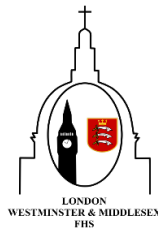


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METROPOLITAN

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LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX
Family History Society



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Cover picture: The annual Christmas Eve candle lighting ceremony in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission plot on Rottumeroog island.

See page 16.

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EDITORIAL

Many of us will be eagerly awaiting the online release of the 1921 census, which will happen on 6 January 2022 on the Findmypast platform. Taken between two world wars during a period of economic turmoil and at a time when women had just won the right to vote, the 1921 Census will provide some fascinating insights about society and how it has evolved over the past 100 years. In preparation for the online publication, hundreds of Findmypast conservators, technicians and transcribers have worked for almost three years to complete the invaluable task of getting the census ready. It is the largest project ever completed by The National Archives and Findmypast, consisting of more than 30,000 bound volumes of original documents stored on 1.6 linear kilometres of shelving. There will be an extra charge to view images but these will be free to see at The National Archives at Kew. You can find out more about it at our Virtual Branch meeting on 10 February.

Those members with police ancestors who enjoyed the talk given by Anthony Marr on the subject of Victorian crime, police and criminals at our Virtual Branch in October will no doubt also enjoy the article on page 10 about the most northerly of the Metropolitan Police Stations at South Mimms.

As we come to the end of 2021 we would like to thank all who have contributed to *Metropolitan* over this last year. We look forward to receiving more articles, letters, snippets and jottings from you in 2022. Don't forget, you can also send in *Help!* requests if you have a research problem and your members' interests. Meanwhile, we do hope you enjoy the variety of articles in this edition of *Metropolitan*.

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

The Editorial Team

NEXT COPY DATE

Please remember that the copy date for the next issue of *Metropolitan* is
1 February 2022

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

I think that most of us are waiting for the release of the detailed 1921 Census for England and Wales early in 2022. A strange feature is that instead of the original date of 24 April it was delayed to 19 June 1921. This was because the Government feared that there was going to be a General Strike and consequently a State of Emergency. In Scotland this did not apply so it was held in April.

In the whole of Ireland there was no census. This was because there was a guerilla war with the IRA (the Troubles) so it was too dangerous for any official of the British Government to travel anywhere in the island of Ireland. In Southern Ireland there was eventually a census in 1926.

The problem for the Government was that during the 1914-18 war they had taken over the control of the coal mines and maintained the levels of the miners' wages. Then on 31 March 1921 they handed back control to the mine owners who immediately demanded wage cuts. This precipitated a call for a strike of not only the miners but also of the railway men and the General Transport workers invoking a Triple Alliance agreement with their unions. This was almost a General Strike until 15 April when on 'Black Friday' the other unions decided that it was in their members' interests to return to work. This was on the grounds that they had no dispute with their employers since they had gained considerable increases in pay in 1919. The deserted miners hung on until 28 June when they had to accept the wage cuts.

In the Irish dispute there was a truce agreed between the IRA and the British Government on 9 July followed by complex negotiations until a treaty was signed on 6 December. This formed an autonomous Irish Free State of 26 Counties with a Dominion Status, with 6 counties of most of Ulster forming Northern Ireland that remained part of the United Kingdom. There was then violent disagreement over these terms between two wings of the IRA which developed into a vicious and disruptive civil war in the Irish Free State until April 1923.

In Britain although the census year was very turbulent, with many strikes, it was followed by the reasonably peaceful years of 1922 and 1923.

Tony Allen

Reference:

English History 1914-1945 by A.J.P. Taylor, (Pelican Books, 1975)

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

I would like to ask for help and/or advice from the London Westminster & Middlesex Family History Society. I am helping a group in Belgium who would like to build a memorial to the crew of a Lancaster bomber that crashed in their village in 1944. The group has photographs for the memorial of all members of the crew except one man.

This man, Reginald Ivor Havard ('Ivor') DAVIES, was a relative of my wife. I have loads of information about this man's family history, his employment with the Metropolitan Police before he joined the RAF and a great detail about his last bombing mission but we cannot find a photograph that could be put into/on the proposed memorial, either within the immediate or expanded family (found through researching the man), on the internet, or in his RAF service file. The RAF Museum and the Imperial war Museum have been unable to help. I have searched online newspaper archives to no avail. The Metropolitan Police have promised to help once their project to digitize their archives finishes in a year or two but this will be too late for the memorial. I was wondering if any of your society members might know of, or have access to, other potential sources of records that might produce a photo.

Details of Reginald Ivor Havard ('Ivor') DAVIES are as follows: He was born on 18 August 1903 in Bowes Park, Edmonton, Middlesex. His parents were John Havard DAVIES (1868–1955) and Maria Jane GILBERT (c1860–?). He was baptized on 8 November 1903 at St Michael-at-Bowes, Southgate. In the 1911 census, he was living at 69b Grand Parade, Green Lanes, Tottenham, with his mother and two siblings. His father remarried in 1922 to Harriett Gertrude BATEY and in September 1939 they were still living at 69b Grand Parade.

Ivor married Helen Maud PALMER (1904–1989) on 19 January 1929 in Harringay. In September 1939, they were living at 138 High Street, Teddington. Helen later remarried. I haven't found any children for Ivor, and his widow's children from a subsequent marriage haven't found any photos. Prior to joining the RAF, Ivor was a CID Detective Sergeant with the Metropolitan Police (T Division, Hammersmith; warrant number 117663), which he joined on 4 June 1928. His police record shows that had received several commendations, and that he left their service the day he died on that RAF mission.

In the RAF, his Service Number was 156998, RAFVR. He was an air gunner and he and his fellow aircrew took off in Lancaster III ND745 of 115

Squadron, at 22:59 hours on 23 May 1944 from RAF Witchford in Cambridgeshire, for an operation against Dortmund in Germany. After the mission, the homeward-bound aircraft was intercepted and shot down by night fighter pilot Oberleutnant Hans-Heinz AUGENSTEIN of the 12/NJG 1, who was flying a Bf 110 G-4 from St Trond (Sint-Truiden) airfield, about 60 miles away. The plane crashed in Zondereigen. Four crewmen baled out but were captured and became prisoners-of-war; the remaining three, including Ivor, perished in or just before the crash. Ivor had only just been promoted to Flying Officer earlier that month on 5 May 1944. He'd previously been made a Sergeant in the RAF in November 1943.

Any help or advice would be most appreciated. Thank you.

John Wynne, Non-member

Email: johnwynne2004@btinternet.com

In *Metropolitan* Volume 7 Number 2 (169) March 2021 pages 88-89, 'Miss Asgill's Minuet' I asked for help identifying a location in Broadstairs, Kent. A reader has kindly let me know that it seems likely that this was Barfield House or Barfield Library in Broadstairs.

There seems to be some confusion between Barfield Library and Barfield House. Barfield Library (today Nos 16-18, the Prezzo Italian restaurant, formerly Marchesi's) was opened by London-born Robert BARFIELD in around 1796. The *Margate Guide* (1797) states: 'Barfield Library fronts the Rose Inn and from the back windows commands a fine view of the ocean, the Downs and French coast' and the *New Margate, Ramsgate and Broadstairs Guide* (1801) describes Barfield's Library as being opposite the Rose Inn and 'desirably situated for business' with 'a good collection of books and is well furnished with stationary [sic], toys &c; the library and reading room front the sea ...' This is where the magnificent balls would have been held. The Rose Inn was on the corner of Thanet Road, now the Reign Bar and Restaurant.

BARFIELD retired in about 1820 and moved to a house a little further down the road, now known as Barfield House. The man who took over the library on Barfield's retirement was David BARNES who operated seawater baths near Broadstairs Harbour. By 1839 BARNES had sold his harbour baths and opened luxurious new ones in the basement of the library in Albion Street, known as Barnes Library. An advertisement for May 1859 reads: 'The Bathing Establishment comprises Five Bath Rooms, with three Marble Baths; two Shower Baths, Vapour Bath, Boiler Room, Engine Room with a one-horse power Steam Engine, Pump, Reservoir and Plant.' Upstairs were

reading rooms, a ballroom, lounges. Dances were held and raffles and games were popular.’

I am delighted to now have this information! Barfield Library would have been brand new when ASGILL had dinner there in 1802!

Anne Ammundsen, Member No. 8207



GREAT GREAT GRANDPARENTS

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

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

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

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

George **CLEMENTS** c1808-1884 Shiplake OXF and Mary **WAGSTAFF** 1805-? Badby NTH

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

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

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

Contact Elizabeth Carter Member No. 5736 for the above revised set of great great grandparents. SIMMONDS has been changed to CLEMENTS due to new DNA evidence. Email: membersinterests@lwmfhs.org.uk

HAVE YOU CHANGED YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS?

Please make sure you let Sylvia know by emailing your new address to:

membership@lwmfhs.org.uk

ST ANDREW'S CHURCHES AT KINGSBURY

Kingsbury was historically a rural parish and early landowners used farmed produce and tenants' rents for the benefit of Westminster Abbey, Clerkenwell Priory and All Souls College in Oxford rather than to improve the parish. The old church of St Andrew dates from the 12th or 13th century and is believed to be the oldest standing building in the London Borough of Brent. It probably stands on the site of an earlier Saxon church and some Roman bricks were reused in its construction. For centuries it was the centre of life in this quiet parish, marking the lives of parishioners with baptisms, marriages and burials.



The old church of St Andrew, Kingsbury is surrounded by the parish burial ground.

Meanwhile, land in the metropolitan parish of St Marylebone, some 7.5 miles (12 kilometres) to the south-east started to be developed after John HOLLES, Duke of Newcastle, bought the manor in 1710. Cavendish Square was laid out in 1717 with Baker Street, the Portland Estate and the squares of Portman, Manchester, Bryanston and Montagu soon following.

As people moved in to these estates, new churches had to be built to cater for them. These included (in chronological order): Oxford Chapel, Vere Street in 1724, Portland Chapel, Great Portland Street in 1764, Portman Chapel, Portman Square in 1779, Quebec Chapel, Bryanston Street in 1788, St John's Church, St John's Wood in 1814, All Souls, Langham Place in 1824, St Mary, Bryanston Square in 1824, Christ Church, Cosway Street in 1825, Holy Trinity, Marylebone Road in 1828, St Paul's Chapel, Rossmore Road in 1837, St Andrew, Wells Street in 1846, St Mark, Hamilton Terrace in 1847, All Saints, Margaret Street in 1849, St Luke, Nutford Place in 1849, St Stephen the Martyr, Avenue Road in 1849, St Matthew, Maida Hill in 1853, St Thomas, Portman Square in 1858, St Barnabas, Bell Street in 1865, St Cyprian, Clarence Gate in 1866, St Mark, Marylebone Road in 1871, and Emmanuel Church, Maida Hill in 1876.

The population in Kingsbury also increased during this time but at a much slower rate and eventually the ancient church became too small. So in 1884 a new church, was built about a mile (1.5 kilometres) further north on land

donated by All Souls College. This church, dedicated to Holy Innocents, became the parish church for Kingsbury.



Holy Innocents church.

All of the parish records of St Andrew were supposed to be transferred to the new church and

registers in the Holy Innocents' parish chest date from 1732, which obviously does include events from the old church. St Andrew was turned into a chapel of ease, subsequently being known as the Consolidated Chapelry of Neasden-cum-Kingsbury. Since 2012 the building has been used by the Romanian Orthodox Church.

Back in Marylebone, the church of St Andrew, Wells Street had become one of London's best known and most fashionable churches. Its elegant exterior had been designed by Samuel Whitfield DAUKES and inside was the richest and most opulent collection of Victorian church fittings in existence, including an altar designed by Augustus Welby Northmore PUGIN. The church was renowned for its music and had its own purpose-built choir school next door for 24 choristers. Charles GOUNOD, French composer, visited the church to hear music that he had specially composed for St Andrew's. In 1902, the church choir under master Frank DOCKER became the first English choir to record a gramophone record. Other recordings were made in 1908, 1909 and 1911, some of which can still be enjoyed on YouTube. However, the church of All Saints had been built nearby in 1849 and was a similar high-church institution, described by art historian Roy STRONG as 'one of the great monuments of Victorian church art, arguably William BUTTERFIELD's masterpiece' Unfortunately, there were not enough people to fill both churches and St Andrew closed in 1932.

However, despite become redundant to needs in central London, the church and its Victorian Gothic interior in particular was deemed worthy of saving.

Kingsbury started to be developed after the Metropolitan Railway Company bought up most of the Chalkhill Estate in 1919 and constructed an estate of large houses on it. The growing population here meant there was a need for a new church and there was space next to the ancient St Andrew's church. The stones of St Andrew, Wells Street, were numbered and the building was carefully demolished and rebuilt in Old Church Lane, Kingsbury, next to the old St Andrew's there. A new parish of St Andrew was consecrated in 1934.



St Andrew, formerly of Wells Street, now at Kingsbury, seen from the back.

Records of baptism and marriage dating from 1847-1931, when the church was at Marylebone, are at LMA, Ref: P89/AND, as expected. However, whilst baptisms in the collection of the church at Kingsbury (LMA Ref: DRO/028) date from 1932, marriage and burial records date from long before the new parish was created: marriages start in 1886 and burials in 1879. It appears that these older events took place in the Chapelry of Neasden-cum-Kingsbury (old St Andrew church) – you can see that the burials follow directly on in 1879. The registers should have been transferred to Holy Innocents but clearly were not.

Sources:

LWMFHS Parish Guides: A Guide to the Records of Kingsbury compiled by Elizabeth Burling (LWMFHS, July 2021)

<https://www.recordedchurchmusic.org/first-choir-to-record>

<https://www.standrewnskingsbury.org.uk/music-at-st-andrews/the-organ/>

<https://asms.uk/history/introduction/>



SOUTH MIMMS POLICE STATION

By David Swinden, Member No. 8401

The parish of South Mimms was added to the Metropolitan Police in 1840. A police station which consisted of a brick and tile house with stable was initially rented from Mr Edward WHALLEY for £11 per year and was brought into service in 1844 on 'S' Division. This was located near to the



South Mimms Police Station, 1871-2000, Old St Albans Road, South Mimms

toll gate in South Mimms and a sergeant was placed in charge. It was prudent to situate stations near turnpikes and toll houses since patrolling constables could obtain useful information and intelligence on crime which may have been committed on passers-by. The toll house keepers would also inform the police of people who evaded paying the toll. Local residents resented paying the toll and often got into trouble.

Prior to occupation, repairs were made as the accommodation was in a sad state. The freehold to the building and land in Old St Albans Road was purchased in 1846. The station (now called Blackhorse Lane) consisted of

four rooms with a charge room, a coal shed, a little garden and a small stable and opened in 1847. As was the norm, there was one substantive sergeant and one acting sergeant posted to the station. The sergeant on horse-back would be attached to the night duty where he would supervise the seven night duty constables. There were two horses attached to the station with the other horse being used by the reserve constable.

The station was small and so there was only sufficient space for one set of married quarters when it was rebuilt in 1870. Rent of 3/3d (16p) per week was charged to the married officer in 1871. Sub Inspector (warrant number 48679) Lewis SKEATS and his wife Mary resided at the station in 1891. SKEATS had joined the police in 1867 and by 1885 was an inspector on the 'S' or Hampstead division. He retired in 1892 on pension. In 1899 James WHELLER was the station sergeant in charge with two acting sergeants, one section sergeant and eleven constables. Inspector Frederick LEGGATT, aged 45 years, his wife, son and three daughters lived at the station in 1901.

In 1905 a further set of four cottages was purchased for accommodation in the High Road, South Mimms. In the 1920s the station call sign changed to Sierra Mike (SM) and was a sectional police station of Barnet.



Station Sergeant William Baker
circa 1919

The picture at right shows a rather stern looking Station Sergeant 84 'S' William BAKER (warrant number 77760) posing in the garden of the station. He was the officer who

was in charge of South Mimms Police Station between 1912 and 1919. BAKER, from Woodford in Essex, had joined as Constable 226 'W' division in June 1892 and by 1901 he was still a Constable located in Southwark. He had decided to take promotion to better himself, soon progressed to Sergeant and then to Station Sergeant at South Mimms. By 1911, BAKER, then aged 43 years, his wife Mary and his son John William BAKER, occupied four rooms at the station. It was likely that there were about seven constables attached to the station for whom he had responsibility. He retired with an exemplary record aged 51 years in January 1919 (once the war had finished) with 27 years' service and annual pension of £121 15 shillings. He lived to a ripe old age and died, aged 79 years, in 1948.



A picture of South Mimms Station taken in 1894.

In 1925 sergeants Leonard WORTH, Frederick JARDINE and Charles HAINES were shown to be based at South Mimms and were assisted by nine constables. The station was further renovated in 1938. Records show that the station was situated in the Old St Albans Road, South Mimms, Hertfordshire in 1947.

The station was transferred in 2000 to Hertfordshire Police who decided to shut it down and put it up for sale. In the meantime the buildings of this famous old station deteriorated into a very sad state of repair. The property was sold and is currently privately owned and is now residential /business premises.



South Mimms former Police Station in 2021.

The information in this article has been extracted from the new book by A Moss, D Swinden and P Kennison. *Behind the Blue Lamp. Scotland Yard Police Stations 1829-2020*, (2020, Mango Books. London). This new book brings together three earlier books published between 2003 and 2014, which have been updated and a lot more material added. The book is in A4 size and has over 500 pages. It covers the whole of the Metropolitan Police Area and describes each of the police stations from 1829-2020, together with details of the police officers who worked at the stations. The paperback copy of the new book costs £25 and is being sold online by the publisher Mango Books here: <https://mangobooks.co.uk/>

Those with ancestors in the South Mimms area might be interested to know that our Parish Guide to South Mimms (which includes the areas of Bentley Heath, Kitts End, Potters Bar and parts of Chipping or High Barnet) was published on 1 November 2021.

WEBSITE NEWS

British Newspaper Archive

The British Newspaper Archive and the British Library have been working together over the past decade to provide the largest online collection of British newspapers and this partnership has now been extended.

The systematic collection of newspapers, which was for tax purposes, began in 1822. These papers were then passed on to the British Museum and they are now all held in the British Library Newspaper Collections. Some earlier newspapers are also available here such as those in the Burnley Collection, which consists of 700 bound volumes of newspapers dating from 1603 to 1817, collected by the Revd Dr Charles BURNEY (1757-1817) and the Thomason Collection of Civil War tracts, collected by George THOMASON, a bookseller based in St Paul's Churchyard who died in 1666. From 1869 newspapers were included in legal deposit legislation and deposited directly with the Museum. The newspapers were later kept in a special repository at Colindale which opened in 1932. Unfortunately, the building was hit by a bomb in the Second World War and the subsequent fire destroyed some papers dated between 1880 and 1918, including local, county and daily papers, so there may be gaps in coverage. In 2013 the original newspapers were moved to the National Newspaper Building at Boston Spa, West Yorkshire, where they form the British Library Newspaper Collection. Hard copy newspapers can usually be ordered to view at the British Library Newsroom at 96 Euston Road, St Pancras, London NW1 2DB (with several days' notice) but if too fragile they will not be produced. Whether a newspaper is fit to be produced is mentioned in the online catalogue, here: <http://www.bl.uk/reshelp/findhelprestype/catblhold/all/allcat.html>

The British Newspaper Archive now hosts over 46 million pages in total, with a remit that extends beyond Britain and Ireland to cover, for example, Jamaica, India and New Zealand. Alongside regional weekly newspapers, and national dailies, sit specialist sporting, religious, political, cinema and fashion titles, all bringing history to life and telling stories from the past, which otherwise might have been lost forever. The collection is gradually being digitised and is available to see online for a fee at the British Newspaper Archive and on Findmypast. These websites can be viewed for free in the Reading Room at St Pancras.

Some 3.7 million pages are now being made free to view, with the first million pages becoming available in August 2021. These first pages are from 150 titles and span the years 1720-1880. They include London papers the

Morning Chronicle, a Liberal daily paper founded in 1770 and published until 1865, the *Morning Herald*, published from 1780-1869, *Baldwin's London Weekly Journal* 1803-1836, *Express (London)* 1846-1869, *London Dispatch* 1836-1839, *National Register (London)* 1806-1823, *The News (London)* 1805-1839, *Press (London)* 1853-1866, *St James Chronicle* 1801-1866, *Star (London)* 1801-1839, *Statesman (London)* 1806-1824, *Sun (London)* 1801-1871, *Weekly Chronicle (London)* 1836-1867, *Westminster Journal and Old British Spy* 1805-1810. To access these pages, which can be downloaded, you need to register for a free account here: <https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/account/register>

Lost London Churches Project

The aim of this project is to promote interest in the ancient church buildings and parishes of the City of London.

The loss of the City churches happened in three waves: the Great Fire of 1666 destroyed 87 churches of which 51 were rebuilt under the direction of Sir Christopher WREN; the Union of Benefices Act of 1860 that sought to combine parishes and lastly, bombing during the Blitz of the Second World War damaged many churches although most were painstakingly restored. 48 churches survive today within or near the boundaries of the City of London. Details of the City churches and their parishes can be seen on this website alongside further information and walks. The project also has collector's cards, collector's book and map available for purchase.

If you want to be more involved, then why not join the Friends of the City Churches Charity which is an architectural heritage charity dedicated to preserving the churches found within the City of London. See their website www.london-city-churches.org.uk for more information about the City churches, their opening hours and events.

The Lost London Churches website is at: www.lostlcp.com

FamilySearch

FamilySearch has completed digitizing the 2.4 million rolls of microfilm it has taken from worldwide genealogical records since it began filming in 1938. Its 335,000 microfiches are currently being digitised too. This does not mean, however, that they will all be available to view online. While the majority are broadly accessible, some will have varying degrees of access limitations governed by contractual agreements or other restraints. Where access limitations exist, most will be available through FamilySearch centres.

WILLIAM GUSTAVE BARRETT

We were contacted through our Society's website by Willem de Jong, the historian of the village of Menaam which is in the province of Friesland in the Netherlands. He was enquiring about RAF Flying Officer William Gustave BARRETT whose plane was shot down on 8 November 1942. William was navigator with No. 76 'Blue Lion' Squadron Handley Page Halifax Mark II bomber DT550. This Squadron was initially formed in 1916 for home defence duties, was disbanded in 1919 but was reformed in 1937. The 7-man crew of DT550 was on its second combat operation when the plane was shot down by German (Kriegsmarine) radar guided anti-aircraft fire over Rottumeroog, a small sandbar in the Wadden Sea, just north of Gronigen province.



The remains of the plane DT550 are still displayed at Schiermonnikoog village, the nearest to the crash site.

The crew had been led by pilot George G SAWATZKY and also included Edward H SEARES, John McGAUCHIE, Clarence B FINLEY, Ronald HG BOWKETT and Terence A KEECH, as well as William G BARRETT. Three of the crew were buried first at Rottumeroog island in a temporary wartime grave in the sand dunes there, while another was buried on the next island of Borkum, which is actually German territory. All four were later exhumed and reburied on the mainland (three at Oldebroek village in the Netherlands and one in the Sage War Cemetery in north-west Germany. William was 'missing in action', so probably had a sailor's grave in the sea.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) entry for William states that he was the son of William Gustave BARRETT and Eva Elizabeth BARRETT of Southgate, Middlesex. He is remembered on the Runnymede Memorial, Surrey and also on the International Bomber Command Centre memorial at Canwick Hill, Lincoln.

Willem was wondering whether William was also remembered on a memorial local to Southgate or perhaps on his parents' tombstone. Of course, anyone interested in family history knows how hard it is to find burial places and monumental inscriptions, as there is no central record of these things. Willem was also interested in finding out more information about William's family, such as his mother's maiden name. That was something we could definitely help with!



The site of the temporary graves of the crew on Rottumerooig island.

The first place we looked was the 1939 Register. There, at 7 Chandos Avenue, Southgate, was Eva E BARRETT (born 18 July 1884), William G BARRETT (born 2 April 1914, a bank clerk), Betty BARRETT (born 1919, a sales assistant) plus Ivy W BARLOW (born 1898, also a bank clerk) and Arthur E FICKEN (born 1892, a Customs and Excise Officer).

Now we had William's birth year, we checked the General Register Office births index. This told us that he was registered in Hackney and that his mother's maiden name was BARLOW. We found a brother, Derek Ray BARRETT born in 1912 and his sister Betty Barlow BARRETT, who was born in 1919, both also in Hackney.

The fact that Eva had the surname BARLOW meant it was quite easy to find her marriage: Eva Elizabeth BARLOW age 29, spinster of 22 Alexandra

Villas, daughter of Richard BARLOW, (deceased Sergeant Major) married Frederick Gustave BARRETT, bachelor aged 33, Accountant of 22 Alexandra Villas, son of William BARRETT (deceased Sugar Broker) at St John the Evangelist, Hackney on 9 September 1911. Witnesses were G BARLOW and Rose Christine BARRETT.

This showed a discrepancy with the CWGC, which had William's father as William. However, the CWGC information does seem to be incorrect as the 1911 Census returns also show him as Frederick Gustave BARRETT aged 32, accountant, born Barnsbury (Islington) and Eva Elizabeth BARLOW, visitor aged 28, born St Helena (but resident in this country) at 22 Alexandra Villas, Finsbury Park (together with three German people, John and Meta SCHUMMER and Augusta GIETZCIA). Probate records confirm Frederick's name: Frederick Gustave BARRETT of 22 Alexandra Villas, Finsbury Park, died on 19 September 1929 and administration was granted on 17 September to Eva Elizabeth BARRETT, his widow.

LWMFHS member Eileen Bostle, who knows perhaps more than any of us about Southgate war memorials, went over to Southgate on the Sunday in the hope of taking a photo of William BARRETT on the memorial in the Garden of Remembrance in Broomfield Park which is to all those from Southgate who died in the two World Wars, but his name is not there. She has previously found that the list isn't complete - perhaps not surprising in the circumstances of war. She also checked the war memorials that are online of schools that William might have gone to - Southgate County, Enfield County, Latymer (Edmonton) and Trinity (Wood Green) but his name isn't on any of those, or the memorial of Minchenden School in Southgate, Chandos Avenue, where William was on the 1939 Register, is almost certainly in the parish of Christ Church, Southgate but he is not on the large memorial in the church either.

We sent this information to Willem who was very happy with it and he in turn sent us pictures, some of which are included in this article, and the link to several YouTube videos. The first one, *Expeditie Rottumeroog*, shows the island as it is today, as a UNESCO listed wildlife area for seabirds and seals in particular. In November 1942 it was occupied by a German naval station for anti-aircraft-guns with searchlights and even radar. The 6-minute video gives viewers an impression of the area in which the aircraft fell and can be seen here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ot2nvq-olfY>

The second is about Schiermonnikoog island (which is to the west of the crash site on Rottumeroog island). This island has the only village on the archipelago and has many relics of the war, including the remains of William's plane: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J6yHN0Yqcsk>

The third is filmed at Bergen General Cemetery, the Commonwealth Plot of Honour, during the yearly Christmas Eve Candle Lighting ceremony. This is one of the more than 400 graveyards, cemeteries and churchyards which are located all around the Netherlands where every year people are bringing 'light in the darkness' to such war graves. As Willem says, 'What else can we do more for them, on their graves ?' You can see this ceremony here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JxZ9UZXSsync>

Willem added, 'And while watching all this 'stuff' - if you can find some time for it - now you might understand maybe a little bit, what is driving me and other researchers in the Netherlands to find out about all those brave Allied airmen lost, missing, injured, killed and/or taken prisoner who may be buried here in Friesland, on the Friesian islands too.'



The annual Christmas Eve lighting ceremony at Oldebroek cemetery, where three of the crew are buried.

Willem would love to find a photo of William Gustave BARRETT. Do please contact the Editors if you can help with this.

THE WASHING UP CAN WAIT

By Sally Cox, Member No. 7527

What is the point of decades spent researching your ancestors and traipsing round graveyards if all you leave for grandchildren are files of untidy notes? Such was my thinking when in March 2020, keen to get down my discoveries before Covid got me, I emailed author Gill Blanchard. Her on-line Writing Your Family History course consists of three 12-week modules. I did all three but you don't have to; each module contains all you need including advice on how to publish. There are writing exercises, Zoom discussions and live on-line chats plus analysis of fellow students' and professional historians' work.

'The very first step is to accept your research will never be finished,' Gill told us. 'The simplest way to start writing is to decide to work on what you know regardless of what is left to be done.' Indeed, when to stop researching is one of the biggest problems family historians face, as there will always be unanswered questions. The best family histories tell a story and the dull ones simply regurgitate names and dates. Gill exhorted us to make time for writing and be selfish as 'the washing up can wait'.

From the outset, we were expected to make a plan. I chose to write my maternal grandmother's biography (1899-1983) but hadn't a clue as to structure. For students wanting to cover rather more ancestors, Gill suggested possible formats, for example, they could write a single line of descent history or write about one or both sets of grandparents.

We soon learnt that less is more. Mention every sister, brother, auntie and nephew and readers lose track, particularly when there are innumerable Thomases and Johns. It's better to be selective; you can show the full tally of siblings on a separate tree. To minimise repetition, we practised how to say the same thing in different ways e.g. - the first son was born, their second boy entered the world, a third male child was delivered safely. We learnt how to put meat on the bones. No one's forefathers are dull if you imbue their lives with social context and inject life into your scenes.

For one exercise we had to show how an event might have affected our ancestors' lives. I chose the opening of Ruislip Lido in 1936, which inspired a successful piece on the 1930s lido movement, the era that very likely turned my grandma into a lifelong water baby and sun-worshipper.

Another excellent exercise showed us how to write about anomalies – instances where we didn't know what had happened so were obliged to speculate.

I toyed with fictionalising Grandma's life – a controversial practice. In the end I decided against it. Gill showed us ways in which biographers can be creative without making things up. She dissuaded us from using 'would have' and 'must have' as in 'Grandma must have been heartbroken when her new husband walked out'. 'You weren't there. How do you know?' was her reasoning. 'Perhaps she only married him because her parents forced her.' We learnt to make it clear which things we knew for certain and which were conjecture.

One of the most helpful tips was how to create timelines. These are box grids with the year date in the left-hand column. Fill in parallel columns with your ancestor's personal circumstances that year, and what was happening nationally and locally, and it's easy to track them through time. Another useful trick was using contemporary writers to give work authenticity and historical context. My great-grandmother was in service from 1891-97, so I quoted from the digitised diary of middle-class matron Marion SAMBOURNE (1851-1914) to show the employer's side. I used detail from *The Maid's Tale* by Rose PLUMMER (born 1910) to show what life below stairs was like. Critiquing each other's work, we were advised to be 'fierce friends' and use the 'praise sandwich': we began with what we'd enjoyed; suggested improvements and raised queries; then ended on a positive note.

Little by little, and not in any logical order, I amassed a body of work and hey presto, a structure emerged. I decided to divide my chapters according to where Grandma was living at the time: north Devon roots, south Devon period, London from 1925 to 1939, then back to south Devon where she ended her days. Have I finished my book? No. Am I well on the way? You bet. I can't think of a more absorbing lockdown project and plan to meet my new Zoom friends in person this month. I would recommend Gill's course to novices and professional writers alike, not least because it gives you deadlines. It's still hard to let the washing up wait.

Gill Blanchard is a professional genealogist, house historian and lecturer with 30 years' experience. A qualified adult education tutor, she has written several books. To find out more about Gill's courses, which were advertised in *Metropolitan* in June 2016, visit: <https://www.pastsearch.co.uk/>

ROYAL VICTORIA MILITARY HOSPITAL

By Dennis Galvin, Member No. 1046

Its Tommy this and Tommy that
And Tommy go away
But its hello Mr Atkins
When the band begins to play!

(Rudyard Kipling)

In response to member Alan Baldwin's article (*Metropolitan* 171) regarding my three month's (1952) stay in the fever ward at the Cambridge Military Hospital, Aldershot, I am quite sure Alan (RAMC) would have been involved in testing all our blood samples which were taken four times a week (little did he realise this could have been an early opportunity to carry out family history DNA!). We patients had to swallow a small glass of a kind of very thick aspirin every morning!



Royal Victoria Military Hospital (1865-1966) Netley.

Upon leaving the Cambridge I was taken by RAMC ambulance to the Army's convalescent hospital, the Royal Victoria Military Hospital at Netley, near Southampton. This was overlooking the Solent so it was great seeing all the big liners going up to Southampton Docks.

Queen Victoria laid the hospital foundation stone on the 19 May 1856 and indeed she visited the hospital from Osborne House on the Isle Wight 20 times during her reign. However, it wasn't ready for business until 1863 - so all Florence Nightingale's magnificent work finally paid off although she did make the comment that "it was 50 years too late"! Some of the Crimean War (1854-56) servicemen may have been patients if they were still suffering. The Queen actually presented three Victoria Crosses to soldiers at the hospital.



Remembrance Day November 1952 (the author is on the extreme right).

The hospital was the biggest in the world at a quarter of a mile long, it had its own post office, sorting office, laundry, gas works and electricity generating station and got really busy when the Boer War started when men came straight in by ship - it also had its own railway station. During the First World War the Red Cross built an additional hutted hospital which took a further 1,000 beds. The hospital was given over to the United States forces in 1944 when they are said to have used a jeep to get along the long corridors. 27,000 American servicemen were treated there and perhaps, not so well known 10,000 German P.O.Ws.

I spent a happy three months there in 1952 when it was being used as an army convalescent hospital. We were allowed one bucket of coal per ward each day but could supplement this with any small bits of timber washed up on the beach. The YMCA arranged monthly dances and very popular concerts; my favourites were the Portsmouth Campanologists. There was also a monthly coach to the Union Jack Club at Waterloo. I attended the 1952 Remembrance Day Parade on the 'square' and the service in the chapel.

The hospital was demolished in 1966 and the whole area is now a Country Park, however, the chapel has been saved and was being used as an observatory viewing treat! over the Solent and Isle of Wight. Also, the ground floor is now a very good library and museum covering all aspects of the hospital's past. I am sure they must have kept all the registers from 1863 onwards which could now be at PRO Kew or perhaps with Southampton Archives?

Note: The Netley Abbey Matters! Website contains several pages on the Royal Victoria Military Hospital, Netley from 1862-1966 which includes press cuttings, people's memories of the hospital during the Second World War and a Netley Military Hospital names database. You can find this website here: <https://www.netleyabbeymatters.co.uk/>



ADVERTISING RATES

Advertising rates per issue of METROPOLITAN are as follows:

Full Page £40
Half Page £23
Quarter Page £14
Eighth Page, £8.50

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

See inside front cover for address.

MEMBERS' INTERESTS

The research interests listed here were submitted by members between mid-August and mid November 2021.

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 below are from members: 4224; 5030; 6821; 7425; 8129; 8283; 8284; 8286; 8287; 8288; 8293; 8294; 8300; 8303; 8311; 8320

Name	Period	County	Parish / Area	Mem.No.
ANDREWS	1838-1860	MDX	St Giles in the Fields	8283
ARNOLDI	1835-1913	MDX	Holborn	8293
BAXTER	1600-1900	LIN	Wolds	8320
BINDER	1800s	ESS	Brentwood	8311
BRANT	1870-1890	MDX	St Pancras	8311
BRIGGS	1750-1920	SUR	Battersea	8288
BRIGGS	All	SUR	Battersea	8288
BUCKMASTER	1780-1840	MDX	Hounslow	8294
BUCKMASTER	1780-1840	SRY	Southwark	8294
BURT	Any	MDX	Islington, St Pancras, Willesden	8320
BYFORD	1800-2000	SRY	Bermondsey, Croydon	5030
CAIGER	1750-1850	MDX	Marylebone, Any	8284
CAIN	1850-1920	MDX	Bethnal Green	8311
CARVAJAL	1630-1720	MDX	All	8303
CHAMBERS	1840-1881	MDX	St Pancras	8293
CHAMBERS	1750-1850	MDX	Whitechapel	5030
CORRIE	1750-1850	MDX	Any	8284
COTTER	1850 to date	ERY	Hull	8320
CURA	1850-1918	MDX	Holborn	8293
DUNN	Any	MDX	Clerkenwell, Holloway, Whitechapel	8129
DUPPLAW	All	All	All	8287
FELTON	1851-1910	MDX	Stanwell	8287
FERDI	1890-to date	MDX	All	8303
FERDINAND	1650-1945	MDX	All	8303
FERDINANDO	1650-1945	MDX	All	8303
FERNANDES	1630-1720	MDX	All	8303
FISHER	Any	MDX	Islington, Shoreditch, St Luke, Old Street	8129
FISHER	Any	Ireland	Dublin	8129

FLEETWOOD	1770-1875	MDX	St Marylebone	8283
FLEETWOOD	1800-1880	MDX	Islington	8283
FORDHAM	1830-1930	MDX	St Pancras	8286
GARRAD	1850-1936	MDX	Clerkenwell	8283
GATES	1840-1900	MDX	St Pancras	8286
GOODLEY	1800-1900	LIN	Grimsby	8320
GRIFFITHS	1860-1914	MDX	St Giles in the Fields	8283
HAWKINS	1800-1820	MDX	St Marylebone	8311
HAWLEY	1830-1860	MDX	Holborn	8311
HOOKHAM	Any	OXF	Any	8320
HUDSON	1800-1857	MDX	Westminster	8283
HUFF	1820-1890	MDX	St Marylebone	8283
JARRATT	1660-1850	MDX	Clerkenwell, Stepney	5030
JONES	1851-1910	MDX	Stanwell	8287
KEELY	1750-1850	MDX	Whitechapel	5030
KING	1850-1900	MDX	St Pancras	8286
KIRBY	to date	MDX	St Pancras	8300
LANCASTER	1850 to date	ERY	Hull, Holy Trinity	8320
LEACH	1700-1800	LND	Bishopsgate	5030
LOTTA	1750-1850	KEN	Greenwich	5030
MILLARD	1830-1930	MDX	St Pancras	8286
MILLARD	1850-1925	MDX	Islington	8286
MILLARD	1830-1900	MDX	Holborn	8286
MILLARD	1830-1900	MDX	Westminster	8286
MILLARD	1870-1925	MDX	Hendon	8286
NAIRN	All	MDX	Holborn	8288
NAIRNE	All	MDX	Holborn	8288
OSLAND	1864-1735	LND	St Martin, Ludgate	7425
RICHARDSON	1850-1892	MDX	St Luke, Old Street	8283
RIGHTON	Any	MDX	St Pancras, Any	8284
RILEY	All	MDX	London, Holborn	8288
ROBINSON	to 1876	MDX	St Pancras	8300
ROBINSON	1850-1920	SRY	Lambeth, Wandsworth	5030
ROSAMOND	1700-1830	MDX	Shoreditch, Stepney	5030
ROUNDING	Pre 1800	DUR	Gainford	4224
ROUNDING	1750-1850	ESS	Woodford	4224
SALES	1773-1850	MDX	Blackfriars	8283
SALES	1748-1800	MDX	St Giles in the Fields	8283
SINCLAIR	1855-1865	MDX	Holborn, St Luke	8311
SQUIRE	1750-1900	MDX	Marylebone, Kensington, Paddington	6821
TAVENER	to 1903	MDX	St Pancras	8300
TEWKESBURY	1841-1919	MDX	Clerkenwell	8293
THOMAS	1800-1925	MDX	Holborn	8294
THOMAS	1800-1925	SRY	Southwark	8294
TOPPLE	to 1935	MDX	St Pancras	8300
TRIPP	1600-1950	BRK	Any	8320
WELCH	1800-1850	MDX	Bethnal Green, Stepney	5030

LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 10 February 2022

7.00pm-7.45pm

Online

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Members of the Society will be held at 7pm on Thursday 10 February 2022 online via Zoom.

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

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

Zoom ‘doors’ will open at 6.45pm for a 7pm start. After a welcome from our President, Michael Gandy, our meeting will run like this:

AGENDA

- Chairman’s Report – please read the report on page iii of this insert. If you have any questions about anything Tony has said, you are welcome to raise these at this time

- Treasurer's Report – April's report is on page iv. Again, if you have any queries you can ask them now.
- The Annual Accounts for 2020-2021. These are published on pages v and vi.
- Proposal to amend the constitution (see page iv of the yellow insert of this *Metropolitan* for details).
- The Election of the Officers of the Society. All of our Officers (Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer) are volunteers who are elected for one year. Any member can stand for election for any of these posts and if you would like to do this, please fill in the form on pages vii and viii and return it to the Secretary by 21 January 2022 (see below). If you would like details of what any particular role entails, please contact the Secretary, which can be done online here: secretary@lwmfhs.org.uk
- The Appointment of other members of the Executive Committee: these are the Membership Secretary, Journal Editors, Members' Interests Co-ordinator, Projects Co-ordinator, Events Co-ordinator and Postal Sales.
- Any Other Business. Anything else you would like to ask the Society about – it would be helpful if you could notify the Secretary by 21 January 2022 (using the form on page viii) so that if necessary the answer can be researched fully in time for the meeting.

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

Our Virtual Branch meeting talk will take place as usual at 8pm. The talk on this occasion will be *The 1921 Census* by Myko Clelland of Findmypast.

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

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

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

for the year ending 30 September 2020

We are now in the second year of the Covid-19 epidemic. I presume that all our members will have had two doses of the vaccine and will soon have had the six-month booster. This is affording considerable but not complete protection for most. However there are still a considerable number of cases amongst the unvaccinated. It is also advisable to have a flu vaccination.

The Executive Committee meets every month on Zoom. Because of the improved situation the Rayners Lane and Barnet Branches have now resumed normal meetings.

We have found that the Virtual meetings which have been going since September 2020 on the second Thursday of every month have been a great success. This has benefitted members from overseas and in UK outside London as well as those who are not able to easily travel. So at present we have just the Virtual, Barnet and Rayners Lane branches operating. There is also a healthy Twitter advice line run by Karen de Bruyne. The AGM for 2022 will be a Virtual Meeting on Zoom again.

We have a very good publication record with four editions of the *Metropolitan* being produced every year by our Editors Elizabeth Burling and Barbara Haswell. We have an ever-increasing number of Parish Guides being produced by Elizabeth Burling and associates. The present total is 26, and they are selling well, as are the Monumental Inscriptions booklets. As you can see from our Treasurer's report the society is in a healthy financial state. Our Membership stands at 545.

I would like to thank all members of the Society for their help in this difficult year. I would like to particularly thank the Executive Committee, the Branch Secretaries, our webmaster Peter Walker and our President Michael Gandy. Especial thanks are due to our retiring Hon. Secretary, Tricia Sutton who has worked so hard for many years and shown great patience in guiding me as Chairman.

I wish you all a healthy 2022, and many interesting discoveries when the 1921 Census is published.

Tony Allen, Chairman

TREASURER'S REPORT

for the year 1 October 2019 - 30 September 2020

Last year I reported that covid 19 had affected our finance in various ways – costs were reduced in relation to the lack of Branch meetings and family history fairs, but there were increases in other areas where we were investing

in equipment and technology. Covid continues to affect the funds of our Society.

In many ways we have been a virtual society this past year, but only in the communications sense as the Executive Committee and some other members have been very busy. Family History Fairs have all been virtual. No fees were charged for them other than an extra channel on one occasion, to allow for several members to help at the event. Branch meetings are mostly still virtual – our Virtual Branch is a great success story, allowing members all over the UK and the rest of the world to participate. However we would like to also provide meetings for those who prefer to meet in person or don't use computers. Two of our local branches reopened just before the end of the year, and as we are continuing with the Virtual Branch we will need to monitor expenditure in this area and ensure it remains reasonable and proportionate. Executive Committee meetings are still virtual, as is the AGM. The cost of Zoom to facilitate virtual meetings is relatively cheap at around £144 a year and is split equally between Administration and Branch Meetings headings in the accounts.

Another successful area has been sales of our booklets such as Parish Guides and Memorial Inscriptions. As more are published, revenue increases. However these are not priced to generate huge profit, but principally to provide family historians with help; we cover costs and get a small return on top. Most are sold online or by post, but hopefully when family history fairs resume in person and visitors can browse our collection, even more will be sold. The booklets are kept, alongside other assets such as equipment for family history fairs, in secure storage taken out towards the end of the previous financial year, resulting in an increase in expenditure on storage. There have also been some atypical receipts this year. The closure of Enfield branch resulted in the receipt centrally of all branch funds including the float (£218.13). We also received a refund of £150 paid the previous year for venue bookings for Barnet branch, for meetings which couldn't take place because of covid restrictions.

The cost of printing and distributing *Metropolitan* is over £600 lower this year, due to a combination of many members opting for the electronic version and reduced costs for printing paper copies.

All in all, our funds are in the best of health, with a fabulous surplus of just over £4,000. This is mostly due to a combination of increasing sales of our publications, several new members and greatly reduced spending – bear in mind that there has been almost no venue hire for branch meetings, Executive Committee meetings or AGM, fewer speaker fees, and minimal costs for family history fairs. This has been an exceptional year in many ways and it is unlikely that we will see such a surplus of funds again, as life gradually returns to normal.

April Vesey, Treasurer

LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Profit and loss account for the year ended 30 September 2021

	30.9.21	30.9.20
Income:		
Subscriptions	£7,313.24	£6,657.92
Sales of Parish Guides and MIs	£2,104.04	£1,392.65
Donations	£19.00	£34.40
Miscellaneous & help with	£74.13	£79.10
Interest received	£1.86	£24.94
Graveyard searches	£0.00	£20.00
Return of floats	£150.00	£415.00
	£9,662.27	£8,624.01
Expenditure:		
Metropolitan Journal	-£2,569.18	-£3,207.72
Branch meeting costs	-£418.55	-£1,319.89
AGM	-£100.00	-£255.05
FFHS Membership	-£175.18	-£163.78
Books, maps etc	£0.00	£0.00
Fairs and open days	-£20.00	-£4.00
Administration & general expenses	-£900.80	-£816.51
Printing of Parish Guides and MIs	-£724.21	-£1,594.40
Storage	-£628.20	-£43.00
Equipment	£0.00	-£455.28
Depreciation	-£113.90	-£113.90
	-£5,650.02	-£7,973.53
Net Deficit/Surplus	<u>£4,012.25</u>	<u>£650.48</u>

LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Balance Sheet as at 30 September 2021

	30.09.21	30.09.20
Fixed Assets		
Equipment	£227.48	£341.38
Current Assets		
Stock of publications	£2,161.00	£1,753.75
Prepaid expenses	£366.29	£338.20
Cash and bank balances	<u>£23,444.66</u>	<u>£21,088.27</u>
 Total assets	 <u>£26,199.43</u>	 <u>£23,521.60</u>
Current Liabilities		
Subscriptions in Advance	-£2,344.78	-£2,630.57
Creditors & Accrued Expenses	-£81.49	-£212.94
Unpresented cheques	<u>-£132.57</u>	<u>-£1,049.75</u>
	<u>-£2,558.84</u>	<u>-£3,893.26</u>
	£ <u>£23,640.59</u>	£ <u>£19,628.34</u>
Financed by:		
Balance Brought Forward	£19,628.34	18,977.86
Net Deficit/Surplus for Year	<u>£4,012.25</u>	<u>650.48</u>
Members' Net Funds	£ <u>£23,640.59</u>	<u>19,628.34</u>

**LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX
FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY**

**Annual General Meeting
to be held on
Thursday 10 February 2022**

Nomination Form for Election of Officers

Position: CHAIRMAN

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

Proposed by:.....

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

Seconded by:.....

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

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

Position: HON. SECRETARY

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

Proposed by:.....

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

Seconded by:.....

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

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

CONTINUED OVERLEAF

Position: HON. TREASURER

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

Proposed by:.....

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

Seconded by:.....

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

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

Any Other Business

I wish to raise the following matter under Any Other Business

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

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

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

Please return this form to: Hon Secretary LWMFHS
141 Welbeck Road, West Harrow, Middlesex HA2 0RY
or by email to: secretary@lwmfhs.org.uk
To be received no later than Friday 21 January 2022.

WELSH	1800-1850	MDX	Bethnal Green, Stepney	5030
WENDEN	Any	MDX	Islington	8129
WENDEN	Any	CON	Bodmin	8129
WIGGINS	Any	MDX	St Luke, Old Street	8129
WIGGINS	Any	BDF	Maulden, Shillington	8129
WILBY	Any	MDX	Islington, Shoreditch, Bethnal Green	8129
WILBY	Any	DUR	Barrow upon Humber	8129
WILKS	1800-1900	MDX	Whitechapel	5030
WILLMOTT	Any	MDX	Islington	8129
WILLMOTT	Any	CAM	Any	8129
YOUNG	1822-1883	MDX	St Pancras	8293

SPECIAL INTERESTS

- 8303 One-name study; **FERNANDES, FERDI, FERDINAND, FERDINANDO**
- 8287 One-name study; **DUPPLAW**
- 8288 One-name study; **BASKETT, BRIGGS**
- 8286 **MILLARD**

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the new members, numbers 8280 - 8322 who have joined the Society over the past few months and wish them well with their research.

OBITUARIES

It is with sadness that we report the deaths of the following members of the Society. We send condolences to their families and friends.

- Pam White** (membership number 2546)
Judy Forbes-Smith (membership number 3068)
Christine Shenton (membership number 7942)
John Sharman (membership number 7636)

AGM 2022 PROPOSAL TO AMEND CONSTITUTION

Proposed by the Treasurer, April Vesey

Seconded by Elizabeth Burling

This proposal is supported by the Executive Committee who recommend that members vote in favour.

Proposal:

That clause 6(i) be added to the London Westminster and Middlesex Family History Society constitution:

6(i) The Society's authorised signatories at the bank or other legitimate organisation holding the Society's funds may manage the monies using whatever means appropriate whether by manual or electronic means, by telephone banking, online banking or other appropriate method. Authorised signatories and appropriate banking procedures shall be determined by the Executive Committee.

Background:

The bank used by the Society introduced charges for organisations like ours in November 2021. The charges include a monthly fee of (currently) £5.00 and charges for cash and cheque transactions:

- Cash paid into and out of the accounts over the counter will be charged at 0.4% of the value deposited or withdrawn;
- Cheques paid into and out of the accounts over the counter will be charged at £0.40 per cheque.

The monthly charge cannot be avoided but other charges can be minimised if we use electronic/online banking, a service which was not available to us until recently. When trying to register for online banking, we were told we couldn't do this until we registered for telephone banking. We were not able to register for telephone banking as there has to be a clause in our constitution explicitly allowing it. Similarly, when we are eligible to apply for online, there must be a clause specifically allowing it. Our constitution was written before either of these banking methods were invented so needs updating. The wording of this proposed amendment will hopefully cover our needs. Should we decide to change to another bank, it is likely that there will be the same requirement.

SOME MINI-REPORTS SHOWING WHAT ELSE WE HAVE BEEN DOING THIS YEAR

Barnet Branch Report

Having not had a meeting since February 2020, we finally restarted the Barnet branch in September. The first meeting saw 10 of us enjoying a members' evening in person with plenty of discussion about our own personal research. Queries were made and help given. The October meeting was just as enjoyable and informative. For the time being, we will keep these meetings informal, but may book speakers for selected months next year. The time is now extended from 7.30pm to 9.30pm. We are at Lyonsdown Hall, 3 Lyonsdown Road, Barnet EN5 1JB. If you wish to join us, just turn up. There is plenty of parking and New Barnet station is just around the corner. There is free WiFi available and plenty of minds to assist with any research queries you may have.

Clare Pollitt, Barnet Branch Co-ordinator, barnet@lwmfhs.org.uk

Events Report

The second 'Really Useful Family History Fair' of the year and yet another online event. Slightly different this time as there was free access to the Exhibition Hall on Friday evening and that is when we had most of our enquiries. Our small team Elizabeth, Karen and briefly Clare attended the stand and answered some 14 queries over the two days. Lots of questions were about how to find burial places. We attracted 11 new members (welcome, those who joined then!) and also sold 9 Parish Guides. We had a few technical issues trying switch the chat function and event organisers apologised for difficulties. It did not hinder our ability to answer visitors' queries. This was our fifth and final event of the year, all virtual, we are all hoping next year we will be able to be present in person.

Karen de Bruyne, Events Co-ordinator, events@lwmfhs.org.uk

Facebook Report

Facebook is another way for us to promote our Society and attract new members. Our LWMFHS page has grown from 1,931 'likes' up to 2,188 in the last year, with membership of the Help and Discussion group up from 1,521 members to 1,972.

The main page aims to be an informative and fun place where local London or family history anniversaries are mentioned and linked archives showcased. We also put notice of our branch meetings here and promote our

booklets: our recent Rayner's Lane Branch meeting about *Mrs Marshall: Pinner's Other Domestic Goddess* by Pat Clarke was seen by over 2,600 people, our Virtual Branch talk on *Ratcatchers* by David Cuffley reached 3,201 and our South Mimms Parish Guide post was viewed by over 7,500 people.

The Help and Discussion group is a private place where people can post their family history queries and interact with other historians on matters relating to London, Westminster and Middlesex. Anyone reading this will know how complicated Greater London history can be and we aim to point people to our fellow family history societies when queries relate to their areas.

Any member who is on Facebook is, of course, welcome to join in.

Elizabeth Burling, <https://www.facebook.com/LWMFHS>

Members' Interests

The society continues to publish our members' interest names within the journal, in the traditional way. I also list them on our website – there are already over 1,300 surnames here.

A new way of sharing your names has been provided by the Family History Federation which has given all family history societies the opportunity to upload their data and so give names a greater exposure. After the publication of every *Metropolitan*, I now upload the interest names to the Federation website: www.familyhistoryfederation.com where a link to 'Surname Interests' is on the home page. Our members' names and addresses have not been given to the Federation.

Barbara Haswell, Members' Interests, membersinterests@lwmfhs.org.uk

Membership Report

The Society's year ended with a membership totalling 545, a healthy increase from 440 members at the start of the year on 1st October 2020. It became necessary during the year to change how membership was purchased on our website, a link to Parish Chest (owned by the Family History Federation) now provides a facility whereby the Society receives the full amount paid. This new system has proved beneficial in processing members very quickly, especially useful leading up to a Virtual Branch meeting where on occasion a new member has applied to join us and attended our virtual talk within an hour. Thank you to those members who renew promptly and/or setup standing orders, it helps enormously.

Sylvia Thompson, Membership Secretary, membership@lwmfhs.org.uk

Monumental Inscriptions Booklets

Our Monumental Inscription booklets have necessarily been delayed by lockdown but we are hoping to bring out Part 1 of Harrow on the Hill (covering the Church and Upper Churchyard) before too long.

Some might think it is just a case of copying the information recorded by our Society in the 1980s, and we could do just that, but we are finding as we revisit the valuable work done by our members 40+ years ago that much has changed. Memorials have been added to, replaced, moved, neglected or, sadly, vandalised. Some have disappeared altogether and others occasionally reappear (always a highlight)! There are also all the new memorials. So we are taking the opportunity and time to review and enhance on that previous work which all means it is taking much longer to get a booklet to print. Hopefully family historians of 40 years hence will be pleased we took the trouble.

To date 5 Monumental Inscription booklets have been published, Chipping Barnet, Monken Hadley, St James Burial Ground Hampstead Road, East Barnet and Hornsey. Harrow on the Hill Part 1 is currently being checked on-site. 8 booklets have been typed up and are ready for on-site checking (along with a few small sites in and around Barnet); Harrow Weald, Harrow on the Hill Part 2 (Lower Churchyard), Friern Barnet, South Mimms, Kensal Green Catholic Section, Highgate, Edgware and Cockfosters. There are at least 16 other potential booklets where work has not begun yet. At least two of the above have never been published in any format.

We are always looking for willing volunteers so if you would like to help please contact me at projects@lwmfhs.org.uk

Elaine Tyler, Projects Co-ordinator

Parish Guides

In the Society's year ending 30 September 2021 we have brought out a further six Parish Guides, Edmonton, Finchley, Harefield, Holborn, Kingsbury and St Martin-in-the-Fields and despite the fact that all face-to-face fairs were cancelled, we still managed to sell 314 booklets. Our top 3 sellers so far are St George Hanover Square, Islington and Clerkenwell but we are delighted to have now completed Parish Guides for 25 of our Ancient Parishes. Those planned for this next year are Ruislip, St Giles-in-the-Fields, Totteridge, Hornsey, Northolt and St Paul Covent Garden, in that order. See page 44 for details of our booklets.

Elizabeth Burling, Editor, editor@lwmfhs.org.uk

Rayners Lane Branch Report

Rayners Lane Branch restarted on the 1st Monday afternoon in September. Members are really pleased to be able to meet in person and one has even taken on the role of 'tea-lady'. We have had a couple of excellent talks and speakers have been booked for next year, alternating with members afternoons.

Tricia Sutton, Rayners Lane Branch Co-ordinator,
rayners_lane@lwmfhs.org.uk

Twitter Report

In July we signed up for a Twitter account to help promote our society and since we started have gained 137 followers. We use the account to promote events both virtual and in person, encouraging membership and sales of Parish Guides etc. We also support other societies and organisations with family history and/or local history links.

Karen de Bruyne, <https://twitter.com/LWMFHS>

Virtual Branch Report

The beginning of this year saw the birth of our Virtual Branch and 107 members registering an interest to be involved. Since the first meeting in October 2020 we have been meeting every second Thursday of each month virtually on Zoom, each time with a speaker and short Q&A session afterwards. The talk is recorded whenever possible and replayed the next day at 10am UK time for members who cannot make the live event. We have been averaging an attendance of 70 to 80 participants on a Thursday and although lower at around 15 attendees on a Friday we feel it is important that the extra session remains for now. At the end of 2020/21 our Virtual Branch has 229 registered members and is now a permanent feature of what LWMFHS has to offer. If you are not already part of this new venture for LWMFHS and would like to be please contact us.

Clare, Elizabeth, Sylvia & Elaine, The Virtual Branch Team
virtualbranch@lwmfhs.org.uk



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.



My Great grandfather John Alfred HOWARD (c1844-1921) was born in Clerkenwell, the tenth child of Charles and Emma HOWARD. The couple had 11 children who were born between 1823-46, all in the Clerkenwell area. Charles (1800-1856) was a master bricklayer and died in St Barts hospital in January 1856. His wife Emma had already died in May 1852 at Brook Hill, Clerkenwell. John Alfred age 12 and his three brothers were now orphans, Charles Augustus about 16, William about 14 and Samuel George age 10. I have not been able to find these 4 boys in the 1861 census as I believe that part of the workhouse records for Clerkenwell were damaged. John married in February 1869 at Holy Trinity Holborn (Grays Inn Road) to Martha Amelia STUHR from St George in the East. Brother Samuel George also married in this Church in Jan 1870 to Sarah Elizabeth UTTRIDGE.

I believe John Alfred was deaf, and may have met his wife Martha in a feather bed factory in Alie Street Whitechapel. Martha (1851-1890) was half German and lived in Alie Street, attending the German school there for about 18 months.

In later life John and Martha lived in Percival Street Clerkenwell where they had a large workroom employing females to make feather hats (artificial florist). In an 1878 and 1881 Street Directory John is listed as an Ostrich feather manufacturer. I would like to know if I am right in my assumptions, and did he have an apprenticeship from the Workhouse which enabled him to make such a good living, or was he related to the VICE family who lived nearby Holborn and also made hats, as John Alfred's father Charles was baptised Charles Vice HOWARD in Wenhaston Suffolk in January 1801.

Eileen Blythe, Life member No: 02

Email: eileenb891@gmail.com

Note: You are correct in thinking that there is a problem with the 1861 census returns for the Workhouse in Clerkenwell - pages 11-20 are missing. Unfortunately, the 1861 census returns have a fair number of

pages that have gone missing - nobody really seems to know why but it is estimated that some 5-10% has gone. However, there is a Register of Apprentices which covers the dates February 1834-September 1867, showing names, age and trades to which they were apprenticed, in the parish chest of St James Clerkenwell at London Metropolitan Archives, Ref: P76/JS1/163. This has not been digitised and so is not online but might be worth a look.

There is a large amount of information about the VYSE family of hatters who traded from Holborn. The company was formed by Thomas VYSE and his sons in 1845 and had branches in Florence and New York along with a factory in Luton. Thomas was the son of Andrew and Jane VYSE, and was baptised in 1782 in Birmingham. You can find out much more about this family here: <https://londonstreetviews.wordpress.com/2015/01/20/thomas-vyse-straw-hat-manufacturer-2/>

WILLIAM WHITE

As a beginner in family history research, I wonder whether any of the more experienced members might be able to give me some ideas on 'where to go next' regarding my wife's great, great grandfather William WHITE. My researches so far have necessarily been limited to on-line resources but from these I have been able to identify the following information relating to him. William was a chemist and from about 1812 had premises on the Haymarket trading as Hastings and White - they must have been successful as they held the appointment of Chemists to their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales. I have been unable to trace any details relating to his business activities prior to this period.

He died on 4 October 1849 at the age of 66 according to his death certificate (which would indicate a birth in 1782/1783) and was buried at St Martin-in-the-Fields on 11 October. I have a copy of his will in which he indicates a desire to be buried in a specific vault alongside his wife and two children who had predeceased him.

He married Mary Ann BRADLEY on 2 April 1812 by licence at St Marylebone. I have a copy of the marriage licence allegation. She died on 2 June 1824 following the birth of their son William Edward WHITE. In total they had six children and I have been able to trace details relating to all of them.

If I read and understand the 1841 census correctly then he was born outside of Middlesex which - together with his very common name - has proven an

insurmountable hurdle for me in tracing his parents. Any suggestions on how to proceed would be most welcome.

Alan Bowden, Member No: 8193

Email: alanbowden64@hotmail.com

Note: Finding his parents is going to be very tricky. It is probably worth chasing all you can about his life in the hopes of getting the fullest possible picture of where he was when and what he was up to at that time. You should re-check every now and then too as when more things are digitised, you may discover more about him.

Records of chemists, druggists, pharmacists and their factories and shops are more likely to be held in the records of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS), which was founded in 1841, than the Worshipful Company of Apothecaries. It might be worth contacting RPS to see if they have anything useful: <https://www.rpharms.com/>

The *London Gazette* dated 14 August 1824 contains a note dissolving the partnership between William WHITE and Michael RAVEN, trading under the name of Hastings and White and trading as Chymists and Druggists, due to the expiration of the Partnership articles on 1 August 1824. (Michael RAVEN had another chemist partnership dissolved in October 1826, this time with Joshua BRYANT, also in the Haymarket.)

William WHITE appears in Haymarket in the Westminster Rate Books collection on Findmypast from 1817-1850 (obviously this last book was compiled before he died). Any trace you can find of him such as this, no matter where from, could help you gradually piece together his life. As he was about 35 years old in 1817, he may have had a shop somewhere else previously. Keep checking the British Newspaper Archive for articles or adverts.

Otherwise, it might be that DNA is the only way to potentially identify where William WHITE came from, by linking to distant cousins.



BOOK REVIEWS

Islington Boys by James Sanderson and Barry Page, published by Independent Publishing Network, 2021, £6.20 including P&P, Paperback, 186 pages with black and white photos.

This fabulous book is just what family historians long for, for their area. If your area is Islington then you may well be in luck. This book contains the memories of Barnsbury Secondary School for Boys as told by the boys themselves. The school had its origins in schools built at the turn of the 20th century and it was educating boys until it was closed in 1967. The stories and photographs tell of a way of life encountered in the 1950s and 1960s in North London. Apart from the memories of former pupils, the school magazine has been mined for information. Subjects in the book include all aspects of school life

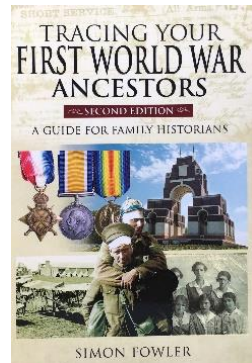
from uniform, bullying, school band, sports clubs, school trips, teachers, prizes and more along with reminiscences about the local area – what it was like to grow up in Islington, the films seen at the cinema, evacuation, Chapel Market and so on. To obtain a copy of this book, contact James Sanderson by email at: ironlay@yahoo.co.uk

A new book is currently being compiled, *Islington Boys 2*, which will be open to all Islington boys from whichever school they may have attended. If you would like to submit your memories, please email the project at: islingtonboys2@yahoo.com

Tracing your First World War Ancestors by Simon Fowler published by Pen & Sword, 2021, £14.99, Paperback, 163 pages with black and white photos.

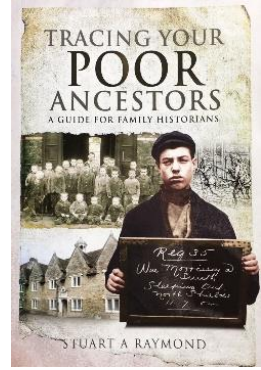
A second edition of this popular book. It has been thoroughly updated to include online material and recently released records. The book not only includes the services-the Army, the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force but also has information about women, civilians and the Home Front plus a section on the role that the British Empire played.

A comprehensive guide that will be of interest for all researchers.



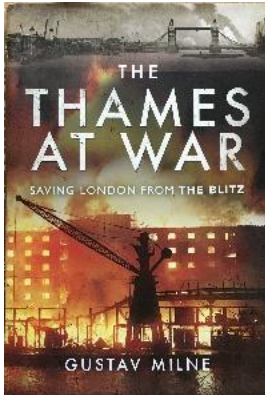
Tracing your Poor Ancestors by Stuart Raymond published by Pen & Sword, 2021, £14.99, Paperback, 196 pages with black and white photos.

A second edition of a popular book which lists the numerous sources to help us research our poor ancestors. This book looks at the history of the poor and how they were treated by the authorities. There are chapters on the Poor Laws (both before and after 1834), charities, criminals, vagrants and, of course, the workhouse. Many of us will have had poor ancestors and this book will help us understand the desperate lives of the poor, how they tried to survive and the records that they left behind.



The Thames at War by Gustav Milne, published by Pen & Sword, 2020, £19.99, Hardback, 208 pages with 200 black and white photos.

During the Second World War, London was devastated by day and night bombing raids but there was another major threat that was not publicised at



the time. London is a low-lying city and the tidal River Thames, held back by embankments, runs through its centre. Much of London is below ground; the Underground railway, the electricity and telephone networks, drinking water pipes and sewers etc. If the embankments were breached and London flooded, it would have been a catastrophe.

Thomas Peirson FRANK, London County Council's Chief Engineer, had the foresight to form the Thames-Flood Prevention Emergency Repairs Service and put three Thames-Flood rapid response bases along the Thames. Frank was knighted for his work and a plaque was unveiled in his memory. Information about the units and the danger of flooding was suppressed during the war and this book pays tribute to its work.

The T-F worked day and night, often during air raids, in very dangerous situations repairing breaches in the flood defences. Incidents were recorded and this book lists and describes the repairs, some of which are still in place today. There are chapters on damage to bridges and the docks plus notes on the shipping lost. A fascinating, illustrated account of the work that the men in the T-F units did to keep London safe.

A GUIDE TO MARRIAGE RECORDS

By Elizabeth Burling, Member No. 4992

Following on from our guide to birth and baptism records which appeared in *Metropolitan* in September, another of the key records family historians need are marriages. Historically marriage was legal for girls aged 12 and boys aged 14, although this was very rare. In 1929 the minimum age for marriage was raised to 16 and Parliament is currently considering raising it to 18. Marriage below the age of 21 (and, from 1969, 18) has always needed parental consent. Like births, marriage records can be divided into civil and church records. I will start with civil marriage records.

Civil registration

Civil marriage certificates were first issued, like birth certificates, on 1 July 1837, following the 1836 Births and Deaths Registration Act. This Act created a system of civil registration, (so not connected to the churches) which was administered by the General Register Office (GRO) for England and Wales under the leadership of the Registrar General.

The GRO Index

The official GRO registers are not directly accessible by the general public but you do need to have the GRO reference from the index in order to buy the certificate you are after. Luckily you can find this on the FreeBMD website – see next paragraph.

I will explain now about how the index is arranged. If you read the ‘Guide to Birth Records’ in September’s *Metropolitan* you can skip the rest of this paragraph but if you did not, you may find this useful. Back in the Old Days of family history, we actually had to go and look through the massive index books, the early ones all hand-written in a large copper-plate script. The set containing marriages had green covers, corresponding with the colours of the certificates themselves. Each book contained the records for one quarter of a particular year. Marriages which took place in January, February and March were grouped together as ‘March’; April, May and June as ‘June’; July, August and September as ‘September’ and October, November and December as ‘December’, so don’t get worried if a marriage you know happened in a certain month looks like it has a different one on the GRO index. This arrangement is the same with the records now that they are online but the connection is perhaps less obvious now we don’t have to lug the books about.

Inside each quarter, the marriages are arranged alphabetically by surname and then by first name for both bride and groom. Next to the name is the GRO reference information of district, volume and page – these will be the same for both of the couple getting married. The district refers to the Registration District where the event occurred. With this information it is possible to order from the GRO the complete registration information in the form of a certified copy of the register (commonly known as a certificate).

The big Index books stopped in 1984 and GRO indexes from then on are all computerised. Copies can be consulted free of charge at seven libraries: Birmingham Central Library, Bridgend Reference and Information Library, City of Westminster Archives Centre, London Metropolitan Archives, Manchester City Library, Plymouth Central Library and The British Library. Birth Indexes up to 2005 can be searched on BMDIndex.co.uk, FamilyRelatives.org and The Genealogist, up to 2006 on Findmypast, up to 2007 on Ancestry and up to 2008 on FamilySearch. Later records cannot be found online.

Nowadays the GRO Index books have been digitised and it is so much easier to search in them - the main pay-per-view sites all have a copy. The images produced are the same pages from the huge Index books that we used to use.

FreeBMD

Once again, FreeBMD is a very helpful resource for finding the GRO reference for a marriage and also it can help confirm you have the correct entry. FreeBMD stands for Free Births, Marriages, and Deaths and the objective of this website is to provide free online access to the GRO index. It can be found here: <https://www.freebmd.org.uk/>

The GRO index has been transcribed from 1837 through to 1983, with 1984-1992 being added at the moment. FreeBMD uses the microfiche indexes supplied by the GRO. The database was last updated on 22 October 2021 and currently contains 285,661,850 distinct records (374,487,898 total records).

To search, check that you want a marriage, not a birth or death, put the surname and first name of either bride or groom into the appropriate boxes, give yourself a bit of lee-way with the year (at least a couple of years either side of the date you want) and ignore the district or county, at least to start with. Wildcards and multiple selections can also be used later on if you have no luck initially so, for instance, you can select several registration districts to be searched simultaneously. Press find.

The search facility will return all results which match the criteria you put in, although if there are a huge number of results, a limited number will be

shown. The information shown in the results is: event, quarter and year, surname, first name(s), registration district, volume number and page number. The page number can be clicked on and when you do this, it shows all the other people who got married at that place at the same time, which can be a good check that you have the correct marriage. Of course, if you do not know who the person married, it gives you a clue to finding them in the next census – hopefully they will turn up with a spouse who matches the names from FreeBMD. From the fourth quarter of 1911, the spouse's surname is shown automatically.

GRO website

You have to register with the GRO website, at: <https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/> but it is the quickest and cheapest way to purchase a marriage certificate. It is helpful if you have first obtained the year, quarter, district volume and page from FreeBMD as a paper copy of a marriage certificate then costs £11 and is sent by post four days after you apply for it. If you do not have the reference numbers, it costs you an extra £3 and takes an extra 11 days for the GRO staff to search for the entry for you. The GRO digitisation project did not get around to doing any marriage records before the money ran out, so you cannot get an emailed pdf of a marriage certificate and you cannot search yourself on the GRO site for marriages, only births and deaths.

Marriage certificates

Marriage certificates are coloured green and contain the following information:

- the actual date of the marriage
- the place where the marriage ceremony happened, which could be a parish church, a nonconformist chapel or a register office
- the name (s) and surname of the bride and groom
- the age of the bride and groom, although this may only state 'of full age', which means over 21 or 'minor', which means under 21
- the condition of the bride and groom, which means their marital status so 'spinster' or 'widow' for the bride and 'bachelor' or 'widower' for the groom. More recent documents may also have 'marriage dissolved' for those who had been divorced
- rank or profession records the occupation of the bride and groom

- residence shows the address of the couple, however this can be misleading as sometimes a temporary address was used by one or both people in order to qualify for marriage in the parish
- name and profession of father – perhaps one of the most useful parts of a marriage certificate for family historians as it can confirm the previous generation, at least on the male side
- by licence or after banns – this can lead to further records to search, see below
- the person who performed the ceremony
- witnesses, which can reveal further family connections. These can also be friends of the couple or churchwardens who witnessed many marriages in their churches
- signatures – whether a person could sign their own name or just make their mark (usually a cross) is recorded but be aware that marriage certificates are copies of the register and not the actual signature of the participants

Bear in mind that the information was given by the parties involved so may not be entirely accurate. For instance, a person whose father is not recorded on their birth certificate may include a step-father's name or even just make one up, so as to save face. Jobs can be made to seem more glamorous, ages adjusted and so on.

As with birth registrations, registration of a marriage was not made compulsory until 1875 so it is possible that a marriage does not appear in civil records.

Church marriage records

Until civil registration started in 1837, the only record of any marriage was a church service. The registers of ancient parishes may date from as far back as 1538 but only a very few parishes have them surviving from this date. An ancient parish had at its centre a single church, the parish church, with a single set of registers. However, these parishes were sub-divided from the early 17th century as the rapidly increasing population in London meant that the original churches became too small to cope with the number of people living locally. By the end of the 19th century some ancient parishes had been sub-divided 30 or 40 times, each part having its own parish church and own registers.

Up until 1753, marriage registers will only show the name of bride and groom and the date of the marriage. After this date, a special form was used which contained much more information about the couple. It may show their

marital status and had a space for the residence of both parties, although the residence may just be 'otp', that is, 'of this parish'. It is stated whether the couple were married after banns or by licence, the date and officiating minister, the signature (which can be the actual writing of the person) or mark and the witnesses. After 1837, the marriage record is the same as the civil one detailed above.

London Metropolitan Archives (LMA) holds parish registers from over 800 churches within the City of London and the former counties of London and Middlesex and details of which churches were open at which dates can be seen by searching in the LMA catalogue. They also appear on our website and in our Parish Guides. Churches from parishes in the ancient City of Westminster are held by the City of Westminster Archives Centre (WAC). Registers which have been digitised are online at Ancestry but be aware that it is most unlikely that all dates are covered.

Of course, the introduction of civil registration did not mean that people stopped marrying in churches. Many still do this to this day. Since 1837, there is often a civil marriage certificate and an identical entry in the church register for most marriages. (Changes to the law earlier in 2021 now mean that there is one single electronic marriage register instead of the 84,000 which were held in each register office, in churches and chapels and at other registered religious places. The information from these books had to be extracted and uploaded onto the Home Office's system. Mothers' names are included now as well.)

Banns of marriage

Banns were a public announcement of an impending marriage between two named people. Hardwicke's Marriage Act of 1753 required that for a marriage to be legally valid the banns must be read aloud in church (or published on the noticeboard) on three Sundays before the wedding ceremony took place in the home parish of both bride and groom. This gave others the opportunity to raise an objection to the union. Separate books containing records of banns can usually be found in the parish chest of the church concerned. Of course, all this activity in the local Anglican church did not sit well with nonconformists or Roman Catholics but an alternative was available: to be married by licence.

Marriage licences

A licence had to be obtained from the proper church authority, usually the bishop. Before a marriage licence could be issued, an allegation (or before

1823 a bond) had to be sworn stating that both parties were available and able to marry. Allegations were valid for three months, so may appear up to three months before the relevant marriage, which also may not have actually taken place. Apart from nonconformists, a couple might choose to be married by licence if circumstances made it desirable for them not to wait the three weeks for banns to be published, for example, if the bride was pregnant. They would also need one of them lived in different dioceses but upper-class couples also often preferred not to subject themselves to the publication of banns. Marriage licences can be found in a number of different places.



A photograph of a wedding from 1907.

London Marriage Licences 1521-1869 edited by Joseph Foster, (Bernard Quaritch, 1887) contains information from: Bishop of London's Office 1521-1828; Dean and Chapter of Westminster's Office 1599-1699; Faculty Office of the Archbishop of Canterbury 1543-1869 and the Vicar General's Office of the Archbishop of Canterbury 1660-1679. This book, which has the marriages arranged alphabetically by groom, can be seen online here: <https://archive.org/details/londonmarriageli00fost> or searched on Ancestry UK and Findmypast.

The original London marriage licences issued by the Bishop of London are now at LMA. Many of these have been published in books. The British

Record Society Volume I: 1597-1648, and Volume II: 1660-1700 can be seen at WAC; those from 1700-1785 are in the Great Card Index on microfilm at the Society of Genealogists (SoG). The Harleian Society Volumes 25 and 26 cover 1520-1828 and can be seen at LMA.

The Dean and Chapter of Westminster had jurisdiction to grant licences over much of Westminster and *Allegations for Marriage licences issued by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster 1558-1699* has been published by the Harleian Society, as their Volume 23.

Records of marriage licences issued by the Faculty Office of the Archbishop of Canterbury are at Lambeth Palace Library, London SE1 7JU. The Faculty Office was authorised to issue licences for marriages in any parish in England and Wales. *Allegations for Marriage Licences issued by the Faculty Office of the Archbishop of Canterbury at London 1543-1869* is Harleian Society publication volume 24. A copy is at LMA.

Records of marriage licences issued by the Vicar General of the Archbishop of Canterbury are also at Lambeth Palace Library, London SE1 7JU. The Vicar General was authorised to issue licences for any parish in the Province of Canterbury, which covered two thirds of England, including what is now the Greater London area. Indexes to the marriage licences dating from 1694-1850 issued by the Vicar General are available in the Lambeth Palace Library Reading Room, are online with FMP and Family Search and a microfilm copy is at SoG. They have also been abstracted by the Harleian Society, appearing in volumes 23, 30, 31, 33 and 34. These books can all be seen at LMA too.

For more details of these records, see *Bishops' Transcripts and Marriage Licences, Bonds and Allegations: a Guide to their Location and Indexes* by Jeremy Gibson (6th edition) published by The Family History Partnership for more detail. Most record offices should have a copy.

Clandestine marriages

These were marriages which took place away from the bride and groom's home parish(es) and without either banns being called or a licence obtained, so they were immediate, cheap and popular. The Fleet Prison was one venue for such marriages – the first recorded one was in 1613 – as it claimed to lie outside of the jurisdiction of the church. By the 1740s it is estimated that over half of London weddings took place around the Fleet Prison. Hardwicke's Marriage Act was specifically designed to prevent these clandestine marriages from taking place and after 1754 Gretna Green in Scotland was the nearest place for immediate marriage.

Marriage indexes

Before the days of the internet there were various marriage indexes which had been painstakingly compiled onto bits of card. These are now online themselves and might well be worth searching.

William Phillimore Watts STIFF, the son of a doctor, was born in Nottingham and was educated as a lawyer. He assumed the surname of PHILLIMORE with his father in 1873, to commemorate his descent from the Phillimores of Cam in Gloucestershire, where the family had resided since the 16th century. In 1897, he started his own publishing company, Phillimore & Co. Ltd, which published works related to British family history. Later in life, he transcribed and printed parish marriage registers dating from 1531-1913 for over a thousand parishes. His work includes 4 volumes of London registers and 9 volumes of Middlesex ones, which can be searched on Findmypast.

Boyd's Marriage Index dates from 1538-1840 and is a collection of names for English marriages copied from local parish marriage registers, Bishops' Transcripts and marriage licences. Registers from more than 4,300 parishes have been indexed and can be found on Findmypast.

Pallot's Marriage Index covers all but two of the 103 Church of England parishes in the old City of London together with Middlesex parishes and more than 2,500 parishes in 38 counties outside London. The information dates from 1780-1837 and was collected by record agents for the purposes of their business. This collection is on Ancestry UK.

There is a database of marriages which took place in Middlesex parishes dating from 1538-1920. This online resource from transcriptions is at: <https://ukga.org/search.php?action=loadDB&DB=47>

If you find what you are looking for in these indexes it is always worth going and checking the original as more details may well be available there.

Points to note

Marriages sometimes took place right up to and even after the birth of the first child.

Divorce was rare and expensive so some couples may have just lived together, even bigamously. They may appear in censuses looking like an ordinary married couple though.



FOCUS ON FACEBOOK

By Elizabeth Burling, Member No. 4992

Paul posted that he had an ancestor, William Simmons MOULD, who was sentenced in 1839 to transportation for seven years, having been convicted of stealing two £5 notes. Paul was curious about what the family did for support while the husband was gone as William had left a wife and children behind. Paul wondered if there was any way to find out? Was there relief available, for example? This started quite an extensive chat with many people contributing, of whom a few are mentioned below.

Emily had experienced the same thing in her family. Her 3xgreat grandfather was sent to Australia for a 7-year sentence and left his wife and 6 kids. Emily suspects she survived probably by doing laundry or sewing for other people or by going to the poor house. John said that any family left behind would be required to work, kids too. We added that if they could not manage on the wages of the wife and children, possibly with grandparents' help, then the family are likely to have gone into the local workhouse. Sue said that no relief would have been available, except maybe for some form of parochial charity if they were lucky but if they could not find work it would have been the workhouse and then industrial schooling for the children of a certain age. Parochial charities and workhouses have archives that can be searched for mention of ancestors. If they managed to get by on their own initiative, there are unlikely to be any records.

Judy wondered whether William returned to England and Paul said that he had. We commented that this was quite unusual and Jo added that only 5% of emancipated convicts returned. Judy, whose 3xgreat grandpa also came out in 1839, had not heard of anyone going back to England. She wondered how he financed the voyage? She found mention online that in 1852 a William MOULD went to Melbourne from Launceston. Might he have been lucky and found gold? Did he arrive at Tasmania on the *Flying Fish*, she wondered? (Convict records just about always mention the ship used for transportation to Australia. This is a good way of locating your ancestor.)

Barbara thought that if you served your sentence and wanted to return the government paid your fare home but this was definitely not the case. Judy said that people who served out their time were given land on which to settle - they mostly stayed and found employment or farmed their 60 acres. Carmel

added that the sentence was only 7 years of prison or work farms before you were allowed to leave the site you had been assigned to. Many convicts bigamously married and many wives left behind also bigamously married: they'd have to do something to survive. Some wives joined their convict husbands but they would have to either had money or got onto a migrant scheme themselves, as women were scarce and women's skills were even more scarce. Emily mentioned that her 3xgreat grandfather stayed in Australia and married someone else...but there was no divorce.

Carolyn asked Paul if he was sure that William was actually transported. The records for the *Leviathan* prison hulk records show a William MOULD, sentenced to 7 years for stealing, who was pardoned on 25 July 1843. The *Leviathan* was anchored in Portsmouth harbour so William may have spent about 4 years in the hulks but not actually been transported. This seems to be confirmed by Judy, who said she liked this idea as William is not included in the Tasmanian Convicts Index. This is a digital archive containing info about the 76,000 convicts who ended up in Tasmania, including muster books, descriptions, permissions to marry and more.

Mumsie Yostie noted that there are quite a few records listed for William MOULDS on the Digital Panopticon but none for him as a convict anywhere in Australia, so it looks like he may have been pardoned in the UK. It was very rare for any convicts to Australia to be allowed to return to the UK. (The Digital Panopticon is a UK website which allows you to search millions of records from around fifty datasets relating to the lives of 90,000 convicts from the Old Bailey.)

So, it looks likely that William only spent four years in prison, was not transported and was then able to get back to his family.

Raymond's Original Poll Books

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LWMFHS PUBLICATIONS

Our Parish Guides are little books crammed with as much information as possible about the Ancient Parishes in our area. We aim to inspire family historians and to help you locate ancestors in places that you might not have thought of looking before. Each guide starts off with a brief history of the area and a description of where the main archives for the parish are located. There are then many different sections about the various types of records that relate to the parish, with a description of what they are and information about where these records can be found. This full list of those available to far is shown overleaf. Coming next are: Ruislip and St Giles-in-the-Fields.

Our Monumental Inscription booklets were researched by our founder societies in the 1980s and subsequently published on microfiche. We have been updating these and reissuing them as booklets. In checking them for publication, any gaps and anomalies were checked against the Burial Registers in order to try and find out who is referred to on the gravestones. If anyone would like to help with these, with typing or with checking against the stones, please contact our Projects Co-ordinator, Elaine Tyler by email at: projects@lwmfhs.org.uk

We also have 2 census guides naming the streets of Westminster and the City of London, taken from the 1851 census returns.

Booklet	UK	Europe	Rest world
Parish Guides			
Clerkenwell	£7.69	£9.65	£10.65
East Barnet	£7.69	£9.65	£10.65
Edmonton	£8.33	£10.75	£13.30
Enfield	£7.69	£9.65	£10.65
Finchley	£7.69	£9.65	£10.65
Greenford and Perivale	£7.69	£9.65	£10.65
Harefield	£7.69	£9.65	£10.65
Hampstead	£7.69	£9.65	£10.65
Hendon	£7.69	£9.65	£10.65
Holborn	£8.33	£10.75	£13.30
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Pinner	£7.69	£9.65	£10.65

St Anne Soho	£7.69	£9.65	£10.65
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St George Hanover Square	£7.69	£9.65	£10.65
St James Piccadilly	£7.69	£9.65	£10.65
St Margaret & St John	£7.69	£9.65	£10.65
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South Mimms	£7.69	£9.65	£10.65
Stanmore	£7.69	£9.65	£10.65
Tottenham	£7.69	£9.65	£10.65
Willesden	£7.69	£9.65	£10.65
Monumental Inscriptions			
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East Barnet St Mary the Virgin	£8.33	£10.75	£13.30
Hornsey St Mary	£8.33	£10.75	£13.30
Monken Hadley St Mary the Virgin	£8.33	£10.75	£13.30
St James Hampstead Road	£8.33	£10.75	£13.30
Census Guides			
Streets of the City of London	£7.69	£9.65	£10.65
Streets of Westminster	£7.69	£9.65	£10.65

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.parihchest.com/home.php>. Post and packing costs vary depending on the weight of the booklet and the destination, as shown here. Of course, if you want more than one booklet the postage will be different but these 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.

FORTHCOMING BRANCH MEETINGS

We are delighted to announce the return of two of our branch meetings, where we will be able to meet in person once again. Social distancing and masks are welcome if they make people feel safer.

Virtual Branch – Talks are on the second Thursday of the month. ‘Doors’ open at 7.45 for an 8pm start. To attend, you have to initially register an interest by emailing: virtualbranch@lwmfhs.org.uk (This is once only - you do not need to register for each talk). The details of each Zoom meeting will then be emailed to you a few days prior to the event as well as being announced in *Metropolitan*, on our website and Facebook page.

The talk will be recorded (with the speaker’s permission) and reshown the following morning at 10am so that members who live abroad or those who can’t make the live event can watch it at a hopefully more convenient time.

Branch Contact: Clare Pollitt, Email: virtualbranch@lwmfhs.org.uk

- 9 December *Piccadilly in London’s West End* by Rob Kayne
A miscellany of stories depicting this symbol of fashion, luxury, wealth and also key moments in London’s musical history.
- 13 January *Using DNA to support Family History Research* by Mia Bennett. DNA is the new tool in our toolkit which can confirm if our paper trail matches the biological trail or can help solve a long standing brickwall,
- 10 February *The 1921 Census* by Myko Clelland of Findmypast, who will be showcasing these new records and giving tips on how to make the most of them. This talk will give members the best possible chance to broaden their research and break down those brick walls!
This will be preceded by our AGM – see our AGM insert in the middle of this issue of *Metropolitan*.
- 10 March *The First Railway Workers, c1825-c1870* by David Turner. This talk describes the prior occupations, working environment and lives of early railway workers, and some of the first strike actions by them.

Barnet Branch – Talks are on the third Thursday of the month from 7.30pm to 9.30pm at Lyonsdown Hall, Lyonsdown Road, New Barnet, Hertfordshire EN5 1JB.

Branch Contact: Clare Pollitt, Email: barnet@lwmfhs.org.uk

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| 16 December | No meeting |
| 20 January | An informal meeting with discussion, your stories and research help – all welcome to come and contribute. |
| 17 February | Same as above. |
| 17 March | Same as above. |

Rayners Lane Branch – Talks are on the first Monday of the month. Doors open at 1pm for a 1.30pm start at Roxeth Community Church, Coles Crescent, South Harrow, Middlesex HA2 0TN.

Branch Contact: Tricia Sutton, Email: rayners_lane@lwmfhs.org.uk

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| 6 December | Members' Christmas Special |
| 3 January | Members' Afternoon: 5 minute talks. What are you currently researching? What have you discovered? Come with queries and 'brick walls' and possibly get help with puzzling DNA results! |
| 7 February | <i>Coroners' Inquests</i> by Kathy Chater.
This talk is about the wealth of information that can be found in coroners' inquests and how to find it. |
| 7 March | Members' Afternoon: Topic-1921 Census Surprises! What/Who did you find in this Census? |
| 4 April | <i>My Ancestor was a Shopkeeper</i> by Sue Gibbons
Finding sources for the shop and its surroundings, the occupation and the individual will be covered in this talk. |



JOTTINGS

St James Hampstead Road burial records digitisation

HS2 has now launched a project to transcribe the 57,639 burial records from this burial ground. 31,000 bodies were excavated by archaeologists as part of the construction of the HS2 rail link. The St James's burial records have been digitised on crowdsourcing platform Zooniverse and volunteers are encouraged to transcribe details such as each person's name, date of burial, lot and plot number, age at death and cause of death.

If you wish to help with the transcriptions, you can reach this site here: <https://www.zooniverse.org/projects/mola/stories-of-st-jamess-burial-ground>

The Army Museums Ogilby Trust

The wartime experiences of Colonel Robert OGILBY DSO, DL, made him a passionate believer in the power of Regimental identity on a British soldier's fighting spirit. His Trust was set up in 1954 to support the rich heritage of the individual Regiments and Corps through the objects, archives and stories which are represented in Army Museums. There are 140 Army museums and collections linked to the Regiments and Corps of the British Army throughout the UK which can be searched by region on the website.

You may be surprised to find that there are some 23 in the Greater London area in the Museum Directory, including (for example) the Inns of Court and City Yeomanry Museum which is at 10 Stone Buildings, Lincoln's Inn, London WC2A 3TG. This small collection is housed in a classical George III building (dating from 1774) in Lincoln's Inn and it records the unusual history of the Regiment. Its predecessor units go back to 1584 when the members, all lawyers, were formed to defend London against the threat of a Spanish invasion. Subsequently members took part in the English Civil War and the defence of the City during the Gordon Riots. Units were raised during the Napoleonic Wars and members fought during the Boer War and in later conflicts. It is the only regiment which had (and still has) a very close association with London's legal profession. In addition to uniforms, weapons, medals and memorabilia there is an excellent archive and possibly the oldest complete set of drums in the British Army, presented to the Law Association Volunteers in 1803.

Whether you want to visit an Army museum, research family history or find advice on how to care for military objects, this website can help you: <https://www.armymuseums.org.uk/>

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

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CHEQUE PAYMENT BY UK OR OVERSEAS MEMBERS

UK cheques are payable to LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX FHS.

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

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

CANADA: Canadian Postal Money Orders cannot be accepted.

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

OTHER WAYS TO PAY

- Set up a standing order payable on 1 October annually (bank details below);
- Make a payment directly into our bank account (details below);
- Pay through Parish Chest directly from our website lwmfhs.org.uk, or our stall on the Parish Chest
- Post a cheque to the Membership Secretary (details inside the front cover) giving your name and, if possible, membership number (which on the email notifying you of your electronic version of *Metropolitan*, or on the address sheet sent with your paper copy).

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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.**

