

# METROPOLITAN

The Journal of the  
**LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX**  
Family History Society

AIR RAID WARNINGS.

The school curriculum is being greatly upset by the frequency of air raid warnings. The table appended shows details of warnings received and of the time spent in the school shelters.

*B. denotes warnings received before school hours which interfere with proper opening times.*

DATE.	"WARNING" RECEIVED.	"ALL CLEAR" RECEIVED.	DURATION OF WARNING PERIOD.	
16. VIII. 40.	12.25 p.m.	1.10 p.m.	45 minutes.	B.
3. IX. 40.	10.20 a.m.	11.35 a.m.	1 hour 15 minutes	
3. IX. 40	2.50 p.m.	4.01 p.m.	1 hour 11 minutes.	
4. IX. 40.	9.17 a.m.	9.45 a.m.	28 minutes.	
4. IX. 40.	1.26 p.m.	1.50 p.m.	24 minutes.	B.
5. IX. 40.	10.00 a.m.	10.59 a.m.	59 minutes.	
5. IX. 40.	3.05 p.m.	4.30 p.m.	1 hour 25 minutes.	
6. IX. 40.	8.50 a.m.	10.00 a.m.	1 hour 10 minutes.	
6. IX. 40.	12.52 p.m.	1.55 p.m.	1 hour 3 minutes	B.
10. IX. 40.	12.56 p.m.	1.21 p.m.	25 minutes	B.
10. IX. 40.	4.00 p.m.	4.17 p.m.	17 minutes.	



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

#### OFFICERS

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

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

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

#### OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# METROPOLITAN

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Cover picture: Details of air raids recorded in the Littlegrove Log Book  
© Elizabeth Burling  
See article on page 14

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## EDITORIAL

Where have all your *help!* queries gone? You will notice that in this issue there are only two. The *help!* section is usually very popular with readers and so we can only suppose that there are no problems out there!

The Editors have been asked if it would be possible to include contact details for the authors of articles appearing in METROPOLITAN so that readers who may wish to comment on these pieces can contact them directly. However, whilst some of our contributors are happy for this to happen we have found that others do not like their personal details to be published. Happily, comments are always welcome via our 'Letters to the Editors' page. In this journal, for instance, we have three interesting and informative letters commenting on or inspired by previously published articles.

On a similar note, if you have any queries or comments about anything published in METROPOLITAN, please contact the Editors in the first instance. Readers occasionally approach other members of the committee but doing this will necessarily delay any response in the query getting to us. We can be reached via email or post at the addresses quoted on the inside of the front cover of each issue.

We have two articles about Percys – Percy JACKSON and Percy TODD – and their quite different experiences during the First World War. With the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of that War, many archives are being released online which will greatly assist in the research of any ancestor who was involved in some way. The Editors are always pleased to hear about what you may have discovered using these resources or any other.

### The Editorial Team

**Please remember that the copy date  
for the next issue of METROPOLITAN  
is 1 November 2014**

## CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

**This issue of METROPOLITAN is special:** it is the last journal to be produced in paper format for everyone and the last covered by the universal subscription (of £12) for the year 1 October 2013 – 30 September 2014.

**So, have you renewed your subscription for 2014 – 2015 and thereby decided how you will receive the journal in future?**

I do hope that you are among those who have already renewed your membership of the Society and helped to make the process this year run as smoothly as possible.

Others are reminded **that subscriptions are due by 1 October.** Rates are:  
£12 sterling - UK and Overseas, with the journal in PDF format  
£15 sterling – UK, with paper copies of the journal by post  
£20 sterling – Overseas, with paper copies of the journal by airmail post  
These rates apply whether you pay by cheque, standing order or PayPal.

The Subscription Renewal form was in the centre of the July issue of METROPOLITAN and is also in the Membership section of our website. A Standing Order (SO) form can be obtained from this section or by application to the Membership Secretary, enclosing an SSAE.

**If you pay by SO** have you contacted your bank to confirm or alter, as appropriate, the amount to be paid on 1 October?  
Have you also notified the Membership Secretary that you have done so?

As we have done previously, an electronic version of this journal will be placed in the Members' Area of our website.

The December issue of METROPOLITAN will be the first of the subscription year October 2014 – September 2015 and the first to be produced in both electronic and paper format.

**Rosemary A Roome**

## LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

The August 2012 edition of *Devon Family Historian* contained a letter from one Maureen Selley about her visit to a Federation of Family History Societies' AGM and subsequent tour of Wesley's Chapel. During this she spotted the name of John RATTENBURY, a Wesleyan minister who had been born in Tavistock, Devon in 1806. As a RATTENBURY myself, this attracted my attention and I wrote a letter in reply which was duly published in the next issue.

In the July issue of METROPOLITAN I noted the special interest for London jewellers in the 1800s and wondered whether my article from *Devon Family Historian* would be of interest to readers. I have forwarded a copy to the member who registered this special interest:

### **'Rattenbury – another chance meeting**

Maureen Selley's letter in *Devon Family Historian* No. 143 was a treat for myself, an occasional and rather desultory collector of family and non-family RATTENBURYS. It prompted this account of a chance meeting of my own.

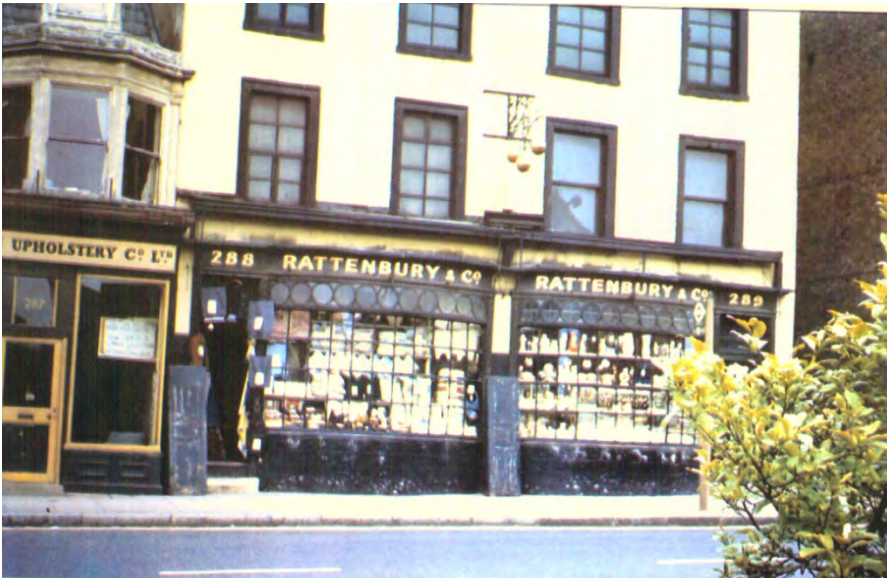
Earlier this year we visited the Dickens exhibition at the Museum of London and with some time to spare, visited the permanent collection. I turned a corner and almost gasped to see my name over a shop front in the museum.

In 1968 RATTENBURY's pawnbrokers and jewellers at 288 and 289 Brentford High Street was closed and the building demolished after being in business since at least 1839 with previous owners. RATTENBURYS took over in 1902. The façade was removed to the Museum of London. There are photographs and an oil painting by K HOWITT of the shop held by the museum and viewable on their website. There are accounts of the history of the shop and photographs in the Brentford High Street Project and the Hounslow website.

The shop was run by William RATTENBURY by the time of the 1909/1910 valuation returns. He lived at various addresses in Edmonton, Richmond and Ealing and worked his way up from pawnbroker's assistant at the age of 14 to manager and then owner. His father John RATTENBURY, a dealer, is in the 1851 to 1871 censuses; his place of birth is given as Exeter.

I have no known connection with these RATTENBURYS but my ancestor, also John RATTENBURY, came to London from Dartmouth in the early

nineteenth century, possibly around the time the pawnbroker's ancestor did likewise.



The Rattenbury pawnbrokers shop on Brentford High Street in the 1960s before it was demolished and removed to the Museum of London.  
With thanks to Keith Davis and the Brentford High Street Project.

Regretfully, I have not established any family connection with either of the newsworthy RATTENBURYS: Jack the smuggler or Francis Mawson, the disgraced Vancouver architect who was murdered at the Villa Madeira in Bournemouth in a 'cause celebre'.

The Methodist RATTENBURYS mentioned by Maureen Selley were prominent over several generations, including as missionaries in China. Maureen speculates whether the Rev. John RATTENBURY was related to Jack RATTENBURY the smuggler. Mary Owen, the Reverend's devout wife, was so concerned by the likeness of her husband to 'the Rob Roy of the West' that she burned a copy of the smuggler's memoirs. If she had been alive, she would have been even more distressed at the misbehaviour of her grandson Francis Mawson in Vancouver and circumstances of his death at the Villa Madeira.'

The Devon FHS have agreed that I could pass on the article and I would be grateful if you could include an acknowledgement for them and also the acknowledgements that accompany the picture.

**John Rattenbury, Member No. 7848**

*Upper Wallis, Wallis, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire SA62 5RB*

*Email: john@rattenbury.com*

Sources:

[www.museumoflondon.org.uk](http://www.museumoflondon.org.uk)

[www.bhsproject.co.uk/section24.shtml](http://www.bhsproject.co.uk/section24.shtml)

[www.hounslow.info/libraries/localstudies/high-street-history-brentford-chiswick.htm](http://www.hounslow.info/libraries/localstudies/high-street-history-brentford-chiswick.htm)

Reksten, Terry: Rattenbury, Sono Nis Press, Victoria British Columbia 1978

I was interested to read Dawn Adam's article on Islington Workhouse records in the July 2014 METROPOLITAN as I have also been searching workhouse records, in my case those of the Epsom Workhouse in Surrey. There I did find a few 'Discharge' pages which had the 'Conduct' column filled in and I came across a range of comments, possibly filled in when the writer was having a 'bad day' and not feeling very charitable.

**August 1906:** Moderate; Accident; Good worker, Gossip, Mental condition fair only; None too grateful; Good worker, Gossip, Mental condition below average; Drunken habit, Depraved; Mentally weak; Drink habit; Drink habit; Quarrelsome.

**April 1908:** Filthy condition; Mental case; Mental case; Rogue; No continuancy; No grit; Drunken habit.

**June 1920,** the few remarks were about the health of the inmate: Well; Nearly well; Improved, can walk with assistance.

**Barbara Haswell, Member No. 4224**

In her article 'IT'S A GOAL; Football Tales from Enfield' (July METROPOLITAN) Glynis Smith mentions that the team played at a ground behind the *Jolly Butchers* pub in Silver Street.

The football pitch was actually on Bailey's Field, off Baker Street near this pub. Today there is an alley next to the *Jolly Butchers* which leads to Churchbury Lane via what is now Pevensey Avenue. According to the late Graham DALLING, Bailey's Field was the club's first pitch. Later the club moved to a field at the northern end of Churchbury Lane rented by Mr



TUCKER, a local dairyman. This field was ploughed up in WW1 and the club came close to extinction but was re-established on the northern side of Churchbury Lane close to the second ground it had occupied. In fact this ground was accessed by the public footpath which runs past numbers 1, 2, 3 and 4 Canonbury Cottages which are situated in a cul-de-sac at the northern extremity of Churchbury Lane, or Cherry Orchard Lane as it was formerly named and of which more anon.

The four cottages and the Canonbury Nursery, consisting of 1,234 acres, with its glasshouses and outbuildings are clearly shown on the 1895 Enfield North Ordnance Survey Map. The cottages housed the men who worked at the nursery and their families. On 24 August 1894 legal ownership was conveyed to James Henry MOLLETT. On the same date it was mortgaged to J H MOLLETT (1) and Benjamin HYAMS (2). There is no further mention of MOLLETT after this date although he is believed to have been at the nursery until February 1911 when the nursery was conveyed to Richard Carthew MIDDLETON, Gentleman of Holmwood, Baker Street, Enfield and William James BIGGS of 20 Browning Road, Enfield, Orchid Grower. From an Indenture dated 1 January 1920 we learn that, 'William James BIGGS, Naval Transport Officer stated in Dunkirk in France, Assistant Paymaster (therein after called the Transferee)', is absent leaving his wife Rosalind to run the nursery.

MIDDLETON died in Paris in 1923. In March 1931 BIGGS made a Statuary Declaration in regard to the nursery. In September 1934 he took out a mortgage with the Woolwich Equitable Building Society. The Schedule lists the land, messuages and appurtenances known as Canonbury House, Nos 1, 2, 3 & 4 Canonbury Cottages and 22 glasshouses thereon situate in Churchbury Lane. In June 1932 William James BIGGS appointed his wife Rosamond Ellen BIGGS of Canonbury House to be his Executrix. He died on the 22 August 1935. On 2 June 1936 the nursery was conveyed by Rosamond BIGGS then of ?Linslade Gardens, Slades Hill, Enfield to Gweneth Estates of Hart Street Bloomsbury and came into the possession of WE Townsend and Collins, Builders.

I live at number 2 Canonbury Cottages and a piece of parchment with our Deeds has an outline of the nursery, the plot consisting of 1 A(cre), 1 R(ood), 36 P(erch) abutting Canonbury Road on the west and Churchbury Road Field on the east.

Next to 1 Canonbury Cottages stood tall double gates facing onto Canonbury Road, which at that time had only a few houses on either side at

the Baker Street end. That was in 1933 when my husband Terry was five years old. There were rare newts in the nursery grounds then but it was sold in 1936 and redeveloped as the eastern extension of Canonbury Road and Inverness Avenue. The protection of such a rare species of fauna was not taken into consideration.

Terry told me that the football pitch could be clearly seen from what is now the bathroom window and that on Saturday afternoons in season, dozens of supporters streamed past their Cottage to access the pitch. The kiosk selling tickets was situated beside cottage No 4. The club moved to a new Stadium in Southbury Road in 1936.

Some of the Cherry trees for which the area was famous, hence Cherry Orchard Lane, remain in the grounds of Chace Community School and there are a number of Ornamental Cherry trees remaining in the 'Lane' today.

***Anne Prudames, Member No. 254***

Sources and notes;

1. Land Registry Deeds of Canonbury Cottages (1894-1936)

2 *The Enfield Book* by Graham Dalling. On page 64 is the Enfield Town Enclosure Map of 1803 which shows Churchbury Orchard, later Churchbury Farm. I have identified on this map the plot situated between Churchbury Lane and Churchbury Field which was, or later became, the Canonbury Nursery. The acreage is shown as 1,545, slightly larger than that shown on the parchment. The majority of the numbered plots in Churchbury Field are of a similar size.

3 *Now Turned into Fair Garden Plots* by JGL Burnaby and AE Robinson. Edmonton Hundred Historical Society Occasional Paper New Series No 45 (1983). This publication has three pages of maps. One shows Churchbury Farm between Baker Street and Churchbury Lane leased by James CRACKNELL. However his name has been written by hand beside a round black ink blob on the other side of Churchbury Lane with an arrow pointing to what is obviously the Canonbury Nursery. Looking at the index I found James MOLLETT on page 21. Under the heading 'The Agate Brothers' was the following 'Alfred AGATE sold the Whitehouse Nursery in Tottenham (1904). The new owner was James MOLLETT of the Canonbury Nursery, Baker Street' (sic). It is the only reference to the former Canonbury Nursery found in this publication.

4 Middlesex Sheet 7.03 Enfield North 1895 Alan Godfrey Old Ordnance Survey Map. This map clearly shows our cottages, the Canonbury Nursery, (plot 1,234 consisting of 1,527 (acres) and the foot path running northeast from our cottages to Carterhatch Lane (renamed Carterhatch Road after it had been straightened).

# THE STORY OF PERCY JACKSON IN WW1

By Peter Jackson, Member No. 4121

TNA has released a batch of records on men from London and Middlesex who either were, or claimed to be, not fit enough to be called up. There are details of their medical history but also quite a few other bits of information. I got sufficiently absorbed that I traced one man through several records and here is his story.

A visit to <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/records/middlesex-military-service-appeal-tribunal.htm> was the starting point from which I downloaded the file containing the records of Percy JACKSON. I had no other reason to choose this name than that he has my surname, but the records were fascinating.

The earliest record of him in the downloaded tribunal records was on 28 February 1916, when he was age 32 and living at 2 Bedford Road, West Green, Tottenham. He was classified medically as 'unfit C3'. The classifications went from A1, the fittest, to C3, the latter 'the lowest grade for men who were totally unsuitable for combat training, fit only for clerical and other sedentary jobs'. The website on which I found that quote and a description of the classifications said that it was discovered that 'a horrifyingly large proportion of men - about 40% - fell into this category', <http://www.worldwidewords.org/qa/qa-c3a1.htm>.

This is perhaps unsurprising for Percy as the records also state he suffered from 'organic valvular disease of the heart' and tuberculosis; although aged 34 he weighed only 6st 12lbs. It said he worked as a singing tutor, which was suitable for his health and had about 35 pupils: and he was paying back a 'student grant' from the academy where he trained (but which was not identified): in one of his appeal letters he says that his loss of income from being conscripted would result in severe financial problems and he would be unable to keep up the payments.

The next item on the file is 2 years later, 23 January 1918, when he was living at 6 Grove Park, West Green, Tottenham, although he was previously at 93 West Green Road, Tottenham, so has had three addresses. From this we learn that he is unmarried, his birthday is 10 August, age last

birthday (which would have been 10 August 1917) 34, so he was born on 10 August 1883. He worked both for the LCC at the school attendance office in Hoxton, for which he was paid £2 per week, and as a teacher of singing and pianoforte (which brought in £3 to £3/10s per week). However, the records include a letter from Stoke Newington Police station stating that he was Special Constable No. 0068162 at St. Ann's Road police station. He joined on 20 September 1917 and his work was described as 'efficient'.

It seems he was still considered liable for call-up in 1918, as another appeal was dismissed on 6 February 1918, but on 6 March 1918 exemption for 4 months was granted on condition of his continuing to work with the Special Constabulary. An application for renewal of certificate, to be heard 25 September 1918, was granted 25 March 1919, by which time of course the war was over. So these records close.

Having got this much I thought I would look a little further. I first went to the 1911 census where I found one Percy JACKSON, a 'Musical Student' (this fits the singing and piano work) living at 39 Cranwich Road, Stamford Hill, about a mile away, so I think the right man. The census return gives his birthplace as Birmingham and the FreeBMD website confirms the birth of Percy JACKSON in the September quarter of 1883, ref Birmingham 6d/200, that being the right period for his stated age. This is sufficient information to apply for a birth certificate to find his parentage.

In 1911 Percy is lodging with the McNAB family, headed by a widow Jemima, age 48 and born in Wick, Scotland. She had 6 children, 5 born in Glasgow but the youngest, aged just 2, was born in Stamford Hill. I guessed that Jemima might be a recent widow. Not knowing his first name, I put just the surname McNAB into FreeBMD (with a limited date range), and the death of Alexander McNAB at age 47 was there in the March quarter of 1909 (ref Hackney, which covered this part of Tottenham, 1b/329). It also revealed that, sadly, his widow did not long outlive him, as Jemima's death was recorded in the December quarter of 1911, at most 8 months after the census. Her youngest, 2-year old Alistair, was probably left in the care of his two eldest sisters Annie BRUCE (age 21) and Lena (age 18).

Going back another 20 years, there is a good candidate for Percy in the 1891 census in Birmingham, as the son of Alfred and Emma. Percy is the middle child of three, all born in Birmingham where the family is still living.

The records have thus thrown up quite a bit of information, and there is plenty of scope for taking the research further. Perhaps that might answer the question that I have: why was a house in Tottenham occupied by a family from Scotland and a lodger from Birmingham: what had brought them all to London in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century?



## **UNCLE PERCY**

By Peter Todd, Member No. 7686

The accompanying photo postcard, which I originally found amongst other photographs when my mother died, was sent to my paternal grandmother at the then family home in Devonshire (now Axminster) Road, Upper Holloway in North London, possibly in late 1916.

It had been posted from France by her fifth son, Percy Frederick TODD (born 1892) who was a private in the 25<sup>th</sup> Kings London Regiment. After all these years the back of the postcard has faded badly and one can barely make out the words written there. I believe the photograph was taken in France, possibly while on leave there, because Percy quips about the smile on his face and that he had been drinking. Percy had married Minnie SCRAGGS (1891-1954) at the local Register Office on 25 March 1916. At that time he was still working as an assistant to a bookseller. Their first son was born in October 1916, whilst their second and subsequent children were not born until the 1920s, after the war.

Percy returned from the 'war to end all wars' and although he eventually died at the relatively young age of 51 years in 1944 he did survive to enjoy a life with his wife and five children. During the latter part of his working life he was a clerk with the Unemployment Assistance Board, a forerunner of Social Services.



Percy Frederick TODD

Fortunately, my grandmother's immediate family all escaped being casualties of WW1. My father was exempted on health grounds from serving in the forces, although I believe he was involved in making munitions. Other relations on my father's side were not so fortunate. The five names that I list below, in memorial, were found during research into my family's history.

Joseph OWERS, age 39 years died 19 May 1917 in France.

Frank OWERS, age 23 years died 1 October 1916 in France.

John, Henry FOREY, age 18 years died at Gallipoli on the 18 August 1915.

Bertram WALLER, age 17 years drowned in the English Channel on the 17 June 1916.

William GANNEY, age 30 years, died 15 May 1915 in France.

William was a picture frame maker. He enlisted at Finsbury Barracks on 28 August 1914, a couple weeks after WW1 started. His death at Ypres, Salient was tersely and graphically reported by his Commanding Officer as follows:

'GSW. Right clavicle and exit through left arm. Died. Buried at Church cemetery Erquinghem, France.'

William left a family; after the war a pension of 18s 6d per week (92.5p, equivalent to £35 now) was awarded to the widow for herself and the two children.

I thank my cousin, Elaine Brown for sharing her research findings with me.

Sources:

Ancestry.co.uk

***Daily Mirror, Wednesday 27 January 1915***

Liberty's Australian knitting wool for mufflers, helmets and mittens  
at 3/11 a lb (6½ a 2oz skein).

Finest quality khaki wool, a speciality recommended for service wear.

A small sample sent post free.

Liberty & Co Ltd, Regent St, London.

## **THE LITTLEGROVE LOG BOOK**

By Elizabeth Burling, Member No. 4992

Danegrove School (previously called Littlegrove) is situated in East Barnet, Hertfordshire and caters for children from the ages of 4 through to 11 – those children that used to be called infants and juniors. Recently the school Log Book came to light amongst the effects of one of the previous headmasters, a Mr DA NELMS, who took up the post in September 1966. The Book was returned to the school and I was privileged to be able to have a good look through it.

Log Books were written up by the Head Teacher and were there to record events in school life: those connected to the staff, such as absence, allocation of classes, resignations, new teachers being appointed, visits by His Majesty's Inspectors (HMI); those connected to the children, mainly mentions of those who had obtained a place at one of the local Grammar Schools or others who had been involved in an accident of one kind or another, also more general events such as school closures (both scheduled and unexpected), educational trips taken by the children including who was in charge, building works undertaken and so on. From a family history or from a local history point of view, these books are an invaluable source.

The earliest school Log Books date from 1862 but this one in particular started on 31 August 1937. Firstly it states that a new department, Littlegrove Mixed, was formed on this day with 441 children on the roll. The Head was Mr Norris J DAFT [he retired in September 1940] and he was supported by a staff of 11 teachers: Mr RA MUNCEY, chief assistant master, Mr WH ELLIOTT, Mr AW HARRIS, Mr A MARSH and Mr G NICHOLS all 'Trained Cert Asst Masters', Misses E SMITH, J MONK, B FROST, D CRACKLE, all 'Trained Cert Asst Mistresses', Miss J SPINK Uncertificated Assistant and Miss B THOMAS, Trained Uncertificated Mistress. That first day must have been quite a stressful one for the Head as His Majesty's Inspectors paid a visit and the deputy head, Mr MUNCEY, left to take up a position as Headmaster of St James' School, Friern Barnet.

An HMI report from May 1938 gives some useful information on the history of the school. It states that the school was opened in August 1933 with 396 children. In little more than 2 years that number had increased to



700. The children were graded into 13 classes with an average of 54 children in each class. Osidge Council School opened nearby in 1936, taking 100 children from Littlegrove but they still had to use the halls as classrooms until 4 temporary classrooms (which are still in use today) were built. The Infants department was split off and placed under a separate Head Teacher, Mrs WHITELOCK.

Another HMI report from 1955 adds that at the beginning of the 1938 school year Littlegrove housed a 'full-range mixed department and an infant department'. This must mean that it included children over the age of 11 as on Friday 31 March 1939, 218 children aged over 11 left Littlegrove to attend the new senior schools at Russell Lane and Victoria Road. (Neither of these schools exists now. Russell Lane became Southaw School but more recently has been demolished and housing built in its place. A remnant of the Victoria Road school exists as a Community Centre but the rest of the buildings suffered the same fate as Russell Lane and were also knocked down to make way for housing.)

Other nearby schools are also mentioned. On Monday 3 April 1939 the Log Book states that 105 boys were admitted from Margaret Road Boys' School and 108 from Margaret Road Girls' School (making a total of 475 on the roll). These schools are now a Nursery School for children under 5 years of age.

### **Pupils**

In May 1938 we learn that Vera PICKERDEN, Eileen GERAGHTY, Owen ROBINSON and Thomas BULLEN had been awarded special places at East Barnet Modern School (later East Barnet County, then East Barnet Grammar, now East Barnet School) whilst Constance ALDRIDGE and Maureen FULLER gained the same at Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School (now Queen Elizabeth Girls' School and, separately, Queen Elizabeth Grammar which is a boys' school). Other local grammar schools at which the children gained places include the Junior Technical School at Watford, Cheshunt Grammar, St Michael's RC at Finchley, Finchley Grammar, Minchenden Grammar at Southgate, Hatfield Technical School, Borehamwood Grammar, Haberdasher's School, St Alban's School and one girl, Barbara BAKER, even managed to gain a place at Sadlers Wells Ballet School.

All of the children who earned one of these places are mentioned by name, from 1937 to 1966 – if you or your ancestor was one of these and you would like a copy of the entry, please contact the editors.

Other name mentions of children attending Littlegrove are when they were accidentally hurt. The first of these reports occurred on 28 April 1938 when, during an organised games period, Arthur SMITH (Standard vi) fell and injured his knee seriously. He was taken immediately to Dr GUGGENHEIM who instructed the Headmaster to take the boy to the Wellhouse Hospital, where he was detained for a minor operation. Children, then as now, occasionally did things which they should not have done: on 13 April 1948 it is recorded that a child lost his balance while climbing the railings (which was forbidden) and broke 2 front teeth.

The Log Book contains other information pertaining to school life, for instance the children went on various educational trips. The earliest mentioned is a display of films about India and Ceylon which took place at the Odeon Cinema on 25 October 1937 for the children aged over 11. Unsurprisingly, there appear to have been no trips during the war, the next one being on 17 December 1946 when a party of 50 children visited the *Britain Can Make It* exhibition. Later visits included A1 Dairies at Whetstone, Whipsnade and London Zoos, the Science Museum, Westminster Abbey, the Tower of London and St Albans Roman Museum.

Sports days were held at nearby Oakhill Park and there were various cups and shields waiting to be won. The Littlegrove children were arranged into four houses: Lancaster, Richmond, Gloucester and York, which competed against each other on these occasions. The houses also competed for the Lawson Shield, awarded for good academic work throughout the year.

Subjects mentioned in the HMI report of 1938 include English, Arithmetic, Geography, History, Arts and Crafts, Needlework – all satisfactory but the training of older girls in Domestic Subjects was considered ‘very inadequate’. The 1955 Report also includes Religious Education, Information Subjects [what were these?] and Music (both recorder and violin lessons were taught).

A reference and lending library was first proposed for the school on 27 October 1942. As someone who works in this school, I was amazed to discover that it had not always had a library!

## Teaching Staff

If teachers were not at school for any reason a note was made in the Log Book. Often this was because they were unwell. For example, on 4 December 1939 Mr AW HARRIS broke his ankle and was off school for 10 weeks. Mr JOHNSON, Supply Teacher, was employed to take over the class. Mr HARRIS returned on 20 February but Mr JOHNSON did not have to wait long for further employment – he took over from Miss J MARK, who was off with German measles, on 22 February, transferring to Miss SPINK's class on 4 March – she, too, had German measles.

Mr HARRIS was also not at school on 19 November 1937. He was attending an interview at Harrow, presumably for a job. He cannot have been successful on this occasion as he attended an interview at Guildford almost a year later, on 22 September 1938. Mr HARRIS was not in school again on 29 October 1940 because he went to an interview at Euston to try to join the RAF.

The RAF seems to have been the military option of choice for the teachers at Littlegrove. Miss Elsie HIGGINS was allowed a half-day holiday on 26 June 1940 to visit her fiancé (Leonard F LAWSON) who was on a short holiday from the RAF; they married later that year in Ilford. The Acting Headmaster, Mr WH ELLIOTT attended an interview at Cardington for the RAF on 5 November 1940 and was subsequently called for service on 6 January 1941. His class was taken by a supply teacher, Mrs WH WIMPRESS, whose husband also reported for service in the RAF on 14 March 1941 when she was allowed a day's leave to see him off. Mr HARRIS reported for service with the RAF on 3 May that year. Mr ELLIOTT (on 26 November 1945) and Mr HARRIS both returned to the school safely after the War. Mr ELLIOTT left at Christmas 1946 as he was then appointed Headmaster of Knebworth School.

Mr AW HARRIS married Miss HUGGINS (another teacher) on 16 February 1942 and the bride was granted a week's leave of absence. This snippet of information allowed me to find their first names: Albert and Elsie – they married near St Ives, Huntingdonshire. Mrs HARRIS terminated her employment on 29 January 1943 and later that year gave birth to a baby.

17

1938  
 Aug 30 The school reopened on Tuesday, August 30<sup>th</sup>  
 There are 486 children on roll arranged  
 in classes as follows:

Sto vii a	45	Mr H. Bellamy
vii b	46	Mr W. Harris
vii c	34	Miss J. Monk
vi	40	Mr A. Mason
va	40	Mr W. Elliott
v b	39	Mr G. Nichols
iv a	44	Miss J. Smith
iv b	37	Miss A. Bowles
iii	49	Miss D. Cackle
ii a	45	Miss B. Frost
ii b	39	Miss B. Thomas
ii c	28	Mr W. Moore (U. Substly)

Aug. 31. Mr W. E. Moore Unincorporated Supply  
 Teacher  $\frac{28}{12009}$  Commenced duty on  
 Wednesday, Aug. 31<sup>st</sup>.

Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Headmaster, Mr N. J. Wolf is absent  
 today due to a motor accident.

This page shows the class sizes and their teachers  
 at the start of the 1938 school year.

## **Weather Problems**

Severe winter weather in February 1940 meant that less than half of the children were able to come to school. By 13 March the supply of coke, used for heating the school building, had been exhausted and the school had to shut as no more could be obtained until 15 March. The coke again ran out on 10 December, resulting in the school being closed for the day, but by 20 December this, too, had run out. The heating apparatus was damaged by frost during the Christmas holidays, meaning that the school could not re-open on 7 January as it was supposed to but had to delay the start of term until 13 January. January 1942 was also very cold and the temperature in the huts was below freezing for eight days on the trot, making work in them impossible. The County Surveyor's Department's solution was to provide black-out shields so that the fire could be kept burning throughout the night. The chimneys in the huts were swept too, in an attempt to get better heating. 1947 was very cold too and on Thursday 30 January it was reported that all of the outside lavatory pans and cisterns had frozen solid making them unusable – all of the children were sent home until the following Monday.

## **The War**

Of course the War also caused the pupils to miss some of their schooling and it also changed their school lives forever. Although 1 September 1939 is now considered to be the start of the War, it was well before this, on 25 April 1939, that the Air Raid Precaution Officer for Hertfordshire called on the school to inspect the school grounds and to discuss with the Headmaster the site for 180 yards of trenches. The school was inspected by HMI on 30 September; not only the children's work but also the school trenches! By 8 November they were unfit for use due to flooding and the children had to be accommodated in the safer parts of the building, as far as possible away from glass - four classes on the upper floor, two on the ground floor and four in the basement.

On 21 May 1940, two teachers imparted to the rest of the staff knowledge they had gained at special courses on dealing with incendiary bombs. By 28 May, a stirrup pump and pail, incendiary bomb scoop and sand bin were placed in a convenient location in the Lower Hall.

The school air raid shelter was first mentioned on 4 September 1939. School should have opened after the summer vacation on this day but all of the staff had to attend the Clerk's Office to receive instructions concerning

arrangements for opening the school when the shelters were completed. Work on the shelter was inspected in November and December and three of the four shelters had been completed by 28 May 1940. The first air-raid warning on 16 August meant that 45 minutes was spent in the shelters but on some days, such as 13 September, the children were in the shelters for over 4 hours.

Mr G REBITT of the County Surveyor's Department inspected the school shelters on 10 June 1941 where the headmaster pointed out to him that owing to recent rains they were unfit for use. By 17 July it was agreed that the trenches would never keep out water after a few days of heavy rain and that the building should be used as shelter in bad weather. The Headmaster suggested that certain windows should be covered with wire to protect them and this was agreed, as was the suggestion that screen should be placed in front of the shelter lavatories. New shelter arrangements were completed on 21 January 1943 as the others were damp and unfit for use. Instead, the children were to use the surface shelters; 2 in Ridgeway Avenue, 4 in Windsor Drive and 4 in Eton Avenue. The children were able to reach these shelters in 3½ minutes! After the War, on 13 November 1946, Rona [?] JENKINS, (born 2 November 1936) a 9-year-old, fell down one of the air-raid shelters, dislocating her elbow and fracturing her wrist.

Education was much disrupted during the War. On 2 September 1940 only 304 children were present out of 428 on the roll. An air raid warning on 13 September lasted from 9.50am until 2pm – the children were then sent home. Warnings on 17 September lasted from 8.10am until 8.50am and then from 9.10am until 10am. Only 115 children were present and so it was decided to close the school for the day. The school day was split into two halves and if an air raid warning took place which lasted over the start of the afternoon session, this was often cancelled. The County Council instructed that one member of staff must remain on duty to turn away any children returning for the afternoon session. On 9 October this was Mr G Nichols, although the acting Headmaster kept him company until 3pm. On 10 February new times for the school day came into operation: 9.30am to 12 noon for the morning session and 2pm until 4.30pm for the afternoon. By 3 March this was changed to 9am to noon and 2-4pm. The summer holiday that year only lasted from 26 July until 12 August 1940, although a further week's holiday was granted by the County Council on 23 August. Two years later, on 2 October 1942, the Log Book states that the school

was closed for the residue of the Summer Holiday! Was this something that only happened in the War?

At 10.15pm on 20 February 1944 three bombs fell in the neighbourhood of the school. One fell in the corner of the school field, a second in a back garden adjacent to the north end of the playground and a third in the middle of the carriageway on Cat Hill. The school was damaged and had to be closed for a week for repairs – about 600 roof tiles were broken along with 160 panes of glass. Each of the wooden huts had one side bulging and the roof of one hut was broken in several places; two of the heating stoves were damaged. The boundary wall on the north side of the playground and the tarmac there were badly damaged and many tons of clay had been thrown onto the playground. In the surrounding area some 1500 people were without gas and water supplies and so the school canteen was opened as an Emergency Feeding Service, providing some 60 breakfasts, 470 dinners and 60 teas. By later that afternoon the gas and water supplies were reconnected.

The school canteen was actually quite a new facility. Previously, all children went home for lunch, however on 1 July 1941 there was a meeting to discuss the opening of a 'School Dinner Club' and to make arrangements for a kitchen. It was suggested that the Infants' cloakroom at the Boys' end of the school could be used. Kitchen staff were appointed on 4 November: Cook, Mrs GW ALBURY of 29 Elmroyd Avenue, Potters Bar; Assistant Cooks, Mrs J ARNOLD of 58 Margaret Road and Mrs E WATTS of 138 Daneland; Kitchen Helps Mrs N BEARSDON of 64 Ridgeway Avenue, Mrs S SMITH of 67 Berkeley Crescent and Mrs WALSH of 82 Windsor Drive. The canteen opened on 19 November and 376 dinners were served.

Other Log Book entries concerning the war mention that the huts were commandeered by the officer commanding No 3 Squadron (Middlesex Yeomanry) Division Signals on 25 October 1939, the Headmaster attended a meeting on 13 February 1941 to discuss the education of evacuee children in East Barnet and the County Rural Organisers visited the school on 21 October 1942 to discuss the question of ploughing up the field. Nothing further is reported of these events.

## WEBSITE NEWS

### **Electoral Registers and Poll Books**

Electoral Registers have been a legal requirement since 1832. They are usually published annually and list everyone eligible to vote in national and local elections. Previously one had to have a rough idea of the address of the person one was searching for but now these records are starting to be indexed and put online. They can prove very useful when trying to locate someone in that large gap between the 1911 census and the present. Information provided can include name, address and qualification to be on the list of voters. The many different changes in the franchise are detailed on this site, as are the meanings of codes used in the records

Poll Books are similar but they start from around 1700 and continued until 1872 when the secret ballot was introduced. While all poll books record the name of the voter, some also record other information such as occupation and/or address. The order of names also vary, sometimes by address, sometimes by name, sometimes by the order in which their vote was cast, and of course since they are a record of votes cast, they do not include the name of those, while eligible to vote, did not in fact cast their vote. Many poll books are available to search for free and links are available on this site to these.

For more information visit <http://electoralregisters.org.uk>

### **Britain from Above**

The Britain from Above website features images from the Aerofilms collection, a unique aerial photographic archive of international importance which includes 1.26 million negatives and more than 2000 photograph albums. Aerofilms Ltd, a pioneering air survey company was set up in 1919 by WW1 veterans Claude GRAHAME-WHITE and Francis Lewis WILLS. In addition to their own imagery, Aerofilms expanded its holdings with the purchase of two smaller collections – AeroPictorial (1934-1960) and Airviews (1947-1991). The total collection presents an unparalleled picture of the changing face of Britain in the 20th century.

Britain from Above is a four year project aimed at conserving 95,000 of the oldest and most valuable photographs, those dating from 1919-1953, in the Aerofilms collection. These are then made available on the website for all to see. The site is free to join and easy to use, and can be searched by keyword, location and/or date.



Little information was originally recorded about the detail in the images and the website provides the opportunity to add key words, to share and record your memories and to include personal knowledge about the places shown in the collection.

There are special interest groups to join, such as Chocolate Factories, Scottish Lighthouses, Stanmore Golf Club and Dundee, where interested parties can discuss these subjects. A gallery of unidentified images is included in the hopes that members of the public will be able to pinpoint their locations. Other galleries show newest images, top-rated images and so on.

This site can be found at: <http://www.britainfromabove.org.uk/>

### **London Evening Standard**

Historic copies dating from 1850-1899 of this major newspaper from our area have been added to the British Newspaper Archive. There are now over 8.5 million newspaper pages on this site and more are being added all the time.

The British Library's newspaper collections, from which this archive is taken, contain most of the runs of newspapers published in the UK since 1800. From this date onwards many cities and towns published several newspapers simultaneously, often aimed at distinct audiences depending on social status, geographical location and political affiliation. The first stage of the digitisation project focused on runs published before 1900 and titles from cities such as Birmingham, Derby, Manchester, Nottingham, Norwich, Leeds and York, along with local titles from London boroughs.

You must pay to access all articles but there are various packages including one where you can view all you like for 1 month, which costs £9.95 or a pay-as-you-go option where you can view 40 pages over the course of a year for £19.95. You can try this site before committing any money – if you register you can view three articles of your choice for free. For more information visit: <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/>

### **Huguenots of Spitalfields**

Huguenots of Spitalfields is a registered charity promoting public understanding of the Huguenot heritage and culture in Spitalfields, the City of London and beyond. They are raising funds for a permanent memorial to the Huguenots and they arrange tours, talks and events to raise the Huguenot profile in their local area. For example a walk around historic

Spitalfields is arranged for the first Tuesday in every month from May to October, the last one of this year being on 7 October. Walks start from outside Christ Church, Commercial Street, London E1 6LY at 2pm and cost £10.

The website has a page of places to visit, for example the Huguenot Burial Ground in Wandsworth, opened in 1687 and closed in 1854, and the English Restaurant in Brushfield Street, which is housed in one of the oldest 17<sup>th</sup> Century town houses in Spitalfields.

Another webpage contains links to websites which might prove interesting for those with Huguenot ancestors, such as the Georgian Society, British History Online, the Fan Museum and more.

One can subscribe to their Strangers' Newsletter, issued electronically three times a year, from this site.

For more information visit: <http://www.huguenotsofspitalfields.org/>

### **Middlesex and Surrey Parish Records**

A further 33,275 records have been added to the Middlesex Marriage Index 1811 – 1840 on Find My Past. These records originated from work done by our sister society, the West Surrey Family History Society. The Middlesex index now contains over 30,000 records of both Quaker and Anglican marriages across 67 parishes within the historic county.

Find My Past's Surrey Marriage Index has also expanded, with over 200,000 new records coming from work done by the West Surrey Family History Society. These records cover the parishes of Abinger, Addington, Albury, Alfold, Ash, Ashtead, Banstead, Barnes and West Norwood and date from 1500 to 1841.

Following this update, the Surrey marriage records now include 496,000 names and cover parts of London Boroughs such as Lambeth, Southwark and Wandsworth which were part of Surrey until 1889 when the administrative county was formed, as well as Croydon, Kingston upon Thames, Merton, Sutton and Richmond upon Thames, which were part of Surrey until 1965.

Details of people from Surrey who were married in parish churches in other counties, ie what are known as 'strays', have also been added to this website with some 8.500 new records being added to the Surrey Strays Marriage Index.

For more information visit: [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk)

## NEWS FROM THE BOOKSTALL

The majority of the books listed here have been published by The Family History Partnership, which was formed in 2007 when the Federation of Family History Societies (FFHS) ceased publishing and distributing an extensive series of guides for family historians.

The partnership was formed from a small group of family historians formerly associated with FFHS publishing. They are all passionate about ensuring that researchers have access to publications of high quality that inform them of the huge amount of records that are available and where they can be located.

*The Family Historian's Enquire Within, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition* by Janet Few

Much has happened in the world of family history since the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of this guide was published in 1995; not least the internet, the closure of several London repositories and the removal of vital records to The National Archives, Kew.

The book is in an easy-to-read A-Z format commencing with 'Abbreviations' through to 'Young People and Family History'.

**FHP01** 293 pages, large format, 250mm x 172mm x 20mm

Bookstall £12.99: UK £16.00: EU and Rest of World price on application

*Granny Was A Brothel Keeper; 50 Family History Traps* by Kate Broad and Toni Neobard

*Granny Was a Brothel Keeper* is an entertaining collection of stories which illustrate the fascinating and bizarre world of family history. From the colourful 'naughty postcard' style cover I found this book vastly entertaining. In addition to the helpful advice given by both authors among the text, each chapter has a number of boxes inside which are 'Kate's Comments' or 'Toni's Tips'. What makes the book so entertaining are the sometimes irreverent captioned cartoons by Jim Wilkins.

**FHP02** 133 pages, 210mm x 105mm, illustrated

Bookstall £8.99: UK £ 10.50: EU £13.00: Rest of World £14.25

*Family History Record Sheets*

The pack contains 21 master forms to use for data collection when visiting record repositories. Included is a CD to print out further copies. There are forms for recording GRO Births, Marriages and Deaths, GRO Free BMD Search List 1837-2018, Census searches 1841 to 1911, Wills, Inventories,

IGI, Monumental Inscriptions, Family Group Sheets, Pedigree Sheets, Individual Record Sheets.

**FPH03** Bookstall £9.95: UK £12.95

*Making Sense of Latin Documents for Family and Local History* by Brooke Westcott

As your research progresses back you are likely to come across documents written wholly or partly in Latin. The use of Latin in public records was prohibited in 1733 although it was not compulsory before that date. The aim of this book is to set out and translate the basic form of the most useful and common Latin phrases. Fourteen chapters covering topics such as Wills, Probates, Inventories, Intestacy, Excommunication, Writs, Inquisition Post Mortem, Land Deeds and Copyhold.

**FHP04** 82 pages, 210mm x 105mm, illustrated and examples given.

Bookstall £7.50: UK £10.00: EU £11.50

*Putting Your Ancestor in their Place; A Guide to One Place Studies* by Janet Few

A One Place Study involves the study of a small area whether it be in a town or a village. Study can be undertaken by an individual or a group. A One Place Study differs in that it focuses on people and their relationship to each other and the community in which they lived. Sources for research are given but more importantly how the records may be used. There are 12 chapters each with a bibliography, a list of Societies with addresses and courses plus a list of further reading. Indexed.

**FHP05** 96 pages, 210mm x 105mm, illustrated

Bookstall £7.95: UK £10.50: EU £11.95

*War Memorials; A Guide for Family Historians* by Susan Tall

There are over 100,000 War Memorials throughout the UK. Most families will have either a relative or an ancestor commemorated on one. Some families may have a relative/ancestor recorded on more than one memorial. The author gives sound advice on how to research names in a variety of records covering both World Wars. Further sources are listed together with their websites. The penultimate chapter deals with what to do with your research and includes an online project run by The Imperial War Museum. The final chapter has a select list of books for further reading.

**FHP06** 64 pages, 210mm x 105mm, illustrated

Bookstall £6.50: UK £7.75: EU £10.50

*The Home Front 1939-45* by Stuart A Raymonde

Although much emphasis has been placed this year on the armed forces in both World Wars, this publication focuses on the many voluntary organisations including Home Guard, Civil Defence, the Womens Voluntary Service (WVS), Air Raid Precautions (ARP), the Womens Institute as well as Bevin Boys conscripted to work in the mines, munitions workers (mostly women), the police and many others. Each chapter lists relevant websites and a selection of books for further reading. Indexed.

**FHP07** 64 pages, 210mm x 105mm, illustrated

Bookstall £5.95: UK £7.50: EU £8.50

*The Story of Soho; The Windmill Years 1932 - 1964* by Mike Hutton

Soho is unlike any other area of London. Populated by many nationalities and containing West End theatres and restaurants, both glamour and squalor existed side by side. This is its dramatic story.

**ASH01** 256 pages, 198mm x 124mm x 20mm, 30 pages of black and white illustrations, indexed

Bookstall £9.99: UK £11.50

*Life in 1940s London* by Mike Hutton

Mike Hutton's book covers this momentous decade in London's history. The internment of those of both Italian and German origin, the Blitz, food and clothes rationing, Vera Lynn and Glen Miller, sheltering in London's underground, the arrival of GIs, Buzz Bombs, the arrival of West Indian immigrants - all these Londoners stoically took in their stride. Many of our heroic servicemen however, having served King and Country, were rewarded upon their return home to find themselves as strangers to the family. The Royal Wedding in 1947 and the 1948 Olympics however brought cheer to many in spite of continuing austerity.

**ASH02** 224 pages + 32 monochrome, 235 x 156mm, 77 illustrations

Bookstall £20.00: UK £22.50

*Tottenham Hotspur Football Club; 100 Greats* by Roy Brazier

This book was first published in 2006. Listed alphabetically each player has a one-page entry with an accompanying photograph. Twenty players merit two pages. Where there is not an official photograph of the player there is a photograph of him in action on the pitch. Among the 'Greats' featured are Ossie Ardiles, Danny Blanchflower, Jimmy Greaves, Glen Hoddle, Alf

Ramsey, Teddy Sheringham, Pat Jennings, Paul Gascoigne and Gary Lineker.

**ASH03** 127 pages, 235mm x 165mm, approximately 180 black and white illustrations

Bookstall £12.99: UK £14.50

*Barnet Press; Index of Events*

The events listed on this CD Rom were compiled and checked by members of the then North Middlesex FHS (now London Westminster & Middlesex FHS) and volunteers at Barnet Museum on one day per week over a number of years. Events listed include births, marriages and deaths, court cases and other notable events, including 'In Memorium' notices, arranged in alphabetical and chronological order of date of publication.

Years covered are: 28 December 1861 to 21 June 1862: 6 February 1869 to 24 June 1871: 1873 to 1874 (complete): 1879 to 1900 (complete). These years are the only microfilm copies available.

Please note that this is an *index* and to get more information about the events listed, this CD needs to be used in conjunction with the *Barnet Press* archive, which can be found on microfilm at Barnet Library and Barnet Local Studies and Archives.

**BPE01** CD Rom: Bookstall: £3.00: UK: £3.60 EU: £4.00 Rest of World: £4.50

## **LWMFHS CONFERENCE AND AGM 2015**

Guildhall Library  
Aldermanbury, London EC2V 7HH

has been booked for  
**Saturday 7 February 2015.**

Please make a note in your diaries!  
Details will be included in the December issue of METROPOLITAN

## MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

I would like to apologise to those members, fortunately just half a dozen, who received odd emails purporting to have been sent by me, after my laptop was hacked at 5.20am on Sunday 10 August. Fortunately the majority of you realised something was amiss and emailed me first before opening the attached message as requested. During that night I received over 30 messages in my in-box followed by a similar amount at 12.30 the following day.

I would like to thank both Barbara Haswell and the Membership Secretary of the Ryedale FHS, of which I am also a member, for phoning to warn me that I had been 'hacked'. I was not aware of the scale of the problem until after their phone calls when I logged on and confined all the emails to the dustbin. Thanks also go to Barbara for travelling to Enfield by bus last Wednesday and then walking the distance to my house from Enfield Town after I experienced problems with Microsoft. I am now up and running again and so far so good.

In regard to subscription renewals I would like to thank those members paying by Standing Order (SO) who have taken the trouble to inform me that they have notified their bank re an increase in subscription charge and, in addition, those members also paying by SO who have advised their preference re the format in which they receive METROPOLITAN.

On the subject of renewal forms; a number of members are not signing or dating their forms or including an email address. Please could you make sure that you do this so that our records are accurate and up-to-date.

Standing Order forms may be obtained by downloading one from the website or by writing to the Membership Secretary and including a stamped addressed envelope.

**IVY WINIFRED RAPER**

1917 - 2014

Ivy, who was a founder member of the former Westminster & Central Middlesex Family History Society, passed away in Northwick Park Hospital on 25 June at the age of 97. From the time she joined, she was involved in transcribing the Monumental Inscriptions at St Mary, Harrow-on-the-Hill and St Martin, Ruislip, before becoming the Project Co-ordinator. She was then responsible for organisation and planning for at least 6 churchyards and drew meticulous plans for the location and type of each grave, as well as helping with the transcriptions, before deciding at the age of 90, that she could no longer continue with this work. (Over the years she had broken several bones, tripping over gravestones.) In spite of failing health she continued to attend meetings at Rayners Lane until about two years ago. She was still alert and using her computer to try and continue her family history research, a passion which had lasted for nearly 40 years. Ivy felt cheated that her body had given up while her mind most definitely had not and she still had so much that she wanted to do.

The funeral service was held at St Lawrence Church, Eastcote, on 21 July and Margaret Paine, Doreen Heywood and Ann Randell from Rayners Lane branch attended. Tributes were read by Ivy's daughter Mary Thomas and other members of the family. Due to Ivy's war service a representative from the RAF was present and a trumpeter played *The Last Post*. After a moment of silence this was followed by *Reveille*. (The trumpeter of The Central Band of The Royal Air Force played by permission of the Air Force Board of the Defence Council.)

The following is a summary of the tribute read out by Ivy's daughter Mary: Born in Hackney, Ivy was the youngest of 6 children. The family lived in a house with no gas or electricity and only one tap with cold running water. She shared a bed with a sister - life was tough. The family took to Scouting and Guiding and as a child Ivy was chosen to be part of a Guard of Honour when Queen Mary opened Guide HQ in Buckingham Palace Road. She was picked out by the Duchess of York (later the Queen Mother) because Queen Mary apparently really liked ringlets!

Ivy's father died when she was 14, a traumatic event in her young life. During her teens she joined the church gym and acting club and later the



church hockey team, for which she played in goal. She left school at age 16 and worked in the counting house at Gamages Department Store. She continued playing hockey, as well as netball and table tennis at the Gamages Sports Ground and later she joined the Canonbury Players performing 17 shows a year, until war broke out.

During the Blitz she was part of Gamages Volunteer Fire service, regularly leaping across rooftops putting out incendiary bombs. She also ran weekend classes to demonstrate how to deal with the incendiaries. Eventually she had to sign up. She chose WAAFS and was sent to Scotland to train to fly Spitfires with a view to becoming a ferry pilot. She did extremely well, until it was realised that she was 2 inches under the regulation height. Still in Scotland she was assigned as a Clerk with Special Duties now known as a Plotter. While Ivy worked in Scotland she continued to play hockey, still in goal, but for the RAF men's team! She finally left Scotland and Fighter Command having risen to the rank of Technical Corporal. On a recent visit to The Bunker at RAF Uxbridge Ivy was interviewed about her work in Scotland and it emerged that she was involved in the plans for the liberation of Norway. This work was so top secret that it still remains closed under the 100 year rule.

After the war, on returning to London, she took up secretarial work and joined West Green Table Tennis Club where she met her future husband Vic and they were married in 1950. Vic had a son Christopher from his first marriage (his first wife having died in childbirth). He and Ivy then had three children - John, Peter and Mary. The family moved around from Finsbury to North Wembley, then Kingsbury and Kenton where the three boys joined the 4<sup>th</sup> Kenton Scout Pack and a long association with Scouting continued for most of Ivy's life. She organised the Scout Christmas Market and ran the Christmas Decorations stall for many years. The house was regularly turned into a mini factory for the stall as Ivy thought up new ideas for items to sell. She also organised the annual Scout camps for the 4<sup>th</sup> Kenton at Gilwell Park and was involved at District level, becoming a badge examiner and member of the warrants committee. Their house always seemed to be full, not just with close family but with extended family and a constant stream of friends. Somehow Ivy coped, giving everyone a homely welcome - and plenty of food.

Vic died in 1981 and 2 years later Ivy moved to Eastcote where she lived for the rest of her life. She enjoyed many day trips and holidays with a local Club and when she was no longer able to go on these she joined the Ruislip Library Scrabble Club where she was a popular competitor. When her sight began to fail she was invited to join the Ruislip Blind Club but still managed to play Scrabble. She devised a simple game for her fellow blind folk which was so successful that it has now been taken up by Age UK across the country to stimulate both brain activity and laughter in the elderly.

But family history was her passion, with her own records going back to 1391 (though not yet proved). Her last days were spent with a clear view of St Mary's, Harrow on the Hill - the very first church she had recorded. Ivy said she could still see it all in her head, the layout and the gravestones. To the last she was instructing her daughter to find the 1601 link between the MANTHORPES and the HOARES that had eluded her for so many years.

We extend condolences to Mary and all the family.

## **West Surrey FHS Open Day**

Saturday 1 November 2014 from 10am-4.30pm  
Woking Leisure Centre, Kingfield Road, Woking GU22 9BA  
Free entry and free parking

Hall 1 is the Research Room, which will contain a wide range of resources from Surrey, computer help and lookups provided by Jeanne Bunting and her team, Help Desks specialising in army research, reading old documents, DNA testing, dating old photographs, Irish and Scottish records, etc

There will be a series of talks throughout the day.

Hall 2 contains the Family History Fair and will feature many FHSs including **London Westminster & Middlesex FHS**, plus a large number of local history organisations and suppliers of family history products.

For more details visit: [www.wsfhs.org](http://www.wsfhs.org)

## UNWANTED CERTIFICATES

Mr Peter Davis, Member No. 7736 has a large number of unwanted certificates, the first batch of which is below. Peter is happy to pass these on to any member who has need in return for a SSAE.

Birth: John BENNETT, son of William BENNETT and Jane, née BROADY, born 30 April 1843 in Shoreditch

Birth: William James BENNETT, son of William BENNETT and Emma, née PARKER, born 20 August 1870 at Hackney

Birth: Fanny Matilda BENNETT, daughter of George BENNETT and Elizabeth, née SWANTON, born 12 October 1875 at Poplar

Birth: Horace BENNETT, son of John BENNETT and Mary Ann, née E\*\*\*\*?, born 19 May 1890 at Bethnal Green

Birth: Horace BENNETT, son of Henry Page BENNETT and Eliza, née PAGE, born 25 May 1890 at Hackney

Birth: Florence BENNETT, daughter of Thomas BENNETT and Esther, née BURTON, born 2 October 1890 at Hackney

Birth: Dorcas Annie BENNETT, daughter of Benjamin Henry BENNETT and Caroline, née BATTAN, born 8 September 1892 at Marylebone

Birth: Kim Margaret DAVIS, daughter of Peter DAVIS and Peggy Martha Margaret, née MONEY, born 25 July 1959 at Islington

Birth: Thomas GOAD, son of Richard GOAD and Sarah, née EVES?, born 23 August 1844 at Cranbrook

Birth: Richard JEFFERY, son of Thomas John JEFFERY and Dorothy Joan, née MEDCALF, born 25 October 1927 at Langport

Birth: George Edward RAVEN, son of Edward RAVEN and Frances, née RILEY, born 16 January 1848 at Orsett

Marriage: Thomas William BENNETT, railway clerk and Alice WILLIAMS, daughter of Stephen, were married on 28 December 1872 at St Pancras

Marriage: Thomas BENNETT, compositor and Alice WORTHAM, daughter of George, were married on 29 March 1873 at Stepney

Marriage: William John DAVIS, cabinet maker and Kate BIRD, daughter of Thomas, were married on 25 December 1896 at Camberwell

Married: Peter Alexander GRANT, credit officer and Isabel Jean McLENNAN, daughter of William MACKAY were married on 1 August 1978 at Aberdeen

Married: Albert MUFF, motor driver and Emma WHEELER, daughter of Joseph Henry, were married on 9 May 1919 at Romford

Death: Horace BENNETT, son of John BENNETT, died aged 5 months on 27 October 1890 at Bethnal Green

Death: Thomas BENNETT, general labourer, died aged 66 on 21 February 1902 at Shoreditch

Death: Sarah Anne BENNETT, wife of George Henry BENNETT, licensed victualler, died aged 53 on 22 February 1903 at Islington

Death: Alice Sarah BENNETT, wife of Thomas John BENNETT, clerk in holy orders, died aged 54 on 4 June 1908 at Wandsworth

Death: Sarah BENNETT, spinster, daughter of James BENNETT, died aged 55 on 2 July 1908 at Hackney

Death: Julia BENNETT, wife of George Thomas Henry BENNETT, carpenter, died aged 53 on 14 January 1913 at Hackney

If you would like any of these certificates, you can contact Peter by writing to him at: 88 Walker Crescent, Culloden, Inverness IV2 7NA

## HUNGARIAN ONE FORINT NOTES

By Valerie Clinch, Member No. 7821

Many family myths and mysteries have been resolved during my exploration of my family's past, but one remains for which I may never find an answer.

Whilst clearing my parent's home I discovered a stash of foreign notes and coins in a paper bag. The context seemed to relate to my maternal grandfather's time in France during the First World War but had obviously been added to since that time. The significance of the five one forint notes, one of which is pictured below, would have eluded me had it not been for the help I was having in my task from my son, an academic historian.



Further research about these notes revealed an intriguing history. Following the violent suppression of the revolution against Habsburg rule in Hungary (1848-1849), Lajos KOSSUTH (1802-1894) a noble, lawyer and journalist and his supporters fled abroad and formed a government-in-exile. These notes were issued as a means of raising funds to continue revolutionary activities. The notes bear KOSSUTH's signature.

It would seem that the notes in my possession were published in Philadelphia in 1852, while KOSSUTH was touring the USA, as those produced in this country were in English. They appear to have been signed and entered into circulation in this country on 15 March 1853 following the

return of KOSSUTH to a residence in St John's Wood, in late 1852 - early 1853.

KOSSUTH's presence in this country caused controversy in a number of ways. He and his associates were linked to an illegal gun-powder factory that had been identified in Rotherhithe and closed down by the police. The issue of the Hungarian émigrés and their 'Rotherhithe rockets' was raised in the House of Commons (*The Times* 30 April 1853). Additionally there was continuing concern about the printing of the currency in Britain, and at the request of the Habsburg authorities, the British government seized the notes and destroyed them.

To my knowledge and research the KEIGHLEY, TAPLEY, SANDERS and CLINCH families from whom I am descended have no Hungarian connections or revolutionary tendencies! They were all working class and based around Kentish Town and Camden Town so lack a Rotherhithe association. So for the time being the presence of these notes within the family will remain an intriguing mystery.

Further Reading: *Kossuth: Hungarian Patriot in Britain*, E.H. Haraszti (1994)



## HAMPSHIRE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

40th Anniversary Family History Open Day  
at Everest Community Academy, Oxford Way, Basingstoke, RG24 9FP  
on Sunday, 12th October 2014  
from 10am to 4pm

Free Talks, Great War Historian, Research Help and Advice (from all parts of the UK and Ireland), Bookstalls, Census Detectives, Family History Societies, Trade Stands.

Free Entry. Free Parking. Light Refreshments. Disabled Access  
Website: [www.hgs-familyhistory.com](http://www.hgs-familyhistory.com)

## THE ADAMS FAMILY'S SUBURBANISATION

By Dawn Adams, Member No 6025

We were eight first cousins, born between 1937 and 1957, growing up in and around Edmonton/Enfield, meeting every Christmas at the ADAMS grandparents' house. Charlie OWEN, our second cousin, played the piano and we sang old music hall songs – on into the 1960s. Where had we come from? A century of housing policy aided our journey.

Great-great grandfather, William ADAMS, stone mason, had a son, Joseph, born at 16 Earl Street on 31 Jan 1839. Joseph was the fifth child; all five baptisms cite Earl St. In March 1841, a sixth, great-grandfather Benjamin George ADAMS was born at Walbrook Place, and followed there by four more children. On Greenwood's 1827 map, Walbrook Place is off East Road on the Hoxton/Islington border. A reliable omnibus service to Islington began in the 1830s, so some better-off Londoners moved out. But William wasn't a City man starting work at 9 or 10 am. He must have had another reason to move.

Stone mason's work varies: on a building site or in a mason's yard; block-cutting, rough shaping, carving. Perhaps there was work to be found in De Beauvoir Town, or in Islington, as it was developed by speculative builders. In 1850, duty on materials represented up to one third of the build cost. Add that to the risk of borrowing money to fund the enterprise and speculative is not too strong a word. Houses were built to rent, or to sell on to landlords, who were often only slightly better off than their tenants: their property was their nest egg. As to the quality, with no architect involved, builders did only what they knew how to do and probably had no desire to spend more than they need.

In 1864, Benjamin George ADAMS married Mary Anne BAILEY. Their children's baptism records indicate that after the marriage they lived at various addresses around Poole St, Hoxton, probably until 1876. In 1877, their son Benjamin Walter, my grandfather, was born at Marlborough Cottages, Strouds Vale, close to the Caledonian Cattle Market and conveniently located for Benjamin George's employment as a slaughterman.

From mid-century, there had been concern in the drawing rooms of people wealthy enough to have drawing rooms, about the housing of the poor. This was mostly on two counts: the poor spread diseases, and they committed awful sins. Concern led to action, including the founding of companies to erect Model Dwellings, whose shareholders were guaranteed 4% or even 5% on their investment. This had an impact on the ADAMS family: in 1879 the Victoria Dwellings Association opened Beaconsfield Buildings in Strouds Vale, having cleared away various sordid cottages and smallholdings from the site – including the ADAMS' home, Marlborough Cottages.

The question of rehousing displaced tenants had already been discussed when the railway displaced up to 80,000 people in London between 1850 and 1900. A *Times* leader of 1861 said rehousing was 'Not an affair for railway companies ... Government has nothing to do with providing dwellings for the poor'. And it was not just the railways which caused homes to be destroyed: street improvements, commercial expansion and model dwellings all contributed. Benjamin George, Mary Ann and seven children had to find somewhere quickly. Perhaps they were not eligible for Beaconsfield Buildings – Model Dwellings had strict rules, and anyway the rent of two rooms in a model dwelling could be the same as for a four-



roomed cottage nearby. The family went to Devizes Street, Hoxton, a short cul de sac of two storey houses. In 1881, the houses tended to be occupied by only one family.

Was Benjamin George's house overcrowded?

His final tally of surviving children was eleven. (The photograph, an ambrotype, was taken when they had eight – about 1882?)



From censuses and baptism records it's clear that poor families moved around a lot, usually within a relatively confined area. Perhaps a family with a good record as tenants, needing more space, might move into another of the same landlord's properties. A recommendation from a good tenant might help family or friend to be offered a room. As for overcrowding, there was no working definition until this one from 1891: *a room containing more than 2 adults – children counting as half an adult and babies under 1 year not at all*. So a 3 room home was not overcrowded if it held 4 adults, 4 children and countless babies. London as a whole was 16% overcrowded, but Finsbury 35.2%.

In 1885, a Royal Commission on the Housing of the Working Classes reported that the fixed amount of housing in Central London meant that families were being forced to pay the same rent for one room as they had previously paid for two. 46% of poor families were spending up to half their earnings on rent. Two rooms represented the first important steps towards respectability, because families could separate activities. A survey taken in 1887 showed that whereas half of dock labourers had only one room, 99% of policemen had two. Wages and security of employment were big factors.

The Royal Commission accepted that poor families needed to be near casual work. They had to be on the spot to be selected at 5 or 6 am; women worked locally as charwomen, seamstresses or in 'sweated' domestic industries. Cheap markets offered lower food prices or sold ready-cooked food; they could run a slate at local shops and had friends and relations nearby for support. Once Benjamin George ADAM's family were old enough, they contributed to the family income through 'sweated' occupations such as making fancy boxes; Mary Anne took in laundry.

In 1890, the Public Health Amendment Act permitted local authorities throughout the country to bring in by-laws to regulate some aspects of the construction of new houses - such as not building rooms over privies or cess pools. Streets were preferred to courts, closes and alleys. Up to 1914, 'by-law housing' produced the now-familiar terraces, intersected by passages or tunnels, giving access to yards with privy and coal house, in treeless streets with either no front gardens, or tiny front gardens with railings. Builders generally built to the minimum standard specified. Better

houses *might* have a rear garden and/or a third bedroom. Later, outside water closets and a piped water supply were usual.

My grandfather, Benjamin Walter ADAMS, became a bone brush maker and in 1902 married Esther DORRELL, who worked in the same industry. When their first child, my father, Thomas Benjamin, was born in 1903, they lived in Benyon Road, near a brush factory. Between 1906, when their third child was born, and 1908, the birth of the fourth, they moved to a typical 'by-law' house in St Joseph's Road, Edmonton. This had a hallway, a parlour (there was much debate in housing circles about whether working class houses needed parlours), kitchen and scullery, plus three bedrooms. Facilities included piped water, a range, a copper for washing and an outside lavatory. There was a tiny front garden and a back garden accessed through the house (see photo - taken in 1945).



The Cheap Trains Act of 1883 provided that companies must offer special trains at low fares. In 1905, a 2d ticket might carry a passenger 11 miles to the north of London; 13,000 families a year were leaving the inner areas for the suburbs. Benjamin Walter continued to work at the brush factory, and took an allotment where he grew food for the family (and prize-winning vegetables). Esther worked drawing brushes at home, once the company

had approved the premises. They had eight children, of whom seven survived. Some of Benjamin George's other children also found themselves by-law houses, in Edmonton, Walthamstow and even Gravesend (one daughter married a Customs man).

After the First World War, the priority for successive Governments was reconstruction and reward. King George V said to Local Authority representatives *'an adequate solution of the housing question is the foundation of all social progress'*. Walter Lang, President of the Local Government Board said *'to let them come home from horrible water-logged trenches to something little better than a pigsty here would indeed be criminal'*.

The 1921 census showed that 30% of British households lived in 3 rooms or less and 20% shared with at least one other family. Reluctantly Government recognised that private enterprise could not supply enough homes of the quality demanded, at an affordable rent. This housing emergency was not entirely due to building slackening off during the war. Land Value Duty had been introduced in 1910 - housing output fell rapidly. No politician dared repeal the 1915 Rent and Mortgage Restriction Act since rents would rise. So for a builder of cheaper houses, for which there was greatest need, there was insufficient return.

The Housing and Town Planning Act of 1919 offered a significant lump sum subsidy of £150-£160 to builders of smaller houses, whether for sale or rent. This was controversial. In 1922, the Minister of Health, in a government of a different colour, said that newly-married couples *'should be so happy that they can enjoy living in one room ...in China and the East generally they continue to live under the parental roof quite contentedly'*. Variations in the subsidy scheme were introduced, but progress came only after building costs went down: it cost £930 to build a non-parlour 3 bedroom house in August 1920, but £397 in 1927. By 1939 almost a third of all houses were new. Owner-occupation came within reach of clerks, foremen et al.

In Edmonton, Benjamin Walter's children started to form new households. First to marry was the eldest, Thomas Benjamin. In 1932, he and his new

wife set up home in one room of her parents' house, a few doors away. They did not live there 'contentedly'.

Regular earnings of £200 a year were considered to be adequate security for a mortgage – and this could be attained by skilled workers. In 1936, New Ideal Homesteads offered a house for £395, available on a mortgage for 9/- a week. Building societies expanded, from having £9 million advanced on mortgage in 1910 to £137 million in 1938. Repayment periods extended from 15-20 years to 25-30 years. Builders advanced cash to limit the purchasers' deposit to 5%. Between 1921 and 1937, 1,400,000 people moved to Outer London and the population of the central area fell by 400,000.

Critics said that superficial details (beams, tiled bathrooms etc.) were pushing out structural benefits such as cavity walls and solid workmanship. But John Laing the London builder, was using a panel of architects and some new ideas were adopted, such as bituminous sheeted flat roofs and laying roof tiles over roofing felt. This benefited roofing manufacturers Ruberoid, of Brimsdown, Enfield, employers of Thomas Benjamin ADAMS. He earned enough to purchase, in 1936, a new house in Broadlands Avenue, Enfield Highway, in cycling distance of the factory. His newly-married sister lodged there for a year or two before moving into a council house in Enfield.

Two of the ADAMS brothers had emigrated to Australia in 1924, married but remained childless. Two more brothers married in 1937 and 1939 and moved into privately-rented houses in Edmonton. The youngest brother married in 1942 and took up a council tenancy. All the UK brothers maintained allotments near their father's.

Housing policy continued to have an impact. The 1967 Leasehold Reform Act enabled tenants of houses on long leases at low rents to acquire the freehold, at a discounted price. The two private renters became owner-occupiers, and used improvement grants to add bathrooms. Also in the 1960s, Grandma ADAMS' house in St Joseph's Road was demolished as slum clearance. Admittedly the parlour was by then unusable, after enthusiastic Christmas stomping produced a hole in the floorboards. Grandma's final address was, briefly, a tower block. When the Housing Act

of 1980 gave council tenants the right to buy at a heavily discounted price, the remaining two renters became owners.

But then we eight cousins dispersed, to New Towns, even away from London altogether, in order to get our education, to follow our careers and to buy our houses. The generation after us may forget that we are Londoners at all – unless we family historians remind them.

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Clunn, Harold P (1962) *The Face of London*

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White, Jerry (2008) *London in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century*

Young, Michael & Willmott, Peter (1962) (revised edition) *Family & Kinship in East London*

Parish Registers: London Metropolitan Archives (via Ancestry.co.uk)

The Charles Booth On-line Archive (<http://booth.lse.ac.uk/>)

***South London Chronicle, Saturday 21 August 1875***

A curious charge of bigamy was heard the other day at Westminster. A man named John WILLEY, a labourer, was charged with feloniously intermarrying with Ann WHITE, his wife Lydia PACKHAM being then and now alive. The prisoner it appeared, had gone to the police station and requested that the charge might be made, in order that he should know who his wife really was, as another man had claimed his original wife. He was married to Anne WHITE on 23 June 1866 at the registry office, Dartmouth-street, Westminster. On the 12<sup>th</sup> of the preceding November he married Lydia PACKHAM at the registry office, Kensington, but in a few months he found that she was a married woman. She had been married in 1856 to Edward PACKHAM at St George the Martyr, Southwark and had deserted him at Bristol, leaving him with an infant child. As the husband was then alive he considered he had a right to marry the woman WHITE, and he did so in 1874. She deserted him also and was found living with another man. The defendant was discharged.

## JOTTINGS

### **Bedlam Hospital**

Archaeologists working on the Crossrail project ahead of the construction of the new Liverpool Street station have so far excavated some 400 skeletons. These belonged to people who were buried at the notorious Bedlam burial ground, which was also known as the New Churchyard. The burial site was opened in response to the plague and is estimated to contain about 3,000 skeletons. It did not keep its own records but the City's parish churches recorded which of their parishioners were buried at Bedlam.

Bethlem Royal Hospital, the original 'Bedlam', was founded in 1247 as the priory of St Mary of Bethlehem on the site now covered by Liverpool Street station. It was one of the world's oldest hospitals for the treatment of mental illness, although medical treatment for insanity was largely ineffective at this time. By the late seventeenth century, the hospital needed new premises as the existing building had become 'very old, weak and ruinous' and a magnificent baroque building, designed by Robert HOOKE, was opened at Moorfields in 1676.

In order to discover who was buried at Bedlam's burial ground a team of volunteers is searching through centuries of parish records now held at London Metropolitan Archives. Crossrail has invited members of the public to contribute to the hunt for information by sending any data they have about the burial ground or people buried there. The team can be contacted by email at: [bedlamrecords@crossrail.co.uk](mailto:bedlamrecords@crossrail.co.uk)

### **The Clockmakers' Museum.**

This museum is now closed to public viewing. Formerly at the Guildhall Library in the City of London, the museum is moving to the Science Museum where a new *Time Gallery* will open in the summer of 2015.

The Clockmakers' Museum, established in 1814, is the oldest collection of clocks and watches in the world with the majority of items ranging from c1600 to c1850. Marine timekeepers are an important part of the collection and includes the celebrated 5<sup>th</sup> marine timekeeper made by John Harrison. The Clockmakers' Museum will combine with the Science Museum's existing *Measuring Time* gallery and enable visitors to see a splendid horological collection from 16<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> centuries.

Science Museum, Exhibition Road, South Kensington, London SW7 2DD  
Opening hours: 10.00 – 18.00. Entry is free.

### **The Royal Mail Archive**

The British Postal Museum and Archive (BPMA) has also been added to the UK Register of the UNESCO Memory of the World Register.

All aspects of The Royal Mail's history, from employment records to stamp artwork, are held within this collection, making it one of the oldest business archives in the world with 300 years of continuous records. The archive shows the development of the postal service and the impact it had on villages, towns and cities throughout the UK (and Ireland to 1922). For example, maps show how postal routes grew over time; the status of becoming a postal town had an economic impact, the records show how the postal town network grew. There is no other comparable archive for stamp design from the Penny Black in 1840 through to the Tony Benn/David Gentleman experimentation, in 1964, of removing the Queen's head from the stamp. It holds the story of all existing UK stamps and includes artwork for unadopted designs, such as stamps for Wales and Scotland in case the devolution referendums resulted in a Yes vote in 1979.

This archive is unique in giving insight into the developments of communication within the UK and abroad.

The Royal Mail Archive is free and open for members of the public to use and enjoy. It is based at Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DL, which is also the main office for The British Postal Museum & Archive. The Museum collection (which includes vehicles, pillar boxes, furniture and sorting equipment) is at the British Postal Museum Store in Debden, Essex. For more information visit: [www.postalheritage.org.uk/](http://www.postalheritage.org.uk/)

### **Flanders Fields 1914-2014 Memorial Garden**

A new garden has been designed as a special memorial to all those who lost their lives or were injured in the battlefields of Flanders. Seventy sandbags of earth from Flanders Fields were laid in the new circular bed, which is located at Wellington Barracks alongside the Guards Chapel and adjacent to Buckingham Palace.

This garden is an initiative of The Guards Museum in conjunction with Flanders House in London, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and the Belgian-Luxembourg Chamber of Commerce in Great Britain.

The new garden is a unique opportunity not only to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the start of the Great War but also to thank the British people for their sacrifice in liberating Belgium. It will be formally opened on Sunday 9 November 2014.

***Daily Mirror, 27 November 1915*****WORKGIRLS AND THE ASQUITH WEDDING**

Mrs Asquith takes a keen interest in the shopgirl, particularly in those who are on the staffs of the firms with whom she makes purchases. She has given the girls employed at Messrs. John Lewis's an invitation today to come and see the wedding gifts presented to Miss Violet Asquith.

**Robert Hooke**

Although he was born in 1635 at Freshwater on the Isle of Wight, Robert HOOKE attended Westminster School under Dr Richard Busby before going on to study at Oxford. In the early 1660s he moved back to London, becoming curator to the Royal Society and Gresham Professor of Geometry. He was also hired by the City of London as a surveyor and architect and, following the Great Fire of 1666, he worked closely with Sir Christopher WREN in designing new street layouts and buildings, including Bethlehem Hospital (Bedlam), the Monument, the Royal College of Physicians and many City churches.

Hooke was a major scientific figure of the Restoration period, remembered for his theory of elasticity but influential for his discovery of the universal joint, the camera's iris diaphragm, the balance wheel of a watch and his origination of the word 'cell' in biology.

Like his contemporary, Samuel PEPYS, HOOKE kept a personal diary. This diary runs from 10 March 1672 to 16 May 1683, and shows HOOKE's scientific thoughts and experiments together with his work as City Surveyor. Kept as a memorandum book to remind him of the many places he had been and people he had met each day, along with his pithy thoughts and observations about scientific research and the world around him, the Diary offers an unparalleled glimpse into the exciting and vibrant world of Restoration scientific discovery and the rebuilding of London from the ashes of the Great Fire. It also describes his evenings out in the taverns and coffee-houses of the City, along with personal details such as his diet, his physical symptoms and mental states and the medicines and drugs, often experimental, that he gave himself.

This diary is held at London Metropolitan Archives and it has recently been added to the UK Register of the UNESCO Memory of the World Register programme due to its outstanding importance to UK history.



## Open Days

We took our book stall to the Buckinghamshire Family History Society Open Day, held in Aylesbury on Saturday 26 July 2014. There were many visitors, our members and others, to our stand. A wide variety of queries, comments etc meant a busy day for us all. Thanks to the united efforts of Alan Baldwin, Eileen Bostle, Diana Copnall, Doreen Heywood and me our sales of books, maps and so on exceeded those of previous years.

A *Who Do You Think You Are?* Live event took place in Glasgow from 29-30 August. Our Society did not have a stand but we had a presence there as our 'Information' leaflets were displayed on the Federation of Family History Societies' stand. We also contributed to a PowerPoint presentation video loop there advertising our Society.

If any of our members visited the event do please let us know your opinion of it and any local reaction you know of. Any feedback would be welcome.

**Rosemary A Roome**



*A family tree, hand drawn and decorated, makes a beautiful keepsake or a wonderful gift. Barnet based artist can use your family tree research to produce a unique, personalised and non-computer generated piece of artwork*

*For more details visit [www.handdrawnfamilytrees.co.uk](http://www.handdrawnfamilytrees.co.uk) or email [gwyneth@handdrawnfamilytrees.co.uk](mailto:gwyneth@handdrawnfamilytrees.co.uk)*

*Tel: 0796 7045029*

***North London News, 29 June 1861*****LAW AND POLICE INTELLIGENCE – Clerkenwell**

Serious Charge of Causing the Death of a Child. A respectably-attired man, about 40 years of age, who gave the name of Frederick SAVAGE, an omnibus driver, badge 2952, residing at 18 Hollingsworth-street, Holloway, in the employ of the London General Omnibus Company, was placed at the bar before Mr BARKER, charged with causing the death of Clara SEAL, two years old, by driving an omnibus over her in the Holloway-road.

Mrs SEAL, the wife of William SEAL, of Lowndes-place, Holloway-road, said that the unfortunate child was her daughter and was two years of age. On Saturday evening her (witness's) brother-in-law gave her children some halfpence to purchase cherries. About half-past five she carried one of the children across the road, the deceased being led across by her brother. When she was nearly across, the child began playing with her brother and just as the omnibus which the defendant was driving came up she deliberately ran against the horses foot and was knocked down, the wheel of the omnibus going over the poor child's head and smashing it to pieces, the brains being scattered about the road.

Mr BARKER: Then the defendant could not avoid the accident?

Mrs SEAL: The defendant was not to blame at all in the matter. The child ran from her brother, and although the defendant did all he could to stop the horses he could not prevent the accident.

Mr BARKER inquired if there were other witnesses who could depose to the same facts.

Police-constable FOWELL, 425 A, said that when he took the prisoner into custody there were several parties in attendance, who said that the child's death was purely accidental. Although the defendant was driving very carefully, and did all he could to pull up the horses, he could not prevent the accident, nor could any other man have done so.

The Defendant, in answer to the charge, said that he was very sorry for what had occurred, but it was a pure accident.

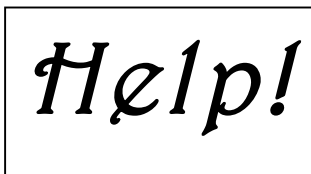
Mr BARKER said that he was very sorry for the poor mother but after the evidence of the witnesses he could not detain the defendant, and he would therefore be at once discharged.

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.



## **BUTLER**

My great grandparents, Alfred Joseph BUTLER, 1846-15 August 1895 and Georgina DRUMMY 26 March 1848-16 November 1899 had 10 children and their four youngest daughters went on the stage:

Georgina Matilda 21 February 1877-31 May 1916. She married an actor, PALLING John Sutton PAGE-stage name Arthur PALLING. Georgina was a very successful ventriloquist (she was described as the premier lady ventriloquist) known as Mabel SINCLAIR. I have found out quite a lot about her.

Matilda 18 February 1879-11 March 1967 was also a ventriloquist-known as Hetty HOLLAND

Nellie 13 February 1884-1922, also a ventriloquist was known as Nancy LEE.

Elizabeth 1886. She was always known as Lilly. I do not know what her speciality was or what her stage name was.

I would love to hear from anyone who has knowledge of these people, particularly the last three.

***Helen Butler, Member No. 5186***

*28 Andorra Court, 151 Widmore Road, Bromley, Kent BR1 3AE*

Note: You may well be able to discover more about your family by searching British newspapers. A quick look finds mentions of Mabel SINCLAIR, Hetty HOLLAND and Nancy LEE in adverts for their various shows.

With three successful ventriloquist sisters, it could be that Elizabeth/Lilly followed in their footsteps. A search for 'girl ventriloquist' or 'lady ventriloquist' might discover further information.

See Website News on page 23 for more information about how to access and search the British Newspaper Archive.

**HUMBERSTONE**

I came across one of your Family History Journals in my local charity shop and as I am very interested in the subject, I bought it. I see from the *Help!* pages that you are willing to insert requests from non-members for £3, therefore please may I put in a request for some help regarding my son-in-law's family who came from your area?

Francis George HUMBERSTONE was born on 21 October 1877, the birth was registered in Lambeth. According to various census details his occupations are listed as Saddler MG Corps, Harness Maker and Tram Conductor LPTB (London Passenger Transport Board). Where might I find details of his service?

He was the son of James Henry HUMBERSTONE, a Brass Finisher, born circa 1847 and Alice Goodall POWELL, who were married at Islington Parish Church on 3 July 1869.

James Henry was the son of another James Henry, a labourer and the grandson of James, an ostler. Wives surnames include FAWCETT, WATERS and CHAPMAN. Any further information about the family would be gratefully received.

***Wendy Dempster, Non-Member***

*Thorndykes, 52a, Brigham Road, Cockermouth CA13 0BT*

*Email: jwdempsters@btinternet.com*

Note: LPTB was responsible for public transport in London from 1933 to 1948. Their records are housed at Transport for London (TfL) Corporate Archives, whose public reading room is at 55 Broadway, London SW1H 0BD. Although they hold a number of staff registers, few of them contain more than a name, badge number, work location and work start date, however staff magazines and details of staff clubs and events records are also available. TfL archivists are able to do up to two hours research for people who cannot visit their office in person.

The Corporate Archives office is open Monday to Friday, 10.30-16.30 but visits are by appointment only. Archives are held off-site in a salt mine in Cheshire and so take a while to arrive once ordered.

For more information visit [www.tfl.gov.uk/corporate/about-tfl/culture-and-heritage](http://www.tfl.gov.uk/corporate/about-tfl/culture-and-heritage)

## FORTHCOMING BRANCH MEETINGS

**Barnet Branch** – 7.30pm for 8.00pm

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

Branch Contact: Rosemary A Roome

Thursday 16 October	Members' Evening
Thursday 20 November	<i>The Foundling Hospital</i> by Yvonne Tomlinson
Thursday 18 December	No Meeting
Thursday 15 January	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 30 October	<i>Women in World War II – the services WRNS, WAAFS and ATS</i> by Carol Harris
Thursday 27 November	<i>Ratcatchers - Suppliers to the Sporting Life of London</i> by David Cufley
Thursday 25 December	No Meeting
Thursday 29 January	TBA

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

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

Branch Contact: Lilian Gibbens

Wednesday 1 October	<i>Famous Bankrupts</i> by Richard Hartigan
Wednesday 5 November	<i>Conspiracies and Scandals of the 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries</i> by Maggie Ratcliffe
Wednesday 3 December	Christmas Social
Wednesday 7 January	TBA

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

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

Branch Contact: Doreen Heywood

Friday 10 October	<i>Dating Photographs – an interactive talk</i> by Tom Doig
Friday 14 November	<i>Letters to America</i> by Janet Kirwan
Friday 12 December	Christmas Event
Friday 9 January	TBA

**Wembley Branch** – 7.30pm for 8.00pm

The Copeland Room, St. John's Church, 3 Crawford Avenue, Wembley,  
Middlesex HA0 2HX

Branch Contact: William Pyemont

Monday 27 October	Members' Evening
Monday 24 November	<i>Rogues and Vagabonds Need Not Apply</i> by Ian Waller
Monday 22 December	No meeting
Monday 26 January	TBA

## 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.

## BOOK REVIEW

*Hornsey Historical Society; Bulletin 55*

The focus of this edition of the annual 'Bulletin' is The First World War.

The first part of a series of articles by Nicolas Allaway deals with the period from August 1914 following the declaration of war to early 1915 and in particular, the Hornsey territorial battalion of the 1/7<sup>th</sup> Middlesex Regiment, more famously known as 'Die Hards' from their regimental motto. The battalion was based then at its headquarters in Priory Road as it still is today although in a different building.

The second article by Jennifer Bell deals with Hornsey's WW1 Conscientious Objectors, many of whom were Court-martialled and received prison sentences. Hornsey also had its Suffragettes and many were present at a meeting at Alexandra Theatre on 15 May when a public meeting was addressed by The Right Honorable RB HALDANE KC, MP. Many were ejected. Isabel PANKHURST was also present and ejected after crying 'votes for women'.

The final article is an overview of the HHS Archive Team's involvement in 'Researching the Dead of the First World War'. 1,270 service personnel are recorded on boards at the Hornsey War Memorial which is located within the Park Road Health Centre. In addition to the data already collected by the research team they are asking for information or memorabilia in the way of medals, newspaper reports, service records etc concerning Hornsey servicemen who died in WW1 and would appreciate your help with photocopies or photographs for their archives.

Joy Nichol, the HHS Archivist can be contacted at The Old Schoolhouse by telephone on 020 8348 8429, preferably on a Friday between 10am and 2.00pm when the Archive Team is present or alternatively by email: [archivist@hornseyhistorical.org.uk](mailto:archivist@hornseyhistorical.org.uk)

*HHS Bulletin 55* can be obtained direct from HHS or from the Bookstall at £6.50 + PP

**Anne Prudames, Member No. 254**

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

There are three subscription rates: £12, £15 and £20 depending on where you live and how your journal METROPOLITAN is delivered.

Our year runs from 1 October until 30 September the following year.

Members joining during the Society's year will receive back copies of journals.

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The Editors reserve the right to edit contributions.

## **MEMBERS' DATA**

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

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

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