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METROPOLITAN

The Journal of the
LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX

Family History Society

Subscription renewal form enclosed



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June 2017

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Cover picture: Harry WEBB, taken c 1913

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See Editorial on page 38

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EDITORIAL

In the centre of this journal you will find the 2017/2018 Renewal Form. Please read our Treasurer's note on page i of the yellow pages for information on various ways to pay. Renewal Forms need to be in by 1 October 2017 but you can send them immediately if it is more convenient. You could send your Members' Interests in at the same time!

Our cover picture was spotted on a Sainsbury's press release by member John Henderson, who thought it was a fascinating image from our area in the past. We contacted Sainsbury's press office to see what they knew about it and they told us that the photograph showed a Harry WEBB, and was taken in about 1913. Sainsbury's first offered a home-delivery service by bicycle more than 130 years ago. The store is now offering an on-demand, one hour delivery in Wandsworth and Pimlico. The delivery bike in the photo clearly mentions Church Street, Enfield and has a special offer on bacon! Armed with this information, we made a search of the 1911 census. The nearest we could come up with for a match to Harry was a Henry WEBB, born in 1878 at Enfield Highway, son of Henry and Frances WEBB, living at 461 Hertford Road, Enfield Highway in the 1911 census. Both father and son are described as butchers. It just goes to show that images of our ancestors might not always be in places we expect! Do you have any stories of information of your family appearing in places where you least expected it? We would love to hear of them.

Now that DNA testing is in the news, it is interesting to have a letter asking about readers' experiences and advice regarding what is on offer (see letter on page 40). We would love to hear from anybody who has had this done. Were the results what you expected? Did you find it worthwhile? Do let us know! One of the editors is currently waiting with baited breath the results of new DNA testing!

The Editorial Team

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

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

I was very pleased to attend my first meeting of the Executive Committee on Friday 21 April at Rayners Lane and to meet the other committee members. There was a reminder from the secretary Tricia Sutton who gave notice at the AGM that she was resigning her position at the end of the year and so a new person would be needed. She has given us a summary of her duties, which are printed on page 51.

Rosemary Roome has arranged tables for the Society to be represented at various fairs around the country and would be grateful for assistance, especially from members with cars.

Last year we were commemorating the Battle of the Somme.

This year is the anniversary of The Battle of Arras. It began on Easter Monday, 9 April 1917, and continued until 16 May. It cost about 150,000 British Empire casualties and a similar number of Germans for an advance of about 3 miles. I have a personal interest in this battle, as the casualties included three of my Great Uncles: Thomas JONES from Shropshire who served in the Cheshire Regiment and died on the 8 May and Robert Kilvington LUMLEY from Cumberland who served in the West Yorkshire Regiment and died on the 11 April. Both were killed in action, with no known grave, and are remembered on the Arras Memorial. The third died of blood poisoning from his wounds, suffered presumably in the battle, on the 11 May 1917. He was Thomas NOBLE of the Royal Fusiliers and was born in Middlesex. His grave is in the Military Cemetery at Etaples.

I will continue the story of my Middlesex Family in the 1914 -1918 war at a later date.

Tony Allen

The Borough of Marylebone Mercury, Saturday 17 June 1865

Renumbering of Milton-street

It was resolved that the Metropolitan Board be informed that the vestry see no objection to the renumbering of this street, but a special recommendation was added, at the request of Dr Bachhoffner, that the odd numbers should be placed on the east side of the street, and to commence with Registrar's office, now numbered 1a.

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Regarding the interesting article in the March edition of METROPOLITAN, I worked for nearly two years at the office and bookshop of the British Esperanto Association in Holland Park Avenue, London W11, before being conscripted for two years National Service in the Royal Artillery in 1953. When I joined the British Esperanto Association, it was just a job of work and I didn't know that it was a Language. I soon realised that it was a wonderful idea to be able to communicate with people all over the world by learning an artificial language. Having learnt the usual French and German at school it was easy to pick up Esperanto with one of the correspondence courses. It is so straight forward with no irregularities of verbs or grammar. I became fluent enough to gain the Interpreter badge as part of the Queen's Scout award. I haven't spoken it for over sixty years but the Association still exists.

The Secretary when I worked there was Mr JW LESLIE, a chain-smoking amiable Scot and old Scout, so we had a lot in common (except for the chain-smoking). He maintained that your hair grows in work time so get it cut in work time. It was hoped that Esperanto could be used by international bodies such as the United Nations and, who knows, maybe the EU, but it was not to be.

TJ Mead, Member No. 4722

I would really like to hear of the experience of any members who have had their DNA analysed. What did it involve? Was it expensive? Did they have any difficulty interpreting the results and was it worth the trouble?

Would such a test pick up Malaysian or gypsy ancestors' DNA?

Might such a test be a terrible anti-climax?

My husband is thinking of buying me one of these tests for my next birthday. They are not cheap so I want to be sure it's worth it.

Sally Cox, Member No 7527

Note: Who Do You Think You Are magazine for May 2017 and Family Tree magazine for February 2017 have both published reviews of DNA analysis companies. The editors would be interested too to hear if any of our readers have had their DNA analysed.

I subscribe to a daily newsletter from 'The Gentle Author' and quite often he includes excellent photographs of life, shops and so memories of mainly the East End, which also appear on his website too at: spitalfieldslife.com. I often wonder if there is a similar website or daily newsletter that includes similar type of photographs but for around the Holloway/Islington areas. I guess not or else I would have seen it mentioned in the Magazine but thought worth just asking.

George Chappell, Member No. 5964

Note: Whilst we do not know of a newsletter just like the one you mention but about the Holloway/ Islington area, The 'Gentle Author' has inspired a blog called Islington Faces Blog, which posts interviews with people who live or work in Islington and may be of interest to you. It can be found here: <http://www.islingtonfacesblog.com>

Diamond Geezer, at: <https://diamondgeezer.blogspot.co.uk/>, also writes about London in a very interesting way. You could specify articles about particular areas using the search facility on his page.

Old images of Islington and Holloway can be found on the Collage website, at: <https://collage.cityoflondon.gov.uk>, which provides free online access to over 250,000 images of London and its people from the fifteenth century to the present day which come from the collections at LMA and Guildhall Art Gallery.

The Londonist, at: <http://londonist.com/>, often has interesting stories of a historical nature too.

Perhaps our readers know of an interesting site relating to the Islington and Holloway areas? Please let the editors know if you do!

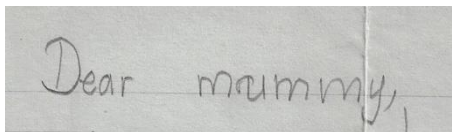
The Morning Post, Monday 16 August 1875

John Froment, 63, no occupation, and residing at 109 Stanley-road, Pimlico, was charged with stealing from the bookstall of the Great Northern Railway, King's-cross, one volume entitled the "Antiquary", and also stealing from the bookstall of the St Pancras Station of the Midland Railway one volume entitled "The Golden Guide to London", the property of Messrs. W. H. Smith and son, of the Strand.

LETTERS FROM AN EVACUEE

By Alison Boulton OBE, Member No. 7939

My mum, Phyllis HANSON, was evacuated for pretty much the entire war, moving in autumn 1939 from Forest Hill in south London to Newdigate near Dorking. She was just 7 years old, and stayed in the same house until the end of the war. Her younger sister Pat was initially sent to a nursery at Birchgrove, home of future prime minister Macmillan. Pat eventually joined Phyllis sometime in 1942.



Over the course of the war, Phyllis sent letters to her parents, some 25 of which were kept by her mother and handed on, together with letters from the staff at Birchgrove. Sadly, none of the letters from her mother to Phyllis survived, as knowing my grandmother they would have been full of interest.

I first got to read the letters when my son was learning about evacuation in primary school; this was after my mother's death, so I never discussed them with her. I transcribed them and they were used extensively by his class. The letters are valuable for many reasons.

First of all, they provide a fascinating insight into the experience of a young child growing up in tough times away from home. Alongside this, they offer a contemporary account of a number of important events – although poor spelling and an incomplete grasp of their significance mean that they require a certain amount of verification. They also fired my interest in family history, and particularly in my maternal grandmother's family, the BISSMIREs, which is where most of my research is now focussed. And they showed me that however much you research, serendipity also plays its part.

Phyllis and a number of other children spent the war with a 60 year old widow, Ada TULLETT; a number of her adult children lived in nearby Dorking and the letters record their comings and goings.

Most of the letters include everyday childhood interests, such as making friends at school, the Brownie play, picking blackberries and a fairly

ambitious Christmas list which included a *'two weel bicekel'*. They also contain thanks for various parcels, including cakes, oranges and stamps; *'thank you for the oranges the first one was very nice going to have the other soon I want to make them last'*.



Mrs Tullett with Phyllis on the right

However, they also show that even at quite a young age Phyllis was often anxious about money and clothes; she understood the importance of 'make do and mend' and gave regular updates on the state of their clothing. This becomes even more apparent once Pat joined her and she felt responsible for her little sister. So we learn that *'the shoes were nicely repaired'*, and that *'Mrs Tullett says she could not possibly sell my mack as it leaks'*, but *'she has sold Pat's blue coat for five shillings'*.

Interspersed fairly casually within the day to day news are references to war time life; in 1940 *'a barrage balloon got lose'*, and *'war weapons weack'* in 1941 raised £2000/8/2. During the blitz there are frequent references to the bombing, and hopes that her parents are *'both safe and well'*. In 1944 she

notes that they *'haven't had anything round here since the Broad Lane one. Was it very bad at Forest Hill station'*. This took place on 23 June during the mini-blitz; it turns out that there was also a V rocket in her home street the following day, but perhaps this had prudently not been mentioned.

Despite some wayward spelling, she made a good guess at 'Bishop Golden-Bird' who gave the sermon on 26 September 1943, when the nurses and firemen attended the service. He was actually Cyril Henry Golding-Bird, who was assistant bishop and Archdeacon of Surrey. The letters suggest that they attended church and guide parades fairly regularly.



Phyllis on the nearby farm gate

War time rationing meant that *'the cake was very nice and I would have liked some more but you can't get the fat to make them can you'*. She also reminds her mother to complete forms and *'your letter of resbonsobitaty if I want to go home can't spell it properly'*, pointing out that *'every mother has to do that'*.

Visits home in fact were very rare, as were visits from her parents, who had little money for travel. Her father, who was 45 when the war began and had fought in WW1, occasionally cycled the 24 miles each way to see her and photos suggest that she went to see Pat at Birchgrove at least once. The letters handed down also contain the official visiting information put out by the billeting officer. Parents could meet their children on the first Sunday of the month at the village school from 12.30 – 5.30, where they could buy a cup of tea and a slice of cake for 1d each.

By 1944, Phyllis had really had enough of being away from home. In August, she asks if she can go to secondary school in London and writes *'I can put*

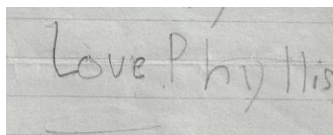
up with the Doodles and anything old jerry wants to send over'. It was another year before she returned and one frustrated letter is addressed from '*Same old place*'. Both girls were well looked after and had plenty to occupy them but it must have been a very tough way to grow up, with a lasting impact.

All this wealth of information, including a lot of names, really fired my interest in finding out more. Pat was able to provide some details about relatives, but as she was so young through the evacuation her memories are hazy. I did some of my earliest research on FreeBMD and filled in a number of gaps. The most interesting discovery was that although I had always assumed my mother's family on both sides were from south London, it turned out that my grandmother's family had been firmly rooted in Clerkenwell and Holborn since 1760, and the move south of the river did not start until the late 1870s. I've been researching them ever since!

As for serendipity, some years ago my son and I visited Newdigate and found the house where his grandma had lived. I knocked to ask to take some photos and found that the owner had produced a history of the site from 1066 – and the only period he had very little about was WW2. An exchange of information duly occurred, photos were taken and we ended up visiting the local primary school and looking through their records too. I could have just taken the photo without asking; he might have been out; he might have told me to get lost – but it turned out to be a very fruitful and informative knock on the door!

In 2015 my sister and I published the letters, together with background information about the family and the war (although as with all good family history research, I have since found out more and corrected some minor errors). The book is intended for primary age children learning about evacuation and is available for £5 including p&p. Please email me at am.boulton@outlook.com if you would like a copy.

Note that all quotes taken from the letters are as originally spelt and punctuated.



UNWANTED CERTIFICATES

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

Birth: Minnie SMITH, born on 12 December 1881 at 18 Baker Street, Aston, Warwick, daughter of Henry John SMITH and Emma, formerly FRENCH

Birth: Aaron WENT, born on 22 December 1843 at Foulness, Rochford, son of Samuel WENT and Mary Ann, formerly BURY.

Marriage: Henry WOLTON, bachelor, of full age, Cabinet Carver of Aldenham Street, St Pancras, son of John WOLTON married Ann ENDSOR, spinster of full age, also of Aldenham Street, daughter of Joseph ENDSOR at St Pancras Church on 13 April 1846.

Marriage: William WENT, widower, of full age, labourer of Walpole Lane, Ely, St Mary, Cambridgeshire, son of Jeremiah WENT married Mary HART, spinster, of full age, also of Walpole Lane, daughter of James HART at the Parish Church, Ely on 10 October 1842.

Death: William GREEN, Carman, died aged 49 on 8 December 1870 at 4 Albert Cottages, Hammersmith.

Death: Elizabeth MEDWAY, widow of Richard MEDWAY, died age 64 on 1 August 1855 at Combe St Nicholas, Chard.

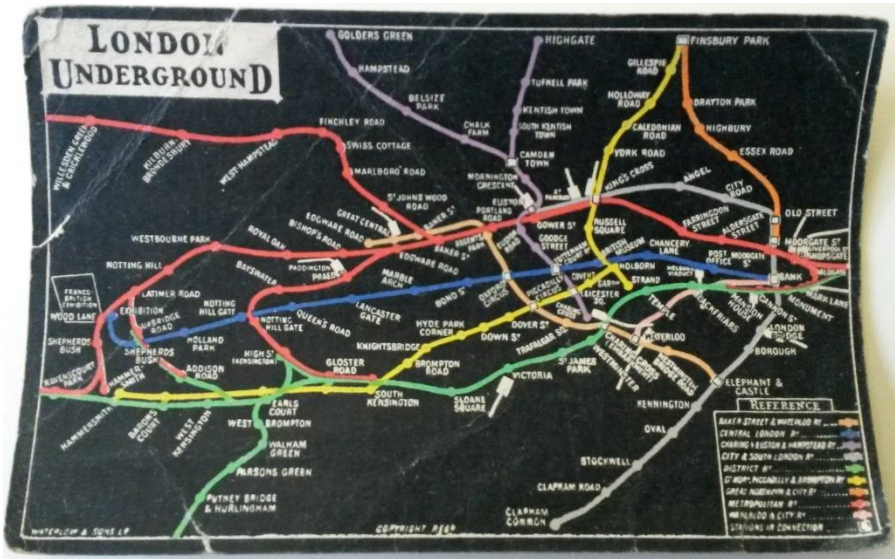
Death: Charles SUTTON, Gardener, died age 51 in June 1879 at Peabody Buildings, Pimlico.

London Daily Chronicle and Clerkenwell News, Friday 9 June 1871

The Holborn Board of Guardians, by a majority of one vote, determined at their last meeting, to second the laudable efforts being made by Mr Alsagar H Hill for transferring surplus labour from London to Lancashire, where, it is stated, cotton mills are lying idle for the want of hands.

FOCUS ON FACEBOOK

By Elizabeth Burling, Member No. 4992



This old map of the London Underground was posted onto our Facebook page where it attracted quite a bit of attention.

The famous schematic map that we use today was designed by Harry BECK in 1931, so this must pre-date that. A correspondent pointed out that it must also be before 1923-4, when the Northern Line extension from Golders Green to Hendon Central and on to Edgware was completed.

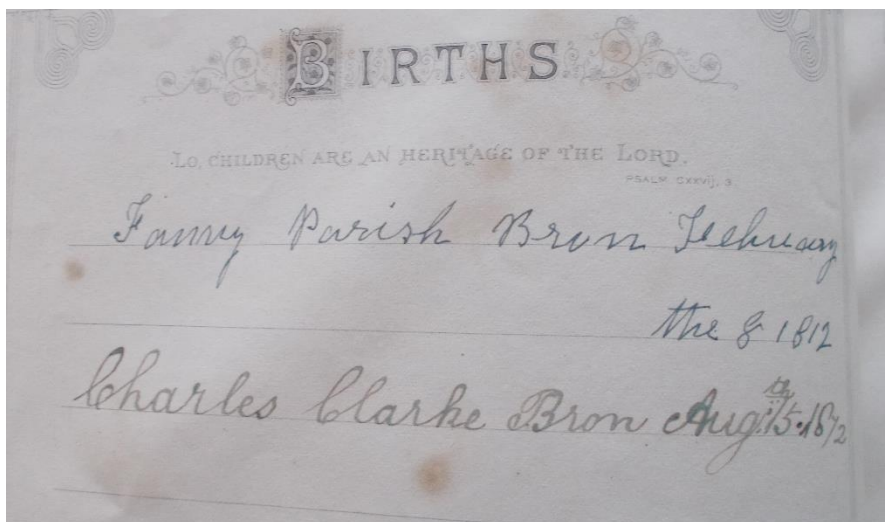
The back, strangely enough, is an advert for the Friends' Provident Institution (whose head office was in Bradford at that time) stating that they will be opening a temporary office in a Devonshire House Hotel for the convenience of their policy-holders attending the yearly meeting.

Strangely enough, that is, because the Devonshire House Hotel seems to be in Liverpool! I wonder why they carried a map of the London Underground on the other side? Perhaps one of our readers will know?

BRON BIBLE UPDATE

By Victor Nutt, Member No. 7870

Here is an update on the Bible which was mentioned in Focus on Facebook in March's METROPOLITAN: after posting the details on Facebook, in order to publicise the search for an owner more widely, a respondent suggested that the surname for both people was not BRON but that the word was a misspelling of born, meaning that I could be looking for Fanny PARISH and Charles CLARKE. I was not convinced that this was the case but decided to research this possibility.



The handwriting for each name certainly appears to be from two different people, so it could be deduced that the names were written at different times. If that was the case why did both writers make the same spelling mistake of 'born'? And why did they both use a capital B when writing it? However: Ancestry and Find My Past (FMP) both have several reports of the same baptism of a Fanny PARISH, daughter of Joseph and Martha PARISH, on 3 January 1813 in Bradley, Derbyshire. This is the only Fanny PARISH that fits the information I have. Unfortunately no image of the register is available nor a date of birth given. ('my' Fanny PARISH was born 8 February 1812)

Ancestry has a Fanny PARISH giving birth to an illegitimate daughter, Elizabeth Ann PARISH on 6 May 1828. The daughter was baptised on 7 December 1828 in the parish of Clapham, Surrey. No father is mentioned on the baptism record and below Elizabeth Ann's name are the letters B.B. (Base Born). She is also said to be Fanny's first daughter. Fanny is stated to be a servant. Unfortunately, no address is given.

Whether these two records for a Fanny PARISH are related cannot be dismissed but it would seem on the balance of probability to be unlikely, due to the distance involved in the two occurrences.

There are six recordings of a birth on Ancestry for a Charles CLARKE in the third quarter of 1872. (In the Bible his birth is given as 15 August 1872) The only one that potentially stands out was registered in the third quarter of 1872 in Farnham, Surrey but none give any more information other than district, volume and page number. Without purchasing all six certificates for parentage, there is no way of knowing which might be 'my' Charles, and I have no knowledge of the parentage of 'my' Charles anyway.

Inside the Bible was a bookmark with the name Elizabeth BERGERS embroidered on it. A new search on Ancestry for an Elizabeth BERGERS has offered the possibility of Elizabeth Marie (or Maria) BERGERS (or BURGERS), wife of William BERGERS/BURGERS, having a son, Arthur Joseph Valentine BERGERS/BURGERS, baptised at St Peter & St Paul, Godalming, Surrey on 9 September 1894 (born 21 May 1894). Without obtaining Arthur's birth certificate his mother's maiden name remains unknown. A further search on Ancestry, FMP, Free BMD and the GRO for a birth registration for AJV BERGERS/BURGERS, reveals only these two baptismal records, with the conflicting spelling of the surname, only one giving the date but no place of birth.

On the other hand, Find My Past has the possibility of a marriage in 1892 in Wandsworth, (Q1, volume 1D, page 729) between William BURGERS and Elizabeth Mary GOLDSWAIN, although there are two other women on the transcription that he could have married. Another certificate would be needed, to see if this should be followed up.

The similarity between William BERGERS and William BURGERS, as well as Elizabeth Marie (or Maria) and Elizabeth Mary adds to the intrigue! Frustration continues because it is not possible to view marriages on-line at the General Register Office, only births and deaths.

In conclusion, I am still unconvinced as to the viability of the names PARISH and CLARKE in my quest to return the Bible to a family member. For instance, why are two apparently unrelated birth names in the same Bible, but I'm still open to the possibility, particularly the illegitimate Fanny PARISH born in Clapham, Surrey and Charles CLARKE born in Farnham, Surrey. However, I'm more confident on the name BERGERS/BURGERS. Godalming in Surrey would be close enough to Green Street Green in Kent to warrant being followed up.

I repeat my original request, if anyone is related to, or has knowledge of, either family, please get in touch so that I can return what is rightfully theirs. The hunt continues.

The surname BRON appears to be of European derivation, most likely Dutch, although it can be found in significant numbers in France, Germany and Switzerland, as well as South Africa and USA. It appears to be uncommon in the 1871-1911 censuses of England and Wales according to Findmypast, although Ancestry list more.



The first bookmark (pictured above) appears to be a piece of stiffened lace made specifically for the purpose, 7 x 2.75 inches (17.5 x 7 cms). It has been sewn at each end onto a piece of dark blue silk, 14 x 2.75 inches (35x 7 cms). The embroidered name is Elizabeth BERGERS and below the name is embroidered "God is Love".

Putting the name into Findmypast (births, deaths, marriages & parish records) brings up just one hit! Surely this cannot be right, it states a baptism of an Elizabeth BERGERS in Great Chart on 14 April 1661. Far too early for either the Bible or for the condition and make up of the bookmark. Census records give two hits. An Elizabeth BERGERS aged 61, wife of George BERGERS, living in Hackney in 1871, born in Suffolk. The other Elizabeth BERGERS is found in the 1939 Register and is an inmate of the Public Assistance Institution in Staffordshire, born about 1881. Ancestry on the other hand in "All Collections" for an exact match lists 100 hits! Its UK and Ireland collection still lists 8 entries, one of which is mis-transcribed and one is German.

THE SECRETARY'S ROLE

Our Secretary is stepping down at the end of the Society's year and we urgently need a replacement. Do you have the qualities and enthusiasm required for this role? The following is a brief job description:

- a) to arrange committee meetings and the date and venue of the AGM, producing agendas and other notices in consultation with the chairman and taking and publishing the minutes of all such meetings.
- b) to reply to general queries about the Society, received by letter and email, from members and non-members and forward them to other members of the Executive Committee as appropriate.
- c) to deal with specific family history enquiries; which the Secretary is not expected to research, the enquirer can be signposted to a relevant Record Office or Archive or will be advised to contact our Editorial Team with a view to publishing the query in the *Help* column of METROPOLITAN.
- d) to pass on information received from the Federation of Family History Societies, Record Offices and other family history groups as necessary.

Please contact any member of the Executive Committee to express an interest.

FRESH-FACED WENCHES & WHOLESOME AIR

By Sheila Clarke, Member No. 7900

It was Kate who first noticed it - 'There's a tiny road called Great Turnstile just off High Holborn. Definitely worth looking into.' The subject of our search was James ATKINSON, my 4xg uncle born 1794 but identifying him in later records was proving a problem. A likely candidate had married Sarah CRIPPS at St John the Baptist, Hillingdon, in 1818 but the 1841 census showed an age discrepancy of some eight years, raising the possibility that this was not our man after all. The census of 1851 seemed to confirm this - just a year earlier my James had received a legacy of £200 whereas Hillingdon James worked as a bricklayer and his wife Sarah, a laundress. A similar situation to lottery winners today who choose to keep their jobs? Perhaps, but there was also the question of birthplace - 'Great T? Road,' and not Hand Court, home of my ancestors. The 1861 census only reinforced the doubts - by now both James and Sarah were inmates of the Hillingdon Union Workhouse. And there it was again 'birthplace Great T.....'

It was then that Kate made her discovery: Great Turnstile was practically opposite Hand Court, and a few seconds later I was able to see for myself as she posted the map online. Great Turnstile I was immediately intrigued. A name harking back to more rural times, when Londoners enjoyed a closer proximity to the countryside. Evocative of Hogarth and Milton, before the years of Victorian advancement that would change London and the rest of the world for ever. I wanted to know more. James ATKINSON was put on hold while I concentrated on researching the area that would have been familiar to my family in the latter part of the 18th century.

The eponymous turnstile had been erected in Tudor times when cattle grazed in nearby pastures. Cup, Ficketts and Purse fields - all needed to prevent their contents from straying into Holborn while allowing the free movement of pedestrians. (There was also a Little Turnstile separated from its larger neighbour by a row of houses and a New Turnstile, so named because it was not in place until 1650). By 1720 the turnstile had been abandoned and 'a great thoroughfare' had sprung up, the narrow lane teeming with milliners, shoemakers, butchers and others all catering for the demands of urban living. The area had always been popular with the literary trade - in 1637 printer

George HUTTON was trading from ‘the Turning Stile, Holborn’ - and it soon became home to numerous booksellers, stationers and printers, including Luke HANSARD (1752 - 1828) who later gave his name to the record of Parliamentary debate and operated from a corner house once occupied by Milton. Conveniently situated for the Inns of courts, the businesses flourished under the patronage of the legal profession. They were not the only ones to feel the benefit - at the end of Great Turnstile was a narrow turning to the right which led into Whetstone Park, once one of the most notorious sites in London for gambling and prostitution. In the 1630s the park had been developed by William WHETSTONE in defiance of a ban on building outside the City boundaries. The houses were ordered to be demolished but somehow escaped and quickly gained a reputation for all things licentious. The neighbourhood, already known as one of the most deprived in London, had long enjoyed an unsavoury reputation but activities around Whetstone Park would take things to a whole other level. This was where the notorious madam Elizabeth CRESSWELL (c.1625 - c.1698) and the lesser known Sue WILLIS plied their trades. CRESSWELL, who supplied ‘strong waters and fresh-faced wenches’ became an independently wealthy woman running a successful business, a rarity at the time for one of humble birth, while WILLIS achieved immortality in verse penned by the libertine Earl of Rochester. Finding her ‘ill-natured though a whore,’ he left the following description in the poem ‘On Mrs. Willis’:

“Her looks demurely impudent
 Ungainly beautifull, [*sic*]
 Her modesty is insolent
 Her wit both pert and dull.” (9-12)

Unfortunately, the rest is unprintable.

Playwrights DRYDEN and SHADWELL made reference to Whetstone Park and other writers and satirists used the name as shorthand for every aspect of vice imaginable. By 1670 there were rumours of a downturn in trade as the park began to clean up its act and the ‘infamous and vicious inhabitants ... were forced away.’ However, a reputation for immorality and violence still clung to the surrounding area with incidences such as the unfortunate apothecary who was attacked by armed robbers in Red Lion Street and carried off to the terrifying - sounding Black Mary’s Hole.

Almost opposite Whetstone Park was Dean Street where Thomas and Mary Ann ATKINSON were living when their eldest child Christiana (my 3xg grandmother) was born in 1789. Fifty years earlier the historian John STRYPE had found Dean Street 'but ordinary, with a small nameless court and a coffee house' but by the time of Christiana's birth the writer, satirist and bookseller William HONE was living nearby and left a valuable record of the area. Born in Bath in 1780, Hone moved with his family to a house in Old North Street off Red Lion Square in 1787. The square had originally been a paddock of some 17 acres named Red Lion Fields in honour of Holborn's most famous inn, the *Red Lion*, where the bodies of CROMWELL and fellow parliamentarians IRETON and BRADSHAW were said to have been stored while awaiting burial. In 1684 the doctor - turned - financial speculator Nicholas BARBON began to develop the area but was met with fierce opposition, particularly from the lawyers of neighbouring Gray's Inn who objected to the loss of their 'wholesome air' and its attendant health benefits. There was little they could do as the land had been purchased legally but that failed to prevent the unedifying spectacle of a pitched battle between the lawyers and workmen led by BARBON himself armed with bricks and other building materials.

In 1708 the square appeared 'pleasant with good buildings' but by 1727 it was dirty and showing signs of neglect. Ten years later an Act of Parliament was passed allowing improvements to be made and railings were erected, watchtowers sited at each corner and an obelisk placed in the centre. The result was disappointing - some found it dull and depressing while others claimed it resembled a country churchyard, with the obelisk attracting particular criticism. Whatever its merits, HONE appears to have appreciated his environment, whether rambling with his brother in the nearby fields or visiting the many booksellers and artisans who traded nearby. For a boy with an insatiable appetite for learning the area proved ideal. A rich cast of characters encouraged his passion and made an indelible impression: the neighbourhood copper plate printer who allowed the young Hone to watch him work for hours at a time; the stay maker who noticed the boy was never without a book in his hand and beckoned him into his parlour to offer a loan of the only volume he possessed - an 'Essay On The Weakness of Human Understanding' by the Bishop Of Armagh. On Theobald's Road HONE came across a cobbler's shop, 'the seat of an honest old man who patched

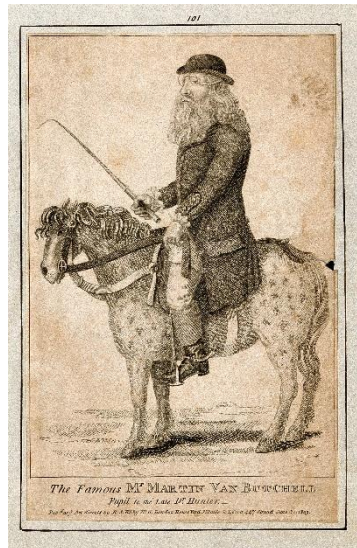
my shoes, and my mind.’ In the early 1790s HONE had witnessed the demolition - ‘stone by stone’ - of the Red Lion Square obelisk, long rumoured to have been the burial place of Oliver CROMWELL. When the body was not found ‘everybody believed the workmen didn’t dig deep enough.’ Not so, said the cobbler with a mysterious look, ‘Private reasons of state’ had prevented the discovery.



An engraving of William Hone by HR Cook, 1818, from a painting by William Patten

In July 1789 the nine year old Hone was playing with a hoop and stick in Hand Court when he heard news of the French Revolution. Originally called Hand Alley, the part covered passage appears to have got its name from either a trade sign - probably glove making - or an inn, the Hand in Hand. In 1794 the Court was home to my ATKINSON ancestors when their son James was born. STRYPE's *Survey of the Cities of London and Westminster* (1720) describes it as 'not long built,' a short street with a 'freestone pavement, and a passage into the fields.' Here could be found Mary KIRLEUS, widow of Dr John KIRLEUS whose father had been physician to King Charles II. Operating in the early 1700s from 'The Golden Ball, in Hand Court, over against Bedford Row' she kept up the family tradition by dispensing the Doctor's 'famous drink and pills to cure all scurvies, itch, leprosy, and the most inveterate venereal disease.' The drink cost 3s a quart and the pills 1s a bottle, but Mary was prepared to be flexible 'in compassion to the distressed' and would 'deal with all persons according to their abilities.'

The area appears to have had its fair share of dubious medics: Cornelius TILBURY, who claimed to be able to cure the blind and 'restore sight in a moment' operated from 'The Blue Flower Pot at Holborn Row' but anyone requiring privacy was advised to enter 'through The Red Lion Inn between the two turnstiles, which is directly against my back door.' Another famous man of medicine, Martin VAN BUTCHELL, was born in Eagle Street, on the other side of Red Lion Square, in 1735. VAN BUTCHELL was a notable eccentric who swiftly rose to fame as a Mayfair dentist and truss maker. Given to riding in Hyde Park on a white pony customised with purple or black painted spots, he carried a large white bone to fend off attackers and sported a beard of thirty years growth rumoured to have the power to cure a woman of childlessness. Never one to hide his light – or his beard – under a bushel, the doctor saw this as a business opportunity and began to sell the



individual hairs for a guinea a time. In what was perhaps his greatest act of eccentricity he had his first wife Maria embalmed on her death in 1775 and displayed in his shop window as a customer attraction. When he died in 1815 the exhibit was moved to the Royal College of Surgeons in Lincoln's Inn Fields where it remained until 1941 when Maria, along with the parrot that had been preserved with her, was finally dispatched by a German air raid.

None of this had helped my search for James ATKINSON, but part of the attraction of genealogical research must surely lie in the unexpected – the twists and turns that lead us into unforeseen explorations and discoveries. Being side - tracked can be a good thing. Without it I may never have learnt of the area's rich history nor come across characters such as VAN BUTCHELL, Sue WILLIS, and the many other colourful characters whose lives touched the neighbourhood of Great Turnstile: the infant phenomenon Thomas Hills EVERITT born 1780, who began to 'grow apace' at six weeks and weighed in at nine stone on his death 18 months later; Jonas HANWAY, the first man in London to use an umbrella and branded ridiculous by a scornful public, or 'N. SHARMAN' of Number 11, Hand Court, a former inmate of the Fleet Prison, who wrote reminding the government of intelligence he had supplied on disturbances planned by the 'lower Irish' and asking, almost as an afterthought, to be appointed commissioner and joint inspector of the lottery - possibly not the ideal position for one whose incarceration had been for debt.

It had been an exhilarating journey and a rewarding one, too - I came away with a better understanding of what life would have been like for my family in the area of Great Turnstile. And I marvelled yet again at the sheer diversity and character of the place that our ancestors called home - the wonderful and incomparable city that is London.

(For my late father Kenneth Headland, a very proud Londoner.)

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Illustration: Etching of Martin Van Butchell, National Library of Medicine, Public Domain



Buckinghamshire Family History Society OPEN DAY

Saturday 29 July 2017 from 10am-4pm
The Grange School, Wendover Way, Aylesbury HP21 7NH

Research facilities will include Bucks FHS names database. Parish Register transcripts and other research aids will be on sale. Expert advice will be on hand, with guest societies from around the country, including **London Westminster & Middlesex FHS**, local heritage groups; suppliers of data CDs, maps, software, archival materials and much more.

Free entry and free parking
Tea/coffee available throughout the day but bring a packed lunch!
For more information visit: www.bucksfhs.org.uk

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LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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WEBSITE NEWS

British Newspaper Archive

The British Newspaper Archive now contains over 18.7 million pages from 748 titles from England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland and spans nearly 300 (1709-2003) years local, national and world history. The intention is to digitise up to 40 million newspaper pages from the British Library's vast collection and they currently have at least one title from each of the country's 48 counties. This year there are now over 100,000 pages being added on a weekly basis. A variety of historically rich specialty publications have also been added since January, including a selection of significant sporting, police and military titles. A number of illustrated magazines containing full colour images have also been made available this year, including the *Bystander*, *Tatler*, *Britannia and Eve*, *The Stage*, and the world's first illustrated weekly news magazine, the *Illustrated London News*. As part of this push to improve the British Newspaper Archive experience, a new 'In Pictures' feature has also been added. This new image search was launched back in January and is the first of a number of new features users can expect to see added to the site throughout 2017.

You can search this site at: <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> or through www.findmypast.co.uk

London Transport Staff Registers

London Transport Staff Register contain some 35,000 records and date from 1863-1931. They cover underground, bus, tram and some clerical staff, mentioning over 100 different occupations altogether. The earliest records are of the first underground line, the Metropolitan Railway, and the registers of the London General Omnibus Company.

The staff records that are held are primarily found in registers, with varying amounts of information contained therein. While some provide quite extensive information, including the height of the employee, disciplinary issues, pay and previous position details, others contain no more than a name, date of commencement of service and a badge number.

These can be found on Ancestry UK at: <https://www.ancestry.co.uk/>

Metropolitan Police Pension Registers 1852-1932

These TNA records (from MEPO 21) are now available on Ancestry UK.

FRENCH FAMILY

Whitechapel to Enfield 1667 - 1816

By Tom French, Member No. 7324

Thomas FRENCH my 6 x great-grandfather was baptised at the church of St Mary, Whitechapel on 26 August 1667. Parish records show that his parents were Thomas FRENCH and Elizabeth of East Smithfield, but no further information about them can be found. Thomas married Ann KITCHEN at St Dunstan and All Saints church, Stepney on 30 October 1702. The parish records show that he was a baker from Enfield and that Ann was baptised 31 December 1677 at the church of All Saints, Edmonton.

I can find no trace of Ann's family in Stepney but there were two families named KITCHEN whose children were baptised at St Dunstan and All Saints at about the time of her marriage, so there may be a connection. If so, although Ann was baptised in Edmonton, she may have previously lived in Stepney and chosen to return there for her wedding.

Thomas and Ann had four children all baptised at St Andrew's church, Enfield, between 1703 and 1713: Ann 10 October 1703; Thomas 4 August 1706; Ursula 12 May 1709 and Lydia 12 March 1713. Ann was the first of my ancestors to be baptised there and with very few exceptions there was an unbroken chain of FRENCH family baptisms and marriages recorded at St Andrew's for the next 109 years.

Ann married Samuel SELLS in July 1719 and theirs was a clandestine wedding at Fleet Prison! Apparently it was common practice to perform marriages there at this time. Twelve years later in April 1731 history repeated itself when her sister Ursula married James HULLS at the same location.

Thomas (1706) married Mary ONLETT on 4 December 1729 at the church of St Benet, Pauls Wharf in the City of London. Parish records show that Mary came from Luton in Bedfordshire and Thomas was described as coming from Enfield. They had seven children, all baptised at St Andrew's: Thomas 23 February 1734; Elizabeth 1 June 1737; William 13 July 1740; Edward 30 October 1742; Elizabeth 20 October 1745; Ann 24 February 1747 and Sarah 10 November 1751. Two of these children were named Elizabeth

and although no death record for her can be found, it is reasonable to assume that the first Elizabeth had died.

Edward married Mary FREEBODY on 3 June 1770 at St Andrew's. She was baptised Mary NICHOLSON on 14 December 1748, also at St Andrew's but when she married Edward FRENCH Mary was a widow, having previously been married to Arthur FREEBODY. They married on 18 November 1765 at St Andrew's. Arthur died in 1767 and was buried 6 September at All Saints church, Edmonton. Edward and Mary had ten known children, all baptised at St Andrew's: John 5 July 1772; Mary 21 November 1773; Ann 5 March 1775; Samuel 31 May 1777; William 30 July 1780; George 5 April 1782; Peter 21 November 1783; John 20 November 1785; Jane 5 October 1788 and Thomas Bush French 7 August 1791. Five of these sadly did not survive and all were buried at St Andrew's. Mary died aged 22 and was buried 3 May 1795 and Ann was buried 9 October 1795 aged 20. The other three all died in childhood. The dates they were buried were: John 30 December 1772; Peter 7 July 1785 and Jane 25 January 1790.

Edward, who was a carpenter, was tragically killed on 14 August 1802 when he was dragged under the wheels of the coach carrying Sir Francis BURDETT to a reception in Enfield. The reception was held to celebrate his election as the Member of Parliament for the County of Middlesex. Edward's wife Mary had died in 1797 and was buried at St Andrew's on 26 March. This left their youngest son, Thomas Bush FRENCH, an orphan and it was reported in the *Morning Chronicle* on 18 August that Sir Francis enquired after the family and he promised to provide for the boy.

Samuel married Sarah DRAPER on 23 January 1804 at St Andrew's where the first five of their nine children were baptised: George Francis 1 February 1805; John Bush 17 May 1807; Samuel 25 September 1808; Philip Davis 10 June 1810 and Jane Esther, who was born 30 August 1812 and baptised 24 September in the same year. She only lived for three months and was buried at St Andrew's 14 November 1812.

No further records have been found for the family in Enfield after this date and they moved to east London sometime between the years 1812 and 1816 but that is another story.

JOTTINGS

FamilySearch Microfilms

The London FamilySearch Centre microfilm collection, which is currently temporarily located at The National Archives in Kew, London, is transferring to the Society of Genealogists in Clerkenwell, London. The move reflects a partnership between the Society of Genealogists and FamilySearch to ensure that the microfilm collection continues to be available to family historians. The London FamilySearch Centre will continue to provide its research support services at the National Archives.

The collection of about 57,000 microfilms complement the SoG's library of genealogical sources for family history researchers in the UK. Having been carefully curated over many years, the FamilySearch Films include many thousands of copies of original church and local records from the United Kingdom and Ireland; probate records for England and Wales before and after 1858 and selected items for Caribbean research.

The films should be available for consultation at the Society of Genealogists Library from 26 June 2017. Of course, these records are still available for free online, at: <https://familysearch.org/search>

Trent Park Museum

Trent Park is a Grade II English country house near Enfield and is the main building mentioned by Helen Fry at our AGM talk about bugging the Nazis in World War 2. Following the war, the building became a training college for male teachers, going through various other educational uses and closing in 2014. The house and 50 acres of its grounds were sold to Berkeley Homes Group in 2015, who proposed turning the house into flats.

After consultation with local groups, Berkeley Homes agreed to lease part of the ground floor and basement of the mansion to Trent Park Museum Trust to create a museum in the very rooms the secret listeners used to find out information from the German officers housed there. A full restoration of the house and gardens will be carried out – recreating the pre-war splendour of the rooms and grounds where Sir Philip Sassoon entertained his guests, and the rooms in the basement where the Secret Listeners listened to the war-time prisoners in the floors above.

More information can be found here: <http://trentparkmuseum.org.uk/>

Londoners: Portrait of a Working City

London has long been a magnet for those looking for work. Winners, losers, the famous and the forgotten, images of countless Londoners have been recorded as they went about their daily work in the capital.

The photographs, prints and drawings on display in this free exhibition at London Metropolitan Archives, 40 Northampton Rd, Clerkenwell, London EC1R 0HB, are from their own collections, which preserves millions of historical images of London from the fifteenth century to the present day. Portraits of the great and good appear alongside many who are simply unknown, recorded only because of the work that they did and the service they gave to the city and their fellow Londoners. From a fifteenth century Alderman to a twentieth century trapeze artist, this display brings them all together and presents them as a fascinating visual record of life in London.

Children and Family History

The Federation of Family History Societies are running a competition to encourage children and young people living in the UK and Ireland who are aged between 5-16 to develop an interest in family history. They are hoping their older relatives will help them!

Their *My Family Tree* booklet is designed to assist with this. To enter the competition, competitors must submit a photocopy or scanned copy of a completed double page spread of their *My Family Tree* booklet and/or the completed family tree chart as printed in the booklet and also write a short paragraph (no more than 450 words) describing what they enjoyed most about working on the booklet.

There are three age categories with two prizes being awarded in each category. Winners will be entitled to a family day out at an approved Living History Museum/event up to a value of £150. A runner up in each category will receive a contribution of up to £50 towards a family day out at an approved Living History Museum. Why not have a go? Please note the closing date is Thursday 13 July. Good luck!

To enter the competition and for further information on how to order a free copy of the booklet, please email FFHS at: admin@ffhs.org.uk with 'My Family Tree' in the Subject Heading, or request a copy by post by writing to: The Administrator, FFHS, PO Box 8857, Lutterworth LE17 4RE.

Further information as to the rules and so on can be found here: <http://www.ffhs.org.uk/ezine/competition-2017.php>

Jewish Family History

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain Library has moved from its home in the West London Synagogue, 33 Seymour Place, London W1H 5AP to the Society of Genealogists at 14 Charterhouse Buildings, Goswell Road, London EC1M 7BA.

It will continue to be an independent society and its Library will usually be open on the first Sunday and the third Friday of each month. Details can be found on the Society's website at: www.jsgsb.org.uk.

The Archbishops' Vault

In 2015 the Garden Museum at Lambeth Palace, housed in the deconsecrated medieval church of St Mary-at-Lambeth, began a project of refurbishment. This included levelling the floor of the Chancel in order to make the area accessible for a recreation of a 17th Century cabinet of curiosities. To do this, the contractors were required to lift and re-lay ledgers which had been built into the chancel floor in 1851, some of which weighted up to 1,500kg.

Their removal revealed a concrete block which, when lifted, revealed a flight of steps leading down to a vault below the Chancel which had been reserved for high status burials, including those of five Archbishops of Canterbury.

At least twenty coffins have been found in the vault, four of which been identified by their coffin plates:

- Richard BANCROFT, Archbishop of Canterbury from 1604-1610
- John BETTESWORTH, (1677-1751) Dean of Arches, Judge of the Archbishops Prerogative court.
- John MOORE, Archbishop of Canterbury from 1783-1805
- Catherine MOORE, wife of John MOORE

St Mary-at-Lambeth's records have since revealed that a further three archbishops were probably buried in the secret vault:

- Frederick CORNWALLIS, Archbishop from 1768 to 1783
- Matthew HUTTON, Archbishop from 1757 to 1758
- Thomas TENISON, Archbishop from 1695 to 1715)

A sixth, Thomas SECKER, Archbishop from 1758 to 1768, had his viscera buried in a canister in the churchyard.

It had been assumed that the vaults under the church had been filled with earth. So far the coffins have been left undisturbed, though a glass panel has been installed in the floor above them so visitors can peer into the crypt. The Garden Museum reopened at the end of May.

RAF War Casualties.

St Clement Danes Church in the Strand, like so many other London churches, was badly damaged by German bombs in the Blitz on 10 May 1941. Although the exterior survived relatively intact, the interior was completely gutted and had to be rebuilt. After the war, it was suggested that the Royal Air Force be allowed to restore the church for use as its own.

The RAF launched an appeal and money for the reconstruction came from public subscription. The church reopened in 1958 and has served ever since as the Central Church of the Royal Air Force. Along both sides of the church are shrines of remembrance, containing Books of Remembrance, whose pages are turned every day, in which are inscribed the names of those men and women who have died on active service with the Royal Air Force.

The Books of Remembrance are as follows:

Book I, on the left nearest to the altar, pre-dates the RAF and has names of balloonists who served with the Royal Engineers, members of the Royal Naval Air Service and the Royal Flying Corps and RAF personnel up to the outbreak of the Second World War.

Books II to IX contain the names of all those died on service during the Second World War.

Book X, on the right nearest to the altar, is from VJ day 1945 to 31st March 2013.

Book XI, opposite Book X, is from 1st April 2013

The pages are turned daily and twice a year Book XI is brought up to date. For information on dates when particular names will be shown please contact the church either by telephone number: 020 7242 8282 or 020 7242 2380 or by Email: stclementdanes1@btconnect.com

The Islington Gazette, 7 July 1869

LOCAL GOSSIP - A subscription has been set on foot for the widowed mother of the man Dunn, who was accidentally killed on Wednesday last, while excavating in Skinner-street, Clerkenwell. Mr J W Baldwin, in whose employ deceased was, had undertaken the expenses of the funeral. Contributions for Mrs Dunn, who was entirely dependent on her son, will be thankfully received by E C Baldwin, 7 Elder-walk, Essex-road, or by J W Baldwin, 22 Upper-street

BRANCHING LINES

By Peter Todd, Member No. 7686

My great grandmother, Emma Margaret TODD (née BAILEY, 1826-1865) died of peritonitis on the 18 September, 1865 at 5 Town Terrace, Somers Town, London. She was 39 years old and in her relatively short life had brought into this world six children, the youngest child at the time of her death was Emma Annie TODD (1856-1905) who was just eleven years old. Both mother and daughter have been the subjects of previous METROPOLITAN articles.

A few years ago soon after I had joined the genealogy website 'Genes Reunited' I was contacted by someone who turned out to be a half-second cousin of mine. He had in his possession pages from a small bible which contained the births, deaths and marriages of ancestors from both his and my side of the TODD family. It appeared that this record had been started by my great grandfather, John TODD but had been continued after his death by the male descendants from John's second marriage. I wrote about my part of this Bible record in the October 2013 edition of the METROPOLITAN; the following account explores my half-relative's side of our family history after John's demise.

John William TODD (1823-1883) was born in the City of London and was the fourth and only son of William TODD (1791-1854) and Elizabeth LEADER (1793-1850). He was baptised at St Mary's Church in the parish of St Marylebone, London along with his older sisters, Elizabeth and Mary on the 8 July 1823. John was a French polisher by trade. French polishing was a technique, refined by the French, whereby the natural graining in wooden furniture could be enhanced by applying an alcoholic solution of shellac (a resin secreted by the Indian Lac beetle) to the surface of the wood, which when dry could be polished to a high lustre. The skill was much called upon in Victorian times but has largely gone out of fashion these days with the advent of modern chemical based varnishes.

On the 28 April, 1867 at St Pancras Parish Church widower John married Maria SANSOM (1830-1902) the eighth child of eleven born to William SANSOM (1796-1839) and Jane TAYLOR (1792-1864).

Maria had moved to London from her childhood home in Sherborne, Dorset with two of her brothers to find work sometime in the early 1860s.

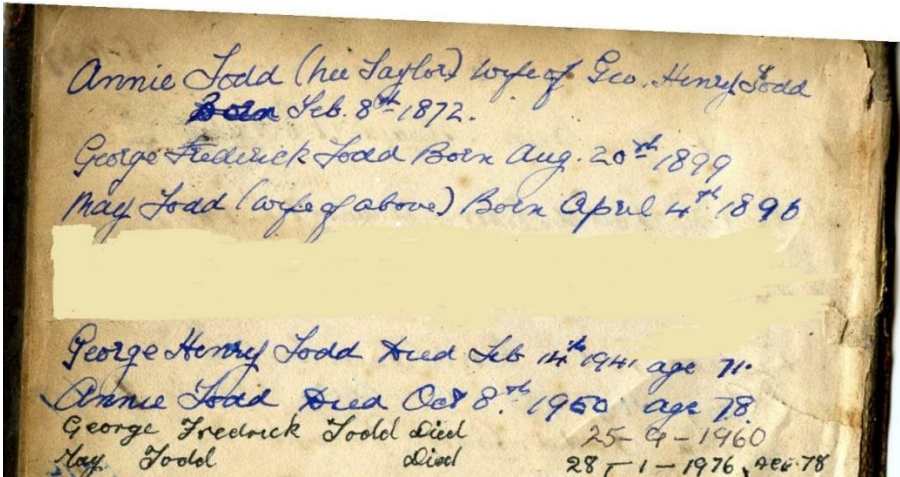
The 1871 Census recorded that John, now 48 years old, was living with Maria, aged 41, at 151 Ossulston Street, Somer's Town, London. The street is still there on the north side of Euston Road and adjacent to St Pancras International Terminus. The old tenements are long gone, of course, and have been replaced by modern flats and apartments. The family unit, apart from John and Maria, now consisted of children from both of John's marriages. Children from the first marriage were the three grown-up sons, John jnr. (1849-1889), William (1851-1916), who worked as French polishers and Edward Henry (1852-1911) - my grandfather, who was a harmonium maker, and their sisters, Emma, whom I have mentioned above and Agnes (1854-1904). The much younger step-children were Rosina TODD (1868-1932) and George Henry TODD (1869-1941).

By 1881 only son William from the first marriage remained in Ossulston Street. Rosina and George were approaching their teens and still at school.

John William TODD died, aged 60 years, of tuberculosis at 100 Stibbington Street, Somers Town on the 12 June 1883. Today there isn't a Stibbington Street, but there is a Stibbington House which makes me think that my great grandfather may have been in an early tuberculosis sanatorium when he died?

The 1891 Census showed that Maria TODD and her son George, now 22 years old and employed as a lamp glazier, were living at 15 Johnson Street, Somers Town with the widow (née Charlotte GAWEN, 1857-1936) of my great uncle, John, William TODD (see above), who had died in 1889; her two daughters, Charlotte and Rhoda and her widowed mother, Katherine GAWEN (formerly MENES, 1837-1917).

George's sister, Rosina had married a James COOPER (1867-?) on Christmas Day 1888 at St Mary's Church, Somers Town. In 1891 the couple were living in Chalton Street, Somers Town with their two baby children. James was working as a marble mason.



Part of John Todd's Bible record showing births and deaths of the people mentioned below. To preserve anonymity I have blanked out the names of family members who are still living.

George Henry TODD, my half-great uncle married Annie TAYLOR (1872-1950) at St Philips Church, Clerkenwell, London on the 2 August 1896. By this time George had taken up French polishing as his trade in addition to his work as a glazier. Their only child, a son George Frederick TODD (1899-1960) was 16 months old by the time that the 1901 Census was taken. The family were living in Albion Street, Barnsbury at this time. Barnsbury is an area of Islington in north London. Albion Street is no longer present but turn-of-the-20th century maps of London show that it was in the vicinity of the present day Albion gastropub and adjacent to Richmond Terrace, where the former Prime Minister Tony Blair used to live.

In the 1911 Census George, Annie and son George, now aged eleven, had moved to 162 York Road, Islington. George senior was now fitting public (gas?) lighting. Apparently there are still about 1500 working gas lamps in London maintained by British Gas operatives. A short film about their work can be found on *YouTube*.

The Electoral rolls for London show that George Henry and Annie lived at the York Road address until 1932. Just prior to WW2, however, they seemed

to have been sharing a house in Wood Green, north London with their son, George and his wife, May. George TODD senior died in 1941.

My half-first cousin, George Frederick TODD married May ELLIS (1896-1975) in 1921 and it is the children of their offspring who are currently updating the Bible record.

Note: May ELLIS died in January 1975, according to her death certificate, so the year 1976 quoted in the handwritten insert above is a typographical error.

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Ancestry.co.uk

Daily Herald, Tuesday 16 June 1914

VICTIMS OF LONDON STORM

The inquest on the victims of Sunday's thunderstorm in London will be held at Battersea Town Hall this morning at 11 o'clock.

Mr Percy West, who was injured, has since died. This makes the number of deaths seven. The names of those killed are George Legg, aged 5; Eliza Legg, 3; Walter J Hilliard, 3½; Albert Bett, 31; Florence Bett, 3½; Percy West, all of Battersea, and Marion Grist, 23 of Wandsworth.

The injured are progressing favourably. Their names are Henry Hilliard, 2; Wm Budd, 7; Emily Budd, 5, all of Battersea; and Mrs Kate Munday, 32 of Wandsworth.

JAMES & LOUISA GALVIN

By Dennis Galvin, Member No. 1046

My paternal grandfather was James Patrick GALVIN (shown in this 1916 photograph as the man top right, in the Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment) in 1916). He was born in May 1878 at 19 Gracechurch Street in the City of London. He was baptised at St Mary Moorfields RC Church at Finsbury Square, also in the City (this church was considered to be



the Roman Catholic cathedral until the building of the Westminster church). The former building was pulled down in about 1902 and removed just a few yards around the corner but now in Finsbury. My father always used to say that his father could read and write, as people used to knock at the door and ask him to read their letters.



My grandmother was Louisa Emma BRADSHAW (shown left with her brother Charles in about 1884). She was born in August 1881 at Redmans Row, Mile End Old Town, Stepney. She was baptised in September 1881 at St James the Great, Bethnal Green. This was the church that the famous Edwardian artist Marie LLOYD called 'the little red church'. Indeed, in one of her famous songs where it gets faster as she finishes and goes off stage, the line would be 'if only they'd move the 'ackney road I'd like to live in Paris all the time'. My

grandmother always told me that their pet monkey at Mile End once swallowed a sovereign (or half sovereign) which was the rent money!

Louisa (23) and James (27) were married at St Paul's, Bunhill Row, Finsbury (pictured below) in November 1904. James was then a bus conductor and this might have explained how they met! But unusually, one lived at 18



Peerless Street and the other at number 22, so it seems like neighbours. Interestingly, the afore-mentioned Marie LLOYD lived as a baby in Peerless Street which was also famous for its public baths – quite something at that time.

I wanted to write this article because I have to say that in all my years of researching I have never seen – or perhaps never noticed – mention of this St Paul's church, which was actually situated in Bunhill Row but as part of the Nonconformist burial grounds where Bunyan, Defoe, Watts and Blake are buried and, adjoining The Honourable Artillery Barracks

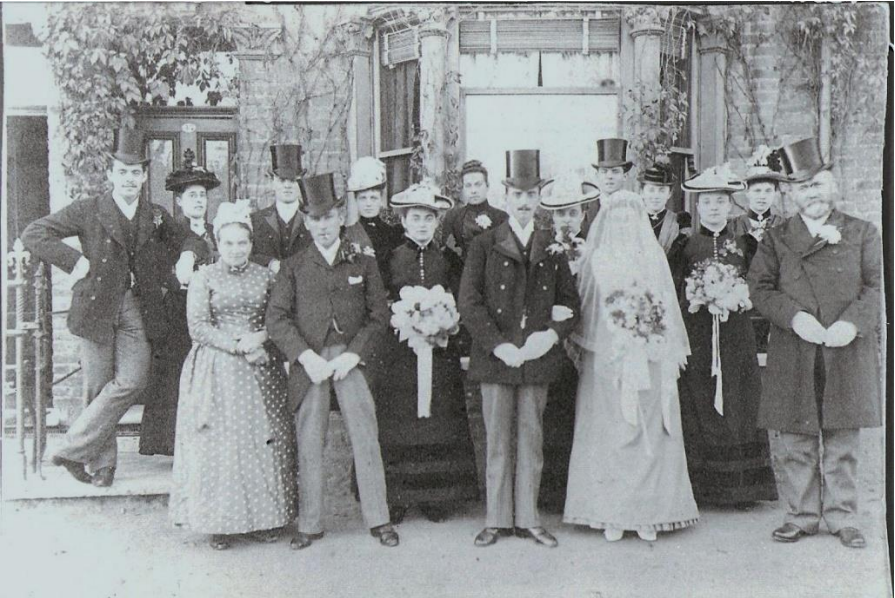
(oldest regiment in the British Army), so quite a famous place. The records for christenings and marriages are 1839-1929 so the foundation stone at the time may well put the church as William IV. Surprisingly, the church was not destroyed by the Luftwaffe but demolished by the end of 1929. There is a newish Building on the site today but nobody would ever guess that a C of E church once stood there!

My grandparents had nine children (3 girls and 6 boys) all born either in the City of London, Finsbury, Hoxton or Clapton. Regarding the latter, my grandmother told me that when they moved to Clapton she cried all day and wanted to go back to Hoxton!

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.



DUNSTER



This is probably my DUNSTER family in about 1890. Does anyone know if this terrace of houses is Great York Mews, Marylebone?

Alice Kristensen, Non-member

Email: jaak@mail.dk

Note: Great York Mews is now apparently called Bickenhall Street. Wandering around on Google Street View, the houses in this area of Marylebone are typically 5 or 6 stories high and have flat fronts, not bay windows, so we don't think this is there.

1934 COUNTESS

I've been trying to fill in a few gaps in my family tree regarding my father's Aunt Bessie. Together with family photos, I inherited a letter to my father from his Aunt Bessie (GILMORE) dated 1st week of March 1934 from the address 58 Green Street, off Park Lane, London W1. In the letter she sent her best wishes for his coming wedding, but said she would be unable to come in person as the family she worked for was busy preparing for the sale of the property following the unexpected death of 'the Countess'. His Aunt Bessie was in service with this family. She said she was really shocked to find on her return 'that Saturday' that the Countess had died. So presumably the Countess would have died sometime in February 1934. My Google searches have only managed to find one Countess death for February 1934 and that was Lady Sybil De Vere Capell BRASSEY, daughter of Viscount Malden, and wife of 1st Earl BRASSEY (an eminent Victorian politician and author of a Naval Manual used by the Royal Navy for many decades and former Governor of Victoria, Australia).

I've contacted the Land Registry to get confirmation of the BRASSEY family as resident at the address in 1934, but they said they keep no historical records. The 1939 survey is no help for this address as the family would have moved by then. In 1934 Aunt Bessie was already in her early 60s, so would have retired soon after this. By 1939 she was living with her niece's family near Tewkesbury. She grew up in Chelmsford Essex, which might add weight to the BRASSEY family connection with Viscount Malden? But I would dearly like to tie up loose ends by getting confirmation of which Countess employed her.

Rodney Brown, Non-member

Email: rodney_rodny@yahoo.co.uk

Note: Looking in the British Newspaper Archive for February 1934, the only countesses who seem to have died are Alice, Countess of Chichester, who died aged 92 at Falmer, Sussex on 3 February and Countess BRASSEY, who is described as having suffered a 'sudden death' at her London home.

Trying to find confirmation of her London address has proved more tricky. In 1919, Countess BRASSEY is reported to have given a dance at 24 Park Lane: in 1922, *The Courier* reported in a piece about the wedding

of Miss Idina MYDDELTON that 'a reception was held at the residence of the bride's aunt, Countess Brassey, 28 Draycott Place' and Debrett's Illustrated Peerage for 1923 gives her address as 39 Berkeley House, Hay Hill, W.

It might be worth purchasing the death certificate of Sybil de Vere BRASSEY, which should give her address, however, the Probate Calendar in 1934 gives her address as 27 Wilton Place, Knightsbridge.

ST GABRIELS WEDDING: COOPER-FIDDLER.

I have found a very faded newspaper cutting of my parents' marriage and if possible would like to find the newspaper it was reported in. The wedding took place on Saturday 23rd August 1947 at St Gabriel's Church, Bounds Green, Middlesex. My parents' names are Mr Ronald Henry COOPER and Miss Dorothy Florence Emily FIDDLER.

Brenda Owen, Member No. 3880

Holmefield House, Langley Village, Herts SG4 7PN.

Email: Brenda1702@btinternet.com

Note: Newspapers in the Bounds Green area in the late 1940s were: *The Tottenham and Edmonton Weekly Herald, Southgate Messenger, North Middlesex and West Essex Advertiser* etc (yes, all of that is its title!); *the Tottenham Observer; the North Tottenham Citizen; The Wood Green and Southgate Weekly Herald, and Palmers Green and District Advertiser (Wood Green, Southgate & Palmers Green Weekly Herald.* Of course, it is entirely possible that the marriage was reported in other areas.

Copies of each newspaper are held in the British Library Newspaper Collection. The originals of these newspapers are now housed in the National Newspaper Building at Boston Spa, West Yorkshire. The collection is gradually being digitised and is available at the British Newspaper Archive and on Findmypast.

You may just have to wait until the one that contains mention of your parents' marriage eventually turns up online.

WILLIAMS and CRAIGGS

Richard and Ann WILLIAMS appear in the 1841 census at Maidstone Road, Rochester, Kent. Richard is 70 and was not born in Kent. He died aged 72 on 24 May 1843 at Maidstone Road, Rochester. His occupation was given as Mate RN, late of the LAZARETTES. I looked this up in the dictionary and it means a hospital for infectious diseases. Richard was buried 28 May 1843 at St Margaret's. The headstone states: Sacred to the memory of Ann WILLIAMS, wife of Richard WILLIAMS of the Quarantine department, who departed this life 27 August 1832 aged 62. Also of the above Richard WILLIAMS who departed this life the 24 May 1843 aged 72.'

Does anyone know any more of the early life of Richard and Ann? I would like to know where they came from and when and where they married.

I know that Richard and Ann had a daughter Susannah WILLIAMS, who was born on 13 December 1810 at Rochester. She married an Edward CRAIGGS. Their daughter Eliza CRAIGGS was born on 20 November 1836 at Montreal, Canada and baptised on 28 July 1837 at St Margaret, Rochester, Kent. In the 1841 census she is living in Maidstone Road, Rochester with Richard and Ann WILLIAMS. By 1851 Eliza is with her parents and siblings at Uxbridge Cottages, Cambridge Crescent, St Pancras. This is the last mention I have of Eliza. Does anyone out there know more of her birth in Canada or of her life after 1851?

Susanna CRAIGGS, widow, daughter of Richard WILLIAMS, mariner, married Joseph BURGESS, widower, Carman, on 28 August 1854 at St Mary Islington. Joseph and his wife and 6 children had also lived in Cambridge Cottages at the time of the 1851 census.

I am trying to find them on the 1861 census. Where and when they died or any more of their lives. There are a surprising number of Joseph and Susannah Burgess and I have managed to eliminate some of them.

There is a death I find interesting: Susanna BURGESS, age 53, St Martin in the Fields, March 1866, though there is a 3 year difference. I would like to know more about this. Records from All Souls Cemetery (Churchyard) Kensal Green (now Kensal Green Cemetery) show Susanna BURGESS aged 53, Combes Brewery (became Watney, Combe and Reid) King Street, St Giles in the Fields, was buried on 26 February 1866. Could it be that Joseph was a carman at the Brewery?

Helen Butler Member No. 5186

28 Andorra Court, 151 Widmore Road, Bromley Kent BR1 3AE

KEENE and SMITHER

My KEENE family, who are on my father's side, are descended from Benjamin KEENE (1727-1797), was Master of Guildford Gaol.

Benjamin's son James KEENE (1763-1825) married Elizabeth INSTONE, also from Guildford, and they had a son Uriah KEENE (1804-1869). Uriah KEENE (1804-1869) married Mary Ann SMITHERS in Plaxtol, Kent in 1832. Their first son, James Thomas KEENE (1833-1861) was born in Tonbridge but his siblings were all baptised in Pimlico and Westminster: Helen 1835, Elizabeth Mary 1838, Charles 1840, Mary Ann 1842, John George 1845, William 1847, Richard 1849 and Clara 1857. James Thomas KEENE was the grandfather of my grandmother, Mary Ann Eunice (Roberts) KEENE (1877-1941). Mary Ann Eunice KEENE married my grandfather Henry Samuel HOWARD in Islington in 1901.

Another of Benjamin's sons was William who, in turn, had a son John. These last two were Masters of Guildford Gaol after the death of Benjamin. John KEENE married Emma and they had a daughter Emily, who was born in Newington Butts, Surrey, in September 1849. In January 1873, Emily married Sherif Abd-es-Salem, the son of the Moroccan Sultan, at the British Legation in Tangier. She had 2 sons by him and outlived him – he died in 1892. Emily died in Tangier in December 1941 aged 92.

Mary Ann SMITHER (1812-1866) was born in Tonbridge. Her family originally came from Framfield, East Sussex but had lived in Kent for many generations. She was the daughter of Thomas SMITHER (1787-1831) and Ann née COOPER.

Thomas was the fourth son of Richard SMITHER (1755-1837), a blacksmith in Tonbridge, and Ann, née STANDON. Thomas's older brother John (born 1780 in Tonbridge) married Frances DEARSLEY in Southwark in 1808 and from this line came Joan Barbara YARDE-BULLER (1908-1997) who married Aly Soloman KHAN (1911-1960) in Paris in 1936. They had two children, the eldest Prince Karim KHAN is the present His Highness the Aga Khan IV.

Are any other members researching this KEENE and SMITHER family?

Eileen Blythe, Member No. 02

Email: eileen@hawkingeallotments.org.uk

BRADBURY

I am trying to find out about my Grandmother's childhood and my Great Grandfather's training and occupation.

My grandmother, Florence Eleanor BRADBURY, was born 25 June 1906, registered in Highbury. Her father was Charles BRADBURY and he was a chemist/druggist, however, I can't find out where he trained or where he worked. I know he ran a Chemist's shop in Streatham when he died in 1937 and his name is still over the door now.

I'd like to find out where my grandmother went to school and later to work. She married Norman Frederick SANDIFORD in 1930 in Wandsworth. I don't know when they moved away but my Uncle was born in 1933 and was registered in Croydon and my mother was born in 1937 when they were living in Tadworth, Surrey.

Would you be able to help me find out some information, or point me in the right direction please?

Jean Burdett, Non-Member

Email: burdettjean1@gmail.com

Note: Charles BRADBURY married Sarah Jane JOHNSON in 1896 in Peterborough. By 1901 the couple had moved to London and were living at 42 Stroud Green Road, Hornsey. Charles is a Chemist's Assistant, working 'at home'.

In the 1911 census, the BRADBURYS were living at 179 Blackstock Road, Highbury, less than a mile from Stroud Green Road. Just opposite is Gillespie Road, with Gillespie Road School (built in 1878) a few metres down on the left. Ambler Road School at 84 Blackstock Road was also built in 1878.

It must be worth contacting these schools on the off-chance that they still have records going back that far. You can email these schools: Gillespie Primary School at: office@gillespie.islington.sch.uk and Ambler Primary School at: office@ambler.islington.sch.uk

179 Blackstock Road is a Victorian row of shops with living space on top. If the numbers have not changed, perhaps Charles had his own shop there too? The 1911 census says he is an employer. A search of local directories might give more information. Interestingly, 179 Blackstock Road is still a chemist's today.

FORTHCOMING BRANCH MEETINGS

Barnet Branch – 7.30pm for 8.00pm

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

- Thursday 15 June *Our Aviation Heritage*
by Lester Hillman
NB this is a change of programme
- Thursday 20 July *Railway Development and Railway*
Companies' Staff Records
by Chris and Judy Rouse
- Thursday 17 August *Unusual Victorian Occupations*
by Emma Field
- Thursday 21 September We're Considering Censuses (major, minor,
unusual) and their useful contents. Contribute
with your discoveries.

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

- Thursday 29 June *Elizabethan Islington*
by Jiff Bayliss
- Thursday 27 July We're Mulling over Maps. Bring your most
helpful – Medieval to Modern.
- Thursday 31 August *City Gardens and Open Spaces*
by Joe Steadman
- Thursday 28 September *Attractions in our area for Family Historians,*
other researchers and explorers
by Rosemary A Roome

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

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|-----------------------|---|
| Wednesday 7 June | <i>Alderman Thomas Sidney and Bowes Manor</i> by Rachel McDonald |
| Wednesday 5 July | <i>History of Friern Barnet Hospital</i> by David Berguer |
| Wednesday 2 August | No Meeting |
| Wednesday 6 September | <i>Dating Victorian Photographs</i> by Tom Doig |
| Wednesday 4 October | <i>Georgiana Twells, Founder of St Mary Magdalene, Enfield</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

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|--------------------|--|
| Friday 9 June | Members' Evening |
| Friday 15 July | <i>Mind the Gap</i> by John Neal |
| August | No meeting |
| Friday 8 September | <i>From Roxeth to the Royal Fusiliers</i> by Doug Kirby |

ADVERTISING RATES

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

See inside front cover for address.

BOOK REVIEWS

Hornsey Historical Society Bulletin 58

Number 58 is the latest in this series of books. It continues the wartime theme with a timeline for 1917 showing where the land war was fought on the battlefields of Europe, Mesopotamia, Palestine and North and East Africa. The war at sea was fighting to keep the supply lines of both sides open. Two articles keep the theme going: Music in Alexandra Palace Internment Camp, which is about the orchestra formed by German internees and the fourth instalment of 'Hornsey at War'

Articles on Heath Robinson, a history of the Prickett and Ellis Company, a survey of Quernmore Road Shops, and the Society of Woodmen of Hornsey plus three book reviews make this bulletin an interesting and varied read.

If you would like to buy a copy, please apply to the Hornsey Historical Society, The Old Schoolhouse, 136 Tottenham Lane, London N8 7EL
ISSN 0955 8071 £6 + £1.50 postage.



Directory of Suffolk Millers, 1086-1986

Although not in our area, this little book was written by one of our most long-standing members: Eileen Blythe. Eileen has collected mentions of both wind- and water-mills from Domesday onwards with a view to helping those with Suffolk miller families to research their origins. Record sets consulted include apprentice bonds, burial registers, directories, leases, settlement orders, wills and more, with some sections arranged alphabetically by surname and others by town.

This book can be obtained from the Mills Archive Trust, Watlington House, 44 Watlington Street, Reading RG1 4RJ, or via their online shop at: <https://millsarchive.org/shop>
ISBN 0-9530998-9-X £6 + P&P

AIMS OF THE SOCIETY

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

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

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

