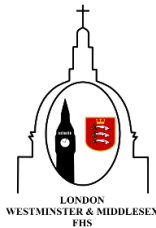


# METROPOLITAN

The Journal of the  
**LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX**  
Family History Society



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# METROPOLITAN

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Cover picture: The score of *Judas Maccabeus* on a harpsichord, .  
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## **IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT SUBSCRIPTIONS – WE HAVE CHANGED OUR BANK ACCOUNT**

London Westminster & Middlesex Family History Society has moved its accounts from HSBC to Santander.

### **Our new bank details are:**

Bank: **Santander**

Account type: **Business**

Account name: **London Westminster & Middlesex Family History Society**

Account number: **70580978**

Sort code: **09 01 29**

This move is for a variety of reasons, but primarily to avoid the high bank charges which have been imposed by HSBC. This was discussed at our AGM earlier this year when I proposed an amendment to our constitution to allow us to use manual, electronic, telephone, online or other banking; this was passed without opposition. Moving to Santander will allow us to use electronic banking while avoiding charges for cheque and cash payments and receipts.

### **WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DO?**

**If you pay your annual subscription online via Parish Chest or Genfair or by cheque:**

Please pay as normal as this change will not affect you.

**If you pay your subscription by standing order.**

It would be extremely helpful if you could change your standing order payment details to reflect our new Santander bank account as soon as possible. Please make sure you add a reference which includes your name and membership number, eg. Fairweather 2345, as this identifies your payment. Your membership number is on the email notifying you a new *Metropolitan* is available to download, or on the address sheet if you receive *Metropolitan* by post.

No need to worry if you can't manage the change for this coming year's subscription as we shall be keeping the old (HSBC) current account open for a short time. However it will need to be done at some point as the old HSBC account will eventually be closed. As standing orders are an instruction from you to your bank, we are unable to do it for you.

**If you pay your subscription or make any other payment by direct bank transfer.**

Please make sure you use the new bank details above and add a reference which includes your name and membership number, eg. Fairweather 2345, as this identifies your payment. Your membership number is on the email notifying you a new *Metropolitan* is available to download, or on the address sheet if you receive *Metropolitan* by post.

We have tried to make this changeover as smooth as possible for everyone and your co-operation is greatly appreciated. Please make sure you have the new account details as above, and do not keep the old details.

Subscriptions are due by 1 October each year – details and prices are on the inside back cover of this journal.

**April Vesey, LWMFHS Treasurer**



## EDITORIAL

Our Society year starts on 1 October so please make sure you have renewed your membership in order to receive the next copy of *Metropolitan*. Of course, there are other benefits for people joining LWMFHS, such as our three branch meetings (see page 190 for what is coming up) and the chance to submit help/brickwall queries to the journal. We have a tricky one in this edition on page 185. We have done our best to answer it but there are lots more of you – can anyone help find the answer?

We will be attending three Fairs in the coming months, the Family History Show at Kempton Park Racecourse in Surrey on 24 September, the Oxford Family History Society Fair at Woodstock on 1 October and the online FHF Really Useful Show on 11 and 12 November – see pages 188-189 for details. We would really love it if we could have some volunteers to help – we work on the basis that many hands make light work. No experience is needed, you will get free entry to the event and will have the chance to look around and we usually provide some pretty decent biscuits too! Please contact Karen, our Events Team coordinator, if you would like to find out more at: [eventsteam@lwmfhs.org.uk](mailto:eventsteam@lwmfhs.org.uk)

**Barbara and Elizabeth, the Editorial Team**

## CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

I have recently researched my very poor ancestors who lived in London in the mid nineteenth century. I made much use of Booth's Poverty Maps and of Mayhew's Survey of the London Poor to give me the background to the conditions of their lives.



Many of you will be familiar with Mayhew's works, but some may need reminding. Henry MAYHEW (1812-1887) was a prominent journalist who founded the satirical magazine *Punch*. He became interested in the conditions of the poor in about 1849 due to a cholera epidemic. He and his collaborators investigated the condition of the poor by interviewing them, questioning them on their work and life histories. His works also include many

illustrations that (surprisingly for the early date) are wonderful drawings based on original Daguerreotypes.

His first volume was published in 1851 and eventually by the 1860s he produced four volumes. The originals are available on-line. Also a number of selections have been published which are out of print but easily available. I have two of them, both lengthy with many of the illustrations. *Mayhew's London* by Henry Mayhew, edited by Peter Quinnell (574 pages, Spring Books) and *Mayhew, London Labour and the London Poor* by Henry Mayhew, edited by Rosemary O'Day and David Englander (636 pages, Wordsworth Classics, 2008). The heading to the first volume is:-

THE LONDON LABOUR and THE LONDON POOR  
A CYCLOPAEDIA of the CONDITIONS and EARNINGS  
OF  
THOSE WHO *WILL* WORK  
THOSE WHO *CANNOT* WORK  
THOSE WHO *WILLNOT* WORK  
BY  
HENRY MAYHEW

Mayhew then explains that the volume is devoted to the Street Folk. “Those who obtain their living in the streets of the Metropolis are a very large and varied class such that the mind is being baffled in the attempts to reduce them to scientific order or classification.”

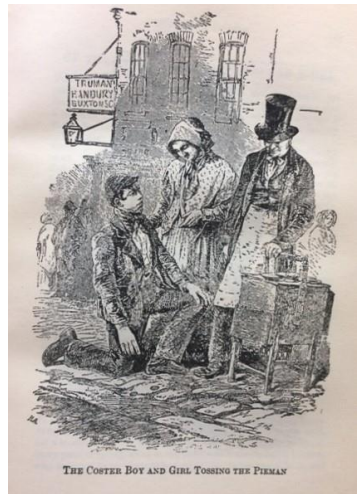


“It would appear, however, that the street people may be arranged under six distinct genera or kinds.” I-Street sellers, II-Street Buyers, III-Street Finders, IV-Street Performers, Artists and Showmen, V-Street

Artisans or Working Pedlars and VI-Street Labourers.

He then starts with his most extensive section devoted to Costermongers, almost 100 pages divided into about 50 sections with headings varying between the set up of the markets, their special language, education or rather lack of it, literature, earnings, and the coster-girls and their customs.

Then all the other classifications of the people and how they interact with each other and the other classes in London. Nothing was wasted rags and bottles were collected, cigar-butts were re-cycled, the river mud was dredged for valuables by mud-larks and others, rag and bone men came and there was even value in a bucketful of dog droppings to be sold to tanners (as much as a shilling for the right sort). There was however no money in collecting horse manure as it was so abundant but there was money to be made by boys sweeping the road-crossings in front of wealthy ladies and gentlemen. The whole experience of the people comes alive in these interviews. The illustrations are wonderful and I include a few of them.



**Tony Allen**



**MATILDA GULLIFER AND THE *PRINCESS ALICE***

By Janet Sutton, Member No. 6805

In a quiet moment during my family history research, I decided to check for some family surnames on the British Newspaper Archive website. What I came across was a fascinating, yet sad story of an ancestor who had previously just been a name on the family tree.

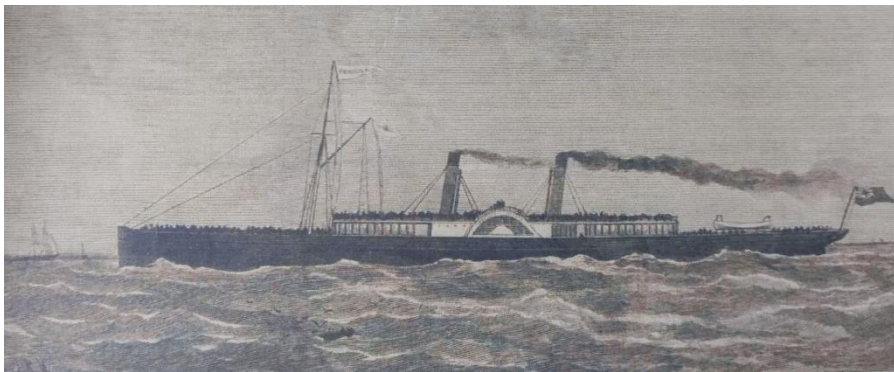
My 3x great grandparents were James (K)NOBBS, a shoemaker from Norwich, Norfolk, and Phoebe (née GERMAN/JERMIN) from Fouldon, Norfolk. They had three children who were baptised in Norwich - Caroline Sharman/Germany NOBBS (1825), Matilda NOBBS (1822) and Henry NOBBS (1829). There is no record of a marriage of James and Phoebe until 1834, at Heigham, Norwich. (It may be that they were non-conformist, a lead to follow up in due course). Henry died in infancy. By 1840, the family had moved to New Buildings, Fox & Nott Court, St Sepulchre area of West London where their third daughter, my great grandmother Henrietta Harriet KNOBBS was born in 1840.

Caroline married Thomas John BARRINGTON in 1845 while Henrietta married my great grandfather James Thomas SUTTON in 1860. Matilda married James GULLIFER, a carman, on 20 May 1849 at St Sepulchre, London. Over the years, they had 10 children – 4 of whom died in infancy. The others were, James Knobbs, Charles, Henry, Alfred, and two daughters, Alice Phoebe and Mary Ann. The family lived at various addresses – in 1851 at 4 Middlesex Passage, St Bartholomew, and in 1861 at 2 New Buildings, St Sepulchre. By 1871, the family was living at 11 White Horse Alley, St Sepulchre, James was noted as being an iron-founders labourer. Sadly, Matilda's husband was admitted to City Road workhouse, St Luke's in June 1874 and died there on 3 September 1874 of phthisis. Then, in 1878, her sister Caroline died.

The Cow Cross Mission was a temperance mission hall, said to be in White Horse Alley, off Cow Cross Street. There are references to 'Mr Catlins Cow Cross Mission' and of a society he founded called 'The Cow Cross Mission Assisted Passages Canadian Emigration Society' in the 1870s. Linked to this was Miss Susannah LAW, of Charterhouse Street who was said to be 'a benevolent and excellent lady' who formed a Bible Class for elderly females, which she personally superintended. The classes were held at the Friends



Meeting House, St John Street every week and were always well attended. Susannah LAW had promised to take the members of her class on a trip on the river – at her own expense. It had been planned for 4 September, but as Monday the 3rd was such fine day, she informed ladies that the trip was to take place that day. It was to be along the River Thames to Gravesend and Rosherville Gardens. The exact number of ladies of the group (generally aged between 45 and 65) is uncertain, but probably about 50. Miss LAW and her sister Jane were also going on the trip. The ship that they were to go on was the paddle steamer, *Princess Alice*. Originally built in 1865 at Greenock, it was owned by the London Steamboat Company Ltd. The captain was William GRINSTEAD.



The *Princess Alice*

On 3 September 1878, the *Princess Alice* set out from Swan Pier near London Bridge, headed to Sheerness via Gravesend and Rosherville Gardens. After a day out, the boat was returning home and it was overcrowded. It was licensed to hold 936 passengers on ‘smooth sailing’ but only 486 on open water beyond Gravesend. It is not clear how many were aboard but numbers varied from 500 upwards. It was about 7.40 in the evening and the ship was at Tripcock Point, the approach to Gallions Reach, a mile below Woolwich Arsenal. Here, the river was about half a mile wide, near the Beckton Gas Works, and an area where sewage was dumped into the river. Approaching, was an iron-built collier ship called the *Bywell Castle* which had set out from Millwall dock. It was empty and returning to Newcastle, its Captain was Thomas HARRISON. The *Bywell Castle* struck the *Princess Alice* just in front of the paddle box. Within minutes, the paddleboat had broken in two and its passengers were thrown into the river. Very few people could swim,

and many people (especially the women) were hampered by their clothing. Due to the proximity of the sewage outlet, the water was very contaminated. Over the following days, many bodies were washed up on both sides of the Thames.

Despite the efforts of many, only a small number survived the disaster. Bodies were brought ashore to various mortuaries and over the following days, a system was organised to aid the sorrowing families to identify their loved ones. Newspapers ran lists of missing people sought by family and friends, and descriptions of unidentified bodies. Local inquests were held in the areas where bodies washed up to enable them to be buried, but the main inquest was held at Woolwich by the Coroner, C J CARRTAR. This was the inquest to deal with cause of death.



A map from the *Illustrated London News* of 14 September 1878 showing the site of the disaster.

Of the group of ladies from the Cow Cross Mission who were said to be on the Princess Alice initially it was thought only two adults survived. Both

Susannah LAW and her sister Jane had perished. As for Matilda GULLIFER her body was found washed up from the river off Blackfriars on 3 September 1878. According to a newspaper report of the inquest held at Poplar, it states that ‘after each body had been identified on oath’ ...

*“With the exception of Mrs Gulliver and Edward Kean, the death was due, Dr Giles stated to be drowning. With regard to the two deaths mentioned, Dr Giles stated that they were, in his opinion, occasioned before immersion through being crushed”*

Another report dealt with the witness and identification of Matilda’s body – *“Mary Ann GULLIVER, a child about 10 years identified the body of Matilda GULLIVER as being her mother, the widow of a carman, of 11 White Horse Alley, Cow Cross. Witness identified deceased on Sunday, in the Poplar Mortuary. Her mother left home on the previous Tuesday to go to Rosherville Gardens”*

Matilda’s death certificate was issued after the inquest on 16 September 1878 and stated – *“Found on the Rover Thames off Blackfriars, aged 56, widow of James GULLIFER, a carman. Cause of death – Violent drowning through collision of two steamers”*

Later it was noted others of the party survived. Those who survived were two children of Mrs Eliza HAIST, Jane GREEN (a servant), Mrs Martha CORFIELD (aged 80) and a Mrs Ma(r)y BRENT who said she owed her life to the buoyancy of her alpaca dress and petticoat. A service was held at the Mission Hall, where a list of those who died was read out.

The remains of the *Princess Alice* were moved from the river from where she had sunk. The inquest into the matter of blame went on for some days, with numerous statements and testimonies given by both experts and witnesses. Reading the newspapers of the time will give full details of the inquest statements. There was a great deal of debate about the ‘Rules of the River’ and what lights were visible prior to the collision. The Board of Trade Enquiry concluded that the *Princess Alice* had swung across the bows of the *Bywell Castle*, was not properly manned and had too many passengers aboard. The coroner’s inquest concluded that there was fault on both sides, and it was difficult to apportion blame, as Captain GRINSTEAD had died in the collision, and there was only testimony from the captain of the *Bywell Castle* and his pilot. The *Princess Alice* was overloaded and there were insufficient lifeboats etc for the numbers on board. In the end, no criminal

# THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS



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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1878.

WITH TWO SUPPLEMENTS IN EVERY ISSUE SIXPENCE



charges were brought against anyone. As there were no passenger lists, the exact number of people who died is unknown, but is believed to be over 500. Thankfully, there are now stricter safety regulations regarding boats etc on the River Thames.

The *Bywell Castle* sank with all hands in the Bay of Biscay in 1883. There is a memorial at Woolwich Old Cemetery for 120 of the victims of the disaster. The Coroner, Mr CARTTAR, who was not a well man during the trial, died in March 1880.

And Matilda's family? Three of the sons had already married, with families of their own. Work is in progress to find out what happened to the two girls (Mary Ann and Alice Phoebe) and the 4th son Alfred.

(As a postscript, living next door to Matilda on the 1871 Census, at No 12 White Horse Alley, was her sister and family - my great grandparents Henrietta Harriet and James Thomas SUTTON. With them was my grandfather, James William, aged 10 at the time of the disaster - the same age as his cousin Mary Ann GULLIFER. One wonders how the events affected both children.)

#### Sources:

British Newspaper Archive website (Particularly the *Illustrated London News*)

Find My Past.co.uk

Ancestry.co.uk

GRO certificates of births, marriages and deaths.

*The Princess Alice Disaster* by Joan Lock (Published by Hale Books)



Gresham College has a programme of free public lectures which mainly take place at their premises, Barnard's Inn Hall, Holborn, EC1N 2HH.

Whilst the subjects are not all historical, there are some that definitely may be of interest to genealogists, for example, *Tuberculosis, a Cultural History* by Professor Joanne Bourke on Thursday 6 October or *London's Air: The 70th Anniversary of the Great London Smog* by Environmental Health Professor Ian Mudway on Monday 5 December, both at 6pm at Barnard's Inn Hall. You can also register to see any of these talks online. You can see what is coming up and do this here: <https://www.gresham.ac.uk/>

## **SERENDIPITY IN NORFOLK**

By Dennis Galvin, Member No. 1046

It is one of those things that happen if you work in the legal business, I was dealing with a case at Bow Court when the judge announced an adjournment for two hours, so I returned to my car to have a read and noticed I had a pamphlet regarding a new local family history society in East London had just been formed, it had the name and address of the new chairman so I decided I had enough time to drive down to his house in Ilford and find out more.

Fred FILBY welcomed me in - indeed he was having a telephone conversation on family history business when I called. We had a good chat and I noted how proud he was of his name - Filby is a village in Norfolk, so you can't do much better than that! When I left Fred he pressed a membership form for the East of London FHS into my hand, however, as I had just moved house it was about a year later before I joined the society in early 1980s.

Now moving on a bit, I feel most would agree we all start by researching the male side of our family history first-so this I did, when time permitting. I did quite well and indeed found myself in Hertfordshire and joined that county society. However, I think it must have been about 15 years later before I got around to the distaff side of my family tree. After a lot of hard work I finally managed to trace my maternal grandmother's birth name STOUT and her tree back to Norfolk. I visited Norwich Archives and found her great grandfather but under very sad circumstances in the Stokesby, Norfolk burial register:

Maria daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth STOUT (late MARCH), spinster, buried 25 June 1787.

Elizabeth STOUT wife of Thomas STOUT (late MARCH), buried 4 August 1787.

Susanna daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth STOUT (late MARCH), spinster, buried age 5 years, 12 August 1787.

So something terrible, perhaps cholera, typhoid etc etc was doing its devastating awful rounds certainly in north Norfolk. However, I know that Fred Filby (R.I.P) would have been pleased to know-when I met him on that day as Filby and Stokesby villages are almost next door to each other!



My 3x great grandfather (Widower) moved not far away and married my 3x great grandmother Jane COSSEY, spinster, at another Norfolk village called Hassingham on 14 August 1789. They had 10 issue including two who were christened at home. After many years and possibly due to old age they moved to a much larger village called Upton where other family were the local farriers.



Florence FERRY (née STOUT),  
grandmother of the author,  
photo taken c1938 at Southend-on-Sea,

Some years later my wife and I were on holiday in Suffolk with the local ramblers, so when it was time to leave for home I decided to make a visit to Upton, Norfolk, which was quite astonishing! As we drove into the village there was a gent cleaning his car which was half in and half out of the old village farriers. I spoke to the gent and said I was doing some family history so he immediately said what name are you researching I said STOUT, he was really stunned and confirmed his garage was once the old farriers and he lived in the almost - attached cottage! We were invited in and had tea and biscuits! -

astonishingly on the coffee table was a nice red and gold folder in which they were currently doing all the history of the village, which of course included my kin buried in the large churchyard. I since sent him and his wife photos of my grandmother and other information for their folder.

**SERENDIPITY!!**

## HEIRLOOMS IN THE ATTIC: Part 2

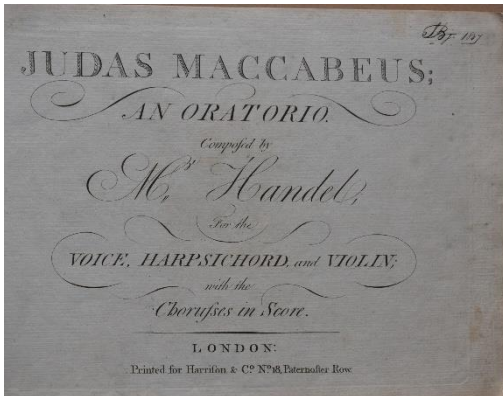
By Madeline Seviour, Member No.7945

I wrote previously in *Metropolitan* about two large scrapbooks which had possibly belonged to my grandfather. There is some doubt about how they came into his hands, one theory being that they were rescued from a skip when a house was being demolished.

A further discovery was made when my parents' house needed a new roof. My brother undertook the task of clearing decades of 'stuff' from the loft. A large suitcase proved interesting, containing scores of three works by Handel.

The first item was a large, hard-backed volume – about the size of a broadsheet newspaper – containing *Messiah* and *Acis and Galatea*, editions dated 1835 – not the full orchestral score but a reduction showing the vocal parts with organ accompaniment. This volume is extremely heavy – it wouldn't be possible for a singer to hold it, so it must have been meant for conductor or organist.

The other, *Judas Maccabeus*, is undated but much older. It too is a reduction of the full score – the violin and harpsichord replacing the orchestra. The harpsichord part is a 'figured bass' – composers didn't bother to write out a full part, just the bass line for the left hand with numbers beneath, indicating the chord the harpsichordist should play. This was normal practice until around the end of the 18th century.



Front page of *Judas Maccabeus*.

*Messiah* and I found an edition with an identical title page, but with a date,



1784. I wonder if these editions were published in connection with the big Handel Festival held in London in 1784, to celebrate the centenary of the composer's birth – actually a year early as he was born in 1685!

But where did these scores come from? Although my father was very fond of music I have found no evidence of musicians in his side of the family. On the other hand my mother's family is musical – my grandmother was a fine amateur pianist and singer, and one of my aunts might have been a professional violinist if the Second World War hadn't prevented her going to college.

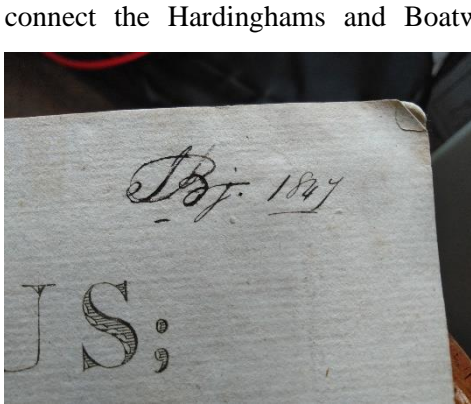
The *Messiah/Acis* volume has a bookplate with the words 'W. A. HARDINGHAM, Yarmouth'. Intriguing, as one branch of my mother's family, the BOATWRIGHTs, are from Great Yarmouth, so I started my research in that area. The bookplate in *Judas Maccabeus* is that of 'Robt BUTCHER', but the name W. HARDINGHAM is scrawled in pencil above it. On the title page is a monogram, with the date 1847. Despite July's fascinating Zoom talk on old handwriting, I can't make out what it is. Obviously a large 'B', but the preceding letter might be an 'I'; it looks as if the 'B' is followed by a lower case 'J'.



Bookplate from *Judas Maccabeus*.

Could it be B for BUTCHER or B for BOATWRIGHT? The initial letter certainly isn't 'R'. In 1847 my 3x great grandfather James BOATWRIGHT was living in Great Yarmouth and would have been 46 years old. His son, also James, would have been 23. But it doesn't look like a 'J' either.

I set about researching HARDINGHAM in Great Yarmouth, with limited success. I found William HARDINGHAM, who was born around 1823, in the 1841 and 1851 censuses – he was a clerk in a silk manufactory. He had a son, also William, born in 1848. Not a great deal to go on, and nothing to



connect the Hardinghams and Boatwrights, or the Hardinghams with musicians. Censuses from 1861 onwards produce an increasing number of results for William – or W – HARDINGHAM in Norfolk, most of whom are described as ‘ag lab’. There is no reason why an ag lab shouldn’t be a Handel fan – in the 19th century large numbers of labourers in industrial cities were joining the newly instituted choral societies.

Monogram from *Judas Maccabeus*.

My research was becoming too speculative. I tried searching Yarmouth, Isle of Wight, but no results there or in the whole of Hampshire. Mr Hardingham and Mr Butcher remain a mystery. I decided that it was time to admit defeat and concentrate on matters closer to home, namely an elusive great grandmother.

Note: Could the monogram be J B j., standing for James BOATWRIGHT junior?



## ***METROPOLITAN* BACK COPIES**

Did you know that *Metropolitan* journals back to July 2006 have now been added to the Members’ Area of our website and are available to download?

Journals from October 2006 to date have been indexed for personal names and the authors, titles and main subjects noted too, so now it is easy to search for family interests and view the results.

Please note that the yellow pages of Members’ Interests have been deleted as they contain the names, addresses and emails of both past and present members.

## MIDDLE NAMES

By Rod Berrieman, Member No.7729

Tony Allen's comments on middle names and their value to family historians prompted me to look again at some of my own ancestors. My researches have often found middle names useful but for one family the middle name, though often helpful in the way Tony describes, became at other times a source of confusion.

My grandmother was Florence Rosetta NEWMAN-GREEN in some records and Florence Rosetta Newman GREEN in others. Her father's death in the Great War is commemorated at Thiepval as NEWMAN-GREEN but as GREEN elsewhere. The source of the Newman element goes back to the 25 May 1833, when Elizabeth LAMBORN, my 3g-grandmother, married Josiah NEWMAN at Woodstock, Oxfordshire. Incidentally, I chanced on this marriage in the indexes at Oxford Library when looking up a completely unconnected, but alphabetically close, NEALE family.

I have not been able to identify Josiah in any later record but in 1841 Elizth. NEWMAN (25) was living with Jas. (or Jos.) NEWMAN (7) and Charlot (sic) LAMBORN (25) in Brown Street, Marylebone. By 1843 she had partnered Samuel GREEN, a tailor from Much Hadham, Herts. I haven't found what happened to Jos./Jas., only that he was not with Elizabeth in 1851. From 1843 to 1854 Elizabeth and Samuel registered six children in Marylebone RD as GREEN, without middle names: Alfred (d.1844?), George, Henry, William (d.1851), Stephen and Edward. George's mother's maiden name was given as NEWMAN, but the other registrations showed LAMBORN (misspelt LUMBORN in William's case).

The family remained as GREEN in the censuses of 1851 and 61. In 1871, I've found only Samuel and Elizabeth GREEN for certain. From the mid-1870s complications set in. Edward Newman GREEN married Fanny BEST in 1876. Three years later, Stephen NEWMAN married Caroline Emma KEEP, witnessed by Edward GREEN, presumably his brother even though the signature of 1876 is a poor match. Edward appears in Paddington and Marylebone mostly as Edward GREEN from then on but Stephen moves to Lewisham and remains Stephen NEWMAN. It doesn't help that there was a quite unrelated Edward Newman GREEN, born in Ely RD in 1904, who lived in the Harrow Road area.

By 1881, Samuel had apparently died. His 'widow' Elizabeth with her son Stephen, his new wife and their daughter Alice, all four listed as NEWMAN, are at John Street West, Marylebone.

In 1884, Henry Newman GREEN married Rosetta FISHER in Leatherhead. They lived in Wandsworth and Richmond before moving to the Stonebridge area of Willesden about 1895. Henry appears as Henry NEWMAN in 1891 and in a 1906 Street Directory, but Henry Newman GREEN otherwise. Their eight children all carried Newman as a third forename but Annie Mabel, born 1891, reached the old fiche birth indexes (and hence FreeBMD) as NEWMAN-GREEN. She was actually double indexed, appearing also as Annie Mabel N. GREEN. The online GRO index has her in one entry only: Annie Mabel GREEN, so we have the same event indexed in three different ways!

In the period 1906-1959 there are just ten NEWMAN-GREEN bmd entries in the old indexes, all duplicated by a GREEN entry with Newman (or just N.) as a forename. Three of these are covered by single entries in the GRO online indexes, one as GREEN, without the forename Newman, and two as NEWMAN-GREEN.

Henry's family lived in the Stonebridge area at least until the 1960s, with their recorded names showing the same variety as above, but I think their earlier name-changing history is sufficient warning. Middle names are useful but can sometimes be a minefield. From another family, not Londoners, I'll give a rather unusual example of middle name misunderstandings. Thomas ATHER was born in Berkhamsted RD in 1854. His mother subsequently married George GOFF and moved to Beaconsfield. Thomas subsequently went by GOFF, sometimes using the middle name Ather, but nine of his ten children were registered (in a variety of spellings) as ATHER, though they generally used GOFF with some use of the middle name Ather. This ambiguity was worsened when Thomas' second son, also Thomas married. The marriage will be found in 1902 in Wycombe RD indexed under ATHERGOFF!

Unusual middle names are usually references to family links, but I have found them based on famous people or even events. Elsie Pretoria Gertrude BARROW, born 1901, just as the South African War was ending, is an example. Another category refers to birthplace. My great-grandfather

George BERRIMAN, like his father and grandfather, was closely associated with Barnet Fair and travelling people. He must have been on the road in 1906 when his son, James Arlesey was born, presumably at Arlesey, Bedfordshire, for his birth was registered at Biggleswade. Here is a final example of an unusual middle name. Make of it what you will. Noah Ark SMITH's birth was registered at Leighton Buzzard in 1889.



## MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Each quarter, Members' Interests names are put onto our website (and on the Federation website) just before the journal is published.

If you would like to contact a member whose interests are listed in the journal, then please go to our website, click on Members Interests (in the list on the left), type in your interest name, click **Go** and then click the surname and then **Contact** and an email will pop up which will allow you to send a message to that member.

Our members' interest names are put on the Family History Federation website: [www.familyhistoryfederation.com](http://www.familyhistoryfederation.com) at the same time. Several family history societies contribute to this database so the names reach a much wider audience.

### NEXT COPY DATE

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

Articles, letters, requests and comment should be sent to the Editors.  
The Editors reserve the right to edit contributions.

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

### **New army and navy records online**

Recently added to Findmypast is The National Archives series WO 373, which comprises some 80,000 recommendations for military honours and awards for British Army personnel dated 1935-1990. This collection also contains details of some awards to members of the Royal Navy, Royal Marines and Royal Air Force and includes people mentioned in the Queen's honour lists. The recommendations were made for various reasons including, gallantry in the face of the enemy, 'meritorious service' and distinguished service.

Another 51,000 records have been added to the Britain, campaign, gallantry and long service collection on Findmypast. These additions cover recipients of: Long Service Good Conduct Medal, India General Service Medal (Army) 1852-53 and India General Service Medal (Navy) 1852-53. These records have been collated from multiple sources, including The National Archives and the British Library, but also from musters, pay lists, and other service records.

Over 19,000 records have been added to the collection of British Royal Navy and Royal Marines service and pension records on Findmypast. These include a shore list of men who joined the Royal Marines in 1810. The records reveal the rank and division of the seafaring servicemen, as well as the date they joined and any remarks made by their superiors.

### **London's habitual criminals**

The National Archive's MEPO 6 series contains the Metropolitan Police Criminal Record Office Habitual Criminal registers, which are dated from 1871-1959. Although registers were kept before this date, the Habitual Criminal Act 1869 provided for the maintenance of a single register of criminals, which was later restricted to those who had been convicted of a crime and who had been sent to prison for one month or more. Perhaps more interesting for family historians, the Act required the photographing of all convicted persons with a view to their identification. These images were published in the *Police Gazette* and circulated to all British police forces.

The list of 5,824 habitual drunkards from the period 1903-1914, which would have been circulated weekly to licensed persons and secretaries of clubs, has now been digitised and can be found on Findmypast in their England & Wales Crime, Prisons & Punishment record set.

## **Adoption records**

The Adoption Search Reunion website was created to be the first port of call for anyone thinking about searching for, or making contact with, birth and adopted relatives or for those who are researching an adoption that took place in the UK. There is much information relating to helping those who have been adopted or whose child has been adopted, such as local agencies that offer support services, changes to legislation and more about the right to make or refuse contact.

Of particular interest to family historians on this website is an adoption records database. You can begin searching this unique database using information about a home (maternity, mother and baby, shelter etc), organisation or local authority involved in the birth or adoption, or a staff member who worked in one of these homes or organisations. The results show the most likely current holder of the adoption records, and include full contact details so that further enquiries can be made. Your starting point will depend on the information you have or remember about the adoption. There are some useful search tips for getting the best out of the database which is worth reading before you start. More information is being added to this site all the time so do keep checking for news and developments. You can find this site here: [www.adoptionsearchreunion.org.uk](http://www.adoptionsearchreunion.org.uk)

## **Locating London's Past**

This website allows you to search a wide body of digital resources relating to early modern and eighteenth-century London and to map the results on to a fully GIS (geographic information system) compliant version of John Rocque's original 1746 map. This map has been matched to the first accurate map of London, which is the Ordnance Survey 1st Edition, 1863-1880. This means you will be able to see precisely where an ancestor lived, worked and so on.

Historical datasets have been added which can all be searched and mapped on this site. These include mortality and plague details from 1665, the Hearth Tax for 1666, accounts of trials from the Old Bailey, records of clay tobacco pipes and glass tableware from Museum of London archaeological sites, parish population figures from the Bills of Mortality, Marriage Duty assessments and information from the 1801 census. To find out more about these datasets or to look for information on a person, visit the website: <https://www.locatinglondon.org/index.html>

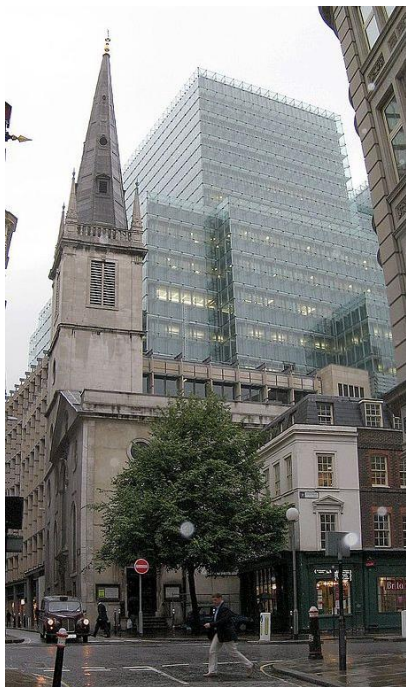


## ‘ISN’T IT A BLOOMIN’ SHAME....’

By Dawn Adams, Member No. 6025

Current news stories sometimes resonate with family history. Here are two tales from different sides of my parents’ families.

On Sunday 8 September 1907 a baby was baptised at St Margaret Pattens Church in Rood Lane in the City of London. Unremarkable? The previous baptism had been on 6 January; the next was not until 13 March 1908. In this tiny City parish, covering only a few streets, virtually the only residents were the caretakers of offices.



St Margaret Patterns Church,  
Rood Lane.

The baby was Doris Annie Ward TINLEY; according to the Register, her parents were Bertha Annie and George TINLEY, Draper’s Assistant, of 43 Eastcheap. Conducting the baptism was the rector, Rev. St BS SLADEN, installed only that June, and residing in Bloomsbury, away from the City. St Margaret Pattens is almost on the corner of Rood Lane and Eastcheap, separated only by a shop, whose address is 43 Eastcheap (occupied in 1910 by a maker of barometers). It is my understanding that a Church of England priest could not refuse baptism when asked. (Revd. Sladen continued as a very

attentive rector at St Margaret Pattens, having the church’s interior restored to a plainer, Georgian style, sweeping away the High Church fittings of his predecessor.)

The birth of Doris Annie Ward TINLEY was registered in Ipswich in the third quarter of 1907, with no mother’s maiden name. And though I do not have the birth certificate, I am sure of the law stating that births must be registered in the District of birth, within six weeks of the event.



Moving forward to the 1911 census, at 13 Rood Lane lived Edwin Petts WARD, a housekeeper of offices, aged 36, birthplace 'unknown', his wife Annie aged 35, born in Kingston, Surrey and their daughter, Doris Annie WARD aged 3, born in Ipswich. They had been married, they said, for 4 years and had one child, who was still alive. Except that they had been married for over 11 years. Annie TINLEY married Edwin Petts WARD in the Edmonton District in the third quarter of 1899. In 1901 Edwin had been working as a warehouseman for a paper company and living with his wife Annie, as visitors, in Gothic Villas, Chase Side, Enfield. His birthplace was then given, correctly, as Enfield. So the 1911 census conveys a picture of a couple who had a child very close to the date of their marriage, and omits the link to Enfield.

The *Evening Star* published in Ipswich on 26 February 1907 has an item referring to Bertha TINLEY, aged 20, of 31 Beck Street, reported missing by her family, having last been seen heading for the railway station. The next evening's edition updates the story: Bertha has written to her parents from London, where she is staying with an aunt.

Bertha's father was Frederick TINLEY, born in Woodbridge, Suffolk in 1859, a domestic gardener, the son of John TINLEY, a tailor, and Charlotte, formerly WATLING. Annie TINLEY, Edwin Petts WARD's wife, was Frederick's youngest sister, born at the beginning of 1870, in Kingston, Surrey. I have no information on why she was born so far from Suffolk – her family were all together in Ipswich for the 1871 census. Annie's birth was barely a year before the death of her father in the summer of 1871 (followed swiftly by her mother's remarriage, to a gardener). So Annie was Bertha's aunt in London.

The 1921 census shows baby Doris's birth month as July 1907. Is it too fanciful to join some dots? My guess is that, early in 1907, Bertha found she was 'in trouble'. She ran to her aunt. Her aunt acted as go-between with Bertha's parents: being childless herself, she would take the baby. Thus Doris's full name included Annie's surname, WARD. In September, Bertha brought Doris to London; she was baptised in Annie's local church, thereafter to be Annie's child. Bertha returned to Ipswich, and married late in 1909; Doris stayed with Annie and Edwin until her own marriage.

The second story has a similar scenario but with a different outcome. I have suppressed the names, though the young mother is also a distant cousin of mine. In Dovercourt, Essex, in June 1924, a 19 year old waitress, unmarried and living with her parents, had a baby. It came to light when her father found a newborn's body in a box in the attic. Her father was a customs officer, originally from London; he reported the events to the authorities. The girl was prosecuted, for concealing a birth (though not for infanticide, as the doctor could not conclusively say that the child had 'had a legal existence'). Her father was a witness in court. Having entered a guilty plea, she was convicted but bound over, rather than being sent to prison. Her family remained in Dovercourt, but she herself married in Warwickshire in 1930, and went on to have other children.

The first story demonstrates that, even when we look at original parish registers and censuses, what we see may not reflect what was going on – assuming my interpretation is correct. And in both cases, surprises may pop up when we search the newspapers for a relatively unusual surname in a defined location. But both may be reflected on in the light of 21st century events.



## HAVE YOU RENEWED?

The Society's year ends on 30 September 2022 and it is now time to renew your subscription.

**\* See page 146 for details of the Society's new bank account \***

Thank you to all those members who have already done so. This is much appreciated as it helps to spread the workload for Sylv, our Membership Secretary.

The renewal form was in the centre of the June issue of *Metropolitan* and it is also available to download from the website, as are links to paying by bank transfer or via Parish Chest. These can be found here:

<https://www.lwmfhs.org.uk/membership>

## MEMBERS' INTERESTS

The research interests listed here were submitted by members between June and August 2022.

Members' interests are put onto the website just before the journal is published. If you would like to contact a member whose interests are listed below, please go to our website, click on Members Interests (in the list on the left), type in your interest name, click **Go** and then click the surname and then **Contact** and an email will pop up which will allow you to send a message to that member.

Interests shown are from members: 8350; 8358; 8360

<b>Name</b>	<b>Period</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Parish / Area</b>	<b>Mem.No.</b>
<b>AYRES</b>	1800-1860	MDX	Bethnal Green, Shoreditch	8358
<b>BROWN</b>	1893-2010	SSX	Any	8360
<b>BROWN</b>	1800-1900	MDX	Westminster, St Clement Danes	8350
<b>COOMBES</b>	1894-1958	SSX	Any	8360
<b>CUNNINGHAM</b>	1821-1852	MDX	St Giles in the Fields	8358
<b>CUNNINGHAM</b>	1850-1890	MDX	Shoreditch	8358
<b>DOWSETT</b>	1912-2004	SSX	Any	8360
<b>FENN</b>	1780-1890	MDX	Bethnal Green	8358
<b>FOSS</b>	1903-2006	SSX	Any	8360
<b>HODGE</b>	1892-1981	SSX	St Leonards	8360
<b>HUMPHRYS</b>	1800-1900	LND	St Brides	8350
<b>HUMPHREYS</b>	1800-1900	LND	St Brides	8350
<b>HUMPHRIES</b>	1800-1900	LND	St Brides	8350
<b>LLOYD</b>	1838-1919	SSX	Buxted/Ukfield	8360
<b>MAYO</b>	1892-1969	SSX	Any	8360
<b>MILLINER</b>	1800-1900	LND	St Brides	8350
<b>PARKER</b>	1900-1985	SSX	Any	8360
<b>PHELPS</b>	1800-1900	MDX	Westminster, St Clement Danes	8350
<b>PHELPS</b>	1800-1900	MDX	St Giles in the Fields	8350
<b>QUICK</b>	1775-1850	MDX	St Giles, Finsbury	8358
<b>ROUGH</b>	1872-1934	SSX	Any	8360
<b>SHORT</b>	1830-1840	MDX	Clerkenwell	8358
<b>SILCOCK</b>	1800-1850	SRV	Bermondsey	8358
<b>SILCOCK</b>	1850-1875	MDX	Clerkenwell	8358
<b>SNELLING</b>	1904-1964	SSX	Any	8360
<b>WASE</b>	1800-1840	MDX	Bethnal Green	8358

## SPECIAL INTERESTS

8358 Printers/Compositors in 1820s

## NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the new members, numbers 8357-8365 who have joined the Society over the past few months and wish them well with their research.

## OBITUARIES

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

**Miss Joyce Horner** (Membership number 1286) who died on 26 May 2022.  
**Mr Colin Gibbens** (Membership number 1650)



## LWMFHS PUBLICATIONS

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

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 gravestones, please contact our Projects Co-ordinator, Elaine Tyler by email at: [projects@lwmfhs.org.uk](mailto: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.

<b>Booklet</b>	<b>UK</b>	<b>Europe</b>	<b>Rest world</b>
<b>Parish Guides</b>			
Clerkenwell	£7.85	£9.65	£10.60
East Barnet	£7.85	£9.65	£10.60
Edmonton	£8.55	£10.75	£13.30
Enfield	£7.85	£9.65	£10.60
Finchley	£7.85	£9.65	£10.60
Greenford and Perivale	£7.85	£9.65	£10.60
Harefield	£7.85	£9.65	£10.60
Hampstead	£7.85	£9.65	£10.60
Hendon	£7.85	£9.65	£10.60
Holborn	£8.55	£10.75	£13.30
Hornsey *New*	£8.55	£10.75	£13.30
Islington	£8.55	£10.75	£13.30
Kingsbury	£7.85	£9.65	£10.60
Northolt *New*	£7.85	£9.65	£10.60
Paddington	£7.85	£9.65	£10.60
Pinner	£7.85	£9.65	£10.60
Ruislip	£7.85	£9.65	£10.60
St Anne Soho	£7.85	£9.65	£10.60
St Clement Danes	£7.85	£9.65	£10.60
St George Hanover Square	£7.85	£9.65	£10.60
St Giles-in-the-Fields	£8.55	£10.75	£13.30
St James Piccadilly	£7.85	£9.65	£10.60
St Margaret & St John	£7.85	£9.65	£10.60
St Martin-in-the-Fields	£8.55	£10.75	£13.30
St Marylebone	£8.55	£10.75	£13.30
St Pancras	£8.55	£10.75	£13.30
South Mimms	£7.85	£9.65	£10.60
Stanmore	£7.85	£9.65	£10.60
Tottenham	£7.85	£9.65	£10.60
Totteridge	£7.85	£9.65	£10.60
Willesden	£7.85	£9.65	£10.60

<b>Booklet</b>	<b>UK</b>	<b>Europe</b>	<b>Rest world</b>
<b>Monumental Inscriptions</b>			
Chipping Barnet St John the Baptist	£8.55	£10.75	£13.30
East Barnet St Mary the Virgin	£8.55	£10.75	£13.30
Hornsey St Mary	£8.55	£10.75	£13.30
Monken Hadley St Mary the Virgin	£8.55	£10.75	£13.30
St James Hampstead Road	£8.55	£10.75	£13.30
<b>Census Guides</b>			
Streets of the City of London	£7.85	£9.65	£10.60
Streets of Westminster	£7.85	£9.65	£10.60

There are several ways to acquire these booklets:

1. They can be purchased for £6 each plus postage and packing online from GenFair at: <https://www.genfair.co.uk/> or from the Parish Chest at <https://www.pariahchest.com/home.php>. Post and packing costs vary depending on the weight of the booklet and the destination, as shown here. Of course, if you want more than one booklet the postage will be different but these websites will work it out for you.

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

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



## INVESTIGATING AN OLD POSTCARD

By Elizabeth Burling, Member No. 4992

We had an interesting meeting at our Barnet Branch in June, when Terence Atkins of Barnet Museum gave us a talk about old postcards. Quite a few of the members attending had brought old postcards of their own to show and it occurred to me that these might warrant a larger audience! I'm lucky enough to have my grandma's collection. It seems she asked friends to post her a card whenever they went away, according to some of the backs I have read. I haven't yet properly looked at them all but am really looking forward to doing this when I have more time. Meanwhile, here is one I pulled out from her postcards.



This is the front. It shows a picture of a train with a good head of steam and underneath is written: 'The Silver Jubilee', Britain's First Streamline Train. The Silver Jubilee travelled between London and Newcastle taking 4 hours with an average speed of over 67 miles per hour. A first class ticket cost 5 shillings (25p) whilst you could travel third class for a mere 3 shillings (15p). The train was named for the Silver Jubilee of King George V and was the subject of an iconic London & North Eastern Railway (LNER) poster which can be seen in the collection of the Science Museum online. The poster tells

us that this service started on 30 September 1935. This date could be handy if I could not read the postmark.

However, the postmark quite clearly says 3.30pm, 7 July 1938. The card was franked at Walthamstow and the address it was going to was also in Walthamstow. It is addressed to Mr and Mrs O'DONOGHUE of 74 Lansdowne Road and the writer has named them as Nellie and Terry. Nellie is my grandma (Ellen Mary née HAYNES) and Terry my grandad (Terence Frederick O'DONOGHUE) and this was the address of her parents, Edmund Richard HAYNES and Alice Sophia, née WILLEY.

Edmund and Alice were living in West Ham in the 1911 census returns but were at 74 Lansdowne Road by 1921. Nellie married from there and she and Terry then lived with her parents until they all moved to Barnet just before the outbreak of war in 1939. My father was born in Lansdowne Road in 1929 and wrote this description of the house for me in 1999:

'The house was rented by my mother's parents. Mr BROOKS was the rent collector and affected any necessary repairs. It was a terraced house with a loft I was told that ran the length of the street or near enough, convenient for rats. The people next door (NIBBLETT) had a complicated means of catching and dispatching them. A few doors away the road bent slightly and had another name – it is now St Barnabas Road but then it wasn't. In the slight bend was a builder's yard and a small kipper-curing establishment.

My grandparents used the bay-windowed ground floor front room as their bedroom. I can remember my Grandma lying in bed there white as a sheet, in a coma and apparently dying of gall-bladder trouble. Without any surgery she recovered to outlive her healthy husband.

The front door, within a miniscule front garden with a privet hedge and a cast-iron gate, opened into a small hall. The stairs up were immediately in front of you with the bedroom on the right. If you shimmied round the foot of the stairs you arrived at their living room, opening on to the back garden through a short porch with the coal hole on the right and the WC on the left. Was there another back room? I forget. The garden was laid out with a central path, two long beds beside it, cross paths at each end leading to a path on each side parallel to the central one, and beyond them another long bed on each side. The flowerbeds were prevented from spilling onto the paths by



strips of wood, secured by wooden pegs hammered into the ground. There was a plum tree at the end of the garden which produced fascinating lumps of gum but as far as I remember no plums. The soil was like black dust. Everything was on a rather small scale with the houses in the next road not very far away – when I had that awful disease whooping cough, someone from that road came round to complain of the noise of my fighting for breath.



The doors of 76 and 74 Lansdowne Road are in the centre of this picture, which came from Google Street View.

There was a platform near the top of the stairs off which opened a small bedroom – mine. Then the stairs turned back towards the front of the house. Off the landing opened a larger back bedroom – my parents – and the largest bedroom running the whole width of the house and used by my parent as our living room. As far as I recall there was no running water upstairs; I used to be bathed in a galvanized ‘tin’ bath in front of the coal-fired kitchen in my grandparents’ living room. I cannot remember where my mother cooked.’

The 1930s were tough times for many and families often had to cram in together like this. Anyway – back to the postcard! The message is from Ted, of 17 Bateman Road, who is expecting Nellie and Terry to visit him. Nellie had a brother Ted (actually Edmund John) and it certainly could be him. There is a Bateman Road in Chingford, about 4 miles away, and the family did have links to that area but I have never found Ted living there. Indeed, Ted was living in Brentford, Middlesex when he married Bessy Georgina FISHER in 1922 until at least 1934 when their son was born. In 1939 the family were living nearby in Southall.

17 Bateman Rd

Thursday,

Dear Nellie - Jerry.

Expect you on Saturday  
- any weather. Had a  
phone call from Charlie  
and he is coming for the day.  
He is not sure if Doris  
will come. Sincerely,

WATFORD  
ENGLAND  
SERIES  
THE PHOTO  
7 30 PM  
1951

BIBBIDGE HOUSE

Mrs Mrs O'Donoghue

74, Penatons Rd

Walthamston

5/17



So perhaps it is a different Ted who wrote the postcard. Looking at the 1939 Register on Findmypast, 17 Bateman Road is shown as empty, rather unhelpfully, but RUSSELL is written in in a different hand with '19.9.48 CCH' too – I've no idea what that could mean. A trawl through the electoral registers for 1920 on Findmypast did not help – number 17 seemed to be missing in the entries for Bateman Road, which were arranged by the occupier's name rather than address.

Ted wrote, 'had a phone call from Charlie'. Digitised phone books for the 1930s are on Ancestry but you cannot search these without a surname. Charlie had told Ted that he was 'not sure if Doris will come'. Could she be his wife? Or maybe his sister? Looking in grandma's Birthday Book there was a Doris Bond, whose birthday was the 29 December but that didn't really help and there were no Teds (apart from her brother) or Charlies.

I had another look at the postcard collection and found a second postcard by Ted – the writing is identical. The picture is of the 'Bathing Beach', Goodrington, Paignton and the card was postmarked on 29 August 1935. Ted has written, 'Wednesday. Dear Nellie and Terry, Lovely place and caravan quite good. Plenty of sand and ideal bathing. Weather a bit mixed but sun prevailing so far. Joan thinks it's Heaven. Kindest regards, Betty and Ted.' A third card from Bideford (sent in 1954) adds no further personal details. Where to go from here? I'm fairly sure I have my grandma's address book somewhere...

I was inspired to research this postcard by our Barnet Branch talk and have thoroughly enjoyed finding out what I could about it. If you have an old postcard, why not send in a picture of it and have a look at how it fits into your family history?

#### **Sources:**

Ancestry UK

Findmypast

Google Street View

Science Museum collections: <https://collection.sciencemuseumgroup.org.uk/objects/co483996/poster-the-silver-jubilee-poster>



## WHAT IS WIKITREE?

By Neill Reed, Member No. 8310

WikiTree is a free, shared social networking genealogy website that allows users individually to research and contribute to their own personal family tree(s), while building and collaborating on a single worldwide family tree. So your tree(s), form part of the main tree so that each person is only on this main tree once. Wikitree is online here: <https://www.wikitree.com/>

WikiTree is all about collaboration so when you join WikiTree you agree to their Honour Code. This code is a pledge that community members make to each other and consists of nine main points. The first is that everybody collaborates, working together on shared ancestors. Accuracy is also important and members aim to improve the worldwide family tree and fix any mistakes. Mistakes are assumed to be unintentional and whilst these and misunderstandings are inevitable, it is important for everyone to be courteous to each other. Items that family members might not want public can be privacy-protected or personal information can be deleted. Copyrights are respected and members do not knowingly copy information that is owned by someone else and make sure any copyright information is clear on items posted online. Credit is given for research work done and sources are always cited so that conflicting information can be assessed accurately. Wikitree members are united in a mission to increase the world's common store of knowledge. They always respect copyrights and privacy but also keep information as free and open as possible.

As a genealogist, you have two roles, to gather and interpret information from the past and also to document the present. WikiTree understands this and therefore has different levels of profiles. If somebody is alive their profile is completely private unless you chose to share it.

When somebody has recently passed away you can choose to make their information partially viewable, so readers can see the written details but not the full dates of birth or death. The other type of partially public profile is for living people in the public eye, for instance, the Royal Family and some celebrities. As you can see from The Queen's profile her biography contains her complete date of birth as it is public information but at the top of the page the system just says born 1920s because she is living, if you move up to one

of her parent's profiles, it contains the complete date and place of birth and death.

If you have searched WikiTree and cannot find the person you are looking for, you can then choose to add the new person to WikiTree. Once added you will become the profile manager, who will be responsible for taking the lead. If you later find the person on WikiTree, you can then merge the two profiles. One exception to this is orphan profiles that may have been created by somebody who joined the tree and left or may have an interest in a specific area or event and create a profile for the people who were there to include them but have no specific interest or relationship to that person. If that person is of interest to you, you can adopt the profile if you want to.

There are many project groups on WikiTree which you can join, for example I am a member of the England Group, and I am the Team Leader for the Suffolk Group.

The first project I joined was the England Project, given that I live here and many of my ancestry lived here. When you join the England Project you take part in the Orphan Trail, you are allocated a 'Trail Blazer' or mentor who will help/guide you to use WikiTree correctly which help maintains the high standards on WikiTree. The first part of this OT1 involves initially improving between one and three (depending on your experience) orphaned profiles that are from the 1800s/1900s using census records and parish records. After this, you tackle profiles from the 1700s which I have completed. After completing OT1, you get your sticker to add to your profile and you can go on to work on OT2 (profiles from the 1600s then 1500s) which I have completed. After completing OT2, you get your sticker to add to your profile. Finally if you want to you can do OT3, which is pre 1500 profiles, which I have completed. I would recommend doing OT1 and OT2 it is a great experience and gives you a very good understanding of how to use WikiTree and how and where to research.

There are other types of projects, which will involve taking on specific roles, like:

Profile improvements

Connectors who work on connecting stray profiles (or groups of profiles) up to the main tree.

Not to mention Data Doctors who fix errors. Who hasn't had a moment at some point of their genealogical journey when they have accidentally added the wrong source or similar information!

You can also set up your own project (check first that the project has not been done before). This is the link to my project, which is work in progress.  
[https://www.wikitree.com/index.php?title=Space:Caister\\_lifeboat\\_Disaster\\_1901&public=1](https://www.wikitree.com/index.php?title=Space:Caister_lifeboat_Disaster_1901&public=1)

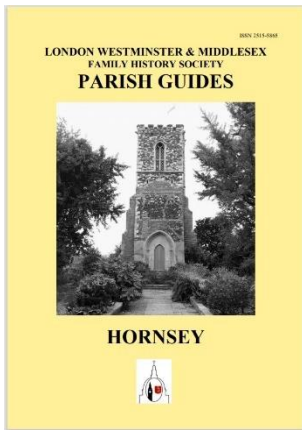
What sets WikiTree apart? There are an awful lot of genealogy websites and software programs available for genealogists. All of these programs and websites have their strengths and weaknesses depending on what you are looking for. But they all have one thing in common they are primarily a database and have the limitations of a database. This is where Wikitree shines. It has a limited database for the basic information like dates and places of birth, marriage and death, but then it gives you a wonderful Wiki style blank page for you to create the profile as you would like, having space to actually tell the stories that need to be told. It is true that many individuals are found in the basic BDM and census (in the correct era) records and not many places besides that, but then other individuals are to be found in the newspapers, mentioned in magazines and in inquests reports. WikiTree gives you the space to tell these stories.

As you may have come to realise reading this, although at its most basic level WikiTree is a website that you can use to build your family tree, it would be wrong to limit it to genealogists. It is also a great place for those with a passion for historical events to bring the story to life.

You do not need to be experienced to join WikiTree. In my case I was experienced so I have a whole family tree ready to go and be developed on the site, it will take me quite a while to do this as well. However, if you are completely new to the subject of genealogy and would like to get started I suggest this is the VERY BEST place to do that because there is a massive supportive community in place ready to help you. I can't speak for all the Project Teams but I know for a fact when someone joins the England Team they are given an appointed person (or Trailblazer to use the official term) to help them on their journey. What other application does that? This is why I felt the need to write a Wikitree Review.

## NEW PARISH GUIDES

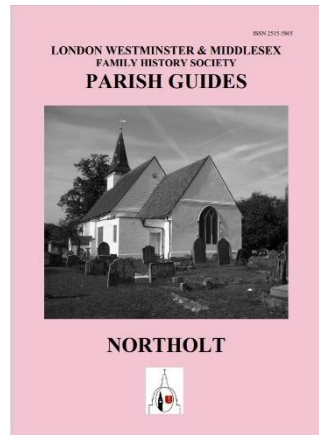
Our Parish Guide to Hornsey came out in July. The ancient parish of Hornsey formed part of the Finsbury division of the Ossulstone hundred of the county of Middlesex and is now in the London Borough of Haringey. It included the districts of Crouch End, Finsbury Park, Fortis Green, Harringay, Highgate, Hornsey, Manor House, Muswell Hill, Stroud Green and Turnpike Lane. Surrounding Hornsey are the Middlesex parishes of Friern Barnet, Edmonton, Tottenham, Stoke Newington, Islington, St Pancras and Finchley – the map on our website gives a really clear view of our area. You can see it here: <https://www.lwmfhs.org.uk/images/stories/Middx.pdf>



Apart from the vital records of the various religious denominations, examples of subjects covered in this booklet are local societies (whose collections can greatly help the researcher), local newspapers including which titles were active at which particular dates, as well as a useful lists of the streets of the ancient parish of Hornsey as they appeared in the 1851 census returns. Details include where records can be found, whether they are original hard-copy records, transcriptions in books, or on the internet. This A5 illustrated booklet has 88 pages.

The Northolt Parish Guide came out at the beginning of September. Northolt was in the hundred of Elthorne and is now in the London Borough of Ealing. Places in the parish include Northolt Park. Surrounding Northolt are the Middlesex parishes of Greenford, Harrow on the Hill, Hayes, Ickenham, Norwood, Ruislip and Wembley. It was a much more rural parish than Hornsey and despite the Grand Union Canal being built through the area in the early 19th century, little residential development took place until the 1920s. This Parish Guide has 52 pages.

See page ii in the yellow pages of this journal for how to obtain a copy of these booklets.



## **WILLIAM ADAMS, STONE MASON (1809?-1875), A NIL RESULT**

By Dawn Adams, Member No. 6025

It was twenty years ago today - well, not quite today, but why waste a quote that might get you singing – twenty years ago last July, I first learnt the name of my great-great grandfather, William ADAMS, stonemason. His name was on the marriage certificate of my great grandfather, Benjamin George ADAMS and on his birth certificate. So for twenty years I have been wondering where William came from. Spoiler alert – I still don't know.

But one of the complaints of scientific and other researchers is that respected journals won't publish a nil result. So one researcher bumps into another at a conference and finds that the last few months (sometimes years) have been wasted, because the work has already been done by someone else, who can't get it published. So here's my 'nil result'.

What do I know about William? I know that on 3 July 1831 at Christ Church Spitalfields, he married Elizabeth, who sometimes went by BLIGH (her father's surname), sometimes SPRATE, and variants thereof (her mother's surname) and sometimes VICKERS (her mother's husband's name) <sup>(1)</sup>. Joseph VICKERS was a watch motion maker, who married Elizabeth's mother when Elizabeth was seven. Throughout the subsequent censuses (bar 1861, which is missing) and on his death certificate, William's year of birth works out at 1808 or 1809. So I have an answer to 'when was he born?'.

The censuses are less helpful with 'where was he born?' 1841 and 1851, when he was living in Walbrook Place, Hoxton, confirm Middlesex. As mentioned, 1861 for that area is missing. By 1871, he and Elizabeth were living with their daughter Mary Ann and her husband Thomas Henry TAYLOR, in Popham Street, Islington. Thomas was the head of the household, so presumably it was he who stated William's birthplace as 'St Luke's' i.e. in the vicinity of Old Street, Finsbury. William died in 1875, so there are no further censuses to consult.

According to the baptism register of St Leonard, Shoreditch, he and his family were almost living in Finsbury between 1832 and 1839, in Earl Street, just off Finsbury Square (which is within the parish – by contrast Earl Street was within St Leonard's, Shoreditch). At their marriage in 1831, William



and Elizabeth had both been said to be of the parish of Christ Church Spitalfields. The Parish Register seems to show that some care was taken to record a bride or groom from beyond the parish, and one of the witnesses was the Parish Clerk. NB the clerk only knows what the couple tell him. Nonetheless, ‘in or around Finsbury’ seems to cover William’s birthplace.

The other witness at the wedding was one ‘Joseph ADAMS’. I guessed that Joseph was father or brother to William. And I further guessed that if they were local, Joseph might have witnessed other weddings. So I transcribed all the weddings at Christ Church from 1813 to 1845 where one party was an Adams, and tried to find out where they came from and where they ended up. What excited me particularly were two weddings where Joseph ADAMS was a witness. However, I soon established that this was a different Joseph, married to Lucy, involved in the pub trade, not having a son William – and his signature in the Register is that of someone confident in writing, whereas William and Elizabeth’s witness writes his name shakily as if unused to the exercise, or finding it difficult. (Always check the originals!) Nonetheless, I now have three criteria by which to identify William: born 1808-9, in Finsbury or thereabouts, and with a close relative named Joseph.

There is a Joseph ADAMS who, with his wife Esther, had ten children baptised either in St Luke’s or in St Leonard’s, Shoreditch between the eldest, Joseph, born 1797, when they lived in Holywell Lane, and Caroline born in 1815, when they lived in Parson’s Square. Their son William was born on 11 February 1806. I have not located this William, nor have I found a marriage for Joseph and Esther. Perhaps they were immigrants. Joseph is consistently described in the Parish Registers as a silk trimming maker, and those of his children I can tentatively trace are trimming makers and silk spinners. Would one son have diverged so far as to be a stone mason? Hester ADAMS aged 35, of Bunhill Row, was buried in Bunhill Fields on 22 Nov 1818, and Joseph aged 57, also of Bunhill Row, was buried there on 20 March 1831. This might be them. But in any case their son William seems to fail the criterion of birthdate, unless for some reason he lost three years. And this Joseph had died before my William’s wedding.

There is a report in the *London Chronicle* on 7 November 1817, of the prosecution of Mary WALSH for stealing a watch from Joseph ADAMS, a watch case finisher of Featherstone Street, St Luke’s – the northern boundary of Bunhill Fields. Given that Elizabeth VICKERS’ stepfather was a watch

motion maker, there would surely be an opportunity to meet the son of a watch case finisher. This Joseph is not in the 1841 census as far as I can see.

Other descendants of William ADAMS have homed in on the William ADAMS who was born on 21 July 1809 and baptised, along with his three siblings, Judith, Henry and Benjamin, at the Independent Chapel in Upper Street, Islington on 1 June 1814, their parents, Thomas and Sarah being 'of St Mary's Islington'. He certainly meets the date criterion, but I am not convinced by his parents' place of residence, so far from Finsbury, nor by the absence of a Joseph.

Am I making a mistake in looking for a baptism? The children of Joseph the silk trimming maker were baptised. What if the William I am looking for was the son of Joseph the watch case finisher, or of some other Joseph Adams, who did not follow the practice of infant baptism, or of any baptism, being of a different faith entirely. If I could think of other avenues I would pursue them, if available to me without travelling from Devon. As it is, this research is on hold, and I am stuck in Finsbury in 1809. But I have presented my nil result, so that others need not cover the same ground.

<sup>1</sup>. *Metropolitan* vol 7 no 1 Dec 2020 page 39

## **Have You Changed Your Email Address?**

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

## **ADVERTISING RATES**

Advertising rates per issue of *Metropolitan* are as follows:

Full Page £40, Half Page £23

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All copy, correspondence and remittances should be sent to the Editors.  
See inside front cover for address.

## JOTTINGS

### **Medieval London property documents**

Although London today is a bustling capital city with a population of more than nine million people and over three dozen skyscrapers, during the medieval period the city looked much different. Most Londoners lived and worked within the old Roman walls, an area covering approximately one square mile, and the population never surpassed 100,000. Space in the city was at a premium with shop owners frequently lived above their businesses. Wealthier residents occupied more spacious dwellings together with their servants and apprentices, while the city's poor shared rented rooms or had to rely on religious charity. Immigrants from the continent were attracted by the economic opportunities of London. In the City there was an eclectic mix of commercial and residential buildings, churches, warehouses, places to eat, sleep, get a drink, even public bathrooms and fast food establishments. London's government adopted new methods to manage the constant flow of people, products, and property. One of its most powerful tools was record-keeping.

The creation of distinctly administrative documents (as opposed to literary, religious, and genealogical material) increased dramatically after 1100. These records contain an incredibly wide variety of information, from who paid their taxes or broke a business contract to detailed menus for royal feasts and ceremonies. Historians who study medieval London are fortunate in that many of these documents have survived to the present, allowing an unprecedented view into the daily lives of people who lived centuries ago. London's records concerning property have enjoyed less attention than other types, primarily because of the sheer number that survive and the presence of arcane legal terminology. However, these documents can provide insights into family connections and business networks that few other sources can offer. They show relationships between parents and children, who people trusted to manage their money, and how the city's fortunes changed over time.

In the 1980s, researchers at the Centre for Metropolitan History in London summarized the important details of medieval property deeds onto thousands of index cards. In order to effectively use the property deeds for research, the information needs to be in a format that computers can read and that can be easily stored and sorted. Zooniverse is calling for volunteers to help with this. Whilst transcriptions of the index cards will be produced, biographical details about the individuals involved will also be collected into a database.

All of this information will become part of the Medieval Londoners Database, a public and searchable digital repository of people who lived, worked, and died in the city. If you are interested in helping with this project, you can find out more here: <https://www.zooniverse.org/projects/kowaleski/get-to-know-medieval-londoners>

### **St James Burial Ground, Hampstead Road, update**

The project to transcribe the burial registers of St James, which was used as an extra burial ground for St James Piccadilly between 1788 and 1853, is also being undertaken on Zooniverse. This project is now 67% complete, so well done if you were one of the 1,635 volunteers who has helped with this. It is still possible to contribute towards the transcription of these records. For more info: <https://www.zooniverse.org/projects/mola/stories-of-st-james-burial-ground>

### **Clerkenwell transcriptions**

The Anglo Italian Family History Society has transcribed the baptism and marriage records for St Peter's Church in Clerkenwell (amongst others). Not all attendees were Italian but these records are not available elsewhere and are a treasure trove. Contact the society for further details at: <https://anglo-italianfhs.org.uk/>

### **Enfield Street Names**

There is a useful guide to street names in Enfield on the website of The Enfield Society. The guide is based on the book *A guide to Enfield street names* by Graham Dalling (Enfield Preservation Society 1982), which is now out of print.

Graham traced the various names by which all the streets which were in existence in 1914 were known and, where possible, given an explanation of those names. For residential streets built since 1850, he also ascertained approximately when the road was laid out and the first houses constructed. He wrote an introduction detailing the history of street naming in Enfield and also mentioned the sources he used. To search for a street you need to go to the bottom of this page, where there is an alphabetical link:

<https://enfieldsociety.org.uk/street-names/>



St Peter's Church,  
Clerkenwell.

## WRNS photos

Dauntless Divisional Photos is a nationwide project which has been created to gather divisional photographs and memories from the training days of women who joined the Women's Royal Naval Service (WRNS) between 1946 and 1981 and did their basic training at Training Depot Burghfield, HMTE Burghfield, HMTE Dauntless, HMS Dauntless or Reading.



This group of WRNS date from the early 1950s but only a couple of the names are known.

A closed group page on Facebook was initially formed to provide a suitable searchable collection where former WRNS could see themselves in photo form, find old friends, chat about the past and generally enjoy each other's company. The project has also helped on several other fronts including finding deceased relatives and helping older wrens suffering from dementia whose partners are using the photos as a conversation point and helping to rekindle old memories.

In the background the project managers were working on creating an independent website just for the project. Unfortunately, photos that are not deemed 'of historical significance' by the Ministry of Defence are culled every few years and destroyed, so it appears that the only way of building a Burghfield-Dauntless archive is by the efforts of the women themselves. That is why every single photo, along with personal memories and anecdotes, is so important. The collection currently stands at just under 1000 photos

which includes around 70 or so that they have named 'waifs' because the subjects have not yet been identified.

In time, when the photo archive (which will just consist of the photo, date, divisional name and a list of division members) is deemed complete or as complete as the organisers can get it, it will be donated to the appropriate historical, maritime organisation. The social pages will be kept separate until their usefulness is done.

If you can help, please contact them by email at: [ddpwrens@gmail.com](mailto:ddpwrens@gmail.com)



## **FOCUS ON FACEBOOK**

By Elizabeth Burling, Member No. 4992

Quite a few people have been enquiring about mother and baby homes and children's homes recently and where records of these might be found and there were some excellent suggestions in the replies.

Deanna wondered if 51/53 Norfolk Place, Westminster was a mother and baby home in 1965 and Pauline recommended Mother and Baby Homes, a website which started using research from an MA Public History dissertation, which is online at: <https://www.motherandbabyhomes.com>

Pamela wrote that she was researching Chase Farm Children's Home, Enfield, from 1905 to 1911. Her maternal grandfather was put in the Children's Home along with his twin brother and younger sister after their parents died and Pamela was especially looking for photos. Our own *Parish Guide to Enfield* mentions that Chase Farm (now a hospital) keeps a collection of photos so it might be worth contacting them. Jan added a link to *Memories of Chase Farm* by Frank Bayford (The Enfield Society), which can be bought here: <https://enfieldsociety.org.uk/product/memories-of-chase-farm/>

Jan added that there were a couple of pictures towards the end of the article about the workhouse in Edmonton on Peter Higginbotham's excellent Workhouses website here: <https://www.workhouses.org.uk/Edmonton/>

Margaret was interested in the City Road Workhouse and Children's homes in the early 1900s as her grandmother and her sister were split up and admitted to different establishments. We advised her to have a look at the Children's Homes website (sister site to the Workhouses website above) which is crammed full of useful information regarding all sorts of children's homes and is online here: <http://www.childrenshomes.org.uk>

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

All surnames should be in CAPITALS.

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

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



### **IS WILLIAM CUNNINGHAM A BIGAMIST?**

My ancestor, William CUNNINGHAM married Caroline QUICK at St Margaret's, Westminster on 22 May 1821. The couple had two sons – William John, baptised twice in 1825 at St Giles in the Fields (father a printer), and Frederick baptised in 1827 at St Giles in the Fields (father a compositor). Caroline appeared without William on the 1841 census (Wild Street, St Giles) and on the 1851 census (widow; Brick Lane, St Luke). She died in 1852 in St Luke's workhouse.

The only likely death/burial I could find for William CUNNINGHAM was on 29th July 1837. He was 40 years and his occupation was compositor (yes!). But strangely, he died of decline at 11 New Street Square and the death was registered by an undertaker.

William's apprenticeship records gave his father's name, and I found his baptism in St James's, Clerkenwell in 1797. He was one of eight children of Henry Clinton CUNNINGHAM and Mary Ann WYNNE. His parents and siblings settled near Fleet Street and were mainly married and buried in St Bride's Fleet Street or St Andrew's, Holborn.

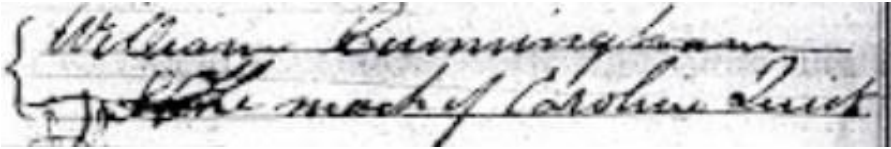
William served his apprenticeship from 1811 to 1820 with Andrew SPOTTISWOODE as Master. I know from information supplied by the helpful archivist at Stationer's Company that this was a prestigious family business based in New Street Square, just off Fleet Street, which had served as Kings Stationer to George III. The longer apprenticeship was probably to do with the high skill level required to be a compositor. William never took on his own apprentices so I surmised that after he gained his freedom, he remained in the employ of Andrew SPOTTISWOODE in New Street Square, using the skills he'd acquired as a compositor.

The death record that I found matched his birth in 1797, apprenticeship in 1811 aged 14 years and his address was Andrew SPOTTISWOODE's business premises site in St Bride parish so it seems pretty conclusive that it was him. But why was the death registered by an undertaker when William's

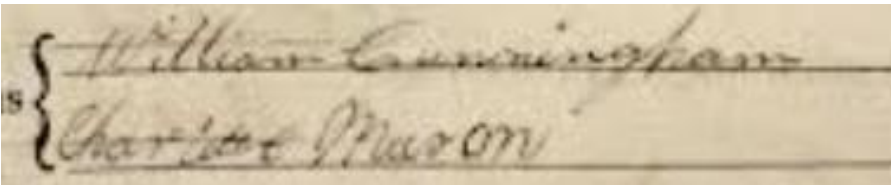
wife Caroline and their two sons were living not that far away in Princes Street, St Giles-in-the-Fields in 1827 and still in that parish in 1841. William was buried at St Bride, Fleet Street.

Then I came across the marriage of a William CUNNINGHAM to Charlotte MASON at St Anne, Westminster on 31 March 1828, fourteen months after the baptism of William's and Caroline's youngest son, Frederick, in St Giles-in-the-Fields. William CUNNINGHAM and Charlotte MASON had three children: Charlotte born 31 December 1828, baptised St Bride Fleet Street, abode Great New Street, father printer; William John born 1832, baptised 2 January 1833 St Andrew Holborn, abode Kings Head Court, father compositor (note the recycled forenames!) WJ was buried in 1834; James born 1833, baptised 1838 St Andrew Holborn, abode New Street Square, father compositor.

I can only find one William CUNNINGHAM who was a compositor in London at that time, so I began to think that Caroline's husband and Charlotte's husband were one and the same. I've compared William's signatures on both marriage certificates, and they look the same to me – the 'W' is rather distinctive.



Handwritten signature of William Cunningham and the name of his first wife, Caroline Quist.



Handwritten signature of William Cunningham and the name of his second wife, Charlotte Mason.

So, I'm beginning to think that, after long years of searching for William, I may have found a ne'er-do-well bigamist. I'm wondering, have I missed something? Am I jumping too quickly to the wrong conclusion? I'm not familiar with this part of London, but how likely is it that William could live in this way in the bosom of his wider family, just a few miles from Caroline and his two sons?

**Barbara Robinson, Member No. 8358**

Note: It is certainly a possibility that he had two families. We have managed to find the two wives in the 1841 census returns.



At Wild Street is Caroline CUNNINGHAM age 50, St[ay?] Trimmer, William CUNNINGHAM age 15, Printer, Frederick CUNNINGHAM age 11 and Sarah QUICK age 50, Straw B[onnet] M[aker]. Sarah seems to be a relative, perhaps a sister, of Caroline and may be the Sarah QUICK who witnessed the wedding. She is still with Caroline in the 1851 census at Brick Lane.

At 23 New Street Square in 1841 is --- CUNNINGHAM age 45, Nurse, Charlotte CUNNINGHAM age 12 and Jane [sic] CUNNINGHAM age 8. None of the adults in this house gave their first names to the enumerator. Of course this address is only a few doors down from where William CUNNINGHAM died. You'd think that if he was in 'decline', he would have died at his nearby home with his wife - it seems unusual that he did not. It certainly seems possible that he knew he had married bigamously the second time and needed to keep the record of his death separate from his second family.

By the way, Charlotte had also been baptised twice. The first time was on 25 January 1829 at St Bride's, where it states she was born on 31 December 1828 and is the daughter of William and Charlotte CUNNINGHAM, printer of 15 Great New Street. The second time was also at St Bride's but on 7 February 1840. This entry states that she is the daughter of William and Charlotte CUNNINGHAM, compositor of 23 New Street Square and that she was born on 31 December 1828. A Charlotte Cunningham aged 21 of St James' Building, Clerkenwell was buried at St James on 2 Sep 1849, which is likely to be her, as her mother and brother were at this address in the 1851 census returns.

We found the website [www.londonroll.org](http://www.londonroll.org) which is a site providing records of apprentices and freemen in the City of London Livery Companies between 1400 and 1900. At the moment, only ten Companies are listed but more will be added. There is a simple search form on the home page where you can select the Company, add your surname and highlight freeman, apprentice or both.



## THE FAMILY HISTORY SHOW, LONDON



This event will be held on Saturday 24 September 2022  
from 10.00-16.30  
at Kempton Park Racecourse, Esher, Surrey.

LWMFHS will be attending, along with many other family history societies and other related groups, such as the GenFair, FamilySearch and The Genealogist (who sponsor the show). There are two large lecture areas with free talks and Ask the Experts sessions too. You don't have to have London Ancestors to come to this fair - they can be from anywhere in the country.

There is plenty of free parking on site. For those travelling by public transport, trains run every half hour direct from Waterloo, take 40 minutes, and the station is only 200 yards from the North entrance.

Refreshments are available all day.

Tickets are £8 if bought in advance or £12 at the door. Or, if you would like to help out on our stand for an hour or two, we could get you in for free!

You do not need to be an expert.

Contact Karen by email at: [eventsteam@lwmfhs.org.uk](mailto:eventsteam@lwmfhs.org.uk)

In the above picture from a previous event you might recognise some LWMFHS members on the right-hand side, helping on our stall.

<https://thefamilyhistoryshow.com/london/>

## **OXFORDSHIRE FHS FAIR**

The Oxfordshire Family History Society Fair will be held on  
Saturday 1 October 2022 from 10am-4pm  
at The Marlborough Church of England School,  
Shipton Road, Woodstock, OX20 1LP.

A variety of family history, local history and specialised societies providing information, selling books and other goods related to their respective areas will be there including us!

This is a new fair for LWMFHS and we are really looking forward to it.

We are calling for volunteers to help our core team.

Do you live near Oxford and could pop in for a while? Or do you have Oxford ancestors and fancy attending anyway? You do not have to be an expert to help and these fairs are usually good fun. If you are interested in helping please contact Karen, our Events Team coordinator at:  
[eventsteam@lwmfhs.org.uk](mailto:eventsteam@lwmfhs.org.uk)

Entry to the Fair is free, as is parking. Refreshments are provided by Good Food Catering whose food will be available until around 3pm.

You can find out detailed more information about this event here:  
<https://www.ofhs.uk/events/event/fair2022>

## **FHF REALLY USEFUL SHOW**

The next Family History Federation's Really Useful Family History Show online event will take place on 11 and 12 November 2022.

On Friday 11 November, the Exhibition Hall is free and anyone can go and visit all of the exhibitors and ask them questions. Tickets for the event, costing £12, allow access on Saturday 12 November to workshops and presentations by leading experts as well.

You can find out more information, such as who the exhibitors actually are, here: <https://www.fhf-reallyuseful.com/>

## FORTHCOMING BRANCH MEETINGS

**Virtual Branch** – Talks are on the second Thursday of the month. ‘Doors’ open at 7.45 for an 8pm start.

To attend, you have to initially register an interest by emailing: [virtualbranch@lwmfhs.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:virtualbranch@lwmfhs.org.uk)

- 8 September      *The Plague Doctor* by David Bell. The Plague Doctor will not only make you think but he will also make you laugh out loud and feel good about yourself. For a fascinating 75 minutes you will be seduced in a uniquely amusing fashion into a 17th century world where both medical diagnosis and treatment were equally outrageous.
- 13 October      *The Huguenots in Soho* by Paul Baker. This talk, about the French Protestants who came to London (and other parts of England) in the 17th and 18th centuries is illustrated with some pictures of their beautiful furniture and silverware.
- 10 November      *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.
- 8 December      *Christmas food and drink through the ages* by Simon Fowler. Find out what the men, women and children of Britain, rich and poor, would have eaten and drank over the Christmas period. Would they have eaten turkey and furrmity? Or have drunk Smoking Bishop? And would the paupers in the workhouse have been allowed a pint of beer? All will be revealed.

**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](mailto:barnet@lwmfhs.org.uk)

- 15 September From the attic - bring an item of memorabilia or an old toy from your family's past to talk about.
- 20 October House history discussion, ideas and findings – what do you know about your house?
- 17 November As we don't meet in December, we will be having our Christmas social today, with nibbles.
- 15 December No meeting

**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](mailto:rayners_lane@lwmfhs.org.uk)

- 5 September Video and discussion on 'Exploring the Archives'.
- 3 October *Catching Up with FamilySearch* with Sharon Hintze. FamilySearch.org is the largest family history website in the world, with billions of names across thousands of collections - and more added monthly. In this talk, Sharon Hintze tells us about the latest major databases they have added, how to search them and how to best use the whole website.
- 7 November *From Finsbury Park to the Frontline* by Doug Kirby.
- 5 December Christmas Tea Party with puzzles, quizzes and plenty of cake.



## THE STORY OF *HMS HYDRA*

By Eileen Blythe, Member No. 02

Because of the problems of the Covid disease in Europe in 2020 and 2021, we did not go to Ostend (a coastal town in Belgium) in November to lay a wreath at the grave of my uncle Charles Albert MATTHEWS. He was the youngest brother of my mother Ada Harriet MATTHEWS of Hackney and he died in November 1944 while serving on board the ship *HMS Hydra* J275, a minesweeper of the British Royal Navy. He is buried in the local town cemetery in the war graves section along with other members of his ship, which was badly damaged in the first week of November 1944. I found out the story of his death and found his burial on the Commonwealth War Graves website. Since I have moved to Kent and live near Dover, we have been going to Ostend and placing a wreath on his grave ever since but Covid meant that instead we placed a Royal Navy wreath on a redundant Second World War airfield in our village as a memorial for my uncle.



This photo of *HMS Hydra*, taken by a Royal Navy official photographer, is from the collections of the Imperial War Museums.

This year I noticed the webpage had been updated and gave the name of the Captain of *HMS Hydra* as T/A Lt. Cdr. Charles Thomas Jegon WELLARD. With a bit of research we found he died in Brighton in 1965 and his house was called 'Hydra'. As we live on a country road and part of it had been called Wellards corner some years ago, and Alan's first mother-in-law was a WELLARD, we looked it up and sure enough he was part of Alan's first wife Carol's relations. So it's really odd that my husband had both his mother-in-laws who had family on this same ship in 1944.

**Reference:** [www.uboaat.net](http://www.uboaat.net)

## 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](http://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: Santander

Sort Code: 09-01-29; Account Number: 70580978

Business account name: London Westminster & Middlesex Family History Society

## MEMBERS' DATA

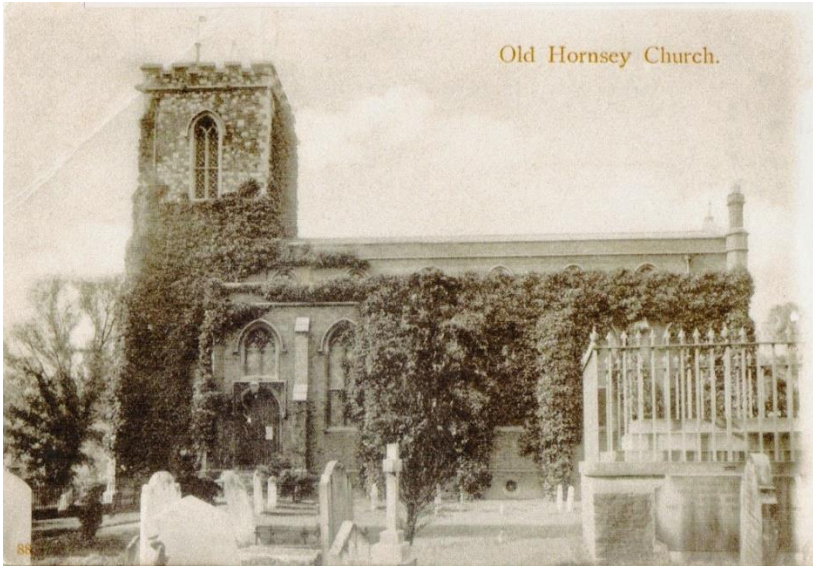
A labels-list of members is held on computer for the purposes of administration and distribution only.

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.**

## St Mary, the Parish Church of Hornsey



This is lovely old postcard of Old Hornsey Church, St Mary.



The church of St Mary at Hornsey is first mentioned in 1291 but is likely to have stood for some time before this. The medieval bell tower was made taller in the 1830s using material from its attached church when a larger one was constructed. The replacement church was soon too small and a further new church was found to have been built on unstable ground and had to be taken down in 1969. St Mary's Church of England Primary School stands on the site now. The tower is occasionally open to the public and still stands in its old churchyard, which is now a public garden. There

are fine views over much of Hornsey from the top.