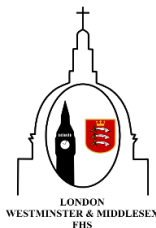


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METROPOLITAN

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Cover picture: A Georgian house on Totteridge Green.

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EDITORIAL

The Society's year ends on 30 September 2022. We have welcomed many new people this year and hope you have enjoyed your membership. Our Virtual Branch meetings continues to be popular and you can find out what's coming up on page 142. To keep attending you will need to renew your subscription. The subscription renewal form is in the centre of this journal and there are notes from our Treasurer on the various different ways that you can pay.

Archives centres, museums and other places are continuing to open up after lockdown and we were delighted to finally attend a 'real' fair again. This was the Haringey Local History Fair held at Bruce Castle, Tottenham, just before we went to press. A report will appear in the next journal.

Have you been exploring the 1921 census and found something exciting? Do let us know if you have – and write a few words for the journal. Barbara gained a new uncle. The family were in the 1911 census, then both parents died in the early 1930s and the family dispersed before the 1939 Register. The 1921 census picked him up, aged 4 years, living with his parents and so he had a name. Then it was easy to find him in 1939, as a boarder in another household. Success!

There are some lovely family stories in this edition and we hope you enjoy reading them as much as we did. Elizabeth's article on page 116 gives a fascinating insight into the numbering and naming of streets. If you have ever wondered why there are churches dedicated to St Botolph at four of the main gates to the City of London, then you will find out on page 121.

Do keep your articles coming in. We cannot produce *Metropolitan* without your help. We look forward to hearing from you – by email or a letter in the post. We have suddenly realised that we have been editors since 2006! So, thank you to everyone for all your help in the past 16 years. With your assistance, we aim to carry on.

Barbara and Elizabeth, the Editorial Team

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

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

At a recent family gathering I was asked about my middle name and its connection to other distant relatives. So I wrote out an explanation for them and this article is based on it.

My full name is Anthony Kilvington ALLEN. My mother told me when I started primary school, that not only was I not really called Tony but Anthony and I also had an extra family name from some remote grandparents of hers. Although aristocrats like Winston Spencer CHURCHILL commonly had family names incorporated, using such names in the 19th century working classes the custom seems less common. So my explanation, following my research is as follows.

There are twin villages in North Yorkshire called North and South Kilvington. Presumably people who moved from there to other villages or even to York would have been known as Jack or Jill from Kilvington. Then their descendants eventually dropped the 'From' and it became a surname without the De, Von or Van equivalents used in Europe.

My great great grandparents Ann (1825-1869) and Richard (1820-1873) were first cousins both with the surname KILVINGTON who lived in the Vale of York. They married in 1842 at the Church of St Laurence in York. Although Richard had started as a miller, the York and Scarborough railway was being built through his area so he changed jobs and remained with the successor North Eastern Railway until his death. They occupied railway houses where their seven children were born between 1843 and 1856. They had three sons, George, William and Tom who all had careers in the railways in the North-East, in Shropshire and in North Wales as did their brothers-in-law. They had four daughters, Hannah, Mary-Ann, Arabella and Betsy. Only Mary-Ann failed to marry a railwayman.

When I came to follow up the families of the daughters I found that all four of them gave at least some of their children Kilvington as a middle name. This must have meant that they came to some agreement that they did not want their doubly inherited family name to be forgotten. So Hannah (1843-1874) who married James CLAPHAM named 3 out of 5 of her children Kilvington Clapham; Mary-Ann (1850-1903) who married William LUMLEY named 5 out of 11 children Kilvington Lumley; Arabella (1854-

1913) who married William MILNER named at least 2 out of 11 children Kilvington Milner; Betsy (1856-1899) the youngest, who married John POTTER was the most enthusiastic as she named all her 7 children Kilvington Potter. The naming has continued irregularly into the 20th century but I have not followed this up in detail.

I have found that the Commonwealth War Graves website was very effective for finding three relatives of mine with a second Christian name of Kilvington. I also found that surviving relatives are easier to find in military records.

In WW1, my mother's uncle, Rifleman Robert KILVINGTON of the West Yorkshire Regiment was killed in the Battle of Arras on 11 April 1917, age 32. Remembered on the Arras memorial as having no known grave.

In WW2, my mother's 2nd cousin, Flight Sergeant Dennis Kilvington POTTER, 207 Squadron RAF was an air-gunner. He died aged 21 when his Lancaster Bomber, returning from a raid on Milan, was shot down into the sea off Normandy on 24 October 1942. He is buried in a military cemetery in Cherbourg.

Another relative is Sergeant James Kilvington GRAY, 576 Squadron RAF. He was a wireless operator on a Lancaster that was shot down near Arnhem on 17 June 1944, age 22. He is buried in the Arnhem General Cemetery. Have other members found systematic use of family names in this way?

Tony Allen



LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

I recently attended a session with the Society of Genealogists about women ancestors not getting their 'look in' as far as family history is concerned because of their name change on marriage. One member there always shows both her married and maiden names on Zoom. Several of us there followed her example - and I have stuck with it. My maiden name is, of course, the one associated with Middlesex so better to show that at LWMFHS events than my married name which has no link whatsoever to Middlesex. So now,

as well as my expected name of Vanessa Oliver you will now see my maiden name of Windsor appear too at Virtual Branch meetings.

Vanessa Oliver (Windsor), Member No: 8224

Following our Virtual Branch talk in April, we had the following message from the speaker, Rob Kayne.

Thanks so much for the opportunity to meet everyone (including familiar faces) last evening and to share our experiences of the Thames in London. It was great fun and also very well organised by the team. I hope that the recording was useful for the day shift.

It occurs to me that the member who was interested in the sailing barge *Lady Daphne* passing through the raised arms of Tower Bridge might also enjoy viewing stills from the 1943 film 'Fires Were Started'. The film is based in Docklands and the Thames and so features a number of river craft going about their business in wartime. I had the great pleasure of helping the ReelStreets team to identify many of the exact locations used but there are still plenty of them to be pinned down. In any case, the street and river scenes are truly a delight to see despite the Blitz storyline. There may well be a talk in this material but if so, I haven't written it yet! The stills of the film can be seen here: <https://www.reelstreets.com/films/fires-were-started/>

And the web address for Tower Bridge's lift times, which I also mentioned, is: <https://www.towerbridge.org.uk/lift-times>

For now, all the best to everyone.

Rob Kayne, Virtual Branch Speaker

During discussion following the Virtual Branch talk in April (which I thought was excellent) someone commented on the number of times the sailing barge *Lady Daphne* had been through Tower Bridge. I am a member of the Thames Sailing Barge Trust - yesterday their latest newsletter arrived and on the front page was a photo of and article about *Lady Daphne*! By chance today I was sailing on one of their barges, *Centaur*, and asked the mate about *Lady Daphne*. She isn't owned by the Trust but is used by them for training specifically on the Thames.

Thanks for all you do for the journal and virtual branch.

Madeline Seviour, Member No 7945



WHO WAS NELLIE POTTER and Where Did She Go?

By Dawn Adams, Member No. 6025

Family historians love a traceable name. The probability of there being another Harry Decimus POTTER is highly unlikely, especially one with the same birth date and place.

Harry Decimus POTTER (1873 – 1948) was the father of Hetty Berna Ruth LANCASTER, née POTTER (1917-1996). When Hetty died she left a memoir of her life, in which her affection for her father was clear: a sociable man, who had carved out a business for himself, trading jute with contacts in the London docks. As soon as she was old enough, he used to take her with him on these visits from their home in Westbourne Road, Barnsbury. The meals he cooked were memorable. He was, she wrote, the tenth (Decimus) child, and he had run away to sea at the age of fourteen.

Harry had married Hetty's mother, Harriet (or Hetty) LEAKE at Islington Register Office on 5 April 1917, declaring himself a bachelor, aged 43, a clothier's warehouseman by occupation. His address was 125 Liverpool Road. The bride said she was 27 (actually 30). Their daughter, Hetty Berna Ruth, was born on 31 July 1917; according to her memoir at the German Hospital in Dalston but according to her birth certificate at their home address nearby. She was, she wrote, 'not expected to live' and her birth was not registered until 4 September, so she and her mother may well have spent her first days in hospital. Harry and Harriet went on to have two more children, John (1919-2001) and Irene (1922 – 2007). So far so straightforward.

So where was Harry, prior to his marriage? Henry (sic) Decimus POTTER, born 28 August 1873, has a naval service record starting with 'Boy' service in July 1889, when he was not quite 16. (He may well have run away from home prior to that, at 14). His birthplace was Warrington, which has sometimes been in Cheshire and sometimes in Lancashire. (Arthur POTTER, Harry's father, had retired to keep a pub there after many years' service in the Army, including six years in the East Indies and ten years as an instructor at the School of Musketry in Hythe, Kent, where he married and where several of Harry's older siblings were born. And he did have ten children.) Harry's conduct in the Navy was generally very good, except on two

occasions when he 'ran', as the Navy puts it. He went AWOL. On one occasion he spent a month in Bodmin Gaol as a result. Hetty's memoir says he was 'invalided out': his record says he'd run again but he was very close to the end of his 12 year engagement, which had started at age 18, and his record simply notes his discharge on 6 January 1902.

A lot of Harry's service centred around Chatham and on 14 September 1896 Harry Decimus POTTER, Royal Navy seaman, son of Arthur POTTER, licensed victualler (dec'd) married Frances Elizabeth SALMON, the daughter of a yachtsman, William SALMON. Frances was probably the daughter of William SALMON and his wife Ellen who, in the 1881 census, were living in Chatham. William and Frances, had been born in Clacton but Ellen SALMON's birthplace was Galway. As Mary Ellen O'CONNOR she married William in Clacton in 1876: their daughter Elizabeth Frances was baptised there on 4 Feb 1877, making her 19 when she married (She claimed 20 and Harry said he was 27).

While I can find neither Frances nor her mother in the 1891 census, William SALMON seems to have returned to Clacton and to be living with a housekeeper, Jemima Susan HOOD (born Camden) who stayed with him until his death in 1925. The 1891 census coincided with one of Harry's 'runs'.

The 1901 census, for which Harry should have been with the Navy (but wasn't) shows Harry POTTER, aged 30, a bus conductor, born in Hythe, Kent, living in 2 rooms at 8 Clayton Street, Islington, with his 23 year old wife, Frances, born Clacton, and their daughter Nelly E, aged 5, born Chatham. This is surely too much of a coincidence. By 1911, Harry, Francis (sic) and Nellie, aged 15, lived at 3 Rheidol Terrace, Islington, Nellie being noted as the only child of their marriage. Harry gave his age as 38 and his birthplace, correctly, as Warrington.

So what happened to Frances and Nellie, that enabled Harry to marry Harriet LEAKE in 1917?

I have not found a death for Frances (though I have a certificate for an older widow with a similar name who died in Lambeth), nor have I found her, as far as I can see without considerable expense, in the 1921 Census. Nor is there a birth recorded for Nellie POTTER, mother's maiden name

SALMON, between 1890 and 1900. Or for any female child of the surname POTTER, mother's former name SALMON.

I had noticed that in the 1901 census she was recorded as 'Nelly E'. Could Nellie have been registered as Nellie E SALMON? There was such a birth in Chatham in the first quarter of 1896 but the mother's maiden name was given as BARRON. There was no Nellie POTTER in the 1921 census in Islington but there was a Nellie SALMON. This Nellie Salmon was 24 years and 4 months old and had been born in Chatham. She was working as a barmaid for Mrs MARSHALL at the 'Earl Grey' in New North Road and 'visitor' to a family nearby. I was lucky – six months later Nellie Edith SALMON, barmaid, changed her surname when she married Frank John MARTIN, a news vendor and went to live with his widowed mother and her younger sister (Frank's aunt) at 51 Croypley Road, Islington. In the Parish Register of Holy Trinity, Hoxton, Nellie gave her father's name as Thomas SALMON, mariner.

The 1939 ID Register shows Nellie's birthdate as 16 February 1896, matching both the Chatham reference quarter and the 1921 census. I sent for the certificate. Nellie Edith SALMON was born on 16 February 1896 at 41 Rhode Street, Chatham to Frances SALMON, formerly BARRON, and William SALMON, Artificer, RN. The birth was registered on the last possible date allowed, 31 March 1896. This Nellie was almost certainly the barmaid from Islington who married Frank MARTIN. And she was not either of the two other girls called Nellie SALMON who were in the London area at the same time: Ellen Rose SALMON born 15 February 1896, in Greenwich, daughter of Shepherd SALMON and Nellie SALMON daughter of John and Mary SALMON in Bermondsey, who was registered as Nellie Louise in the second quarter of 1896.



Registrars know only what the informant tells them. Under the 1874 Act concerning the registration of births and deaths, a mother may not name a man other than her husband as the father of the child, unless he is present. But if she is married, she may register the child as that of her husband without his presence. The Registrar in Chatham would be well used to absent husbands, it's a Navy town. But if you're claiming a husband, you have also to give your previous surname. I have searched for a SALMON/BARRON marriage (also BARON and BARROW) with no result. And for a Frances BARRON/BARON/BARROW in the vicinity.

I have looked in 1891 and 1901 to see who lived at 41 Rhode Street, where Nellie was born. The residents of Rhode Street are, compared to the London censuses I am used to, remarkably consistent. At that address, in both censuses, lived the family of Thomas MILLER, a dock labourer, born in Bow, and his wife Ann (née HEWITT). She and their daughters were born in Gorleston, Great Yarmouth and by 1901 two daughters living with them were married, with absent husbands – plus there was a local girl, aged 20, as a boarder. That may be a clue to Frances's role at that address.

It is not possible from the records to determine if Harry was Nellie's father: he was posted as an Able Seaman to HMS Blonde, a cruiser, from July 1892 until October 1895 but there is no indication about whether he might have had a 'run ashore' at Chatham during that posting. He was there, at the shore base called HMS Pembroke 1, between November 1895 and 2 April 1897. In 1901 and 1911 he was apparently happy to call Nellie his daughter, though there was no system under which he might have officially adopted her until much later, in 1927.

So, as usual, questions remain, such as why Nelly started to use the surname 'SALMON', what happened to Frances after 1911 and, going further back, what happened to Frances's mother, Mary Ellen SALMON before 1891. (On the last point, there is some indication in the local paper that in 1885 William SALMON had had problems with bailiffs who came to seize his goods, so life in Chatham hadn't been easy). But I have answered the question I started with: I'm fairly sure who Nellie POTTER was and where she went.



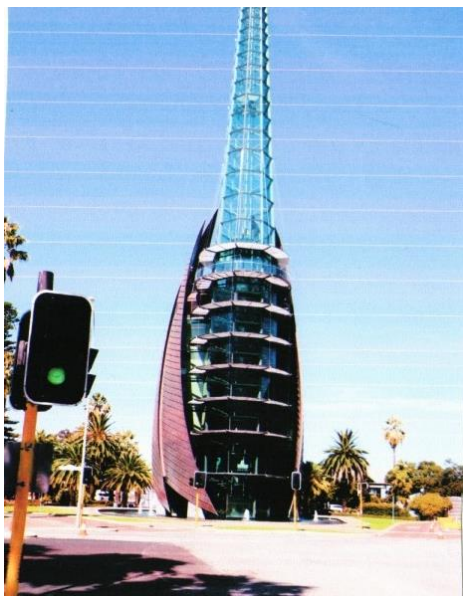
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OUR COUSINS DOWN UNDER

By Dennis Galvin, Member No. 1046

I did an article in December 2017 (*Metropolitan* 156) which I called ‘Dennis GALVIN and the The Lady Kennway’ about a lad with the same names as myself who was transported in 1836. I received some excellent help for the piece from two Australian researchers and in return I did some London research for them at Westminster Archives, also sending as requested a photograph of St James’ Church, Enfield Highway.

Also around that time I was given a fascinating book *Sydney Cove 1791 1792* by John COBLEY (Angus and Robertson of Sydney NSW, 1964). The book also mentions other publications by the same author: *Sydney Cove 1788* and *Sydney Cove 1789-1790*. My book is 406 pages and has 36 pages of index (as per sample page) which includes: Soldiers, sailors, settlers, clergy, administrators and of course convicts.



Now, changing the subject a little I was on a London ramble when I mentioned one of my favourite churches i.e. St Martins-in-the-Fields and I pointed out that the 300 year old bells are now in Australia, they were presented to the people of that great country to mark the 200th Anniversary in 1988 and it so happened that two of my walkers said “Yes, we know! we took a photo when we were in Australia some years ago, we will bring it along next walk”.

The picture isn’t the greatest (bit out of focus!) but it was nice to see it. The bells are now called the Swan Bells in the beautiful ‘Swan Tower’ (I think also called the Campanile), Barrack Street, on the Swan River foreshore in Perth WA. What I find particularly great is that the old bells gifted by the City of London are rung every single day of the year.

So a fabulous reminder of the happy bicentennial celebrations of 1988.

Addendum: I would be pleased to pass on the aforementioned book on Sydney Cove.

The National Library of Australia's website records the blurb from the inside front cover:

'Like its widely acclaimed forerunners, *Sydney Cove 1788* and *Sydney Cove 1789-90*, this book describes the life of early Sydney in extracts from a varied collection of letters, journals, books, documents and despatches, skilfully arranged in the form of a diary. John Cobley has let the writers and observers of the time tell their story without footnotes or comments of his own, and the entries are for the most part first-hand accounts, written down not months or years later but as they occurred. This gives them a special intimacy and vitality.

The story is of a near-starving colony struggling to make something of life in the midst of almost unbelievable difficulties. Again and again we read of hunger, illness and death, of petty crime and floggings, of droughts, bushfires and floods. But these things are inseparable from any account of early Sydney and in fact a great deal was being achieved. By the early 1790s the population was increasing and the town was beginning to take shape and the boundaries were widening as settlement spread from its beginnings at Sydney Cove and from the farming centre of Rose Hill.

This book is a fine contribution to a series which is filling an important historical gap. Further volumes are planned up to the year 1803, when the *Sydney Gazette*, Australia's first newspaper, made its appearance.'

If anyone would like Dennis's copy, please contact the Editors.



THE STORY OF FREDERICK AND CATHERINE HERBERT: a country couple who moved to London and made good. But was it worth it?

By Tony Allen, Member No. 5587

My great great grandfather Frederick was, according to the parish records, christened in the parish church of Great Brickhill in North Buckinghamshire on 18 October 1829. His unmarried mother's name was Amelia HARBART and she gave her son the name of Frederick Thomas Coleman HARBART. This was obviously a deliberate naming of the father of the child and must have meant that the parish priest believed Amelia. Unfortunately Thomas COLEMAN was not free to marry her as the records for the same church, record the marriage of Thomas COLEMAN of Leighton Buzzard to Sarah PEPPIATT of Great Brickhill on the 24 April 1828.

Then, in 1833, 28 year old Amelia HARBART married 20 year old George FOWLER at the same church. There were five children of the marriage and the family continued to live in Great Brickhill until her death in February 1859 of dyspepsia, which she had suffered from for 6 months. This was presumably describing something a lot more serious than indigestion, perhaps stomach ulcers or cancer.

Frederick did not live with them. In the 1841 Census the 10 year old is living in Soulbury, Bucks (about 3 miles away the other side of the new (1838) London to Birmingham Railway), with the different name of Frederick HARBOUR, aged 46 to 50, in the house of Thomas Henry and Ann PONTLING. Presumably informally adopted, I have not been able to find a family connection. In 1851 Census he is working as a Milch Man (sic) age 20 at Dollar farm near Soulbury. Also there was a dairy-maid (age 18) called Catherine TANSLEY from a local farming family.

They obviously got on well as on the 3 November 1852 they were married in the parish church in Soulbury, still with the name of HARBOUR. He just stated that his father was 'dead' with no name. (He could sign his name, she made a cross.) On 7 August 1853 they had a son George HARBOUR christened in Soulbury. George died on 18 February 1855 in the house of his adoptive grandmother Ann PANTLING with the name of George HERBERT on the death certificate. Strangely, a second son William

HARBOUR was christened in Soulbury on the same day, 18 February 1855. However soon after there was a change of name to HERBERT (almost his mother's name) on the birth of further children starting with my great grandmother, christened as Jane Elizabeth HERBERT in Soulbury on 3 September 1858 but born on the 20 December 1856. There was also a sister Sarah born on 2 July 1858, so perhaps they were christened together. Perhaps Catherine returned by the convenient train to give birth with family help and then again to Soulbury village for the children to be christened. This name change seems to have coincided with a move to London. In fact in the 1861 Census they were living with three children; William, Elizabeth and one month old Frederick. Sarah was not there, presumably left in Soulbury with grandparents.

Three out of four of the children born in Soulbury survived to adulthood. Unfortunately most of the children born in London did not. They lived at 5 Cottage Place, Newington, Surrey, near the Elephant and Castle. In Booth's Poverty Map (1889) the inhabitants of the street were classified as 'Very Poor', the second-lowest of seven categories. Booth's description of such inhabitants was 'Casual earnings, maybe three days earnings a week. People who, for mental, moral and physical reasons are incapable of better work.' The name for all the family was given as HARBUTT. Perhaps the enumerator could not understand a Buckinghamshire accent.

There is another possible reason for a change of name. In the Bedfordshire Quarter Sessions for 7 January 1858 the name of Frederick HARBOUR appears charged with Larceny but the entry then says 'Bill Ignored'. This is a fairly common entry and it probably means that he was discharged for lack of sufficient evidence, so not actually brought to trial. If it was my ancestor and I cannot find another of the same name in the 1851/61 censuses in the area, he would perhaps been still under suspicion of being a thief. Maybe he was warned by the magistrates and encouraged to move permanently to London.

On the 13 January 1863 their son John was baptized at the church of the Holy Trinity, Newington and the address had changed to nearby 5 Adam Street, Newington. At this time he seems to have used his early skills and worked as a cowman. This was also the address for the christenings of Martha, Alexander and Frank on the 11 June 1869 and the census of 1871. At that time he was a porter for a linen draper. According to Booth's Classification

his dwelling indicated that they had gone up a grade from Very Poor to Poor. The description was 'Intermittent earnings. 18s to 21s per week for a moderate family. Labourers, poorer artisans and street sellers.'

By 1875 (birth of son Frederick, the second of that name) they had moved out of the Lambeth slums to 4 Broadly Street, St Marylebone, still giving his profession as a porter. (In Booths Classification, better than Lambeth, now in the 'pink' zone: 'Fairly comfortable. Good ongoing earnings 22 to 30 shillings per week for regular work. Generally wives do not work but the children do. Boys follow their father's trade, girls go into domestic service.'

Also in Marylebone Parish Church their eldest daughter Elizabeth Jane married William ALLEN on the 22 October 1875. Then in the 1881 Census (still a porter) they had moved to a house in P (later Peach) Street, in the Queens Park Estate where the Artizans, Labourers and General Dwelling Co built streets 'well arranged and planted with trees on each side and houses of uniform style throughout, for the working classes'.

By 1891 Frederick and Catherine were self-employed, running a greengrocer's shop on the Harrow Road at Kensal Green and living opposite in St George's Terrace. Their youngest son Frederick was their assistant. So at last they had reached some reasonable status and prosperity. Catherine died on 13 August 1897 of influenza age 66 and was buried in Kensal Green Cemetery, where many of the family worked. At about that time they passed on their shop to their son Frederick who ran it with his wife Maria until the 1930s.

Frederick senior then worked as a cemetery gardener. He re-married on 10 April 1898 to Charlotte JARRETT, a widow, and died at the age of 77 on 22 July 1907 of congestion of the liver, diarrhoea and exhaustion. He was buried in his first wife's grave.

When I first started to look at this family, I had the advantage of being able to talk to my father, Frederick W.G. ALLEN (1901-2001) who lived in this area of Kensal Green and Harrow Road until 1940 and could tell me about many of his relatives with excellent recall. Several worked in the Kensal Green cemetery as masons, gravediggers or gardeners. Others in the 1920s ran shops in the area such as greengrocer, grocer, florist and shoe repairer.

When my father was born in 1910 there were six children of Frederick and Catherine HERBERT still alive: his grandmother, two great aunts and three great uncles (also many uncles, aunts and cousins.) They were:

William (1855-1935) born in Soulbury, Bucks (painter). Married (1880) Elizabeth PERKINS. 3 children.

Elizabeth Jane (1856-1926) born in Soulbury. Married (1875) William ALLEN (shoemaker and repairer). These are my great grandparents. 9/11 children alive in 1911.

Sarah (1858-1948) born in Soulbury. Married (1879) Fredrick STEED, (a gravedigger and porter) 5/6 children alive in 1911.

Martha (1864-1951) born in Newington. Married (1882) Owen SUMNER. 1 child still alive in 1911.

Frank (1869-c1930) born in Newington. Married (1895) Rosina PARTINGTON. 6/9 children alive in 1911, mason's fixer.

Frederick (1875-1938) born Marylebone (named after his father and dead brother). Married (1892) Maria GOLDSMITH. Took over the family greengrocers. 6/9 children alive in 1911.

At first this seemed like a happy healthy family but there were gaps in births, especially with only one child between 1858 and 1869. Then the GRO made it possible to search for births with both parental surnames. Tansley/Herbert was really unambiguous and the sad reality of 8 children having died, 7 of whom were under 3 years, was evident. I will deal with them in the order of their births.

George. Born and died in Soulbury, Bucks (about May 1853 to 15 February 1855). Died of Purpura Haemorrhagica (age 1 year). This means spontaneous bruising or severe skin rash. It was probably due to a Meningococcal (bacterial) infection in the blood. Likely to be fatal.

Frederick. Born and died in Newington, January 1861 to 3 October 1863. Died of Erisipaelis (sic) (age 2 years). Erysipelas is a severe, contagious infection of the skin with streptococci, causing diffuse spreading inflammation, and sometimes grave complications such as pneumonia and nephritis. It was a dangerous and fairly common disease.

John. Born and died in Newington. Born about September 1862, died 31 August 1863 (age 11 months). This is a shocking diagnosis! A child with Marasmus looks like a draped skeleton. It can arise from debilitating illness or from simple starvation. The death was not registered for a month, this is unusual, was there an enquiry? Whereas the later death certificates of the Herbert children in London state that the mother Catherine was present at the

death, the deaths of Frederick and John, 5 weeks apart in 1863, say that E. WOOLEY was present. Was Catherine ill and a friend came to help? Perhaps E. Wooley was someone with a medical or nursing background. I could not however find E. Wooley in London in the 1861 Census.

Alexander. Born in Newington, 14 April 1865, died Marylebone 17 December 1875. Died of typhoid fever 20 days (age 10 years). Caused by a bacterium, *Salmonella typhi* probably correctly diagnosed as certified by an MD. Often the intestines are affected. Could have been infected by contamination by sewage of water or food.

Fanny. Born and died in Newington about August 1867 to 9 September 1868. Died of Diarrhoea Simplex 8 weeks, Cholera Infantum (age 13 months). Infantile Diarrhoea (not actually cholera) was a major cause of death from dehydration and loss of salts. High levels of flies breeding in horse manure and carrying disease made the spread much greater in summer.

Ellen Amelia. Born and died in Newington, 25 March to 21 June 1871, died of Variola Confluens (age 2 months). Extensive smallpox, little chance of survival at such an early age. Too young to have been vaccinated. Not enough herd immunity in the slums. Presumably the parents and the other children had been vaccinated. Also her parents having previously been involved in milking cows might have had protection from previous infection with cowpox.

Edward. Born in January 1887 in Marylebone and died on 5th December 1877. The cause of death was Morbilli Bronchitis (age 11 months). A lung infection due to viruses and/or bacteria, made much worse by winter smog.

Alice Emily. Born in Marylebone about January 1878, died in Kensal Town (Chelsea detached) on 26 July 1880. Died of scarlatina lasting 2 weeks (age 2 and a half years). This is scarlet fever, due to *Streptococcus pyogenes*. It was particularly dangerous in small children.

This story may be typical of many couples who came to London to better themselves. Of course Fredrick and Catherine did do fairly well and lived to a greater age than average surrounded by a large family and seem to have established a dynasty in the Kensal Green area. But at what cost in infant deaths.

They had four children in North Buckinghamshire. Three of them survived, even living in the slums of Lambeth. Probably because they had a good start in life. But then Catherine gave birth to ten children in London in fourteen years of whom seven died. Presumably her physical and mental resources

were exhausted by this rapid succession of pregnancies. With each new child the previous children would have been suffering from neglect, lack of breast milk and being susceptible to air pollution and the diseases that were rampant in London.

Still they did show remarkable determination in escaping from Lambeth after about 15 years and presumably passing on their determination to their surviving children. This included my great grandmother Elizabeth Jane ALLEN (aka Jane Elizabeth) who did a lot better having 9 out of 11 children surviving to adult-hood. She then helped to bring up a daughter's illegitimate child and also completely took over running the family after desertion by her husband in about 1900.



BIRTH, MARRIAGE & DEATH CERTIFICATES.

If you have any unwanted certificates, we are happy to receive them here at LWMFHS, either originals or photocopies. We are recording the details on our new Surname Database so that in the not too distant future members will be able to search easily online and have access to the information these 'unwanted' certificates contain. Please either email Elaine at projects@lwmfhs.org.uk or send them direct to Sylvia at 62 Canning Road, Harrow, HA3 7SN.

We double checked with the Government website about the legality of copying certificates as many of us do this in the course of our research and you may be reassured by the result: Whilst it is an offence to make a copy of a certificate and pass it off as the original certificate, the Crown does not assert any rights of ownership of the contents of the forms. Anybody can reproduce certificates for all purposes other than providing evidence of an event and they may be published in a book or magazine, or a copy placed on the internet. Crown copyright must be acknowledged, as the layout of these certificates is protected by this. The Data Protection Act 2018 and the Human Rights Act 1998 must be complied with, which means that if you propose to reproduce the contents of any certificate containing personal data about any living individual, you should obtain the permission of the individual(s) before you do so.

WEBSITE NEWS

London Picture Archive

Previously known as Collage, this useful website has undergone a rebranding and has a new web address. If you have not come across it before, it is well worth a look. The London Picture Archive provides free online access to images of London from the collections at London Metropolitan Archives (LMA) and Guildhall Art Gallery. Over 250,000 photographs, prints and drawings as well as over 1,000 maps are available to view. The images provide an extraordinary record of London and its people from the 15th century to the present day. The whole of Greater London is covered, as are the adjoining counties.

Some of the many highlights from LMA include photographs of Victorian London; the sixteenth century 'Agas' map of London; Hollar's stunning panorama from 1647; beautifully designed 20th century posters for London's tramways; the Cross and Tibbs photographs of Second World War damage to the City of London and the collections formerly held at the Guildhall Print Room. New content is regularly added from the LMA collections including the very large London County Council Photograph Library. Not all of the LMA image collections are currently available on this site; they estimate that there are around 2 million photos, prints, drawings and maps in their strong rooms so if you can't find what you're looking, please contact them.

The London Picture Archive also provides access to some 6000 images of paintings, watercolours, drawings and sculptures from the Guildhall Art Gallery collection. These include 3,000 paintings and sketches from the studio collection of Sir Matthew Smith; the very fine collection of Dutch and Flemish seventeenth century masters bequeathed by Harold Samuel and an important collection of Victorian paintings comprising works by Millais, Rossetti and many other notable artists of the period. Unfortunately they do not have images of the paintings that were destroyed during the Second World War, or a number of works that are on temporary loan.

An interesting page on the website is The London Picture Map, which allows you to browse the collections geographically by looking at a zoomable map. Many of the images on the map are of buildings that no longer exist, giving an intriguing view of 'Lost London'.

There are also subject collections under the 'Galleries' page, which includes boxing, children's homes, London Fire Brigade 1866-2016, Soho, the National Health Service, Victorian photographs and much more.

You can find this website here: <https://www.londonpicturearchive.org.uk/>

A Century of England from the Air

In March, Historic England launched its new 'Aerial Photography Explorer', which allows users to search and explore an online map showing aerial photographs of England over the past 100 years. Over 400,000 of their collection of 6 million aerial photos have been digitised. You can search by place name or just click on a map, which will show all local photos. The date of each photo is given on a thumbnail of the image, which can be expanded into a new tab to show more detail. You can access this website here: <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/archive/collections/aerial-photos/>

Newspapers.com

Over 12 million pages from some 200 UK newspapers have been added to the Newspapers.com website, which previously held mainly newspapers from the USA. This website is owned by Ancestry and can be seen on their pages but requires a further subscription of £14.99 for a month or £49.99 for six months over and above the normal subscription fees. Newspapers here include the *Evening Standard* 1897-2022, *The Guardian* 1823-2003, *The Observer* 1791-2003 and *The Daily Telegraph* 1859-2013. This website can be found here: <https://www.newspapers.com/>

British Newspapers Online

The database at British Newspapers Online continues to grow. Newly digitised from the Greater London area are these titles:

Kensington News and West London Times 1876, 1882, 1887-1888, 1913, 1917-1918, 1920, 1922, 1925, 1927-1928, 1930-1934, 1938-1939, 1944, 1950, 1952-1954, 1957-1962, 1965, 1967, 1970-1971

St Pancras Gazette 1873-1939

Sydenham, Forest Hill & Penge Gazette 1875-1881

Uxbridge Informer 1986, 1988

For these titles the following additional years have been added to the database:

Harrow Gazette 1870

Harrow Informer 1987

Harrow Observer 1965, 1981, 1993, 1995

Middlesex County Times 1987

Uxbridge Leader 1989-1990

Westminster & Pimlico News 1994

These are also available on Findmypast.

THE NUMBERING AND (RE)NAMING OF LONDON STREETS

By Elizabeth Burling, Member No. 4992

Whilst roads have perhaps always been named, individual buildings were not identified (unless they were particularly distinguished) until much more recently. There was no need - all local people will have known where to buy the items they needed in their vicinity.

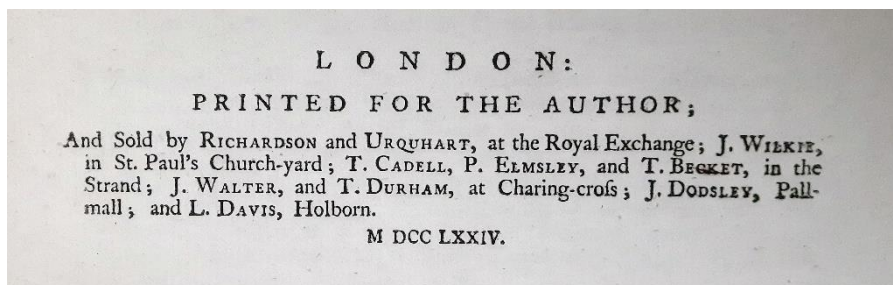
Businesses would have signs indicating their trade hanging outside, rather like pub signs today. The 'Red Lion' originates from the time of King James I and VI of Scotland who apparently ordered that the heraldic red lion of Scotland be displayed on all buildings of importance. People could use these signs to describe addresses as best they could, for instance saying that they lived opposite or next door.

In his book, *Diary of a Plague Year*, Daniel DEFOE (1660-1731) describes how people resorted to astrologers and fortune tellers to see if they might avoid the plague and that 'it became common to have signs and inscriptions set up on doors: here lives a fortune-teller; here lives an astrologer [and that] the usual sign of these people's dwellings was to be seen in almost every street'.

It was long-distance communications which led the need for more accurate addresses, especially the posting of letters. The Royal Mail has early origins - King Henry VII established a 'Master of the Posts' in 1516 in order to ensure that his official communications could be delivered successfully to their recipients. In 1603, following his accession to the English throne as King James VI, Scottish King James I established a royal postal service between London and Edinburgh as it was important for him to keep communications channels open between the two kingdoms.

Of course, government officials and merchants also had a need for this sort of service and in 1635 King Charles I made the Royal Mail available to the public. The service was farmed out to Thomas WITHERINGS (?-1651) who opened the first post office at Bishopsgate Street the same year. Unlike today, postage was paid by the recipient - it was not until nearly 200 years later and the invention of the Penny Post by Rowland HILL in 1840 that people sending letters were required to pay in advance.

As London became more built up and perhaps as people became more literate and started writing letters, it became increasingly clear that it was necessary to have a more organised system for locating addresses. In 1708, the houses in Prescott Street, Goodman's Fields are recorded as having been 'distinguished by numbers rather than signs' and by the end of the century the numbering of houses seems to have become well established. Numbers were done consecutively, rather than the odd and even numbers on separate sides of the road as is usual today.



This is part of the flyleaf of a book which was printed in 1774 mentions booksellers whose addresses are only shown as near public buildings or in roads without the building being numbered.

Numbering was not in any organised or regulated and roads could be using different numbering systems at the same time. For example, the Postal Museum website says that Craven Street in the Strand had three sets of numbers at the same time in 1780. Street names could also be confusing. Our Parish Guides show 33 instances of 'Queen Street' and although some of these will relate to the same road, they definitely were not all the same one. In a similar way, there were ten Red Lion Courts and another eleven Red Lion Yards. Once again, there was no regulation and builders or owners could name streets as they pleased.

It was not until 1855 that the power to control and regulate the naming of streets and the numbering of houses was set out in law with the passing of the Metropolitan Management Act. This gave the control to the new Metropolitan Board of Works, which started work on simplifying house numbering and street names under the strong encouragement of the Post Office, who provided a list of the most urgent cases! One of the first things done was to record what was already there. *Names of Streets and Places in*

the Administrative County of London was first published in 1855. This provided a base line from which changes could be noted.

It was in 1857 that ten central London districts were assigned a code, such as EC for Eastern Central and WC for Western Central. A large number of High Streets, King Streets and so on needed to be renamed so that no street name was duplicated within any one postal district. There was some public resistance to this but by 1871 some 4,800 street names had been changed and 100,000 houses renumbered.

In 1889 the administration of London, including responsibility for street naming and numbering, was taken over by the new London County Council (LCC). *Names of Streets and Places in the Administrative County of London Including the Names of Blocks of Dwellings, Parks, and Open Spaces together with the Particulars of Orders Made Since 1856 Relative to Street Names and Numbers* was published by the LCC in 1901, 1912, 1929 and 1955. These books record changes to street names and house numbers and a series of accompanying maps illustrate the alterations. The books list alterations and gives references to a series of corresponding plans which show the various changes in colour. These are kept at London Metropolitan Archives (LMA), for example, 'Renumbering 1-59 Peckham Rye, July 1927 (Plan 7476, Ref: LCC/AR/BA/05/336).

The 4th edition of *Names of Street and Places*, printed in 1955, cost £4/8/0 (now £4.40) and there are several copies of it at LMA. One is in the LCC publications archive at Ref: LCC/PUB/01/374/3895 with another in the Greater London Council (GLC) publications archive at Ref: GLC/DG/PUB/01/061/0515. Other copies show up in other London libraries too. The LCC Publications archive contains supplements containing updates to the *Names of Street and Places* covering the dates 1882-1890, 1902-1903, 1916-1919-1911, 1913-1914, 1916-1927 and 1929-1939.

From 1939, the London Building Acts (Amendment) Act, 1939, meant that local authorities have the legal responsibility to ensure that streets are named and buildings are numbered and they have the powers to approve or reject building and street address suggestions submitted by developers. This is still the case to this day. Consistent naming and numbering is important for the public, postal services and the emergency services to find properties efficiently and there are rules to follow. For example: a new street should be numbered with the even numbers on the right side and the odd numbers on

the left, except for in a cul-de-sac where consecutive numbering in a clockwise direction is preferred; number 1 should be at the end of the road nearest to the town or village centre; roads must start with number 1 and it is not permitted to leave out numbers, such as 13, from a sequence because this has caused confusion for those trying to find an address. Road naming has many rules too, for example, any road named 'Hill' must actually be on a hill and no road name can start with 'The'. You can read more about the regulations on the websites of most London Boroughs, for example the City of London has an interesting 34 page 'Street Numbering and Naming Advice Note' here: <https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/assets/Services-Environment/street-naming-and-numbering-advice-note-2021-feb.pdf>

The GLC inherited overall control of street naming within London from the LCC in 1965. Central control was still required to ensure that street names were not duplicated across Boroughs. The responsibility for this was given to the Building Regulation Division of the Architect's Department, which also included approving for numbering schemes and style of addresses and for naming blocks of flats. Alterations were recorded on Ordnance Survey 1:1250 maps. Changes in name or layout of streets, or new developments, were added by hand: red for changes of name with a number indicating that a case file should be consulted, yellow for road closures and green for new developments - these additions are generally not dated. These maps appear in the 'Architect's Department: Building regulations division – street naming section' at LMA, Ref: GLC/AR/BR/SN.

A different part of the GLC archive at LMA contains two amended interleaved copies of the *Names of Streets and Places* which were been kept up-to-date with manuscript additions until 1985 (Ref: GLC/AR/BR/SN/05). The GLC archives has *A Supplement to the Names of Street and Places in the Former Administrative County of London 1955-1966* (published in 1967) which originally cost 10 shillings (now 50p). This is at LMA, Ref: GLC/DG/PUB/01/002/0136.

The Post Office has no control over street naming or numbering but does issue postcodes. These were introduced in the 1960s to facilitate the mechanised sorting of mail. At the Postal Museum there is a booklet called *GPO Notes on Street Naming and Numbering of Premises* (1966, Ref: POST 17/159), which says: 'The Post Office has no power to insist upon the use of house numbers and street names in postal addresses but once Local

Authorities, in fulfilling their statutory authority, complete the task of naming of streets, numbering of premises and insisting upon the exhibition of numbers a great deal can be done by the Post Office in persuading users of the post to help.’

There is an online resource which can help with road name changes. ‘Old to New Street Names’ details some 23,000 changes in road names which have occurred from 1857-1929 and from 1929-1945. (A fuller version of this is available as an ebook for £6.99.) By the same author is a finding aid for London Postal Districts (which were introduced in 1857), which includes details such as [find somewhere in parish] is Postal District [x] – useful for Londoners but surely crucial to those who are researching ancestors from further away. Another page lists every street in London in 1938, which is taken from the *London Post Offices & Streets* of that year.

All of these can be found on the ‘London Miscellany’ page of this website: https://www.maps.thehunthouse.com/London_Miscellany.htm

If you are looking for roads in Islington you are particularly lucky. *Streets with a Story: The Book of Islington* written by Eric A Willats was first published by Islington Local History Education Trust in 1986. A revised digital edition was published in 2017 by Islington Heritage Service. This delightful and informative work is surely a must for anyone researching family who lived in Islington. It contains an alphabetical list of all streets, squares, places, terraces, tenements and blocks of flats both past and present. The history of these places is detailed where known, along with any road name changes and famous residents are noted. There is a link on the local history page of Islington Local History Centre online here: <https://friendsofim.com/2021/04/08/streets-with-a-story-the-book-of-islington/>

Sources:

House numbering: <https://www.markpack.org.uk/38336/house-numbering-in-the-uk-the-mystery-of-postage-act-of-1765/>

London: A Social History by Roy Porter (Harvard University Press, 1998)

Maps The Hunt House: https://www.maps.thehunthouse.com/Streets/Naming_and_numbering_the_streets_of_London.htm

Postal Museum: <https://www.postalmuseum.org/blog/house-numbering/>

Pub Signs: <https://www.historic-uk.com/CultureUK/Pub-Signs-of-Britain/#:~:text=The%20origin%20of%20inn%20signs,signs%20was%20the%20'Bush'.>

Thomas Witherings: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_Witherings

MEMBERS' INTERESTS

The research interests listed here were submitted by members between March and May 2022.

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:8325; 8326; 8343; 8349; 8356

Name	Period	County	Parish / Area	Mem.No
BAZELL	Any	MDX	St Pancras	8325
BENGE	1800-1930	MDX	Westminster	8326
CHOPPING	All	All	All	8356
DANN	1800 to date	MDX	Enfield, Tottenham, Borough of Edmonton	8349
EAGER	1800 to date	MDX	Tower Hamlets	8349
FAULKNER	All	All	All	8356
MATTHEWS	All	All	All	8356
NOWLAN	1750-1819	MDX	St Mary, Moorfields, Westminster	8343
NOWLAN	1813-1850	MDX	St Patrick, Soho	8343
STEVENS	All	All	All	8356

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome our new members, numbers 8340-8356 who have joined the Society over the past few months and wish them well with their research.

SPECIAL INTEREST

8356 **DNA** - Helping a One-Name study on FAULKNER



LWMFHS PUBLICATIONS

Our Parish Guide to Totteridge came out in May. Totteridge was a detached Ancient Parish of the Broadwater Hundred (which stretched from Baldock to Welwyn) in the county of Hertfordshire. In 1894 Totteridge became part of Barnet Rural District and then Barnet Urban District from 1914. London Boroughs were formed in 1965, at which point Totteridge was transferred from Hertfordshire to Middlesex and the parish now forms part of the London Borough of Barnet.

The name Totteridge is of Saxon origin but the earliest records of the parish date to the 13th century. From 1248, the lord of the manor was the Bishop of Ely. He had an estate at Hatfield, some 10 miles further north, and



St Andrew's Church, Totteridge.

Totteridge was a detached chapelry of the parish of Hatfield. A church at Totteridge, dedicated to St Etheldreda, was mentioned in a document dated 1250. Etheldreda (c636-679) was a daughter of Anna, king of East Anglia. Following the death of Tondberct, her husband, she retired to her dowry lands at Ely and founded a monastery there, of which she became abbess. The monastery became the site of Ely Cathedral and so churches in lands owned by the Bishops of Ely were often named after Etheldreda. The name 'Etheldreda' became 'Audrey' over the centuries and both names are referred to in old documents pertaining to Totteridge. At some point, possibly at the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1570, the name 'Audrey' became 'Andrew' and that is now the dedication of the church at Totteridge.

Very rarely in our LWMFHS area, there has only ever been the one Anglican church in the whole parish from its inception to nowadays, although there was a nonconformist chapel too at one point. Records from these two religious institutions are detailed in our latest Parish Guide.

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

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You can pay directly into the Society's business account, HSBC bank sort code: 40-03-33, account number: 81157760; the account name is London Westminster & Middlesex FHS.

You may also renew by **Parish Chest** via our website here:
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LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL – for the year 2022-2023

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 2022 and must be paid in pounds sterling.

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

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

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SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL PAYMENT

A note from the Treasurer

To renew your membership for 2022-2023, 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/membership
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 overleaf) 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

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 Hornsey, followed by Northolt.

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

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

Booklet	UK	Europe	Rest world
Parish Guides			
Clerkenwell	£7.85	£9.65	£10.60
East Barnet	£7.85	£9.65	£10.60
Edmonton	£8.55	£10.75	£13.30
Enfield	£7.85	£9.65	£10.60
Finchley	£7.85	£9.65	£10.60
Greenford and Perivale	£7.85	£9.65	£10.60
Harefield	£7.85	£9.65	£10.60
Hampstead	£7.85	£9.65	£10.60
Hendon	£7.85	£9.65	£10.60
Holborn	£8.55	£10.75	£13.30
Islington	£8.55	£10.75	£13.30
Kingsbury	£7.85	£9.65	£10.60
Paddington	£7.85	£9.65	£10.60
Pinner	£7.85	£9.65	£10.60
Ruislip	£7.85	£9.65	£10.60
St Anne Soho	£7.85	£9.65	£10.60
St Clement Danes	£7.85	£9.65	£10.60

St George Hanover Square	£7.85	£9.65	£10.60
St Giles-in-the-Fields	£8.55	£10.75	£13.30
St James Piccadilly	£7.85	£9.65	£10.60
St Margaret & St John	£7.85	£9.65	£10.60
St Martin-in-the-Fields	£8.55	£10.75	£13.30
St Marylebone	£8.55	£10.75	£13.30
St Pancras	£8.55	£10.75	£13.30
South Mimms	£7.85	£9.65	£10.60
Stanmore	£7.85	£9.65	£10.60
Tottenham	£7.85	£9.65	£10.60
Totteridge	£7.85	£9.65	£10.60
Willesden	£7.85	£9.65	£10.60
Monumental Inscriptions			
Chipping Barnet St John the Baptist	£8.55	£10.75	£13.30
East Barnet St Mary the Virgin	£8.55	£10.75	£13.30
Hornsey St Mary	£8.55	£10.75	£13.30
Monken Hadley St Mary the Virgin	£8.55	£10.75	£13.30
St James Hampstead Road	£8.55	£10.75	£13.30
Census Guides			
Streets of the City of London	£7.85	£9.65	£10.60
Streets of Westminster	£7.85	£9.65	£10.60

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 weight of the booklet and the destination, as shown here. Of course, if you want more than one booklet the postage will be different but these websites will work it out for you.

2. For those not on the internet, you can write to the Editors at the address on the inside front cover of METROPOLITAN stating which booklet you would like and enclosing a sterling cheque made payable to 'London Westminster and Middlesex FHS' for the appropriate amount.

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

ST BOTOLPH

By Elizabeth Burling, Member No. 4992

St Botolph, before his canonisation, was a man called Botwulf who had been born into a noble Saxon family in East Anglia in the early seventh century. Botwulf and his brother Adulph were educated at Burgh Castle near Great Yarmouth and then sent to a Benedictine Abbey in France to further their education. Adulph went on to become a bishop in the Netherlands whilst Botwulf returned to East Anglia. He asked King Ethelmund, head of the southern Angles, for a ‘waste and ownerless place’ on which to found a monastery.

The *Anglo Saxon Chronicle*, written in the 11th century, noted that in the year 653 ‘The Middle Angles, under earldorman Peada, received the true faith. King Anna was killed and Botwulf began to build the church at Ikanho’. Ikanho has been identified as Iken in Suffolk, where a church dedicated to St Botolph sits on a low spit of land by the estuary of the River Alde.

Iken was in a marshland area and Botwulf was said to have expelled the swamps of their ‘devils’, perhaps by draining the marshes and thereby eliminated the night glow of the marsh gas. Botwulf died around the year 680 and was buried at Iken (or maybe at Burgh, some 40 miles further north – nobody really knows any more).

Whilst the monastery at Iken survived for another 200 years, it was then destroyed by Viking raiders in 869-870. At some point around this time, Botwulf became St Botolph and his remains, which were considered holy relics, were removed for safe keeping to the abbey at Bury St Edmunds. Later, St Botolph’s head was sent to Ely, his middle to Thorney, and the remainder was taken to Westminster Abbey. His feast day is 17 June.

St Botolph is considered the patron saint of farmers, due to his draining and cultivation of the marshes and of wayfarers, perhaps because of the journeys his remains made. Because of this, there were churches named after him at four of the main gates of the City of London: Aldgate, Aldersgate, Billingsgate and Bishopsgate. Travellers could pray either for a good journey or give thanks for a successful one, depending which way they were going as they passed these churches.

St Botolph without Aldgate is first mentioned in records in 1108. This Saxon church was enlarged in 1418 but became unsafe over the next few centuries and was totally rebuilt in 1744. Although the roof was pierced by a bomb in 1941, it failed to explode and the church suffered minimal damage during the Second World War. Records are held at LMA, Ref: P69/BOT2. These include baptisms from 1558-1927, marriages from 1558-1945 and burials from 1558-1665 and from 1673-1853. With each of these ancient City parishes, there is a vast parish chest full of information about paupers, rates assessments, local charities, properties and much, much more.



St Botolph without Aldgate.

around the year 1050. This was in disrepair and was again rebuilt in 1788-1791.

Records are held at LMA, Ref: P69/BOT1. Baptism registers date from 1638-1984, marriages from 1638-1953 and burials from 1638-1885 and are all online at Ancestry. The burial ground was united with that of Christchurch Newgate Street in 1887 and St Leonard Foster Lane in 1890 to become a public garden. It contains the Memorial to Heroic Self-Sacrifice – a space dedicated to commemorating people who died in saving the lives of others. This garden is now known as Postman’s Park due to its popularity with workers at the General Post Office nearby.

The first church of St Botolph without Aldersgate is believed to have been erected around the year 1050. This was in disrepair and was again rebuilt in 1788-1791.



St Botolph without Aldersgate.

St Botolph without Billingsgate stood on the south side of Thames Street at the corner of Botolph Lane but the church burnt down during the Great Fire of London and was not rebuilt. The parish joined that of St George, Botolph

Lane in 1670. Records are held at LMA, Ref: P69/BOT3. Baptism registers date from 1685-1891, marriage registers from 1780-1835 and burials from 1813-1845. A tiny portion of the burial ground still exists as a private garden called One Tree Park, on the north side of Lower Thames Street on the corner of Monument Street and Botolph Lane.

The church of St Botolph without Bishopsgate is first mentioned in written records in 1212 but Christian worship here is believed to be much older. The sexton's house was pulled down in the Great Fire, which saved the church



St Botolph without Bishopsgate.

but the medieval building had to be rebuilt in the 1720s. The parish registers are at LMA, Ref: P69/BOT4, and include baptisms from 1558-1898, marriage from 1653-1660 and from 1833-1950 and burials from 1558-1855. There is a large parish chest with registers of inhabitants for the years 1759, 1779, 1796, 1801-1856, which could be useful for anyone with ancestors in the parish.

Back in East Anglia, a church was subsequently built on the ruins of Botwulf's monastery at Iken. The nave of this church, which was dedicated to St Botolph, dates to around 1200 and the tower to 1500 with most of the rest dating to an 1853 rebuild. The roof of the

church is thatched. There are now over 70 churches dedicated to St Botolph, along with five towns and villages, including Boston in Lincolnshire: Boston is a contraction of Botolph's Town and the famous church there, known as The Stump, is also dedicated to St Botolph.

Sources

'Botolph', a history of the man and saint, by Owen Spencer-Thomas is available online at: <https://sayitstraight.co.uk/local-history/biographies/botulph/>

'Botwulf of Thorney' at: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Botwulf_of_Thorney

'Iken, St Botolph's Church' has much about the church including a history here: <https://www.britainexpress.com/attractions.htm?attraction=4931>

London Metropolitan Archives

WILLIAM HAWKE HEADLAND

Artisan & Engineer

by Sheila Clarke, Member No. 7900

I never knew my grandfather: he died a few years before I was born but his presence was felt throughout the Suffolk cottage where I spent my school holidays. Proudly displayed were numerous examples of his woodwork, evidence of a talented and skilled craftsman but what made them special was the decoration - intricate patterns on tables supported by legs so slender I feared they would be unable to bear their load; extravagantly adorned boxes that would make anything within appear plain - for William Hawke HEADLAND had been marquetry cutter, practicing an art known to have existed in the ancient world. I was fascinated: tracing the patterns with my finger, I marveled at their beauty, vowing that one day I would cherish these reminders of my grandfather's trade as my grandmother clearly did.



Lawshall Hall

Lawshall is an idyllic spot. I was last there in 1992 but don't imagine it has changed very much. Certainly time seemed to have stood still between my grandparents arrival in the 1930s and my first visit more than twenty years later. There was no electricity or running water in most of the houses, including my grandmother's and local amenities were restricted to a small shop, the local church and the obligatory inn. It is easy to see the appeal of village life to William and Emma. Both were born in London's East End, William in Hackney and Emma in Dalston. Apart from a short period when William's work took him to Sussex, they had stayed close to their roots but chose to spend retirement in a very different environment. But why Suffolk & what made them decide on the remote village of Lawshall, whose moment

of fame was in 1578 when the Royal Progress of Queen Elizabeth^{1st} called at Lawshall Hall? (After lunch the Queen pressed Henry Drury, her staunchly Catholic host, to denounce his faith and when he refused had him sent to prison where he would spend much of the next three years.) My research would provide a possible answer to one question but like so many things to do with genealogy, the second seems destined to remain unresolved.

So what did I learn about my grandfather? That he was not afraid to embrace change, either in work or way of life and that he possessed both the skill of a true artisan and the practicality of an engineer - an intriguing combination I would have enjoyed exploring with him. William was born in 1868, the fifth child of Henry William HEADLAND, a silversmith, and Harriett, née SALTER. Henry William had run the family business in Great Sutton Street with his uncle but within a couple of years of taking over had lost everything and in 1862 was imprisoned for failing to pay his apprentices. In court it was claimed that Henry William's downfall was entirely due to his own neglect, a warrant officer describing 'not five shillings worth of furniture' in the family home but this was some years before my grandfather's birth and by then the family had relocated to Hackney where rents were lower and Henry William could continue trading as a silversmith.

In 1871 the family was living in College Lane Farm Place and at Crozier Terrace ten years later. The 1891 census shows William with his mother and two younger siblings at 2 Glyn Road: Ellen, nineteen, was a general servant, Alfred, sixteen, worked as kitchen hand in a restaurant and twenty two year old William was a marquetry cutter. Their father had died five years earlier so it was important that the children had steady jobs and William would have seen at close hand the opportunities in the East End furniture trade. There had been furniture makers in the area since the 1790s but the opening of the Regents Canal in 1820 and its proximity to the East End meant the movement of timber and export of finished goods became easier. The opening of the railways and major road improvements further increased the area's popularity and by 1901 there were 5,000 furniture, piano and cabinet makers in Hackney alone. The area had gained a reputation for the 'cheap and nasty' while in reality it was anything but. 'What is the real character of East End furniture?' asked one writer. 'Is it good, bad or indifferent? ... We can make no more conclusive reply to this inquiry than to say, that East End furniture is anything to order.' From the 'richly inlaid cabinet ... for £100 to the gipsy tables that the maker sells for 9s a dozen,' all came from the workshops

around Hackney, Shoreditch and Bethnal Green. Examples from Pompeii and Herculaneum show that marquetry as a decorative feature was already highly advanced but it would take the influx of Flemish and Huguenot craftsmen in the late 17th century for it to gain popularity here. Soon the much sought - after ‘bandy-legged chairs ... bureaux and long clock cases’ would bear witness to the influence of these immigrant workers. Marquetry cutting was a highly skilled job. Besides a good deal of patience and a steady hand it was labour intensive and traditionally done by only the most experienced woodworkers. But first William would have needed to learn the techniques and it is likely he was apprenticed to one of the many furniture makers nearby. There he would have learnt the art of inlaying by applying finely cut veneer to form a decorative pattern.



Marquetry of Mermaids

Most furniture makers employed a workforce of around eight with a medium sized firm rising to between fifteen and twenty. At the other end of the scale were the individual artisans known as ‘garret masters,’ producing pieces they would then hawk round the salerooms. A carpenter could expect to earn around 6s 6d for a six day week so it seems reasonable to assume a marquetry worker would be paid more. However, sometime before 1900 another popular form of employment attracted William’s attention and it was to be in stark contrast to his former trade.

The first evidence of railways is found in the stoneways of Dartmoor, tracks for carts taking stone from quarries. These were followed in the late 17th century by all-wooden railways and later by horse drawn carts running on rails. Steam arrived in the 1790s but railways would not become important until 1825 when Stephenson's Rocket facilitated the large scale movement of both people and goods. Not everyone was in favour: 'Progress be damned' fumed the Duke of Wellington. 'It will just enable the lower classes to move about and become discontented.' The subsequent Railway Mania of the 1830s/40s saw the public rushing to invest and by 1852 all English main lines were either completed or authorized, with the rest of the United Kingdom not far behind. The surge in railway building had come at exactly the right time for the many labourers and other workers who had lost their jobs to mechanical advancement and the railways quickly became one of the largest employers in the UK. Wages were not particularly good but the firm was among the first to provide benefits such as pensions, sick pay, community facilities and housing. Staff were known for their integrity and pride in their work. Signalmen in particular gained a reputation for literacy as well as an unfortunate tendency for industrial militancy. Any number of things may have lured William away from the furniture trade, for he now had responsibilities that required long term planning.

In 1896 he had married Emma Jane PEARSON, the daughter of another railway worker and by 1901 they were living Rotherfield, Sussex along with eight year old nephew Alfred. William is shown as a 'stationary engine driver gas maker' indicating that he operated a piece of static machinery. Further investigation reveals this was a term used for an electrical fitter in the railway's locomotive department. It seems likely William was seconded to the Sussex depot, as by 1911 the family was back in London at Dale Road, Gospel Oak, this time with another member of his extended family, fifteen year old niece Evelyn, a weaver. It was not unusual for childless couples to help out with housing the offspring of other family members but life was about to change for William and Emma when after twelve years of marriage, in 1907 they became parents themselves when my father was born.

I know little of my father's early life - just the odd story of him sitting on his father's shoulders to watch the funeral procession of King Edward VII, or the time they were viewing a Charing Cross book shop window display devoted to George Bernard SHAW when my grandfather exclaimed 'I can't stand that silly old fool!' only to find the man standing alongside him was

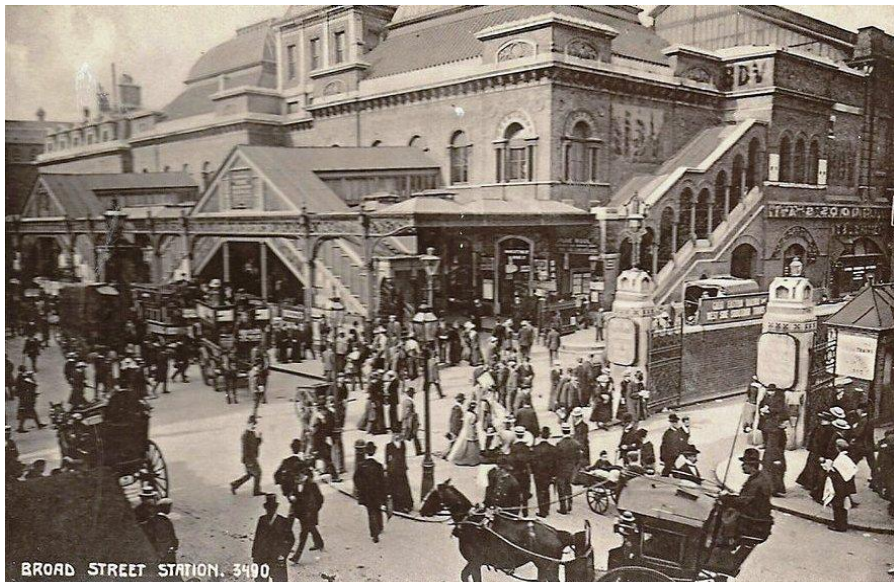
GBS himself. One thing however seems certain - when my grandparents left London for Suffolk in the early 1930s my father went with them. He served in the Suffolk regiment during WW2 and saw action in South Africa and France before being evacuated from Dunkirk. It must have been a very lonely time for my grandmother - just twelve months before the conflict began my grandfather had died and with my father away she would have been more isolated than ever. I like to think she gained comfort from having familiar things around her - the Victorian oil lamps that cast ominous shadows on the cottage walls, firing my childhood imagination; the candlesticks graduating from larger than I'd ever seen to what seemed like doll's house size - and of course those marquetry pieces that would later fascinate me so much.

It was not hard to make the link between my grandparents' choice of Suffolk for retirement and a move made some thirty years earlier by Emma's sister Mary Ann. British Xylonite was an East End plastics Co. with factories in Homerton and Hackney Wick. Founded in 1877, the popularity of all things plastic meant it soon outgrew the London sites and Brantham, a Suffolk village on the border with Essex, was chosen for expansion. Mary Ann PEARSON had married British Xylonite employee James PURSER and the family was one of many to make the move. Homes had been built for the workforce and in 1911 the Pursers can be found at 32 New Village along with their three young daughters and Mary Ann's widowed father. It seems likely my grandparents visited and fell in love with the bucolic Suffolk countryside and an altogether gentler way of life. Although Lawshall is some twenty five miles from Brantham at least the two sisters were in the same county with probably a better chance of meeting.

I had no such success with the circumstances surrounding my grandfather's death. Records show that he died in Feb 1938 at London's Highgate hospital. My father, an engineer, was named in probate. But why was William in London and not Suffolk where he lived? It is tempting to see a pleasing symmetry in a Londoner returning to place of his birth but the facts must, for now at least, remain a mystery - and isn't that the essence of what makes genealogy so addictive? We may get a better understanding of our Ancestors lives be able to throw a light on many things but there will always be something that remains stubbornly in the dark.

Footnote:

I never did get to own my grandfather's marquetry pieces. Family circumstances meant that when my grandmother died in 1961 my father left them in safekeeping with her neighbour and never returned to claim them.



Sources:

Behind the Veneer - The South Shoreditch Furniture Trade and its Buildings,

<https://historicengland.org.uk-books/publications>

Lawshall Hall, Wikipedia, <https://en.wikipedia.org>

Railwaymen and Women of the North London Railway, <https://railwaymen-nlr.org.uk>

BX Plastics, Wikipedia, <https://wikipedia.org>

Illustrations:

Photograph of Lawshall Hall by Andrew Hill

Marquetry of Mermaids Photograph by Thomas Quine

Photograph of Broad Street Station, a former major London terminus adjacent to Liverpool Street, early 1900s

With thanks to Alan Mansfield of the Redbridge Marquetry Group for pointing me in the right direction,

JOTTINGS

Photos from 1857 shipwreck

It's not really our area but just so interesting! In 1857, the *SS Central America* sank off the coast of the US state of South Carolina while en route



One of the photos from the wreck.

to New York City. The boat had been sailing from California via the Panama Canal to the US east coast, a journey of some 24 days, when it was sunk by a hurricane. Its cargo included an estimated 21 tonnes of gold coins and nuggets from prospectors who had struck it rich on the west coast. The wreck was rediscovered in 1988 and the gold recovered but also on the ship were a number of photographs. These were daguerreotypes, the first successful commercial form of photography - a one-off picture held on a metal plate - and ambrotypes, a type of glass plate

photography. The images are excellent, despite being at the bottom of the sea for over 150 years. You can find out more about them here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-60866212>

Islington Boys and Girls

The forthcoming book *Islington Boys 2* has been retitled and will now be known as *Islington Boys and Girls*. This is a follow-on book from *Islington Boys*, which we reviewed in the December 2021 edition of *Metropolitan*. Co-editors, James Sanderson and Barry Page are looking for stories from past alumni of ALL schools in the Islington area. Your stories/anecdotes could be about your experiences at school, everyday life outside school, where you lived, your family and what it was like growing up in the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s. What odd jobs you did to earn money, the music you liked and the fashions that you followed. In short, tell us about yourselves. All contributors' names will be recognised in the text. Please identify yourselves by school attendance years and where you lived in Islington.

Islington girls are more than welcome to contribute. Stories of their take on growing up in Islington are invited too.

A dedicated email address is set up to receive your stories. There is a maximum of 2,000 words on any one subject, which can be sent to: islingtonboys2@yahoo.com. Every submission received will be acknowledged and, please note, that content will be edited if necessary.

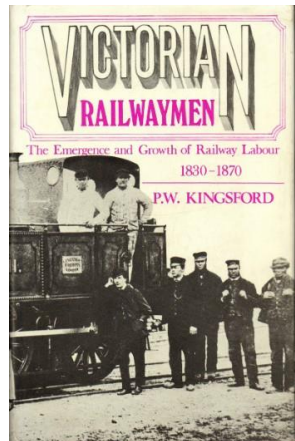
This is a not-for-profit venture. For enquiries please contact James Sanderson at: ironlay@yahoo.co.uk, or Barry Page at: pageb45@yahoo.com. For purchasing the original book, *Islington Boys* (price £3.50p, plus postage), please contact James.

Railway Workers

Our Virtual Branch talk by David Turner on *The First Railway Workers, c1825-c1870* on 10 March described the prior occupations, working environment and lives of early railway workers and some of the first strike actions by them. David mentioned he would send details of two useful books:



The Railway Workers 1840-1970 by Frank McKenna (Faber & Faber, 1980).



Victorian Railwaymen: The Emergence and Growth of Railway Labour by Peter W Kingsford (Routledge, 2006). A kindle version of this is also available.

London Borough of Barnet Rate Books

While we were looking at where various records are for our Parish Guide to Totteridge, Hugh Petrie, Heritage Development Officer at Barnet Local Studies and Archives, mentioned that they have a load of unlisted hard copies of rate books for various places in the Borough and that if anyone would like to volunteer to go in and list them, he would be most grateful.

If you are interested, you would need to go to Hendon Library, London NW4 4BQ. Please contact Hugh first to arrange a suitable time. You can email him at: library.archives@barnet.gov.uk

SCENES FROM AN EDWARDIAN CHILDHOOD

By Vivien Liles, Member No. 6561

My mother was asked by a family member to write about her past as her life had covered most of the 20th century. Her later years were already known to me but the early stories, which she mainly wrote about, filled in ‘gaps’ as well as providing a glimpse of an ordinary family living in the early 1900s.

Amy Mary Emily MORGAN [née COLLS] was the eldest of five children born to Herbert Ailby and Florence Alice COLLS [née WILLIAMS] who married on 25 July 1901. Amy was brought up as a Roman Catholic. She died on 15 September 1993 aged 90. Her hand written [1987] account commences with an introduction, followed by ‘immediate family ancestors’ and life in general before she starts the section marked ‘childhood’. Her narrative falls into distinct sections up to 1914. It is here that I have chosen to start. My comments appear in italics below.

‘I was born in August 1903 in Kilburn, London but have no recollection or knowledge of the house* as my parents moved away from there when I was about 18 months old and became the tenants of a house in Cromwell Avenue at the top of Highgate Hill and this I do remember – especially the following points: It had steep steps up to the front door [and probably underground floor rooms in Victorian style – but I can’t remember this]. The things I can remember are regularly looking out of the window and seeing the organ grinder man, who at least once a day pulled up his little organ on a trolley on which there was a model organ with a radio disc which he would turn on so that it could play certain tunes. [This was a somewhat recent discovery.] While it played he would try to get a few pence tip from the passers-by or houses and if successful he would at once turn off the music and push the trolley further on so that he could ‘grind’ it again. This was a typical way of earning a living for beggars at that time.

Every day as it began to get dark the lamp lighter man would bring his ladder and climb up a lamp-post [these were only at infrequent intervals but there was one near our house]. He would pour in oil and set light to a candle standing in it. Next morning he would come again to clean it up and make it ready for the evening to come.

[* *The address of this house was 9 Priory Park Road. I went to find it and whilst there were still typical old houses in the road, No. 9 had gone and a much newer building was on the site.*]

Funerals

Most important were the big funeral coaches which drove past nearly every day. This was because at the top of Highgate Hill was one of the largest cemeteries in London. Originally it had been placed at the foot of the hill and it dated back to medieval times, one of the persons being buried there being Oliver CROMWELL. [Hence the name of our road]. At the beginning of the nineteenth century however when the ‘puffing-billy’ trains were coming into existence and the population growing, it was decided to build Paddington [*? more likely Euston or Kings Cross*] railway station. The most suitable place for an adequately large station was the area of the former cemetery, the old portions of which had become completely deteriorated. It was therefore decided to make a large and more up-to-date cemetery at the top of the hill. This was done and all the more recent tombs carefully carried to the new area and duly transferred to new graves. The older parts were however just dug up and buried en-masse as the remains of bodies could not be identified and new houses were later erected on this ground. As a result occupants in some of these houses-and my father was one of them-in the course of preparing gardens and planting flowers actually dug up various parts of bodies from the past and this of course became a sensation and to some a scandal. Dad actually dug up a bone which was identified as part of a human leg. What became of it, I do not know [there was probably some re-burying arrangements]. All small children like myself were taught that a cemetery was where the bodies of dead people were put to sleep, their souls having been carried by angels to Heaven and one day the Bible said that God would come and the bodies would be re-united with the souls and the earth would come to an end but all the former inhabitants would live together in Heaven for ever and ever with God and the Angels. I was therefore very interested in seeing the funeral coaches drive along to the cemetery. They were of course driven by horses as there no motors at that time.

At intervals I and Sidney who was two years younger than me were taken down the hill to Highgate Town in a horse-driven bus where Mother went to do shopping and often we went on from there to visit Grandpa and Grandma COLLS and the aunts who lived at Tufnell Park.’

My mother then writes about an operation to remove a lump on her neck she had when she was 4 years old. No explanations given to her about what was happening and why her neck was hurting, so she made loud objections and was held down. She says ‘After I was sent home I was experimented on by

a very new discovery-X-Rays and I duly recovered.’ [The operation took place in a private nursing home.]

Housing & Education.

‘Two years later in about 1908 when there were three of us-Harold having now been born, it was decided the family should move from Highgate to Palmers Green. This was a great and important change for me as it led to a new type of life. The house we went to in Ullswater Road was one of the new fashionable houses quite different from the Victorian type. There were no high steps to the front door or descent to the underground floor [traditionally designed as servants’ quarters] but very important was also that there was a bathroom and a toilet. I can’t remember whether this was outdoor or indoor but under every bed was at least one chamber-pot which were regularly taken each morning and emptied in the main lavatory. There was no gas or electricity but the sitting rooms etc had a variety of attractive oil lamps and in the bedrooms were just candles.

A further point which pleased me greatly was that being about five and a half years old I started to learn to read and do simple basic arithmetic as there were no schools for children under seven years’ old and of course it was a bit ‘posh’ for professional middle-class families – as well of course upper-class ones to employ governesses. In our case one came I think generally only two days a week in the morning when I had about two and a half hours instruction. In the afternoon I was taken for a walk – sometimes by Mother and sometimes by nanny who was now employed to help due to the growing family and also the fact that Harold had a considerable number of health problems and required continual attention. One of the aunts – Gertie – also enjoyed coming once or twice a week to act as a supplementary [and of course unpaid] governess and she often took us round the big local park and I can remember all natural things such as flowers, birds and swans being shown to us and explanations given as to their abilities eg flying, swimming etc and way of life.’

[My mother was discovered to be myopic by her father, who was also myopic and was duly taken to the optician. An aunt accompanied her on the day of collection of her spectacles and witnessed the joy of her seeing things clearly. Previously she had been thought to be a bit stupid when shown more distant objects that were out of focus so of no interest.]

Birth, Marriage & Death.

‘Then in September 1909 I had a marvellous experience which I can well remember when we had a nurse visiting us as I knew Mother was not very well and spent quite a time in bed. One afternoon the nurse came downstairs and told [said?] she had some special news for me-I now had a sister which had been brought [probably by an angel] to Mother who was cuddling it. I was thrilled and later enjoyed her company helping to feed her and as time went on play with her and so on. But it was not of course that I knew how she had really been brought into the world for in those days sex was not considered a subject to be openly discussed-and often even known especially by girls and young women prior to marriage and certainly not by decent and religious persons. Years later when customs had changed Mother told me that she herself had only a vague idea of sex and the actual details and actions were explained to her by my father on their honeymoon. Actually when I was about ten and a half years old she told me one day that she wanted to have a long talk with me. She then explained that I was growing-up and would before long expect to have ‘menstrual periods’ and need not fear I had become ill and had some serious disease. She then explained how God had arranged for babies to grow inside their mother before they were born.’

‘However before I reached this period in my life other events had come.’ Not mentioned by her was the birth of the 5th and last child Leslie in January 1911. ‘At the end of the year 1911 [29 November 1912] Grandma COLLS died and I well remember I was taken to see her body and it was explained that she was smiling because she was so pleased God had taken her soul up to Heaven straight away because she was so good and I would see her again one day provided I was a good person all my life. It was only the very wicked people who were seized by the devil when they died and had to live thereafter and be burned in the flames of Hell. [Actually I have always remembered this incident as the next time I saw a dead body was when I had to identify in a police station a woman who had committed suicide when I was living in her house as ‘digs’ when I was working in Sudbury, Suffolk during the time I was employed in the Inland Revenue]. *This was her first post as a new Inspector of taxes.* Only a few weeks after Grandma COLLS died, Grandpa COLLS died early in 1912 [1 January 1913 in fact]. After this there were of course various family problems and the ‘Aunties’ COLLS were left alone in their house in Tufnell Park [this house is still there] and finally a general family agreement was made for all of us to move to south London, the choice being made as most of the COLLS suffered from rheumatism, arthritis etc

which they blamed on the moist soil of North London. As a result they moved to the chalk lands of Surrey - the Aunts got a house in Streatham [in World War 2 this had a direct hit by a flying bomb], our family in South Croydon and Uncle Arthur and family in Purley.

While however we were still living in Palmers Green I had started in the local school and was learning about the ‘three R’s’ and the regime of school life. When we moved to South Croydon things became rather different. I was then sent to the local Convent school where the nuns who ran it and taught us were not qualified teachers and much of our time was spent in learning the Catholic Catechism, prayer and sessions etc. Eventually Mother and Dad decided I was not getting proper education and decided to transfer me to Croydon Grammar School for Girls which was much bigger and had a very good reputation. I enjoyed it there.

Then in 1914 came another major change when the First World War broke out and it was during this period that I got very interested in History as we had an extremely competent History mistress who did not in the usual way just tell us the names and achievements or the quarrels of the sovereigns from the date of the Norman Conquest in 1066 but gave us copies of documents such as feudal agreements and the Bill of Rights and explained how life had developed in the preceding centuries – the underlying courses? [*causes*] of the Wars of the Roses, the Cromwellian period and Inquisition troubles etc. Meantime of course the current war itself brought enormous changes in the lives of the average people.’

End of narrative. [Also end of that long sentence!] I now regret having not asked her more about how life was for them during WW1 which covered her secondary school years. [2021]

FHF REALLY USEFUL SHOW

The next Family History Federation’s Really Useful Family History Show online event will take place on 11 and 12 November 2022. The Friday evening is free and people can visit booths of family history societies and other participants. Ticket holders have access on the Saturday to workshops to expand skills and presentations by leading experts. Details to follow in September’s *METROPOLITAN* or you can look online.

APPRENTICES

Apprenticeships in Britain started back in the Middle Ages and were closely related to the mediaeval craft guilds. An apprentice was someone who was bound by legal agreement to work for a master for a specific amount of time for no wages in return for instruction in a trade, art or business.

The legal agreement was known as an indenture of apprenticeship and it set out the obligations of both parties. Typically, the child (aged usually around 12 or 13 but this did vary) would be bound to a master for a period of seven years. A sum of money would be paid to the master who would agree to provide the child food, clothing and lodging whilst they were in training. These documents were signed by a Justice of the Peace with one half going to the master and the other to the people responsible for the child. Happily for us family historians, the documents generated are often still there for us to check.

Eileen Blythe, LWMFHS Member No. 2, has written a detailed list of where records relating to apprentices in what is now Greater London can be found. The best place for this useful finding aid is on the website, in the member's area and this is where we have placed it. You can find it here: <https://www.lwmfhs.org.uk/members-area>

The London Lives website has a comprehensive page on everything to do with apprenticeship, if you would like to know more about just what was involved, here: <https://www.londonlives.org/static/Apprentices.jsp>



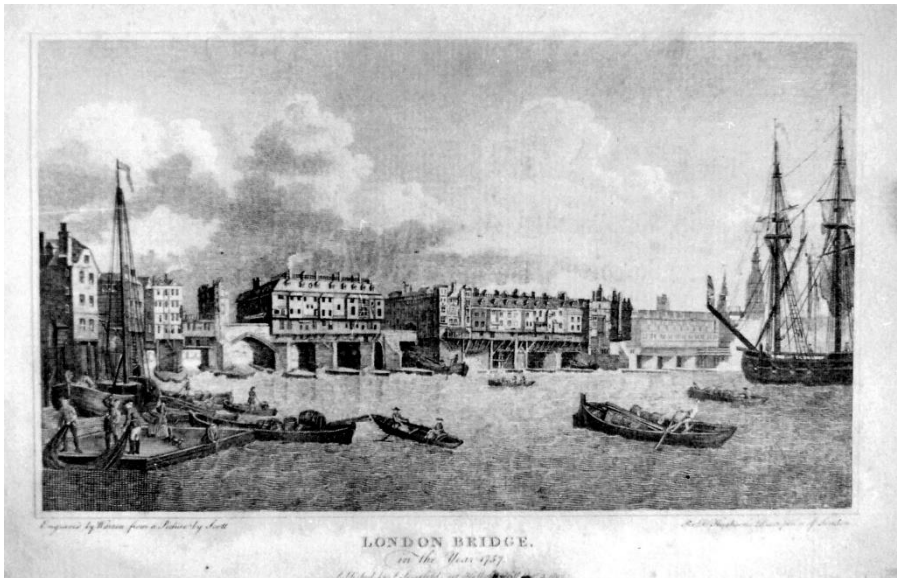
After their apprenticeship ended, many people went on to become a journeyman. It is often thought that a journeyman travelled around but the origin is from the French word for 'day', as they were paid by the day for their work. They were no longer bound to serve unpaid but could be hired day to day and they were able to work unsupervised. They were also able to move to another employer, no longer having to stay with the one they were indentured (apprenticed) to.

The next step would be to become a master craftsman and self-employed. To do this they would prove their skill by making a masterpiece and joining a guild.

HEIRLOOMS IN THE ATTIC

By Madeline Seviour, Member No. 7945

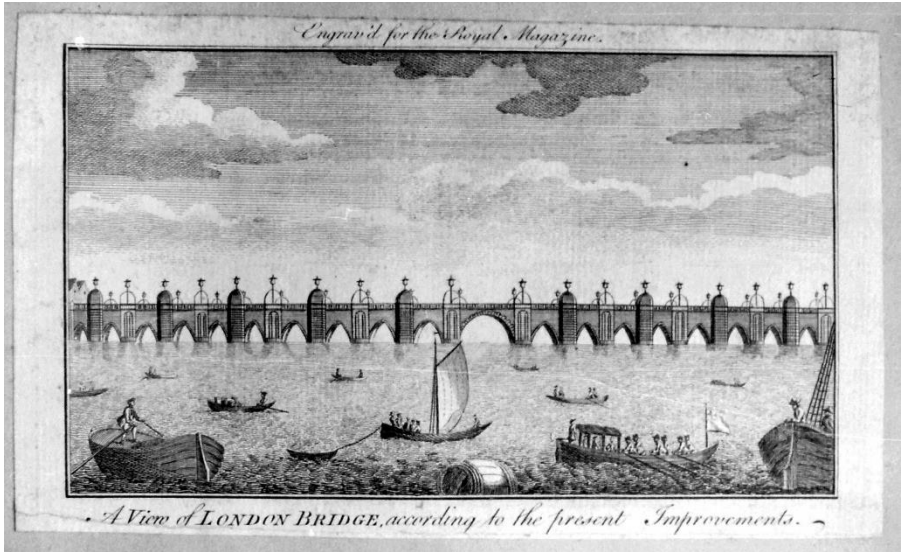
This is inspired by the fascinating talk on 14th April (Virtual Branch) by Rob Kayne about London and the Thames. I was reminded of some images of the river – mostly 18th century – that I have, including one of the old London Bridge, dated 1753, and with the comment that it was shortly before it was demolished. I had no idea that the old bridge with houses survived into the mid 18th century.



A further image, undated, shows a later bridge. These images came from one of two huge volumes, hard-backed, about A2 size and roughly three inches thick. Cuttings from magazines and newspapers were pasted into them. Most were dated and some named the source.

Many years ago, probably in the early 1980s, I photographed some of the images and made prints. In 2014 I scanned these prints. Most of the selection I had photographed were of the Thames in the upper reaches – Hammersmith, Isleworth etc. – probably because at that time I was living close to that part of the river, at Barnes. After the talk I wanted to take another look at the books, as it was only a small proportion that I had photographed.

Unfortunately they couldn't be found – they had been at the home of my late parents, where my brother now lives. I knew that the books were in very poor condition and that the spines were broken – I suspect that they had found their way into a skip at the tip, which is ironic as that is probably where they came from.



My father said that they had belonged to his father. Perhaps they had been in the family for generations but there's no way of knowing. The most likely explanation my father could offer was that his father had a friend who worked for a demolition company. After the last occupants had cleared a house that was to be demolished, anything that was left was thrown into a skip. Maybe the demolition men had appropriated anything that looked valuable or interesting and that these books had been given to my grandfather by his friend.



Have You Changed Your Email Address?

Please make sure you let Sylvia know by emailing your new address to:
membership@lwmfhs.org.uk

Please set out your *Help!* request as clearly and succinctly as possible.

All surnames should be in CAPITALS.

Members may have one free entry per journal. There is a £3 charge for each

subsequent entry and for all entries from non-members. Don't forget to include your contact details and your membership number.



Our family tree has a person who was born in 1928. We have held off from this enquiry until the passing of this lady in case there is any sensitivity in the records. We understand that this person had a birth name of Eileen HUIISH and that she was sent to a Children's Home in Westminster and stayed there until her adoption in 1933, which we believe to have been in the Leighton Buzzard area by a family called DEDMAN.

We have also found out that Eileen had a twin sister called Florence. They were born in Kent (believed to be Birchington) in 1928 and Florence was also sent to the Children's Home.

We have not found either of them in the 1939 census under either surname. Can you advise me if you can assist me in locating any information regarding her stay in Westminster and where we can locate any adoption records. Having never done this sort of enquiry any assistance would be a great help.

Peter Moore, Member No. 8141

Note: If you think your ancestor went to a Westminster Home, then the records would be at Westminster Archives in London. There is a website run by Peter Higginbotham called childreshomes.org.uk and you will be able to search on there for all the Children's Homes in Westminster.

We searched the free website Free BMD for the birth and both Eileen and Florence have the same reference number, which confirms that they were twins. We then looked up the GRO birth search. (www.gro.gov.uk/certificates/indexes_search). This is a free search and where it is best to order certificates. You will need to register with your name and a password. Both girls are listed but next to Eileen is the comment 'Occasional copy'. This normally indicates a correction submitted after the original registration. It could be of interest. If you did buy the birth certificate, it would give you the exact birth date and

you could then use this to search in the 1939 Register without having to specify a surname.

If you put Adoption records into a search engine, eg Google Chrome, then many options come up including an article from *Who Do you Think you Are* magazine about adoption and GRO advice.

Can you tell me the names of all the tests men can have when getting a DNA test? I know they are different from ladies but don't know the proper descriptions.

Vivienne Allen, Member No. 7776

Note: There are various different tests people can get:

Y-DNA tests look at the Y chromosome, which is passed from father to son and so can help you get a better understanding of the paternal line of your family. Family Tree DNA are the main company who offer this test.

Mitochondrial DNA tests show only results from your mother as the mitochondria are located in the cytoplasm of cells which are inherited only from the maternal line. Family Tree DNA are the main company who offer this test too.

Autosomal tests will show the DNA which you have from both your mother and father. Ancestry has the largest database of results but there are many other companies which offer autosomal DNA tests, such as 23andMe, MyHeritage and Living DNA..



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.

FORTHCOMING BRANCH MEETINGS

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

The talk will be recorded (with the speaker’s permission) and reshown the following morning at 10am so that members who live abroad or those who can’t make the live event can watch it at a hopefully more convenient time. Branch Contact: Clare Pollitt, Email: virtualbranch@lwmfhs.org.uk

- 9 June *Using Wills to Research Family History* by Hilary Blanford. Hilary will be talking about who made wills and why, how to work out how to find them and where to look for them. The second half of her talk looks at real examples and illustrates what can be found in them, showing what a fantastic resource they are for family historians and genealogists.
- 14 July *Reading Old Handwriting* by Ian Waller. Many documents used by family historians from census returns to medieval manuscripts can be difficult to read. This talk provides pointers to help you interpret what you are looking at and how to decipher the various handwriting styles in use over the ages.
- 11 August *Lord Mayors and Liveries* by Joe Studman. A history of the guilds of the City of London from their beginnings as craft mysteries through to their development as powerful merchants controlling trade in London.
- 8 September *The Plague Doctor* by David Bell. The Plague Doctor will not only make you think but he will also make you laugh out loud and feel good about yourself. For a fascinating 75 minutes you will be seduced in a uniquely amusing fashion into a 17th century world where both medical diagnosis and treatment were equally outrageous.

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

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

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| 16 June | <i>Old Postcards</i> by Terence Atkins. |
| 21 July | An informal meeting with discussion, your stories and research help. |
| 18 August | <i>Squaring the Circle - How Cleopatra's Needle was brought to London and an unexpected family connection</i> by Roger Lewry |
| 15 September | An informal meeting with discussion, your stories and research help. |

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

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

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|-------------|---|
| 6 June | No meeting. |
| 4 July | <i>What became of Theophilus Medway? What did he do? And where did he go?</i> by Tricia Sutton. |
| 1 August | No meeting. |
| 5 September | <i>Catching Up with FamilySearch</i> with Sharon Hintze. FamilySearch.org is the largest family history website in the world, with billions of names across thousands of collections - and more added monthly. In this talk, Sharon Hintze tells us about the latest major databases they have added, how to search them and how to best use the whole website. |



BOOK REVIEW

Cemeteries and Graveyards. A guide for family and local historians in England and Wales by Celia Heritage. Published in 2022, paperback, 236 pages with black and white photographs. Pen and Sword books £15.99. Celia Heritage is a genealogist and historian.

Cemeteries, graveyards and burials are essential searches for both family and local historians and we all need help with this. The most popular question asked of our Society is “Where was my ancestor buried?”

This book may not answer that question but it will provide a comprehensive guide and tool to help you understand attitudes to death and burial from pre-historic to modern times. A range of both online and offline records are discussed plus other more unusual sources such as undertakers’ and stonemasons’ records. All of which will help to find the burial of an ancestor.

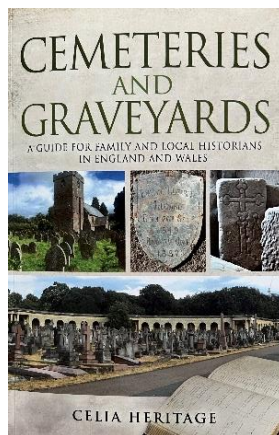
As Celia writes in her introduction “The history of our burial places is a fascinating one.” All the chapters contain case studies which illustrate points made and bring the subject to life.

The first chapter gives a brief history of death and burial; followed by the parish churchyard and then asylums, gaols, hospitals nonconformist churches and workhouses. The nineteenth century onwards is discussed in detail with mention of the Magnificent Seven!

Chapter five is all about gravestones, their history, how to date them, inscriptions, the carved symbols (the skull and crossbones does not mean the burial of a pirate but is a mortality symbol – a reminder that time on earth is short). The records, pitfalls and research advice are covered in the last two chapters and then there is a list of useful websites.

There is so much interesting information in this book and will help people searching for a burial and those with an interest in the history of graveyards.

I thoroughly recommend it.



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).

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MEMBERS' DATA

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

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

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

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

Totteridge Village



The Orange Tree Inn. Established in 1755 and rebuilt in 1923.



Totteridge War Memorial stands on a traffic island at the junction of Barnet Lane and Totteridge Lane and is carved with the names of casualties of the First and Second World Wars. Built in 1922 and designed by Sir Charles Carrick Allom.