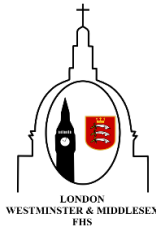


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METROPOLITAN

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LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX
Family History Society



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September 2019

Patron : The Bishop of Edmonton
President : Mr Michael Gandy BA FSG

OFFICERS

Chairman : Dr Anthony K Allen,
✉ 639 Uxbridge Rd, Pinner, Middx HA5 3LU
📧 chairman@lwmfhs.org.uk

Secretary : Mrs Tricia Sutton,
✉ 141 Welbeck Road, West Harrow,
Middlesex HA2 0RY
📧 secretary@lwmfhs.org.uk

Treasurer : Ms April Vesey
✉ 290 Woodlands Avenue, Eastcote, Ruislip,
Middlesex HA4 9QZ
📧 treasurer@lwmfhs.org.uk

OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES

Membership Secretary : Mrs Sylvia Thompson
✉ 62 Canning Road, Harrow, Middx HA3 7SN
📧 membership@lwmfhs.org.uk

Journal Editors : Elizabeth C Burling, Barbara E Haswell &
Rosemary A Roome
✉ 93 Leicester Rd, New Barnet, Herts EN5 5EL
📧 editors@lwmfhs.org.uk

Members' Interests : Mrs Barbara E Haswell,
✉ 93 Leicester Rd, New Barnet, Herts EN5 5EL
📧 membersinterests@lwmfhs.org.uk

Projects Co-ordinator : Mrs Elaine Tyler
📧 projects@lwmfhs.org.uk

Postal Sales : Mrs Elizabeth C Burling
✉ 38 Capel Road, East Barnet, Herts EN4 8JE
📧 c/o: editors@lwmfhs.org.uk

All general enquiries concerning the Society should be addressed to the Secretary
📧 secretary@lwmfhs.org.uk

Information may also be found on the Society's website www.lwmfhs.org.uk

Webmaster : Mr Peter Walker
📧 webmaster@lwmfhs.org.uk

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Cover picture: Chase Farm Hospital, Enfield. See page 102

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EDITORIAL

The Society's year ends on 30 September 2019 and it is now time to renew your subscription. Thank you to all those members who have already done so. This is much appreciated as it helps to spread the workload for our Membership Secretary. The renewal form was in the centre of the June issue of METROPOLITAN and it is also available to download from the website.

In the Jottings section on page 109, we mention the new much cheaper price to download Wills from the GOV.UK website. Funnily enough, a drop from £10 each to £1.50 seems to have created a massive demand for this service and delivery dates have fallen by the wayside. The service aims to deliver Wills in 10 working days but this is not being met currently. One of our Editorial Team ordered two Wills on 27 July and is still waiting, at time of going to press! Nevertheless, this is a fabulous service for family historians and hopefully the Government will catch up with orders soon.

We have three articles which include lists of names: the Minchenden War Memorial on page 100, 'W' Section Great Northern Cemetery on page 120 and Great Great Grandparents on page 126. Do check and see if your family names are mentioned and let us know if you discover a link.

The article on the BIGGS family of Harrow Weald on page 106 has been written by Alison Cook, a member who has been helping to type up old monumental inscriptions (MIs) for our series of booklets. She has found it very rewarding to discover mention of her family surnames there. We are always looking for volunteers to re-type old fiche transcriptions so that we can publish them in book form. If you would like to help with this (or at fairs, see page 111) please contact the Editors or our Projects Co-ordinator – email addresses are inside the front cover.

The Editorial Team

**Please remember that the copy date for the next issue of
METROPOLITAN is 1 November 2019**

West Surrey Family History Society FAMILY HISTORY FAIR

Saturday 2 November from 10am-4.30pm
Woking Leisure Centre, Kingfield Road, Woking GU22 9BA

Research facilities will include transcripts of the Parish Registers of West Surrey Poor Law Index, Surrey Monumental Inscriptions Indexes, Surrey Soldiers who died in WW1, the IGI and more will be available together with microfiche readers where needed.

There will be a large selection from the West Surrey FHS Reference Library to look at, and will include Surrey items, London/Middlesex items (including the Victorian A-Z of London) and some that cover the whole country, such as Phillimore's Atlas of Parish registers.

For those wanting to find out if anyone in the West Surrey FHS is researching the same name, the Members' Interests files will be available, together with the Total Descent Charts. Volunteers will be on hand to give help and advice with these resources.

There will be specialist help desks and free talks.

Expert advice will be on hand with guest societies from around the Home Counties and beyond, including
London Westminster & Middlesex FHS,
local heritage groups; suppliers of data CDs, maps, software, archival materials and much more.

There is free admission to the fair
and free parking for 3 hours.

For more information visit: <http://wsfhs.co.uk/pages/index.php>

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

September 2019 is the 80th anniversary of the outbreak of the War between the WW1 allies Britain and France against Germany. As I wrote in June, the treaty at the end of WWI made another world war almost inevitable and indeed war was declared on Germany on 3 September 1939 as a response to the German invasion of Poland on the 1 September. On 31 August the British Government, fearing an immediate Blitzkrieg, very efficiently ordered the evacuation of 1.5 million women and children from London. At that time I was a baby of 5 months living with my parents at Chamberlayne Road, Kensal Rise, Willesden. They decided that my Mother should take me to her parents' in Oswestry, Shropshire.

Posters announced the Government-organized evacuation of:

1. Official parties of school children, mothers with children of school age or younger, expectant mothers (this group would be taken to safe destinations where accommodation should be provided for them).
2. Assisted Private Evacuation. This was for mothers and children who had friends and relatives in safe areas. It also included the blind, aged and infirm. My mother and I came under this category.

I have a draft of a letter written by my mother in September 1988 to the BBC who asked in the *Radio Times* for stories from that time:

“Concerning your note in the *Radio Times* on The Day War Broke Out. I was put on the 2.10pm Paddington to Holyhead train with a babe of 5 months plus pram to go to my mother's in Oswestry, about 170 miles North. We trundled along slowly being shunted into sidings to make way for troop trains. We had no idea details of our journey as all the station signs had been taken down and the journey took so long that when darkness fell there were no lights on at stations. Eventually we reached the junction for Oswestry where I proceeded with myself and the babe (in the pram) all in the guard's van, arriving at my destination at 1.30am. My mother was waiting up for us although I couldn't let her know that we were coming.”

Ordinary people did not have telephones at this time.

We were still there on the 29 September in the 1939 Register in the house of my grandparents. My details are hidden because of the 100 year rule. My father had moved in with his parents in Paddington. There was then a “phoney war” so my mother took me back to London. We returned again to Shropshire in May 1940 when the real war started (and my father joined the RAF) with the invasion of France and the Belgium by the Germans.

This is also the 75th Anniversary of the V-weapons (Die Vergeltungswaffen – The Vengeance weapons launched in response to the heavy bombing of German Cities). The V1 was a flying bomb, which first appeared in June 1944. It had a jet engine and flew faster than most of the British fighters. However many were taken down by gunfire and attacks by fighters catching them up by power-dives. The V1 flew until it ran out of fuel and was mostly aimed at London and the South East. A total of 2,240 dropped on London causing a new evacuation of about 1.5 million Londoners. These attacks almost ceased in late August when the Allies captured the launch sites in Northern France. A few were launched from the Netherlands until March 1945.

Then on 8 September came the V2s, the supersonic rocket bombs. There was no warning and no defence against them. A total of 1,115 were recorded. Since they were launched from the occupied Netherlands they continued to cause death and destruction until 27 March 1945. Very frustrating to the Londoners since it was obvious that the war against Germany was nearly over.

Altogether about 18,000 people were killed by the V weapons including a much-loved aunt and uncle of my Mother, Alfred and Maime LUMLEY, in West Ham by a V2 on the 28 January 1945 together with 28 other people.

Tony Allen



LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

I read with interest and amusement Michael Gandy's article in the June METROPOLITAN, Writing It Up. One piece of advice was "Draw it up in good time, not only before you die but before you go gaga." Very true, but the problem is that if you "go gaga" you don't really notice, and others may not notice immediately.

My mother developed dementia and although I knew this and recognised that it was getting worse, I didn't realise how bad it was until I noticed she had written her shopping list on the back of a photo, which had been ripped into quarters, of my sister's wedding. When I got out the family photo albums, I found that almost all the photos were gone, and I realised that she no longer recognised the people in the pictures and therefore had no sentimental attachment to them. She had also got rid of all our school records and photos, and just about every piece of documentation relating to our family.

So I can only advise people that if you have a relative with dementia or another memory loss condition, please check whether they are destroying irreplaceable family history treasures. I ended up "stealing" the last few family photographs from my mother, but thankfully she didn't even notice.

April Vesey, Member No. 6820

I've been enjoying the latest METROPOLITAN but was a bit concerned about one thing in there. It was in the answer to the question about Hornsey ARP wardens, and it said that the enquirer could borrow the MCC Hornsey Air Raid Incident Log Book from LMA through the Inter-Library Loans system. I was very doubtful about this and as I am doing research at the LMA today I asked one of the staff about it. He confirmed my belief that they don't loan anything at all to anyone, except items for exhibitions being held in other places.

I've used the MCC log books quite a lot and I don't think I've ever seen any individual named in them, or any reference to wardens generally, but I've just had a look at the Hornsey one to double-check, and can confirm there are none of these details in it. Hornsey's own Civil Defence set-up would also have kept a log of incidents, and as far as I know the ones each local authority kept were not identical with the ones the County Council kept for them, but I assume the enquirer had already asked Bruce Castle if they had Horsey's log-book.

I also looked at the Hornsey Invasion Defence Plan, MCC/CL/CD/01/008, because when I was doing some research in the Southgate equivalent I found that the regular ARP wardens were intended to remain at their usual posts if there was an invasion, and the Southgate plan lists all of them. However, the Hornsey one just gives the names of the chief and deputy wardens, and the senior one in each of eight areas that Hornsey was divided into for Civil Defence purposes (with their addresses and telephone numbers).

Eileen Bostle, Member No. 7312

Thank you for clarifying this for us, Eileen.



BOOK REVIEW

Tracing your Ancestors Using the Census

By Emma Jolly

Published by Pen and Sword Books Ltd; paperback; black and white; 200 pages. Price UK £12.99

I am researching my family history and have been using census returns for many years. I was not convinced that I would need the book. How wrong I was! This guide not only deals with the main census returns from 1841 to 1911 but also gives detailed information from before 1841 and back to the Domesday Book.

There are twelve chapters, beginning with the History of the Census and then working through Early Censuses, Victorian Censuses and ending with The Census Today. Each census from 1841 to 1911 has a chapter of its own and includes background and history of the year, lost and damaged records, comparison of online sources, how to search effectively and showing how the information found can be interpreted.

This guide is so interesting and it has made me look at and understand census returns in a totally different way.

Another plus is that the font is a good size and this makes the book easy to read.

OH WHAT A TANGLED WEB WE WEAVE

By Dennis Galvin, Member No. 1046

Around about 1990 I was asked if I would take part in a history day at the village hall Codicote, near Welwyn, Hertfordshire. I did a 2ft x 4ft exhibit of my family tree which I called *From Herts to Hackney*. I also illustrated it with photos of churches etc. Two years later they repeated what had become a very popular event and they asked me back, so I took my original exhibit plus some additional bits and pieces. Because of this I received a phone call from Sandra, a local Herts lady, asking for help in trying to help her (and her cousin) with a difficult problem on their ancestry.



Mrs Elizabeth GAYLER, c1880s

My Herts name is GAYLER, hence contacting me. They had found their grandfather as a baby living with a Mrs GAYLER at Woolmer Green, Herts. Research revealed that grandfather Cecil COUTTS was being wet-nursed by Mrs Elizabeth GAYLER (I have a parish slip which states that Mrs GAYLER 'takes in baby to nurse'. There are lots of reasons for wet-nursing, eg The Lady at the big Hall didn't want to be inconvenienced or perhaps the young sire of the house had got the maid pregnant, who knows? Hertfordshire did seem to be a popular place for wet-nursing.

Now this is where it gets interesting or intriguing. In later life Cecil had told his own children (and this passed on to grandchildren) that he must never be called Cecil GAYLER as his correct name was Cecil BURDETT COUTTS. The well-known COUTTS family were bankers going back a long way and

the very famous Baroness Angela BURDETT-COUTTS lived at Holly Lodge, Hampstead.

Research is much easier these days so this story becomes very complicated: Cecil Burdett COUTTS was born 30 May 1871 at Prospect Place, Hornsey (Edmonton Registration District), parents George and Jane COUTTS (mothers surname HARMER). Cecil was baptised at Welwyn on 19 October 1873. Cecil has two Christian names: Cecil Burdett, parents George and Jane COUTTS. The latter state on the baptismal register that they live in Woolmer Green but it is pretty certain they don't! So what are they up to?

The 1881 census returns for Woolmer Green show Elizabeth GAYLER, widow with her children and Cecil COUTTS aged 9, boarder, scholar, born Edmonton. The 1891 census for Woolmer Green states 'Cecil Burdett COUTTS, boarder, single aged 19, farm labourer', where born: 'not known'.

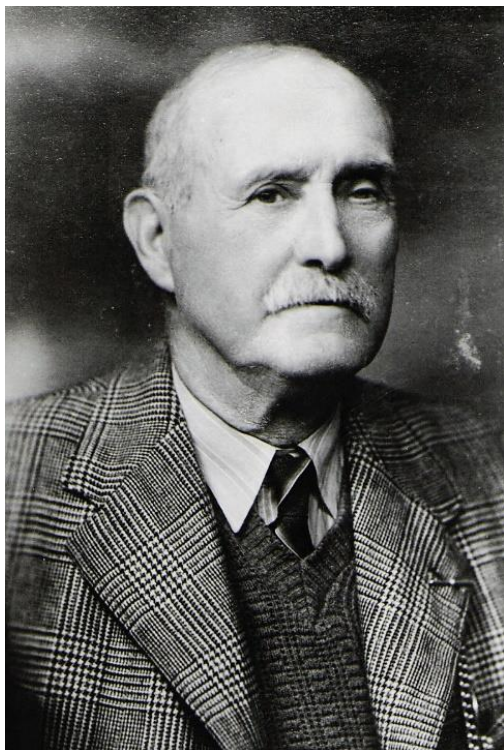
Now it comes to the point where readers might not have realised that if a baby is being wet-nursed out in the countryside then somebody must be paying! I have a photo-copy of a letter sent to Cecil on the 14 Sept 1892. This comes from: M. G. POCOCK, 13 Sackville Road, West Brighton. The letter starts:

'Dear Cecil, I send you 5 shillings in the parcel and hope it will reach you and find you quite well, when you have time to write let me hear how matters are with you, and now that you are of full age I hope you will get on steadily as hitherto until something occurs which may perhaps enable you with care and prudence to slightly better your position but you must at all times rest [six or seven words illegible] and efforts. I see by the papers that one of your Welwyn people living at 'Lockleys' is a sufferer by the smash of the London and Imperial Bank which stopped payments on Sept 1st he had £22,000 deposited there and I fear he will be the loser of most of it. Kind regards to Mrs Gaylor and love to you. I remain, Yours Truly. M. G. Pocock'.

So did George and wife Jane bring baby Cecil to Welwyn (Woolmer Green) as George might still know family there? He and Jane do not want the baby so get local lady Mrs GAYLER to wet-nurse. Why don't they want to keep the baby? And why call him Cecil, a posh name for those days? George and

Jane must have to pay for wet-nursing so why do they never ever take him back? Cecil is even called a boarder in later years.

It seems a Markland POCOCK is keeping in touch and making payments certainly up to 1 Sept 1892 when Cecil is 19 years old. I have not researched George and Jane COUTTS' marriage, possible other children, or censuses, which would be interesting and perhaps answer many questions.



Mr Cecil Coutts, c1940s

Further, at Cecil's birth, his father is given as a Commercial Traveller, so let's say he is quite well educated, therefore, he would have heard of Angela BURDETT-COUTTS (who was made a baroness in 1871) and decided to add Burdett as Cecil's 2nd Christian name, a bit cheeky I suppose!

I have done some research into Markland POCOCK: In 1881 he was a clerk, a widower aged 54, born Shoreditch, living at Cayton Villa, Hammersmith. In 1891 he was a widower, born Shoreditch, aged 64, living on his own means and has servants, at 83 Sackville Road, Brighton.

What a mystery! Therefore perhaps our super sleuth society FH detectives can offer the Editors a magnificent explanation?

Note: Although Cecil Burdett COUTTS was baptised with Burdett as a Christian name, his descendants in Hertfordshire do seem to have been

using BURDETT-COUTTS as a surname for many years. Baroness Angela Georgina BURDETT-COUTTS also originally only had one surname. She was born as plain Angela Georgina BURDETT in 1814 and only joined her parents' surnames together by Royal Licence in 1837 after becoming the main beneficiary in her grandmother's Will. She is the first person with the BURDETT-COUTTS surname. (In 1881 she married William Lehman ASHMEAD-BARTLETT who also took on the BURDETT-COUTTS name: they had no children.)

Cecil's parents are posing quite a problem. We could find no trace at all of either George COUTTS or Jane HARMER in the GRO marriage indexes and the census returns also don't provide any likely-looking candidates. The 1871 census was taken on 2 April, less than 8 weeks before Cecil's birth, but this has not helped locate his mother! Nor could we find any other children with a COUTTS father and HARMER mother born within 10 years of Cecil. We don't know if either name can be relied upon as being accurate.

Markland POCOCK, despite his unlikely name, is a genuine person. He was born in Shoreditch in 1826 and can be found in Kingsland Road in 1841 with his shoe-maker father, mother and siblings. Markland's two brothers were also clerks and did fairly well for themselves. In 1855 he married but his wife died a couple of years later.

By 1871 he is lodging in Islington with Jane CANNON, widow aged 32, her son and a servant; Jane's 9-year-old daughter Charlotte is a scholar at the London Orphan Asylum in Hackney. For the rest of his life, Markland seems to have lived with Jane and Charlotte CANNON. In 1881 they are in Hammersmith and in 1891 in Hove, where Charlotte is described as his niece. (Also there then is 16 year-old Annie R STROHM, also described as a niece - she appeared in the 1881 census returns with her little brother lodging with a different family.)

This is entirely speculation but perhaps following the death of his wife (maybe in childbirth?) he used his funds to support orphaned children in need?

MINCHENDEN SCHOOL WAR MEMORIAL

By Eileen Bostle, Member No. 7312

The war memorial from the former Minchenden School in High Street, Southgate, has recently been brought to light through the efforts of members of the Southgate District Civic Trust and staff of the Museum of Enfield. It is on display in the Museum of Enfield's special exhibition, *Enfield at War: 1939-45*, which is running from 20 July 2019 to 19 April 2020, admission free. After that it is hoped that a new permanent home can be found for the memorial, which is pictured here:



I am researching the people named on it, who are listed below with their year of birth. The school opened in 1919 and all those mentioned on the memorial died in the Second World War. Fifty-three of them are former pupils who lost their lives in the armed forces, and the remaining four died in air raids while still at the school. Most were from Southgate, but a few were from the neighbouring areas of East Barnet, Edmonton, Enfield, Friern Barnet, Potters Bar and Wood Green.

I would be very grateful if anyone who has information about any of them would contact me, at this email address: minchenden.memorial@gmail.com

Ramsey McIntosh AITKEN 1923
Cyril Denis BARKER 1920
Stanley Herbert BARR 1921
Marion BELASCO 1932
Anthony David BELL 1925
Geoffrey George BELL 1920
Arthur George BELLEFONTAINE
1915
Donald Vincent BINGHAM-HALL
1920
Peter Anthony Colin BROOKS 1924
William Charles BUSH 1921
Gordon Alan CORRALL 1917
Maurice Ronald DAY 1920
Hubert Dunstan DINMORE 1916
Robert William DUARTE 1919
Harold Thomas FAIRCLOTH 1920
John Rowland FEIRN 1907
Raymond Arthur FENNER 1914
Dennis Robert FURSSE 1925
Philip Louis HALL 1920
David Alfred HERRING 1920
Geoffrey William HIRD 1923
Eric John Charles HOWARD 1916
Horace Peter HURNELL 1922
John KING 1922
Leonard John KINGWELL 1922
Peter Meredith KINSEY 1920
George Desmond KIRKBY 1922
Kenneth Douglas Francis LACEY
1922

Francis John LAWSON 1918
John Frank MARSH 1913
John Vivian MITCHELL 1919
Lewis Arnold MOORE 1918
John Keith MURRAY 1921
Denis O'SHEA 1913
Victor Wilfred PIEDOT 1913
Alfred William George PRETLOVE
1917
David Joseph RAWLINSON 1923
Douglas William REID 1916
William Ernest Thomas RINGHAM
1924
John Laughton RODWELL 1926
Charles Gordon ROWLANDSON
1917
Reginald Frederick SCHOOLEY 1915
Kenneth Allen SIMPSON 1913
Gordon Joseph SMALE, 1920
Leslie Joseph Dozell SMITH 1919
Edward James Douglas STANLEY
1922
Donald James TAYLOR 1923
Basil Leonard THORNTON 1921
Lionel Denis TRAYLEN 1908
Ronald Forster WARDLE 1921
Gordon J WEBB 1928
Peter Reynolds WEST 1919
Leslie Ernest WILLIAMS 1920
Roy George WOODGER 1911
Philip Hugh WORTHINGTON 1920

Thanks to Graham Frost/Museum of Enfield for the photo.



CHASE FARM HOSPITAL TIME CAPSULE

By Elizabeth Burling, Member No. 4992

Those of you who live in North London may be aware that Chase Farm Hospital has recently been rebuilt and updated so that it can cater for modern medical practices.



Historian Professor Kate Williams (left) and Natalie Forrest, Chase Farm Hospital chief executive, are pictured here with the 135 year-old time capsule and its contents.

The hospital has its origins in the 19th century Poor Law. In 1601 the Poor Relief Act had established the parish as the body responsible for relieving the aged, the helpless, orphans and those out of work. The cost of caring for these people fell onto the middle and upper classes, who were charged according to their ability to pay. The 1834 Poor Law Amendment Act tried to reduce the cost of looking after the poor by grouping parishes into Unions. Enfield then became part of Edmonton Poor Law Union, together the Middlesex parishes of Edmonton, Hampstead, Hornsey and Tottenham with

the Hertfordshire parish of Cheshunt and the Essex one of Waltham Abbey. Of the seven existing parish workhouses in this Union, the able-bodied poor were sent to Edmonton, the aged and infirm to Hampstead and children were sent to the former Enfield parish workhouse in Chase Side which was then used as a school for these children.

Soon, the visiting committee of the Edmonton Board of Guardians decided that a new school would have to be built. Land surrounding the workhouse in Chase Side was purchased and the work of extending, altering and decorating the building was put in hand. It opened in 1842 and 150 children were housed there. Later, 92 children from Poplar came to live at the workhouse, causing not only overcrowding but a disease referred to as 'the itch'. By 1881 the Board considered enlarging it and acquiring land was no problem. However, estimates showed that the cost of erecting a brand new school would be horrendous and after due consideration, Chase Farm at Lavender Hill was purchased in 1882 for £12,000 to use as the Poor Law orphanage.

On 27 March 1886 Chase Farm School was duly opened with a ceremony at which, according to local newspaper the *Hampstead and Highgate Express*, despite the 'intense cold and uncomfortable weather', the children entertained with choral and band music. The school was built initially to accommodate 350 (286 children were in care at that time) but by 1886 only 131 children were examined by the Government Schools Inspector, suggesting the school was not as full as envisaged. Records of children at the school include the vaccination officers' registers for 1889-1931 and a register of children boarded out from 1919-1930 – these are at London Metropolitan Archives (LMA).

Children were expected to leave at 15 years of age and it was the responsibility of the Guardians to place them. By the early 1890s the children were being sent to Canada. Later, Dr Barnardo's became the agency responsible for sending them and continued to do so up until 1915. A file on the emigration of Chase Farm schoolchildren dated 1925 is at LMA. More about the school can be found in a book, *Chase Farm Schools* by M. Graham (Edmonton Hundred Historical Society, reprint 2011).

The functions of the Edmonton Union were transferred to the Middlesex County Council in 1930 and Chase Farm School was managed by the Public Health Committee of the Middlesex County Council. Out of a total of 425 children there in December 1932, only 68 remained by November 1935. At the outset of World War II the young children were removed to White Webbs and the older children dispersed to smaller homes. Chase Farm then became a hospital linked with the London Hospital, Whitechapel.

As early as 1931, the receiving ward of Chase Farm orphanage had been given over to temporary accommodation for bedridden women. LMA has an Old Ladies register dated 1931-1937 and an inmates' property register from 1930-1937. During the Second World War the hospital was used to help air raid casualties. Since then, it has been progressively enlarged and refurbished but 2017 saw most of the old buildings demolished and a new hospital built on the spot. During demolition, a time capsule – a glass jar - was discovered in the hollowed-out cavity of the building's foundation stone.

Frank Bayford, former chief pharmacist at Chase Farm Hospital, local historian and author of *Memories of Chase Farm* (FR Bayford, Grays Laurel Press, 2017) said: "In all the years I worked at Chase Farm, and subsequently explored all the history of the site from its days as a school for pauper children, I never heard about the existence of a time capsule so this has come as a fantastic surprise. I thought I knew everything there was to know because I'd interviewed so many people over the years – including former pupils. I also have a personal connection to the school because my great grandfather was the head gardener here for 32 years - arriving in 1889, three years after its official opening. I also spent most of my professional life here and retired in 1988. I can't wait to find out what's in it and how it will add to what we already know."

The artefacts found include a statement of account for 1883, which lists the names of the guardians and officers of the school. This includes, among others, medical officers, nurses and public vaccinators, as well as needle mistress Annie EVERDELL (whose father was actually Edward John EVERDELL, Master of the Workhouse) miller and baker William HEMPSTON, industrial trainer for girls Emma HAWKES, and lunatic and board room attendant Henry PARKER.

Also in the jar were six coins from 1883 and 1884, four Victorian newspapers, business cards from builders and solicitors and a poster of the election of guardians for the Edmonton Union.

The contents of the time capsule are now being preserved, photographed and documented. Copies of the photos were placed in a new time capsule which was buried in the grounds of the new Chase Farm Hospital by Prince Andrew.



If you are interested in historic records created by the hospital, LMA has archives which include admission and discharge records 1885-1974 and patient records 1938-1974. Also at LMA are baptisms 1949-1993 (which appear in with the parish registers of St John the Baptist, Clay Hill, and deaths from 1938-1942. Chase Farm itself retains 20th century ephemera and photographs, amongst other records.

Prince Andrew burying the new time capsule.

Sources:

1881 Census returns, consulted on FindMyPast.

Enfield Parish Guide by Anne Prudames and Elizabeth Burling (LWMFHS, 2018)

Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust – with grateful thanks to the

Communications Team for information on the capsule and permission to publish their photographs.



THE BIGGS FAMILY OF HARROW

By Alison Cook, Member No. 5039

Following a recent appeal, I volunteered to re-type a couple of monumental inscriptions (MIs), one of which was for All Saints, Harrow Weald. For anyone else planning on doing this although it's time-consuming it is very enjoyable – and for me – very rewarding. I have been researching my adopted family's history for about 25 years but only started researching my birth family a couple of years ago. My birth family surnames are COLLINS, BIGGS and LANGSTON and they lived in the Harrow Weald/Pinner area during the late 19th and 20th century. Whilst transcribing the MIs for All Saints, I was over the moon to find a couple of my ancestors' graves:

Grave N408 is a stone book, badly worn, but lists four of my BIGGS ancestors as follows:

In loving memory of:

[Left-hand page:] *mother / Alice Harriet / BIGGS / died April 19 1925 / aged 58 / daughter Grace Emily BIGGS / died April 18 1945 / aged 45.*

[Right-hand page:] *dad / Walter George / BIGGS / died October 29 1954 / aged 87 / Walter George / BIGGS / killed in action / Dec 1914 / aged 25*

Walter George BIGGS (senior) was born in Watford on 23 November 1866 and baptised at St Mary's, Watford the following month. Walter married Alice Harriet HAMMOND in 1886 and by the time of the 1911 census they had had 12 children. Their home in 1901 was Ashbourne House, Roxeth Hill and in 1911 they were living at 2 Ivy Cottages, Box Tree Lane, Harrow Weald – they were still in Ivy Cottages at the time of the 1939 Register. Alice died in Redhill House, Edgware which I believe was the forerunner of today's Edgware General Hospital (and formerly the Workhouse).

Walter's eldest son was named after him and born in Harrow in 1889 and baptised at St Mary's, Harrow on 2 October 1889. I cannot find Walter junior on the 1911 census but there are two possibles (bearing in mind that he was Walter George): the first is a George BIGGS, who was born in Ealing and is living at Corunna Barracks, Aldershot and serving with the 4th Royal

Fusiliers and the second is a George BIGGS born in Harrow Weald and working as a domestic groom at Pinner Hill House, Pinner.

Walter (junior) went on to serve in the First World War as L/Cpl. L/12386, 1st Battalion Royal Fusiliers (formerly 6230 5th Battalion Royal Fusiliers), entering theatre on 7 September 1914. Walter's time at the Front though was short, he was killed in action on 1 December 1914 at Chapelle d'Armentieres and is commemorated on the Ploegsteert Memorial in Belgium.

A download of the Battalion's diary from the National Archives describes conditions for October-December as "frightfully cold", "freezing" and plenty of "rain", and that as of 21 November, "except for 2 days, the Battalion had spent 35 days continuously in the trenches". On 30 November "sheep-skins were issued". The entry for Tuesday 1 December confirms that the Battalion was in trenches and "heavy rain fell during early morning; owing to the clay soil, the trenches became full of mud and required much work to make them habitable ... about 50 shells fell near 16 Platoon but did no damage 1 man killed by sniper." I'm assuming this man to be Walter BIGGS.

The transcription of these MIs are hugely valuable as they often provide information not available from certificates: sometimes they give an address or place of birth and often they enable us to go further back in time as they will provide birth and/or death dates for those born before 1837.



The Lady's Magazine, 1775.

Marriages

'At St. Clements Danes, Mr Richard Stills, to Mrs Anne Thorpe, their ages together make 155. She is his fifth wife, and he her third husband.'

'Mr Austin, late of Drury Lane Theatre, to a lady of 14,000l fortune, near Whitehaven. She is about 90 years of age and her friends intend applying for a commission of lunacy.'

JOTTINGS

Charles Dickens portrait rediscovered

A miniature portrait of writer Charles DICKENS was painted over six sittings by Margaret GILLIES in 1843 whilst Dickens (then aged 31) was working on *A Christmas Carol*. It was exhibited at the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition the following year and became a defining image of him at the time. However, it was not seen after this with Gillies noting in 1886 she had ‘lost sight of the portrait itself’. It turned up again two years ago at an auction in Pietermaritzburg, South Africa, in a box alongside a brass dish, an old recorder and a metal toy lobster. The painting was covered in mould but has been conserved at the London gallery of Philip Mould & Co. The Charles Dickens Museum subsequently raised £180,000 to purchase the miniature and it will be on permanent display there from 24 October.

Margaret GILLIES was the second daughter of a Scottish merchant who lived in Throgmorton Street in the City of London and she later lived in Church Row, Hampstead. She was a watercolourist, primarily, and also painted portraits of novelist Anne MARSH, poets Mary HOWITT, Mary Leman GRIMSTONE and William WORDSWORTH, and social theorist Harriet MARTINEAU.

Charles DICKENS and his wife Catherine moved to 48 Doughty Street, Bloomsbury, in 1837 and their first three children were born whilst they lived there. It was here that *Oliver Twist*, *The Pickwick Papers* and *Nicholas Nickleby* were written and it is this house that is now the Charles Dickens Museum. The house has been dressed with furniture, table ware, portraits, marble busts, china ornaments and paintings which belonged to the family and it is an international centre for Dickens research, with over 100,000 items including letters, manuscripts, paintings, personal effects, prints, photographs and rare editions. You can visit the museum from Tuesday to Sunday, 10am-5pm. For more info see: <https://dickensmuseum.com/>

Harrow Local History Centre

This local collection, which includes directories, electoral registers, newspapers, photographs and more, is unfortunately currently inaccessible. It is hoped that it will be open to the public again in September. The collection is housed at Headstone Manor Museum, Headstone Recreation Ground, Pinner View, Harrow HA2 6PX. Tel: 020 8863 6720.

Wills and Probate records

If an ancestor wrote a Will stating what they wanted to happen with their estate after their death, the Will would need to go through probate in order to be proved to be a legally valid document.

After 1858, Wills were proved in the Principal Probate Registry and District Probate Registries, with the copies of the Wills being forwarded to the Principal Probate Registry in London. Calendars (indexes) up to 1995 can be searched for free online here: <https://probatesearch.service.gov.uk/#wills>. Copies of Wills and grant of representation after 1858 can usually be ordered online for £10 each from: <https://www.gov.uk/search-will-probate>.

However, from 22 July and for the next 12 months this price has been reduced to £1.50. It is not known what will happen to the price after that but now seems a good opportunity to download those Wills you were thinking of getting!

Board of Trade War Memorial

There is a memorial to the 305 people who had been employed by the Board of Trade and who died in the First World War. The memorial is now located at the Department for International Trade headquarters in Central London, 55 Whitehall/3 Whitehall Place London SW1A 2AW. Online is a website dedicated to finding out more about these 305 individuals. It includes a blog, a memorial calendar recording the dates when each of the men died alongside significant dates during WW1 and a map of where all the men came from across the UK and world and also where they are known to be buried or remembered.

The men are listed alphabetically and clicking on the name brings up much more information. For example, Sijil TA Abdul Ali of the Royal Engineers was the son of Muhammad Hyder Abdul Ali of England, and the husband of Daisy Marion Abdul Ali (née Payne) of 123, Brecknock Road, Tufnell Park, London. He was killed whilst in hospital in France and is buried at St Omer – there is a detailed account of the air raid which killed him together with details of his family from the census returns. The aim of this website is to provide as comprehensive a memorial as possible to these men and photographs of them are being sought from descendants. There is also a Board of Trade public family tree on Ancestry in which more can be found out about these men. You can find out more, including contact details at: <https://boardoftradewarmemorial.wordpress.com/about/>

Bucks FHS Open Day

Our Society had a stall at the Buckinghamshire Family History Society Open Day at Aylesbury on 27 July, and are pleased to say that we had a successful day, with our parish guides and other items selling well. It was nice to meet some of our members who cannot get to our meetings, and help with a variety of enquiries.

We would like to thank all our helpers – Alan Baldwin, Eileen Bostle, Doreen Heywood, Sylvia Thompson, Elaine Tyler and Rosemary Roome for all their hard work and expertise on the day.

FAMILY HISTORY FAIRS AND OPEN DAYS

You may have noticed reports of LWMFHS attending various Family History Fairs and Open Days throughout the year in METROPOLITAN. They are a very good way to promote the Society and our products to an audience who is interested in genealogy so it is important that we attend as many as we can. That being said, we are all volunteers and as the Society is based in London, we normally visit ones that are nearby: Haringey Local History Fair at Bruce Castle in February; Family Tree Live at Alexandra Palace in April; Bucks FHS Open Day at Aylesbury in July; The Family History Show at Sandown Park in August; and the West Surrey FHS Fair at Woking in November (dates may vary slightly!).

Rosemary Roome has been organising these single-handedly for some time and that is a lot of work for one person so our Executive Committee has decided to now have an Events Team who can share the work. Again, there is a regular group of people who help out at fairs but we would like to extend that group. It is not as scary as it might sound – no-one can know everything about our large area and we work as a team together at these events. In fact, they are good fun and you get a chance to look around too. Quite often, helpers get free tickets to these events.

If you are interested in helping at fairs and think you would be able to do a stint of 2 hours (or more), please would you send your email address to events@lwmfhs.org.uk ?

Marriage Certificates

The way in which marriages are registered is changing from December this year, following the passing into law of the Civil Partnerships, Marriages and Deaths (Registration etc) Act 2019 which, as well as providing for opposite-sex couples to be able to enter into civil partnerships, will allow for mother's names to be included in Marriage Registers as well as/in place of father's names. These changes mean that a Marriage Document prepared by the officiating priest before a wedding will replace both the church's marriage registers and the marriage certificate, which is currently issued at the time of the wedding.

The Marriage Document will be signed by the couple, their witnesses and the officiating priest at a wedding in much the same way as the Registers are now. However, the couple will then need to ensure that the Marriage Document is deposited at the local Register Office within seven days of the date of the wedding. Of course, they may well be on their honeymoon so somebody else can do this for them. Nevertheless, the responsibility for getting this done rests with the couple getting married and there will be criminal penalties for those who fail to do this. The local Superintendent Registrar will then record the details and issue a Marriage Certificate, for which there will be a fee. It is expected that there will be a secure online portal for couples to be reminded by email from the General Register Office if they have not lodged the Document within the required period. This portal will also allow the General Register Office to automatically cross-reference papers they receive from couples although it seems unlikely that it will be up and running by the time these changes come into effect.

As soon as this change takes effect, the existing marriage register books held in churches will be closed, with the incumbent being required to strike through any unused entry spaces. One copy of the register will then need to be returned to the local Superintendent Registrar together with any unused marriage certificates and the other copy is to be retained in the church until such time as it is to be deposited in the Diocesan Record Office. There is a proposal that, in due course there will be a register book for marriages solemnized in Anglican churches in the same way as for baptisms, confirmations and burials. However that will be an internal matter for the Church of England and nothing to do with the GRO and it will not be the legal record of marriages, nor will be certificates issued from it.

Around 60,000 marriages take place in religious ceremonies every year in England and Wales. On benefit to clergy is that they will no longer having to decipher entries in their registers in order to send in the quarterly marriage returns.

Sources:

Marriage Law News, The Faculty Office, August 2019, accessed online here: <http://www.facultyoffice.org.uk/special-licences/marriage-law-news/>
'Unease at timetable for clergy to adapt to new marriage formalities' by Madeleine Davies in *Church Times*, 9 August 2019, <https://www.churchtimes.co.uk/>



Islington Gazette, Saturday 20 December 1856

Eden Grove House, Cornwall Place, Holloway – Annual Examination of Pupils

Principal – Mr Edmund WANSTALL, MRCP

HARRISSON, Richard, First Prize, Conduct

WOOD, Walter, Second Prize, Conduct

LAYTON, Henry, First Prize in French

WATKINSON, James, Second Prize in French

ROGERS, Thomas, Third Prize in French

BARNARD, James, First Prize in Geography

WOOD, Frederic, Second Prize in Geography

ROGERS, Thomas, First Prize in Penmanship and Drawing

HORCE, Arthur, First Prize in Penmanship

FREEMAN, Edward, First Prize in Commercial Hand

HODGE, James, Second Prize in Penmanship

BLISS, John, Third Prize in Penmanship

LAYTON, Henry, First Prize in History

ADAMSON, Frederic, First Prize in History

WOOD, Frederic, Second Prize in History

BURROW, John, First Prize in Various Subjects

LAYTON, George, First Prize in Arithmetic

With several minor prizes

MEMBERS' INTERESTS

The research interests listed here were submitted by members between June 2019 and August 2019.

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 letter/email to the person concerned.

Interests shown are from members: 7692; 7624

Name	Period	County	Parish / Area	Mem.No.
CEATON	All	All	All	7624
COKER	pre 1900	MDX	Any	7692
CULLINGWORTH	post 1850	MDX	Any	7692
CULLINGWORTH	pre 1900	YKS	Any	7692
GAMBRIDGE	pre 1900	MDX	Any	7692
GAMBRIDGE	pre 1900	LND	Any	7692
HICKS	pre 1850	KEN	Dover area	7692
MAISEY/MEAZEY	pre 1850	LND	Any	7692
MAISEY/MEAZEY	pre 1850	OXF	Any	7692
MARSHALL	pre 1900	KEN	Especially Benenden, Rolvenden	7692
SPRINGALL	All	All	All	7624
WRENCH	pre 1890	SRY	Lambeth	7692
WRENCH	pre 1890	LND	Any	7692
WRENCH	pre 1890	MDX	Any	7692

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the new members, numbers 8118-8127 who have joined the Society over the past few months and wish them well with their research.

LWMFHS PUBLICATIONS

We have two series of booklets which are being produced at the moment: Parish Guides and Monumental Inscriptions.

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.

Coming next are: Pinner, Hendon, East Barnet and St Clement Danes.

Our Monumental Inscription booklets were researched by our founder societies in the 1980s and subsequently published on microfiche. We have been updating these and reissuing them as booklets. In checking them for publication, any gaps and anomalies were checked against the Burial Registers in order to try and find out who is referred to on the gravestones. St James Piccadilly at Hampstead Road –which is currently being dug up to make room for HS2, the high-speed railway line – has just been published and we hope to publish the MIs of St Mary, Harrow on the Hill next.

We also have a booklet detailing the streets of Westminster as they appear in the 1851 census.

There are several ways to acquire these booklets:

1. They can be purchased for £6 each plus postage and packing online from GenFair at: <https://www.genfair.co.uk/>. Post and packing costs vary depending on the size of the booklet and the destination, as shown here. 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.

The prices quoted in this table include the booklet plus postage and packing:

Booklet	UK	Europe	Rest of the world
Parish Guides			
Clerkenwell	£7.46	£9.20	£10.00
Enfield	£7.46	£9.20	£10.00
Islington	£8.00	£10.50	£11.80
Paddington	£7.46	£9.20	£10.00
Pinner	£7.46	£9.20	£10.00
St Anne Soho	£7.46	£9.20	£10.00
St George Hanover Square	£7.46	£9.20	£10.00
St James Piccadilly	£7.46	£9.20	£10.00
St Margaret & St John	£7.46	£9.20	£10.00
St Marylebone	£8.00	£10.50	£11.80
St Pancras	£8.00	£10.50	£11.80
Tottenham	£7.46	£9.20	£10.00
Willesden	£7.46	£9.20	£10.00
Monumental Inscriptions			
Chipping Barnet St John the Baptist	£8.00	£10.50	£11.80
Monken Hadley St Mary the Virgin	£8.00	£10.50	£11.80
St James Hampstead Road	£8.00	£10.50	£11.80
Census Guides			
The Streets of Westminster in the 1851 Census	£7.46	£9.20	£10.00

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

GRAVEYARD AND CEMETERY SEARCHES

The London Westminster and Middlesex Society is trialling a new service for members.

If the location of an ancestor's or relative's grave is known - the name and address of the graveyard or cemetery, and plot number - Executive Committee members April Vesey and Sylvia Thompson will try to find it and take a digital photograph. This will be emailed to the member concerned, or if the member does not use email, a black and white computer printout will be sent.

In return for this, we ask for a contribution of £20 to be made to the Society's funds. This will be payable at the time of the request. We would like to be clear that if the visit is made but there was no headstone or other visible sign of the grave, the fee would still be charged due to the time invested in the search.

The service is primarily on offer to members who do not live in the locality of the graveyard or cemetery, or find travel difficult; and obviously only applies to graves in the area covered by this Society.

If you are interested in this service, please write to the Editors (details at the front of METROPOLITAN) with the following:

- Your name and address, including email address where possible;
- The full name of the ancestor, or the name as you know it, including details of any shortened names used which may be on the inscription (eg Bob, Meg);
- The name and address of the graveyard or cemetery;
- The plot number of the grave;
- Any other relevant useful information;
- A cheque for £20 made out to London Westminster and Middlesex FHS.



BLIND ALLEYS

By Peter Todd, Member No. 7686

We family tree researchers know only too well that feeling of frustration, when after many weeks, possibly years of study (and expense!) we find, or think we have found that vital link, that eureka moment, only to have our expectations dashed as a further piece of historical evidence turns up. This is, as the title of this article implies, another such occurrence.

Some years ago whilst tracing the history of the siblings of my paternal grandmother I came across the marriage of her younger sister Emily FOREY (1863-1940). Emily, like her brothers and sisters, had been born in Soho, London to James FOREY (1822-1885), who was a music printer by profession and Elizabeth LANCASTER (1828-1891). The couple had wed on Christmas Day 1850 at the Old St Pancras Church, Middlesex, London and between 1851 and 1868 Elizabeth gave birth to eight children with two boys and four girls surviving beyond childhood. My grandmother, Elizabeth, was the second child to be born while Emily was the sixth. She was nine years younger than her sister.

On Christmas Day 1888 at All Saints Church, Gordon Square, St Pancras, London Emily married a George TODD (1857-1930). George was a soldier based at St Pauls, Sheerness (Medway), Kent. His deceased father, Richard TODD, had died at the early age, even in those times, of 44 years.

The obvious question at this point was did George TODD and my grandfather, Edward Henry TODD (1852-1911) share a common ancestor. Given the paucity of people, with the surname TODD living in the St Pancras/ Marylebone area of London in the mid-19th century I thought they might be distantly related and certainly worth further investigation.

George TODD was the son of Richard TODD (1829-1873) and Susannah BENTLEY (1827-1895), who were married on 7 July 1851 at the Old St Pancras Church, Middlesex, London. At the time of his marriage Richard was working as a French polisher (a trade also followed by other male members of my line at that time). Susannah was a spinster and had been born to Thomas BENTLEY (1793-1870) and Mary (formerly LEONARD) about

1828 because she had been baptised on the 24 February 1828 in the village of Kirtling in East Cambridgeshire.

George TODD and Emily had five children, including twin boys, who were born in different locations between 1890 and 1897, such as Dover and Folkestone in Kent or Felixstowe in Suffolk or Shoeburyness (now virtually a suburb of Southend-on-Sea) in Essex, depending on where George's military career took him. He didn't seem to have been posted abroad during this period. By the 1901 Census, George had achieved the non-commissioned rank of Company Sergeant Major and the family were living at 164 Dover Road, Folkestone, Kent.

In 1911 George was a 54 year old Army pensioner and had moved back to Lower Holloway in London with his family. They moved again in the following decade this time to Salterton Road, Upper Holloway. This address is a couple of roads away from where my grandmother, my parents and I formerly lived namely, Axminster (originally called Devonshire) Road, Upper Holloway, London.

The only interesting fact that I gleaned from Richard and Susannah TODD's generation was the marriage of cousins when Florence Ethel TODD (1891-1979), second child of George and Emily TODD married Charles George DEAKIN (1855-1955), Charles was the child of Charles DEAKIN Snr. (1856-1933) and Jane (Jennie) TODD (1861- 1936) who was George TODD's sister.

Going back another generation led me to Richard TODD's father, George TODD (1795-1872) who married Deborah SPEARLE (1803-1864) on Christmas Day 1823 at St James's Church, Paddington. The couple had five male children, including Richard, during the decade 1826-1836; there may well have been others, including girls but I haven't found them yet. Nevertheless, I still hoped that I might find a common ancestor because my 2nd great grandfather, William TODD had been born in London in 1791, so there was the chance that he could be an elder brother to the George TODD i.e. Richard's father cited above.

However later, while re-visiting some old research notes I suddenly realised that of the three William TODD's mentioned in London parish records and born in the metropolis during 1791, only one had been, perhaps serendipitously, baptised in the same Stepney church as Elizabeth LEADER (1793-1850), my 2nd great grandmother.

Elizabeth had been born in Poplar and was the second child of Job LEADER (1763-1825) and Mary BROUGHTON (1772-1837). Elizabeth and the aforesaid William were married at St Botolph's Church in the City of London on the 27 June 1813.

William's baptismal record stated that he was the son of Thomas and Mary TODD of Greenwich. Further delving showed that my conjecture that George TODD was related to my great, great grandfather William TODD was erroneous-but that is another story.

Sources:

Ancestry .co.uk

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



In order to keep receiving your copy of
METROPOLITAN
you need to have renewed your subscription to LWMFHS
for 2019-2020

Our Society's year ends on 30 September 2019
and members are reminded that subscriptions are due
by 1 October 2019

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

A TASTE OF TOTTENHAM

By Elizabeth Burling, Member No. 4992

Tottenham is an Ancient Parish in the county of Middlesex. It is surrounded by the parishes of Edmonton, Friern Barnet, Hackney, Hornsey, Stoke Newington, and the Essex parish of Walthamstow. Tottenham parish is about 2½ miles in length and 16 miles in circumference and includes the districts of Alexandra Palace, Bounds Green, Bruce Castle, Bruce Grove, Noel Park, Seven Sisters, Tottenham, West Green and Wood Green.



Houses on Tottenham Green.

Tottenham was mentioned in Domesday Book, at which time about seventy families were living there. By 1851 there were still only some 7,000 inhabitants but in the next 50 years the population blossomed to over 87,000. This development was greatly influenced by the building in 1875 of Liverpool Street station, which involved the demolition of a large number of poor-quality homes. The Great Eastern Railway Company had to compensate for this by providing low-price ‘Workmen’s Tickets’ for early-morning journeys into the City from places on the new railway, such as Tottenham. This in turn led to a massive amount of housing being built and people who had formerly lived and worked in the Liverpool Street area

moved out and travelled by train to the City to work. During this time it became necessary to sub-divide the ancient parish and new churches were built in various parts of Tottenham: Holy Trinity, Philip Lane in 1830; St Paul the Apostle in 1858; St Michael, Bounds Green in 1866; St Mary the Virgin, Tottenham Hale in 1882; St Peter, Page Green in 1883; St Mark, Noel Park in 1885; Christ Church, West Green in 1888; St Philip the Apostle, Philip Lane in 1898; St Gabriel, Bounds Green in 1906; and St Benet Fink, Walpole Road in 1912.

There has been a long history of nonconformism in the parish too. A monthly meeting for Quakers in Tottenham was started in 1691 and information from an exhibition held at Bruce Castle Museum in 1999 to celebrate the 300th anniversary is available online. This includes details of many prominent local Quakers including Priscilla WAKEFIELD, Thomas SHILLITOE and the FORSTER family. The website has sections on Quaker businesses, schools, conscientious objection in the World Wars and more. You can access this resource at: <http://www.tottenhamquakers.org.uk/history/index.html>

Another example is the Brook Street Chapel, Bruce Grove. The congregation for this Chapel was formed in 1838 by noted local resident chemist John Eliot HOWARD. It consisted of people who had seceded from local Quaker meetings and was affiliated with the Plymouth Brethren movement. The chapel was built in 1839, making it one of the oldest in the area. It now serves as an independent, non-denominational Christian church. There was a burial ground attached to the south of the chapel which shut following the 1853 Burial Act and is now a children's play area. Registers of members and other historic documents are retained by the chapel. If you wish to find out more, you can contact the chapel by email at: info@brookstreetchapel.co.uk

Those with Jewish ancestors in Tottenham will benefit from a series of research papers produced by the Jewish Research Group of Edmonton Hundred Historical Society from the 1982-2007. Copies of these papers can be seen at Enfield Local Studies, Thomas Hardy House, 39 London Road, Enfield EN2 6DS; Haringey Archives Service, Bruce Castle Museum, Lordship Lane, London N17 8NU; and at the Society of Genealogists, 14 Charterhouse Buildings, Goswell Rd, London EC1M 7BA.

You can find out more about Tottenham in our Parish Guide, which was published in July.

WEBSITE NEWS

Panorama of the Thames

The Panorama of the Thames conservation project was started in 1999 and it aims to create a unique and enduring historical record of the banks of the river as it passes through London. This website contains panoramic images and videos accompanied by an extensive database to cover every feature along 52 miles of rapidly changing riverbank. As its starting point, it includes a fully restored version of a publication which depicted the Thames riverside in 1829, at the end of the Georgian period. This rare hand-coloured tourist guide was published then by London bookseller Samuel LEIGH. It shows both banks of the river between Westminster and Richmond upon Thames, a distance of 15 miles.

The section on the City of London includes panoramas by Anton van den Wyngaerde from 1543, Claes Visscher from 1616 and Wenceslas Hollar from 1647 – more are to be added. Another page compares individual buildings from 1829 to their settings in 2014.

This website can be accessed here: panoramaofthethames.com.

London Newspapers Online

Businessman Charles Baldwin, with founder and first editor Dr Stanley Lees Giffard, began publishing the *London Evening Standard* in 1827 as *The Standard*. By 1860 it had two editions, the morning edition *The Standard*, and *The Evening Standard*, the latter eventually became the only edition due to its greater popularity. The *London Evening Standard* is still in publication as a free daily newspaper today. There are currently over 205,000 pages from 28,320 issues dating from 1827-1909 available to search online at The British Newspaper Archive here: <https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/titles/london-evening-standard>

The *London Daily News* was founded in 1846, aiming to provide a Liberal rival to the morning Conservative newspapers, most notably The Times and, like the leading provincial newspapers, the Daily News campaigned hard for reform. The *Daily News* is famous for its founding editor, Charles Dickens, who remained in post for only twenty days, but continued to write occasional columns for the paper. There are over 177,000 pages from 20,608 issues dating from 1846-1912 for this newspaper, which can be found here: <https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/titles/london-daily-news>

Absent Voter Lists

The 1916 Representation of the People Act ruled that members of the armed forces should be listed in separate registers under the constituencies in which they normally lived. The Absent Voter Lists enabled servicemen and women to vote by proxy or by postal application, when away from home on active service. They date from 1918-1925 and 1939 and record the civilian address of the absent voter, but more importantly they give service numbers and regimental details. Absent voter lists can be a valuable resource if you are trying to trace details of a First World War soldier. They often record the individual's regiment, number and rank at the time, as well as his home address. These lists can now be searched here: <https://www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/ukabsentvoters/>

Middlesex Baptisms

Over 64,000 new records have been added to existing parishes within the collection of Middlesex Baptisms at FindMyPast. These transcripts of original parish register entries will usually contain the child's name, baptism date, parents' names, father's occupation and address. The collection also covers parts of London, Surrey and Hertfordshire. Most of the churches from the Ancient Parishes are covered, plus a few others including some nonconformist ones but the whole span of the parish registers is not included. Typically records on here stop in the second half of the 19th century. You can check parishes and dates here: <https://www.findmypast.co.uk/articles/middlesex-baptisms-parish-list>

Victorian Convicts

Prison Registers and Returns from 1838-1875 for Millbank, Parkhurst and Pentonville prisons, from The National Archives' reference HO24 are available to search at <https://www.thegenealogist.co.uk/> and also at <https://search.findmypast.co.uk/>. These records contain information on over 100,000 individuals which includes: each prisoner's age on conviction; the marital status and whether the prisoner can read or write; the convict's former trade; when and where they were convicted, their crime, sentence, where and whence received, previous offences, when removed and to where.



‘W’ SECTION, GREAT NORTHERN CEMETERY

The Great Northern Cemetery opened on land acquired in the 1850s by the Colney Hatch Company at Brunswick Park Road, New Southgate, London N11. In 1855 the Colney Hatch Company and the Great Northern Railway created a joint venture to provide cheap and convenient burials to those living in central London and the cemetery became known as Great Northern Cemetery. A dedicated railway service was provided from Kings Cross to what is now New Southgate station and then on to a terminus nearer the cemetery. The following article, which was written by Brigid Grafton-Green, originally appeared in METROPOLITAN in the Summer issue of 1979. It relates to a section of the cemetery which was developed for housing at that



The cemetery chapel.

time and may be the only record of the gravestones removed then:

There are 17,000 people buried in New Southgate (formerly Great Northern) Cemetery in the northeast of the London Borough of Barnet. The cemetery first opened in 1861; it now contains sections for different religions – Greek Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Jewish and Church of England.

Recently the cemetery authorities sought planning permission for a small area of the cemetery – the oldest part, known as ‘W’ section – to be developed for housing. Because of this application, the Hendon & District

Archaeological Society obtained permission from the cemetery to record any tombstones in the section which were still legible. This work was undertaken

during the early months of 1979 by HADAS member Harold Cover, with the willing co-operation of the Cemetery Superintendent.

‘W’ section had been - as was often the custom in Victorian times – leased in its early days by one parish, that of St George the Martyr, Bloomsbury, and early interments were exclusively from the Bloomsbury area. The first burial from a parish other than St George’s took place in 1868: it was of Fanny Aldred, aged 5 months, of Friern Park. After that there are burials from many areas of North London. No interments have taken place in ‘W’ section since the beginning of the First World War, so the period covered is 1861-1914.

The total number of graves in ‘W’ section was 74, in which 229 interments took place. The majority of burials were therefore of paupers in common graves with no headstone, although at the outset there may have been wooden markers. Nothing remains of these markers today, but there is an official documentary record of burials, which provides the name of the interred, address, date of burial, age (it is interesting that the age inscribed on the stone sometimes differs slightly from that in the record), number of the grave and occasionally the name of the ‘grave-owner’, or person responsible for it. Only 19 headstones (two with two separate inscriptions) proved to be legible, and details of these are given below. Any additional information (eg the full address of the interred) taken from the official record has been included at the end of each entry. Grave-owners’ names have been added where they exist: if none is given it is because none has been recorded.

ALEXANDER, Jane, wife of M ALEXANDER born 1834/5, died 11 May 1879 aged 44. Tomb is marked: ‘The family grave of M ALEXANDER’ but Jane’s appears to be the only burial in it. Address: 19 Dean Street,

BAILEY, Sara, born 1778/9, died 29 May 1871 aged 92. Address: 20 Queen Square, Holborn. (Note: this lady, born before the French Revolution, gives the cemetery one of its fairly rare links with the 18th century).

CHALLENGER, Edward, born 1805/6, died 19 July 1880 aged 74. Note that the record says he was 73 years old; his address is Mason Place, St Luke’s; grave-owner Melissa Pertius Wills, The Dell, Dorridge Road, near Knowle, Warwick.

CHANDLER, James, born 1794/5, died 4 September 1868 in his 73rd year. Part of the address is given on the tombstone ('of Devonshire Street, Holborn') and is elaborated in the record to 14 Devonshire Street, Queen Square, age recorded as 73.

CHANDLER. Elizabeth, wife of the above and commemorated on the same headstone. She died 26 October 1871 aged 71, when her address was still Devonshire Street.

CHEESEMAN, Julia Ada, born 1865/66, died 4 July 1883 aged 17. Address: 7 Riverside Road, Islington.

CULLINGWORTH, Betsy, born 1809/10, died 11 June 1884 aged 74. Note that Mr Cover reads the headstone as 'Betsy CULLINGWORTH' and notes that it is a white marble stone with a metal inlay inscription 'in mint condition' and therefore easily readable. The documentary record, however, says 'Betsy AILINGWORTH'. The address is 1 Oakfield Villas, Finsbury Park.

DAMES, William Benjamin, born 1834/35, died 10 March 1884 'in the 50th year of his age'. Address: 43 Marriott Road, Islington. Grave owner Eleanor A DAMES, 103a Gladstone Avenue, Wood Green.

DIBB, Julia Maria, born 1812/13, died 15 August 1873 aged 60. Address: 14 Cloudesley Road, Islington. Age recorded as 61.

DOVE, James Bricknell, born 1826/27, died 17 May 1868 aged 55. This is the second of two inscriptions on the same tombstone, the first belonging to William MARSH (see below). Address: 49 Clarrendon Street, St Pancras. His age is recorded as 54 and the grave-owner's name is Margaret JOHNSON, 30 Burlington Arcade, Piccadilly.

HAMMOND, Elizabeth, born 1840/41, died 21 May 1878 aged 37. Address: 8 Aldam Place, Stoke Newington.

HANNABUSS, James, born 1851/52, died 13 April 1885 aged 36. 'HAMABUSS' in the record but as the inscription is said to be in good condition, it is more likely to be correct. Address: 8 Carlton Road, Bowes Park.

HOLLINGSWORTH, James, born 1822/23, died 1 March 1886 aged 63. The second of two inscriptions on the same tombstone, the first being to Walter Charles JONES (see below). Address: 44 Cole Street, Chelsea. Grave owner William JONES, 18 Richmond Road, Tottenham

JONES, Mary, wife of John, born 1840/41, died 11 March 1882 aged 41. Address: 124 Barnsbury Road, Islington.

JONES, Walter Charles, born 1856/7, died 8 August 1883 aged 26. This is the first of two inscriptions on the same tombstone, the second being James HOLLINGSWORTH (see above). Address: 18 Richmond Road, Wood Green; grave-owner's name William JONES, 18 Richmond Road, Tottenham.

LEGGETT, Dorothy, wife of Henry James LEGGETT, daughter of the late John and Dorothy WIGHAM, born 1847/48, died 13 December 1883 aged 35. Address: 53 Trinder Road, Crouch Hill. Grave owner Henry James LEGGETT of the same address.

LEGGETT, Mary, daughter of the above and commemorated on the same tombstone, born 1875/76, died 10 February 1902 aged 26. Address: 16 Harringay Grove, Hornsey, Grave owner Henry James LEGGETT, as before of Trinder Road.

LEGGETT, Fanny, wife of Henry James LEGGETT, born 1843/44, died 14 May 1908 aged 64. Address: 16 Harringay Grove, Hornsey, Grave owner Henry James LEGGETT, 16 Harringay Grove, Hornsey.

LEGGETT, Henry James, on the same stone as the above Fanny LEGGETT, born 1847/48, died 9 January 1910 aged 62. Address: 16 Harringay Grove, Hornsey, Grave owner Henry James LEGGETT, 16 Harringay Grove, Hornsey.

MARSH, William, born 1826/7, died 17 May 1868 aged 41. The first of two inscriptions on the same tombstone, the second being to James Bricknell DOVE (see above). Address: Middlesex Hospital.

TANFIELD, Spensley, born 24 March 1854, died 10 December 1906. Address: 88 Cecile Park, Crouch End. The record also gives him the

additional forename of Ralph. The grave owner is Percy Metcalfe TANFIELD, c/o Chartered Bank of India, 38 Bishopsgate, London EC.

WALLER, Henry, later of 26 Dean Street, Islington, born 1814/15, died 23 June 1882 aged 67. Grave owner Ann Dorothea WALLER, 26 Dean Street, Islington.

WIGHAM, John, Civil Engineer, Hornsey, born 1842/43, died 31 October 1894 aged 51. Address: 16 Harringay Grove, Hornsey. Grave owner: Thomas WIGHAM, Pearson Villa, Totterdown, Bristol.

WILLIAMS, Edward, born 1844/45, died 3 August 1879 aged 34. Address: Asylum, Colney Hatch. Age given on record as 33.



FOCUS ON FACEBOOK

By Elizabeth Burling, Member No. 4992

On 5 May we added a Help and Discussion ‘group’ to our Facebook ‘page’ and in doing so learnt a lot about the difference between the two types of Facebook entity and thought we would pass this on to you!

A ‘page’ is a space which enables organisations such as LWMFHS to create an authentic and public presence on Facebook. It is visible to everyone on the internet and all Facebook members can receive our updates in their news feed by ‘liking’ our page – we currently have over 1250 people doing this from all over the world. On our page we try to promote our Society by publicising our meetings, our new Parish Guide and Monumental Inscription booklets and let people know of any family history fairs and open days we will be going to.

We also keep an eye on other organisations of interest and can share their posts to our page, for example, items from London Metropolitan Archives, the Family History Federation or The Mills Archive. Another thing we try to do is to encourage a love of history in our area by posting ‘On this day in London’ items, such as the following: On 25 August 1537, the Honourable Artillery Company was chartered by King Henry VIII. Members of the Company were drawn mainly from the London area and it is considered one

of the oldest military organisations in the world. Initially the Company trained at the Old Artillery Ground in Spitalfields, on the site of the outer precinct of the dissolved Priory and Hospital of St Mary Spital, and at the Merchant Taylor's Company Hall. In 1649 they occupied 'twelve acres enclosed by a brick wall and pale' just south of Bunhill Fields on City Road. They are still there to this day, at Armoury House, which is attached to the Regiment's Headquarters at Finsbury Barracks. More information on the HAC, which is now a charity supporting a detachment of the City of London Police and the HAC Regiment, can be found online here: <https://www.hac.org.uk/home/>

A 'group' the place for small group communication and for people to share their common interests and express their opinion. Groups allow people to come together around an activity – in our case an interest in family history - to discuss issues, post photos and share related content. Our LWMFHS 'group' is a private space – you have to ask to join. Members of the group asked for the group to be private so that discussions will not be generally shared on the internet, only amongst ourselves. In our 'group', which has around 300 members, people post specific queries such as trying to find somebody in particular on the census returns, want information about a photograph they post or just indicate which surnames they are looking for. A benefit of a 'group' is that any member can answer any query and we are very happy to report that this is what is happening.

Another benefit of a 'group' is that useful files can be uploaded for members to look at. We currently have one here, which is a 'Which Place is Where' file. London is such a huge and complicated place and this file can tell you things such as the fact that Botany Bay is in Enfield and Holders Hill is in Hendon. We hope this will help people find mention of their ancestors and can be used in conjunction with our Parish Guides.

The aims of our Society are: to encourage the study of family history and genealogy, 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 and to help to co-ordinate efforts to make local records more accessible. Our Facebook page is just another way we hope to do this.

GREAT GREAT GRANDPARENTS

Rev James **SERJEANT** c1804-1867 Callington CON and Mary **DENNER** 1803-1853 Callington CON

Joshua **DODD** c1820->1891 Broadhampton DEV and Elizabeth **HOUGHTON** c1817-<1871 Mangan CON

Henry **JONES** c1817-1850? and Sarah Isabella **LEWIS** c1813-1899 Landport HAM

Walter Henry **BARTLETT** 1822-1887 and Elizabeth **COMPLIN** 1811-1879 Godsfield HAM

George **SIMMONS** c1806-1884 Shiplake OXF and Mary **WAGSTAFF** 1805-? Badby NTH

John **LEPPARD** 1810-<1886 Bolney SSX and Mary Ann **KNIGHT** c1808-1889 Cuckfield SSX

James Thomas **BROGDEN** c1823-1897 St Luke's MDX and Sarah **WILLIAMS** c1820-1888 St Luke's MDX

Edwin **MEEKS** 1823-1879 Clerkenwell MDX and Sarah **HARPER** c1819-1886 Limehouse MDX

William **CARTER** 1830-1892 Sonning, BRK or Binfield Heath OXF and Hannah **HUTCHINGS** c1831-1888 Dorney BRK. William was baptised in Sonning BRK and the 1841 census shows the address as Sonning Eye OXF.

Thomas **BUTTERFIELD** c1827-1893 Hayes MDX and Frances **WINKFIELD** c1825-1882 Hedgerley BKM

Robert **MASON** c1799->1871 IOW and Ann(e) ? c1820-<1871 Awbridge HAM

Charles **BUNGAY** c1826->1901 Awbridge HAM and Elizabeth **JARRANT** c1826->1901 Romsey HAM

William **MARVEN** c1812-1879 Great Brockley ESS and Mary **GILBERT** c1814-1886 Great Oakley ESS

James **MEAD** c1823-1910 Foxton CAM and Mary Stock **MEAD** c1825-1903 Arksden ESS

John **SYMONDS** 1814-1893 Harston CAM and Charlotte **BARNES** c1823-1898 Staplebrook CAM

Contact Elizabeth Carter Member No. 5736 for the above two sets of great great grandparents, Email: membersinterests@lwmfhs.org.uk

John **MARSHALL** 1807-1891 Benenden KEN and Mary **WEAVER** 1805-1883 Moldash, KEN

David **MASEY** 1807-1882 New Romney KEN and Mary **AUSTEN** 1807-1899 Tenterden KEN

Jabez **HICKS** 1819-1905 Sutton by Dover KEN and Susannah **STANDING** née **BAKER** 1817-1873 Folkestone KEN

Henry **WILLIAMS** 1825-? St James, Dover KEN and Catherine **NOWERS** 1820-1886 St James, Dover KEN

William **CULLINGWORTH** 1823-1901 Wetherby YKS and Sarah Ann **GAMBRIDGE** 1824-1901 Holborn MDX

James **MAISEY** 1817-1857 St Mary, Lambeth SRY and Mary Ann **SMITH** 1823-1893 St Luke, Chelsea MDX

James **COKER** 1829-1887 Lambeth SRY and Emily **WRENCH** 1831-1891 Hanover Square

William James **MORGAN** 1846-1904 St Leonard's Shoreditch MDX and Elizabeth Slack **MURFET** 1846-1919 Soham, CAM

Contact Dr Keith Marshall Member No. 7692, Email: kcm@cix.co.uk

Robert **GIBBS** 1842-1891 Limehouse MDX and Louisa Jane **VINCENT** 1845-1865 St George in the East MDX

John **MARNEY** @1833-1874 Ireland and Ann **BURNS** @1846-1896 Ireland

Samuel **HARVEY** 1815-1895 Colchester ESS and Caroline **LOYD** @1815-1894 Waltham Abbey ESS

Stephen **KNIGHTS** @1827-1907 Colchester ESS and Martha **BLOOMFIELD** @1825-1868 Colchester ESS

Walter **BURT** 1840-1892 Pendomer SOM and Caroline **YOUNG** @1832-1904 East Coker SOM

William **GILLHAM** 1842-? East Coker SOM and Sarah **NEVIL** 1843-1869 East Coker SOM

Joseph **RETALLCK** 1809-1854 Devonport DEV and Marian **BOURDIEC** @1815-1892 Devonport DEV

Edwin Samuel **CLARK** @1830-1880 Gloucester GLOS and Jemima Jane **BUTLER** @1830-1916 Gravesend KEN

Contact: Terry Gibbs, Member No. 7844, Email: gibbsterry26@gmail.com

William **PESTELL** 1786-1856 Cople BDF and Maria **BRIMLEY** 1790-1840 Willington BDF

John **MILLER** c1800-? Shotteswell WAR and Ann **SWEETMAN** c 1800-? Aynho, NTH

Cooper **PARR** 1790-1851 Canewdon ESS and Sarah **CAGE** 1791-1875 Canewdon ESS

Henry **MYNOTT** 1794-1863 Rayne ESS and Susannah **HORNSBY** 1799-1871 Great Waltham ESS. They lived in Felsted ESS

James **LOWEN** 1796-1867 born in High Ongar, lived in Chigwell ESS and Ann **PLUCKROSE** 1813-1893 Chigwell ESS

Thomas **FLAXMAN** 1787- ? Woodbridge St Mary SFK and Catherine **BURROWS** 1790-? Woodbridge St Mary SFK

George **HEDGES** 1814-? Abingdon BRK and Ann **TOWERSEY** 1814-1858 Tetsworth OXF

James **LOWEN** 1796-1867 born in High Ongar, lived in Chigwell ESS and Ann **PLUCKROSE** 1813-1893 Chigwell ESS

My grandparents were first cousins so two pairs of great great grandparents are the same.

Contact: Barbara Haswell, Member No. 4224

Email membersinterests@lwmfhs.org.uk

Note: Would anyone else like to send us their set of great great grandparents, together with their dates and birthplace? Don't forget that members' research interests are also shown in the Members' Area of the website. You can send your updated lists to Barbara by email at: membersinterests@lwmfhs.org.uk



GRAVE SEARCH

By April Vesey, Member No. 6820

In METROPOLITAN Volume 5 No. 2 issued in March this year, we announced our graveyard or cemetery search service for members. The story of our first 'client' is below. April Vesey (Treasurer) and Sylvia Thompson (Membership Secretary) conducted the search.

Plot 136922

Member Steve Taylor asked us to find a family grave - that of his great, great grandfather John Edward SPEED, buried at Brompton Cemetery on 2 March 1878. Also in the grave are Speed's father and mother in law, Richard SMITH (buried 4 June 1887) and Sarah SMITH (buried 27 April 1889).

Using the map provided with the location of the grave marked on it we thought it would be easy to find but it turned out that we began our search in the wrong area. This was because the map was not quite realistic and there were paths at the cemetery which were not shown on the map. Seeking expert help, we eventually found a well-hidden cemetery office; the man in there was extremely helpful and took us to the area where we should have been looking.

In May there is a lot of plant growth and the area we were shown was largely hidden under nettles, ivy, grass, sticky-buds and other such things. We could not penetrate the undergrowth far enough so we sought help from another very helpful man who was using a strimmer in a different



Our initial view of the grave!

part of the Cemetery. He strimmed away for us, revealing various graves but not the one we wanted. After further trips back to the office and renewed efforts from the strimmer, we eventually located the grave.

Unfortunately, although we are certain we found the right grave, there was no headstone, no evidence of there having been a headstone, and no writing or carving at all on the stone slab covering the grave. This was disappointing for us as we had hoped to find additional information about Steve's ancestors at the grave; however, at least he knows that there is nothing new to learn from the grave itself and he is content with that.

We provided Steve with an outline of the search, and photos of the grave and its location.



The grave after tidying it up.

Lessons learned: (advice for searching graveyards)

- Don't trust sketchy or unclear maps of cemeteries and graveyards.
- Don't trust a dot on a map supposedly pinpointing a grave's location, it could be wrong, vague or possibly still imprecise in a large cemetery.

- Wherever possible, find an official or perhaps a church warden who knows their way around and can advise on the location; ask whether they can give you the names on graves either side or nearby which can help you locate the exact spot, especially if there is no headstone.
- Consider taking a few helpful extras such as an empty bottle you could fill with water to wash mud off gravestone lettering.
- Allow plenty of time; it will almost certainly take longer than you think.
- Consider the time of year? Eg will the light fade early? Will there be a lot of plant growth?
- Check opening and closing hours before you go.
- Check the weather forecast; be prepared with raincoat, sunscreen, sunhat or warm clothes as appropriate.
- Consider taking a camera to record your findings.
- Be prepared for disappointment – you may not find any trace of it, the headstone may have fallen or become illegible, or it may be just an overgrown patch of ground.



North London News, Saturday 8 November 1862

CHARGE OF BURGLARY

George Butterfield, alias Skates, and George Hawkins, alias Wiggins, well known to the police, were charged with burglariously breaking into the dwelling house of Mr William Williams, grocer and cheesemonger, carrying on business at 9 Hampden Street, Camden Town. Evidence having been adduced, the prisoners denied the charge, and said they should be able to prove their innocence.

Police-constable Cook, 198 S, said that the prisoners were well known, and one of them had been sentenced to twelve months' hard labour for felony. Mr Barker fully committed them for trial.

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.



HAMILTON

My aunt Rosie Ellen JONES married Roy HAMILTON in Paddington in 1933 and I am trying to find out more about this man.

The marriage certificate states that Roy was a bachelor aged 22, a commercial traveller living at 26 Polygon Mews, son of Alfred HAMILTON, waiter. The couple had two children but the marriage did not last. The children's birth certificates have Roy HAMILTON, waiter, as their father and he appears in the 1939 Register as a head waiter, born 4 January 1912 with wife Wynn (theatrical agent) at 11 Craven Street, Westminster. However, there is no Roy HAMILTON in the GRO birth registers.

I wondered if the recorded entry of birth could be different and found an Alfred R born at the same time so I ordered this certificate, hoping for an Alfred Roy with a father Alfred HAMILTON. What I got was an Alfred Rezzonico HAMILTON born to single mother Jenny HAMILTON on 4 January 1912. Her address was Vincent Square, Westminster. His subsequent baptism, which took place on 28 January 1912 at St Mary, Tothill Fields, Westminster, has the baby's name as Alfred HAMILTON, son of Alfred and Jenny, and confirms a birth date of 4 January.

I wondered if Rezzonico could be his father's surname as sometimes people do give surnames as second Christian names. I found an Alfredo REZZONICO on the 1911 census as a waiter in a boarding house in Soho, aged 19 and born in Italy. I also found a death for Alfredo REZZONICO in 1935. He died in the Italian Hospital in Holborn and the informant was his son, A REZZONICO of 32 Shirland Road, Kilburn.

Sylvia Dearing, Member No. 8077

Email: dearjon@tiscali.co.uk

Note: You have been methodical and thorough in your research and sent many documents to back up your letter. It does seem plausible that Alfredo REZZONICO and Roy HAMILTON could be one and the same person but at the moment this is the best guess using the results of your research and you have no real proof. We could not find any records to add to the ones you sent us, and a general search for REZZONICO did not bring up anything particularly useful.

You had not been able to find a suitable Jenny HAMILTON and we could not either, not even in 1911. She is not at 23 New Street, Vincent Square, where she later gave birth. 'Jenny' does not seem to be a commonly recognised name and it is possible it is a diminutive of 'Jane', 'Jean' or 'Jennifer'.

It would probably be worth getting a DNA test done for the two children as this may be the easiest way to confirm an Italian connection. There is an Anglo-Italian Family History Society who have a website and a Facebook page, who may also have some useful suggestions to help you with this. Or maybe one of our readers knows something?

St James Gazette, 13 December 1889

Covent Garden.- Lessee, Freeman Thomas.- Grand Circus, under the direction of Augustus Harris and Freeman Thomas.- The tamed, trained Lion on Horseback (the great sensation of Paris) with the most marvellous Mastiff ever seen. Wonderful Siberian Bears. 30 Clowns. 100 highly trained Horses and Ponies. Gou Gou and his wonderful Pig. Jessica, the graceful and champion Wire-walker. The Hoffman Sisters (Horizontal Bar Performers). Sylvester (renowned Jockey Rider). Children's Cinderella Pantomime in the Arena. Boxing Day and Twice Daily. Prices from 6d to £5 5s. Box-office open daily 10 to 5.

Gaiety Theatre Tonight, at 8 punctually, Ruy Blas and the Blasé Roue. Miss Ellen Farren, Miss Marion Hood, Miss Sylvia Grey, Miss Linda Verner, Miss Blanche Massey, and Miss Letty Lind; Mr Fred Leslie, Mr Fred Storey, Mr Dalton Somers. Doors open 7.30. Morning performance to-morrow (Saturday), at 2 o'clock.

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 19 September | (Provisional) a talk about the Temperance Movement |
| Thursday 17 October | TBA |
| Thursday 21 November | TBA |
| Thursday 19 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

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|-----------------------|--|
| Thursday 26 September | <i>A Short History of Myddelton Street</i> by Dave Annal |
| Thursday 31 October | TBA |
| Thursday 28 November | TBA |
| Thursday 26 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 4 September | <i>History of Enfield's Markets, Fairs and Festivals</i>
by Joe Studman |
| Wednesday 2 October | <i>The Ally Pally Prison</i>
by Maggie Butt |
| Wednesday 6 November | <i>They are not all poor!</i>
by Michael Gandy |
| Wednesday 4 December | Christmas Social |

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 13 September	Members' Evening
Friday 11 October	<i>Dickens and the Workhouse</i> by Dr Ruth Richardson
Friday 8 November	<i>Who was Robert Pawley? War Memorial-St Andrew, Sudbury Hill</i> by Rev Mark Arnold
Friday 13 December	Members' Christmas Event

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.

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

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

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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.

A CONUNDRUM

By Keith Rookledge, Member No. 8071

The Pinner Local History Society is aware of the headstone of Albert Morgan HUSSEY in the Paines Lane Cemetery, Pinner, noting that it states that he died on the 12 October 1918 in Quedlinburg German, some 10 days before the armistice. This area was not one where there was conflict, so presumably he was in a prisoner of war camp.

However, the Commonwealth War Grave Commission (CWGC) site notes he is buried in Niederzwehren Cemetery, Kassel, near the former border with East Germany. He is noted as dying in a Prisoner War Camp. There is considerable information on this camp, which housed some 18,000 prisoners



many of whom were French. The CWGC entry shows that his parents, Albert John and Emily HUSSEY, lived in Sedgford Road, Shepherds Bush, London.

The 1911 census also shows the parents and Albert Morgan living there and he is noted as being born in

Marylebone as was his father, Albert John and his sister Mary Ann. They apparently moved from Marylebone between her birth in 1903 and 1911.

So the question arises why is there a head stone in Paines Lane Cemetery? Can anybody throw any light on why this might be? Acknowledgement: I am grateful to George Haines for providing the photograph.

Note: According to our new Pinner Parish Guide, the cemetery has burial registers covering this date. It might be worth contacting them to see if they have details of who purchased the grave or paid for the burial.

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.

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£15 UK: to receive METROPOLITAN by post

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

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

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

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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.**

All Saints' Church, Harrow Weald



All Saints' Church is located at 90 Uxbridge Road, Harrow Weald, Middlesex. The churchyard was laid out in 1846 and across the road is the New Cemetery which opened in 1884. There are many mature trees surrounding the church and land where the original vicarage once stood has become a nature reserve. All the monumental inscriptions have been recorded. See article on page 106 of this journal.