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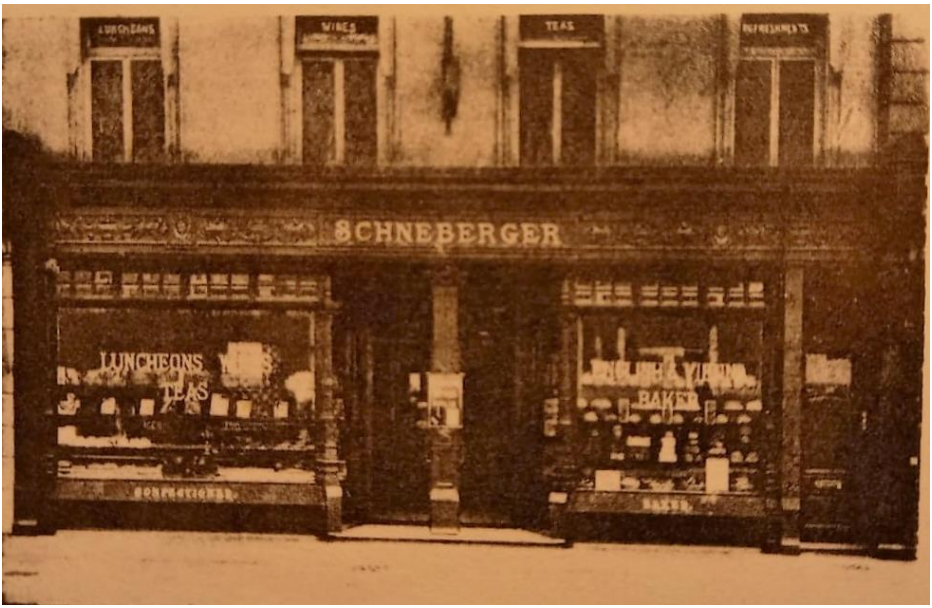
METROPOLITAN

The Journal of the

LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX

Family History Society



LONDON
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FHS

Volume 8 No. 2 (173) **March 2022**

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Cover picture: Schneberger's shop in Sussex Place.
See page 78.

EDITORIAL

It was great to see so many of you at the AGM on 10 February. We had tried to explain in December's journal just what goes on in the background to organise the smooth running of the Society. As Editors, we enjoy working with other family history enthusiasts, helping people and working to preserve local records and knowledge and we have a lot of fun (not to mention tea and cake!) doing it. If anyone is interested in joining us as Secretary, do contact one of the Executive team, whose email addresses are all on the inside front cover of *Metropolitan.* An enquiry does not of course mean that you are obliged to become Secretary.

The AGM was followed by an extremely interesting talk on the 1921 census. Jen Baldwin went at quite a speed but she managed to cram so much in! If you did not manage to catch the talk, it was full of information and tips, such as the fact that any green writing on the census forms was written by the enumerator whilst any writing in red was added by the census office. Did you know that the 'advanced search' has 46 fields you can use, each of which can be searched in individually (and all searching is free)? Findmypast only had 50 days to correct transcriptions so this is an ongoing process which will improve the search facility over the next few months.

We are asking for ideas from our members who attend the Virtual Branch. What subjects would you like to listen to in the future? Do you have any recommendations for a speaker? The Virtual Branch co-ordinators will be pleased to hear from you. Their address is listed on the inside cover of our journal.

Do keep sending your articles and letters to us and enjoy the variety of pieces in the following pages. It is you, our members, that fill the journal. We just put everything together in some sort of order! We have had quite a few larger articles so if yours has not appeared yet, be patient!

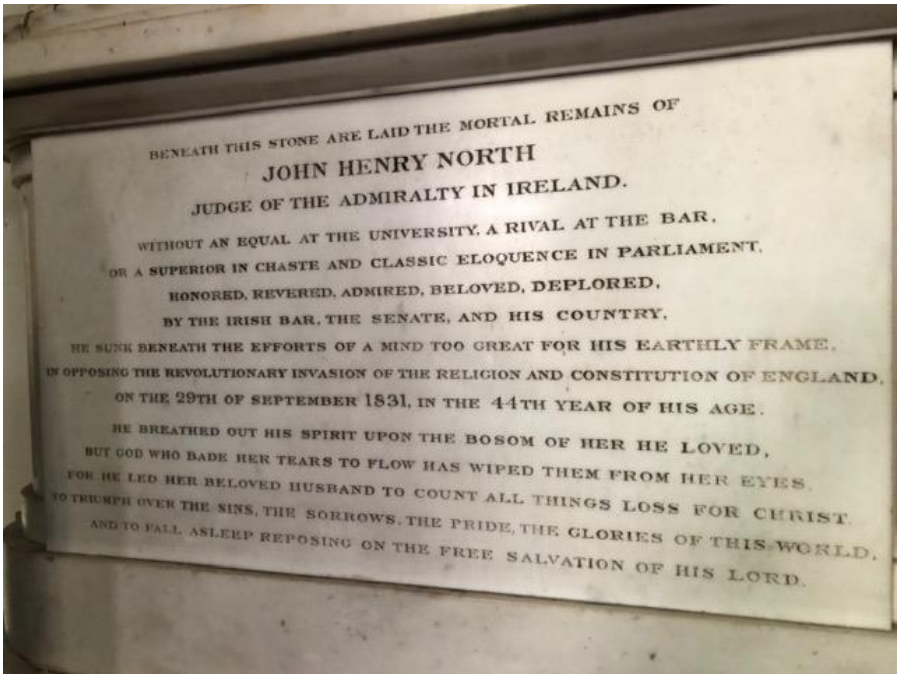
Barbara and Elizabeth, the Editorial Team

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

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

This year is the 190th Anniversary of the passing of the 1832 Great Reform Act. This was under the leadership of Earl Grey who was the Whig Prime minister against considerable Tory opposition, particularly the Duke of Wellington who said "The government of England is now destroyed".

Inside St Mary's Church Harrow on the Hill there is a Memorial Plaque to John Henry NORTH (1787-1831) who was a Lawyer and Tory MP. According to the inscription, opposing it in 1831 led to his death. "He sunk beneath the efforts of a mind too great for his earthly frame in opposing the revolutionary invasion of the religion and constitution of England on the 29th September 1831in the 44th year of his age."



Grey's 1830 Cabinet was hardly revolutionary. Nine of the 13 were Lords. Of the remaining four, there was an Irish Peer, the heir to a Peerage, a Baronet and one untitled Gentleman. It was a relatively mild proposal, far away from the Chartist demand for universal male Suffrage. The Government was afraid of revolution, as 1830 had been the year of

revolutions in France, Belgium, parts of Germany, Switzerland, Italy and Poland. Also there was the fairly recent memory of the Peterloo Massacre in Manchester in 1819.

Up until the 1832 Act, the distribution of votes mostly depended on land holdings. There were about 368,000 voters for MPs, so not all were as ridiculous as Old Sarum in Hampshire that had two MPs elected by eleven electors. But major industrial towns such as Manchester, Leeds and Birmingham had no representation. The act abolished Rotten Boroughs and enfranchised owners and tenants of buildings valued at £10 at least, essentially including the established middle-class males. This brought the electorate almost to one million.

The second Reform Act was passed in 1867 by the Conservative Prime Minister the Earl of Derby. It increased the registered voters to about two and a half million. This was done by extending the entitlement to all owners, tenants and lodgers paying at least £10 per annum. The third Reform Act, passed by Gladstone's Liberal Government in 1884, lowered the land value required for qualification, bringing in another three million voters.

However by 1911 only 60% of male voters were actually registered and of course no women (apart from local elections). There had been a vigorous campaign for Votes for Women early in the 20th Century up until the outbreak of war in 1914.

In the 1918 Reform Act all men over 21 and those of 19 and over who had served in the Armed Forces were awarded the vote. This brought in another three million men. Only women over 30 were given the vote and even then property and other restrictions were applied, so that only about six million were enfranchised (about 40% of the women over 21). Women over 21 finally had discrimination removed by the 1928 Representation of the People, Equal Franchise act.

Tony Allen

References:

'Earl Grey' by G. Hassan in *The Prime Ministers* edited by Iain Dale (Hodder & Stoughton, 2020)

Electoral Registers since 1832 by J. Gibson and C, Rogers (Federation of Family History Societies)

GLORIOUS GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Dennis Galvin, Member No. 1046

My grandmother Louisa Emma GALVIN was born in 1881 in Stepney, baptised in Bethnal Green, married at Bunhill Fields and buried in Enfield. This photo was taken on her 65th birthday in 1946 together with five of her six sons, she also had three daughters.

I think I first became interested in family history c1954 when a colleague asked me if I would go along with him during the lunch hour to Somerset House as he wanted to try and get a copy of his birth certificate. This was because he was going to Spain for his holidays and wanted to obtain a passport. This type of holiday had become popular and affordable.

My work in the shipping business - Bills of Lading, Ships' Manifest etc etc - meant I got around London quite a bit. One of the regular visits was to the Customs (Customs & Excise) Long Room, which lies on the Thames between London Bridge and the Tower of London.

Moving on I have to say it took me many years before I was able to locate my paternal grandmother's - grandparents, who were Philip STOCKS and née Hannah Bubb DAY. Hannah was born in Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire

around 1810-11. Her father James was also born in the town. Of further interest I can recall a TV programme when Tewkesbury was one of Alec Clifton-Taylor's *Six English Towns* (book and TV series) c1990s.

I later discovered that Tewkesbury was a flourishing town due to the production of stockings - when men also wore them, however, new machinery in Nottingham meant that three or four times more stockings could be manufactured in a day. This affected Tewkesbury in a very bad way and, indeed, the town even resorted to soup kitchens. I know that my DAY family had at least one barge as they were awarded a Medal "FOR SAVING LIFE ON THE RIVER SEVERN" I guess that barges travelled up and down to Gloucester and Bristol on a regular basis.

So, my 3x great grandparents James and Ann DAY together with their children left for London. I feel sure they must have come by barge as they settled in the East End.

The 1851 Census for Whitechapel informs me that James was from Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire and his occupation was Customs Officer, so it was amazing for me in retirement to go back to the Customs to research my family history! Only this time I was going upstairs to the archivist instead of the downstairs Long Room for work!

I was informed that most of the records had been deposited at the National Archives, however thankfully the Custom House by the Thames in the City of London still had: *The Customs Establishment Book* which was indexed from 5 January 1834. I soon found the following at the top of page 32:

> JAMES DAY
> One of 24 Additional Messengers
> at £35 pa and 2/6d per day when employed.

So James was going about his work rowing between all those dozens of boats in the pool of London - providing ships could get up the Thames according to the weather at sea, which would have made a difference to his weekly wage.

My very special thanks to Ms N Day whose dedicated research has taken me back to the time of Queen Elizabeth 1st.

Footnote:
At about the time I discovered my Tewkesbury family history I was a regular attender at the annual June weekend New Orleans Traditional Jazz Festival, a little further up the River Severn at Upton-on-Severn (if trumpet, trombone, tuba, clarinet and banjo etc was your cup-of-tea then this was the place to be!!) So attending the aforementioned festival meant I was able to visit and explore Tewkesbury just a little further down the river Severn. Interestingly, the town has a museum which I never once found open!
"CLOSED FOR REFURBISHMENT", "CLOSED ON MONDAYS", "CLOSE ON FRIDAYS" so to this day I have not been able to enjoy the local museum which I am sure will be of enormous interest to me.

FOCUS ON FACEBOOK

By Elizabeth Burling, Member No. 4992

Paul asked at what age someone would be considered an adult in the 1880s. The short answer of course is 21. Paul was quite surprised as that would mean that someone who went to Canada via Home Children aged 19 would still be considered not an adult.
Patricia commented that she had celebrated her 21st birthday many years ago but her children celebrated their 18ths. In fact it was in 1969 that the age of majority was reduced from 21 to 18. Julie added that she thought that traditionally the age of majority was about when a man finished his 7 year apprenticeship, which started at about 14. For marriage, under 21s were considered as minors needing parental permission, and 21 [or older] was considered 'of full age'. [The age of consent, however, was only raised from 13 to 16 in 1885, in an effort to protect girls from exploitation.]
However, schooling was compulsory only for those aged 5-10 in the 1880s. The leaving age was raised to 11 in 1893, 12 in 1899, 14 in 1918, 15 in 1947, 16 in 1972 and 18 in 2015 so children will have formed quite a reasonable proportion of the workforce. The Factory Act of 1802 sought to prevent apprentices from working more than 12 hours a day but 'free children' could be placed wherever and on whatever terms their fathers wished. Further Factory Acts gave children more protection in due course.
It was not until 1908 that juvenile offenders were separated from adult criminals in prisons. The way that children are treated has changed drastically over the years – we hope they appreciate it!

ELIZABETH JACKSON: A Soho Bootmaker's Wife and the First Burial in Highgate Cemetery

By Robin Oakley, Volunteer at Highgate Cemetery

Highgate Cemetery is well-known as one of the 'Magnificent Seven' garden cemeteries around London that opened in the 1830s and 1840s to meet the rapidly increasing demand for burial space which could no longer be met by church and other local burial grounds. It was founded by the London Cemetery Company on the southern slopes of Highgate Hill and laid out on what had been the grounds of the former Ashurst Manor. It was designed by the architect Stephen GEARY and the landscape gardener David RAMSAY and combined paths winding around the hillside, with catacombs and free-standing monuments spreading across the sloping lawns. Unlike today, when it is heavily overgrown with trees, it would originally have been largely clear, affording fine panoramic views of the city of London.

Georgian houses in Lexington Street (formerly Little Windmill Street).

The first person to have been buried in Highgate Cemetery when it opened in September 1839 was Elizabeth JACKSON. Her grave is in the West Cemetery on the main path up the hill and she has a plain classical-style headstone, now rather worn. It records that she lived in what was then Little Windmill Street (now part of Lexington Street) in Soho and that she was joined in the grave by her husband George JACKSON and his second wife Grace in 1854 and also their baby daughter Alice several years earlier. Beyond this, virtually nothing seemed to be known about her, despite her name being familiar in the context of the Cemetery, as her grave is regularly pointed out by tour guides.

Although I have no family or other connection with her, over my time as a Friend and Volunteer at the Cemetery I have often wondered about who she was and her background and I decided to add her to my list of interesting but lesser-known people in the Cemetery to research and write about. And I was given a start by my fellow-Volunteer and researcher Stuart Orr, who had written a short piece about her in the Cemetery 'Newsletter' for August 2018[1]. He had discovered from her death certificate that Elizabeth died of consumption (tuberculosis) and that she was buried in the Cemetery ten days later. He also found that in January of the same year she had had a baby daughter, also named Elizabeth, who had died six weeks before her mother. He identified that her husband George was a bootmaker by trade and (from the 1851 Census) that the Soho house where they lived accommodated three other family units which seemed to be an indication of 'multi-occupation' and poverty. Finally, he documented that George had subsequently married Grace in 1842 and found (also from death certificates) that they had both died within a few days of each other in the cholera epidemic that swept Soho in 1854.

George's house shown on Horwood's 1799 map.

At the end of his article, Stuart posed the question "Why and how did George, a humble bootmaker living in one of the poorest parts of London, decide to bury his wife in the new garden cemetery at Highgate?" - bearing in mind particularly the considerable cost involved. His concluding words - "We may never know" – presented me as a fellow-researcher with a challenge that I was unable to resist and I decided to try to investigate George and Elizabeth's background and circumstances a bit further.

My first surprise was to discover from the parish records for St James Piccadilly that their infant daughter, Elizabeth, was not their only child. They

1 Available on the Highgate Cemetery website at https://highgatecemetery.org/news/newsletter.

also had two sons: George who was born in 1832 and died in 1838 and William who was born in 1837 and died later the same year. So all three of their children died young and too early to be buried in Highgate and they would presumably have been buried in St James' own 'Burying Ground' close by. The birth records for all three children identify their father George as being a 'bootmaker', so there is no ambiguity about their being George and Elizabeth's offspring. Moreover, the naming of the children is significant: Elizabeth and George both take their parents' names, while William (as the second boy) takes the name of George's father[2]. It would still have been the custom at that time among the artisan classes to use family names in this manner and therefore we can be sure that George and Elizabeth had no earlier children than these.

What then were the circumstances in which George and Elizabeth were living in Soho? Rate Books and Street/Trade Directories from 1832 onwards record George at 25 Little Windmill Street, as do the 1841 and 1851 Censuses – either as a 'bootmaker', or (as in the early Street Directories) sometimes as a 'grindery dealer', the latter meaning a supplier of tools for use in the leather and boot trades. George is the only person listed for this address in the Rate Books and Directories, indicating that he would have owned the business operating there and would probably also have been the leaseholder of the property. He is the payer of Land Tax for this address and is on the Electoral Register from 1839 onwards. In the Censuses, though, others too are listed as residents and the adult males as 'bootmakers' (or 'bootclosers'), one of whom was recorded as an 'apprentice'. The women are not given occupations but would traditionally have sewn the 'uppers' and done finishing work. So, rather than being a simple case of 'multi-occupancy' and poverty, as Stuart suggests, I think this instead reflects the way small businesses in the boot-making trade were structured, with workers and apprentices living in rented rooms in the same house as the master and his household, though where appropriate as separate households within the building[3].

2 - His father's name William is stated on George's own baptismal record in 1801: see below.

3 - Mayhew gives a detailed description of the London boot trade in his studies of labour and poverty in Victorian London. See https://www.victorianlondon.org/mayhew/mayhew32.htm .

Hence this would not indicate that George and Elizabeth were living in poverty but rather that they were respectable members of the artisan small-business class and persons of at least some modest financial means. Their terraced property would have had a relatively spacious front room on the ground floor with full windows and a door opening out onto the street (their 'shop'), where they would have received customers and displayed examples of their craft. Although their particular house has now disappeared, several other examples still survive in the street, though one can perhaps see best what a Soho street would have looked like at the time by visiting the well-preserved Georgian terrace in nearby Meard Street, a couple of blocks to the east.

Meard Street, Soho:
a well-preserved Georgian terrace.

This view of their status can be supported by considering the nature of social and economic conditions in Soho at this time. It is true that the most fashionable era of Soho's existence had been during the Georgian period and by the mid-19th century most of the wealthier residents would have moved out – leading to a process of decline and leaving Soho open to a much more socially mixed group of residents and traders, including many immigrants (though not the poorest ones, who went to the East End)[4]. However, during the early 1830s when George would have been establishing himself there, Soho would still have been a socially and economically appropriate location to run a leather and boot-making business, with modest rents and a continuing reputation for good quality craft products. According to its historians, boot-making in particular had flourished in the West End after it

4 - One such immigrant from Germany, who is a particularly well-known resident of Highgate Cemetery, arrived in 1850 in Dean Street, just two blocks away from where George JACKSON continued to make and sell boots: perhaps Karl and Jenny MARX even bought some footwear from George!

had declined in the City earlier in the century and the craft production and retail of fashionable hand-made boots and shoes would have been able to continue in locations like Soho, even though factory-production of cheaper footwear was developing in areas outside London like Northampton.

Further evidence of George's economic success and respectability comes from the records of the Worshipful Company of Cordwainers[5]. Traditionally the Cordwainers Company only admitted bootmakers working within the boundaries of the City of London. However, by the 19th century this restriction had become relaxed as residentially the wealthier classes moved westwards. The Company's records show that George was admitted to membership of the Guild in April 1841. Bearing in mind all these various considerations, it's hardly surprising then that George should have proudly styled himself 'Mr George Jackson' as a claim to gentlemanly status when he prepared the inscription on Elizabeth's gravestone[6]. Burying his wife in a 'common grave' would not have been acceptable, whereas burying her in the new Highgate Cemetery (and paying for it) would have been an indication of his social and economic status that would be publicly visible for all to see.

But the question still remains: who exactly were George and Elizabeth, in terms of their background and how did they meet and marry? These questions are difficult to answer, given that theirs are common names and that Censuses and most other forms of official record-keeping had not yet been introduced. Initially I could find no conclusive evidence of their marriage (and thus her maiden name), as there were several instances of a George JACKSON marrying an Elizabeth in London during the 1820s. The most likely candidate appeared to be Elizabeth SADLER, who married a George JACKSON in 1825 at St Lawrence Jewry in the City. As Stuart Orr has subsequently pointed out to me, this is the same church in which George married Grace after Elizabeth's death and it also had close links with the City Guilds. Furthermore, Stuart has compared the signatures of 'George Jackson' on the marriage records and they are virtually identical. I think we can therefore be certain that Highgate's Elizabeth JACKSON was born Elizabeth SADLER. Furthermore, parish records show that an Elizabeth SADLER was baptised in August 1800 at St Andrew's Church in Holborn, to parents James

5 - Held on behalf of London Metropolitan Archives at the Guildhall Library.
6 - The title 'Mr' appears to be very unusual to find on a gravestone. I have so far only found one other grave in Highgate Cemetery where this is present.

and Elizabeth SADLER who lived in Eagle Street close by. They had been married only a few months earlier at Holborn's St Giles-in-the-Fields, her mother's maiden name being WADE. Furthermore, Holden's Directory for 1802 records a James SADLER as having a grindery business at 14 White Lion Street, by Goodman's Fields, a bit further to the east. As George is also recorded as being a seller of grindery products, it seems likely that James SADLER would have been his supplier and that it would have been through this business connection that he would have come to know Elizabeth.

Then for George himself, given that he lived on into the 1850s, the 1851 Census proves helpful as it tells us that he was born in 1801 in far-off Brampton in Cumberland. And this allows his birth records to be identified, which show that his father William was also a bootmaker. So it was presumably from his father that he learnt his trade and then having completed his apprenticeship he must have made his way to London and found employment as a 'journeyman' in an established business before in due course setting up on his own[7]. This he had already done by 1830, as he appears in Robson's Street Directory for that year as a 'bootmaker' with premises at 11 Giltspur Street in Smithfield close to St Bartholomew's Church[8]. Indeed, he must already have been operating there in 1828, since an article in a trade journal for 1829 records him as having the previous year patented the invention of a new kind of metal stud for boots and shoes[9]. However, he clearly did not stay long at this address, given that he had moved to Little Windmill Street by 1832.

7 - The Cordwainers Company records state that George was admitted to membership on grounds of 'patrimony', which suggests that his father may also have worked in London at some point and been a guild member. However, I can find no evidence for this and maybe his father belonged to a separate but linked bootmakers company in the north of England.

8 - At this location, he was of course working within the area of the City of London and thus also the official domain of the Cordwainers Company. There therefore seems little reason to doubt that his initial employment in London would have been with one of the master bootmakers operating in the City, through whom he would have had connections with the Cordwainers Company even though he did not formally become a member until 1841. It might well have been with one of the two Executors named in his Will (see below).

9 - 'Jackson's New Metal Studs for Boots and Shoes', *Mechanics' Magazine and Journal of Science, Arts and Manufactures,* Vol. 11, 1829, pp.426-7.

After Elizabeth's death, George remarried, as the gravestone indicates. This was to Grace HIRD in November 1842 at St Lawrence Jewry, the church used by the Cordwainers and other Guilds where he had married Elizabeth some 17 years before. Grace had been born in 1804 in Bradford and according to the marriage certificate, her father William HIRD was a stonemason. She gave her address on the certificate as 2 Upper Arcade, Pall Mall, though it is unclear whether she was actually living there, rather than staying there temporarily[10]. Their daughter Alice, who is recorded on the gravestone as dying in 1847 appears to have been their only child (which is not perhaps surprising given that at her birth Grace would already have been over 40 years old). Then in 1854, as Stuart documented from their death certificates, the cholera epidemic that swept through Soho and other parts of London caught up with them. George died first and his case (without naming him) is recorded as an example in the Registrar-General's Weekly Return of Births and Deaths in London:

The Jackson family grave in Highgate Cemetery.

10 - The 'Upper Arcade' would seem to be a mis-recording of the 'Royal Opera Arcade' on Pall Mall, which is the oldest shopping arcade still in existence in London. The shop at No 2 in the Arcade was occupied at the time by a bootmaker named Thomas ATKIN and his wife Hannah, who like Grace came from Bradford. Maybe Grace knew them through family connections in Yorkshire and maybe it was through them that George met her. It is possible that she could have been working there in the shop, though given that she is not recorded there in the 1841 Census, it seems more probable that she just stayed with them prior to the wedding and to moving in at Little Windmill Street. George and Thomas were likely to be well-acquainted through their shared trade and neighbourhood and the Atkins were certainly not strangers to Little Windmill Street anyway, since (according to the rate books) Thomas later on moved his own bootmaking business there in 1864 in premises next door to where George and Grace had lived at no.25.

> *At 25 Little Windmill-street, on 4th September, a shoemaker, aged 53 years, "diarrhoea (14 hours), cholera (2 days)".*

Grace's death is not cited in the Return but is recorded on her death certificate as having taken place six days later. They were certainly not the only ones to die from 25 Little Windmill Street: the Weekly Return records that another shoemaker aged 35, presumably one of George's workers, had died in Middlesex Hospital on 2 September.

A late but significant breakthrough was to discover George's Will, apparently written (or re-written?) the day he died. In this he primarily left everything to his second wife Grace, including not just goods and chattels but also rents and investments – indicating further that he was clearly by then running a successful enterprise in Little Windmill Street. Indeed, an advertisement in the *Morning Advertiser* for 1855 (found through searching the *British Newspaper Archive*) states that that his Executors were selling all four houses from 23 to 26 Little Windmill Street, so George must have held leases on all four of them and let the other three out. The Will also revealed that George had two brothers, one of whom I discovered was a bootmaker in Northampton, thus confirming that this was a family trade. Lastly, my investigations showed that his two Executors (one described as "my dear old friend") were a master bootmaker and a grindery dealer who both ran businesses the City of London (James Rowe HEARD of 80 Wood Street,and William Henry KNIGHT of 5 Moor Lane), so George was clearly well-connected in the trade. Later Censuses showed that they both had acquired private residences out in Hackney, which would have been a very respectable suburban location at that time. Had Elizabeth and George (and Grace) and their children not suffered their tragic misfortunes, I imagine that a suburban villa would have been precisely where they would have hoped to finish up as well. In the event, it was presumably the sad task of the two Executors to arrange for George and Grace to join Elizabeth and their daughter Alice in the grave in Highgate Cemetery instead[11].

Note: Robin Oakley is a Friend, Volunteer and grave-owner at Highgate Cemetery and researches interesting but lesser-known people buried there. He would like to thank Stuart Orr for his help with putting together this article.

11 - No subsequent owners of the grave after George's death are recorded in the Cemetery records.

A GUIDE TO DEATH RECORDS

By Elizabeth Burling, Member No. 4992

Following on from our guide to birth and baptism records, which appeared in *Metropolitan* in September 2021, and our guide to marriage records which appeared in December's journal, we get to records of death and burial. Out of birth, marriage and death certificates, deaths are perhaps the least essential for helping to build a family tree as they give less information, sometimes none at all, about other family members. Nevertheless, they can be very interesting and provide a useful conclusion to that person's records. Like birth and marriage records, death and burial records can be divided into civil and church records. I will start with civil death records.

Death certificates

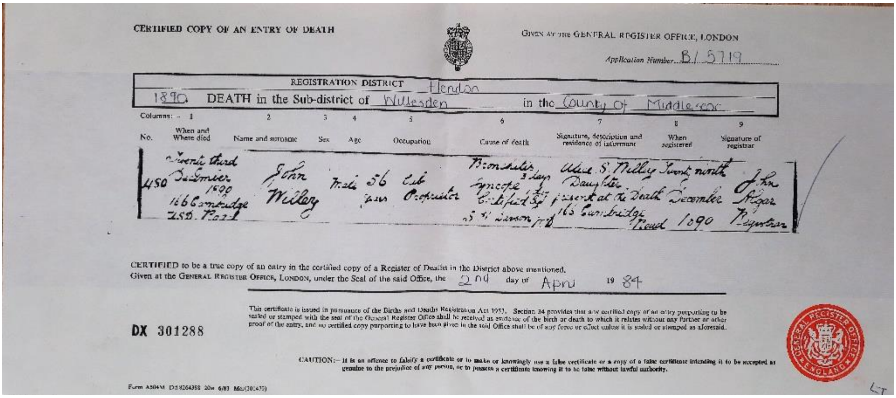
When a person dies, a death certificate has to be issued before the body can be released for burial. Death certificates were first issued on 1 July 1837, following the 1836 Births and Deaths Registration Act. This Act created a system of civil registration, (so not connected to the churches) which was administered by the General Register Office (GRO) for England and Wales under the leadership of the Registrar General. As the GRO started operating on 1 July 1837, this is the earliest date at which it is possible to obtain a death certificate.

Death certificates are coloured black and contain the following information:

- the actual date of the death and the place where this occurred, which could be at home, in a hospital or workhouse, or somewhere else.
- the name the deceased was known by, which might differ from their birth name.
- whether the deceased was male or female.
- the age of the deceased. This could be inaccurate.
- the last known occupation of the deceased which, for women, might well be defined as their relationship to their father or husband.
- the cause of death. If it says 'certified' this means that a medical doctor was attending the deceased but does not necessarily mean that more records of this can be found. For a sudden, unnatural or unexplained death an inquest would have to be held (which could delay registration by months or even years) and this will be noted in this column too. It

is worth noting that if an inquest was required, the coroner could order the body to be buried before the death was actually registered.

- the name, description and residence of the person notifying the authorities, who was required to do this within 5 days. Of course, this informant could well be a relative of the deceased and the information here could provide further clues to the family. On the other hand, especially if the deceased died away from home, the informant may have only sketchy details about the correct spelling of the name or the age of the deceased.
- the date the death was registered, which was usually shortly after the death had taken place.



CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF DEATH

GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, LONDON

Application Number B/ 5719

REGISTRATION DISTRICT Hendon

1890. DEATH in the Sub-district of Willesden in the County of Middlesex

Columns: – 1 No.	When and Where died	2 Name and surname	3 Sex	4 Age	5 Occupation	6 Cause of death	7 Signature, description and residence of informant	8 When registered	9 Signature of registrar
450	Twenty third December 1890 166 Cambridge Road	John Willey	Male	56 years	Cab Proprietor	Bronchitis 3 days Syncope Certified by [illegible]	Alice S. Willey Daughter present at the Death 165 Cambridge Road	Twenty ninth December 1890	John Algar Registrar

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a Register of Deaths in the District above mentioned.
Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, LONDON, under the Seal of the said Office, the 2nd day of April 1984

DX 301288

This certificate is issued in pursuance of the Births and Deaths Registration Act 1953. Section 34 provides that any certified copy of an entry purporting to be sealed or stamped with the seal of the General Register Office shall be received as evidence of the birth or death to which it relates without any further or other proof of the entry, and no certified copy purporting to have been given in the said Office shall be of any force or effect unless it is sealed or stamped as aforesaid.

CAUTION:—It is an offence to falsify a certificate or to make or knowingly use a false certificate or a copy of a false certificate intending it to be accepted as genuine to the prejudice of any person, or to possess a certificate knowing it to be false without lawful authority.

GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE ENGLAND

Form A504M

An example of a death certificate. Now they often come in an A4 format.

It is worth noting that registration of deaths only became compulsory in 1875. Further details and penalties imposed on those not complying can be read in the Registration of Births & Death Acts 1874, which is online here: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1874/88/pdfs/ukpga_18740088_en.pdf

The GRO Index

The actual official GRO registers themselves are not directly accessible by the general public but you do need to have the GRO reference from the index in order to buy the certificate you are after. Historical death indexes from 1837 to 1957 are available to search and order on the GRO website – see below for details. There are two ways you can find the reference: one is on the GRO website and the other is using the FreeBMD website – see below.

I will explain now about how the index is arranged. If you read the 'Guide to Birth Records' in September's *Metropolitan* you can skip the rest of this paragraph but if you did not, you may find this useful. Back in the Old Days of family history, we actually had to go and look through the massive index books, the early ones all hand-written in a large copper-plate script. The set containing deaths had black covers, corresponding with the colours of the certificates themselves. Each book contained the records for one quarter of a particular year. Deaths which took place in January, February and March were grouped together as 'March'; April, May and June as 'June'; July, August and September as 'September' and October, November and December as 'December', so don't get worried if a death you know happened in a certain month looks like it has a different one on the GRO index. This arrangement is the same with the records now that they are online but the connection is perhaps less obvious now we don't have to lug the books about. Inside each quarter, the deaths are arranged alphabetically by surname. Next to the name is the GRO reference information of district, volume and page. The district refers to the Registration District where the event occurred. With this information it is possible to order from the GRO the complete registration information in the form of a certified copy of the register (commonly known as a certificate).

The big Index books stopped in 1984 and GRO indexes from then on are all computerised. Copies can be consulted free of charge at seven libraries: Birmingham Central Library, Bridgend Reference and Information Library, City of Westminster Archives Centre, London Metropolitan Archives, Manchester City Library, Plymouth Central Library and The British Library.

Nowadays the GRO Index books have been digitised and it is so much easier to search in them - the main pay-per-view sites all have a copy. The images produced are the same pages from the huge Index books that we used to use. Death Indexes up to 2005 can be searched on BMDIndex.co.uk, FamilyRelatives.org and The Genealogist, up to 2006 on Findmypast, up to 2007 on Ancestry and up to 2008 on FamilySearch. Later records cannot be found online.

FreeBMD

Once again, FreeBMD is a very helpful resource for finding the GRO reference for a death. FreeBMD stands for Free Births, Marriages, and

Deaths and the objective of this website is to provide free online access to the GRO index. It can be found here: https://www.freebmd.org.uk/

The GRO index has been transcribed from 1837 through to 1983, with 1984-1992 being added at the moment. FreeBMD uses the microfiche indexes supplied by the GRO. The database was last updated on 11 February 2022 and currently contains 287,261,207 distinct records (377,329,868 total records).

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

The search facility will return all results which match the criteria you put in, although if there are a huge number of results, a limited number will be shown. The information shown in the results is: event, quarter and year, surname, first name(s), registration district, volume number and page number. From 1866 the age at death is also shown in the index, which can be useful in checking that you have the correct person and can also help with locating a birth record.

GRO website

Less easy to search in, but essential for purchasing certificates, is the GRO site itself, which is at: https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/
You have to register with the site but it is the cheapest way to obtain certificates. Searching is restricted to a particular year, plus one or two years on either side, so a 5-year period maximum, and you also have to specify if you are looking for a male or female death. However, as this index has been created from the original records and not from the microfiche, there is the possibility that it is different from the FreeBMD entries, so it might be worth searching both.

Buying a death certificate

It is helpful if you have first obtained the year, quarter, district volume and page from FreeBMD as an emailed pdf of a death certificate dating from 1

July 1837 to 1957 is £7. (The GRO started digitising its records to create its own online indexes but deaths had only been done up to 1957 when the money ran out. There does not seem to be any funding available to finish the task at present.) A paper copy of a death certificate with the reference supplied by you is sent by post four days after you apply for it and costs £11. If you do not have the reference numbers, it costs you an extra £3 and takes an extra 11 days for the GRO staff to search for the entry for you.

Stillbirths

The GRO has a register of stillbirths dating from 1 July 1927, which includes any baby born dead after 24 weeks of pregnancy. These records include features of both birth and death registration. Before this date there are no centralised records of stillbirths.

Burials before about 1850

Until civil registration started in 1837, the only official record of any death was the church service of burial. Whilst people tended to be baptised at their local parish church, they could be buried absolutely anywhere and there is no easy way to find out where. It is surely a good idea to start by checking out the local churchyard to where a person lived, if they died before about 1850 (or later in our more rural parishes).

A little market is often held here at St James Piccadilly on what used to the church's North Churchyard burial ground.

Burial registers of ancient parishes may date from as far back as 1538 but only a very of these survive from this date. An ancient parish had at its centre a single church, the parish church, with a single set of registers (although Bishop's Transcripts may survive too). These churches all seem to have been surrounded by graveyards but, especially in central London, almost none remain as such now. The traffic island surrounding St Clement Danes, for instance, now covers the churchyard which was used for burying

parishioners until 1853. As these churchyards filled up over the centuries, churches used extra burial grounds situated further away. For example, an additional graveyard for the parish of St Martin-in-the-Fields can be seen on Roque's map of 1746 on the other side of St Martin's Lane from the church and just to the north. This was known as the 'New Burial Ground' and was granted to the church in 1606 by King James 1. It shut soon after a third burial ground was opened in Drury Lane and was built over in 1772, the land being used for the parish workhouse. The northern block of the National Gallery now stands on this site. In 1788 Parliament granted the parish of St James, Piccadilly permission to acquire an additional burial ground at Hampstead Road, near what is now Euston Station. This is the one that has recently been dug up for the HS2 rail link. When you check a burial register, it will state that the person was buried at the church but further research will need to be done to ascertain just which burial ground was used.
Although the ancient parishes were sub-divided (sometimes many times) with new churches being built to cope with the increase in population in London, these did not tend to have graveyards attached. These churches did not offer burials and have no burial registers.

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

Nonconformists

Banned from Churchyard burial by their refusal to use the Church of England Prayer Book, nonconformists were buried without the ministrations of Anglican clergy in their own burial grounds. Many nonconformist churches had burial grounds attached, such as the one which opened in 1802 behind the Society of Friends Meeting House in Tottenham. Details of such grounds can be found in our Parish Guides.
The well-known Bunhill Fields burial ground is just north of the City in the London Borough of Islington. By the time it closed in 1854 around 123,000 people had been buried there and the records for 1713-1854 are at The

National Archives, Kew (TNA). The Guildhall has other Bunhill material including interment order books 1789-1854 and a record of the monumental inscriptions as they were in 1869. Family historians who visit LMA may not know that, thanks to the Countess of Huntingdon, the small park opposite called Spa Fields was also a nonconformist burial ground from 1795-1854 with over 100,000 burials. These records are also at TNA and both sets are online at Ancestry and Findmypast.

The Quaker burial ground at Winchmore Hill opened in 1684.

Burials after about 1850

Legislation in the 1850s forced inner London churchyards or burial grounds to close and the parish burial registers ceased. Private enterprise provided a solution to the overcrowding of the church graveyards with the formation of cemetery companies. They bought land out of town, sold shares to raise finance for development, building Chapels etc and then sold plots to the public. Seven cemeteries were established around London by various companies within ten years. They are collectively known as The Magnificent Seven:

- Kensal Green, London's first commercial cemetery, was established by Act of Parliament in 1832 on 72 acres of land, with separate chapels for Anglicans and Dissenters.
- West Norwood Cemetery was consecrated in 1837 as the South Metropolitan Cemetery and has 40 acres.
- Highgate Cemetery (1839) has 37 acres.
- Abney Park Cemetery, Stoke Newington, 32 acres, was for Dissenters, as Bunhill Fields was becoming full. It was therefore not consecrated by a Bishop but was opened by the Lord Mayor of London in 1840.
- Brompton Cemetery was consecrated in 1840 as the West of London and Westminster Cemetery and consists of 40 acres.
- Nunhead Cemetery (1840) has 52 acres.

- Tower Hamlets, consecrated in 1841 as the City of London and Tower Hamlets Cemetery, has 29 acres.

Some new Legislation, 1852-1857, established Burial Boards across the country and these public authorities provided most of the new cemeteries. Among those which were established around this time were: -

- Victoria Park Cemetery, Hackney, London E3, consecrated 1853
- City of Westminster Cemetery and Kensington Cemetery, both on one site, (1854) and now known as Hanwell Cemetery, London W7. The parish of St George Hanover Square bought land at this site
- Islington Cemetery and St Pancras Cemetery, East Finchley, London N2, (1854)
- Brookwood Cemetery, Woking, Surrey (1854). A vast multicultural cemetery of 500 acres with over a quarter of a million people buried in it and with its own private railway until 1941 to transport coffins and mourners from Waterloo. The parishes of St Anne, Soho, St Margaret and St John, Westminster bought parcels of land at Brookwood. The cemetery competed with others for annual contracts tendered by several London Boroughs for the burial of their poor and 'probably buried half of East London'
- Paddington Old Cemetery, Kilburn, London NW6 (1855)
- St Marylebone Cemetery, East Finchley, London N2 (1855) and now known as East Finchley Cemetery
- City of London Cemetery, Manor Park, London E12 (1856)
- Tottenham Cemetery, White Hart Lane, Tottenham, London N17 (1856)

Many others have followed. Cremation became legal in 1884 and Golders Green crematorium opened in 1902. Subsequently crematoria have been added to many cemeteries.

It is worth checking out local newspapers, which may include quite detailed reports of funerals and are often the best place to find reports of inquests.

Useful sources:

'…So Where Were They Buried?' by Rosemary A Roome, Member No. 2985, published in *Metropolitan*, July 2008.
The London Burial Grounds by Mrs Basil Holmes (T Fisher Unwin, 1896)
https://www.gutenberg.org/files/56832/56832-h/56832-h.htm
LWMFHS Parish Guides

JOTTINGS

Transcription Tuesday

1 February was Transcription Tuesday, *Who Do You Think You Are? Magazine*'s annual online volunteer event for family historians. They first launched Transcription Tuesday in 2017 and every year since then, their readers have come together online to support a variety of not-for-profit transcription projects. While the growth of online family history websites has made many records more accessible, millions of important historic documents that could be the key to tracing someone's ancestor still only exist in paper form.

Transcription, the act of typing up the information in handwritten historical records, makes this information more easily accessible and also means it can be indexed. All you need to transcribe is a computer or laptop with an Internet connection and some ability to read old handwriting. It's a great way to practice family history skills and the records often tell fascinating stories of ordinary people's lives in history. Last year, an incredible 100,000 records were transcribed. Volunteers from outside the UK were welcome to join at any time on that date in their own time zone – although actually the projects listed are ongoing and anyone can join at any time, even if you missed 1 February. You can do as little or as much as you like - every little helps.

One of the chosen projects was right in the middle of our area. This is the transcription of the burial registers of St James, Hampstead Road, the Piccadilly extra burial ground which was dug up for HS2, which we have mentioned before. Currently 24% of the registers have been transcribed.

Other projects this year included one from FamilySearch whereby you can help to transcribe various British and Irish parish registers. You need a free FamilySearch account to help with this one.

A further project was one to transcribe the Admissions Registers of the Greenwich-based Dreadnought Seaman's Hospital, which existed from 1826 to 1986. The hospital was the main clinical site of the Seamen's Hospital Society (now Seafarers' Hospital Society), founded with the philanthropic mission of providing relief to sick and injured seafarers of all nations.

The last project – perhaps more tricky for Londoners – was to tag 19th century photographs for the National Library of Wales.

If you fancy helping with any of these, the links can be found here: https://www.whodoyouthinkyouaremagazine.com/feature/transcription-tuesday-2022/

MEMBERS' INTERESTS

The research interests listed here were submitted by members between mid-November 2021 and mid-February 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: 8288; 8317; 8321; 8322; 8325; 8337

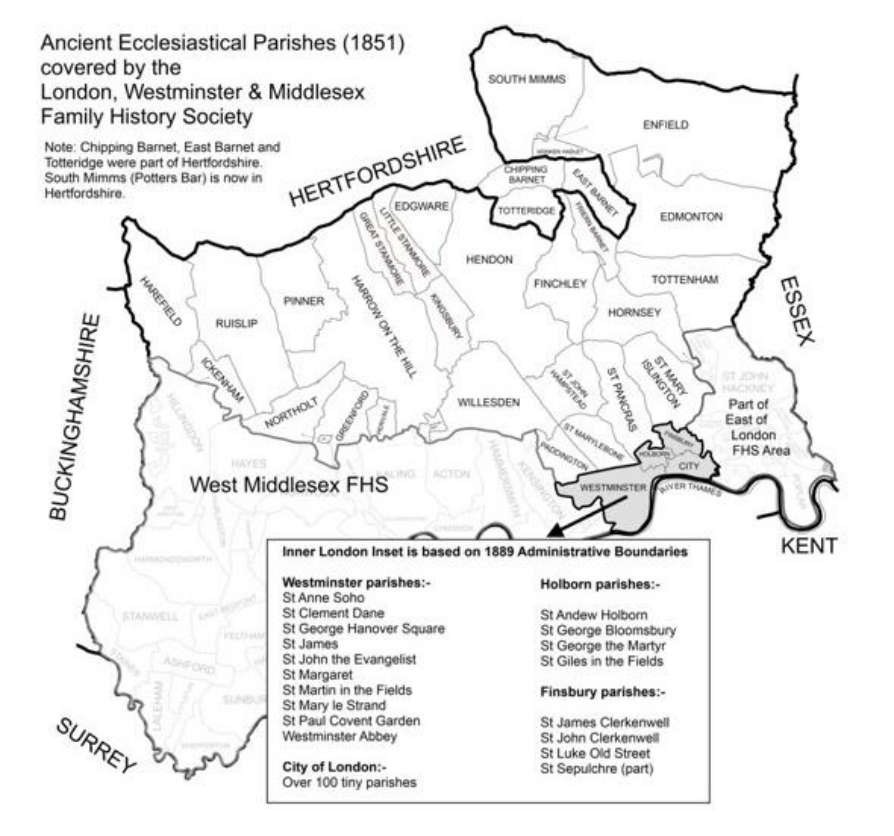
Name	Period	County	Parish	Mem. No.
APPLEBY	1875-1930	MDX	Marylebone	8321
BACHE	1700-1820	MDX	Westminster	8322
BASKETT	All	All	All	8288
BAZELLE	Any	MDX	St Pancras	8325
BROWN	1795-1870	MDX	Harrow Weald	8321
BRUNSWICK	1750-1900	MDX	Westminster	8321
BRUNSWICK	1750-1900	MDX	Marylebone	8321
BUGBIRD	Any	MDX	Any	8321
BURR	1855-1950	MDX	Harrow	8321
CRAWLEY	1750-1800	MDX	Stanmore	8321
EATON	1850-1920	MDX	St Luke, Old St.	8317
GLOVER	1870-1980	MDX	St Pancras	8325
HIBBARD	1861-1896	MDX	Islington	8337
JAGGERS	1850-1920	MDX	St Luke, Old St.	8317
JEROME	1883-1930	MDX	Marylebone	8321
JOHNSON	1800-1950	MDX	Westminster	8321
JOHNSON	1851	MDX	St Luke, Old St.	8337
JOHNSON	1854-1855	MDX	Holborn	8337
JORDAN	1860-1918	MDX	Any	8322
MANN	1850-1920	MDX	St Luke, Old St.	8317
MARTIN	1860-1940	MDX	Harrow	8321
McMINNIES	1850-1970	MDX	St Pancras	8325
MILLER	1820-1890	MDX	St George	8322
MOORE	1900-1980	MDX	St Pancras	8325
PLATT	1750-1900	MDX	Harrow	8321
PUNCHARD	1870-1910	MDX	Islington	8337
PUNCHARD	1906-1921	MDX	Hornsey	8337
PUNCHARD	1868-1921	MDX	St Pancras	8337
ROLFE	Any	MDX	St Pancras	8325
ROPER	1920-1990	MDX	St Pancras	8325
SPERRING	1860-1980	MDX	St Pancras	8325

STATHER	1870-1895	MDX	Islington	8337
WHITE	1800-1950	MDX	Harrow	8321

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the new members, numbers 8323-8339 who have joined the Society over the past few months and wish them well with their research.

LWMFHS AREA



LWMFHS PUBLICATIONS

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

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

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

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

Ruislip	£7.69	£9.65	£10.65
St Anne Soho	£7.69	£9.65	£10.65
St Clement Danes	£7.69	£9.65	£10.65
St George Hanover Square	£7.69	£9.65	£10.65
St Giles-in-the-Fields	£8.33	£10.75	£13.30
St James Piccadilly	£7.69	£9.65	£10.65
St Margaret & St John	£7.69	£9.65	£10.65
St Martin-in-the-Fields	£8.33	£10.75	£13.30
St Marylebone	£8.33	£10.75	£13.30
St Pancras	£8.33	£10.75	£13.30
South Mimms	£7.69	£9.65	£10.65
Stanmore	£7.69	£9.65	£10.65
Tottenham	£7.69	£9.65	£10.65
Willesden	£7.69	£9.65	£10.65
Monumental Inscriptions			
Chipping Barnet St John the Baptist	£8.33	£10.75	£13.30
East Barnet St Mary the Virgin	£8.33	£10.75	£13.30
Hornsey St Mary	£8.33	£10.75	£13.30
Monken Hadley St Mary the Virgin	£8.33	£10.75	£13.30
St James Hampstead Road	£8.33	£10.75	£13.30
Census Guides			
Streets of the City of London	£7.69	£9.65	£10.65
Streets of Westminster	£7.69	£9.65	£10.65

These booklets 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.

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.

LONDON WESTMINSTER AND MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2022

The following are the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Society held on 10 February 2022 via Zoom.

The Society's President, Michael Gandy, BA, FSG attended to chair the meeting. He welcomed 58 members and stated that he was pleased that the Society was flourishing despite the Covid situation and difficulties.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:
Roger Lewry and Janet Sutton

2. MINUTES OF THE AGM HELD 11 FEBRUARY 2021:
The minutes were approved.

3. MATTERS ARISING:
None.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:
The Chairman had previously published his report in *Metropolitan*. Tony summarised his Annual report, saying he was pleased that the Society was doing well under difficult circumstances. The Virtual Branch was flourishing and was a benefit. People have worked hard and we have a good reputation. Rayners Lane and Barnet were once again holding live meetings. *Metropolitan* and the Parish Guides were a success. He was very grateful to the committee and others. He gave particular thanks to Tricia Sutton who was standing down as Secretary and had done an enormous job over the years. He hoped someone else would consider the job and could talk to Tricia about it. The committee would muddle through in the best British tradition. Tricia will still lead the Rayners Lane branch. Michael Gandy said lockdown had made ours and other societies take on technology with Zoom, which had been a benefit. Terry Kaye asked about other branches opening. Tony said this was unlikely. The city branch venue was deemed now unsuitable due to size. Tricia added that Enfield had closed as those running it found it too much. Elizabeth said some members who usually attended the Enfield branch had come to Barnet meetings.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2020/21

These had previously been published in *Metropolitan*. April summarised her report as printed in the journal. We have been a 'virtual' society for a while but a lot of work had been done by the committee. Fairs, meetings, talks, etc had all moved online. A fee of £144 per annum for Zoom was considered a bargain. Less had been spent on speakers and venues, etc and refunds had come from hall hires paid for in advance. Steady income was being made from publication sales. There was a surplus of over £4,000 so finances were healthy. The accounts had been audited.

6. ADOPTION OF THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

Members were invited to vote on the Adoption of the Accounts as a true record of our finances. There were no objections so they were accepted.

7. PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION

As detailed in the last *Metropolitan*, April said our bank was now charging various fees. Many subscriptions were paid by cheque and these are now subject to charges. Online banking could minimise costs. Registration for online banking was hindered by our constitution needing an extra clause to allow electronic banking and agreement to do this was needed at this meeting. Jim Nelhams queried how this method would satisfy two signatories. April had not yet seen details but thought two people would need to authorise as current. The current four signatories would have access but no one else. Jim said Caf Bank requires other signatories to login and authorise payments. Sara Tucker confirmed that Lloyds did the same. In both cases notification was sent to other signatories to confirm a transaction. It was generally agreed that electronic banking was the way to go. There was no opposition to the proposal so it was accepted.

8. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Two Officers were willing to stand for a further year: Tony Allen as Chairman and April Vesey as Treasurer. With no other nominations or objections, they were duly elected. Tricia Sutton as Secretary was standing down. No nominations for a replacement had been received. April said that the job would be shared but was more work for everyone so if anyone wanted to think about putting themselves forward they could talk to one of the committee first about it.

9. OTHER MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The following were willing to continue as members of the Executive Committee:

Sylvia Thompson, Membership Secretary, Postal Sales and Virtual Branch Team member.

Barbara Haswell, Members' Interests and joint *Metropolitan* Editor.

Elaine Tyler, Projects Co-ordinator, Postal Sales and Virtual Branch Team member.

Clare Pollitt, Barnet Branch Co-ordinator and Virtual Branch Team member.

Tricia Sutton, Rayners Lane Branch Co-ordinator.

Karen De Bruyne, Events Team Co-ordinator and Twitter administrator.

Elizabeth Burling, joint *Metropolitan* Editor, Publications Editor, Postal Sales and Virtual Branch Team member and Facebook administrator.

Members were informed that anyone could join the Executive Committee midway through a year. The position would then be confirmed at the AGM. With no objections the committee was re-elected.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Simon Garbett proposed a vote of thanks to all of the committee for everything they had done.

Jim Nelhams asked which bank we had an account with and April informed him it was HSBC.

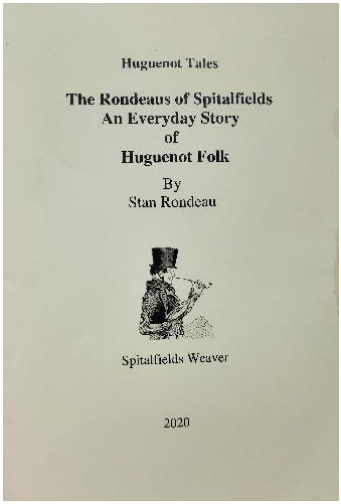
Michael Gandy reminded members of the need for articles for *Metropolitan*, whether short of long.

11. CLOSE MEETING

Michael Gandy closed the meeting at 7.35pm.

BOOK REVIEWS

The Rondeaus of Spitalfields, an Everyday Story of Huguenot Folk by Stan Rondeau, 3rd edition, 2020, paperback, 48 pages with colour photos.



Ron's self-published booklet about his ancestors contains the results of his research into his family, this branch of which came to Spitalfields from France in the late 17th century. Social history is used to place the family in context. Many were in the silk trade and the family actively supported measures taken to try and protect the trade and ameliorate the dreadful conditions of the workers. The RONDEAU family are followed through the years to Enfield and America, where further records of them are found. Along the way many sources are mentioned, questions are answered and others are asked.

To obtain a copy of this book please send a cheque for £6.70 (which includes P&P) made out to Stan Rondeau to 23 Oakwood Crescent, London N21 1NX or you can pick one up for £5 from our Barnet Branch with prior notice.

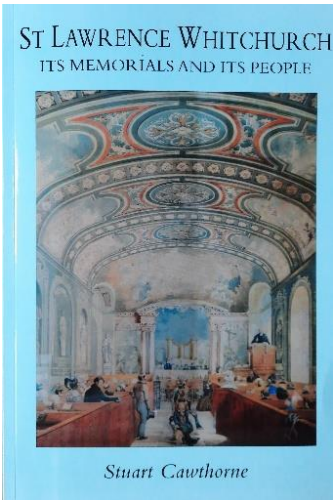
St Lawrence Whitchurch Its Memorials and Its People by Stuart Cawthorne, published by Phillimore Book Publishing, 2021, £15.00, paperback, 256 pages with colour photographs and plans.

The current church of St Lawrence was built at Little Stanmore in 1714-1716 at the instigation of the owner of the Canons estate – James BRYDGES – who soon after became the first Duke of Chandos. Despite an unassuming mainly brick exterior, the inside of the church is 'lavishly painted in a continental Baroque manner', according to its Historic England listing, and it retains its original box pews and decorative ironwork. The attached Chandos Mausoleum contains a large sculptured monument to the James Brydges and his two wives but there are many more memorials inside the church. Stuart started writing this book in order to find out more about the people whose monuments were in the Lady Chapel but about whom nothing further was known. He ended up researching all of the people who are commemorated inside the church. (Inevitably, these will all have been of

people of substance as poorer people as likely to have just had a wooden grave board in the churchyard.)

In the first chapter, Stuart starts with the oldest monument, which is that to Brydges and his wives and dates to about 1718 (although two of the people depicted were then still alive). This, together with the plethora of other memorials to the family are depicted, described and investigated in this chapter. Stuart has included much biographical detail and has used many different sources (which are described in the copious notes) to make this an interesting and informative read.

Further chapters tell the tales of all of the others mentioned in the memorials, from six-month-old John PUDSEY who died in 1763, to Samuel HARDING, bookseller from St Martin's Lane, to Eardley NORTON, clockmaker from Clerkenwell, to Sarah LUSHINGTON, whose travelogue of her journey from India overland to England in 1827-8 was published in 1829, and many more. Each life has been meticulously researched by Stuart and his book shows just how far the tendrils of this small, rural parish reached.



Whether or not you have any connection to Stanmore, this fascinating book is well worth a read. As an added bonus, any surplus from sales will go to the Friends of St Lawrence to help pay for the maintenance and restoration of the church. To obtain a copy of this book, contact Stuart Cawthorne by email at: stuartcawthorne@btinternet.com

JOHANN SIMON SCHNEBERGER

By Elisabeth Roller, Member No. 7822

Johann (John) Simon SCHNEBERGER was born on 5 November 1824 in Horbach (Hunsrück) in Germany. He died on 8 August 1904 in Amersham Road, Roehampton, in what is now South West London.

His parents had a nice farm, yet the soil of the Hunsrück is not very fertile so it cannot have been easy for his parents to bring up 5 children: 4 sons and 1 daughter. John Simon was the second son and he went to the village school like the others. Horbach had a very efficient primary school teacher (not a usual thing in those days.) A great many boys trained to become bakers. As the villages didn't need such a lot of bakers, many went abroad, especially to London.

Johann Simon SCHNEBERGER as a young man.

In the 19th century two thirds of all London bakers were Germans, mainly from the Hunsrück. The butchers came from the Hohenlohe. Since London expanded immensely, all sorts of craftsmen had been needed and they came from several European countries. John Simon had trained as a baker in a village nearby and in 1842 when he was 18 he went to relatives in London who had gone there 30 years previously. His mother, a very kind and intelligent lady, suffered from his going to London. She gave him the old family Bible, begging him to read it daily, which he did. Since he was not only very intelligent but very hardworking as well, he soon was called Baker and Confectioner - and in 1849 at the age of 25 he had his own baker's shop at 11 Clifton Terrace (that is now 154 Fulham Road).

At the age of 26 he married the 21 year old Charlotte ANDRAE on the 23 April 1850 at Holy Trinity, Brompton. Charlotte ANDRAE's mother Charlotte née SMITH, had died of a still born child at 12 Kingsland Road, Shoreditch on 5 June 1835 when her little daughter was only 6 years old. The girl was taken to her mother's oldest sister Esther, who brought her up with her own six children at 35 Gillingham Street, Pimlico. Even the next

generation was on very good terms with that family and their offspring. When Charlotte was old enough she looked after small children in a rich family that may have been related to her- we don't know exactly. With these children she went to John Simon SCHNEBERGER's bakery. That's how they got to know each other. John Simon and Charlotte had been extremely happily married.

Shortly before their first child John was born, John Simon's mother died in Horbach in the Hunsrück, far away, in January 1851. John Simon would have so much loved to see his mother again. His widowed father was lovingly cared for by his only daughter who remained unmarried. Every year John Simon SCHNEBERGER's father came to London. It wasn't at all easy for him, a farmer who didn't know any English and travelling was not as easy as it is nowadays.

Very quickly John Simon and Charlotte had 10 children. They lost 3 little ones, as was usual in those days, yet all the same they suffered a lot as they were so fond of children. In 1865 they were expecting their 11th child. Charlotte had visited a relative. When she came back she was very tired, exhausted, and sat down on the staircase. The staircase was extremely steep. When she got up she fainted and fell down the steep staircase. The dreadful result of that fall was placenta presentation. In those days you couldn't help. Her beloved husband stayed with her for almost 24 hours when she died in his arms on the 11 July 1865. Their youngest child, my grandmother Hetty, was only 13 months old. As usual once a year John Simon's father was there for some time. They decided that he should take the oldest child John, 14 years old, and the youngest one Hetty to Germany. His daughter could look after them for some time. On his way home it was extremely difficult for poor grandfather. In those days there were no

Charlotte with Hetty.

disposable nappies and there were no finished products for children or babies. A very nice kind of stewardess must have been very nice and helpful. Grandfather never forgot her kindness. On his way home he passed Kirn/Nahe where he and the children went to see his nephew J. LANZ who was a teacher in Kirn. They, the teacher and his wife, had lost their baby (an accident with a horse). The teacher's wife beseeched grandfather to let her have the children. Grandfather said yes and the teacher's wife was very kind to the children.

In London there was chaos in the household. The children had to be cared for, the bakery had to go on and in the shop bread, cakes and all sorts of pastries had to be sold. And the family had to cope with the immense sadness caused by mother's sudden death. John Simon tried to cope with English and German helps. Yet the German country girls were very unhappy in a big city like London. When John Simon realized that things couldn't go on like this he decided after two years to get married a second time.

At the age of 43 he married Jane MASON from Chelsea. She had known his first wife Charlotte before. The second marriage was less fortunate for the children than for John Simon. Jane had three children with John Simon, two girls and a boy. She was not kind to her step-children and treated her own children - even as regards food - a lot better. Our English relatives told us that the warmhearted John Simon suffered a lot from the conflict and that he had beseeched her to be kinder to her step-children for his sake. She had always told him that she loved him so much. Yet his second wife Jane was very efficient regarding business. Her father had been a businessman and she knew exactly how to deal with employees, servants and shop assistants. She was able to instruct them. She was very careful that maids didn't steal as they had done while John Simon had been a widower. But she lacked tactfulness and she was not able to create a loving atmosphere and she didn't have a sense of beauty which Charlotte had had.

John Simon and Charlotte's oldest son John stayed in Kirn/Nahe only for a year. He couldn't get used to that village school as he knew hardly any German and he was used to a big city like London. His father fetched him. He became a baker like his father and was a very efficient businessman. He married a nice Scottish girl from Hamilton and they had lots of children, yet there are only a few descendants. His brother Fred was also a very efficient businessman and baker. He had a very nice wife Alice, yet they had no children.

Charlotte, the oldest daughter, looked after the household and helped there a great deal. It was she who nursed her father at the end of his life and who married the family doctor, old Dr PARSONS, after her father's death. He had been very much impressed by her kindness.

Hetty, my grandmother, was happy in Kirn/Nahe, where she started primary school and where she had been treated with a lot of kindness by the German relatives, especially the teacher's wife. For higher education her father took her to London because of her religious instruction. The ministers in Kirn/Nahe were very liberal at that time. In London she was confirmed by Webb PEPLOE, Reverend at St Paul's Onslow Square, London. Yet the change from Kirn to London had been extremely hard and difficult for Hetty. Her beloved dolls were mocked, food was totally different, school as well and she hardly knew her brothers and sisters. Her stepmother was jealous of her because she was very pretty and intelligent. As she was very good at school, she got prize books. Her stepmother had all of them destroyed. None is left.

She was married to Albert SAUERESSIG at the age of 21 by Webb PEPLOE at St Paul's Onslow Square, where she had been confirmed. Albert was a German professor, the son of a teacher in Kirn/Nahe and they lived in Metz, in Lorraine, where he taught. It was a very happy marriage, full of love and harmony. Every year she went to London to see her father, brothers and sisters. And every year her father and one of her brothers and sisters came to Metz. The contact was very close, sometimes a sister stayed for a whole year. Edie, daughter of John Simon's second wife, was very kind and Hetty loved her very much. Edie married a very nice Englishman who died relatively young of TB. She was left with two small girls. She was absolutely desperate and thought for some time of going to Metz to stay with her sister Hetty.

Clara, the second youngest daughter had rather a difficult nature. She married against her father's warning a flour merchant. He left his wife Clara when their daughter Eda was four years old and he went to the USA, married there a second time and had more children. He always wrote letters to his first wife, telling her he would be coming soon, which he never did. Clara wasn't able to care for herself and her daughter. John Simon, her father, always had to support her.

Walter was too soft, no businessman at all. His wife was just the same. John Simon, his father, had always to support them financially and sadly to say they drank too much alcohol.

Henry was a very kind, nice and intelligent son. Hetty's favourite brother. The stepmother wanted him to go to Sydney (Australia) to establish a business. After a year he was murdered there. When his father, John Simon, went to Southampton to meet him and bring him to London, he was told that his son was dead.

John Simon was very busy and efficient. At the age of 25 he had his first bakery and baker's shop. Contrary to many immigrants he was most successful. He saw the needs and aims of the mid 19th century. Because of the industrialization in the 19th century, London had become an enormous construction site. Ever so many houses were needed. No end of craftsmen from all countries came to London and wanted to eat bread. Lots of bakers were needed, John Simon ordered modern machines for quicker production and offered all sorts of international bakery products. He even used modern communication: telephone and telegraph. His phone number in the 19th century was: Kensington 322 and his telegraph address was: Schneberger London! In his main shop, at 2 and 4 Sussex Place (now Old Brompton Road), he had his baker's and confectioner's rooms. On the first floor he had a wonderful café. And he had built up what we call party service. He bought tents, cutlery with engravings of his name and china. With his equipment he served Queen Victoria. He was known for his excellent pastries and cakes. He had his own tins with his name and sent them by post, to several countries not only within England. He used only the best raw materials and ingredients. He bought his flour in European countries that were known for their high quality flour. His oldest son John travelled to Hungary that had excellent flour in the 19th century.

Schneberger's cafe in Sussex Place.

For a special kind of white bread he bought excellent specially grown potatoes - only to put a little bit and mix it with the flour.

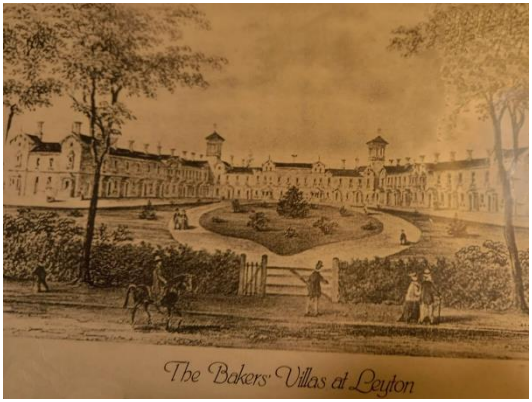
As regards business he was absolutely trustworthy, when a London jam merchant offered him very cheap raspberry jam for his pastries he was suspicious because of the price. He was right. He had found out that the business had bought cheap apple purée, added pink colour and a little raspberry aroma and because the raspberry pips were missing he had ordered wooden pips specially made in a factory- and had added them. John Simon told the businessman that he was disgusted. John Simon never speculated with money. He was totally against that, although it had been quite a common practice in the 19th century. All the same he had built up - only with honesty and hard work and diligence- what we would call nowadays a bakery chain in several parts of London. In 1862 he asked for a 'Certificate of Naturalization'. Several friends supported him and he got the Certificate and was now a British citizen with all rights.

His fairness, his righteousness and his faith had led John Simon to his social engagement. Lots of German craftsmen and other Europeans had tried to escape their poor conditions and that dreadful famine in their native countries. A lot of them wanted to go to the USA but remained in London.
Yet the majority was totally disappointed-mainly the bakers. They had to work very hard and they earned hardly anything- very often only a very primitive room, more like a cellar. They couldn't put anything aside to help them in old age or in illness. All the same they were very honest and hardworking (Reference Accounts and Papers 119, 1862 Vol. 47 London Metropolitan Archives).

A great many bakers, mainly journeymen were killed by horses, racing through the streets (there was no road patrol). The journeymen had to take bread, cakes etc. to the customers all day. John Simon and some of his colleagues were very sad about that situation. There existed an institution for bakers since the Middle Ages! 'The Worshipful Company of Bakers' in London.

In the beginning of the 19th century they had organized several houses for old and poor bakers in Hackney. In 1832 there was such a famine that some kind and prudent men founded 'The London Master Bakerer's Pension and Almshouse Society'. In 1854 they founded the 'Almshouse Committee'.

They wanted to build flats for old and poor bakers, yet they had no money. In this situation the millers decided to give their Christmas turkey not to their customers but to give an amount of money to the bakers. In 1858 the first poor and old bakers were able to move into the first little flats and in 1866 the house was completely built. They had done everything to help together and to get money to finance the building. It was a lovely, practical and wonderful building with little gardens for each couple or person. The address was Leyton Square, Waltham Stow. The inhabitants were ever so pleased. The 'Almshouse Committee' changed its name. They now called themselves the 'London Master Bakers' Benevolent Institution'. For about a hundred years old and poor bakers lived in that lovely building and in the middle was the great hall with panels and the names of the founders - my great-grandfather John Simon SCHNEBERGER's name was or is there as well. In 1970 they had to repair such a lot that they had to give up Leyton and moved to new buildings in Baker's Lane, Epping. In the basement of those buildings are all the minute books and mementoes of Leyton building. The lodgers of Leyton had tried everything not to have to leave Leyton, yet in vain.



Bakers' Villas in Leyton.

In 1888 John Simon was Chairman of Committee and President of Appeal. He was highly respected. He was known to have been very good to his workers and to have given them very good payment. John Simon didn't only support the 'Baker's Benevolent Society'. He also joined and supported 'The Journeymen Pension Societies'. Besides he had joined several 'Bakers' Societies' over the years: e.g. 'The United Biscuit Bakers'. He had a good sense of humour and was a highly respected leader of all sorts of committees. Yet he didn't only help in organisations. He helped personally. Every Saturday evening he stood in front of his biggest shop and distributed what had been left over during the week in all his shops, among the poor people who were waiting in crowds to get something without having to pay for it.

And he cared for his poor relatives who had come to London and for his poor relatives in the Hunsrück.

As much as he had been integrated in the Baker's Trade and in all sorts of social institutions, as difficult it had been for him to be accepted by 'higher' society, even by relatives. Although he was granted the freedom of the city of London and was next in line to become Mayor of a part of London and although the famous headmaster of Belgrave College in Pimlico, George MAST, had asked him to act as executer of his will, there was status consciousness in London in the 19th century. A rich uncle of his first wife, Charlotte, who was titled and called Sir and who had many educated friends, disinherited her because she had married a baker with 'open' shops.

Within one year, 1881-1882, John Simon lost four beloved members of his family. A very difficult year! On 23 December 1881 his father. who had visited him in London every year, died in Horbach, Hunsrück. On 26 May 1882 his 8 year old son of his second marriage died. On 21 October 1882 his son Henry died at the age of 26 in Sydney, Australia. He was murdered during a robbery. He had been loved by the whole family. Then, on 8 November 1882 Jane, only 50 years old, John Simon's second wife died.

Johann Simon SCHNEBERGER as an old man.

John Simon didn't get married a third time. The children were older, that was easier for him than after his first wife's death, when they were so small. In spite of all those losses he didn't lose his trust in God. On the shield over the door of his main shop stood the words: 'Praise God for all'. He was generous, full of brotherly love for others and cheerful. When he heard of a suicide, he said: "Can't that man wait till God fetches him?"

He was very concerned about his grandchildren and very generous. They loved him dearly. When his grandchildren from Metz came to visit him he took the boat train from London Victoria to Dover to meet them there. He always had a black little leather case which he opened in the train. It was full of the finest pastries and other delicious little things. By the time they arrived at Victoria, the case was completely empty. When they reached his house in Putney the German and the English grandchildren crept into his large bed (not all the 14 of them!) and covered themselves with the large blanket. In the evening, when he came home late from his work they screamed and tried to frighten him. He wasn't angry at all. He had bought a beautiful and big doll's house for his grandchildren. They adored it! On the sideboard of the dining-room there stood always a huge roast lamb which only he cut for his grandchildren.

The gravestone at Brompton cemetery.

His grandchildren loved his cheerfulness and his sense of humour. And they all said that he had extremely strong tough nerves. He usually was in good health. He wasn't tall and he had very thick and curly fair hair. Until the end of his life he had been working and had gone to 'Baker's Meetings'. He was in Hastings two months before his death. He had to leave earlier and the doctor found out that he had cancer. His oldest daughter Charlotte nursed him full of kindness and he died peacefully in his bed at home at the age of almost 80, on 8 August 1904 in Putney. At his funeral on 13 August 1904 all the shops of that long Old Brompton Road were closed because the hearse drawn by 4 horses passed the road. He was buried in the family grave Brompton Cemetery. The grave was covered with lots and lots of flowers. The huge Celtic Cross had been donated to him for his social work years ago. The grave is still there and can be visited. The words on the Celtic Cross are: Luke 19,10 "For the son of God is come to seek and to save which was lost."

WATER BABY

By Sally-Jane Cox, Member No. 7527

My cousin recalls that in her 70s - in the 1970s - my grandmother, Olive BENHAM, swam every day of the year. She'd pack her cigarettes, towel and a banana sandwich into a bag, hop on the bus from her home in Newton Abbot to Torquay seafront, meet a girlfriend and swim and sunbathe until she was the colour of chestnut honey.

My grandmother Olive (left) and her younger sister Ruby (right) in the sea at Torquay.

She had grown up with sea-bathing in her south Devon girlhood. Photos taken on the beach at Torquay show her and her sister in unflattering swimming caps and dark, one-piece costumes with nearly knee-length shorts against a background of Victorian bathing machines.

I wonder how this sun and water-loving creature coped in the in-between years when she lived in London. Anyone used to the relief of sea breezes and salt-water on sweltering days can find their first London summer overwhelming. I know that I was unimpressed – having grown up in north Cornwall - to discover a typical summer in the capital consists of a three-day pattern on repeat: warm sunny day; warm sunny and increasingly humid day; third day so hot, muggy and overcast, you ache for a whisper of breeze and pray for thunder.

The weather doesn't reliably break on that third day by which time one feels ready to commit murder. So we can picture my grandmother suffering on a summer's day in Dudley's Family Hairdressing shop at 19 Kenton Park Parade, Kenton, Harrow. She wears stockings – because ladies did not go about with bare legs back then – corsets, perhaps a shop overall, and perspires uncomfortably as she uses the hot curling tongs or pops another customer under the drier. Now and then, she glances towards the shop

window at the leaden skies, anticipating rain. More and more often, she checks the shop clock, and looks forward to closing time when she can slip off her stockings and plunge her swollen ankles into a basin of cool water. In Devon, she'd have been able to have an after-work dip. How did she get on in the city?

In the Fox's chocolate biscuit tin where I keep Grandma's tiny, black-and-white printed photos, there are many shots of the family cooling off in water. Occasionally, they are at the real seaside; John William, Grandma's beau owned a car so may have driven the family to a coastal resort like Margate. More often, they are by the ornamental fountains and terraces of Harrow Public Baths, or beside a river, or paddling in what looks like a lake. Barn Hill Pond in Wembley was one venue I identified from the hand-written note on the back.

Olive's twins, my uncle Anthony and my mother, Anthea, at Harrow Baths circa 1937.

So one can speculate that my grandmother would have been delighted to learn in May 1936 – when the twins were approaching seven and Craig 14 – about the formal re-opening of Ruislip Lido. It was only half an hour's bus ride away. It boasted a concrete-bottomed swimming pool sheltered on either side by jetties in a horseshoe shape and a white main building with curved wings and linear windows in the art-deco modernist style. The main building had a cafeteria where Grandma and the kids, if they ever went there, might have had tea, ice creams and lemonade. There were changing rooms where they could peel off dripping wet costumes and towel dry hair.

Ruislip Lido is not a natural lake; it was built as a reservoir in 1811 to feed the Grand Junction Canal. It never fulfilled its intended purpose as the water became polluted and its use was discontinued in 1851. The Grand Junction Canal Company was amalgamated into the Grand Union Canal Company and in the mid-1930s, they developed the reservoir as a lido with boating, swimming and fishing.

Would my grandmother, Craig and the twins have pronounced Ruislip lido 'lye-doh' or 'lee-doh'? Many thought people who pronounced it 'leedoh' were pretentious; most local schoolchildren said 'lyedoh'. One writer in the Times in 1936 mocked the snobs who named 'London bathing places intended for democratic use after an Adriatic beach patronized by wealthy cosmopolitans'. He felt lido was a particularly unsuitable term for a glorified reservoir. '(…) the Ruislip lido is the last word in misalliances.' said the article. Still the institution which rejoices (if that is the right word) in that name is a deserving effort to provide recreation for the people; and it can only be hoped that the elite of Ruislip will enjoy many an al fresco gala soiree with all due verve, eclat and lebensfreude on the plage of their reservoir.'

Anthony, Anthea and their older brother, Craig, keeping cool at Barn Hill Pond in the 1930s.

In his letter to *The Times* a few days later, the Chairman of the Grand Union Canal Company replied: 'within the last few years Lidos have sprung into existence all over the country, and I think I am justified in suggesting that the word has come to mean an open-air recreation centre of a type thoroughly understood and appreciated by thousands who neither know nor care what it means per se.'

Over 180 lidos were built in Britain between 1930 and 1939, topping up the 50 built in the 1920s. The Physical Training and Recreation Act of 1937 enabled borough councils to apply for grants to provide and run leisure facilities and the then London County Council promised that soon no Londoner would have to travel more than one and a half miles to enjoy open-air swimming. Swimming at a lido was not the same as taking a dip in the ocean but it beat no swim at all.

My grandmother always cut an elegant figure and I bet she was quite excited when the new woollen 'swimming suits' came in. Being a hairdresser, she almost certainly took care to protect her hair from the ravages of chlorine or

salt with one of the new rubber bathing hats; these arrived in the late 1920s, replacing the head scarves worn before. They were ideal for going over the new short hair styles, the bob, the shingle and the most extreme Eton crop. Hats were usually covered with a moulded design, sometimes abstract, sometimes floral and fastened under the chin by a rubber strap.

An American company, Jantzen Inc. – previously the Portland Knitting Company - is credited with creating the woollen 'swimming suit'. As new materials were invented, so bathing costumes became more streamlined, figure-hugging, flattering and comfortable, for example, Lastex, a rubberized yarn, was blended into the fabric to allow better give to the suit. Photos of film stars such as Ginger Rogers and Johnny Weissmuller in the catalogues, and audacious advertising campaigns helped glamorise diving, swimming and swimwear. Until the mid-thirties, (unless they lived in Brighton) men were not allowed to wear swimming costumes that let their chests be seen. By the end of the thirties, their outfits looked much as they do today.

Children today wouldn't be seen dead in the kind of knitted swimsuits sported by my skinny mother and uncle in their first ten years of life. While the twins' pale bony shoulders and chests were mostly exposed, their lower bodies were encased in knitted trunks held up by long slim 'braces' which crossed over at the back. When soaking wet, these knitted costumes sagged with the weight of the water and were anything but modest. Watching the twins take the water, Grandma likely toasted herself in the sun, a lifelong habit she very likely acquired in the 1920s and 30s.
Tanning oneself didn't become fashionable until the 1920s. The vogue began when arty types including Fitzgerald, Hemingway and Picasso started spending summers on the French Riviera; previously this had been a winter sun destination for the wealthy upper classes. By the late 1920s, film stars, singers, writers and the smart set flocked south in summer to offer up their pallid skins to the Mediterranean sun. In the same period, many Brits exchanged outdoor work for jobs in factories and offices. So a tan no longer suggested you were a farmer or fisherman. It became a status symbol, showing you had the leisure and money for expensive foreign holidays.

This was not the era of smothering your kids with Factor 50 sun cream. In the 1930s, UV rays were deemed not dangerous but health-giving. The Health and Nature Cure Handbook of 1931 even described how to position your naked body scientifically to derive maximum benefit. It suggested:

moving about outdoors in a standing position; or lying outdoors with the head, eyes and back of the neck shaded. There was such a thing as a sun-box which shielded the bather from the wind. Another method was to lie on a bed in a ventilated glass solarium, a cold wet cloth over your head. Home sunlamps for topping up your tan and sun lounges in hotels date from this era. Outdoor sports including hiking, cycling and tennis – where you couldn't help but get a suntan – and the cult of nudism were the health fads of the time.

This was very likely when beautiful people began posing poolside in their shades. The first sunglasses had plastic frames and round lenses. For the first time bathers could legitimately check out the talent at the local pool as one of the greatest perks of the lido was the novelty of mixed bathing.

Olive and Anthea at Torquay in the 1940s.

The idea of men and women swimming together was introduced very successfully at the Serpentine or Hyde Park Lido, London's first lido. On opening day, in 1930, hordes ran out of a large tent marked 'Women', keen to mix with the men by the pool. Men, women and children alike plunged into the water, waving and cheering to the cameras. It was very different from the segregated bathing and bathing machines that had gone before.

Throughout her life, Grandma never lost her appetite for fresh air, swimming and sunbathing. The sensual, soothing combination of sunshine and saltwater was her therapy in the difficult years that lay ahead.

Sources:

https://hillingdonlibraries.wordpress.com/2020/07/01/ruislip-lido/
Sun, Sea and Sand: The Great British Seaside Holiday by Diane Harris (Npi Publishing, 2006)
Taking the Waters – A Swim Around Hampstead Heath by Caitlin Davies, (Frances Lincoln, 2012)
The Making of Modern Britain by Andrew Marr (MacMillan, 2009)

Help!

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.

COMPANY AND BUSINESS RECORDS

I am in possession of my great aunt's hat box and on it is written Maison Lewis (Louise & Co Ltd) Regent Street, London, with a branch at 16 Rue Royale, Paris (and by a very strange coincidence I have a painting of this street by E Grandjean hanging in my home). She was married in Holborn Register Office in 1928 and I have wondered if this shop is where she bought her hat for her wedding.

Also, do you know where I might be able to find records of London companies where I worked in the 1960s and 1970s. I am interested in finding out about the formation of them and also names of staff, particularly early/mid-20th century. Would they be at Companies House or the LMA, do you think? None of the companies I worked for are in existence today.

Vivienne Allen, Member No. 7776

Note: There are several places where you can look for information about companies. It is definitely worth checking the online catalogue of London Metropolitan Archives and also The National Archives for companies, especially the latter as it includes archives from outside London. Companies House has accounts and similar and so is probably not much use to you.

The historic newspapers collection is another potentially useful source. Using this we discovered that the directors of Louise & Co acquired the company Maison Lewis in the 1890s. Advertising from Maison Lewis features in newspapers up until about 1929 and a quick search of the internet also brings up many images of stylish ladies wearing the most exquisite hats. We think it entirely possible that your great aunt bought her wedding hat there. Do you have a picture of her wearing it?

Another excellent place to find out information about companies is Grace's Guides to British Industrial History. This very useful website

can help you locate businesses and all sorts of local enterprises are mentioned, although Maison Lewis is not one of them. Fashion retailers are not excluded though, for example, H Sims & Co of Adherian Works, Rosebery Road, N9, manufacturers of high-class sandals, slippers and evening shoes, who exhibited at the 1947 British Industries Fair are in there. This easy-to-search website can be found here: https://www.gracesguide.co.uk/Main_Page

Of course, the 1921 census contains information about where people worked and you can do an advanced search using just the company name. Maison Lewis brings up 68 results, for example.

If you are looking for people you worked with then Facebook might be worth a search – there are many work-based groups there, with people sharing pictures and memories.

HOWARD/VICE

At the very end on my *Help!* piece in December's *Metropolitan* I gave Charles VICE's baptism details in Suffolk, and HOWARD has been added to his name – this is a mistake. The whole part of this family is that Grandmother VICE was a servant girl in a big house in Suffolk and so her 4 illegitimate children had her surname in the 1760s, as the children and grandchildren grow up they started to change their name to the man's surname, HOWARD (from a noble family).

So Charles was baptised VICE in Jan 1801 in Wenhaston Suffolk but came to St Mary le Bone London and married as Charles HOWARD in August 1822. But there is no paper work in the Wenhaston records to support this, just family stories passed down over the generations.

Eileen Blythe, Life member No: 02
Email: eileenb891@gmail.com

Note: We are sorry the gremlins crept into your piece Eileen and are happy to print this correction for you.

Have You Changed Your Email Address?

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

FORTHCOMING BRANCH MEETINGS

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

Virtual Branch – Talks are on the second Thursday of the month. 'Doors' open at 7.45 for an 8pm start. To attend, you have to initially register an interest by emailing: virtualbranch@lwmfhs.org.uk (This is once only - you do not need to register for each talk). The details of each Zoom meeting will then be emailed to you a few days prior to the event as well as being announced in *Metropolitan*, on our website and Facebook page.
The talk will be recorded (with the speaker's permission) and reshown the following morning at 10am so that members who live abroad or those who can't make the live event can watch it at a hopefully more convenient time.
Branch Contact: Clare Pollitt, Email: virtualbranch@lwmfhs.org.uk

10 March	*The First Railway Workers, c1825-c1870* by David Turner. This talk describes the prior occupations, working environment and lives of early railway workers and some of the first strike actions by them.
14 April	*London's River History* by Rob Kayne. How many stories about the Thames can we fit into forty-five minutes? Eels fit for a queen, an impressive set of whiskers, a pelican with an identity swap, mudlarkers and multi-storey homes for horses. The Thames and London's use of it have undergone great changes; documentation encourages us to examine these.
12 May	*Behind the Blue Lamp* by David Swinden. This talk, by a former Metropolitan Police Superintendent and family historian, is about the problems of the early days of policing in London. It also looks at the history of some local police stations, the people who worked there, and the stories they told.
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.

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

For the foreseeable future, we will not be having a formal speaker at our Barnet Branch. Instead we will be having informal meetings with discussions, your stories and research help – all are welcome to come and contribute. Recent ones have been extremely interesting! Our next meetings are on these days: 17 March, 21 April, 19 May, 14 June.

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

7 March	Members' Afternoon: Topic-1921 Census Surprises! What/ Who did you find in this Census?
4 April	*My Ancestor was a Shopkeeper* by Sue Gibbons Finding sources for the shop and its surroundings, the occupation and the individual will be covered in this talk.
2 May	Members' Afternoon: An opportunity to seek help from others with brick walls or DNA results.
6 June	*Theophilus in the News.* A family mystery tale! What did he do and where did he go? by Tricia Sutton,

WEBSITE NEWS

1910 Lloyd George Domesday Survey

The Liberal government's Chancellor of the Exchequer, Lloyd George, introduced his 1910 Finance Act to create a new tax on land - Increment Value Duty – as one way to help in the battle to alleviate poverty. This meant that the whole country had to be surveyed in order to determine the value of the land and the Valuation Office was set up specifically to carry out this task. The Field Books of the Valuation Office, which was part of the Board of Inland Revenue, are at The National Archives as series IR58.

Apart from figures concerning the valuation of each property, the Field Books normally contain the names of the occupiers and owners, as well as other information such as the date of erection of buildings and sometimes sketch plans of individual properties are included. This information can be extremely useful to family historians.

These IR58 records are being digitised by The Genealogist and are linked to detailed Ordnance Survey maps on their website, which can be pinpointed down to plot level. This can be very useful, especially when roads have since been obliterated by bombing.

So far, The Genealogist has released records of 72,663 individuals from the following of our areas: Albany, Barnet, Belsize, Camden Town, Chalk Farm, City of London, Edgware, Edmonton, Enfield, Euston, Finchley, Friern Barnet, Grays Inn Road, Hendon, Highgate East, Highgate West, Kilburn, Priory and Adelaide Parish (Hampstead), Hornsey Central, Hornsey Eastm Hornsey West, Paddington, St Andrew East, St Andrew West, St Giles East, St Giles North, St Giles South, Saffron Hill, Somers Town, Southgate, Tottenham, Tottenham Court Road, Totteridge and Wood Green.

The records can be searched by name or keywords, or by selecting a pin from the map. The ability to switch between georeferenced modern and historic maps allows you to see how the neighbourhood in which ancestors had lived or worked and which may have altered with the passing of time.

The Genealogist is a pay-per-view website which can be accessed here: https://www.thegenealogist.co.uk/

AIMS OF THE SOCIETY

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

SUBSCRIPTIONS

The annual subscription covers all family members living at one address, with one journal and one vote per subscription.
There are three subscription rates: £12, £15 and £20 depending on where you live and how your journal *Metropolitan* is delivered.
Our year runs from 1 October until 30 September the following year.
Members joining during the Society's year will receive back copies of journals.

£12 UK & Overseas: to receive *Metropolitan* electronically by download
£15 UK: to receive *Metropolitan* by post
£20 Overseas: to receive *Metropolitan* by airmail post

CHEQUE PAYMENT BY UK OR OVERSEAS MEMBERS

UK cheques are payable to LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX FHS.
Overseas members' payments must be made in pounds sterling by cheque, drawn upon a London Bank, made payable to: LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX FHS.
All cheques should be sent to the Membership Secretary, address on the inside front cover.

CANADA: Canadian Postal Money Orders cannot be accepted.
AUSTRALIA / NEW ZEALAND: Most banks will provide sterling cheques.

OTHER WAYS TO PAY

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

BANKERS: HSBC Bank plc, Angel Branch, 25 Islington High St, London N1 9LJ
Sort Code: 40-03-33; Account Number: 81157760, Business account name: London Westminster & Middlesex FHS

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.**

BUNHILL FIELDS BURIAL GROUND

Address: 38 City Road,
London EC1Y 2BG

Bunhill Fields is a former Nonconformist burial ground in Islington, London. Dating from the1660s and closed in 1854, the site contains about 123,000 burials. Shown in these photos are the final resting places of Daniel DEFOE, William BLAKE and John BUNYAN.
The graves of many other prominent intellectuals, radicals and clergymen from the 17th to 19th centuries can also be found here.
See page 69 of this journal.