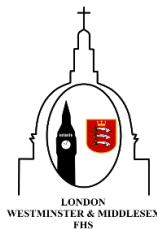


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METROPOLITAN

The Journal of the
LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX
Family History Society



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September 2018

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Cover picture: St James's Palace, see article on page 154

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EDITORIAL

In our June Editorial we mentioned how one of our members wrote to us saying she would like to see an article about researching ancestors if you are adopted and we are extremely fortunate that another member, Kim Armstrong, has written a piece for us about how she managed to trace her birth family even though she had been adopted as a baby. You can read about her family history journey on page 141.

Oral history is often in the news nowadays with websites gathering people's spoken recollections of past events. For example, the Imperial War Museum has a sound archive which holds over 33,000 recordings relating to conflicts from World War I onwards from both service personnel and non-combatants. Much of the most interesting parts of one's personal family history come from the recollections and family stories of grandparents, which fleshes out the bare bones of BMD facts. Elizabeth's grandmother told her that her own grandfather had called his wife 'my little teapot' – a charming nickname which adds to the image of that lady. On page 143 Dennis Galvin writes of the time he played at Wembley Stadium – surely a tale that will go down in the annals of his family story?

Janet Ellis has an intriguing tale to tell about how her family story was helped from a very unexpected source – the Will of her 3x great grandfather was discovered on an Australian rubbish dump! You can read about this on page 148. Has anyone else a story of a find from an unusual source?

The Editorial Team

PS Don't forget to renew your subscription, including filling out the consent part of the form (so that the Society complies with GDPR). This is due by 1 October.

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

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

I am glad to hear that the 40th Birthday of the Society at the Foundling Museum was an enjoyable occasion. I was very sorry that a family commitment meant that I could not be there myself.

Earlier in the year I submitted my saliva to Ancestry for DNA Analysis. I have found the results to be interesting. The obvious first results were that I was almost entirely of British Isles ancestry. This almost completely counters strange family stories of Chinese ancestry, which were probably made up when my father was a child.

To me the more interesting part was the further analysis that I had found 151 people who, to varying degrees of certainty, were related to me. At least the person most closely related to me was a second cousin whom I already knew about. The only other one known to me was a second cousin once removed who was identified as a fourth cousin. So how did they arrive at these conclusions?

In my saliva were cells, which like almost all the cells in my body contain 23 pairs of chromosomes. These contain linear strands of DNA which have almost all my unique hereditary information. By really amazing technology, the sequence of units in these strands is determined and then can be compared with the information from all the other samples in their database.

I looked firstly at the results for comparisons with others, which are initially given as percentage probabilities that we are related. Then, when I went for more accurate information I got to the term CentiMorgan (CM). This is a relative measure of the amount of DNA sequence that samples have in common. They state that a parent or child should have 3,475 CM in common, a full sibling 2,400 to 2,800 CM, a 1st cousin 680 to 1,150CM, a 2nd cousin 200 to 620, a 3rd cousin 90 to 180 and so on downwards. Also the number of shared DNA segments is given.

Of the 151 possible 4th cousins or closer, I have found 23 where I can see connections with family trees. Others have not disclosed their trees and yet for others I can see no connections. Possibly adoptions, but then bear in mind that 'maternity is a fact but paternity is an assumption'. I have been interested to trace distant 5th cousins in New Zealand and the USA with common ancestors born in Kent in the 1760s. Tracing by birthplace, I have found many common genes in my Mother's birthplace of Oswestry in Shropshire, and even in a small village of Betwys Cedwain in Montgomeryshire, which

would also go back to people born in the middle 18th century. My next stage is to get information from my children's DNA about my late wife's ancestry. So, I hope that I have encouraged some of you who have DNA results to look further into them, there is a lot of useful information to be followed up.

Tony Allen



LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

I'm writing to say how much I enjoyed the Anniversary Party at the Foundling Museum on the 14 July, an incredibly hot and sunny day. Many thanks to the organising committee who must have worked so hard to make it so successful. I particularly liked meeting up with old friends, putting names and faces together, the refreshments and beautiful cake cut by Michael Gandy and Eileen but mostly the slide show of many churches. One was of a church in which my VINCENT ancestors had married. Thank you all very much.

Vivienne Allen, Member No. 7776

Note: The Editors enjoyed the party too - see page 152 for a short report and pictures of the day.

Members of 'The Clay Family Society' of America have traced their ancestry back to John CLAY who went to Virginia in 1613 but they don't know which part of our country he came from, hence they are offering free YDNA tests to English males with the surname of Clay. There is no cost involved, should any male Clays be interested please contact me for details and a kit, either by email or by writing to the address below.

David Clay, Non-member

Address: 30 Mill Street. Mansfield. Notts. NG18 2PQ

Email: dmclay@btinternet.com

HOW TO FIND BIRTH FAMILY AND ANCESTORS WHEN YOU HAVE BEEN ADOPTED

By Kim Armstrong, Member No. 8060

In response to your request I hope that you might find my own search for birth relatives and ancestors of help.

I was an adopted baby in 1965. I was aware of my birth name and that I had been adopted through Barnardo's. In 2011 after much consideration I started on my search for birth relatives. I began by contacting Barnardo's who confirmed they did have my records. I had to attend for counselling as my adoption took place in 1965, so prior to when the law changed in 1975.

At my initial meeting I was able to see my records which gave me my mother's name, her parents' names, her sister and her son. The adoption process had been long and drawn out due to my mother being married but her husband not being my father. It gave the name of my birth father, his age, address and occupation.

From this information, Barnardo's carried out my search acting as an intermediary – something I would strongly recommend. I discovered that both my birth mother and half brother had passed away but that I had a half sister born in 1967.

I managed to make contact with her through Genes Reunited but directed her back to Barnardo's so we could confirm that we had the correct person. She had been looking for me since she was 18 years old but had obviously been unsuccessful until I had started my search. I had also been advised to put my name on the Adoption Contact Register (www.gov.uk/adoption-records) and give my permission to be contacted. My sister had also put her name down in the hope that I would look for her. This register worked as shortly after I started my search we were contacted to say that we were both looking for each other.

After a successful reunion with my sister and her family, I managed to find out about my grandparents and aunts and uncles. This has helped me to start

to build my family tree. My aunt was kind enough to make a photo album of my ancestors with names and dates.

In 2013, Barnardo's started on the search for my birth father. With very little to go on and my aunt not being able to remember any details we had to hope for the best. We contacted who we thought was the correct person but he was adamant he was not my father. Sadly, with no other information we decided to abandon the search.

In 2017 my sister and I decided to do DNA testing with Ancestry. We had different fathers so hoped that anyone on our DNA list that we were both linked to told us that these were our maternal relatives. Anyone we did not link with were from our different fathers. This enabled me to start looking again for any links.

My list showed five 2nd-3rd cousins who were all linked together. I made contact with them asking if they had heard of my father's surname. Unfortunately, they had not but I did start to build a tree tracing everyone back until I found a common name. I was then fortunate enough to be contacted by a 4th cousin who was looking for ancestors with my father's surname. With much time taken by her to search, we eventually found our common ancestor and how we all fitted together. This was a major breakthrough for me and actually showed that we had contacted the correct person back in 2013. I did however order birth and marriage certificates so that I could verify everything we had found.

From testing my DNA in early 2017 I have only just arrived at this point a few weeks ago. It takes time and patience to carry out research. Barnardo's have made contact again with my birth father but we have had no response so far. I have however, through the DNA list, found some second cousins (first cousins of my father) who have been willing to share with me photos and stories about my ancestors. So far, I have been able to trace my ancestors back to the mid-1700s.

Using DNA has been a huge bonus, helped by DNA cousins willing to help and share information. As more and more people are having DNA tests it increases the likelihood of finding close relatives.

There is much written about searching for birth relatives so I would recommend reading and preparing in advance, use a recommended Intermediary service and make sure all the information is confirmed by ordering certificates.

Hopefully this might be of help to other members who may be considering undertaking adoption research.



THE FAMOUS 'TWIN TOWERS'

By Dennis Galvin, Member No. 1046

Considering how popular our national game was, it is fair to say that not many footballers ever got to play at Wembley Stadium. There were a couple of home-counties internationals. The FA Cup Final plus the Amateur Cup Final and, of course, the famous World Cup Final of 1966, but no play-offs as there are today or indeed the stadium, being used whilst their own new stadiums are being built.

In 1951 I represented my home town of Hackney at football. The match took place at the Arsenal Stadium, Highbury. After National Service I played a further game at Highbury and then received a letter from the Arsenal manager Tom WHITTAKER, informing me that he had made arrangements for me to play at the Hendon Football Club. This was, at that time, the Arsenal nursery club managed by ex-England and Arsenal captain Laurie SCOTT.

I also received a letter from Hendon FC with details. A few days after this my father received a phone call from Hendon which he immediately passed on to me at my office instructing me to just bring my boots and be outside Golders Green Hippodrome by 6.30pm that evening, where the team coach (transport) will be waiting for a match at Wembley!

I had to get off from work early and it was all quite a rush but I managed it in time but still wasn't sure where the destination was but once we had gone along the North Circular Road and then down Wembley Way and through

the big stadium doors it was all confirmed! This was to be a game played on behalf of the Football Association to try out – for the first time – the new stadium floodlights. So this was the very first football match ever played under floodlights at Wembley Stadium. Those present included the Secretary of the FA, Sir Stanley ROUS, as well as all the national press. I read later that cameramen from Associated Rediffusion and the BBC televised the match on closed circuits and voted the working conditions excellent.



The construction of the Twin Towers

After the game I went off for a soak and was astonished to see two lines of individual baths (Arsenal and amateur clubs all had communal baths in those days) and with quite a generous gap between each one. I chose the end one on the first line. Each line had a white coated attendant with very neatly folded towel over one arm and a large scrubbing brush in preparation for scrubbing players' backs and knees. When the attendant arrived at my bath he asked me if I had enjoyed the match and we struck up a conversation. I remember saying how thrilled I was to be in the same dressing room as Stanley MATTHEWS had been when he played in the famous Blackpool cup final and England matches. The attendant then said: "As a matter of fact,

Stan always gets in this very bath to have a good hot soak before a match as well as after the game”.

So my claim to fame is that I not only played outside-right that night and thus ran up and down the great Stan’s territory but, by coincidence, I also used his bath as well!

There were reports and photos in the newspapers of the time so by pure chance a friend of mine who worked in the industry down Fleet Street sent me actual gloss photographs of the match.



The floodlit game

One newspaper report said the electricity cost for the floodlights on that night was £45.



FOCUS ON FACEBOOK

By Elizabeth Burling, Member No. 4992

Diane from New York contacted us on the Facebook page. She had discovered that her 4x great grandmother was the chapel keeper and collector of pew rents at Eaton Chapel on Coleshill Street, Westminster in the 1850s-1870s. This ancestor appeared in census returns at 51 Coleshill and 57 Coleshill and apparently died at Eaton House. Diane was due to visit London and had had trouble locating these places and wondering if we could help.

Eaton Chapel was in the parish of St George Hanover Square and baptism records dated 1836-1901 can be seen at Westminster City Archives Centre

(and are online at FindMyPast) but the chapel does not seem to exist nowadays. Luckily, it was possible to find it on an old map on British History Online – the chapel was located on the corner of what is now called Eaton Gate and Eaton Terrace in Belgravia. A nearby building on Ebury Street is called Coleshill Flats, which may pay heed to the old road name from the 19th century. I recommended that Diane call in at Westminster City Archives Centre, at 10 St Ann's Street, Westminster, London SW1P 2DE, as they are the experts on this area.



2 Eaton Terrace

I was delighted to hear back from Diane following her visit. She had managed to find the office building at 2 Eaton Terrace, which was once the Eaton Chapel, and which appeared to still contain traces from its chapel days. Diane had also visited Westminster City Archives Centre where she ‘obtained marvellous old maps and advice’.

On 5 July we celebrated the 70th anniversary of the foundation of the NHS on our Facebook page. It was the 1948 National Health Service Acts which created our NHS – a system whereby UK residents are not charged for most medical treatment, it being funded mainly by general taxation and National Insurance.

Of course, as this was only 70 years ago any patient records will be closed and family historians will not yet be able to use them. Of more use is the Hospital Records Database – a joint project of the Wellcome Library and The National Archives. It contains comprehensive information of hospitals, both those that have closed and those still going, and where any records may be: <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/hospitalrecords/search.asp>



Highgate Hill Infirmary. In the centre of the building you can see the open-air bridges which were used for patients with tuberculosis.

We illustrated our piece with this picture of Highgate Hill Infirmary, which opened in 1900 with 800 bed spaces available. In 1914 it was renamed Islington Infirmary and in 1930 it became St Mary's Hospital. In 1948, with the creation of the NHS, it merged with Archway Hospital and Highgate Hospital to form the Whittington Hospital. This explanation helped Fran in Australia who had been told she was born in the Whittington Hospital but whose 1947 birth certificate stated the place of birth as St Mary, Islington.

GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY

By Janet Ellis, Member No. 8023

All of us value the traditional sources of information that allow us the opportunity to move forward with our family history research. However it's always exciting when information comes from an unusual or unexpected source. Perhaps readers of METROPOLITAN could contribute their experiences? If so, may I be permitted to set the ball rolling?

My 2x great grandmother Mary BUCKLAND, was born in Camberwell in 1828. I can easily trace her life using those traditional sources, from her - marriage to George MAYHEW (1822-1887), a saddler and harness maker, in 1853 in Lambeth, to the birth of her five children, Kate (born 1854), George (born 1856), Elizabeth (my ancestor, born 1858), Sarah (born 1861) and James (born 1863) and her death in 1895 in Lambeth.

Mary and her older sister Sarah were the children of James BUCKLAND (born in 1802 in Nutfield, Surrey) and Catherine BROWN (born around 1799 in Reigate, Surrey). James and Catherine were married in Horley, Surrey in 1822. In 1841 they were living with their daughters in Londonderry Road, Camberwell. James is working as a coachman. In 1951 they had moved to Spring Place, Hackney. Sarah had now left home on her marriage, Mary is working as a dressmaker and James is still a coachman.

From 1851 onwards, however, the 'traditional sources' were unable to provide any trace of James and Catherine BUCKLAND. Mary and Sarah had married and were still living in the area – but what had become of their parents? Death records showed no evidence that either of them were deceased. After much searching I did find a reference to James under 'Public Member Photos and Scanned Documents' on Ancestry. There was a transcript of a will, a death notice from a newspaper, and extracts from two books in which James was mentioned. Intrigued, I emailed the Ancestry member who had posted the items.

This person was not related to James at all. She was a resident and local historian of a little town called St Arnaud situated in the Wimmera region of Victoria, Australia, 244 kilometres north-west of Melbourne. She had found James's Will along with some other ephemera, on the local rubbish tip! As

it had been in her possession for a number of years, she was aware of its significance to anyone related to James, so she had decided to do a search on Ancestry for his family, using the information gleaned from the will. In fact the document was not the original will but a copy, made at the time of James's death by a local law firm along with an addendum to the will – the originals having been sent to the Probate Registry in England.

The transcript follows:

This is the Last Will and Testament of me James Buckland of Eagle Wharf Road Souson at Messrs Grisroll (sic) and Co's servant there but about to proceed to Australia and at present stopping at 35 Roman Road Higher Broughton Salford. I trust that all my just debts and funeral and testamentary expenses be paid and satisfied by my Executor hereinafter named as soon as w w (sic) conveniently may be after my decease I give devise (sic) and bequeath all my estate and efforts whatsoever and w (sic) wheresoever both real and personal whether in possession reversion remainder or expertantry (sic) unto Jesse Bryant Salesman, 35 Roman Road Higher Broughton Salford, his heirs executors and administrators Upon trust to permit and suffer my dear wife to have the use and enjoyment of all such parts thereof as shall not yield income w (sic) and to invest the residue of such of my estate as shall not have been applied in payment of my debts and funeral and testamentary expenses in some or one of the Government funds of Great Britain not being w (sic) terminable annuities or upon such other security as my said Trustee shall think proper and to pay the ???? dividends interest or annual procure of all such other parts of my said Estate as shall yield interest unto my dear wife during the term of her natural life and from and after her decease I give devise and bequeath the same and every part thereof unto and among and to be equally divided between all and every my children both sons and daughters who shall be living at the time of the decease of my said wife and the issue of such of them as shall be ? such issue nevertheless taking only the share which their bereaved parent would have been entitled to in the event of such parent surviving my said Wife to and for their own use and benefit absolutely. And I nominate constitute and appoint the said, Jesse Bryant to Executor of this my Will and thereby revoking all former or other Wills and Testaments by me at any time heretofore made I declare this to be my last Will and Testament In Witness whereof I the said James Buckland have to this my last will and Testament set my hand the 29th day of September

in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and fifty seven _____ James Buckland _____ signed by the said Testator James Buckland and w w (sic) acknowledged by him to be his last Will and testament in the presence of us present at the time and subscribed by us in the presence of the said Testator and of with other Sarah Stimson Milliner late at Thorp Bayliss and Thorp Preston now staying at 35 Roman Road Higher Broughton Salford _____ Elizabeth Bryant, 35 Roman Road Higher Broughton Salford

The addendum was attached to the will at a later date and reads as follows:

In Her Majesty's Court of Probate.

Be it known that James Buckland formerly of Eagle Wharf Road in the county of Middlesex, but late of Saint Arnaud in the Colony of Victoria Ginger Beer Maker and Farmer deceased who died on the seventeenth day of August 1867 at Saint Arnaud aforesaid made and duly executed his Last Will and Testament and did therein name Jesse Bryant sole executor and Residuary Legatee in trust and his Wife Catherine Buckland Residuary Legatee for life. That the said Jesse Bryant has renounced the Probate and execution of the said Will and that the said Catherine Buckland died in the lifetime of the said deceased and it be further known that on the 31st day of October 1868 Letters of Administration (with the said Will annexed) of all and singular the personal estate and effects of the said deceased _____ were granted by Her Majesty's court of Probate to Sarah Fish (Wife of Robert Fish) the natural and lawful daughter of the said deceased and as such one of the Residuary Legatees substituted in the said Will she having been first sworn well and faithful to administer the same by paying the just debts of the said deceased and the legacies contained in his Will and distributing the residue of his estate according to law, and to exhibit a true and perfect inventory of all and singular the said personal estate and effects, and to render a just and true account thereof whenever required by law so to do. signed by Chas. J Middleton Registrar

St Arnaud is a former gold mining town and was settled in the mid-1850s. The gold rush in Australia started in 1851 and caused a huge influx of people from overseas. I am assuming that James decided to seek his fortune in Australia. En route to the port of departure he made his will (in Salford). A ship called *The Invincible* sailed to Melbourne on 5 October 1857 and the passenger list contains the name James BUCKLAND, Coachman.

It appears that James died in August 1867. The death notice from a local newspaper states that James, one of the pioneer residents of the town, had died from bronchitis. He was buried in the Presbyterian area of the local cemetery and the interment was attended by a large number of friends from the town.

Quite what happened to James between landing in Melbourne and 1861 is not known. However, a book called *Victorian Thirst* by Ken Arnold mentions that James and his partner, John PERRY, had a business making cordial on Napier Street in St Arnaud in 1861. Another book about the history of St Arnaud called *Trace of the Years* by Yvonne Palmer mentions that James and John had a soda water factory. John PERRY continued the business for a number of years after James's death. I am presuming that as he ended up producing ginger beer James's search for gold came to nothing!

So, what became of Catherine? It appears that she did not accompany James to Australia. After much searching I found a Catherine BUCKLAND living in Burstow Park, Reigate – her status being given as a visitor. Her death certificate dated 1865 gives her occupation as a housekeeper at Burstow. She obviously returned to her roots after James left for Australia. I am doubtful that the couple ever saw each other again.

And – what became of the will? The person from St Arnaud that had kindly researched James had previously sent the will to a distant relative of mine – a descendant of Mary's sister, Jane. I was able to contact him and asked if I could have a photocopy of the will. He was happy to let me have the original document. It is now framed in a large box frame and takes pride of place in my hallway.

The moral of my story is this: you never know what information is out there and where! However, I am doubtful that anyone else will obtain valuable information from a document dumped on a waste tip in a town on the edge of the Australian outback!!

I am interested to hear from any descendants of James and Catherine or anyone who has any observations on my story.

LWFMFHS 40TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY

The two societies that in 2001 joined together to form the London Westminster & Middlesex FHS were both formed 40 years ago and on Saturday 14 July all members were invited to a party to celebrate this at the Foundling Museum in Brunswick Square.

There were photographs and newsletters, articles and more from our past to look at and a Power Point presentation of images encompassing much of the Society's area and activities. You can see an image from this of the 10th anniversary cake in the background in the photo below! Michael Gandy gave a short talk about family history being OUR hobby and the essential details that needed to be handed down to our children.



Member No. 2 Eileen Blythe and our President Michael Gandy cutting the anniversary cake.



“Always a pleasure to spend time with lovely people, and to discuss a common interest.”

“The most important part of a FH society for me is the social interaction with like-minded people.”



“I joined in 1978 and continue visiting meetings every month. Wonderful experience.”

“Lovely to meet and have a chat with other members. Great to be able to see pictures of ‘Times Past’ of people no longer with us.”



“Great to celebrate our shared passion at such a fabulous venue!”

ST JAMES PICCADILLY

By Elizabeth Burling, Member No 4992

One thinks of Piccadilly today as being at the very heart of London. Piccadilly Circus is always busy, with the crowds shopping on Regent Street mingling with numerous theatre-goers waiting for shows to start and hordes of tourists looking at the new 790m² high-tech advertising screen but Piccadilly was not always this way. In medieval times the area was open countryside, situated as it was between the cities of London and Westminster.

It was occupied then by the Hospital of Burton Lazar and those of St Giles and St James. These had been founded to care for lepers, who were required to leave the City of London within 15 days. Leprosy seems to have died out here by the 16th century and upon the dissolution of the monasteries in 1539, most of this area came into the ownership of Henry VIII. Some of the land he kept for his own use (St James's Palace, which is still a royal palace to this day, stands where the old St James Leper Hospital had been) and the rest was leased out to tenants. Many of these leases were still running at the time of the Restoration in 1660, when the area began to be developed.

The Church of St James, Piccadilly was consecrated on 13 July 1684, its parish being taken from that of St Martin in the Fields. The church had been built in the 1680s at the expense of Henry JERMYN (who later became Earl of St Albans) together with the principal inhabitants of the district. It was designed by Sir Christopher WREN with an outside wall of plain brick, glazed windows and doorways of Portland stone and was big enough to seat 2,000 people. The steeple was added later but had to be taken down in 1687 after cracks appeared, and it was not finally re-erected until 1699. The altar, font and some other wooden designs within the church were carved by Grinling GIBBONS. Luckily these were unharmed when a fire broke out in the vaults in 1762, destroying two hundred coffins with their contents. The church remained virtually unchanged over the years but by the middle of the 19th century it was decided it needed improvements and eventually all the 17th century glazed windows were replaced. The church was renovated in 1937 only for it to be badly damaged by a bomb during World War II but it was faithfully reconstructed by Sir Albert RICHARDSON in 1953. The parish registers of St James are held at Westminster Archive Centre (WAC),

10 St Ann's Street, Westminster, London SW1P 2DE. Baptisms date from 1685-1963, marriages from 1685-1986 and burials from 1685-1853.

As the area became developed, further churches were built: St Thomas, Regent Street began as a proprietary chapel in 1702 and became a district church in 1869; St Philip, Regent Street was built in 1820; St Luke, Berwick Street was assigned a parish in 1841; St Peter, Great Windmill Street was consecrated in 1861 and St John the Baptist, Great Monmouth Street was consecrated in 1885. All of their parish records are at WAC but none of these include any burials.



A market is often held on the North Churchyard nowadays.

St James itself had two burial grounds attached to it – the Green Ground to the west and the North Churchyard on the Piccadilly side. Parishioners not buried in these graveyards were, from 1693, buried in a plot of land next to where Carnaby Street is now, which was known as the Poland Street Burial Ground. By 1733 this was full and an extension immediately to the west was leased by Lord Craven to the parish. In a Vestry discussion from May 1733 about this new piece of ground, reported by Earl Egremont in his diaries, the

land was said to be able to hold 12,000 bodies which would rot at a rate such that 800 bodies per year could be buried there. The St James Workhouse was later built over this site and no burial registers from Poland Street are known to have survived.

An extra-parochial burial ground was needed and a 1788 Act of Parliament allowed the parish to obtain one in the Hampstead Road. St James's Chapel was consecrated there in 1791 and the ground was used for burials until 1852. In 1887 the site was laid out as a public garden, known as St James's Gardens. Part of the ground, which was initially rectangular, was taken to build Euston Station. Burial ledgers dated 1790-1853 are at WAC. In the 1980s members of the North Middlesex FHS (one of our founder societies) recorded what could still be seen of the monumental inscriptions at that time. There were then about 150 monuments but most had been moved from their original positions and placed about the boundary of the garden. Many were half buried and illegible. All the existing monuments were recorded with the exception of about 15 headstones on a building site immediately south of the ground which were inaccessible. Unfortunately, all the monuments which were recorded in the north east corner of the ground in the summer of 1986 were destroyed in the autumn of the same year due to the building of an extension to Euston Station and its associated railway lines. The rest of this burial ground was closed to the public in June 2017 as the land is required for HS2 – the new high-speed railway linking London with cities in the north of the UK. All human remains will be exhumed but no further details are available at present. On the plus side, monumental inscription from 1789-1853 were produced on microfiche by LWMFHS and we will be bringing out a booklet of these next year. When this graveyard closed for further burials in the 1850s, Piccadilly parishioners instead were buried at Hanwell Cemetery, formerly known as the City of Westminster Cemetery, which was consecrated in 1854. The burial register covers the period from 1867-1949 and is at WAC with copies online at Find A Grave.

In due course the whole of the Piccadilly area was built over. Pall Mall became the site for many famous gentlemen's Clubs; the Athenaeum - whose membership included cabinet ministers, church dignitaries and many others from the sciences and literature; Carlton - HQ of the Tory Party; Guards' Club; Marlborough Club; Oxford & Cambridge University Club; Reform -

premier Club of Liberalism; Travellers' Club - which only admitted people who had travelled 500 miles or more in a direct line from London; United Services Club; while in St James Street were Arthurs, Boodles, Cocoa Tree, New University and Whites, to name a few. There are various records surviving for some of these clubs, for instance, Arthur's Club for gentlemen was founded in 1811 in Arthur's Chocolate House in St James's Street and correspondence sent to members, circulars and so on, dating from 1895-1957 are at LMA, Ref: PCK. Brook's Club of 60 St James's Street had a similar origin in coffee and chocolate houses. Membership was by election and on payment of an annual charge and by 1791 there were 450 members. Records, at LMA, Ref: ACC/2371, include lists of these members and others of the staff who worked there together with those regarding finance and administration.

A Watch House was established fairly early on in the life of the parish and was located in St James's Churchyard. There was a boys' charity school on the first floor. By the 1760s both institutions moved to larger premises just over Piccadilly in Little Vine Street. The Watch House there had room for the Parish Constable and a room in which to confine those in custody. In 1829 an Act of Parliament created the Metropolitan Police District and the St James's Watch House became Vine Street Police Station, one of the founding stations of the Metropolitan Police. The experts in police family history are The Metropolitan Police Heritage Centre at The Annexe, Empress State Building, Empress Approach, Lillie Road, London SW6 1TR. It is worth contacting them if you had police ancestors in London. For more information visit: <https://www.metpolicehistory.co.uk/met-police-family-history.html>. Archives from the Metropolitan Police themselves are all held at TNA and don't forget that police ancestors might also turn up in reports of trials, both in the courts and the newspapers.

This article has hopefully provided you will a glimpse at some of the records that are available for the Piccadilly area. To find out more about ancestors who lived here or in Berwick Street, Golden Square, Great Marlborough Street, Jermyn Street, Pall Mall or in St James's Palace (which is within this area but is extra-parochial, with its own administration) you might like to buy a copy of our Parish Guide to St James Piccadilly, which was published on 1 July.

WEBSITE NEWS

Women's Royal Voluntary Service

The Royal Voluntary Service Archive & Heritage Collection was formed to keep safe their records, which are of long term historical importance. Material has been collected both from within the organisation and from their volunteers around the UK and overseas to tell the story of over one million women and men who gave service to their communities and helped shape British society. The collection now includes approximately two million documents, nearly 15,000 photographs and thousands of unique items of uniform and objects.

The WVS and WRVS narrative reports, which form a significant part of the Royal Voluntary Service Archive & Heritage Collection, were awarded UK Memory of the World status UNESCO in 2010 and are considered to be of outstanding importance and value to the UK. These archives have now been digitised and can be searched here: <https://www.royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk/about-us/our-history/archive-and-heritage-collection>

Suffragette records

First launched in February this year to mark the 100th anniversary of the 1918 Representation of the People Act, more records from The National Archives' collections have recently been added to this project, which is online at FindMyPast. These documents are from the years 1902-1919 and include cabinet letters, calendars of prisoners, census returns from 1911 that either list 'suffragette' or 'suffragist' as an occupation or had been 'spoiled' in an act of civil disobedience, Home Office papers of suffragette disturbances, an index of women arrested between 1906 and 1914 (the official watch list of over 1,300 suffragettes), photographs of suffragettes, reports of force-feeding, and more.

Also on this website are the 1500 names from the 1866 Women's Suffrage Petition, which comes from www.parliament.uk (and can also be seen there) and a collection of suffragette newspapers: *Church League for Women's Suffrage*, *Common Cause*, *Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Review*, *Free Church Suffrage Times*, *International Woman Suffrage News*, *Jus Suffragi*, *The Suffragist*, *The Vote*, *Woman's Dreadnought*, *Woman's Leader and the Common Cause*, *Woman's Signal*, *Women's Franchise*, *Women's Suffrage* and *Women's Suffrage Record*.

London City Mission

London City Mission (LCM) was founded on 16 May 1835 by David NASMITH. He had worked in the slums and tenements which had grown with the industrial revolution in Glasgow with Thomas CHALMERS and had then produced a blueprint for Christian ministry in a big city which he transferred to London.

This new Mission had a mandate to ‘extend the knowledge of the Gospel among the inhabitants of London and its vicinity (especially the poor).’ The missionaries were to ‘Go to the people of the District assigned to you, for the purpose of bringing them to an acquaintance with salvation, through our Lord Jesus Christ, and of doing them good by every means in your power’, During the cholera epidemic of the 1840s, they sent over 200 missionaries into London’s slum homes to try to help the sick; in the 1850s they set up schools for poor children; in the Blitz they helped families who had been bombed out and they still carry on their mission to this day.

They have an extensive collection of records and archives which could be of interest to social historians and family researchers. These include the *LCM Magazine*, which has been produced from 1836. Indexes to these magazines dated from 1836-1968 are on their website: <https://www.lcm.org.uk/our-mission/archives>. LCM has family history related material such as a Register of Missionaries, annual reports of individual missionaries, autobiographical accounts and more. They are gradually accumulating information on individual missionaries, which might only contain the basic details of when a person joined the Mission and when they left or died, together with a short published obituary or may contain much more detailed information e.g. mentions in Committee minute books and long extracts from obituaries, where they exist.

Archive research is done by their volunteers and is very time-consuming. If you request a particular document, they would appreciate a donation to our funds. There is a form online to request information or you can telephone them: 020 7404 7585.



LWMFHS PARISH GUIDES

Our Parish Guides are little books crammed with as much information as possible about the Ancient Parishes in our area. We aim to inspire family historians and to help you locate ancestors in places that you might not have thought of looking before. Each guide starts off with a brief history of the area and a description of where the main archives for the parish are located. There are then many different sections about the various types of records that relate to the parish, with a description of what they are and information about where these records can be found. There are several ways to acquire the booklets:

1. They can be purchased easily online from GenFair for £6 each plus postage and packing. Go to: <https://www.genfair.co.uk/> and then type 'parish guides', or the name of the parish into the search box. Post and packing costs vary depending on the size of the booklet and the destination, as shown here.

Booklet	UK P&P	Europe P&P	Rest of the world P&P
Clerkenwell	£1.41	£4.55	£5.65
Islington	£1.90	£5.20	£6.80
Paddington	£1.41	£4.55	£5.65
St Anne Soho	£1.41	£4.55	£5.65
St George Hanover Square	£1.41	£4.55	£5.65
St James Piccadilly	£1.41	£4.55	£5.65
St Marylebone	£1.90	£5.20	£6.80

Of course, if you want more than one booklet the postage will be different but the Genfair website will work it out for you.

2. 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 you would like and enclosing a sterling cheque made payable to LWMFHS for the appropriate amount.

Copies are also available at fairs, our meetings and our AGM for the special price of £5.

MEMBERS' INTERESTS

The research interests listed here were submitted by members between May and early August 2018.

If you would like to contact a member whose interests are listed below, please email/write to the Members Interests co-ordinator (see inside front cover of the journal) who will pass on your email/letter to the person concerned.

Interests shown below are from members: 5329; 8022; 8037; 8039; 8041; 8067 and 8069.

Name	Period	County	Parish / Area	Mem.No.
BELSON	1800-2018	MDX	Any	8022
BICKERTON	1650-1900	MDX	All	5329
BROWN	1800-2018	LND	Any	8022
CATTERNS	1750+	MDX	St Pancras	8041
CREED	1800-2018	BKM	Aylesbury/Waddesdon	8022
DENHAM	1855-1890	MDX	Clerkenwell and Islington	8069
DUNSFORD	1800-2018	DEV	Exeter	8022
DURBIN	1800-2018	LND	Any	8022
FANTHORPE	1850+	MDX	Islington	8041
GRAVER	1800-2018	MDX	Any	8022
HOLBERRY	1800-2018	LND	Any	8022
HOLBERRY	1800-2018	MDX	Any	8022
HOPPNER	1730-1900	MDX	All	5329
HUNTLEY	1830-1940	SRY	Wandsworth	8069
HUNTLEY	1830-1940	SRY	Battersea	8069
HUNTLEY	1830-1940	MDX	Tooting Bec	8069
KITSON	1800+	MDX	St Pancras	8041
LARKING	1830-1875	MDX	St James, Piccadilly	8039
LEWIS	1850-1900	MDX	Hampstead	8067
LUMLEY	1750+	MDX	Any	8041
MATTHEWS	1800-2018	LND	Any	8022
MATTHEWS	1800-2018	MDX	Any	8022
MAY	1812-1850	KEN	Linton	8069
McPHERSON	1800-2018	MDX	Any	8022
MEYER	1730-1900	MDX	All	5329
MORGAN	1800-2018	Wales	Any	8022
OTTON	1730-1900	MDX	All	5329
PEARCE	1690-1900	MDX	St Marylebone	8037
POWELL	1800-2018	Wales	Any	8022
RECKLESS	1800+	MDX	Clerkenwell	8041
STEVENS	1800-2018	LND	Any	8022

STEVENS	1800-2018	MDX	Any	8022
SWINDEN	1760+	MDX	Any	8041
SWINDON	1760+	MDX	Any	8041
THOMAS	1750+	MDX	St Pancras	8041
TIDY	1780+	MDX	Islington	8041
TORADE	1730-1800	MDX	All	5329
WOOLNOTH	1600-1900	MDX	All	5329

SPECIAL INTERESTS

- 5329 **Henry Meyer**, Artist and Engraver 1780-1847
 8022 **Stevens, Powell and Morgan**
 8039 **Broad Street, now Broadwick Street, Soho**
 8041 **Metropolitan Police**. Early Victorian 1829-1840
 8067 **Police and Presbyterian Church**
 8069 **Saffery, Huntley & Son**, Solicitors

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members, numbers 8060 – 8070 who have joined the Society over the past few months and wish them well with their research.

METROPOLITAN AND MEMBERS' DETAILS

A few members of the Society have emailed the Editors to say that they do not want their contact details published in METROPOLITAN.

This affects both the Members' Interests and the *Help!* sections of the journal. Contact to these members will, therefore, be via the Editors or the Members' Interest co-ordinator. Please see inside front cover of the journal for their addresses.

When you send us Members' Interests or a *Help!* request, please let us know if you want your contact details published in the journal or would prefer anonymous contact via the Society.

All articles and letters published in the journal are accompanied by the author's name and Membership number.

THE SECRETARY'S ROLE

Our Society is still in need of a Secretary Do you have the qualities and enthusiasm required for this role? The following is a brief job description:

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

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

Email addresses can be found on the inside front cover of
METROPOLITAN

THE RUBERY FAMILY WIVES OF LONDON

Grace Rubery, Member No. 8049

In a previous edition of the Journal I wrote about the RUBERY family of London and mentioned that we were awaiting the result of John's Y DNA test. Sadly when this arrived it showed that John was not connected to the earlier RUBERY family in London and I think I have found an explanation for this. I looked at the will of John RUBERY (2) dated 1796 in which he leaves his substantial wealth to his two daughters and to 'John RUBERY, chair carver (a reputed illegitimate child of the late Sarah Rubery formerly of Private Madhouse, Spaxton) the sum of one shilling.' So John (3) had been born in the Asylum at Spaxton, so, if John RUBERY (2) was not the father of John (3) this could explain the Y DNA results.

I have also discovered some interesting information about the RUBERY wives. As I mentioned the first possible ancestor I can find is John RUBERY (1) who, as a widower, was married to Sarah FOSSETT spinster. Sarah, daughter of Henry and Sarah, of Wentworth Street had been baptised at St Mary, Whitechapel in 1725.

Their son, John RUBERY (2), born 1759, married Alice NETTLEFOLD in 1780 at St Luke, Finsbury Park. Alice was the daughter of John NETTLEFOLD and Mary (née THRUMPTON) who were married at St Mary, Newington, Southwark in 1757 and Alice was baptised there in 1759. Alice was 39 when she was buried at St George in the East, Shoreditch. After the death of Alice, John married Sarah TAYLOR of the Parish of St Botolph, Bishopsgate in 1798 at St Matthew, Bethnal Green, and, I believe, it was this Sarah who gave birth to the 'baseborn' John in 1804. Sarah died in 1818 and was buried at St Leonards, Hackney.

John (3) (chair carver and the son of Sarah, and possibly not of John (2), married Susanna SMITH at St Giles without Cripplegate in 1825 and the baptisms of four children are recorded. As there were many Susanna(h) SMITH babies baptised in the area I have come to a halt on this line. Also I have also been unable to find a burial for her but John (3) married (Emma) Jane BUBB in 1840 at St Dunstan and went on to have eight more children. Jane, daughter of John BUBB, a sawyer, and Sarah RANDAL was born in

1813 in Bethnal Green. Sarah, daughter of James RANDAL and Mary, was baptised in 1771. Emma continued to run the upholstery business after the death of John RUBERY (3) and left a legacy of £1114 9s. 7d. upon her death in Walthamstow in 1898.

The story of her parents, John and Sarah BUBB is sad as Poor Law Removal and Settlement records show that John BUBB, aged 57, had moved frequently with his growing family, living in cheap rented rooms. The couple were placed in the Liverpool Road Workhouse, Islington in 1841 and Mary died soon after. John discharged himself after 11 weeks but is shown back there in the 1841 Census. John, who gave his occupation as 'slater', was readmitted in 1842 and died the same year. One wonders how Jane allowed their parents to end their lives in such conditions as she and John seemed to be quite well off. In my research I was amused to discover in the Calendar of the Quarter Sessions, in 1615/16 that one John BUBB had been, 'charged with the making of scandalous rhymes against David DUNNE of Drury Lane, cook, and his wife' and that, in the same year John BUBB, tapster, was bound over for beating and wounding John PRYCE of St Mary-le-Strand.

George Robert RUBERY, the fifth child of John (3) RUBERY and Jane, married Pamela GROUT in 1866 at St John, Bethnal Green, and I found the GROUT line most interesting. Pamela's baptism records show that the event took place in St Mary, Whitechapel in 1845. This was an area fast becoming one of the worst slums in London, with 800 people to an acre, ten or twelve people living in one room and, in 1888, in its dark crowded streets, the reign of Jack the Ripper began. On the 1851 Census Pamela GROUS (sic.) aged 5, is shown living in Mile End with her parents, Joseph and Pamela and her two siblings and Pamela's mother, Ann PILGRIM.

It is documented that the GROUT/De GROUT/GROOT family had come as Huguenot refugees, some coming into England via Canterbury and many setting up as silk weavers in Spitalfields. In 1714 a baptism is recorded for George son of Jean Jaques GROUT and Sarah, and in 1724 baptisms for Elizabeth, daughter of Pierre GROUT and Elizabeth, and Marie, daughter of Jean and Elizabeth are all shown in the records of the Huguenot Church, Threadneedle Street.

It is with Joseph GROUT (1), born about 1786, that I hit a brick wall. The only birth I can find for that time is for a Joseph GROOT baseborn to Elizabeth in the workhouse, Gravel Lane, Houndsditch and baptised in April at St Botolph, Aldgate.

I would like to be able to link his mother, Elizabeth, to the family of Joseph GROUT (a) whose second marriage to Maria Susanna PETIT took place in Christchurch, Spitalfields in 1756. Details of Maria and her ancestors are recorded in the Huguenot Church in Threadneedle Street. It is noted in the register of foreign churches that in 1749 Joseph abjured his Roman religion to join the Huguenot church. Joseph and Maria had at least four children, their son, Joseph GROUT (b) being born in 1758. The Huguenots were able to have their children baptised in their own French churches, but marriages had to take place in Anglican churches.

Joseph GROUT (b) appears to have married Mary COLLUP in 1772 when he was aged 14, then as a widower, aged 18, married Elizabeth STONE in 1776. They went on to have seven children. Their first child, Elizabeth GROUT, could well have been the mother of the base-born Joseph (1), but unless new evidence emerges I shall never know. It would have been so interesting to be able to claim a connection to the family of Joseph GROUT (a) as the Huguenot churches keep such detailed records.

Joseph GROUT (1), who gave his middle name as Jonathan, married Harriet BONUS (also a Huguenot name) in 1818. Harriet was the daughter of John BONUS and Margaret MANN, married in Whitechapel in 1799. Joseph (1) and Harriet lived in Boar's Head Yard off Petticoat Lane which had been the site of an inn-yard theatre from 1598 to around 1616 and even that had been converted from several earlier buildings. The conditions there were probably extremely poor and the deaths of several of their children were entered in the Parish Records of St Mary Whitechapel. Joseph died in 1848 aged 52 and was buried in Tower Hamlets Cemetery, so he would have been born about 1796.

One of their sons, Joseph (2) was born in 1819 in George Yard, Whitechapel. Joseph married Pamela PILGRIM in 1841. Pamela was the daughter of John PILGRIM, a biscuit baker, and Ann. Joseph was a hat maker and Pamela, his

wife, a hat trimmer. In the 1850s Joseph was probably making straw or velvet covered bonnets whilst Pamela would add ribbons, silk flowers and feathers. These would be worn on top of lace trimmed caps which framed the face. In the 1851 Census Pamela's mother, Ann PILGRIM is shown living with them. Joseph died aged 49.

Pamela GROUT, born 1843, was the sixth of ten recorded children of Joseph and Pamela. She married George Robert RUBERY in Bethnal Green in 1866, and their third son, Walter John Rubery was my husband's grandfather. Walter married Amy WOOD, and at a later date I will explain why my husband is John Benson RUBERY! Their third child, Harold (Harry) RUBERY married Frances May CHAMBERS in 1929, and the CHAMBERS family is another story!

As before, I have done all my research on the internet, using mainly Find My Past and Ancestry, but I did Google 'Huguenot Churches London' and found registers of numerous Huguenot churches and documents on line through Find My Past. I also found Docklands Baptism records useful. And my research of the RUBERY wives continues.



Bespoke London East End Family History Walks

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JOTTINGS

London Metropolitan Archives (LMA) change in opening hours

The evening sessions at LMA have not proved very popular, with an average of only 6 people still there at 7pm. As a consequence, from the beginning of September evening opening will be restricted to Wednesdays. This will mean that late researching here will not clash with that of The National Archives. So, from 3 September LMA's opening hours will be: Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 9.30am-4.45pm, Wednesday 9.30am-7.30pm, Friday closed, and 11 Saturdays a year (usually the second in the month) 9.30am-4.45pm.

Millicent Garrett Fawcett: 1847-1929

The statue of Millicent Garrett Fawcett (pictured below) was unveiled in Parliament Square on 24 April 2018. The bronze casting is the first statue of a woman erected in Parliament Square. It is also the first statue erected there to be created by a woman. It depicts Millicent Fawcett at the age of 50 years which was when she was awarded a brooch from the National Union of Women Suffrage Societies (NUWSS). She led this organization from 1890-1919, and was its President from 1907.



The words on the banner she holds are taken from a sentence that Millicent wrote a few years after the death of Emily Wilding Davison who was hit by the King's horse at the Epsom Derby in 1913. Millicent admired the Suffragettes but did not believe in civil disobedience. In this quote she both acknowledges the ultimate sacrifice of Davison as well encouraging people to think of the selfless acts of others. In this way the statue combines the work of the suffragists and suffragettes.

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The statue directly faces the Houses of Parliament and joins eleven existing statues of men. The plinth carries the images of 59 people – 55 women and 4 men – who were part of the fight for women’s right to vote. In this way the artist has achieved a little-noticed feat: there are now more faces of women than men in the square.



Millicent Fawcett was in Parliament in 1928 to witness the equalizing of the voting age for men and women. This became law on 2 July 1928. She died on 5 August 1929.

Pam Chambers

General Record Office (GRO) PDF pilot test

The GRO has extended its pilot test of birth and death registrations in PDF format. The service will now continue for the foreseeable future - no end date has been announced. Each PDF costs £6 – quite a saving on a hard-copy certificate. Applications for a PDF must be made online and include the GRO index reference (you can get these from the GRO site or from FreeBMD).

The England and Wales registrations which are available as PDFs are: Births: 1837–1917 and Deaths: 1837–1957.

For certificates after these dates and for marriages you can still apply online but the certificate will cost £9.25 for despatch on the 4th working day from receipt of order or £23.40 for despatch on the next working day.

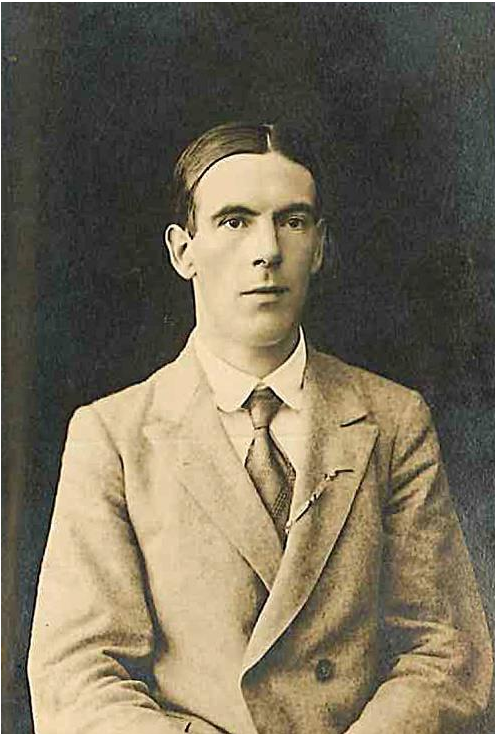
BILL THE SPY

William James McKenzie McDavid 1884 – 1939

By Alastair McDavid, Member No. 8029

Was a Scotsman working for British Intelligence during the Russian Revolution?

Escaping from the Russian capital St Petersburg in 1915 he's back again in 1917 before going to Vladivostok, Siberia, Japan and China.



He had two Russian wives, lived in St Petersburg, Vladivostok, Shanghai, New York and closer to home Kentish Town, Mill Hill and Harrow.

The St Petersburg-London-Vladivostok trail appears to be a well-trodden route for British Military personnel so no doubt a spy too. After all, the British Government needed information about the Russian Civil War (1917-1922).

The local connection: Bill's first Russian wife, Mary - we don't yet know her Russian name - escaped to London before the revolution and lived with Bill's brother, Frank

McDAVID (1889-1938) and his wife Amanda (1894-1987) in the Barnet/Southgate area while Bill returned to Russia. Mary died of Spanish Flu in 1919 and is buried in Hendon Cemetery. Bill was buried in the same grave in 1939, as was his third wife Rhoda TOWNSON in 1942. His second Russian wife Elizaveta, died in 1923 in Shanghai with Bill at her side.

Bill states on various documents that he was a ‘Manager of a Rubber Factory’; the Krasny Treugolnik was one of the largest factories in St Petersburg and had international investment. Some records say there were about 2000 British in St Petersburg. The National Archives (TNA) has records of British businessmen in senior positions in Russia assisting the fledging Secret Intelligence Service of that period.

MI6 have never responded to any requests for confirmation that Bill was a spy. Why were the same British Embassy staff from St Petersburg in 1918 present at his wedding to Elizaveta in Vladivostok in 1921? Did British intelligence move the entire spy cell 10,000 Kilometres from Petrograd to Vladivostok? Unlike MI5, MI6 do not deposit records at The National Archives, indeed TNA have very few MI6 records — but they do have some. One I have read, dated 16 July 1900 marked ‘Secret’ is about a spy, Mr WHITE: *an educated, observant and reliable man ... employed in looking after an oil prospecting company*. Of course, most foreigners in any senior position in business in Russia were *part time spies* as documents in The National Archive and books written about the secret service show.

Why am I researching this relative? A chance email from a MacDAVID (sic) asked if I knew anything about a mutual relative known in the family as *Bill the Spy*. The thought of a ‘James Bond’ in the family begins 6 years of research at The National Archives, the British Library, records from the General Registry Office (GRO) and all of the on-line ancestry sites. Meetings at The National Archives with Phil Tomaselli, author of *Tracing Your Secret Service Ancestors* and James Fleming (no relation to Ian) the TNA staff member who deals with *Spies* throughout the ages - including MI5 and MI6 - have encouraged us to continue this British intelligence connection.

Was danger and excitement in his blood? His close relative Jock McDAVID was Winston CHURCHILL’s Aide-de-camp in the First World War. [In their many books, Winston and Clementine managed to get Jock’s name right, Boris Johnston in his 2015 book, *The Churchill Factor: How One Man Made History*, spelt it Mac instead of Mc]

Born in Kensington of Scottish parents we trace Bill to the Russian capital St Petersburg sometime after 1906, as the 'Manager of a Rubber Factory'. TNA records show he was wounded escaping from Russia in August 1915, so could he have then been working in the Provodnik rubber factory at Riga. This had to move production facilities to Moscow in the summer of 1915 due to the advancing offensive of German troops in the direction of Jelgava-Riga. Yet he is back in St Petersburg in 1917 without his wife and finally returns to the UK in 1918, all shown in TNA records.

Bill first enlisted into the British Army in St Petersburg in May 1917 but was rejected by Embassy staff due to his 1915 wounds (again TNA records) but the Ministry of Defence pay his passage back to the UK in 1918 to allow him to enlist – for a few weeks - in The Artists Rifles just before the end of WW1. The British Army acknowledges his Russian wife and his apartment address in St Petersburg. They too reject him due to his 1915 wounds.

Bill then heads off in 1918 to New York to set up an Import-Export Company as recorded by *The New York Times*. Did not James Bond work for *Universal Exports*? Basic spy cover! He states that his wife is living at the family home in Kentish Town.



Within weeks, Bill is promptly recalled to the UK on Mary's death at the age of 32. She is buried in Hendon Cemetery.

Bill is then sent to Vladivostok; again for another Import-Export company and we can trace various cryptic telegrams via the Foreign Office such as 'Tea stocks at Vladivostok'.

Bill marries Elizaveta (Elizabeth) a widow with a daughter in Vladivostok in 1921. Two British Consulate staff who attend the wedding were also at the Embassy in St Petersburg when Bill lived in the then Russian capital. It is clear from postcards that Elizabeth too must have lived in St Petersburg at some time.

Their honeymoon is recorded in a series of postcards written by Elizabeth to her daughter as Bill brings his new wife from Vladivostok, via Japan, Vancouver and New York to England and Scotland. We've only managed to have a few translated, naturally they are all in *Old Russian*.

Postcards and letters reveal that Bill was again sent back to Vladivostok via New York and Vancouver while Elizabeth took the 'Slow Boat to China' via Marseilles and the Suez Canal.

Letters care of various British Embassies show that Bill and Elizabeth were on their way back from Vladivostok to live in the UK when Elizabeth is taken ill, disembarks and dies in Shanghai in 1923.

There is no doubt that Bill was a linguist, useful for a spy. Tutoring the Tsar's children is one family rumour but surely that is one position that would be listed in royal records and nothing found to date, yet we do know he was a Professor in China at the South Eastern University of Nanking in 1921.

Between 1926 and 1929 he was a 'translator' for first class passengers on the trans-Atlantic shipping routes until he married his third wife Rhoda TOWNSON.

End of Part 1

Very keen to hear of any member who knew of any McDavids, many lived in the LWMFHS area and also anyone who can read old Russian from the 100+ postcards we have. You can contact me by email at: amcdavid@aol.com

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.



MATTHEWS

My mother's MATTHEWS family are from Newington, Surrey. John MATTHEWS and Barbara [surname unknown] were married by Licence in 1791 at St Mary, Newington, Surrey. John married Susana HODDS on 24 August 1803 at St Giles, Camberwell, Surrey. I have not found a death for Barbara, nor a baptism or burial for John. He may have been away in the War at this time? Rates books for Newington Highway give John MATTHEWS paying for property in Cottage Place from 1810-19, and New Street from 1819-23.

John had these two sons: William MATTHEWS, born about 1793, baptised October 1813 and married in December 1813 at St Mary, Newington to Sarah Elizabeth PAYNE. He is described as 'son of John and Susanna MATTHEWS, of Cottage Place, Newington, Surrey'. In the 1841 census returns, William is listed in Essex Place, Bethnal Green, Middlesex. He is a Carpenter aged 48 and with him are his wife Sarah Elizabeth and children. William died in September 1849, at 15 Teal Street, Bethnal Green.

Henry William MATTHEWS was born about 1795, baptised September 1822 as the son of John and Susanna MATTHEWS of New Street, Kent Road, Newington, Surrey. He married in August 1822 at St Mary, Newington, Surrey to Ann Jane HACK. In the 1861 census returns Henry is listed in Cleveland Street, St Mary le Bone, London as a Missionary, aged 66 with his wife. In a previous census he has been in the same street and listed as a Carver and Gilder, and that's what is listed in 1871. No burial has been found for him either. Was Henry a Missionary? How do I find out please?

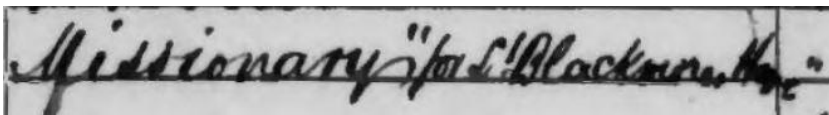
And did he and his brother go to the Joseph Lancaster School in Southwark when they were children? Have the records survived? I believe Joseph Lancaster was in South Africa before he opened his School in London and adopted their teaching methods.

Help to find some more information would be great.

Eileen Blythe, Member No. 02

Email: eileenb891@gmail.com

Note: The entry in the 1861 census is not easy to read, see picture below, but definitely says Missionary. This seems to us to be followed with: "for L^t Blackmores House".



Lieutenant John Blackmore had been in naval service and after he was 'severely injured in an explosion while saluting the king of the Belgians' experienced a personal religious conversion and became actively engaged in trying to 'save' women prostitutes. To this purpose he started 'The London by Moonlight Mission' which had two Refuges: 'The London Female Dormitory and Industrial Institution' at 9 Abbey Road, St John's Wood and 'The Female Temporary Home' at 218 Marylebone Road. He published a book on his work and more can be found out about him and his mission here: <https://www.brethrenarchive.org/mini-blog/posts/the-london-by-moonlight-mission/>

Henry MATTHEWS may have been buried in East Finchley, as the St Marylebone Burial Board bought 47 acres there in 1854 to use as a cemetery. Now known as East Finchley Cemetery, this is at East End Road, East Finchley, London N2 0RZ. Burial plot information from 1855-1974 is at City of Westminster Archive Centre, 10 St Ann's Street, Westminster, London SW1P 2DE and online at FindMyPast.

Regarding the Joseph Lancaster School in Southwark, this seems to have opened in 1872 as Harper Street School, becoming Joseph Lancaster School in 1933, so is too recent to have been the school of Henry and his brother. (There are some records at LMA, which are: admission and discharge registers for girls 1872-1932 and for infants 1882-1940; log books for boys 1926-1939, senior boys 1940, girls 1913-1946 and infants 1872-1939.)

PAGE

I am still trying to prove my 6x great grandfather's birth and death. He was married in St Mary church, Acton to Mary MASON 'both of this parish' on 2 September 1756. Is anyone also researching this line? And have they found him?

In my research of many years I have found a mystery regarding the Richard PAGE who on his death in 1803 was worth 3 million pounds. I cannot find a memorial for him, his father also a Richard 1698-1715, or his grandfather also Richard, Knighted in 1645.

John and brother Thomas were two of the first six governors of Harrow School when it was founded in 1561. They all attended Harrow St Mary's Church but no memorial? The Richard I am really looking for had two wives: Anne HERNE, died 1740, and Susanna NEWMAN, died 1780, and according to the Parish Register she was buried in the Family Tomb. This could have been the NEWMAN family tomb however.

According to LAMAS (London and Middlesex Archaeological Society) information dated 1860, John the eldest son died in 1623 having (according to his monument) lived to see seventy five children and grandchildren. (Where is this monument?) Richard left large sums of money to his brothers William Esq, Henry Esq, Francis and Ann the widow of brother John. The order of deaths are: John died in Hampstead in 1802; Richard died in Wembley in 1803; Francis died in Wickham, Kent in 1810; William died in Cavendish Square in 1824; and Henry died in Upper Norwood in 1829.

Brian Page, Member No. 7795

Please contact the editors if you can help Brian and we will pass your message on to him.

Note: According to the chapter on 'Harrow on the Hill' in *The Environs of London: Volume 2, County of Middlesex* (T Cadell and W Davies, 1795), pages 559-588, the tomb of John PAGE of Wembley who died in 1623 and lived to see 75 children and grandchildren is in the churchyard at St Mary, Harrow. It is possible that in the near 400 years since this monument was erected it has been weathered away and is no longer either standing or legible. In the church is a sarcophagus to the memory of John PAGE Esq of Uxendon from 1667 and in the floor of the south aisle is the tomb of John PAGE, Gent, dated 1715 but no Richard PAGES

are mentioned as being buried there. A Randall PAGE (died 1682) and Mr John PAGE (died 1689) are commemorated by flat stones in the chancel at St John the Baptist, Pinner - again, no Richards.

A History of the County of Middlesex: Volume 4, Harmondsworth, Hayes, Norwood With Southall, Hillingdon With Uxbridge, Ickenham, Northolt, Perivale, Ruislip, Edgware, Harrow With Pinner (Victoria County History, 1971) mentions that some of the PAGE family were recusants: William PAGE who lived in Uxendon manor-house, Anthony PAGE (died 1593) and Francis PAGE (died 1692). Could the PAGE family have built a private mausoleum at Wembley Park?

Harrow School has a large archive - have you checked with them? The Archive is open from 9.30am to 5.00pm, Monday to Friday, by appointment only. Otherwise, you could contact the Archivist, by email is recommended, with as much background information as possible. As the School receives many enquiries, it may take time to carry out research. Access to the Archive is at the discretion of the School. You can contact them here: <https://www.harrowschool.org.uk/The-Archive> It sounds like you have Richard's Will, which presumably does not mention where he would like to be buried but do you have all other Wills of the family, some of which might?

It might also be worth contacting the Archivist at Brent Museum & Archives (BMA) and having a chat with them about possible further roads to go down, as they are the experts in this area. BMA is located at The Library at Willesden Green, 95 High Road, Willesden Green, London NW10 2SF. It is open on Tuesday from 9am to 5pm, Wednesday from 9am to 5pm, Thursday from 1pm to 8pm and Saturday from 10am to 1pm and 2pm to 5pm. Tel: 020 8937 3600. Brent Archives' collections focus on the London Borough of Brent, which was formed by combining the former boroughs of Wembley and Willesden in 1965. More information on what is in their catalogue can be found on their website: <http://bmacollections.brent.gov.uk/>

JONES

I'm seeking information about the family of Edwin and Evelina JONES (née WILSON), who married on 6 November 1882 in Islington.

Edwin JONES was born 17 January 1854 in Clerkenwell and died 1 July 1901 in Holborn. His parents were John JONES (1808-1880) and Frances Mary BECK (1821-1912). Siblings were Frances F. (1844-), Emily M. (1847-), John (1849-), Harriet (1852-), Charlotte Elizabeth (1856-), and Emma A. (1860-).

Evelina WILSON was born in 1865 in Shoreditch and died in 1940 in Hendon. Her parents were Samuel WILSON (1825-1881) and Ann SPARROW (1816-1883). Siblings were Elizabeth (1839-1880), Emma (1841-1881), George (1843-), Thomas (1844-1909), John (1847-1915), Ann (1848-), Walter (1850-1914), Samuel (1852-1898), Louisa (1853-), Henry (1860-), Arthur (1862-), and Eliza (1863-).

Edwin and Evelina had 8 children: Evalina Dorothy (1885-1962), Edwin (1886-1930), Rose (1887-), Louisa Frances (1890-), Jessie Rebecca (1893-1917), John Henry (1895-1995), Beatrice Alice (1897-2000), and Elizabeth Ethel (1899-).

According to family lore, Edwin JONES was 'on the stage'. He appeared regularly at Collins Music Hall in Islington (now a Waterstone's bookshop) and was also a member of the Mohawk Minstrels. He used the stage name Curly JONES. When he was out of work, he helped his brother, John JONES, in his taxicab business.

After Edwin died in 1901, Evelina remarried in 1918 in Islington, to Charles Henry GORDON, who was born in 1869 and died in 1924 in Islington.

Thank you for any information you can give me.

Stephanie Stone, Member No. 8064

Email: sstone4@cogeco.ca

Note: JONES and WILSON are two of the most common surnames in the UK so it will not necessarily be easy to trace these families. However, the marriage of John JONES and Frances Mary BECK is easy to locate - it took place in the December quarter of 1842 in the Strand Registration District (which is in London). It would be worth buying this as it should give you John's father's name.

Frances is also quite easy to find in the 1841 census where she is servant to one Mary Harwood in Clerkenwell but John is much harder to find. There are over 1000 John JONES born about 1808 living in London in the 1841 census returns. However, his occupation of rope maker is not so common so a patient search may find him.

In the 1851 census returns, the couple are living at Warren Street, Clerkenwell with three of their children. John is said to be of Bedminster in Somerset and Frances of Tiverton in Devon.

With Samuel and Ann WILSON, it is worth bearing in mind that Samuel is quite a bit younger than Ann and it is likely that she was married before and that not all of the children are his.

A search in the newspaper archives for Curly JONES did not bring any results but there were plenty for the Mohawk Minstrels.

BIRTH REGISTRATION

Could you can tell me the name of the street in London where I will find the Regional Register Office/Registration Officer for Marylebone and Kensington? I have never found the birth entry for my great grandmother, Susannah MITCHELL, who was born on 11 April 1838 and baptised on 6 May 1838 in Trinity Church, Osnaburgh Street, London NW1. According to *Family Tree Magazine*, it is possible sometimes to find missing names in the original set of local indexes. In census returns she sometimes states that she was born in Kensington and other times in Marylebone.

Vivienne Allen, Member No. 7776

Note: Registration of births was not made compulsory until 1875 and a significant proportion of births, which may include that of your great grandmother, will not appear in the GRO records. However, it might be worth looking at the original indexes, just in case! The Kensington and Chelsea Register Office is at Chelsea Old Town Hall, Kings Road, Chelsea SW3 5EE, email: registrars@rbkc.gov.uk, phone 020 7361 4100, whilst that for Marylebone was located in Old Marylebone Town Hall. This has recently been refurbished and now just seems to be a wedding venue. Westminster Register Office may be able to help you further. You can contact them by email: registeroffice@westminster.gov.uk or call 020 7641 7500.

HEATH

I am trying to write a small memoir about my grandmother, Mabel Minnie HEATH (1893-1952) which will be used for the celebrations on the centenary of her marriage to my grandfather Vernon Ragless PADMAN on 4 July 1919.

I am trying to fill in the missing years of her work life between 1915 and 1919 when she married my grandfather.

I have documented evidence that she worked for the Post Office as a telephonist between 1913 and 1915. I also have diary entries from 1919 where my grandfather says she was working in the Office of the Surveyor of Taxes in Salisbury House, Finsbury Circus, London and left her job on 31 July 1919. There are no details of the type of work she was doing.

Mabel HEATH probably had lived with her Aunt, Alice FOXWELL, at 71 Beresford Road, Islington in 1913-1915 but my grandfather reports she was living in Sevenoaks, Kent in 1919, as was her aunt FOXWELL. She probably commuted on the 7.20am or 8.20am train into London.

Are there Civil Service records I could access to find out when Mabel Minnie HEATH joined the Office Staff of the Office of the Surveyor of Taxes at Salisbury House (?possibly as a telephonist).

Mabel did not discuss her pre-marriage employment, so I would be grateful for any information.

Joy Shaw, Member No. 7604

Email: joy.shaw@ymail.com

Note: Of the Civil Service records online, only the following two appear relevant to your grandmother:

British Civil Service Evidence of Age records were collected by the Civil Service Commission (CSC) from 1855 onwards in order to establish accurate birth dates for the purpose of either ensuring that an examination candidate was of the required age, or granting a pension. Some 60,000 people are named in these documents, which are now at the Society of Genealogists with copies online at FindMyPast. Unfortunately, it is estimated that only 2 percent of the papers originally held by the Civil Service are contained in this collection: the remaining 98 percent were destroyed.

Civil Service examination marks and results from 1855 onwards were preserved in TNA, Ref: CSC10. These relate to people who applied for Civil Service posts.

An online article called *Surveying Taxes in the Great War* by David Williams from the Worshipful Company of Tax Advisers' Tax History Group (published in 2012) may well contain information relevant to your grandmother's work between 1914 and 1919. This can be seen here: http://www.taxadvisers.org.uk/content/view.cfm/downloads/WCTA_talk_slides.pdf

The successor organisation to the Surveyor of Taxes is Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC). It might be worth contacting them to see if they have staff records from World War I. They are at 100 Parliament St, Westminster, London SW1A 2BQ, Tel: 0300 200 3310.



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Our Society's year ends on 30 September 2018
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by 1 October 2018

The renewal form was in the centre
of the June issue of METROPOLITAN

FORTHCOMING BRANCH MEETINGS

Barnet Branch – 7.30pm for 8.00pm

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

- Thursday 20 September *Local Rates and Rate Maps*
by Ian Waller
Thursday 18 October *Film & Sound Archives for Family Historians*
by Kathy Chater
Thursday 15 November *Seasonal Customs*
Thursday 20 December No meeting

City Branch – 12 noon for 12.30pm

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

- Thursday 27 September *Our Shopkeeper Ancestors*
by Sue Gibbons
Thursday 25 October *From Hampstead to Hendon*
by Rosemary Roome
Thursday 29 November *Christmas greetings, customs and traditions*
Thursday 27 December No meeting

Enfield Branch – 7.30pm for 8.00pm

St Paul's Centre, Church Street, Enfield, Middlesex EN2 6AR
Branch Contact: Lilian Gibbens, Email: enfield@lwmfhs.org.uk

- Wednesday 5 September *Bygone Antiques*
by Jeff Nicholls
Wednesday 3 October *The Unclaimed Money Register of 1910*
by Rena King
Wednesday 7 November *London Ancestors*
by Mike Gandy
Wednesday 5 December Christmas Social – Members only

Rayners Lane Branch – 7.30pm for 8.00pm

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

Friday 14 September	<i>Double Murder in Ealing 1954</i> by Dr Jonathan Oates
Friday 12 October	Members' Evening
Friday 9 November	<i>The Bishopsgate Institute and its Collections</i> by Stefan Dickers
Friday 14 December	Members' Christmas Event

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See inside front cover for address.

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THE FAMILY HISTORY SHOW, LONDON



This event will be held on Saturday 22 September 2018
from 10.00-16.30

at Sandown Park Racecourse, Esher, Surrey.

LWMFHS will be attending, along with many other family history societies and other related groups, such as the Ministry of Defence and The Genealogist. You don't have to have London Ancestors to come to this fair - they can be from anywhere in the country. There are 2 lecture halls with free talks and Jayne Shrimpton, photo and fashion historian, will be helping to date your photos.

There is plenty of free parking on site or, for those travelling by train, there is a free minibus from the station.

Refreshments are available all day.

Tickets are £5 if bought in advance or £7 at the door.

In the above picture from last year's event you might recognise some LWMFHS members on the right-hand side, helping on our stall.

<https://thefamilyhistoryshow.com/london/>

AIMS OF THE SOCIETY

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

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