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METROPOLITAN

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Family History Society



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December 2015

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Cover picture: Lily SORRELL
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**Please remember that the copy date for the next issue of
METROPOLITAN is 1 February 2016**

EDITORIAL

The Editors would like to thank all members who, over the last year, have sent in articles, letters, jottings and *Helps!* You have helped us to produce METROPOLITAN and provided us with some fascinating stories.

This December journal is the first of the Society's year and we are calling on everyone to put pen to paper and send us material for this coming year. Why not make it a New Year's Resolution to contribute to your journal?

Would you like one of your family photographs to feature on our front cover? Do go through your family albums and look for one. The photograph used this time is from the album which belonged to the great grandparents of one of the Editorial Team. Even if you do not know who appears in the picture that does not mean it is not of interest!

We would like to wish all our readers a Very Happy Christmas and send you our Best Wishes for 2016.

The Editorial Team

LWMFHS CONFERENCE AND AGM 2016

will take place at
Wesley's Chapel, 49 City Rd, London EC1Y 1AU
on **Saturday 27 February 2016**

Please make a note in your diaries!
Details in centre pages

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

When you started your family history research, what inspired you to do so? Family folklore is often a starting point: the belief that a famous person is or was related; that riches went undeservedly to some ne'er do well; that there were mysterious 'things which Grandmama would never talk about' - which naturally excite curiosity!

Perhaps someone had already done some research and you decided to carry it on. Were you lucky enough to have a family Bible, with births, marriages and deaths recorded, a family photo album (with full details) or documents discovered in the loft when house-clearing?

As you never know where your research might lead, were you prepared for the unexpected – good or bad? I remember a fellow sixth-former whose family investigated their forebears – until they discovered that one of them was hanged at Tyburn for sheep-stealing and they were too ashamed to continue! But we are not responsible for our ancestors and should not judge their actions or morals by today's standards. And that means finding out what conditions were like at the time if we are to understand their situation.

That reminds me of the weeks between A-level exams in the summer and the end of term when our physics teacher introduced us to a technique in use today. Given a roll of wallpaper, a list of headings and a historical time-period, we had to draw up a series of columns – first the date, then discoveries in physics, and columns headed, for example, other scientific discoveries, inventions, government/politicians, legislation etc etc. – a spreadsheet in fact.

This can be used to put a family's history into context. Columns headed date, family, monarch, politicians (prime ministers), inventions, civil events (civil registration, census, taxes), legislation, history (national, local, social, economic), education etc can reveal interesting connections. I was given the period from 1895 (Rontgen discovered X-rays and Marconi sent a message over a mile by wireless) to the then present day. Such health and communication discoveries were to affect every family in the land.

Rosemary A Roome

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

THANK YOU

By the time you read this I will have taken up residence in my new home in the Northamptonshire village of Earls Barton.

When I left Enfield on 3 October to stay with my niece Frances I had made an offer on a house in Wollaston which had been accepted but this fell through, hence the move to Earls Barton.

Since then I have received a lovely card signed by each member of the Executive and each branch representative together with a Gift Card which I can spend on my new home. In addition each member of the Enfield Branch Committee and their respective husbands and Connie Austin's son Michael attended a special farewell dinner at the home of Connie Austin. Following a speech of thanks by Enfield Chairman, Lilian Gibbens made a presentation of gift vouchers.

I will miss the many wonderful friends I have made over very many years both at Executive and Branch level and now with more time on my hands plan to resume my correspondence not only with them but also several friends I have made among our members who have asked me to keep in touch.

Finally a special 'Thank you' to Barbara Haswell and Elaine Tyler who have both been a tower of strength in the weeks leading up to my move.

A heartfelt and sincere thanks to all.

Anne Prudames, Member No. 254

Further to Rena King's article on adoption records from September's METROPOLITAN, while looking through the Kent County record office online catalogue last week I noticed the following records:

Account Book of bastard children from St Leonards Shoreditch 1823-31

plus 30 references to 'Shoreditch' and 14 to 'Stepney' families. I did not try any other London towns, but it was a common arrangement to take London families into the countryside, or it may be that the family had moved into the Big Smoke looking for work.

I have been looking at the different County record offices' online catalogues and they are a very good start to finding what's available.

Eileen Blythe, Member No. 2

I really enjoyed Sheila Clarke's feature *Clerkenwell to Oamaru* (METROPOLITAN September 2015) about her New Zealand ancestors. Did she pay a researcher or find this all out by herself? I would love to know the steps she took.

Entrepreneurial ancestors and relatives who travel far from where they were born are particularly intriguing. Have any LWMFHS members read *Sugar in the Blood* by Andrea Stuart? When researching her family tree, she discovers she's descended from a Barbados slave owner. Slavery is repugnant but when reading her story, I had to admire the drive, energy and sheer courage of men prepared to board dangerous ships for the Caribbean, not knowing if they'd arrive at all or what they'd find when they got there. In temperatures and conditions they were totally unused to and without the aid of modern machinery, they cleared swathes of semi-jungle to plant crops. Yes, fortunes were made through horrible suffering but the men who started these sugar dynasties - often second sons - showed unusual initiative and daring-do.

Sally Cox, Member No. 7527

Sheila Clarke replies:

Although I am no expert, nor even particularly experienced in the field of family research, I'm more than happy to share my tips if they may be of help to other members.

Firstly, I consider myself very fortunate in having a number of ancestors whose lives are well documented. The research was all my own, but I owe a huge debt to those who came before me, particularly Professor Barrie Macdonald of Massey University, New Zealand, for his biography of Charles Alma BAKER and the history of Limestone Downs. Meticulously researched and lavishly illustrated, it was a major source, along with numerous other reports of CAB's extraordinary life. Thanks to Bridget Williams Books for permission to use this picture of CAB (opposite), which was taken around the time of his liaison with the Maori princess.

So, what to do if your forebears haven't been the subject of literary scrutiny? Well, I would advise never to underestimate the power of Google. Much of it is out there online, you just need time, patience and the determination to chase up facts.

And try different permutations of what you are looking for - adding a place name, or replacing the full Christian name with initials has worked for me on various occasions.

The addition of a known associate or event has brought results, too. The other thing I've found indispensable is access to old newspapers. It's well worth taking out a subscription to an ancestry site for the invaluable



information they can provide. Victorian and Edwardian journalism was incredibly detailed; obituaries frequently describe the deceased's personality, appearance and interests - which can often make riveting reading as well as proving particularly useful in helping their stories to 'flow.'

And notes. Lots and lots of notes. Knowledge lies in the minutiae – you never know where it might lead. We are so lucky to be living in the time of the internet. My father died in 1976 knowing very little of what I have

subsequently discovered and I like to think that I am honouring his memory by picking up the work I know he would have relished undertaking.

So follow my tips and you too can be like me - neglectful housewife, chaotic friend and indefatigable snooper into the lives of the departed. And the knowledge that at least one member took the trouble to write saying how much they enjoyed my effort somehow makes it all seem worthwhile.

As I need the space, I am offering some back copies of METROPOLITAN free to anyone who can collect them from me here in Coventry or would like to pay the postage for them.

These magazines are Volume 14 – Volume 31, with the only missing copies being Vol 20 No 3, Vol 28 No 1 and Vol 31 Nos 3 and 4.

John Wood

Post: 21 Regina Crescent, Coventry CV2 2EP

Email: john129@supanet.com



Do you have any LIDDIARD, LIDIARD or LYDIARD (or any other spelling) amongst your ancestors? If so, we would like you to join us for a family gathering to celebrate the family. This will take place on the 13 and 14 August 2016 at Aldbourne, Wiltshire, England – meet at the village green (pictured above) at 10.30am on the Saturday.

There are lots of activities planned for the weekend, including displays of family trees, photographs, talks on the LIDDIARD family and many other activities. A bus trip to other LIDDIARD locations is planned on the Sunday; please RSVP for this bus trip by 30 April 2016.

I know we do have some LIDDIARDS from the LWMFHS area.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Karen Rogers, Non-Member

For any enquiries contact Karen at one of the addresses below.

Post: 33 Peat Place Lower Portland NSW 2756 Australia.

Email: Liddiard@one-name.org

Facebook: Liddiard Family Gathering

LWMFHS MICROFICHE STOCK CLEARANCE

LAST CHANCE TO PURCHASE

The following microfiche can be purchased at £1.50 each (£3 overseas).

Please send your requirements and a Sterling cheque

(made payable to LWMFHS) to:

LWMFHS FICHE SALE, 24 Ashurst Road, BARNET, EN4 9LF, UK.

(Don't forget to include your delivery address & membership number.)

Ref.	Title
NMP14	MIs: Chipping Barnet, All denominations
NMP15	MIs: East Barnet-St Mary, Holy Trinity, WM; New Barnet-St James, WM (<i>1 left</i>)
NMP16	MIs: Edgware-St Margaret, WM
NMP17	MIs: Edmonton-All Saints, British Legion (<i>4 left</i>)
NMP18	MIs: Finchley-St Mary; Whetstone-St John
NMP19	MIs: Finchley, Holy Trinity 1845-1977 (<i>3 left</i>)
NMP20	MIs: Friern Barnet-St James, St Peter le Poer; Whetstone-All Saints, United Reform (<i>1 left</i>)
NMP21	Burials: Highgate-St Michael 1633-1903 (<i>2 left</i>)
NMP22	MIs: Highgate-St Michael, School Chapel (<i>3 left</i>)
NMP23	Burials: Holborn-Holy Trinity Burials 1839-1855
NMP24	MIs: Hornsey, St Mary (<i>1 left</i>)
NMP26	Burials: St Martin in the Fields at Pratt St 1806-1856 MIs: Piccadilly-St James burial ground Hampstead Road 1789-
NMP27	1853
NMP28	MIs & Burials: St Pancras (Old & New); Kentish Town-St John the Baptist MIs: Totteridge-St Andrew 1837-1937 + BR & T&W
NMP29	Dissenters Chapel (<i>3 left</i>)
NMP30	Burials: Wesley's Chapel City Road Dec 1799-1854
NMP31	Burials: Chelsea-All Souls Catholic Cemetery 1845-1858

- NMP34 MIs & Plots: Kensal Green-St Mary's Catholic Cemetery (*4 left*)
- NMP36 Middlesex. Undertakers (Derived from Burial books of Wesley's Chapel) 1799-1854 (*3 left*)
- NMP38 Middlesex. Protestation Oath Rolls 1641-1642 (Ossulstone & Edmonton)
- NMP39 Kelly's Directory 1889-89 Barnet, Finchley, Hendon, Edgware & Dist. (*3 left*)
- NMP40 Kelly's Directory 1911-12 Barnet, Finchley, Hendon
- NMP42 Islington St Mary Index to Rate Books 1841 (*3 left*)
- WCM16 MIs: Harrow Weald-All Saints
- WCM17 MIs: Harrow on the Hill-St Mary
- WCM18 MIs: Kingsbury-St Andrew Old Church
- WCM19 MIs: Little Stanmore-St Lawrence (*1 left*)
- WCM20 MIs: Northolt-St Mary
- WCM21 MIs: Perivale-St Mary the Virgin
- WCM22 MIs: Pinner-Paines Lane Cemetery
- WCM23 MIs: Roxeth-Christ Church Churchyard & Cemetery
- WCM24 MIs: Ruislip-St Martin
- WCM25 MIs Index only: Wembley-St John
- WCP26 Marriages: Index only: Wembley-St John the Evangelist
- WCM27 MIs: Willesden-St Mary & Old Cemetery
- WCM28 MIs: Great Stanmore-St John the Evangelist
- ADM1 Royal Naval Officers Widows Pensions 1846-65
- STRAYS Strays: a Middlesex. collection (*4 left*)
- PODIR Post Office Directory of the Home Counties 1845 (*2 left*)



WHO WAS LILY/LILLIE?

By Elizabeth Burling, Member No. 4992

I have three pictures of Lily SORRELL. I know they are of her because when my father was a little boy he went through his grandma's photo album with her and wrote in the names of all the people she could remember. Under one of the photographs he has written 'adopted'.

Additional family information says that Lily was adopted by John Wilson SORRILL and his wife Elizabeth, née JONES and that Lily married a naval officer.

John and Elizabeth were both born in the little Northampton village of Preston Capes, Elizabeth in 1832 and John in 1837, and it was there that they married on 23 August 1860. The 1861 Census finds the couple living in Northampton, where John is a coach body maker but by 1871 the couple had moved to London. From at least 1881 until 1924 John and Elizabeth lived at 25 Westmorland Street, Marylebone.

One of their nieces left a description of this house, where she stayed for a few weeks in about 1911. 'The house had 3 or 4 storeys and Uncle John had 2, I think. There was no garden but the upper floors had leads - little balconies on which one could put chairs and sit. He had some lovely china and some very fine furniture. In his sitting room there must have been 150 pictures in 3 rows all around the walls.'



The 1881 census shows John and Elizabeth together with their daughter Lillie, who was aged 7 and had been born in Brighton, Sussex. Elizabeth has her age down as 40 although she

must have been nearer 50 – perhaps to make it seem more likely that she is the girl’s mother? This is the only census in which her age is incorrect.

The first photograph I have shows a little girl, possibly aged around 5 to 8. It is a studio shot, taken at Stuart Brothers, 41 Brompton Road. Lily is wearing a velvet dress with an enormous bow and is balancing a little basket of primroses on a stone balustrade. I wonder if this is a photograph taken when they first adopted Lily?

By 1891 Lily is a 17 year-old milliner, still living at 25 Westmoreland Street with John and Elizabeth. The family also contains Louis STRATFORD, John’s nephew, a 16 year-old coach builder’s apprentice and Sarah E JONES, Elizabeth’s niece, a 26 year-old schoolmistress. The second photograph appears to have been taken in the 1890s, judging by the little puff at the top of the sleeve. It was taken by the same photographers, now styled W&J Stuart, 47 Brompton Road. The change of details is

significant, as it is known that they operated out of this address between 1894 and 1908.

By the time of the 1901 census, Lily had gone. Lily SORRILL did not appear anywhere else in the 1901 census - it seemed likely she had married her naval officer.

However, there were no marriages registered to a Lily/Lillie/Lilian SORRILL/SORRELL or any other variations between 1891 and 1901, or after 1901. She must have married under her birth name, which I did not know.

A search of GRO birth records for 1873-5 in Brighton revealed 5 Lillies and 13 Lilys, 16 Lillys, 22 Lilians and 9 Lillians; too many to



work with really, and for a long time that was that!



But I kept looking at that third photograph. The severe vignetting, rather unflattering straight-on pose and lack of any photographer's details on the back show this to be an informal snap but what is quite clear on Lily's left hand are wedding and engagement rings. She must have stayed in touch with her adoptive parents after her marriage, a situation that seems eminently reasonable!

Family rumour said that all of John SORRILL's things after he died went to his niece Ethel STRATFORD (Louis's sister). Yet he had brought up a daughter, albeit an adopted one. Perhaps he left her a little something too? Indeed, family rumour is notoriously unreliable – it was definitely something that needed checking.

John Wilson SORRILL died in 1924 and administration of his estate was granted to Louis Charles STRATFORD, who was by now a coach builder in Huntingdon. Louis and his brother Wilson James STRATFORD were the executors. In his will John left everything to his wife but she predeceased him by 11 years, so instead the house was sold and the following amounts bequeathed: £100 each to his sisters, Naomi STRATFORD and Penelope RAYSON; £30 to niece Ethel Fanny STRATFORD; £20 to Lillie WILLIAMSON; £10 each to Clara BULLET and Nellie THAKE (other nieces) and his grandfather clock to Wilson James STRATFORD. The residue of the estate was to be divided equally between his 4 nephews, Louis Charles STRATFORD, Wilson James STRATFORD, Harold Sorrill STRATFORD and Rowland Hill STRATFORD.

Lillie WILLIAMSON – back to the first spelling of Lillie that had occurred in the 1881 census! A search of Lillie/Lily marrying a WILLIAMSON turned up a marriage between Alfred Arthur WILLIAMSON and Lily Coulter SOULE in 1897 in St George Hanover Square and yes, a Lillie Coulter SOULE was born in Brighton in the last quarter of 1873.

With a name, it was finally possible to find out a little more about her. It turns out she was baptised as an adult on 5 May 1889 at St Michael, Pimlico. The Parish Register states that she, Lillie Coulter SOULE of 25 Westmoreland Street, was born on 1 November 1873, the daughter of Cornelius Henry SOULE, Commercial Traveller, and his wife Phyllis. I can find nothing further about this couple at the moment.

In the 1911 census, Lily Coulter WILLIAMSON (described as ‘wife’) is living in Devonport, Devon, with her 4 children. They had been born in Sheerness, Hong Kong and Devonport – all ports, which supports the tale that she had ‘married a naval officer’; he is described as a civil engineer at the baptism of the Devon-born children.

It has been possible to follow her children into adulthood and even though Lily is not my blood relation, it is with great satisfaction that I have seen how she thrived despite not having had the best of beginnings.

Sources:

GRO BMD indexes are available to view for free at: <http://www.freebmd.org.uk/>
 UK Wills and Probate from 1858 which cost £10 each and are delivered electronically, are at: <https://probatesearch.service.gov.uk/#wills>
 Censuses were seen at pay-per-view site: <http://www.findmypast.co.uk/>
A Directory of London Photographers, 1841-1908 by Michael Pritchard, publisher PhotoResearch; 2nd Revised edition (19 May 1994) – a great resource if you are trying to date a Victorian photograph.

London Evening Standard, 12 January 1861

CLERKENWELL

Benevolence. Mr D'Eyncourt has received the following seasonable sums for the poor-box:- GJ Cockerell and Co, coal merchants, 5/ 5s; the Fishmongers' Company, second donation, 10/ 10s; Messrs Clarke and Lye, 5/; SM 1/; and CR 10s. There are now many pressing claims on the funds of the poor-box. More than 2000 letters have been received from persons recommending poor applicants for relief.

ELECTORAL REGISTER CODES

By Barbara Haswell, Member No. 4224

Now that some electoral records are online, a question that is often asked is 'What do the letters next to a person's name mean?'

Until 1948 when 'one person, one vote' was announced, the registers had a 'reason' or 'reason codes' next to electors' names. This indicated why they qualified to vote.

1885 to 1918

Names in these years usually had a written description of what entitles a person to be on the register. Sometimes there is extra information: if someone is a lodger, then the Landlord's name may appear; the weekly rent and number of rooms could be shown and if a person moved house in the last year, then 'successive' can appear followed by the previous address.

1918 to 1928

Each person now has two letters (codes) next to their name. The first qualifies him for Parliamentary Elections and the second for Local Elections. Where there is a dash, then the person cannot vote in that election. 'Occupation' means occupation of a property and not type of employment.

R	Residence qualification
BP	Business premises qualification
O	Occupational qualification
HO	Qualification through husband's occupation
NM	Naval or Military voter

An example dated 1922 from the Parish of St Peter, Maldon:

1266	R	O	Balaam, Edward	6 Beeleigh Road
1267	HO	HO	Balaam, Susanna Esther	Do.
1268	R	O	Balaam, George Arthur	49 King Street
1269	HO	HO	Balaam, Rachael Esther	Do.
1270	R	O	Balaam, Henry John	53 King Street
1271	HO	HO	Balaam, Kate	Do.
1272	R	-	Balaam, Alfred	Do.
1273	NM	- a	Balaam, Charles Frederick	Do.
1274	NM	- a	Balaam, Edward	Do.

1928 to 1948

Each person still has two letters (codes) next to their name. The first qualifies him for Parliamentary Elections and the second for Local Elections. If there is a dash, then the person cannot vote in that election.

R	Residence qualification - man
Rw	Residence qualification - woman
B	Business premises qualification - man
Bw	Business premises qualification - woman
O	Occupational qualification - man
Ow	Occupational qualification - woman
D	Qualification through wife's occupation
Dw	Qualification through husband's occupation
NM	Naval or Military voter

An example dated 1931 from the Parish of St Peter, Maldon:

3239	R	O	Coult, Arthur	Fairfield View, Queen St
3240	Rw	Dw	Coult, Annie Maria	Fairfield View, Queen St
3241	R	-	Coult, Arthur Harold	Fairfield View, Queen St

Other Codes which may appear are:

J	Eligible to serve as a juror
SJ	Eligible to serve as special juror
a	Absent voter
BP	Business premises register
CL	Civilian residence register
SE	Service register
RR	Ratepayers register

Registers were usually produced once each year. (There are no registers for the war years: 1915 (Scotland), 1916, 1917 and 1940 to 1944)

Registers were produced twice a year in 1868, 1885, 1919 to 1926, 1945 and 1946. (spring and autumn registers)

More details about Electoral Registers can be found on the following website: www.electoralregisters.org.uk

WILLIAM HANCOCK

By Elizabeth Hancock

I had never really thought about family history, after all I grew up in Lincolnshire with lots of grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins and a brother, the lot - of course I knew who everyone was. A lady did contact my mother for details of the HOCKNEY tree several years before but then I hardly took any notice. (Oh how I wish I had!)

When my mother-in-law died, the house and contents had to be cleared and my husband set about doing this. We were surprised to find a family bible in the loft which contained the details of just one family unit - mother, father, a son and a daughter. The only name my husband recognised was the son, who was his paternal grandfather; Percy William HANCOCK, born 1874. I did not know where to start; I set off to find BMD certificates which at that time were at St Catherine's House.

William HANCOCK married Catherine BROADWAY at St Peter's Church, Eaton Square in 1873. His father was shown on the marriage certificate as William HANCOCK, gentleman, deceased. Looking at census returns etc I never could find any mention of this person. Nor could I find a birth certificate for a William HANCOCK. We knew he had been a military bandsman in the Coldstream Guards so we had the idea to get his records from their records office. These duly arrived and his place of birth was Chertsey, Surrey. Well, fancy that! We were living at Egham and that was only next door. So we searched anything we could find to do with Chertsey but to no avail.

That year I visited the Family History Fair at the Horticultural Halls, Westminster and joined a Society who gave me some old journals. Coming home on the train I read that some boys in the Forces (Army and Navy) were often orphans who had been put to service, especially from the Foundling Hospital. Talking to my husband about this we decided to try this one out. I sent a letter to Coram (the Foundling charity) and was most surprised to hear that William HANCOCK had been in their care from 1847 until 1861 when he joined the Coldstream Guards as a musician. We met a very nice lady at the Foundling Hospital who kindly obtained William's records for us from the London Metropolitan Archives. What a

lot of information, including the petition from his mother for him to be taken in by the hospital.

Edward Warr BROWN was born in 1847 at the Lying-in Hospital, York Road, his mother was Rosetta BROWN. It was usual for a new name to be given to the babies on entry. Rosetta was born in Chenies, Buckinghamshire but worked for a family in Kingsland Road, Hackney, as a nursemaid. Rosetta said the baby's father was a Frank WARR whom she had been courting. When she told him she was pregnant he had to urgently go away to work! The lady she worked for, a Mrs MILO, helped her with her application to the Foundling Hospital (see following page).

William was sent to a foster mother who lived in Ottershaw, Surrey which is next to Chertsey, so as he knew nothing else William always used Chertsey as his birthplace. He stayed there for three years and then back to London until he joined the Guards.

After searching for fifteen years for Rosetta BROWN I never found where she went to; died? married? emigrated or simply changed her name. Who knows?

Meanwhile, William served in the Coldstream Guards for 22 years. He and Catherine had two children; Percy William and Katherine Fanny Maria. Percy William was also an army musician but in the Scots Guards. When William retired from the Guards he taught music and on the 1891 census just before his death in 1892, he was a Bandmaster at Christ's Hospital and the London Foundling Hospital. He lived in Westminster all of his life. His son Percy William married Frances WARLOW and they also had a son Percy Philip and a daughter Frances, known as Bette.

I really did learn a lot searching for William but still have some brick walls: When did Rosetta and her father Daniel Brown die?etc etc.

Note: A Rosetta BROWN, whose parents were Daniel and Ann BROWN, was baptised on 17 April 1825 at Chenies, Bucks according to FamilySearch. There were several siblings. A Daniel BROWN (born c1784) appears in the 1841, 1851 and 1861 census in the village. FreeBMD gives a death of a Daniel BROWN aged 84 in 1879 in

Amersham, Bucks. It might be worth buying a couple of likely marriage certificates as Rosetta is a quite unusual name and if one of them has a father Daniel, it would provide you with very useful leads! For example, there is a Rosetta Louisa BROWN marrying a William DOBIE in 1854 in East London.

THE FOUNDLING HOSPITAL

The charity now known as Coram was established by Captain Thomas CORAM as the Foundling Hospital. This was London's first home for babies whose mothers were unable to care for them, for whatever reason.

Thomas CORAM had been shocked to see children abandoned or dying on London's streets when he returned from sea in 1720. He began a campaign to create a home for these babies, resulting in King George II signing a Royal Charter on 17 October 1739 for the creation of the Foundling Hospital, which went on to be built in Bloomsbury, London, then surrounded by fields.

Mothers brought their babies to the Foundling Hospital to be cared for, with many hopeful that their financial circumstances would change so they could one day reclaim them. The Hospital arranged for foster families to care for the babies and young children until the age of five. They were then brought to live and be educated in the Foundling Hospital until the age of 15, many being trained for domestic or military service.

Every child admitted to the Foundling Hospital was baptised and given a new name. Mothers also left a token which could be used to identify their child if they returned to reclaim them.

The Foundling Hospital kept meticulous records of every child who passed through the institution. Their archives are held by the London Metropolitan Archives (LMA), with over 800 linear feet of shelving, records include the general registers, inspection books and petitions. For details, please visit the LMA's website: <https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/things-to-do/london-metropolitan-archives/Pages/default.aspx>

(It might be easier just to put 'London Metropolitan Archives' into your favourite search engine and click the link from there!)

See also our article *Thomas Coram and the Foundling Hospital* by Anne Prudames from METROPOLITAN 136, Vol 35 No 2, December 2012 for more information.

LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Members of the Society will be held at 3pm on Saturday 27 February 2016 in the Radnor Hall, Wesley's Chapel, 49 City Road, London EC1Y 1AU.

The Business of the AGM

- Chairman's Report
- Treasurer's Report
- The Annual Accounts 2014-2015
- The Election of the Officers of the Society:
- The Appointment of other members of the Executive Committee
- Any Other Business (previously notified)

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

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

for the year ending 30 September 2015

There have been several landmark developments within the Society this year. October saw the change from one standard worldwide subscription rate to three different rates as the option to receive METROPOLITAN in electronic format was introduced. For anyone, anywhere taking this option the subscription remained £12. For those wanting a paper copy, the rates became £15 (UK) and £20 (Overseas) to reflect the postal costs involved. The December 2014 issue, in both formats, was the first of 2014-2015.

The Society took a further step into the electronic age early in 2015. At the AGM in February, Elizabeth Burling referred to the Federation of Family History Societies' Seminar for Editors which our team had attended. The idea of a Facebook page for the Society seemed attractive. She was asked to pursue this and will report the latest developments at the AGM.

July brought news from Anne Prudames that she would be moving to Northamptonshire! Since joining the Society in 1982 Anne has made an enormous contribution to the Enfield Branch and the Society as a whole, undertaking several different roles. For some time now she has been Bookstall Manager *and* Membership Secretary and therefore known to many, in the Society and indeed beyond. Thank you very much Anne for all you have done so willingly over the years. We will miss Anne greatly, for herself and for her contribution which was recognised some years ago with Life Membership of the Society. So she is not leaving us but becoming an out-of-area member.

This change has a number of repercussions! Primarily, the need for a new Membership Secretary. We have co-opted Sylvia Thompson to the Executive Committee, to be confirmed at the AGM. (Contact details inside the front cover.) She is now taking over from Barbara Haswell and Elaine Tyler who have 'held the fort' in the interim and removed Society holdings and books from Anne's home where she provided free storage. My thanks to them both and all who help in any way to run the Society.

As many books can now come from cheaper sources and commercial storage is expensive, book sales become uneconomic. Thus, with regret, we have decided to run down the book stock and sales will cease in due course.

Rosemary A Roome
Chairman

TREASURER'S REPORT

for the year ending 30 September 2015

This year the Society's deficit has been reduced to £933 compared with £2,251 last year (which was about half of the previous year's deficit). Income from subscriptions and donations has remained similar to last year but a drop in sales of publications has meant that our overall income has been reduced. However, further savings have been made in most areas of expenditure which, overall, have resulted in the improved situation.

The cost of producing and distributing METROPOLITAN is lower, partly due to the introduction of email copies and partly due to the diligence of our editors. We were able to hold most of our Executive Committee meetings in rooms we were not charged for, although this facility is no longer available. We were also able to avoid charges for storage by downsizing our holdings and storing the remainder in a shed kindly provided by Anne Prudames. Anne has now moved house and items which still need to be stored have been moved to other locations. Due to her move out of the area, Anne has given up her Publications Sales and Membership Secretary roles, and I would like to record my thanks for her many years of service to the Society.

Sales of publications are reducing, as it becomes easier for people to buy online etc. The Executive Committee has taken the decision to run down the publications stock and withdraw from sales.

Finally, a reminder that although we provide the facility for paying subscriptions through Paypal, we lose part of what you pay in fees to Paypal. It's a great way to pay if, for example, you live overseas and do not have a UK bank account. If you live in the UK though, we would appreciate payment by cheque, or an easier option is to set up a standing order payable on 1 October each year. Then we receive the full amount.

April Vesey
Treasurer

LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Profit and loss account for the year ended 30 September 2015 Unaudited

	30 Sep 2015	<i>30 Sep 2014</i>
Income:		
Subscriptions	7,596.48	<i>7,564.41</i>
Publication sales revenue	403.35	<i>863.61</i>
Donations	167.00	<i>136.00</i>
Miscellaneous and help with research		<i>35.00</i>
Interest received	<u>38.50</u>	<u><i>49.19</i></u>
	8,205.33	<i>8,648.21</i>
Expenditure:		
Metropolitan Journal	-4,212.27	<i>-5,460.77</i>
Branch Lecture Costs	-3,511.10	<i>-3,369.10</i>
AGM	-185.09	<i>-360.00</i>
FFHS	-203.68	<i>-229.90</i>
Membership Books, maps, etc	-523.70	<i>-520.70</i>
Fair and open days	-60.00	<i>-110.00</i>
Administration & general expenses	-392.54	<i>-799.25</i>
Depreciation	-50.00	<i>-50.00</i>
	-9,138.38	<i>-10,899.72</i>
Net Deficit	<u>-£933.05</u>	<u><i>-£2,251.51</i></u>

LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Balance Sheet as at 30 September 2014. Unaudited

	30 Sep 2015	30 Sep 2014
Fixed Assets		
Office equipment	100.00	150.00
Current Assets		
Stock of publications	1,119.04	1,319.90
Prepaid expenses	290.64	747.79
Cash and bank balances	<u>20,275.96</u>	<u>16,428.65</u>
	-----	-----
Total Assets	21,785.64	18,646.34
Current Liabilities		
Subs in Advance	-4,230.50	-15.00
Creditors & Accr'd Expenses	-610.63	-149.88
Unpresented cheques	<u>-20.00</u>	<u>-623.90</u>
	<u>-4,861.13</u>	<u>-788.78</u>
	£16,924.51	£17,857.56
	=====	=====
		=
Financed by:		
Balance Brought Forward	17,857.56	20,109.07
Net Deficit/ Surplus for Year	-933.05	-2,251.51
Members' Net Funds	£16,924.51	£17,857.56
	=====	=====

LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX FHS

CONFERENCE & ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday 27 February 2016 10am-4.00pm

**The Radnor Hall, Wesley's Chapel,
49 City Road, London EC1Y 1AU**

The Programme for the Day

You will need to bring a packed lunch but tea and coffee will be available for a small charge.

From 10am and during the lunch break you may like to visit the Museum of Methodism and John Wesley's House (free and open from 10am to 4pm).

- 10.30am Tea & Coffee
- 11.00am Welcome
 Talk: *Probate Records: Listening to our Forebears*
 by Francis Howcutt,
 Vice Chairman of the FFHS Executive Committee
- 12.15pm An extended lunch hour to give time for exploring the
 Museum, John Wesley's House, the Chapel or Bunhill
 Fields burial ground nearby.
- From 1.15pm Registration for the AGM
- 1.30pm Welcome back
 Presentation: *The 1939 Register* by Myko Clelland
- 2.45pm Refreshments and Comfort Break
 Registration for those only attending the AGM
- 3pm The Business of the Annual General Meeting
 chaired by our President, Michael Gandy

Directions: The nearest Underground Stations are Moorgate, and Old Street (Northern Line, take exit 2 and it is then a short walk to the Chapel).

The nearest Main line station is Liverpool Street.

**LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX
FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY**

**Annual General Meeting
to be held on
Saturday 27 February 2016**

Nomination Form for Election of Officers

Position: CHAIRMAN

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

Proposed by:.....

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

Seconded by:.....

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

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

Position: HON. SECRETARY

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

Proposed by:.....

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

Seconded by:.....

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

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

CONTINUED OVERLEAF

Position: HON. TREASURER

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

Proposed by:.....

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

Seconded by:.....

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

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

Any Other Business

I wish to raise the following matter under Any Other Business

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

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

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

Please return this form to: Hon Secretary LWMFHS
141 Welbeck Road, West Harrow, Middlesex HA2 0RY
To be received no later than Friday 12 February 2016.

CHAPMAN COUNTY CODES Before 1974

ENGLAND	ENG	WALES	WLS	ISLANDS	
Bedfordshire	BDF	Anglesey	AGY	Channel Islands	CHI
Buckinghamshire	BKM	Brecknockshire	BRE	Alderney	ALD
Berkshire	BRK	Caernarvonshire	CAE	Jersey	JSY
Cambridge	CAM	Cardiganshire	CGN	Guernsey	GSY
Cheshire	CHS	Cardarthenshire	CMN	Sark	SRK
Cornwall	CON	Denbighshire	DEN	Isle of Man	IOM
Cumberland	CUL	Flintshire	FLN	Isle of Wight	IOW
Derbyshire	DBY	Glamorgan	GLA	N. IRELAND	NIR
Devon	DEV	Merionethshire	MER	Antrim	ANT
Dorset	DOR	Montgomeryshire	MGY	Armagh	ARM
Durham	DUR	Monmouthshire	MON	Down	DOW
Essex	ESS	Pembrokeshire	PEM	Fermanagh	FER
Gloucestershire	GLS	Radnorshire	RAD	Londonderry	LDY
Hampshire	HAM	SCOTLAND	SCT	Tyrone	TYR
Herefordshire	HEF	Aberdeenshire	ABD	IRELAND	IRL
Hertfordshire	HRT	Angus	ANS	Carlow	CAR
Huntingdonshire	HUN	Argyllshire	ARL	Cavan	CAV
Kent	KEN	Ayrshire	AYR	Clare	CLA
Lancashire	LAN	Banffshire	BAN	Cork	COR
Leicestershire	LEI	Berwickshire	BEW	Donegal	DON
Lincoln	LIN	Bute	BUT	Dublin	DUB
London	LND	Caitness	CAI	Galway	GAL
Middlesex	MDX	Clackmannanshire	CLK	Kerry	KER
Northumberland	NBL	Dumfriesshire	DFS	Kildare	KID
Norfolk	NFK	Dunbartonshire	DNB	Kilkenny	KIK
Northamptonshire	NTH	East Lothian	ELN	Leitrim	LET
Nottinghamshire	NTT	Fife	FIF	Leix (Queens)	LEX
Oxfordshire	OXF	Inverness-shire	INV	Limerick	LIM
Rutland	RUT	Kincardineshire	KCD	Longford	LOG
Shropshire	SAL	Kirkcudbrightshire	KKD	Louth	LOU
Suffolk	SFK	Kinross-shire	KRS	Mayo	MAY
Somerset	SOM	Lanarkshire	LKS	Meath	MEA
Surrey	SRY	Midlothian	MLN	Monaghan	MOG
Sussex	SSX	Moray	MOR	Offaly (Kings)	OFF
Staffordshire	STS	Nairnshire	NAI	Roscommon	ROS
Warwickshire	WAR	Orkney Isles	OKI	Sligo	SLI
Westmoreland	WES	Peebleshire	PEE	Tipperary	TIP
Wiltshire	WIL	Perthshire	PER	Waterford	WAT
Worcester	WOR	Renfrewshire	RFW	Westmeath	WEM
Yorkshire	YKS	Ross & Cromarty	ROC	Wexford	WEX
Yks East Riding	ERY	Roxburghshire	ROX	Wicklow	WIC
Yks North Riding	NRV	Selkirkshire	SEL	Australia	AUS
Yks West Riding	WRY	Shetland Isles	SHI	Canada	CAN
		Stirlingshire	STI	New Zealand	NZD
		Sutherland	SUT	South Africa	SAF
		Wigtownshire	WIG	West Indies	WIN
		West Lothian	WLN	United States	USA

A FAMILY OF ROCKING HORSE MAKERS

By Peter Todd, Member No. 7686

A few years ago I remember having a delightful afternoon with our young grandchildren when we visited a local Museum which, apart from housing a variety of historical treasures, had within its boundary a mock-up of a Victorian street. While the children were playing with various period toys and games, such as skittles and hop-scotch that were dotted around the street, I was fascinated by the rocking horse maker's shop, which had several wooden horses in various stages of manufacture. Unfortunately the craftsman who ran demonstrations in making these toys was not around that day but I had seen enough of his wares to appreciate the skill that went into making such objects.

Hobby horses where a fake horse's head was attached to a pole that a child straddled in order to ride are said to have existed in the Middle East and Greece several hundred years before the start of the Christian era. Later,



jousting was apparently mimicked by children riding wheeled toy horses in medieval England. The rocking horse as we know it probably dates from the 17th century and the horse mounted on a bow rocker came into being in the 18th century. However, it was during the latter half of the 19th century that the explosion in rocking horse making and development, for example the introduction of a rocking horse on a safety stand, occurred in this country.

My interest in rocking horses was reawakened when I came upon a Census return which mentioned that a great aunt of mine, Emma Annie TODD (1856-1905) was the wife of a rocking horse maker called Joseph RAPER junior (1857-1935). Emma and Joseph married at St Pancras Parish Church on 2 August 1879 and started married life at 18 Medburn Street, Somers Town, St Pancras.

It would appear that the family interest in making rocking horses as a business started with Joseph's father Joseph James RAPER (1825-1886). Joseph senior married Sarah MACKEY (1829-1898) at St Giles', Cripplegate, London in 1848. The 1851 Census described Joseph as being a rocking horse maker. The couple had a five month old son named Thomas. By the time of the 1861 Census the family had grown to three children with the births of Maria RAPER (1852-1933) and Joseph junior (sometimes referred to as James in the records). In the Census return of 1871 Thomas RAPER (1850-1918) was stated to be making rocking horses alongside his father. The family were now living at 20 Equity Road, Somers Town. Maria, who was nineteen years old, was a (gun?) cartridge maker.

Joseph James's younger brother, William RAPER (1839-1918) was also a rocking horse maker, whilst his sister, Emma (1823-) married a toy maker, Joseph DAVISON (1822-1869). The last record I have of Emma DAVISON (née RAPER) was in the 1871 Census, where it was recorded that she was a 49 year old widowed pauper living in the Holborn Workhouse.

Thomas Mackey RAPER, Joseph senior's first child, was born on the 26 October 1850 at 16 Little Saffron Hill, Camden, London. This street disappeared in the redevelopments of the 1860s but its greater namesake namely Saffron Hill still exists and runs parallel to and between Farringdon Road and Hatton Garden. The name derives from the time when saffron crocus were grown there for flavouring and food colouring. By the 1840s the area had degenerated into a squalid neighbourhood with an unsavoury reputation which was highlighted in Charles DICKENS' (1837) novel *Oliver Twist*.

".....thence into Little Saffron-hill, and so into Saffron-hill the Great, along which the Dodger scudded at a rapid pace, directing Oliver to follow close at his heels. Although Oliver had enough to occupy his attention in keeping sight of his leader, he could not help bestowing a few hasty glances on either side of the way as he passed along. A dirtier or more wretched place he had never seen. The street was very narrow and muddy, and the air was impregnated with filthy odours."

Oliver was being taken to Fagin's den which was in Field Lane, originally located at the southern end of Saffron Hill.

In 1872 Thomas married Caroline WHITE (1852-1885) and then in 1891, following the death of his first wife, he married Charlotte GAWEN (1857-1936). Charlotte at that time was actually a TODD, having recently lost her first husband, my great uncle, John William TODD (1849-1889). These intermarriages were described in a little more detail in a previous article. Thomas had one male heir with Caroline; Edward Joseph RAPER (1877-1930), who worked as a compositor.

Joseph and Emma RAPER had two sons. The eldest son Joseph RAPER (1881-1953) started his working career as a brass finisher, while his brother Leonard William RAPER (1896-1915) was a compositor. Their father gave up rocking horse and toy making in the 1890s and became a house painter. This change of career was probably brought on by the increasing commercialisation of the toy market both here and in Europe towards the end of the 19th century which meant that the small man did not have the capital or resources to compete. Emma died of tuberculosis in 1905, while Joseph went on to the grand old age (for those days!) of 77 years, finally succumbing to a heart attack in his home at 38 Malden Road, St Pancras, London.

Sources:

The quoted passage was taken from Dickens, Charles. *Oliver Twist (or the Parish Boy's Progress)* 3rd Edition by Chapman & Hall, 186 Strand, London, 1841 Vol. 1, Ch.8 pp. 128-9. This edition is available as a free book download@ www.amazon.co.uk/kindlebooks

See also:

Oliver Twist & the Artful Dodger: The Routes of London |The London Explorer's Blog.

<https://thelondonexplorer.wordpress.com/2010/04/11/the-routes-of-london-2/>

There are several web sites which have information about rocking horses, some of these are vehicles for rocking horse manufacturers eg Stevenson Brothers of Bethersden, Kent.

<http://www.rockinghorses.uk.net/history-of-rocking-horses>,

<http://www.legendsrockinghorses.co.uk/history.shtml>

<http://yesterdaytomorrow.co.uk/> Links to the Kensington Rocking Horse Company, Sussex.

Todd, Peter: Great Grandad's Bible: METROPOLITAN Vol.36 No.1 pp.24-29
Ancestry.co.uk

FOCUS ON FACEBOOK

By Elizabeth Burling, Member No. 4992

On the Visitor Posts area of our page we were contacted by Debbie Cameron to inform us of a new group she has created in memory of her grandmother Emily CAMERON: Remembering Women on the Home Front WW1. The group is there to commemorate all women who contributed to the war effort, nurses, munition workers and all others.

Although quite new, the group already contains some interesting links, such as one to Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps, a site which contains copies of letters from World War One to widows and families written by nurses in hospitals in France. An example of these is a moving letter from a Nursing Sister working in a British Red Cross Hospital in France to a patient, Fred ALLEN's, widow. Fred worked in the Veterinary Corps and was 42 years old when he died. This beautiful letter can be read at: <http://www.qaranc.co.uk/world-war-1-letters.php>

Another link contains information and photographs of the Munitions Filling Factory No7 at Hayes at: <http://middx.net/articles/munitions.htm> and there are many more. Visitors are encouraged to add photos, memories and so on of women in their own families who might have helped in any way in WW1.

This group is a closed group, meaning that you have to ask to join it. There is not usually any problem with this – it is a way of keeping spam off the page.

Another post, by member Pat Skinner, wonders if a graveyard site plan still exists for Old St Pancras Church. She has looked at the burial records but these don't show grave numbers. Her husband's great grandfather x2's Kensal Green tombstone states that first wife, six children and his mother are all interred at Old St Pancras. The gravestones themselves are all too eroded to read but a graveyard site plan might reveal the name of the mother, which might then open up further leads.

Nobody has yet been able to say if such a site plan exists; maybe you know differently? Please let us know if you do!



WEBSITE NEWS

London History Group

This is an online mapping project which aims to document and raise awareness of London's less known historical monuments and hidden secrets. Sites are arranged by the period in which they were constructed, such as Saxon or Georgian.

Under 'Norman', for example, one finds the Crypts of the Parish Church of St Mary-le-Bow. Clicking on this brings up photographs of the crypt, information that a medieval version of the church had been destroyed in the late 11th century by one of the earliest recorded tornadoes in Britain – the London Tornado of 1091. The position of the church is shown on a map of London and details of the opening times are included. There are links to related pages: The Undercroft at Lincoln's Inn and the Chantry house in Greenwich and there is space for visitor's comments.

This interesting visual site can add colour and background to our ancestors' lives and can be found at: <http://www.londonhistorygroup.com/>

Family Deeds

The Family Deeds project was started because of concern that the many old documents and deeds that were being sold on the open market to undisclosed buyers would subsequently become much harder to find. These documents can contain lots of information which may be of interest to family historians and so the Family Deeds project was created with the aim of trying to preserve some of the information from the documents and make it easily available to all.

Documents are purchased, transcribed and then have to be sold (via this website) to help fund the purchase of new ones.

There is an easy-to-use surname index, with first names and location as a check. For example, Samuel GALE of Basinghall Street, London turns up as a witness (along with his clerk Henry Rivington HILL) to a lease dated 13 November 1821 pertaining to a messuage known as Golden Ball in Bear Lane, Colchester. The parties to the document are Benjamin STUBBING, Meat Salesman of Cullum Street in the City of London and Jacob STUBBING, otherwise called Jacob STEBBING, butcher of Woolwich, Kent. Another nine people are named, either former occupants or neighbours. The documents are also indexed by county.

You can visit this website at: <http://www.familydeeds.org/names.php>

Genealogy in Time Magazine

This is an independent website which aims to provide valuable, honest information free to family historians. Apart from being an online magazine, it is also a genealogy platform with tools and resources to help people find their ancestors wherever in the world they may be.

The webpage is divided into sections. The first being a 'search' page into which one can put a surname, a place name or anything else and vast amounts of information will instantly appear!

The next section is headed 'Records' and has information on the latest genealogical records to appear online and also has lists of new records by country.

The third section contains articles on many different family history topics, from 'the 50 best genealogical brick wall solutions' to 'why immigrants change their names' to 'cemetery theft on the decline' and much more.

A fourth section contains genealogical news and the final one has lists of free resources. This website can be found at:

<http://www.genealogyintime.com/records/UK-genealogy-records.html>

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

1939 Register

The 1939 register was taken on 29 September by the British Government. The 1931 census was destroyed and the 1941 census was never taken, making the 1939 Register the only surviving record of the people of England and Wales in the 30 years 1921-1951, and the closest likeness to a census from that period. It recorded personal details of individuals in order to issue identity cards and ration books and it later formed the basis of the National Health Service's records. This release is the result of over a year's work carried out by a team of hundreds of volunteers in association with The National Archives and contains over 1.2 million pages.

The records contain the address, full name, date of birth, sex, marital status and occupation of individuals, as well as changes of name. Although the Register is literally within living memory for many people, information about living individuals will be kept closed for 100 years from their year of birth, or until proof of death has been authenticated.

Records will be available to purchase for £6.95 per household or £24.95 for a 5 household bundle (£4.99 per household), via www.findmypast.co.uk/ Subscribers will be entitled to 25% off the 5 household bundle and the records are free to view for everyone at TNA, Kew.

Lloyds of London Memorial Roll 1914-1918

This archive contains the records and photographs of company employees who died during the First World War. Over 2,000 men from Lloyds of London served in the military during the conflict, many joining London regiments such as the London Rifle Brigade or the London Scottish.

The Roll is a tribute to those who lost their lives during the conflict and contains the records of 216 men. Each name has two records, an entry in the memorial role and a photographic portrait, and will display both an image and a transcript that may include details of their rank, regiment and any awards they received. It is available from FindMyPast

Stock Exchange Memorial Roll 1914-1918

The Stock Exchange Memorial Roll 1914-1918 commemorates employees of the London Stock Exchange who gave their lives for King and Country during the Great War. The Roll contains both men and women. Each entry contains a biography and, in some cases, touching testimonies from fellow soldiers and commanding officers.

When war was first declared, the subsequent fear surrounding borrowed money being called in led to the Stock Exchange closing at the end of July 1914. As a result of the closure, the Stock Exchange (10th) Battalion of Fusiliers was formed for the 1,600 men who volunteered service. Many of the men listed in the Roll served with this regiment. This archive is also available from FindMy Past

UK, Naturalisation Certificates and Declarations, 1870-1912

With citizenship came the right to vote, hold civil or military office, and the ability to inherit land, but for immigrants in England, until 1844, naturalisation was a costly process. Beginning in 1844, the process no longer required an act of parliament and naturalisations could be granted through the Secretary of State for the Home Office

This collection includes naturalisation certificates, declarations of British nationality, and re-admissions to British nationality, as well as related correspondence, for the years 1870–1912 (later records being restricted because of privacy requirements).

Naturalisation certificates will typically list the name of the immigrant, residence, birthplace, age, parents' names, occupation, and the names of any underage children.

These records are online at Ancestry.co.uk

DORIS EDNA JONES

1922 - 2015

The first ten years of Doris Jones' life were spent in an orphanage in Clacton, which in the main was a happy time until the departure of her beloved housemother. She then moved to Southend to live with her own mother.

Her first job was at Southend railway station after which she transferred to Euston in London where she met and married Gwilym Jones. They raised their family of two sons and a daughter in Wembley.

Gwilym was a head teacher in Wembley and during the war years there was a shortage of teaching staff so Doris took herself off to college and qualified as a teacher which is where she probably gained her interest in local history.



She eventually became the archivist of St John's Parish Church. She produced several useful indexes. As a member of the church she formed a mothers' group, was active with the Girl Guide group and in later years started the Trefoil Guild in Wembley.

Doris was also an enthusiastic member of the Wembley History Society. However, like one or two other members she became more interested in genealogy and history of the family and moved over to the newly formed Central Middlesex Family History Society. Here she served for some time as Secretary and was involved with recording monumental inscriptions and a vast amount of research local to Wembley. Doris will be remembered for her family history class which was held at her home in Wembley. The Society's meetings were held at Rayners Lane and Doris fought tooth and nail to persuade the committee to allow a branch to be set up in Wembley. This goal was achieved on the 2 July 1990.

Doris Edna Jones died peacefully on 15 August 2015 aged 93 years.

William Pyemont, Member No. 5639

UNWANTED CERTIFICATES

The Society has received five copies of certificates. Please contact the Editors if you are interested in them.

Marriage: John UNSWORTH, bachelor of full age, Schoolmaster of Great Missenden, son of John UNSWORTH married Elizabeth BONEHILL, spinster of full age, also of Great Missenden, daughter of John BONEHILL at the Parish Church of Great Missenden on 29 December 1852.

Death: William Porter MANTON, Gun maker, husband of Juliet MANTON, died age 84 years on 7 March 1842, in Camden Town.

Birth: Henry LAWRENCE, born 1 December 1856 at 12 Union Place, Stepney Green, the son of Henry LAWRENCE and Sophia, formerly FORDHAM

Birth: Henry LOWEN, born 2 March 1856 at Islington workhouse, son of Maria LOWEN.

Marriage: James LOWEN, bachelor of full age, chimney sweeper, of Berkley Court, son of John William LOWEN, mariner, married Sarah ANDERSON, spinster of full age, also of Berkley Court, daughter of David ANDERSON, chimney sweeper on 6 December 1847 at the Church of St John, Clerkenwell.



JOTTINGS

The Crime Museum Uncovered

Looking to illustrate the way in which crime and detection has advanced over 140 years, this new exhibition at the Museum of London tells the human stories behind some truly grisly crimes. On display are a number of fascinating items from the Metropolitan Police's Crime Museum which were previously only shown to police-related professionals and specially invited guests.

The collection was started by serving police officers back in 1875 and has gradually built up over the decades, with all sorts of evidence from famous cases being continually added. Some of the UK's most notorious crimes are represented in the collection, with objects and evidence relating to everything from the Great Train Robbery of 1963 and the Acid Bath Murderer of 1949, to the Millennium Dome Diamond Heist and numerous terrorism, narcotics and espionage cases.

This exhibition is on until 10 April 2016 at the Museum of London, 150 London Wall, London EC2Y 5HN.

Samuel Pepys: Plague, Fire, Revolution

Samuel Pepys was one of the most colourful and appealing characters of the 17th century. He witnessed the great events that shaped Stuart Britain and brought them brilliantly to life in his famous diary.

Pepys was a naval mastermind, but he was also a gossip, a socialite and a lover of music, theatre, fine living and women! He fought for survival on the operating table and in the cut-throat world of public life and politics, successfully navigating his way to wealth and status until his luck, intimately entwined with the King's fortunes, finally ran out. He lived through a time of turmoil which saw kings fighting for their crowns, the devastation of medieval London by plague, fire and war, and its resurrection as a world city.

The National Maritime Museum is holding an exhibition, on until 28 March 2016, which will feature 200 paintings and objects from museums, galleries and private collections across Britain and beyond. The exhibition will explore the period from the execution of Charles I in 1649 to the Glorious Revolution of 1688. This was a formative era in British history which saw the repositioning of the monarchy and the development of Britain's place as a maritime, economic and political force on the world stage. The National Maritime Museum is at Romney Road, Greenwich SE10 9NF.

Christmas Puddings

Did you make your Christmas puddings on the 22 November? Traditionally, this was the weekend when families made their puddings and to give them time to mature for Christmas Day.

Known as ‘Stir up Sunday’ it has its roots in the Anglican Church Calendar and is the last Sunday of the Church year and also the Sunday before Advent. The name comes from the opening words of the Collect for the day in the Book of Common Prayer.

“Stir-up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may of thee be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”

This day became connected, especially in England, with the preparation of Christmas puddings and became the Stir-up Sunday that we know today. Families and cooks would go to church, hear the familiar prayer and think ‘I must go home and make the Christmas puddings.’

Traditionally made with thirteen ingredients, to represent Christ and his Disciples, the pudding is always stirred with a wooden spoon, from east to west in honour of the three Wise Men. Perhaps the holly on top is the crown of thorns.

Family members all take a turn to give the pudding a stir and make a secret wish. A silver threepenny or sixpenny bit used to be hidden in the mixture, which was supposed to bring health, wealth and happiness to the person finding it.



Out and About

From our stand at the West Surrey FHS Open Day (31 October, Woking) we aimed to promote our Society, answer questions about Family History resources, suggest possible ways of solving problems and sell books, maps etc. Books marked down after the year-end stock take drew much attention! Our hosts offered bookable talks and advice sessions during the day.

A local history conference Middlesex: Our Lost County was organised by the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society (LAMAS) at the Museum of London on 21 November. Here, everyone attended the day’s lectures and there were table-top displays by local Societies during break times only. Maps of Middlesex and local places were our main feature.

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.

GERMAN BAKERS

Two of my ancestors worked as bakers and confectioners. They emigrated from the Hunsrück area of Germany and married English girls in London, where they had been working. As they were farmers' sons I assume they did not know any English and therefore started their training in German bakeries in London.

Did German bakeries and bakers exist in London before 1820? I am especially interested in the areas: Stoke Newington, Kingsland Road, Robert Street (St George Hanover Square), Francis Street (Chelsea), Clifton Terrace, 154 Fulham Road, Old Brompton Road. Which were these bakers' names and addresses? Is it possible to find out the names of their apprentices?

Elisabeth Roller, Member No 7822

Denzenbergstraße 46, 72074 Tübingen, Germany

Note: A quick search for 'German confectioner' in the British Newspaper Archive brings up 2,294 mentions of these words in the London area between 1800-1849, of which some 250 occur in papers published prior to 1820. Apart from news mentions of German bakers their might also be advertisements placed by them in the papers. You can search the Archive free at: www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/ but to download any article you will need to subscribe. A one-month subscription costs £12.95.

(By the way, the phrase 'German baker' tends to bring up sugar-bakers, which is a different occupation.) It might also be worth looking in historical directories for German bakers. There is a large collection of these at London Metropolitan Archives but if you cannot visit in person, many directories are available to inspect on pay-per-view sites.

HORN/E and ALLISON

My grandmother Priscilla HORN/E was born in Islington on the 14th September 1876 (this date being on a school register). Her father's name was James HORNE, born in Plymouth, Devon and her mother's name Elizabeth, born in Kingstone, Somerset, as shown on the 1881 and 1891 census.

Priscilla married William ALLISON in December 1899 at Finchley, Middlesex, where they had 8 children and grandchildren. She died in 1957. However, I cannot find Priscilla's birth in the GRO Index or any baptism in local churches. Neither can I find James and Elizabeth's marriage and so have no idea where, or when, they were married or when they came to Islington. The first time they appear on a census is in 1881 when Priscilla is 5 and then again on the 1891 and 1901.

A late elderly aunt said Priscilla was an only child and her parents were elderly when she was born. Their ages do differ greatly on each census. James could have been born any time between 1822 and 1834 and Elizabeth between 1829 and 1839!

If anyone is able to give me more information on Priscilla and her parents, I would be very pleased to hear from you.

Helen Brown, Member No. 6562

11 Marshall Hill Drive, Mapperley, Nottingham. NG3 6FY

Email: controlcare508@btinternet.com

FORSS/ROSS

Can anyone help me trace my mother's Godmother, May ROSS? I know she lived in Palmers Green, London in the 1960s.

May ROSS lived in London in 1919 and was a close friend and bridesmaid at the wedding of my grandmother Mabel HEATH who married Vernon PADMAN. May had a sister Winifred ROSS.

May ROSS took a great interest in her god-daughter, my mother, wrote regularly to her (especially after Mabel's death in 1952) and sent generous sums of money for our Christmas presents.

I would be grateful if you could advise me how to trace her birth and family. She was probably about the same age as my grandmother Mabel HEATH. There are quite a few births of Mabel ROSS in BMD and until the 1921 census records are available, I am rather stuck.

The ROSS family were related to John Leslie FORSS who migrated to South Australia in about 1890 and was Vernon PADMAN's uncle by

marriage. John Leslie FORSS may have been born in Aberdeen but later the family lived in London. John Leslie FORSS' father was Captain Austin Charles FORSS of the Mercantile Marine.

I would particularly like to know when May was born and how she is related to the FORSS family.

Please help!

Mrs Joy Shaw. Member No. 7604

118 Leslie Terrace, Aberdeen AB25 3XD

Email: joy.shaw@ymail.com

Note: John Leslie FORSS's obituaries in Australia confirm that he was born in 1867 in Aberdeen and that he went to South Australia aged 18. The World War 1 Pictorial Honour Roll of South Australians contains reference to an Austin Charles FORSS, born 13 June 1897 at Henley Beach, South Australia, the son of John Leslie FORSS and Clara Jane, née PADMAN.

These Australian resources are available to view for free via the excellent Trove portal at: <http://trove.nla.gov.au/>

With regard to Mabel ROSS, the fact that you think she was about the same age as your grandmother and has a sister called Winifred should make it easier to trace her. In the 1911 census, for instance, there is a Mabel ROSS aged 17 living at 92 Nelson Road, Wimbledon with her parents, David and Elizabeth, and siblings who include a sister Winifred aged 12. Could this be her?

BURNT OAK FARM, EDGWARE

This is a photograph of Burnt Oak (Burntoak) Farm, Edgware. My grandfather was born there in 1910. I would like to find out more about the farm and the area. Perhaps someone has another photograph of the farmhouse and is researching the family.

In the 1911 census, the TOOGOOD family lived there: William Adams TOOGOOD, aged 42, born Somerset; his wife Susannah aged 37, born Wiltshire and their seven children. Burnt Oak Farm was a dairy farm and the farmhouse had twelve rooms.

Mrs Karen Bailey, Member No. 7928

8 Wickwar Road, Kingswood, Wotton-under-Edge, Gloucestershire GL12 8RF Email: karenbailey40@hotmail.com



Note: In the last journal (September 2015), we recommended the National Library of Scotland's website, where 6-inch Ordnance Survey maps of England and Wales 1842-1952 are available to view. Using this website, we looked at an 1873 map of Middlesex and found the farm. Another website 'Britain from Above' had photos of the Burnt Oak countryside and subsequent housing developments.

1. <http://maps.nls.uk/os/6inch-england-and-wales/>
2. www.britainfromabove.org.uk
3. Alan Godfrey Old Ordnance Survey maps: Number 11.01 *Burnt Oak and Little Stanmore 1895* also shows the position of the farm. On the reverse of the map is a version from 1935 which shows the area almost covered in housing developments.

FORTHCOMING BRANCH MEETINGS

Barnet Branch – 7.30pm for 8.00pm

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

Branch Contact: Rosemary A Roome, Email: barnet@lwmfhs.org.uk

Thursday 17 December No Meeting
Thursday 21 January *Debts, Debtors and Bankrupts*
by Ian Waller
Thursday 18 February No meeting – venue not available
Thursday 17 March Members' Evening

City Branch – 12 noon for 12.30pm

Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre, Holborn Library,
32-38 Theobalds Road, London WC1X 8PA

Branch Contact: Barbara Haswell, Email: city@lwmfhs.org.uk

Thursday 31 December No Meeting
Thursday 28 January *Highgate Cemetery and its Residents*
by Malcolm Holmes
Thursday 25 February No Meeting – Conference & AGM on 27 Feb
Thursday 31 March *Camden: The First Fifty Years*
by Tudor Allen

Enfield Branch – 7.30pm for 8.00pm

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

Branch Contact: Lilian Gibbens, Email: enfield@lwmfhs.org.uk

Wednesday 2 December Christmas Social
Wednesday 6 January No meeting
Wednesday 3 February *Discovering Historic Enfield*
by Stephen Gilbert
Wednesday 2 March *Identifying Victorian Photographs*
by Tom Doig

Rayners Lane Branch – 7.30pm for 8.00pm

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

Branch Contact: Tricia Sutton, Email: rayners_lane@lwmfhs.org.uk

Friday 11 December

Members' Christmas Event

Friday 8 January

Alfred Denville and the Harrow Coliseum

by Barbara Lanning

Friday 12 February

Members' Evening

Friday 11 March

Huguenots

by Michael Gandy

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, Email: wembley@lwmfhs.org.uk

Monday 28 December

No Meeting

Monday 25 January

European Ancestry, part 2

by Michael Luetchford

Monday 22 February

Early Railway Workers

by Dr David Turner

Monday 28 March

No Meeting

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.

**Please remember that the copy date for the next issue of
METROPOLITAN is 1 February 2016**

GROSVENOR CHAPEL, LONDON



The Grosvenor Chapel is in the City of Westminster, in South Audley Street, Mayfair. Sir Richard Grosvenor, owner of property in the area, laid the foundation stone in 1730. In 1829, the chapel became the Chapel of Ease to St George's, Hanover Square.

The photograph on the left was taken by our member Dr Keith Marshall, who has added many photos to our website collection of parish churches.

Have you seen these photos? They are in the Parishes section of the website and you are welcome to download the pictures for your own use. If you require a higher resolution photo, please contact the editors.

There are still a few churches that we need. If you are out and about, please help and take a photo of any of the following for our website:

Edgware St Margaret
Edmonton All Saints
Finchley St Mary
Finsbury, St Luke, Old St
Friern Barnet, St James
Hampstead St John, Church Row
Hendon St Mary

Hornsey St Mary
Paddington St James
St Giles in the Fields
Wembley St John
Twyford St Mary
Wood Green St Michael

AIMS OF THE SOCIETY

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

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

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