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METROPOLITAN

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Family History Society



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Cover picture: Sergeant Henry Newton LOWEN and family

© Barbara Haswell, see article on page 47

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EDITORIAL

We have a wide range of articles in this edition, many of which highlight new sources and different directions that can be followed in our search for that elusive ancestor. For instance, who knew that so many local people spoke Esperanto? Can you read the sample on page 46? See our piece on page 42 for just how widespread it was in the early 20th century. The editors would love to hear if you have any Esperanto speakers in your family history.

Finding Uncle Jock, on page 47, highlights a relatively new source: the German Occupation Registration Cards from Jersey. Who would have thought that Londoners would turn up in the Channel Islands? This archive is available from: www.jerseryheritage.org and can be accessed by following the link to their Archives and Collections online. You never know where you might find ancestors so do not disregard a name just because the location seems improbable. Have you found someone in an unexpected place?

Copying original photographs to use so that fragile originals do not have to be handled too much is always good advice. The article on page 50, Acquiring & Exploring a Family Album, gives a good method for being able to subsequently extract as much information as possible from old photographs, as well as being an interesting family history tale.

Many of our articles now come with a list of the sources used. This is really useful to those who wish to follow up their own research from a newly-discovered source and, in addition, is a good reminder to an author of where they originally found facts!

The Editorial Team

Please remember that the copy date for the next issue of

METROPOLITAN

is 1 May 2017

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

In researching my family who were all in the west Middlesex area, I have obtained a lot of photos and documents which might be of interest to some of your members. Eg:

- Shop headed paper 361 Portobello Rd.
- My uncle was a very keen cyclist and belonged to the Bayswater Wheelers and the Vegetarian Cycle Club. (He also set up a cycle club in Italy around 1944.) I have photos, documents and silver medals he won.
- My father played football in the London Transport Passenger Board team; 1926 photo, Poster and fixtures details.

So if you know of any member researching shops, cycling or amateur football I would be pleased to send copies of what I have.

Barrie Wilson, Non-member

Email: suebar@talktalk.net

A group of us in Haringey, the Haringey First World War Peace Forum, has been working for the past four years on discovering the local men who became Conscientious Objectors during WW1, developing short biographies on each, giving talks and arranging other activities to raise their profile and celebrate their bravery.

We have now found about 350 COs in the former boroughs of Hornsey, Tottenham and Wood Green. Our searches through public records are pretty well exhausted and we are now trying to discover more by finding descendants or friends of families from which they came.

I wonder if any of your readers know of a someone who was a CO in North London between 1916 and 1918? If so, we should love to hear from them and learn more - in particular we are hoping to get photos of more of the men! You may like to look at our website to discover what we have been doing: hfwwpf.wordpress.com

If anyone has information to share, please contact me at the email address below.

Jennifer Bell, Non-member, for HFWWPF

Email: jennifer.r.bell@btinternet.com

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

I am your new chairman since the AGM of 4 February. My name is Tony Allen (officially Anthony Kilvington Allen) and I have been a member of LWMFHS since 2002, attending the Wembley and Rayners Lane Branches. I am a retired University Senior Lecturer in Biochemistry. I used to teach Medical Students and carry out scientific research.

I was born in Middlesex in the Hammersmith Hospital where my Shropshire-born Mother had been a nurse. My Father was from Middlesex coming from Kensal Green. I still live in Middlesex, in Pinner.

My interest in Family History started in 1986. I used to have fairly frequent visits from an Australian friend who was on scientific business trips but was also investigating his family history (Army rather than Convict). At first I thought that it was a funny hobby but then I did ask him how to get started. So he said "I'll lend you a book but I warn you that it is addictive". He was of course right. Another reason was the question on my middle name, which had amused my friends at school. My mother said that it had been given to some of her father's family but not to her, nor to her father, so that was rather strange.

I assumed that I was half-London/Middlesex descent (North of the Thames of course!). This was correct for the births (1878-1889) of my Grandparents who were born in Marylebone, Harrow, Cumberland and Shropshire. However when it came to my Great-grandparents (born 1850 to 1866) the births were in Islington, Buckinghamshire, Hampshire, Kent, Montgomeryshire, Shropshire, Yorkshire and Durham. So I am only one eighth Middlesex! This is to be expected, as our president pointed out in his talk at the AGM, London had a great attraction for country people in the middle of the 19th century.

As for my middle name: in 1842, my Great (x2) Grandparents, Ann and Richard KILVINGTON who were first cousins married in York and started working on the railway. All their sons and many of the grandsons also worked on the railway. The daughters (who mostly married railwaymen)

seem to have agreed to include their double maiden name as a middle name for their children and this has to some extent continued into the 20th century.

The Meeting of the Society and AGM was held at the Guildhall Library on Saturday 4 February. The first talk was by Helen Fry entitled *Bugging the Nazis in World War 2 – a Very Secret War*. This was an account of how, during WW2, British Intelligence carefully set up and bugged comfortable country mansions and other establishments to listen into the conversations of German POWs, and particularly 59 Generals - one of the most cunning deception plans of the war. This information was crucial for countering the directing of bombers, submarine bases and refuelling and particularly the delaying of production of V1 and V2 and other V weapons that never made it. Also it became obvious how much many of the army generals knew of the atrocities carried out by the SS, SD, Police units and Gestapo. In some cases these Generals were involved as well. The listeners were nearly all refugee German Jews, who were likely to understand colloquial language and dialects of German better than British Graduates of German. I have now read the book that I got from her: *The M Room, Secret Listeners Who Bugged the Nazis*. I strongly recommend it.

The afternoon talk was by our President Michael Gandy. It was as thought-provoking as usual. He spoke about the country origin of most Londoners that I referred to above. Also the new morality of the 20th century that women were not supposed to be pregnant brides, pretending that this came from the Victorians. In fact in the 19th century many women did not get married until they were 3 months pregnant. This certainly applied in my family, one of whom only got married 4 weeks before the birth of the first child.

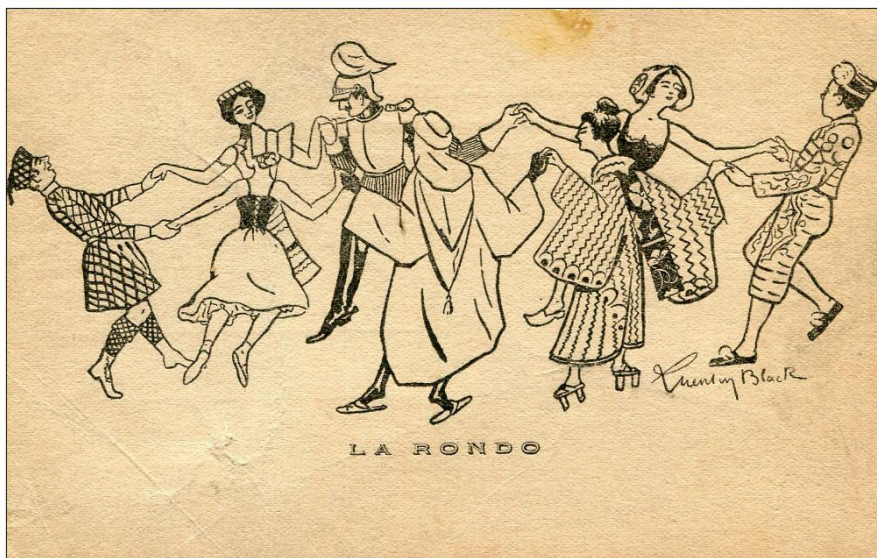
The details of the AGM are on page 60.

Tony Allen

PIONEERS OF ESPERANTO in London, Westminster and Middlesex

by Bill Chapman, Non-member

The international auxiliary language Esperanto was first published in 1887 by an idealistic Jew living in Poland, Dr ZAMENHOF (1859-1917) and its first adepts lived in the then Russian Empire, but it began to gain adherents in Great Britain from about 1900 onwards. 2017 will see the 130th anniversary of the language and a century since the death of its founder.



A postcard showing the idealistic nature of the young Esperanto movement

The names and addresses of over forty early speakers of Esperanto in London, Westminster & Middlesex, with their registration numbers are found scattered throughout the *Adresaro de Esperantistoj* (directory of Esperantists) between January 1902 and January 1909. All of the following are listed in Anglujo (England). Each individual is ascribed a unique number, which I do not reproduce here. Indeed, early users of the language frequently signed articles with that number alone, knowing that anyone wanting to contact them could easily find their address in the published *Adresaro*.

These listings contain occasional spelling errors because each individual filled in a pre-printed form in their own handwriting. I reproduce the addresses exactly as they appear. Here are the names of those London, Westminster and Middlesex pioneers of over a century ago:

Henry CROXFORD, 3, Baden Road, Hornsey, London, Anglujo
(Edition XXIII 1902-01-14 to 1903-01-14)

Wm. Forstir SKAVE, 8, Mosshall Grove, North Finchley, London, N., Anglujo
L. R. CONNOR, 4, The Parade, North Finchley London, N., Anglujo
G. N. CRABTREE, 21, Somerfield road, Finsbury Park, London, N., Anglujo
G. Douglass DONALDSON, 19, Ulisses road, West Hampstead, London, S. W.,
Anglujo
Lieut.-Colonel John POLLEN, 54, Parliament Str., Westminster, London, S. W.,
Anglujo
(Edition XXIV, 1903-01-14 to 1904-01-01)

S. E. BERRY, 14, Thorngate road, Paddington, W., Anglujo
G. FRECHEVILLE, Moreton's, Harrow-On-The-Hill, Middlesex. Anglujo
W. H. BARNES, 29, Hindes road, Harrow, Middlesex, Anglujo
S-ino [=Mrs] E. WALMSLEY, 25, Mannock road, Wood Grenn, London, Anglujo
E. SEXAUER, Kleins Hotel, 36. Finsbury Square, London, Anglujo
Joseph M. GAVIN, 65, South Hill Park, Hampstead, London. N. W., Anglujo
Harald CLEGG, 39, Constantine road, Hampstead, London, Anglujo
Captain Tristram C. S. SPEEDY, C/O Messrs Grindley et Co, Parliament str.,
Westminster, London, Anglujo
(Edition XXV 1904-01-01 to 1905-01-01)

E. TIPSON, 1, The Pavement, Baker Street, Enfield Town, Middlesex, Anglujo
J. W. LANDRIDGE, 88, Raynham, av., Edmonton, London, N., Anglujo
Ewald LOHR, 1, Gloucester road, Queens road, Finsbury Park, LONDON N.,
Anglujo
Philip BUCK, 450, West green road, So Tottenham, LONDON N., Anglujo
S-ino [=Mrs] E. MÄRKEL, 35, Dunkan Terrace, Islington, London N., Anglujo
H. H. BERLANDINA, "Kingswear", 13. Kidderpore avenue, Hampstead, LONDON
N. W., Anglujo
V. CLEEVES, 38, Harley House, Marylebone road, Regent's Park, LONDON. N.,
Anglujo
H. B. MILES, 82, Savernake road, Hampstead, London N. W., Anglujo
(Edition XXVI, 1905-01-01 to 1906-01-01)

G. J. C. MARCHAND, "Orleans", Woodville Rd, New Barnet, Anglujo
 A. T. BUTLER, 97, Long Lane, East Finchley, London N. Anglujo
 Mary T. PILTER, Welbeck Lodge, Torrington Park, N. Finchley, London N.,
 Anglujo
 F-ino [=Miss] L. F. SHADWELL, 16, Coleridge Road, Finsbury Park, London N.,
 Anglujo
 F-ino [=Miss] Mabel Annie HOSKING, 71, Beresford Rd Hornsey, London N.,
 Anglujo,
 H. LUYKEN, 23, Arcadian Gardens, Wood Green London N. Anglujo
 F-ino [=Miss] R. C. THOMAS, St-Anns, Redington Rd, Hampstead, LONDON N.
 W., Anglujo
 Charles H. SATTERLEY (instruisto) [=schoolteacher], "Mustapha", Pinner Road,
 HARROW, Anglujo.
 (Edition XXVII, 1906-01-01 to 1907-01-01)

H. E. DUPRÉ, Bruce Cottage, Somerset Road East, New Barnet (London), Anglujo,
 J. L. NOBLE, Wilmington, Friern Barnet Road, London N., Anglujo
 F-ino [=Miss] Ada SPALDING, 1, Beaufort Villas, London Road, Enfield
 J. SCHOLLICK, Waveney, Macdonald Rd, New Southgate, Anglujo
 John G. SIMPSON, 31, Carlton Road, New Southgate, London, Anglujo
 F-ino [=Miss] B. TURNBULL, Myra Lodge, 39, King Henrys Road, Hampstead,
 London N. W., Anglujo
 Jas. C. WILSON, 31, Vaughan Terrace, Vaughan Road, Harrow, Anglujo
 (Edition XXVIII, 1907-01-01 to 1908-01-01)

T. Norman BROWETT, 579, Finchley Rd, Hampstead, London. Anglujo
 D. CRISPIN, "Reno" Potters Road, New Barnet, London, Anglujo
 G. KIRBY, 47, Hillfield Road, West Hampstead, N. W., London, Anglujo
 A. G. KEEN, "Birkdale" Kidderpore Avenue, Hampstead, London, Anglujo
 F-ino [=Miss] M. E. HULBERT, 23, Mackeson Road, Hampstead, London. Anglujo
 S-ino [=Mrs] Emma SPINK, 36. Lauhill, Paddington. Rd, London, W., Anglujo
 S. W. SPINK, 36. Lauhill, Paddington. Rd, London W., Anglujo
 (Edition XXIX, 1908-01-01 to 1909-01-01)

After about 1908, there was no longer any need to 'sign up' to Esperanto, and large number of magazines catered for users of the language seeking contacts in other countries. Men outnumber the women in this list, perhaps unsurprisingly in the society of that time.

Not much is known to me about many of those listed, although some can be traced.

Tristram Charles Sawyer SPEEDY, also known as Captain Speedy (1836 – 1911) was a well-known English explorer and adventurer during the Victorian era. He appears as a hero in *Flashman on the March* (George MacDonald Fraser, 2005). At the time of the 1901 census he was living with his wife in Chelsea. He is noted as being ‘formerly of HM 81 Foot’.

Lieut.-Colonel John POLLEN (1855-1923), pictured, had a formidable career. He worked for most of his life for the Indian Civil Service. He was known as ‘Jahan Pahlān’ – a nourisher of the world – for his interest in the people he was responsible for. He was a keen linguist and developed an interest in Esperanto. He was one of the main forces behind the development of the language internationally serving President of the British Esperanto Association. He also learnt Persian and in 1915 made an acclaimed translation of the *The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayam* from Persian into English.



A Mr SEXAUER was the secretary of the British Esperanto association majo 1905 - julio 1906. Hermann SEXAUER was a German Esperantist who later emigrated to the United States

Jewish serviceman Herbert Hillel BERLANDINA was a temporary Captain when he won a Military Cross just before the end of the First World War.

Heinrich LUYKEN, an Englishman of German origin went on to write original literature in Esperanto. He was an Evangelical Christian, and all four

of his novels reflected this worldview; in each one of them the hero embraces heresy and is subsequently 'saved.' The names of the four works in question are: *Paŭlo Debenham* (Paul Debenham) published in 1912; *Mirinda Amo* (Wonderful Love) published in 1913; *Stranga Heredaĵo* (Strange Heritage); and *Pro Iŝtar* (For Ishtar). These works reveal considerable gifts of narrative and description.

Clearly those interested in the language came together from time to time. According to an inside cover of *The British Esperantist* magazine for 1913 there was an Esperanto Society in Harrow. Its secretary was BE LONG, 46 Roxboro' Road, Harrow.

Are there early minute books of the Harrow Esperanto Society's activities in existence? Did any of these enthusiasts pass on letters or postcards in the language to later generations?

Acknowledgement. I am grateful to my wife Patricia for her help in tracing a few of the individuals involved.

Bill Chapman, Email:
patbillchapman@gmail.com

On the right is an illustration of St John's gospel in Esperanto (published in 1912) so as to give readers an idea of what the language looks like.

Note: If you have any ancestral documents written in Esperanto, Bill would be most interested in hearing about them.



FINDING UNCLE JOCK

By Barbara Haswell, Member No. 4224

In pride of place on my mother's sitting room wall, there used to be a very large photo of her family. My grandfather was a regular soldier in the Middlesex Regiment and there he was, proudly sitting next to my grandmother and surrounded by ten children, with my mother being the baby on her mother's lap (see front cover). The photo was taken in Waterloo Barracks, Dublin in 1903. I grew up chanting all the names and learning about my aunts and uncles.

I drew my first family tree! Jack had died on 1 January 1892, age 2 years, of whooping cough. The eldest child was George and he was killed in action during WW1, on 19 July 1915. The other nine grew up, married and had children. The tree grew but one son had a question mark by him: Henry Frederick LOWEN, known to all as Jock. Nobody mentioned him, so he remained my unknown uncle for many years and sadly, I forgot about him.

These last few weeks, I have been sorting out my many old photo albums, scanning photos and putting them tidily in order in files and folders on my computer. A daunting job but I am so relieved that it is done! It also brought me back to the family photo and Jock. He is standing at the back of the group, looking rather glum and obviously had better things to do than be photographed with his sisters! I decided to find Jock and remove the question mark from my tree.

The Middlesex Regiment was in Ireland when Jock was born. Years ago, St Catherine's House in London had all the huge leather-bound volumes of births, deaths and marriages. In a side aisle, were the 'odd' volumes and here I had found a book of Army births. My grandfather was there and his children, listed below one another and giving their places of birth-Hounslow, Aldershot, Woolwich, Dublin, Buttevant, all towns where the Regiment had been stationed.

My mother had given me Jock's date of birth and I began my search for him in the GRO indexes. He was not there as he had been born in Ireland. I needed the Ireland Civil Register Indexes 1845-1958, which I found on Findmypast.

Although I could find the year, I could not see further details as I only had the UK subscription. Luckily familysearch.org has the Ireland indexes so I was able to see the details of Jock's registration and also that of my mother, who was born in Dublin in 1902.

Moving on, Jock was 12 years old in 1901 and he was living with his family and the Regiment, in the Tower of London. What a fantastic place to live! Aged 22 in 1911, Jock was in Aldershot, still with the Middlesex Regiment and he was an 'Officers Mess cook'.

After 1911, I could find no sign of him. There were no army service records and the medal cards of Henry LOWEN did not seem to 'fit'. He was not on the 1939 Index and although I found a marriage for 1926 in Kendall, Cumbria, I could not be sure it was his.

If all else fails, put the name into a search engine, e.g. Google. I did this and at the top of the list was a marriage notice from a Scottish newspaper in Kirkcudbrightshire. The Kendall marriage was correct and Jock had married a lady from Scotland. She was a farmer's daughter and I was then able to trace her family back through the census returns.

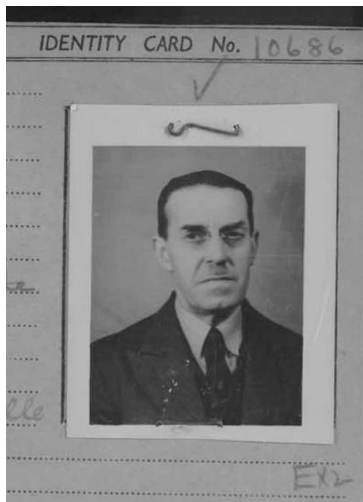
"04 October 1926

Henry Frederick Lowen and Margaret Lillias McGill: At St Mary's Church, Windermere, Henry, eldest son of Mr & Mrs Lowen, Mill Hill, Middlesex [sic], to Margaret, eldest daughter of Mr & Mrs McGill, Bankend, New Galloway"

I now had two names, Henry Frederick LOWEN and Margaret Lillias MCGILL. I put them both into Google and to my astonishment, there they both were. They were listed among records of the Jersey Heritage website-Archives and Collections Online.

Jersey Heritage has many archives from the period of German Occupation during the Second World War. They have now digitised over 30,000 German Occupation Registration Cards of islanders who lived in Jersey during the Occupation. Every islander was issued with an identity card and the German authorities kept a copy. These copies are now at the Jersey Archive. Searchable by name, the registration cards and Blue Registration forms may be downloaded to your computer for a small charge. The Registration Card costs £5 and the Blue form is £3.30.

Of course, I immediately ordered the cards and forms of Jock and his wife. Best of all, the Identity Cards included a photo. So I was able to see a photo of a grown up Uncle Jock. He still looks rather glum and stern but he has a real excuse this time as it must have been very hard living on an occupied island. He is described as a Chef, so cooking turned out to be his lifetime career.



Jock Lowen



Margaret Lillias Lowen

The Blue Registration Form gave more personal details: full name; address; date of birth and where born; occupation – CHEF; married; brown hair and blue eyes. It also listed that Jock had been a Private in the British Army from 14 February 1915 to 5 June 1919.

I eventually found their deaths in Scotland in the 1970s. They had been living near Margaret Lillias's old home so it is possible that after the war they went back to familiar territory. They had no children, so there are no descendants to find but I am happy that Jock is no longer a question mark.

I have also learned a couple of things: 1- Never give up looking. Records are being digitized and made available to us all the time. 2- File and back up photos regularly. It is a Herculean task if left for several years!

ACQUIRING & EXPLORING A FAMILY ALBUM

By Jan Sellers, Member No. 7964

In 1916, a major family row was triggered by an unexpected marriage: a row that had long-lasting consequences. My grandfather, Frederick John George WILSON (1890-1980), did not marry the young woman he was expected to marry, but instead chose my grandmother Lucy Rose KENTISH (1891-1969), returning from the war on leave to marry her at St Augustine's Church, Kilburn, by Bishop's Licence. Following the war, Frederick and Lucy had two daughters - my mother and aunt. My grandparents' marriage was so much disapproved of that a dismissive phrase about 'Lucy's girls' is remembered to this day amongst my cousins. It is not surprising that I knew little of my mother's relatives, until one day in 1997 when her cousin arrived on a visit from America, determined to meet as many family members as possible. Here began a new friendship and over the years, I got to know some of this extended family in the USA and the UK.

I discovered a shared passion for family history, and in 2016 was delighted to be offered the opportunity to take custody of a collection of old family photographs - the Wilson Family Album. This heavy, plain album contains 101 photographs, the majority unidentified and mostly dating (as I later found) from the late 1850s to the 1920s. Most are cartes de visite (calling cards), cabinet prints or portrait postcards, but the album includes other styles including a glass ambrotype and a tintype photograph. There is no handwriting in the album itself, but there are some loose pieces of paper with handwritten notes - definite or speculative - identifying about a quarter of the people shown in the album. In a family full of nicknames, these notes offered tantalising clues. On the first page, for example, who was 'Aunt Kitt'? There is no Kitt, Katherine or variations thereof that I can find in the 19th century family. And who was the frail child in the photograph of 'Great-grandfather and his sister Wilson?' The adult was my great-great-grandfather, John Henry WILSON (1829-1863) but I knew nothing of possible siblings: her identity is discussed below.

Some of these photographs were beautiful portraits, and keen to share these, I produced a facsimile album with copies sent to two cousins. Three steps

were involved (arrived at by trial and error, but produced in common-sense sequence here).

1. Giving each photograph a unique identification:

(a) Adding a pencilled number to the foot of each page of the album;
 (b) Giving each photograph its own number. For example, on page 2 (with space for four cartes de visite), these are numbered 2a - 2d. I did not actually write this into the album, not wanting to clutter it with my notes, but recorded the concept in a foreword for the facsimile album and in correspondence with cousins.

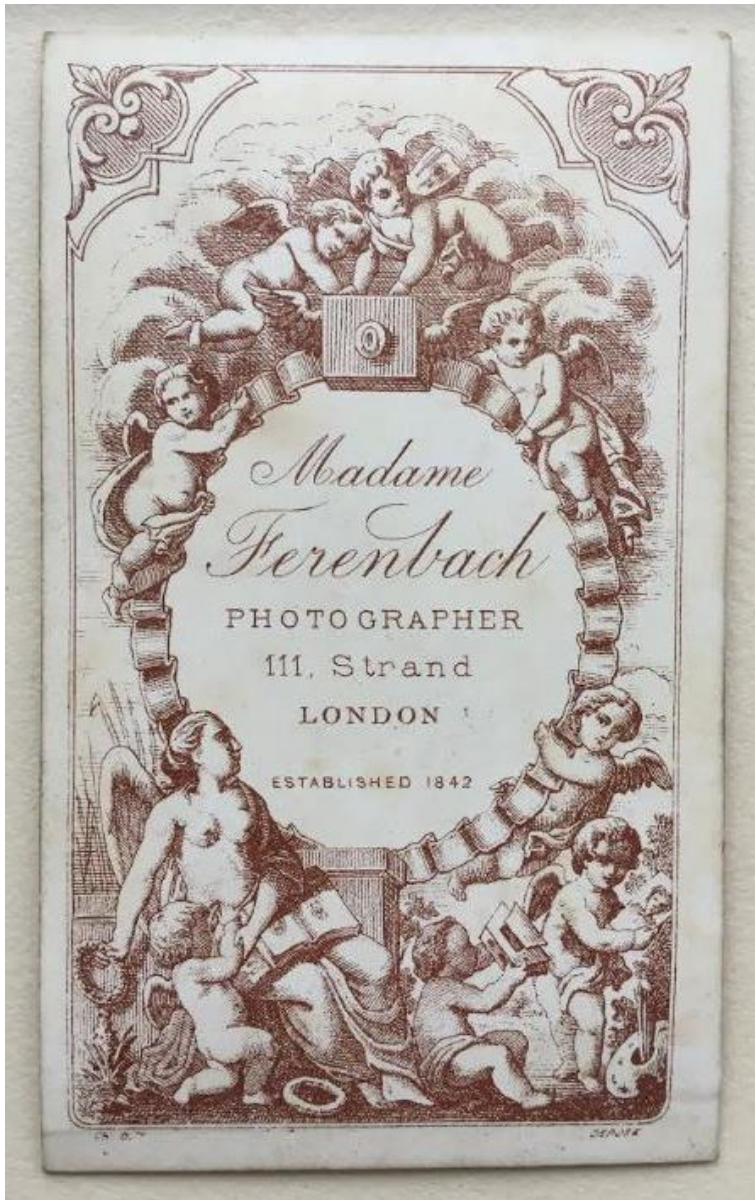
2. Photographing each page, just as it is in the album,

3. Where possible, gently removing each photograph from the album, photographing front and back and returning it to its place.

I then created an expanded version of the album using Photobox (though there are various other ways of doing this). I kept the sequence of images precise: left hand for the picture of the page in the album (e.g. page 2), right hand page also for page 2, using images of the full photographs (removed from album) and the reverse of each photograph.

This time-consuming process has given me a ready reference for the album, and greatly reduced the need for continued handling of the original documents, some of which are very fragile. The process has also revealed a considerable amount of previously hidden information: a few handwritten notes on the photographs, front or back (this was really exciting!), a couple of date stamps (for my great-grandparents' images) and on the reverse of the photographs, a glorious spread of Victorian and Edwardian photographic studio advertisements, almost all in central and north London. (See illustration over.)

Faced with an album full of unidentified relations, I turned to the Society of Genealogists and attended a one-day workshop led by portrait historian Jayne Shrimpton (whose books are listed below). As a birthday treat for myself, I subsequently commissioned her to scrutinise two of the photographs in greater detail, including the photograph of 'Great-grandfather and his sister Wilson.'



Carte de Visite from the studio of Madame Isabel Ferenbach (or Fehrenbach)

It transpires that these may well be father and daughter, rather than brother and sister. Here in brief is the story, beginning with another marriage and with facts I had already gathered. John Henry WILSON was a draper living in Clare Street, off Clare Market, in St Clement Danes just north of the Strand in London. In 1849 he married Isabella Mary SUMERFIELD (1827-98), and they worked together in the family business as draper and milliner. John died suddenly in 1863, aged only 34. By this date, Isabella had borne six children, but sadly, only two were to live to adulthood: my great-grandfather John Charles Frederick WILSON (1856-1932), and his brother Harry Arthur WILSON (1853-c.1910). The other children died between ages 0 and 10.

I learnt from Jayne Shrimpton's research that the carte de visite photograph may be a funeral commemoration for the oldest daughter, Isabella Elizabeth Mary WILSON (1850-60) and may even be a double commemoration, as John Henry WILSON died in 1863. The photograph, however, shows dress and style of the 1850s rather than the 1860s, and - in another twist - was taken in 1864 at the earliest, at the studio of Barry and Gilley, 404 Strand, London. In resolving this puzzle, it transpired that the photograph was in fact a copy of an earlier photograph, probably a glass ambrotype, taken c.1855-60. I am very grateful to Jayne Shrimpton for this discovery - a moving story that illuminates the family album from the very beginning.

Meanwhile, I have continued with my own research, based on the family album. Various books and websites proved invaluable in uncovering details about Victorian and Edwardian photographic studios, including dates when studios opened and closed (see sources, below). I have learnt about the huge popularity of cartes de visite, collected and swapped between friends. Recent discoveries in the album include two cartes de visite which are not family members at all, but are entertainers of the day (Colonel JH MAPLESON, a (latterly) profoundly deaf and very successful theatre impresario, and Jenny LEE, an actress famous for her poignant portrayal of Charles Dickens' crossing sweeper, the neglected child Jo from *Bleak House*). This helps to bring history to life as I imagine time for family outings and pleasure, as well as work and the complexities of family life.

Even with the hand-written clues, it is not necessarily clear who is who, but the details revealed by taking the photographs out of the album are proving

very helpful. For example, a page with a note identifying 'JCF WILSON and wife and two sons' holds four portrait postcards. The first two are my great-grandparents, John CF WILSON and his wife Alice BINKS (1858-1951);



dates stamped on the back, by the studio, give definitive dates in 1929 for these photographs. Beneath are two of their sons, in uniform (they also appear at about the same age, a little earlier in the album). Who was who? A shoulder badge - hidden till the photographs are out of the album - identified one of these two as a member of the Royal Flying Corps. I then found online military records showing the RFC service of my great-uncle, Claude Basil WILSON (1892-1961) as a mechanic who enlisted in 1915 (pictured left). The other son shown on that page can only be his older brother, my grandfather Frederick John George

WILSON (1890-1980) who enlisted in the Army in 1914 - just two years before his contentious marriage in 1916 to my grandmother Lucy KENTISH.

There is far more to discover through the challenges and delights of this album, but I hope this brief account gives some encouragement, and ideas of possibilities and practicalities, as well as the sense of adventure when exploring a family album full of unknown ancestors.

Postscript

The earliest Wilson record I have is the marriage of John Henry WILSON to Isabella SUMERFIELD in Strand, London, in the 2nd quarter of 1849. John was born in either Chelsea or Chancery Lane, the son of George WILSON, a sheriff's officer who I have been unable to trace. I would be glad of any information towards tracing the Wilsons further back in time.

Sources

www.ancestry.co.uk

www.findmypast.co.uk

www.photolondon.org.uk

www.photohistory-sussex.co.uk/USASTudiosHastings.htm (for an illustrated history of portrait postcards by USA Studios, London and Provinces)

Pritchard, Michael, *A Directory of London Photographers 1841 - 1908*, Watford: PhotoResearch

Shrimpton, Jayne (2011), *How to Get the Most from Family Pictures*, London: Society of Genealogists

Shrimpton, Jayne (2016), *Victorian Fashion*, Oxford: Shire.

The Morning Post, Thursday 30 January 1879**HAMPSTEAD**

Henry Stephens, of Avenue House, East-end-road, Finchley, a member of the Finchley Local Board, appeared in answer to a summons taken out by order of the Commissioners of Police, charging him with unlawfully driving a sleigh upon a public footway at Finchley.

Defendant said no-one was upon the path except the policeman some distance off talking to another man and he drove upon the path only so far as was necessary to pass some stones in the road, a distance certainly not exceeding 70 or 80 yards. As a member of the local board he was sincerely anxious that offences of the kind should be avoided, and he felt he was "very uncomfortable in being made the victim of the zealous but indiscriminate watchfulness of the policeman making the complaint". He would reserve his sleigh-driving for other localities. (Laughter.)

The constable said that Mr. Stephens went on the path twice after the time referred to.

The bench imposed a fine of 5s, and 8s costs, which were paid.

PRIVATE HOWARD LEWIS INGRAM Family Sought for WWI Medal Return

By Keith Griffiths, Non Member

A WWI medal was amongst my father's effects when he died. He was born in 1910, so was not in that war himself. He lived in Southampton, Hampshire, England. How he came to have that medal is unknown. The medal is the silver British War Medal and rim inscribed: 12/215. PTE. H. INGRAM. NZEF. An example of the medal can be seen here on the right.



With the help of Bruce Ralston, editor of *The New Zealand Genealogist* many facts have been established. Viz: this person was Howard Lewis INGRAM, who died at Gallipoli on 7 August 1915. Howard was

born in Fordingbridge, Hampshire, England on 24 August 1879. He worked as a male nurse and hospital cook for New Zealand Railways in Auckland before enlistment. His next-of-kin was his brother, Leonard Maured INGRAM, who lived at 25 Claremont Road, Cricklewood, London.

The medal set and pay were sent to Mrs Flora E INGRAM, a widow who lived at 37 Woodhurst Road, Acton, London, although she appears to have remarried as Flora E SINCLAIR and migrated to Chilliwack, British Columbia by 1923. From FreeBMD (<http://www.freebmd.org.uk/>) it appears that Howard's marriage was to Flora Ellen VEALE and registered in June 1896 at S. Stoneham, Southampton, England.

Howard's brother Leonard's birth was registered in June 1873 at Lewes, Sussex, England and his death in March 1928 aged 54 at Hendon, London, England. In September 1902 he either married Catherine Grace DONALD or Ada Beatrice OLIFFE at Hendon, London, England.

Unanswered questions: Did Howard have children? Did Leonard have children? Did Flora E Sinclair have children either in UK or Canada?

I would like to pass on the medal to family relatives. Any help would be appreciated.

You can contact me by email at: griffiths370@btinternet.com

Note: The 1881 census shows both Howard and Leonard at 16 Ferndale Road, Lambeth with their parents Ruskin J INGRAM (journalist, born 1841 in the City of London) and Catherine M (born 1844, Wroughton, Wiltshire) together with sister Annie K (born 1868 at New Cross, Kent) and brother John L (born 1872 in Swindon, Wiltshire). (NB The father is Jenkyn in all other records found.)

Leonard first married Jeanette Blanch WHISTON in 1893 in Portsea and had a son Leonard Lewarn INGRAM there in 1894 (who died as a tiny baby) followed by a daughter Nora Kathleen Whiston INGRAM 1897. By the 1911 census, Leonard Maudrell INGRAM is living at 2 Electric Parade, Seven Sisters Road, Islington with daughter Norah and new wife Catherine plus sons Donald aged 7 and Kenneth aged 20 months. This census shows it must have been Catherine Grace DONALD whom he married in 1902. His sons were both born in Islington, Donald Lewarne INGRAM in 1903 and Kenneth Leonard INGRAM in 1909.

Donald L INGRAM married Winifred E KING in 1931 in Paddington and appears in the 1939 Register at Hills Lane, Sevenoaks, Kent. He is stated to have been born on 30 Aug 1903, is an Office Manager and is with his wife Winifred E, born 24 Oct 1901 and his mother Catherine G, born 6 Dec 1875, widow. They don't appear to have any children at this point.

Kenneth L INGRAM married Helena WARD in 1938 in Brentford but nothing much can be found of them after that.
Can any reader help?

LONDON WESTMINSTER AND MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2017

The following are the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Society held on 4 February 2017 in the Exchange Room, Guildhall Library, Aldermanbury London EC2

Our President, Michael Gandy, BA, FSG, took the chair and welcomed 30 members.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from:-Margaret Paine; Anne Biesty; Rosemary White; Barbara Haswell, Marjorie Bridges and Jackie Gemmell

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Minutes of the AGM held on 27 February 2016 were approved and signed.

MATTERS ARISING

Elizabeth Burling was congratulated on the success of the Facebook page with 618 'likes'. She explained that she puts items about London on the site, such as one about Hampstead Cemetery. Her aim is to promote our Society and Family History in general. In answer to a question she explained it is possible to click onto the site from our website without joining Facebook and is a way of finding cousins. It is also possible to have a private page.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman's Report was previously published in METROPOLITAN in December 2016.

Rosemary mentioned some of the fairs we will be attending during the year, including one for the London area, now that *Who Do You Think You Are? Live* has moved to the NEC. This will be at Sandown Park in September. The list will be published in METROPOLITAN and volunteers to help (especially those with cars) would be welcome. We will take some books and our expertise.

Lilian Gibbens asked how many members we now have. Sylvia said it was down to 455. Michael Gandy said that 20% non-renewal was to be expected, as people research ancestors in London for a while and then trace them back to other areas of the country. Lilian then asked if the downturn was due to digital journals, but no-one had contacted us about this.

Rosemary told the meeting that Wembley Branch had closed at the end of 2016 as Bill and Joan Pyemont felt it was time to retire and there had been no-one to take over.

Rosemary also informed the meeting that Barbara Haswell was stepping down as City Branch representative and that Pam Chambers would be taking over this role.

Lilian mentioned that Enfield Branch is having difficulty recruiting new members.

Our President suggested that Officers should retire after 3 years and have a rest with the option to be re-elected at a later date. This had been proposed by Tricia Sutton at the last Committee meeting as a matter for Any Other Business. Michael suggested this should be discussed further by the Executive Committee and a proposal published in the Journal before such a Constitutional change could be voted on at the next AGM.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's Report was previously published in METROPOLITAN in December 2016.

April reported that the Society no longer has a deficit. Although we are receiving less interest and we have written off our stock of books which shows as a cost, we are able to sell them off (which is a plus). There has been a reduction in printing and postage costs for the journal - down from £1000 to £800 per edition but the company has now changed hands.

April repeated her request that UK members would not use Paypal for paying subscriptions but pay by Standing Order, Bank Transfer or cheque.

THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

The annual accounts had previously been published in the December edition of METROPOLITAN.

They were adopted by the meeting nem.con.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

April Vesey was willing to continue as Treasurer.

Tricia Sutton had tendered her resignation as Secretary to the Executive Committee on 2 December having served since 2009. However it was too late to publish this information in the December journal. As no nominations for Secretary had been received she was willing to continue until the end of September, when a successor should be co-opted.

A nomination for Chairman had been received for Dr Anthony Allen. Michael Gandy asked Tony to tell the meeting a little about himself and also asked Rosemary, who had confirmed her willingness to stand, to say a few words. Once the candidates had spoken they left the room and the election was carried out by a show of hands. Tony Allen was elected by a small majority. Kay Dudman proposed a vote of thanks to Rosemary for all she has done for the Society.

ELECTION OF OTHER COMMITTEE MEMBERS (en bloc)

The following members were willing to serve on the Executive Committee

Sylvia Thompson Membership Secretary

Elaine Tyler Projects Co-ordinator

Rosemary Roome Chairman of Barnet Branch

Pam Chambers Representative for City Branch

Lilian Gibbens Chairman of Enfield Branch

Doreen Heywood Representative for Rayners Lane Branch

Barbara Haswell Members' Interests

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

The members of the Executive Committee were elected nem.con.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There being no other business our President closed the meeting at 4.15.

FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS



‘TIN TABERNACLES’

By Peter Todd, Member No. 7686

This dip into past times originated from a sally that I made into my late aunt’s husband’s ancestors in connection with an article that I wrote for METROPOLITAN a year or two ago concerning the MILLARD family. Before I start though I would like to tell you a little bit about my aunt and the role that she played in my childhood.

My aunt Liz, aka Elizabeth TODD (1880-1970) was the first of eight children born to my grandparents, Edward Henry TODD (1852-1911) and Elizabeth, formerly FOREY (1854-1927), who at the time were living in Johnson Street, St Pancras, London. My aunt’s brothers and a sister were born over the next fifteen years and included my father, Frank (1895-1952), who was the last child to be born. My aunt outlived her siblings and died of heart failure at the grand old age of 90 years, an achievement even for the 1970s.



Elizabeth TODD and Edward Thomas TASKER ca. 1901

On Christmas Day in 1902 my aunt married Edward Thomas TASKER (1876-1951) in Old St Pancras Church in London. They had two children, both girls. My Uncle Tom's last job, I recall, was as a commissionaire at the BBC's headquarters at the junction of Portland Place and Langham Place, Westminster, London.

You may have noticed that both my paternal grandparents died during the first half of the last century as did my father's brothers, my uncles. As a consequence the only relative on my father's side that I knew whilst growing up during WW2 was my aunt Liz, who fortunately for me (and also for my mother, who made much use of my aunt's sewing and needle work skills for repairing our clothes) lived with her husband and unmarried daughter across the road from us in Holloway, North London. I spent many an hour in my aunt's company as a child, listening to tales of yore, many I discovered much, much later had some element of truth. An example was the story about the foreign ancestor, who my aunt thought was named LOPEZ? In an earlier article of mine entitled 'Great Grandad's Bible' I mentioned that a great uncle of mine, John William TODD (1849-1889) had married a Charlotte GAWEN (1857-1936). Charlotte had been born in Baghdad, Iraq and was the daughter of Curtis GAWEN (1823-1879) a ship's carpenter and a Khatoon (known as Katherine) MENES (1837-1917). It was this last name, not 'LOPEZ' that my aunt had, I believe, tried to remember from her childhood. I also heard about my father's pranks, one being that as a young man and assisted by his brothers he had rigged up a 'crystal radio' with the aerial being formed from the iron frame of his mother's bed, much to her chagrin.

But I have digressed enough. For my titled theme I need to return to my Uncle Tom TASKER's great aunt, Juliet TASKER (1843-1915). Juliet was the last child to be born to James TASKER (1793-1859) and Elizabeth (1802-1881). James was a miller and both he and his wife had arrived in London before 1841 from Oxfordshire.

In the 1861 Census when Juliet would have been about 18 years old she was residing at 99 Euston Road with a Robert RICHARDSON (1806-1893). Robert was a 54 year old widower, who owned a business making nets and tents. The strange thing about this Census entry was that this Julia TASKER

was said to be aged 16 years, did not have an occupation and was referred to as 'the adopted daughter'. The other occupants of the premises were a 24 year old general servant and a 15 year old errand boy.

Robert RICHARDSON had been born in Newcastle-upon-Tyne and had moved to London prior to the 1841 Census wherein it had been noted that he was a net maker. By the 1851 Census, Robert was living at 21 Tonbridge Place in Marylebone; he was now 45 years old and married to twenty-five year old Mary Ann GILBERT (1826-1854 or 5). Mary Ann had been born in Launceston in Cornwall and she had married Robert locally in 1845. Robert appeared to have a successful business making nets and tents because this Census recorded that he was employing 24 men, 26 women and 4 boys. There were no children in the marital household only two female servants who were in their twenties.

You may be wondering where Juliet's widowed mother, Elizabeth was in 1861? I discovered that she was living with her only son, William Michael TASKER (1840-1904) who was a carpenter, in Percy Street, Camden Town, London. Juliet's older sisters were married.

My initial reaction when I discovered that Juliet did not appear to have any obvious family connection to the elderly Robert RICHARDSON was that she had found a 'sugar daddy'. As I looked further into Juliet's history I discovered that matters weren't quite that simple and I think the 'relationship' eventually benefited both parties in one way or another.

In July 1866 at Old St Pancras Church, 23 year old Juliet TASKER married 35 year old bachelor Samuel DYER (1831-1904). Samuel was born in Leeds to a Samuel and Mary DYER, both of whom had been born around the beginning of the 19th century. Samuel senior started his working life as a flax spinner and later became an agent for the sale of flax machinery.

The 1871 Census had Juliet, Samuel and their three year old son Richardson Gilderdale DYER (1867-) living at 107 Euston Road i.e. eight doors along from where Robert RICHARDSON, now 65 years old was still living with a housekeeper and a general servant, both of whom were in their early

twenties. Samuel DYER was described as an architect and a builder of iron churches.

The prefabrication of religious buildings such as churches, chapels and mission halls made from corrugated galvanised iron sheeting evolved from about 1850 onwards. The demand for these easily erected buildings was high both here and abroad (eg the British Empire) to meet the religious needs of the communities that were now rapidly expanding, with the arrival of the Industrial Revolution, in cities and towns around the Country. These 'made to measure' tabernacles were available for sale through catalogues and were easy to erect. When first introduced their cost was of the order of £4 (circa £400 today) per seating, this figure dwindled to about a £1 per seating towards the end of the century as competition between suppliers grew. (See illustration, left. of Braemar Avenue Baptist Church Hall, Wood Green.)



By 1881 Juliet and son Richardson had moved back to 99 Euston Road. Robert RICHARDSON now 75 years old was described as the grandfather of Richardson DYER. Samuel meanwhile was still residing at 107 Euston Road, the headquarters of his iron church fabrication business, as cited in the Post Office London (Commercial and Professional) Directory for 1882. It is possible that Juliet's presence at Robert's address might have been a temporary affair, because by the time that the 1891 Census was taken, Robert RICHARDSON and Samuel and Juliet DYER were back in the old marital home of 107 Euston Road looking after the 80+ year old self-appointed 'grandfather' who was said to be paralysed (had he suffered a stroke?). The old man died two years later in 1893 aged 87 years.

Since none of the Census records mention that Samuel had people working for him I believe that he was acting as a middleman and solely designed, procured and arranged construction of prefabricated buildings for his clients. This explanation is to some extent borne out by the 1901 Census, where Samuel, now seventy years old, and Juliet were the only residents occupying their new address at 103 Euston Road. Samuel was said to be a portable house builder working from home.

The couple's son, baptised Richardson (presumably after his unrelated 'grandfather') was last noted in online documents for the 15 October 1891 when he was 'paid-off' after a stint in the Royal Navy on board *HMS Bramble*, where he had been serving as a surveyor's assistant.

HMS Bramble was a small gunboat with a sailing rig to supplement its engine. It was launched from the Harland & Wolff's Belfast yard in 1886 and renamed *HMS Cockatrice* in 1896, then later sold in 1906. Richardson DYER, who would have been 24 years old in 1891, was only aboard this ship for three months before seemingly disappearing from the record books.

Samuel DYER died in 1904. The widow Juliet DYER (previously TASKER) was living on her own at 11 Wharton Street, West Central in 1911. She was working as an envelope folder. She died in 1915.

Sources:

Todd, Peter: The Millard Family: METROPOLITAN Vol.1 No. 1 pp.16-20

Todd, Peter: Great Grandad's Bible: METROPOLITAN Vol. 36 No.1 pp. 24-29

Induni, Liz: Tin Tabernacles @

www.buildingconservation.com/articles/tintabernacles.html

See also:

www.tintabernacles.com/

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

Bing.com-search 'tin tabernacles images'

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

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

Ancestry.co.uk

UNWANTED CERTIFICATES

The Society has received a kind donation of a great many copies of certificates relating to the surname IZOD, which is believed to have medieval French origins; a selection of them are detailed here. Please contact the Editors if you are interested in them.

Birth: Martha IZOD, born 20 January 1839 at 5 Hall Place, Kennington Lane, daughter of James IZOD, Auctioneer, and Hannah, formerly RICE.

Birth: Frederick George TINNEY, born 9 August 1839 at 17 Huntley Street, Tottenham, the son of Frederick George TINNEY, Professor of Music, and Elizabeth Frances, formerly GEDDES.

Birth: Henry IZOD, born 1845 at Old Artillery Ground, Whitechapel, son of Robert IZOD, Greengrocer and Mary, formerly [not sure – you could have a go if this is your family, there is much more information but it is extremely difficult to read!]

Birth: Mary STENNER, born 5 July 1839 at 7 Gaywood Street, London Road, St George the Martyr, daughter of Thomas STENNER, Cabinet maker, and Ann, formerly BLACKMAN.

Birth: James Henry IZOD, born 15 October 1842 at 18 Memel Street, St Luke, Middlesex, son of James Henry IZOD, jeweller, and Amy, formerly THWAITES.

Birth: George Thomas IZOD, born 21 January 1844 at 18 Memel Street, St Luke, Middlesex, son of James Henry IZOD, joiner, and Amy, formerly THWAITES.

Marriage: John Thomas IZOD, bachelor of full age, Grocer of Borough, son of Thomas Ebenezer IZOD, married Margaret RUSSELL, spinster of full age of Old Kent Road, daughter of William RUSSELL, at St George the Martyr, Southwark on 22 September 1846.

Marriage: George IZOD, bachelor aged 30, Picture restorer of Marylebone, son of Edwin William IZOD married Annie PRESTON, spinster aged 25 also of Marylebone, daughter of Amos PRESTON, at the Marylebone Register Office on 23 July 1898.

Marriage: William GODFREY, bachelor of full age, Gardener of Roupell Street, son of George GODFREY married Elizabeth STONE, spinster of full age, also of Roupell Street, daughter of Jabez STONE, at St John, Waterloo, Surrey on 10 January 1847.

Marriage: Edward IZOD, bachelor of full age, Tailor of York Street, son of Edward IZOD married Louisa DILLEY, spinster of full age of Brandon Street, daughter of George DILLEY, at St Peter, Walworth, Surrey, on 7 September 1846.

Marriage: Francis Thomas IZOD, bachelor of full age, Hearth rug maker of Cornbury Street, son of Robert IZOD married Eliza WOOD, a minor and a spinster, also of Cornbury Street, daughter of Richard WOOD, at St Mary, Newington, Surrey on 26 November 1846.

Marriage: James Robert IZOD, bachelor aged 26, Warehouse man of Nicholas Street, son of George Thomas IZOD, married Caroline Alice THORN, spinster aged 23, also of Nicholas Street, daughter of George THORN, at St John the Baptist, Hoxton on 23 January 1898.

Death: James IZOD, Commission agent, died aged 36 years on 7 June 1865 at St George's Hospital, St George Hanover Square.

Death: William Henry IZOD, son of William Henry IZOD, died aged 3 on 4 March 1861 at 3 South Street, Spitalfields.

Death: John IZOD, son of Joseph IZOD (deceased), died aged 3 years and 10 months on 17 January 1850 in Southwark.

Death: William IZOD, Labourer on the railway, died aged 61 on 2 September 1844 at 69 Harrow Road, Paddington.

WEBSITE NEWS

Churchyard Memorial Inscriptions

Many churchyards have been surveyed to record details of the gravestones before they deteriorate to illegibility. Those local surveys were probably done as labours of love, often by family history and local history societies. A good number were completed before the digital age and contain text typed on typewriters, or even handwritten records, of inscriptions which are now illegible on the stones themselves. Some FHS's publish booklets of their memorial inscription but many of these surveys were not officially published and are only known at a local level. The creator of this website believed that someone ought to make it their business to put together a list of churchyards where surveys have been carried out and ended up doing it themselves.

This website has two main section. One, called 'County and Area Societies' contains details of local FHS memorial inscriptions and how to access them. The other, called 'Church Lists' is an alphabetically arranged list of individual churches that have been surveyed and any monumental inscriptions that are available. The site is very easy to use and can be found here: <https://findthatmi.wordpress.com/>

20th Century London Objects

This is a partnership project between Museum of London, London Transport Museum, the Bishopsgate Institute, Brent Museum, Bromley Museum, Bruce Castle Museum, Geffrye Museum, Hampstead Museum, Horniman Museum, Jewish Museum, Museum of Domestic Design and Architecture, World Rugby Museum, Redbridge Museum and the Museum of Croydon. The project's aim is to make their collections more accessible by linking the objects in the collections with the broader history of London so the 1920s, for instance, features a General Strike photo, a contemporary London Underground poster and a knitted costume for a child from a magazine.

The content covers different types of objects: from Routemaster buses to architectural designs; from 1970s platform shoes to oral history recordings; from paintings and artworks to family photographs.

The themes are arranged by timeline, theme or place - just take your pick. It is an interesting way to while away a few hours finding out some background to your family tree or just reminiscing about times past!

This site can be found at: <http://www.20thcenturylondon.org.uk/>

Highgate Cemetery

The entire catalogue of burial records at Highgate Cemetery has gone public for the first time. Details of all 160,000 burials, which were carried out between 1839 and 2010, have now been made available via website Deceased Online, which is a central database of statutory burial and cremation registers for the UK and Republic of Ireland.

The Friends of Highgate Cemetery who manage the cemetery have worked with Deceased Online to prepare and digitise the records, which include digital scans of original registers, grave details indicating all those buried in each grave and location maps for almost all of the graves. Registered users can search free of charge and there are more advanced search tools for those willing to pay. Records cost between £1.50 and £5 to download and view. You can reach this website at: <http://www.deceasedonline.com>

Jewish Records

This organisation, affiliated with the Museum of Jewish Heritage, has a mission to preserve Jewish heritage by obtaining records and making them easily available online. These records are provided by a large volunteer community and there are currently over 20 million records available. Apart from surname searching, there is a gazetteer, a database of family trees, discussion groups, help for those new to family research and more. The website contains records from the whole world and can be found at: <http://www.jewishgen.org/JewishGen/>

Covent Garden Memories

This is a community website which aims to bring together people who have a connection with the area in order to record their memories, photos, stories, articles and comments about Covent Garden. There are already quite a few illustrated interviews with locals in the section 'People of Covent Garden', including 'Harry' who was the third generation of his family to trade at the market there - fascinating stuff!

Another page details the history of the area, with sections on the market, nearby slums, prostitution and the local theatres. The 'Gallery' contains images from the City of Westminster Archives. Whether you had ancestors in this area or not, it is an interesting site to visit, and can be found here: <http://www.coventgardenmemories.org.uk/>

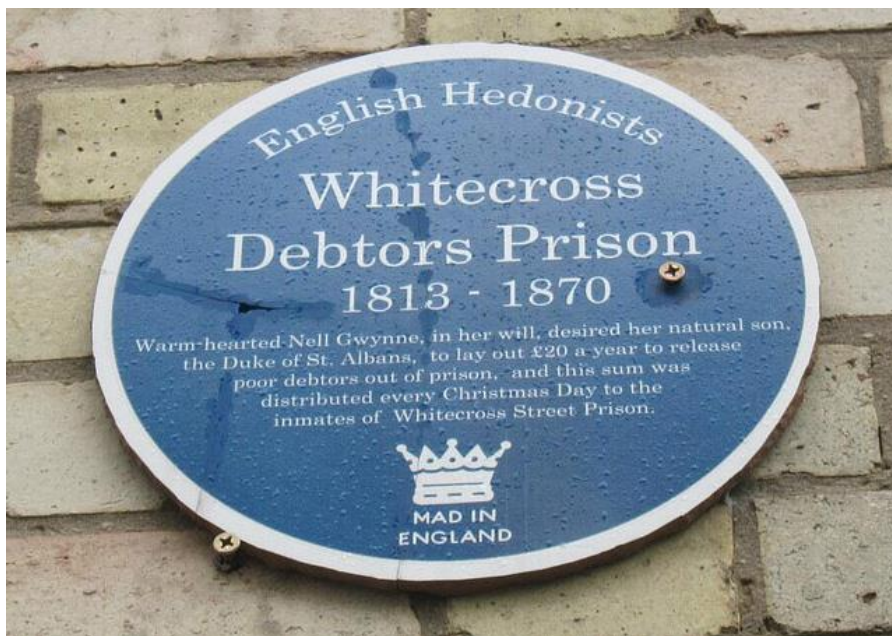
WHITECROSS - A FAMILY CONNECTION

by Sheila Clarke

My great great grandfather Henry William HEADLAND was born in Uxbridge in 1808, the second child of Thomas HEADLAND, a painter and glazier, and Christiana (née Atkinson), a seamstress from Holborn. The HEADLANDS were Non Conformists, and like his brother before him Henry William was baptised in the local Providence Independent Chapel. By 1815 the family had moved to central London and settled in Bird Street off Oxford Street, already one of the capital's busiest thoroughfares. In 1830 he appeared as witness at the wedding of a cousin, but apart from that, nothing is known of Henry William's early life until his own marriage. The bride was Ann Williams and the ceremony took place at St Mary's Church, Islington, in February 1833. Henry William Jnr (my great grandfather) was born that November and his sister Susanna two years later. The family seems to have led a somewhat peripatetic existence, moving between addresses in Holloway, St Pancras and Islington before settling there in York Place, Upper Street.

Henry William was a dyer and scourer - roughly the equivalent of today's dry cleaner - a job that was not only unpleasant but potentially hazardous. The danger from arsenic in green dye had yet to be recognised, harmful irritants were allowed to come into contact with the skin, and dust was inhaled on a regular basis in the generally toxic atmosphere of the workshop. As well as cleaning domestic items unable to be sent to the laundry, the scourer dealt with the treatment of wool in its raw state and the premises would have been easily identifiable by the pungent aroma of urine, used as both a cleanser for skins and a setting agent for colours. Donations from the public were actively encouraged by leaving out urine pots, with those placed near public houses proving the most successful. Some families took the economic route and did their own dyeing but the professional dyer could usually rely on a steady income from the need for black clothing during the extended mourning periods of the time. However, this was not enough to prevent Henry William from falling foul of his creditors and in 1839 he found himself incarcerated in that scourge of Victorian society, the Debtors' Prison.

The timing could not have been worse: the previous autumn had seen Ann die of consumption shortly after giving birth to her third child. A few weeks later her baby son was dead too. To compound his problems, Henry William was unable to raise the amount required to keep him out of gaol and so had no alternative but to surrender himself for sentencing. Charles DICKENS wrote extensively on imprisonment for debt. He knew only too well that earning a living could be a precarious business - taken out of school at twelve and forced to work in the blacking factory when his father was gaoled for owing £40, he never forgot how easy it was to fall from a position of respectability to one of destitution and despair. A debt of sixpence could mean a twenty day sentence, and unable to provide for themselves in the outside world, entire families would often join the unfortunate member as he served his time. Tradesmen were generally permitted to continue their work and a market-place atmosphere, along with its accompanying social hierarchies, existed in most gaols. Nevertheless, debt was considered to be extremely serious and the penalties were designed to emphasise this.



Henry William was fortunate to be a prisoner in Whitecross and not the notorious Newgate gaol, the destination for offenders of all kinds until public pressure resulted in the provision of institutions solely for debtors. Prisons then were privately run and the conditions in Newgate were appalling - dirty and dismal, with a lack of even basic sanitation, passers-by would hold their noses to protect themselves as epidemics flourished and doctors became increasingly reluctant to visit. Whitecross - also known as the Debtors' Prison for London and Middlesex - had been built in 1813 to ease the overcrowding in Newgate. Situated on the corner of Whitecross and Dufferin Street, it could accommodate five hundred and was considered well kept by Victorian standards. Governor Samuel BARRETT appears to have appreciated the plight of his charges and the importance of dealing with them as humanely as possible. Giving evidence for a report of 1840 he describes his approach - 'I judge of a person with his feelings by my own' - and a belief in the harmfulness of a punishment which caused many families to 'suffer very severely,' only for the prisoner to emerge 'less fit for occupation in the world.'

Emphasising the length of time some spent trying to secure their release, (four or five years was not unusual) he told of one inmate who had languished for nine - 'but she was obstinate, and her own prisoner.' His attitude seems to have borne results - the Governor's Report of 1836 shows that despite dealing with 2,520 prisoners in the course of the year, conduct had been generally good, with less occasion for punishment and only seven solitary confinements. The surgeon visited daily and had dealt with 201 cases of sickness and just 7 deaths. But the Press was at the vanguard of a movement for change and saw only a 'monstrous leviathan a temple of sorrow, poverty and guilt whose prisoners were more numerous enactments and regulations more severe accommodation more restricted society more mixed, than those of either the King's Bench, The Fleet, or The Marshalsea.' Written just a few years before Henry William's incarceration, it illustrates the shift in public opinion, but it would take the Debtor's Act of 1869 to abolish imprisonment for money owed. Meanwhile, my great great grandfather was unable to escape the inevitable and in the summer of 1839 entered the institution known euphemistically as 'Barrett's Hotel.'

The name was not entirely without foundation - some inmates did indeed pay for the privilege of staying there and all were required to buy themselves out. The prison was divided into sections: the Ludgate Side held debtors who were Freemen of the City of London, the London Side those who fell within the jurisdiction of the City, and the Middlesex Side inmates from various places throughout the county. There were separate wards for male and female and another for prisoners whose cases had passed through the Court of Requests - a small claims court abolished in 1846.

The wards were overseen by stewards, inmates regarded as trustworthy by the governor. These posts held considerable perks: every aspect of prison life had its price and there was money to be made from supplying basics such as candles, coal and sheets. Fees were collected on arrival, and inmates viewed with awe anyone who could afford to buy themselves a more comfortable existence - a privilege known as 'coming on horseback.' Once the 'gentlemen' had been separated from the 'riff-raff' congenial evenings were to be had by those lucky enough to be invited to the steward's table where they could remain smoking & drinking until midnight.

For the majority of prisoners the reality was somewhat different. Henry William's day would have begun early with a breakfast of coffee and dry toast. Exercise was from 6.00am to 9.45am. The papers arrived soon after, with the daily list of bankruptcies generally the first item turned to. Visitors were allowed from 9.00am, when hundreds of mostly women and children poured into the yard to spend time with their loved ones. At 12 noon the beer men from the public houses in Whitecross Street made their delivery - prisoners were allowed a pint of wine a day, an incongruity which must have made the situation at least a little more tolerable. Inmates were encouraged to provide their own food but for those who could not, there were generous benefactors whose names were displayed on a board in the yard. (One such benefactress was Nell Gwynn whose bequest enabled a regular supply of bread and the annual release of impoverished debtors - see illustration.) An 1836 report by Governor BARRETT lists details of the weekly food allowance provided by the authorities - six pounds and two ounces of bread and two pounds of meat a week at a cost of 1s 7d per head.

At 9.00pm the visitors left and the business of settling down for the night began. Each prisoner was allotted a bedstead, a mattress stuffed with straw, two blankets and a rug. Sheets could be purchased at a shilling for the first night and sixpence each night after. At 10.00pm there was an announcement to retire and a roll call before the prisoners retired to one of the large 'sleeping wards.' The night watchman then took up his post.

Henry William's sentence appears to have been relatively short - the 1841 census shows him back with his two surviving children in Chapel Street, now Chapel Market, home to not only his parents but also his extended family who no doubt helped in the day to day life of a single father struggling to earn a living. He would not remain single for long - the following year Caroline Easter REFFELL, a twenty one year old of Huguenot descent, became his second wife at St Giles, Bloomsbury.

The family moved to Seymour Street, Euston Square, and two daughters were born - Maria (1846) and Jane (1847) - before history repeated itself in a particularly cruel manner. In 1849 Caroline, pregnant with her third child, died of typhoid and puerperal fever leaving Henry William, now the father of four young children, widowed for the second time. One can only imagine the effect on the family, but worse was to come: as events followed a depressingly familiar pattern - loss of a spouse, followed by financial difficulties - in 1853 my great great grandfather found himself once again summoned to court to be charged as an insolvent debtor.

The governor's report for 1841 shows that the winter blanket allowance in Whitecross had been increased from two to three, but apart from that, Henry William would have noticed little difference. Despite a vociferous movement for change, a total of 2,880 prisoners had passed through the gaol during the previous twelve months - an increase of almost four hundred from five years earlier - at an estimated cost to the City of £9000. Increased social awareness had caused the likes of Chartist author George W M REYNOLDS to denounce the system as 'impolite, unwise, and cruel in the extreme' with its ability to 'ruin the honest man, and destroy the little remnant of good feeling in the heart of the callous one.' Debtors, he reminded his readers, committed no crime but 'may linger and languish - and starve in gaol.'

Meanwhile, their problems were exacerbated by lack of earnings and the plight of dependents.

It is not known how long Henry William spent in Whitecross on this occasion or the state of his fortunes in the years after his release - I imagine he picked up his trade and continued as a dyer, the occupation shown when he married for the third time in the Spring of 1859. Lucy Warren was thirty and a dyer's needlewoman, so it seems likely they met through work. The marriage took place at St Pancras Parish Chapel on April 17th. Six weeks later Henry William was dead. Today erysipelas is treatable with antibiotics but their discovery was more than fifty years away and Henry William had been suffering from the infection for a week before he died. The death certificate shows he was living south of the river at the time in New Street, Southwark. The informer was his daughter Susanna who gave her address as nearby Three Oak Lane.

My great great grandfather's life was probably not that unusual for a working class man of his time but by today's standards it looks like the stuff of melodrama. Repeated personal loss and financial difficulties, one last chance of happiness cruelly denied - nineteenth century London could be a harsh place. Working conditions, often unsavoury and dangerous, were tolerated as the threat of imprisonment and the spectre of the workhouse loomed for those falling by the wayside. Poor sanitation, widespread disease, and the grinding poverty endured by many set life expectancy for a male at just forty years. These were hard times, and there was much sadness in Henry William's life but I like to think this was not the whole picture and that there were happier times too for my unfortunate ancestor.

Footnote:

I had been aware for some time that Henry William's brother and son also spent time in Whitecross, but while researching this article I discovered that in 1793 my 4x-great grandfather Isaac HEADLAND was declared bankrupt and sent to the infamous Newgate Gaol.

Sources:

Illustration by kind permission of London Remembers - www.londonremembers.com

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OUT AND ABOUT

Have you ever been to a Family History Society's Open Day or a Family History Fair? At an Open Day one Society allows access to its records, promotes itself – its area, its structure, central or Branch meetings and their programmes, its publications, the benefits of membership – and there is usually a programme of talks, a Help Desk with experts to deal with research problems and queries about the area. Some other Family History Societies are invited to have 'stands' (actually tables) and some commercial organisations offering a variety of products will be present. A Family History Fair is usually a bigger event and brings together a collection of Family History Societies in an area, all advertising themselves individually, plus commercial companies again. Of course you may find a large event advertised as a Society Open Day *and* Family History Fair!

Whether events are held in Church halls, schools or the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham, they can provide opportunities to meet knowledgeable people from areas where you have an interest, without having to travel there to consult them. Hence, when we go to a Fair or Open Day those who come to our stand may be: members of our Society, living in or outside the area we cover; newcomers to family history or experienced researchers; attracted by the word London in our title but uncertain about what that means (the City of London? Greater London?); those with little knowledge of the London area, its history, administrative developments over the years, the records created in the process or where they may be found. Naturally those who help on our stand cannot know all about everything so we pool our knowledge and experience, refer particular problems to 'my colleague who knows more about that than I do', suggest putting a *Help!* request (free to members) in our journal METROPOLITAN and encourage people to join us: £12 wherever you live if you have your quarterly journal by electronic means; £15 for a paper copy in the UK, £20 overseas.

Our 2017 programme of visits began on Saturday 18 February at the Haringey Local History Fair, held at Bruce Castle, a 16th century manor house in Lordship Lane, Tottenham. There is a picture of our stand overleaf and you can see the display board, provided by our hosts, which enabled us to identify ourselves clearly to our stream of visitors. They did not have to

peer closely at the table to find out who we were! With no need to take our own display boards, which require a car-owner/driver, all the material for the stand was taken in a suitcase by public transport. Thanks to Eileen Bostle, Elizabeth Burling and Rosemary Roome for their help on the day.



Note that we will *not* have a stand at the WhoDoYouThinkYouAre? event from 6-8 April at the NEC in Birmingham. A few people may visit as individuals.

Our next visit is in July – the Buckinghamshire Family History Society Open Day in Aylesbury on Saturday 29 July.

Then off to the London Family History Fair on Sunday 24 September at Sandown Park Racecourse, Esher, Surrey.

The following weekend we will be at the Hertfordshire FHS Open Day at Woolmer Green, near Knebworth on Saturday 30 September.

On the 4 November the West Surrey Family History Fair and Open Day is at Woking Leisure Centre.

If you think you would like to help with our stand at any of these events, if you live near one of the venues perhaps, please let me know. By the end of the day you will have a sense of achievement through helping other enthusiasts, discovering that you know a bit more than you thought you did, and learning more yourself about our fascinating hobby.

If you are a car owner/driver and able to transport display boards etc (currently in Potters Bar, Herts) to any of these events then the Society would be more than grateful for your assistance.

I look forward to hearing from you!!

Rosemary A Roome

c/o 14 Chandos Way, Wellgarth Road, London NW11 7HF

Email: barnet@lwmfhs.org.uk

Please set out your *Help!* request as clearly and succinctly as possible. All surnames should be in CAPITALS. Members may have one free entry per journal. There is a £3 charge for each subsequent entry and for all entries from non-members. Don't forget to include your contact details and your membership number.



LOUISA GODFREY

My grandmother was Louisa GODFREY and she was 23 years old when she married my grandfather Charles WORTH on 2 February 1902 at the Register Office in Islington. He was 21 years of age, a bachelor, occupation glassblower, living at 5 Sheen Grove, Richmond Road. Louisa was a spinster, living at 69 Liverpool Road Buildings, Station Road. Her father was given as William GODFREY, a fruit salesman. On the 29 July 1902 Louisa and Charles had a daughter, Louisa Mary (aka Louisa Emily) WORTH, baptised 5 November 1902 at St Thomas, Islington. The family was living at 132 Cloudsley Road at this time.

On the 6 November 1903 my father, Charles Frederick Lionel, was born to Louisa and Charles, and now they were living at 148 Cloudsley Road, Islington. Sadly on the 15 May 1905 Louisa WORTH, my grandmother, aged only 27 years, died. They were living at 5 Quinn's Buildings, Popham Street, Islington at this time.

Louisa and Charles's daughter Louisa died in 1921 aged just 18 years old. Her home address at this time was 11 Tower Terrace, Wood Green.

My problem is I could never identify my grandmother Louisa GODFREY on a census before she married and she died before the 1911 census. I would really like to know how I can take my research from here. So far I have been unable to find a suitable Louisa GODFREY with a father named William, a fruit salesman. I realise the father and his occupation may be false. My family cannot give any further help, but it was thought she could have been Jewish. How can I find her parents' names if I cannot identify her well enough to obtain a birth certificate? Her year of birth is narrowed down to 1878.

Mrs Janet Watson, Member no. 7957

5 Uvedale Gardens, Needham Market, Suffolk IP6 8BA

Email: j.watson29@btinternet.com



Note: The 1901 census for 8 Goswell Terrace, Clerkenwell, shows Louisa GODFREY, widow and shirt ironer aged 48, and her family. There is daughter Louisa, also a shirt ironer who is 23, son William aged 21, a fruit seller and three little grandchildren surnamed Johnson, all born in Clerkenwell. This sounds promising! Perhaps William took on his father's trade?

Working backwards, the 1891 census finds Louisa at 133 Lever Street, Holborn. She is stated to be single and is a servant and shop assistant to the widowed head of the house, who is a greengrocer called John THARP. Louisa's children Esther aged 16, Louisa aged 14 and William aged 12 are with her, all also described as servants to John and all born in St Luke's.

In 1881, Louisa is a married head of household aged 29, a traveller (hawker) at 15 Baches Street, Shoreditch. With her are Esther aged 6, Louisa aged 4 (both born in Hoxton) and William aged 2, who was born in Islington.

This would seem to be the correct family, with Louisa junior hiding her illegitimacy by using her brother's details in place of a father.

Looking then for Louisa born circa 1877's certificate of birth, there is one born in the March quarter of 1876 in Holborn. By investigating backwards and forwards between FreeBMD and the new GRO indexes (see METROPOLITAN December 2016) it is possible to discover that the mother's maiden name was stated to be NEWMAN, which can be a Jewish name. However, brother William (born Holborn 1888)'s mother's maiden name is BROWN and possible Esthers, born Mile End Old Town in 1876 with a mother called CUTMORE or born Islington in 1875 with a mother named BOOTH cause doubts to appear as to Louisa senior's marital status.

Jewish BMD records can be investigated using the JewishGen UK database at: <http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/UK/>. A search for GODFREY brings up 129 matches. You have to register with them to access these records.

FORTHCOMING BRANCH MEETINGS

Barnet Branch – 7.30pm for 8.00pm

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

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| Thursday 16 March | Bring a photograph of your grandparent and tell us all about them. |
| Thursday 20 April | <i>Street Names of the West End and Soho</i>
by Rob Kayne |
| Thursday 18 May | <i>Lord Mayors and Liveries</i>
by Joe Studman |
| Thursday 15 June | <i>Mind the Gap</i>
by John Neal |

City Branch – 12 noon for 12.30pm

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

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| Thursday 30 March | <i>The B to Z of Street Furniture</i>
by Rob Kayne |
| Thursday 27 April | <i>A Bloomsbury Family's Letters, 1830-49</i>
by Mark Carroll |
| Thursday 25 May | <i>The Tottenham Outrage and Walthamstow Tram Chase</i>
by Geoff Barton |
| Thursday 29 June | <i>Elizabethan Islington</i>
by Jiff Bayliss |

Enfield Branch – 7.30pm for 8.00pm

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

Branch Contact: Lilian Gibbens, Email: enfield@lwmfhs.org.uk

- Wednesday 1 March *Historic Iron Churches*
by Marianne Zierau
- Wednesday 5 April *My Childhood in India*
by Denise Travers
- Wednesday 3 May *Enfield Local Studies Library and Archives*
by John Clark
- Wednesday 7 June *Alderman Thomas Sidney and Bowes Manor*
by Rachel McDonald

Rayners Lane Branch – 7.30pm for 8.00pm

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

Branch Contact: Tricia Sutton, Email: rayners_lane@lwmfhs.org.uk

- Friday 10 March *Harrow Convicts 1770-1870*
by Ken Griffin
- Friday 21 April *Sidetracked*
by Meryl Catty
NB this is the 3rd Friday, not the usual 2nd
- Friday 12 May *Brickwalls*
by Ian Waller
- Friday 9 June Members' Evening

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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.

FOCUS ON FACEBOOK

By Elizabeth Burling, Member No. 4992

We are quite often contacted by people looking for information about London places or ancestors. It is quite easy to point them in the right direction regarding places but people are another matter, and recently we have been sent two quite knotty problems. Perhaps you might be able to help solve these puzzles!

Victor contacted us on Facebook because last year he bought a Bible at auction. In it were two names, Charles Clarke BRON, born 15 August 1872 and Fanny Parish BRON, born 8 February 1812. There was also a hand-made silk bookmark with the name Elizabeth BERGERS embroidered on it. The Bible, which weighs about 8 kilos, was compiled by John KITTO and published in circa 1870.

BRON is quite a rare surname in the UK and neither name seems to appear in the GRO birth indexes or, indeed, in the censuses. Of course these people might have no connection with London but Victor is keen to return these things to their rightful owners and wondered if anyone at LWMFHS could help.

Faye in Australia also posted a puzzle on our page. She is hoping that someone can help her to find more about her Great Great Grandparents.

Elizabeth Agnes KING was born in 1857 in Brighton, Sussex. She married George DAVIS on 30 August 1885 at St Andrew, Camden. The couple lived in St Pancras in 1891 and 1901 and Elizabeth and the children are in Islington in 1911 but George is not with them.

Family rumour has it that George was murdered on a London Street but Faye can't find anything about this. Perhaps George died some other way, or left the country? Or maybe the couple divorced?

Elizabeth arrived in Fremantle, Australia in 1912 with her 2 daughters Ada Louise and Florence Mabel but whilst the girls are listed as DAVIS, Elizabeth is Mrs GALLOWAY. She died in Australia as GALLOWAY. There does not seem to be a record of an Elizabeth DAVIS marrying a Mr GALLOWAY in the GRO Indexes. So, who is this husband? Can anyone help unravel this mystery?

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

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.

