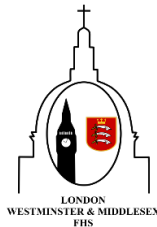


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METROPOLITAN

The Journal of the
LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX
Family History Society



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Cover picture: Christmas at St Mary, East Barnet 2019
See article on page 22

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EDITORIAL

We are still in the middle of the Covid-19 pandemic with meetings of any size prohibited. This means that our own Branch Meetings have had to be suspended but on the plus side, we now have a Virtual Branch – see page 8 for further details.

Pandemics are unusual in the 21st century yet it is not so long ago that schools were frequently closed because of outbreaks of infectious diseases. Whilst we were researching material for our Finchley Parish Guide, we came across the following: Alder School Finchley log books show that the school was closed in November 1889 due to a fever epidemic, in January 1890 due to an influenza epidemic, in 1897 for a month due to measles. There were further measles epidemics in March 1898, June 1904, March 1906, May 1907, February 1909 and March 1911.

Don't forget to put 11 February 2021 in your diaries to come to our first ever online AGM. There is information about it in the white central insert of this journal and we look forward to 'meeting' you there.

As we come to the end of 2020 we would like to thank all who have contributed to *Metropolitan* over this last year. We look forward to receiving more articles, letters, snippets and jottings from you in 2021. Don't forget, you can also send in *Help!* requests if you have a research problem and your member's interests. Meanwhile, we do hope you enjoy the variety of articles in this edition of *Metropolitan*. Perhaps you can help Dawn Adams and her brick wall on page 39?

The Editors and the Executive Committee wish all our members and their families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The Editorial Team

**Please remember that the copy date for the next issue of
Metropolitan is 1 February 2021**



CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

There is an old saying about illegitimate children. The bastard son of a beggar will be a beggar too. The bastard son of a king will become a duke (or in the case of a female marry one). In Pinner history we have examples of and an extension to this.

Firstly a king. There is a plaque outside Pinner House, a possibly 17th Century House: 'The home 1788-1811, of the Rev. Walter Williams and his wife Mary Beauclerc, Great Grand-daughter of Charles II and Nell Gwynn.' Mary's grandfather Charles (1670-1726) was made Duke of St Albans in 1684 after some complaints by Nell about the delayed ennoblement.

Then not a beggar but a national hero. A vicar's wife who later lived in Pinner is Horatia NELSON (1801-1881) the bastard child of one of our greatest national heroes. Her father was Vice-Admiral, the Viscount Horatio NELSON (1758-1805). He died 215 years ago on 21 October when commanding the British fleet at the Battle of Trafalgar. The defeat of the combined French and Spanish fleets established the superiority of the British fleet, not only for the next 10 years of the Napoleonic wars but for the next 100 years.

Nelson had a wife, Frances, but she was not able to bear him any children. Horatia's mother was Lady HAMILTON, formerly Emma LYON. Like Nell GWYNN, she came of a working class background, born in 1765 in a Cheshire mining village to an illiterate blacksmith and a strong-minded supportive mother. On his death, her mother took her to the family village in Flintshire. Then at the age of 13 her mother took her very pretty child to London. There, Emma worked as a servant and on the fringes of the theatre and also as a fairly high class prostitute. She learnt manners quickly and was obviously very intelligent. At 16 she became the mistress of an aristocratic rake who abandoned her when she became pregnant. She gave birth in Cheshire and left the girl to be brought up by her grandmother.

Then back to London in 1782 where she became mistress of Lord Charles GREVILLE, in his house in Cavendish Square, with her mother as housekeeper. She had to change her name to Emma HART. From then on there was a Pygmalion-like transformation in her education and manners. She was introduced to the artist George ROMNEY, who painted about 70

picture of her, many in classical poses. She became his muse and he became obsessed with her and introduced her to artistic circles

Then in 1786 at the age of 21, Emma and her mother were sent to Naples to the home of Sir William HAMILTON, Charles's uncle, who was the British Envoy Extraordinary to The Kingdom of the Two Sicilies. Charles pretended that he was to follow them, but actually wanted to pass on Emma to his uncle as a mistress. After initial fury, Emma saw the opportunities and advanced rapidly. She captivated Sir William, who was 35 years older than her, and in 1791 was promoted from mistress to wife. So she became Lady Hamilton, wife of a diplomat. She learnt much from her cultured husband and became fluent in Italian and French. She became a close friend of Queen Maria Carolina and helped Sir William in furthering the interests of the British Navy commanded by Nelson.

After Nelson's great victory in August 1798, Nelson was feted as friend and supporter of King Ferdinand and Queen Maria Carolina which aided the Hamiltons. Emma and Nelson soon became lovers with the connivance of Sir William. By 1800 Emma was pregnant and the ménage à trois returned to England. Not surprisingly, they had a rather cool reception in society and Nelson's wife split from him after a confrontation. Divorce at that time was almost impossible.

Her daughter Horatia was probably born on 29 January 1801 but Emma tried to conceal the details and found a foster mother for her. Nelson bought a country house at Merton and the family life was restored with Horatia referred to as their adopted and beloved daughter. There were friendly visits from many of the Nelson family including Horatio's brother who had become the Earl Nelson. Unfortunately Emma was very extravagant and ran up large debts. Socially she was acceptable as an aristocratic widow after the death of Sir William in 1803, but after the death of Nelson, despite legacies she went into a spiral of debt with Horatia following her. In July 1814 she escaped to Calais to avoid the debtors prison. She died there in January 1815 of dropsy (heart or kidney failure) in the presence of Horatia.

Horatia was then taken care of by the fairly prosperous MATCHAM family. Her Aunt Catherine was Horatio's sister and there were five female cousins who mostly married naval officers, which Horatia might have been expected to do. Later she moved to live with another of her aunts Susanna BOLTON

(née NELSON) in Norfolk. There she met a handsome curate called Phillip WARD and married him on 19 February 1822. On the Marriage register her full name was Horatia Nelson NELSON. It seems to have been a happy marriage and Horatia gave birth to nine children between 1822 and 1836 of which only one died in infancy. Initially Phillip continued to be a curate but then due to patronage of the Earl Nelson (Horatia's uncle) Phillip was offered in 1831 a position as Vicar of Tenterden in Kent.

Throughout her life, despite all the evidence of letters and witnesses, Horatia seems to have refused to believe that Emma was her real mother, although at the same time acknowledging that Horatio NELSON was her father. Eventually there was a National Appeal backed by the Prince Consort and in 1855, 50 years after the death of Horatio, his daughter was awarded £1427/13/6d (equivalent to £175,000 in 2020) for the benefit of her family together with £300 per annum (£37,000 equivalent) from the Privy Purse to be shared by her four daughters. Phillip died in 1859. Horatia then moved to Pinner to the home of her married son Nelson WARD who became Registrar in Chief of the Chancery Courts. He commuted daily by rail to London. She lived in substantial houses in West End Lane and then in Church Lane, being involved a great deal in family, church and local affairs.

She died on 6 March 1881 of 'old age' and was buried in Paines Lane Cemetery near the Parish Church in Pinner. The gravestone inscription initially referred to her as the 'Adopted Daughter of Vice –Admiral Lord Nelson'. Later this was changed to 'Beloved Daughter'. Four of her children had further descendants. So the genes of the remarkable couple, Horatio NELSON and Emma HAMILTON continued into the 20th century.

References

Horatia Nelson by Winifred Gerin, (Clarendon Press Oxford, 1970)

Emma Hamilton: Seduction & Celebrity. Edited by Quintin Colville with Kate Williams (Thames and Hudson/Royal Museums Greenwich, 2016)

Tony Allen



LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

I have just read the article in the September magazine by Angela Benger about her great grandmother Annie Emily WILLSON and the cholera outbreak in Soho. By coincidence, I have just been reading a book entitled *The Ghost Map* by Steven Johnson which tells the story of the terrifying cholera epidemic in London in 1845 and the two unlikely heroes, Dr John SNOW and the Reverend Henry WHITEHEAD, who defeated the disease through a combination of local knowledge, scientific research and map-making. The book follows the epidemic from beginning to end, street by street and household by household in great detail, and I thought it might be of interest to other members. When I read the book I just found it so fascinating. There is so much detail about the area and I followed it up by looking at the same streets on Charles Booth's Poverty Map, which added to the whole picture, and would be really enlightening for anyone whose ancestors were living there at that time.

Audrey Jarvis, Member No. 8100

Following on from behind the scenes messages in September, I have purchased and read the book recommendation from Audrey Jarvis. It is fascinating and I thought other members might be interested in it so have written a short review:

The Ghost Map by Steven Johnson tells the story of the terrifying cholera epidemic in London in 1845 and the two unlikely heroes, Dr John Snow and the Reverend Henry Whitehead, who defeated the disease through a combination of local knowledge, scientific research and map-making. It follows the epidemic from beginning to end, street by street and household by household in great detail, which brings to life the area and conditions in which my ancestors lived. It is a fascinating read and I thoroughly recommend it to others with interests in the history of London

Angela Benger. Member No 8163

Note: University College Los Angeles has a very interesting website devoted to the life and times of Sir John SNOW, on which can be found all sorts of things including contemporary memories of him, much epidemiology and some excellent old maps of Soho. You can access this site here: <http://www.ph.ucla.edu/epi/snow.html>

Further to the article on Henry COOMBES, Zeppelin Victim, which appeared in September's *Metropolitan*, a book by Ian Castle was mentioned in the sources but readers might like to know that he also has an information-packed website about all the First World War airship and aeroplane raids on Britain compiled from many sources. This website can be found here: <http://www.iancastlezeppelin.co.uk/>

Eileen Bostle, Member No. 7312



THE FAMILY HISTORY SHOW ONLINE 2021

The next event will be held on Saturday 20 February 2021
from 10.00-16.30.

Tickets are £8 on the day but **members of LWMFHS have an exclusive discount and can get a ticket for only £4** by following this link:
<https://thefamilyhistoryshow.com/online/tickets/?discount=JH6X3V>

There will be a series of talks (each available for 24 hours), Ask the Experts, and an Exhibition Hall full of family history societies and other historical groups, including us!

For more information visit: <https://thefamilyhistoryshow.com/online/>

The FHF Really Useful Show 2020

This online fair took place on 14 November 2020 and our booth was manned by Elaine, Elizabeth and Pam, with behind-the-scenes help from Barbara and Sylvia. We answered many queries about topics ranging from how to locate baptisms in London (often tricky!), where to look for roads which have now disappeared (historic maps are great for this) and just which areas we cover. Our *Which Place is Where* booklet, which we had put in the Show's goody bag is very useful for this – in fact we invented it to help us answer questions at shows! If you would like a copy, it is available in the Members' area of the website under 'Files': <https://www.lwmfhs.org.uk/>

GREAT OAKS FROM LITTLE ACORNS GROW... A VIRTUAL BRANCH

By Pam Chambers Member No. 908

The inaugural meeting of our Virtual Branch took place on Zoom on Thursday 22nd October 2020 at 8pm. We were delighted to attract 80+ members from all corners of the United Kingdom, not to mention the world! Our speaker, Rob Kayne, informed, entertained and educated us with an excellent talk about 'Old London Bridge: The One With The Houses On Top'.

At our Executive Committee meeting held at the end of August we concluded that, in the current situation, the chances of our physical branch meetings resuming soon were minimal. It was suggested the possibility of holding a Zoom meeting be investigated. Within a week we had set up our 'Zoom team' of Elaine, Elizabeth, Pam and Sylvia. An intense few weeks followed as they grappled with the complexities - or so it seemed - of this new medium.

The unknowns of scheduling a meeting, inviting people to attend, sharing the screen with the speaker, controlling the event so that everyone enjoyed it, and much more began to make sense. We held practice sessions with the remaining members of the committee as the audience. Each member of the 'Zoom team' took on a specific role-hosting the session, admitting the audience, recording the meeting; and on the evening we had a 'running schedule' to keep everything to time.

Our reward? The very positive response we had from members when they received their invitation to "register their interest". Clearly, this was something they wanted. New members joined the Society in order to attend, and in these days when much we do is now online, they could do so right up to the start of the meeting at 8pm.

As the meeting opened many unfamiliar, smiling, faces appeared rapidly on the screen. We tried to welcome each individual just as we would at our branches. "I've been a member for 12 years and this is the first time I've been able to attend a meeting," commented one lady. For participants in the USA & Canada the meeting occurred earlier in the day; for those in Australia and New Zealand, it was nearly the next day. Recognising the problems that these

time differences create, we held a scheduled meeting the following morning at 10am to show the recording of Rob's talk.

The Virtual Branch is now part of our Society. Meetings will take place on the second Thursday of each month with talks starting at 20.00 (GMT/BST). The only requirement for attending is that you are a member of this Society and have registered your interest in the meetings. A few days before each meeting you will receive an invitation containing the Zoom link – just click on it to join us!

We aim to offer a varied programme. If you would like to offer a talk or suggest future speakers, please contact the Virtual Branch by email at: virtualbranch@lwmfhs.org.uk.

Over time, we hope that our 'little acorn' will become a 'great oak'!



The next meetings planned for our Virtual Branch are as follows:

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| Thursday 14 January | <i>Searching for William</i>
by Robert Parker |
| Thursday 11 February | <i>A grandmother's legacy: 170 year old recipe book</i>
by Jenny Mallin
This will be preceded by our AGM – see our AGM insert in the middle of this issue of <i>Metropolitan</i> . |
| Thursday 11 March | <i>From Lunatic Asylum to the Old Bailey: what did your ancestor really get up to?</i>
by Hilary Blanford |

PS If you have not received an email from the Virtual Branch, please confirm your email address with the Membership Secretary. You can do this by email at: membership@lwmfhs.org.uk



THE PERFUMER'S APPRENTICE

By Peter Todd, Member No. 7686

While researching my 19th century ancestors over the past few years I have been struck by the variety of work that they have undertaken in order to earn a living and support their families. I have been particularly interested in the more unusual occupation; those I have mentioned in the past have been making rocking horses and building corrugated steel chapels. This brings me to the subject of this article which tells how a late cousin of mine eventually came to learn the ancient art of perfumery.

My cousin John Henry FOREY (1867-1943) was the second son of William FOREY (1834-1915) and Emma Emily WEBB (1862-1908). John had been born in the St Giles area of London, which is located at the southern tip of the Borough of Camden.

The 18th century, somewhat unsavoury, side of this area was depicted by William HOGARTH (1697-1764) in several of his etchings, such as 'Gin Lane', 'Four Times of Day' and 'First Stage of Cruelty' with churches of the area featuring in the background of all of them. Modern day historians, however, are of the opinion that HOGARTH overly used artistic licence in these renderings of London life.

In the 1891 Census William and Emily, who were then in their fifties, were living at 18 Goodge Street, Soho, London. William was a music printer and had previously worked in partnership with his elder brother James FOREY (1822-1885), my great grandfather on the female side. Their son John Henry, who was then 24 years old, was working as a soap maker.

Five years later at St Andrews Church in Marylebone John married Ada Frances ROSE (1872-1916). Ada was the daughter of Samuel Albert ROSE (1844-1885), a glass cutter. The couple had five children.

The 1901 Census had John and Ada FOREY living in Camden Town with the first two of their children and a Jane FOREY (1876-1938), who was John's sister. John was now said to be a soap refiner. Ten years later the family had moved to Chant Square, Stratford, West Ham. There were four children at home at this time, the youngest child, George Frederick FOREY (1911-1973) being barely a month old at the time of the 1911 Census. John's

father William who was now a 77 year old widower was staying with them. John was still working as a soap refiner. Until now I hadn't known which 19th century soap business John worked for; but the move to Stratford and a subsequent reference to his employer in his WW1 Army record confirmed that it had been Yardley of London.

It is not known when soap arrived in this Country but, by the 13th century, it was well established in the larger towns as an artisan industry. The company which eventually became Yardley's was started in 1770 by the CLEAVER family. At that time soap was heavily taxed as a luxury item. This act was repealed in 1853 by William Ewart GLADSTONE (1809-1898). More efficient production ensued with the introduction of steam power and when coupled with the eventual lifting of the tax burden the industry boomed. The profitability of the industry was further improved by the utilisation of the hitherto waste product of manufacture, namely glycerine, in the production of dynamite. This more handleable explosive material was invented by Alfred NOBEL (1833-1896). He tamed the explosively unstable chemical nitro-glycerine, discovered by Ascanio SOBRERO (1812-1888), by absorbing it in an inert material such as clay, sawdust, flour etc. in the presence of a stabiliser.

The CLEAVER and YARDLEY families became connected by marriage when two of Samuel CLEAVER's (1750-1805) sons married Hermina YARDLEY (1781-1845) and Rosina YARDLEY (1786-1864) in 1801 and 1808, respectively. Both Hermina and Rosina were later remembered by having Yardley creations named after them e.g. Eau de Toilette.

When Samuel died the business passed to his wife and four sons. The sons continued to trade under the CLEAVER name until 1823, when because of a default on a loan of £20,000 to the CLEAVER's from Coutts Banking House, guaranteed by William YARDLEY (1756-1824), the business passed to William who was father-in-law to two of the brothers and the debt payer. William died one year later and the company was left to his son, Charles YARDLEY (1795-1882), who got his younger cousin Frederick Samuel CLEAVER (1807-1872) to run the firm. Frederick resigned in 1841 to start his own perfume and soap business in Red Lion Street, Holborn, London. Charles YARDLEY then appointed a partner, William STATHAM (1809-1863) and established his own son Charles YARDLEY jnr. (1824-1872) in the business, trading as Yardley & Statham. The business was described in

the 1852 Post Office Directory as: ‘wholesale and exporters, perfumers and fancy soap and patentees of sunflower oil soap’ and operated from 7 Vine Street, Bloomsbury, London. There was also a shop in Paris, France at 5 Rue des Vieilles (Old Street). The company exhibited at the 1851 Great (Crystal Palace) Exhibition held in Hyde Park, London.

After William STATHAM’s death in 1863 and Charles YARDLEY’s death in 1872 (note he predeceased his father) the business was put into the hands of Thomas Exton GARDNER (1836-1890) as manager, later a partner, because Charles’s son Robert Blake YARDLEY (1858-1943) was too young at the time. GARDNER prior to his death in September 1890 converted the firm into a joint stock company (Yardley & Co Ltd, based in Ridgemount Street, Bloomsbury) with Mary Ann Sophia YARDLEY (1832-1890), Charles’s sister. The untimely deaths of these major stockholders during 1890 led to a decline in the company’s fortunes, which didn’t start to pick up until Thomas GARDNER’s two sons, Thornton Ernest GARDNER (1873-1956) and Richard Exton GARDNER (1879-1939) took over the reins at the end of the decade.

The new century brought new commercial challenges; advances in industrial chemistry, e.g. the production of caustic soda and the entry of manufacturers such as the LEVER Brothers [William Hesketh LEVER (1851-1925) and James Darcy LEVER (1854-1916)] who transformed soap making from a cottage industry into a tonnage scale operation.

The GARDNER brothers perceptively concentrated their activities on developing and expanding the higher added value end of the market, namely perfume and toilet products.

By 1916, when my cousin informed the Army recruiters that he was a perfumer for Yardley & Co. Ltd they were well on their way to becoming one of the world’s leading toiletry and perfume houses. The main factory (opened in 1905) was at Carpenters Road, Stratford. Hence the move to Stratford, West Ham made by my cousin and his family, noted in the 1911 Census.

In my ancestors’ day the fragrances used in the preparation of commodities such as soaps, perfumes, toilet waters and face powders would have been derived from natural sources, such as the eponymous ‘English Lavender’.

A step change occurred in 1927 when Yardley & Co hired the Lincolnshire born consultant chemist William Arthur POUCHER (1891-1988) to explore the possibility of producing synthetic and hopefully cheaper versions of the expensive natural scents employed at the time. Walter, as he was known, was very successful and a range of new and affordable cosmetics and perfumes were brought to the marketplace between the two World Wars. Walter was not only an expert in perfumes, cosmetics and soaps, as attested by his landmark book with the same title, now in its 9th edition, but also a keen mountaineer and landscape photographer. In this latter capacity he wrote numerous, well-illustrated, books and guides on various mountainous areas in the British Isles.

Since the 1960s the YARDLEY name and business has been acquired, in turn, by numerous companies, such as British American Tobacco, Beechams, Wasserstein-Perella, Wella and the Lornamead Group, Currently, the company is part of Wipro Enterprises, a holding company headquartered in Bangalore, India.

Sources:

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Middlesex Independent & West London Star, 11 February 1939

Paddington Shelves £45,000 Lido Scheme

Owing to heavy expenditure on A.R.P. projects, Paddington's Lido scheme has been shelved until September. The decision to defer the proposal was reached at the Borough Council meeting on Thursday. Its postponement was vigorously opposed by Labour members of the Council.

Replying to a Labour proposition that the question should be further considered. Councillor H G Studholme, chairman of the Committee of Management of the Recreation ground, said that nobody wished to cut down essential social services, but a swimming bath was something of a luxury.

ONLINE IMAGES OF WESTMINSTER PARISH REGISTERS

By Robert G. Page, Member No. 8182

In the last issue of *Metropolitan*, you may have read my piece on the second wife of my ancestor John THORPE, in which I mentioned that the earliest two parish registers of St Martin's-in-the-Fields, from 1550 to 1619 and from 1619 to 1636, could be browsed on Findmypast. If you have an interest in that early period of those registers and tried to access them yourself you will have been disappointed, because by the time the journal was published these images had disappeared from Findmypast, along with all the other images of Westminster parish registers. The transcriptions for the later registers that had been indexed are still available but the early registers had not been indexed at all, so BMDs for those registers no longer show up, even as transcriptions.

This is a significant loss and one that we are not used to. Once a record set has appeared on either Ancestry or Findmypast we expect it to remain available but there are, sadly, other examples of such losses, such as Ancestry's withdrawal of many military records from their main website and their transfer to Fold3, which requires a separate subscription.

When I contacted Findmypast about the disappearance of the Westminster images I was told: '*We no longer hold the rights to keep these images on site..... The transcriptions will remain but we are not able to provide the images at this time*'. Very soon after this on 30 July 2020 Ancestry released what appeared to be the same set of Westminster registers that had been on Findmypast, but the earliest register they have for St Martin's-in-the-Fields is 1636 to 1653, so the first two registers are now completely inaccessible online.

Enquiries to Ancestry about these omissions produced no clear answer, only a standard non-committal response. There is, however, a ray of hope. In the final paragraph of their notes on the 'Westminster, London, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1558-1812' record set Ancestry say this: '**Please Note:** *This collection is not yet complete - we will be publishing additional images and indexes in early 2021.*'

The early Westminster registers are of vital interest to members of LWMFHS. They were the key to the discoveries I wrote about and they contain records of the life events of other eminent people, so I hope we shall all keep an eye on this. If the images of the missing registers have not appeared on Ancestry by spring 2021 perhaps we should all pester Ancestry until they do.

Note: parish registers which are missing from online sources is a trending subject in the genealogical community at the moment. Dave Annal, a former Principal Family History Specialist at The National Archives, wrote a detailed and interesting blog post on the subject which was posted on 6 September. Whilst saying that he is a big fan of digitisation and online access, he acknowledges that there is a problem with 'quality control' with sites that are basically there to make money. If you would like to read his article, you can find it here: <https://lifelinesresearch.co.uk/blog/> A follow-up piece was posted on 20 September wondering what can be done about this problem.

WANTED! – EVENTS TEAM CO-ORDINATOR

Would you like to join our friendly team? We are looking for a person to lead our Events Team. This would involve managing emails sent inviting us to participate at various events throughout the year and co-ordinating our team of volunteers. Family History Fairs and Open Days are a very good way to promote LWMFHS and our products to an audience who is interested in genealogy, so we like to attend as many as we can.

In a normal year we regularly visit five fairs which are held fairly near to London. As these have all been cancelled in 2020, we have instead been attending virtual fairs, some of which replace real fairs which are too far away for us to normally visit, such as ones at Bristol and York. Our Events Team leader would book our tables for 'real' fairs or an online stall for virtual fairs.

If you are interested in heading up this team or would like more information, please contact eventsteam@lwmfhs.org.uk

MISCHIEF, ANARCHY AND CONFUSION, Part 1

by Sheila Clarke, Member No 7900

The Gordon Riots cropped up repeatedly in my family research. Whether investigating the Holborn of my ATKINSON ancestors, conditions in Georgian and Victorian prisons, or 4xgreat grandfather Isaac HEADLAND who spent time in Newgate, the worst of them all, events in that turbulent summer of 1780 came into the picture. It's not surprising: for a few days in June London teetered on the brink. Houses and businesses were burned down, looting and robbery was widespread, and prisoners set free from the



City's loathed gaols. Eye witness accounts are riveting: those with ancestors there at the time may discover details of life under the threat of mob rule add a new dimension to their family story, but what led me to delve deeper was discovering Isaac had been in Newgate at the same time as the man most held responsible for the riots, the notorious and eccentric Lord George GORDON.

The Gordons were one of the country's most noble families, and Lord George was born in Upper Grosvenor Street, London, in

December 1751, the third son of Cosmo, 2nd Duke of Gordon, and his wife Lady Catherine. One of the godfathers was George III. Educated at Eton, he entered the navy aged twelve and in 1772 was promoted to the rank of lieutenant. He showed an early concern for the welfare of sailors, which made him popular with fellow crew members but aroused the suspicion of authorities. Aristocrats were not supposed to be concerned with such things: their social status set them apart, and with great privilege came the expectation of support for the church, the judiciary and above all, the King. But this was never going to be Lord George's style: an interest in Naval welfare was the first of many causes he would adopt and before long he was regarded as a dangerous maverick, a threat to national security and figurehead of the most serious unrest the capital had seen.

In 1772 Lord George travelled to Scotland, intent on contesting the parliamentary seat of Inverness at the forthcoming general Election. There he endeared himself to locals by speaking Gaelic, wearing tartan and playing the bagpipes. He ‘made love to the young ladies and listened with the utmost patience while the old gave him an account of their clans’ – in short, behaviour typical of an ambitious young man with his eye on the main prize. His efforts met with resounding success: in 1774 he was elected, unseating the incumbent MP, General FRASER. A triumphant Lord George threw a ball at Inverness, ‘inviting young and old from every part of the county,’ and hiring a boat to bring members of the Macleod clan ‘fifteen young ladies the pride and admiration of the North.....’ from the Isle of Skye. General FRASER was understandably upset at losing his seat to a ‘mere lad’ (Lord George was twenty two at the time) and approached the Duke of Gordon, Lord George’s older brother for help. A compromise was reached which saw the General buying the Wiltshire seat of Ludgersall for his opponent and ‘making several other efforts to oblige the Gordons in return for holding on to his Scottish constituency. Lord George then took his place in the House of Commons.

His Parliamentary career began quietly enough but after resigning his Navy commission he felt able to speak against subjects such as the American Civil War and British policy in general. (As a young midshipman he had spent two years in America and now stood firmly on the side of the rebels.) He also condemned slavery and attacked various aspects of the British church and judiciary - in fact he was just as likely to strike out against his own Whig side as he was against Lord North’s Tory Government. His time in Scotland appears to have signalled a change in the young MP. Whereas previously he had displayed a well-balanced personality, albeit with a keen sense of justice, he now presented himself as a dour Presbyterian, ‘a figure tall and meagre, hair straight and dress plain,’ a latter day Puritan in both dress and manner. In contrast, his speeches to the House became ever more flamboyant, fellow MPs looking on with a mixture of amusement and annoyance as he constantly interrupted business to speak on a variety of subjects. But most continued to regard him as harmless and not ‘a man from who his country has much to dread’. How wrong they were: a new cause was about to be taken up by Lord George and it would have severe repercussions for both the country and the MP himself.

The Protestant Society was formed in 1780 response to the Catholic Relief Act of 1778 which granted concessions in return for an oath of loyalty to the King. This caused much unease, particularly North of the Border, and after a petition for the Act's repeal was ignored riots broke out across Scotland. Fearing further unrest the Government offered a compromise - the law would not extend beyond the River Tweed. This gave the English branch of the Society hope - what might be achieved with a petition of their own? Lord George was seen as the ideal leader: a high profile MP with aristocratic and royal connections who would surely prove useful to their cause. In 1779 a delegation was sent to London to offer him the post of Society President, which he accepted while making clear he had no wish to persecute those of a different religion. (The Gordons themselves had been Catholic until Lord George's parents broke with the church to raise their children as Presbyterians.) However, he did sound a note of caution - 'The Roman Catholics must know as well as we do that 'popery' when encouraged by government has always been dangerous to the liberties of the people.' His main concern was that the Act, with its oath of loyalty, was being used as a ploy to recruit impoverished Highlanders to join the fight against the American rebels, and he set about organizing a petition to be presented to Parliament. Advertisements were placed, pamphlets distributed, and letters sent to prominent figures and others who might be sympathetic. He also asked for, and was granted, at least three audiences with the King. It is unlikely many would have enjoyed such access but this was a member of one of the country's most prominent families and godson of the present monarch's grandfather. At one meeting Lord George is said to have locked the door and politely but firmly warned of the dangers if the act remained unchallenged. George III remained unmoved. On another occasion Lord George insisted on reading out a pamphlet for over an hour and an exhausted king asked if he could read the rest for himself. Certainly replied Lord George, as long as you read it out loud.

His challenges to Parliament also became more bold, 'extravagant sallies and incoherent speeches' coming dangerously close to treason with claims that he had 160,000 men in Scotland at his command and they would cut off the King's head if he failed to keep his Coronation oath. The King was surrounded by 'closet papists' and 'evil counsellors.' 'Very soon,' Lord George promised, he would he would reveal things 'that would open up to the world a very dark series of transactions.' Unsurprisingly, many began to question his sanity. He was plainly in the grip of an obsession, but how to

persuade him against what he had increasingly come to see as his God-given task? There is evidence some may have tried to save him from himself: during a long speech to Parliament he was interrupted by fellow MP Charles TURNER protesting ‘the noble lord had got a twist in the head, a certain whirligig which ran away with him if anything relative to religion was mentioned. He could not bear to see the noble lord render himself a laughing stock ‘when the House ought to respect him on account of his noble family.’ It was all to no avail: Lord George now had the bit firmly between his teeth, intent on presenting the petition for the Relief Act’s repeal.

This massive document bore the signatures of around 44,000 people and invitations were sent out to meet in St George’s Fields, Southwark, on the morning of 2 June for the march to Westminster. Several attempts were made to try and persuade Lord George to abandon his action, including a visit to his Welbeck Street home by Prime Minister Lord NORTH with an offer from the King - in return for his co-operation he would be given a large sum of money and a prominent position in Government. Lord George politely thanked the King but declined, saying he would have nothing to do with the government while Lord NORTH remained in it. Suitably chastened the Prime Minister withdrew, with no option but to let the planned presentation take place.

Sources:

Conspiracies and Conspiracy Theory in Modern Europe by Barry Coward and Julian Swann (Routledge, 2017) online here: [books.google.uk-books](https://books.google.uk/books)

Ignatius Sancho Describes the Gordon Riots, available online at: brycchancarey.com/Sancho/letter2

King Mob Echo edited by Tom Vague (AK Press, 2000)

‘Lord George Gordon (1751-93)’ on History of Parliament Online, available at: www.historyofparliament.org

The Letters of Horace Walpole Volume 7 (HG Bohn, 1861), available online at: books.google.co.uk

The Life of Lord George Gordon by Watson, Robert MD, FRCS (HD.Symonds and DI Eaton, 1795)

Illustration:

No Popery or Newgate Reformer by James Gillray 1780, Public Domain

JOTTINGS

Edmonton Girls' Charity School, Church Street, Lower Edmonton

On the south side of Church Street near Fore Street is the girls' charity school. Built in 1784 it adjoins the former schoolmistress's house, an 18th-century red-brick cottage with a pantile roof.



These old buildings are at risk of dilapidation but have recently been thrown a lifeline, with funding to hopefully restore them both for community use. There is a fascinating virtual tour of both buildings by the London Historic Buildings Trust, with commentary by the last custodian, Irene Money, who had lived in the cottage for over 30 years. You can see this here: <https://www.londonhistoricbuildings.org.uk/index.php/projects-2-buildings/charity-school-edmonton/>

Harrow Local History Collection at Headstone Manor

The Harrow Local History Collection & Archive has existed in some form since 1948 when Wealdstone Library opened. This important collection was then given a more permanent home in the reference section of Gayton Library in 1968 after the first Local History Librarian was appointed, and was later moved to the Civic Centre Library when it opened in 1972. It moved to its current home at Headstone Manor & Museum after the Civic Centre Library closed in October 2013. However, since 2019 the collection has been closed to public enquiry whilst it was audited and catalogued with a view to opening in October 2020 with a new research room and an online catalogue.

Lockdown earlier this year delayed matters and although staff were able to do some work from home, it was not possible for them to access the physical material in the collection and this has delayed the opening of the archive.

Their email enquiry service has now been reopened but with the current new lockdown they are operating on a month-long turnaround with scans of relevant material where copyright and data privacy allows.

It is hoped to launch the digital catalogue of the collection, which has been made more user-friendly, in December 2020. The research room itself is planned to open by the end of March 2021 but you will need to book an appointment to use it. The collection contains documents, books, ephemera, maps, and visual material relating to the current and past geographical area of the borough of Harrow and its residents.

Meanwhile, you can also see some of the films and film clips we have in the Archive by visiting the London Screen Archives website. Over 60 films and film clips of civic events, celebrations, and events as well as films made by local cine club, Harrow Film Makers are available to watch for free.

The website features a series on online exhibition, for example one in November which highlighted aspects of remembering both World Wars to mark both the 75th anniversary of VE Day and Armistice Day in 2020. This featured their recently acquired painting of VAD Pinner by Thomas Heath ROBINSON and illustrations by William Heath ROBINSON with supportive material from Harrow School Archive. Included in the exhibition were memories from those who remember the Second World War in Harrow. It looks like it might be possible to view these exhibitions in an archive on the website when they have finished.

For more information email: collections@headstonemanor.org or visit the website: <https://headstonemanor.org/the-collection/local-history-collection/>

RECORDING EAST BARNET MEMORIALS

By Robyn Vaughan

A few months ago, I was distractedly flicking through Facebook when I was stopped in my tracks by an announcement that the results of a survey of old gravestones taken in the 1980s were to be published in booklet form, some 35 years, give or take, since the work was undertaken. This somewhat *recherché* post stood out amid the memes, cats, kids and other people's dinners that make up a newsfeed, and I raised a quizzical eyebrow and sent the link to my Mum.

My Mum did her best to instil a love of history in her children, and so when, in the mid-1980s, she spotted an advert in the local paper asking for volunteers to help with a local history project, transcribing epitaphs in St Mary's churchyard in East Barnet, she signed us up. I was around 9 or 10 at the time but my sister, who was in her early teens, was an aspiring archaeologist, and was keen to help.

For those who don't know it, St Mary's church is probably the oldest building in Barnet. It commands the top of a steep hill - Church Hill - and is surrounded by metroland on one side and by beautiful Oak Hill Park on the other. In all honesty, I probably spent most of my day out in its churchyard running around getting under foot. I think I enjoyed myself but I remember getting a bit spooked by it all as night closed in...

But my archaeologically-inclined big sister was far more serious and diligent. She was assigned the headstone of 8 year old John DAVIS to transcribe. Its epitaph was partially buried by the stone settling over the centuries. The only way it could be deciphered was to dig down a few centimetres, thrilling for a would-be archaeologist. As she carefully scraped away at the grass and soil, she found fragments of pottery, eventually recreating a small stoneware ink pot with a scuffed fingerprint in the glaze, a tiny link to a long forgotten potter. Did John's inconsolable family place it on his fresh grave to hold a few flowers, or was it just thrown over the fence as rubbish when it broke, and trodden into the soil?

Back towards the lychgate there was (and is) a low mossy slab remembering a Davis WALL of Loxdon, who died in February 1743. Faint straight lines either side of the X in Loxdon made me sure it was a mistake: an 18th century

mason had intended to carve LONDON but somehow got the N wrong, and then decided to style it out, perhaps hiding his error with clay and stone dust which washed away in and out of years and over the centuries. I've googled Loxdon and it doesn't seem to be a place name. Was I right, or was it the name of a house? Or a long-forgotten company or society?

Further in, under the trees near a distinctive row of obelisks to the GROVE family that must've been quite the funerary thing in their day, we found a pair of wooden grave boards from the 1860s and 70s, one commemorating two little girls from the same family, Gertrude and Emma HONESS, aged 6 months and 10 years respectively. Presumably their distraught parents couldn't afford a stone memorial and, as far as I know, the timber markers have long since disappeared. Did the wood finally rot away, or have they, as I hope, been preserved elsewhere?

As my Mum remarked when we wrote this piece, the appallingly high number of children's graves in this and other burial grounds of the era serve as a stinging rebuke to those who question the efficacy of modern medicine.

Around the corner, I think on a path near the main road, is a grave recalling one William CARBINE, buried at sea in 1915. The grave helpfully provides coordinates. It's almost certainly me getting it wrong, but they seem to be well and truly landlocked in the middle of Germany. It's an interesting side point here that I don't recall any CWGC graves at St Mary's, although some memorials do contain military references.



The Carbine memorial

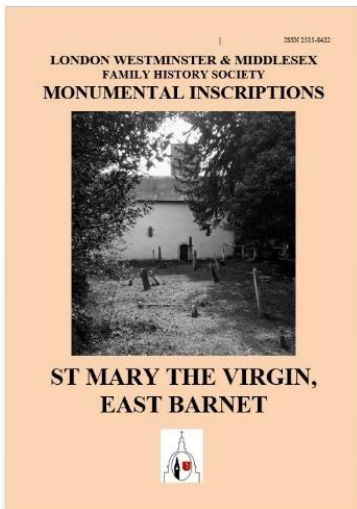
A step or two further on is the largest tomb in the churchyard, a two story Gothic spike glowering imperiously over Church Hill Road. It was designed to console the grieving family of Sir Simon HAUGHTON CLARKE, who needed only to twitch the curtains aside to see it from their mansion (now the gleaming white Oak Hill College) on the other side of the valley. At the time I was desperate to climb it, but didn't dare.

As it turns out, HAUGHTON CLARKE made his fortune as a merchant, and according to Wikipedia was the seventh richest man in England when he died in 1832. The owner of an impressive art collection, HAUGHTON CLARKE left a number of generous bequests in his will, but it was his eldest son who inherited his estates and more than 4000 slaves in Jamaica. Fortunately Simon Junior didn't get to "enjoy" this grim patrimony very long, as slavery in the British empire was of course abolished the following year, freeing more than 800,000 enslaved Africans.

My Mum and sister subsequently went off to record graves at at least two other local churches, St James the Great on Friern Barnet Lane, and Christ Church in Cockfosters but I didn't go again. Mum remembers an intriguing few days, scraping moss and ivy from graves to get at the hidden epitaphs, and enjoying being outside surrounded by wildlife and flowers. She remembers chatting to society members Doreen Willocks and Henry "Blanco" White. It all made the local paper too - Mum still has a yellowed clipping with our pictures in it. Big sis never did become an archaeologist, but Mum certainly succeeded in instilling a love of history in her daughters. I studied the subject to postgrad level, and still enjoy a saunter around an old cemetery.

When I ordered us a couple of copies of the newly published booklet, I was surprised to get a kind email checking that I actually intended to order two.

So apart from anything else, I'm delighted to be the proud owner of a publication so niche the seller felt obliged to check to make sure I actually wanted it...



Note: We are delighted that Robyn agreed to write this piece for us. It's a fascinating insight in to how churchyards were recorded back in the 1980s. We, too, were puzzled by 'Loxdon' carved on Davis WALL's memorial but Robyn's explanation makes a lot of sense! Our East Barnet St Mary the Virgin Memorial Inscription booklet is available via GenFair and Parish Chest.

MEMBERS' INTERESTS

The research interests listed here were submitted by members between September and October 2020. 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: 8166; 8168; 8169; 8194; 8195; 8206

Name	Period	County	Parish / Area	Mem.No.
ASTON	1809-1853	MDX	Holborn	8194
ASTON	1809-1853	MDX	St Luke, Old Street	8194
BISS	1866-1932	MDX	Westminster	8169
BUGGINS	Pre 1840	MDX	Finchley	8195
CHURCH	1833-1912	MDX	Westminster	8169
CHURCH	1833-1912	SFK	Any	8169
CINGEL	1863-1912	MDX	Westminster, Fulham	8169
COOPER	1735-1900	MDX	St Luke, Old Street	8194
DIMOND	1858-1951	MDX	Westminster	8169
DUKES	Pre 1900	MDX	Bishopsgate	8206
DUKES	Pre 1900	MDX	Clerkenwell, St Luke	8206
GROVES	1800-1939	MDX	All	8166
GROVES	1800-1939	SRY	All	8166
HILLIER	1840-1880	MDX	Saffron Hill	8168
HILLIER	1820-1850	MDX	Bloomsbury	8168
HILLIER	1860-1900	MDX	Clerkenwell	8168
HILLIER	1880-1910	MDX	Islington	8168
HILLIER	1880-1970	MDX	Tottenham	8168
HUGHES	1800-1900	MDX	Whitechapel	8194
JONES	1885-1900	LDN	Coleman Street	8168
JONES	1875-1910	MDX	Clerkenwell	8168
POOLE	1890-1910	LDN	Coleman Street	8168
POOLE	1900-1960	MDX	Tottenham	8168
PURDIE	1800-1945	All	All	8166
STRANGE	1888-1946	MDX	Westminster, Fulham	8169
WAKELING	1800-1875	MDX	Whitechapel	8194
WILSON	1775-1830	LDN	St Augustine, Watling St	8168
WILSON	1795-1850	MDX	Westminster	8168
WILSON	1890-2000	MDX	Tottenham	8168



SPECIAL INTERESTS

- 8169 **DIMOND** and **CHURCH** families in Pimlico
 8206 The **DUKES** family

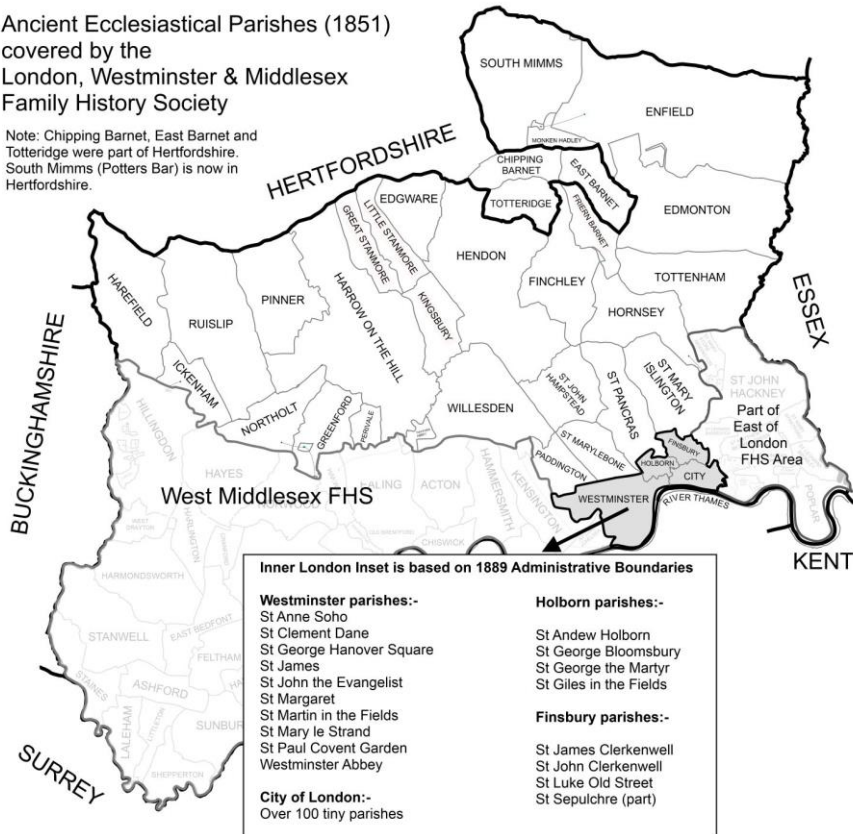
NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the new members, numbers 8187-8216 who have joined the Society over the past few months and wish them well with their research.



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

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



LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 11 February 2021

7.00pm-9.00pm

Online

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Members of the Society will be held at 7pm on Thursday 11 February 2021 online via Zoom.

We expect the AGM to take half an hour or so and do hope that members will come to this as well as staying online to attend our usual Virtual Branch talk, which takes place afterwards.

For those who have not attended an AGM before, the Committee does hope that you will take this chance to ‘come along’ and see what it is all about. It is your opportunity to question the members of the Committee concerning any aspect of the Society. The Minutes of the last AGM were published in March’s *Metropolitan* (this is also available as an e-journal in the members’ section of our website) and you may wish to comment on them. You’ll also need this December’s *Metropolitan* with you so that you can access the reports in this AGM insert.

Zoom ‘doors’ will open at 6.45pm for a 7pm start. After a welcome from our Chairman, Tony Allen, our agenda will run like this:

- Chairman’s Report – please read the report on page iii of this insert. If you have any questions about anything Tony has said, you are welcome to raise these at this time
- Treasurer’s Report – April’s report is on page iv. Again, if you have any queries you can ask them now.

- The Annual Accounts for 2019-2020. These are published on pages v and vi.
- The Election of the Officers of the Society. All of our Officers (Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer) are volunteers who are elected for one year. Any member can stand for election for any of these posts and if you would like to do this, please fill in the form on pages vii and viii and return it to the Secretary by 20 January 2021 (see below). If you would like details of what any particular role entails, please contact the Secretary, which can be done online here: secretary@lwmfhs.org.uk
- The Appointment of other members of the Executive Committee: these are the Membership Secretary, Journal Editors, Members' Interests Co-ordinator, Projects Co-ordinator, Events Co-ordinator (post vacant currently) and Postal Sales.
- Any Other Business. Anything else you would like to ask the Society about – please notify the Secretary by 20 January 2021 (using the form on page viii) so that if necessary the answer can be researched fully in time for the meeting.

The Business of the AGM will then be finished. There should be time for a short break before our talk.

Our Virtual Branch meeting talk will take place as usual at 8pm. The talk on this occasion will be 'A Grandmother's Legacy: 170 year old recipe book' by Jenny Malin.

Log-in details will be emailed to you a few days before the meeting.

Tricia Sutton, Hon. Sec.
141 Welbeck Road
Harrow
Middlesex HA2 0RY

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

for the year ending 30 September 2020

This has been a year that no one anticipated. Up until the middle of March we were having normal meetings and then the Covid-19 epidemic struck and everything was cancelled both for the Society and all National and Local meetings. So Zoom came into our lives. The executive committee now meets by Zoom and we decided that we should increase our meetings to every month. Then we felt that we should be giving lectures on Zoom. A new Virtual Branch Committee has been formed. Pam Chambers and Elaine Tyler successfully set up the first lecture on 22 October which was given by Rob Kayne with a talk about Old London Bridge. This was very popular and we had an audience of 77 members. This has benefitted members from other parts of the UK and also from outside Britain. The lectures are now scheduled for the second Thursday in each month. It is certainly something that we shall continue next year even when our normal meetings can be resumed. Our AGM for 2021 is also scheduled to be a Virtual meeting on Zoom. The need for the Virtual Branch is emphasised by the decision that our Enfield Branch will not re-open. We are very grateful to Lilian Gibbens for running it for so long. So we now have the Barnet, City and Rayners Lane Branches in addition to the Virtual Branch.

We have a very good publication record with 4 editions of *Metropolitan* being produced every year by the Editors, Elizabeth Burling and Barbara Haswell. In addition Parish Guides are being published at the rate of six per year compiled by Elizabeth Burling and associates. Another series is the Monumental Inscriptions. All are selling well.

Would anyone be able to help with the Events Team? There is a vacancy because of the sudden death of our much loved and respected member Doreen Haywood earlier in the year.

As you can see from our Treasurers report the society is in a healthy financial state. Our present membership stands at 490 made up of 330 receiving a paper copy sent to UK addresses, 121 receiving an electronic copy. There are 10 overseas members who receive a paper copy and 29 with an electronic copy.

I would like to thank all members of the society for their contributions and hard work in this difficult and distressing year. I would particularly like to thank the members of the Executive Committee, the Branch Secretaries, our

webmaster Peter Walker and our President Michael Gandy. I hope and really expect 2021 to be a better and healthier year than 2020.

Tony Allen, Chairman

TREASURER'S REPORT

for the years 1 October 2019 - 30 September 2020

It would be impossible to report on the accounts without reference to the impact of Covid 19. Due to the pandemic, some areas of expenditure were lower than previous years, such as branch meeting costs, due to cancelled meetings. Other areas of expenditure were higher as we invested in improving and modernising procedures, some due to Covid-19, others already planned. This included the purchase of back-up drives, signing up to use the iZettle payment system for sales at Family History Fairs, and purchasing promotional banners. The cancellation of 'live' fairs has unfortunately prevented us from making full use of iZettle and the banners have had limited use but all will be fully employed when possible. The Society's participation in virtual on-line fairs has helped us maintain our profile and sell a few publications – unfortunately not as many as an actual fair would generate. However our Parish Guides and Memorial Inscription booklets are increasing in number and selling well through online orders via our website, Genfair and Parish Chest.

As we could no longer hold branch meetings in the usual way, planning for a virtual Branch began in this financial year, was set up and held its first meeting in October 2020. To facilitate this, we invested in a subscription to the Zoom Pro Package. This subscription also allows us to hold other meetings, such as Executive Committee meetings and Project Team meetings, more efficiently without the limitations of free Zoom. We will also be able to hold an online Annual General Meeting, and have a presence at online Family History Fairs. Therefore the cost of this has been split equally between administration and branch costs.

The purchase of assets this year has meant that their value is included on the Balance Sheet and they will be depreciated over four years, including this year. Depreciation is shown as a cost on the Profit and Loss Account.

Despite reduced income from sales due to the lack of Fairs and meetings, our investment in various assets etc, the funds remain healthy.

April Vesey, Treasurer

LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Profit and loss account for the year ended 30 September 2020

	30.9.20	30.9.19
Income:		
Subscriptions	£6,657.92	£6,426.73
Sales of Parish	£1,392.65	£2,383.92
Guides and MIs		
Donations	£34.40	£152.45
Miscellaneous & help with research	£79.10	£35.50
Interest received	£24.94	£34.22
Graveyard searches	£20.00	£0.00
Return of floats	<u>£415.00</u>	<u>£0.00</u>
	£8,624.01	£9,032.82
Expenditure:		
Metropolitan Journal	-£3,207.72	-£2,813.91
Branch meeting costs	-£1,319.89	-£2,995.65
AGM	-£255.05	-£348.62
FFHS Membership	-£163.78	-£169.10
Books, maps etc	£0.00	-£176.00
Fairs and open days	-£4.00	-£449.70
Administration & general expenses	-£816.51	-£508.40
Printing of Parish Guides and MIs	-£1,5194.40	-£1,376.71
Storage	-£43.00	£0.00
Equipment	-£455.28	£0.00
Depreciation	-£133.90	-£7,973.53
		-£8,838.09
Net Deficit/Surplus	<u>£650.48</u>	<u>£194.73</u>

LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Balance Sheet as at 30 September 2020

	30.09.20	30.09.19
Fixed Assets		
Office equipment	£341.38	£0.00
Current Assets		
Stock of publications	£1,753.75	£1,060.00
Prepaid expenses	£338.20	£316.47
Cash and bank balances	<u>£21,088.27</u>	<u>£21,321.34</u>
Total assets	£23,521.60	£22,697.81
Current Liabilities		
Subscriptions in Advance	-£2,630.57	-£2,796.49
Creditors & Accrued Expenses	-£212.94	-£455.40
Unpresented cheques	<u>-£1,049.75</u>	<u>-£468.06</u>
	<u>-£3,893.26</u>	<u>-£3,719.95</u>
	<u>£19,628.34</u>	<u>£18,977.86</u>
Financed by:		
Balance Brought Forward	£18,977.86	£18,783.13
Net Deficit/Surplus for Year	<u>£650.48</u>	<u>£194.73</u>
Members' Net Funds	<u>£19,628.34</u>	<u>£18,977.86</u>

**LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX
FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY**

**Annual General Meeting
to be held on
Thursday 11 February 2021**

Nomination Form for Election of Officers

Position: CHAIRMAN

Nominee:..... Mem No.....

Proposed by:.....

Signature..... Mem No.....

Seconded by:.....

Signature..... Mem No.....

Date..... Agreed by Nominee.....

Position: HON. SECRETARY

Nominee:..... Mem No.....

Proposed by:.....

Signature..... Mem No.....

Seconded by:.....

Signature..... Mem No.....

Date..... Agreed by Nominee.....

CONTINUED OVERLEAF

Position: HON. TREASURER

Nominee:..... Mem No.....

Proposed by:.....

Signature..... Mem No.....

Seconded by:.....

Signature..... Mem No.....

Date..... Agreed by Nominee.....

Any Other Business

I wish to raise the following matter under Any Other Business

.....
.....
.....
.....

Name:..... Mem No.....

Signature..... Date.....

Please return this form to: Hon Secretary LWMFHS
141 Welbeck Road, West Harrow, Middlesex HA2 0RY
or by email to: secretary@lwmfhs.org.uk
To be received no later than Friday 20 January 2020.

LWMFHS PUBLICATIONS

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. This full list of those available to far is shown overleaf. Coming next are: Harefield, Edmonton and then St Martin in the Fields.

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. If anyone would like to help with these, with typing or with checking against the stones, please contact our Projects Co-ordinator, Elaine Tyler by email at: projects@lwmfhs.org.uk

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/> or from the Parish Chest at <https://www.parishchest.com/home.php>. 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 websites 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 'London Westminster and Middlesex FHS' for the appropriate amount.

The prices quoted in this table include the booklet plus postage and packing and are correct at time of going to press.

Booklet	UK	Europe	Rest of the world
Parish Guides			
Clerkenwell	£7.55	£9.37	£10.22
East Barnet	£7.55	£9.37	£10.22
Enfield	£7.55	£9.37	£10.22
Finchley	£7.55	£9.37	£10.22
Greenford and Perivale	£7.55	£9.37	£10.22
Hampstead	£7.55	£9.37	£10.22
Hendon	£7.55	£9.37	£10.22
Islington	£8.14	£10.74	£12.12
Paddington	£7.55	£9.37	£10.22
Pinner	£7.55	£9.37	£10.22
St Anne Soho	£7.55	£9.37	£10.22
St Clement Danes	£7.55	£9.37	£10.22
St George Hanover Square	£7.55	£9.37	£10.22
St James Piccadilly	£7.55	£9.37	£10.22
St Margaret & St John	£7.55	£9.37	£10.22
St Marylebone	£8.14	£10.74	£12.12
St Pancras	£8.14	£10.74	£12.12
Stanmore	£7.55	£9.37	£10.22
Tottenham	£7.55	£9.37	£10.22
Willesden	£7.55	£9.37	£10.22
Monumental Inscriptions			
Chipping Barnet St John the Baptist	£8.14	£10.74	£12.12
East Barnet St Mary the Virgin	£8.14	£10.74	£12.12
Hornsey St Mary	£8.14	£10.74	£12.12
Monken Hadley St Mary the Virgin	£8.14	£10.74	£12.12
St James Hampstead Road	£8.14	£10.74	£12.12
Census Guides			
The Streets of Westminster in the 1851 Census	£7.55	£9.37	£10.22

AN ISLINGTON EDUCATION

By Barbara Beaumont, Member No. 8086

My mother, Audrey BEAUMONT, was born in 1924 at 53 Wall St, Islington, a house that had been inhabited by her family since the late 1880s. Her formal education started at a young age:

My education began early, at about the age of three and a half in fact. Just around the corner was a Church of England School, St Paul's, which my father had attended, so there I went. There were no roads to cross and after a few days a slightly older girl was detailed to call for me and be my escort. She was called Queenie. The teacher in the baby's class was called Miss Oliver, a small elderly lady with a lot of hair on her face. Having never seen this on a woman before, it made me somewhat scared of her. We had posters around the room with 'd' for dog and 'e' for egg etc. on them and at first merely had to find the sound asked for. Soon we



St Paul's School, Dove Road, 1976.

we were reading simple words. Every afternoon little camp beds were put up in the hall. We each had our own pillow and a little blanket and had to rest for an hour.

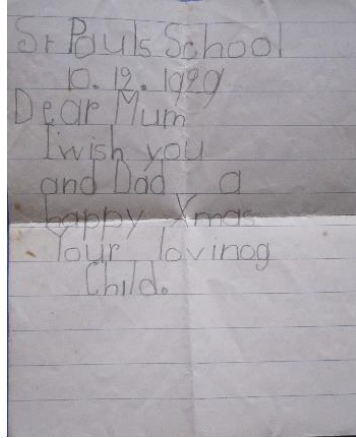
St Paul's school was in Dove Road. The infant section was mixed, but after a few years, the boys and girls were separated into junior girls' and junior boys' departments.

As well as the usual business of the school year, there were particular celebrations:

May 24th, Empire Day, was a big event. We dressed up, waved flags, sang patriotic songs and had a half-day holiday. Ascension Day we all went to church, just up the road, and again a half-day holiday: as a church school, religion was high on the agenda. In fact, the first thing I ever learnt by heart was to say the Apostle's Creed. Hadn't a clue what it meant. Later, when promoted to the 'big girls' we had fairly extensive

prayers every morning, including saying the General Confession. It was years before I worked out what it was all about.

Audrey was sometimes criticised at school for not attending the Sunday School at St. Paul's church. The reason was that regular family visits to her grandparents' home in Kennington at the weekend made attendance impossible. She didn't want to go to Sunday School over in Kennington because she didn't know many other children there.



Two letters written by Audrey when she was at St. Paul's survive. The first was written in December 1929, when she was five and a half years old, and still in the infants' department. It is written in unjoined script on widely spaced lined paper, and is headed St Paul's School, 10.12.1929. The message reads 'Dear Mum, I wish you and Dad a happy Xmas' and is signed 'Your loving child'. There is no accompanying envelope, so perhaps it was taken home by the young Audrey.

The second, is written in a neat joined script and has a much more elaborate heading, including the full address and the words 'St. Paul's Girls' School', indicating that Audrey was by this time in the junior girls' department. The contents of the letter detail what the class has been studying in Nature Study, which was their goldfish (originally believed to be male, but discovered to be female, I can't help wondering how), growing peas and beans in jars, and keeping silkworms. Although the date only specifies June 10th, the postmark on the envelope is happily clear, and specifies 11 June 1932, which was a Saturday. The envelope is clearly written in a different hand, presumably the teacher's own. I applaud this teacher who encouraged her pupils to write with a real purpose. I picture her addressing the envelopes at home on Friday evening, and popping out to the post on Saturday morning.

In the December of the same year, Audrey was chosen for the lead role in the school Christmas play, 'The Three Roses'. This was not, she thinks, for her acting talent, but because she could be relied upon to learn and remember her lines. When the day of the performance came, she was struggling with a

high fever and her voice was scratchy. Somehow she managed to get through the performance, but the next day it was clear that she was very ill. Her mother sent for the doctor, who was gravely concerned at the state of Audrey's throat. Fearing diphtheria, he arranged for her to be whisked off immediately by ambulance to an isolation hospital in Tottenham. In those days diphtheria was a killer disease. Isolation meant exactly that – no visiting was permitted. Many who were taken off by ambulance were never seen alive again by their family.

It was soon established that Audrey did not have diphtheria, but a bad case of tonsillitis, however this did not mean she could go home. She was moved to another ward where she had to wait out the quarantine period. She spent a total of three weeks in the hospital, which included Christmas and New Year. Some games and activities were provided on the ward but there was no schooling, probably because it was the Christmas holiday period.

Perhaps this illness had an ongoing effect on her health as her school report of April 1833 shows, surprisingly, that she was in a class of only twelve. The headmistress commented 'I hope she will soon be quite well and strong'. Her teacher at this time was Miss Whitehall, whom Audrey remembered very positively:

She always wore brown, with cream or white blouses. That lady worked so hard with her unpromising material, trying to interest us in poetry, some of it quite modern. We had, in her class, ten minutes of speech training every day, trying to soften our cockney twang and teach us to speak clearly. A real crusader!

An interesting feature of Audrey's primary education was a weekly trip to the local baths, not to swim, but to take a bath. Two girls shared a bath and she remembers that her partner was a girl named Olga Crick. Of course, few families would have had a bathroom, baths generally being taken once a week in a metal tub, in front of the living room fire in the colder months.

Audrey soon turned out to be an adept scholar. She progressed from 7th out of 33 in Standard III to top in standard V, with the comment from the headmistress 'If Audrey goes on steadily she should win a scholarship'. She was second out of 26 in Standard VI, with the teachers comment 'would undoubtedly have been top if had been present for the spelling exam.'

The headmistress's prediction that Audrey would win a scholarship proved to be correct; she won a junior county scholarship and had a choice of secondary schools.

The secondary school in the area was commonly called 'The Lady Owen's', but its proper title was Dame Alice Owen's Girls' School, governors the Worshipful Company of Brewers. This was sited at the Angel, Islington. (All London bus stops etc. were known by local pub names). My primary school headmistress said my mother would have no chance of getting me in there – we had a list to choose from for interviews – but Mum insisted we try. I duly went for interview, dressed in a yellow silk dress and straw hat (How I do remember these things!) and was accepted. It was a tram ride away but as a scholar's return was only a penny it didn't break the bank. London County Council made me a grant (I think it was £9 a year) towards uniform, which was quite expensive but of good quality and made to let down easily as we grew rapidly.



Audrey in her Owen's uniform.

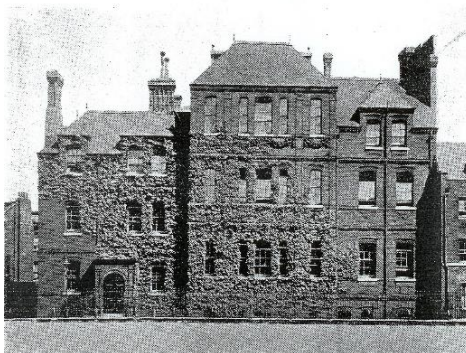
It was what I suppose was a direct grant school as we were about half scholarship and half paid for. No difference at all was ever made between us. All our books were supplied, sports equipment too if we couldn't afford our own. We played netball and hockey in winter.

Regent's Park was the hockey venue – no namby pamby going by coach. We made our own way on the bus and paid our own fare. In summer we went one day a week, Juniors Monday, Seniors Friday, to the school sports field out at Oakleigh Park, near Barnet, again making our own way. There were huts along one side of the area where we had morning lessons, but always one coached sports lesson, mostly tennis, included. A picnic lunch under the trees, it seldom seemed to be wet, then games all the afternoon, rounders, cricket or tennis. I remember one dreadful thunderstorm when we all packed, cowering, in the pavilion.

Oh yes! Mustn't forget the tuck shop, selling sweets, drinks and ices at break and lunch-time. One of my dotting relatives usually gave me the odd copper or two for this. Lessons were interesting on the whole and I usually came well up the class, but the coveted first place always went to Edna Davies. She was good at everything, even art, and not bad at sports. Strange as it may seem, we all liked her. My art result (usually about 30%) dragged my average down well and truly.

Audrey sometimes reminisced about singing the school song, which began 'Our School is set in Islington' and recalled with amusement the fact that the girls were given 'beer money' by the Worshipful Company of Brewers.

In 1937, Audrey's family moved to Brixton, to share a large terrace house with her grandparents and three unmarried aunts, her mother's sisters. It was a noisy, happy household, with family life centred on the kitchen. In order to complete homework, Audrey acquired a fierce concentration, that enabled her to shut out the surrounding activities. She had by then been at Owen's for a few years, and had an established circle of friends.



Dame Alice Owen's Girls' School,
1921

The move to Brixton meant changing schools or a long tram journey every day. Not wanting to leave my friends and the familiar routine, I opted for the tram journey. It took about three quarters of an hour each way and cost 3^d a day scholar's return. The trams were very crowded in the morning as the route passed over Westminster Bridge, along the Embankment and through the Kingsway Subway, which ran underground from Waterloo Bridge to Southampton Row. Coming up at Southampton Row, the driver often had to stop on a steep slope, swinging the brake mechanism round and round. I always feared he would let us run back but we never did. Coming home the tram was half empty and I put the time to good use by doing my homework.

With the declaration of war in 1939, Audrey's school was evacuated to Kettering in Northamptonshire.

There we shared the school with Kettering High School. They used it during the middle of the day and we had the hours 8.30-10.30 and 3.30-5.30. Of course it meant carrying our books all the time. I was billeted with Iris Nuttgens, Uncle Gil's niece, who was just starting at the school, and an awful billet it was too, with a crazy old spinster [referred to by Audrey and Iris as 'Old Mother York'] and her brother. It was a dreadful winter, thick snow and freezing cold and the house was an ice well, with cold water for washing. Once our face flannels froze on the washstand. No bathroom. We went to the public baths once a week.

The teachers worked wonders and got us another billet, which was just the opposite, a young couple who fed us well and made us really welcome. True it was a mile or more from school but by this time the weather had improved a bit. We weren't allowed to go home alone in the blackout after school, but groups were formed, each led by a teacher and everyone was escorted to their door. In addition the teachers took us walking at weekend, organised cinema parties and invited us to tea sometimes on Sundays. They must have been very dedicated. A hall was hired for late morning or early afternoon so that those of us who were to take exams could get a bit more tuition and eventually we did our exams in this same Tordof Hall. A local factory played loud music, but kindly turned it down for us when asked.

The girls left school at the end of the fifth form and went back home. A teacher, Miss Burton, wrote to tell Audrey of her results. The grading system was in four levels - very good, credit, pass and fail. Audrey obtained excellent results: very good in History, Geography and French, and credit in English, English Literature, Latin, Maths, and Physics with Chemistry. These results meant that she had 'matriculated', and was thus qualified to go to university. In other circumstances Audrey might have stayed for a sixth form education, as she was keen on French and would have liked to go to university to become a language teacher, but the war put paid to that idea as the sixth form was disbanded.

The teacher must have had numerous letters to write, but she took the trouble not only to give Audrey her results, but to let her know how her friends got

on. As Audrey lived far away from most of them, this would have been valuable information. Of course at that time ordinary families did not have a telephone, so letters would have been the main means of communication.

The letter begins ‘My dear Audrey’ and ends ‘Yours affectionately, S. A. Burton’. Clearly there was a strong bond between the teachers and the girls who had to complete this important year under such difficult circumstances.

There is also a letter of reference, which has a fairly standard wording. The headmistress describes Audrey as ‘an intelligent and industrious girl, whose work is above average’ and is ‘sure that she will make a very useful and loyal employee’ and has ‘no hesitation in recommending her’.

And so Audrey’s secondary schooling came to an end. She later tried to get a scholarship to go to university, but by then her family had moved to Greenford, and the hoped for scholarship was not forthcoming.

Note:

The images of Dame Alice Owen’s Girls’ School in 1921 and St Paul’s School, Dove Road in 1976 are from the Islington Local History Centre, who have given their kind permission for LWMFHS to publish them here.



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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or by post to: 93 Leicester Road, New Barnet, Herts EN5 5RL

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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.

WEBSITE NEWS

Deceased Online

There is no central repository for UK burial and cremation records and these are currently held by some 3,000 separate burial authorities and over 250 crematoria. Deceased Online has tried to fill this gap by creating a central database of statutory burial and cremation registers in the UK, providing a unique resource for family history researchers and professional genealogists. Burial and cremation authorities around the country are thus able to convert their register records, maps and photographs into digital form and bring them together into a central searchable collection.

The site was launched in July 2009 and now contains tens of millions of burial and cremation records, which is constantly being added to. There is a page here where you can see easily whose data was added and when, and what information is available in each case.

Searching is by name of the deceased and date and depending on what has been provided by the originating authority, the information might include: burial and cremation register entries in computerised form; digital scans of register pages; grave details and other interments in a grave (key to making new family links); pictures of graves and memorials; and maps showing the section or exact location of graves and memorials. Simple searching is free but you will need to register with Deceased Online and purchase vouchers or an annual subscription to access further information associated with any of the found records. These are typically about £2 per image or transcription.

You can find this site here: <https://www.deceasedonline.com>

FindAGrave

Find a Grave started in 1995 when founder Jim Tipton built a website to share his hobby of visiting the graves of famous people. He found that many people shared his interest and quickly opened the site for all individuals, with a mission for finding, recording and presenting burial information on a worldwide basis, with a slight American bias. Contributions are made by the members of the public and new listings, updates, corrections and photographs are constantly being added. You can search by name of the deceased or browse a cemetery. FindAGrave was bought by Ancestry in 2013 and a search in Ancestry will link to FindAGrave if appropriate.

Looking at East Barnet, St Mary the Virgin, which we currently have an intimate knowledge of having just finished the MI booklet, FindAGrave mentions two famous memorials – the one for Augustine PREVOST (1723-

1786) and that of his son, Sir George PREVOST (1767-1816). The website says that 17 memorials from the churchyard have been added but 8 of these are PREVOSTs not all of whom are mentioned on the four memorials to the family which are at East Barnet and several of the 17 do not appear to have had a memorial at East Barnet at all. So, whilst this is a fantastic finding aid, make sure you always get corroborating evidence by checking the original burial register and gravestone if you can.

Regent's Canal Heritage

This organisation gathers historic accounts, oral histories, photos and paper material about Regent's Canal, known locally as the Cut. From 1820, this canal was an artery of commerce feeding London's national and international trade and providing local people with employment. It comes into London from the Midlands as the Grand Union Canal and runs from Paddington Basin to Islington, Shoreditch and through the East End to Regent's Canal Dock (now Limehouse Basin).

This heritage group focuses on the eastern reach of the canal from Islington to Limehouse and includes the Herford Union Canal or Ducketts. Since 2013, they have run various projects working with volunteers, community groups and local agencies, such as exhibitions and events, youth photography workshops, made films, provided guided tours, developed a play, produced school packs and more. An East End Canal Festival was planned for August to mark the 200th anniversary of the opening of the eastern reach of the canal from Islington Tunnel but this has had to be postponed. It will now take place on 17-18 July 2021 at the Mile End.

Regent's Canal Heritage now has a website, which includes maps and timelines and can be found at: <http://www.regentscanalheritage.org.uk>

British Newspaper Archive update

Legal deposit started in 1662 and required publishers to send one copy of each publication (including each issue of a newspaper) to the British Museum, in order to preserve the nation's published output for posterity. The newspapers were later kept in a special repository at Colindale which opened in 1932, moving in 2013 to the National Newspaper Building at Boston Spa, West Yorkshire, where they form the British Library Newspaper Collection. The collection is gradually being digitised and is available to see online for a fee at the British Newspaper Archive and on FMP.

Recent additions to the database from our area are:

Marylebone Mercury for 1933, 1935 and 1938; *Evening Mail. London* for 1802-1806, 1810-1814, 1816-1885 and 1892-1922; *Weekly Dispatch (London)* for 1820-1829, 1831-1850 and 1852-1868.

National newspapers might also be relevant and the *Daily Mirror* for 1945-1946, 1952, 1976, 1994 and 1997-1999 and *Sunday Mirror* for 1946, 1953, 1964, 1976 and 1986 has recently been added (although some of these don't sound old enough to be counted as historical!).

Specialist interest magazines can also be useful and the following have been digitised: *The Kinematograph and Lantern Weekly* for 1904-1925 and 1927-1930 - this was the weekly trade journal for the cinema industry and was founded by entrepreneur Edward Thomas Heron, as the *Optical Magical Lantern and Photographic Enlarger*, changing its name to the *Kinematograph Weekly* in 1907. *Lloyd's Weekly Newspaper*, the journal of Lloyd's of London, 1894 and 1901-1912 have been added, as have *The Queen*, an illustrated weekly society magazine established by Samuel Beeton in 1861 which originally focused on the proceedings of high society and the British aristocracy through a lens of fashion and culture, 1863, 1886-1912; and *Boxing* 1909-1912.

St James's Chronicle, 1860-1861, is due to be added very soon.

You can find these here: <https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> or on <https://www.findmypast.co.uk/>

Trade Union Ancestors

Tens of millions of British people have been members of a trade union and 5,000 trade unions are known to have existed at one time or another. It is therefore extremely likely that somebody in your family was a member of a union. This website aims to help family historians to identify the correct union and to discover the role their ancestor played in it. It includes an A to Z index of trade unions and trade union family trees.

You can search this website here: <http://www.unionancestors.co.uk/>



FINCHLEY AND THE GREAT NORTH ROAD

By Elizabeth Burling, Member No. 4992

The Great North Road is an old road which joined London to Edinburgh, some 400 miles further north. Its traditional starting point was Smithfield Market, on the edge of the City of London, from whence it travelled up St John Street through Clerkenwell and on to the Angel, Islington (where it is known as Islington High Street), up the Holloway Road and on to Finchley.



The Great North Road, or High Road, at East Finchley.

Finchley is an ancient parish in the county of Middlesex and although it was not recorded in the *Domesday Book* of 1086, the name is of Saxon origin. By the 11th century, when the parish was included in lands owned by the Bishop of London, there was already a church and small settlement at Church End, which lay towards the south-western side of the parish. This settlement is not on the current route of the Great North Road so it seems likely that this important highway originally took another path.

The Finchley part of the highway appears to have been constructed by the Bishop of London at the end of the 13th century as a toll road, the fees being used in part for maintaining the road. The hamlet of East End (now known as East Finchley) was mentioned in the 14th century as being on the Great North Road where it met East End Road (coming from Church End) at the exit of Hornsey Park, so by this time the road was probably following the line we know today, which continues up to North Finchley and then to Whetstone.

This well-maintained road was an important national route and meant that there was much traffic through Finchley. The first stage coach service along the Great North Road is recorded in the late 17th century and by the early 19th century there were over 90 passing through the parish every day together with daily coaches running each way between Finchley and London. These will have bought trade but there was also a down side. Most of the parish of was then covered with woodland, which reached from East Finchley all the way north to Whetstone and covered the entire width of the parish. Initially called Finchley Wood, this later became known as Finchley Common and it was notorious as a haunt of highwaymen.

The Proceedings of the Old Bailey, London's central criminal court, records several incidents, for example, Philip MAQUEER was indicted for a second time of robbery on Finchley Common in February 1690. The Ordinary's Account of 9 May 1690 gives further information about him from his execution. Philip was aged 14 and had been born in Ireland. He had been trained as a watchmaker and had followed this employment for three years when he met another highwayman called BARNET who 'solicited him to an Idle and Expensive way of Living'. Despite his repentance, he was hanged at Tyburn, poor little mite. Similarly, Evan EVANS and Thomas GASEBY, both of the Parish of Hackney, were convicted in 1679 'That they did rob for four Hours together Finchley Common all Persons that came on the Road.' They took from their various victims: a gold watch valued at £14, a gold seal, a silver hilted sword, six guineas, a sarsnet hood, a laced head dress valued at 10s and 'divers other goods'. Both were also sentenced to death.

Highway robberies on the Common were widely reported in the press: The *Sussex Advertiser* of 16 February 1746 carried this small article: 'On Sunday in the Afternoon Thomas PHILIPS, Esq, a Yorkshire Gentleman, was attacked and robbed on Finchley Common by two Highwaymen, who took from him his Watch and about six Pounds in Money.' There is no follow-up article mentioning Thomas PHILIPS so perhaps the perpetrators got away with their crime in this instance.

However, not all robberies ended so badly. The *Edinburgh Evening Mail* of 8 September 1802 noted that 'on Saturday night, about nine o'clock, a stage coach coming to town was stopped on Finchley Common by four highwaymen who robbed the passengers of what money they had about them and rode away; after which the coach was again attacked by other villains

who demanded their money'. One of the gentlemen on the coach told them that they had already been robbed upon which the gang of marauders gave a shilling to each of the passengers and wished them a good night. Not long after this, the Bow Street Horse Patrol included Finchley Common on their patrols and robberies there ceased.

Local people did feel that they were being fleeced in other ways though. The Finchley Road Act of 1826 allowed for the building of a turnpike road to connect the area to St Marylebone parish whilst avoiding the steep hills of Hampstead. This road, known at its southern end as Regent's Park Road and at its northern end as Ballards Lane, joined the Great North Road at Tally Ho Corner in North Finchley, letting vehicles from the western side of London easier access to the north. Locals, however, felt 'oppressed by tolls' and the Finchley vestry tried on their behalf to resist the enforcement of these heavy charges. It was not until 1862 that the Highgate and Whetstone turnpike trust was eventually abolished. The last toll-gate, which was by the White Lion, just south of East Finchley tube station, was taken down in 1901.

The Great North Road was designated the A1 by the Ministry of Transport in 1921. Later in the same decade, a new road was constructed bypassing Finchley and this became the A1, with the old road being renumbered the A1000.

If you had ancestors in Finchley, you may be interested to know that our Parish Guide to Finchley was published in November.

Sources:

British History Online at: <https://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/middx/vol6/pp38-55>

British Newspapers at: <https://www.findmypast.co.uk/>

Great North Road at: <https://britishheritage.com/travel/great-north-road>

Great North Road at: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_North_Road_\(Great_Britain\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_North_Road_(Great_Britain))

Old Bailey Online at: <https://www.oldbaileyonline.org/index.jsp>

Regency Bicentennial: Enclosure of Finchley Common at: <https://regencyredingote.wordpress.com/2016/01/29/regency-bicentennial-enclosure-of-finchley-common/>



LOCKDOWN NEWS

As we went to press, London was back into lockdown and most of our archive centres have closed again. Whilst it is not possible to visit in person, many of these places have comprehensive online catalogues to peruse and online events are of course going ahead.

The National Archives are continuing to provide free downloads of digital records on their website for the time being and, in fact, have doubled the monthly limit in digital records from their website. This means you can now download up to 100 records per month. If you haven't explored their digitised collections yet, there is plenty available to download. For example, British Army nurses' service records 1914-1918, Household Cavalry soldiers' service records 1799-1920, Royal Marines' service records 1842-1925, Aliens' registration cards 1918-1957. Logs and journals of ships of explorations 1757-1904 and much more. A full list of all of TNA's digitised collections, including those on pay-per-view sites, can be seen online here: <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/?research-category=online>

When lockdown is lifted again it seems likely that there will be limited access to collections with social distancing measures continued. For the foreseeable future it would seem prudent to check whether a building is open and if you need to book a place before you set out.



FORTHCOMING BRANCH MEETINGS

Please be advised that all talks for the rest of 2020 have been cancelled. Current restrictions still need to be lifted, venues will have to reopen (maybe with new social distancing rules?), volunteers, speakers and audience must all be willing and able to attend. Hopefully one day we will get back to normal. For up-to date information on this please look at our website.

However, we now have a Virtual Branch, with free monthly meetings online for members – see page 8 for further details.

HAVE I BROKEN MY 'BRICK WALL'?

By Dawn Adams, Member No 6025

The joy at breaking down a twelve year old brick wall is almost overwhelming. But have I really done it? One of the advantages of belonging to a Family History Society is the contact with other more experienced researchers – but I'm in Devon, dependent on on-line resources. The story is a little too long for a forum. So I'll set out what I've found and hope someone will tell me where I've gone wrong.

My great grandfather, Benjamin George ADAMS was born on 2 March 1841 at 35 Walbrook Place, son of William ADAMS, a stonemason, and Elizabeth, formerly VICKERS, according to his birth certificate. Walbrook Place was a street in the vicinity of the City Road/East Road junction, now long gone (1). It was where the family lived at the time of the 1841 census, the list of children in the household being; William 9, Mary Ann 7, Elizabeth 5, Joseph 2 and Benjamin 3 months. Also in the house was Joseph VICKERS, a 25 year old watch motion maker. I searched in vain for a marriage between William ADAMS and Elizabeth, formerly VICKERS.

Were there any clues in a birth certificate for another child? The only possible, given the start of Civil Registration in 1837 was Joseph, whose certificate states that he was born on 31st January 1839, at 16 Earl St, Finsbury to William ADAMS, stonemason, and Elizabeth, formerly BLIGH. So the obvious conclusion is that William married twice, each time to an Elizabeth. No joy in that search either.

Could it have been Elizabeth who married twice – BLIGH formerly VICKERS or vice versa? Nothing found.

Perhaps there were no marriages? A highly unlikely scenario, according to Rebecca PROBERT, leading authority on marriage law (2). And, after a rather expensive search, I could find no more birth registrations for any of the later children (John, George, Eliza and Thomas, who appear in the 1851 census), though all were baptised, and their dates of birth noted at the baptism (of which more later). I did learn that William was then 42 years old, and his wife 41 with birthplaces 'Middlesex'. Not from outside London, at least.

So I turned to Joseph VICKERS, the other 1841 resident of 35 Walbrook Place. Surely a relative of Elizabeth. By 1851, Joseph VICKERS had married and moved out but there was only a civil record – it may be relevant that his wife, Louisa JACKMAN had been baptised into the New Jerusalem Church in Blackfriars (a Swedenborgian) – I did not pay to find their details. However, I did find a likely baptism for Joseph, on 16 May 1819 at St Luke Finsbury, his father being Joseph VICKERS, a watchmaker and his mother Alice, formerly PRATE. Joseph and Alice had also had a son Benjamin, baptised at St Leonards Shoreditch on 19 April 1820. So far no daughters.

In 1841, Benjamin and his father had been living in Union Street, the next but one street to Walbrook Row, both watch motion makers, i.e. on a workbench, constructing from scratch the workings of a watch ready for other specialist craftsmen to add the enamel dial and the case of precious metal, and yet others to take the main profit.

Joseph VICKERS Senior had married Alice PRATE on 5 October 1817 at St Mary's, Whitechapel (now Altab Ali Park). At that date, no parents were named in the Register. It occurred to me that there was a longish gap between the date of the marriage and the first baptism, so I searched for other children, born around that date, perhaps not surviving.

Mary Ann 'said to have been born on 24 April 1814' daughter of Joseph and Alice VICKERS, was baptised at St James Pentonville on 24 March 1815, her parents being 'of Charlotte St' – this is the nearby Charlotte Street N1, later renamed Carnegie Street (1). On 22 December 1835, at Christ Church, Spitalfields, Mary Ann Vickers PATE married Walter WATKINS. So someone was clear that she had been born before her parents' marriage - at that time their marriage did not legitimise her, as it would after 1926 (or in some cases 1959) (2). I saw that in 1841, Mary Ann, her husband and three children were the other occupants of the house where her father and brother lived in Union Street.

So, for completeness, I looked up the baptisms of the seven WATKINS children, all daughters. There seemed to be a great deal of catching up, even randomness in the timing of the ceremonies. Some were baptised more conventionally at one month old, others were at or beyond the age for walking and talking. But on three separate occasions, a WATKINS child was

baptised at the same ceremony as one of the children of William and Elizabeth ADAMS. Surely there must be a family link.

I went back to looking for William ADAMS' marriage, armed with another possible surname for the bride. On 3 July 1831, William ADAMS married Elizabeth Bligh SPRATE at Christ Church Spitalfields. William signed the register, but Elizabeth made a cross.

And that led me to a baptism. At St Pancras Old Church on 19 July 1812, Elizabeth BLIGH, daughter of William BLIGH and Alice SPRATT, born 29 September 1810. When Alice PRATE married Joseph VICKERS Senior, she too made her cross. Say it aloud: "Alice PRATE" "Alice SPRATE" "Alice PRATT" "Alice SPRATT". I have not found a BLIGH/SPRATT (etc) marriage between the date of Elizabeth's baptism (when her parents were clearly not married) and Alice's marriage to Joseph VICKERS (as a spinster). So Elizabeth was Alice's daughter but not Joseph's, aged 7 when her mother married – aged 3 when her mother had her first child with Joseph.

Annoyingly, when I consulted my paper files, I found printed out transcripts of both the marriage and the baptism – both showing the family name as 'BLIGH SPRATE'. Proving once again that one must consult originals.

Thus I think I have found not only my great grandmother, but her mother, too. Then again, in the days before fuller registers, and before censuses, with illiteracy in the mix, have I really? And will I ever find William ADAMS' antecedents?

You can contact Dawn via email: fhlwm@adamslancaster.net

References

1. Greenwood's Map of London dated 1830, which is available online at <https://iiif.lib.harvard.edu/manifests/view/ids:8982548>
John Lockie, a descriptive London Street Directory in 1810: <https://londonwiki.co.uk/Lockie1810/index.shtml>
2. Rebecca Probert "Marriage Law for Genealogists" (2012) Takeaway Publishing, Kenilworth

FINED FOR FURIOUS DRIVING

By Tricia Sutton, Member No. 5490

This is an update to my article in the June 2020 Journal about my SUTTON family. William SUTTON married Charlotte BUCKMASTER in 1823. John BUCKMASTER's mother and wife were both called Sarah, which explains why two SUTTON daughters were given the name Sarah. William SUTTON and John BUCKMASTER were both coachmen. Could the coachman in this newspaper report have been Charlotte's father or brother?

The Star (London) 4th December 1824

MARY-LA-BONNE Joseph Humphreys and John Buckmaster, drivers of Paddington Coaches, attended at the office yesterday, in answer to information lodged against them for furious driving on 25th November. Richard Jenkins, toll-man, saw the coaches coming up at about 40 yards from the gate; they were driving at the regular pace - Humphreys entered the gate first. Buckmaster whipped his horses when close to the bar and drove against the other coach, when the wheels became locked and the driver and two passengers were thrown from their seats. One of the passengers was much hurt and bled profusely. No accident would have happened, but for Buckmaster's furious driving. After the accident he drove off without making any enquiry about the safety of the passengers. The coaches were going at the rate of 6 miles an hour. Other witnesses deposed to the same effect. A surgeon was in attendance to give evidence to the injury, a Mr. McMillan. Mr. Hoskins didn't think this necessary. The only question before him was, whether the parties were chargeable with furious driving? This he thought was sufficiently proved, and with a view to check such dangerous practices, he would impose the highest penalty, 10l. (£10) The Solicitors for both coachmen intimated that they would appeal to the Quarter Sessions.

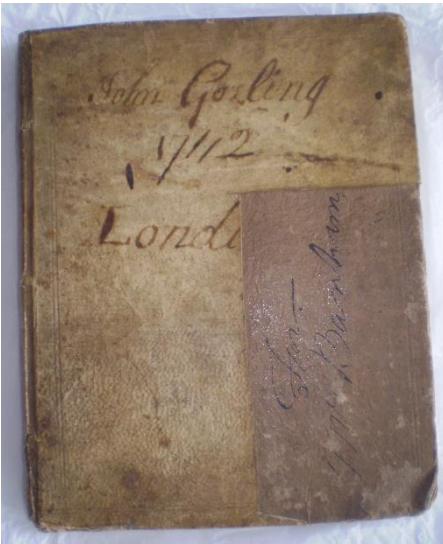
I really hope this was my John BUCKMASTER, even though he was not a very nice man!



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.



I have been transcribing an old cookbook that came into my possession. The cookbook dates back to 1742 but it later changed hands at a ‘Mr BAKERS fate’ in 1827. I am looking for some help in trying to track down some of the



cooks, women and men, whose names are attributed to the recipes within the book.

On the handwritten front cover of the book is the name John GOSLING, 1742, London. On the inside of the front cover a woman has written ‘Mary RAILTON her book 1743/1744’. Mary’s name appears just once inside the front cover then the name Mrs STAINBANK appears/attribution to the first batch of recipes within the book. I have found a Mary RAILTON married a John STAINBANK on 31 May 1744 at the parish of St Andrew by the

Wardrobe in the county of Middlesex. Mary was a widow when she married John and John was a widower.

I believe the Mary I have found is the Mary in the cookbook as the timeline fits. I believe Mary took the position of housekeeper for Mr John GOSLING in 1743 then married John STAINBANK in 1744 so she attributes her recipes after the wedding as Mrs STAINBANK.

I will list all the names mentioned in the cookbook:

John GOSLING 1742 London – Front Cover

Mary RAILTON – Inside Front Cover

Mrs STAINBANK – Attributed recipes beginning of book

Mrs LIPSCOMB – Attributed recipe on page 2

Mrs HOBSON – Attributed recipe page 16

Mr FOXCROFT – Attributed recipe page 17

Mrs WOOLRICH – Attributed recipe page 20

Billy CAPSTICK Junior – Attributed recipe – page 20

On page 21 the book changes hands at a ‘Mr Bakers Fate 15 August 1827’ where the owner (no name) writes ‘This book I bought at Mr Bakers Fate, very antique’

Doctor GARNHAM -Attributed recipe page 46

Mrs BABS -Attributed recipes page 71

Mrs LOOKEN – Attributed recipes page 86

Mrs HARAM – Attributed recipes page 91

Mrs BUTCHON -Attributed recipes page 95

A Mrs BARNHAM name is also jotted down on the front cover of the book – no recipes attributed

John STAINBANK’s address when he married Mary was Clifford Farm, Stains Road, Twickenham Middlesex, which I have found photographs of.

The person I would really like to find some information on is John GOSLING. I have found a John GOSLING who took residence at Jermyn Street, Piccadilly, London in 1742, 1743, 1744 and 1745 on the Westminster rate books, again the same timeline as the cookbook but other than this I can’t find any other information on this gentleman, although I do have a few other leads.

A John GOSLING was baptised 30 October 1716 to Charles GOSLING Esquire and Eliz at St Andrews church, Holborn, Middlesex – a possibility?

A Johannis GOSLING, London Gentleman passes away on 20.11.1730 in the parish of St Dunstons, West London and his children are a John GOSLING and an Elizabeth GOSLING/STEDE- also a possibility?

I live in the Midlands so I am not familiar with these areas mentioned but any help with any of the names mentioned in the list would be greatly appreciated

Many Thanks

Jacqui Davidson, Member No.

Note: Lucky you to have such a wonderful book! We have had a little experience with 18th century cookbooks, as Editor Elizabeth Burling’s father did what you are doing with a book which came from Totteridge. He found that his book contained recipes from other published sources, for instance, ‘Mrs STEPHENS Cure for ye Stone and Gravel’ is included.

Joanna STEPHENS was awarded £5,000 in 1739 for her effective cure, which was published in *The London Gazette* in June 1739. Your recipe attributed to Dr GARNHAM might be a similar medical recipe which was more widely known. An internet search of the all of recipe names might reveal more than you expect, as food recipes were often copied from contemporary published sources.

We agree that the marriage between John STAINBANK and Mary RAILTON which you have found seems to be support the information given in the book. However, looking at the marriage of John and Mary, and with local knowledge, John is actually of 'Cliffords Inn', which is one of the former Inns of Chancery (just off Fleet Street) and she is of the parish of St Andrew Holborn. The Marriage Bond is in the collection on Ancestry and confirms these, although John stated then for the licence that he intended to get married in the parish church of Fulham, Middlesex, some 6 miles away. If you look on the LWMFHS website, there are some excellent maps of our area where you can see the relationship of all the places you mention - go to 'area covered' at: <https://www.lwmfhs.org.uk>

Regarding the John GOSLINGS you have found, St Andrew by the Wardrobe, Queen Victoria Street, is just inside the City of London and St Dunstan in the West, Fleet Street (rather than St Dunstan West London) is just outside: there is less than a mile between both of these places and between them and St Andrew Holborn. Piccadilly is only about two miles away. It is possible that the ones you found are him but there are many others who could be too, such as John GOSLING, son of Herman and Susanna GOSLING, who was baptised 23 February 1688 at Holborn. The fact that John GOSLING wrote 'London' on the cover of the book would make us think that he lived in the City of London. (The rectangular part of the cover which says 'For Mrs BA(R)NHAM' is covering the original inscription - is it stuck on? It is very intriguing!) Had John GOSLING actually used the book at all? Have any pages been cut out, that you can see? Perhaps this book was surplus to requirement and he sold or gave it to Mary RAILTON?

What a fabulous project to work on - do please keep us informed as to how you are getting along.

1. My great grandmother Charlotte ANDREA's mother died with a still-born child in July 1835 (St George Hanover Square church register). Charlotte was six years old and was subsequently brought up by her mother's eldest sister, Esther SCHMID, née SMITH, who had already 8 children. According to the 1841 census, they lived at 23 Lower Gillingham Street. Does that house still exist? Where I live in Tübingen there are families that have been living in the same old buildings for generations so I was wondering if there might still be any members of my families in Gillingham Street?
2. Charlotte's father was a baker and lived in 12 Kingsland Road, Shoreditch. Might this house still exist? In 1835 he had a Sun Fire insurance and he was on the electoral roll as well, so must have been a bit wealthy yet in 1838 he was insolvent. The *London Gazette* has him as an insolvent debtor in February and in March the *Morning Chronicle* reports that his case was dealt with at the Insolvent Debtors' Court in Portugal Street, where he appeared unopposed. Who paid his debts and bailed him out?
3. We have two different birth and baptism entries for Esther SMITH: one for 1795 at St George Hanover Square and one for 1796 at St Leonard Shoreditch. Which one is the right one?
4. Another ancestor was Seth SMITH (1791-1860), an architect and builder who built much of Belgravia with Sir Charles James FREAKER and CUBITT. His descendants are called SETH-SMITH – does anyone know where they are?

Elisabeth Roller, Member No. 7822
Denzenbergstrasse 46, 72074, Tübingen, Germany

Note: We have added numbers to the various parts of your query to make the answers easier to follow:

1. There are various ways to search who was living at a particular address. One of the main ways is to check the Electoral registers, which were introduced in 1832 and contain the names of all people entitled to vote during that year. As a rough guide as to who that might be: in 1832, the Great Reform Act extended the franchise to occupiers of property worth £10 per year; the 1867 Reform Act extended it to all householders who had lived in a place for one year and who paid rates there; the 1918 Reform Act gave the vote to all adult men in a constituency and to women over 30 and in 1928 the voting age for women was reduced to 21 - the same as that for men. The British Library has the national collection of printed electoral registers from 1832 with a

complete set from 1947 onwards. Historic registers dated 1832-1932 are available to view in their Reading Room and online via Findmypast. Ancestry has the London Metropolitan Archives collection, dated 1832-1965 and Findmypast that of Westminster Archives, dated 1835-1996. Also, it might be worth checking the other census years to find out who was at 23 Lower Gillingham Street then. Regarding whether the house is still there, both ends of Gillingham Street (one end of which was probably Lower Gillingham Street) still have original buildings. You can see these on Google Street View. It may well be that one of these old houses was lived in by your relatives.

2. Regarding Charlotte's father's debts, London Metropolitan Archives has various lists of insolvent debtors from the Middlesex Sessions of the Peace archive, Ref: MJ/SD. These have not yet been digitised.

3. The best way to find out which Esther SMITH is yours is to try and follow both. With any luck you will find a marriage or burial for the other one near to their birthplace which means you can rule that one out.

4. If you put the name SETH-SMITH into a search engine such as Google, various people living in London are mentioned who could be relatives of yours.



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DAFFODILS FROM HOLLAND

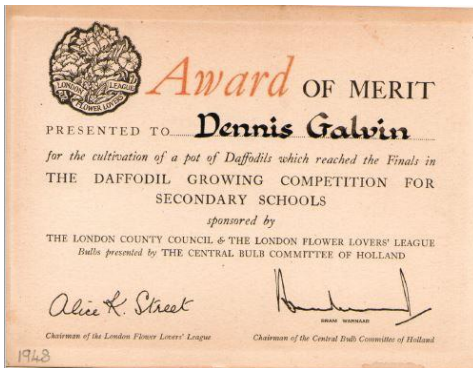
By Dennis Galvin, Member No. 1046

Towards the end of the Second World War, the Dutch people were starving and had to resort to eating bulbs. British and Canadian forces were advancing through Belgium and were racing as quick as they could to free Holland but in the meantime an urgent arrangement was made for two Lancaster bombers of RAF Bomber Command (Operation Manna and Operation Chowhand) to drop supplies over and around three Dutch cities, The Hague, Leiden and Rotterdam. A dummy run was carried out first to make sure the Germans would keep to the agreement - which they did. So the first full drop of 500 tons was completed without incident.

Dutch people had been reduced to eating tulip bulbs and sugar beets, daffodil bulbs were, however, toxic and so by the end of hostilities there was a large surplus of them. So in October 1947, 350,000 King Alfred daffodil bulbs were sent to London by the Bulb Committee of Holland chairman Bram WAARMER.

They were sent to the London County Council, which distributed them to all the London secondary schools, under the direction of Alice K. STREET,

chairman of the London Flower Lovers' League. In 1974 this organisation became London Children's Flower Society, patron Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, the Countess of Wessex became patron in 2004.



In 1947 children in all of London's Secondary Modern Schools were given two bulbs to take home and bring back in early

1948. I won the competition for my school Mount Pleasant Secondary School, Hackney, East London and my daffodil was duly taken to County Hall to be judged, the winners were to receive an all-expenses paid trip and stay in the Netherlands. I received a card that said 'Highly Commended' and a certificate inscribed (in beautiful calligraphy) 'Award of Merit' but alas no Dutch trip for me!

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- 2 To help to co-ordinate efforts to make local records more accessible.
- 3 To carry out such activities as are relevant to a family history society

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St Mary-at-Finchley



The parish church of Finchley is situated in Hendon Lane. In the 13th century, the church was known as ‘The Church of Our Ladye at Fynchesley. It is thought that a church has stood on this site since Saxon times.

St Mary’s has a full octave of eight bells in the tower. The oldest dates from 1770 and has the rhyme “Good people all that hear us ring / be faithful to your God and king.

The organ was built by the famous Henry Willis in 1878.

During World War Two, on the 4 October 1940, a thousand-pound bomb exploded against the east wall causing tremendous damage to the sanctuary, the chancel and organ. All the windows were blown out. The church was rebuilt in 1948.

Our newly published Parish Guide to Finchley features the church on its cover. See page iv of yellow insert.