



HILLINGDON FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY



Celtic knot work design based on Shamrock (see page 13)

Journal No. 128

December 2019

2020 PROGRAMME OF OUR MEETINGS

Unless stated otherwise meetings take place at Hillingdon Baptist Church,
25 Hercies Road, Hillingdon, Middlesex. UB10 9LS
Doors open at 7.30 p.m.

DATE	SPEAKER	SUBJECT
Tuesday 28 th January Joint meeting with U3A Starts at 2.00 pm	Nick Barratt	‘The Future of Family History’
Thursday 20 th February Starts at 2.00 pm	Ron Koorm	‘G.C.H.Q. Eastcote during WW2’
Thursday 19 th March	A.G.M.	
Thursday 23 rd April	Colin Oates	‘St. George’
Thursday 21 st May	t.b.a.	t.b.a.
Thursday 18 th June	Jenny Malin	‘Serendipity Follows Me’
Thursday 16 th July	Tony Kemp	‘Digital Assets after death’
AUGUST	NO MEETING	NO MEETING
Thursday 17 th September	t.b.a.	t.b.a.
Thursday 15 th October Starts at 2pm		MEMBERS MEETING
Tuesday 10 th November Joint meeting with U3A Starts at 2.00 pm	Dave Annal	t.b.a.

Please remember that we always welcome visitors to our meetings and that the entrance fee for them is £1.

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Visit our website at: www.hfhs.org.uk
 Contact us by e-mail at: enquiries@hfhs.org.uk

Contributions to the Journal are encouraged and should be sent to the e-mail address above or by post John Symons, (address on back cover).

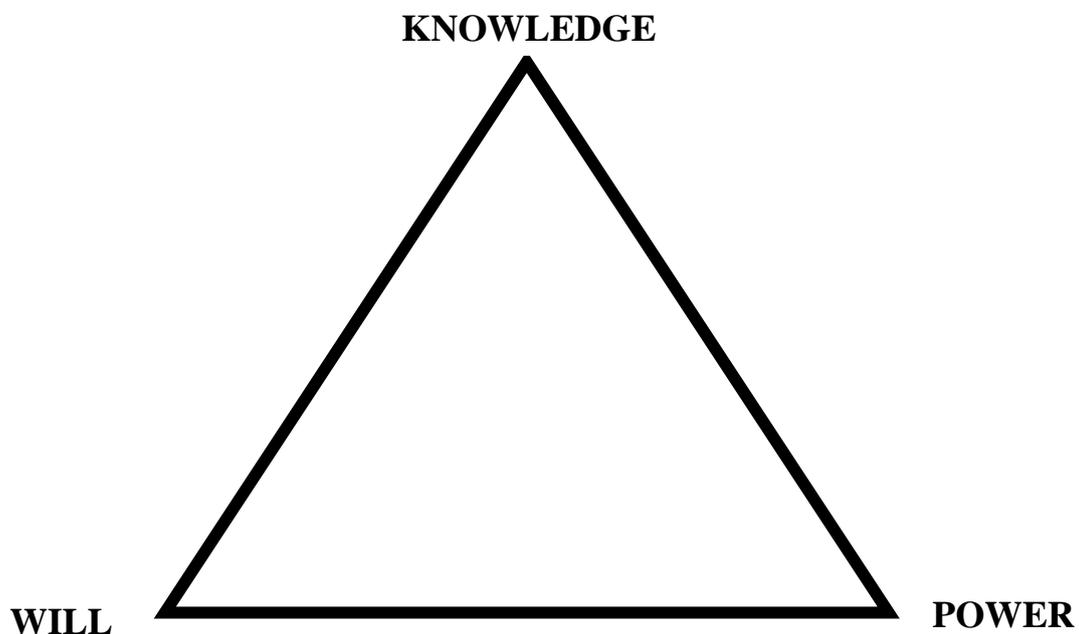
A LARGE PRINT VERSION IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST TO THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY.

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

We end another successful year. We have had some super speakers and the journal has been full of interesting articles. The research rooms at Hercies Road and in Uxbridge library have both been well attended. Our membership gets value for money even if members can't attend the monthly talks.

I have a large and eclectic library (which is spreading) and as I was scrambling around I came across a book on Mediterranean Cartographic Studies. At this point John Symons will probably perk up and put down, or pick up his next cruise catalogue!

The Medici came up with this triangular concept: the knowledge of the world and the techniques through which the knowledge is expressed; the will to promote this knowledge; and the power that controls this knowledge, appropriates it and puts it at the service of its own objectives.



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Leaving aside cartography, it struck me that there might be something in this triangle for the family historian.

Our ancestors had little 'knowledge' as most were illiterate, agricultural labourers. A survey of members' ancestors would probably reveal a great number of 'Ag. Labs'.

They did however have the 'will' and over time that gave them the chance to prosper. This gave them the 'power' to educate and from that came 'knowledge'.

It was a virtuous triangle (not a circle). But it is not a one-way street.

My grandmother had little knowledge but had will and that is what drove her to push her children into education (knowledge) and in turn that enabled them to become successful.

When we think about our family histories and apply the triangle I wonder if it helps focus the mind a bit. How many family histories could be written around this concept? An ancestor starts at one corner and then progresses to the next.

And I am not a free mason, just someone who reads very old books about maps!

Best wishes for Christmas and New Year 2020!



OUR PERENNIAL APPEAL

It's that time of year again when as they sit around the fire we ask all our members to put pen to paper (or fingers to keyboard) to keep our journal full and interesting. Surely there must be stories, short or long, that you have come across as you research your ancestors that will provide material of interest to the membership.

Perhaps your researches have highlighted web sites or other sources that have proved particularly useful. Let us have a write up of the experience and what it led to. It might be that your experience instead of helping actually hindered you – this too would be worth turning into an article for us to publish as a guide to other members.

If you do write something, try to include photographs or drawings if possible – they always add interest. Do not worry about how to write it, have a go and we will 'lick it into shape' if needs be. So for the New Year let us all resolve to recall stories or experiences that we have had, write them down and send them to us for inclusion in the journal.

EDITORS' JOTTINGS

In this edition we come to the end of Barbara Nield's research of her family (*see page 7*). It is obviously a large body of work which, without the benefit of the internet, involved a lot of travelling around to gather the information. Thank you, Barbara, for sharing your story with us.

Both John and I would like to thank all those who sent us material for inclusion in this year's journals without you the editions would be little more than pamphlet. Likewise we thank all those who wrote in with queries, expansions on earlier articles and explanations for obscure references in articles.

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Also we give a big thank you to Jenny Moorish for proof reading our journals and Elaine Symons who did likewise when Jenny was away.

At long last we can report that our monumental task (no pun intended) of digitising our handwritten monumental inscriptions has been completed.

They can now be viewed on FindMyPast (FMP) and cover the following churches in Hillingdon: Cowley – St. Laurence: Northwood – Holy Trinity: West Drayton – St. Martin: Harefield – St. Mary

Sign into FMP, click on Search in the top menu bar then select A-Z of record sets (bottom right of drop down menu). In the top search box of the next window type Middlesex and from the list displayed click on Middlesex Monumental Inscriptions to begin searching.

Don't forget each time you or anybody else searches for an individual in any of these four churches the society will receive from FMP a (very small) sum of money for our coffers at no extra cost to yourself.

Finally another apology, in the last edition we incorrectly gave the date for Douglas Adams resignation from the committee as 2028 (top of page 6). It should of course have been 2018.

PROVISIONAL DEADLINE DATES

Here are the deadline dates for 2020. The date for the December journal might change at a later date.

JOURNAL	DEADLINE
MARCH	1 st FEBRUARY
JUNE	1 st MAY
SEPTEMBER	31 st JULY
DECEMBER	23 rd OCTOBER



*To all our members
and readers
we send Seasonal
greetings together with
our wish that 2020
will be a peaceful,
happy
New Year*

John and Alan

AN ORDINARY FAMILY (PART FOUR)

By Barbara Nield

The Jamaican Connection

It was around the middle of April 1994 when I learned that William BONTEMS had been brought to England as a lad, following the murder of his parents in Jamaica. Shortly after, at the beginning of May, the Society of Genealogists Family History Fair took place. I browsed around the stalls and then wandered upstairs to see what was there. What I saw certainly gave me goose pimples; a notice 'Help Desk – Jamaica'. It seemed meant just for me!

I waited for a few minutes while the previous customer was advised then took my turn at the desk. There I learned that there were copies of the parish records of Jamaica on film in the Rolls Room at the P.R.O. The Mormon records were housed there temporarily while the Hyde Park F.H.C. building was being refurbished.

A few days later I began my search; unfortunately after about 3 hours I had found nothing and gave up. Naturally some of the film was of poor quality, the room was brightly lit and I had to stand to shield the screen. Excuses I know, but I suppose I was also dismayed to find there were twenty two parishes and I had no idea where to begin so it felt an impossible task.

I searched six parishes, but I could not be sure that I hadn't overlooked someone so sadly that part of my search failed and it was put on hold.

I returned to the Society of Genealogists' catalogue and found that there was quite a large group of references for Jamaica and although I didn't find my family, I had some fascinating hours of reading on the way of life, violent weather and so on around the beginning of the 19th Century.

One book in particular was very interesting 'Sugar and Slaves: The Rise of the Planter Class in the English West Indies' (WI/G8).

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I thought I might find something of help at the Newspaper Library and spent another very interesting day there. I was surprised and pleased to find that they hold some Jamaican papers on film from as far back as 1780 so I requested a film covering December 1792 to June 1793. I found a spare reader, set the film up and found an eye-opener. If only history lessons had been like this I'm sure it would have made much more sense.

The weekly paper, 'The Royal Gazette' (Jamaica Mercury) gave names and details of ships arriving; masters name, approximate date of sailing and destination together with other details. There were advertisements of slaves for sale slaves wanted. Lists of runaway slaves in workhouses who had initials branded on their shoulders, just like cattle. Deserters from 20th (ex. Jamaica) Regiment of Light Dragoons, 4 named men, were taken from the workhouse and those that returned them to the army received a half guinea for each man. Details of Acts in force e.g. one to restrict ownership of dogs unless absolutely necessary, in order to try to combat 'spreading of the infection of canine madness'. Paragraphs on European Intelligence - Foreign Intelligence - French Intelligence. Some deaths and marriages - some names of persons leaving the Island. (This last paragraph I hoped might one day turn up my BONTEMS lad). It is difficult to keep the mind on the quest in hand when all these items appear. I must confess mine wandered when I came across some of them.

In the edition dated Feb. 16th 1793 I noticed the following: Kingston Marine Intelligence: H.M. ship Providence, Capt. Bligh with plants for Botanic Gardens at Bath. Christian left Otaheite, in the Bounty, took with him seven women, and twelve men, natives. The general opinion is, that he has gone to colonise some hitherto unsettled Island.

In October 1995 I was sent details (via the man on the Help desk at the Soc. Gen. Fair) of a recommended researcher in Jamaica and decided to write to her to see whether she might be able to find something for me. I authorised a preliminary search and had a detailed reply.

I have authorised a further limited search and am awaiting a reply (25/9/1996) but fear I will have to leave my excursion into the Jamaica story where it stands, unless a fortune comes my way.

(contd.)

The Italian Connection

My cousin Sally lent me a birthday book in which I noticed an entry that aroused my curiosity. It said that on 26th December, 1860 William Francis BONTEMS died following an accident with a gun whilst serving as an Officer in Garibaldi's Army.

When he died William was 20 years old and the younger brother of my great grandfather James Steward BONTEMS. I wondered how it was that he went to fight with Garibaldi's Army. Not long after I found this at one of H.F.H.S. meetings the speaker was from the Victorian Military Society. I asked him about Garibaldi's Army and he suggested I looked in a book called 'Garibaldi – The Revolutionary and his Men', by Andrea Viotti. I found a copy in Uxbridge Library and saw that it mentioned the Expedition of the Thousand; I wondered if William was one of this group.

I found William's death certificate through the Consul's Records at St. Catherine's House. He died at The Jesuits Hospital in Naples on 26th Dec. 1860, his age was incorrectly given as 24 and he was entered as a 'Soldier in the Service of General Garibaldi'. I then wondered whether the Times would have a death notice or any mention of what had happened. My next stop was Colindale and the Newspaper Library where I found this entry in The Times Index for March Quarter, 1861:

Naples Dec. 29

From our own Correspondent.

Reporting on the situation in Naples he finishes with:

'I regret to state that Lieutenant BONTEMS, of the English Legion, was killed on Thursday last at the hospital by a pistol shot, fired unintentionally by a bystander. His funeral took place yesterday and was attended by an escort of National Guards and Sardinian Lancers'.

I wondered why the young William joined the English Legion. Was he unable to find work, or in a job which he loathed, or a young man full of vigour and wanting to explore the world? I suppose I will never know but certainly Garibaldi inspired a following of men and not only in Italy. However it came about William sadly never returned home.

(contd.)

James Steward BONTEMS

James Steward BONTEMS was the first child of John Francis BONTEMS and his wife, Sarah, née BATCHELOR.

He was born on 8th August 1835 at Brentford, Middlesex. He lived with his parents, first in Brentford, where his sister Sarah Ann was born on 14th February 1838; brother William Francis on 2nd December 1840 and sister Ellen on 2nd January 1843. When his sister Henrietta Vincent was born on 3rd April 1846 the family were living in Ealing. By 1851 they were living in Hemel Hempstead High Street, opposite the new Town Hall and Market House and in the Census James, aged 15, was described as a Clerk in a Brewery.

Sadly Sarah Ann died as a baby and William Francis was killed in Naples when just 20 years old. Ellen lived to the age of 92 but stayed single so it remained with James and his sister Henrietta Vincent to continue the family. James married Lucy PIM on 15th February 1858 at St. Mary's, Stoke Newington.

On their marriage certificate James is described as a Commercial Clerk, living at Stoke Newington and Lucy as living at Watford. Lucy was born in Hemel Hempstead on 21st April 1837 and by 1846 was living in Bushey, Herts (when one of her brothers was baptised at Hemel Hempstead). But in 1855 (Hemel Hempstead Post Office Directory) she is a shopkeeper in Two Waters, less than a mile from the Bontems home, now in Cotterells, Hemel Hempstead.

James and Lucy had nine children: Francis William b. 1859 in Shoreditch; Annie Lucy b. 1860 in Dalston; Steward Bennett b. 1862 in West Hackney; Ellen b. 1865 in East Malling; Sarah Jane (my Grandmother) b. 1867 in Islington; Frances Henrietta b. 1869 and Emily b. 1873, both in Acton; John Francis b. 1875 in Dartford and Oliver James b. 1878 in Malling.

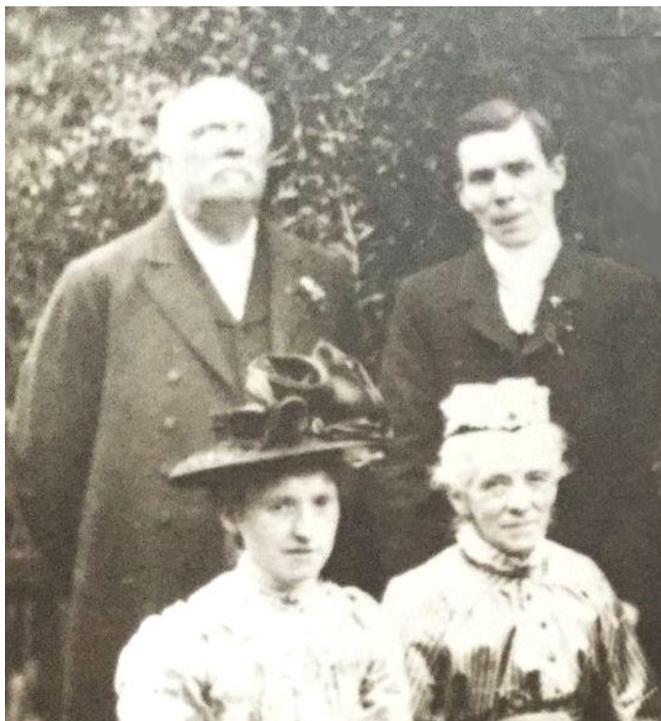
From all these births it is evident that they moved quite frequently. The description of his Profession or Occupation is interesting, first a Clerk at a Brewery in 1851, on his marriage in 1858 a Commercial Clerk.

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In 1861 Census Clerk, Irish Stock Company, Hackney. In 1867 on my Grandmother's birth still a Commercial Clerk. At the birth of his daughters Frances in 1869 and Emily in 1873 and also in the 1871 Census he was a Grocer in Acton. In 1881 Census he was a Secretary, in Leicester.

At my Grandmother's marriage in Leicester in 1896 he was described as having "no occupation". In 1912 on his wife's death he was "Journalist, retired", and at his death in Leicester in 1919, aged 83 he was "of independent means".

My mother remembered her Grandfather as rather a frightening man, and her Grandmother as a dear lady. He certainly looks overpowering on the photograph I have of them in a lovely family group, taken in the garden of their home after the marriage of their son, Oliver James, to Florence COLTMAN on 29th July, 1902 in Leicester. My mother, Lucy Ellen PARDEY, is the little girl shown on the right. It was she who, at the age of 80, was able to tell me the names of most of the family in the picture. *(These originally appeared in the March 2019 edition)*



Grandfather, back left,
Grandmother, front right.

(contd.)

Henrietta Vincent BONTEMS

Henrietta Vincent was James' youngest sister. She was born on 3rd April, 1846 in Ealing. She was married on 21st October, 1868 at Han Court Chapel, Canonbury to Thomas Albert HULL, who, like her father, was a Pewterer.

Henrietta and Thomas had six children, five sons and one daughter. Sadly three of them, Thomas Francis, Frank and Arthur died as infants. This left Henrietta Alberta, born 21st May 1871, William Bontems, born 16th October, 1873 and Alexander, born 8th January, 1876. William and Alexander both married and William Bontems Hull had two children, Neil Bontems and Valerie. I know nothing further about any descendants of theirs or of Alexander.

Thomas died on 27th July 1910 and Henrietta Vincent died 1st December, 1917.

The Grand Junction Canal

I am curious about the movements of the BONTEMS family. I know the railway was being built in 1837 through Boxmoor, but wonder whether an ordinary family would be able to afford to make much use of the railway system.

In 1845 the third class fare from Euston was 2/1d, first class by a mixed fast train 5s. and by a mixed stopping train 4/6d.

Probably roads would be the more common form of transport, but I have noticed that several of the towns where my BONTEMS families settled were along the route of the Grand Junction Canal. Perhaps this featured in their moves but it might just be a coincidence.

Francis BONTEMS married in St. Pancras, his children were baptised in Hemel Hempstead. His widow remarried at Wing, Bucks. His son, John Francis moved to Brentford, then back to Hemel Hempstead and then back to London: his son James moved around the London Area - Kent, Ealing, Islington and then Leicester. John's brother, William, went from Brentford to Northampton, before starting his moves around the country as a Baptist Minister.

<p style="text-align:center">TRACE YOUR IRISH FAMILY HISTORY A STEP BY STEP GUIDE <i>Found by Alan Rowland</i></p>
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As most researchers know there is a palpable, sinking feeling when the person you are endeavouring to help says ‘they came from Ireland’.

I know we shouldn’t – but Ireland has been one of the more difficult areas to achieve results. I stumbled on this article that appeared in ‘THE IRISH TIMES’ on 12th March 2018 which suggests that it is now easier to find any records that still exist. Due to its length it will be presented in two parts, the second in our March 2020 journal.

The author is John GRENHAM, a consultant genealogist. He has written a number of books on ancestry, his most recent being the 4th edition of ‘Tracing Your Irish Ancestors’ published by Gill & Macmillan (2012).

‘It’s easier than ever to trace your ancestry, using online church records to DNA kits’.

The only cast-iron rule of family history is that you start from what you know and use it to find out more. Take your granny and work back from her.

There has never been a better time to research Irish family history. A revolution in access to Irish genealogical records has taken place over the past decade. From being a laggard in providing online record transcripts, Ireland has become one of the world leaders.

Some credit must go to competition in the marketplace to meet researchers' demands. But most of the change has been driven by the Irish and Northern Irish public sectors. Their increased awareness of the huge numbers who descend from emigrants, and who cherish that historic connection, has had a dramatic effect. Politicians and public servants now accept that it should be as easy as possible for members of the Irish diaspora to unearth the historical detail of the connection, their family history.

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Publicly-funded websites such as:

IrishGenealogy.ie

askaboutireland.ie

databases.dublincity.ie

nidirect.gov.uk/proni and

genealogy.nationalarchives.ie

have all gone about supplying the tools to make that possible.

The result is that most people of Irish origin can now take their family back to the second quarter of the 19th century quickly and easily and, for the most part, without payment. This guide contains links to those many free resources, as well as paid genealogy services which could help speed up the process or guide you towards records you may not have known existed. It also covers new ways to trace your ancestry using increasingly popular home DNA kits.

Getting started.

Before you go near any records, talk to your family. It makes no sense to spend days trawling through databases to find out your great-grandmother's surname if someone in the family already knows it.

So first talk to parents, aunts, uncles, cousins, grandparents - find out what they know before they're gone for good. Most families have at least one individual who keeps track of the extended network of relatives, and if you can buttonhole her (it usually is a 'her'), you're off to a good start. To begin with, quantity is less important than quality - there'll be plenty of time for precision later.

The only cast-iron rule of family history is that you start from what you know and use it to find out more. Don't begin with Attila the Hun and try to work forward to yourself. Take your granny and work back from her.

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What you can expect to find.

What you'll uncover depends on the quality of the surviving records for the area of origin, on the point where you start and the most important ingredient of Irish research, luck.

For the descendants of Catholic tenant-farmers, the limit is generally the starting date of the local Catholic parish records. It would be unusual for records of such a family to go back much earlier than the 1780s, and for most people the early 1800s is the more likely limit.

In Gaelic culture genealogy was of crucial importance, but the collapse of that culture in the 17th century, and its subsequent impoverishment and oppression in the 18th century, left a gulf that is almost unbridgeable.

That said, exceptions immediately spring to mind. One Australian family, starting with only the name of their great-grandfather, his occupation and the date of his departure from Ireland, uncovered enough information through parish registers and State records of births, marriages and deaths to link him incontestably to the Garveys of Mayo, for whom an established pedigree is registered in the Genealogical Office stretching back to the 12th century.

An American family, knowing only a general location in Ireland and a marriage that took place before emigration, discovered that marriage in the pedigree of the McDermotts of Coolavin, which is factually verified as far back as the 11th century.

Discoveries like this are rare, however, and are much likelier for those of Anglo-Irish extraction than those of Gaelic or Scots Presbyterian extraction.

Online resources.

For Irish online research, the glass is both half-empty and half-full. A huge quantity of irreplaceable records was blown up in 1922 - almost all 19th century censuses, to name just one - and nothing will ever bring them back.

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On the other hand, there are only four universally relevant sources, civil records, church registers, censuses and tax surveys, and nearly all of them that survived is online and free.

The easiest win for most people starting out is the free National Archives of Ireland census website (census.nationalarchives.ie). It's plain but powerful and serves up images of the original returns for the earliest complete censuses, 1901 and 1911, complete with great-grand-parents' signatures and overviews of names, family relationships and occupations. Be warned: being able to wander around streets and townlands peering into the neighbours' households can be powerfully addictive.

The next step will usually be to search the civil records of births, marriages and deaths. Registration began for everyone in 1864, with non-Catholic marriages starting in 1845.

The indexes are free to search up to 1958 at the Mormon site FamilySearch (familysearch.org/search/collection/1408347).

The Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht runs an excellent free site at irishgenealogy.ie that includes full images of the original registers (births 1864-1916, marriages 1870-1941 and deaths 1878-1966).

Be sure to work the "More Search Options" page as hard as you can.

Griffith's Valuation (1847-1864) is a vast and minutely detailed property survey carried out to assess local taxes (aka "The Rates"). If we hadn't blown up the 19th century censuses, it would be an afterthought. As things stand, it's the only comprehensive census substitute before 1901. It's free online at askaboutireland.ie, a site run, strangely enough, by the Local Government Management Agency.

Like the census site, [askaboutireland](http://askaboutireland.ie) doesn't take variant surname spellings into account, so ingenuity may be required. One of its glories, however, is the huge collection of accompanying valuation maps, overlaid on contemporary Google maps, making it possible to match the precise locations of houses and field boundaries in the 1850s with what survives today.

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The last of the universally relevant sources is the most important and the most tricky. For the years before civil registration in 1864, church registers of baptisms, marriages and burials are virtually the only direct sources of family information.

Roman Catholic registers generally start in the late 1700s or early 1800s in the more prosperous East and South-East, but only in the 1840s or later in poorer western counties. Almost all pre-1880 Catholic registers have been microfilmed by the National Library and digital images of the microfilms are freely available at registers.nli.ie.

They can be hard going. Two commercial genealogy sites, FindMyPast and Ancestry, have transcribed them, with access free only on FindMyPast. Another commercial site, rootsireland.ie, has been making transcripts since the 1980s and covers about 80 per cent of pre-1900 registers. One significant difference is that the rootsireland transcripts were made from the originals, not microfilm, and the difference in the quality of the transcripts can be striking.

The Church of Ireland was the state church until 1870 and after disestablishment parish records before that date were regarded as public records.

As a result, a large number were in the Public Record Office in 1922 and were destroyed. The largest collection of original registers is in the Representative Church Body Library in Dublin, which also maintains an online listing of what was destroyed and what survived (goo.gl/4eHUIZ).

The Public Record Office of Northern Ireland has an excellent collection of microfilm of records of all denominations in the nine counties of Ulster (goo.gl/ok8NuR).

Presbyterian records can be hard to track down. The best collection is in The Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, with a lot of material also in the Presbyterian Historical Society.

Detailed guides to which records are where can be found at www.johngrenham.com.

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The site is free for light users, with a soft paywall for more persistent souls. Claire Santry's Irish Genealogy News (irishgenealogynews.com) is the go-to site for all news of record releases and publications and also includes a free "Irish Genealogy Toolkit", which gives a good overview of what's available.

Free research.

Unlike any other country in the Anglophone world, a large majority of the most important Irish records are free online. Why?

The main reason is Ireland's unique imbalance between diaspora and the Old Country. There are more than ten times more people claiming Irish descent in the US alone than there are in Ireland, a disproportion found in no other country.

In the 1990s, as that began to dawn on official Ireland, it became government policy to make as many records as possible freely available online. They're all in different formats, in different locations, each with its own quirks and flaws. But they're there and they're free.

Paying a genealogy company or expert.

So why would anyone doing Irish research need to subscribe to commercial record-transcriptions sites such as [rootsireland](http://rootsireland.com) or ancestry.com or findmypast.ie?

Because they give levels of access not found in the free records.

Rootsireland, for example, is purely Irish and uses the transcripts produced by the network of heritage centres set up in the 1980s.

It makes possible all sorts of weird and wonderful searches. Want to see everyone who died in Ardnurcher, Co Offaly between 1864 and 1900? Or every marriage involving a woman called Matilda in Co Derry between 1821 and 1921? Rootsireland is your only man.

Even the global genealogy sites have their uses. Many of the records free to search elsewhere are set up much more conveniently on Ancestry and FindMyPast.

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For example, if all you know is that your ancestor John Sullivan had a daughter Mary who was born around 1890, you can use ancestry to search the 1901 census for all John Sullivans with a 10-year-old daughter Mary, something not possible on the National Archives site. (There are 138 matches.)

Professional researchers can also be very useful. Someone who's been scouring the records for decades, as most professionals have, sees angles, connections and shortcuts that elude a newcomer. At the very least, they can do in an hour what might take an amateur a day or more. And no decent professional thinks of themselves as doing all the work. They're just helping.

Accredited Genealogists Ireland (accreditedgenealogists.ie) includes many (but not all) of the self-employed professionals in Ireland.

The Irish Family History Centre (irishfamilyhistorycentre.com) run by long-established research and publishing company Eneclann provides advice and commissioned research and has a walk-in centre as part of the emigration museum EPIC on Dublin's Custom House Quay.

Ancestry has its own team of highly experienced professionals (progenealogists.com), focused primarily on North America, but with deep expertise in Ireland also.

Local document research.

One of the first things every researcher learns is deep scepticism about records and record transcripts. Taking a transcript alone as gospel truth is tantamount to accepting the word of a stranger in the street that he knows you're descended from Brian Ború.

Always look at the original. Thankfully, it is now standard practice online to combine a transcript with the original record image, providing an opportunity to see how flawed the transcript is.

All transcripts are flawed, because all human beings are flawed.

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People misspelt the names of their children, record-takers misheard surnames, transcribers mistook “Ts” for “Fs”, database designers left out entire sections of records ... If you’re researching records online, know that this is the price you’re paying.

And of course, there are plenty of records not online, from militia and British Army records in the English National Archives in Kew, to estate rentals only available in the National Library or in local archives, through to ephemeral but invaluable local histories that might only survive in a local county library.

Because of what happened in 1922, Irish research is much more dependant on fragmented sources like these than is the case elsewhere. You’ll need to consult a county-by-county (or parish-by-parish) reference for what survives.

*Online guides are at **IrishGenealogy.ie**, **irish-genealogy-toolkit.com** and **johngrenham.com**.*

*The standard published books are James Ryan’s **Irish Records: Sources for Family and Local History** (2nd ed Ancestry.com, 1997) and John Grenham’s **Tracing Your Irish Ancestors** (4th ed. Gill, 2012).*

Working with voluntary organisations.

Ireland is blessed (or cursed) with a standing army of local and family historians. The main genealogical organisations are:

*Cork **Genealogical Society** **corkgenealogicalsociety.com***

*Clare Roots Society **clareroots.org***

*Genealogical Society of Ireland **familyhistory.ie***

*Huguenot Society of Great Britain & Ireland **huguenotsinireland.com***

*Irish Family History Society **ifhs.ie***

*Irish **Genealogical Research Society** **irishancestors.ie***

*North of Ireland **Family History Society** **nifhs.org***

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Ulster Historical and Genealogical Guild ancestryireland.com

Western Family History Association (Galway) wfha.info

Lackagh Parish Centre wfha.info/locations/lackagh-parish-centre

The next edition of our journal will carry the rest of the article which is concerned with D.N.A. research.

EARLY MEMORIES

By Alan Rowland

We naturally concentrate on earlier generations as we research and we often struggle to ‘flesh out the bones’ of our forebears. In an idle moment I fell to thinking about my own personal memories of childhood which, if recorded, might be of interest, give an idea of life before ‘game boy’ etc. and generally help my descendants should they undertake their own research.

To this end I suggest that we begin a new series of articles with recollections of our early years and the times through which we lived. After all, they form part of our own ‘family history’. So join in and let us have your recollections.

To begin then, here are some of my memories;

CONKERS:

We couldn’t wait for conkers to ripen and fall. As children we would walk from Acton to Ealing Common where we knew there were large numbers of horse-chestnut trees. We also knew we would need to knock the conkers down from the trees so we took an old bucket filled with stones and if we were lucky an old chair leg or two. Needless to say we rarely succeeded in harvesting enough conkers to make it worth while.

(contd.)



There were various theories as to how to make your conkers invincible in battle. Soak them in vinegar then bake them in the oven was the one usually employed but I don't think this made any improvement to their longevity. Usually one good whack from an opponent's conker would shatter the hardened one.

The other necessity was to make a hole in the conker through which a length of string, with a knot at one end to retain the conker, could be passed. All this was before the days of D.I.Y. so without the use of an electric drill an old fashioned meat skewer was the preferred implement.

Invariably the only hole was in the hand when inevitably the skewer slipped from the conker! *Picture from (Wikipedia).*

FIVE STONES: (a game also known as Jacks). There was one big difference between five stones and Jacks. Jacks needed a ball and four stones to play.

The game involved just five 'stones' or rough shaped cubes made from stoneware clay with grooved sides and comprised a number of set plays.

Four stones were left on the ground, the fifth thrown into the air and the four stones retrieved before catching the first stone as it dropped. There were various retrieval patterns for each throw until the complete set of four was gathered in one throw which meant game.



If we couldn't afford to buy a set of fives stones we would try to make them from clay dug up when road works were under way. We attempted to bake or fire them by placing them on the oil lit safety lamps, used to protect the hole in the road works. It never worked, as soon as they hit the floor they would shatter! *(contd.)*

I have a few other memories which I will share with you later but perhaps this collection will inspire others to trawl through their childhood and share with us their memories.

SKATING; nearly everyone had a pair of roller skates. The best had ball races for the metal wheels. The skates were designed to be attached to your own shoes by means of two side clips at the front which clamped onto the welt of the shoe and leather straps round the ankle from a metal heel stop.

This usually worked well until you took a tumble, which frequently happened, when it was not unknown for the front clips to rip the shoe sole away from the upper resulting in not only a painful foot but also a clip round the ear when you got home!



In Acton High Street near where I lived there was a store that sold military surplus goods. For about six old pence (two and a half new pence) you could buy a pair of R.A.F. inner pilot's gloves.

These were made of a soft material with electrical heating elements sewn in for high altitude flying. These were designed to be worn inside leather flying gloves on raids. We would wear these inner gloves as gauntlets but of course they were much too large for small hands and consequently the fingers were too long. So if you were descending a slope in a crouched position your hands gripping your toes sometimes the long fingers would get caught under the wheels and you would perform an involuntary and spectacular forward roll!

(contd.)

SWIMMING; I lived within 150 yards of the public swimming baths in Acton and once I could swim I spent many hours there. The best time was during the summer holidays from school. I would often be the first in the baths and the pool would be like a sheet of glass ready for me to do a fast length.

BRISLINGTON; is a small village on the A4 bath road between Bristol and Keynsham. Not long after the WW2 ended as a family we stayed there with my father's aunt and her husband. They lived in a small cottage in a terrace of four with a small brook running at the end of the terrace. At that time milk was not delivered to the villagers in bottles. A horse drawn cart loaded with two churns of milk and a series of different sized ladles would arrive each day. My great aunt would take a large white china jug out to the road and the milkman using the correct size ladle for the amount requested would fill the jug with milk from the churn.



(contd.)

Great aunt Liza worked as an ironer in a local laundry specialising in shirts for the U.S.A.F. officers who were on a local base. They would give her various sweets which were kept in a glass jar on the mantelpiece and in particular Fry's Crunchy bars which of course found their way to me. Her husband, Oliver, smoked Wills whiffs (a small cigar) and they had a distinctive smell.

Another memorable thing was that all the buses were painted green which to a young boy used to London Transport red seemed most strange.

The highlight of these holidays was of course the journey there. Sometimes we went by Royal Blue coach which made what today is called a comfort stop in the market town of Marlborough, roughly half way. On other occasions we would go by train from Paddington to Bristol, Temple Meads. These journeys were at the time when trains were all steam hauled, much more exciting than a coach!

FAMILY PARTIES; parties (Christmas and birthdays) were fairly large family affairs particularly if held at my Gran's flat in Osborne Road, Acton. She was my mother's mum and she had 4 daughters and a son (still alive) so as you can imagine there were quite a number present.

As was fairly normal in those days the family entertainment was by the piano that could be found in many households. Most of the family could play but Gran's son, Albert, was absolutely brilliant and self taught. Usually there was a barrel of beer in the kitchen surrounded by most of the men; the women were usually in the front room where the piano stood. As the party progressed everyone had to do a turn and each person had their own particular song which they had to perform, usually to friendly ridicule.

AT SCHOOL; homework was invariably done on a Sunday afternoon/evening whilst listening to the 'wireless' (radio). Our wireless relied on two batteries as well as being plugged into the electrical supply. One of these batteries, the accumulator, was of the wet cell type consisting of metal plates suspended in a weak sulphuric acid solution all contained in a sturdy square glass jar. These had to be re-charged on a weekly basis so we had two accumulators. One being charged in the local bicycle shop, the other in the wireless.

(contd.)



I had to take the spent accumulator to the cycle shop and collect the charged one each week. In order to carry them we had a square metal ring with a carrying handle which meant that for a young boy the accumulator dangled around sock height. It was not unusual for some of the acid solution to spill on the journey home and many socks had acid perforations.

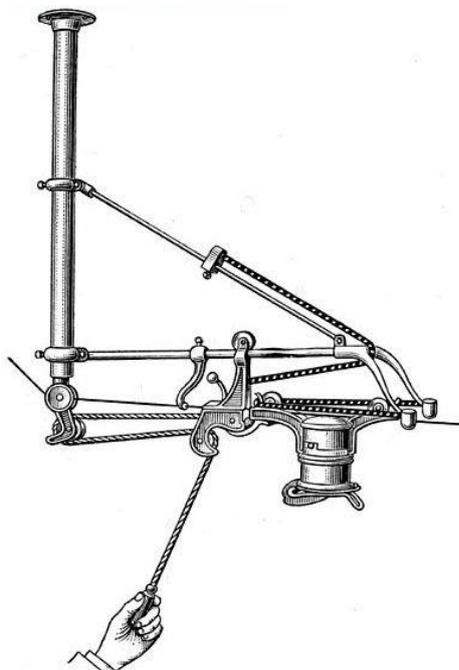
The programmes most listened to were; I.T.M.A.; Much Binding in the Marsh; Hancock's Half Hour; Archie Andrews featuring a ventriloquist ON THE RADIO!; Palm Court Hotel (music); In Town Tonight, a magazine type programme with people that would today be called celebrities.

In my fifth year of secondary school England was overtaken by the skiffle group craze and of course we had to have one! I scrounged the money to buy a second hand banjo from a junk shop which I couldn't play and we nicked a washboard from somebody's mum. We managed to find a tea chest on some waste ground which together with a broom handle and a length of string served as our double bass. We were dreadful but we enjoyed ourselves whilst putting our audiences in pain! It didn't last long however for we were about to leave school for the big world outside.

MISCELLANEOUS MEMORIES: One attraction for a young boy was to be found in Clifford Evans, a drapers store in Acton. They employed a central cashier system for the payment for goods, the issuing of change and receipts. This was achieved by a system of overhead rails or wires that ran from each of several serving counters to the central cashier location which was raised above the ground floor. In order to pay for an item the shop assistant would place the sales docket together with the cash in a circular wooden container. This was fixed into an overhead carriage; then a pull on the catapult handle fired the carriage/container along the rail/wire system to the cashiers. They would write out a receipt and put it back in the container with any change due, re-attach the container to the carriage and fire it back to the counter.

(contd.)

The whole system was just like an overhead railway with numerous containers flying in all directions if the store was busy. The illustration shows the launching mechanism.



OVERSEAS CONNECTIONS

By John Bridger

The Family Search site recently included the 1790 America census. Although I do not know of an American family connection I am not one to miss a possible family connection so I logged into the site.

I entered my surname, pressed search and found that in 1790 there were quite a number of families with the surname BRIDGER. Unfortunately the census gave names but no details of place of birth. My own branch of the BRIDGERS hail from Sussex and without the place of birth the census did not establish a link. I had drawn a blank! Interestingly however there was a column which recorded the number of slaves each family owned which probably indicates how well off they were. Some families owned several slave families but most had just one or two.

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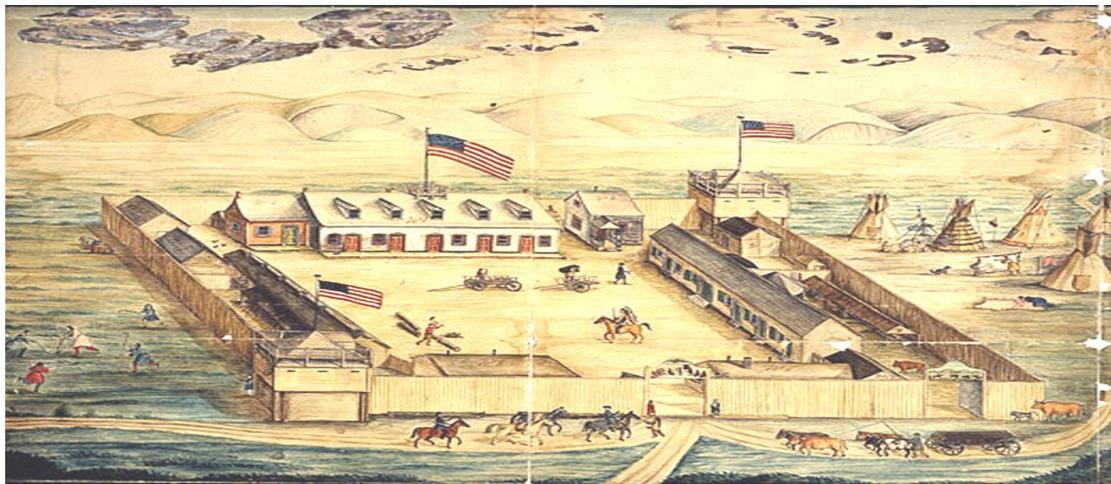
The name BRIDGER is well known in American annals. There was in and around Wyoming a legendary pioneering frontier man. A national icon 'Wild' Jim BRIDGER was a trapper, trader and much more besides.

He was born in 1804, the son of James BRIDGER and Chloe. Although he set up trading enterprises and businesses, one of his enduring feats was the founding in 1843 of Fort Bridger as a trading post for travellers on an overland trail.



Undated photograph of 'Wild Jim'

This painting shows the original fort / trading post and there is now an authentic reconstruction which is open to visitors.



All of this reminded me that when my brother visited Wyoming many years ago he was inundated with the question 'Are you related to (Wild) Jim Bridger?' To their disappointment he had to admit 'not that he knew of'.

(contd.)

This made me think of other connections I have around the world. None from my immediate family but all have sprung from my research into my family history; otherwise I would never have discovered them. Australia appears to be the destination for most of them.

The most recent emigration was my grandfather's brother, known as 'Uncle Bert', who went out to Broken Hill, Australia in the 1920s. I believe his descendants may still be out there.

On my wife's side there was a grandparent back in the 1850s who failed to pay his debts in Scotland and fled to New South Wales only to be hounded by a British High Court Order demanding payment. He had left his wife and family stranded back in Scotland.

Still in Australia; I found in Tasmania a link to a relative who was descended from a cousin who was the cousin of my paternal great grandmother. I had the pleasure of meeting her in London a couple of years back and occasionally I keep in touch by email.

New Zealand is the next place where my research uncovered a distant cousin descended from my paternal great grandmother's side of the family through her uncle. Brought up in the U.K. the family moved out in more recent times. My cousin came to visit Britain a little while ago and stayed near Ickenham. Again it's easy to keep in touch by email.

Australia features again but I had to ask myself how tenuous does a link have to be before it can be discounted? This link might be worth a mention; it comes again through my paternal great grandmother. Her grandfather's brother was, according to all accounts, a true conman and ended with an Old Bailey sentence of 2 years. However, he was not deported and on release took it on himself to whisk the family out to N.S.W. and there he established himself as a person of Civic authority!

These are some of the interesting discoveries I've made through my family history researches and I would say to anyone researching their own family history - widen your scope and you never know what you will discover!

ADOPTION: AN INTERESTING POINT?

By Alan Rowland

An interesting point came to light during a recent discussion about adoption: what happens if a step father adopts his wife's children?

In an effort to clarify this situation a Google search produced this:

The legal position for a stepfather in relation to his stepchild can be fundamentally altered through an adoption order. This will extinguish parental responsibility held by everyone other than the stepfather's partner.

The stepfather will obtain parental responsibility and will be treated in law as if he were the child's birth parent (see 67(1) of the Adoption and Children Act 2002 ACA 2002).

The child's ties with the person whose parental responsibility has been discharged as a result of the adoption are likely to be severed. His or her surname could be changed. In the event that the stepfather and the mother separate, the stepfather would remain the child's 'parent' in the eyes of the law and would therefore continue to have all the associated rights and responsibilities....

The underlined sentence seems to ensure that, since the passing of the Act of 2002, the 'interesting point' is not a problem.

But the fact that the Act makes a point of stating '*This will extinguish parental responsibility held by everyone other than the stepfather's partner*' suggests that this was not always the case and therefore prior to the Act the point raised in the discussion was relevant.

The discussion point concerns the case of a married woman, who prior to 2002 and for whatever reason (death of spouse or divorce), re-marries. If she has children from the first marriage her new spouse might, as a means to cement the family unit, wish to adopt her offspring.

(contd.)

There are all sorts of advantages as well as pitfalls associated with such an arrangement but generally it would have been looked upon as a good gesture on the part of the step father.

However if such an adoption is undertaken it might be a surprise to learn that in order for the mother to retain parental responsibilities for her own children she also has to adopt them!

Presumably this was the inevitable result of the adoption process whereby the adoptive parents take on full parental responsibility for the adopted child. Consequently parental responsibility by the mother would cease and could only be re-established if she adopted her own children.

LATE ARRIVAL!



Jean, Pat, Val and Gill

We reported our appearance at the Pinner Festival in the last issue. Unfortunately this photograph arrived just too late to be included.

FORGOTTEN SONS AND DAUGHTERS

By Melanie Winterbotham

Since the June 2018 edition we have run a series of stories by Melanie highlighting the perils of false information that results in wasted time and invalid research. We now come to the last pair of Melanie's short stories all of which, we hope, will have helped members in their research.

THE PROBLEMS PRESENTED BY WILLS

1) When Thomas TAYLOR, clockmaker of Holborn, wrote his will in 1690, he left nothing to his youngest son Richard. The reason for this omission is not clear, but Thomas's widow Patience acted to address the situation.

Her will, written in 1694, carries through some measures set out in Thomas's will, but adds that Richard is to receive £156 *'which was ordered by the Lord Mayor and the Court of Aldermen of the City of London to be paid unto him in full satisfaction of what he might or could claim out of the Estate of my said late husband by the custome of the City of London or otherwise howsoever'*.

If one read only the will of Thomas, one would assume that Richard had died by 1690.

2) When John FURNELL, cheese factor of Marlborough left his will in 1718, he gave his *'Eldest son John FURNELL one shilling'* and his son-in-law Richard MORRIS 10/- worth of clothes. He then gave *'unto my sons Jacob FURNELL Benjamin FURNELL & Abraham FURNELL all the rest of my Effects'*. Jacob was trusted with the task of executor. The will is witnessed by Isaac FURNELL and Mary SMITH.

It looks as if the son John is much older and has already been given money or property, and the daughter who has married Richard MORRIS has received a dowry.

(contd.)

The grouping of the three younger sons and the appointment of Jacob as executor suggests that they may be from a second marriage. Isaac FURNELL and Mary SMITH are probably related, but how?

After some time, I found a document at Wiltshire Record Office linking John FURNELL with a Richard WOORRELL. Richard's unusual spelling of WORRELL led me straight to his PCC will of 1699. Dear Richard lists the surviving children of his daughter Elizabeth, wife of John FURNELL. Not only is John there, but before Jacob, Benjamin and Abraham come Mary (later SMITH), Sarah (later MORRIS), Isaac and Elizabeth. Other family wills confirm the relationships.

John junior had married in 1694 and set himself up as a cheesefactor in Wotton under Edge, but he is acknowledged with a one shilling (1/-) legacy. Isaac had also married in 1707 and taken over his father's business, but why did he not get a token shilling?

Isaac had become a Quaker, and had perhaps agreed not to take any more. Mary's husband Samuel SMITH may have been less needy than Richard MORRIS, who was a schoolmaster. I believe Elizabeth was still alive, perhaps living in Isaac's household. The choice of Jacob as executor may be explained by his residence in London, where he had completed an apprenticeship as a silversmith.

I am grateful to John for leaving a will, but I do feel he was too economical with information for future generations!

<p style="text-align: center;">BEWARE! – PUBLIC TREES</p>
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<p style="text-align: center;"><i>By Alan Rowland</i></p>

Whilst researching most of us will have had recourse to the Public Trees that are available on Ancestry.co.uk. Often the information garnered has been accurate as well as very useful. Even when the tree does not have the particular connection that is sought, other information might well point us in another direction that subsequently proves to be the right path.
(contd.)

It is certainly true that all information and records found on these trees should, if possible, be verified. They can be a valuable source of material particularly if we have hit the proverbial brick wall. However it is always as well to have a large pinch of salt handy until veracity is proved,

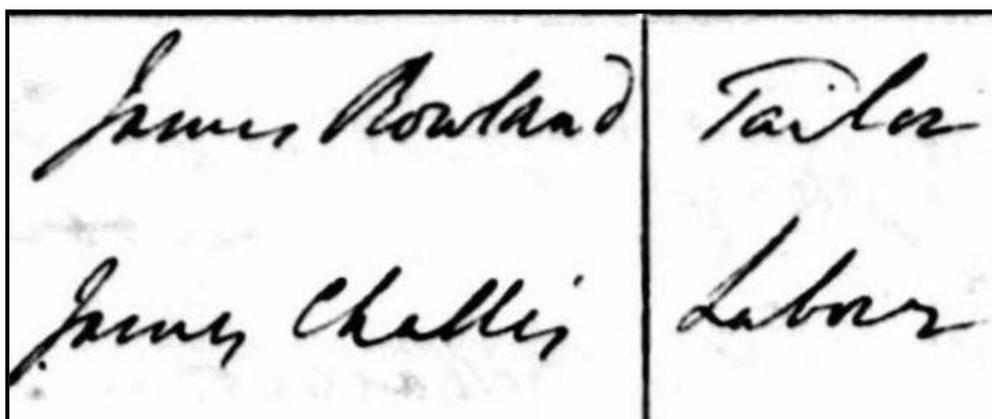
It is a fact that the public trees are just that – public! If an individual is found on a tree it will be religiously copied verbatim complete with all the mistakes made by the tree owner. The result is many trees that appear in the results lists will all have the same information. Because these multiple trees all agree with each other the researcher is convinced that the information is correct. After all, half a dozen researchers can't be wrong, can they?

What is particularly galling is the 'not bothering to check' syndrome. This manifests itself when source material is included which says one thing and the list of individuals on the same sheet says something else.

To illustrate:

I recently looked for one of my ancestors (Louisa) and really couldn't find definitive proof of her birth and her parents etc. I found several public member trees that had the basic facts correct so I looked at each in turn. Each of the trees carried the same copy of a marriage certificate as source material. Listed in the individual summary (on the right hand side of the tree page) the father of Louisa was given as Joseph.

I studied the marriage certificate in detail (*see below*) for the father's names.



(contd.)

As you can see the first name of the top entry (father of the groom) is obviously James and I know that this is correct from other sources. The first name of the lower entry (father of the bride) is virtually the same and it is hard to imagine that anyone would decide that it is Joseph!

How can the tree's owner and all the copiers, have read the name of Louisa's father as Joseph?

The moral: if you own a public tree make sure **all** of your information is correct and that each item correlates to all others within your tree.

The bonus: you will probably have the only correct and authentic public tree! Whilst this may sound a little smug anyone copying from your tree will at least be on the right track and who knows, at some time in the future, those 'other' copiers might stumble onto your correct tree and amend theirs.

**A TALK – WHAT HAPPENED TO LUCY?
ADOPTIONS, FOUNDLINGS & EMPIRE CHILDREN**

By Charles Hampshire

This interesting and sensitive talk was given by Ian Waller on 19th September. In his title he posed the question 'what happened to Lucy'. It was Ian's way of generalising the case; Lucy just represents any child, male or female, that disappears from the normal records.

Ian introduced his talk by stating that children sometimes vanish from family history for no apparent reason. This could be because they have been given up for adoption (particularly if illegitimate and sometimes within the extended family), had an unrecorded name change, unrecorded death, not registered at birth or baptism, foundling being given a new name or a even being sold!

(contd.)

Legal adoption began on 1st January 1927 in England and Wales, so events prior to this were not adoption but private arrangements. There is an adopted Children's Register held by the Registrar General, which shows original birth records where adoption has occurred. The public do not have access but may obtain certificates via the index.

Ian's talk also gave an insight into social history and what society was like at particular times. We learnt for example that bastards could not enter the professions and that to be an orphan only one parent needed to have died. Baby farming occurred in Victorian times particularly of infants under two months old. We were shown old advertisements placed by women offering the service whereby mothers would pay to have their baby looked after. Whilst some were given new homes, others were neglected or even killed.

This situation ultimately led to the creation of care institutions. The Waifs and Strays Society founded in 1881 was the first (now called the Children's Society). Case records prior to 1919 are available.

Other private and charitable orphanages were also created and at one point they numbered over 4000.

Ian then outlined many other types of institutions for children:

Ragged schools were created for destitute children and provided free education and day care before statutory education became the norm.

Industrial Schools were created from an 1857 Act that removed children from bad influences and taught them a trade. Many vagrant children and child criminals were sent to them.

Training ships were run by the Marine Society and removed boys from the workhouse subsequently training them for jobs in the merchant and Royal Navies.

Foundling Hospitals existed. The most famous being the Foundling Hospital set up by Thomas Coram in 1741 which boomed under a Royal Charter granted by King George II in 1739.

(contd.)

Over 25,000 children had been helped up to the Second World War. Sadly the foundling hospital had a high death rate. The children they took were often already malnourished or had disease from overcrowding and poverty.

Admittance was by lottery as demand was greater than the places available. The Hospital closed in 1954 but a similar service for babies continued under the name of the Thomas Coram Foundation for Children.

Child Emigration occurred between 1619 and 1967 with a peak between 1870 and 1945. Ian urged researchers to check passenger lists. Over 100,000 children were sent to Canada as part of the farm schools movement.

There are lists of civilian war dead, including children, on the Commonwealth Graves Site.

Finally, Ian talked about Guardianship. These were arrangements usually within families. An example being where an unmarried daughter has a child and the daughter's father might be listed as the father on the birth certificate.

It is difficult in such a short article to do justice to Ian's comprehensive talk but further information can be obtained by doing a web search on the various types of Institution mentioned above.

For those conducting research into children who were adopted guidance can be found at:

<http://www.genguide.co.uk/source/Adoption-Records/137/>

<https://www.gov.uk/adoption-records/the-adoption-contact-register>

Information can be restricted and is not necessarily freely available to everyone.

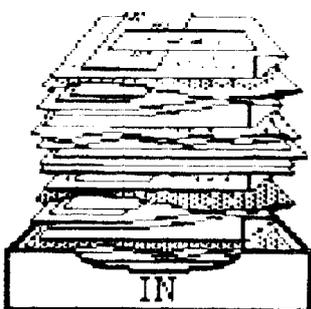
I hope that this article gives some flavour of an enjoyable and informative evening and some clues as to how to find out more if you missed it.

SOMETHING TO LOOK FORWARD TO

At the afternoon Members Meeting on 17th October John Symons gave a talk that covered how his ancestors arrived in Cornwall. We are holding over the detailed report of the talk to present it in serial format beginning in the March 2020 edition.

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

By Patricia Reynolds



Summer is but a distant memory and the end of the Society's financial year is rapidly approaching.

As you read this journal annual subscriptions will be due and the whole cycle will begin again.

This issue of the journal (No. 128) is the last for the current subscription year. We hope you have enjoyed this year's editions and that you will wish to continue your membership. Renewal becomes due on 1st January 2020 irrespective of the date on which you joined.

A subscription renewal form is included with this edition. Please, instead of putting renewal off until later, with the danger of forgetting it completely, why not do it now and get rid of the chore.

Please send your completed form together with your remittance as this helps us to keep track of all the renewals. As an alternative you may elect to make your payment by standing order. Please make any cheques payable to Hillingdon F.H.S. (not to me). If paying by cash at one of our meetings, please put the completed renewal form together with the money in a sealed envelope.

I send a big thank you to all those members who have written to me (or contacted me by telephone) over the last year. It is lovely to hear from you all as it is to meet some of you at the fairs we attended throughout the year.

(contd.)

All that remains is for me to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Prosperous New Year. See you in the New Year!

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBER

K26 Mr. Terry Kopp Email: denerry@bigpond.com.au	59 Panorama Drive, Alstonville, 2477 New South Wales, Australia
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RESEARCH BY HILLINGDON FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY



The society undertakes a limited amount of investigation on behalf of members and others.

Local investigations involving the London Borough of Hillingdon and its nine ancient parishes will generally be restricted to the sources detailed in 'Family History in Hillingdon' published by the society (at present in the process of being updated and revised).

In addition we can extend searches using the London Metropolitan Archives and the National Archives at Kew and other London record offices.

We can also carry out national investigations embracing the whole of the U.K. as well as other countries worldwide. *(contd.)*

The society charges members £5.00 per hour for pursuing such enquiries (£10.00 per hour for non-members), plus the cost of any expenses necessarily incurred such as copying, postage etc.

Those who want to make use of this service should be specific as to their requirements and should indicate clearly the upper limit of expenditure they are willing to incur. It must be appreciated that in some cases an investigation may not produce any results or may result in a negative answer, in these cases a charge will still have to be made.

Please contact the Membership Secretary or email the society, see back cover for contact information.

HELP LINE

In this part of the journal we advertise pleas, from members and non-members, for information and assistance. If you have become “stuck” on some part of your family tree but believe that the answer may lie here in our corner of Middlesex, our local knowledge may be able to help.

Members may advertise at no cost, but a charge of £2 for each entry is made for non-members. Send your queries (with as much specific detail as possible please), together with payment, to the membership secretary:-

Mrs Patricia Reynolds,
20 Lilac Place, Yiewsley, West Drayton,
Middlesex UB7 8LR.

ADVERTISEMENT — FORCES WAR RECORDS

Forces War Records is a commercial company that offers, as the name implies, access to military records. On 3rd June 2019 they launched new feature to their web site search facility.

We suggest that anyone thinking of taking out a subscription should check if this site can supply just what is sought. Also check that the information is not already available on Ancestry and FindMypast and check user reviews. Always remember 'buyer beware'.

We give below an extract from their press release:

When you view a record, if details can be cross-matched with other records within their unique database that they believe to be the same person, additional records will appear at the top of the page.

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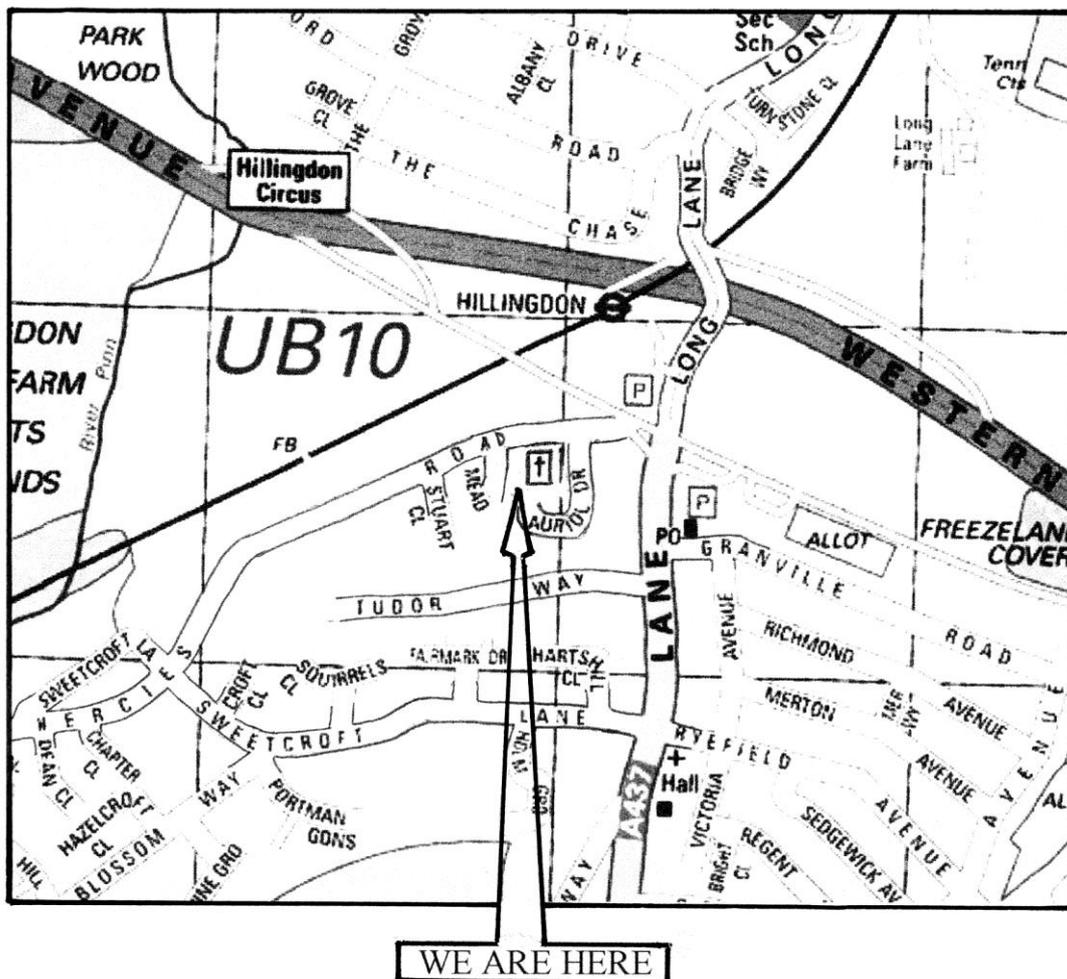
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Hillingdon Park Baptist Church, 25 Hercies Road, Hillingdon
(car park at rear accessed from Auriol Drive).

There is a public car park on the eastern side of Long Lane (access between the Co-op & the Chinese take away restaurant, or via the exit slip road off the A40 from London). The nearest L.T. station is Hillingdon and there is a U2 bus stop on Hercies Road outside the Church. Please note that the main entrance to the Church is on the side of the Church. Our Research Room is on the 1st floor.

It is open one morning each week (Friday) and at our monthly meetings. On the first Saturday of each month our research session is held in Uxbridge Library (6th floor). A bulletin issued at every monthly meeting gives the opening dates of the Research Room. The Society does not meet or open the Research Room during August.

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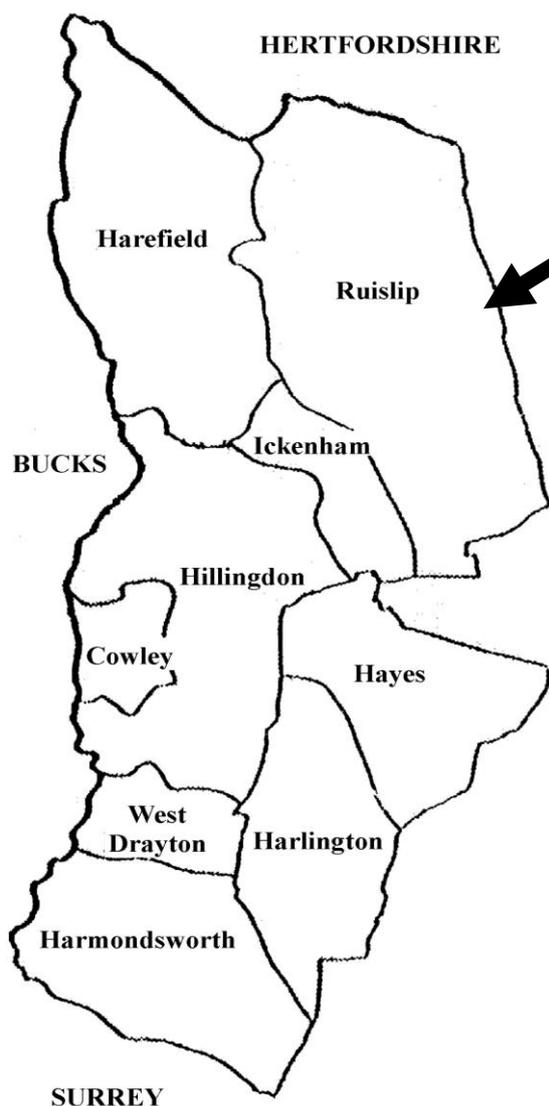
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London Borough of Hillingdon

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Nine ancient Middlesex parishes were incorporated into the new London Borough of Hillingdon :
Cowley, Harefield, Harlington, Harmondsworth, Hayes, Hillingdon, Ickenham, Ruislip and West Drayton

The original records and registers for these parishes are now kept at:
London Metropolitan Archives,
40 Northampton Road, Clerkenwell
London. EC1R 0HB

Hillingdon today embraces a mixture of Greater London suburbs, ancient and modern, large and small, each with its own distinctive identity. Heathrow Airport lies at the Southern end of the borough. Other localities in the Borough include Colham Green, Eastcote, Longford, Northwood, Ruislip Manor, Sipson, South Ruislip, Uxbridge, Yeading and Yiewsley.

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