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METROPOLITAN

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Cover picture: ©Elizabeth Burling
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EDITORIAL

Our suggestions for topics have elicited some responses, for which we are most grateful. Of course we always want more, but a collection of categories is becoming apparent, which may provide a useful framework for those who would like to contribute but are not sure where to start. For example, the ancestor you would most like to meet, your favourite ancestor or perhaps your black sheep ancestor.

Following on from our Barnet Branch meeting in March, at which members were invited to reveal all they had discovered about a black sheep ancestor, we have the story of an ancestor who just seemed to be a tragic early death until further research revealed all, see page 111. If you have black sheep ancestors who were criminals, then one of our correspondents would like to hear from you. We have a letter from a PhD student at the University of Sheffield who would like anyone who has discovered such ancestors to take part in an anonymous survey as part of her research. You can find out more about this on page 76.

Another scholarly study from a PhD student, this time one at the Florence Nightingale School of Nursing and Midwifery at King's College, London, would like to hear of any health problems you might have uncovered in your family history. You can read about this study on page 92 and hopefully contribute to it too.

Our *Help!* page has only one contribution this time! Usually this is a very popular section. Do share your 'brick walls' or problem ancestors with us and perhaps someone can help you. We continue to look for articles, jottings, letters, photos etc to put in future journals and you can send these to us by post or by email. Our addresses are on the inside of the front cover. We await your contributions.

The Editorial Team

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

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

As you may be aware, our Society is a member of the Federation of Family History Societies (FFHS), an educational charity which supports, informs and advises its membership of over 180 Family History Societies across the world. Perhaps you have seen their stand, promoting Family History Societies, at a Family History Fair or *WhoDoYouThinkYouAre? Live* at the NEC in April.

Looking to the future, which concerns the young of course, the Federation has launched a competition for 5 to 16 year olds to encourage an interest in their heritage. A 16 page A5 booklet entitled *My Family Tree* has been produced with the intention that parents or grandparents and other relatives should work through it with a young member of the family who is then required to write a short account of what they enjoyed about doing the project. Details, with the rules and entry procedure, will be found on the FFHS website www.ffhs.org.uk

Do hurry though – the closing date is 30 June 2016.

Among its various activities the Federation provides periodic opportunities for those who run Societies ‘to get together, to learn and to share their insights.’ Last year our Editorial Team attended a FFHS seminar about communication and our Facebook page was one result. (See also page 120.)

Discussion with committee members from other Societies can be very useful. In small groups, one idea can easily develop to general benefit and the pros and cons of experiences can be shared. Comment may also be illuminating! Recently, for example, someone had noticed the inclusion of ‘Members’ Meetings’ among the list of Forthcoming Meetings in our journal.

Did this mean that only Members could attend? Not at all!

It just means that members themselves, rather than a professional speaker, provide the content of the meeting which could be a presentation by one or two people; short talks from several people; informal contributions on a particular theme. So come, join in, learn a lot, bring a friend!

Finally, **Don't forget to renew your membership of the Society.**

NB Please read the Note from the Treasurer on page i of the yellow insert.

Rosemary A Roome

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

For what it is worth in helping to identify the lady in the photo on page 68 in the March edition of METROPOLITAN, she is wearing a 3-strand necklace of jet. If she was adhering to Victorian custom, this would indicate that she was in the second year of mourning her husband, when it was normal for widows to wear 3, 4 or even 5 rows of jet beads. The photo is very similar to the ones in a book on Whitby jet which I have.

Jet is incredibly lightweight. It is also very shiny and so it reflects light, in this case the bright flash of the photographer's lamp.

The heyday of jet jewellery manufacturing was in the second half of the 19th century.

Hope this might be of some help.

Christine Ward, Member No. 7666

I am a PhD student with the University of Sheffield. I am reaching out to genealogists and family historians worldwide who have discovered ancestors in the records of the criminal justice system to ask them to fill in a short anonymous survey or participate in an interview.

A Criminal Ancestor - are you descended from convict ancestors transported far from home or did great, great, great uncle John end up in court for squabbling with the neighbours? If your ancestor was a hardened criminal, a victim of a miscarriage of justice, a political prisoner, or in court for not paying their dog licence, a new study is looking to hear from you.

Criminals in the family have always fascinated family historians and it seems more of us are discovering more of them all of the time. The digitisation of the records of the criminal justice system and newspapers are bringing to light a side of our ancestors that may have previously been kept secret.

The crimes themselves range from the minor, even amusing, to the serious, and tragic. From a few cows wandering unsupervised along a country lane resulting in an appearance at the petty sessions court and a 2 shilling fine, to a young girl stealing some lace and being transported for 7 years to Australia, a sentence which really meant a lifetime exiled from her native land. A young boy imprisoned for vagrancy. A rebel. A highwayman. A murderer.

The documents which record their crimes often have amazingly rich details not found in birth, marriage, or even census records. From prison registers we can get physical descriptions of someone who lived long before the invention of photography, we can learn their height, weight, eye and hair

colour, and any distinguishing scars or features such as tattoos. From newspaper accounts of trials we hear their voices as they give evidence.

But how do we feel when we come across an ancestor who broke the law? And how do they shape how we view our family's history? Is a criminal ancestor someone to be ashamed of, to celebrate, or part of a larger story? What do their crimes, and the punishments they received tell us about them as people, and about the time and society they lived in? You can help provide the answers.

As part of the Digital Panopticon project at the University of Sheffield: (<http://www.digitalpanopticon.org>) I want to hear from family historians across the globe who have discovered ancestors who were connected to a crime. I am conducting short anonymous online surveys which can be found here: <http://acriminalrecord.org/surveys/>

Aoife O Connor, Non-Member

Aoife is based in Dublin, Ireland and is studying for her PhD part-time. Her own family history includes, among others, one ancestor aged 18 imprisoned in 1821 for thirteen days on suspicion of stealing a frame saw (the same ancestor was fined for excise duty evasion to the tune of £12 10 shillings in 1838), and another who was fined two shillings at the Petty Sessions Court on the 24 December 1855 for driving a horse and cart with no reins.

Further to my article about London and Middlesex marriages that are not online that appeared in the March edition of METROPOLITAN, Ickenham, 1558—1877, has also been indexed and put on a CD by PBN Publications. This group indexes Sussex parish registers mostly but have this one for Middlesex.

Eileen Blythe, Member No. 02

I read with interest Peter Todd's article about Holloway School (March 2016) because I too was a pupil there from September 1946. Mr. Hurlstone-Jones was my first Headmaster, succeeded by the scary Mr Gill. Mr King was the Second Master at that time, and I remember the aroma of his pipe as he walked the corridors during lunch time. I later identified the tobacco as 'Mick Mcquaid', being a man of the briar myself.

Many Saturday mornings I travelled by trolley bus to the school playing fields at Bow Lane, Finchley to play football for Red House Juniors and the

school Junior 'B' teams. Bunny Griffiths was the Red House master. I became a member of the Pheonix club, named after the school badge, which held debates and talks.



This picture from 1947 depicts members of my class at the reopening of the library at Holloway School after its renovation. Third from the right, seated, is the short back and sides of my head.

After two and a half years my family was rehoused to the Watling Estate, Burnt Oak, our house in Brecknock Road, Kentish Town, having suffered structural damage caused by the land mine which fell near the Caledonian cattle market. Our new location was outside the local education area, so I and my younger brother had to reluctantly leave the school.

However this was not my first stay at the Hilldrop Road site. Hungerford Road primary school had been affected by enemy action in 1940 and when Holloway School was evacuated to Towcester, Northhants, it moved to the vacant buildings. Being war time there was an allotment growing vegetables, but the main attraction was Terence the pig. Sharing the same name I was allowed to feed him at playtimes.

I still have my chromium plated Holloway School cap badge and many happy memories to go with it.

My next place of learning was Torriano Junior School which had opened in 1910. Soldiers bricked up the lower windows to prevent bomb blast. Exciting times for pupils and teachers. In spite of frequent visits to the safe room which served as an air raid shelter, where the whole school went when the sirens sounded, we received a good all round education. The fact that there was only the one WC in the shelter had us hopping at times. We lined up to receive a spoon of malt when one spoon served all. That would be against 'Health and Safety' today but it had no ill effect on us.

School dinners were provided and on my first day a dinner lady asked if I had 'ate my sweet'. I replied "No miss I ain't had no sweet". If she had said 'afters' I would have understood. You never saw overweight children then because of rationing and we went into the playground every day for PT. We lined up in four rows wearing coloured bands and did exercises led by Miss Revell. I went to the centenary celebrations of Torriano in 2010 and although the original buildings remained, there had been many new extensions including indoor toilets. I remember only one French girl and one Czech boy in my time at the school but now there were 30 different nationalities amongst the pupils. Everything has changed but those days will never be forgotten. As children we didn't realise the full implications of the war, but the teachers soothed our worries and fears by their tender love and care.

Terry Mead, Member No. 4722

The City Press, Saturday 27 August 1859

A SAD STORY BRIEFLY TOLD

Mary ELLIOTT, since girlhood engaged in service, lost her last situation through the death of her master and mistress and could not obtain another, through being too far advanced in years. She lived on her savings, then on her clothing, and at last wandered in the streets.

Starvation suggested suicide and she jumped from the steps of London-bridge, to find a grave where many a suicide has gone before. She was dragged out by a man named McCARTHY, kindly treated by the police and the Lord Mayor, sent to the Infirmary at Newgate, with injunctions that every care should be taken of her.

On Saturday night she died of exhaustion; thus adding one more to the thousands who have so perished after enduring the extremes of human misery without help and without complaint.

MY MINING ANCESTORS

By Peter Todd, Member No. 7686

Until I came across a web app which indicated that, historically, the surname FOREY occurred substantially more frequently in the south western counties of Wales than anywhere else in Britain, I hadn't really considered my great great uncle's move to Brecon in the early years of the 19th century as being very significant in my grandmother's history. However, since my note to METROPOLITAN's Website News page (see page 98) I have taken a closer look at my late great uncle Frederick's Welsh legacy.

Frederick Francis FOREY (1797-1872) was the fifth born child of Thomas FOREY (1760-1829) and Frances CLEMENS (1760-1851). My relationship to this couple via my paternal grandmother was mentioned in an earlier METROPOLITAN article. Frederick was born in Soho in London and was possibly christened at St Anne's Church in Dean Street, Soho where his later siblings were, although I haven't found his particular parish record so far.

Frederick's arrival in Wales was, as far as I can gather, somewhat fortuitous. A British army record showed that he mustered as a soldier with the 16th (Queen's) Regiment of Light Dragoons at Navan near Dublin in Ireland between the 25 September 1817 and 24 December 1817. 'The Queen's' were known as such after King George III's wife, Queen Charlotte, and her cypher was incorporated into the regimental badge.

I have no record of when Frederick became a soldier but since it was common in those days for boys as young as 12 to join the army or navy it is possible that he might have signed on when barely a teenager too. If so he may well have fought against the French in Spain and Portugal when the Regiment was posted there between 1809 and 1814 before it went on to France to assist at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815. The records also show that the 16th Dragoons, after the Napoleonic wars, were stationed in Ireland for three years (1816-1819) before returning to England and South Wales via Bristol. This itinerary fits well with the dates that I have for my ancestor's whereabouts from 1817 until 1820 when he was wed.

Frederick presumably met his future wife on the Regiment's return from Ireland because he was still a private in the 16th Queen's Dragoons (renamed

the ‘Lancers’) when he married Margaret WILLIAMS (1798-1872), a farmer’s daughter, on the 6 May 1820 at St. Mary’s Church, Brecon in South Wales. Frederick would have been about twenty-three years of age when he left the army and settled in Wales and as far as I’m aware he was the only FOREY descended from those that arrived in the Thursley area of Surrey in the 1700s, possibly as immigrant Huguenots from France.

Over the next two decades Frederick and Margaret produced ten children who survived babyhood. There were five sons and of those only the last child, James, didn’t marry, because he died aged seven years in 1850.

I don’t intend to detail all the marriages that gave rise to the second and subsequent generations of ‘Welsh’ FOREY’s but I will mention those that I have found particularly interesting.

David FOREY (1827-1899) was Frederick’s first son and he married Ellen Clementina Eliza MABER (1812-1895) on the 4 December 1854 at St Thomas’s Church, Portsmouth (then Portsea) in Hampshire. In 1859 a local street Directory had David listed as being in a Beer House at 3 High Street, Portsmouth. By 1861 David was back in Wales at 43 Pembroke Street, Aberdare. He was now 34 years old and working as a railway porter. Incidentally, David’s father, Frederick, who was in his sixties had now stopped working in the mines and was being employed as a railway inspector.

In the Census return of that year Ellen, David’s wife claimed that she was seven years younger than her 49 years and that she had been born in Great Yarmouth, Norfolk. She also said she had been a school teacher. Actually she had been born in Portsmouth and was a stay (corset) maker. Also she had apparently been previously married (?) to a Mr COOPER; (I presume) and had given birth to three children in his name. The daughter Elizabeth COOPER, who was fifteen years old in 1861, was staying with the FOREYs.

Ellen and Elizabeth must have walked out on David sometime during the next decade because by the 1871 Census David and his sister Sarah FOREY (1823-1879), who was working as a confectioner, were visiting their older married sister Margaret EYNON (1821-1901) in Aberdare, Glamorgan. (County now known as Rhondda Cynon Taff.)

Ellen FOREY (previously MABER) was at the same time, according to the 1871 Census, back in Portsmouth living on her own as a widow in the aptly named Great Prospect Street. She said she was being financially supported by her two sons. The 1881 Census had the 54 year old David working as a labourer and living with his coal miner nephew John FOREY (1857-1936). David said he was a widower (technically, that wasn't true until 1895).

Meanwhile, David's erstwhile wife, Ellen was living at 19 Greetham Street, Portsmouth with Walter M COOPER (1846-1916) one of her sons by her previous husband (?). Walter was a chief gunner in the Navy and was listed as the household head on the Census return. By 1891 Walter was married and living at 29 George Street, Camberwell, London with his wife, three children and his seventy-nine year old mother, Ellen MABER/COOPER/FOREY, who died on the 12 March 1895 in Camberwell, London.

Fortunately, the marriages enjoyed by most of David's siblings were more fruitful in promulgating the FOREY line in Wales.

For example, the third son, William Thomas FOREY (1829-1895) who married a Mary WILLIAMS (1831-1911) in 1848, in Neath, Port Talbot, South Wales was an iron ore miner in Merthyr Tydfil. The couple had seven children of which three were sons. After 1851 William must have enlisted in the Royal Welch Fusiliers. The archaic spelling of Welsh by the way was because it was one of the oldest regiments in the British Army dating back to its creation in 1689. The 1861 Census for William FOREY and his family showed them to be in married quarters at Walmer Barracks, Sandwich, Kent where the 23rd Foot, as they were then known, were currently stationed. Whether William was involved in any action, for example, the Crimea (1854-56) or during the Indian Mutiny (1857) both campaigns in which the Royal Welch were involved, I do not know.

Ten years later in 1871 the family were back in Glamorgan at 2 Glamorgan Street, Aberdare. William and his eldest son David (1848-1928) were now working as coal miners. Son John (1856-1936) had married Annie TUDOR (1859-1933). Annie, who had been born in Staffordshire, had been married before to a John McDONALD (1834-1884), who had died a year after they had been wed in Merthyr Tydfil. She married John FOREY a year later (in

1885). There were no children from the first marriage but eight from the second.

I have already mentioned the marriage of one of great uncle Frederick's daughters, his first born child, Margaret. At least two of his other daughters wed including the last daughter to be born, Sarah Kate FOREY (1841-1918). She married a German immigrant, Franz Ferdinand HELLERMAN (1839-1893) in 1873 in Merthyr Tydfil. This couple had a total of five children of which two of the three sons survived into adulthood. Incidentally, the HELLERMAN surname doesn't seem to have survived sufficiently well in Britain to figure on the 'named' web site! Interestingly, the occurrence of the TUDOR surname is concentrated in the northern half of Wales, west of Oswestry. The more well-known and royal branch of this surname, i.e. the 'House of Tudor' was descended from the TUDORs of Penmynydd on Anglesey.

Sources:

<http://named.publicprofiler.org>

Todd, Peter: Burial in Wool: METROPOLITAN Vol.1 No.2 pps.74-75

For information on the Foreys of Thursley see:

<http://puttenham.blogspot.co.uk/2013/03/forey.html>

For information on the Army regiments mentioned see National Army Museum websites:

www.nan.ac.uk/research/famous-units/16th-queens-lancers

www.nan.ac.uk/research/famous-units/royal-welch-fusiliers

Apparently the change of name from Queen's Light Dragoons to Queen's Lancers was done at the behest of the Prince Regent (George IV) that the Regiment should '*lay aside their carbines and be equipped as a corps of Lancers*'. The lance was thus going to be employed again by the cavalry after a break of nearly two centuries.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lance>

House of Tudor see:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tudor_dynasty

Ancestry.co.uk

MY MITCHELLS

By Vivienne Allen, Member No. 7776

My 2x great grandfather Robert MITCHELL was born in 1796, possibly in Hampstead. His parents were most likely another Robert MITCHELL and Isobella BELL but I cannot be absolutely certain because both Robert and MITCHELL are very common names.

In the early 1800s a MITCHELL ran a gardening business/florist named *Britannia Nursery* in Bath Place, Kensington and my 2x great grandfather was a gardener by profession. Bath Place is no longer there. Nearby was a *Britannia Brewery*. Today this area is between Allen Street and Adam and Eve Mews. In 1832, he had a business in York Square, now Munster Square, which is in the area of Regent's Park.



On the 23 March 1833, he married Elizabeth VINCENT from Edgware in All Souls Church. On 15 April, she had a daughter named Mary Ann (known as Polly) who was baptised on 5 June 1833 in Trinity Church, parish of Marylebone. They had another four children and the next to arrive was Robert Benjamin, born on 15 August 1834 and baptised in All Souls Church, Langham Place. Very sadly, he died aged 11 months and his burial record shows an address of Charles Place, Kensington. His funeral service took place in St Mary Abbots Church, Kensington.

The couple's third child was Elizabeth, born on 20 May 1836 and baptised on the 17 June in Trinity Church, which was situated at the junction of Albany Street and Osnaburgh Street. Very sadly she too died aged 11 months in April 1837.

Robert Mitchell, Gardener & Florist,
 York Nursery, York Square, Osbornburgh Street,
 Regent's Park, respectfully informs the Nobility
 and Gentry that in consequence of great experience
 and practice he is able to plan and lay-out Gardens,
Pleasure-Grounds, and Shrubberies in the most
 tasteful manner; and having by him a large Stock
 of the most choice Trees, Shrubs, Plants, Roots
 and Seed, together with plenty of excellent Gravel,
 Mould and Manure, he will supply every thing
 at an unusually cheap price, and find the best
 workmanship at the low rate of 3s. 6d. per Day,
 or by the Year on equally moderate terms.

The very best Garden Gravel delivered, if
 within two miles of the Nursery, at 9s. per Load,
 and rich Manure and the best Mould at 7s.

An excellent Assortment of Grape Vines,
 1s. to 3s. 6d. per Vine.

Oct. 29th, 1832.

Their fourth child was my great grandmother, Susannah, who was born on 11 April 1838 but her birth appears not to have been registered. Their fifth child, Julia Agnes was registered. She was born on 13 March 1841 in Granby Cottage, Granby Street, which was off the Hampstead Road, Regent's Park. She was baptised on 11 April 1841 in Old St Pancras Church, which is in a small pretty garden a short walk from St Pancras Station. All three surviving girls were known to my mother who thankfully was a hoarder and kept many valuable documents which I now possess and treasure.

My 2x great grandfather Robert died from liver disease on the 10 February



1849 at 3 Hamilton Mews North in St John's Wood and Elizabeth died from cirrhosis of the liver on 23 October 1874 at 20 Barrow Hill Road, also in St John's Wood. Polly died from broncho-pneumonia on 24 February 1918 at 22 Ulysses Road, West Hampstead. She never married or had any children. Susannah died from cerebral thrombosis on 10 June 1928 age 90 at 40 Sumatra Road, West Hampstead which is where I used to visit auntie Ethel when I was a little girl in the 1950s. Julia Agnes died from broncho-pneumonia later that year

on 22 October, also at 20 Ulysses Road. She too never married or had any children. Susannah, Polly and Julia are shown in the photo above.

It is Susannah who really intrigues me because nobody to this day has been able to find out how she managed to have two illegitimate children and yet not have to go into the workhouse. She appeared to live in relative comfort and kept the children with her. On the 1871 census when aged 33 she was, by profession, a dressmaker and appears as a visitor at 35 Fairfax Road, South Hampstead. In 1881 aged 43 and still a dressmaker, she is living at 46 Abbey Gardens, St John's Wood with her children, George Arthur and Ethel Agnes.

George was my grandfather and he was born on 21 September 1874 in Brentwood Cottage, John Street, Hampstead, which is now Keats Grove. I

wrote to the Heath and Hampstead Society asking them if Brentwood Cottage was still there but they have never replied. Ethel was born on 1 March 1880 in Stanley Road, Acton, London W3. What was Susannah doing there giving birth if she was resident of Abbey Gardens? She was nearly 42 when she had Ethel. Susannah never gave any clues as to who fathered her children but my mother assumed that he had a reasonable income and supported them because the children were always well cared for and went to school in West Hampstead. It isn't even known if they had the same father.

Susannah was not in a hurry to have her children christened. George was baptised on 6 February 1876 in All Saints Church, St John's Wood and the address given was 57 Fairfax Road, South Hampstead. Ethel was baptised on 16 April 1884 and an address of 66 Clerkenwell Road, London EC1 was given which is very much 'out of her area'. On the children's birth certificates she states that the informant is Susannah Mitchell, formerly MILLICENT. To me, this is a girl's Christian name meaning 'strength'. Has it any significance? I've never heard of this being a surname.

Ten years later in 1891 Susannah can still be found at 46 Abbey Gardens as a dressmaker and she still has George and Ethel with her. At some unknown time, Susannah was working in the household of Admiral Tryon as a sewing maid and whilst she was there, she said that Prince George was a frequent visitor to the house and he married the Admiral's daughter. He later became King George V. I have no idea where the Admiral lived but as Susannah spent most of her life in Regent's Park/South and West Hampstead, presumably she was employed in the area.

On the 1901 census she is still at 46 Abbey Gardens with George now 26 and Ethel aged 21 and it is from here that George married my grandma, Marion TUCK on the 11 January 1904 at St Mark's Church, Hamilton Terrace - near Regent's Park and London Zoo. In 1911 Susannah was at 47 Abbey Gardens. George and Marion had three daughters; my mother Dorothy was the eldest, then came Alice two years later and lastly Kathleen.

I don't know where either of the Roberts are buried or the two Elizabeths. Polly, Susannah, Julia, George, Ethel and Marion are all buried in the cemetery in Fortune Green Road in West Hampstead and my mother used to play there with her two sisters as it was a superb playground and very close to Agamemnon Road where they lived for many years.



This photo is of Marion and George Arthur MITCHELL, my grandparents. The children are: from the left Dorothy Ethel, Kathleen Iris in the pram and Alice Bessie. Photo taken in Broadhurst Gardens late 1914/early 1915.

I don't know anything very much at all about these ancestors but they seem to have plodded on through their lives, always working although probably never doing anything remarkable but I am nevertheless very proud to be descended from them.

Many thanks go to Barbara Haswell and Pam Chambers who both attend the City Branch and helped me when I hit that brick wall.

MY (BRICK) WALLS AND UNWANTED CERTIFICATES

By David Sansom, Member No. 7665

My mother was a WALL and she had a brother, my Uncle Bill. We visited his family regularly at their home backing on to the Grand Union Canal just off the Harrow Road in Paddington. This was the extent of our knowledge of the WALL family.

Our mum died when my sister and I were quite young and it was not until I started researching my family history that we were able to piece together the story of her family. We found that her father, George Henry WALL, was killed in action in France in 1917 and that her mother re-married in 1921. We also discovered an older sister to my mother and Uncle Bill of whom we were previously unaware.

With my wife's help we put together a family tree going back to around 1800. Despite the fact that the names WALL and COUCHMAN (which was the other primary surname in her family) were surprisingly common in their part of London we were confident that the sixty or so people in the resulting tree were all validated.

We did have much difficulty tracing my grandmother after her re-marriage and also my newly discovered aunt Violet. The only clue we had was something my sister Jean said she vaguely remembered being mentioned many years ago; namely that there had been some sort of falling out within the family. We eventually traced both of them to North London and acquired all the relevant birth, marriage and death certificates. As a bonus I also located Violet's grandson in Canada!

Nearly ten years after starting this project I was able to acquire a copy of my grandfather's service records directly from the Grenadier Guards archives. Oh dear! We had all along been working with the wrong set of great grandparents. We had used the only birth record which fitted all our other data for my grandfather but the newly supplied documents clearly gave his parents as another couple entirely.

		Unwanted Certificates			
Name(s) (Age)	Event	Date	Reg. District/Parish	Parents	
Charles Couchman	Birth	09/04/1849	Whitechapel	George/Ann (Elliot)	
Charlotte Mary Westwood	Birth	23/08/1852	Kensington	Matthew/Charlotte (Phillips)	
Mary Ann Clark	Birth	01/07/1874	Shoreditch	James/Charlotte (Cook)	
Annie Martha Couchman	Birth	11/06/1881	St Marylebone	Henry/Alice (Rose)	
Hibermia Matilda Wall	Birth	09/11/1881	St Marylebone	George Michael/Charlotte Mary (Westwood)	
Ada Louise Wall	Birth	09/11/1884	St Marylebone	George Michael/Charlotte Mary (Westwood)	
Henry George Whale	Birth	07/09/1890	Paddington	Henry Herbert/Lydia (Ridgway)	
Henry George Wall	Birth	21/12/1889	St Marylebone	George Michael/Charlotte Mary (Westwood)	
Michael George Wall/Hibermia Matilda Lloyd	Marriage	29/10/1849	St George Hanover Square	John Wall/Joseph Lloyd	
Matthew Westwood/Charlotte Phillips	Marriage	13/07/1851	Paddington	James Westwood/James Phillips	
George Michael Wall/Charlotte Mary Westwood	Marriage	03/03/1872	St Marylebone	Michael George Wall/Matthew Westwood	
Charles Henry Couchman/Alice Augusta Rose	Marriage	26/12/1878	St Marylebone	Charles Henry Couchman/George Rose	
Albert James Sweet/Violet Louise Wall	Marriage	19/03/1932	St Paul Hounslow Heath	Albert James Sweet/William Joseph Wall	
Bernard Wall/Barbara Mary Elizabeth Lucas	Marriage	19/08/1935	Paddington	Samuel Wall/Percival Lucas	
Harriet Dawson (43)	Death	26/09/1854	St Marylebone		
Edward Dawson (4 months)	Death	10/06/1862	St Pancras		
Harriet Couchman (18 days)	Death	30/11/1864	St Marylebone		
Ellen Dawson (67)	Death	20/04/1869	St Pancras		
Charlotte Westwood (47)	Death	25/07/1872	St Marylebone		
Harriet Couchman (33)	Death	03/05/1876	Hampstead		
Charlotte Wall (34)	Death	18/09/1890	Hampstead		
Henry Thomas Couchman (3)	Death	03/10/1891	St Marylebone		
George Michael Wall (42)	Death	02/04/1892	St Marylebone		
Hibermia Matilda Wall (81)	Death	04/10/1904	Kensington		
Matthew Westwood (85)	Death	14/06/1906	St Marylebone		
Florence Evans (31)	Death	06/02/1923	St George Hanover Square		
Florence Elizabeth Evans (33)	Death	24/01/1924	Camberwell		
Florence Evans (42)	Death	29/12/1934	West Ham		

It appears that, unlike his ten siblings, my grandfather's registration of birth just does not seem to be available and whilst his brothers and sisters were all baptised in Paddington I can not find a similar record for him.

The service records show without doubt that we now have the correct George WALL and they also list yet another brother, my uncle Bernard, for whom we now have verified records. As I write I have managed to trace Bernard's son and I am hoping to make contact with him.

Much possible confusion can arise from the fact that 'George WALL' is a very common name (I have four in my tree alone) not only in West London but in also in other areas.

As you will appreciate, the story I have outlined does not begin to account for all the time and effort which has gone into the research required to build this part of my family tree twice over. But it does I hope explain why I am left with a pile of unwanted certificates.

The previous page is a summary of the certificates I hold (nearly thirty in all) for various members of the CLARK, COUCHMAN, EVANS, DAWSON, LLOYD, WESTWOOD and WALL families which relate to (the incorrect) Henry George WALL, born December 1889 in Marylebone.

If you think any of these certificates may be relevant to your family you are welcome to contact me by email at: davidsansom69@gmail.com or by telephone: 01763 261107.

The Islington Gazette, 16 June 1868

THE OMNIBUS ACCIDENT IN UPPER-STREET

We regret to learn that Mr Harrodine, who was so shockingly injured on Thursday the 3rd instant, owing to the omnibus he was on coming into contact with another omnibus, in the narrow part of Upper street, has had to suffer amputation of the injured leg close to the hip-joint. This took place of Friday last in the Middlesex Hospital. The operation was performed by Mr Nunn, a most skilful surgeon. Dr Wilson, of Theberton-street, and Mr Gill, of Upper-street, visit the patient daily.

GENEALOGY, GENETICS & FAMILY HEALTH

By Louise Gillies, Non-member

Finding photographs of our ancestors often leads to an inevitable identification game and this gives us a feeling of relatedness to those who went before us. I was recently astounded at my likeness to a paternal great-grandmother in terms of my facial features (slanting eyes and big nose!). These have been passed on down the family on my father's side and there is definitely no doubting where I came from.

However, when 'John' was looking at old photos, he noticed that some of his family on his mother's side had pale-looking patches on their skin, similar to those he had begun to develop on his arms and hands. John's family had a common condition known as vitiligo and through further research he discovered 8 other family members with the same skin condition.

Many factors influence and determine our health and wellbeing and some of these, as in John's case, are inherited from our ancestors. Family health history is becoming increasingly more pertinent as genetic medicine knowledge moves forward. Books and magazine articles on family health history have been published on the subject.

In the United States, a national Family Health History Day was launched a few years ago by the Surgeon General. This day coincides with Thanksgiving and families are encouraged to spend some of their time together discussing their own health and conditions which may run in the family. A US government-approved family tree web tool is available in which health information is added to a typical family-tree based application, familiar to genealogists who use online family tree software. This information remains confidential, but can then be used in conjunction with medical doctors to aid diagnosis and treatments.

More recently, Ancestry Health has been launched in beta format, for similar purposes to the aforementioned. Also, Ancestry.com is currently in talks to add health information to the popular ancestry DNA service currently offered. Ancestry.com's CEO, in an interview with the *Huffington Post*, stated that 'health is a pretty natural extension of the core mission to help

everyone discover, preserve and share their family history'. Is this what genealogists want, or are Ancestry.com looking for a new audience?

The link between history (genealogy) and science/medicine (inherited disease) may seem obscure, but each of these areas has a common, central component – the family tree. Family trees are used in genealogy to diagrammatically represent our ancestry and allow us to see how we are connected. In the medical field of genetic counselling, the family tree is used to identify genetic diseases.

But do genetics and inherited diseases actually concern the genealogy population?

In an ongoing study at King's College London, we are exploring how genealogists engage and use information about health conditions which appear to be running in their family. For the purposes of this study, conditions should affect at least two or three individuals and can run down a familial branch (including skipping generations) or horizontally (siblings and cousins). The health conditions can include genetic conditions, medical diseases, mental health issues and behaviours such as addiction.

We are interested in interviewing genealogists who have found inherited diseases and conditions whilst doing their family history research. Interviews can also be extended to other family members (all information is confidential and not shared with other relatives). We want to find out how such diseases are discovered, what (if any) records are used to access information, if the information is shared with other members of the family and if it has made any difference in terms of health/lifestyle choices. By listening to your stories, we hope to build up a picture of how family health history is discovered and managed.

For further information, please contact Louise Gillies on 07984 757805 or through www.facebook.com/familyhealthhistory.



JOTTINGS

Marylebone Census, 1821 and 1831.

The Marylebone Census for 1821 and 1831 contains over 22,000 census results covering Marylebone in the City of Westminster and has been recently added to FindMyPast. Each record consists of a transcript and an image of the original document. Transcripts list the name, address, parish and the year the record was taken. Images can contain a variety of additional details. These early nineteenth century census records, whilst not recording the same amount of information that is found in more recent censuses, can nevertheless reveal a lot about a person's home. You can also discover the field of employment of the subject and how many servants were employed in the home.

Right to buy and Peabody homes

Further to the Jotting in March's METROPOLITAN regarding tenants of alms houses, Peabody tenants will also now not be able to exercise their Right to Buy following a deal struck between the major housing association and the government.

Under controversial plans set out in the government's Housing and Planning Bill, housing association tenants will be given the opportunity to buy their home at a £103,900 discount, funded by the forced sale of "high-value" council homes. Currently, only council tenants are eligible.

However, Peabody, which manages 2,500 homes in Islington, has been granted an exemption for homes built before 1974 with the original charitable donation from the American-British financier and philanthropist George Peabody.

In a statement, Peabody said: "We support home ownership. However, we would not want to sell homes built using the original charitable donation from George Peabody. Neither would we think it right to sell homes built or acquired with no public grant.

"The voluntary agreement between the housing sector and government means that decisions on sales under right-to-buy legislation rests with the board of trustees. We will offer help for people to buy an alternative property where the right to buy their own home is not applicable.

"We are keen to keep as much as possible of our heritage stock in central London available for the benefit of future generations of renters."

See: <http://www.islingtontribune.com/peabodyhomesexcluded>

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ST ANDREW, TOTTERIDGE

Totteridge is situated on the ridge of high ground between the valley of Dollis Brook and its tributary, Folly Brook, in the southern extension of Hertfordshire into Middlesex.

The curved edge of the churchyard may indicate that the first church built here was on a site already well-used by local people since ancient times. That this may have been a sacred site is strengthened by the presence in the churchyard of an ancient yew tree (pictured below). This is estimated to be between 1000 and 2000 years old and may be the oldest tree in the Greater London area. It may be older than the first church on the site, which is mentioned in a document dated 1250AD, recording that Totteridge Church belonged to St Etheldreda's, Hatfield.



St Etheldreda, daughter of Anna, King of East Anglia, was born at Exning near Newmarket in 636AD. She founded a monastery at Ely, which had been part of her dowry, and later retired there. Her shrine was at Ely Cathedral but was moved to the chapel of the London residence of the Bishops of Ely at Ely Place, off Charterhouse Street, Holborn. This chapel, now known as St Etheldreda's Church, is a rare survivor in London, having been constructed between 1250 and 1290 during the reign of King Edward 1. The attached gardens were said to produce the finest strawberries in London and are mentioned in Shakespeare's *Richard III*.

It was King Edward 1's grandfather, Saxon King Edgar, who seems to have given Hatfield (along with Totteridge) to the Abbot of Ely when the monastery was refounded. So this is why the church at Totteridge was initially dedicated to St Etheldreda, the name gradually being shortened to St Audrey. The change of dedication to St Andrew may have been at the time of the Reformation when biblical saints were more popular. It is interesting to note that in manuscript form, Audrey and Andrew can be quite similar!

In 1650 it was suggested that Totteridge be detached from Hatfield but this did not actually take place until 1892, the new parish then containing 785 inhabitants.

The Churchwarden's Accounts and Vestry Minutes began in 1613. Various repairs carried out to the fabric of the building are recorded, including those resulting from a week-long storm in November 1703 which swept away the first Eddystone lighthouse and demolished hundreds of windmills. The church weathervane is dated 1706 and it is possible that the original was destroyed in this gale.



The church itself had to be rebuilt in 1790, apparently by architect William KETTERIDGE. It is a plain brick building with a weather-boarded bell turret dated 1706 which had come from the previous building.

Inside the church are a number of memorials which refer to members of the family of the great uncle of Samuel PEPYS, diarist. Sir Lucas PEPYS was physician to George III and president of the Royal College of Physicians.

The Lych gate to the Churchyard dates from 1930 and was erected in memory of Lady BARRETT of Totteridge Park. This 18th century house is located on the site of what was a residence and private chapel belonging to the Bishop of Ely in the 14th century.

Parish Records

Totteridge parish records dating from 1546-1966 are held by Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies, County Hall, Pegs Lane, Hertford, SG13 8EJ.

Transcripts of the baptisms 1570-1837, marriages 1570-1836 and burials 1570-1837 are available at Barnet Local Studies Centre, Hendon Library (first floor), The Burroughs, London NW4 4BQ

Images of baptisms 1546-1903, marriages 1754-1789 and burials 1570-1937 are available on pay-per-view site FindMyPast.

LWMFHS has produced a fiche of St Andrew's Memorial Inscriptions: NMP 29 includes St Andrew MIs and the burial register plus the Dissenters Chapel and costs £1.50. Only 3 left. See December METROPOLITAN for details if you would like to purchase one.

The Church has detailed plans of the burial ground and if you would like to know the position of a particular grave, you can email Richard Peart on: rwpeart@care4free.net for assistance. There is a statutory fee for this service.

Sources:

Ancient Yew Group: <http://www.ancient-yew.org/s.php/frequently-asked-questions/2/2#>

St Albans History: http://www.stalbanshistory.org/documents/1901_02_05_.pdf

Totteridge Church: <http://www.totteridgechurch.org.uk/#!/history/c1u7q>

WEBSITE NEWS

named

While browsing the daily papers the other morning I came across an article in the 'Mail Online' which might interest METROPOLITAN readers.

A web app has been developed by researchers in the Department of Geography at University College, London which claims that by mapping where in the UK certain British surnames are most concentrated they can predict where your family might have originated.

The website is actually part of a wider research project being funded by the Economic and Social Research Council. To date the research has shown that many surnames, particularly of Anglo Saxon origin, have not moved far from their traditional localities or regions for decades.

The website has been designed to be simple to use and entails just entering a surname whereupon it will automatically map the region/s in the UK where an unusually high number of people with that surname are currently living.

The site is also interactive in the sense that the researchers would like to have feedback on how their placement of your surname corresponds with your actual birth location. It is optional whether you want to tick any boxes or enter your postcode.

As would be expected the geography of many popular names, such as SMITH or BROWN are evenly spread across the Country. Although names like JONES and WILLIAMS still amass in their traditional heartlands.

Patterns also hold for names imported from abroad over the last 60 years or so. Many such names, for example those from the Indian sub-continent, tend to be more concentrated in the major cities and towns although the researchers say that such names are becoming more dispersed as migrants become integrated into UK society.

Of course I couldn't resist the urge to have a go. The surname TODD was most concentrated along a North East coastal band from Dundee to the Wash, with an isolated hot spot in Cumbria. This was a similar conclusion to the one which I had seen earlier where surname density changes had been compared between 1881, using the Census records for that year and 1998 where telephone directory data was used. Unfortunately, I haven't as yet found any link to a northern ancestor in my family history.

I was surprised to find that my grandmother's maiden name of FOREY also figured, since it is generally regarded as being uncommon in Britain. A large hot spot was situated on an area in South Wales lying between Merthyr

Tydfil and Aberystwyth to the North West. This was interesting to me because although my branch of the FOREYs settled in the village of Thursley in south west Surrey about 1650, and remained in that area for about a century before moving nearer to and also into London to find work, only one of my ancestors, as far as I'm aware, made his home in South Wales. That was a great, great uncle of mine Frederick FOREY (1797-1872). He and his descendants mainly worked in the coal industry. It would seem that whereas the London and South Eastern-based FOREYs slowly seemed to have petered out over the last hundred years or so, those in South Wales have gone from strength to strength as evidenced by this latest resource.

Sources:

<http://named.publicprofiler.org/>

<http://oobrien.com/2016/02/named/>

<http://esrc.ac.uk>

With this last reference you need to search for 'mapping your ancestors-Valentines'.

Peter Todd, Member No. 7686.

Middlesex Baptisms 1543-1876

Over 129,000 records have been added to the collection of Middlesex Baptism records on FindMyPast. The collection now spans over 300 years from the sixteenth century all the way up to the late nineteenth century. Each record includes transcribed details from the original parish register. While the content of the transcripts can vary, most will have the name, birth date or age, baptism date, parish, parents' names, father's occupation and residence. For more information or to search this pay-per-view archive set, visit: <http://www.findmypast.co.uk/>

Greater London Burial Index

Also on FindMyPast, over 79,000 new records have been added to the Greater London Burials Index, which now comprises over one million names from more than 226 parishes. Included are Middlesex Memorial Inscriptions, City of London Burials, the South London Burials Index, and Middlesex & City of London Burials Index; and both Anglican and non-conformist parishes. 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 about your ancestor: full name (including maiden name if female), birth year, death year, burial date, occupation, denomination, relationship and address.

1939 REGISTER

By Helen Butler, Member No. 5186

The 1939 Register has helped to solve my brick walls. I never knew my grandfather Albert Edward BUTLER, who was born on 5 June 1875, son of Alfred Joseph and Georgina. He had left the family home before I was born.

I found him on the 1930 Electoral Register at Diamond Street, Camberwell and then the trail went cold. I picked him up on the 1939 Register at Kingsland Street, Shoreditch. I was then able to find his death, age 67, Shoreditch, June quarter, 1942.

My great great grandmother Mary Ann WILLIAMS' first marriage was to Abraham MARSHALL. They had six children: Arthur Edwin (1863-1863); Walter, born 1864; Charles J, born 1866 and last seen with his mother and stepfather on the 1881 census; Arthur (1869-1916) who married Mary Jane SMITHERMAN, lived in Tonbridge, Kent and died in India; Frederick Abraham (1870-1956) who married Sarah Ann HUNT SAWYER and lived in West Norwood; and Annie Louise, born 1872 and who married John ELGIE. When John ELGIE died in 1916, Annie Louise went to Canada, where she had a half-sister Beatrice MILEMAN/HUNT. In Canada she married Hugh Douglas WILLIAMSON.

Walter, who was born on 20 June 1864 at St Pancras proved very elusive for a number of years. Thanks to Ancestry and FindMypast, I discovered he had joined the army and while in Ireland he had married Frances Jane McGLINN in 1891. They had four children: Charles John born 25 July 1892 who married Mary Ellen CUFFE in 1913 at Dublin; Walter Francis (19 December 1893-1964) married Dorothy DENNETT in 1920 in Lancashire; Eleanor, born 27 November 1895 and Isabella, who was born on 22 May 1898 and later went to Canada in 1920 where she married Francis Charles DE LA FOSSE. Walter's wife Frances Jane died in 1918. In about 1920, Walter, Walter Francis and Eleanor came to England and lived in Southport, Lancashire for a while.

The 1939 Register: 'Beaumaris' Leathley Road, Ilkley, Yorkshire shows Walter MARSHALL, Widower, born 16 June 1864, Tinsmith and sheet metal worker (retired) with Eleanor MARSHALL, Single, born 27

November 1895, Workroom Nurse (Mental Hospital). The date of birth is different for Walter but the occupation is right.

I then looked for deaths. Walter MARSHALL age 76 died in Rotherham, Yorkshire in June 1941. I was unable to find Eleanor's death, so I just entered Eleanor and her date of birth. The only one that came up was. Eleanor ASHALL age 77, born 27 November 1895, St Helens, Lancashire, died March 1973.

So, that is another piece of the jigsaw completed. I can now go on to the next problem.

The Morning Post, Friday 25 May 1888

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THIS DAY

Mrs Bolton's dance, 44 Queen's-gate-terrace

Princess Mary Adelaide opens a fancy-dress fair in aid of the building fund of St Luke's Church, Richmond, 3.

National Health Society – Ambulance lecture by Mr Owen Lankester, at 27 Collingham-gardens, 3 : Lecture on nursing by Miss Homersham, at 42 Lexham-gardens, Cromwell-road, 11.30am.

University College – Sir C Newton on the Greek Stage, 4.

At the Mansion House, at 3pm, the Lord Mayor presiding, the third annual meeting of the National Association for Employment of Reserve and Discharged Soldiers.

May Meetings: Sunday School Association, Essex Hall, Essex-street, Strand, 9; London Aged Christian Society, Exeter Hall, 3.30.

United Service Institution: Colonel HM Hozier on 'Equipment and Transport of Modern Armies,' 3.

Racing: Manchester; Harpenden.

Rowing: Eton CBC School Sculling.

Scientific Meetings, &c.: Balloon Society, lecture of 'Charing-cross to Constantinople,' 8: Quekett Microscopical, 8: Royal Institution, 9.

MYSTERY PHOTO



This is a photograph from my family collection. Someone has kindly written 'Christmas 1905/6, London, on this photo but unfortunately omitted to say who the people are! Can you help identify them?

Elisabeth Roller, Member No 7822

Denzenbergstraße 46, 72074 Tübingen, Germany

Note: All is not necessarily lost in cases such as this. This photograph would seem to show a family; father, mother, two daughters and a son. The little boy looks to be about 3 or 4, giving a birth-date of 1901-1903. His sisters could be about 7 and 10, so born about 1898-9 and 1895-6. You will need to look in your records and see if you can find a family with three children who could fit in with these possible dates.

There may perhaps have been older children who were not present when the photograph was taken, and it is possible that these children could have died by the time of the 1911 census, both of which circumstances would make it harder to identify the family.

ENFIELD BRICKFIELDS

By David Cufley, Member No. 196

Trying to locate and attribute brickfields and their owners and occupiers by reference to OS Maps and other sources is very difficult. Not only did the brickmakers become bankrupt and they disappeared, but also the supply of clay would become exhausted and the brickfield closed making the workers relocate to other fields. In the last two centuries, there was also the pressure of the need for building land, which hastened the demise of the brickfield as the profit on bricks was exceeded by the value of the land. All of these reasons have contributed to the brickmaking history of Enfield.

My CUF(F)LEY family came from Enfield but were not brickmakers, as far as I know. My Kent brickmaking families of WHEATLEY and FLETCHER generated my interest in the brickmaking trade and it was following them that the 'Brickmakers Index' came into existence.

Chasing brick references led me to the work of Sidney Beadle who was in the process of preparing a booklet on brickmaking in the Enfield area when he died. David Pam, in his three excellent volumes on the History of Enfield, mentioned having seen this work in preparation entitled 'Bricks and Brickmaking in Enfield, Edmonton and Tottenham'. I was privileged to have seen Sid Beadle's notes during a short Saturday afternoon at Len Keeble's home in 1997 before they were passed on to the Edmonton Hundred Historical Society; they are now with the British Brick Society.

It was not until Walter Eves, the ex-chair of NW Kent FHS, showed me a copy of the declaration by John COOMES dated 1849 about the ownership of land in Enfield occupied by John HALL's brickfield, that the catalyst for this article came about. It refers to ownership of three parcels of land and the heirs to this land. The parcels were in Southbury Field alongside Bungers Lane (Lincoln Road) in 1806 being: 3 roods by the side of Bungers Lane; plot 1492 1 acre 2 roods; plot 1491 1 acre 1 rood 29 perches. The heirs to John HILL were: his sister, Mary BURGESS of Ponders End, who died March 1827; niece Elizabeth Mary DOWNING, the wife of John DOWNING, a builder, who died 1842; Elizabeth CHIFFINS, widow, the wife of Lewis CHIFFINS of Cheshunt, Herts, who died 1844 and her daughter Julia Elizabeth CHIFFINS, spinster.

I trust that by recording the surnames of the main families involved in this industry I will provide clues for family historians and others to help with their research into itinerant brickmaking ancestors.

The map of the Enfield area on page 106 has been produced to aid the reader in locating the references made and each site has been given a number to which the following details refer. While the Brickmakers Index endeavours to list anyone who worked on the brickfields to help make the bricks, this article, by its nature, is limited to noting only the owners, occupiers and undertakers that manufactured the bricks.

I would also like to acknowledge the help and enthusiasm provided for this article by the late Graham Dalling of London Borough of Enfield Local History Unit and his colleagues for their assistance.

1. **Orchard Brickworks** is shown on the 1913 and 1936 OS maps. James Frederick RAINER worked this site from 1901 to 1937. The area is now Roedene Close and Roedene Avenue. James RAINER was born in 1852 in Newington, Kent and died in 1942 at Highwood Hill, Middlesex. He worked in the Sittingbourne area in 1872 and Murston area before 1878, when he was working in Walthamstow Essex. His brother Frederick George RAINER from 1901 superintended the Enfield Highway brickworks. The bricks from the brickworks being stamped 'JFR' in the frog of the bricks. James Frederick RAINER also had brickworks at Cheshunt, the site now being the location of Rainer Close. He lived at Nazeing and commuted between the sites in a pony and trap. The author's thanks go to Malcolm and Audrey Rainer for all the help with this section of this article. Malcolm has been looking for a brick with the JFR mark for his family history collection, as it would be an heirloom of his ancestors. If anyone has such a brick please can you contact the author.

2. The Brickfield west of the railway and north of Carterhatch Lane shown on the 1867, 1897, 1913 OS maps was closed by 1936. Taken over by Charles BROWN (after site 5 closed) until 1903.

3. **Crown Brickworks** is shown on the 1914, 1936 and 1946 OS maps north of Southbury Road and east of the Great Cambridge Road. Charles Bloom DEARSLEY started this site in 1898 and he continued working it until 1918,

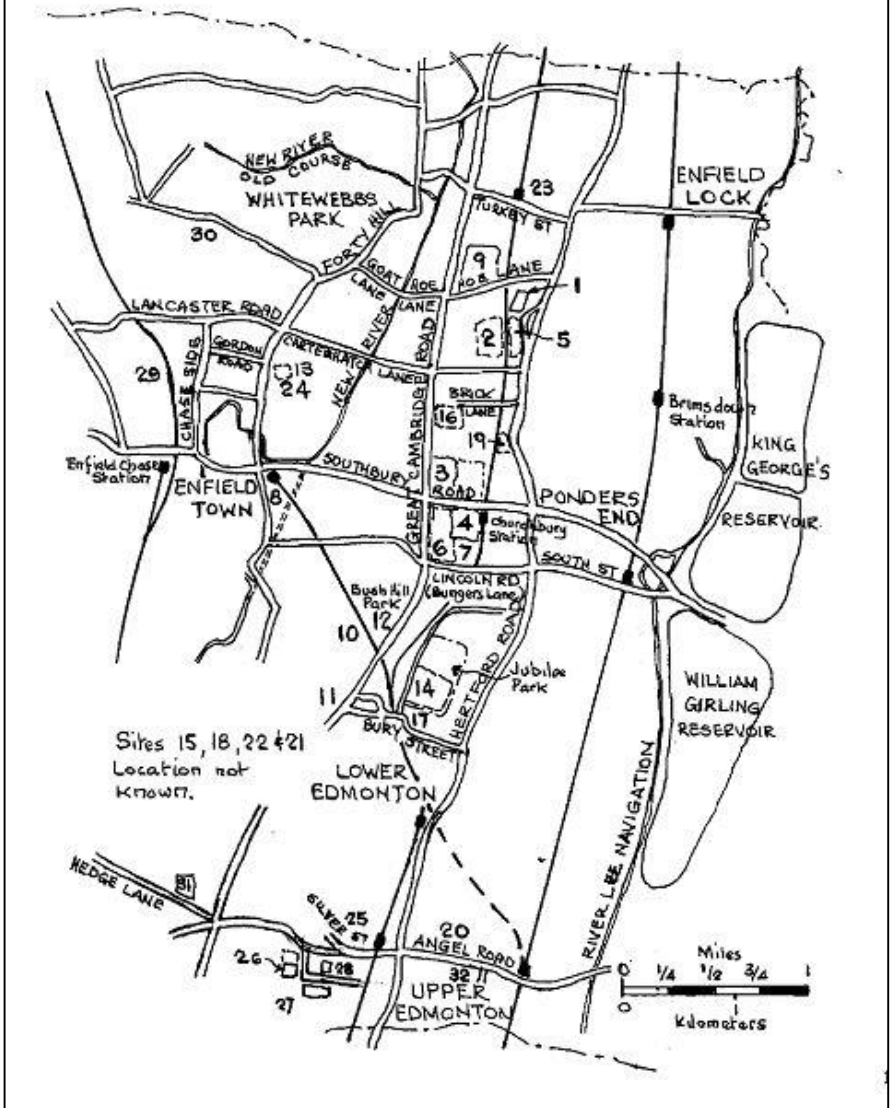
although in 1899 it was advertised as HARVEY and DEARSLEY. However in the same area Bernard MITCHELL had a brickfield in 1855. He was the son of William MITCHELL a market gardener who was also a brickmaker at Enfield Highway, according to the directory for 1859 (see site 19). DEARSLEY's house was situated at the entrance to the works. This site became known as the Crown Brickworks in 1903 and after KIRK & RANDALL. The later owners went bankrupt in 1927, the new owners (Summit Estates Ltd) continued with the 'Crown' name on the 28-acre site until 1955. It was closed during WW1 then reopened in 1924. The Crown Brick Company took over the Lea Valley brickworks to produce yellow stock bricks, importing the chalk from Hertfordshire, and it was listed in the 1931 directories. Thomas SAUNDERS had a brickfield north of Southbury Road (Nags Lane) 1845-1855.

4. A Brickworks is shown on the 1914 and 1936 OS maps by Churchbury Station (now Southbury). (See site 6 & 7).

5. The Brickfield shown on the 1867 and 1896 OS maps was closed by 1913 as a separate field and was located west of Old Road and south of Palmers Lane. This site was used as part of Orchard Brickfield until 1936 as shown on the OS map. In 1886 this site was taken over by Charles BROWN but when the clay became exhausted he then moved to a site on the other side of the railway (site 2).

6. **Enfield Red Brick Co.** was part of the London Brick Company and occupied the site (70 acres) which includes areas 4 & 7 at the junction of Lincoln Road and the Great Cambridge Road. It produced red bricks until 1937 when it closed. The founder of the London Brick Company was John Cathles HILL, born 1857, died 1915, who also owned brickworks at Fletton and Great Bentley. John Cathles HILL founded the Fletton local brickmakers association in 1890 and was President of the Institute of Clayworkers in 1900-01 and 1905-07. He went bankrupt in 1912 and was discharged in 1915, the year he died. His family continued managing the London Brick Company under his sons Robert William HILL, who died at Ypres in 1917, then John Edgar HILL, who oversaw the merger of the London Brick Co with Forders Ltd, and then in 1936 changed the name back to the London Brick Co. Edward NEWMAN had this site north of Lincoln road and east of Cambridge Road from 1855 to 1878 when he died. William NEWMAN took over the field until 1898 when the London Brick Company acquired it.

Enfield's Old Brickworks



7. **John HILL's Brickfield** in 1803 occupied three parcels of land including plots 1491 and 1492, north of Lincoln Road. John HILL is said to have paid £150 for plot 1491 according to W Robinson's *History of Enfield*. John HILL had leased a brick ground from Ralph PHILLIPS in 1772 for 12 years (location not known). He also rented land from William MELLISH Esq. who was building a hunting lodge on Chingford Green prior to 1798 using bricks from Ponders End and Baker Street (site 13).

8. **Brick Kiln Field**, recorded on the 1803 Plan by Robinson, was owned by W MELLISH Esq and the site is now Enfield Town station. The actual years this area was worked is not known.

9. **Hoe Lane Old Brickfield** is shown on the 1867, 1896, 1913 and 1936 OS maps. Located at what is now the junction of Hoe Lane and the Great Cambridge Road south of the crematorium, there were four beehive kilns on this site. Charles STOTTER moved here from Tottenham c1896 and went bankrupt in 1903. It was occupied by William Delhi CORNISH and then Messrs Cornish from 1927-1963. This brickfield was later known as Gabriel's Brickworks and closed in 1976.

10. **North London Estates Brickfield**, west of Bush Hill Park Station, was set up in 1875 and continued until 1886 when the company went bankrupt. It was then taken over by George & John DRAKE who eventually moved to site 11 when they exhausted the clay in this area.

11. **Wellington Road Brickfield** (now a school playing field) was occupied by George & John DRAKE before being bought by William Delhi CORNISH in 1907, who extended it. This extension is now Delhi Road. William Delhi CORNISH was a long serving member of the Edmonton Urban District Council and Middlesex County Council. He died in 1942 at his home in Village Road, Bush Hill Park.

12. **Bush Hill Park** brickfield was set up by William Delhi CORNISH but was exhausted by the 1920s. The location of the site is now Trinity Avenue. Three beehive kilns were on this site and were still there in the 1930s. JH SANKEY & Co. Ltd was listed at this site in the 1931 directories. The site closed before 1936.

13. **Henry ROGERS** 1823 produced yellow bricks from his site behind the Wheatsheaf Public House on Baker Street.
14. **Messrs CORNISH Brickfield** between Galliards Road and Hounsfield Road (now Jubilee Park) was established in 1930. There were adjacent brickworks on Bury Street (see site 17). Samuel SOUTH bought a brickfield near Houndsfield Road Edmonton (see site 20) which previously belonged to his brother Joseph SOUTH who had died in his 40s. The site is now Barrass sports ground.
15. David Pam notes in his history of Enfield that in 1653 Stephen BARNES sold two acres of brick clamps to Arnold MAYNESBOROWE, both being brickmakers. The location of this brickfield is not known.
16. **Messrs CORNISH** occupied the Brick Lane (now playing fields) site in 1930 before moving to Hoe Lane (site 9). This site dates from at least 1867.
17. Adjacent Brickworks north of Bury Street, Lower Edmonton were occupied by W PIGGOTT 1897, T&M PLOWMAN, SMYTHE & Co. and the SOUTH family: Joseph, Joseph jnr and Samuel. The SOUTH brickworks closed c1914. T&M PLOWMAN were Thomas and Mark PLOWMAN who traded as Thomas PLOWMAN, see agreement dated 1883 in John Woodforde's book when Thomas ROWE agreed to work for Thomas PLOWMAN for 4s-11d per 1000 bricks with 7d per 1000 bonus at the end of the season, known as 'pence money'. Henry NASH had a brickfield here in 1859 by reference to the directories.
18. **Robert GOSSIP** of Enfield produced bricks stamped 'RG' in 1830, his site location is not known.
19. **William MITCHELL** in the directory for 1859 and the 1861 census, was a market gardener as well as a brickmaker living at Nine Milestone House on the High Road. In the 1871 census he was at Broadlands, again as a market gardener and brickmaker, but only listed as a market gardener from 1872.
20. **Joseph SOUTH** from Barley, Herts, ran Angel Road Pottery before he went to New Zealand and set up a brickworks in Dunedin. The pottery was sold to his son Samuel SOUTH. In 1880 Samuel leased the pottery in White

Hart Lane, Tottenham from Richard SANKEY of Nottingham, which included a brickground and 2 stools. A stool is a table for brickmaking and is also known as a berth. It was normal for a stool to be worked by six people including the moulder, flattie, off loader and skintler, some of which were family members. In 1899 Montague Brick Co., north of Angel Road on Montague Road, was managed by J BLAIR. Also on this site in 1899 was Wood's Patent Brick & Tile Co. owned by AR DAGG.

21. **Stephen BARNES** operated a brickfield in 1653 but its location is unknown.

22. **Ponders End Brick Co.** was wound up in 1883. The exact location of this brickfield is not known.

23. **John WARD** was at Turkey Street in 1716.

24. **John WARD** is also noted at Churchbury Field in 1716

25. **WD CORNISH** had Silver Street Brickfield 1897-1899.

26. **East Acton Brick Works & Estate Co Ltd.** was west of Bull Lane in 1890.

27. **William PIGGOT.** The 1914 OS map shows the brickfield and the directories indicate its existence from 1897-1917.

28. The Brickfield on the 1867 OS map was later the site of the 1914 infirmary north of Bridport Road.

29. **CORDELL** family in 1438/39 obtained a licence to dig on Enfield Chase to make bricks. The exact location of that site is not known. David Pam in his book about Enfield Chase records that Edward HELDER, a master bricklayer, had purchased 5 acres of Brick Hill Field from Nicholas RAINTON and had taken out much brick earth for his brickmaking. As this was common land, he got into trouble with the authorities in the form of the deputy steward and bailiff Edward DOBSON in 1675. By 1855, Charles GOODMAN was making bricks and tiles at Greenwood Plain, Chase.

30. **CORDELL** family in 1539 were based at Clay Hill manufacturing bricks and tiles. The exact location of the site is not known.

31. A Brickfield north of Hedge Lane and east of Firs Lane is shown on the 1894 OS map.

32. The Brickfield at Dysons Road/Angel Road was run by Joseph SOUTH from 1869-1871. He was both a brickmaker and a potter.

As with most family history research there is always more to learn and details to expand and correct. Perhaps the above has sparked a personal recollection or recalled some information from your family research? This can be added to the knowledge we have to date. If you have brickmaking ancestors anywhere in the UK and would like to exchange information, and perhaps have them added to the Brickmakers Index, then the author would be pleased to hear from you. You can contact me at: davidrcufley@btopenworld.com

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MY BLACK SHEEP ANCESTOR

By Elizabeth Burling, Member No. 4992

Sidney Albert WILLEY was born on 7 January 1860 at 8 Glasgow Terrace, Pimlico. He was the second son of John WILLEY and Ann, née BAKER and was my grandma's uncle.

Grandma never met him as he died some 8 weeks before she was born but there were three photos of him in the family album and we knew a little about him. Grandma told me that Sidney's father did not like him at all, she did not know why, and once picked him up by his hair (which was black and curly).



He had, apparently, married his wife after he had only known her for six weeks. Her name was Kate BARTLETT. The couple had had a little girl who was either born dead or died at birth and the doctor had said that Kate had drunk too much and the baby had drowned. [I know – let me finish what was reported first!] Sidney was so upset by the death of his baby that he signed up and went off to fight in the Boer War, where he has killed.

Well, this was an odd tale! Obviously, the baby could not have drowned from her mother drinking but there was another problem. I could not find a marriage for Sidney, not to a Kate BARTLETT or to anyone else.

However, he definitely signed up with the Army. We have a military medal that was awarded to him following his South African service. It contains the information that Sidney was a Private in the Buffs, the 2nd battalion of the East Kent Regiment. The other two photographs we have of him have him in uniform and one was taken in Kent, which goes with the tale Grandma told but the other image of him was taken in India!

We contacted the Buffs' Museum who told us that Corporal SA WILLEY had been awarded the Indian General Service Medal 1895, with Punjab Frontier 1897-8 clasp when he was with the 1st battalion, although he was not on the Indian General Service medal roll 1895 with the clasp 'Relief of Chitral 1895' which the 1st battalion also took part in. I hoped that this information might narrow down possible marriage dates and/or dates for the poor baby.

Sidney did die in the Boer War. An entry in the Army Register Book of Deaths in the South African War (1899-1902) shows that he died of wounds at Pretoria on 18 December 1900.

So, a sad tale I can hear you saying, tragic even, but Sidney was just unfortunate, not a black sheep, wasn't he?

And so I thought, until I started playing around with the records in the British Newspaper Archive, seen on FindMyPast. I was quite shocked to read the report in the Bury Free Press for Saturday 24 May 1884. This is what it said:

POST-OFFICE PROSECUTIONS.—In London, on Monday, at the Central Criminal Court, Thomas Blackburn Wood, 24, pleaded "Guilty" to stealing letters containing postal orders. The prisoner, who was a postman in the Eastern District office, was also employed as an out-door officer of Customs. The Common Serjeant sentenced him to five years' penal servitude.—Sidney Albert Willey, 25, who pleaded "Guilty" to stealing a "test" letter, had been 10 years in the employment of the Post Office, and was engaged at the Western office. He was sentenced to five years' penal servitude.

The same report appeared in the Buckingham Advertiser and Free Press and the Framlingham Weekly News!

The truth had come out. Sidney must have started working for the Post Office when he was 14. His maternal grandfather, John BAKER, had been working for the Post Office from at least 1851, when he appeared in the census as a Letter Carrier in Wimborne, Dorset. By 1861 John was a postman; it is hard

to follow his Post Office career due to his common name but perhaps his service had helped secure a job for his grandson? In the 1881 census Sidney appears as a Post Office Sorter.

Records from the Central Criminal Court show that the letter he had stolen contained a guinea, put there deliberately to catch miscreant postal workers.

Sidney had disgraced the family so badly that a spurious tale had had to be made up. There was no wife or drowned baby – it was a cover for a worse fate.



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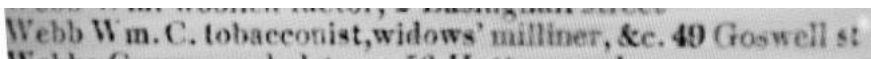
THE ANCESTOR I'D MOST LIKE TO MEET

By Sheila Clarke, Member No. 7900

I would suggest meeting my 2x great grandmother Harriett SALTER on neutral ground - perhaps for coffee as she may have difficulty getting to grips with a 21st century menu, whereas coffee shops abounded in London in her time. Born around 1813 in The Strand, Harriett has figured previously on these pages: a request for help in solving her true identity unfortunately provided no new information, so a conversation with the lady herself would seem to be my last hope.

The 1841 census shows Harriett, a milliner, living in Goswell Street, Clerkenwell in the same house as William Cooper WEBB, tobacconist and his family. By then she was the mother of two children - my great grandmother Harriett Jnr. born in 1837, and George Webb SALTER born in 1840, although neither are listed as living with her. Could they have been with their father, and if so, who was he? There is no record of a marriage for Harriett Snr., and Harriett Jnr. was born just a few months before birth certificates became a requirement. George died in 1850 of an abscess on the brain, aged ten years and ... months, his death certificate showing his father as William SALTER, wholesale milliner.

Harriett had a second daughter, Emma Webb SALTER, in 1843 – father William Cooper WEBB - so my questions would have to be framed in an extremely tactful and non-judgemental way. I would gently encourage her to first tell me if SALTER was indeed her real name (no record can be found of her birth) and then ask about her early years. How did the relationship develop between her and a man some twenty years older than herself, with a wife and family of his own living under the same roof? WEBB is listed in the Post Office London Directory for 1843 as a Widow's Milliner, see picture below. He employed Harriett as a milliner and Harriett Jnr assisted with the tobacconist side of the business. Was WEBB the father of all three children and therefore my 3x great grandfather? It seems likely, but I would like to hear the answer from Harriett herself.



Webb Wm. C. tobacconist, widows' milliner, &c. 40 Goswell st

Even more intriguing is the question of her own identity. At various times she describes herself as widowed or single, which in the circumstances is entirely understandable, but there is a blank space in my ancestry that will remain unfilled until I know her true birth details.

Perhaps the most sensitive part of our conversation would be the topic of her later life. After his wife's death, William Cooper WEBB emigrated to Australia with his daughters and their families. By 1871 Harriett was a pauper, an inmate of the Holborn Union Workhouse, where she also appears in 1881 and 1891. Her death certificate provides no further clues to her identity: she died in the workhouse in the spring of 1897.

I feel very protective towards Harriett. When I walk down the Strand there is a fresh poignancy in the experience. I would like to tell my great great grandmother that women have more choices today, more autonomy over their lives, and that although it is too late for her, a very different world now exists for her descendants to enjoy.

And I would assure her that no matter what details she reveals of her undeniably chequered life, I intend to do everything within my power to see that she will never be forgotten.

North London News, 29 June 1861

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Sold in Bottles at 6d and 1s each by Druggists, Grocers and Oilmen everywhere. Patentee: Harper Twelvetrees', 'The Works', Bromley-by-Bow, London E.

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.



MERRISON/FREEMAN WEDDING 1917



This photo is of the wedding of Ernest Frank MERRISON and Violet May FREEMAN, which took place on 18 August 1917 at the church of St Clement Danes. I am trying to find out who all the people are in the photo. Written on the back was the following information, which I have added to:

- 1 Phyllis SMITH, mother of –
 - 2 Phyllis H (SMITH) MERRISON, known as Aunt Hilda, married to –
 - 3 Arthur MERRISON, born 1889 at Peterborough, Cambridge
 - 4 (Arthur) Stanley MERRISON, eldest son of 3 and 4, born 1915
 - 5 Ada (MERRISON) BUCKLE, born 1885 at Isleham, Camb, married to –
 - 6 Horace Victor BUCKLE
 - 7 Ethel Beatrice MERRISON, born 1891 Bloomsbury
 - 8 Robert John MERRISON (sometimes known as John Robert) born 1865 at Stow Bardolph, Norfolk. Father of all the MERRISONs depicted here, police constable
 - 9 Bride – Violet May FREEMAN, born 1894 Bloomsbury
 - 10 Groom – Ernest Frank MERRISON, born 1894 Bloomsbury
 - 11 Juanita (Juenita) (WATTS) MERRISON, wife of No. 8. No trace of her before the 1881 census aged 17, no birth records but it said on her marriage certificate that she was born in 1864 at Downham Market, Norfolk.
 - 12 Leonard Edwin MERRISON, born 1904, Strand, London
- I am not sure if No. 7 wasn't mistaken for the other 'bridesmaid' on the right.

Jenny MERRISON, Member No. 7956

86 Westrow Drive, Barking Essex IG11 9BN

Email: jennifernze@sky.com

Note: Was the marriage reported in the local press? Often a list of people attending was included - you might get lucky! Who were the witnesses to the wedding? They might be in the photograph somewhere. There are some couples in the photograph, eg on the back row. Have your researches into this family identified any possible candidates?

A further lead might be to try and trace descendants of this family, who might have further family photographs of their closer relatives who could then be identified on this image. Does anyone recognise an ancestor here?

It is quite interesting that it is the groom's parents who flank the married couple and not both parents. Where were the bride's parents? From research you should be able to find if they were still alive. Judging by the line of washing in the background, this photo was taken at home after the ceremony. Is it possible they could have attended the ceremony and then left? Seems unlikely but you never know!

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 16 June *'Blige a Lady* - a history of travel on a London horsebus 1829 – 1915 by John Neal
- Thursday 21 July *Mayhem on the Midland – an Accident, a Suicide and a Murder* by Chris and Judy Rouse (Research from one small snippet to a story, via a wide range of records.)
- Thursday 18 August *Women Spiritualist Writers in Victorian Britain* by Emma Field
- Thursday 15 September *From my experience of Family History research... Hints, Tips and Pitfalls to avoid*
Mutual help at an informal meeting – bring your contribution!

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 30 June *The Photographic History of Charing Cross Road* by Rob Kayne
- Thursday 28 July *Life and Death in the Workhouse*
by Mark Carroll
- Thursday 25 August *Something from the Attic* – bring an item, document etc and tell us about it
- Thursday 29 September *A Child's War – Growing Up in Wartime Britain 1939-45*
by Mike Brown

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 1 June *20C Scandals and Conspiracies Part 2*
by Maggie Radcliffe
- Wednesday 6 July *Chronicles of Old Tottenham*
by Rena King
- Wednesday 3 August No meeting
- Wednesday 7 September *The Real Dad's Army [Home Guard]*
by Mike Brown

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 10 June Members' Evening
- Friday 8 July *The Great Fire of London 1666*
by John Neal
- Friday August No meeting
- Friday 9 September *Militias and Musters*
by Tom Doig

Wembley Branch – 7.30pm for 8.00pm

The Copeland Room, St. John's Church, 3 Crawford Avenue, Wembley,
Middlesex HA0 2HX
Branch Contact: William Pyemont, Email: wembley@lwmfhs.org.uk

- Monday 27 June *Magna Carta*
by John Neal
- Monday 25 July *Ancestors Anonymous*
by Meryl Catty
- Monday August No meeting
- Monday 26 September *Before Parish Registers*
by Ian Waller

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FOCUS ON FACEBOOK

By Elizabeth Burling, Member No. 4992



Marylebone National School was established in 1791 as the Day School of Industry, with a remit to educate the children of the poor in the parish. The school, situated just behind St Marylebone Parish Church, was funded by donations, charity sermons and income from the children's handiwork – they were taught straw plaiting and needlework.

This picture, taken in May and published on our Facebook page must look much as it did two hundred years ago. The school, now known as Marylebone C of E School for Girls, is celebrating its 225 anniversary this year with a jazz party. Regarding their archives, Log and Punishment books dated from 1863-1959 are held at London Metropolitan Archives, Ref No. LCC/EO/DIV02.

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- 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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