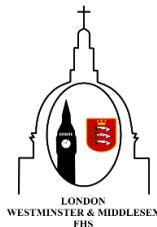


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METROPOLITAN

The Journal of the
LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX
Family History Society



Volume 11 No. 1 (184)

December 2024

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Cover picture: St Paul's Cathedral at Christmas time, taken by Matthew Haswell, 2023. See page 29

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EDITORIAL

As editors of *Metropolitan*, we try to match the picture on our cover to an article inside the journal. Sometimes, we just find a lovely photo and then have to put our thinking caps on and write about it. For our December edition it is good to have a more festive picture. Last year we had a photo of Leadenhall Market in London lit up with its Christmas lights. This year we have St Paul's Cathedral glowing on a dark evening. These photos were actually taken in the previous year as our printing schedule means that the journal needs to be finalised and sent to the printers before the Christmas lights are even switched on.

I remember that when I was a child our family always went up to London to see the brightly lit shop window displays and the street lights. Selfridges and Harrods shops, especially, had several colourful windows full of all kinds of toys, balloons, Christmas trees and decorations. A window could be a winter scene with snow, animatronic polar bears and penguins or a teddy bear's picnic with many bears of all shapes and sizes.

Selfridges shop was one of the first to have these displays. In 1909 when American Harry Gordon SELFRIDGE opened his shop, he illuminated the window displays and every December the whole shop celebrated Christmas. He knew that Macy's windows in New York had shown Christmas displays since the 1870s and was a great success.

It wasn't until 1954 that Christmas lights were put up along the length of Regent Street and all the shops had festive windows. An attempt to brighten up post-war London but a tradition was born. Oxford Street lights began in 1959 and soon other streets and areas such as Kew Gardens copied the idea. Nowadays, many places throughout the UK have Christmas lights and, of course, celebrities to switch them on.

We are now thinking of Christmas 2025 and it is time to look for a picture for our December *Metropolitan*. Could your photo be on our cover? Look around our Society's area and take a photo for us. It can be a nativity scene in your local parish church or anything christmassy and wintry. If we have a white Christmas then a snow scene would be lovely.

Please get your camera/phone out and take a picture for us.

Thank you and a Happy Christmas to all our members.

Barbara, Elizabeth and Paul, the Editorial Team

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

I've been thinking about the best bits of family history research and I believe it is all to do with connections. From the exciting first inkling of a family link to the thrill of getting that third corroborating piece of evidence which confirms an ancestor, connections are surely what genealogy is all about. But apart from our own research, there are wider connections which make our hobby so satisfying.

Our Society has had a packed autumn with a stand at four different family history fairs. These are excellent opportunities to make further connections with both individual people and other family history societies from all over the country.

On an individual level, it has been great to meet our members attending these fairs and to put faces to names. I have also greatly enjoyed getting to know the volunteers who responded to our calls for help. There's always plenty to talk about if you are a family historian, I find, and there are often more personal connections related to these events. At Ipswich for the Suffolk FHS Fair for example, all four of us manning the stall had links with Suffolk, I knew that my own Suffolk connection was a 3x great grandfather, Thomas BICKERS (1771-1853). He was a farmer at Ufford whose son William used to drive a goods wagon full of hay to London, a round trip of 9 days then. William moved to London for good in the 1840s, living around the Shoreditch area. Karen's 2x great grandmother Jemima TORBEL was from Wortham in Suffolk – her mother Ann MULLINGER, born in about 1805, is a brick wall. Andrea and Robert both discovered a connection at the Post Office in Brundish. Robert, whose interesting article about his distant relative Beattie appears on page 20 here, discovered that one of her half-sisters appeared in the census returns at the Post Office, which Andrea had lived in as a child!

From a Society point of view, it is always good to chat with people manning stalls from other societies. The Suffolk Women's Land Army Memorial Trust stand at Ipswich is one example. This group started with the intention of providing a digital roll call and memories of the women who worked on the land during the Second World War and apparently there were quite a few who came out from London to do this important work.

Elizabeth Burling

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

The ‘Spotlight on Brimsdown’ in the latest *Metropolitan* triggered two thoughts: my father, Ben ADAMS (1903-1977), was foreman in charge of the export warehouse of Ruberoid Co in Brimsdown until he retired in 1968. They made mineralised roofing (such as you might see on sheds or flat roofs), roofing felt and paper, mainly for the construction industry. Although lorries were used for transport (through local company Redburn’s), they made significant use of barges to take export goods via the Lea Navigation to the London Docks. The Enfield Rolling Mills and Enfield Cables were also users of barge transport for their large and heavy products. So access to the River Lea was very important in the siting of those factories until the demise of the Docks.

The electricity generating plant which started operation in 1904 for the ‘NorthMet’ was in the same ownership as the Metropolitan Electric Tramways and was built mainly to secure electricity supply for the trams. There is more detail on this in the definitive *Metropolitan Electric Tramways vol 1*. by C.S. Smeeton (1984). My parents always referred to their electricity supplier as the NorthMet, long after nationalisation.

Dawn Adams, Member No. 6025

Further to John Heideman’s letter in *Metropolitan*, Volume 9, Number 4, September 2023, and Lynne Overton’s letter from Volume 10 Number 2, March 2024, re the search for details of Flying Officer Herbert GAUNTLETT.

I have researched many similar cases. My father was in the RAF and was shot down in Northern France in 1940. He was one of 4 survivors of 9 in three crews. When I researched the event many years ago, I discovered local people including two historians remembered him and had/have written articles, books and they/we have since installed memorials and they held exhibitions etc. In return for their honouring the airmen and the British, Canadians etc the least I could do was to return their efforts. I found several families related to most of the crews involved and have been assisting in this way ever since as they continue their research.

I have been in touch with John Heideman in the Netherlands; I found Squadron Leader GAUNTLETT’s niece in Yorkshire and she has sent John a set of photographs of the Squadron Leader, his twin brother (her father), their family and part of a letter etc, so this adds to the work that the other member undertook.

Anyhow, I am full of admiration for those in parts of Europe who look after the graves of so many RAF crew.

Adrienne Roche, Member No. 6792



GENETIC GENEALOGY: AN INTRODUCTION.

By Paul Feetum, Member No. 8218

Not only have there been volumes printed on this vast subject but it is one which continues to evolve as science develops and as the number increases of people whose test results are held on databases. This short article will aim to offer an overview and hopefully help to point readers in the right direction. It will not, however, attempt to describe the biochemical complexities of deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA).

Firstly, there are 4 types of DNA whose test results may interest us as genealogists, namely:

- Y-chromosome DNA (Y-DNA) passed down exclusively from father to son;
- X-chromosome DNA (X-DNA), passed down by mothers in entirety to daughters and by both parents to sons;
- Autosomal DNA (atDNA) passed by both parents to children of both sexes; and
- Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) passed down exclusively from mothers but to children of both sexes.

While each one has its place in the tool kit, I will focus on the test used most frequently – Autosomal DNA.

How atDNA works.

We all have one pair of sex chromosomes (XX for females and XY for males) plus another 22 pairs and it is these latter which contain the strands of atDNA whose test results are usually those used.

On conception both parents passed on approximately 50% of their total atDNA. This is passed on, however, in an entirely random pattern. Thus, while Jack will inherit approximately 50% of his DNA material from each

parent, his sister Jill will inherit a different mix, unless they happen to be identical twins.

Jack and Jill's father will have received his atDNA from his parents and this will form part of what he passes on to his children; and the same applies to their mother. Thus the 4 grandparents' atDNA will be found in Jack and Jill. This is not, however, going to be a straight 25% from each grandparent but will vary around that figure due to the random nature of how their atDNA is passed indirectly to their grandchildren. And so on through earlier generations.

Should Jack and Jill's father have a brother or sister, then any children they have will also display some degree of overlap with Jack and Jill but there will be less in common, again due to the random inheritance patterns.

What does that mean for us as genealogists?

When we take an atDNA test, the results will be compared with many millions of other tests and those where there is a correspondence will be flagged as matches. The degree of match will be expressed in terms of centiMorgans (cM) which you have in common and there is likely to be included a potential range of family connection. This will assist in attempting to place such matches on a conventional family tree.

The number of cMs is derived from the analysis of both DNA samples and it is beyond the scope of this article to examine these further but the estimate of relationship is the practical aspect of more immediate interest. How do they make such estimates?

In essence, this can be viewed as the application of probability theory.

While this sounds rather off-putting, it stems from the same basic rules as flipping coins. The first flip gives a 50% chance of a head. The second flip also gives a 50% chance but the chances of two heads in a row is 50% of 50% i.e. 25%. Genetic patterns, it must be stressed, are far more complicated in practice and are not binary, as in the coin illustration. Imagine, then, this process repeated many thousands of times.

A similar process of probabilities can be applied to many generations before Jack and Jill based on the approximate inheritance of 50% atDNA from each

parent. Although life will never be so neat, the table below indicates how after 7 generations, an average of just under 0.8% of atDNA may have been passed on to you by your 5x great grandparents:

Generation	Relationship	Percentage
1	5x great grandparent	100
2	4x great grandparent	50
3	3x great grandparent	25
4	2x great grandparent	12.5
5	great grandparent	6.25
6	grandparent	3.125
7	parent	1.5625
8	self/tester	0.781

Table 1. Approximate percentage of atDNA in succeeding generations.

Looking through the other end of the telescope, what are the chances of you not sharing any atDNA with a cousin i.e. someone with whom you share a common ancestor? The statistics indicate that you are pretty much certain to share some with any second cousins (you share a great grandparent in common) but the table below shows how this rapidly declines after third cousins:

Relationship	Common ancestor	Shared atDNA % probability (AncestryDNA)
Third cousin	2x great grandparents	98
Fourth cousin	3x great grandparents	71
Fifth cousin	4x great grandparents	32
Eighth cousin	7x great grandparents	0.91

Table 2. Probability of inheriting some atDNA at successive generations. Derived from ISOGG statistics.¹

Or, to look at it another way, while there is just a 2% chance of you not sharing any atDNA with a third cousin, this increases to 29% for a fourth and 68% for a fifth cousin. With such odds, it is difficult to draw meaningful conclusions and, in practice, this means that atDNA is suitable mainly for family history 5 or at most 6 generations before the person testing. Also, bearing in mind the dilution of DNA connections each generation, it is worth seeing if parents, aunts/uncles or grandparents would be prepared to take an atDNA test.

Analysis.

The table is simplistic and the random combinations of chromosomes inevitably produce variations. Thankfully, this very aspect has been thoroughly researched by Blaine T. Bettinger, a specialist in DNA. By taking a large number of confirmed relationships and the cMs in common between known relationships, he has constructed a table which is readily accessible on Jonny Perl’s DNA Painter website.²

It is called “The shared cM Project 4.0 tool v4” but don’t be put off the long title – it is very easy to use and you will find with practice many extra elements to help to understand what your results might mean and how two matches may be related.

To take just one small section of the large table of relationships:

5	Parent 3485 2376 – 3720		Aunt / Uncle 1741 1201 – 2282
	Half Sibling 1759 1160 – 2436	Sibling 2613 1613 – 3488	SELF
			1C 866 396 – 1397

Figure 1: Extract from the chart for The Shared cM Project tool v4, reproduced under the creative commons licence applicable.³

From this, it can be seen that, while you might be expected to share 3485 cM with your parents, this might fall anywhere in the range of 2376 to 3720. Similarly, your first cousin might be expected to share 866 cM but could fall in the range of between 396 to 1397.

Additionally, there is an input box at the top of the page for you to enter the actual cM figure and the tool will produce a list of potential relationships. Thus, when I entered 750 cM, the following table was generated:

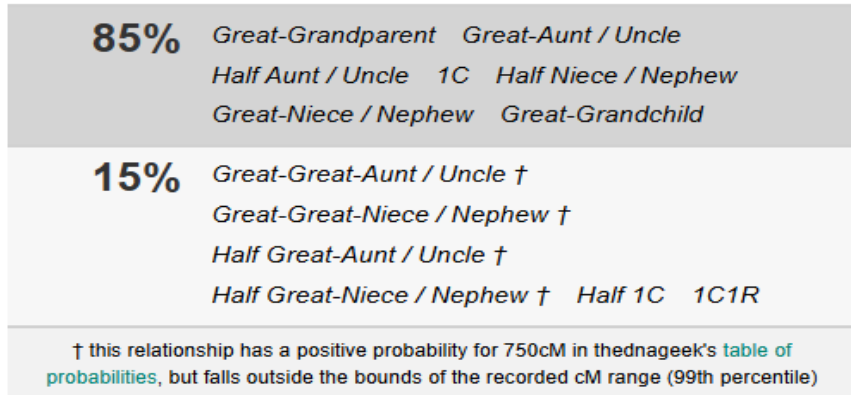


Figure 2: Extract from the chart for *The Shared cM Project tool v4*, reproduced under the creative commons licence applicable.⁴

Tools to help.

When it comes to analysing and using the test results, there are thankfully a range of tools and methods available. This article is limited to a brief introduction but further sources are listed at the end.

A method of analysis I use is called the (Dana) Leeds method and it suits my familiarity with spreadsheets.⁵ It works by excluding known close family members who may have tested (up to first cousins) and then listing all others above a certain number (say 20) of shared cM. Sorted by numbers of shared cM, start with the top of the list, assign a colour and ascribe that same colour to all his or her shared matches in the first column. Moving to the next highest unmarked person, ascribe a different colour and repeat the process in the next column. And so on.

The end result is likely to be at least 4 columns which allow groupings to be made which point to a common ancestor, typically one of your grandparents. Now, while I like this because it requires some active input, which tends to make the matches more memorable to me, it has to be said that there is an automated version which may be preferable. It is certainly quicker.

Autocluster tools are available through several testing sites and achieve a similar result, plotting matches automatically against each other on a colour coded graph. Since it would not reproduce well in this format, I would suggest you check one of the suggested sites referred to in this article to see what this looks like.

Jonny Perl's site offers a whole range of tools, many free of charge, which includes What Are The Odds (WATO)⁶ a chance to test various potential solutions to relationships based on shared cMs. It takes a bit of practice but is so helpful, not least in being able to discount impossibilities. The site is definitely worth a good look.

Each of the testing companies offers a variety of tools which will be relevant when considering with which company (or companies) to test or to upload results where permitted.

Testing companies.

AncestryDNA⁷

With the largest atDNA database of all the companies, this merits serious consideration but note that it does not permit results of other companies to be uploaded. It also requires an Ancestry subscription to use effectively.

MyHeritage DNA⁸

Although a smaller database, this is generally considered best for European matches. It too requires a subscription to use effectively but does allow other test results to be uploaded.

FamilyTreeDNA⁹

Carries out all forms of DNA analysis but has one of the smallest databases. It does however allow uploads and does not require a subscription.

23andMe¹⁰

A medium size database but does not allow uploads. No subscription is required.

Living DNA¹¹

Unpublished database size but it does allow uploads although a subscription is required.

It should be noted that, following a data breach last autumn on 23 and Me, all companies have upgraded their security arrangements and some functionality has been restricted.

Another important factor to consider is cost. All companies seem to offer periodic sales so it is well worth keeping an eye on adverts, especially around Mother's/Father's Day, Christmas etc. when really good offers regularly appear. If timing is not of the essence, it should be worthwhile delaying a while until you can take advantage.

Databases.

It is perhaps self-evident, but since the usefulness of the test results is to see how they match, it is sensible to have your test results in as many databases as possible to seek the widest range of matches. As will have been noted, not all companies allow test results derived from other companies to be uploaded to their databases and so it is well worth considering taking an AncestryDNA test as not only does this join the largest database but it also permits these results to be uploaded to most other sites.

There is a further database worth considering which is not held by any of the test companies but operated independently. GEDmatch¹² accepts results in standard form from any of the other sites and is well worth considering since not only does it offer a further database to search but also offers several tools for further analysis. This includes chromosome painting, a subject all in itself.

Not all companies publish statistics and not all are up to date but figures available as at 10 March 2024 for the different companies is as follows:

Testing company	Approximate size of database
23andMe	14 million
FamilyTreeDNA	1,628,438
AncestryDNA	25 million
MyHeritage	8 million
LivingDNA	300,000
Table 3. Estimated database sizes derived from ISOGG comparison chart. ¹³	

Please note that the table referenced above includes much more information about these 5 sites and is an excellent first point of comparison.

Genetic genealogy or traditional documentary research?

It is not a matter of either/or nowadays.

As a practical matter, you are not going to be able to confirm relationships between matches other than by having a traditional family tree, even if that is stripped down to the bare essentials of dates and places of birth, death and marriage as well as relationships. Even if the matches attach their family tree it is important, as with anything provided on line, to double check to your own known information.

It goes deeper than that though. Regard DNA as another piece of genealogical evidence but one which, unlike paper documents, gives wholly unbiased and accurate information. It has to be interpreted correctly, of course, but where there is confirmation of family connections within DNA results, this should be added to your tree.

The converse applies also, however, and it is not impossible that the DNA evidence may cast doubt or even undermine a carefully-constructed paper lineage. Anyone undertaking DNA research should always prepare themselves for unexpected or unwelcome news and I suppose it boils down to how much we really want to unearth a family's true history. It is the other side of the coin to breaking through brick walls.

Useful resources.

I love books. I appreciate that the topic of genetic genealogy lends itself to technological resources, but I still keep a couple of reference books to hand and I will start this section with details of them both:

The family tree guide to DNA testing and genetic genealogy by Blaine T. Bettinger (2nd edition USA, Family Tree Books, 2019) page 108.

Tracing your ancestors using DNA. A guide for family historians edited by Graham S. Holton (Barnsley, Pen & Sword Books Ltd, 2019).

There are a number of sites mentioned above, including: the fabulous Jonny Perl's DNAPainter¹⁴ and the indispensable International Society of Genetic Genealogy.¹⁵

In addition, I regularly read: DNAeXplained, by Roberta Estes;¹⁶ and I am on Facebook Groups for: Gedmatch and genetic genealogy, ISOGG, DNAGedcom User Group and DNA Painter User Group. But don't forget that there are many items on YouTube which offer explanations and worked examples of techniques.

Final word - Ethics.

Each person in a sense owns their own DNA and considerable care needs to be exercised when either asking someone to take a test or in analysing the results by research into matches. This is particularly the case when adoption or living persons are involved. But bear in mind also that whatever you share you will also have in common with your siblings, cousins and so on. You

will therefore be sharing such information with others as part of your research.

Again, a lot more could be written on this complex aspect which continues to evolve but do consider that what may be a wonderful discovery for you could be distressing for someone else.

Notes:

- ¹ International Society Of Genetic Genealogy. *Cousin statistics*.
https://isogg.org/wiki/Cousin_statistics : accessed 9 July 2024.
- ² Perl, Jonny. *DNA Painter. Shared cM Project 4.0 Tool v4*.
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- ³ *ibid*.
- ⁴ *ibid*.
- ⁵ Leeds, Dana. *Genealogy with Dana Leeds. The Leeds Method*.
<https://www.danaleeds.com/the-leeds-method/> : accessed 9 July 2024
- ⁶ Perl, Jonny. *DNA Painter. What are the odds?* <https://dnapainter.com/tools/probability> :
accessed 9 July 2024
- ⁷ AncestryDNA. <https://www.ancestry.co.uk/dna/> : accessed 9 July 2024.
- ⁸ My Heritage DNA. <https://www.myheritage.com/dna/dna-test-kit> : accessed 9 July 2024.
- ⁹ FamilyTreeDNA. <https://www.familytreedna.com/> : accessed 9 July 2024.
- ¹⁰ 23andMe. <https://www.23andme.com/en-int/> : accessed 9 July 2024.
- ¹¹ LivingDNA. <https://livingdna.com/> : accessed 9 July 2024.
- ¹² GEDmatch. <https://www.gedmatch.com/> : accessed 9 July 2024.
- ¹³ International Society Of Genetic Genealogy. *Autosomal DNA testing comparison chart*.
https://isogg.org/wiki/Autosomal_DNA_testing_comparison_chart : accessed 9 July 2024.
- ¹⁴ Perl, Jonny. *DNA Painter. Tools for genetic genealogy*. <https://dnapainter.com/tools> :
accessed 9 July 2024.
- ¹⁵ International Society Of Genetic Genealogy. *Wiki welcome page*.
https://isogg.org/wiki/Wiki_Welcome_Page : accessed 9 July 2024.
- ¹⁶ Estes, Roberta. *DNAeXplained – Genetic Genealogy*. <https://dna-explained.com/> :
accessed 9 July 2024.



New Email Address?

Please let Graham know by emailing him at:
membership@lwmfhs.org

OUT AND ABOUT

The Family History Show, 5 October



at Kempton Park Racecourse on Saturday 5 October. It was lovely to meet



Karen, Elizabeth and Susan on our stand at the Family History Show, photo taken by This Way Books.

Our team of Elizabeth, Karen and Susan manned the LWMFHS stand at The Family History Show

long-standing members and also to welcome some new ones! We were asked all sorts of questions relating to our area from where someone who died in St Pancras could be buried (the cemetery at East Finchley is most likely) to whether there were any records surviving of the Middlesex Regimental Depot at Inglis Barracks in Mill Hill (if there is anything it will be at the National Army Museum, Royal Hospital Road, Chelsea) to whether the City of Westminster Archives Centre was still at St Ann's Street (it certainly is!).

Next year's Family History Show will be held at Kempton Park on Saturday

4 October, so don't forget to put the date in your diaries.

Suffolk Family History Fair, 19 October



Hosted by the Suffolk Family History Society in the brand new home of Suffolk Archives at The Hold in the Waterfront area of Ipswich, this was quite a different event from the previous one. There were many local Suffolk organisations attending, such as the Felixstow FHS and the Suffolk Women's Land Army Memorial Trust, as well as some from further afield such as our sister London society, the East of London FHS. Our team of Andrea, Elizabeth, Karen and Robert discovered that we all had ancestral connections with Suffolk and many of the visitors to our stand had ancestors who came

to London, at least for a while. We very much enjoyed answering the many questions about our area and meeting several of our members who came to say hello.

Karen, Robert, Andrea and Elizabeth manned our stall at the Suffolk Family History Fair at Ipswich.



Oxfordshire Family History Society Fair, 26 October



The Cherwell School North Site was a new venue for this busy fair but luckily they had the same fantastic caterers attending! Our stand was manned by Elizabeth, Karen and Susan again, who were kept busy answering questions (often about the City of London this time) and selling our booklets (the parish research guides to St Pancras and St Giles-in-the-Fields proved especially popular today) and maps. It was lovely to say hi to several of our members.

West Surrey Family History Society Family History Fair, 16 November



This event had to move from 9 November to 16 November with very little notice due to the venue double booking the space, so all credit to West Surrey FHS for managing to successfully rearrange it. Despite it being a little quieter than normal, we had a lovely day and thanks go to the team of Elizabeth, Graham, Shirley and Susan.

Coming up...

London Westminster & Middlesex FHS will be going to the following events in the next few months and these are both online, which perhaps works best in the colder months.

For online events we often have a background Zoom meeting going on at the same time between our helpers so that some people are researching and others are talking to visitors. If you would like to help at any of these events, please contact Karen at: events@lwmfhs.org

East Surrey Family History Society Virtual Family History Show



This event will take place on Saturday 25 January 2025 from 10am-12 noon and from 2pm-4pm. Come and enjoy all the benefits of a family history show from your own armchair, FREE of charge, using Zoom.

You will need to go to the website to register for either or both sessions (morning and afternoon). At these sessions you will have an opportunity to talk to people

from lots of different family history societies, who will each have their own breakout room for you to visit. Keep checking the website to see which Societies are attending. **London Westminster & Middlesex FHS** will be there! Bring your specific questions to get the best from the event. Numbers are limited so please book early! For more information visit the website: <https://www.eastsurreyfhs.org.uk>

The Family History Show



This online version of the Family History Show will be held on Saturday 8 February from 10am-

4pm. Just like a live show, you can put your research questions to an expert, watch a free talk, speak to a local society, archive or genealogical supplier. If you are in a different time zone, you will no doubt be pleased to hear that all lectures and live streams will be available for 72 hours, plus you can submit your questions to family history societies and other experts in advance. To find out more and book tickets, visit the website at: <https://thefamilyhistoryshow.com/online/>

Can You Help at Any of These Events?

Please email Karen at:

events@lwmfhs.org



FOCUS ON FACEBOOK

By Elizabeth Burling, Member No. 4992

Beth from New Zealand posted a query about her ancestor Bernard GORDON, who arrived in New Zealand from England/Scotland when aged about 25 in 1841. His occupation there was as an accountant. In 1858 he returned to London and by the end of 1861 he was living as a 'gentleman' in Middlesex. However, searches on the major genealogical sites have failed to find any information about him and Beth does not know where he was born, or where he died or was buried. She did find an entry in a Brompton Cemetery book which records a Bernard Joseph GORDON being granted a plot in 1882, but it was never used. So, she adds, just another dead-end (no pun intended).

Nikki replied that she had found Bernard as a Freemason in Wellington, initiated on 27 December 1855 aged 39 making his birth year c1816. This person was recorded as being an accountant so he seems a likely candidate. Rosemary advised contacting the Freemasons as she reckoned they should know where he died, as he'd have to have been removed from their list of members. Beth had found Bernard in a list of members for the NZ Pacific Lodge for a couple of years but had not contacted the Freemasons to see whether they had any more records as the movement in NZ was only in its infancy when Bernard joined. Karen recommended getting a search done with the Freemasons (at <https://museumfreemasonry.org.uk/research>) which she would have to pay for but which would probably be worth it as Beth had very little other information.

Andrea recommended looking for Bernard in the 1861 census returns, which would surely be extremely useful but Beth could not find him. She had no address and only knew he was in Middlesex in December of that year due to a NZ property sale document. Ian wondered whether Bernard could have returned to New Zealand. Beth replied that although he might have done, she does not believe so. She has found nothing to suggest he came back as he sold up all his property when he left. So he was flush with cash. The only Bernard GORDON who died in NZ within the correct timeframe was a 90 year old miner who died in a mental hospital in 1915.

There's always a good discussion in this group and it's great to see so many contributions trying to help with queries posted here.

JOTTINGS

Burial space reuse

To help combat the lack of burial space currently available, the Law Commission has proposed that old graves be reused and closed burial grounds reopened. The laws around burial and cremation have evolved over many years and apply differently to whether burial grounds are operated by a religious group, a local authority or private owner. Some of the laws which still apply are over 170 years old and now unsuitable, such as the fact that there is no minimum burial depth in private cemeteries.

Regarding grave reuse, at the moment this is permitted in London local authority cemeteries, so in our LWMFHS area we are fairly used to this, but these new proposals would enable any burial ground to reuse graves. There are already safeguards in place for this: the last burial must have been at least 75 years ago and if the family of the deceased person objects, no reuse can happen for a further 25 years.

Regarding closed churchyards, many Church of England burial grounds in London were closed following the 1853 Burial Acts, mainly as they had become completely full. You can read all sorts of appalling reports of the state of them in historic newspapers and other archives. The Commission proposes allowing closed churchyards to be reopened, allowing people to be buried closer to home, or in a graveyard that holds special meaning for them. As these burial grounds were, in London at least, usually turned into public gardens, this could be quite controversial.

Other proposals seem very sensible, such as allowing the hundreds of thousands of uncollected ashes from cremations to be scattered or buried at the crematorium, following reasonable unsuccessful attempts to contact relatives. Another suggestion is to ensure that the location of anyone buried on their own land (which is permitted) to be passed on to any new owner.

The Law Commission would like to hear from everybody regarding their proposals and there is a public consultation open until 9 January 2025. You can read more and respond online here: <https://lawcom.gov.uk/law-commission-considers-changes-to-update-centuries-old-burial-laws/>

Westminster City Archives gains accreditation again

We are delighted to report that Westminster City Archives have retained their accredited status. This means that they have demonstrated that they meet the UK standard for collections management and access to their archives. All

accredited archives services have to reapply after six years to retain this status and we offer our congratulations to the team for their success.

Westminster City Archives collections span more than 800 years of documented history and are housed across 6,000 linear metres of shelving and 560GB of digital storage. The service provides access to official council records and extensive collections of local, family and community history material and of course are key to finding your family history in Westminster.

Greater London Historic Environment Record (GLHER)

The GLHER is a comprehensive and dynamic resource for the historic environment of Greater London from the earliest human occupation to the present day. It is a public record and has recently become available online. The computerised record contains over 98,000 entries from the earliest human occupation right up to modern times. Of relevance to family historians, the database contains information about buildings, parks and landscapes in which our ancestors may have lived.

Various sort of searches can be used, including finding an address on the Map Search, which looks like it could be very useful. You can insert a place name, part of an address, a post code etc and a list of matching locations will be displayed. Any search leads to the entry in the National Heritage List for England. For example, 2 and 4 Hornsey Lane are mid to late 18th century brown brick terraced houses with rooves of Welsh slate. More description of the buildings is included along with some recent photographs. If your ancestor lived here this information is bound to be useful to you.

You can find this website here: <https://glher.historicengland.org.uk/>

Old Marylebone Town Hall centenary

Old Marylebone Town Hall celebrated its 100th anniversary on 1 October 2024. The Town Hall was built between 1914 and 1920 in a classical style and is now Grade II listed as a building of architectural interest. It replaced an old courthouse at the southern end of Marylebone Lane which had been used as the Westminster Council House and Westminster Register Office since the creation of the metropolitan borough of St Marylebone in 1900. Although badly damaged by bombing in the Second World War, the council chamber was restored in 1968.

The anniversary was marked by celebrating 100 couples tying the knot, renewing their vows and forming civil partnerships in its 7 ceremony rooms.

AUNTY BEATTIE'S LEGACY and the Real Alfred

by Robert Wilkinson, Member No. 8019

Beatrice Lilian ANDREWS (1900-1983), or 'Aunty Beattie' as she was known to myself and my immediate family, was actually first cousin to one of my maternal great-grandparents, Harry Archer ANDREW(S) of Leeds (1877-1952).



Beattie aged 3

initiated by Harry's father, James ANDREWS (1849-1886).

James had been born in Marylebone, moved to Wednesbury in 1873 (as indicated from entries in the bible) and died in West Bromwich in 1886 – his widow then remarrying before the family moved on



Beattie aged 15

to Leeds. These facts remained broadly within the living memory of older relatives at the time when my quest began.



Beattie at retirement

Despite being born almost a generation after her two half-sisters, Ellen and Alice, Beattie had a great memory for names and dates. Once inspired, after first seeing the family bible as a teenager, I was able to establish quite quickly from her, along with standard sources, that her aunts and uncles and her father Alfred ANDREWS had all

been born between 1849 and 1867, at 29 Richmond Street, Marylebone, to James ANDREWS (senior), a cab driver (1823-1891) and his wife Mary (née ARCHER, 1828-1896). This, of course, helped to explain my great grandfather's middle name and that of some other relatives, whose names included the Archer appellation.

Alfred, the younger brother of James, was born on 8 February 1851, married Beattie's mother Mary Ann WHITE (1863-1919) at St Saviour's Church, Paddington on 3 July 1898, when he was then a widower aged 47. He died in Camberwell in 1927. I should know this, because Beattie told me so and I possess, at the time of writing, not only his original marriage certificate along with a funeral card confirming his death on 25 November 1927, but a downloaded GRO digital record confirming his residence at 32 Grove Lane, Camberwell, where both he and Beattie had also been living at the time of the 1921 census. Alfred is buried at Forest Hill cemetery.



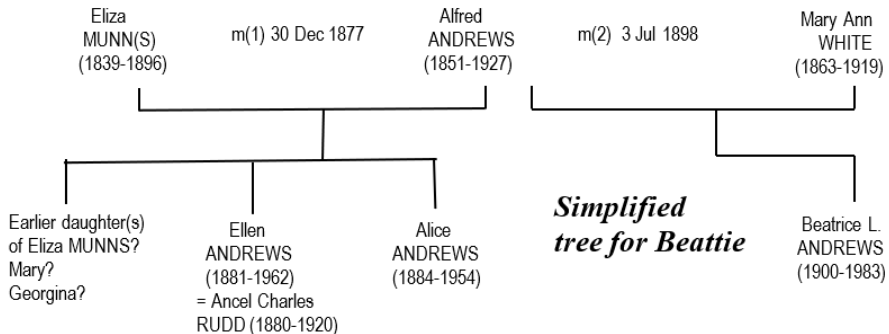
Alfred in about
1915

Nevertheless, Alfred (and indeed, some other family members) seem to have incorrectly ended up in someone else's family tree on the Ancestry website. Another Alfred ANDREWS had married in West Ham around 1880 and had gone on to raise a large family there but the information in the Ancestry tree did not accord with the information I had about Alfred. Neither (when I last looked) did Beattie and her older sisters appear in this tree, although a correct full birth certificate for Alfred had been posted to it online. Even though 'our' Alfred had been 'built into' someone else's family, it did at least save me the cost of applying for a birth certificate...

So, what did I actually know about Alfred and his daughters from his earlier marriage?

I had known that his reputation wasn't entirely spotless since, according to Beattie herself, he had been the 'Black Sheep' of the family demonstrating some predilection for gambling and alcohol, running away to sea 'aged 10', sailing the world with the Royal Navy and then (so the received story went) being 'pulled out' presumably near to drowning, from the Yangtze river in China.

He had also been a horse bus driver, never taking to the introduction of motorised transport and later giving up this occupation to run a boarding house at the seaside. This venture had not succeeded and in due course, he and his wife Mary Ann, together with Beattie, had returned to London to live in Camberwell.



Of Beattie's half-sisters I knew that Ellen had married a man named RUDD and later lived in Chelmsford, Essex, whilst the other sister Alice had been blind. My late mother had once recalled having her 'face felt' by Alice. Such information reminds me that my 'Yorkshire' branch of the family maintained close links with their London relatives over the years, but I needn't prove that because Beattie appears in various family photographs illustrative of this. An address for Ellen in Chelmsford in the September 1939 Register matched with one given on the death certificate of her aunt Kate (Alfred's youngest known sister – she died in Hackney within a few weeks of the Register being taken). Ellen's marriage (to a man named Ance RUDD, born 1880 in Suffolk) was found in Hartismere, Suffolk in 1913. This appears in the GRO indexes but the circumstances leading to this marriage are not known and perhaps some as yet unknown connection will eventually explain things. As a married couple they ended up in Worcester Park, Surrey where, sadly, they lost their child Arthur, aged only a few weeks in 1919. A short time later, in 1920, Ellen lost her husband too. Why she went to Chelmsford and when are mysteries as yet unsolved, but the locality where she later lived, in Galleywood, seems only to have been developed between the two World Wars in any case.

As for Alfred's story, a naval service record between 1867 and 1875 for an Alfred ANDREWS, albeit with a given birth date of 8 February 1852, provides credence to the nautical aspect of the received story but I will reserve this and a list of ships he would have served on for a later article.

However, Alfred was a coachman ('omnibus') both at the time of the 1898 marriage, when he was living at 40 Formosa Street, Paddington and when Beattie was born at 17 Cambridge Avenue, Kilburn on 17 April 1900. He is clearly listed here as 'Omnibus Driver', thus corroborating with this portion of the tale. There was little difficulty in finding the name of Alfred's first wife, Eliza (née MUNNS) who is listed together with Alfred, Ellen and Alice at 38 Church Street, Marylebone in the 1891 census.

This address (above a hairdresser's shop) was where Alfred's father James had died aged 68, on 17 January 1891. James's widow, Mary was also there, along with Alfred's two youngest siblings Kate ANDREWS (1864-1939) and Frederick ANDREWS (1867-?).

Further investigation so far has revealed that in September 1889 Alfred joined the Great Western Railway (GWR), according to their employment records for 'uniformed staff'. He had worked as a carman from Paddington goods yard earning 25s a week (raised to 26s in March 1890) and he was still with the GWR at the time of the 1891 census, inhabiting 2 rooms (according to local electoral records) and paying a rent of 7s a week. This must have been on the second floor, since Mary and her remaining family were in 2 rooms on the first floor of the same address, paying a rent of 8s per week. Alfred had continued with the GWR until June 1897, when the record notes his 'resignation'. This appears to have occurred some time after the death of his wife Eliza, for a civil record shows that an Eliza ANDREWS, wife of Alfred ANDREWS, carman, died at 20 Lydford Road, Paddington on 2 April 1896. This was a few months before the death of his mother Mary, who was by then living at 43 Church Street, Marylebone.

So what was known about Eliza? The 1891 record gave her birthplace as Turnham Green, Chiswick, and her birth year as 1839. One thing led to another in research terms and it became evident from corroboration between the relevant sources that Alfred's first marriage had been to Eliza MUNNS, (a lady who appears to have been about 10 years his senior) taking place on 30 November 1877 at St Paul's Church Hammersmith, with their joint address in that locality being given as Vine Cottages, Shortlands (near Rose and Crown Lane) and Alfred's occupation as 'carman', a role in which one guesses he would have been employed since leaving the Navy a couple of years earlier.

In 1881, Alfred (erroneously transcribed online as ‘Alford’), Eliza and a 12-year-old? daughter, Mary MUNN(S) (born in Islington) appear in the census at 55 Princess Street, Marylebone, whilst Ellen Florence ANDREWS (1881-1962) was born at the same address a few weeks later, on 5 May 1881. Alice Elizabeth ANDREWS (1884-1954) followed, at the same address around the first week of December 1884 (the exact day does not quite fit into the digital image downloaded from the GRO). At some point in the past, I had recorded on the photo left, that Alice had later lived with her widowed sister Ellen in Chelmsford.



Alice Andrews, Beattie’s half
sister

The 1881 record thus suggests that Ellen and Alice had at least one older half-sister, Mary, on the MUNNS side. A 1962 probate record matches details for an Ellen RUDD at Chelmsford, naming as beneficiary a descendant of one Georgina MUNNS born around 1867,

who appears in the 1881 census in Chiswick as the granddaughter of Eliza’s widowed mother Elizabeth MUNNS (née COX). Leaving aside a confusingly tangled web, which I have yet to unravel after digging deeper, I’m inclined to believe that Georgina was also a half sister of Ellen and Alice. Such entanglements have put me off submitting an article until now, but it does seem that Alfred, having married someone rather older than himself, was initially stepfather to a family whose daughters would be separated by age in a manner similar to that in which Beattie would later be to her half -sisters.

Beattie’s mother,
Mary Ann Andrews, née White



Returning to earth and this time to the 1901 census, Alfred, Mary Ann, Beattie and Mary Ann's mother, Susannah Maria WHITE (née WORDSWORTH) were listed at 17 Cambridge Avenue although, in this instance, Alfred's occupation was given as 'coachman's groom' as was that of a boarder Joseph EMDIN (aged about 51 and originally from Wiltshire).

In 1911, Beattie aged 10, Alfred and her mother, Mary Ann were at 14 Buckingham Street, Brighton, with Alfred again listed as 'Omnibus Driver'. The notes I had originally gleaned from Beattie referred to Margate, but perhaps human error on my part or a memory lapse on Beattie's part could be at play here - it was only through the power of the internet that the Brighton address turned up. I guess that this would have been the location of the seaside boarding house and whatever Alfred's character might have been, WW1 can't have been good for business...



Beattie and her mother in later years

By the time of the 1921 census, Beattie and the now widowed Alfred were living at 32 Grove Lane in Camberwell. No doubt it would have been a short walk to the Sherfield Tavern, in the same road, where Alfred, aged 70, was now working as a barman, whilst Beattie was working as a cashier for A.J. Horsley Stores of 8 Denmark Hill, Camberwell.

Beattie never married and probably had her work cut out looking after her father – from my notes revisited years after her death in August 1983, it was said that 'sheets were pawned off the beds' at some point, though whether this was in those years or during their time at the seaside is not known.

In the 1939 Register, Beattie is recorded at 47 Aytoun Road, Stockwell, together with Arthur and Agnes BELL (there is one 'closed record' who I believe to be son of Arthur and Agnes, then aged about 13). Beattie is described as shop assistant – 'confectionery, tobacco and news'. Although the details for Arthur and Agnes do not specify whether this address itself was a shop. Within months their lives would certainly have been disrupted

by the Blitz – bomb maps for London show the locality to have been affected by incendiary activity. As a very young child in the early 1960's, I vaguely recall accompanying my grandmother, along with Beattie and my brother, to visit a lady called 'Aunty Agnes' somewhere near Brixton. I do wonder if she might have been the lady who had been at Aytoun Road in 1939 and could well be the same lady on the right in the adjacent photograph.



I have this photo recorded as 'Beattie with Agnes' ca 1958

When Beattie retired in 1960, having worked in the Ampoule department of Glaxo for 15 years, an in-house article relates the tale of how she had joined the company following 'an unfortunate sequence of events' during which she was 'chased' across London by bombing. It goes on to confirm that she had once run a confectionery shop which had been demolished by the bombs and that she had relocated to Greenford, where no sooner had she begun part-time work there, than a VI had 'promptly' dropped on the factory, causing her to 'stop trying to dodge the bombing' and join the company full time. During the years I knew her, she did indeed live in Greenford. I recall her referring to possessing only a few blackened items by the time hostilities had ended but which thankfully, included the small collection of memorabilia which I eventually acquired.

Beattie lived for many years in Whitton Avenue West, in Greenford, before finally moving into an elderly persons' facility in Cowgate Road (also in Greenford) at about the time I had (fortuitously) moved to London. She



Beattie, more or less as I remember her

did not enjoy the ‘modernisation’ of the nearby Western Avenue that was then taking place in the late 1970’s and did not feel safe in the new underpasses.

During my visits to her, we had an arrangement that I would clean her windows and it was during one of those visits that a shocked neighbour from the neighbouring flat came running in with the news of Lord Mountbatten’s assassination. The neighbour’s anguish was, in retrospect, some reflection of how views towards various public figures were different for the wartime generation.



Beattie in Leeds with my great grandmother Margaret ANDREWS, née LEE (1880-1960)

Although Beattie was never wealthy, she was a gregarious lady who travelled



Beattie (at the back, middle) with her father, Alfred, and others in about 1915. (I have recorded ‘friend Doris on right, Doris’s mother in front and their aunt’ but know no more than that.)

around, participating in group coach trips until almost the very end, keeping in touch with various relatives, including her cousins in Leeds and elsewhere. If I had known many years ago what I have since found by research, I suspect she would have been able to tell me much more about my subsequent discoveries but, of course, when I started I wasn’t quite sure of which questions to ask. I think she is buried in Breakspear’s cemetery in West London but despite attending her funeral, the memory plays tricks and I must check it out sometime. As they say, family history research never ends.

Some of this tale has involved districts outside the LWMFHS ‘zone’ but Beattie’s roots lay in the area and as she was pivotal to a decades-long quest, I felt that she deserved to be first in any related articles I manage to write. I hope, later on, to be able to explore Alfred’s Naval years as well as another of Beattie’s memorabilia – a prayer book concerning her maternal WHITE family. It’s all part of Aunty Beattie’s legacy...

Footnote: Beattie was baptised on 10 July 1904 at St Mark’s Harlesden on the same day as a maternal cousin Arthur Edward WHITE who, like her, had also been born on 17 April 1900. Her family address was given as 80 Walterton Road (one of the several ‘childhood’ streets in the area which she had mentioned to me) and as per other records, father Alfred is given as an ‘omnibus driver’. I can’t quite read the address of the cousin’s (WHITE) family (who will feature in a future article) but it might be 9 Ponsard Road, Harlesden.

Sources:

Notes from Beattie’s memory and items passed on to me
ANDREWS Family Bible, started by Beattie’s uncle, James ANDREWS (1849-1886)
Census records 1841-1921
Civil Registration and Parish Records
Funeral Card for Alfred (buried at Forest Hill)
National Archives – Naval Service Records
Electoral registers – Marylebone/Paddington
Family Photographs



WEBSITE MEMBERS’ AREA

The new Members Area password was emailed to members on 28 October 2024. If you did not receive this and want to know the password, then please contact metropolitan@lwmfhs.org

SPOTLIGHT ON: ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL

St Paul's Cathedral was consecrated in London in 604 following Augustine's commission from Pope Gregory to convert the pagan Anglo-Saxons to Christianity. Nothing is really known about this particular church except that it was built of wood on the orders of Saxon prince Earconwald. The prince became Bishop of London in 675 and was later canonised, with an important shrine dedicated to him existing in the cathedral right up until 1666.

The second iteration of St Paul's was destroyed by Viking raiders and the third cathedral was built in 962. This church burnt down in 1087 and the Normans began construction of a fourth. This, the medieval cathedral we think of as 'Old St Paul's', was not consecrated until 1240 and not actually finished until 1314. During this time, its plan changed many times and the original parish church of St Faith had to be demolished to make room for an enlarged quire and chancel. St Faith's parishioners were allowed to worship in St Paul's crypt, their parish becoming known as St Faith under St Paul.

Old St Paul's was longer (at 178m) and wider (at 30.5m) than the cathedral today and its spire an impressive 38m taller than the cross on top of the dome there now. It must have been quite a sight! So much so that when a traveller returned to Ashwell in Hertfordshire in the 14th century, he or she scratched a detailed drawing of St Paul's into the north wall of the west tower of St Mary's church there, where it can still be seen. The spire of Old St Paul's was destroyed by lightning in 1561 and this was not rebuilt. The cathedral was being repaired and expanded by architect Inigo JONES in the 1630s but this was stopped because of the English Civil War. Old St Paul's is the church which was destroyed during the Great Fire of London in 1666.

Sir Christopher WREN was appointed to rebuild the cathedral, a feat which was declared finished by Parliament in 1711. The cathedral had been topped out in 1708, with the last stone formally laid on the lantern on top of the dome by Sir Christopher's son, also Christopher (who had been born in the year that construction began) along with Master Mason Edward STRONG, whose brother Thomas had laid the foundation stone.

St Paul's Cathedral was administered by the Dean and Chapter, a governing body which included priests. The area they looked after is called a peculiar jurisdiction and this one had the right to grant its own marriage licenses, to grant probates and administrations and to hear contentious litigation.

The enormous archive of the Dean and Chapter of St Paul's Cathedral is at The London Archives, Ref: CLC/313, and dates from 1100-1981. The earlier archives were all destroyed in the Great Fire but there is still plenty remaining from after 1666.

Regarding the baptisms, marriages and burials, this archive only holds an index to the register of baptisms dated 1708-1713 and 1875-1939, an index to the register of marriages dated 1697-1758 and 1877-1939 and an index to the register of burials dated 1760-1936. Part of these is online at Ancestry.

There is also a useful book. *The Registers of St Paul's Cathedral* edited by John William Clay (Harleian Society, 1899) can be seen for free online on the Internet Archive website and contains baptisms from 1708-1715 and 1875-1897, marriages from 1697-1758 and 1877-1897, and burials 1766-1897. The entries here were transcribed by the editor himself from the original registers.

The archive at The London Archives also contains marriage licence bonds dated 1670-1693 and marriage allegations dated 1687-1841 for the peculiar jurisdiction of the Dean and Chapter of St Paul's Cathedral.

Burials within the Cathedral from the parishes of St Faith under St Paul and St Augustine Watling Street are here too and include correspondence and accounts about fees due to Dean and Chapter, dated 1756-1800. A rough register of burials at St Paul's dated 1760-1812 with, inverted at back, a rough register of burials for the parishes of St Augustine Watling Street and St Faith under St Paul, recording fees paid from 1803-1853, is also here.

Original Wills dated 1660-1837 from the Peculiar Court of the Dean and Chapter of St Paul's Cathedral are in this collection and these can be seen online at Ancestry. The Peculiar Court collection also contains the inventories of the goods, chattels, ready money and debts of deceased persons, dated 1660-1725. These include many people living in the City of London, all of whom are mentioned by name in The London Archive online catalogue. Also here are registers of Wills, dated 1535-1837 and probate records dated 1646-1650 and 1660-1837.

With monies coming in from rents, donations from all over the country for rebuilding works, wages and pensions paid to cathedral staff, payments to

tradesmen and much more, the archive of the Dean and Chapter of St Paul's Cathedral contains all sorts of other things quite apart from the expected baptisms, marriages and burials. For example, there are certificates of good character of applicants licensed as physicians, surgeons and midwives within the peculiar jurisdiction of the Dean and Chapter dated 1660 and 1662-1713, as is a signed agreement between the Dean and Chapter and Castle Baynard Ward (in which the Cathedral stands) relating to the establishment of a watch house for the ward dated 1675-1676. Also here are copies of the church rate assessments for St Helen Bishopsgate dated 1765-1767, registers of certificates for the licensing of dissenting meeting-houses dated 1779-1847, and land tax receipts dated 1788-1796. Records created by St Paul's Watch during the Second World War are here and include duty rosters, incident charts, messages, shift log books, files about ARP Volunteers.

There are other archives connected with the Cathedral too. The St Paul's Cathedral Choir School was founded in 1510 to educate choristers who sang in the cathedral. Only boys were admitted until 2002 and they boarded at the school until 1989, when day boys were allowed. The archive at TLA, Ref: CLC/315 includes list of scholars dated 1794, a register of applicants 1879-1938 (this includes relatives' details), classroom registers 1968-1972, the Choir school magazine *Excelsior* no 2 from 1889, a Roll of Honour of masters, choristers or probationers killed in the First World War – most entries include a photograph – and photographs of the choir boys.

The City Glee Club met in the New Corn Exchange Hotel, Mark Lane, to listen to concerts given by musicians from the choirs of St Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey and the Chapels Royal. The archive is at TLA, Ref: CLC/047 and include registers of attendance at concerts 1853-1938 and registers of members with their addresses 1869-1901.

Of course the Cathedral itself retains its own collections, which includes rolls of honour and memorial books. You can find out more here: <https://www.stpauls.co.uk/about-collections>

Sources:

Erkenwald: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Earconwald>

St Mary Ashwell: <https://britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/101102715-church-of-st-mary-ashwell#.WNfbt2F1qP8>

St Paul's Cathedral website: <https://www.stpauls.co.uk/>

The London Archives: <https://www.thelondonarchives.org/>

LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 13 February 2025

7.00pm-7.45pm

Online

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Members of the Society will be held at 7pm on Thursday 13 February 2025 online via Zoom.

We expect the AGM to take half an hour or so and do hope that members will come to this as well as staying online to attend our usual Virtual Branch talk, which takes place afterwards.

For those who have not attended an AGM before, the Committee does hope that you will take this chance to ‘come along’ and see what it is all about. It is your opportunity to question the members of the Committee concerning any aspect of the Society. The Minutes of the last AGM were published in March’s *Metropolitan* (this is also available as an e-journal in the members’ section of our website) and you may wish to comment on them. You’ll also need this December’s *Metropolitan* with you so that you can access the reports in this AGM insert.

Zoom ‘doors’ will open at 6.45pm for a 7pm start. After a welcome from our President, Michael Gandy, our meeting will run like this:

AGENDA

- Adoption of accounts etc
- Chairman’s Report – please read the report on page 34. If you have any questions about anything Elizabeth has said, you are welcome to raise these at this time.

- Treasurer's Report – April's report is on page 35. Again, if you have any queries you can ask them now.
- The Annual Accounts for 2023-2024. These are published on pages 36 and 37.
- The Election of the Officers of the Society. All of our Officers (Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer) are volunteers who are elected for one year. Any member can stand for election for any of these posts and if you would like to do this, please fill in the form on pages vii and viii and return it to the Secretary by 23 January 2025 (see below). If you would like details of what any particular role entails, please contact the Secretary, which can be done online here: secretary@lwmfhs.org
- The Appointment of other members of the Executive Committee: these are the Membership Secretary, Journal Editors, Surname Interests Co-ordinator, Projects Co-ordinator, Events Co-ordinator, Postal Sales and Branch Representatives.
- Any Other Business. Anything else you would like to ask the Society about – it would be helpful if you could notify the Secretary by 23 January 2025 (by email to secretary@lwmfhs.org or using the form on page 38) so that if necessary the answer can be researched fully in time for the meeting.

The Business of the AGM will then be finished. There should be time for a short break before our talk.

Our Virtual Branch meeting will take place as usual at 8pm. The talk on this occasion will be *Irish Heritage* by Dr Penny Walters. See page 58 for further details.

Log-in details will be emailed to you a few days before the meeting.

c/o 38 Capel Road
East Barnet
Hertfordshire
EN4 8JE

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

for the year ending 30 September 2024

We are a Society which is entirely run by volunteers and I would like to profoundly thank everybody who offers their time and expertise to ensure that members get the very best of LWMFHS. The people whose names you see on the inside front cover of *Metropolitan* are of course those who manage large sections of our Society – we could not operate without them and I am very grateful for their hard work on behalf of us all. The Society also benefits from many other people who contribute in a smaller way such as managing our postal sales, answering email queries sent to the Society, looking after our branches, helping out at fairs, sending interesting items to our journal and much more – thank you all.

Of course more help is always needed and this year will be needing a new Secretary. Paul has been doing this for the last year or so but will be standing down at the AGM. Might you be able to help with this? Do please contact me if you have any questions about this role.

This year we held our first ever survey to try to ensure that the society is offering members the range of services they want now and will want in the future. One of the first benefits of this was a list of members who would also like to help. Transcribing was a popular choice, as was helping to check the monumental inscriptions in graveyards which our Society recorded in the 1980s. I am very much looking forward to all of you being included in a project soon and hopefully this will allow us to get started on publishing more of our MI booklets.

The website continues to grow, with more information being added all the time. You may have noticed a link to our new YouTube channel, on which we will be adding useful videos to help people in their research. Our Facebook page and X account are both attracting more interest and we have been out promoting the Society at an increased number of fairs this year.

Elizabeth Burling, Chairman

TREASURER'S REPORT

for the year 1 October 2023 - 30 September 2024

We opened a Community Saver Account with Skipton Building Society on 11 March 2024 with an opening deposit of £20,000 transferred from the current account at Santander. There are three signatories (Treasurer plus two other Executive Committee members), any two of whom must authorise any transfers out of the account. At the time of setting it up, the annual interest rate was 3.65%. It was reduced to 3.4% from 2 September 2024. This should earn the Society some interest, which will be paid into the Skipton Building Society account. However, we get a higher rate for receiving the interest annually (not monthly) so it will not be received until March 2024. I have not included a pro-rata amount owed to us for March to September because the terms of the account mean that nothing is due until a full year has passed. A full year's interest will be included in next year's, and subsequent, accounts.

Branch meeting costs are significantly lower this year; this is due to the cessation of Barnet Branch meetings in a rented hall. The group now meets more informally where no rent needs to be paid.

Storage costs were increased at the facility we use in Harrow, but we are looking to move to a different storage unit closer to where the stock and other items used at fairs and events need to be. The amount paid may then change, for better or worse, depending on availability.

Last year I reported an increase in various costs around setting up a new website and email system, which has now replaced the old one. Therefore the financial investment in, for example, equipment and software has reduced this year as it is fully operational. Similarly, other equipment purchased last year has made some tasks more efficient and further purchases have not been required, apart from a lockable fireproof container for membership records.

Participation in family history fairs has increased, so our expenditure on them has increased accordingly, and other costs and sources of income fluctuate slightly as might be expected. I see no areas for concern.

April Vesey, Treasurer

LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Draft profit and loss account for the year ended 30 September 2024

	30.9.24	30.9.23
Income:		
Subscriptions	£6,370.84	£7,261.84
Sales of Parish Guides and MIs	£1,779.00	£1,937.33
Donations	£18.00	£91.28
Miscellaneous & help with research	£3.00	£6.00
Interest received	£0.00	£0.00
Maps, postcards & books	£292.02	£140.74
	£8,462.86	£9,437.19
Expenditure:		
Metropolitan Journal	-£3,183.73	-£3,514.30
Branch meeting costs and AGM	-£987.38	-£1,370.69
FFHS Membership	-£167.58	-£173.28
Books, maps etc	-£10.50	-£115.50
Fairs and open days	-£377.98	-£259.00
Administration & general expenses	-£475.33	-£823.40
Printing of Parish Guides and MIs	-£1,500.95	-£1,452.87
Storage	-£884.16	-£840.00
Equipment	-£90.00	-£641.92
Bank charges	£0.00	-£11.20
Depreciation	-£200.70	-£268.20
	-£7,878.31	-£9,470.36
Net Deficit/Surplus	<u>£584.55</u>	<u>-£33.17</u>

LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Draft Balance Sheet as at 30 September 2024

	30.09.24	30.09.23
Fixed Assets		
Equipment	£484.60	£595.30
Current Assets		
Stock of publications	£1,882.98	£2,050.88
Prepaid expenses (debtors)	£1,068.26	£1,131.78
Cash and bank balances	<u>£24,933.10</u>	<u>£24,284.95</u>
Total assets	£28,368.94	£28,062.91
Current Liabilities		
Subscriptions in Advance	-£1,790.28	-£2,007.28
Creditors & Accrued Expenses	-£8.68	-£70.20
	<u>-£1,798.96</u>	<u>-£2,077.48</u>
	£ <u>£26,569.98</u>	<u>£25,985.43</u>
Financed by:		
Balance Brought Forward	£25,985.43	26,018.60
Net Deficit/Surplus for Year	<u>£584.55</u>	<u>-33.17</u>
Members' Net Funds	£ <u>£26,569.98</u>	<u>25,985.43</u>

LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

**Annual General Meeting
to be held on
Thursday 13 February 2025**

Nomination Form for Election of Officers

Position: CHAIRMAN

Nominee:..... Mem No.....

Proposed by:.....

Signature..... Mem No.....

Seconded by:.....

Signature..... Mem No.....

Date..... Agreed by Nominee.....

Position: HON. SECRETARY

Nominee:..... Mem No.....

Proposed by:.....

Signature..... Mem No.....

Seconded by:.....

Signature..... Mem No.....

Date..... Agreed by Nominee.....

CONTINUED OVERLEAF

Position: HON. TREASURER

Nominee:..... Mem No.....

Proposed by:.....

Signature..... Mem No.....

Seconded by:.....

Signature..... Mem No.....

Date..... Agreed by Nominee.....

Any Other Business

I wish to raise the following matter under Any Other Business

.....
.....
.....
.....

Name:..... Mem No.....

Signature..... Date.....

Please return this form to: Hon Secretary LWMFHS
by email to: secretary@lwmfhs.org
or by post c/o 38 Capel Road, East Barnet, Herts EN4 8JE
To be received no later than Thursday 23 January 2024.

SOME MINI-REPORTS SHOWING WHAT ELSE WE HAVE BEEN DOING THIS YEAR

Website

For over a year now we have had a new website: www.lwmfhs.org

We hope you have had a chance to take a look and explore. Guides to Parishes (Middlesex and Hertfordshire) and London Boroughs within our area have been added as downloadable PDF files. We are still working on the City and will be adding these too at some point.

The password needed to access the members' area was changed to coincide with the start of the Society's year, a notice being emailed to all members in October. If you didn't receive or have mislaid this password notice and would like it please get in touch at info@lwmfhs.org.

Surname Index

The Surname Index can be found within the 'Members Area' of our website. It currently contains surnames in *Metropolitan* from October 2006 to June 2024, our republished Monumental Inscription books and James Sanderson's transcription of Union Chapel baptisms 1805-1839. More items are in the pipeline and should be appearing soon.

Elaine Tyler, Projects Co-ordinator, projects@lwmfhs.org

Surname Interests

The society continues to publish our members' surname interests within the journal, in the traditional way. I also list them on our website. The Family History Federation now has a Surname search on its Home Page. I upload our surnames to the Federation which gives them greater exposure. Members' names and addresses have not been given to the Federation.

Barbara Haswell, Surname Interests, surnames@lwmfhs.org

Membership Report

A big thank you to everyone who has renewed their membership. We had 482 members at the end of the Society's year and currently have about 100 still to renew.

Looking forwards, there has been some confusion about managing membership online and I am hoping to make the process easier for 2025 renewals. If you have any feedback that you would like to share about this, please feel free to contact me.

Graham Ford, Membership Secretary, membership@lwmfhs.org

General Enquiries

We have received 21 family and local history enquiries since February 2024. They are varied in content and sometimes challenging. Most are from Australia and the USA, but we receive a few from around GB. Often the correspondents reply with thanks for the help they have been given. When it is appropriate, I give information about our Parish Guides and details on how to purchase. Sometimes, the query that is presented is better served being printed in our quarterly journal.

Andrea Olley, Correspondence Secretary

Events Report

Been a wonderful year for events, so lovely to meet many members and sign up new members at both virtual and live events:

January	East Surrey Virtual Family History Fair -online
February	The Family History Show – online
April	The Family History Show – Ely Cambridgeshire - live
October	The Family History Show - Kempton Park, Surrey - live Suffolk Family History Fair – live Oxfordshire Family History – live
November	West Surrey Family History Fair - live

We have a similar schedule next year, starting with the East Surrey Virtual Family History Fare in January.

We have also had some lovely new (and repeat) volunteers, if you would like to join our happy group please email me.

Karen de Bruyne, Events Co-ordinator, events@lwmfhs.org

Parish Guides

In the Society's year ending 30 September 2024 we have brought out a further three Parish Guides, which are those to Chipping Barnet, Ickenham and St Mary le Strand. We have now completed Parish Guides for 40 of our Ancient Parishes and only have one more to do, which is Harrow-on-the-Hill. We were intending to bring this one out in March 2024 but the local archives shut for six months for reorganisation just at the crucial moment.

This year we sold 292 booklets. Second editions of St George Hanover Square and Paddington have been brought out, which have updated information and contain much larger sections about schools, in particular. I have also started work on guides to the City of London.

Elizabeth Burling, Editor, editors@lwmfhs.org

Monumental Inscriptions Booklets

Work on our Monumental Inscription booklets has not picked up since Covid struck and has stalled. However this valuable work is not forgotten and it is hoped Harrow on the Hill Upper Churchyard and Church interior will be the next book to be published. I once again thank Alison for continuing to retype Monumental Inscriptions for us. The number of Monumental Inscription books published so far remains at 5.

Elaine Tyler, Projects Co-ordinator, projects@lwmfhs.org

BRANCH REPORTS

Virtual Branch Report

The monthly Zoom talks continue to be very well attended, averaging 60+ attendees for the live event and around 20 views of the recording. There are currently 336 members registered with the Virtual Branch. We have had some fascinating topics over the past year and will continue to try to recruit the most appropriate speakers and talks for our audience. It is great to see members from all parts of the globe benefitting from these. We have switched from replaying talks on the following Friday morning to making the recording available for the 3 days following in the Members Area of the website. This has generally been well received although the Friday morning interaction with members is missed. Welcome to Janet the newest member of the team, Janet has replaced Clare in booking speakers for us, thank you both. Also a big thank you to Sylvia for being a valued member of the VB team from inception until April this year. If you haven't yet been part of the Zoom audience, please contact the team and we will add you to our list.

Clare, Elaine, Elizabeth and Janet, The Virtual Branch Team
virtualbranch@lwmfhs.org

Barnet Branch Report

We have been meeting informally in the afternoon, mainly in the café in Oakhill Park, East Barnet, to have a chat about genealogical matters. If you are interested in joining us, please send your name to this email address to be added to the group email.

Barnet Branch Co-ordinator, barnetbranch@lwmfhs.org

Rayners Lane Branch Report

Members have enjoyed some excellent talks over the past year, as well as using members' afternoons as a basis for some interesting discussions.

Tony Allen, Rayners Lane Branch Co-ordinator,
raynerslanebranch@lwmfhs.org

SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook Report

Our Facebook page is growing, with followers up to 3,208. This main page aims to be an informative and fun place where local London or family history anniversaries are mentioned and linked archives showcased. We also put notice of our branch meetings here, promote our booklets and encourage people to join us! The Help and Discussion group is a private place where people can post their family history queries and interact with other historians on matters relating to London, Westminster and Middlesex. Membership of this has gone up to 3,335 this year. Anyone reading this will know how complicated Greater London history can be and we aim to point people to our fellow family history societies when queries relate to their areas.

Any member who is on Facebook is, of course, welcome to join in.

Elizabeth Burling, <https://www.facebook.com/LWMFHS>

X (Twitter) Report

Our Twitter account now has 345 followers, up 34 on last year. We use the account to promote events both virtual and in person, encouraging membership and sales of Parish Guides etc. We also support other societies and organisations with family history and/or local history links.

Karen de Bruyne, <https://twitter.com/LWMFHS>



CORRECTION

Please note that an old website email address for renewals crept into the last journal – many apologies for this.

The correct address for information about joining is:

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


And for renewing membership online is

<https://www.parishchest.com/london-westminster-middlesex-fhs-4577.php>

GEORGIAN MILITARY WEBSITE NEWS

The French Revolution of 1789 and the subsequent rise of Napoleon Bonaparte caused a great deal of upheaval in Europe. France declared war on Britain in 1793 and that, along with later worries that Napoleon would invade, meant that various measures in England were instituted to help. A series of Martello towers was built along the English coast with other fortifications strengthened to help protect the country and militias were raised. Of course, all of this effort resulted in archives in which you might find ancestors.

Georgian Army Officers



Georgian Army Officers

Search About this project Historical Background Using the database Contact Us

Life archives of over 50,000 officers in the British Army who served in conflicts across the globe between 1790 and 1820

Search for names...

Search over half a million archival records for individuals, by name, or rank to view the reconstructed military careers of Georgian army officers. Explore what units they served with, how long they were in the Army, and how quickly - or slowly - they were promoted.

Released in June this year, Georgian Army Officers is a new database which makes available and searchable digitised Army Lists published between 1790 and 1820. The British Army expanded massively between these dates from around 50,000 men in 1790 to a peak of around 310,000. This reflected not only war against Napoleonic France but also the expansion of the British Empire. The number of officers expanded too, from around 7,000 to nearly 20,000 men although by 1820 the majority were retired and half-pay officers, with only 8,300 serving with units.

This database allows look ups for military careers of approximately 50,000 officers who served in the British Army during the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars, reconstructed from over 500,000 lines of data. Type the officers' surname into the search box and you get a list of soldiers with that surname from every volume of the Army List from 1790 to 1820. Select your person's first name, regiment and dates of service and returned is a summary

of the Army list entries. They are graded for accuracy (as per the algorithm that looks for consistency in that person's career etc.). This website, which is free to access, also includes lots of background information about the Army in this time period.

You can look up the original entry by downloading the relevant year's Army List from The National Archives, Ref: WO 65, and then using the 'page' entry in the database to navigate to the relevant page of the PDF.

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

Karen de Bruyne

Trafalgar Ancestors

Despite Napoleon's planned invasion of Britain, his navy was not strong enough and Britain had the upper hand in the Channel. The Battle of Trafalgar was the last naval battle in the Napoleonic Wars and took place on 21 October 1805 just off the south western coast of Spain. The British Navy was commanded by Vice Admiral Horatio NELSON and fought the combined fleets of the French and Spanish Navies under French Admiral Pierre-Charles VILLENEUVE.

The National Archives has created Trafalgar Ancestors, a database of the 18,000 or so who fought in Nelson's fleet, drawn mainly from Admiralty muster records ADM 36 and ADM 37. They have included their service histories and any biographical details where known, although this is an ongoing project so you may need to check back. This database is free to search here: <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/trafalgarancestors/>

Elizabeth Burling

Waterloo Medal List

The Battle of Waterloo was fought on 18 June 1815 between a French army commanded by Napoleon and a force led by Arthur WELLESLEY, Duke of Wellington (which consisted of units from Britain, the Netherlands, Brunswick, Hanover and Nassau) and a Prussian army led by Field Marshal BLÜCHER. This was the final battle of the Napoleonic era.

The Waterloo medal was the first to be issued as a campaign medal to all ranks and included those who fought in other battles of the campaign (Ligny and/or Quatre Bras) or served in the campaign generally. 39,000 were issued and the recipients are listed by regiment or corps in the book *Waterloo Medal Book, Record of the Corps and Regiments engaged in the battle of Waterloo, giving the name and rank of officers and men* (1816), freely available online at The National Archives: <https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/> under reference MINT 16/112.

Those unfortunate to be taken prisoner during the Napoleonic Wars are recorded in the Admiralty's *Registers of Prisoners of War, France* held again at The National Archives and organised by prison location under references ADM 104/467-480. Thankfully, they are available to consult online at Findmypast and include both Officers and the rank and file. It is worth noting that prisoners include merchant sailors, especially whalers, many of whom would not have been aware that war had been declared when they were captured.

Paul Feetum

To complete the picture on Georgian military matters, the local militia archives need to be considered, not all of which are online.

GEORGIAN MILITIA RECORDS

Men who were not in the army might well have had to serve on the local militia, which was there to create a trained reserve force in case it was needed. A system of Trained Bands of local men was inaugurated in 1572 by Queen Elizabeth I and was organised on a county basis. Later, the 1757 Militia Act required all men aged between 18 and 45 to be registered every year, of whom a proportion were selected by ballot to undergo military training. The French Revolutionary Wars meant that militia numbers expanded to around 82,000 men by 1799. Many of these men then volunteered for the army itself. Peace with France in 1802 brought the numbers of militia men down again but the Napoleonic Wars soon forced them back up, with the threat of invasion by the French looming. There are many records tucked away all over the place, many of which have not been digitised. Here is a selection:

Middlesex Militia Officers

Appointments and certificates relating to the registration of officers of the Middlesex Militia and the certification of their qualifications appear in the collection of the Clerk of the Peace in the archive of the Middlesex Sessions at The London Archives, Ref: MR/ML/Q. These date from 1757-1848 but unfortunately many of these records are not available for general access due to their poor condition.

A list of officers in the Middlesex Militia Regiments is included in the archive of the Middlesex Sessions at The London Archives, Ref: MF/L/021. It gives dates of appointments of officers to the various regiments, at that

date: Supplementary, North, South, Provisional Cavalry, East and West, dated 1805. A list of the non-commissioned officers giving name, rank and date of enrolment dated 1815 is also at The London Archives, Ref: MF/L/075. Further records of the non-commissioned officers are Ref: MF/L/077.

Annual militia lists from 1794 onwards record the names of officers and can be seen in the library at The National Archives. Militia officers' records of service from 1812-1824 are at The National Archives, Ref: WO25 and are also available online there.

Lists of officers' commissions appeared in *The London Gazette*, whose archive is free to search online: <https://www.thegazette.co.uk/>

Middlesex Militia Volunteers

Pay lists for the Western Regiment dated 1795-1802 are at The London Archives, Ref: 0377.

In 1795, an Act required Middlesex, Westminster and Tower Liberty to jointly raise 451 men for the Royal Navy. The number of men from each parish was determined by the number of inhabited houses in each parish. A similar Act the next year wanted 584 men from Middlesex for the army. Resulting papers are in the Middlesex Sessions archive at The London Archives, Ref: MA/MN and contain returns of inhabited houses and assessments of men required by each parish, lists of volunteers' names, certificates of enrolment and more. This record includes the parishes of Clerkenwell, Finchley, Friern Barnet, Hornsey, St Luke Old Street, St Sepulchre and the Liberty of Glasshouse Yard, all of which were from the Finsbury Division of Ossulston Hundred. These records are Ref: MA/MN/231-321.

Militia service records 1803-1913 from The National Archives series WO96 include attestation forms which were filled in when the man was recruited. These are online at Findmypast.

The archive of the County Treasurer for the Middlesex Quarter Session contains returns of volunteers giving lists of militia volunteers and substitutes whose families were chargeable to the county and those who had been discharged, died, deserted or volunteered 'into the line' and so were no longer chargeable, dated 1811-1815. These are at The London Archives, Ref: MF/L.

Westminster Archives Centre contains items related to the Westminster Regiment of the Middlesex Militia, such as lists of persons liable to serve from the parish of St Mary le Strand, dated 1779-1828.

Militia Family Relief

Parishes were responsible for the maintenance and relief of the local families who had men serving in the county militia. However, a man summoned to serve in the militia did not necessarily have to serve himself, a substitute could stand in his place. This meant that many men were not in fact serving in their own county militia but that of another county and relief paid to their families could be claimed back from these other counties. This inevitably involved a large amount of paperwork. Series MF/L at The London Archives contains records which the County Treasurer produced for money reclaimed from Middlesex parishes. Many of these records could contain the names of local men.

Refs: MF/L/001-010 and 177-185 are accounts of payments made. For example, Ref: MF/L/007 is a ledger recording the amounts paid for family relief arranged by parish and giving the name of the militia man and his substitute together with the parish of origin and the number of his family, dating from 1813-1816.

Refs: MF/L/011-022 are certificates of service to prove that men were serving, with lists of volunteer names. Ref: MF/L/022 for instance give lists of militia volunteers and substitutes whose families were chargeable to the county and those who had been discharged, died, deserted or were otherwise no longer chargeable.

Refs: MF/L/096-176 are recruiting expenses for the supplementary militia. Parish constables' accounts for expenses in serving notices on militia men from the Finsbury Hundred dated 1797-1802 are at The London Archives, Ref: MF/L/133-139. These cover the parish of Clerkenwell.



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.

RECORDS OF ENGLISH NONCONFORMITY

Notes Produced for his Talk to the Virtual Branch

By Michael Gandy, Member No. 38

From 1559 to 1642 ‘Puritans’ who disliked the Church of England continued to attend the services and worked for change from inside. Their baptisms, marriage and burials should be found in the C of E parish registers.

There were no separate congregations except for Walloon refugees who had come from the Spanish Netherlands around 1567 and were given permission to have services in their own languages (French or Dutch). The known registers in London and a few towns in South East England have all been published (baptisms and marriages on the Mormon familysearch.org).

Many Puritan Vicars were very active and published pamphlets or sermons. It is always interesting to find out about the religious views of your ancestors’ Vicar whose opinions and practices shaped your ancestors’ lives at least every Sunday.

From 1642-1660 there was religious anarchy. Many parish registers were not well kept and even when they were many people stayed away. It is often difficult to find baptisms, marriages and burials in this period. Marriage registrars were appointed in most market towns from 1653 so often there are no entries of marriage in country parishes because no marriages were taking place there.

There were a number of groups which established themselves in this period: **Baptists.** Do not believe in the baptism of children. General Baptists (about 1611); Particular Baptists (1653); Strict Baptists. The first Baptist church in Wales was founded in 1649. Some Baptists settled in Ireland in the 1650s.

Congregationalists/Independents/Separatists. Not founded by any one person and did not form a church. Believed in the freewill association of the godly who appointed a minister so every congregation was independent, run by deacons or elders. No particular religious viewpoint. Balance between what the minister believed and what the congregation wanted.

Presbyterians. The main church in Scotland but a nonconformist group in England. Strong authority of ministers. Discipline exercised by ‘presbytery’. We know what they thought from looking at Scottish records but few English records survive. In 1700 there were about 179,000 but numbers declined and many drifted towards Unitarianism.

Quakers. ('Friends'). Rejected formal services, ministers (and the payment of tithes to support them) and church buildings. Stressed the equality of all. Greatly committed to the 'peace testimony'.

Excellent records. Greater survival than for the other groups. BMD on findmypast; other material at Friends House Library, Euston Road, London.

A great many went to America (Pennsylvania first).

- digests of births, marriages and deaths (beware Quaker dating system which uses numbers not names and starts from March eg 10th month is December.)

- business meetings (often separate for men and women); good minutes

- 'Great Books of Sufferings' record, county by county, what persecution Quakers endured. See Joseph Besse's *Collection of the Sufferings of the People called Quakers for the Testimony of a Good Conscience* (1650-1689).

- 'testimonies to seasoned Friends' (1700-1843)

- *Piety Promoted* (1701-1829, eleven parts)

- *Dictionary of Quaker Biography*

- *Encyclopaedia of Quaker genealogy*, W.W. Hinshaw (7 vols, 1936-1970).

Muggletonians. Small group founded during the Civil War. The last one died in 1979 and their archive is in the British Library.

Diggers, Fifth Monarchy Men, Levellers, Ranters and Seekers, were not interested in the sort of records family historians want. Active in the 1640s and 50s but did not last beyond 1660.

After the Restoration of the Monarchy in 1660 a very Anglican Parliament put pressure on Puritan ministers who withdrew from the Church of England, or were 'ejected'. Their keenest followers (often known as 'sectaries', 'anabaptists' or 'dissenters') stayed away from Church and met illegally elsewhere. They were often cited at Quarter Sessions by the churchwardens and the lists of names there are the most important independent source for nonconformity in this period (1660-1689).

In 1689 nonconformists got legal toleration and could register their chapels and worship freely. Thus there are no records of 'persecution' after this date. In 1696 Anglican Vicars were told to register nonconformist births in the parish registers but this practice died away by about 1704. However there was a price. Nonconformists were excluded from all positions of public power and therefore concentrated on their businesses.

Nonconformists numbers died away by about half in the years 1700-1760 but were revived by the work of John WESLEY and the Methodists who

eventually broke away from the Church of England in the late 1780s and immediately became the most important nonconformist group. The other groups also revived:

Methodists. Believe in sacraments, ordain ministers and use the Anglican Prayer Book.

- John WESLEY was an Arminian (believing salvation is available to all).

- George WHITEFIELD was a Calvinist and his followers were therefore known as Calvinistic Methodists. One of his followers was the Countess of Huntingdon who paid for chapels and provided ministers. Calvinistic Methodism was very successful in Wales, as was nonconformity in general and by the end of the 19th century perhaps as many as 80% of Welsh churchgoers attended some form of nonconformist chapel.

After the death of WESLEY, Methodism began to break up. Methodist New Connexion (1797); Primitive Methodists (1807); Bible Christians (mostly in the West Country) (1815); Protestant Methodists (1827); Wesleyan Methodist Association (1836); United Methodist Free Churches (1857); Wesleyan Reform Union. Plymouth Brethren also broke off from the Methodists.

Baptists. There were about 58,000 Baptists in 1700 but numbers declined. The General Baptists' 'New Connexion' was formed in 1770; the Particular Baptists were revived by the foundation of the Baptist Missionary Society in 1792. General Baptists and Particular Baptists joined together in 1891. However each congregation remains fundamentally independent.

Congregationalists. In 1700 there were about 59,000 Congregationalists; numbers declined and then rose again.

Huguenots. French Protestants. About 60,000 came to England around 1685 when Protestantism was suppressed in France at the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes. About 10,000 went to Ireland. Excellent records published by the Huguenot Society. BMD on line. (Beware: dates of 'marriage' may actually be the date of 'announcement' ie, first calling of the banns).

Moravians. First came to England in 1723. By 1800 there were about 20 congregations and 5,000 members.

Mormons. Gained many English converts in the years 1837 to 1850 but always encouraged their members to emigrate to America.

Unitarians. Illegal until 1813. Very few in number. Disguised themselves as 'societies'.

Salvation Army. Excellent records of their members and of their widespread work for the poor. See *My Ancestors were in the Salvation Army* (R. Wiggins, SoG, 1997).

Apart from the obligation on everyone except Quakers and Jews to be married in the Church of England the power and influence of nonconformists grew steadily in the early 19th century. The Reform Act of 1832 gave the vote to middle class men and during the next generation the nonconformists broke the power of the Church of England, incidentally producing many useful records for family historians:

- 1834 Reform of the Poor Law, now controlled by Boards of Guardians rather than Anglican vestries
- 1837 State registration of births, marriages and deaths; institution of civil marriage
- 1840 recognition of nonconformist registers
- 1853 Anglican churchyards closed in the towns; establishment of borough cemeteries
- 1858 State system for proving wills
- 1870 State education

Nonconformists fought for the separation of church and state but they were unsuccessful and English still has a national church. The King is Head but governing it through Parliament.

Nonconformist Registers

Many nonconformist congregations kept registers of births or baptisms, deaths or burials. A very high proportion of the known registers to June 1837 are in The National Archives (TNA), Kew, in classes RG 4, 5, 6 and 8; there are about 5,000 of them. The nonconformists had campaigned for this to happen; once their records were ‘authenticated’ and in public keeping they could be used as legal evidence, particularly of age and legitimacy, in the same way as Anglican records.

These records are now all digitised and indexed via TNA’s website. A free site if you are at Kew, otherwise Findmypast.

In practice most nonconformist marriages and burials will be found in the Church of England. The problem is likely to be with births/baptisms.

The registers are also indexed on the Mormon familysearch.org including the registers of Dr Williams’s Library and the Wesleyan Methodist Registry (two attempts to set up a system of birth registration). So, all in all, this material is very accessible and, up to a point, researchers check it every time they look at familysearch.org.

Bad news

Many religious congregations did not actually keep baptism, marriage and burial records such as we like. Many of them did not baptise children (some of them did not baptise anybody); others did not believe that marriage was a religious act. Many of them did not believe that burial was a religious act either (which is why Scotland and Ireland have so few burial registers. For Catholics too burial is not a sacrament).

The majority of the deposited registers relate to Methodists and date from later than 1780. A high proportion of the other registers date from 1750 or later, yet many nonconformist congregations claim a foundation date of around 1662 or 1689. Were there earlier records which have been lost? Probably but we shall never know.

Some advantages

There were no rules about how nonconformist registers should be compiled and some ministers used a printed form which recorded not only the birth and baptism dates and the name of the father and mother, but the name of the maternal grandfather as well. Some of the registers also contained other material, such as membership lists and disciplinary material.

The register of Dr Williams's Library (1742-1837)

In 1742 a committee of nonconformists established a register of births at Dr Williams's giving the name of the child, date and place of birth and the names of the parents, duly certified by reliable witnesses. Many are in family groups and date from long after the births they record. There are 29,865 entries in all.

The Wesleyan Methodist Metropolitan Registry (1818-1837)

This was based in Paternoster Row, near St Paul's Cathedral in the City of London. It followed similar lines and record the births and baptisms of 10,291 children.

Other records**Meeting or Presbytery records**

Most nonconformist congregations made a distinction between members and attenders. Ministers and elders oversaw church discipline and investigated bad behaviour, business practice and clearness for marriage. They often helped members who were in difficulties.

Books, newspapers and periodicals

Nonconformists were literate, usually prosperous people who thought religion was very important. Many of them were deeply involved in political battles or in public campaigns on moral issues. Others regularly wrote and preached aiming to convert people to Christianity. Many of their books, pamphlets and sermons contain details from their own lives or anecdotes about named individuals.

In the 19th century religious newspapers flourished. The following were the most important: *The Nonconformist* (1841); *The Friend* (1843); *The Freeman* which became *The Baptist Times and Freeman* (1853); *The Christian World* (1859); *The Methodist Recorder* (1861); *The Primitive Methodist* (1870); *The War Cry* (1880) but there were many others.

Testimonies and spiritual biographies

Nonconformists never tired of witnessing to the actions of God in their lives. All of them knew their conversion experience and would recount it at the drop of a hat. Tens of thousands of these spiritual biographies must have appeared in print over the centuries, possibly as part of an obituary. Unfortunately there is no systematic way of finding them. Try newspaperonline.com.

Register of Places of Worship (RG 31)

The Toleration Act of 1689 required 'Protestant dissenting congregations' to register their meeting places. Entries are likely to describe the meeting place, often a private house, in terms of who owns or occupies it, to give the parish and the names of those certifying. There is space for the name of the denomination but this is often omitted.

There was no requirement to re-register, or to de-register, and it is therefore not possible to know how long, if at all, these meeting places were used. If only a reasonable proportion of them were used for a few years by separate congregations then they are a woeful reminder of what may be missing from the nonconformist registers we know of.

Non-specialist material

Almost all nonconformists were middle class and will be found in all the standard records for their group. Thus, where we sometimes have difficulty finding the basic genealogical entries, nonconformists can almost always be traced through other sources.

Bibliography

Basic facts about English Nonconformity for Family Historians by M.J. Gandy (Federation of Family History Societies, 1998)

My Ancestors were Baptists by G.R. Breed (3rd edition, SoG, 1995)

My Ancestors were Congregationalists by D.J.H. Clifford (2nd edition, SoG, 1997)

My Ancestors were English Presbyterians/Unitarians by A. Ruston (SoG, 1993)

My Ancestors were Methodists by W. Leary (3rd edition, SoG, 1999: out of print)

My Ancestors were Quakers by E.H. Milligan and M.J. Thomas (3rd edition, SoG, 1999)

My Ancestors were in the Salvation Army by R. Wiggins (SoG, 1997)

The Muggletonians 1652-1979 by W. Lamont (Past and Present No 99, May 1983)



FOUNDLING HOSPITAL ARCHIVE ONLINE

The famous Foundling Hospital at Bloomsbury was established by Thomas CORAM on 17 October 1739 as a refuge for abandoned children. Initially located in a house in Hatton Gardens, a purpose-built hospital was soon constructed in Lamb's Conduit Fields. Mothers petitioned the Hospital to admit their child. Every child was baptised, given a new name, and a number. The Hospital arranged for a nurse in the countryside to care for them until the age of five. They were then brought to live and be educated in the Foundling Hospital until around the age of 15, when they were sent out as apprentices.

The Hospital kept meticulous records of every child admitted. In October, after a 4 year joint effort using volunteers on the Zooniverse platform, the archive of the Foundling Hospital dating from 1739-1899 has been made available for free online. (The remainder of the records up to 1910 can be viewed at LMA with a reader's ticket.) The digital collection comprises every page from 405 volumes and 'bundles' of papers making up some 23% of the entire physical archive. The originals of these documents will no longer be accessible so as to preserve them. The pages online are displayed as digital images and text transcripts here: <https://archives.coram.org.uk/>



Please set out your *Help!* request as clearly and succinctly as possible. All surnames should be in CAPITALS. Members may have one free entry per journal. There is a £3 charge for each



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

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

MY GRANDMOTHER ANN COWDREY

I've not been able to find my grandmother, Ann(ie) COWDREY in the 1921 census. She was born on 22 July 1892 and placed in the London Foundling hospital in February 1893 where she was given the name Ann COWDREY. She's on the 1901 census at the Foundling Hospital, and by the time the 1911 census was taken she had been placed as a domestic servant in the home of Francis Cadwallader ADAMS at 9 Addison Gardens, Kensington. Her place of birth was recorded as St John's, Holloway in 1911, but the 1901 entry states "Where born: foundling children not known". On a visit to Coram (formerly the Foundling Hospital) my father and I were assured foundlings were never given details of their early origins, and in later life Ann was known to invent autobiographical information to spare embarrassment about her origins, so I'm not sure how to refine a search for her.

On 31 March 1923 she married Percy PAYNE, a cable hand from Erith. The wedding took place in Leatherhead, from the home of a member of her former foster family, but I don't know whether Ann ever lived there for any length of time. She and Percy settled in Erith where they had two children – Percy and Betty – in 1924 and 1927.

The family have always wondered how Ann from Kensington met Percy from Erith, so I'd greatly appreciate any help you can offer.

Barbara Robinson, Member No. 8358

Note: She certainly is not easy to find in the 1921 census returns under any variation of her names. Could she perhaps be temporarily residing in an institution? There is, for instance, a C.A. in Hanwell Asylum at Norwood. This person is described as a single woman aged 29, a servant, place of birth unknown. Records of Hanwell Asylum (later St Bernard's

Hospital) are at The London Archives, Ref: H11 HLL, should you wish to investigate this potential lead.

It is not at all unusual for details of parents of foundlings, such as your grandmother, to be either unknown or to be kept secret, particularly in Victorian and earlier times when a stigma may have attached. With the increase in the number of people who have had their autosomal DNA tested, however, this need not remain a barrier to discovering who they were. The article on page 5 of this edition gives a background to this resource but the fact that it is your grandmother whose parents are unknown offers a good chance of making progress. Any descendants of your grandmother's parents will be either full or half second cousins and they are likely to share 229 or 120 centiMorgans respectively with you or even more with your parent on your maternal line. These are of course averages and the range is more fully set out in the Shared cM Project explained in the article. If such cousins have identifiable ancestral lines, this may very well help in identifying likely candidates for your great grandparents.



NEXT COPY DATE

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

1 February 2025

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

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

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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 (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 will be available for 3 days in the Members’ Area of the website 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

- 12 December *Frost, Freezes and Fairs* by Ian Currie.
A thousand years of famous winters when rivers including the mighty Thames froze and remarkable events took place on the ice.
- 9 January *The Three Rs* by Claire Morris.
Studying the three R’s: an introduction into School and Education Records for Family Tree research.
- 13 February *Irish Heritage* by Dr Penny Walters.
About 70 million people claim Irish heritage and many are keen to research their Irish roots. This talk looks at the information that is available in the absence of a number of key Irish census records, DNA match collaboration and heritage tours.
- 13 March *When Ted Met Hatty* by Dr Nick Barratt.
Nick recounts the search across three continents for his illegitimate grandmother’s parents, explaining the various sources and techniques along the way.

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

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| 2 December | Christmas Social |
| 6 January | <i>The Nine Lives of Mina Jury</i> by Claire Moores |
| 3 February | Members' Discussion meeting – 'the ancestor whom I would most like to meet'. Come and tell us about yours. |
| 3 March | <i>'None so Queer as Folk'</i> by Ian Waller.
Most communities have their own traditions, peculiarities and dialects. Many of these originated in early history and have often been preserved in pictorial, written and oral histories. This talk gives examples of these traditions (often humorous) and puts them into the context of village and town life. |

LWMFHS members are also 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.

No information was available as we went to press, so please check their website: <https://midland-ancestors.uk/category/events/>

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.

No information was available as we went to press, so please check their website: <https://www.eastsurreyfhs.org.uk/index.php/events>

SURNAME INTERESTS

The research interests listed here were submitted by members between August and mid November 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://lwfmfs.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: 8521; 8533; 8536; 8537

Name	Period	County	Parish / Area	Mem.No.
BARNES	1790-1900	MDX	St John, Shoreditch	8536
BARNES	1790-1900	MDX	St Mary, Islington	8536
BARNES	1790-1900	MDX	St Andrew, Holborn	8536
BARNES	1790-1900	MDX	St George the Martyr, in Camden and Holborn	8536
BRAGG	1800-1880	MDX	Bethnal Green	8537
DEARLING	1850-1970	Any	Any	8533
FORREST	1650-1850	LND	St Botolph	8521
GARDNER	1780-1825	MDX	Bethnal Green	8537
GONIN	1800-1830	MDX	Clerkenwell	8537
GONNING	1850-1915	MDX	St Luke	8537
LAPPAGE	1650-1700	SFK	Hadleigh	8537
LILLEY	1750-1850	ESS	Wivenhoe	8537
LONDON	1650-1900	MDX	St Luke, Old Street	8521
OAKLEY	1725-1800	SFK	Glemsford	8537
RENEW	1750-1900	MDX	Bethnal Green	8537
TOUREILLE	1755-1800	MDX	Spitalfields	8537
WADLEY	1770-1900	ESS	Wivenhoe	8537

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the new members, number 8520 - 8538 who have joined the Society over the past few months and wish them well with their research.



AIMS OF THE SOCIETY

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

SUBSCRIPTIONS

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

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

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

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

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

£15 UK: to receive *Metropolitan* by post

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

CHEQUE PAYMENT BY UK OR OVERSEAS MEMBERS

UK cheques are payable to LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX FHS.

Overseas members' payments must be made in pounds sterling by cheque, drawn upon a London Bank, made payable to: LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX FHS.

All cheques should be sent to the Membership Secretary, address on the inside front cover. Please give your name and, if possible, membership number (which is on the email notifying you of your electronic version of *Metropolitan*, or on the address sheet sent with your paper copy).

CANADA: Canadian Postal Money Orders cannot be accepted.

AUSTRALIA / NEW ZEALAND: Most banks will provide sterling cheques.

OTHER WAYS TO PAY

- Set up a standing order payable on 1 October annually (bank details below);
- Make a payment directly into our bank account (details below);
- Pay through Parish Chest directly from our website lwmfhs.org.uk or our stall on the Parish Chest

BANKERS: Santander Business Banking, Bridle Road, Liverpool, Merseyside L30 4GB

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

Business account name: London Westminster & Middlesex Family History Society

Please include your name and membership number as payment reference.

MEMBERS' DATA

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

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

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

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