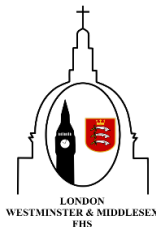


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Family History Society



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Cover picture: The frieze on the north side of the Albert Memorial which includes John Thorpe in the centre. See article on page 140

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EDITORIAL

The coronavirus, perhaps inevitably, is still in the news and epidemics have of course always been a feature of our ancestors' lives. Our Chairman talks about them in his 'Comments' on page 135 and it is the subject of 'Focus on Facebook' too. Whilst Covid 19 has prevented our Branch Meetings and many other face-to-face events, there is much going on online, with podcasts from the major archive centres and family history shows moving online, see Jottings on page 164 for a report of one we attended and a special discount for readers of METROPOLITAN for The Family History Show Online in September. Lockdown News on page 163 details how some archive centres are starting to open up.

We have been delighted to receive a wide range of interesting articles, which tell the stories of members' ancestors together with the challenges the authors have faced and the sources they have used (which may be new to some readers) to unearth details of past lives. We have really enjoyed reading these and hope you do too. If you would like to contribute your story to METROPOLITAN, the Editors are happy to receive items either by email or by post.

The Society's year ends on 30 September 2020 and it is now time to renew your subscription. Thank you to all those members who have already done so. This is much appreciated as it helps to spread the workload for our Membership Secretary. The renewal form was in the centre of the June issue of METROPOLITAN and it is also available to download from the website.

The Editorial Team

**Please remember that the copy date
for the next issue of
METROPOLITAN
is 1 November 2020**

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

At the time that I am writing this there are hopeful signs that we may have an effective vaccine against Covid-19. However, surveys have indicated that unfortunately about 20% of the population would refuse to be vaccinated or at least are doubtful. This attitude is stimulated by internet campaigns mostly against the MMR vaccine but has a long history back to the 18th Century.

The first vaccine by far was against smallpox. This is caused by a virus but it is a very different one from the Coronavirus. This disease had been endemic in Europe, perhaps since the 5th Century AD. It seemed to vary in virulence but some epidemics killed 30% of the infected and disfigured many others. There had been a doubtful protective procedure, introduced from Turkey in the 1730s of taking infective material from someone with mild symptoms of smallpox and introducing this subcutaneously. This did protect many but still produced a fatal disease in a small percentage (2%) of people. So something of a Russian Roulette treatment.

However in England, there was folk-knowledge that milkmaids were protected from smallpox because they had scars on their hands from smallpox like lesions that they had acquired from the udders of cows with cowpox. In both cows and humans this was a minor localised disease, which caused only a temporary problem.

In the 1790s a Gloucester Physician Dr Edward Jenner decided to follow up these stories. He therefore recruited a number of local farm laborers and introduced cowpox material subcutaneously into their arms. After a few weeks they all had lesions at the point of injection. He then took a boy from amongst them and inoculated him with smallpox. (Horrific! But no medical ethics committees at that time!).

So Jenner had authenticated a procedure for protection against smallpox. He called it 'vaccination' from the Latin word *Vacca* (cow). Within a few years the treatment became established in Britain and Europe. But there was opposition, some thought that they would become cow like and even grow horns. Or it was going against nature or the will of God.

There were attempts to encourage vaccination and in Britain it was made compulsory for infants in 1853. In Prussia it was compulsory in 1835 and they had enforcement by Medical Police. In France its introduction was less effective as it was left to teams of enthusiastic vaccinators to try to convince suspicious peasants and often hostile priests. This had considerable effects in 1870-71, when there was a Franco-Prussian War. There was an epidemic of smallpox in the French Army. 125,000 soldiers had smallpox and 23,000

died. The French were defeated. This lesson was learned. After that all troops in European Armies were vaccinated. There were no significant outbreaks of smallpox in any army in the 1914-18 war.

There were still outbreaks in populations in Britain (especially after 1908 when the regulations were relaxed and there were vocal opponents such as George Bernard SHAW and other establishment figures) and in America where opposition was quite strong (as now). Outside Europe epidemics continued relatively unchecked.

I came across an example of a powerful anti-vaccinator in my family history. My Great Grandfather's half-sister Florence Ethyl Jane NOBLE (1879-1962) was a lady's maid for about 40 years to a very well connected aristocrat called Lady Maud WARRENDER. (1870-1945). Lady Maud was married to an Admiral, was the daughter of an Earl, and frequently visited and dined with politicians, the British Royal Family and even the Kaiser. So she could be a very influential advocate of many causes such as female suffrage and anti-vaccination. In 1933 she published an Autobiography entitled *My First Sixty Years* and I am quoting from a passage describing a visit to India in the 1900s when her husband was the Commander in Chief of the East India Station:

'After a visit to Poona to sing at a concert, my accompanist, Mr. Flint was taken ill at Admiralty House and after some days it developed into smallpox. Of course there was the usual vaccination served out by the Flagship Doctor to all in the house, but having a horror of this operation for many years, since reading so many books on the subject, I tried to refuse having it done. The Doctor's surprise and horror was so marked-"If you refuse, it will be difficult to persuade all hands to agree" that I offered my arm, having previously prepared some boracic acid and water to be handy. And the moment that he left the room I washed all the vaccine, made from a festering tortured calf, out of my arm, and of my maid's arm (the faithful 'Noble' who has been with me twenty-nine years) and of course they never 'took'. The doctor used to enquire how the arm was, which I kept duly bandaged. "Oh there's a distinct twinge" I said. Afterwards I told them, saying, "I believe in fighting disease with health and not with disease"

Despite Lady Maud (more about her later) and people like her, the WHO vaccination campaign became worldwide. In December 1979 smallpox was declared eradicated from the world. For a number of reasons Covid-19 is unlikely to be eradicated, but it will be controlled.

Keep well.

Tony Allen

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Whilst reading the 'Final Curtain' part of 'The Call Boy' article in June's METROPOLITAN, I was reminded that 'somewhere' in my garage, I have a run from the first issue in 1909/10 to about 1927 of *The Headquarters Gazette* which was the monthly magazine for the officers (scout leaders) of the Boy Scout movement. During WW1, it ran a section of all the officers that had been killed in the conflict during the month. Sometimes it was over two pages of A4. It listed the scout troop, forces rank etc., of the deceased. I'm not sure if Jack CORNWELL, VC, a 16 year old Boy Scout who died at the Battle of Jutland was from the FHS area. Just thinking about it, the *Gazette* will have information about these Scout Troops from 1908. I can see a project coming on to list all the Boy Scouts from the FHS area who died in WW1, when I can find the Gazettes. I also have the first couple of years of *The Scout* magazine from 1907 which started the whole Scout movement going. There may be some info and names of Scout Troops starting in the LWMFHS area in those magazines.

Terry Jeffreys, Member No: 8167

What a fascinating resource to have, Terry! Our Projects Team should be able to help you when you locate them. If any members are particularly interested in the early Scout movement and would like to help when Terry finds these magazines, please contact our Projects Team: projects@lwmfhs.org.uk

The article about the *Sketch* files found in Edmonton raised my interest, as I was born in Edmonton at the beginning of the war. It brought back so many memories of my youth growing up in Edmonton, My school in Eldon Road, Bounces Road shops and St Peters Church, the Gang Shows done by the Boy Scouts group there. The Girl Guides at Monmouth Hall, and summer camps in Cuffley, the Baptist Church youth club, making the calendars for Christmas bazaars every year. The local Athletic club training sessions on Sunday mornings and the cinder running track, the local Badminton club, and the coach, an ex-champion of Southern India. My brother's Church Parades in the Boys Brigade, then the excitement of them marching down our road with the band. 9 months ago I met an ex-officer of the 7th Enfield Boys Brigade on holiday, when my brother was a member!

My parents had purchased a new house in Exeter Road in the mid 1930s, they had just got married and both had worked in the Fleet Street area of London for Eire & Spottiswood publishers. My mum was a folder, father was a guillotine operator until Feb 1941 when London was badly bombed. After the War he worked on the newspaper *The News Chronical* in Fleet Street until it closed down. He then worked for a printers in Tottenham “Day the Printer” in Paxton Road, next to the Spurs football stadium. That closed down while Dad was still there about 1960, and he did bring home some beautiful old books, some of tropical birds and others of tropical flowers. These were new books which never left the publishers. I remember selling some of them to a collector.

My brother David Howard did an apprenticeship in colour printing at Keller, Hudson and Kerns in Stamford Street, Waterloo. My first job, in 1955, was in the bindery at Ward Lock publishers at Edmonton Green. I had to take the Director’s coffee in to his office every morning where all the walls were lined with books which the company had published. These included Mrs Beeton’s *Home Management*, many different gardening books, Rodin sculptors, the Red travel books of the UK towns and cities with many maps inside.

In the 1970s I was working for a City accountants and started to buy and sell second-hand books on heraldry and genealogy after having been involved in starting The London & North Middlesex FHS in Enfield Town. I was soon helping the Editor Glenda to lay out the Society’s magazine.

Eileen Blythe, Member No. 002

I read with interest the article by Jane Tunesi ‘Family Bible Discovered’. I am a Past Chairman of Highgate Cemetery. With reference to page 106 of June’s METROPOLITAN, the children mentioned are buried in Common graves in Highgate West Cemetery. Mary Emma OLIVER, Grave No. 5165, Square 61; James, Grave No. 7818, Square 42 and Eliza Jessie, Grave No. 10914, Square 18.

Ian Kelly, Member No. 8107

Please see page 156 for an overview of Highgate Cemetery which Ian has kindly written for us.

Public appreciation of those who render service to the nation goes back a long way as I discovered whilst sorting through some old papers recently. The attached certificate (the original is in colour) was given to my late step mother-in-law, Rose Elizabeth HEWLETT (1910-2000) following

her service in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force during WW2. She spent some time at the Bridlington WAAF Training School and eventually became an A/Sgt in the air forces catering division. She married my wife's father, a widower since 1939, in 1948. Rose's younger sister Alice (1915-2008) served in the Women's Land Army.

Peter Todd, Member No. 7686



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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The Editors reserve the right to edit contributions.

THE SECOND WIFE OF JOHN THORPE

Surveyor to Elizabeth I

or....

A CONSPIRACY IN THE FAMILY?

By Robert G. Page, Member No. 8182

One of the statues depicting the great men of British culture on the exterior of the Victoria and Albert Museum is that of my 10xgreat grandfather, John THORPE. He is also included in the carved frieze of the great architects on the north side of the nearby Albert Memorial.



Much has been written about John THORPE's professional activities and also his family life, about which quite a lot is known. Unfortunately the accepted story includes a basic error. It has the identity of his second wife, from whom I am descended, wrong.

John was born about 1563 at King's Cliffe in Northamptonshire, where the Thorpe family were stonemasons, quarry owners and surveyors¹. They ran a large team of skilled masons, operating on a scale not unlike a modern large firm of building contractors². They played a very significant role in the construction of some of the most famous country houses of the East Midlands and moved among the elite in society, acquiring increasing status and influence. Clearly John THORPE was precociously gifted because by 1584, when he had hardly reached adulthood, after a period working with his father, he had already found employment in London as a Clerk of the Queen's Works. This appointment can only have been made on the recommendation of a man with great influence at court to whom the Thorpe family were known.

John lived for most of his adult life in the parish of St Martin's-in-the-Fields, very close to the church itself, where he worshipped and his children were

baptised. He became a churchwarden and his name appears many times for various reasons in the churchwardens' accounts.

Long after his death he was championed and his work was brought to prominence by Horace Walpole, who recognised the significance of John THORPE's book of architectural drawings, which is now held by Sir John Soane's Museum in London. Walpole believed that the book revealed Thorpe as a leading architect, hence his portrayal on the V & A and on the Albert Memorial.

The accepted wisdom about the domestic life of John THORPE is that he married twice and had a total of 13 children. Sir John Summerson, his most important biographer³, appears to have credited all of John Thorpe's children to his first wife Rebecca GREENE, ignoring her death in 1604 and the second marriage. Others have accepted that he married twice, both times at St Martin's-in-the-Fields, but, for the identity of his second wife, they have relied upon Thomas Mason's transcription of the parish register of St Martin's-in-the-Fields for the years 1550-1619⁴, which records the marriage thus:

(1605) Sep. 16 Johannes Thorpe & Margaretam Sherry

I am a descendant of Ellen THORPE, the third of five children born to John and Margaret. She married Thomas BOUGHTON, a member of another family from King's Cliffe, also quarry owners, masons and surveyors.

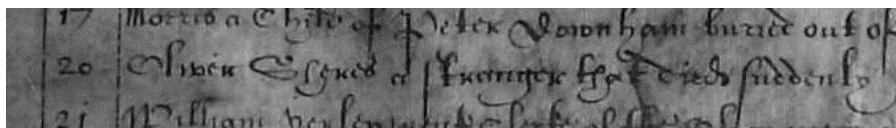
Naturally I tried to find out more about this 'Margaret Sherry', my 10xgreat grandmother, but I could find no baptism to account for her, nor any family of that name of which she could be a member. Of course I also considered the possibility that Sherry was not her maiden name but I could find no marriage of a Margaret to any man called Sherry who could have died, leaving her free to marry again.

This was the position for several years, during which I worked in collaboration with another researcher to try to understand the structure of the wider Thorpe family and to resolve several mysteries concerning them. This led me into exploring the pedigrees and wills of members of other families connected with the Thorpes by marriage. One of these wills hinted at a connection with the Brett family of Bedfordshire and I then found the will of Mary BRETT, widow, of Herne in the parish of Toddington, Bedfordshire,

written in 1625 and proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury (PCC) on 21 February 1625/6⁵. One of the beneficiaries of this will is ‘my sister THORPE’ and Mary makes ‘my well-beloved brother-in-law John THORPE’ one of her executors. He is also a witness to the will. Mary’s will mentions ‘my late husband William BRETT’, who had died in 1624. His will, proved in the PCC on 20 September 1624⁶, appoints ‘John THORPE of London esquire’ as one of three feoffees. Clearly Mary BRETT was the sister of my ‘Margaret Sherry’.

So, what was Mary BRETT’s maiden name? Well, it was not Sherry. She was Mary DOWNES and she had married William BRETT on 28 May 1599 at St Martin’s-in-the-Fields. Her baptism is also recorded there on 20 March 1571/2. Unfortunately her parents’ names are not recorded, but just 20 months later we find the baptism of Margaret DOWNES on 15 November 1573, again with no parents’ names. If this was Margaret, my ancestor and the second wife of John THORPE, she must, like John, have been married before, to a man called Sherry, or something similar. Once again the register of St Martin’s-in-the-Fields has the answer. On 23 February 1594/5 ‘Oliverus SHEIRE’ married ‘Margareta DOWNES’. At this period the spelling of names was very fluid and the Latinisation of forenames in parish registers is a complication, but Margaret’s first husband Oliver’s surname is most often written as ‘SHERES’ or ‘SHEERS’. The final ‘s’ of the surname is usually present, but not always.

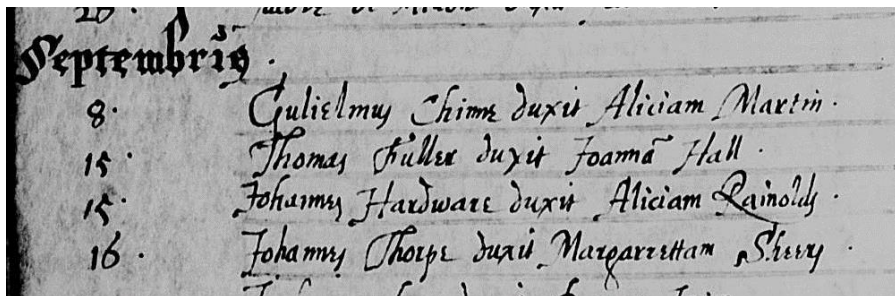
If Margaret DOWNES married John THORPE in 1605 Oliver SHEERS must have died around 1604 and, sure enough, I found his burial on 20 June 1604 at St Dunstan-in-the-West. Significantly the entry for his burial is annotated ‘*a stranger that died suddenly*’.



Until this point, like others, I had trusted Mason’s transcription of the register of St Martin’s-in-the-Fields but now I needed to know what the entry recording John THORPE’s second marriage really said and whether Mason could have misread it. Findmypast claimed to have all the Westminster registers but the early ones for St Martin’s-in-the-Fields seemed to be missing. They never came up on any search for baptisms, marriages or

burials there. When I dug a little deeper into what they really had I found that the Westminster registers could be browsed. As soon as I entered 'St Martin's-in-the-Fields' into this specific search, there were all the early registers. They just haven't been indexed. I suspect that this may be because the task would be so huge. Typically the entries for just one month's burials can take up more than a page.

When I finally saw the original entry I could see what had happened and I think that I might well have made the same mistake as Mason in transcribing Margaret's surname if I had not known her back-story. It does actually say '*Margarrettam Sheers*', but the handwriting in this section of the register, despite being neat and legible, is not entirely conventional. In particular the lower case letters 'e' and 'r' are similar and very easily mistaken for each other. In Margaret's surname, the final 's' is of the shape very similar to a letter 'f', which is not usual at the end of a word, so, together with the penultimate unconventional 'r', it forms a convincing 'y'.



Mason will have seen the actual 'S-h-e-e-r-s' as 'S-h-r-r-y' and inferred that the writer had accidentally omitted the 'e' of Sherry. It is only by careful comparison with other names in adjacent entries that the secrets of decoding this script become clear and unambiguous.

I have traced just one child from Margaret's marriage to Oliver SHEERS, Elizabeth SHEERS, baptised on 26 December 1597 at St James Garlickhythe, London.

Having established exactly who the second wife of John THORPE (and my own 10xgreat grandmother) really was, I naturally wanted to discover who her parents were and more about the DOWNES family in general. Tracking back from her baptism in the St. Martin's-in-the-Fields register I found the

marriage of her parents William DOWNES and Elizabeth WRIGHT on 31 August 1564 and the baptisms of Elizabeth and William DOWNES in 1568 and 1565 respectively. Their last child baptised at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields was Richard, in 1575. Believing that this couple were my 11xgreat grandparents I searched for further confirmation in their wills. Both were proved in the PCC, William's in 1589⁷ and Elizabeth's twenty years later in 1609⁸. Taken together these two wills are very informative and throw light on a complex wider family. Both of them mention children other than the five baptised to them as a couple and, once again, it turns out that both of them had been married before.

In William's will he describes himself as 'citizen and merchant taylor of London' and he leaves bequests of considerable property, mainly to his widow Elizabeth and to his son Phillip DOWNES. He also mentions a daughter Barbara, now the wife of Edward BANNESTER. Neither of these two children belongs to his marriage to Elizabeth. They are from his earlier marriage on 16 June 1557 to Margaret COLE. Phillip was baptised in 1560 and Barbara in 1561, both at St Martin's-in-the-Fields. Margaret, their mother, died in 1562 and was buried on 15 August. He mentions his three daughters from his second marriage, Elizabeth, Mary and Margaret, but neither of the two sons, William and Richard, who have presumably died. Another beneficiary is Christian WRIGHT, whose relationship is not made plain, but, as we shall see, she is his stepdaughter from Elizabeth's earlier marriage.

Elizabeth's will is more revealing and very unusual, if not unique. Her maiden name was Elizabeth ROLFE and her first marriage had been to Robert WRIGHT on 10 December 1559 at St Mary Abchurch, London. Her will was made in 1601, during her daughter Margaret's first marriage to Oliver SHEERS. She makes no mention of her step-children from her late husband's earlier marriage, the main beneficiaries being three of her four daughters: Christian, from her first marriage, who is now married to Arthur GREGORY and has a daughter, Mary GREGORY; Elizabeth, now married to Otho MAWDITT, by whom she would eventually bear at least 16 children; and Mary, who, as we have already seen, had married William BRETT and had begun a large family of her own.

For Margaret, the future second wife of John THORPE, there is no direct bequest. Instead, we find these two remarkable passages in the will, which are worth quoting in full:

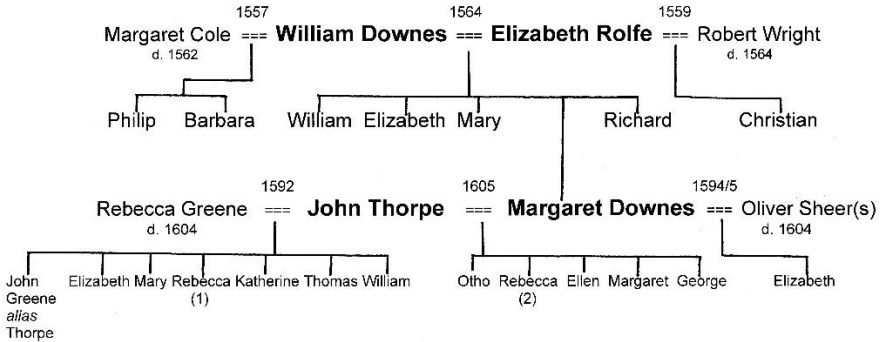
“I give and bequeathe unto my daughter Elizabeth Mawditt One hundred poundes of lawful money of England which is due or owing unto me by bonde bill or other specialtie by my sonne in lawe Olyver Shere And I doe by this my last will and Testament ordayne and make my sayd daughter Elizabeth Mawditt my Executrix Only to this purpose to sue recover and take the sayd debt of One hundred poundes of the sayd Oliver Shere.”

“Nowe know all men, that whereas I have given the sayd somme of One hundred poundes owing unto me by my sayd sonne in lawe Olyver Shere unto my sayd daughter Elizabeth Mawditt together with the Surplusage of a fourth parte of my goodes and Chattells which shall amount over and above one hundred pounds. The same is but only given her in trust for the good and behoofe of my daughter Margaret Shere whom I have not nominated in this my last will and testament until now: And that my sayd daughter Elizabeth shall thereof and of the profits thereof yeelde a true and just accompt to my sayd daughter Margaret Shere after the death of Oliver Shere her husband”

What are we to make of this? It is clear that Elizabeth does not expect Oliver SHEERS to honour his debt and that her opinion of him is very low. We might also deduce perhaps that she blames Margaret for having married such a disreputable man, possibly against her mother’s will. Otherwise she might have been more generous to Margaret herself, who will inherit nothing from her mother’s estate unless her sister Elizabeth can recover the debt by legal action. Then there is the remarkable ‘prediction’ of Oliver SHEERS’ early death, which came true just two-and-a-half years later when Oliver died ‘suddenly’ in the parish of St Dunstan-in-the-West, where he was not known, and which just happened to be where Elizabeth and Otho MAWDITT were living. Is it over-melodramatic to see in all of this a conspiracy between Margaret’s mother and sister (possibly including Margaret herself and her sister’s husband) to lure Oliver SHEERS to a part of London where he was not known and do away with him for Margaret’s sake? If this really was a criminal act, then I have to thank the criminals because without their intervention Margaret DOWNES/SHEERS would never have married John THORPE and I could never have been born.

Elizabeth ROLFE/WRIGHT/DOWNES did not die until 1609, eight years after her will was made, five years after Oliver SHEERS' death and four years after Margaret's second marriage to John THORPE. The will was never updated in the light of the changed circumstances and probate was granted just twenty days after Elizabeth's burial, apparently without being scrutinised more than was normal.

3-Generation Family Tree for Margaret Downes, second wife of John Thorpe



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JOTTINGS

The Virtual Family History Show

For the last couple of years we have been going to The Family History Show London, which has been held at Sandown Park. There are sister shows at Bristol and at York but these are too far away for our usual helpers to attend. However, this year the York show was cancelled due to the Covid 19 pandemic and the organisers contacted us as they had decided to hold a virtual event in its place and were giving us an online stall which would automatically promote our top-selling products at GenFair. We were to provide an introduction to our Society and we did not have to do any more than that. If we wanted to, though, we could man our stall to answer questions from members of the public, just like a normal show. We could do this by email and/or by having a video chat room.

The worry of manning our stall, for me, is always that people will ask questions that I cannot answer. Of course at an actual fair there are enough people helping on the stand that somebody is bound to either know the answer or to be able to point the questioner in the right direction. It did seem important to have somebody on-hand to answer questions on the day and after much discussion, Elaine and I decided we would brave it together, in a socially distanced way, from her kitchen.



We had the Parish Guide archive at our disposal, the *Which Place is Where* booklet (always useful!) and the internet. And despite some tech difficulties, which meant that we could not have a video chat room and that questions and answers mysteriously duplicated themselves, we had a jolly good day!

There were three main parts to the Show. One was an online lecture theatre with various talks taking place throughout the day, including subjects such as ‘Breaking down brick walls’, ‘The genetic genealogy revolution: how DNA testing is transforming family history research’ and ‘Tracing your military ancestors’. These were available for 24 hours so those in different time zones could watch them too. There was an ‘Ask the Experts’ team to whom you could submit questions before the show and either book a free 1-to-1 session or watch a live stream question panel in the afternoon. The Exhibition hall held nearly 100 online exhibitors – societies, archives and companies - many of whom had people you could message or talk to. There was also a goody bag and all for a mere £5-6.

As at a ‘real’ fair, we answered questions about where to get old maps, how to search on the censuses for missing people, who holds the parish records for various places and where people might be buried – just like normal! The benefit of a virtual stall was that people who physically could not get there, including ones from all over the world as well as those closer to home, could join in and we had questions from as far afield as Australia. In the end, over 1,000 people attended! We also managed to sell quite a few Parish Guides.

All in all, the experience was a good one and is something I would be happy to do again. Do let the Events Team know if this is something you would like to help with – the next online show is on 26 September!

Elizabeth Burling, Member No. 4992

THE FAMILY HISTORY SHOW ONLINE

The next event will be held on Saturday 26 September 2020
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 £5** by following this link:
<https://thefamilyhistoryshow.com/T2H43GNJ>

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

A Former Slave's Grave – further information

Following on from our article in the March edition of METROPOLITAN, it turns out that Roy Hidson, Member No. 80 very thoroughly researched the story of Virginian lady Harriet LONG and her slave Jacob WALKER, who share a grave at Hornsey. The unravelling of the mystery of who these people were started in 1980 when the *Hornsey Journal* said that it was unlikely ever to be solved. However, they had reckoned without Roy, whose careful research uncovered much detail about their lives. His article, 'The Lady and the Slave – a Hornsey mystery' appeared in the Hornsey Historical Society *Bulletin*, No 27, in 1986. A piece about his research was published in the *Hornsey Journal* on 22 August 1991.

Roy included much more historical context in his article, explaining how at the time that Harriet lived in Arkansas it was very much a frontier area which had only come under British jurisdiction some 20 years previously. The large social gradations which divided the slaves is noted, together with the fact that whatever their standing with their owners, their children would be born into bondage and there was very little they could do about that. Roy even managed to find an account of the duel in which Harriet's first husband, Joseph Selden, was killed. This appears in *From Gentlemen, Swords and Pistols* by Harriet C Kane (Bonanza Books, 1960). This includes a description of Joseph's opponent: 'Judge Andrew SCOTT, a true gamecock, tiny and sharp-nosed ... who would let no-one ... claim greater gallantry'. Harriet's second husband, George LONG, was recruited from Cambridge to staff the new University of Virginia and his subsequent career is documented, as is the remainder of his life without Harriet.

Parish Chest

This family history shopping website was taken over by the Family History Federation last year and has now been relaunched. All of our booklets are available for sale (along with items from other family history societies) and you can renew your LWMFHS membership here too. The site is a little bit creaky still, with the search button unable to find anything under, for example, 'Paddington', or 'Clerkenwell' and very random items from all over Britain under 'Westminster' so the best way to find our products is to scroll down the home page and find us under 'Societies' You can access this site here: <https://www.parishchest.com/home.php>



ANNIE'S JOURNEY FROM A CHOLERA OUTBREAK IN SOHO TO OUR DINING ROOM WALL IN THE HAMPSHIRE COUNTRYSIDE

By Angela Benger, Member No. 8163

Whilst enjoying a New Year's meal with my family all around the table, I paused for a moment and listened to all the chattering around me. I glanced at the dining room wall and wondered what Annie Emily WILLSON would have thought about the relaxed atmosphere of our family get-together. Annie Emily – who is she? Well, she is my Great Grandmother and her photograph,



The photograph of Annie, taken in about 1915, which watches our family gatherings.

along with those of other family members, looks down on us from the walls of our dining room. Her photograph shows a rather austere Victorian lady. Her eyes, which are very deeply set, seem to look directly at us. It is this feature which has been passed to my Mother and myself, leaving us in no doubt that we are descended from this lady. Her austere appearance is, according to my mother, misleading. She was a very popular Grandma amongst her grandchildren.

Why am I telling you all this? Mainly, I think, because this family gathering could so easily have never happened. The fact that Annie Emily survived infancy and that we, her descendants, now exist is amazing considering her early years.

The WILLSON branch of the family are believed to have originated in Scotland but this has yet to be proved. The earliest references to the family found so far, is William WILLSON, Annie Emily's grandfather. William

was born in 1783 in Chatham, Kent and his parents are proving to be rather elusive. I can't find any reference to them and wonder if it is possible that they were there having come from Scotland to find work in the Naval Dockyard? It would be wonderful to even know their names! However moving forward from William evidence exists to prove that he is definitely Annie's Grandfather. He married Esther? in 1817 and their first son Charles was born in 1817, a daughter Esther was born in September 1819, another daughter Ann born on 29 June 1820 and a son John Henry was born on 27 January 1830.

Charles WILLSON married Maria SOUTHERN on 25 July 1845 at the Parish Church of St Martin-in-the-Fields. We learn that Charles' father was William WILLSON, also a Spur Maker like Charles. Charles was a widower at the time of his marriage to Maria, who was a spinster. We can also see that they both (i.e. Charles and Maria) lived in King Street prior to marriage. Maria's father was a farmer. In 1851, William aged 68 was living in Great Windmill Street with his son John Henry aged 21. Both have the occupation of Whitesmith. By the time John married in 1858, his father was deceased. I can find no reference to William's marriage or death. Esther had already died and is buried at St James, Piccadilly. However, I can't find confirmation of this.

We find Charles and family in the 1851 census for St Anne's Westminster as follows (Ref. HO I07/1510 Folio 478R page 23 St Anne's Westminster):

25 King Street

Charles Willson	head	M	35	Bridle bit maker	St James Westminster
Maria Louisa Willson	wife	M	28	General at home	Holborn St Andrews
Louisa Mary Ann Willson	dau	U	4		St James Westminster
Maria Eliza Willson	dau	U	2		St George Hanover Square
Eliza Cook	vis		19	Dressmaker	Richmond

There seem to have been seven other families sharing the same address. The census indicates that Charles WILLSON was born around 1816/7 in the parish of St James Westminster. Also that Maria WILLSON (née SOUTHERN) was born about 1823 in the parish of St Andrew Holborn.

Charles and Maria had a son Charles Edward born on 20 December 1851 and Annie Emily was born a few years later.

On 8 August 1854, when Annie Emily was born, the family address was 25 King Street, Soho in the sub-district of St Anne Westminster. At that time Soho was becoming one of the most densely populated areas in London and the old decaying houses must have groaned under the weight of their numerous residents.

In the late 1830s Charles DICKENS wrote in *Nicholas Nickleby*:

‘In that quarter of London in which Golden Square is situated, there is a bygone, faded, tumble-down street, with two irregular rows of tall meagre houses, which seem to have stared each other out of countenance years ago.

The very chimneys appear to have grown dismal and melancholy, from having had nothing better to look at than the chimneys over the way. Their tops are battered, and broken, and blackened with smoke; and, here and there, some taller stack than the rest, inclining heavily to one side and toppling over the roof, seems to meditate taking revenge for half a century's neglect by crushing the inhabitants of the garrets beneath.....

To judge from the size of the houses, they have been at one time, tenanted by persons of better condition than their present occupants but they are now let off, by the week, in floors or rooms, and every door has almost as many plates or bell-handles as there are apartments within, The windows are, for the same reason, sufficiently diversified in appearance, being ornamented with every variety of common blind and curtain that can be easily imagined; whilst every doorway is blocked up, and rendered nearly impassable, by a motley collection of children and porter pots of all sizes, from the baby in arms and the half pint pot to the full grown girl and half gallon can.’

The dreadful living conditions in Soho were described by John HOLLINGSHEAD in 1861 in his book *Ragged London*:

‘Every room is crowded with a different family, and four, if not more, landlords are interested in the rent... Dwellings that originally sheltered eight or ten persons are now crowded with thirty, forty or fifty inmates. The carved wainscoting's are torn to pieces, or covered,

an inch deep with black grease. The old banisters are broken down. The stairs are rugged, dark and uneven.... one of the worst features of the district is a tendency to live in kitchens and cellars... The dirt arises partly from long-settled carelessness about domestic cleanliness, partly from the impossibility of keeping one room tidy when six or eight people have to live in it, and partly from the neglect of landlords to whitewash, paint and paper the dwellings.’

HOLLINGSHEAD also:

‘nearly four hundred stables in which are kept more than one thousand horses. Over the stables are a number of small close rooms where about nine hundred people reside and bring up their families. Another nuisance arises from the cows, of which there are at least two hundred kept in eight stations in as many streets.’

By the middle of the nineteenth century Soho had become an insanitary place of cowsheds, animal droppings, slaughterhouses, grease boiling dens and primitive decaying sewers. Underneath the floorboards of the overcrowded cellars lurked something even worse in a foetid sea of cesspits as old as the houses, many of which had never been drained. It was only a matter of time before the time bomb exploded. It finally did so in the summer of 1854.

On the night of 31 August 1854, when Annie Emily WILLSON was a mere 23 days old, the most terrible outbreak of cholera broke out. It was violent and sudden. Few families, rich or poor, were spared the loss of at least one member. At this stage it is not known of the effect this outbreak had on the extended WILLSON family, although the immediate family all seemed to survive. Within a week three quarters of the residents had fled from their homes, leaving the shops shuttered, houses locked and streets deserted. Only those who could not afford to leave remained there. The outbreak was traced to a water pump on the corner of Broad Street and Cambridge Street at the centre of the epidemic. Nearly all the deaths had taken place within a short distance of the pump. When the pump handle was removed, as an experiment, the spread of cholera dramatically stopped.

Despite the work of a few upper class philanthropists the social conditions of Soho did not improve throughout the rest of the century. In the early 1880s the parish was still ‘a meeting home of filthy vice’. It was Soho’s darkest time.

Despite all of this, the family seemed to survive and in 1861 they were living in Heddon Street, St James, at *The Angel and Crown*, Charles was a licensed victualler and the family were all listed. (Annie is down as Jane E which has caused quite a lot of confusion amongst many researching this family and

Jane appears as an extra child! I have certificates to prove that this is incorrect.)



Charles and Maria with Louisa (or Maria) and Annie taken about 1859. Annie's eyes are distinctive even at that young age.

By 1871, they are to be found at Frances Street in St Pancras and Charles is a Bridle Bit maker.

In 1881, Charles and Maria were living at 23 Bloomsbury Street in the parish of St George Bloomsbury. Charles was still a Bridle bit maker aged 61.

Sadly Maria died the following year in October 1882 and Charles died in January 1888 at 46 Museum Street, Bloomsbury Square.

He left a personal estate of £292 13s3d. They are both buried in Highgate Cemetery.

Where was Annie Emily in 1881? She married on 26 May 1877 when she was living at 47 Museum Street, Bloomsbury. Her wedding to Evan LLOYD (from Llanilar, Cardigan) was at the parish Church of St George Bloomsbury Middlesex. By 1881, they had moved to South Wales and were living at 13 Southey Street, Roath in Cardiff. A very different place from King Street, Soho where Annie was born.

Evan and Annie had four children: David Willson LLOYD born 1885 * see notes 1, 2; Charles Graham LLOYD born 1887; Frederick Bertram LLOYD born 1895 and Dilys Emily LLOYD born 1896. Annie Emily LLOYD died on 12 November 1919 and is buried in Cathays Cemetery, Cardiff.

Evan's photograph also looks down at us from the dining room wall – but that is another story!

Notes:

1. David Willson LLOYD married Olive Marie POWELL in July 1913. Olive's ancestors can be traced back to the early 1500s in South Wales and they can be seen on <https://clan-davies.kiwitrees.net/>
2. David and Olive are my grandparents and David was the only one of Evan and Annie's children, who had children of their own.

Bibliography

Soho by Judith Summer

London Recollected Vol iv

Ragged London John Hollingshead

Nicholas Nickleby

Census returns

Birth, Marriage, Death certificates.

Family books and papers



**THE FAMILY HISTORY FEDERATION
REALLY USEFUL
FAMILY HISTORY SHOW ONLINE**

This event will be held on Saturday 14 November 2020

There will be a virtual exhibition hall, discussion panels, lectures, online shops and a goody bag posted to those who book early.

This show is sponsored by AGRA, FamilySearch, *Family Tree* and *Who Do You Think You Are* magazines.

For more information visit: <https://www.fhf-reallyuseful.com/>

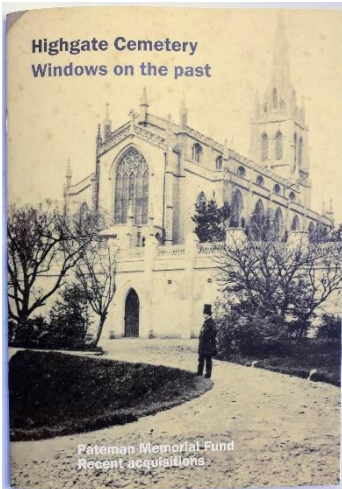
HIGHGATE CEMETERY

By Ian Kelly, Member No. 8107

Highgate is the UK's most famous cemetery. It was part of an initiative to provide seven large cemeteries to ring the City of London. The inner-city cemeteries, mostly the graveyards of individual churches, had long been unable to cope with the number of burials and were seen as a health hazard and an undignified way to treat the dead.

Perched on a hill above the smoke and grime of the City, Highgate Cemetery soon became a fashionable place for burials and was much admired and visited. The older Western side comprises seventeen acres. Fifteen acres were consecrated for Anglicans by the Bishop of London on 20 May 1839 and two acres were left un-consecrated in order to accommodate Dissenters.

The Victorian romantic attitude to death and its presentation led to the creation of a labyrinth of neo-Egyptian sepulchres and a wealth of neo-Gothic tombs and buildings. These avenues of death present a microcosm of



the Victorian age and entomb poets, artists, architects, military personnel, medics, sportsmen, radicals, entrepreneurs, princes and paupers.

In 2017, the Friends of Highgate Cemetery Trust published a booklet, *Highgate Cemetery Windows on the Past*, written by Ian Dungavell, which puts the cemetery into its historical context and is lavishly-illustrated.

There are approximately 170,000 persons buried at Highgate who repose in approximately 53,000 graves. The cemetery holds records of those buried, when and where, as well as original maps recording the location of every grave.

Further details, as well as links to Camden Local Studies and Archives at Holborn Library and Deceased Online, can be found on the cemetery website: www.highgatecemetery.org/visit/searches

MEMBERS' INTERESTS

The research interests listed here were submitted by members between June and August 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: 7651; 8057; 8163; 8165; 8177; 8185

Name	Period	County	Parish / Area	Mem.No.
BERRY	1600-1775	All	All	8177
CHAFF	1700-1900	DEV	All	8163
CHAFF	1700-1900	CON	All	8163
COLLINS	1850-1880	MDX	Paddington	8185
DULIN	All	All	All	8057
(Earl) JAMES	1774+	All	All	8057
ESCOTT	1800-1850	MDX	Islington	8057
FOX	1860	SUR	Lambeth	7651
FOX	1860	MDX	Westminster, London	7651
GRAVES	1600-1775	All	All	8177
HAYNES	Any	LND	London	7651
HUGHES	1800-1900	GLA	Aberdare/Cardiff	
JEWELL	1750-1850	MDX	Any	8057
JUDD	1780-1880	ESS	Romford	8057
KEAST	1750-1900	DEV	Plymouth	8163
PURKISS	1750-1850	MDX	Any	8057
REEVES	1860-1881	SUR	Camberwell, Lambeth Newington	7651
REEVES	1860	MDX	Westminster, London	7651
RULE	Any	LND	London	7651
SHEEHAN	1890	SUR	Lambeth	7651
SHOPLAND	All	All	All	8165
SOUTHERN Charles	1760-1880	MDX	St Andrew, Holborn St James, Westminster	8163
SOUTHERN Maria	1820-1890	MDX	St Andrew, Holborn St James, Westminster	8163
SPICKLEY	All	MDX	South Mimms	8165
SPICKSLEY	All	MDX	South Mimms	8165
SPIKESLEY	All	MDX	South Mimms	8165
WILLSON Charles	1816-1888	MDX	St Anne, Soho	8163
WILLSON Charles	1816-1888	MDX	St James, Westminster	8163
WILLSON William	1783-1860	MDX	St Anne, Soho	8163

WILLSON William	1783-1860	MDX	St James, Westminster	8163
WILLSON William	1780-1800	KEN	Chatham	8163

SPECIAL INTERESTS

- 8057 **DULIN**-One name study
 8185 Paddington scavengers and dust contractors

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the new members, numbers 8159-8186, who have joined the Society over the past few months and wish them well with their research.



WEBSITE NEWS

Air Force Operations Record Books

These are Royal Air Force (RAF) operations record books (ORBs), the originals of which are at The National Archives, Reg: AIR 27. Although the oldest books pre-date the formation of the RAF in April 1918 and cover operations carried out by its predecessors, the Royal Flying Corps (RFC) and the Royal Naval Air Service (RNAS), most records date from the Second World War.

These official documents chronicle air force units from the time of their formation and were intended to be an accurate daily record of the operations that the squadron carried out in peace and at war. The ORBs follow a daily diary format giving summaries of events. As aircrew personnel are named in these reports, those wanting to follow where an ancestor had been posted to and what may have happened to them will find these records extremely informative.

This collection also includes some record books for Dominion Air Forces (Australia, Canada, New Zealand and South Africa) as well as Allied Air Force squadrons under British Command.

You can search these records by Squadron number and/or date and download them from TNA site (a chargeable service) or if you want to look by crew member's name, these records have been recently added to pay-per-view website The Genealogist, here: <https://www.thegenealogist.co.uk/>

LWMFHS PUBLICATIONS

We are still sending out our booklets, should you want one, although we are going less frequently to the Post Office. Our new Guide, to the Stanmores, has had to be delayed due to the lockdown. We will bring it out as soon as it is safe to finish it.

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

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. We hope to publish the MIs of St Mary, Harrow on the Hill soon.

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.pariishchest.com/home.php> (see page 149). 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
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

HENRY COOMBES – ZEPPELIN VICTIM

By Janet Sutton, Member No. 6805

THE FAMILY TALE

When I first began tracing my family tree, I had a head start with my mother's side as I had often been told tales about the family, most of which were true or had an element of the truth in them. However, it was a different story when it came to my late father's side. He was Ernest Edward SUTTON born 28 December 1909 at Seckforde Street, Clerkenwell - the eighth of nine children of James William SUTTON (1867-1951) and Alice Maria née ROGERS (1870-1946). He was very vague about the names of his aunts, cousins, dates etc.

One tale he did recall was of a cousin called 'Bluff', who was "killed by an aerial torpedo during a Zeppelin raid, outside the *Red Lion* public house in Holborn, during World War One." That was the sum total of the information he had, which is not surprising as he was only 5 at the time. I didn't have a surname or even a proper Christian name, only that he was one of his maternal cousins, who had a sister Polly.

My first step was to trace his maternal cousins. His mother, Alice Maria ROGERS was the daughter of William ROGERS and Maria (née TURNER), both of whom originated from Lavenham in Suffolk. They lived in Ormond Yard, Holborn, London where William was a groom. Alice was one of nine children, the first three being born in Lavenham. Of the surviving siblings there were three brothers and three sisters, so I took time to trace all of them. I had little success with the three brothers - George Henry, Charles William and Arthur John - so that left the sisters, only one of whom had a daughter who could be 'Polly'. Eliza/Elizabeth Ann ROGERS (1858-1943) married John COOMB(E)S, who had four sons Herbert, Henry John and Frederick and five daughters Laura, Ruth, Alice Florence and Mary Ann (a name which is often shortened to Polly).

THE FIRST CLUE

There were a number of Zeppelin raids on London in the First World War, so I now needed to work out which one was a possibility. The next lead I had was while reading a book in the mid 1990s - *Zeppelins Over England* by K Poolman where I noticed the following quote which had similarities to my father's story:

“The bomb which killed a man on the corner of Red Lion Street, blew in the front of the public house behind him, reducing the stock to a mere mass of broken glass, over which floated, for hours afterwards, an indefinable odour of assorted forms of alcohol” 8 September 1915, 10.56pm approx.

I didn't make a note of the author's source of the information at the time. It was some years later that I decided to follow this lead. At least I now had a possible date. A search of newspapers came up with nothing. This was not surprising as a report of the raid would have affected the public morale and probably there was a press embargo. I posted 'Help Wanted' pleas in various family history journals and genealogical magazines. I had a number of responses, giving book recommendations and possible sources of information.

BREAKTHROUGH

One of my correspondents suggested I could write to the Fire Brigade Museum to see if there were any reports of the raids, or if they could recommend any other sources or books I could consult. A reply came back along with six sheets of A3 photocopies of the reports for the night from noon on Wednesday 8 September to noon on Thursday 9 September 1915, giving details of bombs, premises affected, victims etc.

There were seven columns of information: Place, Name of occupier of premises, Business, Name and residence of Landlord, Supposed cause of fire, Where insured and number of policy, and most importantly.... Damage.

On one sheet, I came across the entry below:

Lambs Conduit Passage - property owned by the Gas Light and Coke Company, Cause of fire: Explosive bomb.

And under the Damage column:

“A quantity of gas destroyed and about 6 feet of gas main damaged by the explosion. HENRY COOMBS, aged 23 years killed and 9 males and 7 females, names and ages unknown injured. There was also 12×10 feet of foot way damaged by the explosion.

Incidentally, it was about this time that I was contacted by a descendant of one of Alice Maria's brothers. He had been told that Henry was going into a chip shop when the bomb fell, and that all that was left to identify him was a

ring on his finger. On rechecking the report from the Fire Brigade museum there is the following which confirmed my correspondent's information:
10 Lambs Conduit Passage – C Provido, Fried fish shop. Incendiary bomb. Shop and house of 7 floors and contents damaged by fire, heat smoke, and part of the roof off.



FURTHER CONFIRMATION

In the book - *War on Great Cities* by Frank Morrison.

“The real focus of the raid at this particular point, however, lay a few yards back in Lambs Conduit Passage where Henry Coombs, an employee of the London Gas Light and Coke Company, and incidentally the first victim of the raid, lost his life. Mr Coombs, who lived in Ormond Yard was standing at the end of the passage just outside the Dolphin public house when an explosive bomb hit the gas lamp which lighted the entrance to the passage. He was, of course killed instantly, the force of the explosion wrecking the bar on the ground floor of the Dolphin.

.....Simultaneously fires of a really alarming character had broken out in Lambs Conduit Passage itself, where 2 houses (nos: 7 and 10) had been struck. One of these was a fried fish shop."

Incidentally Henry was not an employee of this company he was a groom, as were many of his family, living in Ormond Yard.

The Times, dated 18 September 1915, gave a broad, typically journalistic description of this raid in its report on page 7 headed 'The Zeppelin Raids' with the sub header 'Incidents contrasted':

"somewhere in the area of London you can go to the corner of a little street; this one has a public house on the corner. Outside it on Wednesday evening last after the place was closed a man and a woman were talking. The woman went off to buy some supper at a neighbouring shop. The man stood there waiting for her and while he was waiting there fell at his feet the first of the explosive bombs. It killed the man outright. It blew pieces of paving stone on to the surrounding roofs. It blew in the front of the public house reducing the stock to a mere mess of broken glass over which floats an indefinable odour of assorted forms of alcohol".

ZEPPELIN RAID 8 SEPTEMBER 1915 AND MATHY.

On this night, four naval airships set out for England, - three of them (L11, L13 and L14) were intending to attack London. The fourth, an older airship, L9 was heading to Skinningrove but failed to strike any significant targets. L11 had engine problems shortly after take off and returned to base. L14 also had engine trouble and dropped its bombs near East Dereham.

The L13 captained by Henriech MATHY. He was born on 4 April 1883 at Mannheim and joined the Imperial German Navy in 1900. He began flying airships in 1913 and, after a spell in torpedo boats, returned to Zeppelins in January 1915. He commanded L9 then L13. Mathy's airship crossed the channel at the Wash before heading towards London. At 10.35pm he approached Golders Green, with the first bomb landing in a field at College Farm Finchley. The airship continued to Euston, Grays Inn Road, Liverpool Street etc. before turning east and passing over Norwich at 01.30am on its return to Germany. In all, 15 high explosive and 55 incendiary bombs were dropped 22 people killed and 87 injured. There is a fuller report of the exact route, damages and casualties of the raid in the book by Ian Castle.

MATHY was later killed when his airship was attacked on 2 January 1916 over Potters Bar. He jumped from the airship and died - none of his crew survived the crash. They were all buried in the local churchyard before being moved in the 1960s to German Military Cemetery at Cannock Chase.

FINALE

On the death certificate, registered in Holborn, was the following:

“Found dead 9th September 1915 at Lambs Conduit Passage, Holborn. Henry Alfred Coombes – male 23 years old. Horse-keeper of 26 Ormond Yard, St George the Martyr. Cause of death – Shock, severe injuries, crushed by building material from discharge of explosive bomb dropped from enemy airship by some person or persons unknown. Wilful murder.

An inquest was held on 11th September 1915, the coroner was Walter Schoder, coroner for London.

Henry COOMBES was cremated on 15 September 1915 at St Pancras.

The *Dolphin* public house was destroyed by the bomb, and it was rebuilt after the war. The pub clock was found in the rubble and is apparently still displayed at the pub. Lambs Conduit Passage runs from the corner of Red Lion Square to Red Lion Street near the junction with Theobalds Road.

And why did my father refer to his cousin as Bluff? All I can surmise is that Henry is sometimes shortened to Hal. Henry 8th was known as Bluff King Hal. But otherwise, one will never know.

Books and Sources:

The Air Defence of Britain 1914-18 by Christopher Cole and E F Cheeseman (The Bodley Head, 1984)

War on Great Cities by Frank Morison (Faber and Faber, 1937)

The German Air Raids on Great Britain by Captain Joseph Morris (The Naval and Military Press, 1969)

Zeppelins over England by Kenneth Poolman (Evans Brothers Ltd, 1975)

Zeppelin Onslaught – The Forgotten Blitz 1914-1915 by Ian Castle (Frontline Books, 2018)

London Fire Brigade museum

Ancestry and Find My Past websites

GRO certificates



PROJECTS REPORT UPDATE

By Projects Coordinator, Elaine Tyler, Member No. 7102

Monumental Inscription booklets

As you know the Society is in the process of reviewing and updating the invaluable work done in the 1980s by former members and republishing the results in a series of Monumental Inscription booklets. The plan was to publish 2 booklets each year, Spring and Autumn, but the arrival of Covid-19 has severely delayed this plan.

Currently on-site checking – the follow on stage from initial retyping and which we have found essential in order to correct and update entries and plans – is limited but our teams are starting to go out again. Luckily churchyards are outdoors and they do not usually attract great crowds so here is where work has resumed where possible.

St Mary's East Barnet is almost complete as it is local to our Barnet/Enfield team and access to the Church interior was kindly made available recently (as long as Covid-19 restrictions were observed).

On-site checking at St Mary's Harrow on the Hill was already proving to be a much bigger task than originally thought even before Covid-19 because the lower churchyard is so overgrown. It is looking likely this will now be split into two booklets; the Church and upper churchyard in one and the lower churchyard in another. As the Harrow team are unable to carry on from where they left off at present Harrow on the Hill has been put on hold for the time being.

Given the current situation it will be the East Barnet St Mary's booklet being prepared for publication next and our Harrow team will be offered a site more local to them for on-site checking.

If you would like to help us with this work please get in touch. The tasks involved are:

- Typing up monumental inscriptions from digital copies of microfiche, or in some cases hardcopy, into a Microsoft Word document. You don't have to be local to do this as long as you can use email; two volunteers, one in Essex and the other in New Zealand, have already helped enormously.

- Checking a retyped Word document with the source.
- Checking a retyped document and/or plan with what can be found on-site in a churchyard, Church, etc. and/or taking photographs of each monument where possible. We have found it is easier and probably preferable to do this as a team.
- Proof reading the final document before it goes to the printers.

Elizabeth Burling is editing the booklets and Elaine Tyler is amending the plans and creating the surname indexes.

We have at least 30 booklets being considered for this collection, including several that have never been published. So far 12 have been retyped and from those; 4 have been published, one is on hold, one is nearing publication, 6 are waiting an on-site check. That leaves a minimum of 18 waiting to start – there is a long way to go!

Parish Guides booklets

Stanmore was slightly delayed by lockdown as we could not travel to take the photographs needed for this booklet. Hampstead came out on time and we are now back on track, with Greenford and Perivale coming out on 1 September and Finchley on 1 November.

18 booklets have been published in our Parish Guide Series so far and 21 more are already planned. Then there is the City – a strategy for dealing with this is awaiting confirmation – but there is plenty to do in the meantime!

Thanks goes to Elizabeth Burling, our Parish Guide lead, and her team of researchers, proof readers and photographers for continuing to make this project such a success story.

I would like to mention here that Elizabeth also manages our Postal Sales Service and it is thanks to her efforts that we have been able to operate a ‘business as usual’ approach all through lockdown.



MY FOX AND REEVES ANCESTORS

By Maureen D Copping, Member No. 7651

While tracing my common ancestors, I find that my REEVES ancestors do move about a bit. Also, I find that boundary changes can put them in a different place to where you think they are! Like I have discovered that Rotherhithe is shown in Bermondsey, London, Surrey and Kent, which does not make it very easy when it comes to researching them. Which county do you concentrate on?

Henry REEVES, was born in Melksham, Wiltshire in 1838, one of 12 children of John REEVES and Anne Stockwell REEVES. Anne must have come from a wealthy family as she signed her name on the marriage certificate, whereas John, a Cordwainer, signed as an X.

Henry migrated to Lowestoft, Suffolk as a book binder's apprentice. Later he became a printer working for H TYMMS or TIMMS, stationers and printers, and finally for himself, as he appears in some street directories. He was there between 1851 and 1857.

On 15 November 1859 Henry married Emma Elizabeth KELL, who came from Bruisyard, Suffolk. Emma's father was a miller. The marriage was by licence. They had a daughter Elizabeth Emma REEVES who appears on the 1861 census age 5 months. Some time after the census was taken Emma died, and on 8 July 1862 Henry (a widower) married his second wife Mary Ann NEWSON, who came from Oulton, near Lowestoft, Suffolk. They were married in St Margaret's Parish Church, Lowestoft by Banns. They lived in either Mariner Street or Wesley Street as shown on the 1871 census. Mary Ann's name has been transcribed on the registers as NEWTON instead of NEWSON. When I looked at these records I found that the flowery hand writing could be transcribed as either names.

Henry and Mary Ann had 8 children, including my ancestor William. Their eldest son Frederick, born on 8 August 1863, became a carpenter and later migrated down to New Zealand, where I am in contact with some of his descendants. Then came the twins Alfred and Henry who were born in 1864 and died a few months later and are buried at St Margaret's Parish Church, Lowestoft.

Frank, born 1868 in Lowestoft, married Alice in 1892 who according to the 1911 census came from Rotherhithe, London. At this time they lived at 2 Hawkstone Road, Rotherhithe and Frank is listed as a dock labourer. They had a son Frank Edwin REEVES, born 1905, at school. I wonder if Frank was paid by the Dockers Tanner.

The Dockers Tanner was paid as a result of the London Dock Strike, which broke out on 14 August 1889 and resulted in a victory for the strikers and established strong trade unions amongst London Dockers. One of the unions became the nationally important Dock, Wharf, Riverside and General Labourers Union. Colonel George Reymond BIRT, the general manager at the Millwall Dock Company, gave evidence to a Parliamentary committee on the physical condition of the workers who were in 'a most miserable state' and were working for 5d an hour. When the Dockers Tanner was authorised they got paid 6d an hour. Upon the resolution of the strike, the dock workers collected £100 for Cardinal MANNING in appreciation of his work in mediating for them. Manning donated the money to a local hospital to provide a bed. This is the first time I have been able to link up the info on the Dockers Tanner with one of my ancestors.

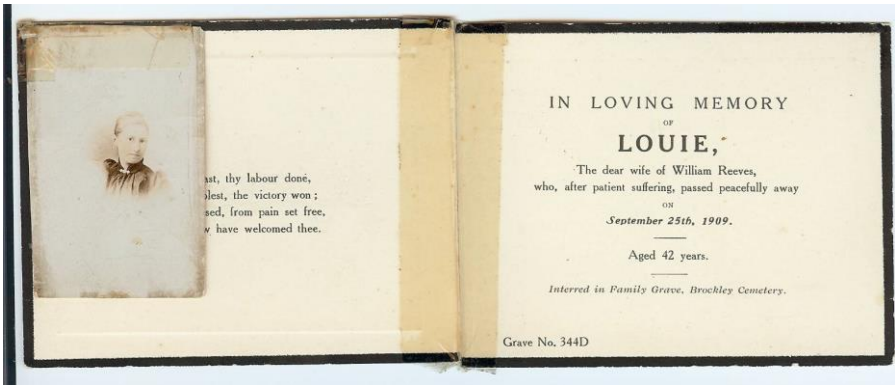
Edith Mary REEVES was born in 1871 at Lowestoft, Suffolk. In 1895 she married Alfred Thomas Shaw, and according to the 1911 census was living at 19 Moodkee Street, Rotherhithe, Bermondsey. Husband Alfred Thomas SHAW is listed as a Wharf Clerk. They had 2 children, Winifred Nelly SHAW born 1900 and Eric Thomas SHAW born 1909. I wonder if Alfred worked at the same docks as Frank REEVES?

Next came Arthur REEVES born 1872 in Lowestoft, Suffolk and in 1899 he married Lucy. In the 1911 census Arthur and Lucy are living at 3 Stanley Road, Southgate, London, Arthur is shown as a printing compositor.

Some time after 1873, Henry and Mary Ann REEVES moved from Lowestoft to Rotherhithe, Kent as in 1876 another daughter, Ellen Louisa REEVES, was born at Newington, Surrey. She later married John A F NEWMAN.

Henry REEVES died on 25 December 1907 at Ellen's house at 9 Moodkee Street, Rotherhithe. Mary Ann REEVES stayed here till she died on 12 February 1921.

My ancestor was their son William REEVES born on 17 March 1869 at Lowestoft, Suffolk. In 1890 he married Louisa Hyde FOX, who was born on 8 April 1867 at Westminster, Middlesex. Her grandmother Elizabeth FOX lived in Fakenham Watermill in Norfolk, where her parents were millers. There was in existence a Family Bible that I no longer have, as my late aunt destroyed it because it fell apart! The bible carried a dedication in it for Louisa's mother, also Elizabeth FOX, who was a Sunday School teacher at Fakenham Methodist church. The dedication read: The bible was presented to Miss Fox, Elizabeth Fox, who married her cousin, Mark John Fox, miller in London a week later on 29 October 1865. I have not found out which wind or watermill he may have worked. Elizabeth, a dressmaker, and Mark John FOX, a miller were married at the Church of All Saints, Islington and they are my 3x great grandparents.



Memorial card for Louie with the only known photograph of her.

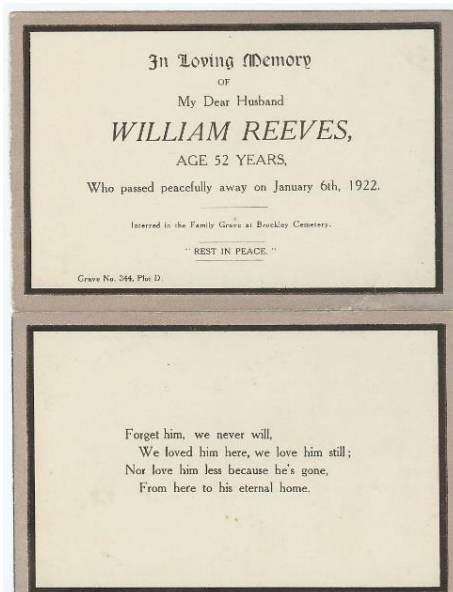
There appears to be some discrepancy as to where Louisa was born, some say Lambeth but her birth certificate could not be found here. It was finally discovered at Westminster across the river. Other children of Mark John and Elizabeth listed in the bible are Rosa Maria FOX born 30 June 1869, Henry Mark FOX born 22 November 1872, Robert FOX born 28 January 1874 and Harriet Maria FOX born 11 July 1877 all at Rotherhithe, Kent.

Louisa Hyde FOX [Louie] married my 2x great grandfather William REEVES, printer at Southwark Park Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, Rotherhithe, Surrey on 26 July 1890. William and Louisa had 3 children. Frederick William REEVES born 14 June 1891 at Rotherhithe. Surrey, did

say Deptford but this was crossed out. In the 1911 census Frederick William is listed as age 19, apprentice Machine Minder, working at General Printers. Then Arthur Henry Reeves born 17 September 1894, Deptford, Kent, in the 1911 census Arthur Henry is listed as age 17, Stationers Errand Boy at Straker and Son. He died during the First World War.

A daughter Lilian Elizabeth Reeves born 21 March 1897, Deptford, Kent. In the 1911 census Lilian is at home age 14. As I know she was an invalid later in life. I don't know if she ever left home or had an occupation.

According to the 1911 census William is listed as a Widower and occupation as Composer. He was living at 82 Neptune Street, Bermondsey, in the sub district of Rotherhithe. He died on 6 January 1922 and is buried at Brockley Cemetery, Grave No. 344D.



Memorial card for William Reeves

It's amazing that I have an interest in windmills and watermills but never realised that it was in my genes. If there are any living descendants around I would like to hear from them.

Sources consulted:

Abridged article on the Dockers Tanner came via an email from Llechwedd Old Bank, Wales.

1911 Census via Genes Reunited.

Maureen Copping née Reeves
 Email: maureencopping@yahoo.co.uk



DAVID MORRISON ANGELL

By Keith Rookledge, Member No. 8071

David Morrison ANGELL was a prisoner of war in Thailand, working on the infamous railways where he died in 1943. So how do we know this?

The war in the Far East was known as ‘The Forgotten War’, peace being declared after the Americans let loose the atomic bomb. The Japanese army, like all other such bodies, kept records and amongst them were record cards of prisoners whom they captured. These cards are deposited at The National Archives as WO 345/1: Japanese Index Cards of Allied Prisoners of War and Internees, Second World War, 1942-1945. David’s card details his period of captivity, gives his date of birth, the names of his parents (Sidney and Janet), and his address as Hillcrest, Northfield Avenue, Pinner, Middlesex.

Who was David? He was born in Kensington on the 28 January 1917 so he would have been 26 when he died. The National Archives series WO 361/2053 Prisoners of war, Far East: British POWs who died of illness or aerial bombardment is available on Findmypast. Records here show that David died of beriberi, a disease caused by vitamin B1 deficiency, on 14 June 1943. He is buried in the Commonwealth war cemetery at Suniai Bridge Kanchanaburi, in Thailand. He had been captured on 15 January 1942 in Singapore.

The 1911 census shows Jane Morrison ANGELL living with her husband Sydney (sic), Eric’s father, plus two daughters at 54 Lancaster Road, Notting Hill. David of course was not born until 1917. Although David’s record card shows his place of residence was Pinner, the 1939 registration records show him living with his mother in Kensington. With them in the household is one closed record (perhaps one of his sisters?) and a lodger. David’s occupation was as a solicitor’s clerk, he would have been 22 at the time.

Interestingly probate was granted to a solicitor living in Pinner but no beneficiary was noted. Eric PERCIVAL was living at the same address as detailed on the POW Card so he could well have been a family connection. Finally there is a Memorial Book in West House Pinner which contains details of those killed in both the First and Second World Wars. This was compiled by the Pinner Association but David Morrison ANGELL is not noted there.

In Memory of

Private

David Morrison Angell

5952585, 5th Bn., Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment who died on 14 June 1943 Age 26

Remembered with Honour

Chungkai War Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

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A BRIEF HISTORY OF HAMPSTEAD

By Elizabeth Burling, Member No. 4992

In 974 a charter from King Edgar granted land at Hampstead to Mangoda, his 'faithful servant' and in 986 another from King Æthelred granted the same land to the Benedictine monks who were at the Abbey of St Peter, Westminster. The name 'Hampstead' comes from Anglo Saxon and means 'homestead' and there does seem to have been only one manor here. By 1086, when it was surveyed for the 1086 *Domesday Book*, there was only one farm and a handful of houses there. The Manor stayed in Westminster Abbey's hands until surrendered to King Henry VIII in 1539 at the dissolution of the monasteries. Records from these early days can still be seen. Many of the earliest ones are housed at Westminster Abbey Library and Muniment Room. These include financial accounts from 1272-1298, 1321-1322, 1353-1355, 1530-1531 and 1566-1569, court rolls 1295-1296 (copies of all the transfers of property and land, by sale or inheritance) and various 14th-16th century lists of rents. Also here is are lists of tenants for Belsize, a subordinate manor, dated 1600-1800. Other records of the Manor are at Cambridge University, Camden Local Studies & Archives, Dorset History Centre, London Metropolitan Archives and The National Archives.



The view across to the City of London from Parliament Fields, Hampstead Heath.

The Rolls of the Courts Baron in the Manor of Hampstead (1572-1674) have been translated from the Latin and are available for download from the Camden History Society. It is quite usual for manorial documents to be spread out like this – something to be aware of if you ever get your family tree back this far!

The first references to a church at Hampstead date from the early 14th century, when mention is made of a chapel dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary built to serve the Manor which then lay within the parish of Hendon. The creation of the parish of Hampstead is rather lost in the mists of time but is believed to have occurred around the late 15th century and it occupies roughly the same

area as that of the Manor and its lands. The parish is diamond shaped and measures about 2 miles in length and in breadth. The village of Hampstead itself is located some five miles from Charing Cross towards the middle of the parish on high ground which can be seen from London and it became a popular place for City visitors, with its clean fresh air.

At the northern corner of the parish, Hampstead Heath is on the summit of a hill which, at 443 feet above sea level, is one of the highest around London. There were chalybeate water springs coming off the Heath and a spa was constructed in Well Walk, with a pump room to let people benefit from taking the waters. Entertainments such as concerts, dances and comic turns were provided in a Great Room. These local attractions proved a popular day trip from London and a number of inns grew up to cater for these visitors. The Flask taverns are a case in point, both taking their names from the flasks of local water which were sold there. The Lower Flask in



The former Pump House in Well Walk.

Flask Walk catered for ordinary people. It was rebuilt in 1873 can be visited today. The Upper Flask was near the summit of Hampstead Hill in Heath Street and catered for a more affluent clientele. The famous Kit-Cat gentleman's club, who usually met at the Trumpet tavern in St Clement Danes parish, held their summer meetings at the Upper Flask. The building reverted to a private residence in the 1750s, being then known as Upper Bowling Green House. Other famous local pubs include Jack Straw's Castle, which is thought to be of 17th century origin and Spaniard's Inn, which was originally a tollgate inn with an attached pleasure garden on the Finchley boundary with Hampstead. The pub is now in the Borough of Barnet but the 1710 toll house opposite is in the Borough of Camden.

Apart from day-trippers, the wells and healthy air meant that some Londoners would lodge at Hampstead for the whole summer and gentlemen started building themselves large houses in the area, of which Fenton House and Kenwood, both now open to the public, are surviving examples. Fenton

House was built in about 1686 by William EADES but named after resident Philip FENTON, a Riga merchant whose family lived in the house from 1793 to 1834. There is an attached walled garden and a 300-year-old apple orchard. Kenwood (originally spelled Caen Wood) started life in 1616 as a brick house – quite a large one, as the 1665 Hearth Tax Assessment showed it had 24 hearths. The building was transformed for owner the Earl of Mansfield by Robert ADAM around 1770 into the white neoclassical villa we know today.

Regular stage-coach journeys from Hampstead to London were taking place from at least the early 18th century. The London & Birmingham Railway Company constructed a railway line through the parish from Euston in 1837, which passed under Primrose Hill in a tunnel, but the first service for local passengers was the North London Railway which opened Kilburn station (now Kilburn High Road station) in Belsize Road in 1852. A second station, Loudoun Road (now South Hampstead) opened in 1879 with further railway expansion and more stations in the parish following. Hampstead tube station opened in 1907 and its platforms, at 192 feet down, are the deepest in London.



The Lower Flask

Whilst other parts of the parish were developed, building on the Heath was resisted. Lord of the Manor Sir Thomas Maryon-Wilson tried to build on it in the mid-19th century but local people strongly objected, nevertheless he sold a patch to the Midland Railway Company for the extraction of sand and gravel. On his death the heath-land was bought from his estate by the Metropolitan Board of Works, who had a remit to preserve the natural appearance of the Heath. It was made public property following the Hampstead Heath Act of 1871 and gradually Parliament Hill fields, Golders Hill Park, the Heath extension and the grounds of Kenwood House were added to this common ground, which now contains some 800 acres of beautiful countryside rich in wildlife and available for Londoners to enjoy.

Our Parish Guide to the main records of Hampstead and where these can be found, whether they be original hard-copy records or on the internet, was published in July. See the yellow section of this journal for information on how to obtain a copy and to see the full range so far.

It would also be worth checking our website as the Members' Area has some useful transcriptions of early documents containing information about residents of Hampstead. You need to go to the website, which is at: <https://www.lwmfhs.org.uk/> then go find 'Members' Area' on the menu on the left-hand side. If this is your first time here, you need to register by clicking on 'Sign Up' but please note that only existing Society members may do this. Login as a member and then click on the 'Files' part of the menu on the left. From there click on 'Genealogy files' and then 'James Sanderson Collection'. James, Member No. 949 has donated a series of transcription which will be very useful finding aids. These include the following relating to St John Hampstead:

Hampstead Record Transcriptions	Date
1811 Census	1811
Burials	1788-1837
Overseer of the Poor accounts	1826-1837
Settlement examinations	1804-1814



West Surrey Family History Society
FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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CANCELLED

FOCUS ON FACEBOOK

By Elizabeth Burling, Member No. 4992

In May I posted the following: Perhaps quite pertinent in these times, on this day in 1980 smallpox was officially declared dead – the only disease humans have ever eradicated. Edward Jenner started the process by discovering in 1801 that vaccination with the similar but less serious disease cowpox gave protection against smallpox. This picture, from 1892, shows a boy with smallpox and his classmate who had been vaccinated to prevent the disease. The picture was a photograph of two boys, both of whom had smallpox but only one of whom had been vaccinated. This boy had 2 pox marks whereas the unvaccinated boy was covered in them, especially on his face and neck where there was no gap at all between the pustules.

Quite an interesting discussion followed. Julie pointed out that vaccination was used in parts of the world well before Jenner popularised it. She gave the example of Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, who advocated the use of smallpox inoculation in the early 1720s. She had seen it being used in Turkey when she went there with her husband, who was the British ambassador there. Lady Mary herself had been left badly scarred after she contracted smallpox in the UK and her brother had died of the disease. She was widely criticised for her views on vaccination and for having her children inoculated, although the approach did gain some traction among her friends. Julie provided a link to the Wellcome Library's informative blog post about this, which is worth a look: <http://blog.wellcomelibrary.org/2016/05/lady-montagu-and-the-introduction-of-inoculation/>

Andrew pointed out that rinderpest has also been eliminated. This was an infectious viral disease of cattle, closely related to the measles and canine distemper viruses, which was eradicated in 2001.

Rhoda said the photo was not one of smallpox but Pemphigus vulgaris (which is a rare autoimmune disease). This led to a discussion about whether the image was genuine or not. A search of the image of the boys showed that it is a genuine photograph that was taken in the early 1900s by Dr Allan Warner of the Isolation Hospital at Leicester. Warner photographed a number of smallpox patients in order to study the disease. The photograph is now in the collection at Dr Jenner's House and Museum in Gloucestershire. Lorna pointed out that the last case of smallpox in the UK was in 1978 and Sandra added that one of the people affected (and his family) was her ex father in law who was a senior lecturer at Birmingham medical school. There were a few more in the same place who were isolated because of it. She did

know not the circumstances of the outbreak as she had not met her former husband. It came out when her ex noticed that she had some smallpox scars on her body. As she only had it mildly in the 50s she didn't have a lot of scarring from it. She says that she was extremely lucky, because she had not been vaccinated. She confirmed that the image shown of the boy was actually smallpox.

This post about a virus went viral itself, being seen by over 16,500 people and shared 163 times.

28 June marked the anniversary of the 1801 census results being published. This was Britain's first census and so I put a post on the Facebook page. A census is an official head count of everyone in the country which was taken on one specific day and was taken to provide statistical information for the authorities. They record everyone who slept at each address on a particular Sunday (usually in March or April). Censuses are closed for 100 years but the historic censuses are very useful for family historians, with later ones giving the relationships in a household, ages and place of birth, apart from the names.

Lesley mentioned a relevant book she recommended: *The Butcher, The Baker, The Candlestick Maker: the story of Britain through its census since 1801* by Roger Hutchinson (Little, Brown, 2017). She said, "This is an excellent book on the evolution of the census. It's quite readable and helps explain some of the anomalies". Shirley added, "I've got this book and it's a jolly good read!".



ADVERTISING RATES

Advertising rates per issue of METROPOLITAN are as follows:

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Quarter Page £14, Eighth Page, £8.50

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

See inside front cover for address.

HANNAH MARIA GAYLER

By Dennis Galvin, Member No. 1046

My kin Hannah Maria GAYLER was born in 1855 and baptised at St Peter's Church, Ayot St Peter, Hertfordshire on the 11 February 1855. Her parents were James (gardener) and Emily GAYLER and they were to have a grand total of fifteen issue.

Hannah was on the 1861 village census age six. I next find her on the 1871 census (aged 16) at Hill Hall Farm, Ayot St Lawrence, Hertfordshire as a domestic. However, at some point after 1871 she became a nursemaid to the ailing vicar Reverend OLIVE and his wife at the Ayot St Lawrence rectory. Hannah seemed to have stayed there until the vicar died in 1874 and she may have stayed on to take care of Mrs OLIVE until the new much younger clergy arrived.

In 1881 Hannah was in service as a cook to Frederick GOODCHILD MRCS (Member of the Royal College of Surgeons) at 41 Regents Park Road, which of course was quite a grand address. Interestingly, next door at number 39 was the retired vicar of old St James Church (1791) Hampstead Road. This is where the St James, Piccadilly burials have been removed to facilitate the new Euston High Speed Rail Link (the church was demolished to expand Euston Station in 1958).

Come the 1891 census Hannah is a cook at the Tonbridge, Kent Preparatory School and then in 1901 still a cook, to Charles HIGGINS (Headmaster) and family, at a Church of England school in Petersfield, Hampshire. Finally, I find it really very pleasing that she has returned to her village of birth, Ayot St Peter, Herts and in service as a domestic to the vicar Henry JEPHSON.

Sadly, Hannah (who never married) died in 1916 age 61 at the village Post Office & Store on the green, which was run by the family (this was reported by the *Hertford Mercury* of March 1916) Hannah is buried in the old churchyard along with her parents.

Hannah Maria was named after her grandmother Hannah (my 3x great grandmother) and Maria after her aunt (my 2x great grandmother). I still have Hannah Maria's very large Victorian bible given to her and (signed accordingly by her father James) on the occasion of her 21st birthday in 1876

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 had a *Help!* published in METROPOLITAN in September 2019 and now have some more questions. From Alfred HAMILTON's birth certificate (dated 1912) is it possible to search who else was living at Jenny HAMILTON's address at 23 New Street, Vincent Square, Westminster? Also, on Alfredo REZZONICO's death certificate in 1935, it shows the person notifying as A. REZZONICO, son, of 32 Shirland Road, Kilburn. Could this be Alfred giving his middle name or a different son? Is it possible to search members of this household? Alfred/Roy always, as far as we know, lived in Chelsea or Westminster areas. I don't know how to search addresses except for census records as my knowledge is limited.

Sylvia Dearing, Member No. 8077

Email: dearjon@tiscali.co.uk

Note: 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 from their collection 1832-1932 are available to view in their Reading Room and online via Findmypast. Registers from the London Metropolitan Archives collection cover 1832-1965 and are available

online at Ancestry. Westminster Archives Centre holds various years from 1835-1996 and their collection is online at Findmypast.

Directories are a valuable source of information if you are searching for the address of an ancestor, especially if they were in business as these books were designed to help customers find trades people. Most archive centres have collections of directories you can look at and online, the University of Leicester Special Collections has various London and suburban directories available to view for free at: <http://specialcollections.le.ac.uk/cdm/landingpage/collection/p16445coll4> whilst pay-per-view website The Genealogist has some too.

Particularly for more recent addresses, telephone directories dating from 1880-1984 are held in the BT Archive at Holborn Telephone Exchange. The search room is usually open on Mondays and Tuesdays but you must book an appointment to visit. For more details visit their website at: <https://www.btplc.com/Thegroup/BTshistory/index.htm>
Digitised copies of the phone books are available to view on AUK.

REEVES/NEWSON/NEWTON

My main ancestor is Henry REEVES (1838-1907) [see article on page xxxx]. I would like to find out more about his wife, Mary Ann NEWSON or NEWTON, who was born in 1834 in Oulton, Suffolk and died in 1921 in Rotherhithe, Kent.

I would also like to find out more about their children and what happened to them. The information I have is as follows: Frank REEVES (born 1868 Lowestoft) married Alice in 1892 and moved to London; William REEVES (born 1869 Lowestoft), died 1922) married Louisa Hyde Fox in 1890; Edith Mary REEVES (born 1871 Lowestoft) married Alfred Thomas SHAW in 1886; Arthur REEVES (born 1872 Lowestoft) married Lucy and moved to London and finally Ellen Louise REEVES (born 1876 Newington) married John A F NEWMAN

Maureen D Copping, Member No. 7651

Email: maureencopping@yahoo.co.uk

Note: A really useful resource to help you find out more about your ancestors for free is FreeBMD. This is a database of the General Register Office (GRO) index of births, marriages and deaths. Here you

can easily confirm which year Arthur married Lucy and discover her surname too.

To do this, tick 'marriage', put Arthur's surname and first name into the appropriate boxes, type Lucy' into the 'spouse first name' box and let's guess he was married between 1892 (when he was 20) and 1902. Press 'find'. When you look at the search results, earlier entries will show the person's name (including second Christian names if they are there), the registration district and the volume and page number or the entry - these are needed if you want to buy the certificate. If you click on the page number, it will bring up a list of the people (usually only 2 couples) who were married at that place on that day and with any luck you will be able to see the name of the spouse there. (After 1911, the search page will automatically will give the surname of the spouse.)

So, continuing with the example of Arthur REEVES, only one record comes up in the search. This marriage happened in the Norwich Registration District in 1899 and by clicking on page number link, we can see that his wife was Lucy Maria SMITH.

If you can't find an expected marriage, you could try leaving out the first name, searching for the spouse instead, searching for a surname for one person combined with the first name of the other or any combination of these. By the way, if you click on the registration district, another window opens which tells you whereabouts it was which can be expanded further by clicking on the 'here' link to give more detailed information about which areas where there.

FreeBMD can be found at: <https://www.freebmd.org.uk/>



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.

LOCKDOWN NEWS

The National Archives reopened on Tuesday 21 July, running a limited service with visits having to be booked at least a week in advance. The booking system will be made available two weeks before the date of the visit, on a rolling weekly basis every Monday morning. They will continue to provide free downloads of digital records on their website for the time being.

London Metropolitan Archives will be opening from Monday 7 September on a pre-booked basis for access to original documents only. The public computers will not be available and social distancing measures have been put in place. Details of how to book and opening times are available on LMA's website.

Although Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre is currently closed due to the epidemic and its collections are currently inaccessible, the team continue to answer written and telephone enquiries, using their electronic catalogue and digital copies of materials. The current telephone number for enquiries is: 02079743860; email address is: localstudies@camden.gov.uk. Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre have a wide range of short talks, podcasts, sound recordings, video recordings, images and articles relating to aspects of Camden history that can be enjoyed on their web site here: <https://www.camden.gov.uk/local-history-exhibitions-and-events>

Most other archive centres seem to be opening, at least in a restricted way, in September but please make sure you check before you set out to visit one.

In order to keep receiving your copy of METROPOLITAN
you need to have renewed your subscription to LWMFHS
for 2020-2021

Our Society's year ends on 30 September 2020
and members are reminded that **subscriptions are due
by 1 October 2020**

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

AIMS OF THE SOCIETY

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

SUBSCRIPTIONS

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

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

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

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

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

£15 UK: to receive METROPOLITAN by post

£20 Overseas: to receive METROPOLITAN by airmail post

PAYMENT BY UK MEMBERS

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

PAYMENT BY OVERSEAS MEMBERS

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

CANADA: Canadian Postal Money Orders cannot be accepted.

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

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

PAYMENT BY PAYPAL

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

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

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

MEMBERS' DATA

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

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

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

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

HAMPSTEAD

The Chalybeate Well, Well Walk



TO THE MEMORY of the HON^{ble} SUSANNA NOEL who with
her son BAPTIST 3rd EARL of GAINSBOROUGH gave this
well together with 6 ACRES of LAND to the use and
BENEFIT of the POOR of HAMPSTEAD 20th DEC 1698.

Drink Traveller and with Strength renewed Let a kind Thought be given
To Her who has thy thirst subdued. Then render Thanks to Heaven.

See page 171 of this journal