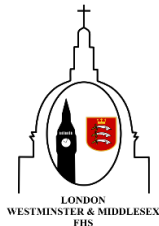


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METROPOLITAN

The Journal of the
LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX
Family History Society



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Cover picture: The view of the church of St Martin in the Fields from across Trafalgar Square, taken by Steve Baker@musicalfruits

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EDITORIAL

We are all still coping with the Covid-19 pandemic but can see a way forward now. Our local archives centres have started to open, mostly with an appointment system in place. Please check their websites before you visit. Our local branch meetings are cancelled but our Virtual Branch is going well with participants from around the world and speakers booked to December 2021. This branch will continue, so do let us know if you have any ideas of topics for talks that you would like to hear. It is lovely to see everyone online and put faces to familiar names that we knew only from membership lists.

The Society's year ends on 30 September 2021. Your subscription renewal form is in the centre of this journal and there are notes from our Treasurer on how to pay, both in the renewal form and on page 103.

We have a real A to Z selection of articles for you—from the Asgills via Christmas puddings, an old familiar song that will repeat in your mind for days! Royalty and the Romanovs, to the Zeppelin raids of 1915. We really enjoyed reading these and hope that our members do too.

Do keep your articles coming in as it is your contributions that make this journal. The Editors are happy to receive items by email or by post and photographs are welcome too.

The next event that we will attend is The Family History Show Online 2021 – held on Saturday 19 June 2021 from 10.00am to 16.30pm. For more details and website see page 110.

Stay safe!

The Editorial Team

NEXT COPY DATE

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

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Since the death of Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh (1921-2021) I thought that it would be of interest to explain how his donation of a blood sample led to the identification by DNA analysis of the family of the last Tsar of Russia who were murdered in 1918.

Philip was descended in a totally female line from Queen Victoria (1819-1901) who was his 2x great grandmother. His great grandmother was Princess Alice (1843-1878) who married Ludwig, the Grand Duke of Hesse, a German state. Philip's grandmother was the Princess Alice of Hesse (1863-1950) who married Prince Louis of Battenberg (in 1917 re-titled Marquess of Milford Haven). Philip's mother was Princess Alice of Battenberg (1885-1969) who married Prince Andrew of Greece. Philip was the youngest child. He had four older sisters.

The last Tsarina of Russia was originally named Alexandra Princess of Hesse (1872-1918) and she was a sister of Philip's grandmother. She married Tsar Nicholas II and had four daughters and one son. Philip grew up with the knowledge of their brutal murder. He sometimes referred to the Soviet regime as the Murderers of his Family.

Tsar Nicholas had been forced to abdicate in March 1917 because of his gross mismanagement of the war against Germany. There was a possibility of exile in Britain or France but even his cousin George V was reluctant to risk an invitation to such an unpopular autocrat. Then in October 1917 there was a further (Communist) revolution and Lenin was in power. There was a civil war (of Reds versus Whites) and the Tsar's family were eventually moved to a large house in Ekaterinburg in the Urals, 800 miles east of Moscow.

The civil war in Russia meant there was a danger that the Romanovs would be rescued. Lenin sent a coded telegraph order (no paper trail) for the execution of the whole family. In the early hours of the 17 July 1918 the whole family were ordered to get dressed and be ready to be transported as White Army Czech troops were approaching. They were then ordered into a cellar with their doctor and three female servants. All of them were killed by shooting and stabbing with bayonets. The squad had been picked by their commander as being ruthless and having no previous contact with the family.

But even so they were fortified by alcohol. The bodies were then stripped to uncover a collection of jewels hidden in the dresses. Disposal of the bodies proved a problem. Firstly, they were thrown down a mineshaft which proved to be too shallow. Orders then came to destroy the bodies by use of gasoline and sulphuric acid. This was only partially successful. They were finally buried in the forest. The soldiers were ordered to forget everything of course on pain of death. However, there was actually a full report made by their commander to the KGB with photographs.

Then a deliberate silence from the Soviet Government. In the 1920s, a young woman called Anna Anderson appeared in Europe claiming that she was Anastasia, the youngest daughter who had been smuggled out by a sympathetic guard. She had perhaps been well tutored by some Russian emigrés and had a long running case in German courts claiming the Romanov inheritance. There were several problems with her claims, particularly her lack of fluency in the four languages that were spoken by the Romanov family and most, but not all, dismissed her claim. There was even a film about her in 1956 starring Ingrid Bergman. She died in 1984 before DNA analysis was available and was cremated. However many years later DNA analysis of a frozen Pathology tissue sample showed that she was probably Polish and was definitely unrelated to the Romanovs.

Some local knowledge of the burial sites was passed on. In 1979, two amateur historians dug at a possible site and found some bones but then decided that it was still risking the wrath of the KGB so they reburied them. Then in 1991 under Gorbachev, everything changed and an official Russian expedition was provided with details from KGB files and was then able to exhume bones and re-assemble nine skeletons. They could only presume but had no proof that they had the right bones. Also, there should have been eleven skeletons (seven family and four others)

This is where Prince Philip comes into the story. He could supply a blood sample for DNA analysis. DNA could be extracted from cells in the marrow of the larger bones. It was possible to extract chromosomal DNA (originating from the nucleus of the cell) and DNA from the mitochondria which are distinct bodies in the cytoplasm of the cell. Mitochondrial DNA is transmitted from mother to child with hardly any changes. Prince Philip was directly descended from Queen Victoria in an exclusively female line. This also was also the case for the Czarina Alexandra and her five children. The

scientists found that four female skeletons had Mitochondrial DNA that matched that of Prince Philip. From analysis of the age, size and maturity of the skeletons they were identified as those of the Czarina (age 46), Olga (22), Tatiana (21), and probably Maria (19).

Czar Nicolas was not such a close relative of Prince Philip. However the Czar was a first cousin of George V (their mothers were sisters), so Chromosomal DNA from any descendent of George V in the British Royal Family could be used. This proved to be a match with one of the two mature male skeletons and was therefore identified as that of the Czar.

On the 18 July 1998 (the 80th anniversary of their murder) President Boris Yeltsin and thirty Romanov descendants (including Prince Michael of Kent) attended the funeral of the Tsar and family (and also the three servants and the doctor) in the Cathedral of St Peter and St Paul in St Petersburg.

That left the two youngest members of the family still unaccounted for. They were the only son Alexei (nearly 14) and the possible escapee Anastasia (age 17). A further investigation in 2007 using the KGB archives found two further skeletons damaged by fire and acid at a probable site. Eventually after much analysis it was agreed that they were the missing children. Only in 2015 were they interred with the rest of the family. Ninety-seven years after their murder.

References:

The Romanovs, 1613 -1918 by Simon Sebag Montefiore (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 2016)

Young Prince Philip. His Turbulent Early Life by Philip Eade (Harper Press, 2011)

Tony Allen

HAVE YOU CHANGED YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS?

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

membership@lwmfhs.org.uk

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Website News in March's *Metropolitan* mentioned that a popular occupation for BICKERS family members in Suffolk in 1841 was 'fustian cutter'. Fustian was a kind of coarse twilled cotton fabric with a short nap such as moleskin or corduroy which was worn by working people. A fustian cutter had to create the nap by cutting the weft with a special thin knife which was slid along the warp threads. 'Fustian' is also used figuratively to mean pompous or overblown language, due apparently to the fact that fustian was often used as padding. Fustian turns up in the historical books of Georgette Heyer, whose Regency novels are very well researched and worth a read if you would like to experience the flavour of life in those times.

Rosemary A Roome, Member No. 2985

Islington Gazette, 6 June 1857

THE LOWER ROAD

Sir,- Now that the High-street folk have succeeded in putting their houses in numerical order, it is high time that we of the Lower-road should be stirring on the same business.

Allow me to recommend, through the columns of the *Gazette*, a meeting of my neighbours to re-arrange their addresses and also to re name the road.

There is a great deal in a name, and I am sure it must be the wish of us all to cast aside an appellation which carries with it an idea that we are a low class of shopkeepers, because our terrestrial altitude does not equal the High street; nor is the suggestion without precedent in the parish.

The Liverpool road was formerly known by the name of Back Lane.

If this should chime in with the wishes of the inhabitants, I would recommend that the whole length of the road be re-named from the Green to Balls pond gate; the numbering to commence from the Green, one side even, the other odd numbers, and that they be continued at present on the eastern side as far as Rotherfield-street, and on the western to the Thatched-house-tavern.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

A LOWER ROAD MAN.

May 31st 1857.

REVISED MEMBERSHIP PAYMENT OPTIONS

Payment of Subscriptions online using PayPal is a service we have offered for several years. For a long time this was the only alternative to cheque payment or a standing order, and particularly benefited our overseas members. However, things have moved on and there are now other, better options. PayPal took a fairly considerable chunk of our subscription money as commission, and also caused us some administrative headaches. Now we are offering another way of paying electronically which takes little or no commission from us.

Methods of payment now are:

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

These should provide plenty of straightforward payment methods, whether or not you prefer to use electronic banking, and should not inconvenience members who have previously used our website to buy membership. This change has been made in the interests of the Society as a whole.

April Vesey, Treasurer

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.

THE MINER'S DREAM OF HOME

By Dawn Adams, Member No. 6025

“I saw the old homestead
And faces I loved
I saw England's valleys and dells
I listened with joy
As I did when a boy
To the sound of the old village bells
The log was burning brightly
'Twas a night that would banish all sin
For the bells were ringing the Old Year out
And the New Year in”

That's the chorus of 'The Miner's Dream of Home' written by Will GODWIN and Leo DRYDEN in 1891 and performed by the latter in the Music Halls of London in the 1890s – his only really successful song. It was first heard by me at family gatherings in my grandparents' house, 66 St Joseph's Road, Edmonton in the 1950s. It was one of many such songs sung by my father, Ben (Thomas Benjamin ADAMS 1903-1977), his younger brothers Ted (Edward William 1911-2002), Dave (David 1915-2004) and Vic (Victor 1919-2002), their sister Ciss (Esther Ellen 1908-2000) and their wives and husband and children. Until he died, my grandfather, Benjamin Walter (1877-1957) was of the company and until she was rehoused in about 1967 so was my grandmother (Esther Eliza née DORRELL 1879-1972). It was always a great improvement when her nephew Charlie was there (Charles F T OWEN 1917-1997), since he was an accomplished pianist in the East End pub style.

But how did my parents' generation develop this tradition? Having grown up in the 20s and 30s, these were not 'their' songs, surely. Marie LLOYD died on stage at the Edmonton Empire (Music Hall) in 1922; the theatre was in walking distance of St Joseph's Road, though it was transformed into a cinema in 1933 ⁽¹⁾. The songs too are eminently singable. My deduction is that a combination of multi-generational family gatherings and visits to the 'Empire' consolidated many of these songs in their memories.

And sometimes a music hall song touched an emotional chord. So many related to events in people's lives: love, marriage, good (or bad) fortune,

growing old. Imagination is not always a good friend in Family History but I do wonder why, among the hundred or so I can list, the ‘Miner’s Dream’ was always sung. It’s about separation from home and loved ones in a faraway land, where the singer has gone to seek his fortune – and in the end, he returns to a loving fireside. Three of the brothers had some experience of that, having served in World War 2 (the other men had reserved occupations – to his great chagrin, Dave was dragged back from enlistment in the Navy to return to his lathe at the Royal Enfield Small Arms factory). Grandad ADAMS had served in World War 1 but didn’t speak about it (to my great regret, this was because Grandma ADAMS always stopped his ‘boring Cockney war stories’ before he could start).

If you look at the birthdates above, you’ll notice a five-year gap between Ben in 1903 and Ciss in 1908. This was filled, not, as we find so often, by infants who had died but by Sid (Sidney Ernest 1904-1988) and Harry (Henry George 1906-1988). Life was tough in the early 1920’s, Grandad was trying to earn a living as a jobbing gardener but spending more time involved with his allotment, according to Grandma ⁽²⁾; she was making some income as a home worker for a toothbrush company in Hoxton, for which they had both worked before their marriage.



Edmonton Allotment Association 1924, after winning 1st prize for a collection of vegetables at the London & District Show, Benjamin Walter 2nd from left.

But by 1922 they had seven children at home aged from 3 to 19, none of them earning a satisfying wage. So on 6 June 1923, to his father's fury, Ben,



Ben, Harry, Sid and their father, Benjamin Walter Adams, in Edmonton about 1922.

aged 20, joined the Middlesex Regiment and was sent to India; on 4 September 1924, Sid and Harry, aged 20 and 18, set sail for Australia on the SS *Borda*, no doubt assuming they would never return. Perhaps they had seen an advertisement like the one which appeared in the *Westminster Gazette* in 1924 'Australia offers

opportunities to Single Men, Boys, Young Married Couples: work with good wages and board for all guaranteed on arrival; assisted passages; fare lent if necessary – Apply (personally if possible) particulars all schemes to Mr BURTON (recently from Australia)' and further down the same column 'Farm workers wanted for Australia. Good situations for trained and untrained men. Assisted fares £22 which may be advanced. British lads trained in farming' ⁽³⁾ Similar advertisements were appearing in newspapers all over the UK.

A photo album was assembled for the emigrants to take with them. They travelled via the Canary Islands and Cape Town, and in each port Sid bought picture postcards to send home to his mother and younger siblings. Those cards still exist. Harry disembarked in Sidney on 18 October 1924; Sid landed in Melbourne - presumably pre-arranged destinations.

There is a document in the family archive headed 'Welfare Officer's Report on Farm Boy', addressed to Mrs E ADAMS. This is about Harry, who, by February 1928, was apparently 'doing well' earning £2 a week plus 2% of the crop on a 380 acre farm, living with E C RICHARDS at Eumungirie, Dubbo, New South Wales. The report was prepared for the New Settlers' League, a body set up to assist immigrants to Australia to come and

especially to settle ⁽⁴⁾. Australia had lost 60,000 young men in World War 1, and needed replacements but this wasn't always appreciated by the population, who saw the Pommies either as taking their jobs or as inadequate for the task. The New Settlers' League encouraged employers to give them time to adapt to the outdoor farm life - for the ADAMS' boys this would have been a great contrast to a terraced house in Lower Edmonton. And the Big Brother Movement found mentors to support the younger ones, in response to genuine problems of mental health among young migrants.



Harry at work.

The Welfare Officer reported that Harry had saved £80, though he spent some of his hard-earned cash on a camera, and sent the evidence back to Edmonton. The early photos show his working life on the farm but later there are trips out with friends in a motor car, and a snap taken by a street photographer in Sydney showing Harry in a smart suit. This was a great contrast to the appearance of the boys before emigration.

Sid eventually settled in Highton, Geelong, Victoria, and in 1933 he married. However his first wife, Lily Souter MCGREGOR died in 1935, aged only 27. In 1937 he was married again, to Isobel Mckenzie ANDERSON, and in 1942 he enlisted in the Australian Army. Serving in North Africa in 1942/3, as a Lance Corporal in a Light Anti Aircraft Battery, he encountered the British 51st Highland Division and their machine gunners, 1/7th Middlesex Regiment ⁽⁵⁾, among whom was his brother, Sergeant Ben ADAMS (who had left the Army and returned from India in 1928 but joined the Territorials when war threatened). After this unexpected meeting they exchanged addresses and



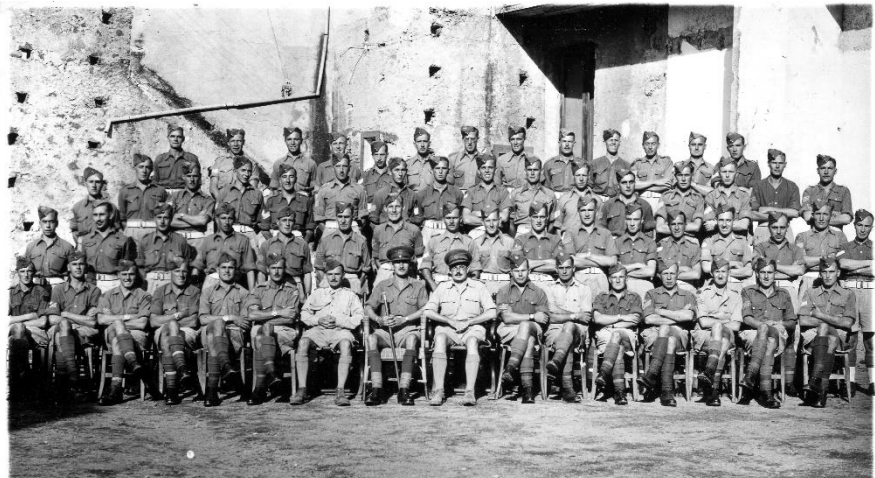
An outing in Australia.

continued to write to each other for the duration, according to Ben's diary. Isobel died in 1958. Sid had no children from either marriage. When he died in 1988, he was described as a farmer, and he left his property to the family 'back home'.



Harry in Sydney.

Harry married in 1942, giving his occupation as Landscape Gardener, and an address c/o the National Oil Co, Glen Davis. His bride was Gwendoline Ruth WHITE, an Australian born in Brisbane, and together they later ran a store in Woy Woy, New South Wales, and bred terriers. They too had no children but, once retired, they did visit the family in England, in 1976, the year before Ben died, and again in 1979. Several photos from these trips show Gwen with various family members but it seems that they were all taken by Harry, who appears in none. In return, Dave and his wife Lil (Lilian née WADKINS 1916-2009) visited Australia, and returned bearing the photo album that had accompanied the boys on their journey.



B Company 1/7th Middlesex Regiment NCOs and Officers 1943
(Sgt Ben Adams front row, 4th from left).

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There were other mining connections among those assembled at St Joseph's Road but no one knew about them at the time: my mother (Dorothy Elsie Kathleen Hannah née FINDLAY 1913-1999) didn't know that she had a Cornish grandmother, Hannah née GIST (despite being named for her) nor that Hannah's brothers had dug slate first at Delabole, at one time the biggest man-made hole in the world ⁽⁶⁾, and later in the slate belt of Pennsylvania. Where no doubt they too dreamed of home.

References

1. <https://enfieldsociety.org.uk/2020/11/09/lower-edmonton/> This article includes a photo of the 'Edmonton Empire'
2. West Middlesex Gazette 13 Sept 1924 (via FindMyPast): at the 3rd Annual show of the London & District Allotment & Garden Association at the Royal Horticultural Society's Hall, Westminster, there were over 1500 entries, and First Prize for a Collection of Vegetables went to Edmonton Allotment Association.
3. Westminster Gazette 28 Aug 1924 (via FindMyPast)
4. Empty spaces & smiling faces; the New Settlers' League by Jacqueline Stockdale (2016) <https://researchonline.jcu.edu.au/49950/1/49950-stockdale-thesis-2016.pdf>
5. Monty's Highlanders: 51st Highland Division in the Second World War by Patrick Delaforce (2007) Pen & Sword Military, Barnsley Yorks
6. Delabole: the history of the Slate Quarry by Catherine Mary Lorigan (2007) Pengelly Press, Cornwall



London Daily Chronicle and Clerkenwell News, Friday 9 June 1871

The Thames Embankment

So large a measure of support has rarely been anticipated for any motion of which a private member has given notice as that expected for the resolution to be moved by Mr WH Smith on the 16th inst, in favour of reserving for the recreation of the public the piece of land on the Thames Embankment between Whitehall-gardens and Whitehall-place. As the land in question was paid for by the ratepayers of the metropolis, it is confidently believed that the House of Commons will not sanction its proposed confiscation by the Crown.

JOTTINGS

Really Useful Family History Fair

This took place on 10 April 2021 as an online event. Our team Alan, April, Barbara, Clare, Elaine, Elizabeth, Karen, Sylv and Tony (although Tony was let down by the technology) took it in turns to man the stand and answered some 30 queries. Questions included such things as, where might someone who died in Westminster North West in 1942 be buried, how to find the address of a Huguenot from before his marriage and did we know where to find out information about pianoforte makers in Clerkenwell. We could only have a maximum of three people on the stand at once so everybody else provided a research team, helping provide answers via Zoom.

We attracted five new members (welcome, those who joined then!) which brings us to the milestone total of 500. We also sold 7 Parish Guides. We had a few technical issues trying to set up chat function for some of the volunteers and have sent feed-back to the organisers and learnt some lessons to carry forward to future on-line events. In turn, the Family History Federation told us that our stand was one of the best attended and best rated FHS stands at the show!

Karen de Bruyne, Events Co-ordinator

THE FAMILY HISTORY SHOW ONLINE 2021

The next event will be held on Saturday 19 June 2021
from 10.00-16.30.

Tickets are £8 on the day but can be bought in advance for £6 here:
<https://thefamilyhistoryshow.com/online/tickets/?discount=JH6X3V>

These online events have all the features of the physical shows but from the comfort of your own home! There will be a series of talks (each available for 24 hours), Ask the Experts and an Exhibition Hall full of family history societies and other historical groups, including us!

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

Marriage certificates will now include mothers' names too

For the first time, marriage certificates in England and Wales will now include the names of both parents of the couple getting married instead of only their fathers, after legal changes to the process came into force on 4 May. Previously marriages were registered by the couple signing a register book, which was held at each register office, in churches and chapels and at other registered religious places – there were some 84,000 register books in use. The information from these books had to be extracted and uploaded onto the Home Office's system, which took time and money. Now, one single electronic marriage register has been created which eliminates the need to do this and it will be more secure. At the same time it has been possible to easily amend the information collected to include the mothers' names.

The reopening of archives centres.

As we went to press, lockdown restrictions were being eased and many of our local archives centres have started to open up, albeit in a cautious way. You typically have to book a place and may need to order the records you want to see in advance, so please check before you set off.

One of the big advantages of lockdown was the plethora of new online resources, our own Virtual Branch talks being included and many of these are being kept. This can only be a good thing for family historians.

The National Archives (TNA) at Kew, for example, reopened on 27 April but visitors must book their visit and order documents in advance. TNA also have free talks, webinars and other events online, if you cannot get there yourself. You can replay most of their online talks on their YouTube channel (The National Archives UK) – there is a link to this on their webpage here: <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/about/visit-us/whats-on/events/>

London Metropolitan Archives (LMA) reopened on 10 May but again a place must be booked in advance by researchers 'with an urgent need to see original documents'. LMA also have a YouTube channel where their films can be seen for free called LdnMetArchives. This includes items such as Victory Day 1946, a silent film which depicts two processions and evening festivities on 8 June 1946, celebrating the British and Allied victory in the Second World War and one of the Lord Mayor's Show, 1928.

Camden Local Studies and Archives is open by appointment only but the team are working and continue to answer telephone, written and email enquiries. They also have interesting Zoom talks and a page of online video resources: <https://www.camden.gov.uk/local-history-exhibitions-and-events>

BURIALS IN ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS PARISH

By Elizabeth Burling, Member No. 4992

A church dedicated to St Martin is first mentioned in records in 1222, which was being used by the monks of Westminster Abbey when they visited the convent gardens to the east of the Abbey, in what is now Covent Garden. However, the parish of St Martin-in-the-Fields was not formed until 1540, when King Henry VIII created it from all the land between St Clement Danes in the east and the Palace of Westminster, land which had been part of the parish of St Margaret Westminster. He did this in order to prevent the danger of infection to the Court from dead bodies being carried past his Palace at Whitehall for burial at St Margaret's. He built a new St Martin's church, which was replaced by the current one in 1726.

The church was surrounded by its churchyard, as all original ancient parish churches were, and many famous people were buried at St Martin including



Duncannon Street with the church of St Martin on the left, site of the Waterman's Burying Ground.

scientist Robert BOYLE, furniture maker Thomas CHIPPENDALE, actress Nell GWYNNE and notorious highwayman Jack SHEPPARD. The extensive part of the churchyard south of the church was known as 'the Waterman's Burying-ground' as it contained the graves of many Thames watermen. This was cleared in about 1827 when

Trafalgar Square was laid out, the remains being placed in catacombs on the north side of the church and Duncannon Street built on the space. The rest of the churchyard was eventually paved over.

St Martin's church also had extensive vaults under the church where many parishioners were buried, until the practise was stopped. These were cleared in 1937 and this space is now a café. You can still see several stones and monuments on the floor here and around the walls.

However, as with most central London parishes, St Martin had several burial grounds which opened as the original ones filled up. A 'New Burial Ground' was granted to the church in 1606 by King James 1, which can be seen on Roque's map *A plan of the cities of London and Westminster and borough of Southwark* of 1746 on the other side of St Martin's Lane from the church and just to the north. A new parish workhouse was built on one side of this additional burial ground in 1725 and by the time the burial ground was closed in the 1760s, the various wards, work rooms, dining halls and schools of the workhouse completely surrounded the cemetery, fronting onto the surrounding roads of Castle Street to the east, Hemmings Row to the north and Duke's Court to the south.



Rocque's Map showing the churchyards surrounding the church of St Martin and the new burial ground.

'The Lancet Sanitary Commission for Investigating the State of the Infirmarys of Workhouses' was published in *The Lancet* in 1865 and parts of it are included on the excellent Workhouses.org website. The article mentions that the large number of bodies buried in this ground had raised the land so that ground floor rooms fronting the roads appear to be basements on the cemetery side, with the 'offensive abutment of churchyard earth' blocking up the windows. The appalling description of conditions in the workhouse here (and elsewhere) resulted in the passing of the Metropolitan Poor Act in 1867 and St Martin's parish being incorporated into the Strand Poor Law Union in 1868. The old workhouse was demolished and the northern block of the National Gallery now stands on this site.

Pauper burials from the St Martin-in-the-Fields area were buried at Brookwood Cemetery at Woking in Surrey from 1855. This cemetery had only been opened by the London Necropolis Company in 1854 and it was

used by many London parishes. A special train from Waterloo went straight to Brookwood. Around 80% of burials were pauper funerals carried out on behalf of London parishes and prisons – these will have had no permanent memorial. The Victorian civil engineering projects, especially the building of the railways, often necessitated the demolition of burial grounds and Brookwood was often the final resting place of these remains.

A third burial ground for the parish opened in 1764 and was attached to the Tavistock Proprietary Episcopal Chapel in Broad Court, just off Drury Lane.



The gravestones which remain at Drury Lane.

In 1833 this church was made a chapel of ease to St Martin-in-the-Fields and became known as St John the Evangelist from 1855, until it closed in 1938 and the parish united to Holy Trinity Kingsway. This was the first burial ground to be turned into a public garden following the 1853 Burial Act. The mortuary and lodge survive on either side of the entrance, which is on the south side of Drury Lane just north of Russell Street. Now known as Drury

Lane Playground, a small number of tombstones can still be seen ranged along the northern boundary.

A further burial ground was subsequently obtained for the parish but this was at some distance away, 3 miles to the north at Camden Town in the parish of St Pancras. St Martin's Gardens, formerly also known as Camden Town Cemetery, was acquired in 1803 to provide further burial space for the parish of St Martin-in-the-Fields. It was built on open farmland to the west of Camden Street, with an entrance in Pratt Street, and had a chapel. The burial ground was consecrated in 1805 and was in use until 1856: some 18,000 burials have been recorded at this site. Many people dying in the St Martin's workhouse were brought here to be buried. In 1887 the burial ground was laid out as a public garden and edged with some of the gravestones. In 1854 permission was granted to build on part of the ground which required many bodies to be moved. It is possible that the large mound at the centre of the

ground is made up of these exhumations but it may be made up of remains from the original burial ground. The parish chest collection has various documents about the Camden Town Burial Ground, such as an account book of fees received at the burial ground, accounts of burial fees, a burial order book, fees paid for tombs and flat stones and fees received and expanded. An index to the burials at Pratt Street from 1806-1856 was published on microfiche by the London & North Middlesex FHS, one of the founder Societies to London Westminster & Middlesex FHS, in 1985. These names will eventually appear on our Name Index – if you would like to help type this up, please contact projects@lwmfhs.org.uk

The Burial Registers for St Martin-in-the-Fields date from 1551-1853 and are at Westminster Archives Centre with copies online at Ancestry and transcriptions at FindMyPast. Apart from the Registers themselves, the parish chest collection contains many other documents which are relevant to the various St Martin burial grounds without necessarily specifying which one, such as these: Burial books, with the name and address of each deceased person, the date of death, whether a man, woman or child, the amount of the burial fees, and occasionally the cause of death and age, dated 1689-1691 and 1708-1769; an alphabetical list of names on coffins removed from catacombs B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, K, L, M, N, O and vaults Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, Vestry, Steeple, Chancel, Portico and various Private vaults and deposited into catacombs B, C and D, dated May 1859; and Sexton's day books, giving the name and address of each deceased person, the date of death, the cause of death, and the amount of the burial fees, dated 1685-1853.

The survival of the Sexton's books has enabled a very interesting paper to be written on just where parishioners were buried: *Traffic in corpses: interment, burial fees and vital registration in Georgian London* by Jeremy Boulton, Newcastle University (2010). This includes a chart showing the percentage of people buried in each of the burial grounds over time. It also shows that nearly 8% of corpses between 1747 and 1792 were actually buried in the neighbouring parish of St Anne, Soho, to the profit of the Vestry there, with quite a few others being buried at St Paul Covent Garden. This report is here: <https://research.ncl.ac.uk/pauperlives/documents/trafficincorpses.pdf>

'An Act to amend the Laws concerning the Burial of the Dead in England beyond the Limits of the Metropolis and to amend the Act concerning the Burial of the Dead in the Metropolis', otherwise known as the 1853 Burial

Act, closed the metropolitan burial grounds which were still open and burials took place instead at a string of private cemeteries which had been built on the outskirts of the metropolis.

Sources

Drury Lane Playground: <https://londongardenstrust.org/>

The Lancet article on workhouses – a pdf of the first page can be seen via the Science Direct website here: [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(02\)50250-6/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(02)50250-6/fulltext)

Rocque's Map of 1746: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Rocque%27s_Map_of_London,_1746

St Martin's Workhouse: <http://www.workhouses.org.uk/StMartins/>
Westminster Archives Centre



Public Ledger and Daily Advertiser 29 June 1833

NEW HUNGERFORD MARKET

The Public is informed that the NEW HUNGERFORD MARKET will be OPENED on TUESDAY, the 2d day of July next, and that business will commence on the following day.

The situation and construction of the Market, and the facility of access both by land and water, afford not only to the trader, but to the public in general, every accommodation for transacting business.

To Fish, Fruit and Vegetable, Hay, Straw and Corn Salesmen, the Company's Wharf presents the most convenient landing, and the great Hall and Galleries of the Market afford every means of disposing of their respective produce.

Cellarage floored or otherwise to any extent, adopted to the warehousing and storing of goods of all descriptions, may be had on moderate terms.

The Wholesale Market-days for Fruit and Vegetables will be Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays; and for Hay, Straw, and Corn, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

The Shops are nearly all let. Persons requiring Stands are requested to make immediate application at the Company's Office, No. 2, Duke street, Adelphi. June 18, 1833. By Order, A. L. LEITH, Clerk.

N.B. No Tolls will be charged to parties renting the Market for the first three months.

FOCUS ON FACEBOOK

By Elizabeth Burling, Member No. 4992



This charming photograph taken in Trinity Mews, Pimlico, was sent to me on the Facebook page by Neil. Pimlico nowadays is a posh and pricey area but it was not always that way. Neil's grandfather, David HARRIS, and great grandfather, David Charles HARRIS, worked at Trinity Mews. Both men always appear in records as a coachman or ostler. as did their forefathers. Neil is not sure who the people are in the photos but he knows the small horse was called 'Little Billy' and the horse in the middle was 'Jimmy Wilde'. The largest horse he cannot remember the name of. His grandfather died in 1978.

I asked if the people could be members of Neil's family. Neil is fairly sure that they are not. David Charles HARRIS died in 1925 and never wore a collar and tie, always wore a cravat, so neither man could be him. The little girl is too young to be his grandad's sister Lizzy 'Kit' HARRIS and the chap on the left doesn't look like any of his family. The photos only have the names of the horses on them but Neil suspects that the photos are c1925, before the Great Flood of 1928. In the flood his granddad (who couldn't swim) waded through waters to the Mews to rescue the horses. He managed

to get them to Vincent Square which in those days was higher ground. Neil remembers that you used to have to walk down an incline to get in to Trinity Mews. He also remembers in the 1970s that Trinity Mews was also a kids playground with slides and swings. His nan and granddad lived in Longleat House and in the summers they took him there and to the playground around the back of the Tate Gallery. He was not sure if Trinity Mews is still there albeit in another guise. 'It's all very posh housing now'

Neil added that there was a L shaped street that ran from Rampayne Street and Vauxhall Bridge Road. When he was a lad (1970s) he used to cycle around it. His granddad told him that the bit that led to Vauxhall Bridge Road used to have a blacksmiths on it and they used to take the horses there to be shoed. When he cycled there it was all old warehouses he thought. He said that now the road is obliterated and it's some awful modern thing built there.

David HARRIS had been born in two rooms over stables at 34 Page Street. There is a photo of their home in a book which Neil thinks is called *Pimlico Past*.

Garry commented that this was an interesting post for him as his grandmother (Frances Ethel SLEEPER née GRANT) was born at 17 Trinity Mews in 1883. Her dad was described as a 'coachman' on her birth certificate, so presumably worked in the Mews. Trinity Mews was between Bessborough Gardens and Bessborough Place. Garry was not sure when it ceased to exist but according to maps, it was certainly still there in the 50s. There is a New Trinity Mews but it's south of Bessborough Place and therefore not in the same place.

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

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

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Contributors should indicate if copy is being distributed to other family history society journals or family history magazines.

The Editors reserve the right to edit contributions.



MEMBERS' INTERESTS

The research interests listed here were submitted by members between March and middle of May 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 are from members: 8241; 8242; 8251; 8255; 8264

Name	Period	County	Parish / Area	Mem.No.
BUTLAND	1855-1964	MDX	Hendon/Harrow	8255
CARPENTER	1850-1900	MDX	Clerkenwell	8242
CARTER	1750-1950	MDX	Edmonton, Covent Gdn	8251
CROFT	1820-1937	MDX	St Marylebone/ Finsbury/Willesden	8255
FOTHERGILL	1800-1950	MDX	Holborn, Islington	8251
FOTHERGILL	1800-1950	LND	City of London	8251
LINES	1750-1850	MDX	Edmonton	8251
MASON	1750-1950	MDX	Holborn	8251
PHILLIPS	1850-1911	MDX	Islington	8242
PHILP	1850-1911	MDX	Hackney	8242
PHILPS	1850-1911	MDX	Islington	8242
RISK	1800 to date	MDX	Any	8264
SWEATMAN	1740-1940	MDX	St Pancras, Soho	8241
SWEETMAN	1740-1940	MDX	St Pancras, Soho	8241
SWEETNAM	1740-1940	MDX	St Pancras, Soho	8241
SWETMAN	1740-1940	MDX	St Pancras, Soho	8241
TWITCHIN	1830-1943	MDX	Marylebone/Paddington	8255
UNWIN	1800 to date	MDX	Enfield	8264
WHITCOMBE	1850-1911	MDX	Clerkenwell	8242
WILKINS	1860-1878	MDX	Hampstead/Willesden	8255
WINGRAVE	1800-1900	MDX	Clerkenwell	8251
WINGRAVE	1800-1900	LND	City of London	8251

SPECIAL INTERESTS

8241 **One Name Study** – Sweetman, Sweatman, Swetman, Sweetnam, Swatman and variants

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the new members, numbers 8233-8267 who have joined the Society over the past few months and wish them well with their research.

CHAPMAN COUNTY CODES England, Wales and Scotland Before 1974

When you send in your Members' Interests you should use the Chapman County codes shown below.

ENG		SAL	Shropshire	ANS	Angus
BDF	Bedfordshire	SFK	Suffolk	ARL	Argyllshire
BKM	Buckinghamshire	SOM	Somerset	AYR	Ayrshire
BRK	Berkshire	SRY	Surrey	BAN	Banffshire
CAM	Cambridge	SSX	Sussex	BEW	Berwickshire
CHS	Cheshire	STS	Staffordshire	BUT	Bute
CON	Cornwall	WAR	Warwickshire	CAI	Caithness
CUL	Cumberland	WES	Westmoreland	CLK	Clackmannanshire
DBY	Derbyshire	WIL	Wiltshire	DFS	Dumfriesshire
DEV	Devon	WOR	Worcester	DNB	Dunbartonshire
DOR	Dorset	YKS	Yorkshire	ELN	East Lothian
DUR	Durham	ERY	Yks East Riding	FIF	Fife
ESS	Essex	NRY	Yks North Riding	INV	Inverness-shire
GLS	Gloucestershire	WRY	Yks West Riding	KCD	Kincardineshire
HAM	Hampshire			KKD	Kirkcudbrightshire
HEF	Herefordshire	WLS	Wales	KRS	Kinross-shire
HRT	Hertfordshire	AGY	Anglesey	LKS	Lanarkshire
HUN	Huntingdonshire	BRE	Brecknockshire	MLN	Midlothian
IOM	Isle of Man	CAE	Caernarvonshire	MOR	Moray
IOW	Isle of Wight	CGN	Cardiganshire	NAI	Nairnshire
KEN	Kent	CMN	Carmarthenshire	OKI	Orkney Isles
LAN	Lancashire	DEN	Denbighshire	PEE	Peebleshire
LEI	Leicestershire	FLN	Flintshire	PER	Perthshire
LIN	Lincoln	GLA	Glamorgan	RFW	Renfrewshire
LND	London	MER	Merionethshire	ROC	Ross & Cromarty
MDX	Middlesex	MGY	Montgomeryshire	ROX	Roxburghshire
NBL	Northumberland	MON	Monmouthshire	SEL	Selkirkshire
NFK	Norfolk	PEM	Pembrokeshire	SHI	Shetland Isles
NTH	Northamptonshire	RAD	Radnorshire	STI	Stirlingshire
NTT	Nottinghamshire			SUT	Sutherland
OXF	Oxfordshire	SCT	Scotland	WLN	West Lothian
RUT	Rutland	ABD	Aberdeenshire	WIG	Wigtownshire

**YOUR
ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION
RENEWAL FORM
IS OVERLEAF**

Please read our Treasurer's note on the back page of this insert before completing the form.

If you already pay your subscription by **Standing Order**, you must contact your bank to ensure that you will be paying the correct amount. Paying your subscription in this way is the most cost effective for the Society.

Members wishing to pay future subscriptions by Standing Order should send an SSAE to the Membership Secretary to obtain a form or download one from our website.

You may renew by **Parish Chest** via our website here:
<https://www.lwmfhs.org.uk/membership>

Please ensure that the Membership Secretary has your current email address

If you require a receipt for your cheque, then please include an SSAE with your completed form and remittance.

LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL – for the year 2021-2022

There are three categories of membership each with a different subscription rate. These rates depend on the mode of delivery of the LWMFHS journal *Metropolitan*.

Subscriptions are renewable by 1 October 2021 and must be paid in pounds sterling.

Please make your cheque payable to **LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX FHS** and return the completed form with your appropriate payment to:

Mrs Sylvia Thompson
62 Canning Road, Harrow, Middlesex HA3 7SN

Please tick the appropriate box below, indicating your category of payment or cancellation of your membership of the Society.

£12; UK & Overseas. To receive my journal as an electronic download.

£15; UK only. To receive my journal as a paper copy by post

£20; Overseas. To receive my journal as a paper copy by airmail post

Please cancel my membership of the Society (or email: membership@lwmfhs.org.uk)

Please ensure that the Membership Secretary has your current email address. If you pay your subscription by standing order, you must contact your bank to ensure that you will be paying the correct amount.

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SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL PAYMENT

A note from the Treasurer

To renew your membership for 2021-2022, you can:

- Set up a standing order payable on 1 October annually*;
- Make a payment directly into our bank account*;
- Pay through Parish Chest directly from our website: lwmfhs.org.uk or our page on the Parish Chest website: <https://www.pariahchest.com/london-westminster-middlesex-fhs-4577.php>
- Post a cheque to the Membership Secretary (details inside front cover of *Metropolitan*) giving your name and, if possible, membership number.

*You will need this information to make the payment:

- The Society's HSBC bank sort code: 40-03-33.
- The Society's HSBC bank account number: 81157760; the account name is London Westminster & Middlesex FHS.
- Your membership number which is on the email notification of your electronic *Metropolitan*, or the address sheet with your paper copy.

Note: It is important that you include a reference with your payment, otherwise the Society will not know who the money is from. Please ask your bank to add a reference which includes your name and membership number eg L Jones 1234, Fairweather 2345. These details will be enough for us to identify your payment and renew your membership.

However you pay, make sure you send us the correct amount, depending on whether you have paper or electronic copies of *Metropolitan*.

If you have changed your name, address or email, please tell the Membership Secretary.

April Vesey, Treasurer

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: St Martin in the Fields, Kingsbury and then Holborn.

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

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

There are several ways to acquire these booklets:

1. They can be purchased for £6 each plus postage and packing online from GenFair at: <https://www.genfair.co.uk/> or from the Parish Chest at <https://www.parishchest.com/home.php>. Post and packing costs vary depending on the size of the booklet and the destination, as shown here. Of course, if you want more than one booklet the postage will be different but the websites will work it out for you.
2. For those not on the internet, you can write to the Editors at the address on the inside front cover of METROPOLITAN stating which booklet you would like and enclosing a sterling cheque made payable to 'London Westminster and Middlesex FHS' for the appropriate amount.

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

Booklet	UK	Europe	Rest world
Parish Guides			
Clerkenwell	£7.55	£9.40	£10.65
Edmonton	£8.14	£9.85	£13.15
East Barnet	£7.55	£9.40	£10.65
Enfield	£7.55	£9.40	£10.65
Finchley	£7.55	£9.40	£10.65
Greenford and Perivale	£7.55	£9.40	£10.65
Harefield	£7.55	£9.40	£10.65
Hampstead	£7.55	£9.40	£10.65
Hendon	£7.55	£9.40	£10.65
Islington	£8.14	£9.85	£13.15
Paddington	£7.55	£9.40	£10.65
Pinner	£7.55	£9.40	£10.65
St Anne Soho	£7.55	£9.40	£10.65
St Clement Danes	£7.55	£9.40	£10.65
St George Hanover Square	£7.55	£9.40	£10.65
St James Piccadilly	£7.55	£9.40	£10.65
St Margaret & St John	£7.55	£9.40	£10.65
St Martin-in-the-Fields	£8.14	£9.85	£13.15
St Marylebone	£8.14	£9.85	£13.15
St Pancras	£8.14	£9.85	£13.15
Stanmore	£7.55	£9.40	£10.65
Tottenham	£7.55	£9.40	£10.65
Willesden	£7.55	£9.40	£10.65
Monumental Inscriptions			
Chipping Barnet St John the Baptist	£8.14	£9.85	£13.15
East Barnet St Mary the Virgin	£8.14	£9.85	£13.15
Hornsey St Mary	£8.14	£9.85	£13.15
Monken Hadley St Mary the Virgin	£8.14	£9.85	£13.15
St James Hampstead Road	£8.14	£9.85	£13.15
Census Guides			
The Streets of Westminster	£7.55	£9.40	£10.65

THE NEW LWMFHS EVENTS CO-ORDINATOR

We are delighted to announce that Karen de Bruyne, Member No. 8199 has taken on the role of Society Events Co-ordinator. We asked her to tell us a little about herself:

‘I was born in Barnet just before it changed from Hertfordshire to Greater London. I now live in Enfield with my husband and son. My day job (part time) is as a lecturer at Capel Manor College, teaching: business studies to saddlers, Maths & English to apprentices and am currently course manager to shoemakers!

20 years ago, my mum asked me to research “which of my grandmother’s brothers went to Australia and brought back the opal pendant that I now own?” I still cannot answer the question!

My mother’s paternal PUNCHARD family came from Norfolk to Islington in around 1860. Her maternal DYER family is one of my brick walls. Sydney DYER was born in 1812 in Kennington Surrey (cannot find baptism) he was a carpenter and lived in and around Clerkenwell. Another line of my mother’s maternal family are the WRIGHTs, cheesemongers from Clare Market in St Clement Danes, another brick wall being Thomas WRIGHT born around 1809 but I do not know where. Another interesting maternal line is the COOTS from Flamstead in Hertfordshire and this gives me many cousins who are members of the LDS church and live in Utah.

My Dad’s family, BROWNS from Rickmansworth, and PINCHBECKs from Lincolnshire, both of which later generations lived in Tottenham.

My husband’s family is from the far-flung parts of the world, so has been a challenge trying to research, includes Thailand, Malaysia, Burma, Indonesia, Netherlands, Scotland, and China.

I love using DNA in conjunction with traditional research. I have a blog on which I share the stories of our family and it has also been a way to reach family that have lost contact.’



SARAH ELLEN MISSEN

My Victorian Ancestor

By Robert Missen, Member No. 7638

In my family history research I have discovered as everyone else has, that I started too late when older relatives were no longer around to tell anecdotes about their ancestors. This got me thinking about Sarah Ellen MISSEN, born 1882, died 1966; who was my paternal Great Aunt and the oldest of my ancestors I knew personally, born when Gladstone was Prime Minister.

As a boy in the 1950s and 1960s I attended Christmas parties in Stroud Green hosted by Sarah's daughter Ellen ERWOOD (née BELL), born 1908, died 2005; my father's cousin. These were large family gatherings and I remember Sarah who sat permanently in a red armchair in the corner. She seemed a somewhat formidable lady who liked a drop or two of whisky to keep her going. My father told me her budgie was sometimes treated to a drop as well! As she got older Sarah mellowed and was very generous often giving me 6d or a shilling which seemed a fortune then. Her husband Albert William BELL, born 1882, died 1958; was an avuncular figure and a Dental Instrument Maker and therefore a very good engineer.

Sarah's parents William James MISSEN, born 1854, died 1916; a French polisher and Sarah Ann BLAKE, born 1856, died 1919; were married at St Mark's Church Myddelton Square Islington on Christmas Day 1880. They lived off Rosebery Avenue and Sarah was the eldest of seven children, my Grandfather Ernest MISSEN, born 1896, died 1968; being the youngest. Due to family circumstances I never knew my Grandfather so his recollections were unavailable.

The 1901 Census shows Sarah at Queens Cottages Islington aged 18 and employed as a Fancy Box Maker like two of her sisters. Incidentally ten years later the two sisters were employed as Cardboard Box Makers. I hope that was a promotion!

On the 19 May 1907 Sarah married Albert at Hoxton and their son Albert William BELL was born in 1909 and died in 1981. By 1939 Albert Senior had become a Dental Instrument Maker Foreman and they lived at Wyatt Road Islington.

Looking at their histories Sarah seemed a typical representative of working class women in the late 19th and early 20th Century, and Albert was a skilled engineer who was able to support his family well.

If only back then I had asked Sarah about her mother and father...

COULD YOU BE OUR NEW SECRETARY?

Our Secretary is stepping down at the end of the Society's year and we need someone to take her place. Could you help us?

Our Secretary is the first point of call for the Society and as such replies to emails and letters sent to the Society. Many of these can be forwarded to other members of the Executive Committee as appropriate, for example membership queries to the Membership Secretary, people offering talks to the Branch Chairs and research enquiries can be signposted to a relevant Record Office or Archive or be advised to contact our Editorial Team with a view to publishing the query in the *Help!* column of *Metropolitan*. Information received from the Family History Federation, Record Offices and other family history groups is passed on to the Committee as necessary.

An agenda needs to be arranged for meetings of the Executive Committee and minutes then need to be taken at the meeting, which are circulated to the Executive Committee by email.

Arranging the AGM is one of the biggest tasks but it is only once a year. The date, venue and any speakers must be booked and a notice put in *Metropolitan*. An agenda needs to be produced but this follows a standard pattern, year on year. The rest of the Executive Committee are very supportive and will of course help a new Secretary get used to the job.

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

Email addresses can be found on the inside front cover of *Metropolitan*

CAMBRIDGE MILITARY HOSPITAL

By Dennis Galvin, Member No. 1046

I suppose because of the lockdown emergency I decided to see what was on telly, it happened to be a programme about the Great Western Railway and in particular the building of the Great Western by the famous Mr BRUNEL. I thought it would be great to see all that magnificent early railway structure at Bristol and Swindon, however, much to my surprise the cameras went first to Aldershot, Hampshire and indeed to a derelict hospital ward!



The empty and abandoned ward was looking very sorry for itself with plaster which had fallen from the ceiling and also much debris scattered everywhere! I thought it remarkable really as this might have been the very fever ward in which I spent three solid months in 1952! This was the Cambridge Military Hospital, Aldershot opened by Prince George in 1879. I now know that it closed in 1996 after 117 years, so it would have taken in thousands of sick and wounded after the four major conflicts from that time. Hundreds of Middlesex born and bred lads like me would have been in the hospital through the years, and perhaps researchers will have documentation or letters home from the establishment.

The hospital padre was quite a character. He used to come around the wards from time to time and entertain by playing his piccolo. I made a woollen Royal Stuart tartan scarf which I sent home to my mother. We were given a bottle of milk stout on some evenings - I don't know if that got me better or worse!

On one unforgettable afternoon, actually, Saturday 6th September 1952 at about 4pm a male RAMC nurse dashed into our ward and shouted at the top of his voice that all patients were to grab a blanket and go and sit in the corridor immediately! He repeated 'immediately' again and went to the next ward. Once we all got outside we could see patients filling up the corridor left and right. We of course thought the Soviets were up to something in Berlin.

Anyway, it wasn't until 6pm on that Saturday evening - when the newspaperman came around with the Saturday Classified football results that we could see the headlines on the front page of the newspaper, that there had been a disaster at the annual Farnborough Air Show and of course all our beds were being made available for what was expected to be a lot of spectator casualties.

Squadron Leader John DERRY DFC (age 30) had crashed his fighter aircraft into the crowd after breaking the sound barrier! It was later confirmed that there were 29 deaths. In the event our beds were not needed for casualties so we were allowed back at about 6pm in the evening. It was my first time out of bed for three months so a day I will never forget.

During WW2 if soldiers were well enough to walk in the grounds or indeed go into town they would have to wear a royal-blue suit, white shirt and scarlet tie, however, in my day you could wear your own khaki jacket and belt. The benefit of that was a cup of tea and bun at a variety of places plus half-price to get into the cinema.

I have carried out a little bit of research which tells me that the grounds of the hospital is to be turned into housing and the listed hospital building will become flats.



**“TRUTH WILL ULTIMATELY PREVAIL WHERE
PAINS IS TAKEN TO BRING IT TO LIGHT” -
GEORGE WASHINGTON**

By Anne Ammundsen, Member No. 8207

Had anyone asked me, back in 2002, when I began my Asgill research, “Will you one day change history?” I would have looked at them askance and replied, “Don’t be silly, how can I change history? The Asgill Affair has been reported many hundreds of times”.

The wisdom of hindsight is a wonderful thing, isn’t it, because in December 2019 I was able to say that I did manage to change history! Of course, that can only happen when hitherto unknown information comes to light. This has now happened. In 2007 I discovered that my ancestor, General Sir Charles ASGILL, the son of a one-time Lord Mayor of London in 1757, had written a letter, on 20 December 1786, to the Editor of *The New-Haven Gazette and the Connecticut Magazine*. This letter set out exactly what had occurred during ‘The Asgill Affair’ of 1782. The Editor, Josiah MEIGS, a staunch supporter of General George WASHINGTON (soon to become America’s first President) decided not to print Asgill’s letter since it was condemnatory of his hero. But now, the power of the press has finally been shackled – and that letter has been published after a hiatus of 233 years. For legal reasons this is only available in hard copy (1).

In May 2019 I travelled, with my husband Graeme, to the United States to complete the research I have been doing ever since first becoming aware of my descent from Asgill in 2002. We travelled to all the locations in the US where it is known that his story unfolded. The two main towns were Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and Chatham, New Jersey. Here the main thrust of final research took place. The people I met up with were unfailingly kind and helpful, and everyone involved in our trip went far beyond the call of duty to help me in my work. I must give special credit to Mike Abel, the editor of the *The Journal of Lancaster County’s Historical Society*, who decided to help me change history by publishing Asgill’s 1786 letter. His Research Assistant wife, Martha Abel, was one of the most amazing researchers I have ever had the privilege of working with, and she has added immeasurably to the new version of The Asgill Affair. In no small part this is due to her discovery that George Washington failed to publish one of his crucial letters,

which has resulted in an incomplete emphasis being placed on record ever since. The Librarian, Robin Carroll-Mann, at the Summit Free Public Library, got the bit between her teeth too, and enabled me to discover, for the first time in history, just exactly where Asgill had been imprisoned in Chatham, NJ, in 1782. My gratitude to everyone in America is boundless. But here I must mention a very special person, Professor Robert Tombs of Cambridge University. Without his invaluable assistance, over the years, none of this would have been possible.

My first main port of call was Lancaster, where, on 27 May 1782, a ‘lottery of death’ took place, on the orders of Washington, to determine which British Captain, (by then prisoners-of-war in America) would be hanged in retaliation for the murder of a Patriot soldier by Loyalists, on the orders of the Loyalist son of Benjamin FRANKLIN – William FRANKLIN. I had wanted to know just where I should go in Lancaster to be closest to where the then Captain Charles ASGILL, at the time just twenty years old, had been the one selected by being allocated the ‘Unfortunate Lot’ which would end his life – an event which had taken place at The Black Bear Inn there. The British refused to take part in this random lottery of death, which had played out thus – one piece of paper was drawn out of a hat, to select the name of one of the 13 British officers awaiting their fate – and another then drawn to determine which should die. After waiting for ten blank draws, ASGILL was then selected to be the one to be hanged – his random piece of paper was marked ‘unfortunate’ – that fateful word thus sealing his fate to die for a crime he had not committed, which had taken place in Monmouth County, New Jersey, whilst he himself had been a prisoner of war.

It is important to mention here that Lord Cornwallis’s vanquished British army, who had lost the American War of Independence, were protected from retaliatory measures by the 14th Article of Capitulation, which specifically outlawed acts of retaliation. These officers should, therefore, have been safe and able to eventually be repatriated to their homeland, now that America had won the war. There were thousands of men to be shipped back to Europe in 1782, so it all took time, thus these unfortunate 13 officers were still available to be selected for one of them to be hanged.

When this course of revenge had been set by WASHINGTON, he wrote to his fellow officer, General Moses HAZEN, who was in charge of the PoWs in Lancaster, telling HAZEN to select an unconditional Officer to take part

in the lottery (in other words an officer not protected by the 14th Article of Capitulation) – this letter was written on 3 May 1782 (2).

Two weeks later, no unconditional officers had been found to take part in the lottery. Frustrated at being unable to pacify the uprising in Monmouth County, New Jersey (occasioned by the death of the Patriot soldier) WASHINGTON became desperate enough to violate the solemn treaty he had signed, in October 1781, and, on 18 May 1782, wrote again to HAZEN specifically ordering him to include conditional officers (2). Conditional officers were the ones whose lives were supposed to be protected by the Articles of Capitulation. Some have described this deliberate violation as a war crime.

Curiously, just eight days after the drawing of lots, on 4 June, WASHINGTON writes to tell HAZEN that he has made a ‘mistake’, firmly placing the disastrous decision on his subordinate. What was HAZEN to do? His orders had been clear and urgent; and no unconditional prisoners had been sent on to Lancaster in time for the drawing of lots. Then, on 5 June 1782, WASHINGTON writes to Major General Benjamin LINCOLN (his Secretary at War) expressing his displeasure with HAZEN’s selection of a Conditional prisoner (having ordered HAZEN to do just that such a short time earlier) writing, mysteriously:

Colo. Hazen’s sending an officer under the capitulation of York Town for the purpose of retaliation, has distressed me exceedingly. Will you be so good as to give me your opinion of the propriety of doing this upon Captain Asgill should we be driven to it for want of an unconditional prisoner.

HAZEN’s Wikipedia page refers to the incident as ‘a misstep by Hazen caused a minor diplomatic incident’. However, HAZEN was an honourable man, appalled at what he had been ordered to do. Major James GORDON, one of the British officers present on 27 May 1782, later wrote to Sir Guy CARLETON, the Commander-in-Chief of British forces in North America: “The delicate Manner in which General Hazen communicated his Orders, shews him to be a Man of real Feelings”. HAZEN, himself, wrote to Washington on the day the lots were drawn, saying: “I must confess I have been most sensible affected with it”. A solemn Treaty had been violated and on reading WASHINGTON’s letter of 18 May, M. le marquis de La Luzerne, the French Minister to the United States, expresses his ‘astonishment’ at its content. He also writes to WASHINGTON, like HAZEN, on the day lots

were drawn: “Lancaster 27th. May 1782. Sir It is with astonishment I read a Letter from your Excellency, dated 18th. May, directed to Brigadier General Hazen, Commanding at this Post, ordering him, to send a British Captain, taken at York-town, by Capitulation, with My Lord Cornwallis, Prisoner to Philadelphia, where 'tis said he is to suffer an ignominious Death, in the room of Capt. Huddy an American Officer...”. The French, who had helped America win its independence, had also signed the Capitulation Treaty, forbidding retaliation on prisoners of war, and it would now reflect badly on France too.

As will become clear, for reasons I will explain, WASHINGTON’s crucial letter, written on 18 May 1782, was *not* included in the bundle of letters on the Asgill Affair which WASHINGTON finally published in the above-mentioned New Haven newspaper on 16 November 1786. A decision was made to cover up his actions and while it was his former *aide-de-camp*, Colonel David HUMPHREYS, who presented the documents for publication, the historian, Thomas Jones states: “Colonel Humphreys arranged and published them himself, not referring, of course, to Washington’s agency in the matter...”. The expression ‘The Buck Stops Here’ would seem to apply in this instance. WASHINGTON had been the Commander-in-Chief during the war, and it seems unlikely that a subordinate would, alone, decide to exclude one of the most relevant, and damning, letters ever written regarding this case. WASHINGTON did not become the first President until 1789.

This is a complicated story and readers may be forgiven for finding it hard to follow my drift, especially if you have never heard it before. After the lots were drawn, and ASGILL had been selected, this ‘unfortunate’ officer was transported to Chatham, New Jersey, to be imprisoned until the date of his death had been decided. Initially he was held in the home of Colonel Elias DAYTON, who was in charge of the New Jersey Lines, where ASGILL was on parole and treated with kindness. When WASHINGTON heard that he was not under close arrest, he ordered DAYTON to place him in prison on the Jersey Lines. DAYTON and ASGILL had formed a friendship and his letter to Washington of 18 June 1782 makes his feelings for ASGILL abundantly clear. Katherine Mayo, in her book *General Washington’s Dilemma* even states that DAYTON was ‘inwardly fuming at the order’ regarding sending ASGILL under close arrest and goes on to say ‘he had but to see the two captives to become their friend’. The two being ASGILL, who

was accompanied by the officer in charge of British prisoners, Major James GORDON, who turned out to be the hero of The Asgill Affair (3). DAYTON recognised ASGILL as an officer and a gentleman who would not break the terms of his parole whilst in his custody. WASHINGTON's letter to DAYTON of 11 June 1782, just two weeks after his captivity commenced, read:

P.S. to Colo. Dayton, 11th June 1782

I am informed that Capt. Asgill is at Chatham, without Guard, & under no constraint—This if true is certainly wrong—I wish to have the young Gentleman treated with all the Tenderness possible, consistent with his present Situation—But untill his Fate is determined, he must be considered as a close prisoner & be kept in the greatest Security—I request therefore that he be sent immediately to the Jersey Line, where he is to be kept close prisoner, in perfect Security 'till further Orders.

This order grieved DAYTON, who wrote back on 18 June to say:

In my letter of yesterday I informed your Excellency that I had ordered Capt. Asgill to the Jersey Huts but upon waiting on him today I found him in such a situation that humanity would have shuddered at the idea of his removal he has been in a fever for some time past and the agitation of his mind upon the apprehension of less agreeable quarters and perhaps more indelicate treatment have increased it to a very considerable degree—Presuming therefore on your Excellencys lenity, and that his safety was the only object, I have for the present confined him a close prisoner at my own quarters where he will be in perfect security until farther orders. I wish to make it my study at all times to obey littrally every order from my superior officers and especially from your Excellency, but my feelings for the innocent & distressed urged me to take time to make representation.

Once recovered from his illness, it is not known why ASGILL was instead sent to the hotbed of revolutionary ardour – Timothy Day's Tavern – to be under close confinement there, rather than the Huts on the Jersey Lines. He spent the best part of six months at the Tavern, awaiting the gallows daily, and at the same time being fed on bread and water; beaten to the point when he nearly died; and taunted by anyone wishing to do so on a regular basis (by those who paid good money for the pleasure). All this is made clear in ASGILL's letter, written to the editor, Josiah MEIGS, on 20 December 1786 – but until December 2019 – that letter has never been in the public domain. Historians, over the past two and a half centuries have only reported on this

case from Washington's *published* correspondence on the matter. Now ASGILL has been given a voice. And I have fulfilled my quest to change history – twice over. Firstly with the now published hidden ASGILL letter and secondly with the information regarding Timothy DAY being ASGILL's jailer in Chatham.

ASGILL's family in London were distraught at the news their beloved son was to be hanged for a crime committed by others. His mother, Theresa, Lady ASGILL (herself of French descent) wrote to the French Foreign Minister, the comte de VERGENNES, pleading for her son's life to be spared – the French, of course, being America's allies and in large part responsible for the defeat of the British army and the loss of America as a British colony. Her letter was shown to King Louis XVI and his Queen, Marie Antoinette. The latter, a mother herself, was instrumental in the directive given by the King that America would be displeasing their allies were they to carry out this preposterous execution, which, as co-signatories to the Articles of Capitulation, would be carried out in their name too. When VERGENNES' letter arrived (enclosing a copy of Lady ASGILL's letter) with WASHINGTON he knew he had a terrible dilemma on his hands. Was he to pacify the French, still so important a nation to the newly emerging one of America, or was he to pacify the revolt taking place in Monmouth County as a consequence of the murder of one of their own? Which man would gladly walk in his shoes, faced with such a decision? WASHINGTON decided to let the Continental Congress decide. While it might be imagined that this would be an easy decision to make – to release ASGILL to pacify the French – it turned out that Congress was not united on either of the options now open to them – to kill ASGILL or let him live. These letters arrived from France with Congress (coincidentally) on the day they were proposing to vote to send ASGILL to the gallows. However, eventually the right decision was made, and ASGILL returned home to his family, and was back in their loving arms on 18 December 1782.

Four years later, after the rumour mill had gone into overdrive regarding ASGILL's treatment at the hands of his captors (rumours which had commenced before ASGILL even left America, as chronicled by Baron VON GRIMM, who wrote: "The public prints all over Europe resounded with the unhappy catastrophe which for eight months impended over the life of this young officer... and the first question asked of all vessels that arrived from any port in North America, was always an enquiry into the fate of that young

man”. WASHINGTON was enraged when news of this reached him. Thus came about the publication of all his papers on The Asgill Affair, in the New Haven newspaper, on 16 November 1786 – *all but one of those letters that is* – the one in which WASHINGTON had broken the terms of a solemn Treaty being the letter withheld. It is interesting to note that the original of WASHINGTON’s fateful letter of 18 May 1782 did not survive and only a copy of the draft is now available. This letter not having been included in the newspaper account of 1786, coupled with ASGILL’s letter of 20 December 1786 not having been published either (until now), conspired, for over two centuries, to ensure that every account ever written since (of which there are hundreds) has well and truly skewed the public’s perception of these events. The person to suffer most from this has been ASGILL himself, who has gone down in history as a liar, for not denying reports of his ill-treatment (which took the form of rumours in coffee houses and the press even before he left America), and a cad for never writing to thank WASHINGTON for eventually releasing him, after six months of abuse. He wrote:

I leave for the public to decide how far the treatment I have related deserv^d acknowledgements – the motives of my silence were shortly these. The state of my mind at the time of my release was such that my judgement told me I could not with sincerity return thanks my feelings would not allow me to give vent to reproaches.

It is time that ASGILL’s homeland welcomed him back, since Britain has completely forgotten this one-time-victim of The Asgill Affair. They have also forgotten his father, Sir Charles ASGILL, Lord Mayor of London in 1757 – the man who commissioned the golden coach used by Lord Mayors from that day to this. Both *alumni* of Westminster School.

(1) ‘Saving Captain Asgill’ by Anne Ammundsen and Martha Abel in *The Journal of Lancaster County Historical Society*, Vol. 120, No. 3, Winter 2019, (Lancaster County Historical Society, 2019)

(2) Letters from George Washington to Mozes Hazen are available at Founders Online: <https://founders.archives.gov/>

(3) ‘Only One Hero: Major James Gordon’ by Keith G Feiling in *The Observer* (29 May 1938, London), available online here:

<https://search.proquest.com/docview/481400900>



BUCKMASTER BREAKTHROUGHS

Tricia Sutton, Member No. 5490

In the 1851 census Charlotte SUTTON née BUCKMASTER gave her place of birth as Thame, Oxfordshire. After searching for several years for a birth the one that kept cropping up was a baptism in 1802 in Clewer. As far as I was aware the only place named Clewer was in Somerset! I was sure this wasn't right, as the family was based in the London area. However, the 1802 date for her baptism looked hopeful but the father was Joseph not John and the mother Mary. I searched for John and found a baptism for him also in Clewer in 1792 with the same parents. Because John had 'given her away' at her wedding I had originally assumed he was her father. I eventually found the whole family baptised at Clewer – but where was this?

In desperation I turned to the amazing Phillimore Atlas & Index of Parish Registers. BUT there was no Clewer in Oxfordshire. There was, however, a note, suggesting searching in adjacent counties, as Oxfordshire is a very irregular shape, watered by 5 rivers. So I tried Berkshire and Buckinghamshire. I eventually found Clewer in Berkshire. It was a non-parochial Parish in Windsor, - but I still needed the map reference to find it on the Berkshire map. It was just a tiny strip, sandwiched between two parts of the parish of New Windsor. The whole family had been baptised there.

I wondered if they had been connected with the Castle in some way. Maybe as coachmen? The christenings of the children of Joseph and Mary BUCKMASTER in Clewer: John 7 July 1793; Elizabeth 11 September 1796; Walter William 22 July 1800; Charlotte 26 September 1802; James 6 January 1805.

But then, just as I thought I'd finished this article, I felt I needed to find more answers! 1. When and where did Joseph and Mary marry? 2 What was Mary's surname? Searching on FindmyPast I discovered Joseph's baptism at St Margaret Westminster on 29 December 1751 and his marriage in 1789. In order to find his wife's maiden name I was directed to a marriage licence dated 27 July 1789, which gave the Bride's surname as FREEBROUGH. Their marriage took place on 30 July at St Marylebone. I may have finished this article for now but I know there will always be more to discover about my BUCKMASTER family!

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.



Edward HUGHES and Alice Charlotte JONES

I am seeking information on the parentage of my ancestors Edward HUGHES and Alice Charlotte JONES who were married at St James Clerkenwell on 25 March 1806 after banns. The female witness being Mary Ann HOYLAND. Edward was a shoemaker.

The couple were buried at Mile End New Town Independent Burial Ground:
25 August 1833 Edward HUGHES of Well Street aged 51

23 February 1834 Charlotte HUGHES of 34 Well Street aged 40?

Any help would be most appreciated.

D Hopper, Member No. 8194

Email: jrdhopper@hotmail.co.uk

Note: What a shame that both Edward and Alice died before the 1841 census, which would have given a clue as to their origins. Both surnames are Welsh but of course that does not mean that it was this couple who first moved to London. 'Alice Charlotte' is the more unusual name, despite being a JONES so you will probably need to look at all the people of this name born around 1794 you can find and try to follow them up.

DNA might also eventually help here. Have you had yours done? Any distant cousins might allow you to pinpoint earlier records.

Although Edward and Alice married in Clerkenwell, they seem to have moved to Whitechapel by 1810 at least, where we found the baptism of four children. Essex Street (previously Catherine Wheel Alley) was not a salubrious place to live, with overcrowding and squalor prevalent. It was demolished in the 1840s for the construction of Commercial Street. You can read more about it in the Survey of London here: <https://surveyoflondon.org/map/feature/374/detail/>

THE STORY OF WILLIAM BUSZARD

a Man with a Dream

by Marion Duggan, Member No. 8180

At some time in the mid-19th century William BUSZARD (my 3xgreat uncle) bought a small butcher's shop, on the spot, for £10. The premises were in what was then called Oxford Road, which was on the corner of Ramillies Street and later became part of Oxford Street in the West End of London. He then set about converting it into a cake shop. At first he did not make much



of a profit as this was something that had hardly ever been tried before and at that time Oxford Street was not a very fashionable area. A neighbour told him the whole concern was not worth £80 but he is said to have replied that one day it would be worth £80,000 and set about making good that vow.

In the 1851 census he was 28 and described as a baker employing 2 men and he lived above the Oxford Street shop with his wife Sara and young son William as well as another baker, an apprentice and two house servants, he was obviously well on his way.

The shop went from strength to strength and it specialised in making beautiful wedding cakes for society weddings. At that time William's only rival was a man called William Snowball WALKER but for various reasons Mr WALKER went out of business. By then Oxford Street was becoming a fashionable area. William BUSZARD's cakes were becoming very well-known and the price ranged from 1 to 60 guineas, which today would be approximately £100 to £6000. Several publications have reported that his company made the wedding cake for Princess Beatrice (Queen Victoria's youngest daughter) and the replica alone, which was exhibited in the shop window, was worth 200 guineas, about £20,000 in today's money. It is reported that over 15,000 separate pieces of sugar were used in the decoration. The cakes began to sell all over the world.

He was able to have a stand at the Great Exhibition in 1851 and became famous for setting up tables and chairs on the path outside selling drinks and cakes just like they did on the continent. By 1861 William and his family, which now included another son George, were no longer living above the shop and had moved to Fitzroy Terrace in West London. He was described as a confectioner employing one man and 9 lads. As soon as they were old enough young William and George joined in with the family business. Sadly William senior died of liver cancer in 1877.

With William junior and George in charge the business continued expanding, they took over the premises next door and turned it into a society café and also began to produce sweets and ices as well as a huge variety of cakes and meringues. It is said that it was frequented by royalty including the Prince of Wales, later to become King Edward and was a favourite lunch stop for society ladies. It became the largest business of its kind in London.

They were famous across the world and exported to all parts of it. One of their most popular products among ex pats was their Christmas puddings which were exported in large numbers to all parts of the Empire as it gave them a taste of home.

***The Singapore Free Press
and Mercantile Advertiser***
14 July 1917, page 3.

... Some idea of the extent of the business today can be judged from the fact that the firm spends over £20,000 a year on eggs alone, while ten tons of chestnuts have to be purchased annually for the manufacture of their marrons glace. Great cargoes are required of dried fruits, flour and butter, and sugar for ornamentation purposes alone runs into scores of tons. ...

In 1881 William junior was living with his two children, wife and his brother George as well as two servants in Primrose Hill Road in West London which was as upmarket then as it is now. Another son was born and the family had made it, however sadness was to come. In 1884 William junior died of phthisis or TB according to the death certificate but it was probably what was known then as Baker's lung, he was only 34.

Two of his sons also died at ages 29 and 33 of phthisis and by now the family stopped working in the business and were living on their own means. The amount of money left in their wills was slowly but surely reducing.

In 1889 George had a son of his own called Stanley who was training to be a doctor at the outbreak of the First World War but halted his training to enlist with the Norfolk Yeomanry. He died in 1917 on active service in Jerusalem, where he is buried.

Having lost his father, brother, nephews and only son, George finally sold the business to investors who had put it into liquidation within a year, such a sad end to an amazing story started by a visionary that I'm proud to call my ancestor.

The Auckland Star 25 January 1890, p3

The Home of the Plum Pudding

The home of the plum pudding is at the leviathan confectionery stores of W and G Buszard, in Oxford Street. This vast emporium of good things, with its mountains of cakes (in fifty varieties, from the Royal Wedding-made only for princes' nuptials-to the modest 'baby sponge'), its silver trays of cream walnuts, chocolates, nougats, fondants, and toffees, and its many-coloured boxes of all sorts of dried, preserved, and crystallised fruits, presents a busy scene even at ordinary times. But from early in November till after Christmas, Buszard's is a veritable hurly-burly. Then the number of assistants is doubled, the long bars of sweetmeats become thrice their usual size, and here, there and everywhere arise huge pyramids of basins of plum puddings and mountains of jars of mincemeat. ... The excited Britisher, it seems, must enjoy this indigestible edible at Christmas time ...

Sources:

Ancestry

Auckland Star 25 January 1890

British Phone Books

Find my Past

Forces-War-Records

General Register Office

Google

London Life/Lives - William Snowball Walker 1807-1858

The National Archives - W&G Buszard company accounts

The Singapore Free Press & Mercantile Advertiser 14 July 1917



WEBSITE NEWS

London Fire Brigade First World War Air Raid Damage Reports

Transcriptions of these reports includes details of those who were killed or injured, as well as damage to property. For example, a skylight and pantry on the ground floor belonging to Pozzie and Valaone, restaurant of 12 Church Street (now Romilly Street) in Soho were damaged on 30 September 1917 by a fire believed to have been caused by an anti-aircraft shell.

Much more seriously, John COLDREY and his wife Florence were seriously injured and their daughters Hilda, aged 10, and Dolly, aged 6, were killed when their rooms on the third floor of Laney Buildings, Portpool Road, Clerkenwell, were damaged during an air raid on 8 September 1915. These records date from 1915-1918 and are available online at Findmypast.

A Street Near You

This is a First World War legacy project which brings together a set of otherwise separate data sources. These are the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's details of every serviceman or woman, the Imperial War Museum's collections of photographs, the Imperial War Museum's 'Lives of the First World War' project whereby everyone could contribute their own stories and the War Memorial Register, which comprises over 78,000 memorials from all over the British Isles.

The website opens as a world map, which is zoomable and displays events in the location in which they happened and cemeteries in their locations too. These can be clicked on for further details so, for instance, at Dinard in northern France is a tag for Major Edmund Hody HODY of the Royal Army Service Corps who died on 15 June 1919 aged 35 and was buried in Cologne, Germany. He was the son of the late Captain RA HODY (57th Middlesex Regiment) and of Lyona Marian HODY (née FABER), of Villa du Jardin, Dinard, Ille et Vilaine, France. This entry has links to HODY's life story on Lives of the First World War and also to the cemetery where he is buried.

With the Greater London area it is worthwhile keeping zooming in as there are so many people mentioned – you can get down to street level. We did find some locations were incorrect but there is a button to report these and they are then removed until the correct place for them can be found.

You can bring up a list of cemeteries or regiments, if you wish to search for entries those ways, or you can search by date.

This site is growing and you can add to it yourself. You can find it here: <https://astreetnearyou.org/>

Schoolboys accounts of Zeppelin raids during the First World War

Princes Street Board School opened in 1877 in what is now Princeton Street in Holborn. A collection of essays hand-written by named boys of the school giving their impressions of the Zeppelin raids over London in 1915 during the First World War is held at the British Library, Shelfmark: MS 39257-39258. Generally, the boys wrote in a beautiful neat manner and in their own words, although one can tell that their teacher gave them pointers, for example: what shape would you call the Zeppelin? What colour was the sky? Make sure you use reported speech! Some of the spelling has schoolboy errors, as might be expected, such as ‘There hear!’ for “They’re here!” Reading through them for a passage to quote for you here, I was amazed to come across an eye-witness account to the death of a man at a fried fish shop in Lambs Conduit Passage, which I recognised as being the same story as that of Henry COOMBES, Zeppelin Victim, which appeared in the September 2020 edition of *Metropolitan*.

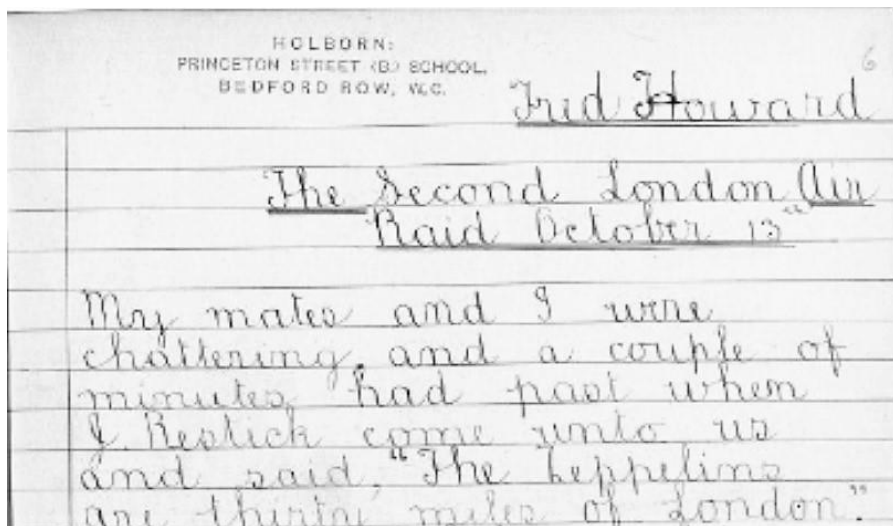
J SAYERS headed his piece ‘The Air Raid of September 8th’. He describes hearing the Zeppelin as the family were finishing their supper at 10.45pm. After it had disappeared from sight, he went out to see how much damage had been done and then writes: ‘I made my way to Red Lion Street and saw that a bomb was dropped in Lambs Conduit Passage. In this court there is a fried fish shop. A man was coming out of this shop when the bomb dropped and killed him. It happened as follows:- After he had got his supper and reached home, he was just going to eat it when the child said, “Where is my potatoes?” Then he said “Alright I will get them”. When he had got them he was coming out when the bomb dropped and buried him.’

Alfred BANKS wrote about the same incident: ‘A big hole was made in the ground in Lambs Conduit Passage at the same time a man there was blown to atoms.’

The descriptions in all of the essays are detailed and precise, with roads and businesses named. Alfred said that the bombs looked like ‘a blue star’ and another boy said that the water from the firemen’s hoses looked like it was on fire too. There are all sorts of social observations about life in the City at this time. One boy mentioned he had seen lots of young women smoking cigarettes – obviously not a common sight for him.

There are moments of humour too. Jack LITTENSTEIN wrote: ‘My cousin now came to the window. “Look Jack” she said pointing to the Pole Star “isn’t that a Zeppelin’s light?” “Silly” said I “that is a star”. Alec FRASER had been in bed reading when he heard a noise he took to be a thunderstorm. On looking out of the window, he saw the Zeppelin. He put his light out at

once ‘and half-dressing myself ran down stairs out into the street and I noticed that in my confusion I had put a stocking round my neck for a scarf and my left boot on my right foot.’



Here is an example of Fred Howard’s beautiful handwriting.

The renamed Princeton Primary School closed in 1955 and the building was converted into flats which are known as The Old School.

The fascinating essays can be read for free. Digitised versions of them are available in two volumes through <https://www.bl.uk/manuscripts/>. Typing ‘39257’ (for the air raid on 8 September) or ‘39258’ (for that of 13 October) into the search box seems to be the easiest way for find the texts.



FORTHCOMING BRANCH MEETINGS

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

Virtual Branch

‘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.

Thursday 10 June	<i>Ratcatchers</i> by David Cufley This talk is about ratcatching in Middlesex, particularly in Enfield, and how David’s ancestors played a part in the trade and the sporting rat matches held in the pubs around London.
Thursday 8 July	<i>What Happened to Lucy?</i> by Ian Waller This talk looks at the plight of adoptees, foundlings, orphans and the Empire children (child migrants), essentially through the 19th and 20th centuries.
Thursday 12 August	<i>Humour in Genealogy</i> by Chris Broom A light-hearted walk through a variety of genealogical records, reinforcing the value of scrutinising original documents.
Thursday 9 September	<i>Life and Death in the Workhouse</i> by Mark Carroll The New Poor Law Act of the 1830s meant that workhouses were built to care for the vulnerable. However, entering the workhouse tended to be avoided, even by the poorest in society, for it carried a social stigma and conditions inside were invariably harsh. But what was life really like for those admitted to the workhouse?

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



OUR PARISHES AND THEIR CHURCHES

We are beginning to re-organise the Parishes Section on our website. This section has not been changed for many years, although photos of Parish Churches have been gradually added.

Parish information will now state the Ancient Parish and list places in the surrounding area. Ancient Parishes need to be known as they hold the old parish records that family historians require.

Each parish will also list the Parish Church and all other Church of England churches within that parish. A few Roman Catholic and Non-Conformist churches are mentioned but there are just too many of them to be listed on the website.

We are now asking for help from our members as we would like to add more church photos. Will you look at the Parishes section of the website and the lists of churches in each parish? If you see a church listed without a photo and you live in or visit that area, then please can you take a photo for us and send it to: editors@lwmfhs.org.uk

If you would like an emailed copy of any of the church photos on our website, please contact the Editors. Recent photos sent to us are of St Alphege, Edgware.



Later, we hope to add photos of scenes from each parish. So, please take your camera or phone out with you and help us with our new parish section.

AIMS OF THE SOCIETY

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

SUBSCRIPTIONS

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

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

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

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

£12 UK & Overseas: to receive *Metropolitan* electronically by download

£15 UK: to receive *Metropolitan* by post

£20 Overseas: to receive *Metropolitan* by airmail post

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).

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

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

MEMBERS' DATA

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

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

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

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

Parish Churches

Our parish churches are wonderful buildings with a wide variety of building styles. Here are two of our recent photographs.

Holy Trinity, Tottenham Green



St Andrew's Parish Church, Totteridge

