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# METROPOLITAN

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



**Volume 1 No. 4 (147)**



**September 2015**

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, c/o 93 Leicester Road,  
New Barnet, Herts EN5 5EL  
✉ 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 : Mrs Barbara E Haswell, 93 Leicester Road,  
New Barnet, Herts EN5 5EL  
✉ membersinterests@lwmfhs.org.uk

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

Bookstall Manager &  
Postal Sales : ✉ c/o: projects@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

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Cover picture: 33 Lyonsdown Road, New Barnet in 2015  
See article on page 144

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**Please remember that the copy date for the next issue of  
METROPOLITAN is 1 November 2015**

## **EDITORIAL**

This edition's editorial is mainly concerned with different means of communication between our members and our Society.

**Firstly, as you will notice from the article on page 148, our Membership Secretary is moving house. As a temporary measure, please send all renewals to: c/o 93 Leicester Road, New Barnet, Herts EN5 5EL.**

Secondly some clarification: The last (June) journal included a letter from George Chappell to the Editors about the Society's forum on our website and why it is not very active. In our note we commented that some societies send an email to members with new forum content so that interested parties are aware and can reply. Our Webmaster pointed out that those who contribute to a thread on the forum are already emailed when any further content is added to that thread, and we apologise to him for suggesting otherwise.

We would like to encourage more people to use the forum on the website. Our members have a wealth of knowledge about a myriad of family history topics. Yet, for example, a member asked on the forum if anyone has expert knowledge about Harefield but nobody has replied.

Thirdly, we are asking any members who are on Facebook to 'like' our page there. Apart from aiming to be a useful and interesting service for members, our Facebook page is a way to raise the Society's public profile and to encourage more people to join up. Already there is two-way traffic between the Facebook page and the website, with more potential members visiting both.

With Facebook, having people 'like' our page is important. Each person who 'likes' us will have our posts appear on their page, where their friends will be able to see and hopefully enjoy the interesting things that we post.

To help this process, we would be most grateful if any members who are also on Facebook would call by our page to say hello and 'like' us. To do this all you need to do is to click on the 'like' button indicated here:



Fourthly, we do want to encourage more of you to contribute to METROPOLITAN with letters, *'Help!'* pieces, snippets and articles.

Perhaps we can inspire you to put pen to paper? Here are some categories that might help fire your imagination:

Who is your favourite ancestor, and why?

Which ancestor would you most like to meet (if that was possible!) and what would you like to ask them?

Do you have knowledge about specialised records or a particular location that you could share?

We look forward to hearing from you!

## The Editorial Team

### **LWMFHS CONFERENCE AND AGM 2016**

Wesley's Chapel, 49 City Rd, London EC1Y 1AU  
has been booked for

**Saturday 27 February 2016**

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

## CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

**This issue of METROPOLITAN is the last one covered by the subscription for the year ending on 30 September 2015.**

Firstly, thank you to all those members who have already renewed their subscription for the year 1 October 2015 – 30 September 2016. That is much appreciated as it has helped to spread the workload for our Membership Secretary.

Other members are reminded that subscriptions are due by 1 October 2015. You will see that another reminder has been printed on the last of the yellow pages in the centre of the journal which are concerned with Members' matters of various kinds.

This repetition is not intended as harassment but as a means of bringing the reminder to the attention of everyone, regardless of the way in which they read METROPOLITAN. We know that:

some members read each issue from cover to cover as soon as it is delivered  
others go straight to the yellow pages to see if anyone else is researching any of their family names

some read an article a day apparently

and some put it aside to read as and when convenient.

You are reminded that the subscription rates are:

- £12 sterling - UK and Overseas, for the journal in PDF format
- £15 sterling - UK, for paper copies of the journal by post
- £20 sterling - Overseas, for paper copies of the journal sent by airmail

**and** that if you pay by Standing Order you must check with your bank that the correct amount will be paid.

August was Family History Month in Australasia and the Federation of Family History Societies here produced an Australasian version of the *Really Useful Leaflet* for use at the various events which took place. If you attended any of them we would be very pleased to hear from you.

**Rosemary A Roome**

## CLERKENWELL TO OAMARU

### My Headland Pioneers

by Sheila Clarke, Member No. 7900

I began researching my father's family around five years ago knowing nothing beyond the names of my grandparents. My journey into the past quickly supplied details of further generations who had settled around Islington and Clerkenwell after moving from Uxbridge in the early 19th century. There was the occasional surprise - great great grandfather Henry William HEADLAND's older brother Thomas was a silversmith who, from a combination of ambition and serendipitous good fortune, became Charles DICKENS's somewhat hapless manager, immortalised in the writer's correspondence as 'Blockheadland' or 'Block' - and also evidence that for at least some of my ancestors 1850s London was a less than attractive proposition.

Clerkenwell had been known as a prosperous suburb but around 1850 it suffered an influx of people due to redevelopment. The result was overcrowding, poverty and disease and, while Thomas was busy establishing himself at the heart of the City arts scene, three of his siblings took a different route in their search for a better life.

In July 1853 sisters Amelia Julia HEADLAND and Matilda Jane BAKER arrived in Port Chalmers, New Zealand, on the ship *Maori* along with Matilda's husband Andrew and their three children. Brother Alfred James Samuel HEADLAND would follow five years later. Amelia had been in New Zealand just five months when she married Edward Bland ATKINSON whose first wife had died the previous year leaving a young daughter.

After their marriage, Edward and Amelia invested in land just outside Oamaru where they moved to run a sheep station. The contrast must have been stark; the sisters had worked as milliners and lived off the Gray's Inn Road but now Amelia was faced with largely trackless terrain and journeys of some considerable distance by bullock cart for basics such as firewood. But the family embraced the pioneering spirit of their new homeland, becoming proud owners of the first plough in the region and by 1864 their sheep numbered 20,000. Amelia had twelve children and died in 1925, just two years short of her centenary.

Unlike the ATKINSONs, Matilda and Andrew BAKER were not drawn to the pastoral life. While her husband set about acquiring blocks of land around Dunedin, Matilda put her millinery and dressmaking experience to good use by supplying local ladies with the latest fashions. After spending a few years in Dunedin the BAKERS moved to Oamaru, the rapidly expanding commercial centre of Otago, and in 1860 work began on construction of the couple's latest investment, the Northern Hotel.

The business prospered and Andrew BAKER became a successful and respected figure in the community. The pair raised seven children and established themselves as a family of some means. Matilda died in 1900.

Alfred HEADLAND arrived in New Zealand in 1858. He had been working as a compositor but no doubt hearing from his siblings of the opportunities to be had in their new country he travelled to Dunedin on the ship *Agra* with wife Dorothy and three children. 'A regular cockney' with no idea of rural living, he nevertheless acquitted himself well enough to find work as a shepherd, living for some time in a mud hut before being employed by his brother-in-law Edward ATKINSON.

Moving to Oamaru, Alfred followed his family's example by investing in land and in 1867 opened his own grocery and ironmongers' store. He became a prominent figure in the early development of the town by sitting on the committees of a number of local bodies, acting as a trustee of the local hospital and being a JP. He died in 1910 leaving five children.

The three siblings had thrived in their new country due to investments and sheer hard work. Having taken the decision to leave their old lives behind and with little possibility of ever seeing loved ones back home, they struck out and bravely embraced the unknown but their stories seem positively mundane when compared with the extraordinary life of one of Andrew and Matilda BAKER's five sons.

Charles Alma BAKER was born in Dunedin in 1857, his unusual middle name apparently in honour of the Crimean battle victory of 1854. (His parents had previously named their house Alma Cottage.)



From 1860 the BAKER children were brought up in the relatively comfortable surroundings of the Northern Hotel - 'the leading hostelry' in the town - and Charles acquired the nickname 'Barney' which would stay with him for the rest of his life. After training as a surveyor in Dunedin, Barney arrived in Auckland in 1881. A tall, imposing and stylish figure, he was quickly assimilated into society circles where his dashing persona soon earned him another nickname - 'The Handsome CAB' (a play on his initials). For an ambitious young man like Barney, Auckland was the place to be and in 1884 he married Florence, youngest daughter of former Premier and Attorney General Sir Frederick WHITAKER.

While his wife remained in Auckland, Barney pursued his career as a surveyor and on one of his trips began an affair with Maria NIKORA, a high-born Maori. Their son Pita Heretaunga BAKER was born in 1889 and although it is not known if Barney was aware of the birth, reports suggest that he departed the area under a cloud, never to return.

Whether this influenced his decision to emigrate is also unknown but in 1890 the BAKERS left New Zealand for India, only for fate to take a hand in their ultimate destination. After missing a connection to Ceylon the couple changed their plans and headed for Malaya where they had heard there were opportunities for surveyors - a decision which would provide them with an enviable lifestyle for the next fifty years.

Barney's first surveying jobs were for the government and over the next few years the fees paid enabled him to build a large house in Perak where he kept horses for polo and racing. In 1894 he began to invest in tin mining which also proved lucrative and by the mid-1890s he had become an influential member of Malay colonial society, enjoying a lifestyle available only to the elite. He established himself as a world traveller, happy to leave his interests in the hands of employees while he visited Australia, America and England where he leased a Devon estate.

In London his base was the Langham Hotel and his club The Devonshire - a very different experience of the city from that enjoyed by his Clerkenwell ancestors.

Back in Malaya, he next ventured into rubber planting which was just beginning to establish itself as a viable industry. The determination to retain individual control made him even wealthier and eventually the owner of the largest privately owned rubber estates in Malaya but the following decade would see him achieve even greater things as the threat of war loomed and the very existence of the British Empire seemed in real danger.

In 1915 Barney made his first appeal for funds on behalf of a Malayan Air Squadron. Fiercely patriotic and convinced that future military success lay in the air, by the end of the war he had raised in excess of £200,000 with a personal family contribution of £15,000 - enough to buy ninety-four aircraft. Next, he turned his attention to Australia, launching an appeal with emphasis on the enemy's 'foul abuses' and 'fiendish plans' to produce half-breed Germans. The rhetoric may have been lurid but it worked and the funds raised supplied forty-one aircraft.

In acknowledgement of his achievement for the war effort Barney was awarded the CBE, visiting Buckingham Palace in 1919 to receive it personally from the King.

The annual cycle of world travel continued and in 1923 Barney was indulging his love of fishing in New Zealand's Bay of Islands when he became convinced of its possibilities as a tourist destination. With his customary zeal he set about advertising the area's potential to his wealthy friends around the world. One of these was the American writer Zane GREY, famous for his Western novels and books on angling, and on his next visit to America Barney carried a personal invitation to GREY from the New Zealand Prime Minister. In 1926 GREY accepted, his stay captured in the full glare of publicity and with the party's fishing exploits reported daily - Barney had succeeded in introducing the idea of New Zealand as a premier fishing destination for wealthy sportsmen and the area would go on to become a major tourist attraction but his influence in the angling community didn't stop there. He also took a keen interest in the design of tackle and patented a number of reels, including the innovative 'Alma' two gear which became much sought after and today changes hands for considerable sums.

The 1920s saw Barney concentrating more on his recently acquired farms in New Zealand, particularly Limestone Downs which he bought in 1926 and

ran as a sheep and cattle station. He developed an interest in Rudolph STEINER's theory of biodynamic farming with its emphasis on a sustainable approach and planting in accordance with moon and planet cycles. Convinced this was the way forward, he attempted to apply its principles to the not always compatible conditions of New Zealand and numerous experiments, most of them unsuccessful, were conducted in an effort to encourage natural crop production. Believing that man too should strive for a natural balance he produced pamphlets on the benefits of a healthy diet supplemented with vitamins, before turning his attention once more to agriculture. *The Labouring Earth* (1939) published in collaboration with the eminent writer Samuel BENSUSAN – is one of the first books to warn about the dangers of chemical fertilisers.

Throughout the 1930s profits from the Malayan rubber plantations were ploughed into the development of the New Zealand farms. Barney & Florence's only child Julitha, known as Judy, had been born in 1903 with mild learning difficulties and although able to function well enough to lead a reasonably normal life would not have been able to undertake any major responsibilities. A five year marriage had ended with her husband's suicide in 1934 - the same year her mother died - and Barney's long term plan was for Limestone Downs to provide an income for Judy after his death. But soon a fresh threat would find him once again diverting funds in defence of his beloved Empire.

In 1940 the British government received the 'magnificent gift' of £30,000 for an additional four aircraft - Hurricanes, each of which would bear the name Alma. Barney was now in failing health but it was not to be his final gesture. Against advice he drew up a will instructing his executors to continue contributions to the Air Ministry - the small matter of death was not going to prevent his ongoing fight for all he held dear.

Barney would not live to see victory; he died in April 1941 and was buried in Penang, his grave bearing the inscription 'He Served God, King and Empire.' According to his wishes, Limestone Downs was managed on Judy's behalf until her death in 1976 when it passed into the control of a UK based trust. Since 1981 the 8,000 acre beef, sheep and dairy farm has been run as an experimental project in ongoing association with New Zealand's Massey University, providing research grants and student scholarships to encourage

new ideas in agriculture - a legacy of which the late owner would surely have approved.

While there is much to admire about Charles Alma BAKER, there is also cause for unease. He never acknowledged his illegitimate son Pita and is believed to have exploited his relationship with Pita's mother in the hope she would influence her brother, the local chief, to co-operate with the surveying of Maori lands. A number of other women have also claimed that he fathered children with them. He could appear cold and unfeeling, with the manner of one expecting to be listened to and obeyed, and is reported to have run his estates as his own private fiefdoms. With a fierce patriotism and unshakeable belief in King and Empire, he reflected the traditional views of his age, yet was ahead of his time in recognising the future supremacy of air power and the importance of a sustainable approach to agriculture. He had vision, drive and a dogged determination to commit to his beliefs. Despite his flaws, Charles Alma BAKER was undoubtedly on the side of good and for that I am proud to be able to call this remarkable man my ancestor.

Further Reading:

Imperial Patriot: Charles Alma Baker and the History of Limestone Downs by Barrie Macdonald. Bridget Williams Books 1993.



## NEW ON THE BOOKSTALL

*Alan Godfrey Old Ordnance Survey Maps* - London Sheets

AGM 05.3 Mid Finchley 1911

AGM 06.4 Alexandra Park & South Friern 1935

AGM 07.4 Wood Green 1935

AGM 08.4 Tottenham (North) 1936

AGM 11.4 Muswell Hill 1935

AGM 12.4 Hornsey & Green Lanes 1935

Price: £2.50 Bookstall; £3.25 UK; £5.00 Europe

Please contact our Projects Co-ordinator if you would like to purchase a map. Her address is inside the front cover of the journal.

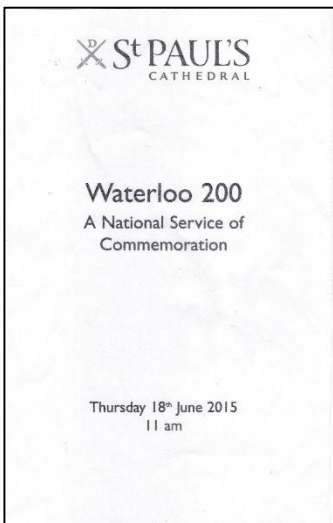
## WATERLOO 200<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY SERVICE

at St Paul's Cathedral

By Dennis Galvin, Member No. 1046

On 18 June 2015 our very own St Paul's Cathedral was full to capacity with 2,500 people including the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall, the Prime Minister and many other dignitaries all here to commemorate the epic battle of Waterloo fought exactly 200 years ago to the hour.

Having a strong interest in this part of history I felt very privileged to be present at such a prestigious event. As I was led to my seat I passed within inches of 30 Regimental Colours, I was then given the order of service and a really classy brochure, which I will treasure. My seat was almost under the great dome and Whispering Gallery, to my left was Nelson's memorial and to my back was Joseph Mallord Turner's. And then the opening hymn: *All*



*people that on earth do dwell.* Quite a few people were chosen to recite from family letters and memories; one story told of a young officer who managed to get what he called a reasonably comfortable sleep the night before the battle by gathering up straw to lay on and then covering his blanket with soft mud. This had the effect of not letting the rain get through his blanket.

The Bishop of London gave a good address to end the service. On my way out I noticed several French army officers, all obviously more than happy to be present. What did impress me was the bells of St Paul's ringing out as we left, they were truly magnificent. I am sure St Mary-le-Bow and possibly St Martin Ludgate etc also joined in.

It was a beautiful sunny day but what topped it all off for me was when I arrived home, my post was just poking out of my porch door and there was my June edition of METROPOLITAN which included my Waterloo article.

What timing! How did the Editorial Team manage to do that?

## FOCUS ON FACEBOOK

By Elizabeth Burling, Member No. 4992

At the end of May we had a query on our Facebook page, wondering if anyone had any information about a particular address, 33 Lyonsdown Road, New Barnet and whether this might have been a home for unmarried mothers and their babies in 1947.

This post was shared with a local history group and quite quickly someone replied they knew of a mother and baby home in Lyonsdown Road in 1962/3 as they had delivered telegrams to one, which was called Loreto House then. This person then kindly took the trouble to actually go and confirm that 33 Lyonsdown Road was the building they remembered.

Meanwhile, the original poster (often shortened to OP and meaning the person who had initially asked the question) on Facebook had found reference to the building on the London Metropolitan Archives Website:

The Cross Roads Club was founded in May 1919 by HRH Princess Christian as a mother and baby home, primarily for unmarried mothers. Lack of funds in the early 1930s prompted the Foundling Hospital to take an interest in the running of the club and by 1936 it had become a branch of the Hospital, a home for single mothers in need of care and guidance. It continued until October 1958 when it closed and was taken over by the Legion of Mary.

The club was based at various sites during its existence. Beginning at Alexandra Road, Saint John's Wood, it re-located to Lemsford House, Welwyn Garden City. A second branch opened at Craven Hill Gardens W2 in the 1940s, and the club was based at Oakdene, 33 Lyonsdown Road, Barnet from 1948.

The earliest mention of Oakdene found was in *The Western Gazette* dated Friday 5 May 1876, when the following advert was inserted:

Housemaid wanted in a quiet family in the suburbs of London. Two other servants kept. Must be active and thoroughly respectable. Not under 22 years of age. Wages to commence £14. Good references required. Apply by letter to Mrs Henwood, Oakdene, New Barnet, Herts.

The 1881 census showed this ‘quiet family’. Paul HENWOOD aged 53, an African Merchant, was the head of household. With him were his wife and 5 daughters – the 4 eldest were born in South Africa, the eleven-year-old was born in Hackney. There were also 5 servants in the house, including Ann DUD, housemaid. She came from Suffolk so may not have responded to an advert placed in a Somerset newspaper.

A memorial in the churchyard of St Mary the Virgin at East Barnet records the death of Paul HENWOOD, born 31 May 1828 at Tideford, Cornwall, died 16 November 1907 at Bromley, Kent; his widow Mary Jane HENWOOD, born 1 May 1832 at Scarborough, Yorkshire, died 15 February 1916 at Leigh-on-Sea, Essex and their second son, Edwin, born 16 March 1864 at Natal, South Africa, died 16 June 1887 at Oakdene, Lyonsdown.



The unusual covered walkway from Lyonsdown Road to the main part of the house

In 1891 a local builder’s labourer, John FISHER, and his wife were at Oakdene and in 1901 four servants, headed by cook Jane TAMKIN were the only people at home there. 1911 saw the house as once more occupied with

a well-to-do family, that of Percy MATTHEWS, Land Agent and Auctioneer.

Further clues were gleaned to the building's use around 1930 – it was still a family home then. *The Western Morning News and Mercury*, Wednesday 14 November 1928, mentioned Magnus GOODFELLOW, Chairman and Managing Director of the Ever Ready Company (Great Britain) Ltd, 'Oakdene', Lyonsdown, New Barnet, Herts. *The North Devon Journal* of 8 August 1935 announced the engagement between Philip Hubert WILSON of Croyde, North Devon and Margaret, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Magnus GOODFELLOW of Oakdene, New Barnet, Herts.

Oakdene does seem to have become a house with Catholic connections after it stopped being a family home, which would support it being used by unwed mothers. Someone commented: 'I remember going there for our First Communion breakfast from the Catholic Church in Somerset Road as it didn't have a church hall then. This would have been about 1961/2. We had boiled eggs and then jelly and ice cream for afters!'

The house seems to have become a home for old Catholic African missionaries. Another poster commented: 'SMA house. Used to be full of very elderly priests who'd been missionaries in Africa, they've got a little museum in the hall which might provide some answers. Didn't get much of a look around because my sister was cooking their Christmas dinner and I was waiting at table. That hallway used to have enormous radiators and I can only assume it was for growing orchids or tropical fruit.' The marble plaque to the right of the front door, seen in the photograph on the front cover, is inscribed: SMA House, Society of African Missions.

Another commentator said she had 33 Lyonsdown Road on her birth certificate, also being the address her birth mother gave when she married. She was told in 1950 it was a lodging house and her mother had to go out during the day so that the workers, presumably night ones, could sleep and not be disturbed by a baby. This commentator was eventually put up for adoption and wondered whether the house could have been used by the NSPCC? Her adopted mother did voluntary work for them in the 1950s, and the story goes that is how her birth mother met her, maybe in a local charity shop in Barnet. This report is only 3 years away from the date of the original



query and would seem to confirm that 33 Lyonsdown Road was a mother and baby home at that time.



The side and back view of the house

The Adoption Search Reunion website contributes to the story by adding that the archive records for the Cross Road Club, which was administered by the Thomas Coram Foundation (now the Coram Family) have not been traced but that it might be worth contacting Hertfordshire County Council, who have some relevant archives.

As you can see from the photographs, 33 Lyonsdown Road appears to be a Victorian house. It is on the corner of the junction with Richmond Road. However, on the 1896 OS map, Oakdene is shown at the next junction down, ie that with Somerset Road. It is described as a very old house, which leads to some further questions. For instance:

Are the two Oakdenes the same building?

Are they on the same plot of land?

Do you know more?

Do let us know!

## THE END OF AN ERA

Early in 1982 I joined what was then the North Middlesex Family History Society which had been founded at Enfield in July 1978. At that time I had researched my husband Terry's PRUDAMES ancestry at St Catherine's House, and other London Repositories, with additional data supplied by a branch of the family in York who were Mormons.

In October of the same year I took over from Eileen Moore as Treasurer and although I had done transcription work for Eileen on projects I was shocked to discover just how much work she did for the Society. It included not only membership and banking but journal distribution which, after we changed to a new printer in Whetstone, not far from where I worked at Tally-Ho, North Finchley, enabled me to collect the journals, pack and attach postage stamps ready to send out to new members. These were posted at Tally-Ho by my 'Saturday Girls'.

The Barnet Branch was already in existence at that time and were soon involved, with some members from Enfield, in the recording of Monumental Inscriptions under the co-ordination of the late Doreen Willcocks. As Treasurer I was thrilled to be involved with the late Kerry Jones and Janet Lewis (Chairman and Secretary respectively), Rena King (Bookstall) and the late David Stewart in the formation and launch of the City Branch at Guildhall Library on Maundy Thursday April 1983. Susan Lumas, then working in the research room at the Public Record Office, Chancery Lane joined that day and later became Society Projects Officer, a post she held for many years, steering us through the indexing of the 1851 census and co-ordinating the 1881 census project, both of which were undertaken by many of our members, not only here in the UK but overseas as well. Later a fourth branch was founded in Islington.

Since those heady days there have been great changes. Not least the closure of a number of inner London repositories, St Catherine's House (BMD certificates are now obtained from Southport), the PRO, with removal to Kew (National Archives) and the Greater London Record Office (GLRO). For me, with their closure the thrill of research was gone. However, in working for many years as a Monday Volunteer at the Society of Genealogists when Anthony Camp was Director, both before and after I

retired from work, repairing microfiche viewers and doing other necessary electrical jobs, I was able to use the wonderful county collections in the library to further my research. Today in central London the SoG is still very much used and we are fortunate to still have the Guildhall Library (again with a wonderful collection of books and records), London Metropolitan Archives, Friends House (Quaker records) and the College of Arms as well as local record offices and libraries within the London Boroughs.

By the time you read this I may have already left my late 19c terraced house in Enfield where I have lived for forty-nine years and moved to a lovely stone-built house in the Northamptonshire village of Wollaston, to be near my remaining family. I will of course miss Enfield and the many lovely people, members and non-members, who I have met and communicated with over the years. A sincere thank you to you all.

As a 'Life Member' of the Society I will still receive METROPOLITAN and may submit the occasional article but with more time on my hands I intend to put 'Pen to Paper' and write about the fascinating forty-eight years I spent working in wholesale and retail in Barnet, New Barnet, Southgate, North Finchley and in the 'West End' of London where I was privileged to meet and serve many famous people. They included a cousin of Prince Philip, a Royal Midwife, a Royal 'Best Man' and many famous stars of television, screen and radio.

**Anne Prudames, *Membership Secretary***

**As a temporary measure, please send all renewals to: c/o 93 Leicester Road, New Barnet, Herts EN5 5EL.**

***Islington Gazette, Friday 13 October 1871***

DEATH – On the 4<sup>th</sup> inst, suddenly, at his residence, 23 Union-road, Tufnell-park, Zacharias BAMBERGER, aged 59

## MINOR INJURIES

Nowadays a trip to the local hospital's A&E department may warrant a notation to friends via social media but in the past, luckily for us family historians, it was sometimes reported in the newspapers.

The following 17 incidents were mentioned in a North London local paper and include biographical details, such as ages and addresses, allowing the people to be positively identified.

### *Islington Gazette*, 20 August 1872

#### ACCIDENTS

Since Saturday, the 10<sup>th</sup> inst., the following casualties were treated at the Great Northern Hospital, Caledonian-road, by the resident medical officers, Drs WILLIAMS and ALLEN:-

On the 10<sup>th</sup> inst., Jane WOODMAN, aged 38 years, of 129 Liverpool-road, had her lip cut right through by her husband, who struck her with a pair of bellows.

On Sunday the 11<sup>th</sup> an infant named LEE of 5 Bemerton-street, fell out of bed and was severely bruised on the shoulder.

On the same day, Eliza ROGERS, aged 50, of 7 Edward-square, Caledonian-road, was going up some steps near her house when she fell and broke her arm.

On the same day, Charles GARRETT, aged 30, of 16 Story-street, severely cut his hand with fragments of a pane of glass he accidentally broke.

On the same day, Charles ISAACS, aged 56 of 35 Bemerton-street, fell over a form, and bruised his chest and shin badly.

On the same day, John REID, aged 36, of 57 Outram-street, was trodden upon by a horse and had his toe crushed.

On Monday, the 12<sup>th</sup> inst., James CUTTS, aged 24, of 13 Blundell-street, was kicked by a horse in Mills' cab-yard, Roman-road, and sustained a fracture of the jaw.

On the same day, Thomas ROUTH, aged four years, of 13 Freeling-street, fell down in the street and severely cut his forehead.

On the same day, Frederick McKENZIE, aged six years, of 48 Bemerton-street, sprained his ankle while walking along the street.

On Tuesday last, Martha MANNING, aged seven years, of 2 Frances-street, fell down in the street and bruised her knee

On the same day, Charles WYATT, aged 17, of 40 Bemerton-street, was run over by a cart in Stroud's-vale, but he was only slightly injured.

On Wednesday, Thomas PETITT, aged 23 years, of 54 Lusada-street, Bethnal-green, fell off a wall at Wilson's yard, a distance of twenty feet, and sprained his wrist and severely bruised his back.

On Thursday, Emma PEACH, aged 10 years, of 21 John-street West, fell downstairs with a jug in her hand and, the jug breaking, badly cut her arm.

On the same day, Ernest GAYNER, aged 5 years, of 13 Goodman-street, Seven Sisters'-road, was trampled upon by some boys with whom he was playing and sustained some bruises of the chest.

On Saturday, Henry TATHAM, aged 30 years, of 24 Caledonian-street, fell out of a cart, and bruised and abraded his shoulder and elbow.

On the same day, George ANDREW, aged 39, of 1 Upper Bemerton-street, was quarrelling with another man, when the latter threw a tumbler at him. The tumbler struck his nose and breaking, so severely cut him that a large piece of glass had to be extracted from the flesh.

On Sunday, Edward GOFFREY, aged eight years, of 138 Copenhagen-street, fell against the spikes of some garden railings and cut his lip through.

According to the Lost Hospitals of London website, the Great Northern Hospital was founded, at his own expense, by Dr Sherard Freeman STATHAM, an assistant surgeon, who had been dismissed from University College Hospital for smacking a patient's bottom.

The hospital opened in 1856 at York Road, moving to Caledonian Road in the 1860s. It received additional funding from the Midland, Great Northern and Metropolitan Railways as their employees received treatment there.

Records from the hospital are kept at London Metropolitan Archives.

**Sources:**

Hospital Records Database (which is a joint project between The National Archives and the Wellcome Library, providing information on the existence and location of the records of UK hospitals:

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/hospitalrecords/details.asp?id=1244>

Lost Hospitals of London: <http://ezitis.myzen.co.uk/royalnorthern.html>

Newspaper archives: <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/>

**ADOPTION RECORDS**

By Rena King, Member No. 109

In 1927 the official registration of adoptions was introduced in England, with similar systems brought in for Scotland in 1930 and Northern Ireland in 1931. However, for some London Boroughs there are Board of Guardians or Workhouse Records which contain a type of adoption or similar records from as far back as 1867! There are also many other categories relating to children, so whatever the London Borough, check the records now held at the London Metropolitan Archives:

Bethnal Green	Registers of Lost children 1897-1929 History Sheets of Children 1896-1906 Register of Adoptions 1914-1925
Camberwell	Registers of Children Emigrating 1893-1926/7 Registers of Children 1882-1894 Registers of Children Adopted 1896-1930
Chelsea	Registers of Deserted Children 1889-1932
Fulham	Registers of Children 1870-1926 Registers of Children emigrating 1899-1928
Greenwich	Registers of Adoptions 1889-1931 Lists of Children 1901-1910; 1917-1928
Hackney	Registers of Adoptions 1903-1931 Registers of Children 1879-1930
Hammersmith	Registers of Children 1895-1931
Hampstead	Registers of Children 1854-1917
Holborn	Registers of Children 1868-1922
Islington	List of Children 1849-1919 Registers of Deserted Children 1889-1931 Registers of Emigrating Children 1912-1913
Lambeth	Registers of Adoptions 1901-1930 Registers of Children Emigrating 1900-1930 Registers of Children Adopted 1901-1930
Lewisham	Registers of Deserted Children 1899-1927
Limehouse	Registers of Deserted Children 1889-1924 Emigrant Children 1911-1915
St George in the East	Registers of Adoptions 1900-1924

St George Hanover Square	Registers of Deserted Children 1889-1897 Registers of Children 1890-1917
St Giles/ St George, Bloomsbury	Registers of Deserted Children 1878-1904
St Martin in the Fields	Registers of Children 1819-1855 Registers of Children 1865-1867
St Marylebone	Adoptions Agreements 1867-1918 Registers of Deserted Children 1890-1896
St Olave, Surrey	Casebook of Children 1892-1930
Shoreditch	Registers of Deserted Children 1870-1921
Southwark, St Saviour Strand	Registers of Adopted Children 1893-1914 Registers of Deserted Children 1899-1912 Registers of Children 1864-1883
Wandsworth	Various Registers of Children 1874-1933
Westminster	Registers of Deserted Children 1899-1912
Whitechapel	Registers of Children 1871-1927 Registers of Deserted Children 1889-1923
Woolwich	Registers of Deserted Children 1900-1931

There is a very useful booklet – *London, Middlesex and Surrey Workhouse Records* by Cliff Webb, published in 1998.



## STRAYS

Roger Christian, Strays Co-ordinator of the Isle of Man Family History Society, has kindly sent details of the following London people to us:

In loving memory/ of/ THOMAS SWALES/ formerly of London/ who died September 14th 1901/ aged 64 years/ Until the day breaks/ and the shadows flee away/ also of MARY/ wife of the above/ who died June 3rd 1931/ aged 81 years/ Peace, Perfect Peace.

Source: MI No. S.49. Maughold Churchyard, Isle of Man

## WEBSITE NEWS

### **Children's Homes**

This website was created by Peter Higginbotham after he had accumulated much information on various children's institutions whilst working on his workhouse website (<http://www.workhouses.org.uk>)

This Children's Homes website aims to provide information on all those many and varied institutions that became home for thousands of children and young people in Britain. These range from orphanages, homes for those in poverty or with special needs, through to reformatories, industrial and approved schools, training ships and hostels. As well as details of each home's location, history and so on, the site includes many maps, census listings and hundreds of historic images of the buildings and their inmates.

The organised provision of residential care for children who were orphaned, abandoned, impoverished, abused, or otherwise in need of shelter and protection, goes back to at least the sixteenth century. One early establishment was Henry VIII's Bridewell Palace, given to the City of London in 1553 by his successor, Edward VI, for use as an orphanage and also as a place of correction for the 'disorderly poor'.

In the 1850s, the growing provision of charitably-run reformatories led to the legal recognition of Reformatory Schools where juvenile offenders could be committed by the courts. Sometime afterwards, a similar status was given to Certified Industrial Schools where children involved in matters such as begging and vagrancy, or who were considered in moral danger, could be placed alongside 'voluntary' cases. The homes provided firm discipline together with training in trades such as carpentry, tailoring, shoemaking, agricultural work and, for girls, domestic activities such as housework and laundry work. In 1933, Reformatories and Industrial Schools were replaced by Approved Schools which, in turn, gave way to local authority run Community Homes in 1969.

One example on this website is the London Female Preventive and Reformatory Institution at Camden Town, which was established in about 1866 for penitent 'fallen' young women. This replaced a previous establishment in New Cross and was succeeded by one in Chelsea. The website details where records can be found and provides a bibliography and links to further sites.

This useful website can be found at: <http://www.childrenshomes.org.uk/>



## London Photographers

This website, *photoLondon*, is a database of photographers and allied trades in London from 1841-1901, taken from research compiled by David Webb. There are approximately 9,000 biographical entries on photographic companies and the people who worked within the photographic industry. Information has been collated from trade directories and census records. If you have a Victorian photograph taken in London, this database may well be able to help you date it.

For example, Francis John KEELEY was born in Holborn in 1868. His studio was at 48 Greyhound Road, Hammersmith from 1898-1899; by 1901 he was a cab washer and groom living in St Pancras. He died in Islington in 1927. It is worth bearing in mind that it is very rare for the negatives and business records of small photographic companies to have survived. Family history researchers should also be aware that it is extremely unlikely that the negative number written on the back of a portrait photograph will lead to an identification of the sitter. Nevertheless, if you have a photograph in your collection it may well be of a relative and this site can help you date it, which could help put a name to it. The website is no longer being edited yet it still is a very useful resource. You can find it at: <http://www.photolondon.org.uk/>

## Catholic Parish Registers in Ireland

This website contains images from the National Library of Ireland's (NLI) collection of Catholic parish register microfilms. These registers contain records of baptisms and marriages from the majority of Catholic parishes in Ireland and Northern Ireland up to 1880. The site is free to use and as long as you know the location required it is easy to access digital copies of the registers.

If you know which parish you require you can enter that directly but entering the town's name will bring up a list of parishes in that area. Another way to locate the area of interest is via an interactive map.

A search for 'Clifden', for example, brings up a map of the area and the information that it is in the Archdiocese of Tuam in the County of Galway. Records available for this parish are:

Baptisms 1838-1855, 1856-1874, 1864-1880

Marriages 1821-1829, 1839-1855, 1858-1874, 1864-1872, 1874-1881.

Clicking on the microfilm link takes you directly to a digital copy of the register – this is not indexed, by the way!

You can find this website at: <http://registers.nli.ie/>

## **Cholera and the Thames**

This website was put together by Westminster Archives with support from the John Snow Society, WaterAid, Thames Water and the Heritage Lottery Fund. It aims to tell the story of London's battle against cholera in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the continuing battle being fought against it today. Whilst it is targeted at schoolchildren, it nevertheless contains primary sources such as Charles DICKENS's journal *Household Words*. The website focuses on Westminster and how the work of three local men, Dr John SNOW, Reverend Henry WHITEHEAD and Joseph BAZALGETTE, helped to ensure that twentieth century London was free of this killer disease. If your ancestors died of this terrible disease this website will provide useful background information at: <http://www.choleraandthethames.co.uk/>

## **Geograph**

Geograph is a volunteer project, supported by Ordnance Survey, which aims to collect, publish, organise and preserve images and information of every square kilometre of the British Isles.

It is a geography, history and photography project according to its website. It is also a game, a community and for some it's 'an excuse to get out more'. Contributors are credited with points for submissions of photographs for each location grid square and for examples of areas that have not been pictured for five years. Thus it is a historical record and so can be of use for local history purposes. What's more Geograph works under creative commons which means anyone can re-use the photos as long as they credit the photographer.

A search for 'Camden', for example, brings up 1725 images of individual shops, buildings, roads, squares, parks and so on in the Camden area.

You can find this site at: <http://www.geograph.org.uk/>

## **Ordnance Survey Maps – Six-inch England and Wales 1842-1952**

These maps, the most comprehensive topographic mapping covering all of England and Wales, are available to view online via the National Library of Scotland. They can be seen as individual sheets, or as a seamless zoomable viewed either overlaid on modern maps or seen side-by-side with them.

To look at these maps visit: <http://maps.nls.uk/os/6inch-england-and-wales/>



## MY HOBBY

By Dennis Pennyfather, Member No. 6677

I have been researching my family tree now for over 30 years, trying hard to impress friends and family who dare ask about my hobby. I was beginning to feel out of it as there didn't seem anyone in the world who shared my interest/hobby with the same passion. My wife often says I will take more of an interest in her when she's dead. I jest! Initially progress was slow, with my first family tree fitting easily onto 3 pages of A4, how times fly. When I started I made copious notes, in various places for safe keeping. What a big mistake that was as when I put something safe it stays safe and I can never find it. Eventually, as I had been given Family Tree Mk 4 one Christmas, I thought it was time to put it to use and plot the family tree. Now I use Family Historian and the family tree is spread across over 84 pages, and growing.

There were trips to London to search mainly the BMD registers for possible entries, talking to surviving family members, checking graveyards, checking the IGI index and the local record offices. Oh how I wish I had started just that bit earlier when both my grandmothers were alive! I am sure they would have loved to talk about their families, their brothers and sisters, their parents, their grandparents and family memories. I missed so much and had to find things the hard way. My wife often talks of our days out together, her in the car reading and me searching graveyards.

Progress did take place and the family tree grew as I knew more. But it wasn't too long before I hit the proverbial brick wall and there I was stuck for some while. Help sections in magazines advised this was good as it provided the opportunity to check your research and branch out laterally. Who's kidding who? Well I started back right at the beginning checking my research and then the fun started. There were errors in my research where I assumed family links and, more importantly, I couldn't check all the research as I had made error number 2, in that I did not record where the research came from. So I did start back at square one, properly this time, working forward more thoroughly and recording where each piece of research came from, in case I had to check again, and also recording any/all occurrences of PENNYFATHER in case they came in useful later. This time it worked much better and I corrected many simple mistakes I had made, adding new family

members as I went. Guess what? Yes I still ended up back at the same wall but at least now my research was done properly.

The advice in the magazines is to go round the wall and it could be possible to smash the wall that way. It was worth a try and it would extend the family research. I then followed all the family lines I had come across both ways to living descendants and to ancestors. Due mainly to expense I stopped where any female relative married unless I came across any information in censuses, the free BMD and parish records. Guess what? Back at the same wall, well in part. I now had a much larger family and quite a lot of PENNYFATHER information not related to any members of the family so far. Once it was one A4 folder, now it was 5, or at least that's what I told the wife, the other 3-4 I must have forgot to tell her about!

In extending my research I had discovered the fact that George was a widower when he married in 1819 and therefore I started to look for his first wife and any children of that marriage. There was only one possible match for George. If true, he married Ann LAWRENCE in 1812 in Camberwell and there were two children from that marriage in Woolwich. Following Martha, the second child from this marriage, there were several instances whereby the matches were too many for coincidence alone. Martha's father was named George, he was a blacksmith by trade, Martha was living in the same house on two censuses as the family in the 1851 and 1861 censuses, and Martha or her new family were witnesses on several BMD certificates for the family. So Martha and that meant George had to be one and the same family.

It was about this time my research changed gear when out of the blue I received a most unexpected but most welcome telephone call from a fellow family tree researcher, Trevor. This man must be as mad as me, I thought! He shared the same interest in family trees and wanted to share research to move forward. If any of you have been to a family records centre to go through the BMD indexes you will understand how much Trevor has brought to my research for which I cannot thank him enough. He not only spent some considerable time copying down all the PENNYFATHER and variants from the indexes but shared it willingly with others. Till this point I had worked more or less on my own, collecting information for myself and using it for myself. Sharing such information was totally new to me I admit. What if you

gave out everything and got nothing back? Trevor was there to show me that sharing reaps so many rewards. My thanks to all those over the years who have shared their information with me, which has helped me so much. I wouldn't be where I am now without all the help I have received.

This one step made so much difference to my family research in that it was easier to be able to order certificates from the index knowing you would get the right ones, as I find it very difficult with work to get to London even though it's not that far. I put the indexes into an Excel sheet, my preferred database, from which I could plot and possibly match family lines, members, those born in the same areas, same wife's maiden name, etc. My research as a result grew so much over the next few years and we shared research to progress both our PENNYFATHER lines, knowing that one day we would be one big family. Through Trevor's mailing list I came in contact with Mandy, Mike & Sue, Peta, and Jack & Margaret. Together we shared our research and from that I was able to confirm my own findings. We had come to the same conclusions/research and were able to complete family lines, particularly where female members of the family had married.

Despite all this knowledge I was still stuck at the same brick wall I had reached over 21 years before. The next stage was continuing on from research I had done with Mandy and a new contact Robert from America, who appeared to share the same line as Mandy. It soon became clear that they did indeed share the same overall line with some common ancestors but each had followed their own branches of the line. From my old records I dug out all family lines not yet linked to trees and rechecking some old emails between members on Trevor's emailing list, such as Susan and Jan, I found that they also shared that PENNYFATHER line. I was able to follow on from their individual research and combined it all together to make one clear line which went back into parish records. With research in parish registers I was able to go back to a Thomas in 1815. From these parish records I worked out that Thomas was baptised in 1785 but at that time I had no idea where, or who any members of his family might be.

When stuck for a while I would move onto another PENNYFATHER line with the hope that one line of research will bring that eventual breakthrough. With Trevor we were able to follow his PENNYFATHER line back into parish records, and again to an unknown parish area looking for a Richard

PENNYFATHER. Things began to point to one family and thinking back to my direct line and earlier research, bells started to ring. George's possible first wife was Ann LAWRENCE and I already knew they were married in Camberwell. George's baptism was also around this date 1780/1790. An urgent visit to London to check the Camberwell parish records and yes George had a brother Thomas baptised in the right time and even more so had a brother Richard also of the right time frame.

A breakthrough had come in that George, Thomas and Richard were brothers and we all were of the same PENNYFATHER line. That's Trevor, Mandy, Robert, Susan, Jan, Peta, Mike & Sue, Jack & Margaret, and others. I have combined my research for these lines, but not my direct line at this time. Before I fully integrate my line I would like to confirm the burial for Ann PENNYFATHER, George's first wife and smash my brick wall. If only the burial record found from 1815 for an Ann had stated 'wife of George', given George's occupation 'Smith or Blacksmith', or abode as 'Spray Buildings, Woolwich'. I never seem to have such luck. You read in the magazines of others finding coroner's reports, articles in newspapers about deaths, family bibles full of information - when's my turn to have such a find?

I must apologise to anyone I have not mentioned, as there were many fellow researchers who helped in one way or another, since my small beginnings. Can I thank everyone who has helped in any way with the work researching PENNYFATHERs and the variants.

***Cornishman, Thursday 7 October 1897***

**EXPERIMENTING WITH PAUPERS' FOOD**

At a recent meeting of the Edmonton guardians it was reported that the master of the Enfield workhouse, a small house used for the accommodation of aged paupers, had been experimenting with regard to the supply of bread to the inmates by giving each one only as much as he or she wanted instead of serving out to all alike the exact quantity laid down by the orders of the Local Government Board. The result had been a saving of 56lb of bread in the four weeks. The Board approved of this course and directed that the same system should be adopted in regard to the meat.

## A WATERLOO CONNECTION

By Alan Baldwin, Member No. 4425

Samuel Fortnom COX is the 2x great-grandfather of my wife, Margaret Helen Fortnom BALDWIN (née COX) who, at the age of 19 years and 9 months, fought at Waterloo. Samuel was born in Bengal on 21 September 1795, the son of Samuel COX, a Captain in the Bengal Army and his second wife Caroline (née FORTNOM). Captain COX rose to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel before retiring in 1801 when he returned to England to live at his home, Sandford Park, at Sandford St Martin in Oxfordshire.

Samuel Fortnom (shown in the picture below) joined the Life Guards as a Cornet in June 1814 and was a Lieutenant by the 17 June 1815 when the 1<sup>st</sup> Life Guards took part in the Battle of Waterloo. They formed part of the rear-guard covering the withdrawal from Quatre Bras and then participated in a counter-attack at the village of Gemappes. On the day of the Battle, the 18 June, they were in the main cavalry charge which routed the first French infantry attack. They then helped to defend the British infantry squares against the French cavalry and joined in the main advance in the closing stages of the battle.



During the battle Lieutenant COX suffered a neck wound which never healed properly and caused him trouble during the rest of his life. In June 1820, he married Mary Elizabeth SHEFFIELD (pictured right) third daughter of Sir Robert SHEFFIELD of Normanby, Lincolnshire. They had 13 children, four girls and nine boys.



Samuel retired from the 1<sup>st</sup> Life Guards in 1829 with the rank of Captain and died on November 1849 at his home, Sandford Park. He was buried in the churchyard of St Martin's Church. Samuel's horse, 'Waterloo Jack', had previously been buried just outside the churchyard. Its precise location became lost but when the churchyard was expanded, a horse's head was found when digging another grave!

The family continued to live at Sandford Park until it was sold in about 1852 by Lieutenant Francis Edward COX, Samuel and Mary's second son. Presumably he had previously bought it from his mother. Samuel and Mary's fifth son Charles Percy COX, my wife's great-grandfather, escaped the family tradition of a military career, and emigrated to New Zealand.



## UNWANTED CERTIFICATES

The Society has received three unwanted certificates. Please contact the Editors if you are interested in any of them.

Birth: Ida Maud May HASLER, born 17 February 1873 at Honey Lane, Waltham Abbey, daughter of Thomas HASLER, Inn Keeper and Elizabeth, formerly PEARCE.

Birth: Elizabeth PEARCE, born 25 June 1840 of 5 Little Titchfield Street, St Marylebone, daughter of John PEARCE, painter and Sarah, formerly ALLEN

Marriage: Thomas HASLER, full age, bachelor, farmer of Granby Street, St Pancras, son of Thomas HASLER, farmer married Elizabeth PEARCE, full age, spinster of Granby Street, daughter of David PEARCE, deceased on 21 August 1862 at St Matthew, Bedford New Town, St Pancras.

The Editors have these certificates but they were sent in by Brian Margetson, who would be happy to hear from anyone who recognised these names in case they have the answer he seeks! You can contact him at:  
Email: [familyhistory@brianmargetson.co.uk](mailto:familyhistory@brianmargetson.co.uk)



## JOTTINGS

### **Athlone House, Highgate**

The 1871 census returns show merchant and aniline dye manufacturer Edward BROOKE and his large household living in Muswell Hill but by 1881 they were installed in the newly-constructed Athlone House, then called Caen Wood Towers.



The south view of Caen Wood Towers circa 1900  
from *London Leaders: Historic Families, Ancestral Estates*, 1907.

In *A Series of Picturesque Views of Seats of Noblemen and Gentlemen of Great Britain and Ireland* (1880) there is a description of the building:

‘The house is of a highly ornamented character throughout and the interior especially is richly decorated with carving. The ante-hall is laid with black and white marble and the chimney-pieces here and in other rooms are richly carved from designs by the architects. The ceilings of the dining-rooms, the halls, the morning room and library are of panelled wainscot, moulded and carved with an

elaborately-carved chimney-piece in the dining room, also of wainscot, worked up to the ceiling. On either side of the dining-room chimney-piece are windows looking into a fernery with fountains. The upper portion of the windows above the transom is fitted with stained glass; the large one with the armorial bearings of the BROOKE family for eighteen generations; the side-lights with subjects from Tennyson's poems. In the windows in the billiard-room are representations of various out-door sports and pastimes, as hunting, cricket, archery, etc also in stained glass.

The morning room is lined with old Cordova leather, brought from Antwerp, which was put up in a mansion there when Antwerp was under Spanish rule; it is in a fine state of preservation. The ceiling of this room is decorated to agree with the leather, the upper portions of the windows being fitted with designs of the seasons; the frieze of the cornice having heads modelled from Scriptural subjects.'

The next 20 years saw a succession of wealthy families occupying the house, first Francis RECKITT followed by Sir Francis CORY-WRIGHT, Thomas Frame THOMPSON and then Charles Henry WATSON.

In World War I the building was used as a military convalescent hospital under the name of the American Hospital for English Soldiers. During World War II, the building was secretly used as an RAF Intelligence Training School whilst purportedly being a convalescence home for RAF officers.

The Ministry of Health acquired the site in 1951 and Caen Wood Towers was converted into a convalescent home for the Middlesex Hospital. It was renamed Athlone House in 1955.

The NHS sold the building in 2003 and the new owners were given planning permission to build blocks of flats in the garden on condition that they restore the house to its former glory, a condition which is currently being enforced following a Whitehall planning inspector's ruling.

### **The Great Arkley Kiln Mystery**

Hendon & District Archaeological Society (HADAS) has been reviewing pottery finds from Kings Road, Arkley. Some 2000 pieces were excavated in the 1960s and these have been dated to the 12<sup>th</sup> century. All of the sherds came from pots that did not fire properly in a kiln and although some fire bars have been found, the actual location of the kiln is not known. More recently pottery has turned up in gardens in Galley Lane.

HADAS believes that more ceramic pieces and perhaps the kilns themselves are lying beneath the gardens and houses in this part of Arkley. They would love to know if anyone has found any pottery in their gardens or has come across unknown structures which could be kilns. If this is you, please contact them via the email addresses mentioned on their website: [www.hadas.org.uk](http://www.hadas.org.uk)

### **Hendon War Memorial**

THE names of 228 men killed in action in the Second World War have been added to the war memorial at Hendon, their home town, thanks to the hard work and dogged determination of Catherine Loveday. The unveiling ceremony takes place on Sunday, September 20 at the Hendon War Memorial in Watford Way, and starts at 3pm.

Catherine's interest in war memorials stems from her youth growing up in East Barnet. Although she had lost her father, Stanley Chapman, in the Second World War, his name did not appear on the War Memorial there. After much campaigning she managed to have his name added in 1995 and then she realised that there must be many more names that needed to be added. (See METROPOLITAN for October 2010 and July 2011.)

After retiring, she began to research the names of other men across Barnet who were killed in the war. Following successful campaigns for permission to do so, she managed to have their names inscribed on war memorials in East Barnet and New Barnet, the money for this being raised through public donations and collections in supermarkets.

Mrs Loveday now has her sights set on honouring soldiers she has also found during her research who came from Finchley and Edgware.

### **Buckinghamshire FHS Open Day at Aylesbury**

Saturday 25 July 2015 brought sunny weather, as is often the case for this annual event and that definitely lifts the spirits of all concerned whether exhibitors such as our Society or visitors.

Our stand was soon set up by our team of Alan Baldwin, Eileen Bostle, Diana Copnall, Doreen Heywood and me, working to a general layout which we have adopted over several years. It means that we are usually able to find a specific item without undue difficulty and that gives us more time to deal with the many queries from visitors.

The questions, and the visitors, vary a lot. One minute it's a matter of the area we do, or don't, cover: "But Hackney is in Middlesex, isn't it?" "Yes, but it's in the East of London FHS area and they are not here today. Maybe

we can help a bit if you tell us the problem?” Then there may be someone who is new to researching their Family History, or has encountered a knotty problem, and needs some guidance – that’s when we draw on our collective knowledge and experience and sometimes we learn something new from each other in the process.

Then the unexpected may happen, as on this occasion when someone noticed the unusual maiden name of her grandmother on one of our name badges! In discussing places, dates etc the possibility of some connections emerged and will be followed up – so you might discover ancestors by helping at an Open Day!

Our next visit is to the West Surrey Open Day at Woking – see below.

## **West Surrey FHS Open Day**

Saturday 31 October 2015 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)

## **RON COLEMAN**

### **1928 – 2015: Member Number 36**

A membership number of 36 shows that Ron was almost a founding member (Nos. 1-31) of the Family History Society known in 1978 as the North Middlesex FHS.



That may just seem ancient history to many of our current members – with a reference to someone they have never met or heard of – whereas there are others around the world with reason to be very grateful to Ron.

Born in Whitstable, Kent, Ron moved to London with his mother soon after and lived in Wood Green, Middlesex for many years. He joined the RAF after leaving Minchenden Grammar School, Southgate and met his wife Pat at an RAF reunion. Family life with four children was always very important to Ron who spent most of his working life in the newspaper industry and carried out voluntary work for the Metropolitan

Police. His main hobby for years was researching his own family tree but he also helped many others with their investigations and some became friends.

The Society changed its name to London and North Middlesex FHS to describe its area more clearly and it offered a Courier Service for members who could not get to St Catherine's house in London for the birth, marriage and death certificates they required. Ron was involved in that enterprise and he also undertook research on behalf of many individuals in central London record repositories such as The Public Record Office in Chancery Lane (now The National Archives at Kew), the Census Rooms in Portugal Street and the Society of Genealogists (SoG) which he joined in 1991.

For himself, Ron found seven years ago that his father had remarried, he had two half-sisters he knew nothing about and he was able to reunite other

family members who had lost contact. His children have been amazed to discover the extent of his researches but daughter Hazel has found that gaps in their tree eluded him. (A future retirement job!) His grandson's early experience is a lesson for all of us: confused at family events by captivating stories about three wonderful people he did not know called Henry, Pearson and Ron, he found that different people used these different names for his Granddad! To our Society he was Ron, to the SoG he was Henry Ronald Coleman and Henry Pearson Ronald Coleman to officialdom.

## **MORE UNWANTED CERTIFICATES**

The Society has received seven unwanted certificates. Please contact the Editors if you are interested in any of them.

Birth: Walter John CROWE, born 15 November 1852 at 25 Holly Street, Dalston, the son of Angus CROWE and Elizabeth, formerly SUTTON.

Birth: Kate JONES, born 29 November 1870 at 11 Sefton Road, Kingsland, West Hackney, the daughter of Thomas Jones and Elizabeth, formerly SMITH.

Birth: Kate JONES, born 22 December 1863 at 19 Ashford Street, Hoxton Old Town, the daughter of Thomas JONES and Elizabeth Emily, formerly MAY.

Birth: Kate Elizabeth JONES, born 3 October 1865 at 20 Duke Street, Marylebone, the daughter of Florence Catherine Emily JONES.

Birth: Kate Elizabeth JONES, born 9 February 1863 at 8 Pavilion, Battersea, the daughter of Thomas Richard JONES and Charlotte, formerly SMITH.

Marriage: John PEARCE, age 23, bachelor, Baker's Assistant of 59 Lisson Street, son of Jeffrey William PEARCE, sadler married Florence BURTENSHAW, age 25, spinster of 14 Highworth Street, St Marylebone, daughter of Alfred BURTENSHAW, decorator on 16 February 1913 in the Parish Church, St Marylebone.

Death: Alfred BURTENSHAW age 37, Builder's labourer of 43 Graham Road, Edmonton, died in Edmonton Infirmary on 20 October 1914

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.

### **FARMERS OF HAREFIELD**

The FARMERS seem to have been living in Harefield for many generations. For example, I have a will for Russell FARMER 1689-1737 (married to Sarah AUSTIN) and four generations later there is another RUSSELL (1765-1795). How can I be sure that RUSSELL 1 and RUSSELL 2 are indeed linked? But more to the point, RUSSELL 2 (1765-1795) met a sad end (hanged outside Newgate for theft) leaving wife Mary and three children, one of them - Henry - was born 8 days before his father's sad demise. Another son Russell John 1834 - 1900 was my great x something grandfather. But how to be sure that this is a direct link and I haven't confused sons and fathers and so on?

*Ms E Rothman, Member No 7919*

*11 Carlton Hill, London NW8 0JX*

*Email: eclaireir@aol.com*

Note: This must be a question that a lot of family historians ask themselves and there is a way to minimise the risk of mixing up generations or cousins when you have gone beyond the period of civil registration and are having to rely on parish registers.

What you have to do is to extract all mentions of the surname you are looking for from the baptisms, marriages and burials and to use these to reconstruct the family. With families that have lived in one location for many years, as yours seem to have done, it should be possible to do this. For instance, you know Russell FARMER married Sarah AUSTIN. Their marriage or at least their banns may well be included in the parish registers and their children will appear after their marriage date as so-and-so, son/daughter of Russell and Sarah FARMER.

## 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 15 October  | <i>Bells of London: Oranges and Lemons</i><br>by John Neal |
| Thursday 19 November | <i>Crime and Punishment</i><br>by Antonia Davis            |
| Thursday 17 December | No Meeting   |

### **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 24 September | <i>Huguenots</i><br>by Michael Gandy                                    |
| Thursday 29 October   | <i>St John Ambulance</i><br>by Alan Gilding                             |
| Thursday 26 November  | <i>MacDonald Gill: Maps, Memorials and Murals</i><br>by Caroline Walker |
| Thursday 31 December  | No Meeting  |

### **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 7 October  | <i>EA Bowles and his Gardens at Myddelton House</i><br>by Christine Murphy |
| Wednesday 4 November | <i>Ancestors in the King's Service</i><br>by Michael Gandy                 |



Wednesday 2 December Christmas Social  
Wednesday 6 January TBA

**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 September *Wellington's Waterloo*  
by Ken Divall  
Friday 9 October Members' Evening  
Friday 13 November *Northolt in the News: Highs & Lows of 19th Century Village Life*  
by Tricia Sutton  
Friday 11 December Members' Christmas Event

**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 September A talk by two of our members.  
Monday 26 October *The Broken Branch*  
by Ian Waller  
Monday 23 November Pre-Christmas Members' Evening – Talks and Raffle  
Monday 28 December 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**

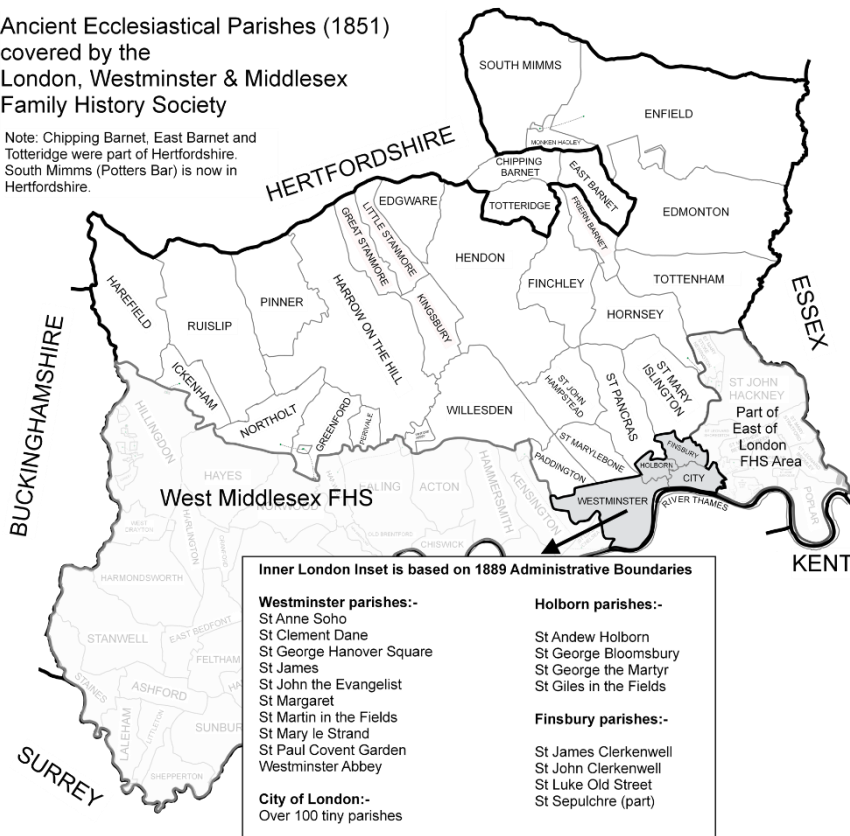
All copy, correspondence and remittances should be sent to the Editors.

See inside front cover for address.

# A MAP OF THE SOCIETY'S AREA

Ancient Ecclesiastical Parishes (1851)  
covered by the  
London, Westminster & Middlesex  
Family History Society

Note: Chipping Barnet, East Barnet and  
Totteridge were part of Hertfordshire.  
South Mimms (Potters Bar) is now in  
Hertfordshire.



**Please remember that the copy date for the next issue of  
METROPOLITAN is 1 November 2015**

## **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.

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**BANKERS**: HSBC Bank plc, Angel Branch, 25 Islington High St, London N1 9LJ

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