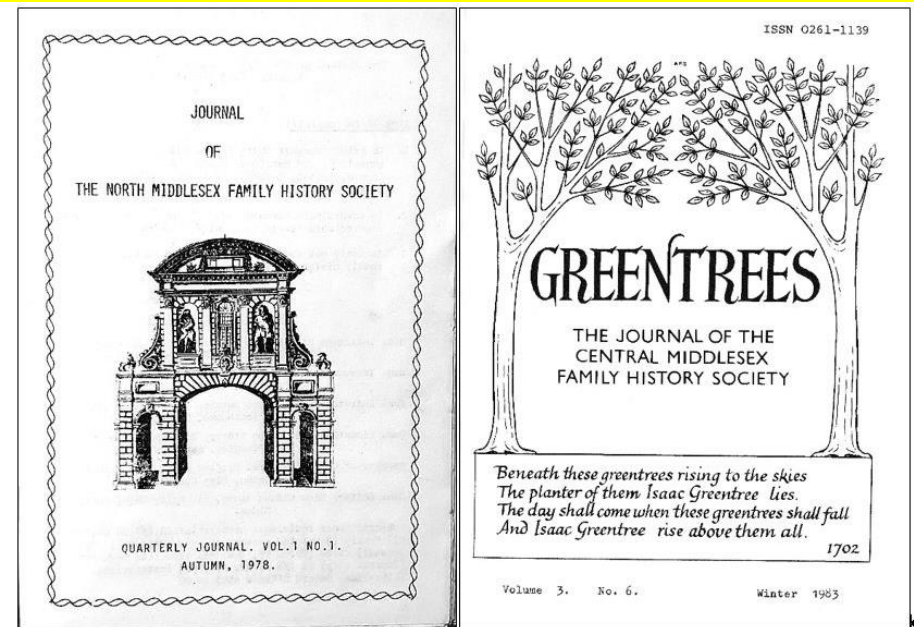


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# METROPOLITAN

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

***Subscription Renewal and GDPR Forms Enclosed***



**Volume 4 No. 3 (158)**

**June 2018**

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Cover picture: Journal covers of the early days.

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## GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) comes into force on the 25 May 2018 and is a new way of thinking about data, its storage and use. The Society holds data on your name, address, email and telephone number for the purposes of administration and distribution only. Data from members will not be given out to commercial enterprises.

We do in fact have a contractual relationship with you, whereby you pay your membership subscription to enable us to provide membership benefits, such as organising meetings and sending you our journal, *METROPOLITAN*.

The Society has to make sure that all personal data that we hold is stored securely, both the paper copies of membership renewal forms and those held electronically.

The new legislation requires each organisation to identify a Data Controller and Data Processors who are primarily responsible for ensuring good management and security of personal data in any format. As Chairman, I undertake the responsibility of the Data Controller. We are also required to identify Data Processors whose responsibility is to process the data and keep them secure - the Membership Secretary, the Mailing List Coordinator and the Webmaster will be our Data Processors.

Please complete the new membership renewal form, which includes your consent for us to use your data, and return it either by post or electronically as soon as possible, certainly before 1 August so that the September journal can be sent to you. We must have your consent to use your data. If the Society does not have your permission to use your address/email, then we are not allowed to deliver your journal to you and all your data would then have to be deleted from our system.

You have the right to contact us in future to find out what data we have on you and to update data as necessary, or to ask for data to be removed.

With kind regards  
Dr Tony Allen, Chairman.  
Chairman @lwmfhs.org.uk

## LWMFHS 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY PARTY!



at

The Foundling Museum

40 Brunswick Square, Bloomsbury, London WC1N 1AZ  
in the Studio Study, to the left of the front door in the above picture.

on

Saturday 14 July from 2-4.30 pm

All members welcome!

Refreshments, including a special anniversary cake, will be available.

There will be memorabilia to look at – if you have anything to contribute please either send a digital version of it to: [editors@lwmfhs.org.uk](mailto:editors@lwmfhs.org.uk) and/or bring it along on the day (prior notification would be helpful).

Members can also enjoy complimentary admission  
to the Foundling Museum on the day.

Come and help us celebrate the 40th anniversary  
of the setting up of our two founder societies.

## EDITORIAL

We have a variety of topics in this journal, ranging from two short contributions from some of our longest-standing members about the early days of the Society (see page 100) to an article by one of our newest members about her Rubery family (see page 94). There is information about your subscription and your renewal form, plus details of the new data regulation (GDPR). We expect that you will all have had communications from Banks and other Societies about GDPR and will now be familiar with Privacy Policies and Consent Forms! See the renewal form insert and the yellow pages.

Our Society will be 40 years old in July and we are having a party (see page 91). There has been much talk about the old days and how we researched our family history back in the 20th century. We wonder what will happen in the next 40 years? Will Family History Societies still exist? Will we all be sitting alone at a computer and typing away? We certainly hope that LWMFHS will continue to be a supportive community to all of our members!

One of our members wrote to us saying she would like to see an article about researching ancestors if you are adopted. Does anyone have experience of these records? Would you be able to write a report on what is available and the best way to go about finding a birth family?

### The Editorial Team

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

Copy dates are 1 February, 1 May, 1 August and 1 November.

Articles, letters, requests and comment should be sent to the Editors. Material in METROPOLITAN may not be reproduced in any form without first obtaining written permission from the Editors.

Contributors should indicate if copy is being distributed to other family history society journals or family history magazines.

The Editors reserve the right to edit contributions.

## CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

This is our Anniversary Year. The two societies that in 2001 joined together to form the LWMFHS were both formed 40 years ago. These were the North Middlesex FHS (that later became the London and North Middlesex FHS) and the Central Middlesex FHS (that later became the Westminster and Central Middlesex FHS). So your committee has arranged a birthday party on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> July (more details on page 91). We have booked an interesting location in central London. This is the Foundling Museum in Brunswick Square. So, please come to enjoy our birthday cake and look around the museum.

The AGM of the society was held on 3 March at Wesley's Chapel, City Road. It was a difficult weekend for travel, due to the snowfall in the days before but both our speakers and a reasonable number of members managed to get there. In the morning, we enjoyed an interesting talk by Ian Waller on *20<sup>th</sup> Century Research*. And in the afternoon our President, Michael Gandy spoke on *Recent Developments in Tracing London Ancestry*.

Elsewhere in the Journal we have explained about the General Data Protection Regulation and how it affects the society (see page 90). All that members have to do is fill in and send back the new membership renewal form, (which is in the centre of this journal).

Best wishes for the summer.

**Tony Allen**



***London Daily Chronicle and Clerkenwell News, Friday 9 June 1871***

A record of the names on the gravestones removed by the Midland Railway Company in passing through Old St Pancras churchyard, is about to be made, and the register placed in the custody of the vicar of Old St Pancras for reference.

## THE RUBERY FAMILY OF LONDON

Grace Rubery, Member No. 8049

Fifty four years ago, in Ilford I met John RUBERY (4), to whom I have been married for fifty three years. When I first met his father, Harry (Harold), my father-in-law to be, he had a mouth full of tacks and a hammer in his hand; he was reupholstering an armchair. Harry told me that the family had been upholsterers for generations and that his grandmother used to drive a pony and trap around the East End of London giving out and collecting chairs for



Harold Rubery at work in the 1950s

women who would sit on their doorsteps weaving the seats with cane. Some generations ago there were two main groups of the RUBERY family, one in London and one in Birmingham, with isolated pockets in other parts of the country, and with the help of the RUBERY One Name Society (RONS), I traced the RUBERY family back through the generations. The earliest definite connection I can make

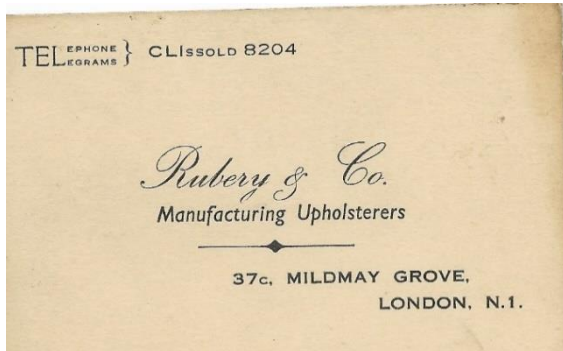
is to John RUBERY (1), a ‘widower, of the Parish of St John Clerkenwell in the County of Middlesex’ who married ‘Sarah FOSSET, spinster’ of the Parish of St Stephen, Coleman Street, City of London on 26 March 1758.

In compiling a data base of all the RUBERY names I could find using ‘Find My Past’ and ‘Ancestry’ I came across some other references to the family in parish and court records, wills and trade directories. For example, in 1633 in St Mary Abbots, Kensington, a John RUBERY married Katherine ANSELL, and in 1650, John, son of Robertt RUBERRY [sic] was baptised at St Luke’s Chelsea. In 1654 Thomas RUBERY is recorded as paying rates both for the army and for Poor Law and Parish Administration in the Parish of St Margaret Westminster. In 1667 John RUBBERY and Mary KENDALL were wed at St James Clerkenwell and in 1669 a daughter of John RUBEREY was baptised at the Church of St George the Martyr, Southwark.



There are many others with variations of the surname scattered through the records.

I found the will and probate for Thomas RUBERY, written in 1749 and proven the same year particularly interesting. His address is given as Brompton, Kensington, Middlesex and his occupation as ‘husbandman’. He states that he leaves an allowance for his father, William, and, as he has already settled his farm on his son James, he leaves the rest of his property including livestock to be equally divided between James and his other son, Charles after the death of his ‘dearest wife, Mary.’ It is noted at the end of the probate document that Mary died in 1752. I also noted that in 1750 a Charles RUBERY married Elizabeth CLARK in the Church of St George, Hanover Square, Westminster and their daughter, also Elizabeth, was baptised there in 1751. I also found baptism records I believe to be connected to my husband’s ancestors in Spitalfields, where two Joseph RUBERY, sons of a butcher, Walter (a name which was passed down through the generations) and Joanne, was baptised at Christ Church in 1754 and 1763.



Rubery & Co business card

The marriage of John (1) to Sarah is the earliest evidence I can definitely connect with our RUBERY family but there is a chance that he might be connected to the RUBERY family at Mortlake. John and Sarah had at least seven children, the eldest being John (2) baptised in 1759 at St John the Baptist, Clerkenwell. John (2) married Alice NETTLEFOLD in 1780 at St Luke, Finsbury Park and together they had baptisms of four children recorded. When widowed, John (2) married Sarah TAYLOR in 1798 of the Parish of St Botolph, Bishopsgate at the Church of St Matthew, Bethnal Green; that marriage produced John (3) born in 1804. John (2) died in 1829 and was buried at St Dunstan, Stepney. His will, describing him as ‘Gentleman’ leaving effects under £1,500, was administered by his son-in-

law, James TOPHAM. His will stated that he owned the copyhold and mortgages to numerous properties and mentions John RUBERY, chair carver.

John (3) was married firstly in 1825 at St Giles, Cripplegate to Susanna SMITH, having four children and secondly to Jane BUBB in 1840 at St Dunstan and All Saints, Stepney. John (3) died in 1873 and gave his occupation as 'carver'. John (3) and Jane are recorded as having eight children, their fifth child being George Robert from whom my husband is descended. George was baptised at St Leonard Shoreditch in 1846, his father giving his occupation as 'chair carver'. The 1841 Census records John (3) living with Jane and four children in St Leonards, Shoreditch, Middlesex. Probate records show that when John, cabinet maker of 147 and 249 Curtain Road, Shoreditch, died in 1873 he left Jane 'effects under £600' and when Jane died in 1898, George was left £1114 9s 7d.

In 1866 at St John, Bethnal Green, George married Pamela GROUT, and they had nine children, the third, Walter John being baptised in St John, Hackney in 1875. Walter gave his occupation in the various census as 'upholsterer'. In 1897 Walter married Amy WOOD; the marriage certificate shows that the marriage was 'solomnized in the Parish Church of Leytonstone, in the County of Essex'. They had three sons and a daughter, my father-in-law, Harold RUBERY, born in 1902, being the second. In the Census of 1911 Walter John, upholsterer, Amy and their three elder children were living at 59

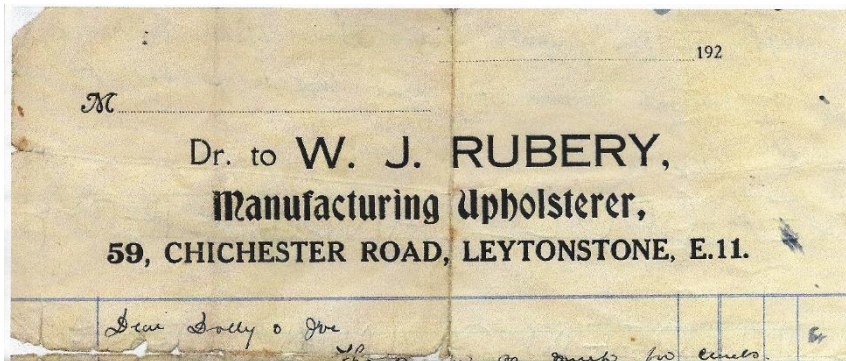


Walter John Rubery

Chichester Road, Cann Hall. After the death of George in 1911, Trade Directories show that Pamela carried on the business herself at 374 High Road, Leytonstone until her death in 1918.

Harry, Harold Benson RUBERY, upholsterer, and Frances May CHAMBERS were married in 1929 at St John, Leytonstone. At first Harry's upholstery business did well and he designed and produced a rocking club chair which was sold by some of the top London furnishers. However, at the outbreak of WW2 Harold was classed as directed labour and set to work as a carpenter in South Wales repairing bomb damaged houses. His business suffered and *The Times* records that he was declared bankrupt in 1940 in the same month as my husband, John (4) was born. Frances died in 1952. Harry's second marriage was to Edna SQUIRES in 1956. Edna died in 1972 and Harry in 1976. John (4) does have some upholstery skills but became a teacher.

Obviously my records are all taken from on-line sources as I am now too disabled to travel to the original sources, but the stories uncovered fascinate me. (I have come to many brick walls as my own family have been inbreeding in South Somerset since the sixteenth century!) The RUBERY Family Tree is now well researched and very large, thanks to the RONS, and we await with excitement for the results of a DNA test taken by John (4), which will show the male line of the family and as members of the Birmingham RUBERY family have also taken the test we might find a connection. I look forward to any advice, help, corrections and new information which I might gain through my new membership of the London, Westminster and Middlesex Family History Society.



Rubery Headed Paper

## **DATES FOR FAMILY HISTORIANS**

### **CIVIL REGISTRATION**

In the early 1800s Parliament came to see the need for accurate records of people. The official registration of births, deaths and marriages began on:

1 July 1837, England and Wales

1 January 1855, Scotland

1 January 1864, Ireland

This also meant that every citizen would have legal certificates to prove the main events in their lives. At first registration was not enforced but in 1875 a penalty for non-registration was introduced.

The GRO, The General Register Office, is part of HM Passport Office and responsible for civil registration. It has maintained the national archive of all births, deaths and marriages since 1837.

The GRO now has online indexes of births (1837-1917) and deaths (1837-1957). Where possible the mother's maiden name is included in the online birth index and the death index includes the age at death (unlike the microfiches indexes). Marriages have not been digitised by the GRO.

### **Birth, Marriage and Death Indexes on microfiche**

The GRO published indexes of UK births, marriages and deaths on microfiche. Every record has a unique reference number.

Births - September 1837-2016

Marriages - September 1837-2015

Civil Partnerships - 2005-2015

Deaths September - 1837-2015

The sets of microfiche are available to search at the following seven places: Library of Birmingham; Bridgend Local and Family History Centre; City of Westminster Archives Centre; Manchester Central Library; Newcastle City Library; Plymouth Central Library and The British Library.

Subscription websites eg Ancestry, FindMyPast and The Genealogist have online indexes to search. FreeBMD and familysearch.org offer free online searches. All these indexes begin in mid1837 but end around 2006.

**Birth Indexes: September quarter 1911** onward shows the mother's maiden name.

**Marriage Indexes: March quarter 1912** onward shows the surname of the second person of the marriage plus the full name of the first person.

**Death Indexes:**

**September quarter 1837 to December quarter 1865** does not show the age at death.

**March quarter 1866 to March quarter 1969**, the age at death is shown.

**June quarter 1969** onwards, the date of birth is shown.

The year is split into quarters:

March or 1<sup>st</sup> quarter for events registered in January, February and March.

June or 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter for events in April, May and June.

September or 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter for events in July, August and September.

December or 4<sup>th</sup> quarter for events in October, November and December.

**From 1984** there are no quarters and indexes are arranged in an annual A-Z surname list.

## **WILLS**

There is an online search service for finding a will.

See: [www.probaterearch.service.gov.uk](http://www.probaterearch.service.gov.uk)

Wills and Probate 1858 -1996

Wills and Probate 1996 to present

Soldiers Wills

The National Archives, Kew has information about Administrations or Wills before 1858.

## THE EARLY DAYS

The Federation of Family History Societies did not have groups in London in the spring of 1978 but by the end of the year they did. Why I was asked to be involved I do not know; my family research was not progressing and I did not enjoy going to Somerset House and trying to find my HOWARD family ancestry. I found it very intimidating and using fiche machines for the census was even worse. Locally we had a very strong and active history group, 'Edmonton Hundred', who published their research regularly and had a very good Librarian in David Pam. Much to our amazement we soon had more members than them. Immediately we formed a committee to assess what needed to be done and looked forward to getting interesting speakers for our meetings.

Our committee consisted mostly of the people who were invited to the first Steering group meeting so we were all strangers but it was soon clear that I was the most inexperienced person there, so I became the Treasurer. We had a very good Magazine Editor in Glenda Jones. We swapped magazines with other FHS groups and took them to meetings. We started a Library and Bookstall.

At first we met in a room in Enfield Drill Hall. Two years later we went to a Church Hall in Lancaster Road and then on to St Paul's Church in Church Street, Enfield Town. There was such enthusiasm from members we started a projects group doing Monumental Inscriptions. A new group started in Barnet, which had an Underground link to Central London. It was also suggested that a courier service to London's St Catherine's House was needed to get certificates for overseas and out of town members.

Sadly, in June 1980 while on holiday in France, my husband Harry FB Moore died and my ties to the Society and FH were slowly broken as my life changed. Harry was the secretary of the Enfield Town part of the Enfield Preservation Society and had supported me through my learning experience of being an Officer of a big organisation for the first time. I enjoyed being a part of the Society and meeting people and going to the Federation's yearly Conference was also a time to meet and greet many people and learn from them.

Now living in Kent near the sea for the last 15 years, I can enjoy continuing my research from home using CDs and the internet and even found time to produce a 56 page booklet last year 'Directory of Suffolk Millers 1086-1986' as I have found 3 of my families had Watermills in 3 different counties: the Keene family in Godalming, Surrey; the Smith family in Layham, Suffolk and the Russell family in Framfield, Sussex. I even found two female ancestors who married Royal Princes abroad. What more is there for me to learn? A great deal I should think if I can summon up the courage to ask the right questions!!

**Eileen Blythe (née Howard) Member No. 2**

**I**n the late 70s family history was expanding but there were still only a dozen or so family history societies and the FFHS (founded in 1974) set out to plant more.

London and Middlesex were a special problem and, rather than found a London FHS, the Federation decided to divide Middlesex into quarters: North Middlesex including the City of London, Central Middlesex including the City of Westminster, West Middlesex (almost totally rural) and East of London - not East London. The problem of South London was ducked by calling the relevant society East Surrey.

In 1978 the FFHS wrote to a number of local people who were already active and sent a general circular to people in the area who had just joined SoG. Thus the inaugural meeting at St Andrew's church hall, Enfield, on July 1 1978 brought together a roomful of enthusiasts. Chaired by Monica Carolan - a larger-than-life New Zealander - it set up a steering committee which found a very good room upstairs at the Enfield drill hall for the standard format - an evening meeting with a talk followed by questions, coffee and browsing the bookstall which got bigger and bigger as the FFHS, SoG and others began to produce a range of cheap booklets on How-To-Do-It.

We quickly founded a Barnet branch - another very successful meeting for local enthusiasts - but the majority of members always had ancestors in Islington, Clerkenwell and the City. Moreover most people who had 19th century ancestors in London traced them back to somewhere else so that very few of our members had local ancestry in the 1700s or 1600s. The societies in Birmingham, Liverpool and Manchester all found the same.

Everything was in place for the great deluge of new researchers who were inspired by the BBC series *Discovering Your Family History* presented by Gordon Honeycombe, a well-known newsreader at the time, and with an accompanying book by Don Steel. Episode One of the series was transmitted on Wednesday 21 March 1979 (early evening, I think). We had been going for less than a year but we were all ready to handle the great surge of interest.

As numbers rose we founded 2 new groups, one in Islington meeting in the library near Highbury Underground Station, very accessible for people outside the area, and another at the Guildhall. This was intended to be another of the many lunchtime activities for City workers but it was hard to pitch it right and it soon developed into a nice day out for people anywhere who had London ancestors but didn't live in our part of London - or simply preferred a daytime meeting.... Of course, the City branch still exists and still caters for both types of visitor, however, it now meets at Camden Local Studies and Archives.

**Mike Gandy, Member No. 38**

## **Buckinghamshire Family History Society OPEN DAY**

Saturday 28 July 2018 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](http://www.bucksfhs.org.uk)



## COUSIN JEAN

By Peter Todd, Member No. 7686

When I was a child I looked forward to going for afternoon tea with my mother's cousin, Jean and her family. The attraction wasn't just the tea, nice as it was but the prospect, particularly if it was a nice day, of exploring the large field and brook that ran at the back of their maisonette flat, which was in Hampstead Garden Suburb. This housing development was conceived by Henrietta BARNETT (née ROWLAND, 1851-1936), who in 1904, along with her husband Samuel purchased from Eton College 243 acres of land alongside the new Northern line extension to Golders Green in North London with a view to developing it as a model garden city along the lines of Ebenezer HOWARD's (1850-1928) Letchworth Garden City, where building had just started.

I discovered much later that 'Cousin Jean' namely Vera Jean WILSON (1919-1996) had married Frank John MOORE (1916-1983) in 1942 and the green area that I use to play in was part of the Dollis Valley Greenwalk and the shallow stream that was good for paddling in (or so it appeared at the time-however it seems these days the water quality is often quite poor) was known as Mutton Brook.

Mutton Brook rises in Cherry Tree Wood, Barnet and merges with Dollis Brook near Bridge Lane in Hendon to form the River Brent which then runs to the West of the North Circular Road to the vast Brent Reservoir (also known as the Welsh Harp Reservoir). Exiting the reservoir the Brent finally joins the River Thames in Old Brentford, upstream from Kew Bridge.

In those far off days I hadn't a clue about family inter-relationships. All I knew then was that Mum had been born in Faversham, Kent and that it was Cousin Jean's father, Mum's uncle, Will WILSON (whom I dimly recall) who was the connection with Faversham. Many years later I was able to piece together my mother's family history, coming across some interesting twists along the way.

According to the available online records, our WILSON line started with James WILSON (1806-1876) who was born in Beeston, Suffolk. He moved

to London in his late teens and married a Jane HOSKINS (1806-1871) on the 27 July 1828 at St Mary's Church, Whitechapel. James and Jane set up home in the ancient parish of Tottenham All Hallows, Middlesex. By the 1841 Census, the couple had brought five children into this world varying in age from 0 to 10 years, two of whom were sons. James was then working as a journeyman miller and brewer's servant. Over the next decade another boy and girl were born. The boy, Alfred WILSON (1845-1930) who was born on the 12 November at Waterloo Place, Tottenham, Middlesex eventually became my maternal great grandfather.

Alfred's name did not appear in the 1861 Census record for his father's household, neither could it be found elsewhere so it appeared that at the age of about fifteen years he had left home to make his own way in the world. This supposition was confirmed a decade later when in the 1871 Census Alfred was found to be living with his in-laws at 10 Limes Cottages, Faversham, Kent and had a wife and two young daughters. He was working as a porter on the railway. Incidentally, Faversham railway station was opened in 1858.

Alfred had married Eliza COLLINGWOOD (1847-1896) at St Marys Church, Faversham on 19 August 1866. Eliza, who had been born in Harwich, Essex was the third child of Robert COLLINGWOOD (1821-1882) and Mary Ann MILLER (1820-1896). Robert, who had been born in Clovelly in Devon, was the first of two sons in a large family made up mainly of daughters born to James COLLINGWOOD (1790-1871), a customs officer and Johanna BURT (1797-1875). Robert had married Mary Ann in Dovercourt, Tendring near Harwich where Robert, a seaman, had been working. The COLLINGWOODs had then moved to Faversham so that they could be closer to Robert's new job as a dredgerman working the waterway (Creek) between The Swale and the (ancient) Port of Faversham.

By 1881 a third daughter christened Ellen had appeared in the WILSON household who had by then moved to Chapel Street in Faversham. Alfred was now a foreman porter with the railway. There was also a boarder; Thomas J. HADDEN (~1845-) listed on the Census return. Thomas had been born in Harwich and was a brick maker by trade. He was also registered as deaf. I wondered at the time whether there was a connection with Eliza's

mother Mary Ann because when she married Robert COLLINGWOOD she had been the widow of a George HADDEN whom she had married in 1839 in the Parish of Dovercourt, Essex. An obvious explanation, going by the dates, was that Thomas was a child of this first marriage. However despite a number of attempts I have so far failed to solve this little mystery. Primarily because I have been unable to find any documentary evidence for either the birth of a Thomas HADDEN or for that matter the death of a George HADDEN in the Harwich area for the time frame in question. I have assumed, as far as Mary Ann's first husband George was concerned, he had died at sea, since the marriage certificate had noted that he, like Robert COLLINGWOOD had also been a mariner.

The daughter, Ellen Harriet WILSON (1873-1944) mentioned above was my maternal grandmother, that is she was my mother's mother. The 1891 Census saw the birth of another daughter, Ethel and the birth of two sons, William and Charles WILSON.

William Alfred WILSON (1882-1966) aka Uncle Will was born at 94 St John's Road, Faversham. My mother and her siblings were born in the same road but at a different number during the decade 1900-1910.

On 17 April 1911, at the Holy Trinity Church, Finchley, North London William Alfred WILSON married Alice Emma MONK (1883-1952). Alice had also been born in Faversham and one might surmise that since they had both been resident in Faversham in the 1901 Census record they may have decided to seek their fortunes in London after William had served his time as a trainee butcher in his home town. Interestingly, Alice's three brothers were working at the Cotton Powder Works around the same time that my maternal grandfather was working there. The couple's first child, William Leslie WILSON (1913-1918) was born in Addison Way, Golders Green, London.

On the 11 June 1916, at the age 33 years and 8 months William became a soldier in the Rifle Brigade. He served in France between 1916 and 1917, returning to the home front after being wounded. He was discharged in May of 1918. His son was to die in the November of that year from broncho-pneumonia at the tender age of five years.



Cousin Jean was born on the 1 October 1919 at the same Addison Way address and remained thereafter as the WILSON's only child. She died aged 77 years in the Royal Free Hospital, Camden, London in 1996.

Cousin Jean with her Mum ca 1921

**Sources:**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henrietta\\_Barnett](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henrietta_Barnett)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hampstead\\_Garden\\_Suburb](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hampstead_Garden_Suburb)

See: Talling, Paul @ <http://www.londonstroivers.com/river-brent.html>

Todd, Peter: Explosion at the Cotton Powder Works: METROPOLITAN Vol.36

No.4 pps.163-165

Ancestry.co.uk

## ISLINGTON

### **An introduction to the history and records of the parish**

By Elizabeth Burling, Member No. 4992

The London Borough of Islington was formed in 1965 from the metropolitan boroughs of Islington and Finsbury, which were in turn formed in 1900 from the original administrative districts known as 'parishes'. Islington was known for much of its existence as Isledon and it is an ancient parish in the county of Middlesex with origins in a 9th century Saxon settlement. The parish is surrounded by those of Hornsey, Stoke Newington, Hackney, Shoreditch, Old Street, Clerkenwell and St Pancras.

The name 'Islington', together with Barnsbury, Canonbury and Highbury – all place names familiar today in the parish - were recorded as belonging to separate manors in medieval times. Manors were landed estates which did not necessarily have to be confined to only one parish or area. Barnsbury Manor, for instance, also had land a couple of miles away at Holloway but other manors might hold lands much further afield. The records of manors occur as either court rolls (copies of all the transfers of property and land, by sale or inheritance, approved by the manorial court under the Lord of the Manor) or surveys. Documents relating to manors in the parish are mainly held at London Metropolitan Archives (LMA) although some records are at The National Archives (TNA).

These manors were scattered along the Great North Road which ran from Aldersgate in the City of London all the way to Scotland. This road corresponds to the current Upper Street and was maintained by tolls – there was a turnpike at Angel where travellers would pay a sum of money for this purpose. Further west, what is now Liverpool Road was a drovers' road upon which cattle were taken to the market at Smithfield. The Royal Agricultural Hall was built on Liverpool Road in 1862 to hold the annual Smithfield Show and it became the main exhibition site for London until the 20th century, also holding recitals and even the Royal Tournament. However, during World War II, the sorting office at Mount Pleasant requisitioned the building and it never reopened as a public space. Nevertheless, the main hall was subsequently incorporated into the Business Design Centre and can still be seen to this day.

The first record of the parish church - St Mary's - is from the 12th century, when it was held by the Canons of St Paul's Cathedral. The building was replaced in the 15th century and then again in the 1750s. During the Blitz a



St Mary's Church

bomb destroyed most of this church but it was rebuilt to a new design in the 1950s. Charles Wesley was curate in the 18th century and often preached at St Mary's, despite not being licensed to do so by the Bishop of London. This caused some controversy and in 1739 he left to join his brother John in field preaching. St Mary's church served the whole parish until 1814 when a chapel of ease was constructed, followed over time by 40 more churches to serve the rapidly expanding population.

The churchyard was enlarged in 1793 but was full by 1853 and closed for burials. It was subsequently laid out as a public garden in 1885. St Mary's parish registers are all held at LMA, with copies at the Society of Genealogists, at Islington Local History Centre (ILHC) and online at Ancestry UK.

However, the archives of St Mary contain much more than just births, banns, marriages and burials. The vestry was the hub of parochial administration right from its earliest days and very many other interesting documents are to be found there, for instance: details of pew rents from 1827; a plethora of information concerning the relief of the aged, the helpless, orphans and the poor dating from 1802-1878; and apprenticeship indentures from parochial schools dated 1765-1831 together with other material concerning children's education in Islington.

Islington is only a few miles north of the City and Londoners would come out to enjoy the rural fresh air. As a consequence, many public houses and other places of entertainment were built to serve these tourists. The *King's Head Tavern*, opposite St Mary's Church, has been on the same site since 1543. If you had publican ancestors, they would have needed to apply annually for a victualler's licence, which could be obtained from the Petty Sessions. Islington came under the Finsbury Division but unfortunately the archive at LMA only includes licenses for the year 1811.



The King's Head, Upper Street

Another way you could trace publican ancestors or indeed any other ancestors in business in Islington is through the trade directories. These typically contain an alphabetical list of different trades together with the names and addresses of people working in this field. ILHC has local directories from the early 19th century onwards, listing businesses and some residents' details. Most other archive centres (such as LMA and TNA) will also have collections of directories which might include Islington addresses. From 1880, telephone directories can also be useful. These are held in the BT Archive at Holborn Telephone Exchange but digitised copies of the phone books are available to view on Ancestry UK. If you wish to see the originals, the search room at BT Archives is usually open on Mondays and Tuesdays but you must book an appointment to visit. For more details visit their website at: <https://www.btplc.com/Thegroup/BTshistory/index.htm>

Islington has an unusual and very handy resource for those wishing to find an address in the area: *Streets with a Story: The Book of Islington*, which was written by Eric A Willats and was first published by Islington Local History Education Trust in 1986. A revised digital edition was published in 2017 by

Islington Heritage Service. This delightful and informative work is surely a must for anyone researching family who lived in Islington. It contains an alphabetical list of all streets, squares, places, terraces, tenements and blocks of flats both past and present. The history of these places is detailed where known, along with any road name changes and famous residents are noted. There is a link on the local history page of ILHC online.



Early Victorian housing in St Jude Street, Mildmay Grove

Water was important to the development of Islington. It was the availability of water from the many springs at the foot of the hill that Islington was on that made the area a good place to grow vegetables for the London market. However, by the 17th century, the City of London was running out of drinking water and Sir High MYDDELTON constructed a new waterway from the River Lea in Hertfordshire running right through the Islington area to Finsbury. This New River opened in 1613 and is still there, albeit now often covered over.

In 1820 the Regent's Canal was constructed to link the industrial North with the London docks at Limehouse. For much of its length in Islington, the canal travels through a tow-path-less 2,907ft (886m) tunnel, which is marked above ground by a series of pavement plaques, so that those walking along the canal can follow its path to the other entrance.





Regent's Canal and the back of houses on Noel Road

From the 1830s, however, the railways were constructed and they rather put paid to the canals as a major means of transport. By the early 20th century workers had started organising themselves into unions and Islington was represented by two branches of the National Union of Railwaymen, one at Barnsbury and one at Holloway. The General Register of the Union, dated 1913-1928, is to be found at the Modern Records Centre at the University of Warwick, Coventry, CV4 7AL, and online at FindMyPast.

If you would like to find out more about records relating to the ancient parish of Islington, our new Parish Guide (containing 80 pages of information) is out now! Booklets cost £6 each and can be purchased online from GENfair. Go to: <https://www.genfair.co.uk/> and then type 'parish guides' or 'Islington' into the search box. Post and packing costs to the UK are £1.90; to Europe £5.20 and to the rest of the world £6.80. For those not on the internet, you can write to the Editors at the address on the inside front cover of METROPOLITAN stating which booklet/s you would like and enclosing a sterling cheque made payable to LWMFHS, as per the GENfair costs. Copies are also available at fairs, our meetings and will be at our 40th anniversary party.

## GRANTLEY BERKELEY, WILLIAM MAGINN & THE CONSTABLE'S CLOSE SHAVE

by Sheila Clarke Member No. 7900

*“Like the dragon of Wantley  
The fire-breathing Grantley  
Flared up - then a challenge did pin;  
But of Glory soon shaven,  
Grantley Berkeley seemed \*craven,  
When shot at by Doctor Maginn!”*

The last literary duel to be fought in England took place in a field off the New Barnet Road on a fine summer's evening in 1836. Three rounds were fired without causing injury. Both parties then left without speaking a word. At least one of them considered himself lucky to have survived: William MAGINN, was a poet and journalist, a roistering Irishman with a brilliant brain (he had entered Trinity College, Dublin, aged ten) and a hearty dislike of aristocrats, especially if they also happened to write. His opponent, the Honourable George Charles Grantley Fitzhardinge BERKELEY (known as Grantley BERKELEY) was an MP and sportsman known to be an excellent shot. He was also an author, and it was his latest book, *Berkeley Towers*, that had led to the dispute. MAGINN had written a scathing review published anonymously in the popular *Fraser's Magazine* and BERKELEY was incensed. He confronted the editor James FRASER in his Regent Street office demanding to know the writer's identity and when FRASER refused, BERKELEY attacked him with a heavy horsewhip while his companions kept watch at the door. Had it not been for the intervention of a brave passer-by it seems likely the editor would have been killed. As it was, he suffered severe head injuries and died five years later, having never fully recovered. On hearing of the attack MAGINN immediately identified himself as the author of the review and the duel was arranged to settle the matter.

But what, you may wonder, has this to do with Family History? Enter the law, in the shape of my ancestor John BIRCH. Three years have passed since the infamous incident and BIRCH is a man on a mission. He has already had a busy morning when he leaves Uxbridge for London armed with a warrant for the arrest of Grantley BERKELEY and instructions to deliver him to

Hillingdon magistrates following the threat of yet another armed confrontation. This time it was a local landowner who had offended the MP. The Count de SALIS had been holding illegal cockfights but after a police raid in which all present, including BERKELEY, were arrested and charged, the Count was suspected of tipping off the authorities. Considering this to be un-gentlemanly behaviour, BERKELEY once again threw down the challenge but the magistrates got word of it and John BIRCH was sent to escort the Count home. After guarding his charge through the night, BIRCH accompanied him to Uxbridge where he was bound over to keep the peace. Now Grantley BERKELEY must to be dealt with in the same way - but first he had to be found and apprehended, and as the constable left for London he could have been forgiven for wondering what awaited him there.



The Fraserians by D. Maclise, 1835  
 William MAGINN stands with hands on the table.  
 Opposite him with one hand behind his back is editor James FRASER.

John BIRCH was the son on James BIRCH and his wife Harriett, née TRENLEY. The TRENLEYS were a Buckinghamshire family with strong links to the Capital - records show them in the Cripplegate area of the City as early as 1645 and in 1787 Harriet was 'of this parish' when she married at St Giles Church. The BIRCHes settled in Uxbridge where James had a tailor's shop and four children were born - Harriet Junior (1788), John (1789), William Henry (1790) and Ann (1791) - before their mother's death in 1792. Both John and William Henry followed their father into the tailoring business, but the brothers also had another string to their bow - each would serve as either headborough or constable for their local area of Uxbridge and Hillingdon.

The two roles were not quite the same: the post of headborough had originally involved responsibility for ten local houses but by the brothers' time it had evolved into that of constable's assistant. In 1829 John BIRCH was headborough when he succeeded in bring to trial two men accused of stealing 4lbs of sausages, value 2s, from the home of a local housewife. By 1829 he had graduated to constable for the arrest of prime suspect Benjamin TYLER in one of the most notorious murders of the time, that of Haddenham market gardener William 'Noble' EDDEN. Although there was no pay for being chosen to protect one's community, the new recruit was left in do doubt about the responsibilities he now bore - 'If a robbery or murder should be the consequence of your neglect, or even disorders of a less alarming nature, can you hope to be forgiven by God or men? Can you ever forgive yourselves?' However, he was able to claim for expenses. In addition, there were rewards for the successful apprehension and prosecution of wrongdoers. A case of burglary saw the constable presented with £40 and a ticket for Tyburn worth £10, while one of 'stealing from any shop, warehouse or stable (above 5s)' was deemed worthy of the Tyburn ticket alone. The constable worked hard for these occasional perks. Required to 'perambulate his ward ... once at least every twenty four hours,' he must be the look out for lawbreakers of all kinds. 'Rioters, robbers on the highway, rogues, vagabonds and night - walkers' were to be dealt with swiftly and sharply, as were 'furious persons, and lunatics wandering abroad.' 'Lewd women and bawdy houses' should be investigated, and 'the ruinous vice of drunkenness' discouraged, along with 'unlawful loitering at a public house for the purpose of tippling and drinking,' surely the main reason for a visit

in the first place. Swearing - 'which is a scandal to a Christian country' - was not to be tolerated under any circumstances. Punishment, it was felt, might succeed where 'the commands of the Supreme Being ... are too weak to effect' and the constable was warned that failure to haul the offender before the magistrate would mean a forfeit of 40s. Among the officer's many other duties was the collecting of taxes, the rounding up of those who failed to attend church, the provision of transport and accommodation for the military and the destruction of vermin. He was also authorised to read the riot act, attend executions, pillory and whipping and be available to assist the excise officers whenever necessary. Despite this most headboroughs and constables held another full-time job, although it is difficult to see how the Birch brothers would have found time to fit in much tailoring.

It was late afternoon when John BIRCH arrived in London. We know from his frequent appearances at the Old Bailey that he was no stranger to the City. He also had family there: in 1776 his mother's older sister Sarah (my 4xg/grandmother) had married Isaac HEADLAND, a carpenter, chapman and general dealer, at St George Hanover Square, and two of their four surviving children made their homes in London - Ann, b 1778, lived with husband Richard CASTELL in Chalton Street, St Pancras, while Thomas, b 1786, (my3xg/grandfather) married Christiana ATKINSON and settled in Chapel Street, now Chapel Market, Islington. Records show the families were close, and in 1787 ties were further strengthened by the marriage of John BIRCH's sister Harriet to Thomas HEADLAND's brother William. Thomas was just three years older than his cousin John: did the two meet when visiting the other's home town, perhaps sharing a drink in a tavern or coffee house as they caught up on gossip and family news? Like working men everywhere, they may have regaled each other with stories of their day to day lives - Thomas, a painter and glazier working in the heart of the City, and John, the country constable, whose duties could include anything from the arrest of a dangerous criminal to the piecing together of a carcass found at the home of suspected sheep stealer, the appropriately named Charles LAMB. Uxbridge was no backwater - in 1798 the Town's London Road was described as one of the busiest in the country and 1801 had seen the start of a daily barge service to Paddington - but it was not the Metropolis, with all the bustle and tumult of its overcrowded streets and the ever-present danger from crime and disease, and as he entered the West End to face Grantley

BERKELEY, John BIRCH could have been forgiven for wishing he was safely back home.

The MP, pictured below, appears to have been an appalling individual.



Violent and vain, (he described himself as ‘a handsome and powerful six-foot-two nobleman of chivalrous ways’) he operated on the shortest of fuses with little or no thought for the welfare of others. He had begun early by horsewhipping other children before progressing to outbursts of violence at the slightest excuse. Among his many victims was a servant unceremoniously dumped in the lake for not showing sufficient respect and a farmer viciously attacked when he objected to the hunt entering his barn, for which BERKELEY was fined £100. Each incident had been widely reported and it

was generally felt that only his influential standing and powerful friends had kept him from feeling the full force of the law.

I am grateful to the Honourable Gentleman for the account of his meeting with John BIRCH, including details of my ancestor’s appearance and demeanour. But more of that shortly. Who better to relate the events of that afternoon than Grantley BERKELEY himself? Here then is his version of their encounter:

‘It was the height of the London Season, and I was resident at Cox’s Hotel, in Jermyn Street. My favourite old charger, Beacon, had come to the door, and I was about to ride him to the park. My foot was in the stirrup, when a countrified-looking man, appearing as if ashamed of what he was doing, very respectfully pulled off his hat, and said he wished to speak to me.

Having some sort of idea that his appearance was familiar to me, I asked him whence he came, and what he wanted. He replied, “I come from Uxbridge, and have something particular to communicate.” “Well, what is it?” I demanded; “out with it, for I am in a hurry.” He then came close to my horse, as I had reached the saddle, and looking at the porters at the door, he said he

wished to speak to me in private. On this I dismounted, and took him into a vacant room. The upshot of his communication was, that he was a local constable, and the bearer of my commitment to the treadmill for one month, signed by Sir William Wiseman, in default of payment of the fine of five pounds inflicted on me for being present at a cockfight. The poor fellow looked like a ghost when he showed me the document, but looked excessively relieved when I burst out laughing, and said, "You don't suppose I'm going to the treadmill, do you?" I added, "Go and get yourself something to eat, I have no time to stop now, and when I come back from my ride in the park, I will give you further directions."

The man with alacrity obeyed, when, having written a sharp jubation to the Messrs. Clark & Co., in Craven Street, as to their culpable neglect in not appealing in time against the conviction, or at least taking care that the penalty was paid, I went into the park, and explained my position to the first lot of friends I met. It soon got all over the park. I can see now one beautiful face ..... looking at me in serio-comic wonder, and saying, "They tell me you are condemned to prison, but that you have tamed the constable, and got him shut up in your hotel; shall I ask Mamma to let us ride down and look at him?"

Many funny things were said to me on that day, and the applications to look at my constable were so numerous that I assured some of my fair friends I thought of killing him and having him stuffed, so that he could be perpetually seen at leisure. The ride in the park being over, I found that my solicitor had sent down the fine, acknowledging his forgetfulness, and the constable only tarried my return to thank me for a good dinner.'

And there we have it - a detailed account, straight from the horse's mouth, of the day my ancestor met the fearsome MP. Or is it? My research revealed that the Press gave a somewhat different version, which in the interests of even-handedness I include here below. I leave you to decide which might be the more accurate.

'The Count de Salis and the Hon. G. C. Grantley Berkeley, M.P. - duel prevented - Since the lengthened inquiry which took place before the magistrates at Uxbridge, on Monday, relative to the cock-fight at Hillingdon, and which terminated in the conviction of the Hon. Grantley Berkeley. M.P., the greatest excitement has prevailed throughout the neighbourhood of

Uxbridge, on consequence of a hostile meeting being expected between the Count de Salis and Mr. Berkeley. From enquiries we learn that about eleven o'clock, information having been laid before Sir William Wiseman, Bart., and Mr. T. Dagnall, that a correspondence, having a hostile object, was going on between the parties, they issued a warrant for the capture of the Count, which was placed in the hands of Birch, an active officer of the Town, who proceeded to the residence of the Count de Salis in Uxbridge, whom he took into custody as he was preparing to depart to London. Birch then conveyed him for safe custody to the Count's own residence in Hillingdon, where he remained with him during the night. On Tuesday morning at half-past nine o'clock, the Count was brought to Uxbridge, before the magistrates, when he bound over, himself in the sum of 1,000l., and two sureties in 500l. - each, to keep the peace towards Mr. Grantley Berkeley, &c. A warrant was then placed in the hands of Birch for the apprehension of Mr. Berkeley, for which purpose he proceeded to Berkeley-House, Cranford, but not finding him there he came on to Town, where he succeeded in capturing the Hon. Gentleman, shortly after six o'clock on Tuesday evening, as he was going to mount his horse, opposite Cox's Hotel, Jermyn-Street, St. James's. Having acquainted Mr. Berkeley with his business, Birch accompanied him into the hotel, when he told him he must convey him to Uxbridge, at which the Hon. Member remonstrated, and sent a communication to Sir Frederick Roe on the subject, who however could not be met with. Mr. Grantley Berkeley was subsequently bailed at Uxbridge.'

*Windsor and Eton Express.* 8 June 1839

So, two conflicting accounts of what happened that day - in the first, BERKELEY is the victim of his solicitor's incompetence over non-payment of a fine. A reasonable man, the MP is aware of the trepidation felt by the constable sent to arrest him and diffuses the situation with humour, before generously treating him to dinner in the hotel. There is no mention of an imminent duel with the Count. In the second, BERKELEY is taken into custody over the threat of a 'hostile meeting.' He makes an unsuccessful appeal for help from a Bow Street Official, before being escorted home to Uxbridge where he is bailed. Which version of events should we therefore believe? Most of us will have come across a Grantley BERKELEY at some time - self-serving in the extreme, with a sense of entitlement that allows them to tread roughshod over the feelings of others, they take pains to present



themselves in the most favourable of lights. On the other hand, the Press had for some time carried reports of public disquiet over the leniency of punishments handed down to the MP. Each incident had only served to increase his notoriety, with the attack on James FRASER attracting particular opprobrium, and in such a climate of hostility it is easy to imagine an editor rubbing his hands with glee at any new misdemeanour.

If we choose to give Grantley BERKELEY the benefit of the doubt it provides a satisfyingly traditional end to this tale: he gets to save face by being exonerated of everything except attending a cockfight, while Everyman, in the shape of John BIRCH, emerges unscathed from his ordeal and with dignity intact. He even gets 'a good dinner' at BERKELEY's expense. And it enables me to lead neatly to an ending of my own:-

*Birch's city-dwelling cousins may have seemed more worldly,  
But it was he who could tell till the story wore thin,  
Of the day he met Grantley,  
The Dragon of Wantley,  
Shot at by Doctor Maginn!*

#### Sources:

*Satirist* 14 Aug. 1836:261

\*This is a reference to Grantley BERKELEY's brother. Craven BERKELEY, apparently hid behind a tree during the duel and complained about his clothes getting dirty. Four years later he would fight a duel of his own in defence of the Queen over remarks made by Tory MP Captain BOLDERO. Again, no injuries were sustained. *William Maginn and the British Press: A Critical Biography*, David E Latane, 2013 Ashgate Publishing

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The Hon. George Charles Grantley Fitzhardinge Berkeley -UCL

<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/person/view/45378>

*My Life and Recollections*: Grantley Fitzhardinge Berkeley, 1865 Hurst and Blackett

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<b>Name</b>	<b>Period</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Parish / Area</b>	<b>Mem.No.</b>
<b>AUPPERLE</b>	1890-1945	MDX	Hornsey	8051
<b>BAUMANN'S</b>	1890-1968	MDX	St Marylebone and Willesden	8051
<b>BOUVET/BUFFET</b>	1600-1900	SFK	Any	2
<b>BOWET</b>	1600-1900	SFK	Any	2
<b>BURNINGHAM</b>	1500-1850	SSX	Petworth	8033
<b>COBLENZ</b>	1800-1900	MDX	St Martin in the Fields, Marylebone	7831
<b>COLEMAN</b>	1800-1840	MDX	Clerkenwell	8033
<b>COLEMAN</b>	1800	SRY	Southwark	8033
<b>COPSEY</b>	1600-1900	SFK	Any	2
<b>COX</b>	1600-1900	LND	Any	2
<b>CURLE</b>	1650-1750	LND	Any	3571
<b>FLOWERS</b>	1800-1950	LND	Any	3571
<b>GLEADALL</b>	1650-2000	Any	Any	3571
<b>GOLDING</b>	1650-1800	MDX	Any	3571
<b>HOWARD</b>	1700	SSX	Mid Lavant	8033
<b>HOWARD</b>	1850	SSX	Petworth	8033
<b>HOWARD</b>	1830+	LND	Any	2
<b>HOWARD-VYSE</b>	1750-1830	SFK	Any	2
<b>HURRELL</b>	1600-1900	SFK	Any	2
<b>HAROLD</b>	1600-1900	SFK	Any	2
<b>JONES</b>	1827-1860	MDX	Westminster, St Martin in the Fields	8051
<b>KEENE</b>	1500-1900	SRY	Any	2
<b>KIRBY</b>	1700-1840	HRT	Rickmansworth	8033
<b>KIRBY</b>	1840+	MDX	Northwood	8033
<b>LIBERTY</b>	1680-1750	BDF	Caddington	8033
<b>LIBERTY</b>	1743-1810	MDX	Enfield, St Andrew's	8033
<b>LININGTON</b>	1650-2000	Any	Any	3571
<b>MATTHEWS</b>	1750-1900	LND	Any	2
<b>MOULTON</b>	1650-1900	SFK	Any	2
<b>NEWLYN</b>	1800-2000	MDX	Any	3571
<b>PHELPS</b>	1780	SOM	Frome, St John	8033



<b>PLEDGER</b>	1500	ESS	Any	2
<b>PLEDGER</b>	1900	SFK	Any	2
<b>RANSOM</b>	1600-1900	SFK	Any	2
<b>RISCH</b>	1890-1914	MDX	Westminster and Willesden	8051
<b>ROKAHR</b>	1890-1955	MDX	Westminster and Willesden	8051
<b>ROWLEY</b>	1790-1830	MDX	Enfield	8033
<b>ROWLEY</b>	1820-1860	HRT	Cheshunt	8033
<b>ROWLEY</b>	1860-1890	MDX	Islington	8033
<b>RUSSELL</b>	1500-1650	SSX	Any	2
<b>SIELER</b>	1890+	MDX	Hornsey	8051
<b>SMITH</b>	1600-1900	SFK	Any	2
<b>SMITHERS</b>	1500	SSX	Any	2
<b>SMITHERS</b>	1900	KEN	Any	2
<b>SOANE</b>	1700-2000	MDX	Any	3571
<b>STUHR</b>	1600-1900	Germany	Hanover	2
<b>STUHR</b>	1830	LND	Any	2
<b>VENUS</b>	1750	SSX	Midhurst	8033
<b>VENUS</b>	1800	SSX	Funtington	8033
<b>VINTEN</b>	1810-1820	KEN	Orpington	8033
<b>VISE/VYSE</b>	1550-1700	SFK	Any	2
<b>WARBY</b>	1800-1820	HRT	Ware	8033
<b>WARBY</b>	1830-1835	MDX	Clerkenwell	8033
<b>WARBY</b>	1835-1900	MDX	Islington	8033
<b>WATERS</b>	1750-1830	KEN	Canterbury	8033
<b>WATERS</b>	1830	KEN	St Paul's Cray	8033
<b>WATERS</b>	1840-1890	MDX	Stepney	8033

## SPECIAL INTERESTS

- 2 Watermill, Smith family in Layham, Suffolk, from 1550
- 2 Watermill, Russell family in Framfield, East Sussex, from 1515
- 2 Watermill, Keene family in Godalming, Surrey, from 1573
- 8033 Shoemakers 1500-1700
- 8033 New River Company
- 8033 Metropolitan Police
- 8033 Reservoir Cottage, Greenlanes, Stoke Newington
- 8051 Hairdressers and Tailors

## NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the new members, numbers 8045 – 8059, who have joined the Society over the past few months and wish them well with their research.

## WEBSITE NEWS

### Reports of the Medical Officers for Health

Each district in the Greater London area had a Medical Officer of Health (MOH), part of whose duty was to produce an annual report setting out the work done by his public health and sanitary officers. The reports provided data on birth and death rates, infant mortality, incidence of infectious and other diseases, a general statement on the health of the population and are dated from 1848-1972 – not all districts have reports for each year. Yet they allowed for personal variation in the data that the MOH included and there is much detail of interest to the family historian contained within them, despite that fact that individual people's names are not mentioned.

Many MOHs talk of housing unfit for habitation and how these dwellings seem to encourage the spread of infection diseases and describes the squalid conditions of the local poor. For example, in Finsbury district: 'Tilney Court, Old Street, is a narrow paved way, approached by an archway between two shops, Nos. 132-134, on the south side of Old Street, and contains nine small houses, five on the east and four on the west side. The former have been closed for about nine years, having no WCs. The four houses on the west side contain four rooms each—two on a floor. There are back windows to all the houses, but a high wall at rear, enclosing stable and farrier premises, limits the through ventilation. There is a high wall at the end belonging to the premises in Banner Street, and the height of the houses in Old Street prevent a current through the court-way. The houses are occupied by four families each, chiefly costermongers. The ground floor is unventilated; the paving is bad. There is a small yard to each house, averaging 15 feet by 5 feet, and containing a WC. The houses themselves are in fair repair, and being much over-crowded, a number of notices have been served to abate. The number of inhabitants is thirty-seven; the total deaths (1895-1899) eight, equal to 4.3 per cent., half being children five years and under. Three deaths were due to phthisis, being equal to 37.5 per cent of the whole. Only two notices of infectious cases have been received and eleven nuisance complaints for the five years, and, during 1900, thirteen notices were issued.' There are several other areas described thus, some with photos. Evidence of better facilities for the poor is also described: 'In George-street, St. Giles's, a model lodging-house has been established, affording accommodation to

104 single men, and combining everything essential to such an establishment. The ventilation and drainage have been carefully attended to; an ample supply of water is provided, gas extends through the house, the dormitories are arranged so as to keep their inmates private from each other; there are washing-closets fitted up with every requisite for cleanliness; there is a bath-room supplied with hot and cold water; there are a kitchen and washhouse furnished with all appropriate utensils, a pantry-hatch, with separate, ventilated, and secure compartments for the food of each inmate; in the pay-office is a small well-selected library, for the service of the lodgers, and the use of a spacious coffee-room is likewise for their common convenience. Their pay is 4d per night, or 2s a week - an amount below the ordinary rent paid for the most miserable accommodation in a trampers' lodging-house.' These descriptions really bring home what conditions were like for poor people living in these areas in the mid-to-late nineteenth century.

Some local industry was also believed to be bad for the health of local people. The MOH for the City of London in 1848 talks about the problems of 'Offensive and Injurious Trades', mentioning by way of illustration 'the gut-scraping sheds of Harrow-alley, adjoining Butchers'-row, Aldgate; or in the Leadenhall skin-market, contiguous to the slaughtering places, where the stinking hides of cattle lie for many hours together, spread out over a large area of ground, waiting for sale, to the great offence of the neighbourhood'.

The practice of burying the dead in the City of London also comes under the censure of the City MOH as he believes that this can no longer be done with safety or propriety. The 'soil is saturated and supersaturated' with dead bodies and the height of the soil in the burial grounds attests to this, as do the awful smells emanating from them into the close-built houses.

The MOHs had to keep a close eye on infectious diseases. In the City of London, the MOH wrote (also in 1848) that in unhealthy urban parishes such as St Ann's, Blackfriars, deaths from cholera were at the rate of 25 to every 1000 of the population. In St Luke the MOH reported in 1893 that: 'It is satisfactory to note that there were only 1661 deaths from Measles in London during the year, while during 1892 the number reached was 3393.'

In East Barnet the MOH writes in 1895 that there had been a considerable increase in the number of deaths of children under 1 year of age, the main reason for which appeared to be improper feeding of the infants. The adulteration of food is something that crops up in many places, with milk being watered down and alum being added to bread flour to the detriment of consumers, especially children.

The East Barnet MOH also writes of the urgent need for an isolation hospital in the parish and illustrates this with an example of an outbreak of an infection: 'Scarlet Fever broke out in a four-roomed cottage in East Barnet, occupied by seven or eight persons. The disease was of a very malignant type, and one patient died in a few days, and two others were dangerously ill. The hygienic conditions of the cottage were appalling.' The other occupants were saved by temporarily using two cottages near the sewage farm as an isolation hospital for them. None of the nearby isolation hospitals were prepared to take cases from the parish unless the patient had smallpox. By 1911, provision in the district for an isolation hospital had progressed, as it was noted that the prevalence of scarlet fever in the early autumn delayed cases being admitted to the Joint Isolation Hospital, which was urgently in need of new discharge, observation and convalescent wards. Also, local schools Byng Road and Christ Church both had to shut for 2 weeks due to scarlet fever whilst Arkley and Christ Church schools were closed for a fortnight due to a measles epidemic.

There are other gems to be found in these reports. For instance, the 1901 report of the MOH for the City of Westminster includes some interesting comparison of people engaged in various occupations. Since 1891, the number of actors had increased by 75% whilst artificial flower makers had decreased by 42%. It was noted that the number of Russians in the city had increased considerably and they were the largest foreign group, followed by German, Poles, French and then Italians. The Russians were mainly occupied as tailors, bootmakers and cabinetmakers; the Poles as tailors; the Germans as bread and biscuit makers and dealers, commercial servants, tailors, clerks and hairdressers; the French as commercial cooks and clerks and the Italians as commercial servants and cooks, costermongers and paviors.

These fascinating reports are at: <https://wellcomelibrary.org/moh/browse>

## LUCY'S CASKET

### Part 3

By Barbara Bender

In the first two parts of this article, I wrote of the discovery of a casket of letters discovered in the attic of a house in Devon and how these revealed the story of the life of Samuel TANSLEY and his wife Louisa (Lucy) née BROOKS as told in their letters to. Their story continues.

The next two letters come four months later. It's now July 1837 and this time Harriet is writing back to Lucy. She's sending her young daughter – also Harriet – to town for a visit, or perhaps to help Lucy. Young Harriet is already in service,

*Dear sister*

*Harriot is coming at last to see you i [sic] suppose you began to think she was not coming as she have been so long about it but i [sic] hope you will excuse her as the person she is with could not spare her before*

Harriet hopes that either Lucy or young John will be at the Bull in Highgate on Sunday night --*as she will be their [sic] by the Coatch [sic] that you and i went Down by when you came to Norwich*

Meanwhile, in Norfolk, Harriet has been helping look after Lucy's little boy. There are some vivid descriptions –

*I never see such a little nip in my life as he is he is very well and grone [sic] very fast ...*

*Your dear little boy and sister Jenny is now come ... he is now calling his grandmother Poor old soul as he often do and to hear him talk you would be suprised [sic]*

In her second, somewhat flustered letter, it becomes clear that Harriet and Lucy's mother wants to bring young Joseph back to London. Another (probable) sister Ann would like to come but has a problem with her bad-tempered husband William. A plot is being hatched whereby Lucy is to send a sovereign to Ann for the journey, even though Ann has already saved up the money and will repay it. Harriet spells out the devious plot several times

– but not think she want you to give to her as she have got the money by her but she think if you do so he will be more likely to let her come and if she do not come she will send it back by Mother or pay you herself when she come but not let him know

Interestingly, and unusually, there's a touch of politics: ... *Maria and her family are well but he have nowork trade is very bad in norwich but we hope it will be better after the election is over Please to be so kind as to send me a little of the stuff you join the china with ...* (see below).

*Maria and her family are well but he have no work  
trade is very bad in norwich but we hope it will be better  
after the election is over Please to be so kind as to send me  
a little of the stuff you join the china with when the  
children come home very little will do as I cannot know what  
I want it for - from Joz you need not be afraid to send the money*

One way or another, Joseph is safely returned to London. Six months later, a couple more letters are sent to Lucy. One from Ann James<sup>9</sup>, dated January 1838, makes it clear that Lucy's second little boy, George, has now gone to stay in Norfolk. Ann is recommending a servant, who is on her way to London and should be fetched from the Boar and Castle in Oxford Street on the night of Monday 15<sup>th</sup>.

The second is from the servant-to-be, Martha Jones. She appears to be a person who has gone down in the world. She starts –  
*My Good Mrs Tansley*

*I trust you will not disappoint me respecting your situation – for I am numbering the days that must pass before I find myself in your little kitchen -- believe me I am promising myself to be very happy in your situation – no doubt I shall soon fall into your ways – and you must not let the thought enter your mind that I shall feel above this and not willing to do the other thing – pray do away with such a feeling – I will prove to you a good servant and perhaps in time a little friend – pray tell Mr Tansley that I care but little*

*about sallary (sic) common comforts is now my study – and that I shall find with you I think –*

*The letter continues - you well know my situation in life – and in disposition – I think much like yourselves – . Save out of a trifle – respecting your little son – you can have no doubt but I respect him – then the little invisible will bring trouble with it but time will tell which will prove the best nurse --*

This paragraph is rather obscure, but nonetheless ‘the little invisible’ surely means that Lucy is pregnant again. It seems that whilst Martha has gone down in the world, Lucy, who only six years earlier had been in service, is on her way up and about to have some live-in help!

All seems to be going well – business and family are thriving. But then the letters stop. Our first assumption was that, for whatever reason, later ones had gone missing. But, in fact, something very much sadder had happened. Early in 1838, presumably shortly after Martha had arrived, Lucy died. We don’t know why, but we may guess that she died in childbirth and that the baby did not survive. There are, unfortunately, no ‘lying in’ or ‘laying out’ accounts.



It seems likely that the casket belonged to Lucy, and that Samuel placed in it all the personal objects that belonged to her. Things that were precious to her, and to him – the letters, the three gold rings including the wedding ring and the keepsake ring with the plait of pale hair, the double magnifying glass (perhaps Lucy was short sighted), the crocheted purse filled with small coins (see picture on page 125). Lucy and Samuel had just started courting at the time of William IV's coronation – perhaps the silver medal marked 'William IV & Queen Adelaide crowned Sep 1831' was his present? Small worn silver coins were often bent as love tokens – the one in the purse dates to 1817 and was most likely a love token given one to the other. And perhaps the little silver snuff box shaped like a book was something Lucy had given to Samuel? And, of course, most personal of all, there were Lucy's upper dentures. There's no way of knowing when they were made for her, but a well-made denture must have been something of a status symbol and a sign that Samuel and Lucy were beginning to go up in the world.

Joseph was four, and George just two when she died. Samuel soldiered on, looked after the boys, and never re-married. Nine years later his first born son, Joseph, died. He was only thirteen. Eleven year old George had to leave school.

How do we know these things? Because George, having left school so young, joined the Working Men's College when he was nineteen. He went on to successfully expand his father's catering business, but retained his connection with the College and taught there for many years. In an account of the first fifty years of the College, he figures prominently. Here is what is said about his childhood -

*His mother, a Norfolk woman, died when he was about two years old, leaving two boys, of whom George was the younger. Thus he never knew a mother's care ... The father was a capable hard-working man ... of careful and simple habits he brought up his children on the same lines. He worked all week, and on Sundays used to take his boys long walks into the country ...*

The account adds – *George was little more than eleven when his schooldays came to an end, and he was taken into his father's shop. His brother, who had been his constant companion, had by this time died at the age of thirteen; and he was left alone with his father ...*



There's one more letter in the casket – a formal school letter penned by Joseph two years before he died. Mr Blake, the school-master, had obviously dictated it to the class and had made no allowance for Joseph being motherless.

*... I have, my dear Parents, to add, that I trust the progress I have made in my various scholastic duties will meet with your approbation, and to assure you that I shall ever feel grateful for the opportunity you afford me for improvement, and for the many indulgences I experience; trusting I shall be prompted by this conviction, to increased exertions I now, my dear Parents, conclude by wishing you many happy returns of the present joyous season, And believe me to remain your dutiful And affectionate Son*  
*Joseph Tansley*  
*Academy* *Wyndham St*

The letter has been folded and the outside is dirty and worn (fig.17). Written in pencil, on the outside, is –

My brother

Joseph's letter

kept by my

father

GT

GT – George TANSLEY – married Amelia LAWRENCE. He inherited his father's business. The business thrived, and he and Amelia ended up with a fine house near Primrose Hill. Their son, Arthur, went to Cambridge, became a distinguished botanist, founded the study of plant ecology, and was knighted<sup>10</sup>. He was the owner of the tin trunks found in the loft at Branscombe. Reading Samuel's letters and picking up on small clues – his early attempts at drawing classical figures, his reading, his nice style of writing, his interest in the countryside, it seems fair to suggest that, even though George had had to leave school when he was very young, Samuel played his part in shaping the family's later history.

Such fragile letters, such fragile lives – illness, infant mortality, death in childbirth. And yet these letters, a hundred and eighty years old, are so immediate, intimate, sometimes even funny. In the background are the hubbub and difficulties of an industrialising metropolis; in the foreground a box full of stories and objects relating to real people, quite recognizable even

after five generations, talking and quarrelling, getting by, getting on, knitting together all the resources and social networks at their disposal.

**Footnotes:**

9. Ann James seems to be Lucy's sister. She writes a rather good hand and it looks as though she has married up. But is Mr James the bad-tempered William, and is 'poor Ann' the same person as Ann James?

10. Peter Ayres, *Shaping Ecology: The Life of Arthur Tansley*, Wiley: Blackwell (2012). A more general account of the contents of the three trunks was given in a talk by Barbara Farquharson and can be found on the Branscombe Project website.



## **LONDON WESTMINSTER AND MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2018**

The following are the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Society held on 3 March 2018 at Wesley's Chapel, 49 City Road, London EC1Y 1AU. The Society's President, Michael Gandy, chaired the meeting. 14 members attended. It was noted that heavy snow nationally probably accounted for the low number of attendees.

### **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from: Vivienne Allen, Pam Chambers, Terry Kaye, Margaret Paine, Barbara Roberts and Tricia Sutton.

### **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The Minutes of the AGM held on 4 February 2017 were approved and signed.

### **MATTERS ARISING**

It was pointed out that, despite advertising it in METROPOLITAN, nobody had come forward to take on the role of Secretary. The Executive Committee would share out the work and deal with it as well as possible until a new Secretary could be appointed.

Rosemary Roome was following up whether Officers should stand down every 3 years with the option of standing for re-election at a later date. If

appropriate, the Executive Committee will publish a proposal in METROPOLITAN to be voted on at the next AGM.

#### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

This was published in the December edition of METROPOLITAN. The Chairman summarised it for the meeting. He thanked Tricia Sutton for her work as Secretary and reiterated the need for a new one. The Wembley Branch had closed and he thanked Joan and Bill Pyemont for their work in running the Branch and it was noted that most of the members who had attended Wembley now went to the Rayners Lane Branch. Pam Chambers had taken over responsibility for City Branch from Barbara Haswell.

The Chairman praised the excellent Parish Guides variously written or updated by Elizabeth Burling and Doreen Heywood which they were taking to family history fairs to sell.

He has visited a City Branch meeting and intends to attend Enfield and Barnet Branches soon, and he thanked the Executive Committee for all the work they do.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer apologised for late publication of the accounts which was due to a combination of reasons including her having been ill for several weeks. She summarised her report and said the £262.78 deficit wasn't as bad as it appeared bearing in mind subscription revenue for 2016-2017 was £2,487 less than the previous year, largely because membership dipped during the year. She referred again to an element of reduced income from members paying through PayPal, which takes commission. A member suggested we ask members using PayPal to add a donation to their subscription to cover the commission and the Treasurer agreed to raise the matter with the Executive Committee to see whether it was feasible.

#### THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

The accounts for 2016/2017 were adopted by the meeting.

#### ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Tony Allen was willing to stand as Chairman and April Vesey as Treasurer; they were re-elected nem con.

## ELECTION OF OTHER MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The following were willing to continue as members of the Executive Committee and were elected nem con:

Sylvia Thompson, Membership Secretary

Barbara Haswell, Members' Interests

Elaine Tyler, Projects Co-ordinator

Doreen Heywood, Publications

Branch Representatives:

Tricia Sutton, Rayners Lane Branch

Rosemary Roome, Barnet Branch

Pam Chambers, City Branch

Lilian Gibbens, Enfield Branch

The METROPOLITAN Editorial Team is also represented by a member on the Committee (Elizabeth Burling\*/Barbara Haswell/Rosemary Roome).

\*Elizabeth Burling also has responsibility for Publications and our Facebook Page.

## ANY OTHER BUSINESS

It was pointed out that details of the AGM were not on the website. This will be rectified next year.

Both North Middlesex FHS and Central Middlesex FHS which combined to form LWMFHS began in July 1978. As 2018 is the 40th anniversary of the Society, the Executive Committee proposed combining a celebration with next year's AGM and asked members for ideas for ways to celebrate and for information such as relevant photographs, memories of people or events, or significant papers. The President, Michael Gandy, thought it would be better to do it in July; this was put to the vote and approved. It was agreed that this should take place in a central London location on a Saturday afternoon, with light refreshments provided. It would be a social event and the Chairman was willing to make a short speech. He asked the Treasurer to check availability at Wesley's Chapel or if necessary, other suitable venues. A guideline budget of £500 (£250 for room hire + £250 for other costs) was suggested.

The event will be promoted in METROPOLITAN. It was agreed that the Executive Committee would be in charge of organising it and Rosemary Roome would co-ordinate the Branches.

There being no other business, the President closed the meeting.

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.



## ARTHUR HAINES

I am a reasonably competent researcher (who has actually got my wife's family tree reliably back to 1066, believe it or not), but I cannot get my own father's line back beyond him because (you guessed it) he was apparently illegitimate. I never knew this until I ordered his birth certificate.

All he told me was that he was 'an orphan' brought up by his grandmother 'within the sound of Bow Bells' and around the Isle of Dogs. Until I took up genealogy years after he died I'm afraid I never thought any more about this! I have exhausted all the online records I can think of (including school & workhouse etc) and since I live in Wales it is not practical to try London records in situ. I would therefore be hugely grateful if anyone can suggest any way I might be able to identify his father and where my father was 1910-30.

The only data I have is: Birth certificate of Arthur HAINES, born 23 January 1910 (St Luke's Holborn), mother Florence Rose HAINES, no father. Florence was resident at 34 New Charles Street, Holborn.

1911 Census: Florence born about 1889 (St George Hanover Sq.), resident 21 Lamont Road Chelsea, Daughter of Fanny HAINES, aka Maria Jane BRIXEY (Head of Household and only other occupant, private means), born about 1860 Sixpenny Handley, Wilts. No child in the Census return.

Dec 1911 Florence married Percival F GREENBERRY, St Luke Chelsea.

1921 Percival and Florence are on the Electoral Roll at 1 Disraeli Road, Wandsworth.

Florence's father is also not certain! Fanny BRIXEY definitely married to and had other children called Haines by Richard HAINES (m 17 Sep 1883, St George Hanover Sq.) but on Florence's marriage certificate to GREENBERRY she named her father as 'Walter Verry/Vessy (?) Haines, dead', occupation Usher.

If anyone can suggest how I can begin to resolve this I should be more than grateful.

**Michael Haines, Non-member**

*Email: mvh2@aol.com*

Note: If there is no father mentioned on Arthur's birth certificate it is very unlikely that you will ever find out who he was. Genetic testing may eventually be able to provide an answer. As to where baby Arthur was in the 1911 census, he certainly is not very obvious. I wonder if he was in hospital or somewhere similar where he might only be identified by his initials?

However, it is possible to make progress along the female line. Working back from what you are sure about, according to her marriage certificate Fanny BRIXEY was living at 15 Clarendon Street when she married Richard HAINES in 1883. The Westminster Rate Books show that from 1883- 1888 a Mrs BRIXEY was living at this address and from 1890-1893 a Miss Maria BRIXEY was living here.

On 20 December 1882 a C BRIXEY, adult, was buried from St George Hanover Square parish at Hanwell Cemetery. The Burial book gives further details: he was 74, his address was 6 Bow Street, St Martins and he was buried in unconsecrated ground. The GRO indexes show a Charles BRIXEY aged 74 dying in the December quarter of 1882 in the Strand Registration District. Looking once again at the Westminster Rate Books, there is a Charles BRIXEY paying rates at 6 Martlett Court, St Martin in the Fields from 1858-1882. (Towards the end of this time he is also paying rates at 5 Martlett Court.) As Charles stops paying rates in Westminster in 1882 this could well be him.

In the 1871 census, Charles BRIXEY aged 59, haggler and pedlar, and his wife Mary aged 61 are living at 6 Martlett Court. They are both stated as being from Ringwood, Hampshire. At 12 Gillingham Street, St George Hanover Square is their daughter Maria (age 23, born Handley, Dorset) living with her uncle Henry BRIXEY (age 55, born Ringwood) and his wife Mary Ann. At 2 Berkeley Square is Charles BRIXEY aged 28, born Handley, unmarried valet to the Earl of Rosebery.

In the 1861 census for Sixpenny Handley, Dorset, at Dean End is Charles BRIXEY aged 46, gamekeeper from Hampshire with his wife Mary (actually from Alnwick) and children Robert L 23, Maria J 13, Henry 11, Susan 9, Mary Ann 7, Fanny 5, Harriet 2 and George 2 months. It appears that Maria and Fanny are not the same person but sisters.

This is confirmed by the 1891 census return for 15 Clarendon Street, in which Maria Jane BRIXEY aged 45 is the head of household - she is a lodging house keeper. With her are her brother George, aged 29 and sister Fanny Haines aged 33 - all 3 born in Handley. Also there are Fanny's children Mary aged 7, Sidney Charles, aged 5 and Florence Rose aged 2. Florence Rose's birth appears in the GRO Indexes; her certificate should say who her father is.



## JOTTINGS

### **Pancras, Pinner and Willesden knowledge?**

Do you live in any of the districts of St Pancras, such as Bedford New Town, Brookfield, Camden, Gospel Oak, Haverstock Hill, Kentish Town, Kings Cross, Regent's Park and Somers Town?

Or Pinner?

Or the Willesden districts of Brondesbury, Church End, Cricklewood, Dollis Hill, Dudden Hill, Harlesden, Kensal Rise, Kilburn, Mapesbury, Neasden, Park Royal, Stonebridge and Willesden?

If so, you might very well be able to help provide local information for our Parish Guide booklets. For example:

- Any companies which have been based in the area for some time, even if they are no longer there
- Any churches and nonconformist chapels, even if the buildings now have some other use
- Any hospitals, whether still going or shut down
- Anything else we might not have heard about

We would greatly appreciate it if you could drop us a line about any of the above. Please contact the editors to point us in the right direction!

## FORTHCOMING BRANCH MEETINGS

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

Lyonsdown Hall, Lyonsdown Road, New Barnet, Hertfordshire EN5 1JB

Branch Contact: Rosemary A Roome, Email: [barnet@lwmfhs.org.uk](mailto:barnet@lwmfhs.org.uk)

- Thursday 21 June            *Expecting the Unexpected: Public Health in World War I and World War II*  
by Carol Harris
- Thursday 19 July            *Transferable Skills Acquired as a Genealogist*  
Members' Meeting
- Thursday 16 August        *The Battle of Barnet Project*  
(provisional)
- Thursday 20 September    *Local Rates and Rate Maps*  
by Ian Waller

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

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

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

- Thursday 28 June            *A History of Photography-Part 2: from 1900*  
by Simon Garbett
- Thursday 26 July            *Feeding the Family in World War I*  
by Mike Brown
- Thursday 30 August        *Beating the Bounds: a visual tour around the Borough of Camden*  
by Tudor Allen
- Thursday 27 September    *Our Shopkeeper Ancestors*  
by Sue Gibbons



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

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

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

Wednesday 6 June                    *Bletchley Park*  
by Maggie Radcliffe

Wednesday 4 July                    *Times to Remember*  
by Eddie Summers

Wednesday 1 August                No meeting

Wednesday 5 September          *Bygones Antiques*  
by Jeff Nicholls

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

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

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

Friday 8 June                        Members' Meeting

Friday 13 July                        *Mayhem on the Midland*  
by Chris and Judy Rouse

Friday 10 August                    No Meeting

Friday 14 September                *John George Haig and his Victims*  
by Dr Jonathan Oates

## ADVERTISING RATES

Advertising rates per issue of METROPOLITAN are as follows:

**Full Page £40**

**Half Page £23**

**Quarter Page £14**

**Eighth Page, £8.50**

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

See inside front cover for address.

### **BESPOKE LONDON EAST END FAMILY HISTORY WALKS**

The idea of this new service is that the walks will be tailored to your Family History. Once you contact me I will ask for and research if the census or other documented addresses for your family still exist and what may be of interest in the area your ancestors lived and worked.

I will suggest a meeting point close to the walk's starting point where we can enjoy a coffee and chat before setting off, alternatively I could arrange to meet you at the mainline station that you arrive at in London.

**Prices will reflect the research and the day and are to be prepaid.** Expenses on the day for coffee, lunch, fares **are not** included in my quoted fee but for you to pay as required.

Bespoke Walks happen mostly on weekdays, as at the weekend venues such as markets and canal tow paths are very busy, but can be on a Saturday or Sunday by arrangement. Please contact me for details and prices.

**As well as arranging bespoke walks there are several standard East End walks that happen on weekdays.**

These walks are of a distance from between one-four miles; they normally start at 11am allowing for your travel to London from most comfortable day visit destinations. We start with coffee, stop for lunch and end at about 3pm. Discounts available for groups.

**Walk one:** Bow to Mile End, lunch at the Bow Bells.

**Walk two:** Hackney to Bethnal Green lunch, possibly pie and mash, at Broadway Market Road.

**Walk three:** Brick Lane to Spitalfields, lunch in New Spitalfields Market.

**Walk four:** Mile End to Whitechapel, lunch at The Half Moon

#### **Bespoke London East End Family History Walks**

Planned with your family history in mind, explore the places where your ancestors lived and worked with a friendly experienced guide.



**Contact:** [diane.londoneastendfhwalks@gmail.com](mailto:diane.londoneastendfhwalks@gmail.com)

**Mobile:** 07943958964

**Website:** <https://bespokelondon.net/>

**Join us on Facebook.com for reviews, new walks, photos, chat and more.**

## **AIMS OF THE SOCIETY**

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

## **SUBSCRIPTIONS**

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

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

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

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

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

£15 UK: to receive METROPOLITAN by post

£20 Overseas: to receive METROPOLITAN by airmail post

## **PAYMENT BY UK MEMBERS**

UK cheques payable to: LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX FHS should be sent to the Membership Secretary, address on the inside front cover.

## **PAYMENT BY OVERSEAS MEMBERS**

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

CANADA: Canadian Postal Money Orders cannot be accepted.

AUSTRALIA / NEW ZEALAND: Most banks will provide sterling cheques.

Cheques should be sent to the Membership Secretary, address on the inside front cover.

## **PAYMENT BY PAYPAL**

Please visit our website for details, but note that our preferred methods of payment are Standing order (information on our website or from the Membership Secretary), payment direct into our bank account (including a reference of your name and membership number) or cheque.

**BANKERS**: HSBC Bank plc, Angel Branch, 25 Islington High St, London N1 9LJ

Sort Code: 40-03-33; Account Number: 81157760

## **MEMBERS' DATA**

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

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

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

**METROPOLITAN** Copy Dates: **1 Feb, 1 May, 1 Aug, 1 Nov.**

## St Luke's Church, Islington



St Luke's Church is situated on the corner of Penn Road and Hillmarton Road, West Holloway and was established in 1860. Parts of the church were damaged by bombing during World War 2 and rebuilt. The organ was originally in St Paul's Covent Garden and refurbished in 2011