WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY JOURNAL

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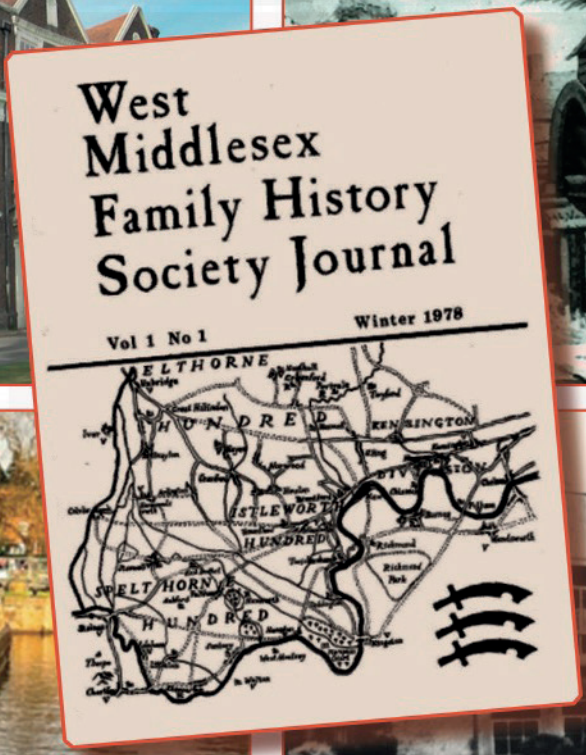

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WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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Subscriptions	All categories: £15 per annum
Subscription year	1 January to 31 December

If you wish to contact any of the above people, please use the postal or email address shown. In all correspondence please mark your envelope WMFHS in the upper left-hand corner; if a reply is needed, a SAE must be enclosed. Members are asked to note that receipts are only sent by request, if return postage is included.

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Queries concerning non-delivery or faulty copies of this Journal should be sent to:
Patricia Candler, 57 The Vale, Feltham, Middlesex, TW14 0JZ

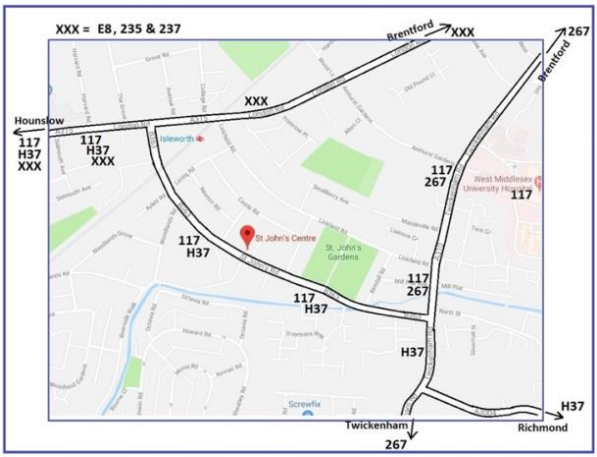
FUTURE MEETINGS

The following talks have been arranged:

20 Sept	Forgotten staff: Victorian and Edwardian Railwaywomen	David Turner
18 Oct	Chancery Proceedings	Susan Moore
15 Nov	The Story of Smallpox vaccination	Sylvia Valentine
20 Dec	Christmas celebrations - quiz is likely!	

Our meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at St John's Centre, St John's Road, Isleworth, TW7 6RU, and doors open at 7.15pm. Fully accessible. A small carpark is adjacent to the Centre which is also close to a mainline railway station (Isleworth – South Western Railways) and is well-served by local buses.

Talks take place between 8pm and 9pm. Refreshments and a raffle are also available.



WANT A LIFT?

At the Members' meeting on 21st September 2017, those members present were asked to consider if they were able and willing to provide lifts to other members who find getting to meetings a challenge. Below are details of those who have volunteered to be contacted by any other member who would like a lift. Do avail yourself of this service

If you are able to add your name to this page, just make contact with our Webmaster, Roland BOSTOCK, using the contact details as given below and providing similar information.

This list is also on our website under "Meetings" and hopefully additional names will be added between editions of the Journal.

Roland Bostock, who lives in **Teddington**, can do pickups from places such as:
Hampton Wick, Teddington, Strawberry Hill, Hampton Hill and Twickenham.

Email: Roland@Bostock.net
Telephone: 020 8287 2754

Mike Pipe, who lives in **Hanworth Park**, can do pickups from places such as:
Hanworth and Hanworth Park

Email: mikejpipe@aol.com
Telephone: 020 8893 1705

Hilary Strudwick, who lives in **Isleworth**, can do pickups from places such as:
Isleworth and Hounslow

Email: hilary.strudwick@springgrove.org.uk
Telephone: 020 8560 7492

Contributions and Advertisements

The WMFHS Journal is your magazine so contributions of all kinds are welcome, not to say necessary! Your contributions can be articles, cries for help, snippets of information, whatever you like.

Articles should be between 800 and 1200 words in length. Longer articles can be submitted but may have to be published in two parts depending on space.
Formatting: please set the document out as an A5 document with normal margins and single line spacing.

They can be emailed or sent by post. The editor's postal address is to be found on the inside of the front cover.
Email: editor@west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk
If emailing an article, please submit any illustrations in a separate folder from the actual article.
If a quote or image is used that is not the author's own, the attribution must be given. If the attribution is not known, please state this.

Copy submission dates:
7th January, 7th April, 7th July and 7th October.

Advertisements
NB: We only accept advertisements relating to family history.
Rates:

Full page:	£25 (members)	£30 (non-members)
Half-page	£10 (members)	£15 (non-members)
Quarter-page	£10 for both members and non-members.	

Advice Sessions

Would you like help with your family history? Anyone is welcome, whether or not they are new to family history research, or a member of the Society and regardless of whether your family history is within the West Middlesex area. At these sessions, an experienced member of our Society will spend about an hour with you to advise you on possible ways to move forward with your family history research.
Email the Advice Session Co-ordinator: **surgeries@west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk** to make a booking and give us an idea of what you want to achieve.

The sessions are held in the Local Studies area of Feltham Library on the third Saturday in the month.

15th September, 2018
20th October, 2018
17th November, 2018
15th December, 2018
19th January 2019
16th February 2019
16th March 2019
18th May 2019
15th June 2019
20th July 2019
17th August 2019
21st September 2019
19th October 2019
16th November 2019
21st December 2019

NB: Please check the Society website for up-to-date information: **west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk-Activities-Advice Sessions**.

Ramblings of an editor

Ann Greene

I have always loved local history as well as family history and insist that the two cannot be separated. To do your family history properly, you have to see where your ancestors came from.
Some years ago, while researching my husband's ancestors in Hackney I discovered Abney Park, a huge non-denominational cemetery in Stoke Newington. This prompted me to begin exploring the "Magnificent Seven", the collection of massive cemeteries, built in the 1830's and 1840's, that form a ring around London – Nunhead, Highgate, Brompton, Abney Park, West Norwood, Tower Hamlets and Kensal Green. My most recent exploration was Kensal Green.

Slightly out of the WMFHS area, it is not impossible that some of your West Middlesex forebears are buried there. Even without the draw of ancestral burials, it is well worth a visit. Just reading the inscriptions reminds us that immigration is nothing new in London! Industrial archaeology and family history go hand in hand, while magnificent mausoleums are next-door neighbours with simpler gravestones. While Nature threatens to take over in places, it makes a wonderful backdrop for the graves.

We have all done our share of walking round cemeteries and churchyards looking for our ancestors. And we have marvelled, been moved, chilled and sometimes amused by the inscriptions. But there is a hidden language too; that of the memorial itself.

I always pictured the bereaved sitting down with the funeral directors and going through a catalogue, eventually picking out the one they liked best and deciding on the words to go on it. This may be true, but the memorials on offer had their own meanings. The fashions of the day would have influenced the selections available. The nineteenth-century had a passion for Indian, Egyptian and classical styles.

Here are some of the meanings of monumental icons

The obelisk represents eternal life, as do pyramids and serpents. A circle also represents eternity.

The broken column indicates someone cut down in their prime.

A sheaf of wheat represents a harvest and would indicate someone who died in later life.

Images of cut flowers would be used for young people.

An urn partially covered with a cloth is very meaningful. The urn is the container of the soul and the veil represents the thin dividing line between life and death

A pile of rocks represents faith and is often shown with an anchor, symbol of hope.

A flaming torch represents life if held upright, death when held downwards.

There are many more, I am sure! If you have an interesting family grave that you would like to “share”, please let us know!

HOW (AND WHY) WE STARTED

Vic Gale

(Reprinted from the WMFHS Journal March 2000)

At the 21st birthday celebration meeting of the Society, I was asked to give a short talk on how the Society came to be formed and just what actually happened. I have now been asked to write it down. I spoke without notes, so from memory what I said went something like this. . .

The Society was founded in 1978 and was one of the last of what might be regarded as 'county' or 'regional' societies. To appreciate the reason for this one needs to go back rather earlier, perhaps ten years earlier when, in the 1960s, there were virtually no family history societies. Indeed, one could say there was no family history either. Certainly, there was genealogy and, of course, the Society of Genealogists, but family history as we now know it, going beyond simply seeking to determine our pedigrees and setting our ancestors in their social position in society and so on, was not then in vogue. The Society of Genealogists was composed in the main of antiquarians and professional researchers, a much more elitist organisation than it is now, and certainly not a meeting point for enthusiastic amateurs who wanted to discuss their problems and successes, exchange ideas and pin each other to the wall with their ancestors as we do today. Genealogy then tended to be a very solitary and lonely hobby. However, there were some pioneering souls who did want to spread their interest in genealogy to the wider population and extend it to the study of our ancestors as real people - not just names and dates and places connected by lines on pieces of paper - in the working and social environment of their time: in other words, family history as we know it today. And so, it was, that in the early 1970s those enthusiasts started up Family History societies in their own areas. Somewhere no doubt there is a list of those very early societies: our neighbour, West Surrey, was amongst them.

The first half dozen or so decided that some co-ordinating body was necessary and they formed themselves into the Federation of Family History Societies to endeavour to promote the research, transcription and indexing projects that they felt were necessary to assist family historians in furthering their studies - thus the marriages and strays indexes, census and memorial transcriptions and so on that we all use and take for granted today.

Another of the Federation's objectives was to have the whole country covered by Societies so that all family historians would have access to a meeting place. Most of

this was already happening of course, without any effort on the Federation's part. Indeed, by the mid-1970s it was said that genealogy and family history was the second most popular hobby, only stamp collecting having more followers (Record Offices were noticing the growth too, and were sometimes finding themselves overwhelmed by what they then regarded as a rather 'second class' topic for study!) One of the areas in which it was proving difficult to promote a Society was Middlesex and London. For a start, there was no easily found location for a central meeting point. At first sight, London itself seems the obvious choice until the practical difficulties of cost and evening transport and so on were thought through. And secondly, London already offered to researchers in the areas a very ready access to all the most essential records - the General Registry at Somerset House (later St. Catherine's House), the censuses at Portugal Street (later Chancery Lane), varied series of records covering the whole country in the Guildhall Library and, of course, the vast collections of the Society of Genealogists. Hence perhaps the lack of local interest in setting up another society there.

However, the Federation wanted the problem resolved and sent out two of its eminent founder members, John Rayment of Essex and Royston Gambier of Kent, to do so. Their conclusion was that it would best be solved by, as it were, moving out from the centre and having several societies, each dealing with a part of the whole area - as they now are: West, North and Central Middlesex and East of London (though they did add a rider to their proposal, namely that it would be advisable in due course to form a London Region Committee to coordinate their activities - a proposition which, regrettably in some people's view, has never been followed up).

In each area they held a meeting with known local enthusiasts; for West Middlesex it was at West Drayton Library that on 30th June 1978 about a dozen people came together and under the guidance of Royston Gambier agreed a group of potential officers who would form the nucleus of a society if there was a local will to do so. Things now moved fast - advertisements were placed in libraries, clubs, local newspapers and so on for a public meeting to be held three weeks later on19th July at Hounslow Manor School. About fifty people attended and after being addressed by John Rayment on "The Functions of a Family History Society" agreed unanimously to set up the Society we now all belong to. Monthly meetings would he held on the second Friday of each month - the first was in September at West Drayton Library but thereafter we met in Hounslow Manor School.

We decided we would have a quarterly journal, and we started a research programme - the Marriage Index and Strays Index - and we made a start on recording all the churchyard inscriptions in our area (the Federation had set as one of its targets a complete recording of the whole country in the next four years). The first churchyard we tackled, in conjunction with the Society of Genealogists, was Chiswick in the summer of 1979, followed by Brentford St. Lawrence in April 1980 and

Hillingdon later in that year. Over the years others followed but, for our sins, there are still several churchyards still to do, over 20 years later.
We continued to meet at Hounslow Manor School for about three years; the facilities there were not really satisfactory - it was cramped, we sat on school chairs, there was no kitchen available to us - and at the end of 1981 we moved to the old Hounslow Town Hall in Treaty Road, where the former Council Chamber offered much more spacious and somehow appropriate accommodation. There was also a kitchen which enabled us to have a tea/ coffee break, which made for a much more social atmosphere.
In May 1984, with the Treaty Road area due for redevelopment, we moved to the newly-opened Montague Hall, which has been our home ever since. There have been further changes: for instance, for reasons of cost we had to alter our meeting nights from Fridays (which are charged at the higher weekend rate) to Thursdays. We have a regular meeting attendance of up to and sometimes well over 50; hard-working members bring in the indexes they look after and run a bookstall and library, and the appearance of fiche readers at all our meetings pays tribute to the demise of our early researches being recorded on all those 3" by 4" paper slips.
Happy days! May it all continue . . .

Vic Gale, now sadly deceased, was a frequent contributor to our Journal from 1978 to 2001.
In our very first edition, he wrote "Transcription and Indexing - Society's Task" and "Aids to Research: Registration District Reference Numbers at the General Registry Office".

Monthly Talks *John Seaman, Ann Greene, Roland Bostock*

Victorian Life Upstairs and Downstairs ***Dr Judy Hill,*** April

The English can be said to have invented and then perfected the art of the country house. An army of servants was employed to ensure that everything ran smoothly, without bustle, while all the time remaining invisible. Both Henry James and Nathaniel Parkes noted and commented on this.

There is little archive information about servants at the beginning of the 19th century – the best source of information is the census. Servants at that time did not keep journals or write letters. This was partly because they were for the most part unable to read or write, but also because they had little time to indulge in this pastime. As the century progressed and the 1870 Education Act came into force, servants' literacy increased, but their free time did not. An exception to this is William Tayler, a manservant in Marylebone, who kept a diary in 1837 in order to improve his writing.

Visiting a National Trust property can often give a realistic picture of a servant's life. A prime example is Calke Abbey. The family's increasing eccentricity led to them withdrawing from the world and thus preserving the house as it was in Queen Victoria's day. When the last owner died in 1981, the house was bought by the National Trust who have kept it exactly as it was then, giving us a superb picture of domestic service. (*The picture below shows the Acland family servants in 1897*)

The numbers of domestic servants increased enormously between 1851 and 1911. It was the main "career" for women at that time. The numbers of women employed in other fields – civil service, nurses, teachers, typists – also increased but not to the same extent. But what caused this increase? The answer lies in the increase in industrialisation. With the growth of industry came the growth of towns and an increase in wealthy entrepreneurs. This new class of wealthy people meant that more country houses were built and thus more servants were required. At this time, the wives and daughters of the middle classes probably did less work than at any other time. They were kept in idleness, with work that they would have previously done now being performed by servants. With the growth of the middle class, more servants were employed in smaller houses, perhaps a cook, a charwoman who came in daily, then a house maid who often lived out. Very large houses

employed large numbers of staff, both indoors and outdoors. Outdoor staff included grooms, coachmen, gardeners and for very large houses, estate workers.

Domestic service was not an easy or a simple life. There was a complex system of who managed whom. There was also a very strict hierarchy - the upper servants (butler, cook, lady's maid etc) often ate separately from the rest of the staff, in the housekeeper's room which was known as Pug's Parlour, and were waited on by the lower servants. Discipline was strict and there were many rules to be followed. Legal protection was minimal, the work was hard and the hours were long. Time off was given at the employer's discretion. Girls entering service had to buy their own uniforms which might cost as much as two years' worth of savings. Despite these restrictions many people opted to work in domestic service. Why was this? It was, in fact, quite a good opportunity. The pay was good (for the times), board and lodging was provided, and there were sometimes gratuities from visitors. So domestic servants were often able save money. Indoor servants would not be kept on once they had married, so they would have to take up different work or be able to exist on a husband's salary. As a result, they tended to marry later than others of their class and would have built up a small "nest-egg". Savings would have been essential before the introduction of pensions. In retirement, if they had no savings, they would be dependent on the parish. A good reference was vital to obtain another place and if you were dismissed "without a character", your chances of finding another post in respectable domestic service were zero. While it was not necessarily an advantage for female staff to be pretty, footmen had to be tall and have good legs. This ensured that they would present a good appearance when wearing knee breeches or long boots.

As Henry James and Nathaniel Parkes noticed, servants were invisible most of the time. Work was organised to help achieve this, houses included back stairs and in larger houses, tunnels were built so servants could move around without being seen. Claremont near Esher even had a tunnel so deliveries were not seen.

The Servant Problem was actually largely a myth, but servants were frequently perceived to be guilty of sins such as taking commission from the tradesmen, falsifying the household accounts and pocketing the difference, stealing and selling their employers' clothes, drugging children to keep them quiet etc. This resulted in the publication of many books of household management which laid out codes of conduct and lists of duties for servants.

Better education for girls, greater job opportunities elsewhere, dwindling fortunes and labour-saving devices all contributed to the decline of grand country-house life. By the second half of the 20th century, it had all but disappeared.

Images: *Acland Servants 1897 Wikimedia Commons*

How can memorabilia help with family history? ***Elizabeth Owen.*** May

Elizabeth Owen began by asking what constitutes memorabilia. The answer is just about anything. Memorabilia are objects which are kept or collected for their association with memorable people or events.

Photographs:

There are so many clues to be found in photographs. Is it a family snapshot or is it a studio portrait? A studio portrait may still have the photographer's address on it. You could then trace the studio through directories. Although the studio may no longer exist, its records may have been acquired by a local archive or a photographic archive.

Postcards:

These may be of a place or object related to your family history.

The stamps on the card can indicate the date even if the postmark is illegible. The reigning monarch's head will be on the stamp or a special issue stamp may indicate a date. Embroidered postcards were popular in WWI.

Engraved gifts or presentation objects:

A clock with an engraved plaque may tell us that the ancestor who owned it had worked for a particular company for 40 years. Although it might not tell us his specific job, it would indicate that he was possibly a middle or senior manager, or was held in some esteem. Or it might be a token of appreciation for his services to a social or community organisation. We will certainly see a date, a location, the name of the recipient and the name of an organisation. A company's name may then lead you to an archive with further information on your ancestor.

Jewellery:

The style, the size, the materials used, - all of these will give us clues to the family's wealth and perhaps whether the item was given for a special occasion.

Furniture and household goods.
A china tea or dinner service, if it is complete, can tell us a lot! The pattern can give us a good start; fashions in china change as much as fashions in clothing, it will also give us an indication of what their personal taste in china was. The number of place-settings can also tell us how many people there were likely to be in a family. A Victorian 12-place "everyday" tea-service will tell us that the family was a large one - as many as ten children. A family's possessions can tell us a great deal about their wealth and status. Silver and gold items will be hallmarked and the hallmark provides a date and place of assay. A silver teapot with a hallmark of Birmingham 1912/1913 could have been a wedding present for a couple who married around that time. It tells us that the family was wealthy enough to buy it for them.

Books:
These can be of all sorts – recipe books, birthday books, school prizes. Some may be inscribed, indicating how the book was acquired. Books given as gifts may include the name of the giver, the date of the gift and possibly the occasion for it.
Media:
Home movies on cinefilm, video or DVD are often undervalued and they are much harder to work with when it comes to identifying people, places and times. But they are worth the effort. If you have a piece of 1930's home movie film, then you have one piece of information immediately. The family could afford a cine-camera! You may also get a broader picture of the family through seeing images of friends and social activities. Film of a cricket match in the local park may point you towards the archive of the local cricket club and further information about your ancestor. Audio recordings will let you hear what your family sounded like!

Household receipts and bills

These may sound boring but they do tell you the cost of living. The bills for a wedding or funeral put a lot of things into perspective. The burial or cremation of an ancestor involved quite a lot – the coffin, the hearse, the flowers, the undertakers' professional mourners, the funeral tea, the vicar's services, the burial plot (and later the headstone), the gravediggers' fees. All this left a paper trail and there may also have been a payment from an insurance policy.

Using memorabilia personalises our research. An object or photograph can tell a story in a way that words cannot and studying them can lead us to unexpected resources and extend our family research. They give us a sense of the social history of the time. We are creating our own memorabilia every day in the things we keep and cherish. But one person's memorabilia can easily look like junk to another person. When dealing with family effects, you need to consider whether something is a valuable piece of evidence.
Editor: *Among my possessions, I have a woven grass wallet, an HP sauce-bottle covered in decorative woven goatskin strips, a home-made wooden box inscribed Gloves and a small reclining cat made of china. Rubbish? Not to me. The wallet and the sauce bottle are mementoes of my dad's WW2 service in West Africa. The box belonged to my mum. The china cat came from a long-vanished shop in South Kensington called The Reject Shop where poverty-stricken students could buy reasonably stylish furniture and china at knock-down prices. A life in four objects!*

Images: *Teapot by Nathaniel Hurd 1755-1760 – Wikimedia commons*
Postcard: Rhyl Parade and Palace – Wikimedia commons

The History of the Foundling Hospital ***Jane King*** June

The story begins in London at the start of 18th century. At this time there was little sympathy for young women who gave birth to an illegitimate child. They would lose all prospect of becoming married, and they would probably lose any opportunity for employment. The Poorhouses were about the only option available, but it made their condition very public, and infanticide was not uncommon.
These were the conditions when the unlikely figure of Thomas Coram entered the scene. Thomas Coram was born to a poor family in Lyme Regis, had gone to sea at the age of 11, and was then apprenticed to a shipwright. He used his skills as a shipwright to set up trade in Massachusetts, returned to London, and made his living as a trader with the American colonies.
It was then that he saw the situation of babies being left to die in the streets of London, and he resolved to set up a foundling hospital to provide some resolution to the situation. But he needed funds. Potential benefactors were unsympathetic to his cause, but he persisted and started looking to prominent women for support. In

particular he found support from the Duchess of Somerset, and he created a Ladies' Petition which he presented to Queen Caroline, queen to George II. While this did not succeed at first, over some years he did obtain a groundswell of support, and in 1739 he obtained a Royal Charter enabling him to set up the hospital as a charity. Land was bought at Lamb's Conduit Fields, just outside the city limits, and the building of a bespoke building began. In the meantime, the charity rented a building near Hatton Garden.

At the start the hospital did not take foundlings but took children whose mothers were unable to look after them. The day of opening was advertised, and mothers had to come and present their child to be cared for. The demand for care was such that it was necessary to ration by lottery the numbers who could be accepted. There was capacity for taking a few hundred children once the main hospital had been built, but there was still a massive unfulfilled demand.

The year was 1756 and the governors of the hospital approached Parliament asking for a grant, which was approved, but it came with strings. In particular the hospital must take any baby that was offered. At the gates of the hospital was a niche where the baby was to be placed. The mother would then ring a bell, and the hospital was obliged to take the foundling (*see picture on right*). Such a procedure could never be sustained; there were far more babies left than the hospital could look after. In just under 4 years they took in nearly 15,000 babies. Although the mortality of these babies was around 70%, this still left the hospital to look after some 4,500 infants, which led to the opening of subsidiary homes all over the country. Since the process of leaving babies at the gates was not working as the government intended, it ended in 1760. The numbers of children being presented to the hospital reduced, and the subsidiary homes were also gradually closed, leaving just the hospital in London.

The new procedure for leaving babies was that mothers should be permitted to leave their baby anonymously, thus allowing the mother to avoid the disgrace attached to illegitimacy. Should her circumstances change the mother should be able to return

and reclaim her child. This however meant that the mother must be able to prove her identity, should she come back to reclaim her child, and this was supported by the practice of leaving a token with the hospital along with her child. Tokens were extremely varied, and might be anything from a piece of cloth, or a coin, or as in the example illustrated a sleeve to a garment, where the mother would keep the matching sleeve. It should be said that the reclaiming of children was the exception and not the rule, and only occurred in about 6% of cases.

Once the baby had been left with the hospital, he or she was rechristened, partly to protect the mother's identity. There seems to have been little control over this procedure as examples have been found of babies being rechristened as Isaac Newton, William Shakespeare, Edward Plantagenet, and even Augustus Caesar. The babies were then fostered out to women in the villages surrounding London, who would wet nurse and dry nurse the children for their first few years. The hospital had tight control over the fostering and kept excellent records of the general health and whereabouts of all their children.

Once the child was 4 or 5 years old they would be brought back to the Foundling Hospital where they were educated and well looked after until they were 12 or 13 years old, at which time they would be apprenticed out, or in the case of many boys, entered into service at sea. But the hospital maintained its responsibility for the children during this period of service, and the children were required to report back to the hospital each year at Whitsun until their period of service ended.

The hospital finally closed in 1953, when it was sold to Hertfordshire County Council, but its story is preserved through the Foundling Museum at Brunswick Square, London, which contains many artefacts and records associated with the hospital, and in particular a significant collection of portraits that graced the walls of the hospital.

Foremost among the artists of these portraits was William Hogarth, who had supported the hospital from its early days. He was not only a governor of the hospital, but also inspector of the wet nurses at Chiswick, and was totally committed to its cause. Hogarth did all the necessary artwork in support of the hospital, such as its logo, and he was also a great promoter of British art. It was partly to prove the point that British art was as good as any art on the Continent that he undertook his celebrated painting of Thomas Coram, a 6-foot painting now housed at the Foundling Museum. When next in the St. Pancras area why not call in to see the great man?

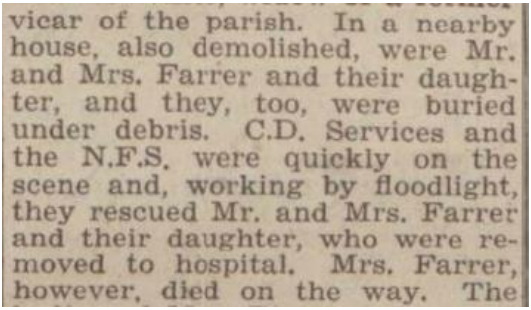
The Hospital also had a great musical tradition. In 1749, the governors were desperately trying to raise money for a new chapel. At the same time, Georg Friedrich Handel, was seeking a suitable venue for his new oratorio to boost his own career. The oratorio was staged in the Hospital to huge success for both the Hospital and Handel. It was The Messiah. Handel was made a governor of the Hospital and The Messiah was then performed every year until at least 1770. Handel himself conducted the performance until his death in 1759 and, in his will, left a complete copy of The Messiah to the Hospital so that they could continue the performance.

The images shown are the copyright of Coram in the Care of the Foundling Museum, and are reproduced with their permission.

Isleworth Civilian War Deaths – tracing the victims

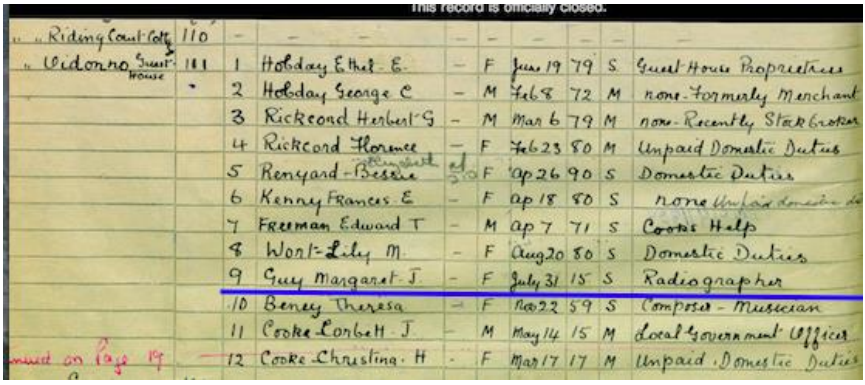
Ann Greene

In 2014, the Hounslow Local Studies department was asked by Cllr Sue Sampson to help with the Isleworth Civilian War Deaths project. A long-time Isleworth resident, John Roach, had been trying for some years to get support for the erection of a memorial to the 57 civilian victims of WW2 bombing raids in Isleworth. With Cllr Sampson's help, funding was finally secured to purchase and engrave a suitable stone, to organise a dedication ceremony and to trace living relatives of the victims. This was where Hounslow Local Studies came in. The work of tracing the individuals and any living relatives fell to me, as the most experienced genealogist on the team. Finding the names of the individuals was simple. Hounslow Local Studies holds a printed copy of the Heston and Isleworth section of the *Commonwealth War Graves Commission Civilian Roll of Honour* and from this I was able to find out the names of the deceased, the date and place of their death, their age and, in many cases, the names of their parents or spouses. After this the search became more difficult. Going back to the birth registrations and the 1911 census helped, but only if the person had an unusual name, had been born in Isleworth or had lived there for some time. A surprising number of people were not Isleworth-born and in 2014, the 1939 Register had not yet been digitised, so the only contemporary records that were easily available were the Electoral Rolls and the local newspapers. The Electoral Rolls were less than satisfactory; Local Studies only have Heston and Isleworth registers from 1926 onwards, there were no registers published between 1939 and 1945 for obvious reasons, and anyone who was not registered or entitled to vote before 1939 did not appear. The main resource therefore was Hounslow's local paper, The Middlesex Chronicle, and was available on microfilm. Accounts of air raids on civilian populations were reported in local papers. Wartime restrictions on identifying places led to blanket headlines such as "Air raids over Southern England", but although place-names were often absent, surnames were freely printed and funerals of bomb victims were reported in detail. There are stories of heroism, futility, tragedy and sheer bad luck along with the picture of community life in the 1940s. But like any source, the articles still had to be treated with caution. One account of a raid said that three people had been taken out of a bombed house and that the wife had died on her way to hospital while the husband and


vicar of the parish. In a nearby house, also demolished, were Mr. and Mrs. Farrer and their daughter, and they, too, were buried under debris. C.D. Services and the N.F.S. were quickly on the scene and, working by floodlight, they rescued Mr. and Mrs. Farrer and their daughter, who were removed to hospital. Mrs. Farrer, however, died on the way. The

daughter survived. Nothing unusual there, you might say, but my researches had shown that the married couple in question had only one child – a son who was in the forces at the time. Rechecking my research confirmed my original conclusion, but left me with a problem – who was the young woman who was identified as their daughter? A potential daughter-in-law? A lodger? A visitor? An evacuee? We will probably never know.

One of the many tragic stories of the raids was that of 8 Villiers Road. **Alfred** and **Florence Evans** died along with four girls aged from 2 to 16. **Florence Evans**, an ex-nurse, was very fond of children, and this must have led her to foster children from orphanages or broken homes. In 1940, she and her husband were fostering **Elizabeth (Betty) Belton** aged 16, **Rita June Ford** aged 12, **Shirley Seager** aged 2 and **Irene Wells**, aged 12. The families of **Betty Belton** and **Shirley Seager** have been identified but no real information has yet been found for **Rita Ford** and **Irene Wells.** The arrival online of the 1939 Register was a real breakthrough for many of the victims, giving us their dates of birth, other household members and their occupations. One of my apparently insoluble problems was solved by the Register. A young woman named **Margaret Julia Guy** was injured in a 1944 air raid on the Twickenham Road and died of her injuries at West Middlesex Hospital. I had found her birth in Essex, and had traced her father, **Louis Alfred Guy,** a railway worker, from Hendon to Isleworth. He and Margaret were both there in the 1939 Electoral Roll, but the 1939 Register showed Louis as being alone. Where had Margaret gone? Had she joined the forces? Rechecking the 1939 Register, I found a **Margaret Julia Guy** of the right age in a guesthouse in Poole. She was a radiographer. She must have been taking her annual holiday by the sea when the Register was taken. Her profession and home address in Isleworth led me to assume that she was working at West Middlesex Hospital.



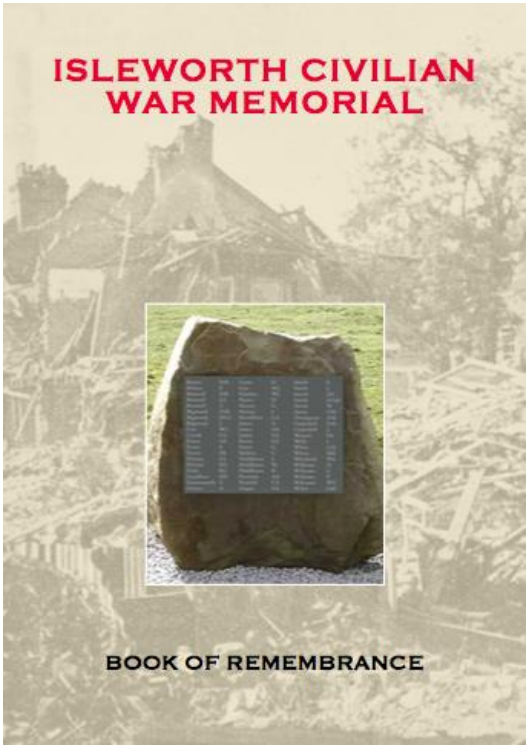
" Riding Court Rd	110	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
" Uidonno Guest House	111	1	Holiday Ethel E.	–	F	Jun 19	79	S	Guest House Proprietress
		2	Holiday George C	–	M	Feb 8	72	M	none - Formerly Merchant
		3	Rickeard Herbert G	–	M	Mar 6	79	M	none - Recently Stock Broker
		4	Rickeard Florence	–	F	Feb 23	80	M	Unpaid Domestic Duties
		5	Renyard - Bessie	–	F	Apr 26	90	S	Domestic Duties
		6	Kenny Frances E	–	F	Apr 18	80	S	none Unpaid Domestic Duties
		7	Freeman Edward T	–	M	Apr 7	71	S	Cooks Help
		8	Wort - Lily M	–	F	Aug 20	80	S	Domestic Duties
		9	Guy Margaret J	–	F	July 31	15	S	Radiographer
		10	Beney Theresa	–	F	Nov 22	59	S	Composer - Musician
		11	Cooke Corbett J	–	M	May 14	15	M	Local Government Officer
moved on Page 19		12	Cooke Christina H	–	F	Mar 17	17	M	Unpaid Domestic Duties

Tracing the living relatives was another matter altogether. Dogged detective work, plodding backwards and forwards through the General Register office indexes,

scrutinising entries in the Electoral Registers and the occasional bit of wild guesswork that paid off.

John Roach unveiled the memorial at a ceremony in 2014. Four years later, a smaller ceremony was held to launch the published book "*Isleworth Civilian War Memorial. Book of Remembrance*". The book was dedicated to the memory of John.

As well as remembering the lives and families of the 57 people who died, a picture of a vanished world has been produced.



MEMBERS' DISCOUNTS

Find My Past
In May 2016 the Society signed a new contract with the Federation of Family History Societies (FFHS) relating to the terms under which we supply data to Find My Past. As part of this contract Find My Past has made available a discount of 15% on all new subscriptions, or Pay as You Go payments, taken out by our members. All you have to do is to enter the appropriate discount code as given below:

For Subscriptions the discount code is **FFHS2018SUB**
For Pay as You Go the discount code is **FFHS2018PAYG**
These codes are valid up to the end of this year.

Forces War Records
The Society has arranged a useful discount for our members of 40% when you take out a subscription with Forces War Records. The website is www.forces-war-records.co.uk. Register your details with them, then visit their Subscribe page and enter our discount code **WMFHS40** in the discount code box.

Website Passwords

July-Sept **TASTY**

Oct-Dec **GRASS**

Our Fortieth Anniversary Celebrations

Our 40th birthday celebrations began at 7pm on 19th July 2018, 40 years to the day since our very first meeting. We had a very good turnout, although, due to illness, several of our long-standing members were unable to attend, due to illness. The long hot spell is taking its toll on our ageing bodies!
Many people remember Vic Gale from our early history. Vic has sadly passed away, but we were surprised and delighted to welcome his son, Michael and Michael's wife, Susan, who is the daughter of Philip and Joan Pym. They arrived bearing gifts of books, magazines and transcriptions of local records which were gratefully received.

John Seaman had set up a wonderful display of photographs from our archive. Memories, memories, memories! Sad to see how many people who have done so much for the Society are no longer with us. We also discussed how well - or badly - we've all aged. Laughter at some of our outfits and hairdos.
Kirsty Gray, our Chairman, introduced the proceedings and we began the evening with refreshments. The centrepiece was, of course, THE CAKE.
You can't have a party without cake. Our thanks to Hilary Strudwick, our raffle organiser, who had organised the making of the cake. It was magnificent.
Our inaugural Chairman, David Hawkings and Wendy Mott (member since 1978) were among those unable to attend, so the ceremonial cutting of the cake was done by Eileen Small (member since 1980) and Valerie Walker (member since 1983).
Kirsty then took over the cake slicing and Pam and Brian Smith superintended the passing round of the slices. Wine and soft drinks were served to complement the cake.
Once we had all settled down again, Yvonne Masson spoke about the history of the WMFHS from its beginnings. Following her was Valerie Walker whose reminiscences of family history in the pre-computer days brought sighs of mingled nostalgia and horror from us all, while Pam Butler's memories also reminded us of the journeys that our favourite archives have made in the last 40 years. (*Editor: They brought back memories that you will all want share, so their talks are included in this Jour*nal)
John Seaman presented a short, fun quiz about the year 1978. Despite being fun, it proved rather challenging! Ann Greene was the winner with 8 correct answers out of a possible 17. There were no official prizes but anyone who had got more than 2 questions right received the reward of another piece of the delicious birthday cake!
The evening closed with the raffle being drawn and members being invited to take home extra slices of cake.

WEST MIDDLESEX
FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
40th Anniversary

What we remember ……

Yvonne Masson

Following on from Vic Gale's article …….

As Vic said, we originally held our meetings at Hounslow Manor School, but had outgrown it by the end of 1981, and moved to Hounslow Old Town Hall where the Society met for the next four years. The subscription was a princely £4 a year, and the first Chairman (and later with a term as Vice-Chairman) was David Hawkings. (*David was invited to tonight's celebrations but has had to cry off as he is unwell)*. Among the earliest members who still have attended meetings up until recently were Mavis Sibley, who ran the Library for a number of years, Wendy Mott, and Valerie Walker who is here tonight. Family history luminaries like the late Chris Watts and his brother Michael gave early talks on doing family history and tracing one's family tree. Their advice on record offices and sources would be very different from today; then the census returns were at Portugal Street, the BMD indexes were in the huge books at St Catherine's House and wills were still at Somerset House. It's interesting to me that Chris Watts in an early talk mentioned their ancestor James Watts as living at Happisburgh in Norfolk in 1823 – a place where we now know early man lived nearly a million years ago! Chris and Co. gave warnings that the hobby of family history is never-ending and how right they were!

The first Editorial hoped that the Society's journal would "act as a forum for discussion, advice and communication for all those interested in Family History…" and over the last 40 years I think it has, under several editors, fulfilled that role.

Transcriptions of memorial inscriptions got under way in Summer 1979, with Wendy Mott in the forefront of organising the project. Society members also helped with a Society of Genealogists project to transcribe the gravestones at St Nicholas Chiswick. The same graves are now currently being photographed by members of the Society, notably Roland Bostock and Ann Greene! These days we are able, via Find My Past, to put the results of our hard work on the Internet. This benefits not only genealogists across the world, but also the Society's finances. Indexing of Parish Registers had got under way by early 1980. Over the years various people have been instrumental in carrying Society projects through to completion, notably Richard Chapman, Brian Page (particularly his huge work on the Protestation Returns) and latterly Roland Bostock. In 1981, an Editorial warned of coming cuts in the PRO's budget – plus ça change!

The Chairman's Report for 1983 shows a figure of 60, sometimes 100, people attending meetings. The bookstall started in that year, as did the Courier Service, and on 13th October 1984 the Society held its first Conference *"From Ag Lab to London Commuter"* at the Adult Education Centre in Thornbury Road, Isleworth. The three speakers were Anthony Camp of the Society of Genealogists, Geraldine Beech of the PRO and Dick Cashmore of Borough of Twickenham Local History Society. Several more successful conferences as well as Open Days have been held over the years.

In early 1984, the Old Town Hall was scheduled for demolition, so the Society moved again, this time to Montague Hall, where we stayed for 34 years. As you know, a change of use proposed for Montague Hall in 2018 meant we had to we move again. We now meet at the St Johns Centre, holding our Annual General Meeting here in March 2018.

By the end of 1985, the Society was getting into computers. A computer evening held in September 1984 aroused enough interest for a computer group to be suggested. A piece in the April 1987 journal shows our members were keeping well up-to-date as the subject was Ancestral Eve and DNA. However, technology however caught up and overtook us. In 2002 the Society reluctantly decided to abandon our 1891 census index project as it would soon be available on the Internet. This was disappointing as we had made a big contribution to the transcribing of the 1881 census.

Around 1997 the Society started its own website under webmaster David Childs, who ran it for 9 years; Richard Chapman took over in December 2006 and ran it for 8 years, in 2009 picking up an Elizabeth Simpson Highly Commended award for genealogical websites, and Roland Bostock has now taken over since December 2014.

Of course, we all remember that under the editorship of Bridget Purr our journal won two top awards. In 2008 we won the Elizabeth Simpson award for a small societies journal, and in 2009 we were the overall winner, not to mention picking up a Highly Commended in 2015! The cover has changed over the years, and with the encouragement of our present innovative Chairman Kirsty Gray now sports the Facebook and Twitter logos.

Many people have also served the Society over the years. Special mentions should go to Muriel Sprott (a true Society backbone if I may call her that), Paul Kershaw, sometime Treasurer and Auditor, and the various keepers of the bookstall, exchange journals and library, not to mention the various tea ladies and gents, and of course our very long-term signing-in team, know for a long time as 'the two Marys'.

By October 2015 the Society was facing a crisis. It was becoming increasingly difficult to fill vital places on the Committee sufficient to run the Society and keep it viable. At our monthly meeting an Extraordinary General Meeting was scheduled with a view to winding up the Society at the end of 2015. Gloom hung over us like a pall. But it so happened that professional genealogist Kirsty Gray was booked to give a talk to the Society that month on "Tracing the History of a Community", and she was inevitably caught up in what seemed to be the Society's death throes. Following Kirsty's volunteering to take over as our Chairman, seven people then came forward to join the Committee. Kirsty of course came with a thorough knowledge of how family history can be, and should be, done in the digital age. The threatened winding up of the Society was voted out, carrying on was voted in.

At the March 2016 AGM the Society appointed Bridget and Robin Purr as Joint Presidents.

We are always trying to make ourselves more attractive to new members. A recent innovation, aimed at getting more bottoms on seats at our monthly meetings is the offering of lifts to people who might otherwise find it difficult to get to meetings. This has always been done informally, but now our "taxi- drivers" can advertise their details in the Journal and on the website.
I hope I have mentioned some of the people, and events, whom you remember as playing an important part in the life and activities of the Society over the years. In a short summary such as this it hasn't been possible to mention everyone and everything. I wonder where we'll be (or family history societies in general) in 10 years' time, let alone 40 years.

Valerie Walker

When I joined the Society of Genealogists, the then Membership Secretary of West Middlesex Family History Society, Connie Zouch found my name among the list of newly elected members and invited me to join the WMFHS. I have here my receipt for January 1983 when I joined and I paid £4. I actually got into family history because a friend of mine in New Zealand wanted to trace her family. I was actually in New York at the time when she wrote and asked if I could help her. Well, not really since I was in New York! But when I got back to England, I got a job working on the Embankment and discovered St Catherine's House. I had flexible working hours, so could rush to St Catherine's House at 8.30 in the morning before work, and then rush to the Embankment. I hadn't a clue what I was supposed to do, so I went with the list of what she wanted. I found the indexes and I found the birth and a marriage. My friend had been paying a genealogist expert to do this but they had found nothing. And I had found it on my first visit! Was I right? I checked the letter and ordered the certificates. And when they came, they were right! My friend had started me on a downward path. In those days St Catherine's House was hell! The books were enormous and very heavy, the rooms were too small, there were too many people trying to use them and the queue to order certificates was horrendous. Even when the Death indexes temporarily moved to Kingsway, it didn't ease the problem. And when air-conditioning finally was installed it was only in part of the building! By contrast going to Somerset House to look at wills was wonderful. You ordered a will, they went into the bowels of the earth and brought the whole bound book out, and all the while you could gaze at the river. The censuses were held at Portugal Street. I recently found a letter I wrote describing my first visit - a long list of things you mustn't do and a frightening woman (Susan Lumas) in charge! You could only have one film at a time, you didn't really know what you were after and there was no-one to guide you. A total nightmare Then they moved them to the bowels of Chancery Lane which was like going into a dungeon. And St Catherine's House continued to be hell. At some stage I became Treasurer of the WMFHS – why I did it, I don't know - and my dining room table for years was covered with books. Eventually a new

Treasurer came in and wanted to computerise everything. I didn't care – I had escaped! He didn't stay long in the job.
I then took on the Courier Service, obtaining certificates for members. Pam Morgan had been doing the courier job, but left for Australia with her husband Glyn. Pam said to me "You could take this over!". Ted Dunstall had been asked to do it but had turned the offer down, so I did it. Members were supposed to give the full reference, but did they? Not always and, if they did, the information was not always correct. So, pulling out these great indexes out was part of the job. And it was really very good for the muscles, although I now wonder how I could have lifted those big books. At length the Family Records Centre opened, combining the indexes and the census in one place. It was delightful but even then, the place was packed to the gills and you were ***still*** fighting for workspace. Now the Family Records Centre has closed I go to Kew. But it is very sterile and unatmospheric in comparison! No whoops of joy when something was discovered. The atmosphere in the Family Records Centre was something I really used to enjoy. When they removed the registers from the Family Records Centre in 2008 and took them down to Christchurch in Dorset, I wrote an article called *A Time to Weep A Time to Mourn* about my experiences of being courier.
Two pieces of advice that I would give to members:

1) Study the Surname interests in the journal. I found a New Zealand member searching for my mother's maiden name (German) from the Essex area. We weren't related but her husband's great-aunt had nursed on Malta in WW1 and she had papers relating to this. She wrote asking if I had an Alex German (my great-aunt!) of Walthamstow in my tree. She had a picture of all the nurses in Malta. In it were her husband's great-aunt and my great-aunt!
2) Keep in touch with other members. Eileen Prince lives in Pittsburgh and I used to get certificates for her. I helped Eileen find information about her grandmother. Left a widow with two small children after her husband's suicide, she was imprisoned for stealing two sheets and a pillowcase. We've never met but we still email each other and Eileen has helped me with information.

The Society is about fun as well as research, so I will finish with a story which no-one else remembers! In about 1990 when I was Treasurer, we had a young gentleman who joined the Committee. Having someone young on the committee was very exciting for us, especially when he allegedly chased one of the members up the stairs!

Pam Butler

Family history can be a very absorbing, time-filling hobby, especially if taken further than a family tree and a few disreputable ancestors! It can lead to meeting relatives that you didn't know existed, many people interested in research, often with far more knowledge than you have yourself, and people you would never otherwise

have come across. A good social mix – in fact the West Middlesex Family History Society.

When did I join? I had no idea, but help came in the form of a welcoming letter, found in my disreputably, lamentably, poor filing system, from June Watkins, secretary in 2005, dated 22nd July. Thank you, June, for the comprehensive information about the society, together with my membership number. I didn't in fact come to meetings at first, being very nervous about getting a bus home afterwards from Hounslow High Street. And when I did pluck up the courage to come, I found myself very much alone at the bus stop, only finding out later that other bus travelling members caught their buses at The Bell bus stop. If only I had asked!

Well, what do I remember? A large well-lighted hall, the two Marys on duty with the signing-in book and warm welcoming smiles. *Name*? Yes, got that. *Member*? Yes! *Membership number?* Oh dear, let's make an educated guess. Next write it on the back of the hand! So many people! Hundreds? Well not quite that many but still quite a few. Plenty of welcoming smiles, though. Rows of seats ready for the talk. Around the room, a number of stalls set out. A comprehensive library, books to be borrowed and read leisurely at home. The heavy boxes transported to every meeting by an enthusiastic member. Exchange journals from all over the country, also available to borrow, returning then later for someone else to enjoy. A member engaged in sending out our journals and collecting up and looking after journals from other family history societies. A bookstall with a large choice of books, not to be resisted. Not just family history but social history – useful to give your family background, books with photographs of earlier times, especially relating to local areas. Books covering people's working lives – miners, merchant sailors, servants and more. A stall devoted to maps, especially the Godfrey edition, so useful for tracking down the location of a family home.

Of course, of most use, was the extensive reference library. According to my letter of introduction, there were also microfiche records and a reader to use them with. There was the raffle stall, and with so many members attending, there was a large number of prizes to be won. It was a very unlucky person who never went home clutching a potted plant, a large tin of biscuits, a box of chocolates or an interesting book! Last but not least was the coffee stall, set up for after the talk so that members could enjoy a refreshing drink, a biscuit and a chat.

Of course, nothing goes without a hitch. Putting out the lights for a slide-show (computers were not yet in use!) involved sending someone into a cupboard to try out various switches until the light levels were right! And what about the microphone? It never did work correctly until much fiddling had been done and I particularly remember Muriel holding it between the fingers of one hand while trying to hold the notices in the other.

In this digital age, many people lose out on the personal contact as they sit in their house crouched over their laptop tuned into Ancestry or FindMyPast, those companies who have found that huge sums of money can be made from people

curious about their past. People lose the enjoyment of visiting local archives, holidaying in the places in the places that their ancestors came from. It also means that the numbers attending meetings have dropped substantially and we are now fitting comfortably into much smaller premises. But with this shrinkage has come a more family feeling, when everybody knows everybody else, which was not possible with the previous large numbers. At one meeting, we were given labels and asked to display our names - it didn't seem to make a difference!
The West Middlesex Family History Society is wonderful value for money – a monthly talk, four journals a year, access to their records, a Christmas party, a meeting with friends just for a small subscription. A big big thank you to all the people who so generously give their time and effort to make it a success.

Margaret Harnden had made a special effort to be with us on our 40th birthday. She said how much she had enjoyed her time as Chairman which included organising our Open Days - firstly in Staines then in Hampton. She is happy to see the Society still thriving and some familiar faces. Sadly, due to other commitments on Thursday evenings, she is no longer able to attend meetings, but will try to do so whenever the opportunity arises.

Our Days Out

Every summer, we start our expeditions round the country attending family history fairs and events where we can publicise ourselves and link up with other family history societies. This year's summer season began in May when we attended the Name Event at Earls Court – an attempt at replacing the now-defunct WDYTYA show.

Our second outing in May was at Feltham Library.
Libraries across London take part in the Cityread event every year and put on events relating to the themes found in that year's chosen title. This year, the book was "*The Muse"* by Jessie Burton and one of the themes was heritage and family links. Hounslow Libraries invited us to take a stall at their Cityread event on 12th May

HELP!

We have a rare puzzle for you this month! The plea comes from Trev Valler in New Zealand. Can anyone help at all?

Trev is trying to identify the people and location of a house in these two old family photos that came from his aunt, now deceased.

The first photo shows a car (identified as a Type A Citroen, first produced in 1921) with three passengers. In the front seat are Trev's great-aunt and her son-in-law, in the rear seat is her daughter (not seen) and a dog. The car is in front of a house. Behind the car, you can see a pillar with a partly-obscured name "-ulverton". Above the dog's head on the left of the photo are some letters that could be WN and a B or 8 or TWN or TWR.
The second shows the great-aunt's daughter and her two sons in a garden, but there is no real clue as to the house's location. On the back of the photo Trev's aunt wrote "on the banks of the River Thames".
Trev has posted on several sites for counties associated with the River Thames, seeking help, but with little success.
If anyone thinks they can help, please contact Trev via the Secretary or the Editor

(Google enthusiasts. please note: Trev has already followed up the possibility of Dulverton House in Shiplake near Henley but it was a false trail)

Clay Family of America

Another plea for help comes from David Clay in Mansfield, Nottinghamshire.
David is a member of the Clay Family Society of America. The society's members have all traced their ancestry back to John Clay who arrived in the young colony of Virginia in 1613. But there they hit a brick wall, as they are unable to trace whereabouts in the UK John Clay came from.

However, with the advent of Y-chromosome DNA testing, they may be able to push back the boundaries. Y-chromosome DNA tests the male line of descent only and has been used with great success in Ireland, where a huge number of records were lost or destroyed in the Troubles.

The Clay Family Society of America are offering **free** Y-DNA tests to English males with the surname of Clay, hoping that they may be able to connect with a Clay family branch over here. If anyone in WMFHS is interested or knows of a male Clay please contact David for full details and a DNA kit. His email is dmclay@btinternet.com

Bespoke London East End Family History Walks *Advertisement*

The idea of this new service is that the walks will be tailored to your Family History. Once you contact me I will ask for and research if the census or other documented addresses for your family still exist and what may be of interest in the area your ancestors lived and worked. I will suggest a meeting point close to the walk's starting point where we can enjoy a coffee and chat before setting off, alternatively I could arrange to meet you at the mainline station that you arrive at in London.

Prices will reflect the research and the day and are to be prepaid. Expenses on the day for coffee, lunch, fares **are not** included in my quoted fee but for you to pay as required.

Bespoke Walks happen mostly on weekdays, as at the weekend venues such as markets and canal tow paths are very busy but can be on a Saturday or Sunday by arrangement, please contact me for details and prices.

As well as arranging bespoke walks there are several standard East End walks that happen on weekdays.
These walks are of a distance from between one and four miles; they normally start at 11am, allowing for your travel to London from most comfortable day visit destinations, we start with coffee, stop for lunch, and end at about 3pm, discounts available for groups.

Walk one: Bow to Mile End: lunch at the Bow Bells.
Walk two: Hackney to Bethnal Green: lunch, possibly pie and mash, at Broadway Market Road.
Walk three: Brick Lane to Spitalfields: lunch in New Spitalfields Market.
Walk four: Mile End to Whitechapel: lunch The Half Moon

Bespoke London East End Family History Walks

Planned with your family history in mind explore the places where your ancestors lived and worked with a friendly experienced guide.

Contact: **diane.londoneastendfhwalks@gmail.com**

Mobile: 07943958964

Website: https://bespokelondon.net/

Join us on Facebook.com for reviews, new walks, photos, chat and more.

FAMILY HISTORY NEWS

Great news for those of you who are ordering certificates from the GRO!
The PDF project has been extended again and no end date has been given. Furthermore, the reduced price of £6 will still apply. So many of us will want the pilot to become standard practice, so get ordering!

Some useful events coming up ……
On September 15th, the Society of Genealogists are running a half-day course on The Poor and the Parish; the workhouse and its records. The course is from 2pm to 5pm and is run by Gill Blanchard. The cost is £20, and you don't need to be a member of the SoG to book a place. If you are a member, you get a 20% discount

If you want a bit more for your money, try the FFHS Beyond the Census Conference on Saturday 29th September. Speakers include Myko Clelland from FindMyPast and Peter Higginbotham ("Mr Workhouses"), so it will be a good day. The Conference will be held in London at Wesley's Chapel and Leysian Mission in City Road. It runs from 9.30am to 5pm and costs £19.50 including refreshments and a buffet lunch!

On a more sombre note, the former Longford Meeting House on the Bath Road, Longford, Hayes, is one of the historic buildings threatened with demolition by the expansion of Heathrow. The bodies buried in the grounds will be exhumed and relocated. There is no timeline, so far, to say when the demolition might occur. If you think you might have Quaker ancestors buried there, it would be as well to check now. Ancestry have a list of the burials.

FAMILY HISTORY FAIRS

The London Family History Show *
Saturday, 22nd September. Sandown Park Racecourse, Portsmouth Road, Esher KT10 9AJ. 10-4.30
Admission £5 (2 for £7.50) in advance or £7 on the day. Children under 16 free.
Free parking
thefamilyhistoryshow.com

Somerset & Dorset FHS Open Day
Saturday, 22nd September. Queen Elizabeth's School, Blandford Road, Wimborne Minster, Dorset BH21 4DT. 10-4
Further details to follow

Oxfordshire FHS
Saturday, 6th October. Marlborough School, Shipton Road, Woodstock, Oxon. OX10 1LP. 10-4.
Free admission and free parking.

Suffolk FHS Family History Fair
Saturday, 27th October. University of Suffolk, Waterfront Building, 19 Neptune Quay, Ipswich IP4 1QL. 10-4.
Free admission and free parking.

West Surrey FHS Family History Fair *
Saturday, 3rd November. Woking Leisure Centre, Kingfield Road, Woking GU22 9BA. 10-4.30
Details to follow

***** WMFHS will have a stall at these events.

West Middlesex Family History Society News

The Society has two big new projects in hand! And as always, we need volunteers to help us.

The first project is the photographing of the gravestones in St Nicholas, Chiswick. We have already transcribed and uploaded inscriptions to FindMyPast. FindMyPast are keen to enhance their site by offering images associated with data wherever possible. There are some 4,500 graves to be photographed and we need volunteers to take on this task. If you would like to volunteer, please email Ann Greene – anniegreene1951@gmail.com – or look out for her at one of our monthly meetings.
Our second project is a sedentary one. Hounslow Local Studies have offered to give us access to the registers of All Saints, Isleworth, so that we can transcribe them for uploading to FindMyPast. If you would like to volunteer for this, please email Roland Bostock – bostocr@blueyonder.co.uk – or speak to him at one of our monthly meetings.

The Society's bookstall. This is still very much a going concern, thanks to the hard work of our bookstall manager, Margaret Cunnew. However, it is quite a task to transport it to every meeting, unpack and arrange it and then repack it and take it back home again, often for little or no profit. From July 2018 onwards, the bookstall will only be available at alternate meetings. It will appear at the July, September and November meetings for this year.

The Society's Library is also changing its routine. Like the bookstall, it involves Brian and Pam in a lot of work to bring it to each meeting. From July, it will no longer appear at meetings, although the stock will still be available if members wish to consult a particular work.

It is with great sadness that we announce the death
of the following member

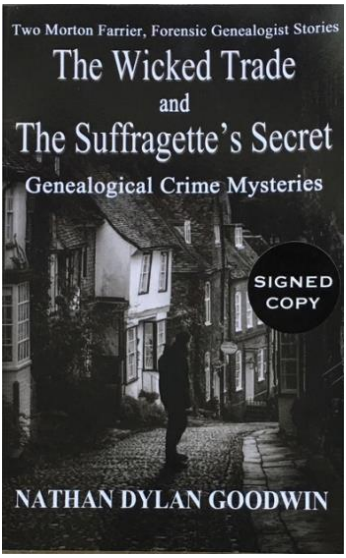
ROGER HULETT

We offer our condolences to his family

BOOK REVIEW

Bridget Purr, Ann Greene

The Wicked Trade and the Suffragette's Secret. Genealogical Crime Mysteries, by Nathan Dylan Goodwin, 2018.



It was the discovery of two skeletons at the Bell Inn in Hythe in 1963 that sparked Goodwin's interest and was the catalyst for the latest book featuring Morton Farrier, the Forensic Genealogist. Farrier's client wants to know how the son of his penniless ancestor Ann Fothergill, came to found a merchant bank in the City of London.

We follow Farrier and his research and learn why he visits various archives, the Library in Dover, the National Archives in Kew and the London Metropolitan Archives, to find original documents which show how his client's ancestor was connected to the Addlington Gang, a notorious smuggling gang of the time, which operated on the coasts of Kent and Sussex in the early 19th century. We read of poverty and lawlessness, of murder and courage before all is brought to a satisfactory conclusion.

A "bonus" short story in this volume is **The Suffragette's Secret**. Morton Farrier is faced with a seemingly impossible task – that of naming his new-born daughter. At the same time, he is also tracing his wife's family history. Juliette's great-grandmother, Grace Emmerson, was brought up in the workhouse, became a domestic servant and then married Cecil Barwise. But as Morton follows the progress of her life through national and local archives, he makes the discovery that she was also a suffragette. Along the way, he also discovers that his most hated archivist is human after all!

For all those who have enjoyed the exploits of Morton Farrier in the past, this is an excellent addition to the series and for those who have not come across him, this is also a stand-alone novel which will be enjoyed by all family historians.

This book can be purchased from Amazon or direct from Goodwin at:
nathandylangoodwin.com

INDEXES HELD BY MEMBERS

These indexes are intended as aids to research in the West Middlesex area. For Society members look-ups are free (please quote membership number), unless otherwise stated. For non-members there is a fee of £5. Please note that all enquirers must supply a SAE if a reply is required by post. If an email address is given, holders of the Index are happy to receive enquiries by email. Unless stated otherwise, cheques should be made payable to the holder of the index, not the WMFHS.

WEST MIDDLESEX FHS INDEXES

Roland Bostock, bostocr@blueyonder.co.uk
West Middlesex Monumental Inscriptions. Acton, Ashford, Cranford, Chiswick, Ealing, Feltham, Fulham (recorded 100 years ago), Hampton, Harlington, Hayes, Heston, Hillingdon, Hounslow (United Reformed), Norwood Green, Perivale, Staines, Teddington, Twickenham and Uxbridge.

West Middlesex Settlement Records. Chelsea, Ealing, Friern Barnet, Fulham, Hammersmith, New Brentford, Shepperton, Staines, Stanwell, Uxbridge.

Richard Chapman, Golden Manor, Darby Gardens, Sunbury-on-Thames, TW16 5JW
chapmanrg@btinternet.com . Cheques to West Middlesex FHS.
Marriage Index. Pre 1837 marriages in West Middlesex with partial coverage elsewhere in the county. Please supply places/dates/surname variants if known.

Mrs. Wendy Mott, 24 Addison Avenue, Hounslow, TW3 4AP. wendymott@btinternet.com
West Middlesex Strays. People from or born in our area, found in another area.

Mrs. Bridget Purr, 8 Sandleford Lane, Greenham, Thatcham, RG19 8XW
bridgetspurr@waitrose.com
West Middlesex War Memorials. Substantial name-list material, consisting of public, churches', schools' and companies' memorials, etc. for WWI, WWII and earlier wars where they exist; list not yet complete; information on any other memorials you know of would be welcome. When making an enquiry please include any information on village or town where you might expect a name to be mentioned.

PARISH RECORDS

Mrs. Margaret Cunnew, 25 Selkirk Road, Twickenham, TW2 6PS
Chiswick Parish Registers, St. Nicholas. Baptisms marriages burials 1813-1901.
Chiswick, 1801 Census
Ealing Parish Registers, St. Mary. Baptisms 1779-1868, marriages 1797-1857, burials 1813-1868.
Hanwell Parish Registers, St. Mary. Baptisms marriages burials, 1813-1855.
New Brentford Parish Registers, St. Lawrence. Baptisms marriages burials 1802-1837.
Old Brentford Parish Registers, St. George. Baptisms 1828-1881, marriages 1837-1881, burials 1828-1852.
G.R.O. Certificates. A number of original GRO birth, marriage and death certificates have been kindly donated to the Society by members and are available for purchase at a cost of £1 per certificate. Please check on Society website for current list. Cheques should be made payable to West Middlesex FHS and please include an sae.

Mrs. Wendy Mott, 24 Addison Avenue, Hounslow, TW3 4AP. wendymott@btinternet.com
Harmondsworth Parish Registers. Baptisms marriages burials 1670-1837.

Mr. P. Sherwood, 5 Victoria Lane, Harlington, Middlesex, UB3 5EW
psherwood@waitrose.com
Harlington Parish Registers. Baptisms, marriages, burials, 1540-1850.

Mrs. M. Sibley, 13 Blossom Way, West Drayton, Middlesex UB7 9HF.
mavikensib@aol.com For more than 3 names, please write for an estimate of charge.
Hayes Parish Registers, St. Mary. Baptisms marriages burials 1557-1840
Hillingdon Parish Registers. Baptisms 1559-1909, marriages 1559-1910, burials 1559-1948 (churchyard) and 1867-1903 (cemetery).
Isleworth Parish Registers, All Saints. Baptisms 1566-1919, marriages 1566-1927, burials 1566-1942.
Isleworth Register of Baptisms: Brentford Union Workhouse, Mission Church, Wesleyan Methodist Church, extracts from Register of Baptisms.

Ms. Carol Sweetland, 36 Diamedes Avenue, Stanwell, Staines, TW19 7JB.
carol.sweetland@btinternet.com
Stanwell Parish Registers. Baptisms 1632-1906, marriages 1632-1926, burials 1632-1906. Also available on FreeREG. Name database 1632-1906.

MISCELLANEOUS INDEXES
Mr. A. Rice, 46 Park Way, Feltham, TW14 9DJ. secretary@feltham-history.org.uk
Feltham Index. An expanding collection of transcripts and indexes relating to the parish of Feltham. Donations welcome, payable to Feltham History Group.

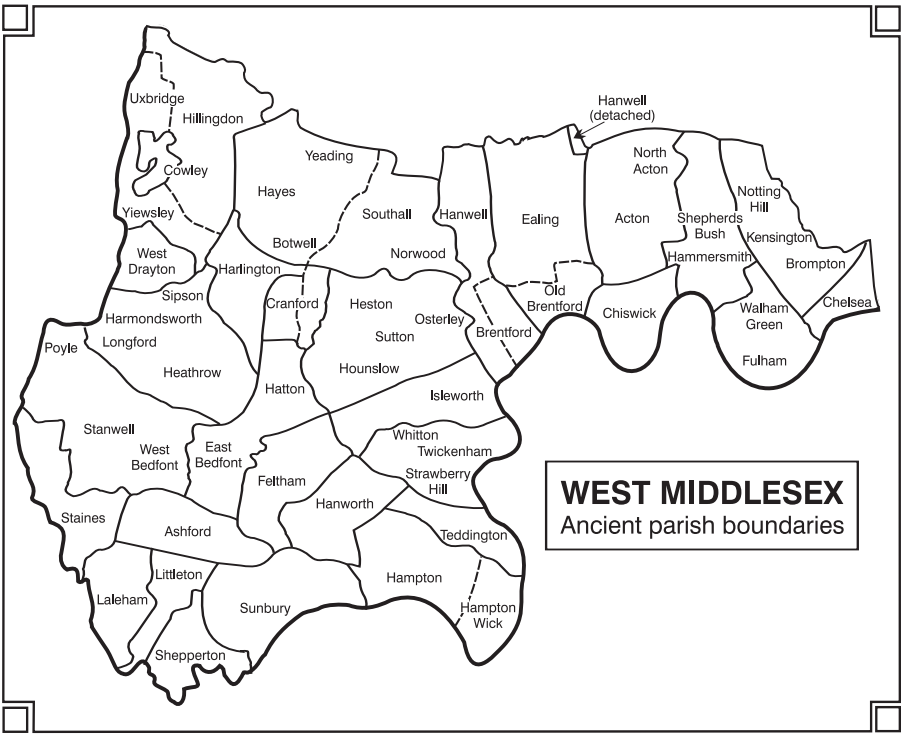
Mr. Paul Barnfield, 258 Hanworth Road, Hounslow, TW3 3TY
paulbarnfield@hotmail.co.uk
Hampton Wick. Records of this village collected over 40 years of research.

Mr. Brian Page, 121 Shenley Avenue, Ruislip, HA4 6BU. brian729@blueyonder.co.uk
1641-2 Protestation Returns of Middlesex. This has been indexed. You will secure a printout, which includes variants. Cheques made payable to West Middlesex FHS.

Front Cover

Images from West Middlesex Family History Journal
Top left: Boston Manor House
Top right: Bedfont Powder Mill
Bottom right: Heathrow House
Bottom left: Shepperton Lock
Centre: WMFHS Journal, first issue Winter 1978

Cover Design © Nic Greene



West Middlesex Family History Society

Area of Interest

Acton, Ashford, East Bedfont, Chelsea, Chiswick, Cowley, Cranford, West Drayton, Ealing with Old Brentford, Feltham, Fulham, Hampton, Hanwell with New Brentford, Hanworth, Harlington, Harmondsworth, Hayes with Norwood, Hammersmith, Heston, Hillingdon, Hounslow, Isleworth, Kensington, Laleham, Littleton, Shepperton, Staines, Stanwell, Sunbury, Teddington, Twickenham and Uxbridge

If undelivered, please return to:

West Middlesex FHS
c/o Pat Candler, 57 The Vale, Feltham, Middlesex, TW14 0JZ

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