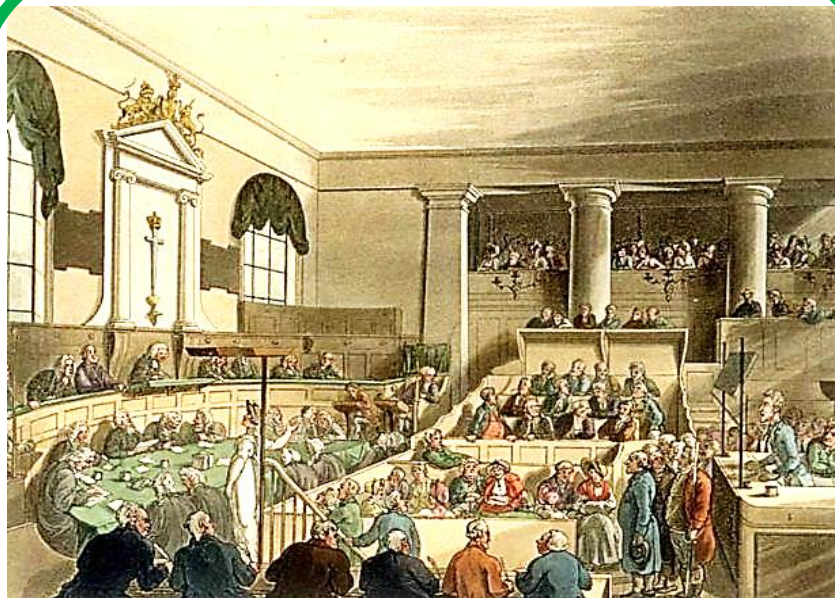




HILLINGDON FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Member of the Family History Federation



The Old Bailey (see page 18)

JOURNAL No. 138

JUNE 2022

2022 MEETINGS PROGRAMME

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

DATE	SPEAKER	SUBJECT
<i>Thursday 16th June at 2.00 pm ZOOM</i>	<i>John Symons</i>	<i>'Parish records in Hillingdon'</i>
Thursday 21 st Jul. 2.00 pm in the hall.	Tony Mitchell	'Journey across Siberia the remarkable story of Kate Marsden'
AUGUST NO MEETINGS		
Thursday 15 th Sept. 2.00 pm ZOOM	Helen Baggott	'Collecting post cards'
Thursday 20 th Oct. 2.00 pm in the hall	Ronald Koorm	'Support Services to Intelligence Ops. W2'
Tuesday 8 th Nov. joint with U3A at 2.00 pm ZOOM	Sarah Doig	'Apprenticeships & Guilds'
DECEMBER NO MEETINGS		

NOTE: ZOOM MEETINGS. The link to join each meeting will be included with the preceding NEWSLETTER.

We always welcome visitors to our meetings at an entrance fee £1

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

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

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



CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Ian Harvey

'Aspects of the socialist construction in the PSR of Albania and the crisis of capitalism' may not be on many of our members' bookshelves. I confess that there is a copy on mine.

Why?

I think it was acquired towards the middle/end of the last century whilst I was at Oxford and socialism was all the thing. The chapter headings make interesting reading:

1. Rapid and stable rates of economic development
2. A decisive condition for the triumph of the revolution and the construction of socialism
3. The great role and force of the peasantry in socialist society
4. Principle of universal value for the revolution and construction of socialism
5. The present economic crisis and the sharpening of the general crisis of capitalism

This is all followed by a table showing the increase in rates of industrial production (1965-1975):

People's Socialist Republic of Albania	10.8
German Democratic Republic	6.4
Czechoslovakia	6.7
Hungary	6.2
Yugoslavia	7.0
The Soviet Union	7.9
Federal Republic of Germany	3.4
Italy	4.2

(contd.)

There is no scale provided as to how these measurements were calculated but was Albania's industrial production really three times that of West Germany during this period?

It is obviously all propaganda but my point for family historians is that most of us have lived through this kind of thing, including our ancestors.

Political regimes like to project themselves onto the populace that they want to control. The populace (or in the case of Albania, the 'peasantry') may not appreciate it and decide to go somewhere else. The Irish certainly decided that the Americas were a better place to be than Ireland under the British.

My conclusion is that when researching family history, it is important to look at the wider political situation in the place where they lived. It might explain why you can't find them in the records! They have just pushed off! And not left a forwarding address.

EDITORS' JOTTINGS

<i>Journal Dates for 2022</i>	
Edition	Deadline
September	29 th July
December	21 st October

By now many of us will have had a chance to explore the 1921 census on Findmypast. Hopefully the searches will have produced some answers to long standing questions and maybe one or two shocks and 'I didn't know that!' items.

(contd.)

We always need such material for the journal not only for the general interest of the membership but also to illuminate the research process/tips employed.

If you have found something new or cracked a particular problem by having access to the 1921 census, or for that matter any other source, why not record it, send it to us and see your name in print. Of course, our need for material is not restricted to 1921 finds.

We desperately need any subject matter and especially illustrative images, photographs etc. which always provide added interest.

Come on members, your journal needs you!

Finally, to date we have received only one comment regarding the new journal format, whilst the member concerned thought that it was an improvement and the quality as well as colour printing great, there was a small complaint.

What has happened to the Hillingdon Eagle?

CONGRATULATIONS PAT!



We offer our congratulations to our membership secretary Pat Reynolds. She achieved the milestone of her ninetieth birthday in April and we wished her all the very best on that occasion as well all good wishes for the future.

Pat has been a regular at the various fairs that we attend throughout the summer months and in addition she is responsible for all membership matters including the gathering in of subscription renewals. Another of her tasks is to collect entrance fees from visitors attending the research room.

So, a **VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY, PAT** and many more of them!



DANGER AT HOME

By Alan Rowland

As I researched my wife's family some years ago, I found that her paternal ancestor, Charles REAKES married Thirza MARCH. He was from Evercreech, Somerset and she from the nearby village of Pylle. Full of enthusiasm we made a short visit to the area to see what we might find.

EVERCREECH.
SAD AND FATAL CASE OF BURNING.—An inquest was held on Thursday morning last, before S. Craddock, Esq., coroner, and a jury, touching the death of Eliza Ann March, a little girl, whose clothes caught on fire whilst at school on the previous Monday:—Mr. B. N. Hyat, a registered practitioner of surgery and medicine, residing at Shepton Mallet, stated that on Monday last he was called to see the deceased, Eliza Ann March. He found her suffering from severe burns over the whole body, except the face. She had been well wrapped in cotton wool, steeped in Linseed Oil and Lime water. He did not see her afterwards, and on going down heard she was dead. He believed the cause of death to have been shock to the system, caused by the large surface of her body that had been burnt.—Mary Anna Targett, a girl nine years old, said she attended the national school. On the previous Monday, during the dinner hour, she was standing by the fire in the schoolroom with the deceased, who was standing close to the fire. She saw her pinafore catch fire, and tried to put it out, but could not. Deceased ran out into the yard, by which time she was in a regular flame.—After hearing the evidence, the jury returned a verdict to the effect that deceased died of collapse from a large burn caused by her clothes accidentally catching fire.

(contd.)

In Shepton Mallet library we discovered a newspaper report (The Shepton Mallet Journal dated 18th December 1874) of an inquest into the tragic death by burning of a nine-year-old girl named Eliza Ann MARCH! There does not seem to be a direct connection back to Thirza MARCH but at that time Pylle was awash with families bearing the MARCH surname so they may well have been distant cousins.

Another interesting find surfaced in subsequent searches: there was a second report of a young girl's death from burns. This was also found in The Shepton Mallet Journal (date 26th January 1877) the girl's name? Eliza Ann MARCH age six. This time the event happened in Pylle and again no connection has been found to either the earlier Eliza or Thirza MARCH. The image quality of the newspaper report is not good so here is a transcript:

PYLLE

Inquest: — An inquest was held in this village on Tuesday last, before Dr. Wybrants, coroner, and a jury, touching the death of Eliza Ann March, a little girl, six years old, the child of Paul March, labourer. — From the evidence (?) it appears the mother left home on the Sunday, about mid-day, the father following about 4 o'clock, leaving five children at home to take care of themselves. The eldest boy went to bed about 6 o'clock, in consequence of having bad eyes, and the care of the little ones devolved upon a younger brother. About one o'clock the neighbors were roused by screaming, and on going into the house, found deceased dreadfully burnt, and a lamp overturned. At that time the father and mother had not returned, and on a neighbor (sic) going to look for them, they were found at Ditcheat, at the house of Mrs. March's brother, where there was music and dancing going on. Mr. Hyatt was sent for, and he dressed the burns, but the case was hopeless from the first, and the poor little thing quickly succumbed to the shock to her system. It appeared the parents were often in the habit of leaving the children by themselves, but not for so long a time. On arriving at the house, the father said, that it was through his own neglect.

The jury returned a verdict of Manslaughter against the father and mother, and they were committed for trial accordingly.

That last sentence obviously led to more searches with the following results. It is hard to see how the child's parents could be found not guilty given that the father is recorded as saying 'that it was through his own neglect'.

(contd.)

N ^o	NAME	A ^g	TRADE	Degree of Instruction	Name and Address of Committing Magistrate	Date of Warrant	When received into custody	Offence as charged in the Commitment	When tried	Before whom tried	Verdict of the Jury	Particulars of previous Convictions charged in the indictment and proved in Court	Sentence or Order of the Court
26	ON BAIL Arthur John Aissey Bristol 16th Dec. 1876				Jerom March, Esq., Canwells Bath	16th Dec. 1876		Pejury at Weston on 2nd December 1876	15th Mar. 1877	The Right Hon. Sir A. Cockburn Bart., L.C.J. of England	Not guilty of pejury		
27	ON BAIL Paul March ..				J. Wybrans Esq., M.D., Coroner Shepton Mallet	26th Jan. 1877		Manslaughter of Eliza Ann March at Pyle	13th " "	"	Not guilty of manslaughter		Bill ignored
28	Emma March Bristol 23rd Jan. 1877												

What is also interesting is that in the first example the incident occurred in the National School, Evercreech.

It was in December and it would seem that the school room was heated by an open fire – the norm for the Victorian age. But was it also the norm for the children to be outside if it was cold enough for a fire?

Why were Eliza and another girl left unattended in the room? These questions either were not asked at the inquest or if they were they were not recorded.

Consequently, nobody was to blame and the verdict of accidental death was recorded.

This set me wondering about the use of fireguards.

Fireguards were and are a simple effective means of keeping flammable materials away from the naked flames of an open fire. In the schoolroom incident had a guard been in place it is difficult to see how the accident could have occurred.

There was often a fender on the floor in front of an open fire which was intended to keep you clear of the flames.

(contd.)

This it would do to an extent but it took no account of the fashions of the day which in Victoria's time called for voluminous skirts/dresses and sometimes, in the case of young girls, with an apron as well to keep the skirt/dress clean. These clothes could easily overhang the fender and reach the flames.

The danger was increased when as was usual a mirror was located on the mantle shelf. In order to comb the hair etc you had to approach dangerously close to the fire in order to see. A mantle shelf was a handy place to keep all manner of objects as well as the mirror; ornaments, matches, cooking utensils, cooking oil or fat and once gas lighting appeared in the home, it was where the spare mantle was kept hence the name.



A typical working/lower class room showing a coal fired range which served for cooking, boiling water and heating the room. There is a fender on the floor in front of the range, above is the mantle shelf/piece and the child sitting on the floor wears the sort of clothes that were so dangerous near open fires. (Picture from Google).

(contd.)



A typical Victorian fire guard



A gas mantle used for home lighting instead of oil lamps.

The mantle comprises a mesh bag of fabric impregnated with a solution of nitrates of cerium and one or more of the following metals: thorium, beryllium, aluminium, or magnesium. The bag is mounted on a fire clay ceramic mounting ring and is easily broken as it became brittle in use. A spare was always kept close by!

The mantle is fixed over an orifice carrying a flammable gas such as natural gas, coal gas, propane, or vaporized benzene or other fuel.

(contd.)

A series of Google searches uncovered this document;

*'ABSENT FIREGUARDS AND BURNT CHILDREN:
CORONERS AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF CLAUSE 15
OF THE CHILDREN ACT 1908*

By Vicky Holmes,

a Research Student in the Department of History, University of Essex.

Abstract

Government intrusion into the homes of the working-classes gained momentum through the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. One hitherto unexamined piece of legislation, that sought to regulate behaviour, was a clause in the Children Act 1908 pertaining to the use of domestic fireguards.

This transpired because of the outcry of coroners who conducted inquests into the deaths of children fatally burned in their homes, supposedly a safe refuge, a space constructed as a maternal responsibility. Coroners increasingly believed such accidents were a result of either maternal carelessness or negligence, especially those involving unguarded fires and absent mothers.

Yet, limited by inadequate laws and unwilling juries, the coroner could do little but admonish the mother. However, growing Government concern over the abilities of working-class mothers and the health of the nation finally brought the issue of absent fireguards and burnt children to Parliamentary debate, culminating in a provision which appeared to have been aimed more at prevention than punishment'.

There was also a telling paragraph;

'In 1911, The Penny Illustrated Paper reported on an inquest into absent fireguards and burnt children. A child was burnt to death through an absence of a fireguard and the newspaper criticised one coroner's ignorance of the realities of working-class life following remarks that 'a fireguard could be purchased for a shilling' and that the parents should be sent before the police courts under the Children Act 1908. A correspondent stated that the lowest price at which he could buy one was 4s.6d'.

NB. Vicky's paper can viewed in full on;

<https://lawcrimehistory.org/journal/vol.1%20issue1%202012/Holmes.pdf>

(contd.)

So, the social conscience wheels move very slowly with legislation only appearing in 1908 intended to protect in particular children from death by burning in the home.

The Penny Illustrated Newspaper also brought to light how, even in 1911, those higher up the social class system had no concept of the hardships and lack of money endured by the working and lower classes. Even at the cost of a shilling great thought would have been needed to before a fire guard would be purchased and if, as the correspondent asserts, the cheapest he could find cost 4/6 a fireguard would probably have been out of the question.

One final extract from Vicky Holmes work is given below;

‘The witnessing Police Officer remarked, it was nearly always women summoned in these cases, because they were responsible for the home and their child’s safety. However, in a remarkable move by the magistrate, Mr Cluer, stated to the court that: ‘it was the husband who was responsible for the non-provision of the fireguard. He would never impose a penalty on the woman in such a case [...] the husband is responsible. He earns the money and provides the home’.

After agreeing to have his name substituted for that of his wife’s on the summons, the husband was then questioned by Mr Cluer as to why no fireguard was present at the time of the accident, to which the husband replied: ‘he did not believe in fireguards at all. Women only made clothes-horses of them, and that was far more dangerous than having no guard at all. He thought he had been punished enough by the loss of his child’.
A fine of 5s was [then] imposed on the husband.

Mr Cluer also took the opportunity of this case to voice criticisms of section 15 of the Act: The proper thing would be for the people who make these Acts to provide fireguards for poor people at the public expense. Poor people at times can hardly provide themselves with food, and if they buy a fireguard, of necessity they buy one of the cheapest kind they can. That complies with the Act but does not prevent accidents, as children can lean over these trumpery guards and so set their clothes alight with impunity’.

So, there was some semblance of a social conscience after all!

ANOTHER MYSTERY SOLVED – MAYBE

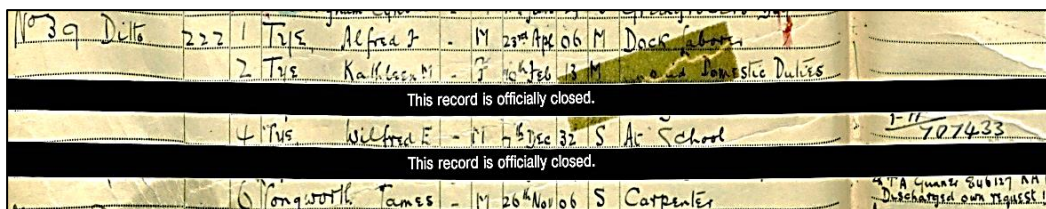
By John Symons

The telephone rang. It was Pat, our Membership Secretary. Someone was looking for assistance to trace their family - nothing unusual in that of course. I soon spoke to the person making the request, a gentleman named Arnie TYE

He told me that he had received some DNA results and wanted to make more sense of them. It sounded potentially very interesting but I had absolutely no idea where the story would lead. I could not have imagined that it would turn into one of the most remarkable stories I have ever encountered. Arnie has kindly granted permission to retell the story. I hope you find it interesting.

Arnold, or Arnie, was born on 15th July 1941 in Dovercourt, on the outskirts of Harwich in Essex. On his birth certificate his father is given as Alfred Frank TYE and his mother as Kathleen May TYE, formerly Tricker. Therein lies the first problem. This was wartime and Alfred was serving in the Royal Navy in the Far East, so he was not at home.

At the outbreak of war, the 1939 Register shows Arnie's parents living at 39 Abdy Avenue, Dovercourt. At this time they had three children, Brian, Wilfred and June. After Arnie's arrival another child, Carol, was born in 1945.



Extract from the 1939 register.

When Arnie's DNA results were received they showed a strong link with the LONGWORTH family whose origins were from the North West of England. It was probably not a coincidence that an apparent lodger or boarder, James LONGWORTH, was found with the TYE family in 1939.

(contd.)

So, we wonder, how did James, or Jimmy as he was known, come to be living in Essex, a long way from his home turf of Manchester. One possible answer was given by Arnie who told us that he thought his mother was employed in the Dovercourt Bay Holiday Camp. The camp was quite close to where they lived and when it opened in 1937 would have given rise to many local employment opportunities. Because war was looming it did not stay open for long and by 1939 it was used by the 'Kindertransport' to house children, mainly Jewish, fleeing from Nazi persecution. This was not deemed an ideal location with invasion threatened and they were moved to other bases inland whilst the camp premises were requisitioned for military use. Later in the war it became a prisoner of war camp. In 1946 it reopened under the Warner brand and it stayed that way for over 40 years. The television series 'Hi de Hi', which many of a certain age may remember, was filmed there off season.

The 1939 register shows Jimmy's occupation as a carpenter, also noting that he was a Territorial Army reservist. This combination of talents and experience would make him a good fit for employment in the camp whether in a civil or military role. This, it has to be said, is merely informed speculation but there is evidence that Jimmy stayed in Harwich for much of the war as he appears to have fathered at least two children there during this time. If we are to speculate however we might also wonder how it was that another boy, one of Arnie's playmates, who lived across the road who was of nearly the same age and looks came to be born to a woman widowed in the earliest days of the war. We will have to leave that question hanging for now at least.

At the end of the war Alfred returned from his duties, probably not impressed with the increase in the family during his absence. Sadly, not soon after, in 1948, Arnie's mother Kathleen passed away.

Alfred then asked the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) to take Arnie and an older sister, June, into care. The younger sister, Carol, was already being looked after by an aunt in Harwich. This request was passed to Barnardo Homes and in January 1949 June was admitted to Barnardo's. Arnie's other half-brothers went to live with another aunt, leaving Arnie alone.

(contd.)

Then after two years Arnie was also admitted to Barnardo's but to a different home from his sister June. Arnie then is looking to fill in the many gaps in his knowledge about his family.

What of Jimmy though, his biological father? Through the assistance of DNA matches on Ancestry we were able to piece together the outlines of his family. Better still we were able to make contact with a great nephew of Jimmy who is a family historian in his own right. Although he did not know much more about Jimmy, he knew a lot about the wider family and this made the task a good deal easier.

Jimmy was born on 26th November 1906, the third of four children born to Thomas LONGWORTH and Ellen Ann BOTTOMLEY in Manchester. After the war he was quite elusive but he died on 22nd April 1958 in Silverdale, Lancashire, the informant at his death being his younger sister Beatrice who also remained unmarried until her death in 1995. The family were traced back several generations in Lancashire. The family name LONGWORTH is what is known as locational and is probably a derivation of Langworth in Lancashire so it is fairly certain that Arnie's paternal roots are indeed from Lancashire. Most were employed in heavy industry such as iron and steel works and many lived in and around the Blackley district of Manchester.

Their lives, like so many at the time, would be governed by the terraced back-to-back houses so redolent of the era. Nonetheless by the end of the 19th century they did attend local schools and the parents' employment would be nearby as well.

Going back further we find the family draws from a somewhat wider catchment area with employment coming from the cotton mills often operated by water power from rivers springing from the Pennines. Some of the female lines were from Ireland who were drawn from their native lands to escape poverty to work in the cotton industry.

(contd.)

His mother's family were very different however. Kathleen herself was born in Dovercourt in 1913 but both her parents had only recently moved there from further up the coast in the town of Orford in Suffolk. Indeed, all the family came from Orford or the immediately surrounding parishes.



SAMUEL SMY in 1930
With his bell and wearing his Town Crier Uniform
(Orford Museum Collection)

Kathleen was youngest of seven children born to Edward William TRICKER and Athelinda SMY. Both parents were also members of large families.

Living on the coast would often mean that to make ends meet, a number of occupations were needed both on land and sea. Athelinda's father, Samuel SMY (usually known as Sam) was born in 1845 and died in 1937 in Orford).

As a boy it was reported that he was in the Royal Navy as a 'Powder Monkey', a 'Monkey' carried gunpowder to the ship's cannons.

His subsequent life was as a fisherman, a newsagent and an agricultural labourer. Locally he was best known for his role as Town Crier.

(contd.)

As time went on it was discovered that he had become the oldest Town Crier in England still calling out the news.

The BBC noticed this and in 1934 he featured in an episode of 'In Town Tonight' broadcast on the BBC National Service and then the Home Service on Saturday evenings. We have been unable to find a recording of this programme.

His bell is now on show in the Orford Museum. From other recollections from local inhabitants, it is clear that Sam is still remembered as an important member of the local community.

All sea-going occupations are inherently risky and this was especially so in the 19th century. Another of Arnie's great grandfathers, William TRICKER (1837 – 1921) served in the Royal Navy and Merchant Navy throughout his life.

In August 1878 he was serving as mate on the 'Sutton', a schooner. The vessel was in Orford harbour and a boat belonging to the 'Sutton' left the quay to join the vessel with William TRICKER, George COOK (pensioner) and a young lad, Francis CROSS on board. A squall developed and the boat capsized. The Coastguard was called out and found TRICKER clinging to the side of the capsized vessel. George COOK, sadly, was found drowned and there was no sign of Francis CROSS. William recovered and continued as a sailor for many years. *A report, see below, appeared in the Framlingham Weekly News of 10th August 1878.*

At this time William was married to Hannah COOK who might be related to the George COOK who perished. Their son and Arnie's grandfather Edward William TRICKER was born in 1864. Edward also started as a sailor but later reverted to agricultural pursuits, being a stockman on a farm. This might have been safer than going to sea, but farming and agriculture is also potentially dangerous. He died though, following an illness in 1925.

(contd.)

ORFORD.

FATAL BOAT ACCIDENT.—On Saturday morning last, about 10 o'clock, a boat belonging to the schooner Sutton started from the Quay, containing William Tricker, mate of the Sutton; George Cook, pensioner, just returned from India; and a little boy named Francis Cross. The boat pursued its course towards the harbour, and from what evidence has as yet been obtained, the boat capsized about midway between the Island-house and Crouch-harbour. It was blowing very hard at the time, and inclined to be squally. Tricker clung to the boat, and was eventually saved, although in a very exhausted and weak state. Cook was picked up, but dead, he having become entangled in the rigging. The unfortunate lad Cross was no more seen. It appears that the main sheet was made fast, as is generally the case in these painful accidents, and running dead before the wind, the boat jibed, evidently before Tricker could be aware of it, as he was in charge.—An inquest was held on Saturday afternoon at the Town Hall, on the body of George Cook, before Samuel Rope, Esq., coroner, and J. R. Wood, Esq., deputy-coroner, when William Ling and James Chambers gave evidence to the following effect. They saw the boat start at about 10 o'clock and saw nothing wrong to their knowledge in the rigging of the boat or the men themselves. About an hour afterwards they learned the news that there was a boat capsized, and they immediately, in company with coastguard Blackman, got a boat and rowed towards it. They got there just in time to save Tricker, who was clinging to the boat, which was then lying on its side. The sails were floating on the water. They did not know when they first got Tricker into the boat whether he was dead or alive. Next, Cook was got into the boat, but he was quite dead. They saw nothing of the boy. They then rowed as fast as they could home, and took Tricker into the watch-house, and he shortly afterwards recovered, but not sufficiently to give evidence at the inquest, consequently the enquiry was adjourned till 11 o'clock on Monday, when the jury returned a verdict of "Death by accidental drowning."

(contd.)

All of this and much more was assembled for Arnie in a large folder, thanks to a Society member, Eve MARTIN. His family were not unusual in themselves, they were just making the best of what they had either in the industrial heartlands of Lancashire or the coastal communities of Essex and Suffolk.

What was satisfying was being able to bring their stories to life and for the LONGWORTHS, by using the power of DNA matches, to establish a link back through the generations.

A SEVERE SENTENCE IN THE 19TH CENTURY

By Alan Rowland

As I checked over part of my family tree recently, I found a couple of names that lacked certain details so I set about trying to fill in the gaps.

This brought me to one John FARNDEN, my maternal 3 x great grandfather, a blacksmith in Turnham Green, Near Chiswick, Middlesex. A search of the Old Bailey trial records threw up the record of a trial in 1808 where a John FARRENDEN gave evidence against one William KENTECHELER. Although the surnames of the Johns are different, from other information already in my procession I am sure that they are the same person. The trial transcription is reproduced below:

‘ 690. WILLIAM KENTECHELER was indicted for feloniously stealing on the 18th of September, a black gelding, value 20 l. the property of Joseph Kirkman.
SECOND COUNT for like offence, laying it to be the property of John Farrenden .

JOHN FARRENDEN . I am a farrier at Turnham green .

Q. Had you a horse in your stable on the evening of the 18th of September - A. Yes, it belonged to Joseph Kirkman; I had the care of it to cure it of a bad foot; I got him home on Saturday evening about six o'clock, I put him in the stable, bolted the door, and fastened it besides. I went to bed about eight o'clock; I was tired.

(contd.)

Q. When did you last see the horse - A. About seven o'clock I saw it; about six o'clock I brought it home.

Q. Did you fasten the door then - A. I go out of the dwelling house into the stable; that door was bolted in the morning.

Q. When did you miss the horse - A. I was awaked in the morning by my dog about four o'clock; he was barking; I ran down stairs, I did not give myself time to put my clothes on, I thought something was amiss by the dog barking; when I came down I found the stable door broken to pieces, and the horse gone; I immediately ran up stairs again and dressed myself; I live about thirty yards from the road.

I ran up the road to get intelligence if I could; I met three men going angling in the country; I enquired of them;

they told me they had met a man with a large horse, he was trotting him as hard as he could, they could not see the colour of him, he had two white legs behind; I run on further about a quarter of a mile towards town;

I met Peter Cook, I enquired of him if he had met such a horse, he said he had, about a quarter of a mile before me, the man was on him, trotting him as hard as he could; I asked Cook to turn back with me, for fear there should be more with him.

Q. Was Cook on horseback - A. No, on foot. He turned back with me, and I went on till I got to Hammersmith, and at the Plough and Harrow I ran by the horse; I jumped off the pathway into the road, and told him to stop, he had got my property; he said what did I mean by that, it was not mine, he would let me know that I was wrong, and that I had no business with it; I told him that I would have him and told him to get off; he would not get off; I told him I would have him, he had got my property that was delivered into my charge; I jumped up and catched (sic) him by the collar, and pulled him off; Cook was just at the back of me, he took hold of the horse just when I pulled him off.

Q. Are you sure that horse that you found him upon was the same horse that had been in your stable the night before - A. I am sure of it.

Q. You had observed his marks - A. I could swear to him by one mark at his nose; the near side of his nostrils is cut through, by what I do not know; I am certain sure of the horse, if only by the foot and nothing else; it had the canker in the foot; I am in the habit of curing the canker. I took the man, and held him till the watchman came up, and then I helped to put him into the round house, and then I took the horse and put him into my stable again.

(contd.)

Q. Look at the prisoner at the bar - is that the same man you saw riding on the horse - A. Yes.

PETER COOK. Q. You have heard the account that Farrenden has given - was you with him at the time he seized the prisoner - A. Yes.

Q. You assisted Farrenden in seizing him - A. Yes.

Q. Is the prisoner the same man that was on the horse, that you saw on the horse - A. Yes.

Q. You had run with Farrenden to overtake him - A. Yes.

Q. You have heard the account that Farrenden has given us - did every thing occur as he has told us - A. Yes.

GIBBS. Q. Was the prisoner put into your custody by Farrenden - A. Yes, on the 18th of September, ten minutes before four o'clock.

Q. Is it the same man - A. Yes.

Q. Did you see the horse - A. Yes.

Prisoner's Defence. About seven o'clock I left London, I went down as far as Brentford after some things of mine that were at a pawnbroker's. Going from Brentford I stopped drinking till after twelve o'clock; I asked the landlord of the Running Horse public house if I could have a bed there, as I was forward in liquor; the landlord said he would go to his mistress and ask her if he had a bed vacant; he came back and said his beds were all full; I proceeded on the high road for London; I was so very drunk I fell asleep on the road; I had these clothes that I released out of the pawnbrokers, in a large bundle along with me; I slept till rather after three o'clock in the morning; I got up and was coming along the road; a man had this horse with him, he said I seemed to be in liquor; I said I was; he asked me what part of London I was going to, I told him I was going as far as the beginning of Holborn, where I worked; he said he was coming very handy to there, if I would pay him I should ride; I told him I would pay him for riding to London; he put me upon the horse and carried my bundle. I was not in custody of the horse above ten minutes, when these people pursued me; the man who gave me the horse he got away from me; I never missed him, being in liquor; he took my clothes along with him. When the man came up to me and asked me what business I had with the horse, I told him that I had paid for riding the horse to London.

(contd.)

Q. You did not tell him it was not his property, and he had no business with it - A. No, I told him no such thing.

GUILTY - DEATH, aged 34. Second Middlesex jury, before Lord Ellenborough.'

What is particularly concerning, apart from the harshness of the law and subsequent sentence, is the apparent brevity of the proceedings.

I suppose we are too used to the various TV police dramas (British and American) where in order to convict, volumes of evidence and motive are required as well as arguments fending and proving the case.

Here however, it seems three people, the accused and the two 'witnesses', were asked to tell their version of what happened. The actual owner of the horse was not presented in order to confirm that he was the owner and that he had left the animal with the farrier. It also appears that there was no legal representation for the defence or cross examination before the jury produced a guilty verdict leaving the judge no alternative but to pronounce the death sentence.

If the online record contains all the proceedings of the trial, which I have not been able to confirm, it must have all been over very swiftly. Not long after this trial the statute was amended and the sentence of death for horse stealing was no longer in force. In England I believe it was in 1825 that the last person was hanged for stealing a horse.

I know not if the sentence was carried out – I expect that it was for I cannot imagine that there was a system at that time that allowed an appeal. So, three people were asked questions to which two agreed that the third was 'the man' therefore he must be guilty!

WHY COULDN'T I SEE THE OBVIOUS?

By Alan Rowland

I was recently made aware, once again, of how useful it is to present your research work as a graphical drop-down family tree. As well as being useful it can often solve a problem and make it obvious if there is a mistake.

My own tree needed tidying and as I attempted this, I checked out my maternal 3 x great grandmother, Anne PHILLOTT born 1807 in Bath, Somerset. I researched (via the Bath, Somerset Parish Records) her parents and as I normally do, I jotted down the results as they came to light on some scrap paper prior to entering them onto the tree.

Out of general interest I also looked for her siblings and found that one of her brothers was Charles George Rodney PHILLOTT born 1782. With such a distinguished looking set of given names I had to look further and discovered, via a Google search, that he was a Rear Admiral!

At last, a tenuous, remote connection with a 'somebody' and of course off I went looking for more details about him without too much thought of his sister Anne.

I found that he received his first commission in 1801 and served as second lieutenant on the '*Amphion*' under Captain (later Sir Thomas M.) Hardy, when that frigate conveyed Lord Nelson from off Brest to the Mediterranean following renewal of hostilities with France in 1803. He subsequently assisted in the capture of three Spanish frigates, and the destruction of a fourth that was which was bound for Cadiz laden with treasure from South America.

This was good stuff and I set about entering on my tree this material together with his ancestors back to 1719 and having completed that task I moved on to the other things.

(contd.)

Until that is my recent tidying, as I looked at the drop-down tree, I suddenly noticed that my 3 x great grandmother, Anne, was born in 1807 which seemed a bit odd when I looked at her parents ages and their marriage date.

From the aforementioned information gathered about the Rear Admiral I had her parents as Henry and Anne PHILLOTT both born c1748 and married in 1769. This was all very reasonable as were the birth dates of their children which ranged from 1770 to 1783 and suddenly it was blindingly obvious!

My Anne was born twenty-four years after 1783, this was hardly credible given that the parents would have been approaching the age of sixty!

Given the relatively unusual nature of the PHILLOTT surname I had jumped to an erroneous conclusion. Whilst looking for the children of Henry and Anne I had assigned to them my ancestor. As I tried to justify my error it was obvious that the best my Anne could be was the daughter of one of the other sons of Henry and Anne PHILLOTT but even that did not appear to be the case. In the relative period there were a large number of PHILLOTTs in the Bath area so some sort of connection between my Anne and the 'famous' branch was possible it is also by no means certain.

I think the danger of jotting down on separate pieces of paper or even working in a table format can enable such an error to occur. As a general tip where you have a birth date check that the date fits into the pattern of the family dates. The graphics of the drop-down tree should immediately disclose the differences in generations – although in my case it didn't. My excuse? - I was celebrity blinded!

CAN WE REALLY BELIEVE THE WRITTEN WORD?

By Alan Rowland

When we start researching our ancestors the more recent facts, stories and general family knowledge are assumed to be correct. They usually are and they provide the launch pad for all that follows. As we progress, maybe to join a society such as ours, we are advised to always seek out the original documents whenever possible as they are likely to be the 'correct' records. We attempt to do this and gather a collection of G.R.O. copy certificates of births, marriages and deaths as well as the same records from parish registers.

But does the information so obtained always tally with what we already 'know' particularly from the oral memories gathered from our parents and the larger family circle?

These thoughts came about as a result of a comment made by my wife concerning the birth date of her mother, Violet. This was always celebrated on the 2nd July and the comment was made that nearly all other immediate family birthdays were in January. We had a copy of Violet's birth certificate which, to prove a point, was produced only to find that it did not agree with the 'tradition'.

5 th July 1906 111 Parkbridge Road Llwynypia W. / 87	Violet	Girl	Samuel Shornad	Beatrice Shornad formerly Colermain	Coal Miner	B. Shornad Mother 111 Parkbridge Road Llwynypia Ystradgynorwg	Sixteenth August 1906
---	--------	------	-------------------	--	---------------	---	-----------------------------

The certificate states that Violet was born on 5th July and that she was registered by her mother on the 16th August. Odd that the birth date recorded on the certificate, just six weeks after the event date, is different to the birth date celebrated by the family until her passing. It is possible, in an age when the insistence on accuracy and paperwork was not as it is today, for a birthdate to be remembered/recorded differently by one or two days.

(contd.)

I found another example of the definitive record proving to have incorrect information. Following the 'Violet' episode above, I looked through other copy certificates and came across this:

My paternal great grandmother, Elizabeth, died on 12th July 1938. She was a widow and lived in Hounslow with her daughter, Gertrude Victoria Thorne the informant on the certificate. All appeared to be correct until I noticed, under the Occupation column, that Elizabeth was described as 'Widow of Edward Rowland, a tailor'.

I know from other documentation, which in the light of this discourse I can only assume to be correct, that her husband was indeed a tailor as were both his father and grandfather. He was not though an Edward!

12 th July 1938 Sturminster Newton Dorset	Elizabeth Rowland	Female	86 years	of 7 Beech Road Hounslow, Middlesex Widow of Edward Rowland A Tailor	1 st Cachecia & carcinoma of Stomach. P.M. Certified by S. Whitaker M.B.	G. V. Thorne Daughter Present at the death 7 Beech Road Hounslow
--	-------------------	--------	----------	--	---	--

Elizabeth (Jenkins) married Alexander (Alex) Rowland, a tailor, in Epsom register office on 20th May 1873.

1873. Marriage solemnized at the Register Office in the District of					
No.	When Married.	Name and Surname	Age	Condition	Rank or Profession
137	Twentieth May 1873	Alex Rowland	25 years	Bachelor	Tailor
		Elizabeth Jenkins	21 years	Spinster	

How could this happen? Gertrude would have been around 7 years old when her father Alex died in 1893. She would probably have known his name sometime during the intervening 45 years until her mother died? Did she forget it or think it was Edward through all those years? If so how did it become lodged in her brain as Edward? I shall probably never know.

(contd.)

With this in mind I wondered if the other old chestnut that we always stress to new researchers 'ask the older family members for their memories' could give rise to such oddities. Once an incorrect date is offered as someone's birthday it will be accepted within the family and it becomes a 'fact'. If it disagrees with the written record then the record must be wrong 'I know it is because my mother/father told me the birthday date so it must be true! How often do we hear this rationale?

I am sure there must be many other examples within my wife's family and mine. It is almost certain that our membership will find similar discrepancies, so have a look, write a piece about what you have discovered -- let us know!

Do not let all of this put you off seeking out original records but always weigh them against family 'facts', keep an open mind, apply some lateral thinking and hopefully the oddities will melt into insignificance.

A TALK — RESEARCHING BRITISH MILITARY AND NAVAL ANCESTORS

Report by Charles Hampshire

Our January talk was given by Ian Waller at the joint meeting with U3A was very practical and informative. It guided us through how to conduct such a research and explained how complex it can all become.

The key lies with identification. It is important to know your ancestor's name and their regimental number and if possible, their regiment. Similarly if the search is for a naval individual then name of the ship(s) on which they served is likewise essential. This will make your research easier and is more important the further you wish to go back in time.

Many records are online: at Findmypast, Ancestry (best for WWI records) and the Genealogist (best for RAF). The National Archives website is extremely useful and has 35-40 guides to help you. The 1921 Census can also be useful as it is the only census which allows you to find people who are serving with worldwide enumeration, barracks, ships and air bases.

The National Army Museum has a uniform identification service and from old photos can usually tell you a person's regiment.

Ian's talk then went into detail about each of the three services, how they were organised over time and the many different types of records which exist. Records differ for Officers and ratings and this was also explained.

Such was the detail of the talk that listeners were urged not to take notes but use the very comprehensive handout that is reproduced below.

We are very grateful to Ian for his help in assisting our members in their research from his talk.

(contd.)

BASIC RECORDS FOR MILITARY AND NAVAL RESEARCH

© Ian H Waller FSG

(for personal reference only)

RESEARCHING MILITARY AND NAVAL ANCESTORS

The following is a list of basic record used to research Army, Navy, RAF & Royal Marine records at the National Archives. Please use their research guides for more information.

ARMY

Officers:

WO25 Officer Commissions

Army Lists

WO31 Commander in Chief Papers

WO76 Records of Officers Service

WO23 Half Pay Registers

PMG4 Officer Pension records

PMG11 Widows Pension records

Other Ranks:

WO97 Attestation & Discharge Papers

WO69 Attestation &
Discharge Papers (Artillery)

WO25 Description Books

WO12 & WO16 Pay Lists and Musters

WO116 – WO120 Pension admissions

WO156 Baptism & Marriage Registers

WO100 – WO102 Medal Rolls

PAY LISTS & MUSTERS 1708-1898:

WO10 Artillery to 1878

WO11 Engineers to 1878

WO12 Regiments to 1878

WO13 Militia & Volunteers to 1878

WO14 & WO15 Crimean War Troops

WO16 All Regiments & Corp

(contd.)

1879 – 1898 ROYAL NAVY

Officers:

Navy Lists from 1782

ADM196 Service records

ADM13 Passing Certificates

ADM6 Commission & Warrant Books

ADM118 Seniority Lists

Ratings:

ADM29 Service records 1802 – 1894

ADM27 Allotment registers

ADM139 Continuous Service 1853 – 1872

ADM188 Continuous Service post 1873

ADM31 – 39 Pre 1853 Ships Musters &
Pay Lists

ADM171 Medal Rolls

ADM336 Women's Royal Naval Service

BT377 Royal Naval Reserve

ADM339 Royal Naval Division

Greenwich pension records:

In patients 1790-1875

Out patients 1763-1883

ROYAL AIR FORCE

AIR 24-29 Operational record Books

ROYAL MARINES

ADM196 Officer service records

ADM158 Description Books

ADM183-185 Attestation Papers

ADM313 Service records INDEX

ADM159 Registers of Service

ADM171 Medal Rolls

ADM157 Attestation Forms

AN ONLINE TALK — THE TRAVELS OF OUR SEA GOING ANCESTORS

Report by John Symons

On Thursday 17th February, Dr. Simon Wills, a naval historian and genealogist, gave an online talk and it was a pleasure to have him enlighten us on the travels of our sea going ancestors. His subject was the passengers on the ships, how their on-board experience changed over time and the available records that provide an insight into life on board.

Although there is a wealth of official records into voyages with dates and details of the ships, one of the most illuminating sources is diaries. If you are lucky enough to locate one of these, perhaps in personal papers, they will provide a picture of daily life which is not available elsewhere. These show that early voyages were usually boring with limited nutrition and generally poor facilities.

Early ships depending on sails but the introduction of engines had a profound effect through the shortening of voyages and the ability to operate to a timetable rather than be bound completely by the whims of the weather.

Ships became larger and faster. Early steam ships were paddle steamers but later propellers were found to be far more effective. By the late 19th century ships had become more powerful and recognisable and the U.S.A. could be reached in about a week, compared to about two months for sailing ships. Bigger and faster ships were more economic as they were able to complete more journeys in the same period of time, thus increasing revenue. There was no alternative to travelling by sea if you needed to visit other countries whether for reasons of employment, migration, visiting family or military deployment. The 20th century brought in a new concept; that of travelling by ship for leisure and pleasure rather than a necessary means of transport.

The shipping lines advertised their sailings in advance and that is how our ancestors decided which sailing to take.

(contd.)

The cost varied; in early days all ships primarily carried cargo and as a passenger you even needed to provide your own food. Later when steamships were introduced with some designed to primarily carry passengers a class system was introduced, first, second or third. If you wished to travel in some luxury with private cabins and good food then, if you could afford it, you would travel first class.

At the other extreme, third class was much cheaper but likely to be in dormitory style accommodation. The 'Titanic', for example, operated a class system. In time more facilities were added to the ships, such as libraries, shops, gymnasiums, swimming pools, etc.

Early ships were far from safe and being shipwrecked was a real risk. Illness was also often a problem, particularly typhus and dysentery and many did not complete their voyages because of this. On a personal note, my great uncle contracted smallpox whilst being transported to Australia but he did recover as he had been vaccinated. Early diets were not good and this contributed to scurvy.

In the steamship era food generally improved even for third class passengers although there was little choice in this class. Nowadays the cuisine offered is one of the key selling points.

It is quite likely therefore that some of your ancestors travelled by sea and it is often possible to trace them through such sources as shipping lists. For ships arriving in and departing from Britain there are two main sources available from the National Archives in Series BT26 (arrivals) and BT27 (departures); these are also available on Ancestry and FindMyPast.

Usually these cover the late 19th century to the mid-20th century but lists are often available from destination countries for earlier years. Newspapers are also often an excellent source for learning more about both routine shipping movements and of course about any untoward incidents which may have happened. Further details are given in Simon's handout reproduced below.

(contd.)

TRACING SHIPS' PASSENGERS HAND OUT

National Archives (via subscription sites):

BT27: Departures from UK ports, 1890 to 1960. Genealogist, Ancestry, FindMyPast.

BT26: Arrivals at UK ports, 1870 to 1960. Ancestry.

Alien entries and arrivals (series H02, H03, H05 and others) 1794 to 1921. Ancestry.

OVERSEAS archives:

Some foreign passenger lists/ arrivals on subscription sites, but many on free sites such as:

USA (Ellis Island) <https://www.libertyellisfoundation.org/>

Canada <http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca>

Australia <http://www.naa.gov.au>

South Africa <https://www.eggsa.org/>

New Zealand via <https://www.familysearch.org>

India <https://www.fibis.org/>

Online collections of passenger lists:

Try typing ship, year, and "passenger list" into Google. But sites with collections include:

Ships List <http://www.theshipslist.com>

GG Archives <https://www.g'envick.com>

17th century arrivals in America www.packrat-pro.com

Many passenger lists/ links available via <https://www.cyndislist.com>

Specific famous ships and their passengers

Lusitania <https://www.rmslusitania.info>

Titanic <https://www.encyclopedia-titanica.org>

Mayflower <http://mayflowerhistory.com>

Birkenhead http://www.birkenhead.za.net/pass_list.htm

Australia 'First Fleet' convicts <https://firstfleetfellowship.org.au>

(contd.)

Newspapers

Mainly ships arriving in 'Empire' ports. They list 1st & 2nd class passengers and government sponsored immigrants. Based on reporter seeing the passenger list. For example, look at the free Australian newspaper archives on the Trove website: <https://trove.nla.gov.au>

Shipwreck survivors and victims

Try newspapers: local/ national/ overseas.

Wreck reports for 1876 onwards (search by ship name) available free via:

<https://www.southampton.gov.uk/arts-heritage/southampton-archives/plimsoll.aspx>

Search TNA catalogue for information about other public inquiries.

Look for books: contemporary or modern. Often have a passenger list for victims & survivors.

In summary Simon provided a comprehensive account of the development of commercial shipping and how this affected the lives of the people who had to travel.

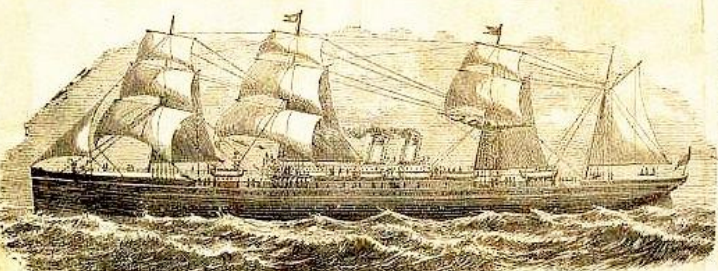
Using many actual stories and contemporary accounts from passengers travelling in different periods he gave us a greater understanding of the conditions which they had to endure or occasionally enjoy. Whatever the reason for travel it is clear that to travel by ship was not a decision to be taken lightly. For family historians the associated records can provide a rich source of information to explain the movements of families across the world.

NB. Below is a typical newspaper advertisement for trans-Atlantic crossings.

(contd.)

WHITE STAR LINE

CARRYING THE ROYAL AND UNITED STATES MAILS.



Unparalleled for Ventilation, Light, and Care for Passengers' Comfort. Large Accommodations.

Passengers cannot do better than take their Tickets from our Agents before leaving home.

BRITANNIC. CELTIC. GERMANIC. ADRIATIC. BALTIC.
REPUBLIC. OCEANIC. GAELIC. BELGIC.

THESE WELL-KNOWN MAGNIFICENT STEAMERS ARE APPOINTED TO SAIL AS UNDER, WITH THE ROYAL MAILS:

LIVERPOOL TO NEW YORK

BALTIC,	Tuesday, Sept. 2	GERMANIC,	Thursday, Oct. 2
CELTIC,	Thursday, „ 11	BALTIC,	Tuesday, „ 7
BRITANNIC,	Thursday, „ 18	CELTIC,	Tuesday, „ 14
ADRIATIC,	Tuesday, „ 23	BRITANNIC,	Thursday, „ 23

Calling at QUEENSTOWN on the Following Day.

These splendid Steamers are among the largest, strongest, and fastest vessels afloat, and are distinguished for the shortness and regularity of their passages, and the completeness and comfort of their passenger accommodation.

SALOON PASSAGE, 15, 18, AND 21 GUINEAS EACH BERTH.

According to State Room selected, all having equal Privileges in Saloon. Children under Twelve Years, Half-Fare. Infants Free. Return Tickets, available for one year, 30 guineas.

These rates include a Liberal Table and Steward's Fee, without Wines or Liquors, which can be obtained on board. A Deposit is required to secure Cabin Berths, the balance to be paid the day before sailing. Passage will go on board with top Passengers in the Trawler that leaves the Trawler Stage for the Steamer on the day of sailing.

STEEERAGE FARE to NEW YORK, BOSTON, or PHILADELPHIA

£6 : 6 : 0 Six Guineas, (including a plentiful supply of cooked Provisions). £6 : 6 : 0 Children under Eight Years Half Fare, and Infants under 12 months £1 1s.

Passengers are booked through at the Rates, in all parts of the United States and Canada, and forwarded from New York by best routes, or any direct route desired; also, via San Francisco to Australia, New Zealand, China, and Japan.

The Steerages in these Steamers are unusually spacious, well-lighted, ventilated, and warmed, and passengers of this class will find their comfort carefully studied, and the provisioning unsurpassed.

Passengers have to provide themselves, before embarkment, with a Plate, Mug, Knife, Fork, Spoon, and Water Can, and Bedding, — all of which can be purchased on shore for a few shillings. Bedding and other necessaries for the voyage, should be taken out of boxes, before going on board.

BECHTOLD'S—Each person over eight years is provided on board with a separate berth to sleep in. HAMBURG COMPASS, WITH THEIR CHILDREN, ARE FURNISHED WITH THE VERY BEST LINEN AND COTTONS, and articles together by themselves. During the day, there is the separation, all can be together. EACH STEAMER CARRIES AN EXPERIENCED SURGEON, AND A STEWARDRESS IN STEADWARD TO ATTEND THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

BILL OF FARE.

BREAKFAST AT EIGHT O'CLOCK.—Coffee, Sugar, and Fresh Fruit and Biscuits, at Breakfast and Dinner, in General Berth and Saloon. DINNER AT ONE O'CLOCK.—Soup and Beef, Pork, or Fish, according to the day of the week, with Bread and Potatoes, and on Sunday Frying will be added. SUPPER AT SIX O'CLOCK.—Tea, Sugar, Biscuits, and Breads. Special Dinner will be supplied at 5 p.m. when necessary.

Each Passenger will be supplied with 7 square Yards of Blankets, and with an extra Blanket as an additional one, which will be of the best quality, and which are obtained and put on board under the inspection of the Captain's Commissioned Officers, and packed and stowed away by the Company's Agents.

LUGGAGE.—Each Passenger will be allowed for each adult Steerage Passenger, and 20 cubic feet for each child under 12 years of age, free, for all goods that quantity. All Steerage Passengers' LUGGAGE will be allowed for each adult Steerage Passenger, and 20 cubic feet for each child under 12 years of age, free, for all goods that quantity. All Steerage Passengers' LUGGAGE will be allowed for each adult Steerage Passenger, and 20 cubic feet for each child under 12 years of age, free, for all goods that quantity.

All Steerage Passengers enquiring at Queenstown must be at the Office of the Agents at Queenstown (Messrs. James Bond & Co.) not later than eight o'clock p.m. of the day before the advertised date of sailing, when the balance of the passage money must be paid, or the deposit will be forfeited.

All Steerage Passengers enquiring at Queenstown must be at the Office of the Agents at Queenstown (Messrs. James Bond & Co.) not later than eight o'clock p.m. of the day before sailing, when the balance of the passage money must be paid, or the deposit will be forfeited, and all Passengers will have strictly to conform to the Rules laid down by the Company.

At New York, Steerage Passengers are landed at the Government Depot, Castle Garden, where they can receive the most reliable information and advice respecting Trains, Steam-boats, Fares, Lodgings, &c., &c.

Passage can be engaged and Tickets obtained from any Agent of the White Star Line, or by sending name, age, and occupation, together with a deposit of One Pound on each berth, to

Edwin Brokenshar, Auctioneer, St. Austell

Aug. 15, 1879.

AN ONLINE TALK
ST. ANDREWS UXBRIDGE BEFORE THE RAF AND THE
KELLETT COLLECTION IN THE RAF BUNKER.

Report by John Symons

On Thursday 21st April 2022 we had two short talks online. The first by Paul Davidson, Collections Manager at the Hillingdon Museums and Archive Services told us about the history of the site surrounding Hillingdon House prior to its acquisition by the Royal Air Force in 1915.

The second talk was given by Joe Hill, Curator at the RAF Bunker and Museum, which gave us an insight into the Kellett Collection of medals and other artefacts donated by the family of Wing Commander Ronald Kellett DSO DFC AE.

Paul Davidson

Paul began by telling us that Hillingdon House was built in 1617 on an area of parkland south of Uxbridge Common sandwiched between the River Pinn and the town or hamlet then, of Uxbridge. It was built as a hunting lodge but the first building burnt down in 1844. The then owner, Richard Henry Cox, had the house rebuilt much as we see it today.

Richard Cox, who already had many military connections, used the estate for militia training. Richard's daughter Emily married Henry Mills and they lived in Hillingdon Court. Both the Cox and Mills families were prominent in the area with banking connections.

After Richard's death in 1865 he was succeeded by his son Henry. Eventually the estate became too expensive to maintain and it was put up for auction in 1908.

In 1915 the house and estate became a convalescent home for wounded Canadian troops and in 1917 the Royal Flying Corps took over the estate as a training base. In 1918 the Royal Air Force took over full control of the estate and remained there throughout the 20th century.

(contd.)

When the Second World War started an underground bunker control room was constructed to provide control of Fighter Command. Largely staffed by WAAFS it was impregnable to enemy attacks. Winston Churchill was a frequent visitor.

Joe Hill

Joe Hill then provided the story of Wing Commander Ronald Kellett who helped mould and lead 303 Squadron, the most successful Squadron in Fighter Command, based at nearby RAF Northolt. Many of his pilots were Polish who had escaped before the Germans occupied their country and he formed lifelong friendships with many of them. After the Battle of Britain, he was posted to Crete to aid the air defence of that island.

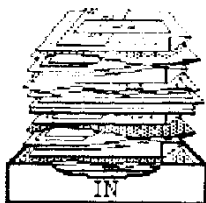
When Wing Commander Kellett died in 1998, his family wished to ensure that his collection of artefacts and documents were kept at a suitable repository and the RAF Bunker Museum was considered the best choice. The collection includes his medals, photographs, memoirs and other documents which provide a unique perspective of the operations he directed and which show how central to the successful air defence of Britain in 1940 was the Fighter Command Centre at Uxbridge and 303 Squadron of RAF Northolt.

RAF Uxbridge was closed and sold for a new housing development but the RAF Bunker still exists. It can be visited for a guided tour and there is now a new museum nearby which holds the Kellett Collection and much more. A visit is highly recommended and you can find details here:

<http://battleofbritainbunker.co.uk/>

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

By Patricia Reynolds



At last things seem to be looking brighter for everyone, with longer days and some warm sunshine people are starting to plan outings and holidays. At the same time they are keeping their fingers crossed that everything goes according to plan!

Members who have telephoned me say how they found out interesting things about different places and family they knew nothing about. Should you find such things or anything of general interest about places or people you have discovered, why not share them with the membership? Amongst them there could be something that other members would find of interest and might even help them in their own searches. If you do come across such items, please let John Symons or Alan Rowland have a copy (including photographs if possible) for inclusion in our journal.

We are having a few meetings at the centre and we would love to see you there. These two years have been a long time passing but let's hope things improve soon.

Thank you for all the letters and telephone calls and take care.

OBITUARY

It is with great sadness that we heard that member (E17) Philip EVANS from Ruislip Manor had passed away.

Our thoughts are with his wife Mary who remains a Society member

2022 A.G.M. NOTES AND ACCOUNTS.

Chairman's Report 2022 A.G.M.

Good evening.

I have the privilege of chairing various AGMs and I understand that some members of the audience run a book on the length of the Chairman's speech. If this is happening tonight, the speech starts now.

Start

I am pleased to report that this has, despite Covid, once again been a very successful year for the Society. We have adjusted. We have enjoyed some really excellent speakers on a wide range of topics and the research room at Hercies Road (when open) has been well attended. Uxbridge Library is in limbo.

Holding meetings over the internet has worked well and it has enabled members who live far away to participate. The low point in speakers (inevitably) is John Symons this afternoon. I am afraid you can't have it all ways.

I should like to thank John, Pat, Charles, Gill, Alan, Anne and Valerie for their time and devotion to the Society. They put in a lot of hours on your behalf.

In conclusion, it has been a good year and I hope I have thanked everyone who made it so. If I haven't then my apologies – please accept this blanket 'thank you' covering you all. I am confident that we will have another successful year as a family history society and I look forward to seeing you at our meetings – in person or virtually over the internet. Thank you.

End

Ian Harvey, Chairman

Treasurer's Report 2022 A.G.M.

The accounts have not yet been independently examined.

The Society had an excess of Income over Expenditure in 2021 of £867. However, this fortunate position would not have been possible but for the generous donations during the year of £1,330. I would like to thank everyone who donated. This enables the society to continue.

Rent costs for the year were significantly lower than usual as we did not meet in person for most of the year instead holding many meetings on Zoom, for which a licence was purchased. We consequently spent more on speakers than in the previous year but reduced printing and postage costs by having one less printed journal in 2021.

Miscellaneous expenditure includes £315 on refurbished computers for the research room.

Other Income arises from Parish Chest sales and Fairs.

The Society has accumulated funds of £3,010 as at 31 December 2021 which gives a cushion should expenditure in the coming year exceed Income. Your committee will continue to monitor the Society's finances throughout the year and intervene where appropriate.

I apologise that due to a medical appointment I am unable to make my report in person this year and am grateful to our chairman for doing this on my behalf. As always, I must also thank John Symons for his time-consuming work in regularly banking our income and ordering supplies and to Gill May whose work on the bookstall contributes greatly to both our finances and community presence. All the Committee work hard to make your society what it is and provide you with the many services you receive for your subscriptions. I thank them all and thank all our members for their continued membership.

Charles Hampshire BA, MBA, CPFA.
Honorary Treasurer

ACCOUNTS

HFHS Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2021

	2021	2020
	£	£
Current Assets		
Cash at Bank	3,026	2,387
less Current Liabilities	16	460
	3,010	1,927
Accumulated Funds	3,010	1,927
Current Liabilities		
Subs in Advance	16	

HFHS Accounts as at 31 December 2021

	£	£
	2021	2020
INCOME		
Subs	1,506.99	1,601.99
Research & Research	753.00	170.00
Draw	0.00	58.00
Donations	1,330.00	499.00
Journal	0.00	0.00
Printouts	0.00	0.00
Find my past	15.49	
Other	104.80	161.40
	3,710.28	2,490.39
EXPENDITURE		
Rent	416.88	629.38
Memberships	58.90	63.08
Insurance	87.04	80.32
Printing	778.99	1,000.00
Postage	196.00	244.00
Speakers	415.00	300.00
Research costs	207.00	0
IT licences	332.90	153.59
Miscellaneous	350.78	0.00
	2,843.49	2,470.37
Excess of Income over Expenditure	866.79	20.02

**HILLINGDON FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
BOOKSTALL ACCOUNT**
Account for the Twelve Months ended 31st December 2021

INCOME

2020		2021
£ 11.50	Sale of publications/CD's	£149.00
<u>£104.00</u>	Membership through Parish Chest	<u>£308.00</u>
<u>£115.50</u>		<u>£457.00</u>

EXPENSES

£ 0.00	Fairs	£ 20.00
£ 72.00	Membership to No 1 A/C	£296.00
£ 0.00	Purchase of books	£ 0.00
<u>£ 0.00</u>	HSBC bank charges	<u>£ 5.00</u>
<u>£ 72.00</u>		<u>£321.00</u>

£ 43.50	Balance being excess of income over expenditure	£136.00
£172.54	Balance in hand at 31.12.2020	£216.04
<u>£ 60.00</u>	Cash in hand at 31.12.2020	<u>£ 60.00</u>
<u>£276.04</u>		<u>£412.04</u>
<u>£ 0.00</u>	Donation to No 1 A/C	<u>£ 150.00</u>
<u>£276.04</u>	Surplus	<u>£262.04</u>

Represented by:

£ 60.00	Cash	£ 60.00
<u>£216.04</u>	Treasurers Account at HSBC	<u>£202.04</u>
<u>£276.04</u>		<u>£262.04</u>

Signed *G. May*
(Bookstall Manager)

Signed *[Signature]*
(Treasurer)

I certify that the foregoing Account has been correctly drawn up and is in accordance with records produced to me.

Signed
(Account Examiner)

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SESSIONS RECORDS

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GRINSTEAD: EAST HOATHLY: ETCHINGHAM: EWHURST: FAIRLIGHT:
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St. Laurence Church, Cowley, Middlesex. Monumental Inscriptions.	5.50
Holy Trinity Church, Northwood, Middx. Monumental Inscriptions.	5.50
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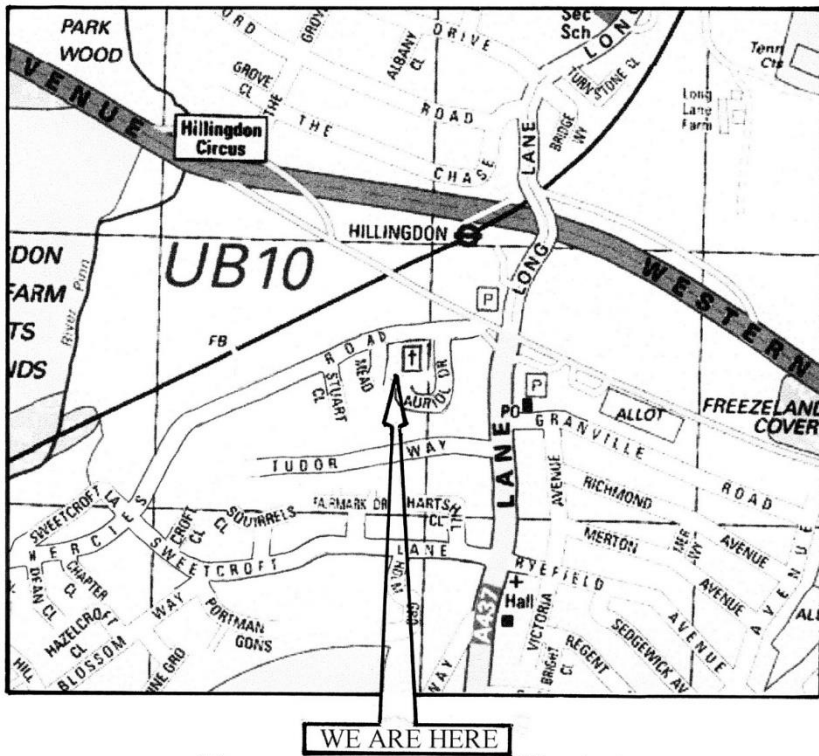
Cheques should be in pounds STERLING, crossed A/C payee and made payable to Hillingdon Family History Society.

The publications can be obtained from:

Mrs. Gill May, 20 Moreland Drive, Gerrards Cross, Bucks SL9 8BB
 Telephone: 01753 885602 Email: gillmay20@btinternet.com

or alternatively visit these on–line bookshops:

www.parishchest.com and www.genfair.com



(The geographical centre of Hillingdon)

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

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

OFFICERS

President	Michael Gandy, B.A., F.S.G.	
Chairman	Ian Harvey 24 The Avenue, Ickenham, Middlesex. UB10 8NP	01895 635230
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Secretary	Gill May 20 Moreland Drive, Gerrards Cross, Bucks. SL9 8BB	01753 885602
Treasurer	Charles Hampshire 4 Barrington Drive, Harefield, Middlesex. UB9 6RL	01895 821351

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Journal Editors	John Symons, Alan Rowland	

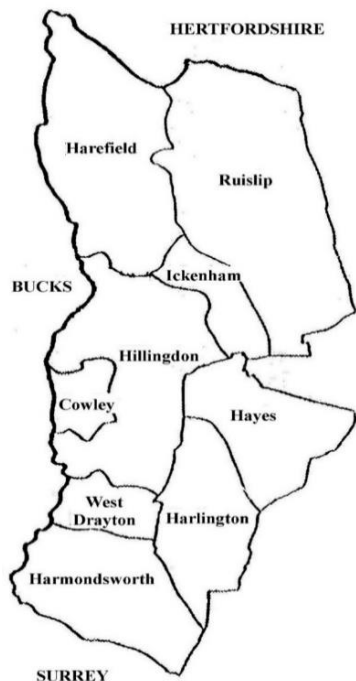
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THE LONDON BOROUGH OF HILLINGDON



The London Borough of Hillingdon is the most Westerly of the Greater London Boroughs. It is bounded by the counties of Hertfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Surrey.

It was formed from nine ancient Middlesex parishes: Cowley, Harefield, Harlington, Harmondsworth, Ickenham, Ruislip and West Drayton.

Hillingdon embraces a mixture of Greater London suburbs: ancient, modern, large and small, each with its own distinctive identity. In the South of the borough lies Heathrow Airport.

Other localities within the borough are: Colham Green, Eastcote, Longford Northwood, Ruislip Manor, Sipson, South Ruislip, Uxbridge, Yeading and Yiewsley.

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

***If undelivered please return to: Mrs. P. Reynolds,
20 Lilac Place, Yiewsley, West Drayton,
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