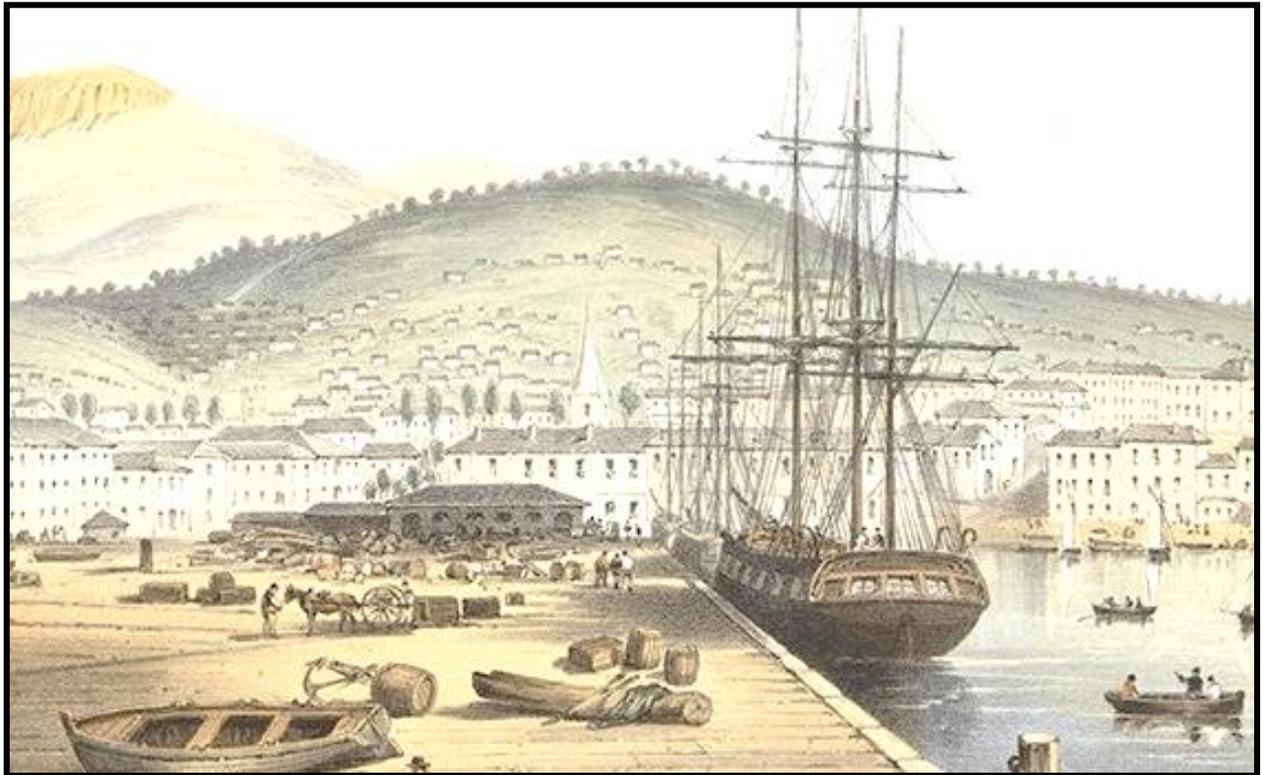




HILLINGDON FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY



*The point of arrival, Hobart Tasmania
Libraries Tasmania, Tasmanian Government
(See page 5)*

2020 MEETINGS PROGRAMME

Unless stated otherwise meetings take place at Hillingdon Baptist Church, 25
Hercies Road, Hillingdon, Middlesex. UB10 9LS

DATE	SPEAKER	SUBJECT
<i>Tuesday 28th January Joint U3A 2.00 p.m.</i>	<i>Nick Barratt</i>	<i>'The Future of Family History'</i>
<i>Thursday 20th February 2.00 p.m.</i>	<i>Ron Koorm</i>	<i>'G.C.H.Q. Eastcote During WW2'</i>
		<i>MARCH TO JULY MEETINGS CANCELLED</i>
		<i>DUE TO VIRUS PRECAUTIONS NO MEETING</i>
<i>Thursday 20th August</i>	<i>NO MEETING</i>	<i>NO MEETING</i>
<i>Thursday 17th September</i>		To be confirmed
<i>Thursday 15th October 2.00 p.m.</i>	Michael Gandy	<i>'Tracing Catholic Ancestors'</i>
<i>Tuesday 10th November Joint U3A 2.00 p.m.</i>	Dave Annal	<i>'My Ancestor was a Liar'</i>
ALL REMAINING MEETINGS ARE SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION SEE OUR WEB SITE www.hfhs.org.uk FOR LATEST INFORMATION		

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

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Contents

Chairman's Notes.....	2
Editors' Jottings.....	3
Consternation in Cornwall.....	5
Corvid 19 Reflections.....	8
A Response.....	10
As Good as Her Word.....	11
Early Memories – My Early Life.....	12
It's Census Time Again.....	14
Understanding Army Terms (Part 1).....	16
Researching the Welsh.....	19
The New £20 Bank Note.....	21
Do You Have a Story to Tell?.....	23
Forces War Records.....	24
Herbert Aldridge – Continued.....	25
George Horton Wood 1911-1990.....	26
A Talk – The Future of Family History.....	30
An Interesting Entry.....	33
A Talk – GCHQ Eastcote During World War 2.....	34

News and Information

From the Membership Secretary.....	38
Research by HFHS.....	39
Help Line.....	40
Deadline Dates.....	40
PBN Publications.....	42
HFHS Publications.....	43
Where to Find Us.....	44

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

Ian Harvey

As our members are no doubt aware the 1931 Census records were destroyed in a warehouse fire in Hayes in 1941 in an event that was not attributed to enemy action. There was no Census in 1941 because of the war and although the register taken under the National Registration Act 1939 is now widely available, we still have a hole in our modern records when researching family history.

**THE
Railway & Commercial
GAZETTEER
OF
ENGLAND, SCOTLAND, & WALES.**

NINETEENTH EDITION.

INCLUDING ALL THE
RAILWAY STATIONS, TOWNS, VILLAGES, HAMLETS, AND PLACES
IN GREAT BRITAIN,
ARRANGED IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER.

Showing the "THROUGH RATE" Routes for
MERCHANDISE, PASSENGERS, AND PARCELS,
TO, FROM, or THROUGH LONDON, AND ALL PARTS OF
THE KINGDOM;

Also County in which situated, Population from last Census (1931), distance from London to every
Railway Station, and distance from Railway Station to Town, Village, Hamlet, or Place. Post
Offices, Money Order Offices, and Telegraph Offices.

NAME OF PLACE.	COUNTY.	Population	Distance of Station from London	RAILWAY STATION.	Distance from Station	LINE OF RAIL.	CORRESPONDENCE FROM LONDON.	
							Group.	
A								
Abbas & Temple Combe	Somerset	871	116	Wincanton	3 1/2	Som. & Dor.Jt.	B H G	
Abbas, Compton	Dorset	...	...	See Compton Abbas	...	Southern	B	
Abbas, Milton	Dorset	...	...	See Milton Abbas	...	Som. & Dor.Jt.	B H G	
Abbas, Winterborne	Dorset	...	...	See Winterborne Abbas	...	G.W. & Shirn.	B G	
Abbas, Wotton	Dorset	...	...	See Wotton Abbas	...	Southern	B	
Abberley # 1	Worcester	523	127	Stourport-on-Avon	3	Great Western	G A	
Abberton # 1	Essex	183	54	Cokchester, St. Botolph	4	L. N. E.	E	
Abberton	Worcester	67	103	Pershore	3 1/2	Great Western	G A H	
Abberwick	Northumbria	68	309	Alnwick	4	L. N. E.	F H A K G E	
Abbees Roding	Essex	166	23	Uxter	6	L. N. E.	B	
Abbey	Chickmannan	...	422	Cambus	1	L. N. E.	F H A G K E	
Abbey	Angus	...	488	Arbroath	3	{ D. & A. J. } { L. M. S. & N. E. }	F H A G K E	
Abbey	East Lothian	...	387	Haddington	1	L. N. E.	F H A G K E	
Abbey	Herts	...	24	St. Albans	...	L. M. S.	A H F E	
Abbey # 1	Lancashire	...	207	Withnell	...	L. M. S.	A H F K G E	
Abbey	Norfolk	...	88	Abbey & W. (near MGS)	...	L. N. E.	B	
Abbey	Pembroke	...	264	Cardigan	1	Great Western	G A H	
Abbey	Renfrew	8638	407	Paisley	...	L. M. S.	A H F G K E	
Abbey	Salry	...	153	Shrawbury	...	Shrop. & Mont.	G A H F E	
Abbey	Wiltshire	...	85	Minster & Ash. Keynes	...	Great Western	G	
Abbey-Cwmhir # 1	Radnor	309	187	Penybont	6	L. M. S.	A G H F E	
				Pandydw	6	Great Western	G A H E	

Towns, etc., in the first column, which are Railway Stations, are those shown in bold type. When not otherwise described, the Station is both Passenger and Goods.

A—L. M. S. (L. & N. W. Section) D—Southern (L.B. & S.C. Section) G—Great Western
 B—Southern (L. & S. W. Section) E—L. N. E. (Gt. Eastern Section) H—L. M. S. (Midland Section)
 C—Southern (S. E. & C. Section) F—L. N. E. (Gt. Northern Section) K—L. N. E. (Gt. Central Section)

* Post Offices. † Money Order Offices. ‡ Telegraph Offices.

I recently stumbled on a book, as I do, that is quite intriguing. It was formerly in the Station Master's Office North Camp in Aldershot, Hampshire and it is called the Railway and Commercial Gazetteer of England, Scotland and Wales (19th edition) and is dated June 1938. To quote the cover page:

'Including all the Railway Stations, Towns, Villages, Hamlets, and Places in Great Britain, arranged in alphabetical order.

Showing the 'through rate' routes for merchandise, passengers, and parcels to, from, or through London and all parts of the Kingdom.

County distances from London to each in which situated, population from last census (1931) distance from London to every railway station and distance by road from the Town, Village, Hamlet, Parish, and Place. Post offices, money order offices and telegraph offices'

(contd).

Now for a family historian, this is curious stuff. The last census referred to on the title page was 1931. So, if you know where your family was living then you can see the size of the place they lived in and also how far from a railway station it was and how far from London. I don't begin to understand what is meant by 'through rate routes' but it must have been of interest to users of the Gazetteer.

In the years before the last war our families moved around a lot – mostly by train and if you are trying to track someone down, this Gazetteer might be of some assistance. It is also curious that the government must have made available to the publisher the 1931 census data including the populations of towns, villages, hamlets, etc. I wonder what other publications are out there with 1931 census data?

I hope you have a good summer.

N.B. Just a thought Ian, 'through rate routes' might mean that it was possible for passengers (and dispatched goods) to travel over more than one railway company's system by paying just one fare. Without through rates a passenger who wanted to travel from a station on one system to a station on a different system would have to purchase a separate ticket at the station where they changed to the second system's train. Does anyone else have any other suggestions?

EDITORS' JOTTINGS

CORONAVIRUS

As we were preparing this edition of the journal the coronavirus (CV) precautions were being unveiled on a daily basis. Most of the editorial staff being 'of an age' we were confined to 'barracks'. How long this situation will last is not known and we do not know if we will be able to produce a full complement of pages. We will try to 'carry on' as usual but if we fall short please accept our apologies.

Your committee have decided to call a halt to meetings and the research room sessions including those at the library. We intend to resume normal service when we have the 'all clear'.

(contd).

We hope that all our members and readers come through these worrying times unscathed.

In the meantime, perhaps it is an opportunity for us all to examine our research records, memories, ‘tricks of the research trade’ that we may have stumbled upon and stories in order to produce articles for the forthcoming editions of the journal.

Please don’t be intimidated at the prospect of staring at a blank sheet of paper or a blank screen, the first stroke of the pen or finger stabbed onto a key will be the worst! If you feel unable to write a complete piece send an outline and we will do the rest should your effort need a little attention.

So, come on members let’s be hearing from you!

Corrections to the March 2020 edition:

Chairman’s Notes incorrectly stated that the family history centre for Berkshire is across the road from the record office. This used to be the case but the Berks FHS Centre recently moved to Reading Library which is further away. *Thanks go to John Symons for that.*

On page 21 our secretary Gill May spotted a mistake in the penultimate paragraph of the ‘Serendipity Again’ piece. The date that Herbert Aldridge died was of course 1918 not 1818 which would make John Symons a lot older than his claim to be 70. He says it was a deliberate mistake to see if the journal is actually being read – Humm! Perhaps we will make it regular feature to cover our normal quota of errors. *Anyway, thank you Gill for spotting the mistake.*

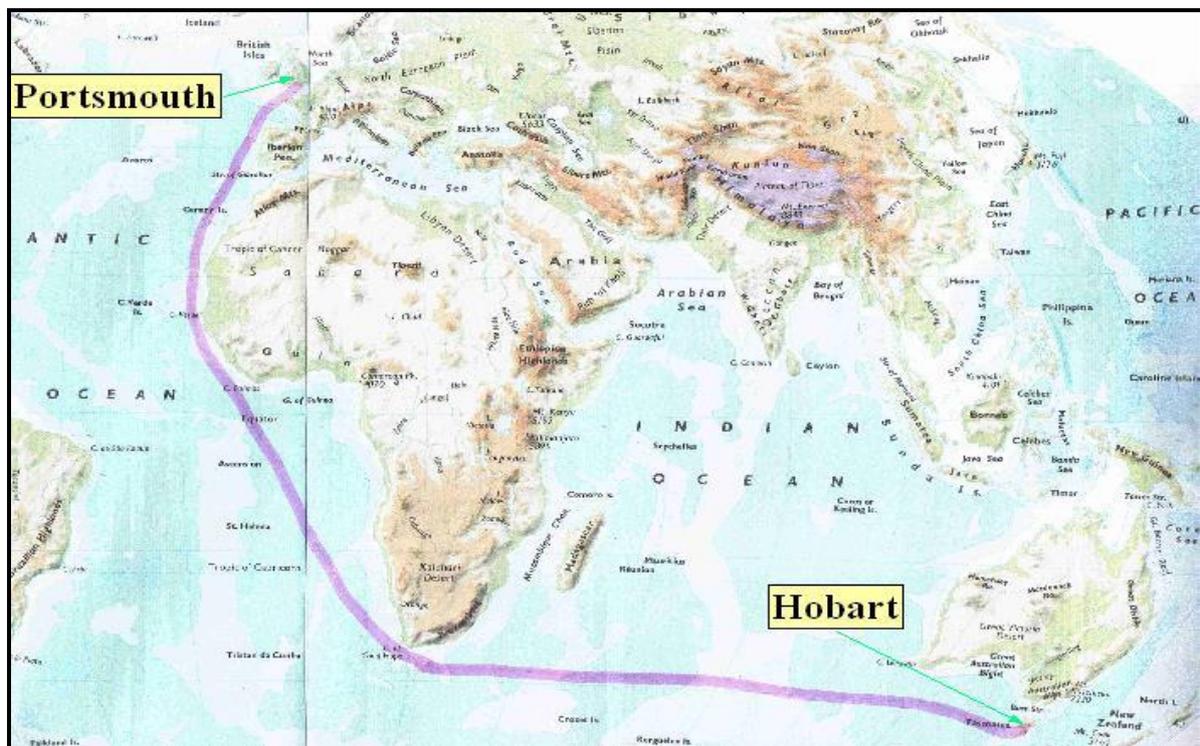
We have had a ‘thank you’ from our new member in Australia, Terry Kopp, who was very pleased to see his article in print.

CONSTERNATION IN CORNWALL (PART 2)

By John Symons

John's story continues with the departure from Portsmouth of the 'Bardaster' on 15th September 1835 with its cargo of convicts.

The voyage took them down the western coast of Europe and Africa thence east across the Indian Ocean. On October 7th while the vessel was still off the coast of Portugal the Ship's Surgeon reported that Henry SYMONS had contracted small pox.



Fortunately, this was a mild outbreak because he had already been vaccinated and unlike some of his fellows, he did recover. By October 18th according to the Ship's Surgeon's Journal he was reported as 'quite well and clear of eruption...but not entirely restored to health'. He was in fact left with some scars for the rest of his life. Eventually the ship arrived at Hobart, Tasmania on 13th January 1836 with 235 convicts, five had died en route. Samuel and Henry both survived the voyage and set foot in a land very different from their native Cornwall. Thomas KENDALL, the other man convicted with them, was sent to New South Wales.

(contd)

What the brothers would not have known during the voyage south was that the repercussions of their case continued in Cornwall. This centred on William BLAKE who suffered the loss of his cattle, the damages the civil court awarded against him and potentially the prosecuting solicitors' fees. His supporters placed two notices in the Royal Cornwall Gazette in August and September 1835 setting out his case and asking for donations. This statement was soon contradicted by the Symons' solicitors, Lyne & Ibbetson, who stated their bill had not been taxed and it was they, rather than BLAKE, who had suffered financially. The friends of BLAKE subsequently accepted they were in error on this point but that BLAKE had still suffered a considerable loss. At this point the Vicar of Antony, Duke Yonge, weighed in and organised a collection on BLAKE's behalf in south east Cornwall.

A barely polite war of words, often in Latin for added effect, then broke out in the letters column between the Vicar and Lyne & Ibbetson until the end of the year. By this time Mr. IBBETSON of Lyne & Ibbetson, Samuel's solicitors, had died and the Vicar was in poor health.

Notwithstanding this it was reported that at least £40 was collected in North Cornwall including £1 from 'S. SYMONS Esq'. I doubt this was Samuel the convicts' father, but rather his cousin Samuel from Legonna, Wadebridge. In addition a further £2 –18s was collected in south east Cornwall as a result of the efforts of the Rev. Duke Yonge.

Tasmania, or Van Diemen's Land as it was then known, had been a recipient of convicts since 1803 and was to continue to do so until 1852. Lying off the south coast of Australia it is approximately the same size as Ireland. Hobart, the main port then, as now, lies at the southern end of the island. The infamous Port Arthur prison was situated to the east of Hobart. The majority of convicts however were not sent there, the prison being reserved for those who committed secondary offences after arrival. In 1836 arriving convicts were either assigned to the state company, the Van Diemen's Land Company or to private individuals who had arrived as free settlers. Either way they had to work hard for their employer but it was generally considered that those working for the settlers fared better.

A week after landing the brothers were assigned (or appropriated as the records state) to their employers. Samuel was sent to work for the Van Diemen's Land Co. whereas Henry was set to work for a settler, a Mr. A. McDOWALL of Clyde, a settlement in the interior of the island, north of Hobart.

(contd).

This might have been a reflection on their characters and abilities – agricultural people were generally considered to have more useful skills than town dwellers - or it might just have been the luck of the draw.

Samuel worked at various locations on the island including Circular Head on the north coast but in a short space of time he was in trouble again for gross neglect of duty on 24th November 1836 for which his punishment was 35 lashes. Henry on the other hand had a much more stable existence working for Mr. McDOWALL.

Eventually, after the usual eight years, both qualified for their ‘Ticket of Leave’ on 26th January 1844. This gave them most rights, including the right to obtain paid employment as long as they reported each week to the police. Interestingly Henry continued in the employ of Mr. McDOWALL in Logan nearby (for which he would receive a wage) and Samuel lost no time in joining him, quite possibly on Henry’s recommendation.

Soon after this a fire broke out at Mr. McDOWALL’s premises and Samuel and Henry earned a commendation from the Governor for their conduct in fighting the fire. It would be an uncharitable thought to consider that Samuel had any part in starting this fire, so we need only reflect that their bravery earned both of them a Conditional Pardon eventually granted on 21st September 1847. Effectively they were now free men; the only remaining restriction was that they had to stay in Australia.

Meanwhile back in Cornwall family and friends of the Symons brothers had launched three petitions for clemency seeking a full pardon. The first was submitted in 1839 and included a statement from John MABLY:

‘I, John Mably, Yeoman of the Parish of Saint Minver in the County of Cornwall in my way to my parish church on the seventeenth day of August one thousand eight hundred and thirty-four (the day that Richard Gummoe swore that he saw the bullocks on a down called Collins Down and was directed by the above named Samuel Symons to take them to the parish of Egloskerry) saw the former mentioned bullocks in a lane called Carlumb Lane, more than three miles from the said down and am certain the bullocks could not have been at the place sworn to by Richard Gummoe as the time he saw them on the above named down corresponded with the time I saw them at the said lane, they being with others eating grass and I further state that I well knew the said bullocks having driven them out of my own field in the morning of the aforesaid day as strayers, knowing them to belong to my neighbour, Mr William Blake.

(contd).

To the above I hold myself ready to make oath if called on for that purpose.'

The problem was of course why he had not said this at the criminal trial to which he averred that he saw no possibility of their being convicted, which was less than convincing. The petition was supported by a number of yeomen and landowners from North Cornwall. The names on the petition bore no duplications of names in the list of men who provided financial support to William BLAKE – as you would expect!

The petition itself was placed by the sisters of the convicts, Peggy and Ann SYMONS. It was however supported by W. A. YEO M.D. who must have been the 'Dr. Yeo' one of those supporting William BLAKE which proves he had sympathies with both sides.

Communication with Tasmania had been established because Mr. McDOWALL of Logan was able to give a character reference for Henry and Edward LINE, Chief Equerry to the Van Diemen's Land Company also stated that Samuel had acquitted himself well. None of this worked and the appeal was rejected, probably not helped by the remark from the gaol report on the hulk that Samuel had a bad report and had been convicted before. The details of this previous conviction remain unknown.

N.B. The next episode will follow in the September edition.

CORVID 19 REFLECTIONS

By Colyn Storer

From Colyn Storer, one of our Australian members, we have received an interesting observation that bears on today's pandemic.

She quotes as her source a book from 1722 entitled 'A Journal of the Plague Year' by Daniel Defoe (1660-1731) which can be viewed on:

<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/376/376-0.txt>

Colyn has underlined a sentence which should give us pause for thought although of course being in a lockdown situation there is a lot to be said for the internet and social media generally.

(contd).

'Written by a CITIZEN who continued all the while in London. Never made publick before.

It was about the beginning of September, 1664, that I, among the rest of my neighbours, heard in ordinary discourse that the plague was returned again in Holland; for it had been very violent there, and particularly at Amsterdam and Rotterdam, in the year 1663, whither, they say, it was brought, some said from Italy, others from the Levant, among some goods which were brought home by their Turkey fleet; others said it was brought from Candia; others from Cyprus. It mattered not from whence it came; but all agreed it was come into Holland again.

We had no such thing as printed newspapers in those days to spread rumours and reports of things, and to improve them by the invention of men, as I have lived to see practised since. But such things as these were gathered from the letters of merchants and others who corresponded abroad, and from them was handed about by word of mouth only; so that things did not spread instantly over the whole nation, as they do now. But it seems that the Government had a true account of it, and several councils were held about ways to prevent its coming over; but all was kept very private. Hence it was that this rumour died off again, and people began to forget it as a thing we were very little concerned in, and that we hoped was not true; till the latter end of November or the beginning of December 1664 when two men, said to be Frenchmen, died of the plague in Long Acre, or rather at the upper end of Drury Lane.

The family they were in endeavoured to conceal it as much as possible, but as it had gotten some vent in the discourse of the neighbourhood, the Secretaries of State got knowledge of it; and concerning themselves to inquire about it, in order to be certain of the truth, two physicians and a surgeon were ordered to go to the house and make inspection.

This they did; and finding evident tokens of the sickness upon both the bodies that were dead, they gave their opinions publicly that they died of the plague. Whereupon it was given in to the parish clerk, and he also returned them to the Hall; and it was printed in the weekly bill of mortality in the usual manner...'

(contd.)

The book was a historical and fictional reconstruction by Defoe and was written as a story narrated by a fictional London inhabitant who witnessed the plague.

Defoe took his inspiration from an outbreak of plague in Marseilles in 1720-1, which also caused serious public alarm in England and his information from survivors as well as bills of mortality, government orders against plague and medical works. The journal fooled many later writers into using it as an actual eyewitness account of the Great Plague!

Colyn's final comment states Daniel Defoe DID NOT ACTUALLY remember these details, he was born about 1660 and this article was not published till he was over 60, after he had written Robinson Crusoe.

However, he almost certainly did learn of this from older members of his family and other reliable witnesses who clearly remembered the problems and difficulties of that time.

A RESPONSE

By April Wood Ashton

We were very pleased to receive the following from April, a former resident of Hillingdon.

To you all, we are very fortunate to have two such able editors who, in the March 2020 Journal, have written nine articles between them! We all enjoy receiving our journal as it plops through the letter box on a regular basis and in these uncertain times its value is immense to many of us confined to home for the foreseeable future.

Alan Rowland, one of our Journal Editors tells us 'that in the absence of any response to this plea - for Early Memories - he will plough on...'

We all have early memories - maybe just snippets - maybe just an old photo or two - and maybe you think they will not be of interest to others - maybe you are wrong - maybe what you are able to contribute will be of interest to others - maybe what you have to say will act as a trigger to the imagination of other members who in turn will then also think about a contribution...and maybe those far away in the United States and Commonwealth countries struggling to understand what life is / was like in England will be helped by your contributions, however small.

(contd).

So, in order to assist the editors and their support staff, do send in half a dozen lines - or use your mobile phone to take a photo of a photo.... they will I am sure be gratefully received and you and your family will then be able to see in print your own efforts.

It is always gratifying to receive comments, good or bad, on our efforts and as April says you do not have to write a full-blown article (although those are always gratefully received) just let us have something – we will do the rest! And don't forget the photographs!

AS GOOD AS HER WORD!

By April Wood Ashton

April continued her initial contact (above) with this;

Following upon Alan Rowland's most interesting article in the March 2020 Journal;

Without legal safeguards in place there has always been the risk that DNA results might be used, by say Insurance Companies, if not now, then later.

We all need to be aware of this and maybe the Family History Federation should be pushing for safeguards. Perhaps they are and maybe there is a law in place to prevent our possible exploitation, I know not.

Having said all that, D.N.A. can be of enormous value, or so I am told, to family historians. With a commonplace surname, such as Wood, Smith and Jones and ancestral families who have had, say ten sons, all using the same naming pattern, it is so easy for one's research to go astray.

Being put in touch with other potential cousins across the world whose proven ancestry matches one's own is surely invaluable.

As with so many other modern issues, we need to evaluate the risks and make choices best suited to our own individual needs.

EARLY MEMORIES — MY EARLY LIFE

By Anne Moss

We lived in a house on a busy high street, with lots of shops, schools and a cinema opposite. This did not last too long for we soon moved to a new house in West Drayton, Middlesex. This house was entirely different from what I had always known because the locality had no roads, schools or shops.

On a Sunday after listening to two-way family favourites and Archie Andrews on the wireless (*radio*) during the mid-day meal, the highlight of the week was waiting for the winkle man to come around the streets pushing his barrow with a selection of fish and shellfish. We would spend the afternoon preparing our tea, first we had to remove the winkle ‘eyes’ with a pin, remove the winkle from its shell and finally cover them with vinegar – delicious.

There was also a rag and bone man (*à la Steptoe*) who would come around the streets usually ringing a hand bell to announce that he was there. The knife grinder was another street tradesman, who would sharpen knives, scissors, garden shears etc. or mend most things that needed attention.

My school was a walk away across fields full of cabbages and then through a church yard which as a child frightened me if it was dark.

My dad would take me to school on his way to work; I would have to run along behind him to keep up. A friend’s mother would bring me home. At school in those days we would have a sleep in the afternoon.

My dad worked at Heathrow Airport and sometimes my brother and I would go with him for the day. We would sit and draw and we always found that all the people working there were so friendly, in particular the Customs Officers who worked next door to dad.

If a new aeroplane was in service, we had the chance to look round it. Things were so different then!

(contd).



(Compared with today boarding arrangements were primitive.)



London (Heathrow) Airport mid 1950s

Eventually the roads were made up, shops and schools were built and after spending a year at other schools we could go to our new schools on our doorstep.

While at secondary school I went on several school trips including Switzerland and Austria, we were not a rich family but we had a good and loving childhood.

(contd).

N.B. As I edited Anne's piece, I too remembered the winkle man. In addition to winkles we had shrimps which were available in two varieties pink and brown. What the difference was we never did discover! But together with bread and butter the winkles and shrimps provided many a Sunday afternoon tea. However, I now wonder if, as children, we would have been so keen on winkles if we had known they are really snails! Finally, the eye of the winkle was in fact the foot of the snail.

IT'S CENSUS TIME AGAIN!

By Alan Rowland

By the time you read this it will be approximately eighteen months until the 1921 census will be available on line in January 2022. This will be the first new information useful to family history researchers since the appearance of the 1939 Register.

Findmypast has been selected as The National Archives' commercial partner to make the 1921 Census of England & Wales available online. Searching the 1921 Census will be free on Findmypast but viewing images or transcriptions will not.

Images of the 1921 census will be freely available online at The National Archives but the original census sheets will not be available in the reading rooms and there are no plans to produce them as microfiche.

Whilst on the subject of 'the census' in theory we should be due to submit our information in 2021.

A search via Google uncovered the following:

From the House of Commons Library (Published Friday, May 10, 2019) site:

The 2021 census will mark the first time that the census is conducted primarily online.

(contd).

The Office for National Statistics (ONS)s' target is to have 75% of census returns completed online, with the remainder completed on traditional paper forms. Most households will receive a unique code in the post which will allow them to complete their census returns online.

The ONS will put provisions in place to support households that may have difficulty accessing an online census. Households in some areas will receive a paper form to start with, and any household will be able to receive a paper form on request. The ONS also plans to provide in-person support sessions in some locations (e.g. in public libraries).

The ONS proposes asking three new questions in the 2021 census, covering:

- Veteran status: whether the respondent has ever served in the UK Armed Forces.*
- Sexual orientation: whether the respondent identifies as gay, lesbian, bisexual or heterosexual. This question will be voluntary and only asked of respondents aged 16 and over.*
- Gender identity: whether the respondent's gender is different from the sex they were registered as at birth. This question will also be voluntary and limited to respondents aged 16 and over.*

Almost all of the topics asked about in 2011 will appear again in 2021, although the way in which some questions are asked will change. The ethnicity question will include a new tick-box for people of Roma ethnicity, alongside the existing 'Gypsy or Irish Traveller' tick-box.

The ONS considered other changes to the ethnicity question, but following research and consultation decided not to recommend implementing these changes.

The decision not to include a Sikh tick-box in the ethnicity question has proved particularly controversial. There will continue to be a Sikh tick-box in the religion question, but some campaigners argue that an ethnicity tick-box is necessary to enable the Sikh community to be properly included in equality monitoring.

(contd).

The ONS has said that it will make better use of administrative data to enhance the findings of the 2021 census. The White Paper discusses the potential for census data to be linked with data the government already holds on income and property size and type.

The full text of the report can be downloaded as a PDF document from:

<https://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/CBP-8531>

It is indeed fortunate for us that we will not have to worry about how to access the 2021 results for obvious reasons. Also by the time they are released, if they ever are, some entirely new communication system will probably be in use.

UNDERSTANDING ARMY TERMS (Part 1)

By John Symons

I'm sure that anyone who has tried to decipher service or other military records will know that they use a host of abbreviations and acronyms.

This was brought home to me recently after I obtained WW2 records for family members who served in the Army and Royal Air Force. These records came from a special one-day service at last year's RootsTech show and they were without any explanations of the abbreviations used.

Fortunately, one of our members, Eve Martin, had received her father's service record from the MoD (another abbreviation!) together with a list of all the abbreviations likely to be encountered. Eve kindly sent me a copy of the list which helped to make sense of my family Army records.

The R.A.F. and the Royal Navy play by the same rules so if anyone has or knows of similar lists for these Services, we will be pleased to hear from you. Part of my working life was in areas with close links to the R.A.F. and therefore I do know a good number of their abbreviations. Through constant use in the working environment they become the norm and it can be forgotten that people outside will not understand what they mean.

We propose therefore to include in the journal a copy of the Army abbreviations list but it will have to be spread over several editions – after all it runs to seventeen A4 pages! As you will see it could have been even longer, some abbreviations can have two or more meanings (see AD)! *(contd).*

We will include the remaining sections in subsequent editions of the journal so please bear with us if the section containing abbreviations that you need to solve are in the nether regions of the alphabet be assured that eventually it will appear.

Please remember that this is the list for the army and we hope to include the equivalent lists for the R.A.F. and the Royal Navy if we receive them from our members and readers.

A	Acting
	Assistant
A.A.	Anti-Aircraft
AAC	Army Air Corps
AA COLL	Army Apprentice College
AAHC	Army Auxiliary Horse Company
AAI	Allied Army Italy
A.A.M.C.	Australian Army Medical Corps
AARR	Airborne Armoured Reconnaissance Reg.
AAS	Army Apprentices School
AATDC	Army Airborne Transport Development Centre
AATC	Anti-Aircraft Training Centre
A.B.	Army Book
	Airborne
ABC	Armoured Brigade Company (RASC)
ABOD	Advanced Base Ordnance Depot (India)
ABS	Army Board Secretariat
ABSD	Army Blood Supply Depot (RAMC)
AC	Army Contracts
ACC	Army Catering Corps
	Armoured Car Company (RAC)
ACEP	Army Communications Equipment Production
A.C.I.	Army Council Instruction
A.C.D.	Army Chaplain's Department
ACP	Army Composite Platoon (RASC)
A. CPL OF HORSE	Acting Corporal of Horse
A. CYC. CORPS	Army Cyclist Corps
AD	Armoured Division
	Air Despatch
	Assistant Director
ADC	Aide-de-Camp
A.D.G..M S.	Assistant Director General of Medical Services
ADMS	Assistant Director Medical Services
ADS	Army Dental Services
ADST	Assistant Director Supply and Transport
ADT	Armoured Division Troops.
AE	Army Equipment
AEC	Army Education Corps Army Educational Company

AEDN	Army Education
AER	Army Emergency Reserve
A.F.	Army Form
AFD	Airborne Forces Depot
AFPD	Army Forms and Publications Depot
AFS	Air Formation Signals
AFV	Armoured Fighting Vehicle
AFW	Army Field Workshops
AG	Adjutant General
A.G.B	Adjutant General's base
AGDU	Army Dog Guard Unit
AGR	Army General Reserve
A.G.R.A.	Army Group Royal Artillery
A. GYM. ST.	Army Gymnastic Staff
AH	Army Health
A.H.C.	Army Hospital Corps
AIG	Assistant Instructor in Gunnery
AIO	Army Intelligence Officer
AIRLINE COY.	Airline Company (RE Unit specialising in overhead cables)
AKC	Army Kinema Corporation Air Landing
A L/CPL.	Acting Lance Corporal
ALFN	Allied Landing Forces Norway
ALS	Army Legal Services
AMC	Army Medical Corps Airdrome Maintenance Company (RE)
AM COL	Ammunition Column
AMCU	Anti Malarial Control Unit
A. MULE DEPOT	Army Mule Depot
A.P.C.	Army Pay Corps
A.P.D.	Army Pay Department Army Medical Corps
A.M.P.C.	Auxiliary Military Pioneer Corps
A.M.O.	Administrative Medical Officer
AMS	Army Medical Services
ANS	Army Nursing Services
A.O.C.	Army Ordnance Corps
A.O.D.	Army Ordnance Corps Advanced Ordnance Depot
AORE	Army Operational Research Establishment
AOSR	Army Operational Science and Research
A.P.C.	Army Pay Corps
A.P.S.S.	Army Printing and Stationary Services
A.P.T.C.	Army Physical Training Corps
AR	Army Recruiting
ARMD	Armoured
ARTY	Artillery
A.S.C.	Army Service Corps Army Selection Centre
ASCB	Army Sport Control Board

ASD	Army Staff Duties
A. SGT.	Acting Sergeant Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders
AS OF FH	Army School of Field Hygiene
A SURG	Army Surgeon
AT	Army Training
ATC	Armoured Training Centre
	Army Troops Company
A.T. COY.	Army Troops Company (RE)
A/Tk	Anti Tank
ATS	Auxiliary Territorial Service
A.V.C.	Army Veterinary Corps
AVRS	Army Veterinary and Remount Services
AW	Artisan Works (RE)
A.W.O.CL.I	Acting Warrant Officer Class I
AWOL	Absent Without Leave
AWRE	Atomic Weapons Research Establishment
AYR, SEO	Ayrshire Yeomanry

RESEARCHING THE WELSH

By Alan Rowland

One of the reasons that it is difficult to trace Irish family history is the relatively small surname pool. Another is that many records have been lost or destroyed.

This however pales into insignificance when we look for Welsh families! It is a fact that around 55% of the Welsh population carry one of the top ten occurring surnames as the following table shows:

Rank	Surname	%
1	Jones	13.84
2	Williams	8.91
3	Davies	7.09
4	Thomas	5.70
5	Evans	5.46
6	Roberts	3.69
7	Hughes	2.98
8	Lewis	2.97
9	Morgan	2.63
10	Griffiths	2.58
	Total	55.85

Which of course means that roughly 1 in 2 will carry one of the names listed above. The comparable figure for England is roughly 1 in 20 will carry the one of the top ten most occurring names in England or 5.15%.

This gives a clue as to why, once you get beyond grand or great grandparents, it becomes extremely difficult to be sure that you have found the correct family.

Welsh names originate from the ancient patronymic system whereby a son would be given a first name his second name would be the same as his father's first name e.g. a boy named Madog would be known as Madog *ap* Owain (Madog son of Owain where *ap* is the equivalent of son) where Owain is the father's given name and so on back through the generations.

However, this naming system did not continue much beyond c1539 when the wealthier families of North Wales adopted fixed surnames based on their estates.

In practice few ordinary people were affected but gradually fixed surnames filtered down through society from the mid-sixteenth century onwards however in areas distant from the English border and influence the patronymic system continued in use.

Gradually the use of the *ap* system decayed through the 16th and 17th centuries and surnames began to be adopted for example David *ap* William became David William. Eventually these surnames would settle in a family and be passed on much in the English fashion.

In several areas of Wales during the 18th century many of these names had an 's' added to them much as occurred in England when surnames were forming. In the example above David William would have become David Williams.

Fixed surnames had been adopted by the Welsh during the early 19th century with the appearance of the standardised printed registers for burials and baptisms. By 1937 births, marriages and deaths had to be registered which effectively enforced fixed surname use.

It may well be fortunate that few of us will get back to the time when only the patronymic system was in use but that is small comfort when faced with long lists of names like Jones, Evans, Williams, Davies, Thomas etc. on censuses, BMD records and parish records.

(contd).

We can only try to ensure that when we have settled on an individual, we have the documents to prove that he or she is ‘one of ours’.

Source:

‘The Surnames of Wales’ by John & Sheila Rowlands, published by the Federation of Family History Societies (Publications) Ltd.

THE NEW £20 BANK NOTE

By John Bridger

February 2020 saw the issue of the new £20 polyester bank note with the image of the artist, J.M.W. Turner 1775–1851, together with one of his best loved works *The Fighting Temeraire*.



What has this to do with family history?

(contd).

‘Not a lot!’ as they say, but in this particular case it triggered the memory of a story handed down through the DOUGLAS side of my family which concerns my great grandmother Lucy Ann DOUGLAS and her great grandfather Rev. James DOUGLAS (1753–1819). The story has little detail, having been handed down through the generations perhaps that is not too surprising.

Rev. James’ calling was in London at the time that Turner was a young lad. Turner’s father, William, owned and ran a barber/wig shop in Malden Lane, Covent Garden, which was regularly visited by the Rev. James. There he observed Turner sketching the customers and activities in the shop. In 1786 because his mother was unwell, Turner was sent to an uncle who lived in Margate.

After Rev. James’ marriage in 1780 to Margaret OLDERSHAW he moved to Rochester, Kent and whilst there he invited Turner to stay. The story continues that during this time the Rev. introduced young Turner to the medium of oil and canvas and as a result it was for the Rev. that Turner painted his first oil painting of Rochester Castle. I have been unable to find a photograph of this painting; it seems it is in private ownership and not in the Tate Gallery national collection.

Like so many handed down family stories detail is always scant and sometimes has to be taken with a pinch of salt but this tale seems to have some credibility because a respected researcher has recorded it as part of his research into the DOUGLAS family. Either way it is a nice little tale to know and pass on.

N.B. When John sent in this story, he had doubts as to its veracity so we decided to look into it further.

We found that James was not ordained until 1783 and his presence in London could not be proved. If he did not reside in London his visits to Turner the barber are doubtful but they could have occurred when he attended meetings of The Society of Antiquaries of which he was made Fellow in 1780.

Apart from this, other aspects examined seem to support the essence of the article which may not be so fanciful after all! Finally, we hope this little tale will encourage you to submit your own ‘family story’ for inclusion in the journal.

DO YOU HAVE A STORY TO TELL?

By Alan Rowland

Following the £20 note story from John Bridger, I thought it might be of interest to consider the whole question of ‘family stories’ in general.

When we start out on the research path the advice that is universally given is ‘check all the facts’ i.e. go to original documents whenever possible and ‘talk to the older generations within the family’. The latter can be the source of cherished tales or stories remembered as being ‘told to me by my parents or grandparents’ and it is often presented as true.

This is all very well and it does help us to avoid false trails and fill in gaps in our research but in the case of family legends, stories and tales but a note of caution should be sounded. Nowadays it is possible to access a vast information store on the internet which can be used to carry out some investigation into a story’s credibility.

When and how did the story start?

Because we cannot always know who first told it and exactly what it said we only have our own ‘hearing’ to investigate. It might of course be devoid of detail, names, places and action in which case research will be extremely difficult. Also having passed through several generations and remembering that it would be passed on verbally, any grain of truth at the start will have been added to, altered and addition details fabricated – a little like Chinese whispers!

Assuming it began life some time ago, we should bear in mind the following:

- the first generation to be told the story would be very unlikely to question their elders as to the facts and their veracity,
- at that and subsequent times of retelling what means would have been available for the listeners to check facts?

This process would apply at each re-telling to each of the following generations until it became established as ‘true’. In the case of John’s £20 note tale Turner and The Rev. James Douglas are both well documented with biographies viewable on the internet. That sort of fact checking would probably not be possible in the majority of your own stories but let us see them anyway. Perhaps we should do as many newspapers do, never let the facts interfere with a good story!

FORCES WAR RECORDS

By John Symons

Recent publicity drew our attention to this site. Did it offer something new? Was it a valuable addition to the longer established major commercial sites? I've been investigating and while not professing to understand all that the site has to offer, I hope to offer a few pointers that may be of assistance.

Unlike most of the other sites it does not in general provide original source documents. There are some unique original records but you will be lucky to find one of relevance. Instead it provides transcripts of documents most of which will be found elsewhere but it does also accurately claim to offer a large number of unique documents. Based on this I have been looking at family members who served in the Forces to see whether it showed up records previously found and whether it provided any new records.

I did not test a large enough sample that would stand scientific scrutiny but for what it's worth these were the general outcomes.

First of all, you need to create an account and once this is done you may choose to subscribe. With the discount currently available the cost is £29.37 for the year. Site: <https://www.forces-war-records.co.uk/>

Looking at the benefits first; by entering the name of a relative a list of results is displayed. These originate from a wide variety of historical sources so these may well provide a more comprehensive collection of records than you might find from any other individual source. Mostly though, as noted above, most of the references are index entries or transcriptions. As with all research, it is easier to identify people who have unusual names, so for example, it was much easier to identify individuals with the surname GYNGELL than it was for the name HILL.

When you have reviewed the list of results you should then save any that are relevant so they are added to your account.

The records are frequently updated as well and when new records are added that are similar to previously saved searches, you will receive automatic notifications. *(contd).*

It is possible that relevant records will become available later which were not present when you first looked. This clearly is a useful feature but I've yet to find anything new and relevant that wasn't there the first time I searched.

So, the question is whether or not it is worth the subscription?

Well it does potentially provide a varied range of records as a result of a single search. This is clearly a useful feature and if you have a subscription it is an obvious place to start looking for military ancestors. On the other hand, it does seem that the majority of military records are available either through the major commercial sites or indeed at The National Archives where records are often available for download at a small fee so you could argue this is all you need. The choice is yours.

HERBERT ALDRIDGE – CONTINUED

By John Symons

In the March edition I wrote about the chance discovery of my grandfather's inclusion in a war memorial in Hitcham, Buckinghamshire and how one of the researchers for 'Buckinghamshire Remembered' had requested that the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) include his details in their records. He had not been included because he died after he was medically discharged

The rules have now changed to include all those who died as a consequence of the war even if not active at the time of death. Each case is reviewed individually by the CWGC and I have recently heard that although a formal decision has yet to be made, they have found the location where Herbert is buried with his widow (my grandmother) Clara. It is at All Saints, Maidenhead, Berkshire in a plot paid for by Herbert's brother, Arthur. I know that Arthur was quite wealthy from running a successful auction business in Maidenhead.

I have also discovered that brief biographical details about Herbert's life were included in the journal of the Hitcham and Taplow Society Autumn 2018 Newsletter as part of a feature marking 50 years since the end of the war. This chance discovery continues to provide more and more information. It is like the gift that keeps giving. Now I plan to visit these locations when I can and take my own photographs, so expect more in future issues.

GEORGE HORTON WOOD 1911- 1990

By April Wood Ashton

George Horton Wood was born on 23rd May 1911 at 135 Townsend Road Norwood-Southall. He was the 5th son born to Emily (née CRUTTENDEN) and Thomas WOOD a carpenter. He was named George after his grandfather and his middle name was the maiden name of his paternal grandmother.

Both his parents were born in Kent, where the family can be traced back to the 1600s but his father, Thomas, showed great promise as a young boy and in due course work brought him to London.

After living in rented accommodation for some years in Kensington Thomas and his new bride moved their growing family out to the country town of Norwood-Southall - as it was then - around 1907. About a year later Tom WOOD purchased the family home in a tree lined street on the edge of town, where they all lived until 1947.

George was only 7 years old when in May 1918 his father tragically died at the early age of 48, just a few days after his young son's birthday. George's eldest brother had enlisted into WW1 in 1915 and was still away from home at this sad time but he somehow miraculously survived the carnage of Gallipoli to reappear on the electoral rolls a year later.

The war ended. Emily's eldest son, George's brother, returned unscathed from war and was able to take over some of the work generated by their father just a few years earlier.

While his older brothers re-built the family business, George was able to remain at school until he was 16 years of age. Emily supplemented the family income by taking a lodger.

These were tough times for many families in England but fortunately for the widowed Emily and her family of boys, the hardworking Tom had paid off the mortgage on the family home shortly before his untimely death.

(contd).

Great Western Railway.

Engineers Office.

Readington.

London. W. 16th April 1932.

Certificate of Apprenticeship.

I hereby certify that G. H. Wood,
has been employed as an Apprentice in this Department,
as follows:-

Name in full George Horton Wood.

Date of Birth 25th May, 1911.

Period of Apprenticeship Five years

From 18th April 1927 to 16th April 1932.

Trade Carpentry.

Works at which employed West Ealing Depot.

R. A. Kirshpetrich, Divisional Engineer.

R. Caspary Chief Engineer.

Like his father and brothers before him, an apprenticeship of 5 years was arranged for George. He was employed by the Great Western Railway to train as a carpenter from 1927- 1932. Fortunately, his certificate proudly retained in its original protective cover survived until his death.

(contd).

Despite the world wide depression of the 1930s George's apprenticeship equipped him to take on employment of varying interests which included work on the construction of The Southall Film Studios.

In a scouting capacity he also visited the Graf Zeppelin at Hanworth Aerodrome in 1932; flights around Britain were being offered at £40 per head - a phenomenal amount of money at that time. This airship had a perfect safety record but nonetheless was withdrawn from service in May 1937.



(contd).



Leading up to the outbreak of war in 1939 George was registered as being involved in early aircraft construction.

It seems that this work exempted him from being conscripted because amongst his effects we also found a photograph that shows he was employed as a firefighter during this time.

Throughout these years George lived at home with his ageing mother. In 1935 the recently constructed Southall Hospital, which was built with funds raised by the local community, was opened by The Lord Mayor of London.

It was here that in 1947 George's mother, Emily, spent her final days.

George then married his long-term sweetheart and in 1948 they decided to put the long dark days of Britain behind them and emigrated to South Africa.

Opportunities were good for a hardworking young man and here in warmer climes George and his wife enjoyed the rest of their lives. For many years he was an uncle who visited us infrequently in our family home in Hillingdon but in his senior years, as a widower, he visited family in England on a regular basis. We spent many happy hours together and after his death I was able to acquire most of his interesting personal possessions.

These clearly demonstrate how so many aspects of our lives have changed during the last hundred years.

A TALK – THE FUTURE OF FAMILY HISTORY

By Charles Hampshire

Our talk on 28th January 2020 was given by Dr. Nick Barrett. He began with the past rather than the future when he reminded us that family history perhaps started in the sixteenth century when rich people wanted to establish pedigrees. The King would authorise people to check heraldic claims in visitations to determine the right to have a coat of arms; thus, family history was born primarily as a way of establishing status.

Later the Manor was a building block of feudal society and the system of tenure, copyhold and rent necessitated record keeping. By Victorian times academic interest was strong and led to an 1899 project to record the history of each county, the Victorian County History project.

Datasets were created by governments and other institutions as society became more organised and planned. Among them births, deaths and marriage records, census, admissions records, membership records and emigration records. These in time became useful as genealogical records, and many have been digitised thus opening them up to a wider audience.

As the internet and computing developed lots of records became digitised and we saw the commercialisation of data as it became a sellable commodity. Genealogical records became available on CDs then online and a new interest in family history emerged, partly because of the media and television but also particularly as it became easier than ever to research. In 2004 a television programme ‘Who Do You Think You Are’ was first broadcast which further increased interest in family history within the wider community.

DNA testing and the ability to share and compare data has created another new aspect within genealogy, the identity of people related by DNA. This not only creates new opportunities but also challenges.

Recent developments have implications for the future of family history. Archives are under threat when fewer people visit them as more records become available online.

(contd).

Many records are being transcribed but these may contain errors or omissions which means that the records may be not found through searches. Others, like the censuses of 1931 (through destruction) and 1941 (not taken) will never be available. All these things potentially shape the future of family history.

Yet all of us are also making history here and now. There is much digital story telling via Peoples' Facebook posts and blogs. We need to think what we want our own family history records to leave as our legacy.

Much collaboration and academic research is going on. The U3A working with academia is one example of this.

Dr Barratt gave three examples of innovative projects where family history is being used in new ways often with cross generational learning.

- In Stirling Prison women soon to be due for parole were looking at ancestors and seeing how they made something of their lives. This gives them hope and inspiration to turn their own lives around. The projects participants reoffended less than average. It is an example of applied family history - using family history to improve present lives.
- In NW Kent the 'Touching the Past' project helped disabled people find identities using family history that they can take from and create an identity for themselves rather than be defined by people's perceptions of them.
- On the Isle of Wight, the Ryde Social Heritage Group were concerned at vandalism in a local cemetery. They created a transcription project and created a website that people engaged with. They got schools involved in learning through the cemetery records and vandalism went down to virtually nil. The project developed further into the restoration of old chapels and other buildings and led to ancestral tourism benefiting the whole community.

Applied family history and engagement with the community and helping to inspire young people are examples of ways in which the future of family history can be secured and expanded.

(contd).

Often this leads to local archives becoming a hub and allowing people to access the non-digitized and non-indexed records which form the majority of historic records and which will never be digitised. Archive use can again grow in new and innovative ways.

Finally, Dr Barratt spoke of the role that family history plays in well-being.

- Homecoming events can be an important part of ancestral tourism and generate work and money for communities. People like to visit places that have links with their past.
- Interest in family history can create new local groups where people meet together with proven benefits for personal health and longevity.
- Family history projects can also help people with dementia by generating memories and linkages through say old photographs. Boots, the chemists, have also recreated old scents which might spark memories in those with dementia.

These illustrate the changing face and uses of family history taking it from core research into other areas of life. We can each shape the future of family history by using our expertise in data cleansing (correcting transcription errors etc), helping young people to be inspired from their family history and improving happiness by the creative use of family history. In such ways its future is secure.

There are several of Dr Nick Barratt's talks available on You Tube including one on the future of family history which will add much to this short article.

Ryde Social Heritage Group - <https://rshg.org.uk/>

AN INTERESTING ENTRY

By Alan Rowland

The London Metropolitan Archives, a data set which is available on Ancestry, provide all manner of parish record. These include baptisms, marriages, burials as well as many others which can help to fill in research blanks.

On a recent research of the baptism records I easily found the entry of the individual I sought. On a whim I cast my eyes over the other names covered on the two page display and found the entry below:

BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of <u>St Nicholas Shepperton</u> in the County of <u>Middlesex</u> in the Year 18 <u>20</u>						
When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Parents Name.		Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
		Christian.	Surname.			
1820. Nov ^r 26 No. 177.	James son of	Thomas of Sarah	Thatcher born Oct ^r 20. 1820	Shepperton	Labourer	W ^m Russell
Dec ^r 17 No. 178.	Frances daughter of	Thomas of Sarah	Darby born Dec ^r 20. 1820	Shepperton	Labourer	W ^m Russell Rector
Dec ^r 29 th No. 179.	Augustus Hamilton son of	Hector of Susannah Elizabeth	Harvest who were married on the 18 th day of November in the year 1819 in the Parish Church of Charlotte Town - Prince Edward's Island North America, by the Rev ^d Frederick Desborough - Rector of the said Church	Shepperton	Gent.	W ^m Russell Rector

The interesting entry is that for December 29th 1820 which reads:

'Augustus Hamilton son of Hector & Susannah Elizabeth Harvest and the father is described as a 'Gent'. Who were married on the 18th day of November in the year 1819 in the Parish Church of Charlotte Town, Prince Edward's Island North America...'

There can't have been many Gents around the Shepperton area of Middlesex in 1820. I wonder what their extended story was?

A TALK — GCHQ EASTCOTE DURING WORLD WAR 2

By John Symons

The talk on Thursday 20th February 2020 by Ronald Koorm was, in retrospect, the last meeting before we had to suspend our programme as a result of the Corona virus outbreak.

Ron took as his subject the role that the outstation at Eastcote played in supporting the work of the Government Code and Cipher School based at Bletchley Park during the Second World War.

Ron has studied the subject in depth and has written a book 'Backing Bletchley – The Codebreaking Operations from Eastcote to GCHQ'.

The story of Bletchley Park itself is now well known and many books have tell of the important work that took place there during the war.



Bletchley Park, The Main House. (Study International.com)

What is less well known is the range of listening stations that fed radio transmissions to Bletchley Park for analysis.

(contd).

In addition, a group of outstations were set up to provide continuity should Bletchley itself become a target for enemy action and although this never happened a range of their operations were dispersed to these outstations.

One of these was set up in the grounds of Highgrove House at Eastcote which was known either as 'OSE' or 'HMS Pembroke V'. Others were at Wavendon, Gayhurst, Adstock and Stanmore but the Eastcote outstation was the largest.



1945 Aerial view of the M.O.D. Eastcote outstation.

In order to understand the coded messages sent by the German military it was necessary to obtain an example of their encryption device which was known as Enigma.

This machine used a series of rotors to convert plain text into a coded sequence. At the receiving end another machine using the same rotor settings was able to decode the messages back to plain text.

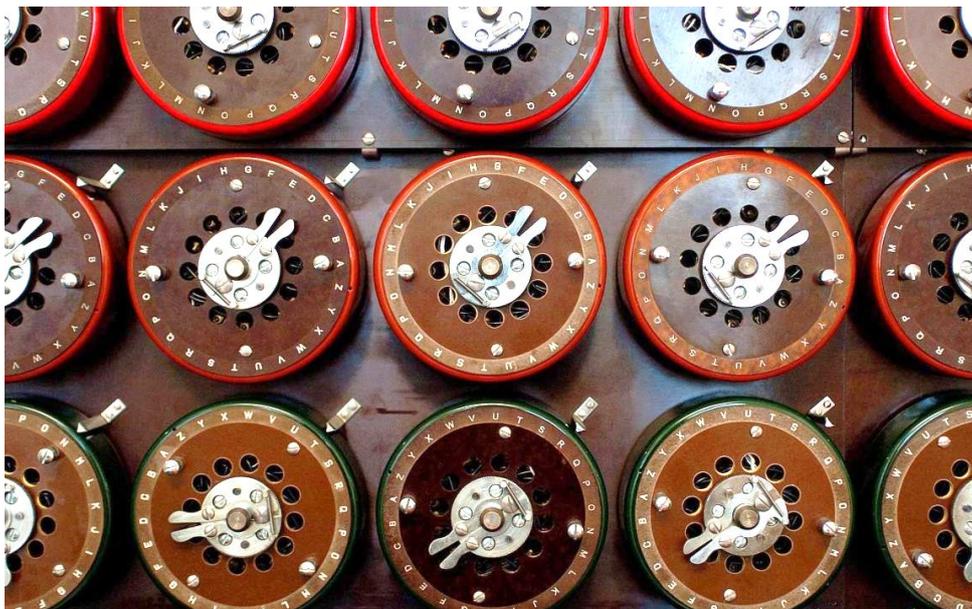
It was fortunate that the Polish government had already broken the code and they passed it to both their British and French allies in 1939.

(contd).



The interior of an Enigma machine with the cogs.

The huge number of possible permutations needed to break the Enigma codes meant that the large numbers employed made slow progress. Electro-mechanical machines known as ‘bombes’ were developed by Alan Turing at Bletchley Park. We show a small section of the usual huge array of ‘bombes’.



(contd.)

Again, these originated from devices used by the Polish Cipher Bureau but were further enhanced by the British Tabulating Machine company in Letchworth, Hertfordshire.

The bombe was designed to discover some of the daily settings of the Enigma machines used by the various German military. In particular; which rotors were in use and their positions in the machine; the rotor core start positions for the message, the message key and one of the wirings of the plugboard contained in the Enigma machines. By the end of the war some 103 of these bombe machines were located at Eastcote, 76 at Stanmore but just 3 at Bletchley Park.

At all the sites including Eastcote many of the duties were undertaken by women serving in the Women's Royal Navy Service (usually known as WRENs).

They were engaged in operating the bombe machines, as dispatch riders on motor cycles taking messages between sites and on decryption work.

If I might add a personal note here, my stepmother was a WREN; a fact I was not aware of until after she died. When I phoned around her friends to pass on the sad news one of them revealed that she was a colleague during the war and she told me on what they had been engaged. In retrospect it should not have surprised me as she was addicted to crossword puzzles. By the end of the war some 800 WRENs were employed at Eastcote alone.

Another task that the Government Code and Cipher School was engaged in was the decryption of the Lorenz cipher which the German High Command used to promulgate strategic messages.

To assist with this Tommy Flowers, a GPO research engineer developed what is thought to be the first programmable computer known as Colossus. This was located at Dollis Hill near Wembley and a reconstruction may be seen at Bletchley Park.

All these activities were reckoned to have shortened the war to a significant degree. At the end of the war though the government took measures to remove all trace of the activities at Bletchley Park.

(contd.)

Eastcote became a GCHQ site before moving to Cheltenham. Other government departments, as well as the US Army & Navy, occupied the site to the end of the 20th century when the site was sold for housing and is now known as the Pembroke Park Estate.

Ron's illustrated talk showed what an important role Eastcote played in the code breaking operations during the war, a role that up to now has not been fully appreciated. For this we thank him.

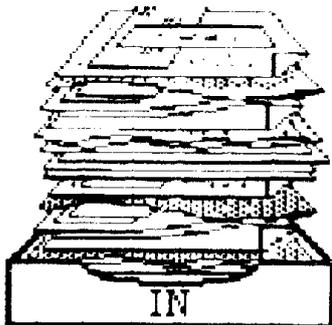
Information can be found about the Bletchley Park Trust at:

bletchleypark.org.uk

and the National Museum of Computing at: <https://www.tnmoc.org/>

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Pat Reynolds



We were all looking forward to the Spring, hoping it would be warmer and dryer than the Winter and therefore allowing us to get out and about. Then like so many plans everything changes and we find ourselves in 'lockdown' and unable to do anything different!

Many members have 'phoned me to say they have started sorting through all their old paperwork and returned once again to their research. Many have been lucky in finding ancestors they did not know existed. So, some good has come from the 'lockdown' but most can't wait for it to end.

Although I am in touch with many members it will still be good to meet up with you all again soon.

Enjoy the Summer.

(contd.)

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

A21 Mrs. April Wood Ashton
23 Nutchers Drove, Kings Somborne, Stockbridge, Hants. SO 20 6PA

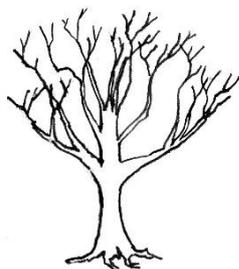
CHANGE OF EMAIL ADDRESS

M89 Mrs. Ann Murphy
Email: murphydenis1942@gmail.com

RESIGNATIONS FROM THE SOCIETY

R54 Mr. John Rosser
W87 Miss June Ward
W42 Ann Wakeman

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.

DEADLINE DATES FOR THE JOURNAL

Given that the coronavirus situation is unresolved (at time of going to press) we hope that it will be possible to produce the next two editions of the journal, please help by submitting your stories, research tips and pictures.

JOURNAL	DEADLINE
SEPTEMBER	31 st JULY
DECEMBER	23 rd OCTOBER

SURREY FAMILY HISTORY FAIR



Surrey F.H.S. will hold their fair on 7th November 2020 at the Woking Leisure Centre, Kingfield Road, Woking, Surrey GU22 9BA, 10.00 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.

There will be a good mix of family history societies, commercial companies and local history groups.

Our research area and specialist help desks will also be available and we are planning several free talks to be held throughout the day. Admission to the public is free and there is a cafeteria on site.

There is plenty of on-site parking, but Woking Borough Council charges do apply. Discounted daily permits are available from WSFHS for stallholders (currently £2 each).

If you have any questions, please contact me, Alison Durkin, WSFHS Fair Committee at this address or email: WSFHS, c/o Alison Durkin, 8 Lockswood, Brookwood, Woking, Surrey GU24 0HL.

Email: wsfhsbookings@gmail.com

N.B.

We have included the above in the hope that by November the covid 19 situation will have allowed a return to normal life.

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HILLINGDON FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

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Please add postage and packaging as follows:

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The publications can be obtained from the Publications Officer:

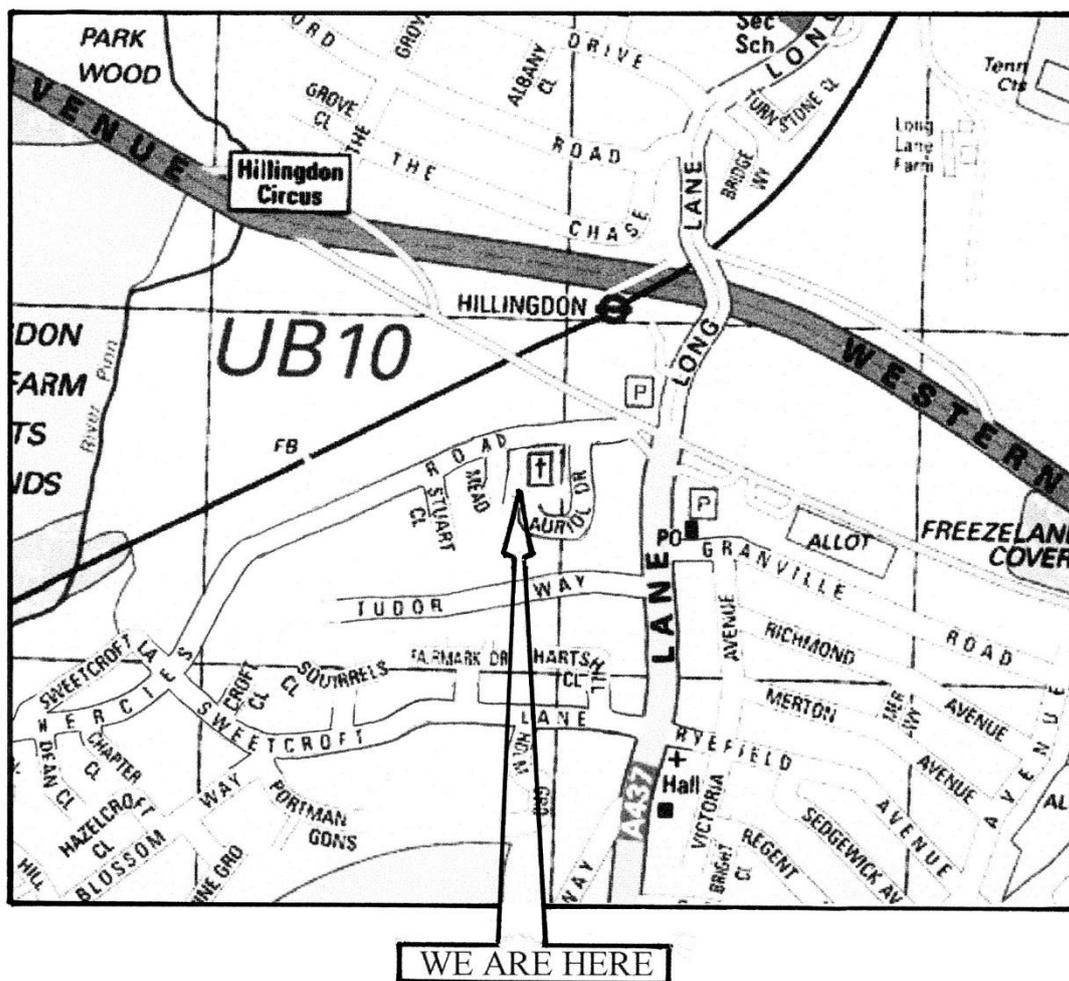
Mrs. Gill May, 20 Moreland Drive, Gerrards Cross, Bucks SL9 8BB

Telephone: **01753 885602**

Email: **gillmay20@btinternet.com**

or alternatively visit these on–line bookshops:

www.parishchest.com and **www.genfair.com**



(The geographical centre of Hillingdon)

Hillingdon Park Baptist Church, 25 Hercies Road, Hillingdon
 (car park at rear of church 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.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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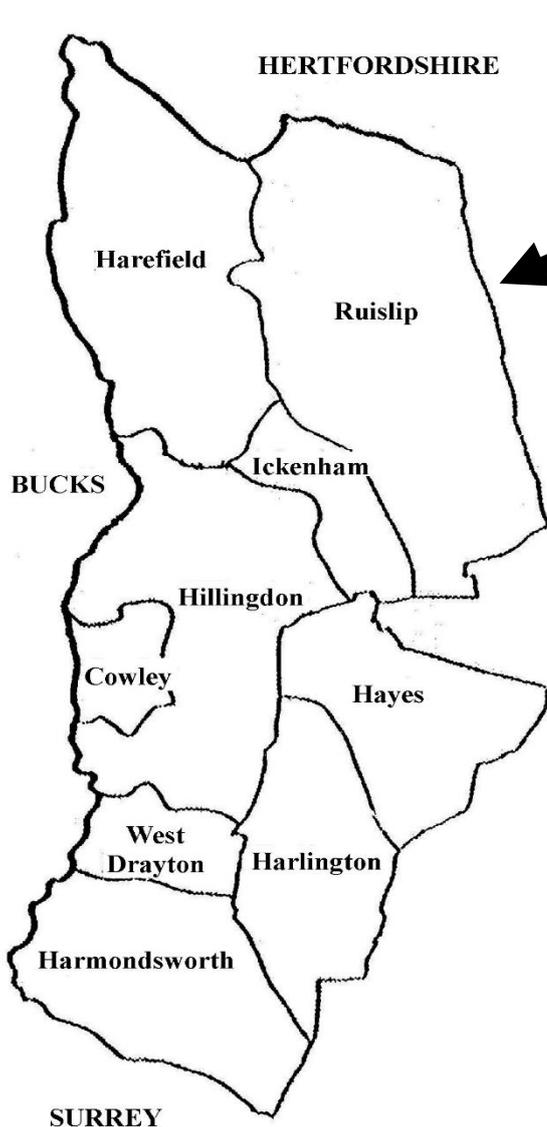
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GREATER LONDON



Hillingdon embraces a mixture of Greater London suburbs, ancient and modern, large and small, each with its own distinctive identity, and includes, in the South of the Borough, Heathrow Airport.

When it was formed the London Borough of Hillingdon incorporated the following nine Ancient parishes of Middlesex:

Cowley, Harefield, Harlington, Harmondsworth, Hayes, Hillingdon, Ickenham, Ruislip and West Drayton.

Most of the parish registers for the original Anglican parishes and some more recently created are deposited at the London Metropolitan Archives and are available for viewing online on Ancestry. Many of the monumental inscriptions in the churchyards have been transcribed and may be searched on FindMyPast under the 'Middlesex Monumental Inscriptions' dataset.

**IF UNDELIVERED PLEASE RETURN TO:
Patricia Reynolds, 20 Lilac Place, Yiewsley, West Drayton, Middlesex. UB7 8LR
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