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# METROPOLITAN

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Family History Society



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Cover picture: ©Elisabeth Roller  
See article on page 68

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## EDITORIAL

In 1939 a population count was taken of each household in Britain. Similar to the census of 1931, every person was listed and their name, address, date of birth, marital status and occupation were noted. This 1939 Register, for England and Wales only, is available to view for free at The National Archives, Kew and it is now included in both the British and World subscriptions of FindMyPast.

Identity Cards were produced from details gathered from the register and everyone had to carry their cards with them at all times. See article and pictures on page 72.

The 1931 census returns, stored in Hayes, Middlesex, were destroyed by fire during WWII. There was no census taken in 1941 so the 1939 Register is a valuable source of family details in the gap between the 1921 (which will not be released until 2022) and 1951 census returns. See page 40 for one of our member's experience in using the register. Has anyone else found useful information or broken down their brick walls? Do let us know of your experiences with this new resource.

Page iv of the yellow insert has an interesting article on some parish records which are not to be found on the Ancestry website. It is worth pointing out that the contents of each of the large online collections differs from the others – none is comprehensive and not all records have been digitised.

As you are no doubt aware, the Editors are always looking for articles, letters, jottings, photos and so on to put in our next journal. We would like to thank all those who have contributed to this and previous journals and to say again to you all, please write to us!

### The Editorial Team

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

## CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

“So, did you talk to them about his occupation and their lives?”

“No, unfortunately I wasn't investigating my family history back then, when I was a child.”

This was part of a recent conversation I had with a local historian and similar questions and answers will be familiar to any family historian. “How I wish I'd asked about ...” is a common comment but we often have little information to work on now.

Our Conference & AGM this year looked at a potential source of useful records through which we might learn more. Francis Howcutt's talk *Probate Records - Listening to our Forebears (England & Wales)* covered a range of documents related to sorting out someone's estate after their death including: Wills of different types: *Originals* have the handwritten signatures of the testator and witnesses, plus any alterations that may not appear as such in *Office Copies*, which were entered into Register Books when the will was proved and so may include transcription errors; *Nuncupative* - or 'deathbed' wills - where there was no time to write them down for signing; *Administrations*: Granted to next of kin where there was no will; *Inventories*, where they survive, list chattels with valuations, maybe room by room.

The Government set up the Principal Probate Registry (England & Wales) with local offices across the country in January 1858. A Government website 'Find a Will' has searchable databases of Wills and Administrations from 1858 to date and they cost £10 per copy to download. This site is at: <https://www.gov.uk/search-will-probate> (Beware unofficial sites charging extra!)

Prior to 1858 there was a complex system of church courts of different levels and jurisdictions. To help you navigate this labyrinth, visit this blog at: <https://blog.findmypast.co.uk/pre-1858-probate-jurisdictions-where-to-look-for-wills-1406192148.html>

You may find: family relationships, evidence of occupation and wealth, previous residence, landlords and tenants and past property transactions.

**Rosemary A Roome**

## LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

**T**hanks to the 1939 register on 'FindMyPast', I now know where I was on 29 September 1939. My Mother, two younger brothers and I were staying at 104 Highbury Road, Luton, Bedfordshire. Leaving Dad at home, we were part of the mass evacuation from London, due to the threat of bombing in WW2.

I remember walking to Kentish Town railway station from our home in Brecknock Road and getting on a train with crowds of other families. Arriving at our destination, we boarded one of a fleet of double decker buses which took us to a reception centre. Our bus had a clock downstairs which was different to the London buses we were used to. I found out later that we were in Luton which was a place that I had never heard of. Our home for the next month had been a corner shop at one time and the unfriendly landlady, who was probably being paid to put us up, had a nasty Pekinese dog who disliked us being in his house.

Opposite the house was the Bedford lorry factory. It was thrill for a 4 year old boy and the neighbourhood kids to cadge a ride in the cabs which were being shifted to a near-by site for the bodies to be fitted.

One day an ambulance was called to take a young lady to hospital who lived next door. We all gathered to watch as the stretcher was carried out and the local ladies with their arms folded across their aproned fronts, nodded and declared that the patient had appendicitis and had probably swallowed a plum stone.

I don't know what we had swallowed but we all came out in spots, which was put down to the local water which didn't agree with our North London stomachs. So we went back to good old Kentish Town after only one month. We saw out the rest of the 'Blitz' in our back garden Anderson shelter. That is another story!!

**Terry Mead, Member No. 4722**

**I** recently came across this book entitled *The St Pancras Book of Dates*, compiled by Walter E Brown in 1908. It contained the following item which I thought might be of interest. Sarah LAMB was older than Queen Victoria and had lived through her entire reign as well as that of her two predecessors and the latter years of George III.

When she was born Lord Nelson was still sailing the seas, and goods and passengers were carried by canal and stage coach. She lived to see motor cars on the road and the early flights of the Wright brothers.

‘Sarah Lamb dies in St Pancras Infirmary in her 106<sup>th</sup> year, November 19<sup>th</sup> 1907.

She was born at Ramsgate, September 24<sup>th</sup> 1801. An inmate when King Edward came to the throne, she was taken in a cab to Buckingham Palace to see His Majesty. Almost her last words were, ‘I am very tired of it all; I don’t want to see another Christmas or another birthday’

**Roy Hidson, Membership No. 80**

**F**urther to Elisabeth Roller’s *Help!* piece about German bakers, the Anglo German FHS have lots of name indexes for the German Churches in London, plus Sugar Bakers, plus passenger lists. The registers are with Tower Hamlets Library.

Also Fred Olsen cruises are going to Hamburg and then to Bremen for the first time in April/May 2016, leaving from Dover. They are going again in June/July from Southampton.

I have almost a complete set of magazines for the London & North Middlesex FHS to get rid of this year if anyone should want them.

**Eileen Blythe. Member No. 02**



## BOOK REVIEW

**St Pancras Burial Ground**, by Phillip A Emery and Kevin Wooldridge  
Published by Museum of London Archaeology for Gifford 2015.  
ISBN: 9569406-0-5. Hardback, 230 pages, illustrated. £27.95

This is a superb book, detailing the excavations for the St Pancras International High Speed Terminus in 2002-2003, which uncovered the Old St Pancras burial ground, specifically the ‘Third Ground’ of the New Burial Ground which was used from 1792 to 1854. The exhumation of the bodies needed to be carried out within the timescale of the engineering project and, with sympathetic and close collaboration between archaeologists, the

exhumation contractors and the engineers. The procedures being reviewed as work progressed. There were 1383 burials recorded during excavations, which revealed well preserved skeletons, wooden coffins, metal fittings and inscribed coffin plates, together with burial clothing and textiles from coffin linings and floral remains. Even a few sets of dentures were found!

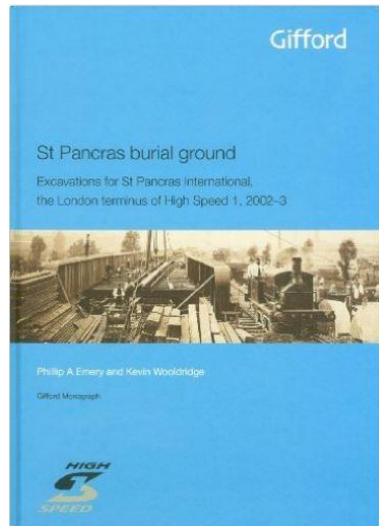
The recording of each uncovered burial was done with great care and attention to detail, recording its position row by row, as well as all information from inscription plates etc. By matching these with location details in the Burial Registers, many more remains were able to be identified. Survey details enabled three dimensional reconstruction of coffin stack sequences within each burial row, which are impressively reproduced in this book

A total of 715 burials were selected for osteological analysis which provided valuable information on the status, health and diet of the local population. Over 600 memorial stones were recovered, many having been used to create a pathway during previous graveyard reconstruction, these were also fully recorded.

The book contains a vast quantity of detailed information including 180 illustrations, many in colour, and 35 tables. A CD of appendices, figures and tables is also included. There is a detailed history of St Pancras Old Church and its graveyards, the development and expansion of the local area and interesting biographies of some of the notable individuals interred, including immigrants fleeing persecution. An alphabetical list of 203 burials exhumed which have been identified will be of particular interest to anyone with ancestors from this period buried here!

This book is highly recommended to anyone who has an interest in genealogy, or in archaeology, or social history.

**Alan Baldwin, Member No. 4425**





## **FORTY YEARS ON**

By Peter Todd, Member No. 7686

In truth the interval is much, much longer. It was the autumn of 1946, the Second World War had ended during the previous year and Mother and I were on our way by bus from the Nags Head pub at the junction of Seven Sisters Road and Holloway Road along Parkhurst Road to the first bus stop past the then imposing castellated gateway of HM (Women's) Prison Holloway - the gateway was removed in the re-development of the prison in the 1980's. We were on our way, before the start of term, to be fitted for my school uniform at my new school, Holloway School.

Somehow I had managed to pass the 11-plus examination, which had emerged as part of the Education Act introduced in 1944 by R.A. Butler (1902-1982), the Education Minister in the wartime government. This same Act also extended the school-leaving age to 15 years, thus implementing an earlier recommendation that dated from 1926. The age was raised to 16 years in 1988.

The *Transfer Test* as it was known examined a primary school child's ability to solve problems by reasoning and simple mathematics, in other words it was a general test of intelligence. This test, it was thought at the time, would be the most effective way of discovering whether a child was best suited for an academic or technical role in a future career; which in turn would determine whether a child should proceed after primary education into a grammar school or a secondary modern school. In practise the system developed into a pass or fail culture, with many children and their parents left feeling a sense of inadequacy if they didn't pass. These days the 'test' has all but disappeared in England, except where it is used sometimes as an entrance examination for certain schools, that have maintained their independent status.

After alighting from the bus we crossed Camden Road and went along Hilldrop Road, on the way we passed Hilldrop Crescent. At the time I was unaware of the significance of that particular road, although I was soon acquainted with its past notoriety when I started at the secondary school by friends more familiar with the local history.

39 Hilldrop Crescent was formerly the rented home of Hawley Harvey CRIPPEN (1862-1910). Dr CRIPPEN had studied at the University of Michigan Homeopathic Medical School as well as elsewhere and graduated in 1884. His first wife, Charlotte, died of a stroke in 1892. Later that year he married an aspiring singer of German-Polish-Russian extract, who had the stage name Belle ELMORE (1873-1910). Five years later the couple moved to England, since CRIPPEN's qualifications weren't sufficient for him to practice as GP in the UK he worked first of all as a distributor of homeopathic medicines for a Company with offices in New Oxford Street, London. By 1903 he had found employment as a manager of a dubious company 'The Drouet Institute for the Deaf', also in London, where he met and became besotted by a young typist, Ethel LE NEVE (1883-1967). The CRIPPENs moved to Hilldrop Crescent in 1905. Belle ELMORE disappeared following a dinner party on the evening of the 31 January, 1910. Hawley CRIPPEN claimed that Belle had returned to the States with one of her stage men friends. Suspicions were aroused though when Ethel LE NEVE moved into the house in Hilldrop Crescent and began to wear Belle's clothes and jewellery. In early July Dr CRIPPEN was interviewed by the police and a cursory inspection was made of the house but nothing untoward was found, however Hawley was unnerved by the visit and decided to flee the Country. Crippen and Ethel, dressed as a boy and passed off as Hawley's son, boarded the *SS Montrose*, bound for Canada. The London police by this time, alerted by the sudden disappearance of Crippen, re-examined the house in Hilldrop Crescent and discovered Belle's remains buried in the basement. Meanwhile the Captain of the *Montrose* had recognised the fugitives and made history by telegraphing his suspicions to the British authorities. The couple were arrested by a Scotland Yard Chief Inspector as the ship entered Canadian waters. The policeman had arrived in Canada before the runaways by sailing in a faster ship.

Hawley Harvey CRIPPEN was hanged on the 23 November 1910. Ethel LE NEVE was found not guilty and faded into obscurity under another name. 39 Hilldrop Crescent was obliterated by a German WW2 bomb during the London Blitz.

Camden Secondary School for Boys was commissioned and built by the London County Council (LCC) during the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century in the face of much opposition from the middle class residents in the

surrounding area, who foresaw possible vandalism to their properties from the daily arrival of boys who might well come from poorer backgrounds. These protests went on for some time while the finished school stood empty. Eventually it was opened in September 1907. Initially, the school took a mix of scholarship holders and fee-payers and in-order to create an improved social balance the LCC required that scholars should outnumber fee-payers. The curriculum was typically of a grammar school nature, although at one point in the early years economics was also taught in order to prepare students for future careers in 'The City'.

From the beginning the school, under the leadership of its first Headmaster, Augustus KAHN (1868-1944) established characteristics more in keeping with a public school. The school song '*Forty Years On*' was a steal from that written for Harrow School in 1872, while the school motto 'Persequere' was the Latinised version of the refrain '*Follow up! Follow up!*' The origin of the school crest, a stylised eagle, was probably the eagle of St John's College, Cambridge, which was Augustus KAHN's former alma mater.

In 1912 KAHN was made an Inspector of Schools and was succeeded by Frederick Robert Hurlstone JONES (1879-1951). Frederick Robert HURLSTONE-JONES was the son of an Anglican minister and studied at Christ's College, Cambridge and obtained his MA in 1910. The 1911 Census showed him working as a schoolmaster for the LCC at Hackney Downs School and sharing his lodgings with his older brother Harry Bertram Jones, a clergyman at Christ's Church, South Hackney. Frederick's surname with the prefix of 'Hurlstone' with a hyphen appeared in print after he had commenced his headship at Holloway School. He married Laura Ethel FORD (1876-1947) in 1912.

During the thirty-four years that Frederick HURLSTONE-JONES (affectionately known as 'Chuckabrick' by the boys) was in charge the buildings were extended, the curriculum expanded and the playing fields situated at Bow Lane, Finchley were purchased.

With the outbreak of WW2 the 'School' was moved to Towcester, Northamptonshire, where arrangements were made with the local Grammar School and the statutory authorities to re-establish a teaching environment for the boys who had been evacuated with it.

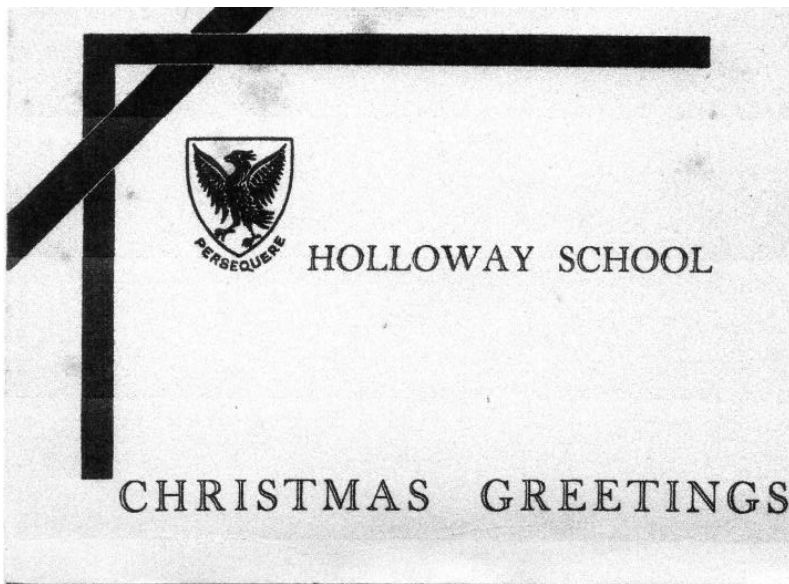
The decision was made to return to London in 1943, fortunately the School buildings on Hilldrop Road had survived, although rather the worse for wear, not surprising the amount of the surrounding bomb damage. The slow return to something approaching normality had started. However circumstances had changed by the end of the war, fees to state maintained schools such as Holloway were abolished and fee-payers could no longer attend such schools. In addition the LCC also planned to do away with selection at age 11 and had proposed that a comprehensive secondary education should be introduced for all county maintained schools with the demise of such anachronistic titles as grammar, technical, or secondary modern.

Frederick HURLSTONE-JONES retired at the end of 1946 and in recognition of his long and dedicated involvement with secondary education in this country he was awarded an O.B.E. He died in 1951.

Mr GILL took over the headship of Holloway School until 1951, when he was replaced by a Mr KING. Richard KING who had been a boy at the School in the 1920s and had returned to teaching there after graduating from Cambridge University. Mr KING resigned in the 1953 to take over the headmastership of another school.

I also left in 1953 following the death of my father from respiratory problems following the Great Smog of December 1952. I'm sure older members will remember or have heard of this severe air-pollution event which virtually paralysed inner London above ground transport during that time and resulted in 4000 or so people dying prematurely with considerably more being made ill with bronchial associated ailments.

Between 1953 and 1955 the process of Holloway School becoming fully comprehensive occurred with new buildings being built and the number of pupils being taught increasing. The original four 'houses' denoted as Blue, Green, Red and White (my old house) continued but each house was split into senior and junior houses, each with their own housemaster. Inter-house matches were played on Saturday morning at the School's Bow Lane sports field, Finchley, North London.



Christmas card (ca. 1951) sent to my parents.  
The foreground still contains the rubble of houses that were bombed during WW2.  
The new school buildings were eventually built here.

Holloway School continued to thrive throughout the 1960s and 1970s. In the 1980s the School experienced a change of fortunes, exacerbated by the dwindling number of pupils being taught. This was brought about by a number of factors such as the birth rate decline which had occurred in the previous decade after the baby boom of the 1960s, a migration of people from inner London into the suburbs and the opening of competing six form places in other schools and colleges. As a consequence Holloway School became uneconomic to staff and run and for a time faced closure. The School field at Bow Lane was lost to developers.

Education Acts introduced in 1988 and 1992 led to a demand for more accountability and an Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted) was set up to ensure, by regular inspections, that all state maintained schools in England provided an acceptable standard of education. The School failed its Ofsted inspection in 1996, primarily because of poor and worsening achievements in the General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) examinations in previous years. It took the next five years through the combined efforts of the teaching staff, parents; pupils past and present and the local education authorities to set the School back on its way to being a successful school again. The problem of low pupil numbers was overcome by the School becoming co-educational in 2002 and it was made a sport specialist college in 2005.

Today the School provides not only a good education to GCSE standard for boys and girls aged 11-16 years but also specialises in sports. The 25 metre swimming pool, multi-purpose sports hall and artificial grass pitches are also available for local residents to use after school hours providing they join the registered clubs. The school no longer has its own sixth form but pupils wishing to further their education are guaranteed a place at the City and Islington College.

My thanks to the Old Camdenians' Club and in particular, Mr George Ives for bringing my attention to the two booklets mentioned below. These monographs authoritatively chart the history of Holloway School in considerably more detail than my snippet here.

**Sources:**

Jubilee Retrospect, 1907-1957: R. J. King, Holloway School, London 1957  
Centenary Retrospect, Holloway School, 1907-2010 & Old Camdenians' Club,  
1909-2009: John Hudson and (in part) Martin Hodgson, Holloway School, London  
2010.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard\\_Kahn\\_Baron\\_Kahn](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_Kahn_Baron_Kahn) - Augustus Kahn was the  
father of Richard Ferdinand Kahn, later Baron Kahn of Hampstead, a British  
economist

Harrow School Song: <http://www.harrowschool.org.uk>

Holloway School Official Site: [www.hollowayislington.sch.uk](http://www.hollowayislington.sch.uk)

See also: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Holloway\\_School](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Holloway_School)

The Old Camdenians' Club: <http://www.oldcamdenians.info/school>

<http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eleven\\_plus\\_exam](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eleven_plus_exam)

<http://www.historyworkshop.org.uk/secondary-modern/>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HM\\_Prison\\_Holloway](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HM_Prison_Holloway)

While I was penning this article the Chancellor announced in the 2015 Autumn  
Statement that Holloway Women's Prison would close as part of a plan to modernise  
Britain's jails.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hawley\\_Harvey\\_Crippen](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hawley_Harvey_Crippen)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great\\_Smog](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Smog)

<http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/greatsmog>

[Ancestry.co.uk](http://Ancestry.co.uk)

***Chelsea News and General Advertiser, 24 April 1869***

**INQUESTS**

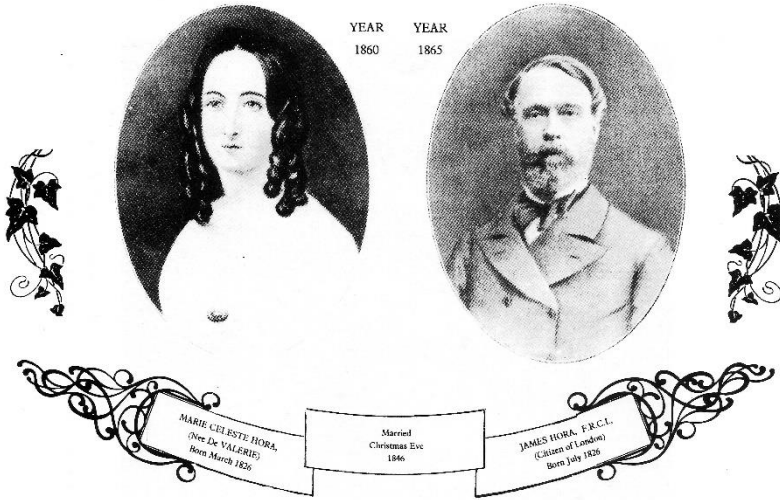
On Tuesday last an inquest was held at the 'George', Lower Sloane Street by  
Dr Diplock on the body of an aged woman between 80 and 90 years of age,  
who had died suddenly. According to the evidence decay of Nature was the  
cause of death.

ON Monday next an inquest will be held at the 'Commercial Tavern', Kings  
Road on the body of a female named Elizabeth Wilson who was found dead  
in 48 Radnor Street, Chelsea. A more than usual sad interest will be attached  
to this inquest.

On Tuesday an inquest was held by Dr Diplock at the 'Kensington Park  
Hotel' near the station on the body of a female servant aged 60, named  
Catherine Morris, who had died suddenly at 111 Notting Hill. The verdict  
returned was disease of the heart.

# JAMES AND MARIE CELESTE HORA

By Susan Hora, Member No. 3289



Above is a photograph I have sent in response to your request in the December 2015 edition of METROPOLITAN. It shows my great-great-uncle, James HORA (1826-1917) and an engraving of his French wife, Marie Celeste, née DE VALERIE, who were married on Christmas Eve 1846, at St James, Paddington.

James HORA (Fellow of the Royal Colonial Institute and Freeman of the City of London) was the third of the four sons of James HORA senior, surgeon of Notting Hill, and his wife, Sarah HANSORD, and was educated at Archbishop Tennison's Grammar School in the parish of St. Martin-in-the-Fields. In 1852 he and Marie Celeste sailed to Victoria, Australia, where they lived until about 1858, and on returning to Britain he founded the Trust and Agency Company of Australasia in 1860, becoming the Managing Director. He was also one of the original directors of the Australian Pastoral Company and director of the Caledonian & Australian Mortgage and Agency Company, all companies lending money to Australian farmers. By 1887 he was also a director of the Southern Coal Company of New South Wales, and in 1890 was appointed Managing Director of the Eastern Mortgage and



Agency Company. His home at this time was 103 Victoria Street, Westminster.

Marie Celeste died in 1875, aged 48, and although James married again in 1885 (moving to 123 Victoria Street), he was consumed with guilt for the rest of his long life, feeling that, by putting his work first, he had neglected his first wife. Towards the end of his life he asked his friend, Viscount KNUTSFORD, Chairman of the London (now Royal London) Hospital, Whitechapel, if he might endow some part of the Hospital which could bear the name of Marie Celeste. Knutsford suggested the Samaritan Society, founded in 1791 by the eminent surgeon, Sir William BLIZARD, to which James covenanted a large annual subscription on condition that the name of the Society should in perpetuity be the 'Marie Celeste' Samaritan Society, and this charity continues to thrive to this day. James also subscribed generous sums to the Middlesex Hospital, and at the Westminster Hospital where he was a governor he endowed several beds. In 1887 one endowment for 'poor persons' was recorded on a white marble tablet in the Westminster Abbey precincts, on the front of the building facing Deans Yard. The inscription recorded the endowment as a permanent memorial of Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee on 20th June, 1887.

In 1903 James paid for a stained glass window, known as the St Edward Window, in Poets' Corner in Westminster Abbey, which was unfortunately destroyed by a bomb during the Second World War. There is also a plaque to Marie Celeste on a wall inside St. Margaret's Church, Westminster, see photo, left.



James died on 31st August, 1917, at his seaside home, Hazelbrae, St Leonards, Hastings,

Sussex. His executors were his second wife, Ruth; the Rt. Hon. Sidney George, Viscount KNUTSFORD; and the surgeon, Lt. Col. Edwin Hurry FENWICK, R.A.M.C. He left effects of £156,000, worth several millions of pounds today. Having no children by either of his wives, he left a few small bequests to nephews and nieces and to the children of two friends, £100 to the 'Temporary Home for Lost &

Starving Dogs in the Battersea Park Road', his large Sussex house, contents and motor car to his wife Ruth, and the residue (£120,000 according to a document in the Archives of the Royal London Hospital) to the Governors of the London Hospital for the 'Marie Celeste' Samaritan Society.

James and Marie Celeste are buried together at Christ Church, Ottershaw, Surrey, where, in 1901, James paid for a three-light, stained glass window of St Peter, Chief of the Apostles, St Mary, Mother of God, and St Paul, Chosen Vessel, on the north-east wall of the chancel (see photograph, right). It bears the following inscription: 'In loving memory of Marie Celeste the beloved wife of James Hora F.R.C.I. of Victoria Street Westminster who passed to her rest Febry 21st 1875 and whose mortal remains are interred here in God's acre, these three windows are dedicated A.D. 1901'. There is also a brass plaque at the back of the church containing extracts from James's Will, including instructions on the care of the grave - the Vicar and Churchwardens were to 'purchase or procure in every week three small wreaths of fresh natural flowers .... and to place the same on each Sunday morning not later than ten o'clock in the forenoon upon the grass mound of the said grave in Ottershaw Churchyard under which my said beloved wife is interred ..... and I desire that the flowers used may be white or violet .... but on no account at any time dahlias or the like lumpy flaunting flowers'.



Colonel FENWICK represented the London Hospital at James's funeral on 5 September, 1917, and at the next Annual Meeting of the Committee of Management of the 'Marie Celeste' Samaritan Society on 28 March, 1918, Lord Knutsford 'alluded to his friendship and intimate knowledge of Mr Hora and referred to his brilliant genius in the early days of Australian difficulties with finance. He said that few knew or would ever know what Australia owed to his friend Mr Hora. He could not be replaced.'

It is not known why James and Marie Celeste were buried at Ottershaw as the HORA family had lived in various parts of London since at least the 1790s. The only known connection is that James is to be found on the 1881 census (when he was between wives) as a Visitor at New Road, Chertsey, where he was staying with George TUNKS, a senior clerk in the Admiralty, his wife, and their five children born in Addlestone. When James's second wife, Ruth, died in 1922, expressing a wish to be buried in the HORA grave, her request was refused as she was not a local resident living in the parish, so she is buried in the City of London Cemetery.

James is listed in the Post Office London Directory of 1844 as a Fancy Trimming Manufacturer at 28 Wilkes Street, Spitalfields, where his uncle, William HORA, was a Silk Manufacturer. From such lowly beginnings he rose to become a millionaire but his money did not bring him happiness, though it is still doing a great deal of good at the Royal London Hospital, Whitechapel.

***The Bath Chronicle, Thursday 4 May 1786***

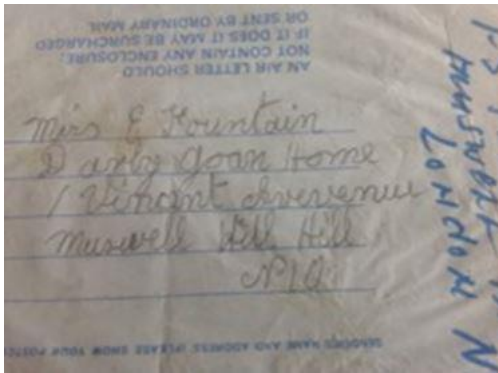
Married: Mr Gabriel Keath, Oilman, at Aldgate, to Miss Humfrys, of Breadstreet-hill,- Thomas Parke, esq, of Great James-street, to Miss Hughes, only daughter of the late Admiral Hughes,- Joseph Cripps esq. of Cirencester to Miss Harrison, daughter of Benjamin Hughes, Treasurer of Guy's Hospital.

Died: At Barnet, in his 100<sup>th</sup> year, Mr Job Merriton; he has lived the last twenty years wholly on vegetable diet, without any other beverage than milk, of which he took one pint every morning at breakfast, and never drank the whole day after.

## FOCUS ON FACEBOOK

By Elizabeth Burling, Member No. 4992

Linda from New Zealand posted on our page wondering if anyone had heard of a Darby Joan Home at 1 Vincent Avenue, Muswell Hill, where her great great aunt had been living in the 1960s. She sent an image of the return address from an old letter:



There does not appear to be a Vincent Avenue in Muswell Hill but a copy of *The Gazette* for 1976 mentions a Darby and Joan Club in **Princes** Avenue – could this be a case of an old lady mis-hearing information?

In the Wellcome Library is the Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Borough of Hornsey for 1953. This mentions that the ‘Darby and Joan’ Club is a residential club for old people in Princes Avenue which offers accommodation for 48 old ladies. The report states that the home admits old people referred by the County Welfare Authority and that the premises were purchased with a fund started by the 1949-50 Mayor of Hornsey, Mr GFN NORMAN. It was his enthusiasm together with that of Mr RA BUTLER which enabled the club to open in late 1951.

The club was open every day, including Sunday, from 10am to 9pm. A mid-day meal was available at 1s 3d for the 200 elderly men and women members, who also benefitted from a free chiropody service and outings being organised.

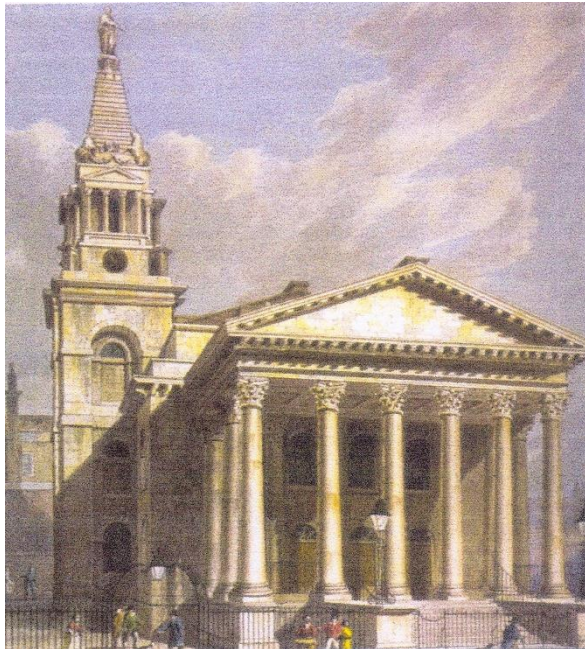
I shared this post with a Muswell Hill Facebook group, where a member said his mum worked at the Darby and Joan club, which he thought was at 11 Princes Avenue.

It might be worth Linda contacting Hornsey Historical Society – as Muswell Hill is in their area they might have more information.

## ST GEORGE'S BLOOMSBURY and my LOWTHERs

By Dennis Galvin, Member No. 1046

Nicholas HAWKSMOOR's churches always delight me and most of them are situated in such a way that there is room to stand back and admire. Perhaps one of the exceptions is St George's, Bloomsbury Way - which is virtually an eastward extension of Oxford Street. It is rather narrow so not



easy to get a really good front view of this magnificent church (pictured left) which was finally completed and ready for business in 1731 (15 years in the building).

The unusual steeple is topped by George I in Roman garb. Prime Minister Sir Robert Walpole considered this a 'masterpiece of absurdity'! Actually, the locals had a super ditty which went as follows:

When Henry the Eighth left the Pope in the lurch  
The Protestants made him the head of the church  
But George's good subjects, the Bloomsbury people  
Instead of the church, made him head of the steeple.

The church has a present day 'Friends' group which was formed to try and save a crumbling church. With enormous effort and a variety of grants they have managed to succeed and the historic building is now a hive of activity, with even a museum in the crypt. I have read that they also intend putting back replicas of the magnificent lion and unicorn statues which were once on the plinths at the front of the church.

So far as I know there is no statue of Nicholas HAWKSMOOR in London. I often wonder if there is one in his home county of Nottinghamshire. But then it occurs to me that neither is there a statue of Sir Christopher WREN. Perhaps one day this will be put right? What about the spare plinth at Trafalgar Square?

Now family history: I, of course, have a vested interest in St George's as my 3x great grandparents married at the church in May 1823 (bachelor and spinster): Charles James LOWTHER and Susannah CRICK

I can only speculate that at that time in Bloomsbury they may well have been in service. However, if that was so then it wasn't to last because in April 1832 Charles joined the City of London Police at Bridewell Police Station, where he stayed until February 1857, receiving 11/6d per week for his 25 years' service.

I know from the 1851 Census that Charles was born in Bath, Somerset c1799. However, I must say I had the most marvellous bonus from his St George's marriage entry (actually, I have a copy of the Bishops Transcript). It was only four letters but a nice surprise; where it states 'In the Presence of' it recorded:

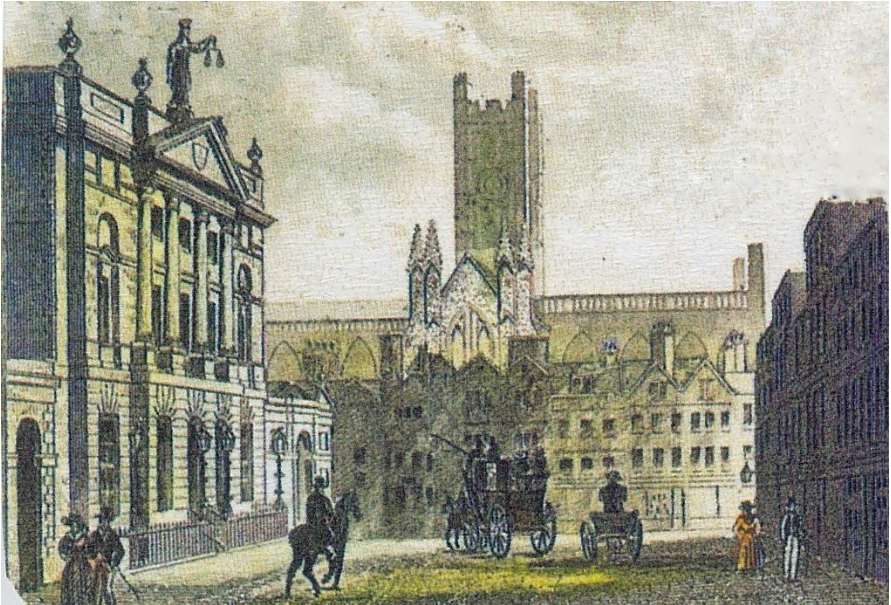
John LOWTHER Sen'r  
Mary Walter LOWTHER

The four letters were of course 'Sen'r', John being the father and Mary the sister of Charles. Further research revealed that my 4x great grandparents, John and Mary (née WALTER), married at St Michael's, Bath in April 1786. However my luck ran out a bit when it came to baptisms as I found four of John and Mary's children being baptised at either Bath Abbey or St Michael's between 1787-1794 (all on the IGI) but no luck with my Charles, although I haven't checked the actual registers in Bath yet. I did check all the Bath 'Independent' registers when they were at Chancery Lane (just one of the relevant registers was missing, Trim Street Chapel).

It is intriguing to think that John LOWTHER (together with his daughter Mary) came up to London for his son's wedding in 1823, years before the Great Western Railway, Bristol - Paddington was built but perhaps the

LOWTHERs could afford the coach? They could of course have been living in London by that time.

It is amazing in family history as things sometimes turn out and I must mention that my youngest daughter married at Bath in 2007. I remember saying to her as we came out of the Old Guildhall after the ceremony, that we were in the registers at the Abbey to the left and St Michael's to the right so now I have a 'full house' in such a wonderful city!



18<sup>th</sup> Century Bath Guildhall and Abbey

Just a final thought, the 'Friends of St George's' do a marvellous job looking after the church and we at LWMFHS keep the important genealogy going!

Footnote: There is also a Friends of St George's Gardens. This was the old burial Ground at Sidmouth Street used by St George Bloomsbury and St George the Martyr. It is now a neighbourhood park and they always have an excellent St George's Day event – one year this included a very good Mexican Band.

## WEBSITE NEWS

### **Workhouses**

This website is subtitled ‘The Story of an Institution’ and it does include a wealth of information about every aspect of workhouses, from the earliest recorded mentions of workhouses in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century, via the laws and rules which governed them, to personal memories of inmates and much more.

This amazing and comprehensive site was created by Peter Higginbotham, who became interested in workhouses whilst researching his family history. Perhaps the most useful part for other family historians is the comprehensive list of information about individual workhouses. A search for Clerkenwell, for example, brings up information starting from when a joint workhouse for the parishes of St James and St John was erected on the west side of Farringdon Road, Clerkenwell in 1727. Primary sources such as *An Account of Several Workhouses* from 1732 are quoted along with original engravings of the workhouse and maps and plans of the layout. Archives generated by the Clerkenwell Workhouse are detailed on the webpage and are, in this case, shown to be mainly at Islington Local History Centre, with others available on Ancestry and at London Metropolitan Archives.

If you had ancestors in the workhouse then you should definitely have a look at this site, which can be found at: <http://www.workhouses.org.uk/>

### **Lost Pubs of North London (and other areas)**

The Lost Pubs Project aims to archive the decline of the English pub – currently four pubs are being closed every week. This website has over 30,000 lost pubs listed, grouped by county (as determined by pre-1974 reorganisation boundaries).

About half of the listings include photographs and viewers are encouraged to share their own pictures, memories, anecdotes and any other information about these pubs.

The website can be seen at: <http://www.closedpubs.co.uk/>

From these listings, the *Epping Forest Guardian* series of newspapers has extracted the photographs of 120 lost pubs in North London, from Enfield to Harrow, which can be easily viewed together at: [http://www.guardian-series.co.uk/news/14243023.IN\\_PICTURES\\_\\_Do\\_you\\_remember\\_these\\_120\\_lost\\_pubs\\_of\\_north\\_London\\_/?ref=fbshr](http://www.guardian-series.co.uk/news/14243023.IN_PICTURES__Do_you_remember_these_120_lost_pubs_of_north_London_/?ref=fbshr)



## GenDocs

This site also appears to be the work of one person, in this case John Hitchcock. It contains several files that will be of particular interest to those studying London ancestry.

The Victorian London Street Index contains over 61,000 references to road names and includes the Registration District (or City of London ward) and the date of the original mention, which can be linked to the source material.

(See the *Help* on page 66 for an example of how to use this resource.)

A page about Victorian London Churches includes Anglican and Catholic churches along with various non-conformist denominations and synagogues. The London cemeteries page is similarly split into different categories which, in this case, includes army, navy and Moravian burial grounds.

Those with ancestors newly arrived in London might be interested in the list of Lodging houses taken from Dickens' *Dictionary of London, 1888*, which is arranged by police division. A separate page shows the districts covered by the Metropolitan Police divisions. Those looking for Irish ancestors in London have the benefit of a dedicated page detailing the main places to find them.

A page on Victorian London Institutions gives a guide to the locations of workhouses, hospitals, lunatic asylums, prisons, gaols, reformatories, barracks, orphan asylums, convents, and other principal charitable institutions. A further page gives the addresses of taverns, inns and public houses.

Other pages are not London-specific but, like those mentioned above, provide a useful stepping stone for narrowing-down just where your ancestors might be. This is particularly useful for those of us trying to find people lost in the capital! This site is located at: <http://homepage.ntlworld.com/hitch/gendocs/index.html#HOME>

## London Burials

Over 279,000 new records covering 48 different locations across the historical county of Middlesex have been added to the Greater London Burials Index on FindMyPast. The Index now comprises over one million names from 226 parishes in the Greater London area and includes records from both Anglican and non-conformist parishes.

This pay-per-view index is at: <http://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-Records/greater-london-burial-index>

# **LONDON WESTMINSTER AND MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2016**

The following are the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the above Society held on 27 February 2016 in the Radnor Hall at Wesley's Chapel, 49 City Road, London EC1Y 1AU.

Our President, Michael Gandy, BA, FSG, took the chair and welcomed 24 members.

## **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Barbara Haswell, Doreen Heywood, Eileen Bostle, Dorothy Stevens, Anne Biesty, Rosemary White, Bill & Joan Pyemont, Vivienne Allen and Diana Copnall.

## **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The Minutes of the AGM held on 7 February 2015 were taken as read and approved.

## **MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising – (see below for Facebook Report).

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman's Report was previously published in METROPOLITAN in December 2015.

Rosemary added further information on various aspects of the Society. She mentioned that Anne Prudames is now settled in her new home in Northamptonshire and sends her greetings. We are currently running down our stock of books because of storage difficulties and because books can be purchased more easily online. In future we will just take our knowledge and expertise to Fairs and encourage people to join the Society.

She mentioned the Facebook Page that Elizabeth Burling had proposed at the last AGM and that is now up and running and invited Elizabeth to give a short report.

## FACEBOOK REPORT

Elizabeth said her objective has been to raise awareness of the Society by posting interesting items on the page to attract people and also sharing them with other groups on Facebook, She has formed links to the Facebook pages of organisations and places such as FFHS and St Paul's Cathedral, which enables her to comment on their posts as LWMFHS.

She also tries to answer people's questions and shares photos from our area. We have had 371 'likes' from the UK and abroad since the last AGM. Each represents a regular viewer.

## TREASURER'S REPORTS

The Accounts for 2014/15 published in the December METROPOLITAN had not been examined, but have since been confirmed as correct and April thanked Tony Allen and Bill Pyemont for checking the accounts for the Society. She then summarised the published report, by noting that income from subscriptions and donations was similar to the previous year but publications sales fell, so overall income was reduced. However, combined with further expenditure savings the Society's deficit reduced to £933 compared to £2,251 last year, which itself was half the previous year's deficit – so we are going in the right direction.

Subscription payments: although PayPal can be used, the Society loses part of it in fees. It is ideal for overseas members, but for those in the UK we would appreciate payment, either:

- a) Ideally by setting up a standing order payable on 1 October each year. This can be done through the website or by contacting the Membership Secretary
- b) By paying the money directly into our Bank Account at your local branch or online.

Our account details and other information required will be published in METROPOLITAN

- c) By cheque to the Membership Secretary.

## THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

The annual accounts for 2014/15 which had previously been published in the December edition of METROPOLITAN, were adopted by the meeting nem. con.

## ELECTION OF OFFICERS

No nominations had been received for any of the posts.

Rosemary Roome was willing to continue as Chairman for the coming year.

Tricia Sutton was willing to continue as Secretary

April Vesey was willing to continue as Treasurer.

## ELECTION OF OTHER COMMITTEE MEMBERS

When it became clear that Anne Prudames was planning to move away and would no longer be able to continue as Membership Secretary or Bookstall Manager, Barbara Haswell and Elaine Tyler 'held the fort' while we asked for volunteers from among the branch members.

Sylvia Thompson volunteered in October. It was proposed at the Executive Committee meeting in November and agreed unanimously that she be co-opted. She was soon inducted into the post of Membership Secretary and started work in December 2015. She attended her first Committee meeting in January 2016.

Tricia proposed that Sylvia Thompson be elected as Membership Secretary. This was seconded by Sue Lumas and passed nem. con.

A vote of thanks was expressed to Anne for her many years of service in various roles both in this Society and in the former London & North Middlesex Family History Society.

Rosemary was able to confirm that John Lewis vouchers had been sent to Anne, who is even now busy purchasing items she needs for her new home.

The following members were willing to continue to serve on the Executive Committee:

Elaine Tyler Projects Co-ordinator

Rosemary Roome Chairman of Barnet Branch

Barbara Haswell Representative for City Branch

Lilian Gibbens Chairman of Enfield Branch

Doreen Heywood Representative for Rayners Lane Branch

William Pyemont Chairman of Wembley Branch

The Editorial Team (Elizabeth Burling, Barbara Haswell and Rosemary Roome) is also represented by one member on the Committee.

The Officers and other members of the Executive Committee were elected nem. con.

## ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No items had been previously noted for discussion.

Dorothy Stevens proposed a vote of thanks to the Committee and to all those who do so much throughout the year to keep the Branches and all the other members happy.



## URSULA NYSS, 1936-2016

Ursula NYSS, Member No. 4 and a Life Member of our Society, died on Friday 22 January 2016. She and her husband Hugh were among a group of family historians who gathered in Enfield in July 1978 and formed the then North Middlesex Family History Society with 31 founding members.

Ursula became Editor of the society's journal when the founding editor retired from the role in October 1980 and she continued in that capacity until she and her husband moved to Essex some 5 years later. Production of the journal in those times was an entirely manual operation and involved a literal 'cut and paste' (the term has an entirely different meaning today) procedure. Ursula's typing skills were also used in various Society projects such as the recording of monumental inscriptions for production on microfiche.

Ursula was awarded Life Membership in recognition of all the work she had done for the Society.



## Haringey Local History Fair at Bruce Castle Museum

As usual, our Society had two tables at the Haringey Local History Fair on Saturday 20 February. Thanks to Eileen Bostle, Tricia Sutton and Elaine Tyler (and family members) for helping transport books, man the stall and answer queries from members of the public. The bargain books on sale on our stand proved very popular. It was good to renew acquaintance with other societies who were also present.

**Rosemary A Roome**

## JOTTINGS

### **The National Archives new copying service**

In February TNA launched a new record copying service which has been integrated into their online catalogue. People are now able to request digital or paper copies of records – an essential service for those unable to visit TNA, or for when records are not available to download.

Previously, staff would have to check any document to see if copies could be made, then advise people of the cost. It was only after all this work that visitors would then decide whether to go ahead and actually order a copy or not. Now, the first step is a paid-for page check, which costs £8.24. This covers the staff resources it takes to find the information that someone wants copied, and to assess whether it can safely be copied. To offset this cost, the amount charged for both digital and paper copies has been reduced. Documents up to A3 in size will now both cost £1.10 per copy; digital copies previously cost £3.50 and paper copies £1.30.

The record copying service has also been integrated into TNA's online catalogue *Discovery*, to make sure all requests provide a valid document reference number. New features included mean that people can track their order as it progresses through the record copying service.

### **Bunhill Fields planning controversy**

A planning application lodged with Islington council seeking to demolish existing buildings on the corner of City Road and Featherstone Street and replacing them with four buildings, two of which would be 10 and 11 storeys and two five storeys, is causing controversy locally. Islington councillors have criticised Boris Johnson, Mayor of London, after he intervened to take the decision out of the hands of local councillors.

The council had said it was concerned the buildings could cause 'significant harm' to the setting of Bunhill Fields, which is a Grade I Registered Park and Garden of Special Historic Interest, and contains 75 listed tombs within its boundary. Bunhill Fields is the final resting place of more than 120,000 Londoners, including the artist and poet William BLAKE, whose work includes *Jerusalem*, Daniel DEFOE, author of *Robinson Crusoe*, writer and preacher John BUNYAN, and Susanna WESLEY, the mother of Methodist founder John WESLEY.

### **National Media Museum Photographic Archive**

This archive, containing over 400,000 items, will be moved from the National Media Museum in Bradford to the Victoria & Albert Museum in London. It will join the V&A's existing collection of 500,000 photographs to create the world's leading collection of this form of art.

The transfer includes the Royal Photographic Society (RPS) archive, which features key historical objects from the medium's development. The collection encompasses vintage prints, the world's first negative, unique daguerreotypes and early colour photographs, as well as important albums, books, cameras and the archives of major photographers. It includes frontier photographers like William Henry Fox Talbot, Hill & Adamson, Roger Fenton and Julia Margaret Cameron: holdings by classic artists like Alfred Stieglitz, Alvin Langdon Coburn, Gertrude Käsebier, Paul Strand and Ansel Adams, as well as contemporary photographers.

The photographs, which will be digitised and made accessible for study, will be made available to the public in a collection titled The International Photography Resource Centre.

Bradford will retain the Kodak collection, the Daily Herald Archive and the Impressions Gallery and the Media Museum there will now focus on science and technology.

### **Right-to-buy and almshouses**

Recent government legislation announced that those living in dwellings owned by housing trusts would have the right to buy their homes. This caused consternation amongst almshouse charities, who feared that their properties might have to be made available for purchase.

With almost 1000 almshouses in the Borough of Barnet, more than any other London borough, this was big news locally. Within a mile of Barnet parish church there are over 170 almshouses, some of which date back to the seventeenth century. Four main charities, the Eleanor Palmer Trust, Jesus Hospital Charity, the Leathersellers' Company and Thomas Watson Cottage Homes are continuing a great historic tradition of support for the elderly and needy in Barnet.

After months of lobbying by the Almshouse Association, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, has finally given MPs an assurance that almshouse charities are entities that are distinct from housing associations, and are therefore not included in the right-to-buy scheme.

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.

## 20 KING STREET

I have been trying to trace my husband's grandmother Annie Amelia BRADFORD who, I believe, was born in Tottenham in 1880.

On Saturday, 26 May 1900 an Annie BRADFORD was admitted to Whitechapel Infirmary where, on 30 June, she gave birth to a son. I am almost certain that this is the Annie I am looking for but I have a gap in her history from the 1891 census when she was at Chase Farm School (Orphanage) and finding her in 1900 - I found her again on the 1901 census, married and living in Hornsey.

The Whitechapel Register shows that she was admitted from 20 King Street which came under the heading 'Homeless or Institution'. How can I find out more about 20 King Street and which King Street it is - there seem to be several to choose from? Can any of your readers help?

*Mrs. Gillian Lee, Member No. 4702*

*Email: gillianlee07@btinternet.com*

Note: Whitechapel Poor Law Union was formed on 16 February 1837. Its 9 constituent parishes, all in Middlesex, were: Christchurch, Spitalfields; Mile End New Town; Norton Folgate Liberty; Old Artillery Ground; St Botolph, Aldgate Without or East Spitalfield Liberty; St Katharine by the Tower; St Mary Matfelon, Whitechapel; Tower of London, Old without and Tower Precinct; Trinity in the Minories. To be admitted to the Whitechapel Infirmary (part of the Workhouse), Annie must have come from one of these parishes. Much more information on this workhouse, including a picture of the Women's Ward of the infirmary, can be found at the 'Whitechapel' page of: <http://www.workhouses.org.uk/> - see Website News on page 58 for more information on this website.



According to GenDocs' Victorian London A-Z Street Index (which can be found at: <http://homepage.ntlworld.com/hitch/gendocs/lon-str.html>) there were about 90 roads in the London area known as 'King Street'.

These are the only ones which seem to be in Whitechapel Union parishes:

King Street, Church Street, Mile End New Town

King Street, Brick Lane, Whitechapel

King Street, Little Tower Hill, Whitechapel

King Street, St Paul, Whitechapel

An address search on the 1901 census should find these roads but inevitably there are inconsistencies! King Street, Mile End NEW Town could not be found but 20 King Street, Mile End OLD Town, was a house occupied by two families.

King Street, St Botolph Without, Whitechapel was not mentioned on the above list, yet it appears on the 1901 census and numbers 19 and 20 are occupied by the Lady Superintendent of a Girl's Home and 5 'girls' aged 18 to 21, all described as 'Boarder'. Could this be a home where pregnant single women could have their babies? It certainly seems possible.

However, if you wish to trace Annie BRADFORD and have found her in the 1901 census as a married woman, it would seem worthwhile purchasing her marriage certificate. This should state her father's name, which could be checked against that on the birth certificate of the Annie BRADFORD born in Tottenham.

### **SAMUEL MERCER**

I am searching for information about Samuel MERCER who married Ann FRY by licence at St Andrew Holborn on 23 September 1789. It is possible that they are my ancestors.

Did they move to Margate, Kent after their marriage? Any news of this couple would be very welcome.

***Alan Ricketts Member No. 7937***

*7 Taplin Court, Albion Road, Birchington, Kent CT7 9DH*

*Email: alangricketts@gmail.com*

## PHOTO PUZZLE



The only information on the back of these photographs states that they were taken by Courtenay Wynne at 267 Fulham Road, Brompton.

***Elisabeth Roller, Member No 7822***

*Denzenbergstraße 46, 72074 Tübingen, Germany*

Note: These two photos were amongst nine sent to us by Elisabeth but are the only two examples from C WYNNE.

Courtenay Henry WYNNE, the photographer of these portraits, was born in Clerkenwell in 1841 and died in Chelsea in 1886.

He had his studio at 267 Fulham Road for a relatively long time - 1869-1886.

However, the sitters in both photographs show some of the

excesses of decoration that went with the first half of the 1870s.

The lady on the left has an ornate ringletted hairstyle topped by a little pork-pie hat adorned with a bow and copious amounts of jewellery visible - a 3-strand necklace, brooch at the throat and long earrings.

The sleeves set in at the shoulder and the large quantity of trimmings and frills on the dress of the lady on the right also indicates a date of the early 1870s.

There would seem to be quite a strong family resemblance between these two women. Could they be mother and daughter, do you think?



## FORTHCOMING BRANCH MEETINGS

### **Barnet Branch** – 7.30pm for 8.00pm

Lyonsdown Hall, Lyonsdown Road, New Barnet, Hertfordshire EN5 1JB  
Branch Contact: Rosemary A Roome, Email: barnet@lwmfhs.org.uk

- Thursday 17 March      Members' Evening – reveal all you have discovered about your black sheep ancestor!
- Thursday 21 April      *A Walk Along Fleet Street*  
by Joe Studman
- Thursday 19 May      Barnet Branch will be celebrating their 35<sup>th</sup> birthday with a social event.
- Thursday 16 June      *'Blige a Lady* - a history of travel on a London horsebus 1829 - 1915  
by John Neal

### **City Branch** – 12 noon for 12.30pm

Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre, Holborn Library,  
32-38 Theobalds Road, London WC1X 8PA  
Branch Contact: Barbara Haswell, Email: city@lwmfhs.org.uk

- Thursday 31 March      *Camden: The First Fifty Years*  
by Tudor Allen
- Thursday 28 April      Members' Meeting: the earliest ancestor I have found. Who were they and how did you find them? Come and tell us.
- Thursday 26 May      *Samuel Pepys*  
by Joe Studman
- Thursday 30 June      *The Photographic History of Charing Cross Road*  
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

- Wednesday 6 April      *Then and Now – Forty Hill to Bulls Cross*  
by Frank Bayford

- Wednesday 4 May            *The History of the Royal Ballet*  
by Georgie Perrott
- Wednesday 1 June         *20C Scandals and Conspiracies Part 2*  
by Maggie Radcliffe

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

Friends' Meeting House, 456 Rayners Lane, Harrow, Middlesex HA5 5DT  
Branch Contact: Tricia Sutton, Email: rayners\_lane@lwmfhs.org.uk

- Friday 11 March            *Huguenots*  
by Michael Gandy
- Friday 8 April              *Finding Robert Hogg*  
by Tricia Sutton
- Friday 13 May              *Quarter Sessions Records*  
by Ian Waller
- Friday 10 June             Members' Evening

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

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

- Monday 28 March         No Meeting
- Monday 25 April         *Bletchley Park Code Breakers*  
by John Davis
- Monday 23 May            Members' Evening
- Monday 27 June           *Magna Carta*  
by John Neal

## ADVERTISING RATES

Advertising rates per issue of METROPOLITAN are as follows:

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

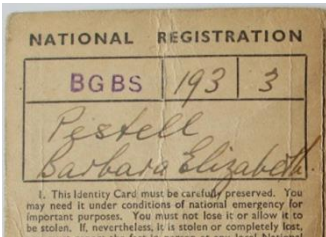
All copy, correspondence and remittances should be sent to the Editors.

See inside front cover for address.

## NATIONAL REGISTRATION IDENTITY CARDS

On 29 September 1939, 65,000 enumerators visited every household in England and Wales to gather information in order to produce a National Register and Identity Cards. There were three main reasons for this: the dislocation of the population caused by mobilisation and evacuation; the possibility of food rationing and population statistics.

Each card showed the person's name, their identity card number and address. In my case this number was BGBS 193 3: BGBS was the four letter enumeration district code; 193 was the line number of the schedule and the 3 was because I was the third member of the family.



In 1939 all cards were buff coloured but in 1943, rationing was combined with registration and blue cards were issued to all adults. From 21 February 1952 we no longer had to carry our cards but the identity number continued to be used on our National Health Insurance Medical Cards until 1996.



1943 blue card

1939 buff card

## **AIMS OF THE SOCIETY**

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

## **SUBSCRIPTIONS**

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

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

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

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

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