



Cockney Ancestor



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Front Cover Illustration

The front cover illustration shows Thomas Inman aged 18 who lived in Walthamstow, Essex in the mid 1880s. You can read about him in Allan McGillivray's article on page 44. *Image courtesy of Allan McGillivray.*

Cockney Ancestor

In this Issue

The Hudsons and a Place ‘The World Forgot’.....	Susan Pepper.....	3
LifeSpans and ChatGPT – Part II.....	Peter Holford.....	8
Georges Louis Marie Edouard Verlyck.....	Gordon Lane.....	11
Allegations in Bastardy – True or False?... The Role of My Two Grandfathers in World War I – Part I.....	Brian Spear.....	18
	Brian Schirn.....	20
The First Hackney History Festival.....	Annette Kilbourn.....	24
Cockney Ancestors.....	Dennis Galvin.....	28
St James the Great, Lower Clapton Road E5.....	Dennis Galvin.....	30
An Unlucky Month.....	Barbara Roberts.....	31
Wanstead Flats.....	Melissa Ford.....	33
Surnames – Vitaly Important for Over 500 Years!.....	Peter Holford.....	38
Never Assume, Check.....	Dawn Adams.....	41
William Ince and Sons – Umbrella Makers	Diane Morrice.....	42
Some Genealogy Stew from Ontario.....	Allan McGillivray.UE.....	44
From Bethnal Green to North Wales, Part I.....	Phillip Hollington.....	47
VC Winner.....	Melissa Ford.....	53

Regular Features

Editorial.....	2	Recycling for CA.....	55
Post Box.....	17	Advertisement Rates.....	55
Round Up.....	36	Diary Dates.....	56

Writing for CA.....Inside back cover

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Editorial

Wow! another year nearly over. I had just got used to putting 2024 on all my correspondence and now 2025 is peeking over the rampards at me.

This is the last magazine before Christmas so the Editorial team will be taking a well-earned break until the next one goes out in January 2025.

We would like to thank all our authors who have sent in a vast array of articles for us to read. Without them all there would be no *Cockney Ancestor*. Please keep them coming.

I for one am very excited to see that next year's AGM will be taking place in a London venue again (see below). I know many of you were disappointed with having the AGM at Upminster this year but those of you that made the effort to attend seemed to enjoy it. (Despite the trains and traffic causing havoc). Look out for more details in the next edition of *CA*.

Our new Editorial team members have settled in well but we are always happy to invite new people to join us. If you would like to help then please get in touch with me at editor@eolfhs.org.uk.

All that remains is for us to wish you all

A Very Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year

Editor

Save The Date – EoLFHS 2025 AGM

12 April 2025

at the Museum of the Home

136 Kingsland Road, London E2 8EA

The Editorial Committee is a sub-committee set up by the Executive.

Members are:

Vera Bangs (layout), Audrey Neal (article preparation), Brian McDonald (grammar and postbox), Peter Holford (proof-reading) and Graham Keeler (photo editor).

The Hudsons and a Place ‘The World Forgot’

Susan Pepper No. 22125

Orchard Place, E14, has been extensively developed over recent years with the building of new riverside apartments and commercial space. It has also become a centre for arts and culture based around *Trinity Buoy Wharf*.

All this is a far cry from the area’s past history when it was also known as *Bog Island* and it was classified by Thomas **BOOTH**, in his survey of the area in 1886, as almost universally dark blue, representing the very poor.

Historic Orchard Place was also very isolated as, although it was part of the parish of All Saints, Poplar, it was cut off from the rest of Poplar by the East India Docks and had just one major road, Orchard Street (renamed Leamouth Road in 1914) providing access to it.

The first of twelve illustrated panels about the history of the area, mounted on walls in Orchard Street, quotes the *Evening News* of 1930: *The world forgetting, by the world forgot. That is Bow Creek. It is not easy to get there. Even the people who live within a mile of it—the people in the noisy, crowded East India Dock—have never heard of it.*

This article is the story of Thomas and Emma **HUDSON**, my 2 x great-grandparents, who made Orchard Place their home for nearly twenty years.

Thomas Hudson was the eldest child of Nathaniel and Eliza Hudson (*CA181*) and was the only member of the family to follow his father into the barge building industry. He had served his apprenticeship and became a barge builder by 1861 when he was 21 and he was evidently working with his father at his Folly Wall yard on the Isle of Dogs as he was living in one of the cottages on the site.

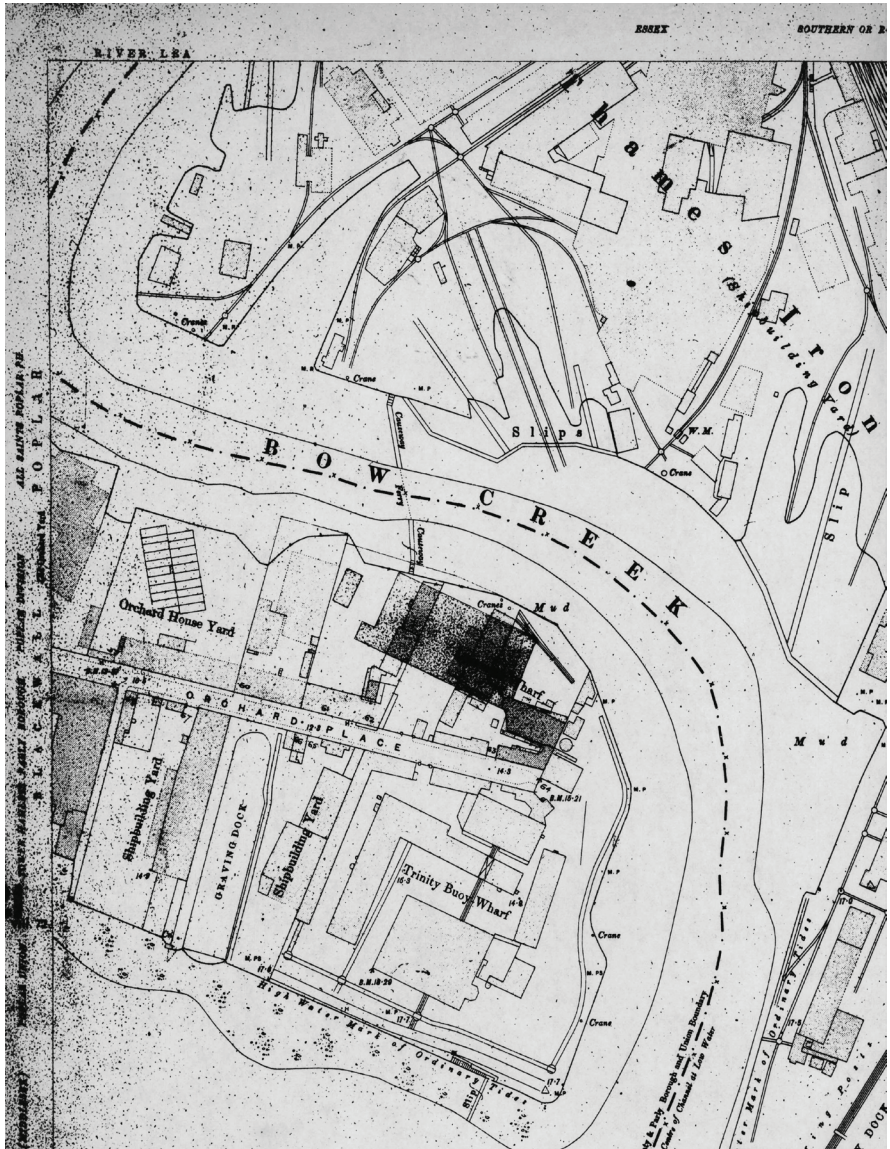
After his father’s death in 1875, Thomas must have been forced to look for employment elsewhere when his mother sold the residue of the lease on the yard at Folly Wall to the prominent ship building company, **YARROW** Brothers.

By 1877 he had joined the *Union Lighterage Company*, which was founded in 1876 and operated lighters, small dumb barges drawn by tugs used to unload cargo from ships which were too large to access the Thames wharves.

Thomas may have worked on wooden craft in the past but, in the construction of the *Union Lighterage Company*’s swim head barges, he would have been working on a timber frame with an outer skin of iron plates.

A sales notice from 1903 lists the buildings in the *Union Lighterage* yard and these included timber stores, a smith’s shop and a furnace shed, confirming that construction in both wood and iron took place.

The company also built their own tugs, for example, *Champion*, which was built in 1890 and which was constructed, like most ships at the time, of steel with



Orchard Place from OS London sheet VIII.73 1893. The Causeway to Orchard House stairs and the Union Lighterage Yard is below the area marked Orchard House Yard (middle left-hand side of map).

*Image reproduced courtesy of
Tower Hamlets Local History Library and Archives*

screw propeller. The *Union Lighterage Company* is listed in London directories as being at 16/17 Philpot Lane in the City of London, but Thomas would have been working in a shipyard, which the company had bought in 1877, in Orchard Place. Orchard Place had formerly been a centre for large scale ship building, but this had begun to decline in the second half of the nineteenth century and the *Union Lighterage Company* was one of a number of new yards making smaller boats and barges there.

Their yard, which the company named Union Wharf, was adjacent to Orchard House Stairs, a causeway and stairway ending in a small jetty, which was originally the landing place for a ferry, possibly one which, for a time, connected Orchard Place with Old Blackwall. Orchard House Stairs were destroyed in 2010, but there is still a slipway on the foreshore where they once were.

Thomas remained with the *Union Lighterage Company* for the rest of his life and his death certificate from 1892 records that he had become a foreman for the company.

The company itself remained on the Union Wharf site until 1902 when its ship building operations were moved to a new yard on the Isle of Dogs. By coincidence, this new yard was on the site of the old Hudson yard at Folly Wall (the *Union Lighterage Company* bought it from Yarrow Brothers). The *Union Lighterage Company* renamed the Folly Wall yard as New Union Wharf and used it for boat repairs.

Thomas was born in Ratcliff and lived in Poplar throughout his adult life, while his wife, Emma JONES, originally came from Greenwich and was the daughter of Joseph, a sailor in the Royal Marines.

The couple married on Christmas Day 1861 at All Saints Church, Poplar and made their home at 2 Folly Cottages on the land Thomas's father, Nathaniel, leased at Folly Wall. Following Nathaniel's death and the surrender of the lease in 1875, they lived briefly at 19 Pier Terrace in Millwall, still on the Isle of Dogs but, by 1877, they had moved to Orchard Place, where they were evidently given company accommodation with the *Lighterage Company*; their address in both the 1881 and 1891 censuses is the *Union Lighterage Company* and the address given on Emma's death certificate is Union Wharf, Orchard Street. The sales notice from 1903, already mentioned, lists a cottage on the Union Wharf site and this may well have been home to Thomas and his family.

The Hudsons were a large household as five of their six surviving children were still at home when they moved to Orchard Place and a further three children were born over the next four years.

Life in Orchard Place must have presented the family with some challenges: Charles LAMMIN, who had been born there in 1873, later commented that the area had never had a butcher, baker, barber, post office, police station, fire station or pawn shop, or any public transport. Shopping would have involved Emma

in a long walk along Orchard Street into Poplar. It is likely that the younger Hudson children would have attended the local school in Orchard Place, which was housed in a converted warehouse in Duke Street.

This school was replaced by *Bow Creek Board School*, built by the London School Board on a site formerly occupied by the *Thames Plate Glass Company*, but this was not until 1895-6 and it is unlikely that any of the Hudson children would still have been at the school to enjoy its more spacious facilities, including a hall and a playground.



The new school closed within 40 years when a slum clearance order was imposed on Bow Creek in 1935 and it was later demolished.

One aspect where Thomas and the rest of the comparatively small population of Orchard Place would have been well served was the provision of alcohol. In the late nineteenth century, there were no fewer

Thomas and Emma's headstone at Tower Hamlets Cemetery where their infant son, Thomas Nathaniel had been interred in March 1870
Image courtesy of Susan Pepper

than five public houses: the *Orchard House Tavern*, *The Crown*, *The Steam Packet*, the *Trinity Arms* and the *Prince Albert*, all of which have since closed and been demolished.

Thomas may well have used one of these local watering holes, but he also took the long walk to the *Silver Tavern* in Limehouse to attend meetings of the *Merchant Navy Lodge of Freemasons 781* into which he had been initiated 9 January 1878.

The Merchant Navy Lodge had been consecrated 14 April 1859 at the *Jamaica Tavern*, West India Docks with the intention that ‘it would not only be desirable to brethren resident in the neighbourhood but a great boon to their seafaring brethren whose ships were lying or discharging in those docks’.

Thomas would have enjoyed the company of master mariners from Denmark, Finland, Holland, Italy, Prussia, Norway, Sweden and the USA.

Presumably, he would also have contributed to the Lodge’s charitable activities; in 1892, for example, the Lodge raised £781.00 for the *Jubilee Festival of Aged Freemasons and their Widows*, which was the highest sum from any Lodge at that time.

Emma died from influenza and capillary bronchitis on Wednesday 10 June 1891, aged 51 and Thomas on Wednesday 20 July the following year, aged 53. The cause of death on Thomas’s death certificate was diabetes mellitus and presumably he had suffered this condition for some time.

Emma and Thomas were both buried in the family grave of Thomas’s parents, Nathaniel and Eliza (private grave 4164) at Tower Hamlets Cemetery, where their infant son, Thomas Nathaniel, had been interred in March 1870.

The Hudson family’s association with Orchard Place came to an end with Thomas’s death, but the ship building legacy lived on through his sons, James who became a shipwright and Albert who became a ships’ carpenter and joiner.

The maritime connection was also kept up through his son, Henry who became a marine engineer.

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62 Havelock Road, Wimbledon, London SW19 8HD

Lifespans & ChatGPT – Part II

Peter Holford No. 14259 and ChatGPT

C*an AI (Artificial Intelligence) help with writing an article for Cockney Ancestor?*

Introduction – In the last edition of *CA(183)* I described how AI can help in writing an article for *Cockney Ancestor*. The following article was written largely as an experiment. It has been written with the assistance of *ChatGPT*. Two paragraphs in their entirety were created by this AI (artificial intelligence) tool and not by the author. Can you spot them?

Life Spans – When I took early retirement over ten years ago, I decided to gather all my notes, scribbled after conversations with family members, and get started on my family tree. And so began a major hobby of researching all those who went before. Just for the record I have other interests too!

What struck me was how many of my ancestors died at what is now considered to be a young age. But back in the 1950s anyone reaching the age of seventy was considered to have had a *good innings*. Now, I've passed that landmark it's natural to look at the tree and to ponder over my likely lifespan. It's not an easy calculation especially with the advances that have been made in medicine, technology and general knowledge about health and wellness that have led to longer life expectancies for people in general. The second half of the twentieth century was a golden era to live in for most people and lives have generally been healthier and longer.

Recently I volunteered to be a part of the EoLFHS team that is transcribing the burial records at Woodgrange Park Cemetery, Forest Gate in the 1890s. My contribution has been a bit stop-start as life allows. But it has been a revelation in what the mortality patterns are like for a specified area. What is most striking is that a large majority of the burials are of infants.

Looking at the generations before me in my tree shows some very long lives. My mother and her four sisters all lived to at least 87 and one of their husbands was old enough to see his entry on the 1911 census. He eventually succumbed at 103. My father lived till he was 84. The comparison with previous generations is marked. I never knew my grandfathers who died at 62 and 47. But my grandmothers lived to 83 and 94. So far so random but patterns started to emerge which will be apparent to anybody who examines their own tree in detail.

Firstly, not so much a pattern as a guaranteed randomness, individuals could die prematurely because of disease. The biggest killer, apart from localised epidemics of water-borne illnesses like cholera, was TB. Realistically we can only know the cause of death of most of our ancestors back to the start of the registration of deaths in 1837. Before that records of the cause of death are rare and many

after 1837 may suffer from a lack of medical knowledge.

My 2 x great-grandfather's first wife died in Hull in 1845 at the age of 25. The cause of death on the certificate was recorded as *Visitation of God in a natural way*. Most people reading this piece could probably provide a more accurate cause of death if they are told that she had just gone through a pregnancy where the child died soon after delivery.

But the more I accumulated the facts and figures, I found some definite trends in the data. Some branches of my family have members who are very long-lived while other branches are less long-lived. There are also differences that might be attributed to the type of location the family are living in.

On my mother's side there is a strong tendency for the **WOOD** family (her father's side) to live very long lives. My great-grandfather, born in 1832, lived till 1915 (83 years) and his wife lived even longer (90). Their three daughters had a combined age of 281, an average of 93 years: not bad for those born in Victorian times. The son, my grandfather, died at 62 but that was because he caught pneumonia and died very suddenly. But this was a very middle-class family with a high standard of living, well-educated and living in decent suburban housing in places like Hull, York and Newcastle.

My maternal grandmother's family were not as long lived and that might be attributed to being mostly working-class folk whose employment was on the railways. There were tales of some hand to mouth existence and of course their housing wasn't as good. But they were better off than most working-class people since the railways provided constant, assured and well-paid employment at that time.

However, there is a history of sudden deaths from heart attacks running through that family from my 2 x great-grandfather, Richard **GOWER** in 1890 to my cousin David in 2017. Richard Gower was a coal merchant and very working class, but David was very far removed from that background being the proprietor of an award-winning vineyard in Marlborough, NZ. Probably a genetic link?

There are discernible trends in my father's family too. They are all Londoners. The **HOLFORD** family have not traditionally piled up the years. My grandfather was 47 (see photo above), his father was 52 and five of the six brothers of my grandfather failed to reach 50. Crucially the sisters did somewhat better living into their seventies. On his mother's side they also tended to live longer with Emma **STAFFORD** (née **NICHOLS**), my 2 x great-grandmother dying in



Ernest Holford

Image courtesy of Peter Holford

1930 having been born six weeks after Victoria came to the throne (photo right).

But again, there is a caveat. That part of the family was from Northwest London, notably South Hampstead and Camden. Again, this was a more affluent area than Bethnal Green and Shoreditch where lives were generally shorter.

Life expectancies in the East End of London in the nineteenth century were generally quite low compared to other parts of the country and even other parts of London. This was due to a combination of factors, including poor living conditions, overcrowding, unsanitary conditions and a lack of access to healthcare.

Many people in the East End lived in cramped and unsanitary housing, with entire families often sharing just one or two rooms. This made it difficult to maintain proper hygiene and sanitation, which in turn led to the spread of disease. In addition, many of the jobs available in the East End were dangerous and physically demanding, which took a toll on people's health.

So, my East End ancestors may have been short-lived largely because of environmental and social factors. But there was a large measure of chance involved in all branches of my tree. Tuberculosis (TB) killed a large number of them; my 2 x great-grandmother, Elizabeth **CAIN**, who died in Shoreditch at the age of 22 was from a deprived background but 2 x great-grandfather James **WOOD**, a steamship captain, was only 47 and George **HEALD**, a major railway engineer in the 1840s, was just 42. TB didn't discriminate between wealthy and poor folk although it may have been harder to catch it for the wealthy.

But poverty and a hard life didn't necessarily impose an early death. Various Suffolk farm workers in my tree lived into their eighties. But perhaps a rural setting was healthier than living in the slums of Bethnal Green.

So, like all of us, I have no idea what lies ahead. But in the 21st century the odds on a long, healthy life span is much greater than any time before 1945. I will carry on regardless!

Which are the Computer-Generated Paragraphs? Did you spot them? They are the ones beginning: *Life expectancies in the East End of London in the nineteenth century were generally quite low and Many people in the East End lived in cramped and unsanitary housing.*

Email: counthill@aol.com



Emma Stafford
*Image courtesy
of Peter Holford*

Georges Louis Marie Edouard Verlyck

Gordon Lane No. 22246

Though this report is on Georges Louise Marie Edouard **VERLYCK** it revolves around my great-aunt, May Mary Eliza **WHITE**. She was always May Verlyck to my father, his siblings and the nieces and nephews living in the Ilford area and there is a but!

Georges Verlyck was born 8 March 1863 at 8 Rue de Rodier, 19th Arrondissement, Paris, France 75009 to Joseph Marie Louis Verlyck and Jeanne Marie **MEJAN**. He was educated at the Collège Chaptal, Paris and was then accepted into the Ecole des Beaux Arts in 1879. Number of the *School of Fine Arts*: 3454. Georges Louis Verlyck student of Léon Ginain, admitted to 2nd class 8 August 1882, his student file does not contain a sheet of values (architect in Paris 9th between 1876 and 1894, last mention in the *Sageret directory* in 1894); private constructions in Paris; Maurice Méland



Rue de Rodier

Image courtesy of Gordon Lane

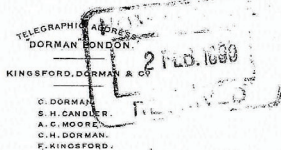


Ecole des Beaux Arts

Image courtesy of Gordon Lane

successor; *National Archives of France*, AJ/52/384, student file; Delaire; Dugast and Parizet).

Georges was in the French Army, 7th Regiment of Artillery and purportedly served 1884 to 1889 but admits deserting the army after striking an officer when he applied for his naturalization in England.



23, Essex Street,
Strand, W.C.

London 1st Feb. 1899

The Secretary of State for the Home Department,
Whitehall,
S. W.

Sir,

Naturalisation Act 1870.

We are instructed to apply for Letters of naturalisation for a Frenchman who has been residing continuously in England for upwards of 5 years and is in business as an Architect. In order to become a Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects he must be naturalised.

We are informed that upwards of 15 years ago he deserted from the French Army to avoid punishment for a breach of military discipline.

Before incurring expense our Client wishes to know whether this fact would be

Extract from one of the naturalisation papers

Image courtesy of Gordon Lane

that upwards of 15 years ago he deserted from the French Army to avoid punishment for a breach of military discipline. Banns were read in Paris in 1891 for Georges and Fanny and a marriage certificate for them in Dover, 2 April 1900. He re-applied in May 1900 with

Verlyck applied for naturalisation in 1899 but on the application mentioned about him deserting the French army so his initial application was rejected. In the initial application it read

We are instructed to apply for Letters of Naturalisation for a Frenchman who has been residing continuously in England for upwards of 5 years and is in business as an Architect. In order, to become a Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects he must be naturalised.

We are informed

Certificate was refused; but the Alien was, for other reasons besides that of being a deserter, unfit for naturalization.

The present applicant is very respectably supported, all his Household Referees being connected with an Essex Urban District Council, & one of them being an Essex J.P.

? Grant Certificate.

C.D. 16/6.

It seems to me that a mere absentee deserter is very different from a man who is a deserter because he has committed a military crime & who has fled his Country to escape the consequences. It may have been committed under circumstances of much provocation & have been a ~~crime~~ but then he should have stood his trial or it may have been an offence which would have subjected him to penal servitude & it would be an unpardonable act to make such a fugitive from military justice a British subject.

C. H. D. June 1900.

Sir K. Digby

In some time past taking up the case in hand

some more cases to refer to. This is the only case referred to in the report.

W.H.R. June 22. 1900

Extract from one of the naturalisation papers
Image courtesy of Gordon Lane

many testimonials from members of the Ilford Urban Council and Justice of the peace. He was granted his naturalization certificate #11559 on 28 June 1900 and sent for Oath of Allegiance on 30 June 1900 and was returned on 5 July 1900 for registration which happened on 7 July 1900.

In his RIBA application it stated he travelled through Italy before coming to England in 1893. He worked as an architect with Edwin DUNN from 1893 until 1901. He stated that he commenced practice as Principal in 1894 in Clements Road, Ilford, was joined by Mr Edwin T Dunn in 1895 ... I have been engaged mainly in the development of large building estates (Downshall estate, Cranbrook Park Estate, Sports

Ground estate, Central Park estate, Upminster Gardens suburbs etc amongst other buildings and I enclose drawings of and photographs of shops and drawings in Upminster and shops in Ilford.

In a newspaper article Notice is hereby given, that the Partnership heretofore subsisting between us the undersigned, Georges Marie Edouard Louis Verlyck and Edwin Thomas Dunn, carrying on business as Architects and Surveyors, at 2 Adelaide Chambers, Roding Street, Ilford, Essex under the style or firm of Verlyck and Dunn has been dissolved by mutual consent as and from the 29th day of September 1901. Dated 19th day of September 1903.

Upminster Garden Suburb

The following extract from *Upminster: the Story of a Garden Suburb* tells the story of WP GRIGGS & Co.'s purchase of the Upminster Hall Estate in 1906 and the early development of the Upminster Garden Suburb.

1 November 1906 he paid £20,000 to Capel Aylett BRANFILL and John Arthur Capel Branfill, trustees of the late Captain Benjamin Branfill, to acquire land extending 920 feet to the west side of Hall Lane north of the railway, shortly to be developed as Waldgrave (later spelt Waldegrave),



The Pines, Becontree Heath
Image courtesy of Gordon Lane

Engayne, and later Ashburnham Gardens. Fields eastwards of Hall Lane were also acquired, to become Deyncourt, Courtenay and Ingrebourne Gardens, together with the 15 acres to the south of the railway down to Cranham Road on which Branfill had proposed to build and on which St. Lawrence, Howard and Garbutt Roads were now to be built following similar plans.

The first brick was laid just over two weeks later 17 November 1906, with the earliest attentions being paid to the prestigious detached houses on Hall Lane and the south side of Waldegrave Gardens, to the designs of the Company's architect Mr. George Verlyck.

On the census records of 1901 it shows that Georges was married to Fanny **HILTON**. In the 1911 census, Fanny was not living with Georges but was living at 168 Balfour Road, Ilford, Essex where she died in 1919. The next step was to obtain Georges' will which produced some surprises. In the will he leaves *All my real and personal estate of every description unto my dear friend May **CHATLEY**, having been born **WHITE** of the Rosary, West grove, Snakes Lane, Woodford, Essex, absolutely and appoint the said May Chatley sole executor of this my will.* The Probate states '*May Mary Eliza (in the will called May Chatley wife of Percy Chatley)*'. This led to researching this couple and obtaining the marriage certificate for them. May and Percy were together in the 1901 census with Percy being a travelling salesman, but after that he seems to have disappeared. He has not been found on any of the online genealogical services or archival newspapers at this time. One Percy Chatley was found in the USA in 1929 registered as in sales but there is no record of immigration or naturalization in the US. In researching Georges in the newspapers there were many notices of his placement in horticultural competitions in the *Ilford Horticultural Society* for various types of flowering plants. I also found a record for a patent that Georges had submitted which related to improving a surveying tool.

The first record of May Verlyck was in the 1918 electoral register for Beacontree Heath Ward in the Parish of Dagenham until she moved in 1955. Georges lived with her from 1918 until his death 9 Jan 1936. If it hadn't been for finding the 1918 electoral register, the initial thought was that Georges and May had married after the death of Fanny but before the electoral register had been updated. She continued to call herself Verlyck as per the ongoing electoral registers from 1919. She was represented as Mrs Verlyck in *The Recorder*, Friday, 21 November 1924 and on Friday, 4 September 1925. I found the death certificate which identified her as May Mary Eliza Verlyck but could never find a marriage certificate for them.

Georges' Obituary was published in *The Recorder*, Thursday, 16 January 1936. ***Ilford Pioneer's Death Architect who began Development. Romantic Story of Mr. G.L.N. Verlyck. One of the architectural pioneers of Ilford has died.***

He was Mr Georges Louis Marie Verlyck of The Pines Beacontree Heath, one

of the cleverest architects Ilford has ever had. He was 72 and died at his home last week.

There is behind his life a romantic story of endeavour and success. He was an outstanding and impressive personality, and the type would not give way an inch when he thought his view was right.

Ilford was a tiny village when he opened up business as an architect and surveyor at the corner of Ilford Lane and Roden Street. He received his architectural training in the famous Ecole de Beaux Arts, in Paris, his birthplace, where his father was a prominent architect.

As a young man he was extremely wealthy but lost his money in a financial collapse. It is said that he then put the names of all the countries of the world and drew one out; it happened to be England. Thence he came, 36-years-old, almost penniless, and unable to speak English.

Lawsuits with all. He came to Ilford, seeking opportunity, and started work. His first partner in about 1895 was a Mr Dunn. They quickly established a name for themselves and were easily the most important architects in the village. Demonstrating his fighting spirit, he was involved in numerous lawsuits and conflicts with the town board over property and was in fact nicknamed the fighting garcon. At that time, he resided in Clements Road close to his business.

Developed Cranbrook Road.

Cranbrook Road was nothing but a country lane then, and he was the first man to begin housing developments there. He also designed buildings in the High Road, one of them being the Midland Bank, next to the Town Hall.

The development of Seven Kings too occupied his interests. He was responsible for many houses in the High Road, near the station. Latterly he has acted almost entirely in an advisory capacity and built up a large practice.

The most recent examples of his work are two Ilford shops, **BURNEYS** and **WHITES** and he has also done reconstruction work.

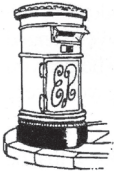
For a period, he lived at Forest Gate and ten-years-ago moved to Beacontree Heath for health reasons. He was a popular figure and greatly respected in the district.

His hobby was gardening, and he had a fine rockery at the rear of the Pines. He was a Licentiate of the Institute of British Architects, and the business will now be carried out by his nephew and partner, Mr E.G. LANE, architect and surveyor. His wife survives him.

The Funeral.

The funeral took place on Monday afternoon at the Chadwell Heath Cemetery, he was buried in Plot F—grave 1348 13 January 1936 and was preceded by a short service.

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Post Box

The Editor reserves the right to edit letters due to space considerations.

- ☐ Doreen **LEADLEY** (No. 12225) wonders if the centre page picture in *CA 183* of the three girls might be Evelyn, Sheila and Eileen **WOOD**. She knows that they went to Australia and America as adults. Doreen says that Evelyn was born in about 1935 and Sheila about 1938. They were cousins of Doreen's but she is not absolutely sure that that is who they are.
- ☐ Archive Transcription Projects. How many times have you asked yourself 'If only I had known my local archives had transcribed a certain document' or 'If only my local archives had the resources to transcribe a set of documents in their care' Here is your chance to make this wish a reality. In her role as the FHF Archives Liaison Officer, one of her aims, with your help, is to ensure that members of family history societies are always made aware of 'name rich' projects that are taking place in their area, and where possible to assist archives in moving 'name rich' projects forward. Sadie McMullen, FHF Archives Liaison Officer asks—'Do you have connections with local archives or museums or local history groups? Could you be the valuable link between the Family History Federation, the archives and family historians? If you have an hour to spare once a month and would like more information about this exciting opportunity, to play a valuable role in the family history community, I would love to hear from you'. Please contact her at *archives.liaison@familyhistoryfederation.com*
- ☐ Terry **JOYES** has written a book to celebrate the Centenary (23 September 2024) of his former School, Wanstead High School. The Book is now written and published via Amazon and priced at £17.99 (all proceeds and royalties are donated to the School). Entitled 'The Story of Wanstead High School—Towards Its Centenary', it runs to about 270 A4 pages. Marketing is organised by the School.

Allegations in Bastardy – True or False?

Brian Spear No. 883

Among my research documents is a preprinted form whose completed details show that Ann **SPEAR** swore on oath before a Justice of the Peace that she is *with child, and that the said Child is likely to be born a Bastard and to be chargeable to the said Parish* and Ann Spear doth charge one Thomas **PITTS** *with having gotten the said Child on her Body... he having had carnal Knowledge of her Body on or about the Beginning of December last and that no other person hath had carnal Knowledge of her Body...* dated 30 May 1808 and signed with her mark.

At that time the social security system, such as it was, was the responsibility of one's parish of settlement who would levy a poor rate on its more affluent residents and use it to pay the poor of the parish.

Although there was often sympathy for the deserving poor ie the aged, disabled, widow and orphan etc there was scant sympathy for those felt to be undeserving ie layabouts, drunkards, criminals and unmarried mothers. The latter could end up on the poor rate till the child was old enough to be apprenticed, usually around eight, so the bill could be large. The usual solution was to attempt to pass responsibility to someone else.

On the basis that *you have had your fun, now you must pay for it* (a common view up to the 1960s), parish officials would try to get the father to either marry her or agree maintenance in lieu. Thus, the girl had, in the first instance, to name the father—a common situation—hence the preprinted form. There were cases where the man was then dragged to the church by parish officials and forced to marry her after which he was legally responsible and could be jailed for refusing to maintain his family.

Even better if he was settled in another parish as the family would then be their problem. Failing that they could threaten or bribe a man settled in another parish to marry her, even if he was not the father. If all else failed, pushing her into another parish to have her baby was an option.

Some putative fathers disappeared to the anonymity of a big city like London or volunteered for the armed forces to escape their responsibilities. Even if found many were incapable of providing maintenance anyway. Then the girl (encouraged in many cases by parish officials) would be well advised to name some man who was not the father but was affluent enough to pay maintenance.

As there were no paternity tests at that time it was very difficult for a man to prove he was not the father if he had been somewhere near her at the time she became pregnant. Rather than face court action and a lot of unwelcome publicity some men just paid up. Tobias **SMOLLETT** wrote the novel *The Expedition of*

Humphrey Clinker around 1770 in which a young Cambridge student tells his uncle that a pregnant woman had named him as father even though he was not responsible. His uncle advised him to pay the parish saying, in the words of the novel, that he *should have good-luck if I pass through life without being obliged to make many more compositions of the same kind. The old gentleman told me last night, with great good humour, that betwixt the age of twenty and forty he had been obliged to provide for nine bastards, sworn to him by women whom he never saw.* Of course, this was a satirical novel but clearly a situation that occurred often enough for the readers to recognize it, even if not mentioned in the novels of Jane AUSTEN. Thus, if your ancestor appears in these allegations do not assume that the named father is correct.

P.S. Alas the father of Ann Spear's baby was not caught and the parish was paying out for her and her son for years afterwards.

Sources

The Expedition of Humphrey Clinker Tobias Smollet World's Classics Oxford U Press 1984 pp 27-8.

Bastardy records – what are they and what do they tell us? –Dorset History Centre blog (dorsetcouncil.gov.uk).

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The Role of My Two Grandfathers in World War I—Part I

Brian Schirn No. 6483

Enlistment



William Ravell is on the right

Image courtesy of Brian Schirn

My two grandfathers voluntarily enlisted in the army in May 1915 at Walthamstow, East London, in response to the *Lord Kitchener Wants You* campaign and were assigned to the 1st/7th Battalion of the Essex Regiment, which became part of the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.

Edwin Arthur **SCHIRN** was 40-years-old, and he worked as a tram conductor for West Ham Corporation. His father was a German immigrant, and our name still has the original German spelling. His wife, Clara, was expecting their eighth child to join the three boys and four girls in the family.

William George Saunders **RAVELL** was 36 years old, and he worked ‘in the print’ in Fleet St, Central London. William and his wife, Beatrice, had one child, Gladys Esther.

Gallipoli

The Mediterranean Expeditionary Force was assembled to force the Dardanelles Narrows, by sea and by land, to capture Constantinople from the Turks, Germany’s

allies, thereby opening-up the Black Sea to ships from the Mediterranean to bring supplies to the Russians fighting the Germans on the Eastern Front.

The first landings on the Gallipoli Peninsula were made 25 April 1915 by ANZAC troops (Australian and New Zealand troops) at Gaba Tepe.

The British army's 29th Division then delivered the main assault either side of Cape Helles.

Unfortunately, the resistance of the Turkish army proved to be much greater than anticipated and combined with a number of errors by Command Staff, resulted in the allied troops being pinned down close to the shore.

This situation went on until July 1915, when it was decided to open-up another attack point at Suvla Bay.

The 1st/7th Battalion embarked *SS Southland* troop ship at Devonport, Plymouth, 26 July 1915, and reached the island of Lemnos 10 August 1915, where the invasion forces were being assembled. The first force landed at Sulva Bay from the island of Imbros on 8 August 1915 and the 1st/7th Battalion disembarked in the second wave on the night of 10 August 1915, including Edwin Schirn and William Ravell.

At that time there were only 1,500 Turkish soldiers defending that part of the coastline against 20,000 British troops.

Unfortunately, instead of immediately advancing to take the high ground, the commander of the invasion forces at Suvla Bay, Lieutenant-General Sir Frederick **STOPFORD**, was quite content that the troops



William Ravell is on the right
Image courtesy of Brian Schirn

had got ashore and did not order an advance until the next day despite having received orders to make an immediate advance. He had not even bothered to go ashore but stayed on the ship *Jonquil* until the next day.

By then, Mustafa Kemal (aka Kemal Ataturk), the commander of the Turkish troops, had rushed forces to Tekke Tepe Ridge just before the British 32nd Brigade had struggled through the night to clamber up the rocky terrain.

The Turkish reinforcements met the exhausted British infantry with a bayonet charge and the British 32nd Brigade was virtually annihilated in a matter of minutes and the remnants of the battalions scattered back towards the beach.

Lieutenant-General Stopford was dismissed from his command by General Sir Ian HAMILTON, the commander-in-chief of the MEF, 15 August 1915.

His performance in command was said to be one of the most incompetent feats of generalship in WWI. This led to the saying *Lions led by donkeys*.

On 14 August 1915, the 1st/7th Battalion advanced inland to the hilly area of Kucuk Anafarta Ova to relieve the 163rd Brigade.

The Battalion then extended the trenches dug by the 163rd Brigade and defended their line against light skirmishes by the Turks.

Three days later the Battalion moved to Kiretsch Tepe to relieve the 161st Brigade. These were hills about four miles from Suvla Bay.

The British Forces started to come under fire from Turkish artillery and snipers up on the ridges surrounding the Suvla Bay area and there were daily casualties.

The Turks even shelled the Red Cross camp, causing yet more casualties.

Conditions were not good in the trenches and there soon came a severe shortage of water, diarrhoea, and dysentery. The cold nights aggravated the attacks of sickness, which could go on for six weeks or more.

The Battalion was relieved 29 August 1915 and bivouacked at Lala Bala until 15 September 1915. Even in their reserve position they suffered casualties from the shrapnel of Turkish shelling.

The battalion took up positions at Hill 60 from 15 September to 5 December 1915, being periodically relieved by the 4th Northants Brigade.

In December 1915, it was decided that the Gallipoli Campaign was not going to succeed, and arrangements were made for the withdrawal of the Allied Forces.

Men in the front line started to follow a routine of near silence at night.

Curious about the absence of sound, Turkish patrols edged their way forward, only to be met by devastating fire from British and Anzac trenches. The Turks learnt the hard way that quiet trenches were not necessarily empty ones.

On 6 December 1915, the 1st/7th Battalion retreated from their positions on Hill 60 and made their way at night along the coast to Anzac Cove.

There they were taken off by boat and then the *SS Osmanich* transported them to Lemnos.

During the day, remaining troops ostentatiously appeared in the open to

make the dwindling numbers look greater and empty tents were left in place.

As men filed through the trenches down towards the coast, they fired rifle shots to give the impression that their defences were still the same.

The watching Turks apparently suspected nothing.

On the night of 19 December 1915, the remainder of the Allied Forces marched silently to the beach and left Gallipoli in complete silence.

The evacuation was a rare triumph at Gallipoli, with more than 83,000 soldiers leaving in just over ten days.

The MEF casualty figures totalled 37,000 dead and 83,000 wounded and sick. The Turks lost some 350,000 killed and wounded.

The date of the first landing by Anzac troops, 25 April 1915, is known as Anzac Day, which is the most significant commemoration of military casualties in Australia and New Zealand.

Mustafa Kemal (aka Kemal Ataturk), the commander of the Turkish 19th Division, became the first president of Turkey and, in 1934, he erected a war memorial at Anzac Cove to the Allied Forces who lost their lives at Gallipoli.

The words on the memorial are as follows:

*Those heroes that shed their blood
And lost their lives
You are now lying in the soil of a friendly country
Therefore, rest in peace
There is no difference between the Johnnies
And the Mehments to us, where they lie, side by side
here in this country of ours
You, the mothers,
Who sent their sons from faraway countries
Your sons are now lying in our bosom
And are in peace
After having lost their lives on this land, they have
become our sons as well
Ataturk 1934*

To be continued....

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The First Hackney History Festival

Annette Kilbourn No. 14179

The first Hackney History Festival took place 10 May–12 May this year and, considering it was the first festival of its kind in the area, it was good and well planned.

The festival consisted of talks, which covered a wide range of interesting subjects; for example the *Salvation Army* in Hackney, *Hoxton Entertains in the 1860s*, *Gainsborough Studios*, *Hackney's Little Hollywood* and *1930s Stoke Newington* to name but a few of the many on offer. The talks took place over three days.

There were also walks which went round various locations in Hackney like *De Beauvoir Town*, *Shacklewell History*, *Loddiges* (tracing where German immigrant, Joachim Conrad **LODDIGES**, 1738–1826, started his plant business which, with his sons, developed into the world-famous *Hackney Botanical Nursery*) and even a walk which looked into who some of the inhabitants of the churchyard at St. John at Hackney were and what they had undertaken when they were alive.

A number of knowledgeable guides led the festival walks, for example Sean **GUBBINS** of *Walk Hackney* fame, who is one of the borough's top historians on all things Hackney (I have been on many walks run by Sean) and Lesley **THOMPSON** of *Lesley Walks* to name just a couple of the guides.

A friend and I booked to go on three of the walks all of which were interesting like the one that went round looking at some of the gravestones in the churchyard of St. John at Hackney.

When I was younger my older sister, Chris, and I used to walk past some of these gravestones when we used the churchyard as a cut through and often wondered about the lives of the people buried there, especially if we saw that they were not much older than us when they died or had interesting names.

This was back before you could look things up online and way before the council put up notice signs about the more famous occupants there eg Sir Francis **BEAUFORT** (1774–1857) who was famous for inventing the Beaufort wind scale that is still used today by weather forecasters and sailors.

The council though, does not give you all the stories of the occupants there. Sue **DOE**, the walk guide for the churchyard walk, covered some of the others.

One example was Sir Thomas **PLAYER** (1620–1686) who was one of the leading residents in Hackney. Thomas had a large house in Mare Street and was married to Joyce, nee **KENDALL** (1622–1686), in 1640.

Thomas worked in the city and was elected as Chamberlain of London in 1672



Pic 1. Sir Thomas and Lady Joyce Player's plaque
Image courtesy of Annette Kilbourn

upon the death of his father who was also called Sir Thomas Player and who had held the chamberlain role previously.

Both father and son had been knighted on July 5 1660 by Charles II (1630–1685).

What you would not know though, was that Thomas was being bankrolled in the city by Elizabeth **CRESSWELL** (1625–1698) who was one of the most successful prostitutes and brothel keepers of the 17th century.

Sir Thomas even had the nickname of *Sir Thomas Cresswell* in the city as the pair were very close. See <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/>

Elizabeth Cresswell

Pic 1. Sir Thomas and Lady Joyce Player's plaque stone in the walkway between St. Augustine's and the old original Hackney Town Hall which is currently a bar called *The Tap Room*.

A far more honourable chap who Sue covered very briefly was *Blind Fred* who is mentioned on a small brass tablet on the railing of the pathway between the Narrow way and Sutton Place.

I had known about Blind Fred since my childhood as my Nan, Emily **RICHARDS** nee **JACKSON** (1905–1982), had told me about him and we always used to look at his tablet if we walked down the pathway, and I still do to this day.

Looking into Blind Fred's life further I found that Frederick **PETERS** (1870–1933) had been born blind. He was the son of Frederick Peters (1850–1911) and Mary Peters, nee **WEST** (1845–1887).

Frederick senior was a cabinet maker and he and Mary had three other children



Pic 2 'Blind Fred' tablet on the railings of the pathway between the Narrow Way and Sutton Place.

Image courtesy of Annette Kilbourn

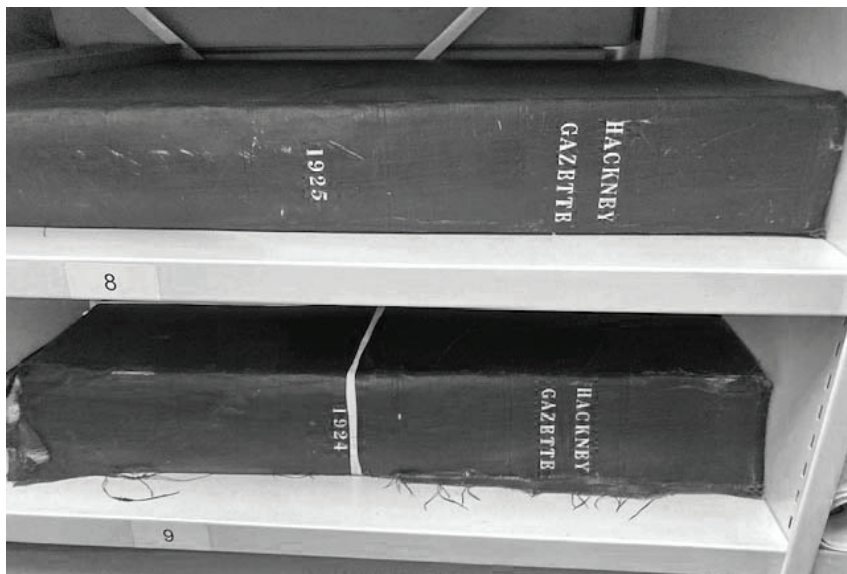
after Frederick; Mary Jane, John Thomas, and Lily. John Thomas was also blind.

The family remained together after Mary died in 1887 according to the 1891 census, but by 1901 Fred was a lodger of James and Elizabeth **BROWN** and he stayed with them until he died. It is interesting that James Brown is also a cabinet maker, so perhaps Frederick senior, when re-married and had three more children, found a place for his son to lodge with a friend/acquaintance of his. At least that is what I like to think.

Blind Fred used to sit in the same spot in the churchyard each day in all weathers and, although shabbily dressed in a bowler hat and overcoat, he was not treated as a beggar and moved on by the police. Instead, they and the people of Hackney really took Fred to their hearts and treated him with respect.

Fred sat in the same place during the day for over 40 years right up until he died.

It is really touching that a brass tablet was put up for Fred in the very spot where he used to sit selling boxes of matches and small items like shoelaces and reading his Braille bible.



Pic 3 Old Hackney Gazette folders 1924 & 1925 on the shelves of the Hackney Archives Storeroom
Image courtesy of Annette Kilbourn

churchyard, Fred is buried at the Tower Hamlets cemetery. Another of the festival events that I and a friend attended was the wonderful behind the scenes tour at the Hackney Archives. It was really fascinating looking round their basement storage area and seeing some of their treasures and old documentation like rate books and copies of old local newspapers etc.

I personally would have really loved to have flicked through the old *Hackney Gazette* folders to have a good old read of some of the stories from those times.

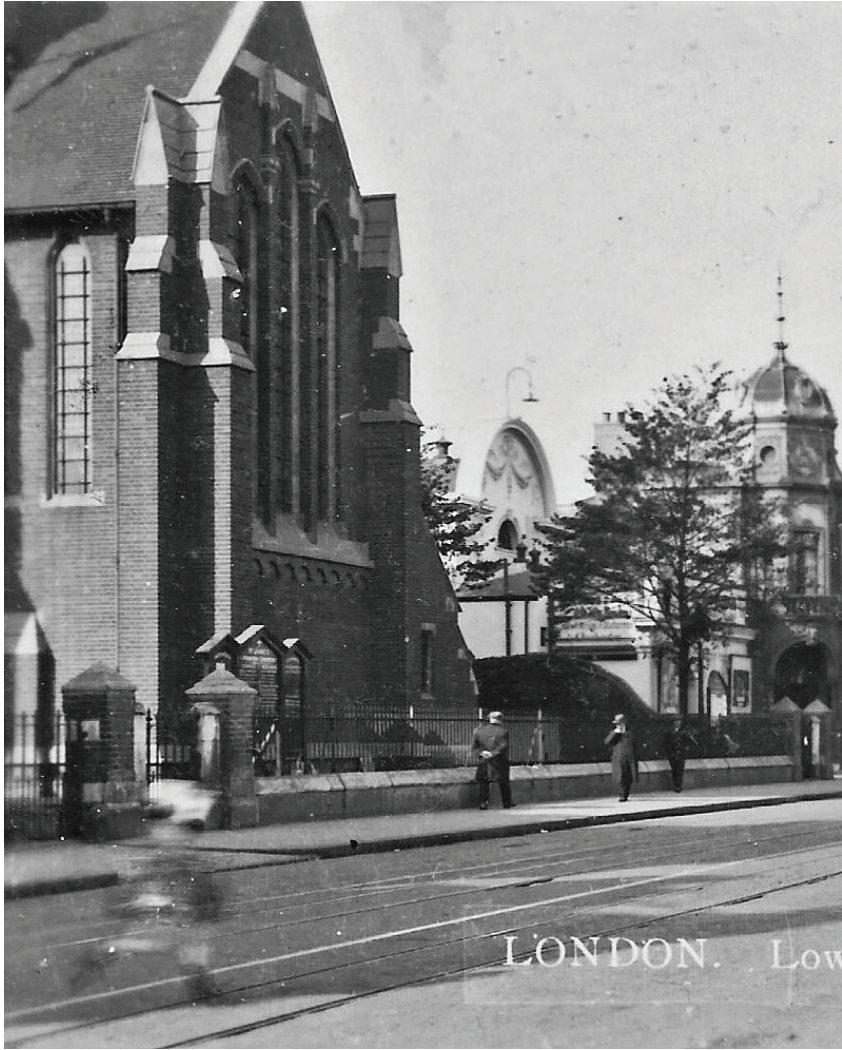
All the people who booked for this one would have liked to have spent much longer time in the storage area as we all enjoyed it so much.

I heartily thank the organisers for pulling this festival together and I loved seeing /hearing how the history of Hackney has shaped the place that we all know and love today.

Whilst writing this article, I received an email saying that the team behind the festival are planning to hold another one on May 9-11 2025, so please mark the date in your diaries and look out for the events online.

Email: annetekilbourn@btinternet.com

Our Cockne



Dennis Galvin (1109) sent in this picture of the
For more information read

y Ancestors



the photo of Lower Clapton Road circa 1910–20.
ad his article on page 30.

St. James the Great, Lower Clapton Road E5

Dennis Galvin No. 1109

I am not that good with the computer so I popped into one of my neighbours for some help which turned out to be an astonishing bit of luck, as I was shown a fairly big wad of old family postcards one of which was St. James the Great, Lower Clapton Road, London E5. Quite rare, even though we only see a part of the building on the card.

I would say the photo (on page 28) was circa 1910–20 and is, of course, actually featuring old London trams; this picture is not in any Hackney books I have and I am aware we are not seeing all of the local church. The leading tram quite clearly shows its destination is Aldgate and it is possibly packed with commuters off to their busy shipping offices in the east of the City.

There is a cinema called the **KENNINGHALL** tucked away next to the church and next and adjoining that is a pub called *The Fountain* which I think is quite unique as it actually has a quite big fountain in the middle of the saloon bar! So perhaps quite a classy unique pub!

Now, if you look above the trams you can just see the top of a building which was one of King Henry VIII's five London Palaces. It was bombed in 1940 but enough still remained and was used as a British restaurant during WWII until 1944 when it received a direct hit from a V2 rocket. However, it has been a bone of contention that, if the powers that be had been patient until much later after the war, there could have been reasonable restoration to the historic palace. Panelling from the building that was salvaged can be seen at *Harrow School* and a wall painting is at the *Museum of London*; everything else would have been dumped on Hackney Marshes after WWII. There are quite a few illustrations in Hackney books of what was once quite a local feature. *Brooke House School* is now in its space. The very first baptisms at the church were as follows

24 Oct 1841 George Stephen **CRISFORD** of George Stephen & Eleanor.
Mercantile Clk.

Martha & Eliza of John & Susan **UNWIN**. Gas Renner

Clara **SUMPTER** of Thomas John & Charlotte. Coachman

Thomas Robert **HARRY** of Thomas & Phoebe. Fishmonger

31 Oct 1841 James Henry **STEEL** of James & Eliza. Bricklayer

14 Nov Alfred Benjamin **CLARKE** of John & Ann Mason (born 2/12/1828)

14 Nov 1841 John & Ann Clarke of John & Ann (reported born 21 Sept 1875 at Augusta, Bermuda)

All by vicar J.C.**POWELL**. (The road at the back of the church is named after the vicar—so quite an honour).

30 Clivedon Road, Chingford. London E4 9RN

An Unlucky Month

Barbara Roberts No. 4251

As winter approaches I am always reminded of my great-grandfather's family, hence the little article below.

Although they lived in Wanstead, close to the City of London Cemetery, they are buried in Walthamstow Cemetery, probably because at the time of the

first burial they were still living in Walthamstow.

My great-grandfather's family must have dreaded the approach of December and Christmas.

The family grave in Walthamstow Cemetery bears witness to the fact that Benson Charles **KIRBY**, my great-grandfather, his wife and two of his six children all died in that month.

The first was the second child and eldest son, Charles Albert (Charlie). Born in 1872, he passed away 18 December 1899, aged only 27. His mother, Eliza



The family grave
Image courtesy of Barbara Roberts



Charles Albert & Benson Charles Kirby, photos from locket

Image courtesy of Barbara Roberts

Rosetta (née **FIELDER**), died 19 December 1924, four days before her 77th birthday.

Two years later, 16 December 1926, Charlie's sister—another Eliza Rosetta, known in the family as Cis—died at the age of 56, followed days later on Christmas Day by her father, Benson Charles, who died at his Wanstead home, aged 78.

The headstone on the family grave has a short epitaph under each name.

Charlie was *one of the best*; his father *was in life respected, in death lamented*. Of great-grandma it was said *she lived for others*.

Cis, who was described by a family member as *sharp and nasty*, is a bit of a mystery. In the first place, why was she buried in the family grave? There is no indication on the headstone of the fact that she had married William **PASCOE** in 1898 and had a daughter. And, it has to be said, given the description of her character, that her epitaph is somewhat ambiguous. It is the one word, *Peace*. For whom, one wonders...



Benson Charles and Eliza Rosetta Kirby

Image courtesy of Barbara Roberts

The Knoll, Quakers Close, Hartley, Longfield, Kent DA3 7EA

Wanstead Flats

Melissa Ford No. 7658



Cows on their way to Wanstead flats

Image courtesy of Melissa Ford

The southernmost portion of Epping Forest, it is surrounded today by the built-up areas of Leytonstone, Wanstead, Manor Park and Forest Gate.

This is our Redbridge and Newham Connection.

I have very fond memories of the flats growing up in nearby East Ham in the 1970s, going to the fair that would arrive at least twice a year.

I believe the fair dates to when the gypsies (Romanies) would use the flats during the winter months.

I can remember the equestrian shows that were very well attended and were held in the triangle area by the City of London Cemetery.

Roaming of cattle on the flats was a great sight to see, but many residents lost their flowers!

The flats were originally used to graze cattle before being driven to cattle markets in London but then the railway took over the transportation of the cattle. The cattle remained on the flats until 1996.

We all have different memories; for my brother it was the fair and playing



View of lake and bandstand
Image courtesy of Melissa Ford



The fair on Wanstead Flats
Image courtesy of Melissa Ford

football. I believe the oldest recorded football team that used the flats dates to 1859 and were the boys from Forest School in Forest Lane.

My parents can recall the prefab estate after the war.

But my recent memory was during the Covid 19 pandemic when they built a temporary mortuary and that is something that I do not want to see again in a hurry. One positive from this negative was that, when it was taken down, they created a wildflower area in memory of those who died.

The flats have seen many changes like when the Mornington Estate was built, the Lord of Wanstead Manor took topsoil from the flats and sold it for a profit.

In 1864, four acres of the flats became brick works, so the clay was stripped from the flats. The brickworks survived way into the 1880s.

Surrounding the flats, new housing estates were built, people were gaining more recreation time and so Angel Pond was dug (corner of Capel & Woodford Roads); there was a band stand and an area known as Monkey Parade where courting couples would dress in their finest and take a stroll.

In 1906/7 Alexandra Lake by Aldersbrooke was dug out by local unemployed men.

In 1914 another pond by Dames Road was dug out and this was for model yachts. Today this is called Jubilee Pond.

Email: historymell14@gmail.com

Editor:

This article brought back many memories for me. In 1961 I lived with my parents in Dover Road and we often saw the cows being herded backwards and forwards to graze on the Flats. We had very small front gardens and once a cow very cheekily poked its head into our open front room window. I was scared of them and always gave them a wide berth.

Visiting the fair was always a highlight too, although I was too young to go on my own and had to wait for my parents to take me.

I attended Aldersbrook school and we used to go over to the Flats in all weathers to play hockey. We used to change in the school and then be herded over there to play. It was always cold and wet and it is a miracle that we didn't all get frostbite! We also went running over there.

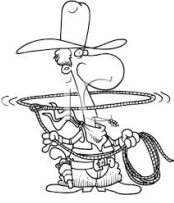
We also spent a lot of time in Wanstead Park which was at the end of Dover Road. In those days it was quite safe to play there around the Ponds (as we called them), playing hide and seek in the holidays and having picnics.

Thank you Melissa for bringing back so many memories.

I wonder what all my old school friends are doing now?

If any of you remember Vera Baird then please get in touch.

Ed.



Roundup

Save The Date – EoLFHS 2025 AGM

12 April 2025

at the Museum of the Home

136 Kingsland Road, London E2 8EA

- ☐ *The National Archives* have announced that the document reading rooms will be closed to the public on 11 December 2024 while they undertake essential staff training. The Start Here desk will also be unavailable.
- ☐ East Surrey FHS will be holding a virtual Family History Fair on Saturday 25 January 2025 from 10:00–12:00/14:00–16:00. This is free using Zoom. Register at www.eastsurreyfh.org.uk and follow the Events link.
- ☐ *Guildhall Library* is holding *Weird Things Found on the Riverbank* talk by Jenny Ridgwell on Thursday 21 November from 14:00–15:00 and also on 27 November *History and Treasures of the Guildhall Library*. For details on how to book visit their website <https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/assets/Things-to-do/guildhall-library-events-exhibitions-september-december-2024.pdf>
- ☐ *Surrey Family History Fair* is being held on 9 November 2024 from 10:00–16:30 at Woking Leisure Centre, Kingfield Road, Woking GU22 9BA. Book via Evenbrite.
- ☐ Something a bit different, *A Tudor Xmas by Candlelight* with Alan Weir and Siobhan Clarke is being held at Southwark Cathedral on 28 November 2024 from 19:00–20:30. Book via Evenbrite.

- ☰ *Useful Websites*
 National Library of Scotland – maps.nls.uk excellent for maps.
 London Borough Photos – boroughphotos.org
 All about villages in Wiltshire – appswiltshire.gov.uk/communityhistory
 Learn all about the streets of London – Charles Booth’s Maps and Notes
[https:// booth.lse.ac.uk](https://booth.lse.ac.uk)
 London Picture Archives – www.londonpicturearchive.org.uk/home
 London Stories on film – www.londonscreenarchives.org.uk

- ☰ *Historic England* and the *RNLI (Royal National Lifeboat Institution)* are inviting people to contribute to their Missing Pieces Project by sharing photos, memories, and information about listed landmarks on their new interactive map. Whether your family was part of an RNLI crew, your community supported a lifeboat, or you have stories that keep maritime history alive, your contributions can help tell the story of these special places.

- ☰ *Scotland’s People* have launched a refreshed website. The new website will have a fresh and modern feel. It has been designed to enhance user experience and accessibility. Searching the records will also be simpler and quicker. This allows a wider and more diverse audience to explore their Scottish heritage. Customers can log in with their current details and previous saved information will continue to be available.

- ☰ *Findmypast* has added: Yorkshire Monumental Inscriptions, Philadelphia Roman Catholic records, Scotland Roman Catholic records, England Roman Catholic records (Birmingham, London, Northampton, and Nottingham, 1914), Somerset parish records, Kent parish records, Buckinghamshire parish records, Northamptonshire Land, Poll & Window Tax Lists, Northamptonshire Poll Books, Northamptonshire Quarter Sessions Licences.

- ☰ *The Genealogist*. To mark the 110th anniversary of the start of World War I, The Genealogist has released an extensive collection of military records featuring the global conflict. The newly released records offer a look at over 25,000 individuals, giving details such as the service histories of soldiers, portraits, details of their schooling, and family connections, including poignant details of those killed or wounded in action.

Surnames – Vitally Important For Over 500 years!

Except where they weren't!

Peter Holford No. 14359

How many Londoners have ancestors that originated in some of the remote places of Britain?

My most remote forbears came from that area of England that lies to the north of Hadrian's Wall, many miles beyond the late-lamented Sycamore Gap tree. But so far, they seem to have been town dwellers and not from the remote valleys away from the small towns.

In researching our family trees, surnames are the vital piece of information we look for when following ancestral lines. They predate the parish registers of the 16th century and are a reliable indicator of relationships. But that is in the towns and cities. In remote areas surnames were often unimportant and barely known up to the 19th century. One such area is the South Pennines where in the valleys away from industry where a different method of naming men (not women) was in use.

In 1841 Henry CLARKSON of Wakefield was part of a team surveying for a new railway that was to be built from Todmorden to Burnley. Todmorden is on the Lancashire–Yorkshire border. Indeed, the historic boundary between the two counties ran through the middle of the town hall! Henry described what he found on the route of the prospective railway.

One of the most perplexing and amusing difficulties we had to contend with was ascertaining the surnames of the inhabitants adjoining the proposed line, which was necessary to be done in compliance with the standing order of Parliament.

To give an instance of the primitive character of the people, something like this was the colloquy that would take place:– “Pray, who is the occupier of this house?”–addressed to a great rough-looking woman who came to the door “Why my husband to be sure!”–“And pray what is your husband's name?” “Nay, I cannot tell you that! He goes by t' name of Bills o' Jacks.” “But surely,” said the interlocutor, “you must know your husband's name?” “Noa I doant.” “But I really must have it?” “Why then you mun [must] ask at Toms o' Dicks, a lives a bit higher up t' road!”

Actually, in some instances this was all the information we could get, and we were obliged to enter Bill o' Jacks and Tom o' Dicks in our record.

It, of course, meant that William was the son of John and Richard the son of Thomas, but the surname seemed a matter of little importance.

This is how surnames began from the 13th century, showing relationships to



Bill o' Jacks

Image courtesy of Peter Holford

differentiate between two people with the same Christian name. Bill o' Jacks would eventually become William Johnson or Jackson and Tom o' Dicks would have been Thomas Richardson or Dickson or Dixon. But in a remote area where everybody knew everybody else there was no need to use surnames to identify each other.

They would have had surnames but probably never used them. And if that is the case, can we be certain that the correct surname was passed to their children, especially if the woman was widowed. Perhaps the parish priest was the person who carried the knowledge forward.

A few years earlier in 1832, the story of a different Bill o' Jacks horrified Britain after he was savagely beaten to death along with his son Tom o' Bills.

They ran a remote pub called the *Moor Cock* some twenty miles south of Todmorden on the turnpike road that climbed from Greenfield up to Saddleworth Moor (infamous in the 20th century for the *Moors Murders case*) on its way to Holmfirth. A poem from that time summed up the tale. In this case we are left with a surname: William and Thomas **BRADBURY**.

Throughout the land wherever news is read.

Intelligence of their sad end has spread.

Those now who talk of far-famed Greenfield hills.

Will think of Bill o' Jack's and Tom o' Bills

The Bills O' Jacks pub was demolished in 1937 due to concerns by the water



Will o' Nats

Image courtesy of Peter Holford

company that it could contaminate the new reservoir recently completed at the bottom of the valley. (Would they be concerned these days?)

So, with the coming of the railways and the Industrial Revolution, people moved around more and this style of nomenclature passed into history, several hundred years after most other places had ceased to use it. Censuses and official records (like the *railway surveyor's documents*) would have made the use of surnames mandatory. But not very quickly! Old habits die hard.

A few miles to the north of the Moor Cock, on a remote moorland road near Meltham, lies another isolated pub. In 1854 it was called the *Spotted Cow* and was run by William **DYSON**. He was more commonly known as *Will o' Nats* (son of Nathaniel Dyson).

By 1871 the pub, an old building, had changed its name to the *New Inn*! But it was widely known as *Wills o' Nats*. And that name persisted through multiple changes of tenant until in the 1970s the name of the pub was officially changed from the *New Inn* to *Wills o Nats*. However, archive photographs indicate the inn had *Wills O'Nats* painted on the gable end of the property since at least 1910. And the pub is still trading as *Wills O'Nats* with few of its customers probably aware of what it signifies.

My wife was brought up in one of the Saddleworth valleys and she remembers

the old folk in the 1950s and 1960s still using this style of identification. By then it was simply a way of identifying a person they were talking about.

By the time I moved here in the 1970s those old folk had died and the distinctive accent disappeared over the next twenty years as the area became a desirable commuter location for Manchester.

But back in the 19th century, moving to a city like London, or more commonly Manchester and Leeds, from a community like this must have been a major cultural shock for all concerned.

And did the correct surname get passed down the generations?

Footnote

Todmorden Town Hall isn't the only building that the border of Lancashire and Yorkshire passes through.

The King's Arms, four miles from Oldham town centre is directly on the border. You buy your drinks in Yorkshire and then you can walk a few feet along the room to enjoy them in Lancashire if you wish.

It used to be customary for the local Yorkshire inhabitants to beat the bounds of the parish of Saddleworth (walk along the border) and that entailed climbing over the roof of the pub—they do things properly in Yorkshire!

Beating the Bounds is a tradition still kept alive, after seven centuries by the parish of All Hallows by the Tower which includes beating the water in the middle of the Thames!

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Email: counthill@aol.com

Never Assume, Check – Especially With Smiths

Dawn Adams No. 8923

It's by no means uncommon for pairs of brothers to marry pairs of sisters.

My 2 x great-grandfather, Thomas **DORRELL** (1824–1893), and his brother, William, married sisters Esther and Ann **CORNISH**; the sons of my 2 x great-uncle, Edward Dorrell (1860–1897), Albert and Edward, married Charlotte and Alice **HOY**. So I was not surprised, when idly filling in the distant

reaches of my tree, to find that James **GARNHAM** (1844–1906) and his brother, John, had both married daughters of Thomas **SMITH**, an East End bricklayer. James married Sarah, and John married Martha.

(Looking for James and Sarah's children on the GRO site, there had been too many Garnham births to mothers nee Smith, hence I looked for another Garnham/Smith marriage)

'My' Thomas Smith was the husband of Margaret Dorrell (1826–1887) the sister of Thomas and William, born in Birmingham but settled in Stepney.

Martha was, however, a previously unknown daughter. There was a gap in the order of births that she might fit into, and not all Thomas and Margaret's children had birth registrations that I could find. But she was not present in the household in the 1851 census when she would have been two-years-old. Sometimes children stayed with relatives.

I rechecked the 1881 census for her, after her marriage, and found that her birthplace was Stratford, Essex, not Shoreditch or Stepney, which I should have noticed earlier.

Armed with that information I found her baptism and her parents. She was indeed the daughter of Thomas Smith, a bricklayer, and his wife Ann, but this Thomas gave his birthplace as Ilford, Essex. *Two* bricklayers named Thomas Smith, working in roughly the same area.

The key phrase above is 'idly filling in'. After decades pursuing my family history, I should have known better. I hope others may learn from my errors.

34 Station Road, Topsham, Exeter EX3 0DS

William Ince and Sons – Umbrella Makers

Diane Morrice No. 12588

Further to the *Cockney Ancestor*, Spring 2024 (No. 183) edition and the article entitled 'The Umbrella Makers', I was interested to see the name William **INCE & Sons** who worked in Spitalfields from the 1800s.

The Bishopsgate Institute has published several brochures about the Ince umbrella family business. The company is still going strong working from premises in Vyner Street, E2.

My ancestors, William Ince (1797–1845) and his wife, Diana b. 1801 (nee **HARTLEY**), were married in Clare, Suffolk, 25 October 1814. They are my 4 x great-grandparents on my mother's side of the family and worked as umbrella

makers in Bishopsgate. They had four children; Mary 1820. Sarah 1822, Charles 1825 and William 1831. All seem to have worked in the family business one way or another.

Sarah married Thomas **SCOTT** (b. Malta 1818, died 1899 Camberwell) a carman who lived in Artillery Lane right next door to the shop.

The marriage took place on 14 April 1845 at St. Botolph Church, Bishopsgate. They had five children; Joseph 1846, George W. 1848, Alfred 1850, Eliza 1855 and Mary Ann 1859. This is mentioned in one of the publications about the Ince family. The home address seems to be Bishopsgate Buildings, just up the road.

The eldest son, Joseph, married Selina **EDWARDS** (b. 1845 somewhere in the area and died 1936 at North Finchley) at St. James Church in 1867 and she became Selina Scott. They had six or maybe more children; Sarah (1868–1884), Joseph Alfred 1870, George 1872 and Eliza Diana (1874–1910).

Joseph and George set sail for South America in the 1890s. Joseph returned a married man and lived near Eton Wick and Clewer near Windsor. George has never been seen since.

Eliza married Herbert **SIGGERS**, a dentist, and lived in Denmark Hill area but sadly died in 1910. The home address is still Bishopsgate Buildings so a little crowded to say the least.

There is a gap between 1874 and 1880 when I wonder if there were more children as Selina says she had eight children in the 1911 census.

The family moved to Camberwell presumably for work at the Wolford clothing factory as collar workers.

Louisa b.1880 and then my grandmother, Maud Mary Scott, May 14 (1882–1963), were both born in Camberwell.

My grandmother had her own dress and millinery workshop above a shop in Albany Road not far from the *Albany* pub where she met my grandfather.

She married Frederick Herbert **DOBNER** (b. Eton Wick, 11 November 1877 died North Finchley 1969) at St. Matthews Church, Denmark Hill in 1903.

They had six children; Maud Mary (b. 1906, died 1912), Marjorie Lilian Scott Dobner, my mother (b. East Finchley 1914, died Emsworth 2017) and Irene Constance (1921, died 2016 Kent).

If anyone has any information with regards to Selina Edwards it would be good to find out about her background.

According to her marriage certificate her father's name was John. He must have died shortly afterwards as the 1871 census shows her mother, Mary Edwards with another daughter, Eliza, living at 96 Mansfield Street, Hackney as the head of the household.

Several of Selina's children were born at this address.

Diana Morrice—Address and email withheld

Some Genealogy Stew from Ontario

Allan McGillivray UE

I live about 35 miles north and east of Toronto, Ontario, in a hamlet called Zephyr, which is Uxbridge Township in Durham Region.

Yes, many of the places here were named after places in Britain, Ireland and elsewhere.

There is an Essex County here in Ontario. It is on the north shore of Lake Erie, and is, actually, the most southerly county in Canada.

For fifty years I have been researching local history, putting together family trees and, in that time, I have had quite a number of interesting genealogy experiences and discoveries. I shall share some of them here.

Settlement locally in Uxbridge Township started in the early 1800s and our oldest building is a Quaker Meeting House built in 1820. One time there was a man from England visiting our museum and I proudly told him that our Quaker Meeting House was about 170-years-old. He laughed and said his house back home was 400-years-old.

The settlers in our area were from England, Ireland and Scotland. Some had come north from United States and there were several French families as well as a couple from Holland. Thus, as the census taker went along the road, he would have encountered a number of accents. Many people couldn't read or write. Some couldn't tell him how to spell a name, so he would write it down from how he heard it. For example, the **ROSSIGNOL** family came from Quebec to Kingston, Ontario. A few counties west of there, the name became **RUSHNELL** and further along it became **RUSNELL**.

My **MCGILLIVRAY** family came from the Isle of Mull, Scotland, to Markham Township, Ontario, which is north of Toronto. Later they moved to Western Ontario, but a daughter, Ann had married John **POOL** and stayed in Markham.

My great uncles told me not to forget a lady called Euphie Pool, a cousin, who lived in Markham. I talked to a fellow at *Markham Museum* who said that Helen Pool had married Ed **HASTINGS** and their son, Tom, lived at a place called Barrys Bay.

I wrote him a letter and said who I was and that I was doing family history but I did not hear from him. One day a knock came on my door. It was a lady I recognized who said she had been to visit her dad in Barrys Bay and he had said he had a letter from me. Would you believe that lady lived just a few houses away from me?

A Johnson family settled near Uxbridge Town in the pioneer days. In the second generation, a son got into a big argument with the rest of the family. He disowned

them and, to make it clear, after that he spelled his name with a “t” and his name became Johnston.

There was a pioneer family by the name of **MONEY** that lived in this area. John Money married, as his second wife, a lady named Charity. So, she became Charity Money. One of the sons later moved to Michigan and I once corresponded with a descendant there who spelled the name **MONNEY**. I told him the extra ‘n’ was the exchange on Money between Canada and Michigan.

A minister was travelling in Ontario along a trail on horseback one Sunday and saw a man ploughing with oxen. He wondered why a man would be ploughing on Sunday so he stopped and went over to talk to him. The farmer explained that he must have had his days mixed up. It was sometimes easy to lose track of what day it was in the pioneer world.

A local fellow, Doug **YAKE**, spent a lot of time researching his family tree. However, that was in the days before computers, so he made phone calls, wrote letters and went visiting.

He knew someone in his family years before had moved to Western Ontario. One day he got into the truck and drove to that area. He found the local cemetery, found the appropriate gravestone and wrote down the information. Doug had immediately noticed that there was a geranium planted by the gravestone, which told him someone was looking after the grave. He wrote a note and included his address. He went to the truck, dumped out candies from a cellophane bag, rolled the note up in the cellophane and stuck it in the dirt by the geranium. He didn’t get a reply until late in the winter. The lady had taken home the geranium before the frost came, and one day she was removing some dead leaves from the bottom of it when she discovered the note.

My great-grandmother, Louisa **SCHROEDER**, was born in Celle Maternity Hospital, Stade, Germany, in 1864. Her mother died a few days later. A father was not mentioned in any records and Louisa’s grandparents had her baptized.

When she was about 16 she went to England to work as a maid. My great-grandfather, Thomas **INMAN**, was from Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire, and grew up in the Ross Union Workhouse.

When he was 16 he joined the Royal Navy. He jumped ship in Australia and eventually got back to England where he crossed paths with Louisa Schroeder.

Kelly’s directory of 1886 included a stocking knitter, at 6 King Street, Walthamstow, Essex. Their daughter, Louisa, was born there in 1886. The family moved, a number of times, to places where Thomas could find work and they ended up near Leeds in Yorkshire. Thomas Inman and Louisa Schroeder had ten children. Then, surprise, they got married in Morley, Yorkshire, 25 March 1916. Their daughter, Helena, my grandmother, came to Toronto in 1919 when she was 19.

Thomas Inman had a twin sister, Ellen, who married in West Hampshire, Essex,

in 1882, William John Bohn **MILLARD**. This family later moved to Kingston, Ontario.

A lot of settlers came into Ontario from the United States. My wife, Caroline, is descended from Ann Marbury **HUTCHINSON** and Mary Barret **DYER**, both from England, who came to the Plymouth area of Massachusetts, USA, in the 1630s. The ship *Mayflower* had arrived there a little earlier in 1620. We found out that Ann Marbury Hutchinson was descended from John **SPENCER** and Ann **EMPSON**. One evening when I was leaving to go to a meeting, my wife said she was going to work on the Spencers. I told her she might be surprised at what she might find. Sure enough, when I got back home, she had the surprise. John Spencer had a brother William, and down a line from William were Winston Spencer **CHURCHILL** and Princess Diana Spencer.

Here is one we didn't expect. Caroline's ancestor, Daniel **BROWNSON** married Mary **PEETE**, a granddaughter of John Peete and Sarah **OSBORN** who lived in Connecticut, USA. I am descended from Elizabeth Peete, a daughter of John and Sarah Peete, who married Andrew **PATTERSON**. So, it looks like Caroline and I are 8th cousins.

There were illegitimate children born in our pioneer community. Joseph **GOULD** was born here in 1808 and became a miller, entrepreneur and member of Parliament. In his biography he said *with the fair sex he was a decided favourite*. We know he fathered at least two children out of wedlock when he was a young fellow. The 1861 census in Uxbridge Township listed a particular family that included two teenage daughters and two babies. At the bottom, it said *the two babies are illegitimate belonging to the above two girls*. Fortunately, in the 1871 census, it gave the real surnames for the two babies.

When looking in records, we hope to get as much detail as possible. I recently got a surprise when I was looking for information on my sister-in-law's father. He was born in the early 1900s in Peterborough, Ontario. I found his birth record which told where he was born. It gave the name of the street and the house number and then said, *on a double bed in the south room*. It didn't say whether it was upstairs or downstairs. I have been in a lot of cemeteries looking at gravestones and have read many epitaphs. The following one is a favourite I saw somewhere:

Here lies the body of Moses Pease
Resting peacefully under the trees;
Moses is not here, just his pod
Moses shelled out and went home to God.

And this one I think was from Vermont. It gave the lady's name, her birth and death dates, and underneath it said, *told you I was sick*.

As long as one doesn't hit many *brick walls*, genealogy is lots of fun.

Allan McGillivray—sent in by his daughter Bethany McGillivray

From Bethnal Green to North Wales, Part I

Phillip Hollington No. 13326



Arthur James Hollington
Image courtesy of Phillip Hollington

My paternal grandfather, Arthur James **HOLLINGTON**, was born on 23 June 1894, at 15, Clarence Street, Bethnal Green to Arthur Samuel Hollington and his wife, Harriet Keith (nee **HODGE**). He died young (54) of progressive bulbar paralysis on 17 June 1949, in the Astoria Nursing Home, Colwyn Bay, in what was then Denbighshire. In between he had a long career in the Royal Navy, managed hotels and married twice, one wife (my grandmother, Lizzie Winifred Lothian **HAMILTON**, 1899–1946) predeceasing him and the other, Dorothy **ROSS**

(1909–1984), outliving him. These three articles cover his early life and naval career, and his later life as a hotelier.

Arthur was the oldest of five boys, three of whom survived. As well as Arthur, these were Charles Andrew (1896–1992) and Frederick Ernest (1899–1970), who have interesting stories themselves, Sidney (born premature and died just four days old in 1898) and Walter Leonard (1904–1909).

His father, Arthur Samuel (1870–1952), was a coach painter and liner and the family had been in the area since at least the 17th century, with many having been silk weavers. His mother, Harriet Keith (1868–1944), was of Scottish descent, her father, William Hodge, having travelled to London sometime between 1841 and 1861.

On leaving school, Arthur lost no time as, by the time of the 1911 census, he was working as a waiter at the *Northdown Hall Hotel*, Margate in Kent. He obviously had ambition because, by May 27 1912, he was in the Royal Navy, under training as a boy seaman at *HMS Excellent*, a shore base in Portsmouth (RN shore bases are given ship's names). Later that year he joined his first ship, the brand-new cruiser *HMS Southampton*, as an Officers' Steward 2nd Class (OS2,

equivalent to Leading Seaman) under Captain (later Admiral of the Fleet) Alfred Ernle Montacute **CHATFIELD**. Obviously, his waiting-on experience was put to good use, and he made an impression, as Chatfield was his Captain in a number of later ships, including the new battle cruiser *HMS Lion*, which he joined 2 March 1913.

World War I

At the beginning of the war Arthur was still aboard *Lion* and, except for short

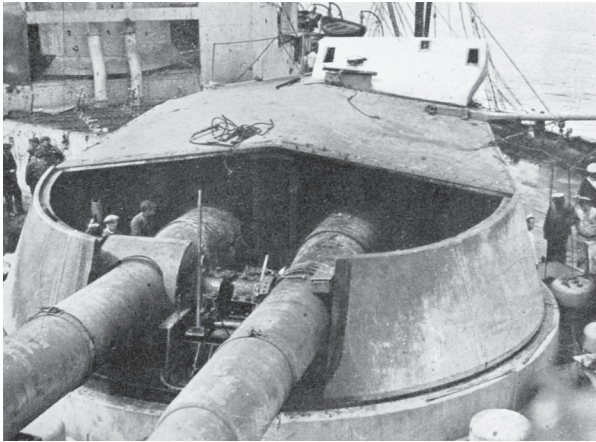


HMS Lion

Image courtesy of PPhillip Hollington

periods when the ship was under repair following battles, he stayed with her until Vice Admiral (later Admiral of the Fleet) Sir David **BEATTY** took command of the Grand Fleet in late 1916, with Chatfield as his Flag Captain, first aboard the battleship *HMS Iron Duke*, and later *HMS Queen Elizabeth*. The early days of the war are covered in a diary which Arthur kept, much against regulations, and which is now in the *Royal Navy Museum* at Portsmouth.

HMS Lion was flagship of the 1st Battle Cruiser Squadron under Beatty for most of the war, based at Rosyth in the Firth of Forth. As a major unit of the Grand Fleet she was in the thick of the fighting at three battles, Heligoland Bight, Dogger Bank and Jutland, suffering severe damage at Dogger Bank and almost blowing up at Jutland, being saved only by the heroism of Major Francis **HARVEY** VC of the Royal Marines, who, although mortally wounded, managed to give the order to flood a magazine. At Jutland, *Lion* was hit fourteen times by German shells, and suffered ninety-nine dead and fifty-two wounded. Three other



Damage to HMS Lion
Image courtesy of Phillip Hollington

battle cruisers blew up, each losing around one thousand men with only a handful of survivors, prompting Beatty to remark sardonically to Chatfield that, ‘There seems to be something wrong with our bloody ships today²’. Arthur’s diary provides some insights into life at sea during this period (my comments in italics).

‘August 28th (Heligoland Bight). Went into action with German cruisers and a battleship. We sunk a

cruiser, one cruiser by 1st LCS (light cruiser squadron), and our destroyer flotilla sunk two of enemy’s destroyers also damaging several others: our ship suffered slightly from light cruisers being slightly damaged our losses for the day’s work were one killed officer and ten men. Our own ship (the *Lion*) was hit six times (two very low, two hits B tur: one ships side midships, one after deck) but only scratched the paint. We took prisoners of German officers and 104 men: there were floating mines everywhere it was indeed a floating minefield, the manoeuvring of the fleet by the Admiral was as clever a piece of work ever done. By the way we were steaming thirty-one knots (around 35 mph) while in action the fastest speed an action as (sic) been fought at.

Aug 29th Sat., arrive Scapa and the ship was cheered by every ship we passed.

Sep 19th Sighted four funnelled cruiser about 1pm, who paid no attention to questions as to who she was, so action was sounded and the boys thought we were in for some fun when to our dismay we discovered she was English...it was the armoured cruiser *Drake*, if she had been another minute in answering she would have had a 13’ 5” (sic, *the calibre of Lion’s main guns was 13.5 inches*) in her. By-the-way, the commanding officer, or rather the captain in charge of *Drake* very likely got a severe drubbing.

Sept 27th–30th A terrible gale raging, the fiercest I have ever known, the topmost was carried away and, also, spare timber on afterdecks. Oct 1st, we arrived at Scapa Flow to coal. Oct 25th arrived Cromarty, new base as Scapa is too dangerous. Our attempt to intercept enemies’ ships failed. Do not know if weather prevented them from coming out, perhaps their admiral was seasick. Oct 26th Attacked by submarines in Cromarty Firth, successfully beat them off and

sunk both. Oct 30th Night defence was sounded about 10.30 pm—signal came through that Zeppelin attack was expected, nothing doing though.

Dec 16th (German raid on Scarborough). This was a most beautiful day to begin with, but about 10.30 am it came over very misty. About seven o'clock in the morning 'Action' was sounded, and of course everybody thought we were going to have some fun. At 8 o'clock a signal came through to say the enemy had bombarded the unfortified town of (Scarborough?). We at once were ordered to proceed to a certain rendezvous where we would intercept the enemy. At about 11.30 the light cruisers *Southampton* and *Birmingham* were in action for a few minutes but the weather being so very thick the enemy managed to escape. At 1.15 we came within eight miles of the enemy's ships which were composed of four battle cruisers and some light cruisers and destroyers, but fate was against us, at this period the visibility was no more than 5,000 yards so of course we missed them. Afterwards when we were informed how near we had been to the enemy one of our officers 'the navigating commander' cried like a child, indeed it was a most bitter disappointment to everyone.

Dec 21st The captain read out a message from the admiral to the ships company in which he sympathised with the officers and men on our bad luck in losing the chance of inflicting a crushing defeat on the Germans on Wednesday. He also said that when the day arrives when we do meet them, we will not cease fire until every ship of the Germans is in 'Davy Jones' locker men as well. He said that after their raid on the three English towns they could no longer be treated as an honourable foe. Our war cry in the future is to be 'Avenge Scarboro, Whitby and Hartlepool.' We left this morning for Queensferry.

Jan 24th (*Beginning of the Battle of the Dogger Bank, and the last entry*). About 7.30 am action was sounded. Everybody was looking forward to another disappointment, but it was not so. At 8 am the destroyers got in touch with enemy. We saw several flashes from the Germans as they fired on our ships, but our destroyers were a long way out of range. At 8.30 we were within 21,500 yds of them (*the Germans*). Most of the hands were assembled on deck watching the chase. At 9.40 the Germans opened fire on us but fell short. That was a tip to all hands to go to their stations.'

As an Officers' Steward, Arthur was responsible for serving drinks and meals to the wardroom and, as he gained in seniority (by September 1915, after only 3 years' service, he was OS1, equivalent to Petty Officer), may have become the captain's, or even the Admiral's, personal steward. At action stations he was part of the ship's fire brigade, also serving as a sick berth attendant, ferrying the wounded below decks for medical attention and assisting the medical officers in their sometimes-gruesome work. Arthur's shipmate and friend, OS2 Fred JANE, was one of those killed at Jutland. His prayer book, issued to all naval ratings, passed to Arthur and, through some detective work on *Ancestry* and the local

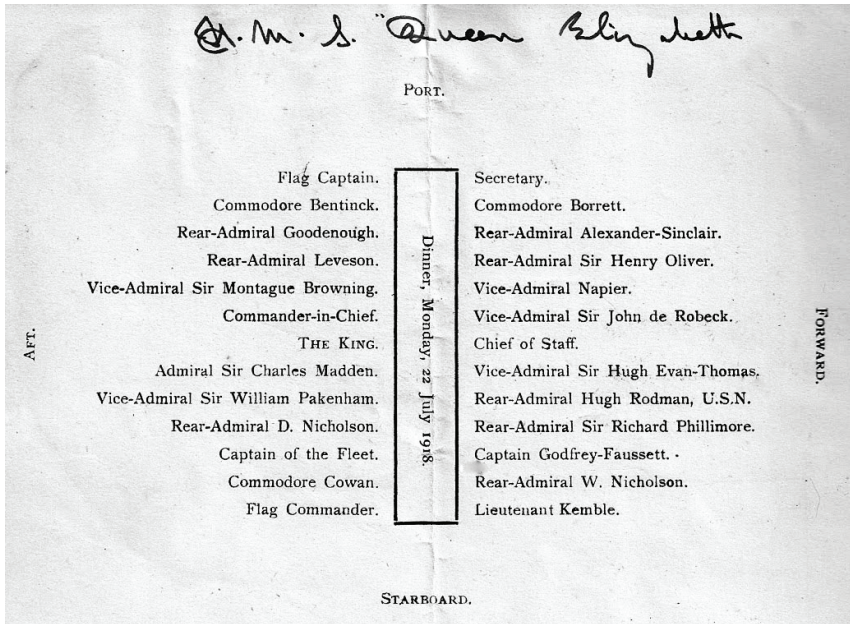


Table seating plan
Image courtesy of Phillip Hollington

press in Plymouth, my sister and I were able to return it to the family a few years ago. Once he had transferred to *Queen Elizabeth* there was no more fighting, but there was one more significant event, when the German Fleet was surrendered at the end of the war.

As fleet flagship, in port *Queen Elizabeth* would have hosted many formal dinners and receptions, often involving senior members of the forces, Government and the Royal Family. We have seating plans from many of them, and an example is shown here. As a senior steward Arthur would have been very involved in organising these and ensuring they ran smoothly. Life was also not always work: sport and exercise, particularly of a competitive nature, were encouraged; boxing matches, rugby and football against other ships and local clubs and schools as well as regattas between the different ships' boat crews.

In 1919 the surrendered German ships were moved to Scapa Flow in the Orkneys and Arthur was there to witness their final act of defiance when the Admiral in charge, Ludwig **VON REUTER**, ordered his ships to be scuttled on 21 June 1919. Although some ships were beached by the British, a total of 53 were sunk, and some remain there to this day.

Being based in Rosyth, close to Edinburgh, gave many opportunities to visit



**Ian and Eliza Hollington
on their wedding day**

Image courtesy of PhillipHollington

the city, sometimes for organised social occasions and at others for more ad-hoc runs ashore. There would also have been occasional events for local people aboard ship. We surmise that on one of the formal occasions afloat or ashore, possibly involving Arthur in his role as steward to either the Captain or the Admiral, he met my grandmother, although we have no evidence of this.

Lizzie was from a middle-class Edinburgh family. Her father, William Lothian Baigrie Hamilton, had been a hatter before running off to Natal in South Africa in 1901, following a dalliance with a servant girl, plus his drinking and gambling debts, according to the divorce. The family of her mother, Eliza Cockburn **LAWRIE**, were grocers, wine and spirit merchants, and quite well off, living in a maisonette in a fine building that still stands on Leith Walk, Edinburgh.

Arthur must have made a good impression, despite their very different social standing, because 5 August 1920 they were married in Edinburgh, and my father, Ian James Hollington, their only child, came along 16 May 1922.

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17 Tros yr Afon, Llangoed LL58 8AT

VC Winner

Melissa Ford No. 7658

Did you know that we have a Victoria Cross recipient that had a connection to Newham and Redbridge? Andrew Kinghorn **MYLES** moved down from Liverpool after his teacher training and became a teacher for the London County Council. I do not know if he worked at several schools but I do know that he ended his career at Hay Currie School in Poplar as a school master.

I know from his marriage certificate that he lived in Pigott Street, Poplar where he met his



Edgar Kinghorn Myles

*Image courtesy
of Melissa Ford*



Edgar with Mum, sisters and cousins

Image courtesy of Melissa Ford

future wife Agnes Jane **BAIN**. They started their married life in Cedar Road, West Ham, where they had two girls Edith & Ethel, then a son Edgar Kinghorn followed a few years later.

By 1901 the family were living at 147 Milton Avenue in East Ham. Edgar Kinghorn attended the local school Shrewsbury Road School (interestingly, another winner of the VC Harold Sandford **MUGFORD** also was there at the same time), I wonder if they were friends.

He then attended East Ham Technical College (East Ham



Victoria Cross

Image courtesy of MelissaFord

Grammar School). When he left school his first job was with the Port of London Authority as a Junior Clerk.

Sometime in 1912 the family moved to 2 Lake House Road, Wanstead. On August 20 1914, Edgar joined the Worcestershire Regiment, by July 1915 he transferred to the Welsh Regiment, before transferring back to the Worcestershire Regiment.

On April 9 1916 he was awarded the Victoria Cross in the Tigris Campaign at Sanna-i-Yat in Mesopotamia (present day Iraq) he was only 21-years-old at the time. The citation reads; 'For most conspicuous bravery. He went out alone on several occasions in front of our advanced trenches, and, under heavy rifle fire and at great personal risk, assisted wounded men lying in the open. On one occasion he carried in a wounded officer to a place of safety under circumstances of great danger'.

On January 25 1917 he was acting Captain whilst at Kut-Al-Amara he was awarded the Distinguished Service Order.

Edgar received his VC 4 September 1918 at Buckingham Palace from H.M King George V.

Edgar remained in the army after the war. He was transferred to the Kings Liverpool Regiment May 9 1923, by February 22 1925 he was promoted to Captain.

He finally retired from the army in March 1928. Records state that he had been wounded twice in action, and at one time was missing in action and was later picked up in the sea.

He also had received the Distinguished Service Order.

During WWII he served in Leyton as Firewatch Warden, before being appointed Assistant Air Raid Precaution Officer for Islington. His father died in 1945 and his mum in 1951. After the war he fell on hard times and was discovered starving and ill, living in a railway carriage in Devon. The British Legion came to his help, and he was placed in Huntley Care Home in Bishopsteignton in Devon. He died there January 31 1977 and was cremated at Torquay Crematorium. You can see his medals at the Worcestershire Regiment Museum.

(Previously published in Newham & Redbridge branch newsletter No.186)

Email: historymel14@gmail.com

Recycle your printer cartridges

Recycle4Charity collect used printer cartridges and make a donation to the charity of your choice – preferably the East of London FHS.

Go to <http://www.recycle4charity.co.uk>. On the home screen click on Register Now.

Further down, on the same screen, type the word East in the Choose Your Charity box. A drop down list of charities beginning with the word East will appear. Select East of London FHS–C916.

Check you have selected the correct charity at the top left of the next screen. Add your name and address details so they can send you the envelopes for returning your used ink cartridges.

On the next screen choose envelopes rather than boxes.

PLEASE DO NOT SEND Epson or Kodak cartridges, damaged cartridges, cartridges that have been previously refilled, cartridges that have been labelled for another brand eg. Tesco, PC World or Office Depot, cartridges with labels removed or extra holes (signs that refilling has been attempted).

ADVERTISING IN COCKNEY ANCESTOR

For those offering personal or commercial services to members:

Full page £45

Half page £30

Quarter page £20

Eighth page £10

Lineage adverts – non-professional: 5p per word,
plus 50p per advert for non-members

Quotes for colour adverts on request

A 10% reduction if advert appears in 4 consecutive publications

Email: editor@eolfhs.org.uk or contact:

Mrs Vera Bangs

24 Alderney Gardens, Wickford, Essex SS11 7BD

Branch Information

Havering (H): First Saturday of the month at *Trinity Church, Gaynes Road, Upminster, Essex RM14 2YS*. Doors open at 1pm, meeting starts at 2pm.

Newham & Redbridge (NR): Fourth Wednesday of the month at *The Churchill Room, Wanstead Library, Spratt Hall Road, Wanstead, London E11 2RQ*. Doors open at 7pm, meeting starts at 7.30pm.

Central London (CL): Last Friday of the month at *St. Andrew's, Short Street, Waterloo, SE1 8LJ*. The meeting starts at 5.45pm. The meeting room will be available from 5.30pm.

NOVEMBER 2024

- | | | | |
|------|------|--------------------------------|----------------|
| (H) | 2nd | <i>Newgate Prison</i> | Jef Page |
| (NR) | 27th | <i>Branch AGM, Xmas Social</i> | |
| (CL) | 29th | <i>Crime and Punishment</i> | Diane Burstein |

DECEMBER 2024

- | | | | |
|------|------|-----------------------------|-------------|
| (H) | 7th | <i>History of Christmas</i> | Nick Dobson |
| (NR) | 25th | <i>No meeting</i> | |
| (CL) | 27th | <i>No meeting</i> | |

JANUARY 2025

- | | | | |
|------|------|---|---------------|
| (H) | 4th | <i>Researching Family in World War II</i> | Simon Fowler |
| (NR) | 22nd | <i>One Street Study</i> | Gill Thomas |
| (CL) | 31st | <i>7 o'clock and Not a Baby Bathed!</i> | Robert Holden |

FEBRUARY 2025

- | | | | |
|------|------|------------------------------------|------------|
| (H) | 1st | <i>Sold, Separated or Divorced</i> | Ian Waller |
| (NR) | 26th | <i>Members' Evening</i> | |
| (CL) | 28th | <i>Talismans and Taboos at Sea</i> | Mark Lewis |

MARCH 2025

- | | | | |
|------|------|--|---------------------|
| (H) | 1st | <i>Adverts on How to Fight the Spanish Flu</i> | Andrew Summers |
| (NR) | 26th | <i>tba</i> | |
| (CL) | 28th | <i>Flash, Bang, Wallop</i> | Pat & Janet Elliott |

Society Information

Surnames of Interest:

Until the Surname Interests position has been filled please follow the instructions set out below:

Members with Internet Access and an email address are encouraged to submit their Surnames of Interest via the Society Website. Members without internet access may send details of their Interests or request a search of the Surnames of Interest to the General Secretary, Janet Seward, at the address on the inside front cover. Please remember to quote your membership number and enclose a stamped self addressed envelope. The same service is available to non-members of the Society.

Contact Email Addresses

Chairman: chairman@eolfhs.org.uk

Secretary: society.secretary@eolfhs.org.uk

Treasurer: treasurer@eolfhs.org.uk

Membership: membership.secretary@eolfhs.org.uk

Projects: projects@eolfhs.org.uk

Helpdesk: helpdesk@eolfhs.org.uk

Editor: editor@eolfhs.org.uk

Enquiries and Correspondence:

In all correspondence with the Society, please quote your membership number. When writing it is essential to enclose a SAE for a reply.

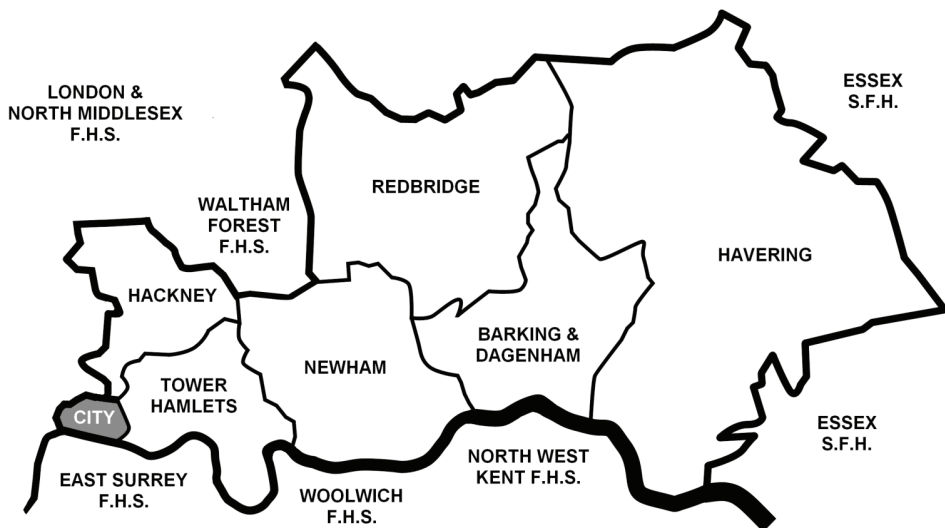
Webmaster: Bill Hughes. Email: webmaster@eolfhs.org.uk

Website: Put <http://www.eolfhs.org.uk> into your browser and add it to your favourites or bookmarks.

Writing for Cockney Ancestor

All material for inclusion in *Cockney Ancestor* should be sent to the Editor, 24 Alderney Gardens, Wickford, Essex SS11 7BD or email to editor@eolfhs.org.uk. Please quote your name and membership number and enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope for any returns.

There is no guarantee that an article will be included in any particular edition. Please do not send any original photographs in case they are lost or damaged. Your article submission will be acknowledged and you will be asked to complete and submit a copyright form. Further details can be found on our website at <https://www.eolfhs.org.uk/casubmissions/>.



The Society's area is to the east of the City of London, and it comprises the London Boroughs of Hackney, Tower Hamlets, Newham, Redbridge, Barking & Dagenham, and Havering. A selective list of places within these boroughs is as follows:

Hackney: Clapton, Dalston, Hackney, Haggerston, Hoxton, Kingsland, Shoreditch and Stoke Newington.

Tower Hamlets: Aldgate, Artillery Liberty, Bethnal Green, Bishopsgate, Bow, Bromley-by-Bow, Bromley St. Leonard, St. George in the East, Isle of Dogs, Limehouse, Mile End, Millwall, Old Ford, Norton Folgate, Poplar, Ratcliff, Shadwell, Spitalfields, Stepney, Stratford-le-Bow, Tower Liberty, Wapping and Whitechapel.

Newham: Beckton, Canning Town, Custom House, East Ham, Forest Gate, Little Ilford, Manor Park, Plaistow, Silvertown, Stratford Langthorne, Upton Park, West Ham and North Woolwich.

Redbridge: Barkingside, Chadwell Heath, Chigwell, Clayhall, Cranbrook, Fairlop, Fullwell Cross, Gants Hill Cross, Goodmayes, Hainault, Ilford, Great Ilford, Little Heath, Newbury Park, Redbridge, Seven Kings, Snaresbrook, South Woodford, Wanstead, Woodford, Woodford Bridge, and Woodford Green.

Barking and Dagenham: Barking, Beacontree, Part of Chadwell Heath, Dagenham East, Dagenham Heathway, Dagenham Village, Rush Green and Upney.

Havering: Chadwell Heath, Collier Row, Corbets Tey, Cranham, Elm Park, Emerson Park, Gidea Park, Havering-atte-Bower, Harold Hill, Harold Wood, Hornchurch, Rainham, Romford, Upminster, and Wennington.