



WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY JOURNAL

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WEST MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Joint Presidents: Rob and Bridget Purr

Executive Committee

Chairman	Ann Greene 39 Broughton Avenue, Richmond, Surrey TW10 7UG chairman@west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk
Secretary	Roland Bostock Flat 8, 167 Park Road, Teddington, Middlesex, TW11 0BP secretary@west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk
Treasurer	Muriel Sprott treasurer@west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk
Membership Secretary	Patricia Candler 57 The Vale, Feltham, Middlesex, TW14 0JZ membership@west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk
Programme Co-ordinator	Hilary Strudwick programme@west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk
Society Archivist Editor	Yvonne Masson Ann Greene 39 Broughton Avenue, Richmond, Surrey TW10 7UG editor@west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk
Webmaster	Roland Bostock webmaster@west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk
Bookstall Manager	Margaret Cunnew 25 Selkirk Road, Twickenham, Middlesex, TW2 6PS bookstall@west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk
Committee Members	Brian Page, Cheryl Ford
Post Holders not on the Committee	
Examiner	David Burton
Society website	west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk
Subscriptions	All categories: £15 per annum
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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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All articles and other items for the Journal should be sent to:

Mrs Ann Greene
39 Broughton Avenue
Richmond
Surrey TW10 7UG

Exchange journals from other societies should be sent to:

Mrs. Margaret Cunnew
25 Selkirk Road
Twickenham
Middlesex, TW2 6PS

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

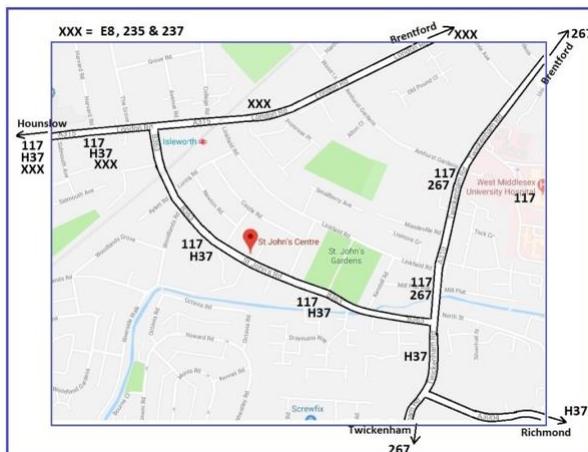


The following talks have been arranged:

March	Annual General meeting	
	I wish I had asked more questions	John Collis
April	Researching the First World War dead at West Norwood Cemetery	John Clarke
May	What did they do? Records relating to trades, professions and occupations	Amelia Bennett
June	Our Newspaper Heritage	Meryl Catty

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.

Exchange journals from other societies and a bookstall – all can be browsed between 7.30 and 10pm (talks take place between 8pm and 9pm). Refreshments are also available.



Want a Lift?



Do you find getting to meetings a bit of a challenge?

We may be able to help!

Below are details of those who have volunteered to offer lifts to other members. Please ring or email them if you would like a lift.

If you are able to offer a lift to someone living in your area, contact our Webmaster, Roland BOSTOCK (contact details below) giving your name, contact details and areas you could pick up from.

This list is also on our website under “Meetings” and hopefully more names will be added as time goes on.

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 - and Corrections!

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.

Articles 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:

15th January, 15th April, 15th July and 15th 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.

Editor's Note

John Seaman has asked me to add the references for George Rowland mentioned in the December piece "Sunbury Snippets". The events referred to were ADM137/2963 (National Archives, Kew) and T. A Bushell "A Centenary History of the Royal Mail Line"

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.

Please note: Booking is essential

Email the Advice Session Co-ordinator: advice@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 from 10am to 1pm.

21st March 2020

18th April 2020

16th May 2020

20th June 2020

18th July 2020

15th August 2020

19th September 2020

17th October 2020

21st November 2020

19th December 2020

NB: Please check the Society website for up-to-date information:

<http://www.west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk/content/advice.aspx>

Annual General Meeting



**The Annual General Meeting of the
West Middlesex Family History Society
will be held on Thursday, 19th March 2020,
at St John's Centre, St John's Road, Isleworth**

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 21st March, 2019
4. Matters arising
5. Chairman's Report
6. Treasurer's Report
7. Receiving of Financial Statement for the year ended 31st December, 2019
8. Appointment of Examiners
9. Election of Committee
10. Amendments to the Constitution
11. Any other business

Election of Committee

Roland Bostock, Patricia Candler, Ann Greene and Yvonne Masson having served three or more years on the Committee, offer themselves for re-election.

Margaret Cunnew, Cheryl Ford, Brian Page, John Seaman, Muriel Sprott and Hilary Strudwick, having served less than three years on the Committee and being willing to continue, do not need to be re-elected.

One Street Studies. Gill Thomas***November***

Gill is a professional genealogist and a member of AGRA.

A one- street study is not standard genealogy but it uses a lot of the same strategies. House history, DNA, heraldry, one-name studies and one-street/one-place studies all link strongly to genealogy.

So where, or how, do you start? You start by looking at one place or one street and think about how useful it might be in helping your genealogical research. Having done that, you think about what resources are needed for the research. And then you ask – who will actually do this research and how will it be funded!

To give your study more focus and additional colour, you may want to link the place to a historical event (e.g. a small village affected by the loss of soldiers in WW1), or to a local ancestor and what life was like in the street/parish during his time. Whatever focus you choose, you need to be flexible about extending the scope of the project.

What genealogical resources can you use to help you? They are numerous! The census, the 1939 Register and Electoral Rolls match residents to houses and can help create a shape for the street.

Parish registers, monumental inscriptions, parish magazines , probate records, war memorials, hospital and workhouse records, published histories, newspapers and school admissions can all be used to find information on individuals and families. Rate Books and house deeds can indicate when houses were built, who owned the house and who the occupants were. Maps are always useful: Enclosure awards, tithe maps, Ordnance Survey maps. The 1939 A-Z of London is especially valuable as it lists streets that were destroyed by the Blitz or by post-war planning. A useful online source is Bombsight (www.bombsight.org) which shows where WW2 bombs fell. Images of your chosen place can be found on Google, Ebay, Francis Frith and in local archives.

Gill then took us through her own case study of Weston Road, Acton Green. It first appears in the census in 1911, but existed earlier. In 1903 the Acton Gazette mentioned it in an invitation to tender for sewers and roads. In 1905 an invitation to tender was put out for making up a private road. In 1907, Ealing adopted the street officially. In 1910, there were only ten uninhabited houses, so it had a high occupancy level. The Rate Books show us that the majority of the houses were rented (only three were owner-occupied) which tells us about the income levels and social class of families. There were 53 dwellings and 105 householders. The actual population of the street was 125 men, 136 women and 171 children under the age of 14. So the street's population was young. Of the adults, fewer than seven per cent were born in Acton, so there was a high rate of migration into the area. The occupations they followed were retail, laundry work, railways, manufacturing, police and civil service.

Finishing her talk, Gill stressed the importance of planning the outcome of your one place study.

Who will be the guardian of your research?

If you are intending to make it available to a wider audience, who will be the gatekeeper? Will it be shared freely or paid-for access?

What format will it take? Printed book, website or blog?

How will you publicise it? Local talks, family history journals, local magazines?

The choice is yours!

Christmas

Our Christmas meeting began with a film-show. We were entertained by images of the 1947 Heston Carnival, complete with floats, bands, and the Carnival Queen competition which was won by a young lady named Valerie. The varied entertainments included a model train, Punch and Judy, and a judo display. Why the film also included pictures of a racing pigeon loft was unclear! The next offering showed the VE (Victory in Europe) celebrations at Lampton Park, a street party, tug of war, and chaotic musical chairs. The formal service of thanksgiving was held later. The final film was the 1953 Coronation celebrations in Hounslow with a wonderful view of the High Street. All the films were home movies, collected and transferred to CD

by the London Metropolitan Archives. Many thanks to Hounslow Local Studies who lent us the three CDs .

The meeting then changed direction with a request to write festive Limericks (see below!) and a challenging local quiz set by Margaret who included a helpful acrostic hidden in plain sight.

The brainwork was rewarded by the excellent refreshments provided by Pam and Brian and we enjoyed them greatly.

As a finale, the Christmas Raffle , organised by Hilary, was drawn and we were all ready for Christmas!

The spirit of Christmas is gin -
When did that begin?
It's fine to have one or two,
But if you have more than a few
Your spirit becomes sour and maudlin

There once was a turkey called Fred
Who had an ongoing dread.
The farmer came in
With a terrible grin
And soon poor Fred was dead

The Christmas tree is merry and
bright
With tinsel, baubles and lights
The cat took a leap
The tree fell in a heap
And it's now a terrible sight!

Christmas, it comes once a year
And supposedly brings good cheer
And family can make it
Or family can break it
Will it end with a laugh or a tear

There was a young lady from Ewell
Who put gin in her swimming pool
When Santa dropped in
He said with a grin
"That lady's certainly no fool"

Father Christmas is down with the flu
He is shivering, sweaty and feels blue
His sleigh is full of toys
For the girls and the boys
But the reindeer and elves got them through



Some of us think that's right, others aren't so sure



Who ordered the curry?



Santa at your service!

A Brief History of York House *Yvonne Hewett & Paul Leonard*

January

Contrary to what you may expect **York House** derives its name from **Yorke Farm**, a sizeable estate owned by the **Yorke** family and mentioned in records of 1446. The core of the present building, which includes a classic Jacobean H shape dates back to the 17th century. The H shape, which provides a frontal view to the house whether



York House viewed from the sunken lawn at the back

viewed from the front or the back, remains to this day, but has been built on extensively on both sides.

Yvonne described all the main rooms in the house, which includes the dining room with an exceptional carved ceiling, the Terrace Room, the Mayor's Parlour, the Council Chamber, the Members Room, the Salon, Clarendon Hall and the Winter Garden, which is the section with a glass roof to the right in the photograph.

As to the house's occupants, in 1661 the house was sold to **Edward Hyde, Earl of Clarendon**. Perhaps the Earl's main distinction is that he was the father of **Anne**, wife of **James II**, and the grandfather of **Queen Mary**, wife of **William III**, and also of **Queen Anne**. The house had a succession of owners, including **Count von Starhemberg**, the Austrian
West Middlesex Family History Society 11 March 2020

Ambassador, in 1796. By 1873 the house was owned by members of the French royal family living in exile. It was bought by the **Duc d'Aumale**, who lived in **Orleans House**, for his nephew the **Comte de Paris**. The French royal family returned to France after the fall of **Napoleon III** but returned again in 1897 when **Louis Philippe, Duc d'Orleans**, who had been born in the house, bought it for himself. The French influence can be seen by the use of the fleur-de-lys as decoration in many places: over doors, in the walls, on the downpipes, and in the backs of fireplaces.

Clarendon Hall was built originally as the Duc's fencing hall, and included a marble-lined swimming pool. The pool is still in place, but it is hidden from view as it lies under the stage that is part of the hall.

After the **Duc d'Orleans** the next owner of **York House** was **Sir Ratan Tata**, of the family of Indian industrialists whose businesses include Tata Steel. He was a philanthropist and art lover, and opened up the gardens to be used for many events, including large parties for local



Left: The Naked Ladies Right: Heron and his favourite Naked Lady

school children. The sunken lawn was just one of his creations. The gardens are open to the public with free access the year-round from Monday to Friday 9 am to 5 pm.

The walled gardens of **York House** extend to the **River Thames**, but the part near the river is cut off by a main road, with a small bridge

connecting the two parts of the garden. The bridge was originally of wood and iron construction; Sir **Ratan** rebuilt it in stone. In the riverside part of the garden he installed the remarkable set of statues known as the Naked Ladies.

Yvonne was able to capture a local heron posing with one of the shapely ladies, for an unusual photograph.

Sir **Ratan Tata** died in 1918, and his widow continued to live in **York House** until 1922, when she returned to **India**. There was some danger of the house being demolished to build residential houses, but in the end and due mainly to the efforts of local resident **Noel Viner-Brady**, the council was persuaded to borrow the necessary funds and acquire the house in 1923. In 1926 **Twickenham** received its charter of incorporation as a borough. In 1937 **Twickenham** was combined with **Teddington** and the **Hamptons**. Then in 1965 it became part of the borough of **Richmond upon Thames**.

At this point **Yvonne** handed over to **Paul Leonard**, the current chairman of York House Society, who gave us a few facts about the Society. The Society has about 100 members, and was formed in 1924, and hence is now making plans how to celebrate its own centenary in 2024. **Paul** also mentioned the programme of walks based on **York House** that the Society arranges.

A Notorious Ancestor - and curious nineteenth century justice.

Margaret Watson

I first became interested in family history after my parents died in the 1990s. This was a shame, inasmuch as it never occurred to me to question them about their relatives. In particular, my mother had few photographs of, and rarely spoke of, even her nearest relatives.

Back in those days, the internet was only at its beginnings so I spent a lot of time trying to find out about my family in the Family Records Centre, which was then in Islington, developing my biceps along the way, hefting those massive volumes on and off the shelves!

One family about which I had very little knowledge was the **Gray** family. **Elizabeth Gray** had married **John Fulford** on October 16th 1803 in **Downton, Wiltshire** and my maternal grandmother, **Frances Ellen Fulford**, was their great granddaughter. **Elizabeth** had a younger brother **John Gray**, who married **Mary Bryant** on July 13th 1818, also in **Downton**. They had seven children of whom the eldest was **Charles**, born in 1818.

Charles, in turn married **Louisa Moody** on May 11th 1840. When the censuses began to come on line, I found the couple in 1851 living in **Downton** with the first four of their children, **Charles, Frank, John** and **Mary Jane**. **Charles** senior was employed as the ubiquitous 'Ag Lab'. They were clearly not an affluent family. However, when I looked for the family in the 1861 census, I found **Louisa** was described as the head of the household, although married, and living with six of her children, but **Charles** wasn't present. Her eldest son, **Charles**, then 19, was an agricultural labourer and no doubt supporting the family. I searched everywhere for **Charles** senior, including checking for a possible death between 1851 and 1861 but could find none that fitted. The only possibility that I could find in the 1861 census was a **Charles Gray** of the correct age in the county gaol in **Fisherton Anger**. This was intriguing, but remained unproven.

However, I was recently contacted by a descendant of **Charles'** daughter, **Mary Jane**, who had searched the local newspapers for information about **Charles** and he was able to give me a lot more information about Charles Gray. **Mary Jane Gray** seems to have been a very unfortunate woman who was twice



Mary Jane Appleford, nee Gray with her daughter Mary Louise, son-in-law Thomas Mitchell and four grandchildren.

Photo included courtesy of Klifton Snow

married and twice widowed. She first married **Charles Harris** in 1871, but he died only six years later leaving her with three children under the age of six.

She then married William **Appleford** in 1883, but that marriage only lasted three years before William apparently dropped dead of a heart attack whilst working on the railway tracks. **Mary Jane** had two more young daughters by then. Life must have been extremely hard for her.

The first mention of her father, **Charles**, in the *Hampshire Advertiser* on December 6th 1851 was as follows:

“Abandoning a family – Charles Gray appeared to answer an information, laid by Mr John Westcomb, one of the overseers of Downton, charged with leaving his wife and children chargeable to that parish, he being a strong able-bodied person. The case was clearly proved, and the defendant was ordered to pay 40s, the amount of the expenses incurred, and to take his wife and family

out of the Alderbury Union the following day.”. 40 shillings in 1851 would have been worth at least a few hundred pounds in today’s money, so quite a large sum for an agricultural labourer to find.

Charles seems to have been a bit of a rough character as in July 1858 there was a report in the *Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette* of a fight in which he was involved which ended in the death of his opponent.

“Fatal Fight –On Saturday night, two men, named George Bunday and Charles Gray, engaged in a fight here [Downton] and fought for some time. Bunday died on Sunday afternoon, whereupon Gray was apprehended and taken before the magistrates on Monday. The enquiry was adjourned to await a coroner’s inquest, which was held on Tuesday, before R. M. Wilson Esq., when

the jury returned a verdict of “manslaughter” against Charles Gray who was forthwith committed on the coroner’s warrant to take his trial at the ensuing assizes. Charles Gray and John Chalk were charged with the manslaughter of George Bundy, at Downton. Mr. Snowdon was council for the prosecution. These parties quarrelled in a public-house, the landlord put them out, and then Bundy would make Gray fight. Chalk acted as a second. After fighting almost half an hour Bundy asked Gray to hit lower. He did so, and Bundy fell, complaining of great pain in the bowels. He was afterwards taken home on a truck. A surgeon was sent for and gave remedies, but he died in 19 hours from the time of the fight. The jury convicted the prisoners, and they were sentenced to fourteen days imprisonment, without hard labour.”

It becomes increasingly likely that **Charles** was indeed the **Charles Gray** who was listed as a prisoner in the county gaol, **Alderbury** in the 1861 census. This is especially so, considering the next entry in a local newspaper:

“Charles Gray was charged with stealing a loaf, the property of Charles Snelling, in Downton – six months imprisonment with hard labour.”

What an incredible system of justice that sentenced a man to six months detention with hard labour for stealing a loaf of bread, but only fourteen days for manslaughter!

The *Salisbury Guardian* subsequently reported that **Charles Gray** was sentenced to three calendar months hard labour for deserting his wife and five children. This did not seem to deter him, though, as it was later reported in the *Western Flying Post* that: *“Charles Gray (an old offender) ... was sentenced to three months hard labour, for refusing to maintain his family. He was further charged with assaulting his wife, Louisa Gray, and ordered to be imprisoned and kept to hard labour for a further period of six months under the Aggravated Assaults Act.”*

By 1867, Charles must have been out of prison again since the following report appeared in the *Hampshire Advertiser*:

“STEALING UNDERWOOD – Charles Gray, a drover of Downton, was brought up in custody, having been apprehended under a warrant, charged with cutting with intent to steal, a quantity of underwood. Police constable Vivian stated that on the 29th May he was on duty at Woodlands and met the defendant with a number of chisel rods. On asking him where he got them he said he bought them of a man in Redlynch. Not thinking his explanation satisfactory he took*

them away from him, and as he met him coming from Mr. Brownjohn's copse on the following Friday witness went there with another man and saw where the chisel rods had been cut. Defendant, who had been convicted before for vagrancy, and against whom there are numerous complaints for wood stealing, was fined 5s and costs, or fourteen days imprisonment with hard labour."

STEALING UNDERWOOD.—**Charles Gray**, a drover, of Downton, was brought up in custody, having been apprehended under a warrant, charged with cutting, with intent to steal, a quantity of underwood.—Police-constable Vivian stated that on the 29th of May he was on duty at Woodlands, and met the defendant with a number of chisel rods. On asking him where he got them he said he bought them of a man at Redlynch. Not thinking his explanation satisfactory he took them away from him, and as he met him coming from Mr. Brownjohn's copse on the following Friday witness went there with another man, and saw where the chisel rods had been cut.—Defendant, who has before been convicted of vagrancy, and against whom there are numerous complaints for wood stealing, was fined 5s and the costs, or fourteen days' imprisonment with hard labour.

Extract from the Hampshire Advertiser of 1867

Again, it is curious that stealing wood incurred a much lighter sentence than stealing bread. **Charles** died aged only 55 in 1874 in the **Britford Union Workhouse**. I could not find him in the 1871 census, however, so it could be that he was sleeping rough. Altogether, he was an intriguing character!

*I have no idea what a chisel rod is and should be delighted to hear from anyone who does!

Ed: Another interesting fact is that there were several other cases of wood-stealing at the same Sessions. Wood was the main source of heating and cooking for poor people. An ancient right existed of collecting wood "by hook or by crook" – in other words, not cutting down trees but hauling away fallen or dead branches and presumably not damaging living trees as you did it!

My great grandparents **James** (an agricultural labourer) and **Eliza** (née **Wheeler**) **Matthews** lived at **Kimpton** in **Hertfordshire** but five of their large family of children moved to the Staines area. The first to make this move was **Henry Matthews** (1857-1936). He had probably served an apprenticeship before leaving home and by 1881 he was working as a tailor, living at Egham with his wife **Alice** (née **Hawkes** (1856 - 1931) and their young daughter **Lily** (1881-1905). By the time the 1891 census was taken, **Henry** had become an 'outfitter' and had moved into Staines itself. His household now included two of his younger brothers and five children of his own (there would be six still living at home in 1911 even though **Lily** had already died of tuberculosis). Kelly's Directory for 1894, and again for 1899, lists 'Brightwell and Matthews, tailors and outfitters' in High Street, **Staines**; **Henry** was probably in partnership with **Joseph Brightwell** who had a separate business as a draper and milliner nearby. By 1914 the listing had become 'Matthews Brothers'. The business was located at 84/86 High Street and the family almost certainly lived above the shop. More information would be needed to pinpoint the location of their premises now but I believe the building must have been among the shops demolished to facilitate the recent redevelopment of the current numbers 90 to 106 High Street.

Henry's younger brothers living with him in 1891 were **Edwin** (1861-1939) and **Vince** (b. 1875). Edwin (who would soon marry **Lizzie Goldhawk** from Kimpton) seems to have joined the business permanently; he and Henry must have become the 'Matthews Brothers' partnership of later years. **Edwin** and **Lizzie's** home in **Sidney Road** is still known as **Kimpton House**, a name they must surely have given it themselves. **Vince** is listed as an apprentice in his brothers' business in 1891 but I can find no trace of him later, anywhere; his fate is the most intractable mystery in our family history.



Kimpton House. Photograph by Martin Matthews

Two other Matthews siblings, **Ellen** and **Herbert**, also moved to **Staines**. Ellen (1864-1906) married **Cornelius Fensome**, a tailor from **Kimpton**; the couple were living in **Staines** by 1891 so it is likely that **Cornelius** was working for 'Brightwell and Matthews' at that time. After **Ellen's** untimely death from tubercular meningitis **Cornelius** returned to Hertfordshire with their son **James** but after his own death in 1925 he was buried with **Ellen** in **Staines**. **Herbert** (1870-1935), who married **Annie Goldhawk**, a younger sister of **Edwin's** wife Lizzie, had a grocer's shop on **Feltham High Street**, but by 1911 had become an insurance agent, living in **Edgell Road, Staines**. It appears that he was the only family member to move into **Staines** without becoming involved, even indirectly, in the gents' outfitters business.

In **Kimpton** the family had been staunch members of the Methodist community and I wonder if one of the attractions of **Staines** was the existence of a strong Methodist presence there too. A rather grand

Methodist church, with a spire, was built on the north side of Kingston Road in 1890. It is likely that members of the family took part in church activities, and **Frank Matthews**, one of Henry's sons, was destined to become an ordained minister (although whether this was as a Methodist or in another denomination, I don't know).

The later history of 'Matthews Brothers' is unclear. The firm probably survived the First World War but may have closed during the 1920s with both Henry and Edwin approaching their seventieth birthdays. Neither of them lived to see the Second World War although Edwin suffered an untimely death (the result of being knocked down by a motor car) only a few weeks before war was declared.

The 1939 Register provides hints of the part that Matthews Brothers may have played in the lives of some other members of the family. During the First World War **Henry's** daughter **Hazel** married **Edward Ayling**, a Staines man who was serving as a gunner at that time; in 1939 **Edward's** occupation is that of a 'gents' outfitter' so it appears likely that he had worked for Matthews Brothers after being demobbed. By 1939 the couple had moved to Southgate in north Middlesex, putting some distance between themselves and their relatives in Staines. **Edwin's** brother-in-law **Wilfrid Goldhawk** may also have been employed by the business for a while as in 1901 he was living with **Edwin** and **Lizzie** and working as an 'outfitter's assistant'; however, he is remembered by **Goldhawk** family descendants as the owner of a shop in **Ashford**, not **Staines**. By 1939 he had become a 'gents' outfitters master' and he was living again in **Sidney Road**, but he seems to have only moved back during the 1930s. Perhaps by then he was employing **Dora**, another of **Henry's** daughters; in 1939 she was still living in **Staines** with two of her other unmarried siblings and was working in 'men's outfitting'; in 1911 she had been a 'dressmaker'.

When my grandparents **Albert Matthews** (1872-1958) and **Ada** (née **Wren** 1873-1967) married and left **Kimpton** in 1898 they settled in **Woolwich** and, sadly, **Albert** soon cut himself off from the rest of his family. I knew nothing about our connections with **Staines** until a few years ago. Surprisingly, the Matthews families of **Staines** have few living descendants; I am only aware of

two, great-grandchildren of **Edwin** and **Lizzie**, and unfortunately I have not succeeded in making contact with them.

Publication of the 1921 census should provide some further information about my relatives in **Staines** but there may also be other sources that I have not yet discovered. Are there any old press advertisements or photographs of the Matthews Brothers shop (which does not appear on any views of the **High Street** that I have ever seen)? Even a shot of the site as it was before the recent redevelopment would be welcome. As for the people, perhaps in church archives or even personal memories there is some recollection of a **Reverend Frank Matthews** and his sisters **Dora** and **Hilda** who were probably still living in **Staines** during the 1950s and 1960s (they were the trio sharing a house in **Greenlands Road** in 1939). I would be glad to hear from any readers who have access to anecdotes or documentation which might be helpful to me in my continuing research.

Editor's contribution



Sharp-eyed readers will have noticed that the image on this issue's cover is of Staines Town Hall and the War Memorial. The photo is courtesy of Martin Matthews who wrote the article above; when I asked if we could use the photo for the cover, he suggested that I do a bit of reading on the Town Hall's History. As Town Halls go, it is

a truly magnificent specimen. Sadly, like many Town Halls of its era, it no longer functions as the meeting place of a council.

It was built by public subscription and cost £5000. In 1876, a public competition was held to choose the design and the winner was John Johnson, an architect who was also the District Surveyor for East Hackney. The building was completed in December 1880. Sadly less than a century after its inception, the council moved its offices to Knowle Green and the Town Hall was left empty. Local residents, determined that it should not be demolished, banded together and in 1973, the Town Hall was granted Grade II listed status.

Since its closure, it has had a chequered history as a film location, an arts centre and a wine bar. The last planning application proposed to convert it into flats, preserving its magnificent frontage.

But the Town Hall is not the only magnificent building in Staines. Below are pictures of the Old Police Station (left) and the former Blue Anchor (right).



St Lawrence Church, Brentford and associated graveyard & cemetery. Help needed

The church is the oldest surviving building in Brentford, the tower dates from the 15th century. Following its closure in 1961 and the failed attempt to turn it into a theatre in the 1980's, the building is but a shadow of its former self. We are excited about the renovation of the building, as part of the redevelopment of this part of Brentford.

We are grateful to other WMFHS Members past & present for the work recording the Monumental Inscriptions and transcription of St Lawrence's parish registers.

The earliest recorded burial dates from 1190 and it appears to have been in general use to just before the first world war and after then for infill burial in pre-purchased plots. The last full burial was in 1968, with a cremation urn being interred in 1973.

The importance of this church is confirmed by four individuals who have entries in the Oxford bibliographies – Sir William Noy, Henry Giffard, Thomas Hardwick & William Howell Ewin and other famous Brentford people are interred here including the Clitherows & Ronalds.

We have a list of 3,500 individuals who are interred here and we want to bring this list alive, by asking members to contact us if they have any ancestors in their family trees that appear on our list, which can be found on the web at www.exchangeexchange.co.uk .

Thank you. - David Shailes & Jim Storrar

HELP!!



Can anyone help Brian Page?

Brian has been using **Family Tree Maker** for some years now and is currently using version 11.

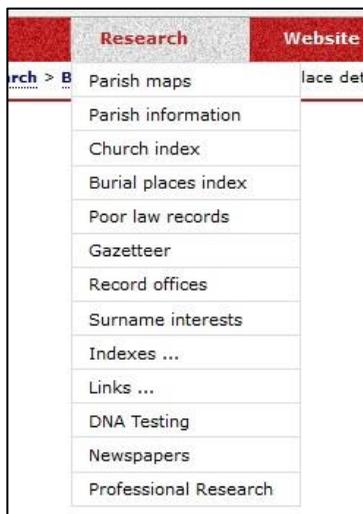
Family Tree Maker have recently released version 2019 and Brian is wondering if he should upgrade. Version 11 is about 20 years old and a lot has changed in the digital world.

If anyone out there uses the 2019 version, would they like to contact Brian through the editor (anniegreene1951@gmail.com) and give him some honest advice about whether it is worth him upgrading?

The website tends to get a little more attention in the winter time than in the summer, and November/December saw the addition of several new pages, each designed to make researching family history in West Middlesex just that little bit easier.

Parish Maps

The first change introduced at the end of November was to enhance the Parish Maps page. There had been several choices as to which map best shows our area, but there was always a conflict between showing an older simpler map versus showing a map with towns (such as Hounslow) that we would expect to see. The solution adopted is that we now include four distinct maps, and the user can select the one they want to see. The maps are all high resolution. Selecting the displayed map will enlarge it. Selecting it again (or however your browser supports this) will show the map at its full resolution.



The simplest and oldest view of our area is to show the parishes as they existed from the earliest of times up to 1708. Up to then there had been no subdivisions from the original parish areas. What happened in 1708? Well, Holy Trinity, Hounslow was opened as a chapelry to St. Leonard's, Heston, taking over roughly half of Heston's large parish area.

Several more divisions to new parishes, chapelries and district churches followed in the years up to 1838, when a second map is provided showing the parish boundaries at that time.

The third map is only a few years later at 1851. A lot of new parishes had been created in the period 1838 to 1851. 1851 is also chosen as we have

been able to make a copy from the excellent FamilySearch facility called England Jurisdictions 1851 (website = www.familysearch.org/mapp). The website has some very useful facilities; in particular when a parish is being viewed, with large enough scaling, then a current ordnance survey street map is overlaid so that the actual streets within the parish can be viewed.

The 4th map has a different purpose in that it has been made into an index for the Alan Godfrey maps which relate to our area. The Alan Godfrey maps are ordnance survey copies, at the amazing resolution of 15 inches to the mile, for some date between 1894 and 1936, depending upon the location. When we go to fairs we usually take our stock of Alan Godfrey maps, and this map is very useful for identifying a particular map of interest.

A new Church Index

The website, in particular the Parish Information page, provides comprehensive information on what parish registers may exist for our older parishes (those existing pre 1838), and where to find them, but we did not provide any similar information for the much more numerous recent churches, or more generally 'places of worship'. We did not even have a list of these places, and it could take a while to find answers to questions like "Where would a Roman Catholic marriage most likely occur?" To this end a comprehensive list has been created of the 250 places of worship in our area. The date of opening of each church is given, a link to their website, links to GENUKI and FamilySearch Wiki, a link to the main London Metropolitan Archives (LMA) catalogue page, and information on parish registers that are held at the LMA.

A new Burial Places Index

While it is usually not hard to find a relative's death registration, it is altogether much harder to discover if and where they may have been buried or cremated. Similar to the Churches Index a Burial Places Index has been created. It includes all the ancient churches with churchyards and the municipal cemeteries, and any other burial grounds that exist. The index provides an indication if the records are searchable, and where to make the search. For most of our municipal cemeteries they cannot be searched online.

Poor Law Records

Also in support of family history research a page has been added to show which records have survived relating to the 'Old' Poor Law (i.e. up to 1834). Unfortunately very few Poor Law records for our area have survived, and there are no online indexes to the few that have. Chelsea is the big exception. As the index indicates there are about 3800 settlement examinations for Chelsea dating from 1733 to 1838, and also about 600 removal orders between 1799 and 1837. We do have a project running to transcribe and index these records, but it is slow work. Each settlement examination is a one-page document investigating a person's history leading to their asking for Poor Law relief. The aim of the examination is to identify where the individual's settlement rights are, and also to identify dependants, etc.

The Society's Data Privacy Policy

There have also been two new additions in the members only section of the website. The first of these is to provide a permanently accessible record of the Society's Data Privacy Policy. The Policy has been formed following the new General Data Protection Regulations of May 2018, and was included for members' awareness in the December 2019 Journal.

On Joining the Committee

The second addition to the members only section is a page which links to a document titled '*On Being a Committee Member*'. This is a short document to encourage members of the Society to consider joining the Executive Committee, and thereby strengthen the position of the Society as a whole. The document identifies the prerequisites to serve on the committee, and the responsibilities also and is included in this Journal, pages 32-35.

Members' Discounts and Passwords

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 **XXXXXXXXXX**

For Pay as You Go the discount code is **XXXXXXXXXX**

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.

You must register your details with them in the normal way, by going to <https://www.forces-war-records.co.uk/register/>. Then visit their [subscribe page](#), and enter our discount code **XXXXXXX** the discount code box.

PASSWORDS

Jan – Mar 2020 XXXXXX

Apr – Jun 2020 XXXXXX

New Members & Surname Interests

A warm welcome to our new members! The lists below show the names of our newest members and the latest additions to our Surname Interests.

Name	Address/Location	Membership Number
Ms J Norris	High Wycombe, Bucks	N56
Ms S V Pearson	Sittingbourne, Kent	P166
Mr Robert J. Cox	Knutsford, Cheshire	C281
Ms R. Mansey	Twickenham, Middx	M251
Mr J Hitchman	Southall, Middx	TBC

Surname	Dates	Place	County	Member's No.
Tovey	After 1841	St Pancras	MDX	T97
Tovey	After 1854	Kensington area	MDX	T97
Pomroy	After 1861	Kensington area	MDX	T97

Family History Fairs and Events

Dorset FHS

Saturday, 21st March. Parkstone Grammar School, Sopers Lane,
Poole BH17 7EP. 10-4.

Free admission and free parking

West London Local History Conference*

Celebrations and Commemorations.

Saturday, 21st March

University of West London, Boston Manor Road, Brentford TW8 9GB

Admission £15. Tickets available only in advance by post from J McNamara,
31B Brook Rd South, Brentford TW8 0NN. Make out a cheque to "West
London Local History Conference" & enclose a stamped addressed envelope.

Family Tree Live *

17th April 9.30-6 & 18th April 9.30-5, Alexandra Palace

Adult £13 day ticket/£24 weekend ticket. Children under 10, free

Free parking

www.family-tree.co.uk

Richmond May Fair**

Saturday & Sunday, 16th & 17th May.

Richmond Green

Free admission. Parking in Old Deer Park

* WMFHS will have a stall at these events.

** WMFHS will have a stall at this event on Sunday only

Family History News

Susan Lumas , formerly the Census Reading Room Officer at the Public Record Office died on 13th January this year. Those of us who frequented the old Public Record Office will have vivid memories of her.

The Royal and imperial Calendars 1767-1973 are now online at FindMyPast so if you have ancestors who worked in the public service of central government, check it out!

The GRO now permits FreeBMD users to take screenshots of information and share them online.

Rootsweb have now discontinued their mailing list functionality. Archived emails will still be searchable after March 2nd, but cannot be responded to. Alternatives are the Ancestry message boards or the Society of Genealogists' Community Hub (members only).

A new map-based app *A History of English Places* has been launched. Based on Lewis' 1848 'Topographical Dictionary of England' and the Victoria County Histories.

PRONI has added to their collection of free resources. Among them are Tithe Applotment Books 1823-1837 and the School Grant-Aid books for 1832-1889.

If you have Thames watermen among your ancestors, there is a new book on sale at the Society of Genealogists *My Ancestors were Thames Watermen*. The price is discounted to £8.09 (members) and £8.99 (non-members).

West Middlesex Family History Matters

Meetings

We shall be asking this question at the AGM, but we're asking it here just in case you cannot make the AGM and want to put in your twopenn'orth.

We currently meet in the evenings and we do notice that in the winter months attendance is down. Would you be more likely to attend meetings if we held them in the afternoon? Some pros and cons here - public transport would be better, but parking would be worse and members who are still working might find it difficult to attend the talk. Please email us (email addresses at the front of the Journal) or write to us with your opinions.

Remote Members

We know that we have many members who cannot come to meetings. It's easy to think of the people you see regularly and to ask them what they would like the Society to be doing. But what does everyone else want? If there's something you would like to see on the website or in the Journal, let us know and we'll see if we can add it. Do you feel left out because you can't physically attend the AGM? How could we address that? Email the secretary secretary@west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk with your ideas

On Being a Committee Member

At the time of writing – January 2020 – the Society is in a strong position, and we are getting done the sort of things our Constitution says we should be doing. In particular we do our best to promote and encourage the study of Family History, Local History, Genealogy and Heraldry by means of providing talks on the subject, transcribing and indexing records as appropriate, and disseminating family history information by means of our journal and our website.

BUT - our resources are stretched. We only just have enough people playing an active role to keep all the wheels turning. Our chairman is also our editor; our secretary is also our webmaster. Our Constitution demands that all committee members take a sabbatical after six continuous years on the

committee. A few roles, in particular the chairman, the treasurer, and the secretary, pretty much demand that the holder is also a committee member. By and large all the other roles can be carried out by non-committee members.

We very much appreciate that joining the committee will involve giving up some of your time, but you need never be out of pocket. Any expenses incurred in carrying out your voluntary work with the Society are reimbursed. SO - the Society is continuously encouraging new members to join the committee. New enthusiasms and ideas can only benefit the Society. This following paragraphs are intended to convey what you might be letting yourself in for, should you let your name go forward to join us on the committee.

Are there any pre-reqs?

We think that there is just one. We must be able to communicate with you by email. You don't have to have your own computer, nor be very good at it, but we do need to communicate to our committee members in an efficient manner, and email is the way we do it.

Must I attend the meetings?

It's a lot better if committee members can attend the committee meetings (first Wednesday on alternate months) and members' meetings (third Thursday of each month), but neither is critical. We haven't yet had an overseas member as a committee member, but it could work. At committee meetings we use a video-conferencing program called Zoom which allows any number of attendees to sit at home in front of their laptops, where they can hear everything and contribute to the meeting. Those of us who can get to the meeting place, which is in Hounslow, do so, but those who can't can join in from home.

As to members' meetings, attendance is again voluntary, but if you have decided you will be a committee member it would be better if you can attend - at least occasionally.

What goes on at committee meetings?

The Society believes in open governance, and as from May 2016 copies of the minutes have been filed where they can be seen by any member. This is the page to visit <http://www.west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk/content/minutes.aspx> . An agenda and the minutes of the previous committee meeting are sent out a few days beforehand, and we do expect committee members to have read these documents. This is not an arduous task, usually taking half an hour or so. The reports you see filed are prepared before the meeting, so that the regular matters can be dealt with fairly speedily. All members present can speak on any topic on the agenda, and this exchange of ideas is one of the most valuable aspects of committee meetings.

We then often have a session on Fairs, which is to agree on which fairs we will exhibit at in the coming months, and who will be representing us at these fairs. Representing the Society at fairs is sociable and quite good fun, and you don't have to be very knowledgeable to do it well. You will always be in company with someone who has done it before - maybe many times before. We will also usually spend some time discussing promotional issues, whether to spend money on brochures, or adverts, or whatever else.

What you will find at meetings is that this is where the common commitment to keep the Society viable is most evident. We all want the Society to keep doing what it does, and to grow if possible. So, usually when a volunteer for this or that is necessary, there will be some hands that go up.

There is more to open governance. While the invitation to attend committee meetings is only sent to committee members, if anyone wishes to attend a few meetings to see for themselves what goes on, they would be welcome. Just contact the secretary (Roland) and he will see to it that you get invited to join in as a non-committee member.

Obligations of committee members

West Middlesex Family History Society is a registered charity, and as such we, the committee members, have a joint responsibility to run the Society in a responsible and law-abiding manner. The Charity Commission regards all committee members as Trustees of the Society, and gives advice on what that means. This advice, can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/charity-trustee-whats-involved> in document CC3a, but here is a summary of the trustees' 6 main duties:

1. Ensure your charity is carrying out its purposes for the public benefit (we are of course, but I suggest you read our Constitution, which is entirely straightforward). You will find it on the website.
2. Comply with your charity's governing document and the law (ie make sure we follow our own Constitution, which is simple enough).
3. Act in your charity's best interests.
4. Manage your charity's resources responsibly (see below).
5. Act with reasonable care and skill.
6. Ensure your charity is accountable (see below).

These duties are expanded on in the CC3a Guidance, but the listed main duties make it clear enough what is expected.

Duty 4 means that we should check - and double-check - the security of any investment we make.

Duty 6 is certainly an important one, and is targeted mainly at the treasurer and the membership secretary. It is incumbent upon us to keep proper records of members' subscriptions and where gift aid applies.

That's about it on responsibilities.

What to do if you are interested?

If you are thinking that you would like to provide support to the Society, perhaps by representing us at fairs, then joining the committee is the best way to start being more involved. Speak to any existing committee member about it, or just send an email to Secretary@west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk to express your interest.

A free course on using social media to promote the Society

Pat Candler and Ann Greene have taken a bold step into the 21st century and signed up for the Family History Federation's Social Media course in the hope that we might understand more about using Facebook and Twitter to promote the Society. If you feel like joining us, the course is free (yes, FREE!) and is being held on 7th March, from 10-3.30, at Wesley's Chapel, City Road, EC1Y 1AU. But hurry, spaces are limited!

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 Memorial 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Front Cover

Images: Staines Town Hall and War Memorial

Copyright: Martin Matthews

