so.

Gunpowder was first made in Faversham in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. It wasn't made just for warfare, but also for commercial purposes such as blasting and tunnelling for roads and canals during the Industrial Revolution. The discovery of guncotton heralded the start of the high explosives industry that we know today. Accidents in this industry were common. When the newly discovered guncotton was first made, under licence, in Faversham an explosion in the first year (1847) of its manufacture killed 18 workers, resulting in its manufacture in the Town being abandoned until 1873.

On Sunday, 2 April 1916, at midday, a violent explosion once more shattered the comparative calm of Faversham. Because of effective wartime censorship some of the facts about the explosion did not start to emerge until the end of the following week. Even three weeks later, following questions in Parliament, the scale of the disaster was not fully known.

It eventually became clear that this catastrophe had been, in terms of lives lost, the worst ever recorded in Britain's explosives industry. 115 men and boys were killed. The 108 bodies, of those that were found, were interred in a mass grave in a Faversham Cemetery.

This information was new to me in the summer of last year (2013) when my daughter sent me a text message while she was on holiday with her husband in Kent. It was a wet day, she said, and they had popped into a local museum in Faversham and would I tell her my granddad's full name. Shortly afterwards my daughter presented me with a large envelope containing information about the museum, various booklets on Faversham's past and most importantly, from a family history point of view, information on my grandfather's past employment and some other personal facts, which I had not come across before.

Until recently my knowledge about my maternal grandparents' history was non-existent. I have memories of seeing them as a young child, during the last war, when I and my parents took the very occasional trip from our home in North London to Faversham, but as to their backgrounds I knew nothing at all, not that I was interested in discovering anything about my kinsfolk when I was only ten years old; there was more fun to be had playing with my friends and finding shrapnel in the street. My grandmother died in 1944 and my grandfather eight months later. The discoveries below have all come from my research into their lives over the past year or so.

My grandfather, Albert, Thomas WELLS was illegitimate and born in the Tonbridge Union Workhouse, Kent. His mother, Elizabeth WELLS (1856-1937) was admitted to the Union on the 9 January 1878. The admission register identified her as a needlewoman from Hadlow, Kent and also that she was pregnant upon her admission. The birth of her son on 1 March 1878 is recorded both in the birth register and the admission register. The birth register additionally recorded that the boy was not baptised in the Union Chapel and was referred to as 'WELLS male' and 'WELLS infant' in the records. Elizabeth and her son were discharged from the Union on the 21 March 1878.

Albert was raised by his widowed grandfather, Thomas, although as the Census records for 1881 and 1891 tell us, his mother was not far away because she was in the next door cottage housekeeping for another man's family. Elizabeth eventually, after bearing a couple more fatherless children, married the man next door in 1896. So I have often wondered since knowing this, whether..... ?

Grandad first appeared in Faversham in the 1901 Census. He had been

married for about a year to Ellen Harriett WILSON (1873-1944) and was already working as a labourer at the Cotton Powder Works. I don't know when he actually arrived in Faversham; I suspect the late 1890s. On the marriage certificate his occupation was given as baker, a job I believe he did as a teenager in Hadlow, Kent and one which perhaps he went back to after the Cotton Powder Works closed at the end of the Great War. In the 1911 Census grandad and grandma WELLS, my mother (aged 7 years) and her younger sister and her older brother are listed, as well as Ellen's father, Alfred WILSON, a retired railway porter.

Alfred WILSON was born 1845 and baptised at All Hallows, Tottenham in London on the 2 February 1846. His father, James WILSON (1806-1876) was a journeyman miller from Suffolk and later a brewer's assistant in London. Alfred probably moved to Faversham in his early twenties because he married Eliza COLLINGWOOD (1847-1896) in the local parish church in 1866, when he was 26 years of age. The 1871 and subsequent Census records note that he remained a railway porter his whole working life. Albert Thomas WELLS died on 2 January 1945 at his son's home in Rochester, Kent.

#### Acknowledgements:

I wish to thank Dr Arthur Percival MBE; Mr Peter Sullivan and The Faversham Society, Fleur de Lis Heritage Centre, Faversham, Kent for providing me with photocopied material from the *Faversham News* and other information.

My thanks go also to Dr Helen Wicker, Kent History & Library Centre in Maidstone, Kent for information on the Tonbridge Union (Workhouse) registers and for sending me photocopies of pages relevant to my research into my grandfather's birth.

Lastly, but certainly not least, a thank you to my daughter Susan and her husband, who by their chance wandering into the Heritage Centre in Faversham, led to this article being written.

#### Sources:

The Faversham Society: [www.faversham.org/society](http://www.faversham.org/society)

The *Faversham News* for Saturday, 8 August 1914. Copies of back issues of this newspaper, I believe, are held on microfilm in Faversham Central Library.

*The Great Explosion at Faversham, 2 April 1916* by Arthur Percival, a reprint from Archaeological Cantiana, Vol. C (1985) issued by The Faversham Society.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Faversham\\_explosion](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Faversham_explosion)

The Workhouse @ [www.workhouses.org.uk](http://www.workhouses.org.uk)

Ancestry.co.uk

## MYSTERY GENEALOGY

By Caroline Rowlands, Member No. 5662

My late father was called 'Robert SMITH' and was born on 18 January 1912. Or was he? He never had a birth certificate, so I am not sure that this was ever true. I now think that possibly neither his name nor date of birth are correct.

The only small item of evidence he had from his past was a very old and



worn photograph (shown left) of himself as a two year old boy with a Mrs THOMAS with her daughters 'Violet' and 'Lizzie'. There was no date or description on the back of this photograph.

The story he told to me as a child many times was that he was born in Kilkenny Ireland and brought to London with a Nanny (as times were troubled) to Camden, possibly to 1 The Terrace, Camden Square. Mrs THOMAS was the Cook at the house, but when money stopped coming the Nanny gave my father to her to look after. He stayed with Mrs THOMAS and her family from age 2 years, and then in

1918 Mrs THOMAS put him in the Workhouse in St Johns Road, Islington, where he stayed for a further 2 years before being fostered out by the Islington Board of Guardians. He said that this photograph was the only link he had with his past and that when he was older he had visited this 'Nanny' in Scotland (he would never give her name or say where the photograph came from). But she (Nanny) was too old and befuddled to tell

him anything further and in fact said it was so terrible that she could never ever tell him anything of his past at all. She also said that his name 'Robert SMITH' and date of birth '18 January 1912' may not be his name and birthday, and I think this date of birth was made up when he was put in the St Johns Road Workhouse.

Several years ago I visited the London Metropolitan Archives to check records and sure enough my father was there as 'Robert SMITH' in the Creed Registers with a date 26 September 1918. The Deserted Children's Register embargoed for 60 years stated 'deserted by mother'. As the entry was a date during the First World War I could only assume that there were problems within the family who placed him there.

I decided initially to look for the daughter 'Violet' of a Mrs THOMAS around 1911 - 1912 in St Pancras (Camden). The birth certificate of Violet May THOMAS born November 1911 gave me the names of both mother and father, Albert THOMAS and Emily THOMAS née SMITH. They lived at 8 Lancing Street, St Pancras. So this could possibly be the explanation for my father's surname SMITH.

I delved into the whole THOMAS/SMITH family starting with Emily SMITH. Emily SMITH and Albert THOMAS, Journeyman Cabinet Maker married in St Mark's Church, Regents Park in August 1901. Children of Albert and Emily were Emily Isobel born 1902, Sydney Albert born 1906 died 1906, Lilian Louise born 1906, Daisy Lavinia born 1909 and Violet May born 1911, Walter Frank born 1913.

In the census of 1911 Albert THOMAS Cabinet Maker age 34, Emily THOMAS his wife age 32 are living in 2 rooms at 41 Drummond Street, St Pancras along with their three children and a lodger William George MUNRO age 19 a Fender Maker. William George MUNRO went on to marry the youngest sister of Albert THOMAS, Dora THOMAS.

Daughter Violet May THOMAS born November 1911 died at 8 Lancing Street, St Pancras of congenital syphilis, malnutrition (malnutrition) and heart failure age 2 months on 19 January 1912. This date is very coincidental as it is the day following the 'supposed' birth date of my father.

When was my father 'obtained' by Albert and Emily THOMAS? I am not sure but further facts that are interesting in that my fathers' surname 'SMITH' was the maiden name of Mrs Emily THOMAS. His Christian name 'Robert' was possibly a favourite name of hers for her husband? I note that in the baptism record for eldest daughter Isobel Emily in 1902 her husband is recorded as 'Robert' THOMAS and not 'Albert' THOMAS.

As I said earlier the reason for my father being put in the workhouse was obviously due to problems within the THOMAS family and, tragically during the First World War, Albert THOMAS who had enlisted at Handel Street possibly in 1914, was a victim of that terrible tragedy when 50,000 soldiers were killed in one day 16 August 1917. On the Commonwealth War Graves website he is listed as commemorated at the Ypres Menin Gate Memorial Panel 52 –Albert THOMAS - Sergeant in the 1<sup>st</sup> City of London Battalion Royal Fusiliers, birthplace Peckham, residence St Pancras, killed in action at the age of 37 on 16 August 1917 in Flanders. A memorial certificate on the website states 'In memory of Sergeant Albert THOMAS 200292, 'B' Coy, 1<sup>st</sup> Bn, London Regiment (Royal Fuseliers) who died age 37 on August 17<sup>th</sup> 1917. Son of Mr & Mrs J THOMAS; husband of Emily THOMAS of 76, Euston Street, Euston Road, London'.

In 2013 the LMA workhouse records were released on Ancestry.co.uk. Workhouse admission and discharge dates were detailed. The date my father Robert SMITH was admitted to the workhouse all by himself with no other relative, aged possibly 6 years, was noted as 16 August 1918. This date is more than coincidental as it is exactly one year to the day of the death of Sergeant Albert THOMAS. The date 26 September 1918 in the Creed register was a date 40 days from the date of entry to the Workhouse.

I am therefore of the conclusion that my father was deliberately put into the workhouse because 'money stopped coming'. I note that in the margin on the left hand the word possibly 'Stepfather'.

I would like to know whether the pension which must have been awarded to Albert THOMAS's widow Emily would have been recorded in the First World War Army Widows Pension records and would this include only a certain number of children? My father not being a blood relative would possibly not have been awarded a children's pension? Also as being put

into a workhouse was regarded as a shameful act was it not uncommon for children to be given a change of name, to hide their identity. How would I identify a child with inconclusive name and date of birth?

I have discovered from the Electoral Roll just released on Ancestry for London that Mrs Emily THOMAS did in fact live at 76 Euston Street, St Pancras from at least 1917. The address given on the memorial record to her husband Albert THOMAS who died in August 1917 is in fact 76 Euston Street. She appears in several Electoral rolls as living at that address to at least 1927. The house was lived in by a Mr Charles James ROBINS a Cab Driver and his wife Elizabeth, a Dressmaker and their family from at least 1881. Rooms in the house were rented out to various people and I can only assume that in all probability Mrs Emily THOMAS also working as a Dressmaker lived there with her 3 living daughters, and son Walter Frank along with my father 'Robert SMITH'. I am therefore assuming that when my father was put in the workhouse he was placed there by possibly Mr C J ROBINS. It appears that Mrs Elizabeth ROBINS was not married to Mr Charles James ROBINS as no length of marriage is stated on the 1911 census. Mrs Elizabeth ROBINS died aged 55 in August 1917, the same month as Emily's husband Albert. So perhaps Mr CJ ROBINS gained solace from Mrs Emily THOMAS whose husband Albert had died in the same month.

Sources:

London Metropolitan Archives  
Ancestry.co.uk

***London Standard, Friday 25 July 1862***

**BIRTHS**

ARCHER, On the 21<sup>st</sup> inst, at 8 Lansdowne Road, North Kensington Park, the wife of Frederic ARCHER, Esq, of a daughter.

CARNARVON, On the 21<sup>st</sup> inst, at 17 Bruton Street, the Countess of Carnarvon, of a stillborn son.

CHILDERS, On the 17<sup>th</sup> ult, at Bangalore, Madras Presidency, the wife of Captain Eardley W CHILDRES, Royal Horse Artillery, of a daughter.

GORDON, On the 22<sup>nd</sup> inst, at No. 1 Halkin Street West, Belgrave Square, the wife of Cosma Duff GORDON Esq, of a son.

## JOTTINGS

### **Access to Historic General Register Office Records**

Almost 100 years ago a Royal Commission on Public Records appointed to inquire into and report on the state of the public records and local records of a public nature of England and Wales stated in their report: “We see no good reason in principle for forbidding searchers to take copies at their own risk. The existing restriction rests merely of financial grounds and we think that it should be removed.” That being the case why are they still restricted now?

The records used to be open to public inspection. From the start of civil registration the public could carry out searches in the registers of birth, marriage and death. In 1898 the then Registrar General took it upon himself to close the records held at the GRO even though there was no change in the law to allow for such unilateral action. Similarly in 1974 many local registrars closed the registers they held to public searches even though a public search of the registers was written in to the various applicable Acts of Parliament.

It has been suggested that the government release all historic registers of Birth, Marriage and Death, allowing private enterprise to digitise and make those records available online. Such a move could create employment in the private sector, reduce costs and pressure on the General Register Office, letting staff concentrate on their core activities. In addition the sale of digitised copies of historic Birth, Marriage and Death certificates (under licence) would create useful revenue for the government in these times of need.

To this end, a petition has been raised online. It is open until 23 March 2015 and can be found at: <http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/62779>

### **Emergency! London 1914**

In response to the outbreak of World War I, the London County Council established an emergency measures committee to report on the state of the city and its people. Reports, compiled on food supplies and employment, were filed at County Hall and these, together with photographs, maps and other documents from the period, form the basis of an exhibition. This free display is on at London Metropolitan Archives until 30 October, 40 Northampton Road, London EC1R 0HB. For more information phone: 020 7332 3851 or visit: [www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/lma](http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/lma)



### **Recent Accessions at London Metropolitan Archives**

At a recent meeting of the Family History Users' Forum at LMA we were all delighted to hear of some of the recent accessions which are of particular interest to family historians with London ancestors. They include two new parish register collections in our area: St Paul, Harrow 1930-1986 and Ascension, Wembley 1937-1980.

Two ancient parishes have finally deposited their registers: St John the Baptist, Eltham 1583-1989 and - amazing news - St Giles-in-the-Fields 1561-2008. LMA have also received additions from St Thomas, Finsbury Park.

All these accessions needed cataloguing but LMA have prioritised the St Giles registers and they were made available through the online catalogue on 9 April. The non-register material for St Giles-in-the-Fields will be catalogued at a later date.

### **From Beef Tea to Battleships**

Guildhall Library is hosting a free exhibition of personal accounts and experiences of individuals from the First World War. It includes letters, such as those written by 'Boy', who served on a British Navy submarine and wrote home to his mother every week, medals and other personal effects. This exhibition runs from 4 August to 12 November at Aldermanbury, London EC2V 7HH. For more information phone: 020 7332 1868 or visit: [www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/guildhalllibrary](http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/guildhalllibrary)

### **Royal Air Force Museum**

The RAF Museum at Hendon has received a National Lottery grant to create a new permanent exhibition to coincide with the centenary of the First World War. The exhibition, *First World War in the Air*, will explore how aviation changed the character of the War, using documents, film, photographs and the aircraft themselves and will open in December at the museum, in Grahame Park Way, Hendon NW9 5LL. For more information visit: <http://www.rafmuseum.org.uk/london/>

### **John Lewis 150 year anniversary**

John Spedan LEWIS opened his first drapery shop on Oxford Street in 1864. To celebrating this anniversary the London store has created a roof garden, which will be open until 4pm seven days a week all through the summer.

### **British Library Newspaper Library Reading Room**

The Newsroom at St Pancras is now open, offering access to microfilm and digital newspaper collections as well as broadcast news, multimedia and archived websites. Microfilm copies of the 15 most highly used newspaper titles are available on open-access shelves and the new facility includes 40 digital microfilm readers, offering users a much-improved experience in comparison to the Colindale Reading Room, which closed last November. Print newspapers are currently being moved and titles for which no print or digital copy exists will become available for ordering again this autumn. Periodical collections can be ordered into any St Pancras Reading Room, with most titles delivered within 48 hours and high-use items available within 70 minutes. The British Library Newspaper Library is at 96 Euston Rd, London NW1 2DB. Telephone: 0330 333 144 for more information or visit: <http://www.bl.uk/subjects/news-media>

### **My Links with Harefield House**

Up until the declaration of war in 1914, an Australian family, the BILLYARD-LEAKES, had been living peacefully at Harefield Park Mansion, their home for the past eighteen years. Even though it was a long way from the war in Europe, Australia was part of the Empire and wanted to help Britain. A concerned Charles BILLYARD-LEAKE senior was soon calling on the Australian High Commission in London. He offered his family mansion as a convalescent hospital to the Australian Ministry of Defence, originally meaning it to be for fifty recovering wounded officers. This gift was accepted in December and the mansion became the first Australian hospital on British soil. (It is now part of the Royal Brompton & Harefield NHS Foundation Trust.) Within weeks over two hundred wounded men had arrived. During the five years of the War, more than five thousand Australian Diggers were to pass through the hospital. There were 114 deaths, all of which were buried in nearby St Mary's Church cemetery. During this period, Dorothy and Hilda WATKINS (born 1901 and 1903 - my two great aunts) were teenagers living and working at the Halfway Ale House alongside the canal on Moorhall Road. There they found themselves behind the bar serving many recovering wounded Australian diggers. Harefield meant a lot to them as they had attended the local primary school. They knew many residents well as they were regular churchgoers at St Mary's Church. For more than thirty years after World War One they lived

and worked at Highway Farm along Harvil Road, part way to Uxbridge (currently the Dogs' Home).

In 1952 Dorothy and Hilda quit the farm and set up a guest house in Devon at Stoke Fleming. Fifteen years later (1966) they built fifteen houses with their own road on a piece of spare ground there. As a courtesy to their memory of Harefield, they named the road Harefield Drive. They took bungalow No 2 for themselves for their retirement, naming it *Harvil*. Whilst I was working for them there, the subject of Harefield's old school flag came up.

I had been to Australia in 1955 as a Royal Marine and Dorothy and Hilda knew my family and that I would most probably return one day. The Harefield School Flag was mentioned as having been sent there as a gift. Hilda told how, as children, they had called it Lord Cardigan's flag. She never knew why but believed it had come to her school from the BILLYARD's Harefield Park Mansion. Perhaps Charles BILLYARD-LEAKE, the owner there, exchanged it, preferred to fly his own Australian flag, Australia having earlier gained its independence. Either way, the Adelaide High School in South Australia is proud to have it and have somehow found the funds to have its ancient weave reconditioned.

Thank you Harefield.

**Brian R Watkins, Non-member**

*Email: harefieldaus@hotmail.com*

Note: See also *ANZAC Day and Harefield* from METROPOLITAN April 2008

***North London News, 29 June 1861***

**FIRE AT CAMDEN**

On Wednesday morning, about two o'clock, a fire broke out in the premises of Mr C CREAVER, Oil and colourman, No 9, King-street, Camden-town. The inmates were alarmed, and with the assistance of the police and neighbours, managed to escape over the roof. The parish and London Brigade engines were soon on the spot, under the direction of Mr FOGO and Mr PERRYER, but the fire was not extinguished until the premises were nearly destroyed.

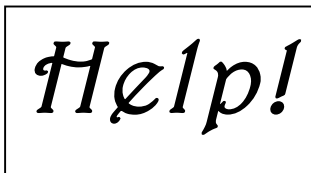
Insured in the Sun Fire-office. Cause of fire unknown.

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.



## HEWITT/HEWETT

Research into my maternal grandfather, William HEWITT 1886-1965, has produced many headaches. All I originally knew about him was that he was a painter and decorator by trade. My mother hardly ever spoke about her formative years so my knowledge of the family was very scant. However, over the last 10 years or more I have managed to find the following information.

William HEWITT was originally registered as William HISCOCK born in Harrow Street, Marylebone in July 1886. Grandfather William was the 7th of 8 children all born in Marylebone, the others were:-

Charlotte Louisa HEWETT b1870 and Charles Edwin b1872, Arthur b1876, Frederick William b1879, Rosetta Elizabeth b1880, father Charles, a French Polisher mother Mary Ann HEWETT formerly HISCOCK.

Beatrice Jane b1883 father Charles, a French Polisher and mother Mary Ann HEWETT formerly JENNER.

William b1886 and Ellen Louisa b1890/died 1892 father William HISCOCK a House Painter and mother Mary Ann HISCOCK, formerly JENNER.

Ellen's death in 1892 has been registered as mother Mary Ann HISCOCK and father William HISCOCK a House Painter.

Mary Ann HISCOCK was born in 1848 (Marylebone) and died in 1894. Her death certificate gives her name as HISCOCK, wife of William HISCOCK. She took the name of JENNER when her mother Lucretia HISCOCK (née HENDERSON) at some point married Richard Attwood JENNER (no marriage found. Their daughter Charlotte Louisa Attwood JENNER was born in 1858.)

Charlotte Louisa HEWITT married in 1893, Beatrice Jane in 1908 and William in 1910. They all stated their father was William HEWITT, a House Painter. For the marriages of the other children they gave their father as Charles HEWETT/HEWITT a French Polisher.

Looking at the census returns for 1901 Charles HEWETT aged 59 born London is living at 2 Colville Terrace, Kensington and is listed as a half brother to Alfred aged 42 born London and his wife Isabella aged 47 born Manchester; in 1891 the HEWITT family are living at 14 Harrow Street, Marylebone, headed by William HEWITT aged 39, a Painter, born Camberwell; 1881 has them living at 5 New Street Mews, Marylebone headed by Charles HEWETT aged 36 a French Polisher born Hampshire; 1871 they are living at 34 Earl Street East, Marylebone headed by Charles HEWITT aged 27 a French Polisher, born Marylebone. In 1861 Charles HEWITT aged 17, son of Richard and Charlotte is living at 10 Blandford Mews, Marylebone, all born Hampshire.

Charles HEWETT, French Polisher died aged 61 at 2 Colville Terrace, Kensington.

William HEWITT senior House Painter, died in January 1911 at the Marylebone Infirmary, aged 59.

Despite extensive searches, I can find no trace of a marriage between Mary Ann HISCOCK/JENNER, nor either a Charles or William HEWITT/HEWETT. I believe that as Mary Ann had registered the births of all her children, she decided to use whatever surname took her fancy at the time both for herself and the children's father. Neither can I find a positive birth for William HEWITT/HEWETT senior in the Camberwell area.

If anyone is able to help me sort through this mystery I would be so pleased to hear from them.

***Janet Hewitt Winch, Member No. 7643***

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

*Email: j\_hewittwinch@o2.co.uk*

## **THOMAS SKEY**

I have searched for years to find an arrival in Sydney, Australia, for a Thomas SKEY, my great-grandfather, who arrived from London c1856-58. Recently I found on the internet some mariners' records that gave shipping lists and on them was a Thomas SKY, listed as a 1st class passenger, in company with two other males, in a cabin on board the *Europa*, which arrived in Sydney on 6 February 1857. The *Europa* had sailed from London.

During 1998, an item I submitted about 'The Skey Family of Cumberland Mews' was published in METROPOLITAN and I really have made no progress since that date.

As my maiden name was SKEY, I can well appreciate that it is often spelt incorrectly without the 'e', so am prepared to believe that the shipping list could well refer to my forebear, but I would like confirmation, which I have not been able to find so far in my searches in Australia. Many errors were made by clerks.

Could anyone advise me if there are shipping passenger lists in London relating to that period where I might be able to find another record of the passengers on that voyage?

***Mrs Denise Percival, Member No. 899***

*147 Lodges Road, Elderslie NSW 2570 AUSTRALIA*

*Email: percival@idx.com.au*

Note: UK outgoing passenger lists survive but are chiefly for the period 1890 to 1960, rather too late for Thomas SKEY.

The Register of Passport Applications is available for the dates 1851 to 1903, although unfortunately there are no indexes for the year 1857. You can search this record set on pay-to-view site Findmypast.

### **STEPHEN ISAACSON STIMPSON**

I am looking for information on the birth of Stephen Isaacson STIMPSON, who was born about 1821. His father's name was Edward.

He married Celia Sophia Standerwick CLARKE at St Pancras Old Church on 25 December 1849. His occupation at that time was 'Lighterman' and his father Edward was 'deceased'.

His census returns show the following birthplaces: 1851: St Clement Danes, Westminster; 1861: Yarmouth; 1871: Middlesex; 1881: Middlesex; 1891: Yarmouth. His occupation is variously porter, plumber and lighterman. He died in 1896 at Clapham.

***Chris Stimpson, Non-member***

*27 The Gables, Haddenham, Bucks HP17 8AD*

*Email: chris.stimpson@dial.pipex.com*

### **MABEL MINNIE HEATH**

I am researching my Grandmother, Mabel Minnie HEATH and I'm looking for information about her working life in World War One. She was born in 1893 in London and was educated for 4 years at Cheltenham Ladies' College.

I know she worked as a clerk in the Post Office for a couple of years.

According to my Grandfather, Vernon PADMAN, she worked for a while in the office of the Surveyor of Taxes at Salisbury House and left on marriage in July 1919.

Are there any Civil Service records of employment online I could consult? Or could you advise me where I could obtain information about her employment there? Where was Salisbury House in London? Does it still exist or was it destroyed in World War Two?

I would be very grateful for any help.

**Joy Shaw, Member No. 7604**

*118 Leslie Terrace, Aberdeen AB25 3XD*

*Email: joy.shaw@ymail.com*

Note: Salisbury House, completed in 1901 at a site at Finsbury Circus, Moorfields, is still standing and is now Grade II listed. Civil Service 'evidences of age' for years of birth between 1752 and 1948 are available on: [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk) and at the Society of Genealogists.

### **PHILLIP LESLIE BAYLIS**

Rifleman Phillip Leslie BAYLIS (1896-1986) 1/5 City of London Regiment, No 300782 served in France from December 1914 - 1 February 1919. I have much information and two photographs, plus a Diary of 1918 and a letter from a Belgian Lady, with whom he was billeted, to his mother in UK. Having no computer skills, I wonder if there is any Record Office or HO to which I could write or contact by phone, to learn further details of his service record: first in the Front Line at Mons, and later, less heroically, with mules and burial parties.

**Timothy Baylis, Member No. 1755**

*95 Brighton Avenue, Leicester LE18 1JB*

Note: The First World War Diaries for 1/5 City of London Regiment (London Rifle Brigade) are available to view for free in WO 95 at The National Archives. Some parts of the diaries have been digitised and can be downloaded for £3.30 per portion; for the other parts TNA recommends that one contact them for a quote. It might be worth contacting them, either by post at: The National Archives, Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 4DU or by telephone on: 020 8876 3444 to see if they can help you.

## 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 July      | <i>Britain From Above</i><br>by John Pearson   |
| Thursday 21 August    | <i>Women in the 1800s</i><br>by Tom Doig   |
| Thursday 18 September | <i>The History of John Lewis and Waitrose</i><br>by Judith Faraday (Company Archivist) |
| Thursday 16 October   | Members' Evening   |

**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 31 July      | <i>Show us a Family Photo</i><br>Members' Meeting                                  |
| Thursday 28 August    | <i>The Real Dad's Army – the Home Guard</i><br>by Mike Brown                       |
| Thursday 25 September | <i>Ratcatchers – Suppliers to the Sporting Life of London</i><br>by David Cufley   |
| Thursday 30 October   | <i>Women in World War II – the services WRNS, WAAFS and ATS</i><br>by Carol Harris |

### ADVERTISING RATES

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

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

See inside front cover for address.



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

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

Branch Contact: Lilian Gibbens

Wednesday 2 July            *Britain in the Fifties*

by Steve Jennings

Wednesday 6 August        *Stories by Members*

Members' Evening

Wednesday 3 September    *London Ancestors*

by Michael Gandy

Wednesday 1 October        *Famous Bankrupts*

by Richard Hartigan

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

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

Branch Contact: Doreen Heywood

Friday 11 July                *Robert Peel to PC Neal*

by John Neal

Friday 8 August              No Meeting

Friday 12 September        *Tracing Middle Class Ancestors*

by Michael Gandy

Friday 10 October            *Dating Photographs – an interactive talk*

by Tom Doig

**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 July                Members' Evening

Monday 25 August            No Meeting – Bank Holiday

Monday 22 September        *My Ancestor was in the Fire Brigade*

by Ken Divall

Monday 27 October            Members' Evening

## HOW TO EDIT YOUR MEMBER PROFILE

Click on 'Your Profile' to see your current Profile. It comprises two sections: the upper part has space for a photo and details of your main Research Interests (though we recommend you use the Members' Interests section for this), while the lower part (in a tabbed box) lists your contact information. It is helpful if both are kept up to date, although any changes should also be communicated to the Secretary as normal. Other logged-in Society members can see your profile; the public cannot.

### How to edit your Profile

On your Profile page, hover over the grey Edit box. A drop-down list appears which allows you to:

- Update your profile
- Update your image (your profile can include a photo)
- Remove your image

Click on 'Update Your Profile'. On the resulting screen you will see a box with two tabs. The left hand (default) tab is marked Portrait and covers your photo and Research Interests details. If you click on the Contact Info tab you can edit your contact information. Don't forget to keep both up-to-date.

### The Portrait Tab

Your photo and Research Interests. If you hover over the blue I symbol, help text for that box will appear.

### The Contact Info Tab

First name: Your proper first name

Last Name: Your surname

Email: Your email address, which should already be set to the one you used at Registration on the website

Username: This is the Username you chose at Registration – you can change it here if you wish

Password & Verify Password: Leave these BLANK, unless you wish to change your site password

LWMFHS Membership No: Your Society Membership number

Address lines: Your full address

Now you can click the Update button! Finished!

## **AIMS OF THE SOCIETY**

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

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

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

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

