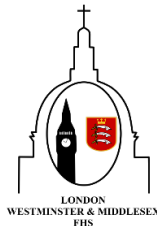


ISSN 1359-8961 (print)  
ISSN 2056-3698 (online)

# METROPOLITAN

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



Volume 10 No. 4 (183)

September 2024

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# METROPOLITAN

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Cover picture: The London Archives, see page 138

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## EDITORIAL

This is the last editorial of the Society's year and we have quite a mixture of articles and letters for you. It is great to receive letters about our previous articles and they do add interest and information to the original piece.

The big news in what was once the county of Middlesex is that one of our main archives centres, London Metropolitan Archives, has renamed itself and is now The London Archives. One of the reasons was that people generally do not understand that 'metropolitan' means 'relating to a large city'. We hope our readers do! This journal has been called 'Metropolitan' since 1993.

Did you have an unmarried great- or great-great aunt? Women such as these were perceived to be a problem by the Victorian powers that be. Sheila's fascinating article on page 124 tells the story of one of hers. Do write in and tell us what yours did.

Elizabeth's article on page 145 about the building of a workhouse gives us an idea of how the interior looked. We often see pictures of the exterior of workhouse buildings so it is fascinating to read about the thought that went on to design the interior.

Our Beginners' Corner spotlights Electoral Registers which seems appropriate after all the newspaper coverage of our recent parliamentary elections. Hopefully the lists of codes will make the registers easier to understand. Find out more on page 134.

Family history societies are not just interested in our own areas but interact between one another. A case in point is the article on page 132. We mention above just five articles in this September issue but there is plenty more to read. Enjoy!

Don't forget that the journal needs constant feeding with articles, letters and interesting snippets from our membership. The editors are already working on our December journal and we look forward to hearing from you.

**Barbara, Elizabeth and Paul, the Editorial Team**

## LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

I did enjoy your piece about Fleet Street in the last journal as it brought back many memories of my childhood living in Edmonton when my Father was working for the *News Chronicle* newspaper in Fleet Street.

My parents met when working for the publishers Eyre and Spottiswood in the area around Fleet Street in the 1930s. When they married and moved to Edmonton and set up their new home, 10 miles north of central London, the War started and many areas of central London were bombed. Fleet Street was badly damaged in December 1940, so my Dad had 2 young children but no longer had a job. He joined up for the Forces and was enlisted into the Royal Marines.

After the War he managed to get back into the printing trade and worked for the *News Chronicle*, so I grew up with about 5 morning newspapers to read every weekday; *The Daily Mirror*, *The Mail*, *The Express*, *The Sketch* and *The Chronicle*. We had Christmas parties in the Fleet Street offices every year and a sports day held in Surrey, where I met Freddie MILLS the boxer.

A tour round the works in Fleet Street was so noisy but we came home with our name stamped on a piece of metal - lead I think.

As I was involved in the Society from the beginning, (just because of where I lived) and I myself started work at Ward Locks the publishers in 1956. I was soon buying second hand books like directories, genealogy and maps etc and selling them by mail order. I was also very keen on the different fonts used in the early 1920s.

**Eileen Blythe, Member No. 02**

Note: Many years ago, editor Barbara went on a visit to *The Sketch* newspaper works in Fleet Street. She also set up a block with her name on it. The writing, of course, reads in a mirror image from right to left.



Reading the article about Standard Telephones and Cables article by Janet Sutton in *Metropolitan* Volume 10, Number 3, June 2024, reminded me of my late aunt Lilian Maud SEARLE who worked at STC. Sister to my late mother Cisse Ivy SEARLE.

Lilian, known as Lily, was born on 14 August 1922 to Henry and Elizabeth Eliza SEARLE (née HALL) in Finchley, Middlesex.

Between what dates Lily worked at STC New Southgate I don't know, but reading Janet's article probably from the early 1940's. While working at STC, unbeknown to Lily, a work colleague placed her picture with a note saying, "Hello soldier would you like to write to me?" inside a packing case which arrived in Cyprus.

The soldier who opened the packing case in Cyprus was William Ernest WELCH (Bill) born 22 January 1926 in Stepney, Middlesex. Prior to being called up Bill was a telephone engineer with the General Post Office

Lily and Bill started corresponding and on the 3 March 1951 were married in Epping, Essex and spent 52 happy years together.

Sadly Lily died on 17 September 2003 and Bill on 3 April 2015. Their ashes are buried together in the cemetery of All Saints Church of England in Doddinghurst near Brentwood, Essex

I have very fond memories of spending time with Lilly and Bill, be it visiting or on holiday with my parents or just staying with them during school holidays. Over the passing years, as a family, our children always enjoyed visiting Lily and Bill who were a special couple and sadly missed. So thank you STC, especially the lady who put the note in the packing case, for bringing Lily and Bill together.

**Brian Luker, Member No 7797**

My late father worked in the Radio and Wireless department at Standard Telephones and this is his experience. When the siren went he and most others would leave for the shelter. Imagine their horror when after one raid they came up from the shelter to see the Drawing Office was almost completely gone, and the people who remained lost their lives. He was also in the Home Guard there. I can clearly recall being 'evacuated' to stay with my aunt away from the bombing around and in Barnet when one day when the radio was on and programme interrupted with the news of the enemy action at ST. I burst out crying saying "my Daddy is there"!! I can still recall that. It will have been a while, I am sure, until my parents were able to telephone my aunt that all was well.

**Jasmine Marson, Member No. 168**

I was pleased to see the reproduced article in June's *Metropolitan* about my mother, Mrs Amy Mary Emily MORGAN, that I had sent to the Glamorgan Family History Society journal as she spent most of her life in Wales.

She wrote about her childhood growing up in the Highgate area for a while before the family moved to Croydon where the 'air was considered better'. Some of these memories have been published in your journal some time ago as well as some about my Victorian ancestors - the previous generations. I have a great deal of information about my mother written up. There are a number of documents such as school certificates from Croydon High School, music certificates, graduation and civil service examination results from the 1920s, various handwritten letters - references and so on. Some of these must be unique, being over 100 years old and possibly of interest to a wider public.

I am aware that documents like these should be looked after and whilst my grand-daughter has agreed to do this, there is possibly too much of it. There are other items like an autograph book, little prayer books and a Christmas present to her aged about 6 that was a photo of her grandmother! Have you any thoughts about this?

**Vivien Liles, Member No. 6561**

Note: Surely many of us must have treasures like these? You could save a digital copy to your tree and then maybe a local museum or record office would be willing to take them?

With reference to the *help!* on page 159 in the June 2024 *Metropolitan* about tailoring in Hackney. My brother used to work for an outfitters in Hackney. The name of the company was Polikoff Ltd. Polikoff's was part of Hackney's garment industry and they manufactured ready-to-wear tailored garments. Albert Ernest BASTIN could have been taught tailoring in this factory.

In the 20th century Hackney was the centre of garment production and had many workshops and factories producing clothing for the British and overseas markets.

**Mrs Anne Prudames, Member No. 254**



## CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

In the last journal I wrote that we were looking for a new Membership Secretary and today I am very pleased to be able to tell you that Graham Ford has offered to do this – see page 130. This position is an essential cog in what makes the Society run smoothly and the Committee is delighted that the post has been filled so quickly. Thank you, Graham.

And now is the busiest time of year for the Membership Secretary, with our Society's year beginning on 1 October each year. If you have not yet renewed, now is the time to do so. This will also ensure that you receive the December copy of *Metropolitan* and will be able to attend our Virtual and other branch meetings. Of course, there are other benefits to renewing your LWMFHS membership, such as the chance to submit the story of your London ancestors or your brick wall query to the journal. With membership starting at only £12 for a whole year, we hope you will agree that it is very good value!

I would like to say thank you very much to all members who completed our survey. The Committee will be looking through the results and using your comments and suggestions to help plan meetings, projects and future events to make our Society even better. More on this in due course.

Several members have asked me why they did not receive the email about our survey. The reason is that they have not given the Society permission to email them. All members of a society must give that society permission to use their data. This ruling has been in place since the Data Protection Act of 2018 implemented General Data Protection Regulation and has been mentioned several times in past issues of *Metropolitan*.

To give us permission to email, write or telephone you, please fill in a Consent Form and send it to the Membership Secretary. A Consent Form and our Privacy Policy can be downloaded from the Members Area of our website. If you are unable to do this, then please send the Membership Secretary a stamped, self-addressed envelope to receive the form by post. Many of our members have already done this but if you haven't and wish us to be able to contact you, then please send the Membership Secretary your completed Consent Form. Thank you.



I have had several messages about reopening our City Branch but we currently do not have any volunteers to run it. Luckily, we have had very generous invitations from both the East Surrey Southwark Branch and Midland Ancestor London Branch for our members to attend their quarterly London meetings. More information can be found about these on our Forthcoming branch meetings page on page 166. If any of you are interested in restarting our City Branch, do drop me a line. A small group would be ideal!

We will be attending a number of events in the coming few months (see page 142) but we are rather short-handed for them. You do not have to be an expert on our area to help us – as family historians you will probably already know quite a lot which can assist visitors. If you like talking to people and would enjoy having a look around the fairs we attend, please consider joining our team and helping for an hour or two. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact Karen at [events@lwmfhs.org](mailto:events@lwmfhs.org)

Our Society is run by volunteers and it is very much a case of many hands make light work.

**Elizabeth Burling**

## HAVE YOU RENEWED?

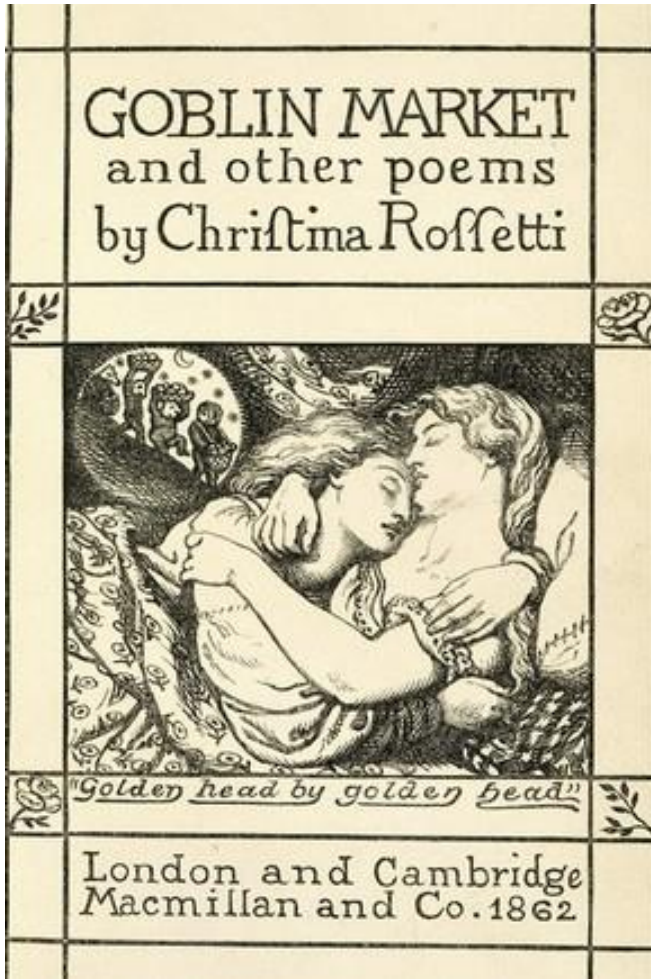
The Society's year ends on 30 September 2024 and it is now time to renew your subscription. This will mean that you will receive December's *Metropolitan*, be able to attend the October Virtual Branch meeting and benefit from the Members' Area of our website. The new password to this will be sent out to members on 1 October, so make sure you keep an eye on your emails.

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

<https://lwmfhs.org/join/>

Thank you to all those members who have already renewed.

**“NO FRIEND LIKE A SISTER”**  
**EMMA WEBB SALTER and the SURPLUS WOMAN PROBLEM**  
By Sheila Clarke, Member No.7900



“There is no friend like a sister in calm or stormy weather  
To cheer one on the tedious way,  
To fetch one if one goes astray,  
To lift one if one totters down, to strengthen whilst one stands.”  
*Goblin Market*, Christina Rossetti, 1862

My 2x great aunt never married. I have written previously about the unconventional circumstances surrounding Emma's birth but to recap, she was the daughter of great great grandmother Harriet SALTER and her much older married lover William Cooper WEBB. When Emma was born in the autumn of 1842, Harriet was already a mother of two – my great grandmother Harriet Jnr (1837) and George (1839.) William is shown as father of the two younger children but Harriet was born before the issue of birth certificates so the identity of my great grandfather is likely to remain in doubt. William Cooper WEBB ran a tobacconist business from his Goswell Street address and employed Harriet as assistant. Also living there was wife Elizabeth and children. One could speculate endlessly about this controversial domestic arrangement but ultimately it can be only that – speculation that is destined to remain unresolved. Love match, coercive control or something in between – we will never know what led a young woman into this disturbing ménage à trois, but after taking a fresh look at my research I began to wonder what effect it may have had on the children and Emma in particular. Elder daughter Harriet married at eighteen and had seven children. George died at ten of an abscess on the brain, but Emma, the only one of my ancestors to remain single, lived until 1906 before succumbing to kidney disease at the age of sixty four.

Emma lived at a particularly problematic time for Victorian women. The addition of marital status to the 1851 census sparked a long running debate about unmarried women and their place in society by recording around 500,000 more women than men, with two and a half million unmarried. What was to be done about those who failed to fulfil the traditional wifely role? How could the balance be redressed to ensure their economic survival and prevent them becoming a burden on society? Essayist William Rathbone GREG thought the answer was mass emigration: they would be sent to the colonies where teachers, governesses, family helpers and companions were needed, and hopefully find husbands at the same time. He was not the first to come up with this idea, but at least one previous attempt 'led to such deplorable results as discredited the whole scheme, and caused its prompt abandonment.' It appears there were not enough chaperones to accompany the women and lack of supervision on the voyages brought out the very worst in the travellers. One cannot help but wonder what these uninhibited females got up to, but whatever it was GREG was convinced that with the right organisation it was worth another try. 'The involuntary celibates of England' he identified as coming 'mainly from the class

immediately above the labouring poor. Distressed needlewomen, milliners' apprentices, daughters of unfortunate tradesmen, .... poor clerks, or poorer curates .....’ these were the ones most likely to find themselves ‘redundant’ and eligible for the scheme. Women who chose to remain single he dismissed as a lost cause - ‘We have no compassion for them and need not waste much thought in endeavouring to avert the penalty of their unwholesome preference, for their hearts must be unusually cold, and their heads unusually astray.’ While Emma may have fitted the class profile she is unlikely to have been qualified to have charges or teach, whereas the role of companion is something for which she may have been particularly well suited.

In 1851 nine year old Emma is with her family in Goswell Street. Ten years later mother and daughter have moved to St John’s Row and Emma is working as a feather dryer. (I have been unable to trace an occupation of this name, but as Harriet was working as a milliner it seems safe to assume it involved the decoration of hats.)

1871 finds her lodging in James Street, Clerkenwell in the household of James WOODS. Also present was his twenty five year old cousin Caroline JOHNSON, and for the next thirty years Emma and Caroline appear together at various addresses around Clerkenwell, indicating a close relationship between two single women at a time when the married state had never seemed more desirable.

Historians have coined the term ‘separate spheres’ to describe the different worlds inhabited by the sexes in Victorian times. While men increasingly found employment outside the home, for women it became their whole world. Barred from most jobs and with few opportunities to take part in public life it was woman’s sole destiny to marry and have children. Single women were viewed with disapproval and even pity, as were married women who remained childless. Inside such rigid structures female friendships came to play an important part, even if society did view them as rehearsals for marriage and a positive step towards becoming a good wife.

I was both surprised and depressed to discover a decade long debate played out in the Victorian press over women’s capacity for friendship. *The Saturday Review*, generally regarded as a misogynistic publication, argued that women were ‘possessive, competitive and untrusting,’ their friendships

shallow,' while *The Victoria Magazine*, founded by the appropriately named Emily FAITHFULL, believed there was 'more sympathy, and therefore more true tenderness (and) more gentle clarity' between women.

Whatever one's view, female friendships provided much needed support in



Emily Faithfull, taken in the 1860s by  
Leonida Caldesi.

what might otherwise have been an isolating environment, and with society's active encouragement women choosing to share their lives would not have seemed unusual. Such relationships were often romanticised with feelings expressed in the most intimate of terms and it was considered perfectly normal for women to kiss, embrace and exchange passionate letters. In most cases it remained platonic but whether based on mutual compatibility or of an altogether more passionate nature (which most Victorians viewed a physically impossible) it is unlikely to have been regarded with any censure or alarm.

While Emma enjoyed the stability of a long standing friendship her mother's life took a very different turn. In 1854 William Cooper WEBB's

wife died but if Harriet had been expecting some kind of commitment now that he was free she was to be sadly disappointed. Three years later he emigrated to Australia with one of his daughters and her family leaving his long time mistress and their fifteen year old daughter behind. I wonder how Emma felt about her father settling on the other side of the world, knowing she was unlikely to ever see him again? Did she even know he was her

father and, if so, could her mother's situation have influenced her own life choices? Of course, William and Harriet may have parted by mutual consent but whatever the circumstances my great great grandmother went on to experience some challenging times.

Harriet first appears as a Holborn Union Workhouse inmate in 1871. She is also there in 1881 and 1891, when she is shown as a pauper sewing shirts. Workhouses also served as medical facilities to the poor and the Holborn Union had a particularly large female wing, so this does not necessarily mean it was her permanent address. Nevertheless, what little is known of her later years show a woman who undoubtedly suffered considerable hardship.

1862 saw the publication of Christina ROSETTI's poem 'Goblin Market,' the work for which she is probably best known. Variouslly interpreted as a comment on everything from capitalism to women's exclusion from the arts, and drug addiction, it deals with the bond between two sisters after they encounter goblins who attempt to lead them astray. With its themes of the importance of supportive female friendship and the dangers of temptation it ends on a note of redemption for any who may have fallen by the wayside. (Interestingly, ROSETTI volunteered at Highgate Penitentiary for Fallen Women shortly after its completion.) It has remained enduringly popular, with the final verse's opening line '..... there is no friend like a sister.....' becoming a rallying cry for the growing feminist movement.

It was Emma's single status that initially intrigued me and, like most family history research, it threw up other facts that caught my attention, not least the importance William GREG and others attached to solving the 'surplus woman' problem. I knew nothing of GREG or the various societies set up to find a solution - and who knew Victorian ladies could behave with the kind of abandon seen by those on the under-chaperoned voyages? It would be interesting to hear if any readers have ancestors who took advantage of these schemes and of their subsequent lives in the colonies.

Whether from choice or circumstance both Harriet SALTER and her daughter were surplus women: Harriet as part of a worrying triangle, and Emma from being born at a time when women vastly outnumbered men. We may never know the nature of Harriet's relationship with William Cooper WEBB, or the friendship between Emma and Caroline, but from

the few details available it is clear that while Harriet fell on hard times, Emma remained employed and in a stable relationship until her death. Caroline JOHNSON may not have been a blood relative, but I like to think Emma would have had cause to agree with the sentiment expressed by ROSETTI - that there was indeed 'no friend like a sister'.

**Sources:**

'Female Friendships in Mid-Victorian England: New Patterns and Possibilities', Sage Journals, <https://journals.sagepub.com>

'Friendships, Lesbianism and Identity in Victorian Britain' available online at: <https://theyorkhistorian.com>

Shropshire Archives: <https://shropshirearchives.co.uk>

'Sisterhood in Rosetti's "Goblin Market"', <https://victorianstu.wordpress.com>

'Why are Women Redundant?' by William Rathbone Greg, 1869, available online at: <http://tankona.free.fr/greg>

'Women in Victorian England' by Merryn Allingham, available online at: <https://merrynallingham.com>

**Illustration:**

Cover for 'Goblin Market' by Dante Gabriel Rosetti, 1862



## NEXT COPY DATE

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

**1 November 2024**

Articles, letters, requests and comment should be sent to the Editors. The Editors may have to edit your contributions, depending on space available.

Please let us know if copy is being distributed to other family history society journals or family history magazines.

Material in *Metropolitan* may not be reproduced in any form without first obtaining written permission from the Editors.

## **NEW MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY**

We would like to extend the warmest welcome to our new Membership Secretary, Graham Ford. You can contact him at: [membership@lwmfhs.org](mailto:membership@lwmfhs.org) or via post at 7 The Drive, off Lyonsdown Avenue, NEW BARNET, EN5 1DZ.

As our Society's year runs from 1 October, it is now the time to be renewing your membership if you have not done so already. Paying promptly will really help our new Membership Secretary, as this will be his busiest time of year.

There are various ways in which you can pay:

You can set up a standing order payable on 1 October annually. If you have already done this, please could you check that your bank knows to pay into our new bank account? This is a Santander business account, sort code: 09-01-29, account number: 70580978; the account name is London Westminster & Middlesex Family History Society.

You can make a payment directly into this bank account.

You can pay through Parish Chest directly from our website here: <https://www.lwmfhs.org.uk/membership> or use this link on our page on the Parish Chest website: <https://www.parishchest.com/london-westminster-middlesex-fhs-4577.php>

If you wish to pay by cheque, fill in the Subscription Renewal form from the June issue of *Metropolitan* and post this together with your cheque to the Membership Secretary.

Please make sure that you include a reference with your payment, whichever of the above you chose, otherwise the Society will not know who the money is from. One which includes your name and membership number would be ideal. Your membership number can be found on the address sheet of your paper copy of *Metropolitan*.

**PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW!**



## WEBSITE NEWS

### Explore Your Genealogy



From The Family History Federation

Explore Your Genealogy is an educational website which has been developed by the Family History Federation which relates to every aspect of tracing your family history from the very first steps to more complex research.

Its main objective is to promote

the study and interest in family history (and associated disciplines including local and social history) in a free-to-access, easy-to-navigate website.

The front page of the website has mention of what's new on the site. As we went to press this was articles about Charity Schools, Royal Navy Courts Martial and Tribunals and Victorian Music Halls.

There are articles about a plethora of subjects from the content and value of birth, marriage and death certificates to finding out about different occupations, to using the genealogical proof standard of family history to add credibility to your research and much more. These are mainly written by Ian Waller, retired professional genealogist with considerable experience in English research who currently serves as the vice chairman and education officer of the Family History Federation.

The Really Useful Podcast is a series of family history podcasts covering a range of topics with expert guests can also be found on this website. Series 3, Episode 3 for instance, is about migration within Britain and is a chat between London genealogist Joe Saunders and Janet Few, historical researcher, writer, speaker and President of the Family History Federation; Jane Hough, amateur genealogist and blogger and Gill Thomas, professional family historian specialising in Welsh records and chair of the Association of Genealogists and Researchers in Archives.

The archive of the Family History Federation's monthly newsletter, the Really Useful Bulletin, is on this website and you can also subscribe to it here. The Bulletin has articles contributed by family history societies from all over the country showcasing their collections and providing information on their resources as well as items from other groups and Federation news.

You can find this website here: <https://www.exploreyourgenealogy.co.uk/>



## A BENEFACTOR FROM CUMBERLAND

Whilst searching around in the online catalogue of The London Archives (TLA), we came across an archive about an institution whose aim was to help needy natives of Cumbria who lived in the City of London. The Cumberland Benevolent Institution met at the Albion Hotel, Aldersgate Street and its collection at TLA comprises minute books dated 1812-1927, which have not been digitised. We forwarded a jotting about this to the Cumbria FHS for possible inclusion as a snippet in their journal. Much to our delight, we received an email in response from one of their members telling us of the significant influence of George MOORE (the writer's 3x great uncle) in the growth of the Institution.

George was born on 9 April 1806 and was the son of a Cumbrian yeoman, John MOORE and his wife Peggy née LOWES, who farmed in a small way at Mealsgate near Wigton. Somewhat wild in his youth, George left the county to seek his fortune in London equipped with one sovereign.

After a difficult start he was offered work as an assistant by Cumberland-born co-owner John RAY at the haberdashery of Flint, Ray, Nicholson & Co, Grafton House, 9 Soho Square. In 1826 George joined prestigious lace warehousemen Fisher, Stroud & Robinson of Watling Street, Cheapside, becoming their town traveller in 1827. This job suited him down to the ground and he did well, being soon head-hunted to a partnership in lace manufacturing firm Groucock, Copestake and Moore at Bow Churchyard. George rose in business to eventually become, in today's terms, a multi-millionaire. His company became Copestake, Moore, Crampton & Co, a drapery and lace warehouse firm, operating still from Bow Churchyard. By 1866 the firm was employing over 500 people. Its success was due in great part to his 'indomitable energy, unflagging perseverance and stainless character', according to an obituary in *The Leighton Buzzard Observer*, 28 November 1876.

George married twice. On the first occasion to Eliza Flint RAY on 27 August 1839 at St Mary at Finchley. If those surnames look familiar, it is because Eliza was the daughter of John RAY and Eliza FLINT, herself the daughter of Thomas FLINT of Gracechurch Street, of the company which first employed George in London. Eliza Flint MOORE died on 4 December 1858.

The second marriage took place at St Pancras Old Church on 28 November 1861, the bride being Agnes Jane BREEKS of that parish. The couple can be seen in the 1871 census returns living with seven servants at 15 Kensington Palace Gardens, Knightsbridge.

George died aged 69 after having been knocked down by a runaway horse in English Street, Carlisle. An inquest returned a verdict of accidental death. His funeral was duly held at Allhallows Church in Wigton, one of the pall-bearers being the Archbishop of York. George was buried in the family vault inside the church, next to his first wife. In his home town, cartes-de-visite portraits of 'the late Mr George MOORE' were available for 9d each from stationer T McMECHAN.

Having no children from either of two marriages, his wealth went in large part to an array of charities - over £130,000 in 1876. For example, in his Will he left £1,000 to the Cumberland Benevolent Institution, £2,000 to the Middlesex Hospital and a substantial amount to the Commercial Travellers' School at Pinner of which he had been Treasurer. This last was used to build new dormitories, a laundry, a swimming bath and a two-storey infirmary which had a bust of George above its door.

The employees of Copestake, Moore, Crampton & Co wished to perpetuate George's memory with an appropriate memorial and eventually decided that this would be a lifeboat, named the *George Moore*, and £500 was given to the Royal National Lifeboat Institution for this purpose.

George's wine cellar was sold by Christie's in December 1877 and included 77 dozen bottles of fine Old Sherry, 300 dozen of Port of the vintages of 1820, 1847, 1850 and 1851, 80 dozen of Chateau Lafite and Chateau Margaux, 50 dozen of champagne as well as small quantities of other wines and liqueurs.

George MOORE's life was written up by Samuel SMILES. *George Moore, Merchant and Philanthropist* was published by George Routledge & Sons in 1878. The Cumberland Benevolent Institution features over three and a half pages (116-120 in the standard Second Edition). The book can be read for free online here: <https://archive.org/details/georgemooremerch00smil>



## **BEGINNERS' CORNER**

### **POLL BOOKS and ELECTORAL REGISTERS**

Poll books first appeared in 1696 when the sheriff of a county was responsible for the compilation of a list of all men who voted and also for whom they voted. The lists were published and could be viewed by anyone. In 1872, the Ballot Act was passed – officially titled “An Act to amend the Law relating to Procedure at Parliamentary and Municipal Elections”. The Act introduced the secret ballot and people could vote in private without being intimidated to vote for a particular party. It also ended the publication of Poll Books.

The electoral register, sometimes referred to as the electoral roll, lists the names and addresses of everyone who is registered to vote during that year.

Before 1832 a voter was a man over 21 years who had to own property and be taxed and this excluded most working class people. In 1832 Parliament passed the Great Reform Act which gave the vote to a wider range of men who were occupiers of property worth £10 per year and had paid their rates and taxes. Electoral registers began on this date. The 1867 Second Reform Act extended the right to vote to all householders who paid rent of £10 per year or more and also to agricultural landowners and tenants. The 1918 Reform Act gave the vote to all adult men in a constituency and to women over 30 if they were a householder or married to a householder. In 1928 all men and women aged over 21 were given the vote. In 1969 the right to vote (and the age of majority) was lowered to 18 for all adults.

In 2024, there are two versions of the register – the full version and the open register. Everyone is on the full register which can only be used for elections and referendums. The open register can be bought by anyone who wants a copy, for example businesses, charities and direct marketing firms. A person can have their name and address removed from the open register and still have the right to vote.

Family historians wanting to research the 19th and 20th centuries have census returns and, of course, the 1939 Register. Using electoral registers can help find ancestors (and their addresses) between the dates of the census and people can be followed for several years.

The British Library holds a complete set of electoral registers for the whole of the United Kingdom from 1947 onwards. There is also an extensive collection before that date. London Metropolitan Archives and local County and Borough Record Offices will hold copies.

Some registers have now become available online. The subscription websites have searchable electoral registers; Findmypast.co.uk (the years 1832-1932 and 2002-2023) and Ancestry.co.uk (1832-1965 and 2003-2010). The Genealogist has City of London ones from 1877 and 1894-

1895, City of Westminster from 1908-1909 and the 2005 London Electoral Register. Poll Books and Directories from 1830-1837 are on Findmypast and Ancestry has Poll Books and Electoral Registers from 1538-1893. The Genealogist has the London Poll Book from 1849. The website [www.electoralregisters.org.uk](http://www.electoralregisters.org.uk) has information about Poll Books and Electoral Registers and lists what is online and where.

**REGISTER OF ELECTORS, 1931.**  
(IN FORCE 15th OCTOBER, 1931 TO 14th OCTOBER, 1932.)

**ENFIELD PARLIAMENTARY DIVISION  
OF MIDDLESEX.**

**Enfield (Chase and Bulls Cross South)  
Parliamentary Polling District E.**  
Enfield West Electoral Division (part of).

**PARISH OF ENFIELD.  
CHASE & BULLS CROSS WARD**  
of the Urban District of Enfield (part of).  
Postal District: Enfield, Middlesex.

**FORM OF REGISTER.**

The Register contains the names in street order of all persons entitled to vote as Parliamentary and as Local Government electors.

The Index letters in column 2 (a) headed "Parliamentary" or 2 (b) headed "Local Govt." of the register, (see first page) show the nature of the qualification of an elector as follows:—

<i>For Men.</i>	<i>For Women.</i>
R = Residence qualification.	Rw = Residence qualification.
B = Business premises qualification.	Bw = Business premises qualification.
O = Occupation qualification.	Ow = Occupation qualification.
D = Qualification through wife's occupation.	Dw = Qualification through husband's occupation.

NM = Naval or military voter.

The entry of the appropriate Index letter or letters against a name in the column 2 (a) headed "Parliamentary" indicates that the elector is a Parliamentary elector, and the entry of the appropriate letter or letters against a name in the column 2 (b) headed "Local Govt." indicates that the elector is a Local Government elector (for headings, see first page of Register). Where no Index letter is entered in one or other of those columns against a name, the elector is not entitled to the franchise to which the column relates.

**NOTE.**—Persons against whose names the mark † is placed are not entitled to vote in respect of that entry at elections of County Councillors.  
Persons against whose names the mark § is placed are not entitled to vote in respect of that entry in the case of a Borough or Urban District, at elections for Borough or District Councillors as the case may be.  
Persons against whose names the mark \* is placed will vote at another polling place at Parliamentary elections.  
Persons against whose names the letter a is placed are absent voters.

**JURORS.**—Persons who are qualified to serve as such are indicated by the letters printed after their names, thus:—  
J = Juror. SJ = Special Juror.

Guilford, Westminster, S.W.1. ERNEST S. W. HART,  
15th October, 1931. Registration Officer.

Printed by STANLEY WOODFIELD, T. U. PRINTER, Windmill Hill, Enfield,  
for the Registration Officer of the County of Middlesex.

## Electoral Register Codes

Now that some electoral records are online, a question that is often asked is 'What do the letters next to a person's name mean?' Until 1948 when 'one person, one vote'

was announced, the registers had a 'reason' or 'reason codes' next to electors' names. This indicated why they qualified to vote.

## 1885 to 1918

Names in these years usually had a written description of what entitles a person to be on the register. Sometimes there is extra information: if

someone is a lodger, then the Landlord's name may appear; the weekly rent and number of rooms could be shown and if a person moved house in the last year, then 'successive' can appear followed by the previous address.

### 1918 to 1928

Each person now has two letters (codes) next to their name. The first qualifies the voter for Parliamentary Elections and the second for Local Elections. Where there is a dash, then the person cannot vote in that election. 'Occupation' means occupation of a property and not type of employment.

R	Residence qualification
BP	Business premises qualification
O	Occupational qualification
HO	Qualification through husband's occupation
NM	Naval or Military voter

### 1928 to 1948

Each person still has two letters (codes) next to their name. The first qualifies the voter for Parliamentary Elections and the second for Local Elections. If there is a dash, then the person cannot vote in that election.

R	Residence qualification - man
Rw	Residence qualification - woman
B	Business premises qualification - man
Bw	Business premises qualification - woman
O	Occupational qualification - man
Ow	Occupational qualification - woman
D	Qualification through wife's occupation
Dw	Qualification through husband's occupation
NM	Naval or Military voter

Other Codes which may appear are:

J	Eligible to serve as a juror
SJ	Eligible to serve as special juror
a	Absent voter
BP	Business premises register
CL	Civilian residence register

SE Service register  
RR Ratepayers register

After 1948 the following codes can be seen:

-J after a name indicates liability for service as a juror.

Y- before the name indicates date the elector can vote.

S- before name indicates a service voter.

L- before name indicates elector cannot vote at Parliamentary Elections.

LC- before name indicates elector cannot vote at Parliamentary Elections or at elections of County Councillors.

The above list is shown on the first page of each Register of Electors, as shown in the photograph on page 135.

Registers were usually produced once each year. (There are no registers for the war years: 1915 (Scotland), 1916, 1917 and 1940 to 1944).

Registers were produced twice a year in 1868, 1885, 1919 to 1926, 1945 and 1946. (spring and autumn registers).

**Sources:**

[www.electoralregisters.org.uk](http://www.electoralregisters.org.uk)

[www.gov.uk/browse/citizenship/voting](http://www.gov.uk/browse/citizenship/voting)

[www.thenationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.thenationalarchives.gov.uk)

[www.parliament.uk](http://www.parliament.uk)

## Islington Pamphlet Wants A Good Home

One of our members has unearthed a copy of a pamphlet *Feminist History - a sponsored walk* published by 'Rights of Women' at 2a St Pauls Rd, N1. It details the route of the walk, which took place on 9 July 1978, starting at Highbury Fields. There is at least a paragraph of information on all the relevant sites passed e.g Holloway Prison, the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital, places lived in by various famous and not so famous women etc. If anyone would like it, for the cost of postage only, please contact Dawn Adams at: [fhlmw@adamslancaster.net](mailto:fhlmw@adamslancaster.net)

## JOTTINGS

### **London Metropolitan Archives name change**

After a series of workshops and surveys with potential and current users of their service, it seems that the word ‘metropolitan’ is less understood these days and people are confused by which records London Metropolitan Archives might hold. In order to clarify this, the name was changed on 5 August to ‘The London Archives’, abbreviated as TLA.



The new information desk at The London Archives.

It is the second largest archive service in the UK, recording the history of the capital from 1067, preserving and sharing the stories of Londoners, businesses, charities, churches, hospitals, schools and much more and are crucial to anyone researching their family history in Greater London.

The London Archives now has a greater online presence and a brand-new website at: <https://www.thelondonarchives.org/> providing clear information about their services, exhibitions and events, and will share a range of engaging content about their collections, with the aim of inspiring experienced and new researchers alike.

### **General Register Office price increases**

The GRO has increased the price of birth, marriage and death certificates for England and Wales. Paper copies of the certificates now cost £12.50 each, PDFs cost £8.00 and digital images are £3.00.



These prices cover the following dates:

Printed copies of all but the most recent certificates, which are sent 4 days after you apply. If you do not have a GRO index reference number, you'll have to pay £3.50 extra for each search and the certificates will be sent 15 working days after you apply. Do, instead, try and find the index number on <https://www.freebmd.org.uk/> if you can. For births and deaths within the last 50 years and marriages within the last 35 years you will need to supply further details to complete an online application. If you are unable to complete the mandatory fields, you will not be able to apply online and you will need to follow their telephone ordering process which incurs an additional fee of £4.50.

PDFs of births from 1837 to up to 100 years ago (so currently 1924), and death records from 1837-1957 are available. PDFs can only be ordered online and can be seen within about 4 working days – you will be emailed when it is ready.

Digital images of births from 1837-1924 and death records from 1837-1957 can also only be ordered online. Digital images can be seen as soon as the order has been completed.

### **Lavender Hill Cemetery Nonconformist Chapel**

Lavender Hill Cemetery was established by Enfield Burial Board as space had run out at the parish church of St Andrew. Twelve acres of land was acquired for burials just over a mile away at Lavender Hill, which opened in 1872. A Gothic Revival style chapel was erected and forms a matching pair with its Anglican counterpart. They were both listed Grade II by Historic England in 1990. Unfortunately, the nonconformist chapel has been unused for several years and its condition is deteriorating. It is owned by Enfield Council and they have now been awarded funding to explore options regarding the conservation and restoration of the building, together with thinking of ideas as to how to bring it back into some sort of use. You can follow their progress at London Historic Buildings, online here: <https://londonhistoricbuildings.org.uk/index.php/lavender-hill-non-conformist-cemetery-chapel/>

(By the way, those who have visited the superb Victorian gentlemen's toilets at Wesley's Chapel in Old Street might be interested to know that this nonconformist chapel had a similarly interesting curved metal urinal with embossed panels and decorative bands. This has currently been removed for safe keeping.)

## St Michael Bassishaw, Basinghall Street, City of London

This church is first mentioned in records in 1196. It was rebuilt in the 15th century but was all but destroyed by the Great Fire of London in 1666, with only the tower escaping. A new church was designed by Sir Christopher WREN and constructed from 1676 but on The London Archives catalogue, it says ‘In 1897 the foundations of St Michael Bassishaw were severely damaged when the crypt was cleared of human remains’. How on earth can that have happened?

It transpires that the rector had been trying to re-lay part of the floor but, on doing so, it was found that bodies, some in wooden coffins and some only wrapped in cotton shrouds, were in the loose soil just under the floor. This meant that the human remains needed to be moved and on doing this, it was found that the church had been very poorly built. The ‘stone’ pillars turned out to be made of wood covered in lath and plaster and instead of supporting the roof, one was actually suspended by it. The building’s foundations were so defective that the removal of the bodies was stopped immediately, according to a report in *The Morning Leader* of 24 November 1896. The building was shored up and sometime later, when it was deemed safe to do so, the remains of around 300 bodies were removed to the Great Northern Cemetery in New Southgate where a monument stands just to the right of the entrance.



The inscription on the monument at the Great Northern Cemetery states that 129 coffins and 197 boxes of human remains were removed from St Michael Bassishaw and reinterred here.

The burial registers for St Michael Bassishaw date from 1539-1853. The originals are at The London Archives and they have been digitised onto

Ancestry UK. The church of St Michael Bassishaw was subsequently demolished in 1897 and the parish united with neighbour St Lawrence Jewry. The proceeds of the sale of the site were used to fund a new church, St Michael Bassishaw in Bury Street, Edmonton. The bell of St Michael, which weighed 6½ cwt and was apparently re-cast in 1679, was moved to St Etheldreda's church in Fulham Palace Road.

### **Open House London**

The annual Open House weekend is taking place from 14-22 September this year and is an opportunity to have a closer look at buildings in London, including ones which are not normally open to the public. There is a wide range of events and tours taking place across all 33 London boroughs with hundreds of buildings of all kinds opening their doors, plus neighbourhood walks, cycle tours, talks and debates taking place. You can find out more on the website: <https://www.openhouseworldwide.org/london>

The Open City part of this website actually lists many walks with an architectural theme taking place throughout the year. Examples are a walking tour of Westminster pubs, which shows beautiful heritage hostelries and compares them to modern equivalents aimed at the tourist and the commuter. The social histories that happened within them is also mentioned. Highlights include the *Ship and Shovell*, a Victorian pub that is split in two; the lavish *Lord Salisbury* and its magnificent saloon bar; *The Harp*, a beer-lovers favourite; *The Coal Hole*, once home to a song-and-supper club and favoured watering hole of the late actor Richard HARRIS; and the *Nell Gwynne*, a backstreet treat named after King Charles II's favourite mistress.

### **Destruction of original Wills update**

The Editorial in the March issue of *Metropolitan* looked at the proposal of the Ministry of Justice to digitise and then destroy original Wills after 25 years, rather than preserve them in perpetuity (in line with current legislation). A petition was raised on the Government website where people could register their objection to the proposal. Due to the calling of the General Election, this was closed early on 30 May 2024. The subsequent dissolving of Parliament meant that all parliamentary business, including petitions, had to stop. At this time, the petition had over 15,000 signatures and so would normally have required a response from Government but this will now not happen and it is up to the new Government to decide whether to respond or not.

## Willesden New Cemetery

Brent Council has given notice of its intention to extinguish exclusive rights in specific graves in Section F of this cemetery, which is at Franklyn Road, London NW10, from 4 February 2025. This procedure will enable the space remaining above previous burials and unused graves to be re-used for new burials. The graves listed in the notice have either not been used for burial since the last burial over 75 years ago or it has been more than 75 years since the Deed of Grant was issued or the grave was purchased and the grave has not been used for a burial.

Any memorials on these graves remain the property of the registered owner of the exclusive rights. However, any memorial not claimed and removed by the registered owner before 4th May 2025 will be removed for disposal. You can find out more from Brent Council's Public Portal here: <https://publicnoticeportal.uk/notice/statutory/667d28e4ebcb3c999569f640>



## OUT AND ABOUT

### Barnet Medieval Festival, 8 and 9 June

Unfortunately this event had to be cancelled due to the saturated state of the land it was to be held on. It was hoped to rearrange it for later in the year but this has not proved possible. Next year's event is due to take place on 7-8 June 2025, so do pencil this into your diaries.

### Coming up...

London Westminster & Middlesex FHS will be going to the following events in the next few months. Maybe we are coming to an event near you? We are always happy to welcome some extra volunteers to help out. You do not have to be an expert, just enjoy chatting to people about family history. It lets our main helpers have a short break and is actually good fun! If you could help at any of these events for an hour or two, please contact Karen at: [events@lwmfhs.org](mailto:events@lwmfhs.org)

### The Family History Show, 5 October



The Family History Show at Kempton Park Racecourse will be held on Saturday 5 October

from 10am-4pm. This is one of the largest family history shows in England and is organised by *Discover Your Ancestors* magazine and sponsored by The Genealogist subscription website.

There are many local societies, archive companies and genealogical suppliers exhibiting, including us. You can book a free one-to-one session to put your research questions to an expert. Those attending are Nick Barratt (our September Virtual Branch speaker!), Donna Rutherford and Keith Gregson. There is a succession of free talks held throughout the day including ones by the three experts.

Early-bird tickets bought in advance cost £12 for two and include a free goody bag on entry.

Refreshments are available all day from the on-site café and there is space to eat food you have brought from home. There is ample free parking on site but the venue also has a train station 200 yards from the North entrance with trains running every half an hour from Waterloo.

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

### **Suffolk Family History Fair, 19 October**



This is a new one for us. It is taking place on Saturday 19 October from 10am-4.30pm at The Hold, 131 Fore Street, Ipswich IP4 1LN (the site of Suffolk Archives). Entry to the fair is free and there will be a programme of talks on the subject of farming and agricultural labourers, a free family help desk (from 11am-3pm) and interesting displays and stalls from family history

and related organisations. For more information, visit their website: <https://suffolkfhs.co.uk/index.php/pages/view/society-fair>

### **Oxfordshire Family History Society Fair, 26 October**



The Oxfordshire Family History Fair will be held on Saturday 26 October from 10am-4pm at Cherwell School North Site, Marston Ferry Road, Oxford, OX2 7EE.

If you are new to family history research and not sure where to start, or you are experienced but always looking for more information to support your research a family history fair is a great place to come. You will find many experts willing to help you, including Oxfordshire FHS advisors and colleagues from the Oxfordshire History Centre bringing their resources and

knowledge of the county. Other county family history societies will also be able to help from Oxford's closest neighbours to further flung areas of the country. All this free advice and plenty of goodies to buy!

Entry is free and refreshments are available. There is some parking on site. Visit their website for further information, including how to get there on public transport: <https://www.ofhs.uk/events/event/ofhs-family-history-fair-saturday-october-26th-2024>

### **West Surrey Family History Society Family History Fair, 9 November**



This fair will take place on Saturday 9 November from 10am-4.30pm at the usual venue, Woking Leisure Centre, Kingfield Road, Woking GU22 9BA.

Research facilities will include transcripts of the Parish Registers of West Surrey Poor Law Index, Surrey Monumental Inscriptions Indexes, Surrey Soldiers who died in the First World War and more, which will be available together with microfiche readers where needed. There is usually a large selection from the West Surrey FHS Reference Library to look at including Surrey items, London/Middlesex items (including the Victorian A-Z of London) and some that cover the whole country, such as Phillimore's Atlas of Parish registers. Volunteers will be on hand to give help and advice with these resources. There will also be specialist help desks and free talks.

Expert advice will be on hand with guest societies from around the Home Counties and beyond, including us, local heritage groups; suppliers of data CDs, maps, software, archival materials and much more.

There is free admission to the fair and free parking for 3 hours.

For more information visit: <https://wsfhs.co.uk/pages/openday.php>

## **Can You Help at Any of These Events?**

Please email Karen at:

[events@lwmfhs.org](mailto:events@lwmfhs.org)



## ST GEORGE'S UNION WORKHOUSE FULHAM ROAD

By Elizabeth Burling, Member No. 4992

The new parish of St George Hanover Square needed a workhouse and one was constructed on the south side of Mount Street, opening in 1726. It had space to house 150-200 people but by 1777 it had had to be enlarged several times, then having space for 700 and making it one of the largest in the country.

Further space was required and in 1787 Shaftesbury House on Fulham Road in Little Chelsea was acquired, initially to accommodate children and 'lunatics'. An Act of Parliament passed the same year declared that it was to be considered to be in St George's parish and so exempt from paying rates in Chelsea, on condition of paying £3 3s to the Rector of Chelsea and £6 13s 4d to the parish of Chelsea each year, and to continue being used as a workhouse.

Shaftesbury House had been built by the Earl of Shaftesbury, Antony Ashley COOPER, in about 1695 and he lived there when Parliament was in session. The house eventually became the property of the WYNNE family and it was the Reverend Luttrell WYNNE who sold it to the parish of St George Hanover Square. In 1856 the old mansion was pulled down and a larger workhouse built on its site. The author of an article in to the *West Middlesex Advertiser* of 23 May 1857 wanted to know if any of the old house was preserved, such as the panelling, the 'well-known summer house with date 1635, the Hercules fountain and the fine old medlar tree'.

In 1876, the workhouse was extensively remodelled and enlarged, in order to provide space for 2,080 inmates. One Saturday in May of that year, members of the Architectural Association were shown round by the architect, Henry SAXON SNELL, F.R.I.B.A. and his son, Harry SAXON SNELL, A.R.I.B.A. The visit was reported in detail in *The Building News* of 5 May 1876 and provides quite interesting reading.

The older portion of the house was to become the infirm wards and house the administration of the workhouse. The article reported: 'Some antiquarian interest attaches to the site, as a portion of it was formerly occupied by Shaftesbury House, and during the alterations a Queen Anne

red brick summer-house has been taken down, in which Locke wrote his *Essay on the Human Understanding*.' This would seem to be the summer house mentioned in the *West Middlesex Advertiser*. There is no mention of a medlar tree but the report continues: 'The walnut tree adjoining has been spared on sentimental grounds, and stretches its gaunt leafless branches over a corner of one of the exercise grounds.' This is later described as 'the old dead walnut-tree' so hard to know why it was left there!

The party start off by examining some 50 plans of the site, which is described as an irregular four-sided area about 600ft x 380ft. The new buildings were to include a chapel, a house for the master and one for the engineer and able-bodied wards but the main building was to be the infirmary, which would cover nearly half of the site. The contractors were stated to be Messrs WALL Brothers of Kentish Town and the clerk of the works Mr THOMPSON. The amount of the contract was £96,000 but with additions and extras, the cost was expected to be £110,000. As to the cost of the buildings, the architect stated that they would cost 6d per cubic foot on average.

They visited the chapel first, which is described in detail. It was stated to be almost 'too good for paupers' and 'would be an ornamental feature on any village', with the bell turret being visible from the Fulham Road. The chapel could seat 600 and was constructed from 'bright-washed stocks' with bands of red bricks and Portland stone dressings. The nave and aisles were separated by arcades of six bays, supported by dwarf columns of Mansfield stone and all the fittings were of stained and varnished pitch-pine. A narrow corridor connected the chapel with the infirmary.

A descent was then made to the kitchen. A large stove and boiler, erected by 'Messrs BENHAM and sons, patentees' was in operation, heating a series of cauldrons containing tea, potatoes, soup and so on. The stove could also be used for roasting meat, baking bread and all other sorts of cooking. It had been quite expensive, costing some £500, but the architect believed that it would save money in the end as only one small fire was required 'to carry on every class of culinary operation for the establishment'.

They party then inspected the able-bodied wards, which had been built in the projecting angle of the site next to Limerston Street. There were



separate dining rooms for men and women, each 152ft long and 17ft wide. The only furniture was a series of table-forms with sturdy cast-iron supports with a stout deal seat on one side and an equally strong table on the other. It was explained that solidity was the first consideration in planning these fittings on account of the destructive tendencies developed by some inmates. Duplicate parts of the woodwork were to be kept on the premises to replace portions which might be broken; these could be fixed by the paupers. Attention was called to the flooring material of these rooms, which had been laid by Messrs GREEN and KING, using their 'patent concrete'. This had been laid as a single coat 2 inches thick, instead of the usual way of laying two coats of cement. Again, it was hoped that this would stand up to expected rough treatment.

One of the five blocks of the able-bodied wards was then inspected, Mr SAXON SNELL explaining that the others were precisely similar in every detail. These wards formed a row of buildings of three stories, 13ft, 12ft and 11ft in height respectively, from ground to roof. On the ground floor was a day-room warmed by the hot-water pipes surrounding the room and ventilated by a space being left without glass in the upper sash windows. There was also a 'refractory' room on the ground floor. This is described as a cell, the light of which was 'borrowed' from the skylight. On each of the floors above were two bedrooms, each room containing 17 beds. The architect was keen to show off the toilets, which he had patented. To quote from *The Building News*, 'A weighted lid hangs on pivot behind seat; behind this a grating of ironwork communicates with open air just above seat-level, so that when the lid is closed ventilation is ensured.'

After leaving the able-bodied block, the party went past the fragments of LOCKE's summer-house, which had been left in the wall, and on to the infirmary which was still being built at the time. Seven blocks of 4 stories were planned arranged 'on the pavilion system' overlooking Victoria Grove. Each floor of the pavilions was planned as a ward, 84ft by 24ft, to accommodate 28 patients. At the one end were cupboards and lavatories, and at the other end the staircase, lift, nurse's room and scullery, with a small 'separation ward' for doubtful cases. These rooms were very much for infirm people and not those with infectious diseases. Large windows were planned to give ample natural light and under each bed were perforated brick openings through which air would enter the wards after passing over hot-water pipes. Zinc openings in the ceilings would take stale

air away through ventilating flues in the walls. Perforated bricks turned on edge were used as ventilators in place of gratings, effecting ‘a considerable saving in cost’.

The lift, by the way, was used for taking food, bedding and so on to each floor and was worked by hydraulic power, with the necessary water pressure being maintained by use of a 198ft water tower built next to the Fulham Road.

At the rear of the blocks were out-houses in which there were lavatories and urinals, supplied by Messrs MACFARLANE and Co. The space between these was walled-in to ensure separation from neighbouring blocks, and floored with ‘SHEARDOWN’s tar pavement’. The party then visited the saw works in which were located a general joinery shop and a tenoning machine, worked by steam power. The workmen here were engaged in making floor joists for the infirmary.

In 1870, St George Hanover Square parish became part of the new St George’s Poor Law Union, along with the parishes of St Margaret Westminster and St John the Evangelist. Records of St George’s Union are at The London Archives (TLA) and include admissions and discharges from the Fulham Road workhouse dated 1856-1940, casebooks from 1872-1928 and creed registers from 1872-1930. Baptisms at the workhouse from 1878-1886 and 1900-1907 are at TLA, those from 1918-1946 are at Westminster Archives Centre – all of these are online at Ancestry UK with copies on Findmypast. Deaths from 1870-1932 are also at TLA and online at the same places.

### Sources:

*Parish Research Guide to St George Hanover Square* (LWMFHS, 2024)

*The Workhouse, the story of an Institution* by Peter Higginbotham, online here:

<http://www.workhouses.org.uk/>

The British Newspaper Archive, via [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk)

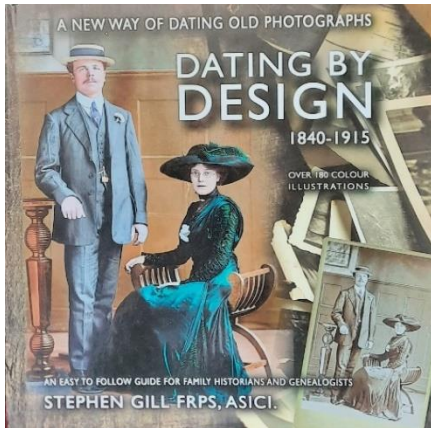
## New Email Address?

Please let us know: [membership@lwmfhs.org](mailto:membership@lwmfhs.org)

## BOOK REVIEW

**Dating by Design 1840-1915** by Stephen Gill (The Family History Partnership, 2021). This 140 page hardback book has over 180 colour illustrations.

Stephen is a professional photographer who has also been restoring images for many years. Many of you will have heard his interesting talk to our



Virtual Branch in March. In this he said that when restoring a photo, he often spends a couple of hours looking at the image and so notices all sorts of details within the picture. This has led him directly to writing this book. Looking at each minute detail provides a framework of likely dates for an image, which can then be narrowed down using averages and common sense.

After some information about the history and types of photograph,

Stephen invites readers to 'follow the trend', with dated details on hair and costume styles.

Most of the book is taken up with images which Stephen has dated. The photos Stephen uses to illustrate his method are all professionally taken, as information about the photographer can often be researched and helps with the dating. (A very useful list of links to websites listing Victorian and Edwardian photographers is included at the back of the book.) Each page includes a copy of the original and its back, which is often crucial to dating, plus a coloured image of it. Authentic colours have been used, which can really help to see details but Stephen has added a dark grey background to almost all which, of course, removes all background details. The picture on the reverse of the title page has coloured people on the original back and white background and is magnificent. I wish they could all be like that.

However, this easy to follow guide for family historians and genealogists will be a useful addition to those seeking to date their photographs.

## ARE YOU LOOKING IN THE RIGHT PLACE?

There is an excellent article on the above topic by Janet Few in the Family History Federation's newsletter, the Really Useful Bulletin No, 47, dated July 2024. It's all about the various different boundaries and jurisdictions present in our group of islands, from the differences between the British Isles, the UK and GB right down to postal addresses and how parishes, poor law unions, registration districts and the like relate to them.

You may have heard Janet's useful talk about researching marginalised ancestors at our May Virtual Branch meeting and she is also president of the Family History Federation (FHF) so is very well placed to know her topic.

You can sign up for the Really Useful Bulletins, which are emailed monthly, here: <https://www.familyhistoryfederation.com/subscribe-to-our-newsletter>. And anyone can look at the archive in the FHF's Explore Your Genealogy website: <https://www.exploreyourgenealogy.co.uk/> look under the 'resources' tab.

Of course, our own Which Place is Where? guide can also be useful. Greater London was and is a complicated and densely populated area and our guide is designed to help you locate places. You can look up the name of a district, such as 'Agar Town' and you will find out which Ancient Parish covered it, in the case of the area looked after by LWMFHS or which other Family History Society you would need to contact to find out more about these areas. Which Place is Where? can be found on our website here: <https://lwmfhs.org/which-where/>



### ADVERTISING RATES

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

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

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

## **RALPH THOMAS DEARLING (1912-1942)**

### **My Mother's First Cousin**

By Jane Ainsworth, Non-member

Ralph was born on 4 February 1912 in Wallington, Croydon, the elder son of Charles Harry DEARLING (1879-1966) bank clerk, and Daisy née BECK (1883-1918). He was baptised on 8 September 1912 at St Philip's Church, Norbury.

The DEARLING branch of my family tree originated around Dorking, Surrey, as agricultural workers. Edith Louisa DEARLING (married surname FIRTH) was my only grandparent to have roots outside the West Riding of Yorkshire, where I was born in Barnsley.

Thomas DEARLING (1845-1893) my great grandfather, relocated to central London for improved work prospects, aged about 21. He was a footman for two families

from 1866 and, by 1871, was one of 11 servants for George Ward HUNT, landowner, barrister and Conservative MP for Northamptonshire, at 15 Prince of Wales Terrace, Kensington. Thomas' future wife Mary Ann COLSON was a 'nurse' there. (*The mansion was later converted into a hotel*).

Thomas was a messenger at the Bank of England by the time he and Mary Ann got married in July 1871 at St Peter's Church, Eaton Square, Pimlico. They had five children: Gertrude Elizabeth, Alice Mary, Edith Louisa, George Thomas, who died aged 20 months, and Charles Harry. They moved from Pimlico to Peckham to Camberwell.



Ralph with his parents in 1917.

Thomas died in 1893, aged 47, of 'Pthisis Pulmonaris [TB] about 2 years' and he was buried in an unmarked communal grave in Old Camberwell (Forest Hill) Cemetery. The Bank were very good to the family, paying a



Young Ralph in a sailor suit costume.

pension to his widow and employing Harry, aged 13. (*They were also very kind to me when I requested information*). However, the daughters had to work to contribute, two as dressmakers then clerks, while Edie was sent to Elsecar, Barnsley, to work as a domestic servant for her retired great aunt.

Harry served in WW1 in some naval capacity but I am unsure of details. His wife Daisy died in 1918 in childbirth but their second son Geoffrey Douglas survived. Ralph was 6 years old and the brothers were looked after by her relations on the Isle of Wight until he went to boarding school: Bruntsfield, Sandown, Isle of Wight, then Chatham House Grammar School for Boys in Ramsgate

from 1923 to 1928. Ralph became a bank clerk for Lloyds Bank in Margate, and he was also a keen musician, playing, singing and listening.

Harry, his sisters Edie, Gertie, Alice, plus their mother, Mary Ann DEARLING, were very close to each other. They enjoyed holidays together in Yorkshire and down south; they corresponded regularly and we have some precious saved letters. Edie's children and their cousins got on well. We have quite a few photographs, many taken and developed by Harry, although they are not annotated.

Ralph got married in 1939 in Margate to Doris LAMONT, the wedding brought forward because of the outbreak of WW2. After he left for the Royal Navy, his wife relocated to Ruislip away from the coast and to be nearer to her parents.

I contacted the MoD Navy Search Team earlier this year to obtain a copy of Ralph's Service Records. I am very impressed by how quickly and

comprehensively they responded; I am grateful for various explanations for abbreviations, although some of these escaped them.



This photo, taken in 1928, shows Ralph aged 16 with his aunts, Edie on the right, and his grandmother in the centre.

Ralph signed up in Chatham on 13 June 1940 and was on HMS *Royal Arthur* – a shore establishment used for training at the requisitioned Butlins Camp at Ingoldmells near Skegness - until 17 July 1940, when he transferred to HMS *Pembroke* – his home base (accounting base) at Chatham. He was on HMS *Wildfire* – shore base at Sheerness - from 23

July and took some qualifications before being appointed as Temporary Petty Officer Writer from 17 October 1941 on HMS *Pembroke*. From 24 October 1941, 'Lent: Naval Party 'Piano'' (*'Records do not provide details regarding this unit. Curiously the Navy used a variety of somewhat amusing names – 'Funshore'; 'Acorn'; 'Mortar'; 'Piano' – for what were usually shore based units. We do hold record cards for many of these but sadly not for 'Party Piano'*). From 1 January 1942 on HMS *Sultan*, 'Base Depot Singapore', to 4 March 1942. (*Ralph was actually on 'the converted mercantile ship HMS Anking' but records were lost*). He was 'Discharged Dead on the 4 March 1942' (aged 30), 'Missing presumed Killed Ship *Anking*'.

Ralph was 5' 11 $\frac{3}{8}$ " tall with 34 $\frac{1}{4}$ " chest, brown hair, brown eyes and a fresh complexion. His character was 'Very Good' and efficiency 'Superior'. Ralph completed almost 1 year and 9 months' service and his records show that he was awarded three medals: War Medal 1939-45 (28+ days' service), 1939-45 Star (180+ days' afloat) and Pacific. His widow would have received a War Gratuity and a Pension.

A Petty Officer Writer worked in Administration and Accountancy, 'his rank was equivalent to Sergeant in the Army and he was responsible for recording operations and outcomes, correspondence, filing and other admin duties as well as manning the Pay Office. At Action Stations, he performed other duties such as First Aiders, Plot Room Operators. He wore a suit and jacket: he had a badge on his lapels of a six-pointed star with a couple of circles inside and the letter 'W' in the centre. He wore a peak cap with a badge in the front centre. He slept in a hammock in the Chief's Messes rather than the Ratings' Messes'. (*John Keeling, former Archivist at Chatham Dockyard*).

Ralph is remembered on the Chatham Naval Memorial, which commemorates 8,514 sailors of WW1 and 10,098 of WW2. A Memorial Register is also kept in the nearby Naval Chapel of Brompton Garrison Church.

Ralph's name is in the Chatham House School Book of Remembrance, one of 94 Old Ruymians (89 servicemen and 5 civilians). Someone from the school kindly checked records for me and confirmed that the OR magazines noted that Ralph was a 'Royal Naval Writer' in 1941, that he had landed



safely in Singapore in early 1942 then, in November 1942, that he was missing in Batavia (Jakarta) but no details. I was sent a photograph of the page with Ralph's name on but not one of the book in its glass topped case.

I was told that his widow might have placed a plaque in St Martin's Church, Ruislip, but I learnt that this was incorrect when April Vesey from LWMFHS very kindly visited this spring to search for it. I offered to write up Ralph's story in gratitude for her help.

If any LWMFHS members know any of the places I have mentioned or have photos you are willing to share with me, I would be very grateful to receive them. My contact email address is below.

### *HMS ANKING*

It is impossible to imagine the horrors that Ralph and all crew members experienced, knowing what their fate would be. Details are taken from several internet sources and much simplified.



Battles took place from 10 January to 8 March 1942 as part of the Pacific Campaign in the Java Sea, involving British, American, Dutch and Australian Navies (ABDA) against the Japanese. The British naval base at Singapore fell to the Japanese on 15 February after a week long battle; they held it to the end of WW2. 80,000 British and Commonwealth troops were taken Prisoner of War, many of whom died of neglect, abuse and forced labour.

A major naval battle took place on 27 February 1942 in which ABDA suffered defeat; almost the entire force was destroyed with 10 ships lost and 2,173 sailors killed. Japanese land forces invaded Java on 28 February

leading to retreat by the Allies. In the campaign, the Japanese executed many allied Prisoners of War and sympathetic Indonesians. They won this battle of attrition and ABDA forces surrendered on 9 March 1942.

#### EVENTS OF 4 MARCH 1942

In the morning between 0640 and 0800, 280 miles S/SE of Tjilatjap, the Japanese Navy encountered and eliminated an entire convoy escorted by the Australian sloop *Yarra*, which had arrived on the 2 March and came under attack first. They then engaged the depot ship *HMS Anking* (3,470 tons) which was carrying many Royal Australian Navy personnel en route from Jakarta to Australia in addition to 750 survivors from the sinking of *HMS Prince of Wales* and *HMS Repulse*, according to a newspaper article in 1986.

*Anking* was overwhelmed by many hits and sank in 10 minutes. (*I have been unable to discover the number of crew, RAN, how many died and whether there were any survivors*).

The Japanese also destroyed minesweeper *MMS51* and tanker *Francol* (4,900 tons). *Yarra's* end was witnessed by prisoners as a demonstration of Japanese power. Japanese made off N/NE after picking up one boat load of survivors from *Francol*. A collection of boats, rafts and floats was scattered over a wide area of sea. Towards evening a passing Dutch vessel rescued 57 officers and men but missed the frantic signals of 14 men on two Carley floats from *MMS51*. For the next 2½ days more men drifted about on their flimsy craft, scorched by day and frozen by night until they were picked up by the Dutch steamer *Tjimanoek* on 7 March 1942. Meanwhile *Yarra's* survivors, reduced by wounds, exposure and thirst, continued to drift helplessly on the ocean currents. On 9 March 1942, 13 of the sloop's ratings were picked up by the Dutch submarine *K11*. The rest, including a large boat load from *Francol*, were never heard of again. Of *Yarra's* 151 crew, 138 including the Captain and all officers were killed in the action or died subsequently on the rafts.

You can email Jane at: [janemaa@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:janemaa@hotmail.co.uk)



## SPOTLIGHT ON: BRIMSDOWN

Brimsdown is a district which lies on the very eastern side of the London Borough of Enfield. To the north is Enfield Lock and Ponders End is to the south. The eastern border is the Lee Navigation, which is the natural River Lea (yes, the spelling is different!) which has been improved for the navigation of boats. The Royal Small Arms Factory had moved to Enfield Lock in 1816 and was using the River Lea for transporting raw materials on site and finished articles to the London docks, some 15 miles south.



Brimsdown Station still has a level crossing, which is quite unusual in London.

Although the railway had been built some time before, a station only opened at Brimsdown on the line which ran from Liverpool Street to Cambridge in 1884. The style of the station was said to harmonise with the buildings on the adjoining Brimsdown estate but it did not immediately lead to the development of the area. By 1892, meadow grass was being grown on 7 acres next to the station.

Some 50 acres of land by Carterhatch Road ('an excellent 40ft thoroughfare, kerbed, channelled and sewered', according to the notice in the *Watford Observer* of 13 May 1893) was offered for sale. It was recommended that this land be used for horticulture, apparently an up-and-coming industry in the locality. 14 newly-erected cottages were also up for sale at this time.

Brimsdown Nurseries on Green Street was one company which took to horticulture here. The nurseries were open by 1891 and were owned by Mr John MALLER. He produced 'stove and greenhouse' flowers such as tea roses in pots, Ericas and 'unusually well-berried' Solanums. John had been born in Sussex, had married as a gardener in Clapton in 1854 and had then

lived and worked as a nurseryman at his Brunswick Nurseries in Tottenham, which he seems to have run in tandem with the ones at Brimsdown.

It might be expected that proximity to the Lee Navigation would make Brimsdown a good candidate for industrial development but it seems mainly to have been used for agriculture. However, there were two large factories here: the Imperial Lamp Works and the Brimsdown White Lead Works, which were both built in about 1902. The lead works had been called Bischof White Lead but shareholders sanctioned the change of name



One of the large industrial buildings at Brimsdown.

in 1903 as the apparently foreign title was meaning that their goods were looked on with suspicion in the trade, according to a report in *The Morning Leader* on 14 March 1903.

Initially intended as a varnish factory, the Lamp Works was taken on by innovative German electric lamp makers

Julius PINTSCH in about 1909. Three years later the factory was affected by a strike when 30 girls employed in the vacuum pump room struck for the reinstatement of a colleague who had been sacked for ‘excessive breakages’. This did not happen, the leaders were also sacked and, sadly, all the others were reinstated for less money. Following the start of the First World War, the company was confiscated and transferred to British ownership. It was bought by British Westinghouse in 1917 and the factory was renamed Cosmos Lampworks. It soon started making radio valves and lamp making ceased here soon afterwards. Eventually taken over by AEI, the boundaries between this factory and the massive former Ediswan one a few hundred metres away at Ponders End became blurred.

A power station was opened around 1904 by the North Metropolitan Electric Power Supply Company. It was fired by coal, which arrived by barge and rail. There were seven tall cooling chimneys and towers which could be seen for miles around. The power station became part of the British Electrical Authority in 1947 and then in 1958 the Central Electricity Generating Board, which decommissioned the station in 1976. Enfield Power Station, a combined cycle gas turbine plant which is privately owned by German company Uniper, opened on part of the site of the old power station in 1999.

The proximity of transport links and power encouraged businesses such as Brimsdown Castings, Enfield Cables Ltd, Enfield Rolling Mills, Johnson Matthey and Ruberoid Co to Brimsdown. The area is currently London's second largest industrial estate, according to the Enfield Local Plan. Other companies with premises here include Amazon and Warburtons.



The row of shops on Green Street.

#### Sources:

Brimsdwn: <https://hidden-london.com/gazetteer/brimsdown/>

Brimsdwn: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brimsdwn>

Brimsdwn Power Station:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brimsdwn\\_Power\\_Station](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brimsdwn_Power_Station)

British Newspaper Archive: <https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/>

Enfield Economic History at British History Online here: <https://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/middx/vol5/pp232-239>

Lamp works at Brimsdown: <http://www.lamptech.co.uk/Documents/Factory%20-%20UK%20-%20Brimsdwn.htm>

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. Please send any replies to the Editors, who will pass them on to the appropriate member.

### **EVERSLEY NURSING HOME**

I was born in 1939 in the above nursing home in Salmon Street, Kingsbury, Middlesex. I have tried to find a photo of the building which has since been demolished. Brent Local Studies has no record of the building.

Does anyone remember the building or has a photo of it?

*David Swinden, Member No. 8041*

Note: According to 1939 Register, the Eversley Nursing Home is at 18 Salmon Street, Wembley and two doors away is St Nicholas's School. This shows that the numbering on the road is the same as then, as the school is still two doors away.

Looking in historic newspapers, the Nursing Home is only mentioned in two which are currently available: one for 1936 and one for 1938. Looking more generally for Salmon Street, we discovered that the 'Salmon Estate' was constructed on Salmon Street, Kingsbury NW9 in 1932. There is an advert in the *Sunday Dispatch* of 25 December 1932 which says: 'Homes of Charm and Distinction for the Home Seeker who desires Quality as well as Price. Supremely well built and standing on the Highest Ground in the District, the Estate is only six miles from Marble Arch, and 12 minutes' walk from Wembley Park - Metro Station. Call and inspect the Super-Kitchen House over the Holiday. We shall be in attendance, Christmas Day and Boxing Day included. From £860 freehold.' There is a picture of the house, which looks very similar to ones nearby. This leads us to wonder if the current house is actually the original one?

**BRYANT**

I am a new member and have been researching my great grandfather William BRYANT. I live in Australia. I only know for sure that my William BRYANT was in Van Diemens Land (now Tasmania), Australia and he married my great grandmother Mary JOHNSTON in Launceston, Tasmania on 22 June 1858. They lived at Hadspen, Tasmania until 1873 and then moved to Springfield, Tasmania where William died in 1890.

William's marriage details say he was born in 1827 so I am going with him telling the truth. In the 1841 census there is a William BRYANT with his family in Marylebone. We are not sure if William was from Marylebone or not but the date is correct for his birth and that family have a lot of children with the same names that William has given his own children.

Some people have him coming from Twickenham and another from Essex and dates nowhere near 1827. I can't seem to find anything promising researching there.

I have also been researching all of the convicts with the same name - one was from London, Middlesex and transported on the *Stratheden* arriving in Van Diemens Land on 25 December 1845.

Are you able to suggest any other avenues I should follow up please? I have only been doing my family history research for 12 months so have a lot to learn.

***Maureen Foster, Member No. 8507***

Note: One of the first places to look for people who went to Australia is the excellent newspaper collection on Trove, the website of the National Library of Australia. The earliest mention we found here of a William BRYANT at Hadspen was from 1855 (when a William BRYANT, servant to Mr BUTTERWORTH of Hadspen, was reported being drunk on the premises of his master) and the latest was a report of your great grandfather's death in 1890 near Scotsdale. This last gives his age as 69, meaning a birth date of around 1822.

The problem is, of course, that there were quite a few William BRYANTs born between 1822-1827 who went to Australia before 1855. Libraries Tasmania says that children as young as 9 were amongst the 160,000 people transported between 1788 and 1868, so William could have arrived between 1831 and 1855. Tasmania Archives has a name index which contains 459 mentions of William BRYANTs. We

recommend that you look at all which you know definitely mention your family - there may be some tiny clue somewhere as to his past.

You will then need to sift through all of the others. If your William was a convict, then there will be records of him in Australia. The difficult part seems to be tying one particular convict to your ancestor - the paper trail has gone cold. You are researching all of the convicts and this seems the best thing to do. Follow any leads will mean you can eliminate some. For example, the William BRYANT you mention in the 1841 census can be found on the baptism register of St Pancras church as William James, son of William and Mary BRYANT, Tailor of Warren Street, who was born on 14 March and baptised on 3 April 1825. Unfortunately he can then be found in later censuses as a tailor at Shaftesbury Place, St Botolph without Aldersgate and so cannot be your man.

Some William BRYANTs were transported but it seems possible that your one could have been an assisted immigrant. There are three possibilities (out of ten altogether) in the Assisted Immigrants Index 1839-1896, which is on the Museum of History New South Wales website. These are people who arrived in Sydney and Newcastle 1844-59, Moreton Bay 1848-59 and Port Phillip 1839-51. They can all be followed up with more records on this website. The Museum of History New South Wales also has many documents referring to convicts in Van Diemen's Land, which might be worth investigating.

## **BURCHELL**

I am researching my maiden name BURCHELL. I've traced the family back to Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire. I was trying to piece together the life of my 2x great grandfather, James Holliday BURCHELL. He was born in Kingston Bagpuize, Berkshire (now Oxfordshire) in 1842, where his father was a game keeper at the large house there. The family later moved to Tetsworth in Oxfordshire. His first marriage to Elizabeth HALL was in Brill, Buckinghamshire in 1862, they had four children up to her death on 9 February 1871.

In 1865 he had joined the Metropolitan Police, started in B Division (Chelsea). I found an article in *The Times* dated 23 November 1871 of him (PC B314) being assaulted in Regent Street, Westminster. His fifth child was born to an Elizabeth DANIELS in 1874, it states Elizabeth



BURCHELL formally DANIELS on the birth certificate but I can't find any marriage for them. I'm working on the possibility that she was married before. I managed to photograph the old Police Station and Police Court in Vincent Square in 1997 before it was criminally pulled down and replaced with a modern apartment block. This combines the former 1901 Rochester Row Police Station and Court in Rochester Row. James is stated as being the Gaoler at the court in 1886 and 1887. The present Westminster Magistrates Court is a modern building at 181 Marylebone Road, NW1 5BR.



The Vincent Square Police Station, showing the cells on the right.

If anyone can help me with my research I would be most grateful. It is difficult to do any meaningful research from Plymouth where I live.

***Linda Ann Summerson, Member No. 8506***

Note: The burial of James Holliday BURCHELL of Tetsworth aged 66, which took place on 1 March 1909, appears in the burial register of the parish church of Tetsworth, St Giles so he must be buried there. This record is available on Ancestry.



## SURNAME INTERESTS

The research interests listed here were submitted by members between June and mid-August 2024.

Each quarter's 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, please go <https://lwmfhs.org/surname-interests/> In the search box, type the name you are interested in and a list of entries will appear if a match is found. Click Contact and this brings up an email for you to fill in.

Interests shown are from members: 8022; 8506; 8507; 8513; 8514

Name	Period	County	Parish / Area	Mem.No.
<b>ACOME</b>	1800/1900	BKM	Waddestone	8022
<b>AVERY</b>	1700-1800	MDX	Hillingdon, St John	8514
<b>BASTERFIELD</b>	1600-1800	MDX	St Luke, Old Street	8514
<b>BATES</b>	1860-1890	MDX	Islington, St Mary	8514
<b>BRYANT</b>	1820-1850	SOM	Stratton-on-the-Fosse	8507
<b>BURCHELL</b>	1865-1909	MDX	Any	8506
<b>CALCUTT</b>	1800/1900	MDX	East End	8022
<b>CRASKE</b>	1860-1900	MDX	Islington, St Mary	8514
<b>CREED</b>	1800/1900	BKM	Waddestone	8022
<b>DANIELS</b>	1865-1909	MDX	Any	8506
<b>DRINKWATER</b>	1800/1900	MDX	East End	8022
<b>DUNSFORD</b>	1800/1900	SRY	Wallington/Tottem	8022
<b>FORD</b>	1865-1909	MDX	Any	8506
<b>FORSTER</b>	1865-1909	MDX	Any	8506
<b>GOODBURN</b>	1865-1909	MDX	Any	8506
<b>GRAY</b>	1600-1800	MDX	Monken Hadley	8513
<b>HAPGOOD</b>	1800/1900	MDX	East End	8022
<b>HOLLIDAY</b>	1865-1909	MDX	Any	8506
<b>INCE</b>	1700-1890	MDX	All	8513
<b>JACKSON</b>	1865-1909	MDX	Any	8506
<b>KITCHENER</b>	1865-1909	MDX	Any	8506
<b>MATTHEWS</b>	1800/1900	SRY	Wallington/Tottem	8022
<b>POWELL</b>	1800/1900	MDX	East End	8022
<b>RAYNER</b>	1680-1750	MDX	Clerkenwell	8513
<b>REDWOOD</b>	1800/1900	DEV	Torquay	8022
<b>RIVERS</b>	1800/1900	MDX	East End	8022
<b>RULLAND</b>	1865-1909	MDX	Any	8506
<b>SAUNDERS</b>	1700-1830	MDX	Westminster	8513
<b>SCRUTTON</b>	1865-1909	MDX	Any	8506

<b>STEVENS</b>	1800/1900	MDX	East End	8022
<b>WITNEY</b>	1865-1909	MDX	Any	8506

## SPECIAL INTERESTS

<b>8506</b>	Vincent Square Police Station, Rochester Row. Westminster Police Court
<b>8507</b>	Convict transportation to Van Diemen's Land. (Tasmania)
<b>8514</b>	<b>Basterfield, Avery, Craske and Bates</b> families who moved around London wherever they could find work.

## NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the new members, number 8472 - 8519 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.

**Mr Alan Atkinson** (membership number 5008)

**Ms Rosemary White** (membership number 5635)



## 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](mailto:virtualbranch@lwmfhs.org) (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](mailto:virtualbranch@lwmfhs.org)

12 September     *Family History and the media: behind the scenes of Who Do You Think You Are* by Dr Nick Barrett explores the impact of Who Do You Think You Are on the way we research our family stories, with an explanation of how the show was first conceived and produced.

10 October        *Discovering the history of your ancestor’s house* by David Cufley. This workshop gives information on the social and building sources of our 18th, 19th and early 20th centuries ancestors’ homes using case studies.

14 November     *Posted in the Past* by Helen Baggott. Based on the books *Posted in the Past* and *Posted in the Past second delivery*, this talk reveals the true stories behind the postcards sent in the early years of the 20th century. Using genealogy Helen has researched the families to reveal their stories illustrated by images of some of the postcards. This talk shares some of those stories. – all connected by messages sent using the first real social media phenomenon of the 20th century.

12 December     *Frost, Freezes and Fairs* by Ian Currie, weatherman and Fellow of the Royal Meteorological Society. A look at 1000 years of famous winters when rivers including the mighty Thames froze and remarkable events took place on the ice.

**Rayners Lane Branch** – Talks are on the first Monday of the month unless that is a Bank Holiday, in which case the meeting will be on the second Monday. Doors open at 1pm for a 1.30pm start at Roxeth Community Church, Coles Crescent, South Harrow, Middlesex HA2 0TN. Free parking.

Branch Contact: Tony Allen, Email: [raynerslanebranch@lwmfhs.org](mailto:raynerslanebranch@lwmfhs.org)

- 2 September *The 110th Anniversary of the Start of the Great War in August 1914.* Come and share your own family stories, letters, postcards and so on.
- 7 October *Researching Shopkeeper Ancestors* by Sue Gibbons. Finding sources for the shop, the shopkeeper and the profession.
- 4 November To be announced – check our website
- 2 December Pre-Christmas Social

**LWMFHS members are welcome to attend the following meetings:**

**Midland Ancestors London Branch** – Talks are held on a Saturday from 10.15am to noon at the LDS Hyde Park Chapel, 64-68 Princes Gate, Exhibition Road, South Kensington SW7 2PA.

- 5 October *The Ancestor I would Most Like to Meet.* This is an opportunity for people attending to pick out an ancestor who, for whatever reason, they would like to meet. Was it a notable person, someone who was a rogue or even someone who went missing? All of our ancestors will have a story or two to tell that we would never otherwise discover.

**East Surrey Southwark Branch** – Talks are held on a Monday at John Harvard Library, 211 Borough High Street, Southwark SE1 1JA. Doors open at 11.30am and the talk starts at 12 noon. East Surrey FHS ask for a donation from visitors towards a cuppa.

- 14 October *Jones and Higgins Department Store* by Lisa Soverall. This shop opened in Peckham High Street in 1867. It closed in 1980 and part of the building was demolished to make room for the Aylesham Centre. Lisa will also be setting out some of the Jones and Higgins records for people to view after her talk.

## FOCUS ON FACEBOOK

By Elizabeth Burling, Member No. 4992

Colleen asked if London had a phone book for the late 1800s. She explained that her great grandfather had a picture framing store in Mile End and would like to know more about it.

The public telephone service in the UK was only started in 1879, with several companies merging in the mid-1890s to form the National Telephone Company. To start with there were so few subscribers that you would ask the operator to connect you by just naming the person you wished to speak to. This system soon became impractical and numbers were allocated to subscribers instead. Telephone directories were designed to help locate a person's telephone number with the first one being issued by The Telephone Company in 1880. Each directory is specific to a particular area and names are listed alphabetically with the person's address included as well as their phone number. Telephone directories dating from 1880-1984 are held in the British Telecom Archive at Holborn Telephone Exchange, 268-270 High Holborn and digitised on Ancestry.

However, at this early date in the history of the telephone, Colleen would probably find out more by looking elsewhere. Connie suggested census records, which would give an address and, by looking at the pages around the Mile End shop, would give an impression of the sort of area it was then.

Many people who answered Colleen suggested business directories, which were designed to help readers locate local businesses. Lorraine suggested the University of Leicester Special Collections Online, which have historical directories from the 1760s to the 1910s and can be found online here: <https://specialcollections.le.ac.uk/digital/collection/p16445coll4>

Jackie suggested the Kelly's directories and said that local libraries often hold them. These started as the Post Office Directory in about 1802, which was bought by Frederick Festus KELLY, the Government Inspector General of letter carriers in the 1830s, who then started publishing county directories.

By the 1950s more people had a telephone at home and the telephone directories gradually superseded the trade directories.

## **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.

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

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