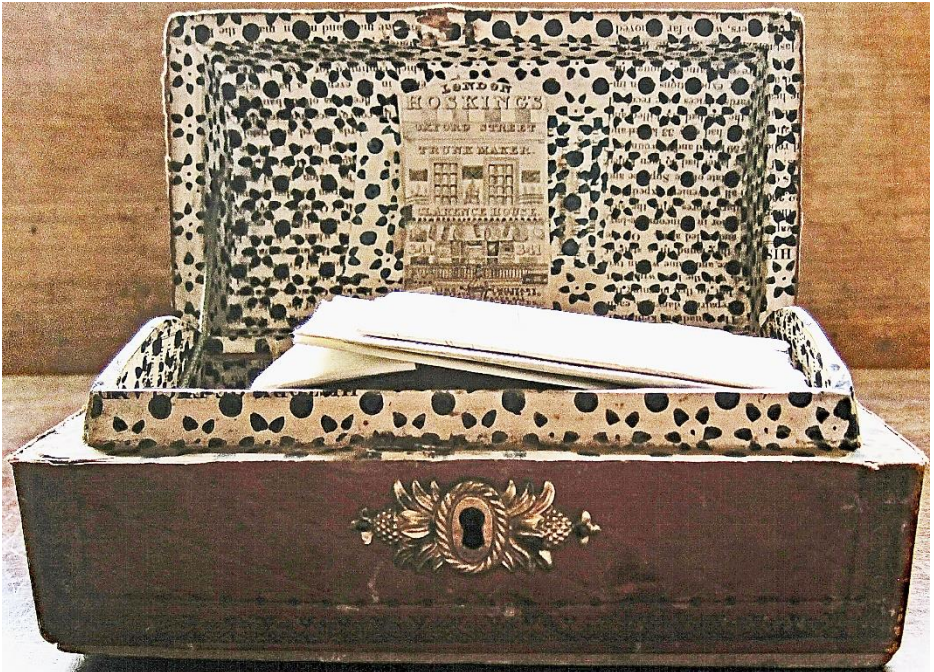


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# METROPOLITAN

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



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December 2017

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Cover picture: Lucy's Casket, see article on page 21

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## EDITORIAL

Many thanks to all the members who contributed to METROPOLITAN over the last year. With another three journals to produce this next year, we are looking forward to receiving more articles, letters, snippets and jottings. Do not forget that you can send in HELP requests and also your Members Interests.

In this issue, we have an intriguing article from a Devon researcher who was shown a couple of old trunks full of letters and photograph albums. The trunks were found in an attic and the contents proved to be fascinating. This is a long article and so we will print it over the next three journals.

The article on page 6 about William Hancock proves that it really is worth visiting family history fairs and speaking to the people running the stands. Talking about your research and asking questions can solve many problems. (The Editors certainly find we can talk for *hours* about our family history!)

The Society is in urgent need of a new Secretary – we cannot function without one. It is not a full-time job and all members of the Executive Committee will be happy to support any person willing to take on the role whilst a new Secretary finds their feet. More details about the job can be found on page 104 of September's METROPOLITAN. Do, please, consider applying.

The editors send you all our best wishes for a very happy Christmas and New Year. We wish you every success with your research in 2018.

### The Editorial Team



**Please remember that the copy date for the next issue of  
METROPOLITAN is 1 February 2018**

## CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

We were very sorry to hear that of one of our speakers, John Neal, died during the summer. He frequently gave talks at our branches on a variety of topics, which were both amusing and informative. These included his experiences as a Metropolitan Police Officer.

The GRO is carrying out another pilot offering PDF (Portable Document Format) versions of historic birth and death certificates for 3 months from 12 October 2017. These will cost £6, rather than £9.25 for an official certificate. The PDFs on offer are: Births 1837 to 1916 and Deaths 1837 to 1957. Marriages are not offered. See below for further details.

For many marriages in London you can find the original registers on line on Ancestry or by personally visiting the London Metropolitan Archives. I have found many marriages of my family in the past—previously up to 1920. This has now been extended to 1931. On Ancestry, go to 'New Documents' and find 'London—Church of England Marriages and Banns 1754-1931'. Of course they have to have been married in the Church of England. My paternal Grandfather objected to the Church of England and married in a register office in 1909. But he was unusual.

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

**Tony Allen**

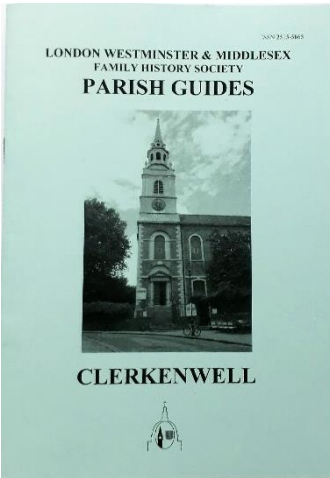
The GRO wants to check demand for this service, so the pilot will run for a minimum of 3 months from the start date. You have to apply online and you must have the GRO index reference number. The GRO indexes on fiche are held at City of Westminster Archives, The Library of Birmingham, Bridgend Local and Family History Centre, Manchester Central Library, Newcastle City Library, Plymouth Central Library and The British Library and can also be found online at UKBMD, FreeBMD, FindMyPast, Ancestry etc.

£6 is quite a bit cheaper than usual so if you have been waiting to purchase extra family history certificates, now might be the time! Visit: <https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/>

## INTRODUCING: LWMFHS PARISH GUIDES

We would like to introduce our new series of Parish Guides. These little books are crammed with as much information as possible about the parishes in our area. We aim to inspire family historians and to help them locate their ancestors in places that they might not have thought of looking before.

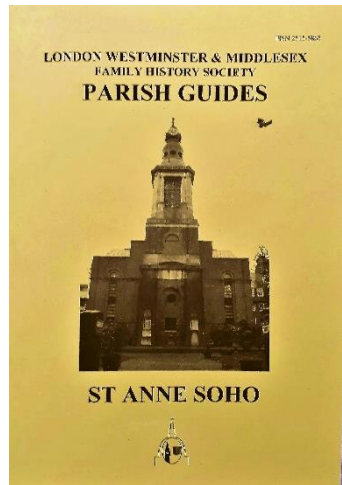
Based on a series created in the 1990s by Doreen Heywood and the late Kay Payne, Doreen has been working with Elizabeth Burling to update the original booklets for the digital age and to produce guides for parishes not previously covered. The first – *Clerkenwell* – came out in September with *St Anne Soho* following in November.



Each guide starts off with a brief history of the area and a description of where the main archives for the parish are located. There are then many different sections about the various types of records that relate to the parish, with a description of what they are and information about where these records can be found. So,

for instance, tax records for Clerkenwell are found at three different places: The National Archives has the 1600 Lay Subsidy and Land Tax Assessments for 1798; London Metropolitan Archives has the 1664 Hearth Tax and duty on inhabited houses, windows, servants, dogs and horses for the dates 1797-1808; and British History Online has the 1666 Hearth Tax returns and details of the 1693-1694 Four Shilling in the Pound Aid.

As St Anne Soho is in Westminster, tax records for the parish also turn up at the City of Westminster Archives Centre.



The booklets cost £5 each and can be purchased easily online from GenFair. Go to: <https://www.genfair.co.uk/> and then type 'parish guides', 'Soho' or 'Clerkenwell' into the search box. Post and packing costs to the UK are £1.38 for one booklet or £1.80 for both; to Europe £4.20 and £4.85 and to the rest of the world £5.20 and £6.35.

For those not on the internet, you can write to the Editors at the address on the inside front cover of METROPOLITAN stating which booklet/s you would like and enclosing a sterling cheque made payable to LWMFHS, as per the Genfair costs. Copies are also available at fairs, our meetings or our AGM at £5.00 of course.

The LWMFHS Parish Guide to Paddington will be coming out in January, followed every other month by other parishes in our area. So far, those being planned for 2018 are St George Hanover Square, Islington, St James Piccadilly, St Marylebone and Enfield. Eventually it is hoped to produce a guide to every parish in our area.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

I would like to point out that the *Barnet Times* ceased publication before the other newspapers mentioned in the current issue of METROPOLITAN (September, page 118). The *Enfield Independent* is the only paper available now. The demise of these local papers is both sad and a great loss to local people.

**Colin and Lilian Gibbens, Member No. 818**

**Note:** Thanks for pointing this out. It is, of course, the *Barnet Borough Times* which is still going in Barnet.

## **WILLIAM HANCOCK 1847-1892, BANDMASTER**

by Mrs Elizabeth Hancock, Member No. 7903

After my mother-in-law died in 1985 we cleared the house and on doing this we found a huge family bible which contained only the names and birth dates of four people and one marriage: William HANCOCK born 1874; Catherine BROADWAY born 1854; Percy William HANCOCK born 1874 and Katherine Fanny Maria HANCOCK born 1877. I asked my husband if he knew these people and the only one he did know was Percy William HANCOCK, his grandfather, who died in 1953.

From St Catherine's House I obtained the birth certificates which were available, also a marriage certificate for William and Catherine which proved them to be my husband's great grandparents. There was no evidence of William's birth. For many years I took every opportunity to find more about him.

We knew William had been a musician in the Coldstream Guards and sent for his attestation which showed he had been born in Chertsey, Surrey. Another set of searches began, with no result as I was looking for William HANCOCK born in Chertsey, Surrey!

At that time Family History Fairs were being held at the Horticultural Halls in Westminster. On my next visit I bought a journal from one of the societies which happened to have an article about the London Foundling Hospital. It said that girls aged 14 were put in domestic service, boys of the same age were admitted into the armed forces. I read this on my train journey home and wondered if this could have been the case with William?

After telling my husband we decided to write to the Foundling Hospital, asking if William had been in their care. We had a fairly quick reply saying this was so and invited us to visit them for a discussion. We were quite excited at the prospect of our visit! A very kind lady told us that William was born Edward Warr BROWN, he was illegitimate and his mother Rosetta BROWN had been unable to keep the baby. She had no parents or family and requested for him to be admitted to the orphanage. The orphanage also



obtained from the LMA documents which told the full sad story. It was now the end of 1998!

Using the new information I bought a birth certificate for Edward Warr BROWN. He was born 18 September 1847 at the London Lying-In Hospital, Holborn and a few weeks later admitted to the orphanage. His name was then changed to William HANCOCK. Sorry to tell but after that time we have no knowledge of Rosetta BROWN.

William was sent to live with foster parents at Ottershaw near Chertsey, Surrey where he stayed for three years and then back to the orphanage in London. When he was 14 years old he was poached by Charles GODFREY to join the Coldstream Guards band as an accomplished clarinetist. His sponsor was a member of the well-known GODFREY family who were military musicians. William served in the band for 22 years, rising through the ranks to become Bandmaster of the Coldstream Guards.

During his time in the army William married Catherine BROADWAY and they had a family, Percy William HANCOCK and Katherine Fanny Maria HANCOCK. Their home was in Lillington Street, Pimlico; sadly this no longer exists because the area was heavily bombed in WW2.

In 1883 William was recommended by the retiring Bandmaster at Christ's Hospital (Richard HOPKINS) to take up the post after he retired. In 1883 William was duly appointed by the Governors. During his time there he completed a review of the band's instruments and the cost to either renew or replace them was estimated at £123.00. William stayed at Christ's Hospital for 9 years, teaching the pupils, organising and taking part in the school's musical events where he played clarinet and cornet as well as other band instruments. At the same time he was Bandmaster at the Foundling Hospital. He died in service in 1892.

To battle from his humble beginnings, up through the tough systems in place in the establishment in those days, denotes both considerable talent and heroism. He was so well respected.

Good old great granddad!



It has taken me over 30 years to research William and it has been very difficult to find facts. By chance at the East Surrey FHS Open Day in Woking, I saw a stand for the Christ's Hospital Museum with several copies of the School's magazines. I opened one up and saw a picture of William when he was Bandmaster there! Here he is, above, in the top hat with his band, dated about 1890. Clifford JONES from the museum has allowed me to reproduce the photo for this article. He has produced a booklet, *Christ's Hospital, the History of the Band* which is available from the Museum.



***Clerkenwell News, Wednesday 28 November 1860***

To the Young Men of England who suffer from nervous Debility.-Just Published.

THE CONFESSIONS AND EXPERIENCE OF AN INVALID: designed as a Warning and a Caution to others supplying, at the same time, the means of Self Cure, by one who has cured himself, after undergoing the usual amount of Medical Imposition and Quackery.

Single copies may be had (post-free) by sending a stamped, addressed envelope to the Author, ARTHUR DIXON, Esq. Hounslow, near London.

## **MOUNTING BY THE SCALE**

By Sheila Clarke, Member No. 7900

On a Sunday morning in late August 1860 fire broke out in the coach works adjoining St Martin's Hall in London's Long Acre. There had been several fires in the area that week but this one, apparently started by oily rags in the paint and varnishing rooms, was particularly fierce and quickly spread to the roof. The hall had been closed for the season and the few members of staff on site were able to escape as a vast crowd gathered to watch fire fighters led by Superintendent James BRAIDWOOD, (who would lose his life the following year in the great Tooley Street fire) throw 'tremendous volumes of water' in an attempt to save the buildings. But it was not to be. The fire raged for hours and the Elizabethan-style Hall, barely ten years old, was almost completely destroyed.

The owner left to bear the enormous loss was the renowned composer and music educationalist John Pyke HULLAH. It was a devastating blow, and in the days that followed a distraught HULLAH could be seen visiting the scene of destruction before being gently but firmly led away by his old friend Charles DICKENS. Worse was to come. The insurance proved inadequate and by October HULLAH was declared bankrupt but in this darkest hour he would find his many friends and admirers had not deserted him and by the end of the year a fund had been set up chaired by DICKENS.

The committee contained the names of many eminent Victorians - GLADSTONE, Lord WHARNCLIFFE, assorted bishops and clergy - all rallying in support of the man who had brought the benefits of music within reach of the ordinary working man. Just such a man was the fund's treasurer, my 3x great uncle Thomas Hughes HEADLAND. Thomas's story has appeared here before - a humble silversmith who came to rub shoulders with society's Great and Good, culminating in his promotion to the coveted post of Readings Manager to Charles DICKENS, my ancestor undoubtedly felt he owed much to his relationship with HULLAH and would acknowledge this in a very personal way. But this is not about Thomas. Instead it celebrates the man who believed in him enough to provide a first step on the road to advancement and a life far removed from his modest beginnings.



John Pyke Hullah

In his impassioned appeal at the launch of the fund, DICKENS referred to a ladder which had stood over the fireplace of the ruined hall. It bore the Latin inscription '*Per Scalam Ascendimus* - Mounting By The Scale' - an apt description of both HULLAH's beliefs and his teaching method, which was designed to carry the pupil to proficiency in gradual and easy steps. John HULLAH had begun his career as a composer. Born in Worcester in 1812, he entered the Royal Academy of Music in 1833 and enjoyed some early success, collaborating with DICKENS on the opera, *The Village Coquettes*, before a visit to Paris in 1839 when he witnessed the extraordinary success of pioneering music teacher Guillaume WILHEM in teaching large groups of people to sing. WILHEM was using the Continental 'fixed doh' method of sight-singing which required no knowledge of musical notation and back in London HULLAH decided to offer the same opportunity to the British public. After winning the support of politician and educationalist James KAY (later Sir James KAY-SHUTTLEWORTH) who commissioned him to adapt WILHEM's manual and arranged government backing, HULLAH tested his theory in schools before starting public classes at the Strand's Exeter Hall in Spring 1841.

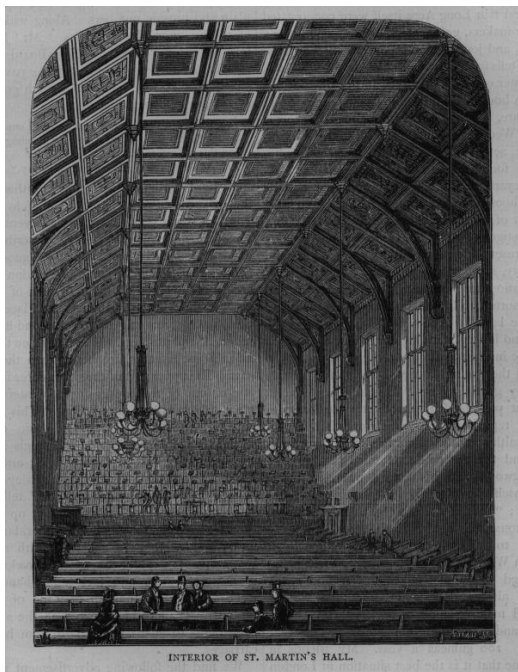
Initially open to schoolmasters and schoolmistresses with the intention they would go on to teach the method in their own schools, the classes proved so successful that the following year they were thrown open to the general public. One of the first pupils was Thomas HEADLAND, newly released from prison after serving a short sentence for debt. Whether this influenced his decision to accept the offer of self-improvement is impossible to say but whatever his motive, on an April evening in 1842 Thomas took his place in HULLAH's First Workman's Singing Class at Exeter Hall.

True to his conviction that the ordinary working man could achieve anything he set his mind to, the singing master was offering an incentive - teachers had paid 15 shillings for a course of sixty lessons but 'mechanics and persons in still more humble sphere' could take the same course at a reduced rate. Society had been suffering from an unprecedented level of crime fuelled by alcohol and the lack of a viable alternative to occupy the brief leisure hours at the end of the working day and HULLAH believed he had the answer. Music, which contained within it a 'moral force that could refine and cultivate,' would make them 'better and happier men' with a greater respect

for each other and themselves and bring benefits to society in general. The singing master threw himself into his task with zeal and the results were both swift and impressive. The authorities were delighted: their prediction that 'in a very short time a large proportion of the lower classes ..... would be withdrawn from the public houses' proved correct and support came from all levels of society. Prince Albert had taken to dropping into Exeter Hall to witness the mass performances and when a party including the Duke of Wellington appeared the entire choir stopped singing and rose to its feet. Not everyone was enamoured of HULLAH and his almost instant success. Some accused him of surreptitiously introducing members of the Sacred Harmonic Society among his singers during demonstrations and of failing to respond when questioned about the efficaciousness of his system but in general he was seen as a one - man saviour of the nation's morals, his gatherings praised for being places where 'all mingle in one common pursuit, without regard to station or degree and with the utmost harmony of feeling.' Before long he was able to announce another innovation - the opening of classes for the wives and children of workmen. With harmony now extended to the whole family, WILHEM's method was soon being taught nationwide and thousands were able to experience, many for the first time, the rewards of an intellectually stimulating common pursuit.

As 'Hullah Mania' gripped the nation, the press began to carry reports ranging from the whimsical to the downright bizarre. A contributor to *The New Monthly Magazine* described walking near Exeter Hall and hearing a burst of sound coming from inside - it was HULLAH instructing a singing class of the 'the lower and middle orders.' Although the performance left something to be desired, the passer-by found himself 'transported..... like a grateful canary' so that he 'incontinently burst into full-throated song,' only to find his reverie interrupted 'by a pert Cockney from the Poultry' demanding 'Does your mother know you're out?' For an example of exactly how far HULLAH's influence was capable of reaching, we have the experience of a female patient during a public demonstration of Mesmerism. Her first hypnosis produced a spirited rendition of *O Woodman Spare That Tree!* while during the second she was heard to declare regret at not being a better singer but her husband intended to 'send her to Exeter Hall to learn the Hullah-Baloo!' - proof that the singing master and his method had permeated every last corner of the country's imagination.

As HULLAH's fame and popularity continued to grow it became increasingly difficult to manage the numbers clamouring for lessons. The crippling rent on Exeter Hall was also proving a problem and the idea of building a new hall in central London began to gain support. Fund raising got under way with a series of concerts around the capital, along with numerous other events and donations (the Queen and Prince Albert gave £10 each) and by the summer of 1847 the first stone was ready to be laid. The



ceremony took place on 21 June on a site at the corner of Long Acre and Endell Street, a large crowd gathering to watch as the vicar of nearby St Martin's 'earnestly besought divine blessing upon the undertaking' before the stone was laid by Lord Morpeth. The assembly then witnessed an address to HULLAH by his singing classes and the presentation of a cheque for £500 from the proceeds of their concerts. HULLAH 'returned thanks with deep feeling,' the Bishop of Norwich spoke of 'the valuable influence of music and its humanizing effects upon society as a whole' and

the *National Anthem* was played, after which everyone adjourned to the *Crown and Anchor* 'where the evening was spent in a variety of musical entertainments.' It would be another three years before the Hall was declared open but HULLAH now had what he had long been working towards - the promise of a custom built venue for both his lessons and performances, where all would be welcome to engage in 'the delightful science of music.'

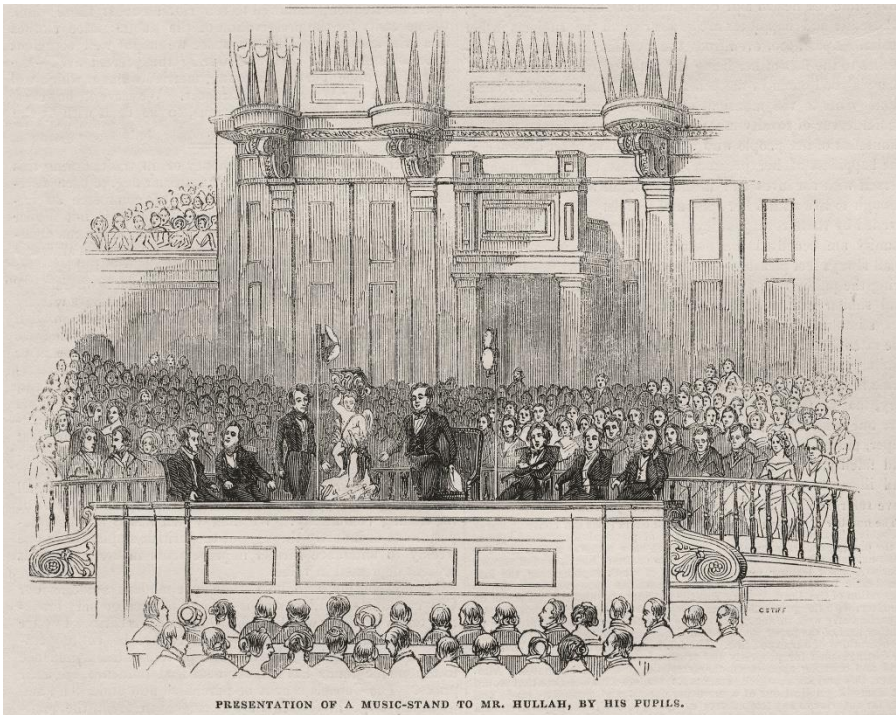
HULLAH's choice of secretary for his new venture may have seemed somewhat bizarre: Thomas HEADLAND was a working silversmith with no

apparent experience of secretarial work when he joined the staff of St Martin's Hall. However, he had served as Chairman of the First Workman's Singing Class and this obviously brought him to the attention of his teacher. One can only speculate what qualities the singing master saw in his pupil. Thomas's work at the Hall seems to have met with approval - only later, in his role as DICKENS's Readings Manager, was he regarded as a liability, trailing chaos and confusion in his wake - and as the Hullah Singing School moved to its new premises the future must have looked promising for everyone concerned.

The 1850s were a particularly hectic time for HULLAH. His concerts were in great demand and his legendary inability to turn down any offer of work meant that he also continued to both teach and lecture. The Hall, now fully operational, had become was one of the capital's premier theatres. HULLAH's fame and popularity ensured events were generally well attended but his lack of interest in all things financial meant that when disaster struck in the shape of the fire he was ill prepared for the consequences. The 1840s and 50s had seen the singing master and his method achieve unprecedented success (an estimated 25,000 had passed through his classes between 1841 and 1860) but now the ruined Hall stood as a reminder of how quickly fortunes could change. As HULLAH faced problems both financial and practical, the situation became increasingly desperate. His private apartments had been in the Hall and he was forced to spend some weeks accepting the hospitality of friends before a suitable house was found for rent. There was no shortage of support, some even buying back furniture and other belongings sold to pay creditors before presenting them, often anonymously, to the beleaguered HULLAH. A famously convivial man who enjoyed nothing more than a 'cosy dinner where the mutton was hot and the wine was cool and the friends were charming and all things as they should be,' he had also displayed 'a positive mania' for foreign travel but now economies would need to be made to avoid total ruin. Advice was sought and acted upon and although the next few years would prove difficult, never again did the situation reach crisis point. By the following year HULLAH was picking up more work - he had been Professor of Vocal Music at King's College since 1844, organist for Charterhouse, and had lectured on his method at public schools including Winchester and Eton - and he now undertook a series of lectures on the history of music for the Royal Institute.



In 1865 he applied unsuccessfully for the Edinburgh Reid professorship, his fate decided by Gladstone's casting vote. In 1872 he was appointed Government Inspector of Training Schools, a post he held until 1882 when he was awarded a civil list pension of £150 per annum by the Queen. Although he remained a respected figure, producing valuable reports on music education both here and abroad, never again did HULLAH achieve his previous level of fame. In 1884 he died aged seventy one and was buried in the North West section of Kensal Green cemetery. WILHELM's method was succeeded by the Tonic sol-fa that we know today and both HULLAH and his legacy gradually faded into obscurity.



PRESENTATION OF A MUSIC-STAND TO MR. HULLAH, BY HIS PUPILS.

When I began my family research I was intrigued by the name Thomas HEADLAND gave to his only child, a daughter born 1855. Florence Hullah HEADLAND was the starting point for my journey back to Victorian London and the relationship between her father and one of the most famous

men of his time. The 1861 census held the first clue - Thomas was shown as 'Secretary to Hullah Singing School' - but who was HULLAH and what were the qualities that inspired my ancestor to make such a gesture? I felt there must be a story to tell and indeed there was - a tale of one man's egalitarian dream and his belief that music had the power to transform lives. A 'kindly man' of 'gentlemanly and prepossessing' behaviour and an inspirational teacher who encouraged his pupils to recognise their inherent potential. A supporter of education for women, a founder of Queen's College, Harley Street and a campaigner for women to serve on the London School Board, HULLAH was a committed Humanitarian who used his gifts for the benefit of all. His achievements deserve to be remembered and celebrated. I hope that in some small way I have managed to do that by sharing my research on the life and times of the man who made an impact on so many and whose name is forever linked to that of my family - the 'singing master to a million', John Pyke HULLAH.

*'His energetic hand has held the ladder by which other men have mounted'*  
Charles DICKENS, the St Martin's Hall Fire Fund launch, 1861.

#### **Sources:**

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#### **Illustrations:**

John Pyke Hullah c1865

Print of the interior of St. Martin's Hall c1850.

Thomas Headland (with papers in hand) presenting Hullah with a music stand on behalf of his pupils, Exeter Hall, November 1842.

By kind permission of Janet Snowman, Royal Academy of Music.

## DENNIS GALVIN AND THE LADY KENNAWAY

By Dennis Galvin, Member No. 1046

It was a bit of luck really that about 1994 I was at the National Archives and had some time to spare, so I started to browse through a book or two at the sales desk. One book published by the New South Wales Government listed all the convicts in the colony. I naturally looked up my own surname: there were quite a lot but the one that caught my eye was of course Dennis GALVIN.

The book informed that Dennis GALVIN aged 15 was tried at York and was transported on the *Lady Kennaway* (Master, Raymond JAMES) arriving at Wellington, New South Wales in 1836.

In 1995 I put an advert in my two main London FHS journals asking for help regarding York Assizes information. Needless to say I got no response! However, in 2001 (nearly six years later!) I received the following letter:

Dear Mr Galvin,

This is probably all far too late, and you may for all I know have left the address, but the other day I picked up a five year old magazine of the METROPOLITAN, the journal of the London & North Middlesex FHS.

In it you mentioned the transportation to New South Wales of your ancestor and namesake in 1836 on board the *Lady Kennaway*.

This rang a bell, as they say, and I realised that for about the last 50 years I have had a picture of that very ship hanging at home.

Quite a large colour print, 'The *Lady Kennaway*, off Margate, Thos Surflen, Esqre Commander, Homeward Bound 1827'. Painted and published by JW Huggins, 150 Leadenhall Street, 1829, engraved by E Duncan.

You may already have seen this, or similar drawing, but I can try and photograph it if not. Three masts, four yards to a mast, usual black-white-black hull, flying red ensign. Very handsome lines, not that young Dennis would have appreciated it greatly!

I have not tried to prove my ancestry but I thought my correspondent's last paragraph was a real gem!

I was very pleased with the letter and replied immediately. I also requested a photo of the ship which wasn't easy due to the glass but another researcher who was able to deal with old photographs managed to get a very good picture for me. All this prompted me to write a small half-page piece in the Devon FHS journal which brought immediate response from Australia and, after much correspondence and photocopies, I now had quite a story.

Young Dennis came from Leeds, Yorkshire and was tried at York Assizes on 26 October 1835. He was given seven years transportation for stealing stays. My conjecture is that as Hull was prominent in the whaling industry, then, Leeds, not far away, was where the factories were producing ladies' whalebone stays – indispensable in Georgian and Regency times. The records also said that he had a former conviction and had been flogged. He seemed to be doing quite well for a couple of years or so and had been assigned to a farmstead where he and a certain James BARRETT were caught after doing a burglary down the Bathurst Road.

Dennis was really in trouble now and was transported for 15 years to Norfolk Island. This island is 800 miles out into the Pacific from New South Wales, where he spent three years in irons. I recently saw a really good programme on BBC TV about the island. All the old penal buildings (pictured below) were shown and where the cliffs had been hewed out by the convicts.



Many of the descendants of the *Bounty* also moved there from Pitcairn Island which had become too small for them. I also know that the island has autonomy from Canberra, so I suppose the old spirit still prevails. The capital is Kingston and I believe the big day now is 'Bounty Day'.

Dennis was finally – at the age of 28 – given ticket of leave in May 1848.

TICKET OF LEAVE.	
No.	<i>48/109</i> <i>3 May 1848</i>
Prisoner's No. . . . .	<i>36/2296</i>
Name . . . . .	<i>Dennis Galvin</i>
Ship . . . . .	<i>by Kennaway 2</i>
Master . . . . .	<i>Davidson</i>
Year . . . . .	<i>1836</i>
Native Place . . . . .	
Trade or Calling . . . . .	
Offence . . . . .	
Place of Trial . . . . .	<i>York (New) 25</i>
Date of Trial . . . . .	<i>26 Oct. 1835</i>
Sentence . . . . .	<i>Seven Years.</i>
Year of Birth . . . . .	
Height . . . . .	
Complexion . . . . .	
Hair . . . . .	
Eyes . . . . .	
General Remarks	
	<i>Was transported to N. Island for 10 years on 26 Nov. 1839 for Burglary, by the Bathurst 21 Ret. 20 Feb 1845, &amp; served 7 years</i>
	Allowed to remain in the District of
	On recommendation of
	Bench,
	Dated

Government of N. Island

Sands County Directory NSW of 1881-1882 lists a Dennis GALVIN as a farmer on the Yass River in the Blue Mountains, NSW, so this may be him now well-and-truly settled down. I like to think that perhaps some of his forebears served together with my maternal grandfather at Gallipoli in 1915-1916.

## **FOCUS ON FACEBOOK**

By Elizabeth Burling, Member No. 4992

This quarter we have had questions from all around the world relating to our area and the records in it. These have ranged from a simple ‘Is Pimlico in Westminster?’ – yes, it is, it is in the parish of St George Hanover Square – to much more complicated ones.

Naomer from Australia wanted to know where St John the Evangelist, Hornsey was as he wanted to get a picture of it. It was the church mentioned on a marriage certificate from 1892. This was rather puzzling as there did not seem to be a church of that dedication in Hornsey: the nearest St John the Evangelists were in Enfield, Friern Barnet and Holloway. I sent Naomer details of the Hornsey Historical Society, who are the local experts. It transpired that the name of the church changed at some point after 1955 to St John the Evangelist, Finsbury Park. This enabled Naomer to locate the church at Brownswood Park and to obtain an image from Google Street View.

Benita was wondering how she could find out who the parents of her great grandma, Margaret Ann FOX, were. The best place to start for this is to buy Margaret’s marriage certificate. She married in 1861 and the certificate should record her father’s name and occupation. As an added bonus, 1861 was a census year so it might be possible to find the whole family recorded there. There were a couple of other branches of her family where she wanted to know a married woman’s maiden name. In all of these cases it is essential to find the marriage and/or birth certificates of any of their children to be sure that you have the correct person.

Lana, also from Australia, was trying to verify her family’s story that her great great grandma Sophia died before 1905. However, this seems to be a family tale invented to cover up the break-down of the family. In the 1911 census Sophia is listed as a widow and is living with a 4 year old son. Her husband and his new partner and children had all left for Australia. Sophia eventually died in 1942 in Islington. This shows that it is always worth taking family tales with a pinch of salt – there will be something in them but it might not be what you expected.

# LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Members of the Society will be held at 3pm on Saturday 3 March 2018 at the Kwanglim Room, Wesley's Chapel, 49 City Road, London EC1Y 1AU.

## **The Business of the AGM**

- Chairman's Report
- Treasurer's Report
- The Annual Accounts 2016-2017
- The Election of the Officers of the Society:
- The Appointment of other members of the Executive Committee
- Any Other Business (previously notified)

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



Please note that for reasons beyond the control of the Treasurer, it has not been possible to include a print-out of the Profit and Loss Account and Balance Sheet for the year ending 30 September 2017. They will be available in the Members' Area of the website, at the AGM and printed in the March 2018 issue of METROPOLITAN.

# LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX FHS

## CONFERENCE & ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday 3 March 2018 **10am-4.00pm**  
The Kwanglim Room at Wesley's Chapel,  
49 City Road, London EC1Y 1AU

### **The Programme for the Day**

A small bookstall will be available from 10am and during the lunch break, so do take the opportunity to browse and buy.

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

10.30am        Tea & Coffee

11.00am        Chairman's welcome

11.15am        Talk: *20<sup>th</sup> Century Research*  
by Ian Waller

12.15pm        Tea and coffee will be available to have with your packed lunch and there should be time to explore the Museum, John Wesley's House, the Chapel or Bunhill Fields Non-Conformist burial ground just over the road.

From 1.15pm    Registration for the AGM

1.30pm        Welcome back  
Talk: *Recent Developments in Tracing London Ancestry*  
by Michael Gandy

2.45pm        Refreshments and Comfort Break  
Registration for those only attending the AGM

3pm            The Business of the Annual General Meeting  
chaired by our President, Michael Gandy

Directions: The nearest Underground Stations are Old Street (Northern Line) and Moorgate (Metropolitan). It is then a short walk to the Chapel.

The nearest Main line stations are Moorgate and Liverpool Street. Liverpool Street (also Central Line) is further so take 205/214 bus

Bus: 205 runs from Marylebone Station via Euston and Kings Cross/St Pancras, along City Road past Wesley's Chapel to Liverpool Street.



**LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX  
FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY**

**Annual General Meeting  
to be held on  
Saturday 3 March 2018**

**Nomination Form for Election of Officers**

**Position: CHAIRMAN**

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

Proposed by:.....

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

Seconded by:.....

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

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

**Position: HON. SECRETARY**

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

Proposed by:.....

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

Seconded by:.....

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

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

CONTINUED OVERLEAF

**Position: HON. TREASURER**

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

Proposed by:.....

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

Seconded by:.....

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

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

**Any Other Business**

I wish to raise the following matter under Any Other Business

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

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

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

Please return this form to: Hon Secretary LWMFHS  
141 Welbeck Road, West Harrow, Middlesex HA2 0RY  
To be received no later than Friday 16 February 2018.

# LUCY'S CASKET

## Part 1

By Barbara Bender<sup>1</sup>

It's a recurrent daydream – that someday, somewhere, one will come across an old trunk full of letters and photographs. In the small village of Branscombe in East Devon, where for many years the community oral history group has recorded peoples' memories, worked the archives and walked the footpaths, we repeat over and over until people are bored with hearing us, 'Don't throw things away; check your loft; put names on your pictures. You never know what's going to be important.'

In the summer of 2010 we were shown some fine photograph albums. Unusually, they had been meticulously annotated, first by someone called AG TANSLEY and then by his daughter, Margaret TOMLINSON. There were portraits, wedding receptions on the lawn of the big house at Hazelwood dated 1903 and 1911, tents set up on the seashore, children with prawning nets. We were given permission to scan them. Then Margaret TOMLINSON's grandson rang. 'You'll be horrified,' he said, 'I've been up in the loft. There are three trunks full of letters and photos and other stuff. Come and look.' Not horrified – amazed, delighted, somewhat trepidatious.

There were two black tin trunks with 'AG TANSLEY' painted on them in white lettering. The third was probably a slightly newer trunk with wooden ribs. They were full to the brim with apparently unsorted letters. It became clear that for the most part they belonged to AG's mother, Amelia TANSLEY, a lady who kept every scrap of paper – letters, notes, invitations, programmes, tickets, photographs etc. etc. For the most part these dated to the second half of the nineteenth century. But among these items were two caches of earlier letters and memorabilia and it is their story that I want to recount.

In the bottom of one of the trunks were two water-colour paintings. They were copies of classical pictures and one of them was signed *S Tansley, 1805*. There was also a small black leather wallet containing seven letters (see picture overleaf). These were written before envelopes were invented. The stiff watermarked paper was folded into small oblongs, closed with a blob of

sealing wax, and then addressed. These were then posted and franked. They were written, with one exception, by S TANSLEY to Louisa BROOKS during 1831 and 1832. They were letters of courtship and when we first found them we had no idea who these people were, or where they fitted in with the later correspondence. Could the S TANSLEY of 1806 be the same as the S TANSLEY of 1831?



Some time after we had started sorting through the trunks, another member of the family gave us a small casket that had, at some point, been removed from the collection (see our front cover)<sup>2</sup>. It was made of cheap imitation leather lined with newspaper with a design printed over it. It contained ten letters, similar to those in the small black wallet. Below the letters, at the bottom of the casket, was a small silver pen and pencil, a little double magnifying glass, a silver thimble, and a tiny silver snuff box shaped like a book. There was also a crocheted purse just large enough to hold a silver medal inscribed 'William IV & Queen Adelaide crowned Sep 1831', ten small silver four-penny pieces dated 1836 and 1837 and one bent and very

worn silver coin dated 1817. There was also a small box containing three gold rings to fit someone with small fingers. One was a plain thin wedding ring, another was set with small turquoise stones and the third was a tiny oblong keepsake ring containing a piece of pale plaited hair. There was also a gold pin with an inset amber stone. Finally – a bit of a shock – another small cardboard box contained a partial front upper denture (see picture right). The pink gum had decayed but the shaft to anchor it to the jawbone was still intact and the teeth were small and white.



In all, the black wallet and the casket contained seventeen letters, a doctor's bill, a prescription and a recipe for calf's head soup. They covered a short period of time – just seven years, from 1831 to 1838 – plus one later letter, dated 1845.

Reading the letters, one begins to conjure up the lives of a small lower middle class family living in London in the 1830s. What follows is based almost entirely on the letters and objects, except when, towards the end, we quote from a book entitled *The Working Men's College 1854 – 1904*<sup>3</sup>.

Samuel TANSLEY – who was never called Samuel or Sam, even by his wife, but always TANSLEY or Mr TANSLEY – ran a small catering business, a 'ball and rout' business – at 11 Dorset Street off Baker Street in London<sup>4</sup>. He lived above the shop. He had inherited the business from his father in 1830 and now, aged forty, felt it was time to marry<sup>5</sup>. So the young S TANSLEY who signed the picture in 1806 was indeed the getting on for middle age S TANSLEY who signed the letters of 1831.

We do not know how or when Samuel TANSLEY met Louisa BROOKS – whom he always called Lucy. By the time of the first letter they had

exchanged kisses. Lucy had come to London from Trowse Newton near Norwich where her father was the village wheelwright. She, like Samuel, could read and write but her spelling was less predictable. In 1831 she was about 23 years old and was in service with a Mr HARDY of 14 Portland Place, Clapham<sup>6</sup>. She and Samuel were 'walking out'. Sometimes she came over to Dorset Street, more often he walked to Clapham. They could only meet on Sundays.

The first letter was dated 10 November 1831. Samuel was less than happy that Lucy intended to bring a lady friend to their rendezvous:

*I shall be glad to see you in Dorset St on Sunday evening according to your arrangement and likewise your friend, if you are quite sure that calling for her and waiting 'till she gets ready, will not hinder you too long, as you will have barely time to come, and go, and be a little while with us, and besides if she is with you how am I to get my dozen kisses, for you know you don't like to kiss before company, but as you are a good girl, I shall leave it to your own discretion whether [sic] to bring her now or stop 'till some day when you have longer time to stop ...*

It seems that Samuel and Lucy spend some time courting out of doors: *I hope you got no cold being in the damp so long last Sunday, and mind and dress yourself up warm next Sunday believe me my darling girl,*  
*Yours Truly.*

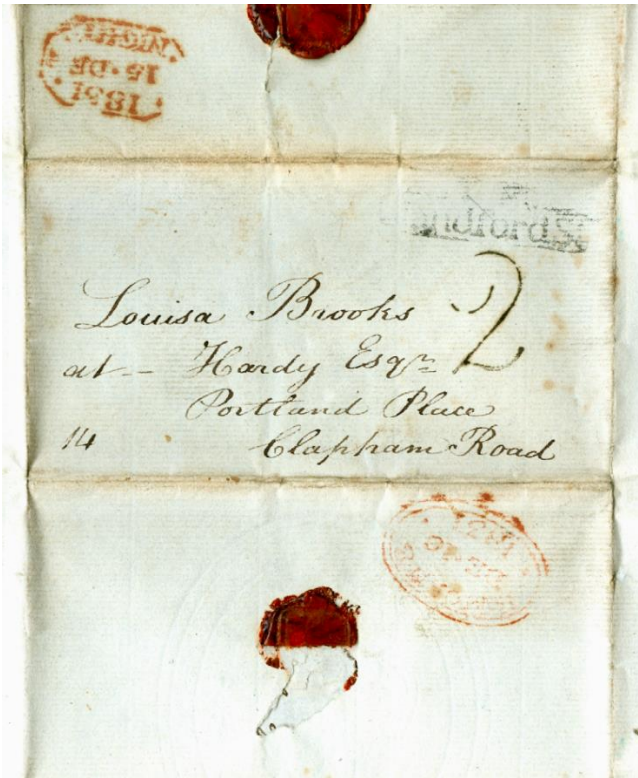
*S. Tansley*

*P.S. remember you promised to lend me the book you were speaking of*

#### **Footnotes:**

1. [www.branscombeproject.com](http://www.branscombeproject.com). As a professional anthropologist I have written under my maiden name, Barbara Bender. Working on the village project, I use my married name, Barbara Farquharson.
2. This casket had been taken out of one of the trunks and had been in the possession of Margaret Tomlinson's daughter, Anna. Anna's husband, Peter Dickens, kindly handed them to us to put with the rest of the material that we were cataloguing. The contents of the casket were all of a piece except for a small box with a resin brooch in it, probably made by a child, perhaps in the 1950s or later.
3. Rev. J Llewelyn Davies, ed. 1904 *The Working Men's College 1854-1904*, London: Macmillan & Co.
4. The street still exists, but the earlier houses have been torn down and rebuilt.

5. Whilst putting together a first draft of this paper, Elizabeth Tansley made contact. Although her husband Allan was not directly related to our Tansleys, she had collected invaluable data which she very kindly sent to us. Thus we discover that on his death in 1830 Samuel's father, Joseph, had two premises, one at 4 Hill Street, Regents Park and the other, from which the business was being carried out, at 11 Dorset Street. We also find that in 1801 he had been declared bankrupt. After Joseph's death, his daughter Mary retained a share in the Dorset Street business but this was 'dissolved by mutual consent' in April 1834. These details tie in neatly with the story the letters tell -- shortly after his father's death, and having inherited the business, Samuel begins his courtship. At exactly the time that he marries Louisa, his sister gives up her share in the business.
6. Portland Place was, at the time, a relatively new terrace. It was later replaced by Portland Grove.



To be continued in the March edition of METROPOLITAN.

## WEBSITE NEWS

### **City of London Cemetery Burial Registers**

Following the 1852 Burial Act banning metropolitan burials, the Corporation of the City of London purchased 90 acres at Little Ilford in 1854 on which to build a cemetery. A crematorium was added in 1904. This is the largest municipal cemetery in Europe and it contains reinterments from over 30 demolished City churches. The Burial Register can be searched in person free of charge if an appointment is booked or City of London Cemetery (CLC) staff can conduct a paid search for you. The registers are currently being digitised with 1856-1861 (which have not been indexed but can be browsed) now online at: <http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/burialregisters>

The registers contain quite a bit of useful information, for example on 13 July 1856 Susannah ROOTS who died aged 76, the widow of a Messenger, whose address was 8 Old Street, St Luke's, was interred in unconsecrated ground in Square 41, number 9 – a 2nd class common interment. It looks likely that this will build into an invaluable resource for family historians in London.

### **BMD Certificates**

You may occasionally have ordered a birth, marriage or death certificate which, upon closer examination, did not turn out to be anything to do with your family – surely we have all done this! There are various schemes around to share these unwanted certificates in the hopes that they can be used by those who are actually related to the people mentioned in them. You are welcome to send any of these certificates to the Editors, here at METROPOLITAN, where we will publish details of them, or you could register with the Certificate Exchange and publicise them that way. This web site provides a free service for family historians who would like to offer their unwanted BMD certificates, wills or medal rolls to other family historians who are researching ancestors with the same name. It costs nothing to list spare birth certificates, marriage certificates or death certificates. From the seeker's point of view, it is easy and free to search on this site in case someone else has already bought a certificate that you are interested in. There are currently over 7,500 certificates online here. You can access them at: <http://www.certificate-exchange.co.uk/index.php>



### **Ancient occupations**

Jane Hewitt of Family Tree Researcher has put online a dictionary of old occupations and their definitions. It includes such things as ‘avenator’ ‘cotton yarn gasser’ and ‘fear-nought maker’ and it can be accessed here: <http://www.familyresearcher.co.uk/glossary/Dictionary-of-Old-Occupations-Index.html>

(In case you did not know, an avenator is apparently a merchant who sold hay and other forage, a cotton yarn gasser de-fumigated raw cotton prior to use in the textile industry as raw cotton from India need to be treated with methyl bromide to preserve it from pests and a fear-nought maker used a heavy woollen cloth to make warm jackets and overcoats.)

### **The Digital Panopticon**

This site is dedicated to those tracing London convicts in Britain and Australia using records dated from 1780-1925.

It uses around 50 datasets which relate to the lives of some 90,000 convicts from the Old Bailey. These datasets can be split into 5 main groups:

- those related to trials, such as the Old Bailey Proceedings themselves but also including the Newgate Calendars of Prisoners for Trial 1782-1853 and the England and Wales Criminal Registers 1791-1892
- post-trial and sentencing records such as the Home Office Criminal Entry Books 1782-1876 and Petitions for Pardon 1797-1858
- transportation records, including Australian convict savings bank books 1824-1868
- imprisonment records such as the Hulks Registers 1801-1879
- civil records such as the census returns.

Each mention links to an original image on pay-per-view site FindMyPast and using these, it is possible to build up a rounder picture of criminal ancestor – there are some examples on the website of this. This site can be searched for free on <https://www.digitalpanopticon.org/search>



# CHARLIE NEVILLE – A MAN OF MYSTERY

## Part 2

By Stanley Bernard, Member No. 7972

In the first part I described how Charles NEVILLE – the founder of Peacehaven - lied to his friends about his birth and early life. This second part deals with his family and life in England and ignores his first wife, it is for him as though she never existed!

We can now be sure that Charles NEVILLE was living in Canada with a wife and child in 1901. It has not been possible to trace when he left that country, so we do not know if he went straight to Australia or to the USA. With regard to his first wife, Althea, it has not been possible to prove her date of death. There is a possibility that she died in a motor accident on 17 April 1937 in Montréal but this cannot be verified.

Between 1901 and 1909 he may have been in Australia, learning about land development there. There are various newspaper articles regarding a C W NEVILLE who, in 1910, was a director of Papuan Rubber & Trading Co Ltd<sup>1</sup>, and the adverts look very similar to those he used later in England<sup>2</sup>. There is clear proof that this is the same man and that his business partner was George Spencer HERNE, who was a director of this and a few of Mr NEVILLE's other companies. We can be sure that it was Charles W NEVILLE sailing between Australia and Papua in 1909 and 1910. The next travel and immigration record is of a Charles W NEVILLE returning to England via New York in 1911.

In *The Times* there is an interesting court case reported on 26 November 1914 where Mr Charles NEVILLE is claiming money from The Dominion of Canada Newspaper Co Ltd as it broke an agreement not to discuss his a company which he was director of, the Canadian Capital Investments Limited.<sup>3</sup> This company he formed in 1912 in London using a firm of solicitors he was going to continue to have dealings with for the next few

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1 The Age (Melbourne, Australia) 8 June 1910 P6 – alleged false pretences.

2 The Sydney Morning Herald 12 Feb 1910 p16 Advert

3 The Times 26 Nov 1914 P19 Sale of land in Canada

decades. This court case relates to a London-based company which had been selling land in Canada in 1911 and was known for improper practices. According to documents at the Public Record Office in Kew, the name of the main director was one Charles William NEVILLE. Adverts appeared in many local and national newspapers encouraging people to invest in: the Nakanun Asphalt & Oil Co Ltd; The Canadian Industrial Development Co; The Canadian Pacific Land Co; The Canadian Capital Investment Co and its successor The British Canadian Bond Co. The earliest advert for one of these companies was in newspaper *The Colfax Gazette* of Washington USA in 1906, followed by a 1907 advert in the *Manchester Courier*<sup>4</sup>. If he was a director of these companies at that date it would prove that he was constantly travelling between Canada and other countries from 1906 onwards.

Returning to the family history side of the story, it was said that Charles NEVILLE married Dorothy ROCHARD fairly soon after returning to England. However, he was married to Althea May COPELAND in 1898 and it has not been possible to find a divorce from her, so we can assume that here again Charles NEVILLE was economical with the truth. From at least 1914 he lived for nearly 20 years as husband to Dorothy before they were married. When they were married on 30 June 1932 in Manhattan New York, the registration claiming that both parties were single and confirmed their parents' names<sup>5</sup>. From the copy of the marriage register held on familysearch.org, Charles was born in 1881 and Dorothy in 1891 with their correct parents listed. Clearly Charles was not single: he was either married or divorced; Dorothy was single, so this appears to have been a bigamous marriage. From at least 1913, Dorothy is always referred to as Mrs NEVILLE. They had a son, Roderick, who was born on 1 March 1914 in London and another son Roland followed on 17 February 1916.

Dorothy had been born in Steyning, Sussex in May 1891, her family moving to Northfleet in Kent as recorded in the 1901 census. She was the daughter of John Simon ROCHARD. He was born in Belgium on 24 October 1851 and baptised in Westminster, London on 13 September 1854 as Jean Simon

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4 Colfax Gazette (Washington USA) 4 May 4 May 1906 P3 advert Canadian Pacific Land Co; Manchester Courier 8 March 1907 P4 Canadian Pacific Land Co advert

5 <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:24D8-34C>

ROCHARD, the son of Simon Jacques ROCHARD (artist) and Hannah STANLEY. His death is recorded as being in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 1910 in Cork, Ireland. Jean/John married Ellen BRYENTON at St Peters Church in Brighton Sussex on 22 September 1879. There is no actual record of Ellen's birth but the 1861 census states that she was born about 1852 in Hempnall Norfolk to Ishmael BRYENTON and Henrietta WOOLNOUGH. Most of this information was confirmed when her marriage was recorded to Charles William NEVILLE. Ellen ROCHARD's death is recorded as 4 March 1926 in Brighton, and in the calendar of probates for 1933 when probate was filed by her daughter Dorothy NEVILLE, whose address was then Eccola, The Heights, Peacehaven.

Dorothy ROCHARD's elder brother Everard (born Shoreham-by-Sea on 29 September 1888 and died there 30 August 1960) is an interesting person to research further. There is a record of him travelling on an unassisted passenger emigration list to New South Wales, Australia in 1909. Did this mean he met Charles NEVILLE there, perhaps with Dorothy? We do know that Charles was in the southern hemisphere at that time. There is another tenuous link, if not to Charles NEVILLE's life, it could have helped add to the story he put about regarding family connection with Napoleon. Dorothy's grand-father Simon Jacques ROCHARD (born Paris 1788 died Belgium 1872) was a portrait painter<sup>6</sup> and painted Empress Josephine for the Emperor.

Some of the other online family trees which detail the USSHER family seem to have a number of errors, for instance, a sibling of Charles NEVILLE who was born in the same year as him. I don't think that was possible as he did not have a twin. It was small errors like this that has encouraged me to try and get to the truth about the man. I have had to rely on these family trees for basic information but always wherever possible check them for accuracy. Dorothy NEVILLE apparently died in Spain in 1973 but I don't have access to Spanish records to check this. Charles NEVILLE died in London in October 1960 and is actually buried in Rottingdean, East Sussex, so there are two records of his death.

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6 Dictionary of National Biography, Volumes 1-20, 22

Charles' life got even more complicated during the years 1916 until about 1922, when he started to promote Peacehaven with a publicity campaign that ended up in the courts. It is interesting to note that the *Daily Express*, as part of their litigation, claimed that land in Peacehaven was not even worth the three Guineas that plot winners had to pay for the conveyance. They were not to know the value of land today.

Although Charles NEVILLE was not a young man when the First World War broke out, I assumed he would receive call-up papers as part of the general conscription of the time and I was right. He obtained initially partial and later absolute exemption from conscription because of all the court cases he was pursuing and companies he was running: he was, as he stated in his application for exemption, a financier and director of public companies. One other lie he stated on his exemption claim that he was born 9 May 1881, which we know is a year after his actual date of birth, and that he was married on 28 May 1912, as noted earlier no record seems to exist confirming such a marriage.<sup>7</sup> In addition, his son Lionel who died in the First World War had not indicated that his parents had been divorced or separated. If Charles was called up it would, he told the tribunal through his solicitors, cause a number of employees be put out of work and he would not be able to answer a number of legal questions. In a newspaper there is a partial record of his cross examination, "how many of these companies have paid dividends?" "Two of them" "out of how many?" "six or seven".<sup>8</sup> The list of companies on his form are:- Canadian Capital Investments Ltd (in liquidation); British Canadian Bond Corporation Ltd; South Coast Land & Resort Co Ltd; Tec Lebel (Kirkland) Syndicate Ltd; Coronation Court, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan; Anglo Canadian Publishing Co Ltd; Langham Trust Ltd. Most of these but not all are recorded in documents held in The National Archives at Kew as being dissolved though bankruptcy!

Even late in life he was involved in many dubious business dealings. According to the newspaper, in July 1950 he was again in court for alleged fraud relating to the Royal Mutual Benefit Building Society, of which he was now a director. The article goes on to list his then current businesses; First

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7 Public Record Office MH47-32/43

8 Birmingham Gazette 9 Feb 1917 p2 "Anzax-on-Sea Estates"

Mortgage Co Ltd; Saltdean Estate Co Ltd (successor to both South Coast Land & Resort Co Ltd & Peacehaven Estate Co Ltd) Central London Property Trust Ltd.; Gwynn House (Chelsea) Ltd (a block of flats he lived in); Isle of White Properties Ltd; Rottingdean Properties Ltd; Kimmel Bay Estates Ltd; Sunny Holidays Ltd; Ocean Garage Co Ltd; Clifford Associated Hotels Ltd & Island Estates Ltd.

Why is he or should he be of interest still to a wider community than Peacehaven? I think it is because he was involved in so many ventures both nationally and internationally. Even though he died a relatively rich man virtually all his companies failed yet even in the end, although he seems to have forgotten his first wife and child, he did leave a legacy to his sister's daughter. Even after all this research there are still the mysteries to solve:- when and where did his father die, is there any truth in a presumed marriage in 1912 with a first wife still alive, proof of his first wife's death, and was he ever divorced?



## MYSTERY PHOTO



FC Yarley, Photographer of 317 King's Road, Chelsea, took this photograph.

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

*Denzenbergstraße 46, 72074 Tübingen, Germany*

Note: FC Yarley does not appear in the usual lists of Victorian photographers and judging by the way he has cropped the mother's head off it might well be that he did not succeed long in the business!

What can be seen of the mother's dress, with its loose-fitting sleeves and full skirt would seem to indicate a date of the 1870s.

## JOTTINGS

### **WWI Victoria Cross commemorations**

As part of the Government's marking of the centenary of World War I, commemorative paving stones are being laid at the birth places of all recipients of the Victoria Cross in WW1.

The first stones were laid on 23 August 2014, 100 years since the recipients' acts of bravery and the last stones will be laid in 2018. A VC recipient from the Borough of Enfield was commemorated in December. Captain Allastair MCREADY-DIARMID, of the Middlesex Regiment, was born in Grove Road in 1888 and was awarded a posthumous VC, following his actions on 30 November and 1 December 1917. The commemoration took place at 11am on 1 December 2017 at Grove Road Open Space.

### **Women at work in Enfield**

A new project seeks to find out information from women who worked in Enfield, particularly in industry, from conscription in 1916 onwards. This might be family tales from a mother, aunt or grandma. Companies in the area included the Royal Small Arms Factory, Ediswan, Thorn, Ferguson, Belling and Lee. These stories, photos, insights and so on will be used for a new website, 'Enfield Making History' and a small publication.

If you can help please contact the organiser through the *Women at Work: Then and Now - Enfield Making History* Facebook page, or directly by email to: rachaelnee@gmail.com

### **High Speed 2 Rail Terminal time capsules found**

The HS2 building site at Euston has revealed some history recently when two time capsules were uncovered as the old National Temperance Hospital was being demolished. Under the foundation stones were glass jars containing old papers, buried in 1879 and 1884 respectively.

The 1879 capsule contained various pamphlets relating to the temperance movement and some popular newspapers dated early May 1879. The contents of the 1884 capsule were similar but had been attacked by mould. It is expected that another capsule, dated 1907, will be found under another corner of the building in due course.

## LWMFHS Out and About in 2017

The Society's stand has appeared in more places than usual since the Spring this year: on 29 July it was taken to Aylesbury for the Buckinghamshire FHS Open Day which has become a regular feature of our calendar. The venue was the same as before but we were situated in a temporary building because of roof damage to the original one so we were next to the car park and the first port of call for many visitors.

The Family History Show, London was a new event for all family historians and, despite its title, was held at Sandown Park Racecourse in Esher, Surrey on Sunday 26 September. With London in our title, we needed to be part of the day and it marked the successful launch of our new series of Parish Guides. The first two, for Clerkenwell and St Anne, Soho, proved popular and the revised edition of the booklet *Streets of Westminster in the 1851 Census* was also available. Several visitors admitted that their knowledge of London was limited so we tried to enlighten them.

The following weekend, on Saturday 30 September, we visited our neighbours the Hertfordshire FHS for their Open Day at Woolmer Green. This was an enjoyable occasion which marked their Society's 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday. Our latest, and last, visit of 2017 was to the West Surrey FHS Fair and Open Day at Woking, Surrey on Saturday 5 November. This is also a regular event for us and we were able to renew a number of acquaintances that day and meet some of our members among the visitors to our stand. Twelve people reported on our Facebook page that they went to the fair.

Naturally these visits require some volunteers to man our stand and provide assistance to those researching their family history so thanks are recorded here to Alan Baldwin, Eileen Bostle, Elizabeth Burling, Pam Chambers, Doreen Heywood, Rosemary Roome and Elaine Tyler who have helped to promote the Society in this way on one or more of these occasions.





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.



## HALES

Known as Annie (Jane?) HALES, born about 1865 in King's Cross area. Family lore says a major event caused the disintegration of the family unit, possibly in the 1860–70s. First 'known' fact is marriage to Henry Thomas PEAK in 1894 in West Ham. On the certificate Annie states that her father is George HALES, a deceased relief stamper. I believe that Annie had a brother William and he seems to be living with his uncle, also William, in the 1871 census. I have uncovered considerable information after her marriage until her passing in 1940 in Canada. I have spent hours/years researching early years without success.

I am seeking correspondence with person knowledgeable about King's Cross area (1865), interested in assisting me in locating information on birth, parents and siblings of my great-grandmother, Annie HALES.

**Grant Hemming, Member No. 8024**

***Email: ghemming@telus.net***

Note: There certainly do not seem to be any obvious candidates for Annie in the GRO Birth Indexes or in the census returns. We tried looking for two brothers, George and William, in an earlier census near to Kings Cross. We did find a pair who seem to fit the bill although further work will need to be done to connect them definitely with your family: In the 1841 census there is a HALES family living at Lower Edmund Street, St Pancras, headed by William [b1811] and Caroline HALES. There are two children only: William, born about 1836 and George, born in 1840. George's baptismal record states that he was christened on 18 October 1840 at St Pancras and confirms his parents' names. None of these people are immediately obvious in the 1851 census or the 1861 census...

**BENTLEY/FRIEND**

Robert FRIEND (1667-1751) English clergyman and headmaster of Westminster School was involved in an attack against classical scholar Richard BENTLEY (1662–1742) but, despite this, Robert FRIEND's niece apparently married a son of Richard BENTLEY. This niece is mentioned in many biographies of Robert FRIEND (also spelt FREIND) but I have not been able to find out her name. Robert had brothers named William and John. I have a John BENTLEY born about 1767 in my family tree who married a Rosetta Anne FRIEND in 1789 in Eling, Hampshire whose subsequent families lived in Westminster. Rosetta was born 2 October 1767, the daughter of John FRIEND and Sarah FELTHAM of Eling, and died 29 April 1832 in Westminster. John BENTLEY was 'of Romsey' (also in Hampshire). Is it possible that Rosetta was Robert FRIEND's niece?

**Sandra Tamburini, Member No. 8032**

*Email: [firestormsandra.tamburini@gmail.com](mailto:firestormsandra.tamburini@gmail.com)*

Note: The registers of Westminster parishes online at FindMyPast record an Elizabeth, daughter of Richard BENTLEY, DD and Johanna, baptised 6 December 1701 at St Martin in the Fields. DD stands for 'Doctor of Divinity', so a classical scholar who has been to university. Looking in the *Alumni Cantabrigienses*, the Richard BENTLEY who lived from 1662-1742 was born in Yorkshire and was ordained as a deacon in London in 1689. He ended up as Master of Trinity College, Cambridge. According to this biography, for 'nearly the whole of his tenure he was involved in incessant disputes with the fellows', so this certainly sounds like the chap you mention.

Richard had a son, also Richard (1708-1782), as he is mentioned as such in the *Alumni*, which says that he lived in France and Jersey for many years. A third Richard BENTLEY (1704-1786) in the book is the nephew of the Master and was also born in Yorkshire. In the preface to *The Correspondence of Richard Bentley, DD, Master of Trinity College, Cambridge, Volume 1*, printed in 1842, it states that Bentley's letters were bequeathed to his nephew, Dr Richard BENTLEY (the one born in 1704) who gave them to his uncle's grandson, Richard CUMBERLAND, who presented them to Trinity College. All of this seems to indicate that

Richard (b1664) had only one son, Richard (b1708). However, any son of Richard BENTLEY (b1664) would really have been too old to have married your Rosetta Ann in 1789.

By the way, the monumental inscriptions of the St James Piccadilly Hampstead Road burial ground were recorded by one of our founder societies, the North Middlesex FHS, in 1986. The relevant stone for your family states that John BENTLEY died on 20 March 1818 aged 64, Rosetta Ann BENTLEY, his wife, died on 19 April 1832 age 66 and that their eldest daughter Sarah WHITTINGHAM died on 23 October 1815 aged 50.

### **GODFREY**

I am seeking the death and Merchant Navy connections of Frederick John GODFREY, born 7 April 1878 at West Ham. He served in the Royal Navy from 1893-99, then Merchant Navy out of London and Tilbury. The last ship I have found him on, so far, is the *Ormonde*, at 1 October 1927. Our family thinks he died circa 1931 I have not found him on medal records but that is not surprising as Merchant Navy had to apply, I believe. The family came from Enfield to West Ham and are spread over into the Essex borders and SE London. Suggestions welcome.

**David Painter, Great nephew, Member No. 7991**

***Email: daal@alma13.f9.co.uk***

Note: Frederick John GODFREY appears twice in The National Archives' Register of Seamen, Special Index, Alphabetical Series (CR10) which is online at FindMyPast. This was an index created by order of the Defence of the Realm Act in 1918 and only includes data from 1918-1921. One record of your great uncle is Identity Certificate No. 341590 and the other No. 505971. Information on these cards is a little cryptic but, as a bonus, both include a photograph of him.

The Frederick GODFREY who was on the *Ormonde* in 1927 has a Discharge No. of R28100, which links to the record of a man born in 1907 in Gravesend so I don't think this is your chap. The Medal Cards of merchant navy recipients of the Silver War Badge show a Frederick

John GODFREY who was born in Gravesend in 1870, so there seems to have been a seafaring GODFREY family in Kent too.

There are two other registers of merchant seamen in the Central Index which stretch the dates up to 1941 yet there seems to be no further mention of Frederick John GODFREY. Perhaps you need to look earlier for his death?



## 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](mailto:barnet@lwmfhs.org.uk)

Thursday 21 December	No meeting
Thursday 18 January	<i>Investigating 10 Victorian Letters</i> by Mark Carroll
Thursday 15 February	No meeting – hall unavailable due to schools’ half term holiday
Thursday 15 March	Members’ meeting

**City Branch** – 12 noon for 12.30pm

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

Branch Contact: Pam Chambers, Email: [city@lwmfhs.org.uk](mailto:city@lwmfhs.org.uk)

Thursday 28 December	No meeting
Thursday 25 January	<i>The London Topographical Society</i> by Derek Morris
Thursday 22 February	<i>The history and parish of St Luke, Old Street</i> by Mark Aston
Thursday 22 March	We’re considering censuses (major, minor, unusual) and their contents.

**Enfield Branch** – 7.30pm for 8.00pm

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

Branch Contact: Lilian Gibbens, Email: [enfield@lwmfhs.org.uk](mailto:enfield@lwmfhs.org.uk)

Wednesday 6 December	Christmas Social
Wednesday 3 January	No meeting
Wednesday 7 February	<i>A Taste of Capel Manor</i> by Anne Luder
Wednesday 7 March	<i>Memories of Chase Farm No. 2: Hospitals</i> by Frank Bayford
Wednesday 4 April	<i>The Other Twells Family</i> by Lilian Gibbens

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

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

Branch Contact: Tricia Sutton, Email: [rayners\\_lane@lwmfhs.org.uk](mailto:rayners_lane@lwmfhs.org.uk)

Friday 8 December	Members' Christmas Event
Friday 12 January	<i>In the Trenches (DVDs and memorabilia)</i> Members' evening
Friday 9 February	<i>Regent Street: built in the 1820s for retail therapy</i> by Jef Page
February 9 March	No meeting

## ADVERTISING RATES

Advertising rates per issue of METROPOLITAN are as follows:

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

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

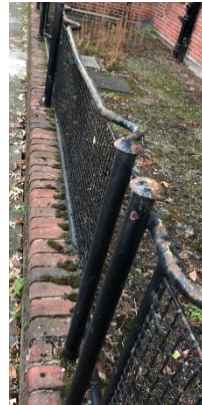
See inside front cover for address.

## WW2 RELICS ON OUR STREETS

Early in WW2, with more and more tanks and aeroplanes being built and munitions and weapons needed, Britain was running out of metal. The Government asked everyone to donate their aluminium saucepans for the war effort. Iron railings and gates began to disappear too.

With increasing bombing attacks, the Air Raid Protection officers needed stretchers to carry the injured and over 600,000 stretchers were built. Made of metal so that they could easily be washed and disinfected, the poles on either side were bent at each end. This meant that the stretcher would rest just off the ground and could also be picked up easily.

After the war, these stretchers were surplus to requirements and someone had the brilliant idea to use them as railings. Turned on their side and welded to poles, these stretcher-railings were used on the new estates and housing being built in London and elsewhere.



The railings shown above are in Tabard Street, Southwark. Sadly, many are showing signs of neglect and are in need of restoration.

Luckily, there is a Stretcher Railing Society, which aims to promote, protect and preserve London's ARP Stretcher railings. The railings are mostly seen on estates in Peckham, Brixton, Deptford and East London but do you know of any that are in our own London area? See: [www.stretcherrailings.com](http://www.stretcherrailings.com)

## **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.

£12 UK & Overseas: to receive METROPOLITAN electronically by download

£15 UK: to receive METROPOLITAN by post

£20 Overseas: to receive METROPOLITAN by airmail post

## **PAYMENT BY UK MEMBERS**

UK cheques payable to: LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX FHS

## **PAYMENT BY OVERSEAS MEMBERS**

Payment must be made in pounds sterling by cheque, drawn upon a London Bank, made payable to: LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX FHS.

CANADA: Canadian Postal Money Orders cannot be accepted.

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Articles, letters, requests and comment should be sent to the Editors.

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The Editors reserve the right to edit contributions.

## **MEMBERS' DATA**

A labels-list of members is held on computer for the purposes of administration and distribution only.

Data from the members' list will NOT be given out to commercial enterprises.

Anyone objecting to his or her name being on this list should write to the Membership Secretary.

# Map of the area covered by the London Westminster & Middlesex Family History Society

## Family History Society

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

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

