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# METROPOLITAN

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**LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX**  
Family History Society



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## CONTENTS

2	Editorial
3	Chairman's Comments
4	Letters to the Editors
7	Website News
10	Wines, Spirits, Ales and Stout
12	The Lady's Maid
16	Focus on Facebook
18	Church Photos: Update
19	GRO Certificates
20	Jottings
22	My Favourite Ancestor
24	<a href="http://www.lwmfhs.org.uk">www.lwmfhs.org.uk</a>
28	<i>Help!</i>
34	Forthcoming Branch Meetings
38	Mystery Photo

Cover picture: St John the Evangelist, Palmers Green © Elizabeth Burling

See article on page 18  
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## EDITORIAL

In this issue we have a cheering and amazing tale of connection via the internet. We were contacted by Jeanette Martin regarding a photograph she had of her grandfather, Ted COX, in a football team, thought to be in the 1930s. The Editors have no expertise regarding football so we decided to put the photograph on our Facebook page. We shared this post to other groups who were interested in family history and photography and came up trumps! We were contacted by a gentleman who had seen the very same photograph on the wall of his brother-in-law's house. See page 30 for the outcome of this tale.

This sort of connection is one of the best parts of family history research. The more of us who keep in touch, either by being a member of a family history society, or looking at a Facebook page, or a blog or any other way, the more we can potentially find out regarding our brick walls or just subjects that interest us.

Do you have a favourite ancestor who particularly interests you? We have an article on page 22 about one. Maybe you could write a short piece about yours, and why this ancestor means so much to you.

Our item on Muswell Hill from the September issue has elicited a couple of responses. Perhaps articles on other areas would also be welcome? Could you help with an article? Perhaps provide the photographs? Or is there an area in which you are especially interested? If so, the Editors would love to hear from you.

In the meantime, we would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

### **The Editorial Team**

**Please remember that the copy date for the next issue of  
METROPOLITAN is 1 February 2017**

## CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

In discussion at a recent Branch meeting there was praise for new *online* indexes from the General Register Office (GRO) for England and Wales. One user of the internet wondered how those without it now managed to get copies of birth, marriage and death certificates.

The answer is in a booklet *Discover your Family History* (Free, A5 24pp). Publisher: General Register Office: part of Her Majesty's Passport Office. Relevant to everyone, particularly new or potential researchers, it covers:

1. the role of the GRO for England and Wales;
2. the certificates available and their content (illustrated by 'help sheets' - examples with explanations of each panel's content);
3. the GRO index reference needed to order any certificate:
  - what it is (year, quarter, registration district, volume and page number)
  - where it can be found to view free of charge in microfiche format\*
  - the online source at [www.freebmd.org.uk](http://www.freebmd.org.uk), the volunteer digitising project
  - warnings about organisations which make the index available online but may charge for the information which is freely available elsewhere
4. the various ways to place an order and pay for a certificate;
5. how to contact the General Register Office\*\* and others, for eg Scotland.

The new online 'historic' indexes of birth and death registrations provide the mother's maiden name back to 1837 (previously from 1911 onwards); the age at death back to 1837 (previously from 1866 onwards). The GRO is now legally able to issue registration information other than as a certificate. A pilot service using PDF form is underway online. See the GRO website.

Wishing you a happy Christmas, a healthy New Year and heartening results from all your research, wherever it may take you.

**Rosemary A Roome**

\*Bridgend Local and Family History Centre; City of Westminster Archives Centre; Manchester Central Library; Newcastle City Library; Plymouth Central Library; The British Library; The Library of Birmingham.

\*\*General Register Office, PO Box 2, Southport, Merseyside PR8 2JD

Phone: +44 (0) 300 123 1837 Mon-Fri 8am-8pm, Sat 9am-4pm.

Website for booklet: [www.gov.uk/research-family-history](http://www.gov.uk/research-family-history)

Website for certificates: [www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/default.asp](http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/default.asp)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

**D**id you have an ancestor who served in the First World War and could have travelled through Peterborough by train in 1916 or 1917? If so, they may feature in a project taking place at the moment.

Peterborough used to have two railway stations. The present station was known as Peterborough North and there was also a Peterborough East.

An organisation called the Women's United Total Abstinence Council ran a coffee and tea wagon in Peterborough city centre to try and keep men away from the pubs. During the First World War they transferred to the railway station to provide refreshments for servicemen travelling through. Visitors were invited to sign a guest book and two of these books, from 1916 and 1917, survive from the East Station. An award from the Heritage Lottery Fund has enabled these guest books to be digitised, indexed and a website created.

Although mainly soldiers, some entries were from sailors and a few women also feature. Some just signed the book, others wrote messages or poems and there are also drawings. The people came from all over the country so this is not just a local project.

The main aim is to find out about the servicemen and record anything that might be known about them so bringing to life the person who wrote in the book. It is interesting generally to browse the entries on the website, reading the messages, seeing the different handwritings and the places people came from.

There is a Project Officer but most of the transcribing and research has been carried out by volunteers. They hope that anyone who recognises a name will be able to provide more information including photographs. They would be delighted to hear from you if one of your ancestors featured in the book.

The website: [www.peterboroughww1.co.uk](http://www.peterboroughww1.co.uk) has images of the pages, an index of names and any information that they already have about a serviceman. More up-to-date information is available on social media.

It is a fascinating social document and well worth looking through.

**Dorothy Harbron, Peterborough & District FHS**

**R**eading Elizabeth Burling's article on Muswell Hill in the September 2016 issue of METROPOLITAN cast my mind back to the early 1950s when I played for my old school in a Finchley club cricket league. During the season, after work, we occasionally had the opportunity of honing our

skills with bat and ball by using the indoor practice nets which were situated in a part of the Alexandra Palace complex.

I have in the back of my mind that the facility actually belonged to the Middlesex County Cricket Club and our use of it had been arranged through another Old Camdenian, George ROBB (1926-2011) who was not only a cricketer of note but also played football professionally for Tottenham Hotspur FC and England.

Incidentally, 'The People's Palace' was the BBC's main transmitting centre for London until 1956.



Team medals won during cricket seasons 1951&52

In later years I use to regularly pass through the Wood Green (Alexandra Park) railway station on a couple of evenings a week travelling between Welwyn Garden City (where I was then living and working) and Finsbury Park to attend further education classes at the then Northern Polytechnic on Holloway Road, North London.

Northern Polytechnic is now London Metropolitan University, following a merger with London Guildhall University (formerly City of London Polytechnic). According to Wikipedia, previous alumni have included Jeremy CORBYN (1949- ) and Sadiq KHAN (1970- ).

**Peter Todd, Member No. 7686**

I was very interested to read the article about Muswell Hill in the September edition of our magazine. I recognised the distinctive type of architecture immediately as my brother and I had visited recently. We were looking for the house where our father, George MUSGRAVE (1915-2012), lived with his mother Louisa, in Dukes Avenue, Muswell Hill from about 1936 to 1943.

Before this, they had lived in busy Turnpike Lane, Camden Town, so it would have been a wonderful change for them. My father wrote in his autobiography:

“Dukes Avenue was on a winding hill which stretched from the smart shopping centre of Muswell Hill Broadway to a rear entrance to Alexandra Palace, which led to the famous terrace and railway station. The houses were largely joined together, but each, with its own front garden, was a delight to view from the bay window of mother’s large front room”.

Our father had attended school in Hornsey, so had friends in the area who would often come to their new home. He always spoke very fondly of Alexandra Palace, as 1936 saw the start of the BBC and the world’s first high-definition television programmes being relayed from there – an exciting time for all. Of course, shortly after was the start of World War 2, with bombs being dropped around them, the cellar being a constant place of refuge as there was no public air-raid shelter nearby.

I’m glad our father and grandmother spent some years in such a lovely place, and it was so good to hear about the history of the area as written by Elizabeth Burling.

**Marian Crew, Member No. 4718**

***Daily Herald, Thursday 22 January 1914***

**FOR WATER BOARD WORKERS**

The National Union of Corporation Workers are holding a meeting of water board and other corporation workers on Friday at 8pm, at the Durham Club, 129 Seven Sisters-road, N., to press for 30s. per week of 48 hours, with time and a quarter and time and a half for overtime.

TE Naylor will preside.



## WEBSITE NEWS

Quite a few new and updated London resources have gone online recently – a selection of these are below.

### **Collage at LMA**

Collage is an online London picture archive, managed by London Metropolitan Archives (LMA), which provides free access to over 250,000 images of London from the collections at LMA and Guildhall Art Gallery.

There are over 250,000 photographs, prints and drawings as well as many maps available to view. The images provide a record of London and its people from the fifteenth century to the present day. The whole of Greater London is covered, as are the adjoining counties.

Some of the many highlights from the LMA collections include Hollar's stunning panorama from 1647; the sixteenth century 'Agas' map of London; photographs of Victorian London; beautifully designed twentieth century posters for London's tramways; the Cross and Tibbs photographs of Second World War damage to the City of London. The collections formerly held at the Guildhall Print Room and some 6000 images of paintings, watercolours, drawings and sculptures from the Guildhall Art Gallery collection are also available.

New content is regularly added yet there are around 2 million items still in the LMA strongroom, so please ask them if you cannot find what you are looking for.

Online, you can look for locations on a 'London Picture Map' which currently contains 52,208 individual items, check out any of their 58 collections (generally images which share common thematic or topographical links) or 30 galleries (sets of images drawn together from across the image collections).

There are a number of different ways to search and browse the images on Collage. The search box appears on every page, as does an Advanced Search facility. There is a collection of search tips to view too.

You can view this collection at: <http://collage.cityoflondon.gov.uk/>

### **London Poor Law and Board of Guardian Records, 1430-1930**

This collection includes a huge variety of different records created as a result of the Poor Laws in London. They'll help you identify who was considered poor, find out what help they received and discover details of their everyday

lives. It's possible to piece together the complete story of a person's life, from their placement at a school as a child, through their time in a workhouse, up to their final fate – be it their death or an escape from poverty.

This is a large collection of images of original records. Because the records have not yet been transcribed, it is not possible to search for people by name. Instead, documents should be identified in which ancestors are most likely to appear, these can then be browsed to look for details.

Examples of the types of records found in this collection include:

- Admission and discharge books of workhouses
- Registers of individuals in the infirmary
- Creed registers
- School registers
- Registers of children boarded out or sent to various other institutions
- Registers of apprentices
- Registers of lunatics
- Registers of servants
- Registers of children
- Registers of relief to wives and children
- Registers of inmates
- Registers of indoor poor
- Registers of deserted children

The exact information varies according to the type of record. For example, on an admission and discharge register you may see the person's name, their date of admission, age, religious persuasion, and date of discharge. On an apprentice register you can find the apprentice's name, their gender, age, the name of the person they were bound to, date of indenture, parents' names, trade, and residence. This resource is at Ancestry UK:

The following records are all on FindMyPast:

### **City of London, Gunmakers' Company Freedoms and Admissions, 1656-1936**

These 5,000 plus records consist of registers of freeman's admissions and lists of liverymen that will reveal when people were admitted to the Worshipful Company of Gunmakers, how they were admitted, and the name of the master they trained under. Images of the original documents can provide further information such as the person's relationship to their master, exact date of admission, and full address.

### **London Post Office Directories dated 1841, 1851 and 1861.**

These contain over 1.5 million records and include various lists such as a commercial directory, a trade's directory, a parliamentary directory, a street directory, and a court directory. They list names alphabetically by surname and allow you to discover a person's occupation, business address, or home address.

### **Westminster, Poor Law and Parish Administration**

This source contains over 1.7 million records including bastardy papers, admissions, examinations, pauper records, valuations, work house records and more. Both transcripts and images of the original documents are provided and the collection can be searched by name, year, place, record type and additional keywords.

### **Westminster burials**

Over 105,000 new records to this dataset cover a number of Westminster municipal cemeteries and will reveal when someone was born, when they died and where they were laid to rest. Westminster burials now contains over 1.5 million records dating back to 1538. The details vary for a number of reasons: the age of the record, how much was known about the deceased person and the physical condition of the original register. Some registers may even reveal whether your ancestors were buried in consecrated or un-consecrated ground, whether they were cremated and the cost of their burial.

### **Greater London Burial Index**

Over 99,000 new records have been added to the Greater London Burials Index. The Index comprises over 1.6 million names from more than 226 parishes in the Greater London area and includes records from both Anglican and non-conformist parishes. It also includes the City of London Burials, Middlesex Memorial Inscriptions, Middlesex & City of London Burials Index and the South London Burials Index.

Each record comprises a transcript of the original index. The amount of information listed varies, but the records usually include a combination of the following information; full name (including maiden name if female) birth year, death year, burial date, occupation, denomination, relationship and address.

## WINES, SPIRITS, ALES AND STOUT

By Dennis Galvin, Member No. 1046

I think we all give a little smile when we see a name that goes exceptionally well with the person's occupation, and it certainly fits very well with my STOUT ancestors who seemed to have taken to the licensed victuallers/inn keepers trade in quite a big way.

My 3x great grandparents were Thomas and Jane STOUT (married 14 August 1789). They had ten children, all born in a small Norfolk village called Hassingham. Three of the sons were obviously trading and travelling in the famous Norfolk Wherry boats from the broads to the Thanet coast and London.

Eldest son Thomas is on the 1841 census as Victualler at the *King William IV* pub at High Street, St John Hampstead. Second son James is Wine Victualler/Hotel Keeper at the *Royal Hotel*, Old Brentford. He had nine servants, including a lighterman and an ostler, during the 1830s-1850s period and I have an interesting report regarding the King's visit to the hostelry.

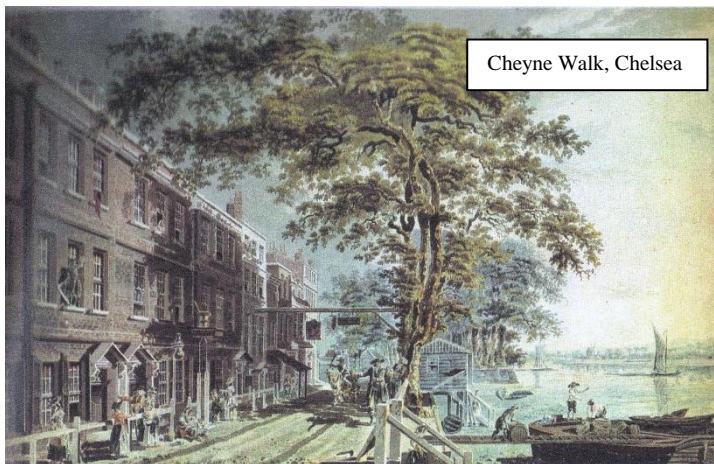
The next son my 2x great grandfather Robert is, according to Pigots Directory for 1839, inn keeper at the *Packhorse & Talbot*, Turnham Green, Chiswick. This was a very busy stop for the coaches coming and going to the West Country. However, Thomas did not appear to stay long as he then took up a very famous pub in 1844 the *Magpie & Stump*, at 34 Cheyne Walk, Chelsea. There are quite a few paintings of this quaint part of London, such as the illustration on the next page. Robert and my 2x great grandmother Louisa had two sons born at the pub, my great grandfather Robert Richard, born 1843, and his brother Thomas born 1845.

All seemed to be going well when a terrible tragedy occurred: Robert senior died aged 46. He was buried on 15 February 1851 at St Luke's, Chelsea parish church. My 2x great grandmother Louisa, together with her sister-in-law, tried to carry on at the pub for about a year. This effort and loss must have made her very ill because things got even worse and she had to return to her home town of Ramsgate where she died age 38 in 1852, thus leaving two boys aged 7 and 6 as orphans.

I would have thought the boys would be taken in by their uncle at Old Brentford but in fact they went just across the Thames to Battersea where they stayed with Thomas HOUGHTON (Professor of Dancing) and his wife and young family. I don't know how long they stayed but I next find them in 1861 living at 11 Dorrington Street, (which is close to Holborn tube station). The boys are still together, now aged 16 and 15, living with the BOWEN family. Charles BOWEN is a brass founder and the two STOUT boys are given as apprenticed brass founders.

In 1871 the boys are 26 and 25 and qualified brass founders lodging with James and Maria ROBINSON (shoemaker) at 4 William Street, Finsbury. The eldest of the two boys, my great grandfather Robert Richard, went on to marry my great grandmother Susan LOWTHER at St Thomas, Bethnal Green in 1879.

I am convinced that had my 2x great grandparents Robert and Louisa survived to a reasonable age - even for those days, those two young sons would have become publicans.



Footnote: Amazingly, and at one time, without knowing anything about the above family history, my youngest sister and her husband had the *Ingress Tavern* Northfleet, Kent and my eldest sister and her husband had the *Ship Inn* at Lade, New Romney, Kent. Furthermore my eldest daughter Kelly, whilst home from the University of Essex, had a summer job serving at the *Kings Head*, Chingford.

## **THE LADY'S MAID**

By Peter Todd, Member No. 7686

This is a story about a distant cousin of mine which I uncovered whilst researching my family history. Gertrude Mabel FOREY was born on 20 April 1906 in Hayes, Kent. Her parents were Frederick FOREY (1877-1968) and Gertrude Mabel EALES (1876-1963). They were married in Buckingham in 1903. Frederick was a motor engineer; while Gertrude, his wife, had been a school teacher in a school that was run by her father. Gertrude had an older brother, a younger brother and two younger sisters.

In the 1911 Census Gertrude was just seven and living with her mother and siblings above a garage in Hayes. I came across her again in the 1934 UK Sailing Passenger Lists. There I found her listed as a 2<sup>nd</sup> class passenger travelling as a personal maid to a 1<sup>st</sup> class passenger, Mrs Maud KERR-SMILEY, of 39 Eaton Square, London. The couple were bound for Genoa. Who was this employer? A web search soon revealed all.

Maud KERR-SMILEY (1879-1962) was born Maud SIMPSON and was the daughter of a shipbuilder. She married Peter KERR-SMILEY (1879-1943), the second son of Sir Hugh SMILEY (1841-1909) in 1905. In the same year he resigned his commission in the 21<sup>st</sup> Lancers (in which he had served as a junior officer in the latter stages of the Second Boer War) and attached his then second Christian name, Kerr, to his surname. He later joined the Royal Irish Rifles and attained the rank of major. He became an MP and represented North Antrim, a constituency of Northern Ireland from 1910 until 1922.

My next port of call in my delving into Gertrude's life was the London Electoral Registers. Because women achieved the same voting rights as men in 1928 I was hopeful of finding some mention of her after 1930. I wasn't disappointed!

In 1935 Gertrude was registered as a voter at 213 King's Road, Chelsea, London. This address was being shared with three other people, one of whom was Syrie Somerset MAUGHAM (1879-1955). The other two, I presume, were servants like Gertrude.

Gwendoline Maud Syrie BARNARDO was the daughter of Thomas BARNARDO (1845-1905), the founder of the charity, which was named

after him, for destitute children. In 1901 on a visit to Sudan with her father, Syrie met Henry WELLCOME (1853-1936). Henry was the founder of the Burroughs Wellcome pharmaceutical Company, which with other companies eventually evolved into Glaxo Smith Kline the pharmaceutical giant we know today.

Apparently the marriage, which took place in London on the 25 June 1901, was not a happy one and Syrie had a number of extra-marital relationships (including apparently one with Harry SELFRIDGE (1858-1947) - this titbit is for those who may have followed his story on TV in recent years).

During a period of separation from her husband Henry, Syrie WELLCOME became pregnant with William Somerset MAUGHAM's (1874-1965) only child, Elizabeth Mary MAUGHAM (1915-1998) who was born, out of wedlock, in Rome, Italy on the 1 September 1915. The child was initially given the surname WELLCOME but this was queried by Syrie's husband Henry who successfully sued for divorce, naming MAUGHAM as the correspondent. Syrie WELLCOME married William Somerset MAUGHAM in May 1917 in New Jersey, USA.

Through the 1920's Syrie honed her talent as an interior designer and gained an international reputation which led to her opening shops in London, New York and Chicago and designing homes, not only in this country but across the States as well. Her hall mark was to decorate her rooms in differing shades of white. The music room at 213 King's Road (mentioned above) was one of her show pieces.

After his marriage Somerset MAUGHAM continued to devote most of his time to his writing; drawing variously on his experiences as an erstwhile medic, a one-time spy and as an addicted traveller. In reality the marriage was a sham, not helped by the fact that William was having relationships with men, in particular his secretary Frederick HAXTON (1892-1944). Syrie divorced William Somerset MAUGHAM in 1929. There is much more about the MAUGHAMs on line and I have appended references for those who may wish to delve further, at this moment though I want to return to my main theme that of Gertrude FOREY's life story.

On the 20 July, 1936 at St Margaret's Church in Westminster the divorcee Elizabeth Mary MAUGHAM married Lt Colonel Vincent Rudolph

PARAVICINI (1914-1989). In 1939, my cousin Gertrude was in service at 15 Wilton Street, Knightsbridge, London with the PARAVICINIs.

The Second World War brought a break in this story but by 1974 Gertrude appeared again on a large list of residents occupying 74 South Audley Street, Westminster, London. The principals on this list were John R FOLLETT, Elizabeth M PARAVICINI and a Cathleen S QUEENSBURY (née MANN). The others named, including Gertrude, I have presumed were staff members.

The last named character was the then wife of Francis Archibald Kelhead DOUGLAS, 11<sup>th</sup> Marquess of QUEENSBURY (1896-1954). Cathleen Sabine MANN (1896-1959) was his second wife; she was a British portrait painter and costume designer. Cathleen divorced in 1946 and in the same year married John Robert FOLLETT (1906-1953). Cathleen died in 1959 from an overdose of sleeping pills whilst in her studio in London.

In 1949 the establishment at 74 South Audley Street had undergone some changes. Apart from faithful retainers, like Gertrude FOREY, John and Cathleen FOLLETT appeared to have been joined by a Lord and Lady HOPE. What had happened was that Elizabeth PARAVICINI (formerly MAUGHAM) had divorced the previous year and was now married to John Adrian Louis HOPE, 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Glendevon (1912-1996). Lord HOPE, after a distinguished career with the Scots Guards during WW2 was now a Scottish Member of Parliament. He went on to serve in various Cabinet positions in the Conservative administrations of 1954 to 1962. He was raised to the peerage in 1964.

Gertrude FOREY's name appeared twice more in 1949 on the Sailings List. In both instances, that of going to New York, USA and then returning four months later. She was accompanying Camilla Chandon PARAVICINI (1941- ), presumably in the role of a guardian, because of Camilla's age (8 years), since neither of her (separated) parents seemed to be with her on either occasion. Camilla was the PARAVICINI's second child.

Gertrude FOREY's name was absent from the London Registers from 1955-61. There could be any number of reasons for this but essentially she would only have been recorded if she was residing in London. So her whereabouts in those missing years remains a mystery. However by 1962, through to 1965 (when these Registers stopped being shown online) Gertrude was again



included in Lord and Lady HOPE's household, which was now at 46 Chelsea Square. In fact in 1964/5 Gertrude was the only person apart from the HOPE's listed. Camilla PARAVICINI and her brother, Nicholas PARAVICINI (1937- ), who had been in earlier Registers, were now married with their own families and living elsewhere.

I have no information on Gertrude's movements after the mid-1960s. She would have been close to sixty years old by then and so may have retired; hopefully with a generous settlement from her current employers, one of whom (Elizabeth Mary MAUGHAM/PARAVICINI/HOPE aka Baroness GLENDEVON) she had served faithfully (as evidenced by the above history) over at least thirty years.

A clue to what happened to Gertrude in later years is given by the movements of her parents and her sisters after 1950. Her sister, Winifred May FOREY (1908-1951), died in Brighton as did her mother (in 1963) and father (in 1968). Gertrude's other sister, Joyce FOREY (1914-2004), married a Kenneth John MARSTON (1902-1986) in Brighton, Sussex in 1950.

The retired lady's maid Gertrude FOREY died on the 2 Nov 1999, at the Excelsior Nursing Home, Ventnor, Isle of Wight. On the death certificate her usual address was given as being in St Lawrence, Isle of Wight, at an address previously shared with her widowed sister, Joyce. Her death was attributed to old age, she was 93 years old. Incidentally, Joyce's husband, Kenneth died in 1986 on the Isle of Wight, as did Joyce herself five years after her sister, Gertrude. It is entirely possible that Gertrude spent her thirty or so retirement years in close proximity to her sister Joyce and her husband in Brighton and subsequently in the Isle of Wight.

#### **Sources:**

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[http://www.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mary\\_Elizabeth\\_Maugham](http://www.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mary_Elizabeth_Maugham)

## FOCUS ON FACEBOOK

By Elizabeth Burling, Member No. 4992

We were contacted in October by Paul Williams, who wanted support for his petition to help save London's last remaining ship from the First World War, *HMS President* (pictured below). This ship is the last of 3 remaining WW1 ships and the only one in her class. She is owned by HMS President Preservation Trust, a charity, which has been refused Lottery funding of £330,000 to secure the future of the ship which may result in her being scrapped.



Originally named *HMS Saxifrage*, this ship was built in Scotland and launched on 29 January 1918. She is an example of the first type of purpose-built anti-submarine vessels, which were disguised to look like merchantmen in order to lure submarines to the surface.

The U-Boat campaign was the greatest peril that Britain faced in 1917-18, and was the most critical naval conflict of WW1. This ship's logbooks, which are held in The National Archives at Kew, record her as having engaged nine U-boats.

In 1922 she was renamed *HMS President* and moored permanently on the Thames at Blackfriars, where she was used as a Royal Naval Reserve drill ship. (Her name was taken from the *Old President*, which, from 1862 to 1903 was the first London naval reserve drill ship.)

*HMS President* is listed on the National Register of Historic Vessels as part of the National Historic Fleet. The current owners plan to present her as a historical resource during the 2014-18 First World War centenary.

If you would like to help this ship reach her centenary as a London historic resource, please consider signing the online petition, which can be reached at: <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/163742> until 4 February 2017.

So far, the Chancellor of the Exchequer has confirmed that the proceeds of LIBOR fines (which were levied on the banking industry for manipulating the London Inter bank Offered Rate) will continue to be used to support Military and Emergency Services charities and other related good causes that represent those that demonstrate the ‘very best of values’. The Treasury has acknowledged that it has received an application for support from LIBOR fines to restore *HMS President* and that this will receive full consideration, along with other similar requests, at the Autumn Statement. Nevertheless, support for the petition after this date is still most welcome.



Another researcher, Stephen Stanley, contacted us on Facebook regarding a marriage from St Giles, Cripplegate, which took place on 6 July 1626.

The groom is stated to be Edward RICH and the bride Mathew STANELEY. Stephen was wondering if anyone could affirm that this is a transcription error, or if the listing of Mathew STANELEY might have been a misplaced birth record, from the list of Christenings that immediately preceded this odd marriage entry? Could ‘Mathew’ have also been used as a female name in those days?

Any thoughts on this would be much appreciated!

## CHURCH PHOTOS: UPDATE

The church photos on our website are slowly increasing in number. We are beginning to spread our coverage to include Baptist, Methodist, United Reformed and Catholic churches and are finding a wonderful variety of buildings - some plain and others with beautiful brickwork. See the contrast between St John the Evangelist, Palmers Green on the front cover and Muswell Hill United Reformed Church below.



The table below shows some churches that have not been photographed yet.

St Margaret, Edgware	St James, Paddington
All Saints, Edmonton	St James, Piccadilly
St Mary, Finchley	St Giles in the Fields
St Luke, Old Street, Finsbury	St John, Wembley
St John, Church Row, Hampstead	St Mary, Twyford
St Mary, Hendon	St Michael, Wood Green
St Mary, Hornsey	

Please take your camera or phone with you when you go out and take a photo of any church that you find. Please email photos to:

[editors@lwmfhs.org.uk](mailto:editors@lwmfhs.org.uk) or [membersinterests@lwmfhs.org.uk](mailto:membersinterests@lwmfhs.org.uk)

Thank you. We look forward to hearing from you.

# **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 4 February 2017 at The Exchange Room, Guildhall Library, Aldermanbury, London EC2V 7HH.

## **The Business of the AGM**

- Chairman's Report
- Treasurer's Report
- The Annual Accounts 2015-2016
- 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 2016**

The year has been a time of change, as always! At the beginning of our year, Anne Prudames, our long-standing Membership Secretary and Bookstall Manager moved house and therefore relinquished these posts. A new Membership Secretary, Sylvia Thompson, was co-opted onto the Executive Committee and her position was confirmed at the AGM last February. Anne's expertise made her a hard act to follow but Sylvia is settling well into her new role.

At the end of the year Joan and Bill Pyemont, who have been Programme Secretary and Chairman respectively at our Wembley Branch for a number of years, are stepping down from these positions and other voluntary activities in their community. The Executive Committee decided that the Wembley Branch would close at the end of 2016.

There have been some other changes along the way. Although our book stocks are being run down, we are continuing to promote our Society at fairs and open days. This year we attended West Surrey FHS Open Day at Woking in October 2015, the London & Middlesex Archaeological Society (LAMAS) Local History Conference *Middlesex: Our Lost County* at the Museum of London in November, the Haringey Local History Fair at Bruce Castle in February, the Buckinghamshire FHS Open Day in Aylesbury in July. On November 5<sup>th</sup> we were back at Woking again. On these occasions we deal with many enquiries and problems and it's good to meet some of our members too.

We have received a number of appreciative comments about our journal METROPOLITAN and the Facebook audience is steadily increasing. The Executive Committee will continue to look at various ways of attracting new members.

I would like to thank all members of the Society for their contributions large or small, including the Executive Committee for all their hard work, Peter Walker our webmaster, contributors to the journal, those who help at fairs/open days, the people who organise meetings, engage speakers and anyone who helps in any way to make meetings run smoothly.

***Rosemary A Roome***  
*Chairman*

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

### **for the year ending 30 September 2016**

The Society's deficit has been gradually reducing for a few years. However, for the first time since I took on the role of Treasurer, I am delighted to report that this year we have a surplus of £649.50 instead of a deficit.

High Interest Bonds are no longer available so there is reduced income from interest in the current year. As there is now more money in the deposit account (instead of in a Bond), more interest has been earned on that account than in previous years.

The Executive Committee has taken a decision to stop buying new publications for sale, so expenditure on purchases has dropped significantly although this may not appear to be the case at first glance, but all remaining stock has been written off and this is reflected, as a cost, in the accounts. Similarly, income from sales of publications might be expected to have dropped significantly; however income from selling off old stock at reduced prices has attracted the bargain hunters. This has also meant that we no longer need storage space, residual stock being stored at Branch premises. A few publications remain and any discounted sales will in future be categorised as donations.

I, and the rest of the Executive Committee, will continue to minimise costs wherever possible while also trying to attract new members.

*April Vesey*  
*Treasurer*

# LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

## Profit and loss account for the year ended 30 September 2016 Unaudited

	<b>30 Sep 2016</b>	<i>30 Sep 2015</i>
<b>Income:</b>		
Subscriptions	8,912.35	7,596.48
Publication sales revenue	592.33	403.35
Donations	50.00	167.00
Miscellaneous and help with research	109.00	
Interest received	<u>12.55</u>	<u>38.50</u>
	9,676.23	8,205.33
<b>Expenditure:</b>		
Metropolitan Journal	-3,461.92	-4,212.27
Branch Lecture Costs	-3,207.15	-3,511.10
AGM	-298.50	-185.09
FFHS	-203.68	-203.68
Membership Books, maps, etc	-1,244.53	-523.70
Fairs and open days	-22.00	-60.00
Administration & general expenses	-538.95	-392.54
Depreciation	-50.00	-50.00
	-9,026.73	-9,138.38
<b>Net Deficit/ Surplus</b>	<b><u>£649.50</u></b>	<b><u>-£933.05</u></b>



# LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

## Balance Sheet as at 30 September 2016, unaudited

	30 Sep 2016	<i>30 Sep 2015</i>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
Office equipment	50.00	<i>100.00</i>
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Stock of publications	0.00	<i>1,119.04</i>
Prepaid expenses	900.83	<i>290.64</i>
Cash and bank balances	<u>22,385.95</u>	<u>20,275.96</u>
 Total Assets	 ----- 23,336.78	 ----- 21,785.64
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Subs in Advance	-3,403.14	<i>-4,230.50</i>
Creditors & Accr'd Expenses	-800.00	<i>-610.63</i>
Unpresented cheques	<u>-1,559.63</u>	<u>-20.00</u>
	<u>-5,762.77</u>	<u>-4,861.13</u>
	<b><u>£17,574.01</u></b>	<b><u>£16,924.51</u></b>
<b>Financed by:</b>		
Balance Brought Forward	16,924.51	<i>17,857.56</i>
Net Deficit/ Surplus for Year	<u>649.50</u>	<u>-933.05</u>
<b>Members' Net Funds</b>	<b><u>£17,574.01</u></b>	<b><u>£16,924.51</u></b>
	=====	=====

# LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX FHS

## CONFERENCE & ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday 4 February 2017 **10am-4.00pm**

The Exchange Room, Guildhall Library,  
Aldermanbury, London EC2V 7HH.

### 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 Guildhall Library and the City of London Police Museum, both free entry.

10.30am        Tea & Coffee

11.00am        Welcome  
Talk: *Bugging the Nazis in WW2: a Very Secret War*  
by Helen Fry

12.15pm        An extended lunch break with time to explore the Library and visit the City of London's Heritage Gallery in the Guildhall Art Gallery. Here you can see the 1067 William Charter which celebrates its 950<sup>th</sup> birthday and visit the Roman Amphitheatre. Entry is free.

From 1.15pm    Registration for the AGM

1.30pm        Welcome back  
Talk: *How English Records Work – what there is and what there isn't* by Michael Gandy

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 stations are Bank (Central/DLR/Northern/Waterloo & City), Mansion House (Circle/District), Moorgate (Circle/Hammersmith & City/Metropolitan/Northern), St Paul's (Central) and all are 5-10 minutes' walk away. Several buses pass quite close to the Guildhall: Nos. 11, 23, 26, 388 from Bank; 8, 25, 242 from Cheapside; 100 from London Wall; 21, 43, 76, 133, 141 from Moorgate.

**LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX  
FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY**

**Annual General Meeting  
to be held on  
Saturday 4 February 2017**

**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 20 January 2017.

## GRO CERTIFICATES

There have been some changes and improvements to the service offered at the General Record Office regarding historic birth, marriage and death certificates.

A new index has been created from the records which were digitised as part of the failed DoVE (Digitisation of Vital Events) project. As such, the new index will not contain the errors of the old index and, although it may contain others of its own, errors and omissions can be corrected when identified. All of the other online BMD Indexes will still be using the old index, which was based on microfiche copies of the registers.

This new index will contain additional data fields to those which are already available and this will help people to identify the correct record. In the Birth Indexes, the mother's maiden name is now usually shown from 1837 onwards, (which also helps to identify illegitimate births, of course). In the Death Indexes the age at death is shown, also from 1837 onwards. Not all registration records show an age at death, or the age at death is unclear or illegible on the entry so could not be included in the index. For infants who died within 12 months of birth, the age is shown as 0 in line with the microfiche indexes.

Currently the index includes births from 1837 to 1915 and deaths from 1837 to 1957 but not marriages, which have not yet been digitised. Funding is not available to digitise any more recent records or the marriage records at this time.

This new index, which is free to view, is only available from the GRO site: <https://www.gro.gov.uk> You must have a registered GRO online certificate ordering account, which can be set up via the GRO online ordering site. This site is the cheapest and quickest way to order certificates anyway, so worthwhile for a family historian to use. Including postage, certificates cost £9.25 each, and there is a priority high-speed service which costs £23.40.



## JOTTINGS

### **Foundlings and Food**

*Feeding the 400* is the title of a new exhibition which considers food - a fundamental yet little-examined aspect of life at the Foundling Hospital.

Guest curator Jane Levi shows the impact that food and eating regimes had on children at the Hospital from 1740 to 1950. This fascinating story is told through art, archival material, photographs and the voices of former pupils, whose memories of food are captured in the Museum's extensive sound archive.

The exhibition explodes myths and misconceptions around eating at the Hospital, demonstrating how the institution's food choices were far more than just questions of economy, nutrition and health. It brings alive the connections between what, when, where and why the foundlings ate what they ate; the beliefs and science that underpinned these decisions; and their physiological and psychological effects.

You can find out more at The Foundling Museum, 40 Brunswick Square, London WC1N 1AZ, where the exhibition is on until 7 January 2017.

### **The City of London Police Museum**

The City of London Police has been responsible for policing the Square Mile since 1839. During this time the force's priorities have remained to keep the City safe but it is also the UK's leading police force for fraud and economic crime.

The new purpose-built City of London Police Museum opened in November next to Guildhall and is a collaboration between the City of London Police and Guildhall Library. Its exhibits include ones on the last hours of Catherine EDDOWES, one of Jack the Ripper's victims; bomb damage during the Blitz; counter terrorism and the current work against economic crime and cybercrime. (This museum occupies the space where the Clockmakers' Museum used to be – which is now in a new gallery at the Science Museum, Exhibition Road, South Kensington.)

Admission to the museum is free and over 2016 and 2017 there will be a variety of special events, talks and walks, as well as a range of merchandise available.

Access through Guildhall Library Entrance, Aldermanbury, London EC2V 7HH and the museum is open Monday to Friday: 9.30am-5pm. (9.30am-7.30pm on Wednesdays), Saturday: 10am-4pm and closed on Sunday.

## **London's Baking! Bakers, Cakes, Bread and Puddings from 1666**

This new exhibition at London Metropolitan Archives (LMA) runs until 1 February 2017. It takes its inspiration from Thomas FARRINER, whose bakery was the starting place of the Great Fire, and tells the story of London's bakers and their cakes, bread and puddings from 1666 to the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. The photographs, films and historical documents on display include the recently uncovered plan which shows that FARRINER's bakery was actually located in Monument Street, not Pudding Lane! The collection of J Lyons and Co, presents the 'experience' of afternoon tea at one of their grand Corner Houses, alongside images of the original 18<sup>th</sup> Century Chelsea 'Bun House' and much more besides.

You can discover recipes for almond cakes from 1700, suet puddings from 1850 and questionable school dinner chocolate sponge tray-bakes from the 1970s. There is a downloadable recipe book full of cake and pudding recipes through the ages which the LMA staff have helpfully tried first – I would have thought that their notes would be invaluable to those seeking to decipher instructions such as: Take fyne floure and a cursey of fayre water and a dysche of swete butter and a lyttel saffron, and the yolckes of two egges and make it thynne and as tender as ye maye!

LMA is at 40 Northampton Road, Clerkenwell, EC1R 0HB and is generally open from Monday to Thursday with occasional Saturdays.

### **LMA Disruption**

Due to essential building and refurbishment work scheduled to take place from mid-December 2016 to mid-January 2017, it will not be possible to view some of the documents in the collections at London Metropolitan Archives during this period. It will be possible to request some documents in person if you visit and LMA strongly recommend that you check the availability of documents you want to see and request them in advance by contacting them by email at: [ask.lma@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:ask.lma@cityoflondon.gov.uk) before you visit. LMA extends their apologies for the inconvenience this may cause.



## MY FAVOURITE ANCESTOR

By Sheila Clarke, Member No. 7900

When it comes to selecting my favourite ancestor there really is no contest - 3x great-uncle Thomas Hughes HEADLAND was the subject of an article I had published here last year and at the risk of becoming a Thomas bore, I confess to a fondness for him that puts all other contenders in the shade.

Born in 1806, the son of an Uxbridge painter and glazier, he began his working life as a silversmith before becoming secretary of a pioneering music school, Readings manager to Charles DICKENS, and finally a South Coast hotelier. Thanks to DICKENS we know quite a lot about Thomas's personality and even his appearance. The Great Man was not impressed by the sight of his manager in evening dress and the details do nothing to dampen my affection for him.

Some believe Thomas was promoted above his capabilities: he certainly floundered under pressure, yet he possessed an endearingly dogged self-belief that one can't help but admire. DICKENS found him exasperating, but remained in touch long after their partnership ended, signing his correspondence 'Faithfully, your friend.'

Thomas wanted to 'be someone', to move from the dirty, dismal world of mid-nineteenth century Clerkenwell to the gentility of Bloomsbury and a career in the arts. Against the odds he succeeded, mixing with the Great and Good of London society, before moving to Eastbourne where he died in 1888.

His achievements seem to have been made possible by a series of influential contacts. DICKENS's friend, the composer John HULLAH, gave Thomas his first big break, plucking him from the position of Chairman of the First Workingman's Singing Class and installing him as secretary of the newly built St Martin's Hall in Long Acre. Exactly how he was thought qualified for this job is not known but from then on he never looked back. When DICKENS needed a replacement manager, he chose Thomas who had proved his worth during the writer's first Readings at the Hall in 1853(?). That their working relationship was not altogether successful is a matter of record. DICKENS almost immediately regretted his decision, believing his



new manager was not up to the job, and he appears to have been right - the list of blunders is recorded in painful detail. But Thomas lived to fight another day, moving to Eastbourne where he became a successful hotelier and a respected and valued member of the local community. A study of his committee work there reveals a man who attached great importance to equality and the rights of the working man, a cause dear to his heart from at least the early 1840s. I have no doubt that he relished his former role as a prominent member of the London Arts Scene and in particular his relationship with DICKENS, the source of many an entertaining anecdote.

DICKENS called Thomas 'a worthy Jackass', 'a dull sailor', who tried his patience to the limit with repeated mistakes but he also remarks on his manager's good temper, his willingness to please and his reputation as 'a very honest fellow.' Ambition led Thomas to take advantage of the extraordinary opportunities that came his way and to enjoy to the full the attendant rewards. His appears to have been a life well lived and, in the end, that is all any of us can hope to achieve.



***London Evening Standard, 12 January 1861***

**WORSHIP STREET**

Benevolence. The following donations were received for the poor-box. The second half of a 5*l* note from Lady G; CB, stamps, 5*s*, PVDW 5*l*; GJ Cockerell and Co, 5*l* 5*s*; the Rev FF, 1*l*; J Laing, cheque, 5*l*; Michael Wells, 3*l* 3*s*; Meerut, 2*l*; GF, Ashurst Park, 5*l* 5*s*; Cunliffe, Dobson and Co, 10*l*; AW, 5*l*; JG, cheque, 2*l* 2*s*; Anonymous, first half of 5*l* note, No. 49,297; the Fishmongers' Company, second donation, 10*l*; BJ 5*l*; MT, 15*s*; SWE, cheque, 10*l* 10*s*; HP, 5*l*; CFE, stamps, 10*s*; Messrs Clark and Lye, 5*l*; the British College of Health, 2*l* 2*s*; BSE, stamps, 10*s*.

Bull, a warrant officer of the H division, said that on the morning of Thursday last a large body of labourers and others took forcible possession of a quantity of bread being then delivered at the door of Whitechapel Workhouse. During the confusion arising from an attempt to prevent this one man was stabbed in the throat.

# www.lwmfhs.org.uk

“Does the Society have a website?”  
“I have not looked at the website”  
“I cannot find anything on the website”  
“What is on the website?”

These are just a few comments that have been overheard at branch meetings. So, although our website has been up and running for a few years now, it must be time to encourage our members to visit its pages. The picture below shows the website’s Home Page.



Top centre of the page is a Welcome paragraph and a picture of the City of London, below which is a link to our Facebook pages. Our Facebook has only been going for about 18 months but it is proving very popular and a useful addition to our Society. You do not have to subscribe to Facebook in order to view our pages.

Below the Facebook link is a section on events/lectures taking place in London, starting with a brief list of our branch meetings. The list is updated monthly.

To the left of the picture is a list of the various sections of the website. Click on one to take you to that section.

**Home:** This is our Home Page. See above.

**About Us:** A brief description of the Society and a list of our Officers

**Area Covered:** An interactive map of our area. Click an area to find the name of the parish. Below the map are details about researching in London, Westminster & Middlesex, its area and a list of the Boroughs in London.

**Journal:** Our journal METROPOLITAN and how to contact the editors.

**Meetings:** A list of all Branch meetings. Click on the title or venue for more information.

**Record Offices:** A list of some of the Record Offices in our area. A click on each will reveal contact details and a link to their website.

**Local History:** A list of local history societies in our area. Click to reveal contact details and a link to their website

**Museums:** A list of some museums in the area. Click to reveal contact details and a link to their website

**Research Resources:** Information on: 'Members' interests'; 'Are you a beginner?' and 'Help! I live overseas'.

**Members' Interests:** A list of surnames submitted by our members. Click on a name to send an email to the person researching that name.

**Parishes:** This section is divided into four: City of London, Westminster, Middlesex and Hertfordshire. Click on each to explore the parishes in that area. You will find brief descriptions of parishes, mostly taken from 19<sup>th</sup> century sources to give an idea of how the parish was back then. Many of the parishes have photos of the Parish Church (which you may download to your computer). This section is a work in progress, with more photos and information to be added.

**Contact us:** Who to contact if you have a problem or just want to talk to us!

**Links:** This is a very useful section. Just click on each group and find lists of websites to explore.

**Members Area:** You need to 'Log in' to view this section. A new member must 'Sign up' first (and also decide on their Username and Password).

There are six sections to the Members' Area.

**Members' Interests:** Here you will find details of how to send us your Members' Interests names – by using an online form or downloading and printing a paper form. You can send us up to twelve names and these will be printed in the journal and also put in the online data list.

**Forum:** We do wish that more members would make use of the Forum. Post any queries and problems that you have and perhaps someone will know the answer. You may also post any new interesting resources that you have found and in doing so, help others.

**Files:** There are three sections here:

1. METROPOLITAN

Here are PDF copies of recent journals which may be downloaded to a computer. Plus a searchable spreadsheet index of the journal from 2006-2014.

2. LWMFHS Files

Here are: Members' Interest names for 2012; Members' Interest names for 2008-2011; Our Constitution, Logo and two parish maps

3. GENEALOGY Files - Indexes and transcriptions:

- Baptisms: St James Piccadilly, 1765-1766; St Giles in the Fields, 1749-1751 and 1751
- James Sanderson Collection, donated transcriptions:

St Andrew Holborn and St George the Martyr

Workhouse: Admissions and Discharges 1750-1759,

Payments to Women who nurse their own children, volumes 1, 2 and 3 (1798-1799, 1791-1792, 1796-1797),

Payments to Casual Poor 1785-1786, 1798-1799.

Bartholomew's Hospital account 1788-1792

Paupers Examinations St Andrew (City) 1782-1789

Union Chapel Islington - Baptisms 1805-1839;

St John Hampstead

Settlement Examinations 1804-1814, Overseers of the Poor accounts 1826-1837, Burials 1788-1813 and 1813-1837, 1811 Census

Saffron Hill Settlement Examinations Volumes 1, 2, 3 and 4

Payments to Militia Wives 1801-1802.

- Oaths of Allegiance. 1723 Quakers Oaths of Allegiance, Notes and Main File with names and details of those signing

**Other:** There is nothing here yet!

**Your Profile:** Details about you. See the yellow pages in the current December 2016, journal to see how to update this.

**Online Members:** Search for a member and send an email to them.

There is much to look at on our website, so do explore it and if you have any suggestions about what else could be there, please let us know.

We are indebted to Mr Peter Walker, our webmaster, who designed and maintains our website.



***Writing Your Family History E-Courses***  
[www.writingyourfamilyhistory.co.uk](http://www.writingyourfamilyhistory.co.uk)

**Gill Blanchard, BA, MA, PGCE (PCE)**  
**Author of *Writing Your Family History: A Guide for Genealogists***

*Writing Your Family History* is a practical writing course that guides participants through bringing their ancestors to life in an entertaining manner.

- Two ten week modules
- Lessons delivered electronically
- Students receive in-depth feedback
- Regular live discussions with the tutor and each other
- Access to an online learning hub

For more information contact Gill Blanchard at:  
Office 14, Meadow View House, 191 Queens Road, Norwich. NR1 3PP  
Email: [Gill@writingyourfamilyhistory.co.uk](mailto:Gill@writingyourfamilyhistory.co.uk)  
Web: [www.writingyourfamilyhistory.co.uk](http://www.writingyourfamilyhistory.co.uk)

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.

### **LOST MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE**

Mary Jane/Jane/Marie LAZELL born 1878 Upminster

George OSBORNE/COOPER born 1876 Marylebone

The above couple (pictured opposite) are my grandparents. They had nine children from 1901 to 1916 whilst living over the family shop at 361 Portobello Road, which traded from about 1902 to 1946 in 'Oil and Colour/Hardware'.

My mum was born in September 1901 at 46 All Saints Road ('Parents: George and Marie OSBORNE formerly LAZELL'). It seems around this time that my gran took the name Marie; on previous censuses she is listed as Jane. This address was a tailor's, whose wife and a lodger were nurses. Mum, and their next child (born November 1902) were both baptised at Christ Church, Notting Hill which could be where their parents married.

The surname was changed from OSBORNE to COOPER about 1902, although all their nine children were registered as OSBORNE! My uncle told me his mother was in service before she got married and his father changed the OSBORNE name to COOPER on discovering he was illegitimate.

Knowing this, I searched for an unmarried COOPER giving birth to a George in 1876 and found a Louise COOPER giving birth on 20 October 1876 in Marylebone Workhouse. Her address was 54 Exeter Street and no father is listed. Louisa did marry a Herbert George OSBORNE in 1877, both giving 54 Exeter Street as their address and George is with them along with further siblings in 1881 and 1891 under the name of OSBORNE. On the 1939 Register my grandfather crucially gives his date of birth as 20 October 1876 – exactly the same as the workhouse birth certificate.

The 1947 probate for my grandfather says 'Marie COOPER – the lawful widow of George COOPER', but I cannot find their marriage on leading genealogy websites or at the GRO. The 1911 census says 'married 10 years'. The 1939 register, nine birth certificates and baptism notices all show them as married.



Can anyone suggest any way of tracing this record? Could it be misfiled or lost due to fire/war damage as some military ones were? Any ideas would be gratefully received.

**Barrie Wilson, Non-member**

*64 Cleeve Drive, Ivybridge, Devon PL21 9BP*

*Email: suebar@talktalk.net*

## UNKNOWN FOOTBALLERS

Does anyone recognise this football team?



My grandfather, Edward George COX (Ted COX) is seated in the front row, second from the right. He played for this football team in the 1930s.

The family story is that he played a few games for Arsenal or Tottenham Hotspurs but the football strip is not thought to be either of these two.

Ted Cox was a son of George Henry COX and Helen FLETCHER. In the 1930s he lived in Kensal Road, Kensington, Middlesex and was a painter and decorator. The family went to South Australia in 1949.

I am trying to discover the football team he played for and also hoping that someone will recognise the background in the photo and so know where it was taken.

***Mrs Jeanette Martin, Member No. 7977***

*7 Etna Avenue, Cheltenham, South Australia, 5014, Australia*

*Email: [trilby@bigpond.net.au](mailto:trilby@bigpond.net.au)*



Note: The world of the internet seemed like a good place to find out information about this team and the photo was placed on our Facebook page for comment.

Amazingly, we were soon contacted by a gentleman who had seen the same photograph on the wall of his brother-in-law's house! The man on the left-hand end of the front row is *George COLE* and the venue is the old Wembley Stadium.

The brother-in-law provided the following additional information: the match was the Final (probably in 1934) of a competition played between teams set up by The Feathers Clubs Association (later to become The Feathers Association, which still exists today) - established in 1934 by Freda Dudley WARD, the then mistress of the Prince of Wales, to help young people in London, who were suffering in the Depression of the 1930s. Freda persuaded the Prince to permit the use of his crest as the insignia of the Association. As to the name of the team, my mother believed it was called 'Belvedere', after Fort Belvedere - a favourite residence of the Prince of Wales in Windsor Great Park. Apparently, all of the competing teams were named after places associated with the Prince, to honour his patronage. I suspect the Prince may have played a large part in getting the Final played at Wembley Stadium! The team's shirts were Royal colours - purple and gold quarters. Beyond that, I'm afraid, I have no further information, as there are no names of players or notes on the back of my copy of the photograph.

The Feathers Association, who may have further information, can be contacted at: <http://feathersassociation.org.uk/>

Archives records of Wembley Stadium Public Limited Company dating from 1927-1992, including Directors' Board Meetings minutes; correspondence of the Secretary; Wembley Stadium Development Scheme; financial accounts including cash books, journals, day books; wages books; employee record cards; records relating to pensions; race lists of greyhounds and their owners; legal and property records. Also records of associated company Juliana's Discotheques Limited, including minutes, memorandum and articles of association and share certificates are at London Metropolitan Archives. It is possible that these include more details of the Feathers Club Association football final.

## Cyril STAPLETON and Arthur LUKER

Can you help in making the link? My father Arthur James LUKER played the piano and mentioned that he played with the Cyril STAPLETON Orchestra when the regular pianist was indisposed and I have often wondered how this came about.



I believe the postcard (above) shows members of a band when my father was in the army, possibly the Middlesex Regiment. On the reverse of the photograph are the names of the band members, one of which is Ron STAPLETON.

I've included the names on the photograph as they may be of interest to members but as they are written in pencil and have faded with time there may be errors and there are only eleven names recorded, from left to right are: Gef or Greg PERSHKY, ? , Bill MORTON, Ant RAILINS, ? ESKUNGZEY, Harry COHEN, Jack GOLDING, Ron STAPLETON, Edie SHARP, my father Arthur LUKER at piano, ? RAYNOR.

Was Ron related to Cyril and was it through Ron that my father was introduced to Cyril? I have tried to find out if Ron and Cyril were related but my searching has hit a brick wall.

Can anyone help?

**Brian Luker, Member No. 7797***26 Popham Close, Eaton Socon, St Neots, Cambs PE19 8TY**Email: abccfar@btinternet.com*

Note: According to Wikipedia, Cyril STAPLETON was born on 31 December 1914 at Mapperley, Nottinghamshire and died on 25 February 1974. The GRO Birth Register Indexes show no babies of that name born in Nottinghamshire in 1914, but looking at the Death Registers for 1974, he seems to have been called Horace C STAPLETON, and had been born on 31 January 1914. This, in turn, led to a baby born in the March quarter in Nottingham whose mother had the maiden name of BUCK. The only other baby in Nottinghamshire with these parents was a John A, born 1915, so it looks like Ron was not Cyril's brother.

There are plenty of newspaper articles which mention Cyril STAPLETON and his band, especially from their tours in the late 1940s. Some mention other members such as singers Dick JAMES, Pearl CARR, Bob DALE and Jean CAMPBELL, 'Britain's greatest drummer' Ronnie VERRAL and trumpet player Duncan CAMPBELL. We learn that the 15-piece orchestra had a 7-man brass section in 1949 and often worked for the BBC.

A few years before this *The Coventry Standard* of 4 January 1941 carried an article headlined 'Dance Band Musicians in the RAF'. It states that: Members of famous dance bands serving in the RAF have formed themselves into the RAF Dance Orchestra under the conductorship of Cyril Stapleton and will appear in a programme of light music at the Coventry New Hippodrome on Sunday afternoon. Beryl ORDE, popular BBC impressionist, was also on the bill.

Beryl ORDE was STAPLETON's wife by the way. According to a little piece in *The Nottingham Evening Post*, Horace Cyril STAPLETON, band leader, was divorced by his wife, Mrs Marguerite Josephine STAPLETON (aka Beryl ORDE, stage and radio star) in 1950 on account of his adultery. The couple had been married in 1939 and had no children. Marguerite, at least, was living in Willesden at the time.

So, none of the names on your photo have turned up but it might be worth investigating RAF records and BBC archives.

## 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 December	No Meeting
Thursday 19 January	<i>Hertfordshire Archives &amp; Local Studies: Treasures of the Archives</i> by Marion Hill
Thursday 16 February	No Meeting
Thursday 16 March	Bring a photograph of your grandparent and tell us all about them.

**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 29 December	No Meeting
Thursday 26 January	<i>Elizabethan Camden</i> by Tudor Allen
Thursday 23 February	Talk about a military photo you have brought with you.
Thursday 30 March	<i>The B to Z of Street Furniture</i> by Rob Kayne



**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](mailto:enfield@lwmfhs.org.uk)

Wednesday 7 December	Christmas Social
Wednesday 4 January	No meeting
Wednesday 1 February	<i>Memories of Chase Farm, Part 1 - Schools</i> by Frank Bayford
Wednesday 1 March	<i>Historic Iron Churches</i> by Marianne Zierau
Wednesday 5 April	<i>My Childhood in India</i> by Denise Travers

**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](mailto:rayners_lane@lwmfhs.org.uk)

Friday 9 December	Christmas Event
Friday 13 January	Members' Evening
Friday 10 February	No meeting
Friday 10 March	<i>Harrow Convicts 1770-1870</i> by Ken Griffin

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

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See inside front cover for address.

## MYSTERY PHOTO

Can this photo give any clues as to who this gentleman might be? The



photographers, Hellis & Sons, are stated on the back to have their head office at 211 and 213 Regent Street and to have been established for over 25 years. There are 10 branches mentioned.

*Elisabeth Roller, Member  
No 7822*

*Denzenbergstraße 46,  
72074 Tübingen, Germany*

Note: Photographer Robert HELLIS was born in Clerkenwell in 1835 and opened his first studio at Silver Street, Notting Hill in 1870. His company, Hellis & Sons, went on to become the studio with the most branches in 19 Century London.

As the company opened or incorporated more studios at different addresses,

slightly different mounts were used for their photographs showing these changes and these can be used to help date individual photographs such as this one.

Hellis were at 211 Regent Street from 1890-1906 but at 213 Regent Street only from 1890-1899. Some of the other addresses you mention (not shown here) indicate that this photo must date from between 1892 and 1899, which may help with identifying the gentleman portrayed.

## **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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