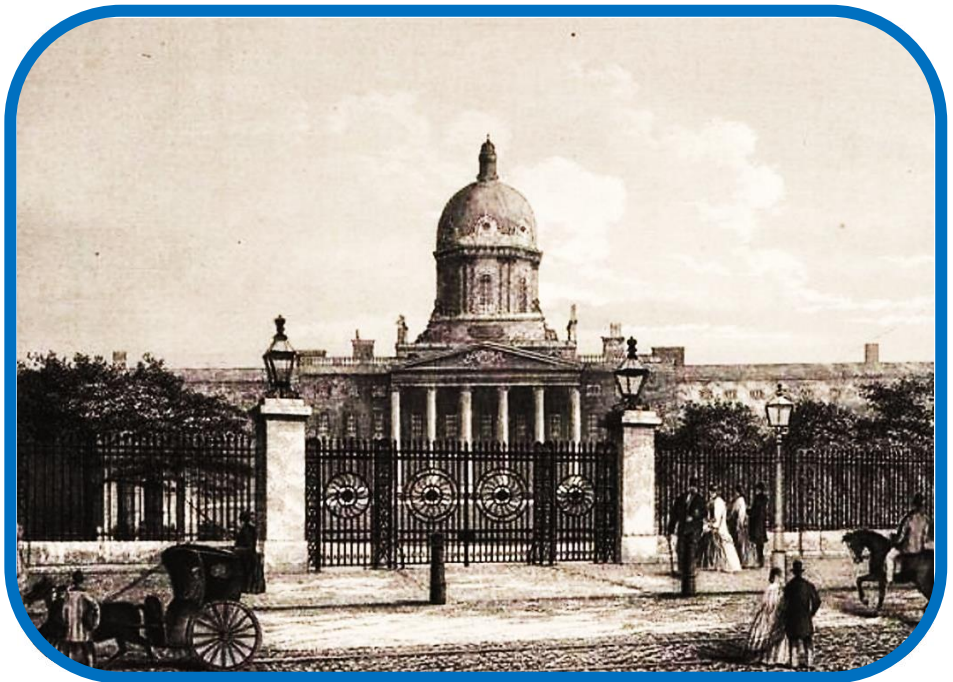




HILLINGDON FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Member of the Family History Federation



*The St. Bethlehem Hospital (Bedlam)
(see page 28)*

JOURNAL No. 140

DECEMBER 2022

2022 MEETINGS PROGRAMME

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

DATE	SPEAKER	SUBJECT
<i>NO MEETING</i>		NO MEETING
Thursday 15 th September <i>ZOOM</i> at 2.00 pm	Helen Baggott	'Collecting Postcards'
Thursday 20 th October at 2.00 pm	Ronald Koorm	'Support services to Intelligence Ops. WW2'
Tuesday 8 th Nov. 2.00pm joint with U3A <i>ZOOM</i>	Sarah Doig	'Apprenticeships & Guilds'

DECEMBER NO MEETING

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 of £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

Overleaf is an etching of the mountains of the world that was published in the Saturday Magazine in 1832. The publishers were 'under the direction of the Committee of General Literature and Education, appointed by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge'. Apart from including Mount Ararat (9,600ft) I see a lot of geomorphology and not much Christian knowledge.

However, what I also see is an allegory of Family History. I shall explain:

We all start at the lower slopes, parents, siblings, cousins and so on. We then climb in altitude to grandparents, great grandparents and perhaps great grandparents and great, great grandparents. On the way we climb the paternal or maternal sides until we reach disparate peaks at different heights depending on the records available or loss of interest in a particular branch of the family. This is visually depicted by the mountains.

Invariably we follow the paternal name the furthest and reach the summit - in this case Dhaulagiri in the Himalayas (26,795ft). It was first climbed in 1960 - I wonder how members of our Society started their ascent into family history at this time?

Taking the allegory further, there is an important peak missing from this 1832 etching. On the etching each peak is numbered (not possible to see at this small scale) but there is a key to name them and Mount Everest, the tallest mountain in the world at 29,031 feet, is missing.

It wasn't discovered until 1847 by the British Survey team in India. They had missed it because the Nepalese wouldn't allow explorers into their country at the time!

(contd.)

Saturday Magazine.

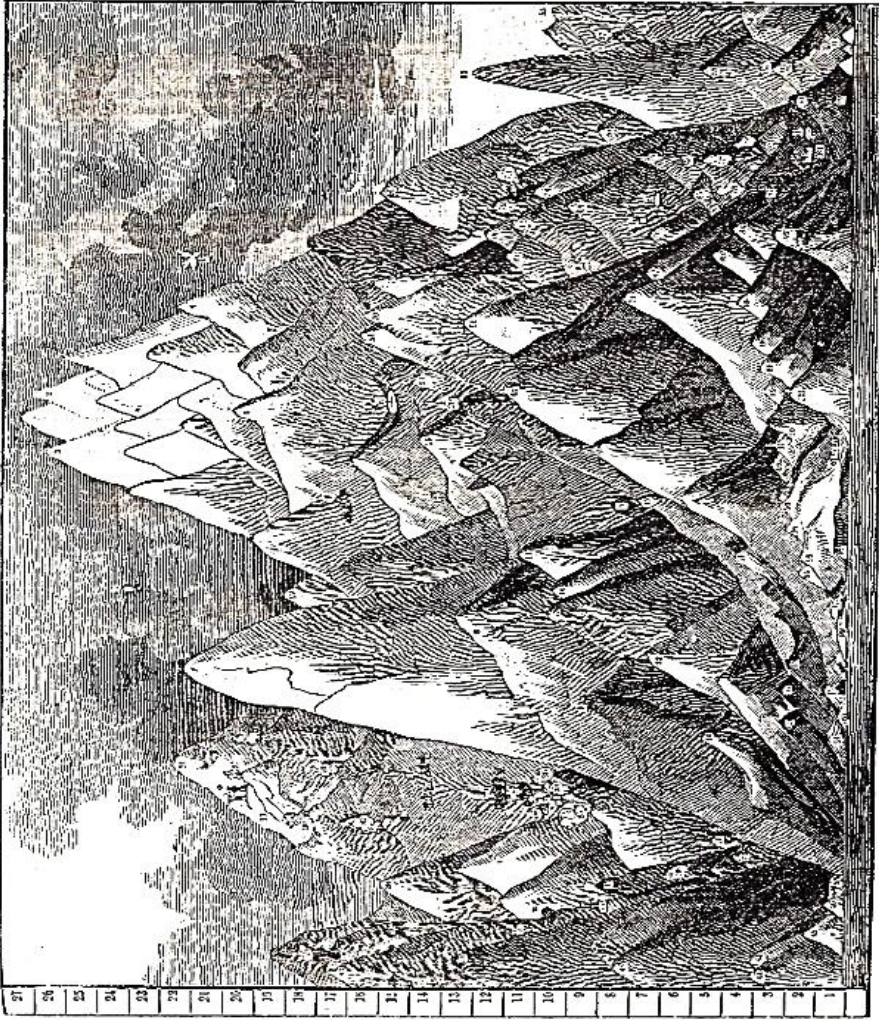
N^o 16.

SUPPLEMENT,

SEPT^r. 29, 1832

PRICE
ONE PENNY.

UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE COMMITTEE OF GENERAL LITERATURE AND EDUCATION,
APPOINTED BY THE SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING CHRISTIAN KNOWLEDGE.



GENERAL VIEW OF THE PRINCIPAL MOUNTAINS IN THE WORLD.

(contd.)

The world's highest peak missing! The top of the family tree missing, due to political and bureaucratic intransigence. I think we have all had that experience!

Season's greetings and a happy new year.

NB As mentioned in the September edition this is the last of Ian's 'Chairman's Notes', his contributions will be sorely missed. We also thank John Symons for stepping into the breach as Acting Chairman.

EDITORS' JOTTINGS

<i>Journal Dates for 2023</i>	
Edition	Deadline
March	17 th February
June	19 th May
September	18 th August
December	13 th October

We offer here our thanks to Jenny for proof reading and everyone else who in anyway helped in the production of this year's journals.

And now we leave behind another year – what will the new one bring?

This year saw us continue with our meetings, both 'live' and on Zoom, the research room was fairly well attended and we had several on-line pleas for help which we were able to fulfil. It also ushered in the changed journal format but it also took our chairman, Ian, who was instrumental in changing our Hillingdon eagle logo to the current tree.

Finally, we thank all those who answered the call for articles, research tips and pleas for help for the journal. Keep them coming, please!

The editors hope that it will be a good year for everyone.

CELEBRATION of a LIFE

By John Symons

IAN HARVEY

In the last issue we reported on the untimely death of our Chairman, Ian Harvey, who passed away on 1st August 2022. On 16th October his life was celebrated at a special event held in his garden in Ickenham.

The service was conducted by the Rev. Canon R. Morgan and the Rev. R. Chidlaw. In addition to addresses by his sister and two of his sons, his life was recounted from his school days, with recollections by his former teachers, to his student days at Oxford University and his career in the First National Bank of Chicago.

What a life he had led. In addition to his interests in history and geography he also had a keen interest in art, architecture, music and geology. Not of course forgetting horticulture as his garden was very important to him and that is where his ashes were interred.

The conclusion of his life celebration was another especial favourite of Ian's, the wassail complete with a wassailing bowl.

A unique event for a unique character who will be remembered well by all those who knew him. The service was a fitting tribute.

A Celebration for the life of
Ian James Harvey




8th December 1962 – 1st August 2022
Sunday 16th October at 13.30

24 The Avenue, Ickenham, Middlesex UB10 8NP



*SEASONS
GREETINGS*

*From
John, Alan
and the Committee*



FROM THE 1921 CENSUS

By *Helen Bird*

We present here the second of Helen's three articles.

I didn't really expect the 1921 census to throw up any great surprises on my mother's (Irene FERGUSON) side of the family as she had told me everything she remembered about her aunts, uncles and cousins and I had a pretty comprehensive family tree drawn up. She was born in 1916 and had a good recall of her childhood years growing up in Shepherds Bush, Middlesex.

I learned from her that her father Joshua Lisle FERGUSON and his brother Anthony Cooper FERGUSON had left Sunderland (then in the county of Durham – now Tyne and Wear) and walked to London to find work. Joshua had married Ethel BENTLEY in 1914 in Hammersmith, Middlesex and settled in Shepherds Bush.

Her uncle Anthony had emigrated to Canada when she was very young and all contact with him was lost. She had only a few childhood memories of him. Everything my Mum had told me has been borne out by my research but I hadn't traced Anthony.

What I didn't know was that my grandparents hadn't told my Mum the truth about Anthony!

Anthony was born in 1883 and worked as a marine steam engine fitter in Sunderland, a skilled job in the shipyards. He shared lodgings with his brother Joshua (born 1880) in Sunderland before they came to London and they were obviously close to each other.

I had looked at passenger lists to try and find when Anthony sailed for Canada but with no success and I hadn't looked any further. I didn't know when he had emigrated and so I looked to see if he was in the 1921 census and he was, living just around the corner from his brother Joshua and his family.

He was a boarder with Eliza May CONNELL who was a war widow with five children, including two sets of twins. *(contd.)*

Anthony was married which was an unexpected bit of information, but the greatest surprise was that he had a daughter Elizabeth Lisle FERGUSON aged 7 months with him and he signed the census form as Head of Household.

So now I delved further back and found the first record of him in London was his marriage 30th August 1913 at Wandsworth Register Office to Alice Mary Ann MOSCROP, spinster with four children. From the following newspaper reports Alice seems to be an unsuitable choice of wife but perhaps Anthony knew nothing of her history.

Alice MOSCROP regularly appeared in the newspapers, mainly in the Kilburn area for her drunken behaviour.

Kilburn Times 10th July 1908

Florence Irving, 23, servant of 123 Granville Road, Kilburn was charged with assaulting Alice Moscrop by striking her in the eye in the Cock Public House. Prosecutrix said that at 6 o'clock the previous evening she was in the Cock Public House and saw prisoner drinking with the father of witness's 4 children. Prisoner made a remark to her and when witness told her to mind her own business she struck her in the eye. P.C. 380X said he arrested the prisoner at Queen's Park Station and when charged she said "she struck me first". Fined 20s with costs or 14 days.

Willesden Chronicle 7th August 1908

Alice Moscrop 38, no occupation, living at 130 Purves Road, Kensal Rise was charged with attempting to commit suicide by taking Laudanum. She was a single woman with 4 children. The father to the children had kept away from the prisoner recently and she was worrying about it. He had kept her fairly well supplied with money. Magistrate adjourned case for further enquiries and prisoner was sent to the infirmary.

Kilburn Times 4th September 1908

William Henry Mockford of 13 Kilburn Square was summoned as already reported by Alice Mary Moscrop of the Willesden Infirmary to show cause why he should not contribute to the support of her 4 illegitimate children of which she alleged him to be the father. Ordered to pay 3/6 a week for each child.

(contd.)

Willesden Chronicle 2nd November 1908

A wife's story. Alice Moscrop 38 of 64 Ravensworth Road, Kensal Rise was charged with wilfully breaking a window, value 3/- the property of Mary Ann Mockford of 13 Kilburn Square. Mrs Mockford said the prisoner had followed her husband home on Saturday and demanded to come into the house. She was put out and the door locked. She knocked on the door and when it was not opened she threw a stone through the window. She went into a public house where police arrested her. In reply to the magistrate, Prosecutrix said that her husband had kept this woman for 18 years and had four children by her. Prisoner admitted breaking the window accidentally while knocking on it. Ordered to pay 3/- damages and costs.

Kilburn Times 2nd June 1911

Drunk with a child. Alice Moscrop 40, needlewoman of 89 Salisbury Road was charged with being drunk in charge of a child. P.C. Brewer said he saw prisoner very drunk in charge of a child age 3. She pleaded guilty and 6 previous convictions were proved against her. Fined 10/-.

William MOCKFORD the father of her children was twenty years older than Alice and lived with his wife whom he had married in 1868. They had about 7 children. He is listed in the censuses as living on own means but further research showed that he was a blacksmith and not likely to have made a lot of money from that. His wife also came from a humble background so where their money came from is a mystery. I note that it is the wife who prosecuted Alice for breaking the window of her house and so she may have somehow been the source of their money. William died 30th July 1909 leaving £410. 11s 2d and at this point the maintenance for Alice's children would have ceased.

Alice MOSCROP and William MOCKFORD had four children:

William Henry MOCKFORD MOSCROP	3 rd December 1899
Kathleen MOCKFORD MOSCROP	4 th September 1901
Elsie MOCKFORD MOSCROP	April 1903
Ivy MOCKFORD MOSCROP	5 th September 1907

(contd.)

These children seem to have had a poor upbringing. In 1911 William is listed on the training ship Exmouth at Grays in Essex. Kathleen was in the St Pancras Workhouse in 1910, her mother being listed as living at 24 Maldon Road. Elsie age 9 in 1911 is listed at Hillside, a very large children's home at Stonebridge Park under the Willesden Board of Guardians. Ivy was listed with her mother in the 1911 census.

I like to think that Anthony was a goodhearted man who wanted to make life better for Alice but it really doesn't look as if things went too well.

At the start of WWI, a year or so after his marriage to Alice, Anthony applied to join the Gordon Highlanders. He enlisted at Hounslow on 2nd February 1914 from 11 Fulwell Road, Teddington. He was discharged from the army a month later following a medical in Aberdeen where he was deemed to be unlikely to be an efficient soldier due to varicose veins.

There were no children born to them and the electoral rolls show Alice and Anthony at 1 Sunnyside Cottages, Hampton Road, Spelthorne until 1920.

It would appear that Anthony and Alice's marriage broke down and he moved out to find accommodation and work close to his brother in Shepherd's Bush. He was working as a motor fitter for Napier's in nearby Acton Vale.

He moved in as a boarder with Eliza May CONNELL, a young war widow, in Station Road (now Starfield Road) which joins Hadyn Park Road right opposite number 30 where Joshua lived. (Her surname is sometimes given as O'CONNELL)

Obviously, a relationship ensued and in October 1920 his daughter Elizabeth Lisle FERGUSON was born at 73 Station Road. Elizabeth's birth certificate shows that Eliza CONNELL was her mother.

Just a few weeks after the census on 8th August 1921 Anthony died from pneumonia aged 37 at 73 Station Road. His brother Joshua, present at the death, was the informant on the death certificate.

(contd.)

Another child, Florence, was born on 30th March 1922, less than eight months after Anthony's death. This I assume is also Anthony's child although she was given the surname CONNELL and there is no father on her birth certificate. Elizabeth Lisle FERGUSON also used the name CONNELL after her father's death.

Eliza and the children stayed at 73 Station Road until the mid 1930s, their house was only a few yards walk away from 30 Hadyn Park Road where Joshua and Ethel and their family were living but it seems that my mum knew nothing about her cousins Elizabeth and Florence. By 1937 Eliza was living in Roxeth Green Avenue, Harrow where she remained for the rest of her life. I cannot find Elizabeth Lisle CONNELL/FERGUSON in 1939 but in 1942 she married Gilbert SCOT; they appear to have spent their married life living with Eliza in Roxeth Green Avenue (from electoral roll lists). I don't think they had children. Florence is listed in the 1939 census living with her mother in Harrow but I cannot find a marriage for her or any further records.

Joshua must have been very hard hit by his brother's death as they were close. Anthony had perhaps found happiness with Eliza and become a father and it was also a sad ending for Eliza the young widow who lost her new partner so young and was left with seven children. She never remarried.

So, the story of Anthony going to Canada was a complete fabrication by my grandparents, possibly to avoid explaining about his death to young children, possibly to avoid having to explain about his extra-marital relationship, I'll never know, but times were very different a hundred years ago. They also never told their children that Elizabeth and Florence were their cousins even though they must have known them and played with them in the street.

The picture that follows, taken c1923 outside 30 Hadyn Park Road, Shepherds Bush, is of my mother Irene and her younger sister Dorothy (Dolly). Mum remembered it being taken by a street photographer who photographed children playing in the street and then returned to sell the pictures to their parents. Mum was in trouble for their socks at half-mast and the holes in Dolly's jumper!

(contd.)



The Ideal Studio
109 HIGH RD. CHISWICK, LONDON.

MORE ABOUT PARISH RECORDS

We noticed the following interesting article in the 2nd August 2022 'Lost Cousins Newsletter' which can be viewed on:

<https://www.lostcousins.com/newsletters2/aug22news.htm>

With John Symons 'Parish Records' piece in the September edition fresh in our minds, it throws more light on the subject of settlement certificates.

'USING SETTLEMENT CERTIFICATES IN FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH, by Margaret Ounsley. Margaret has an MSc from the University of Oxford in English Local History and is currently studying for a PhD in Poor Law History at the University of Reading.

Most family historians are familiar with using census material, and many will have visited a record office to look through parish registers of births, marriages and deaths. A relative few however will have attempted to look at settlement certificates. This is not really surprising, since they were not required of all the population in the same way as registrations, their survival rate is very patchy, and most are not available online at sites such as Ancestry or Findmypast.

Nonetheless, such certificates can be very informative if you are able to track one down from your family's past. As with all sources though, care should be taken in understanding what they are really telling you.

What were settlement certificates?

Settlement certificates became mandatory after 1697, when the Act for the Better Relief of the Poor laid down that a person moving from one parish to another, if they were to be renting a property worth less than £10 a year, had to have a certificate from their parish of origin saying that they would pay for any relief the person may need if they fell on hard times.

Note: Many sources cite the 1662 Settlement Act as the introduction of settlement certificates – this is erroneous. A form of settlement certificate grew up after 1662, but these were technically bonds between one parish and another, underwritten by local worthies normally to an amount of about £40.

(contd.)

Without such a certificate a person could be moved on at the behest of the overseers and magistrates of the destination parish. With it the person was safe unless they claimed for relief.

At the time of the passage of the Act, and for most of the following century, this covered the majority of the population. You had to be quite comfortably wealthy in order to avoid needing a certificate. Their use continued until they were officially abolished in the 1865 Union Chargeability Act, which made Unions, not parishes, responsible for raising rates. In practice their use had started to fade long before this, and not many collections go on much after 1834. Consequently, their use covers about 150 years, and the record offices of the country contain tens of thousands of them.

The problem is searching them. A lot of record offices have calendared their settlement and removal certificates, and they are available on CD ROMs, which themselves are indexed by name. Some record offices even have a name search available on their catalogue, which will bring up the appropriate certificate. If you have a family name associated with a particular county in the eighteenth century, and can with reasonable certainty associate them with a parish or borough (through registry material) you may well be in luck.

Supposing you do manage to track down such a certificate from your family's tree. What can it tell you?

It gives you the name of the settler, normally a man, and usually the name of his wife, and the names and ages of his children. It will be written by the overseers of the poor in one parish to the overseers of the poor in another parish.

There will be a date, and sometimes a profession for the settler. There is also a provision for a signature, but more often, especially early in the eighteenth century, this is only a mark. They are proof of movement of this family from one place to another.

One significant misreading of settlement certificates is that they give the date of a person's migration from one parish to another. This is rarely the case.

(contd.)

What the date on a settlement certificate actually does signify is still a matter for debate, but most are in agreement that settlers did not habitually get a certificate from their parish of origin as they left.

Sometimes they did, and this is often shown by an address to the destination parish such as “to whom it may concern” or “the overseers of the parish of St. Mary’s or St. Andrews in Anytown”.

Most accept that certificates were sent for once a person had settled in a parish; often if they got married in the destination parish. This was because a parish might accept a single man looking for work without question, but once he was likely to produce hungry offspring they wanted the insurance of a host parish. If you are lucky you may well find a settlement certificate around the date of your ancestor’s marriage.

NB The following refers to the image on the next page.

Berkshire Record Office D/P 96/13 (used by kind permission of Berkshire Record Office); this and many other interesting documents can be found on the CD ROM Berkshire Overseers’ Papers compiled by Berkshire Family History Society and Berkshire Record Society, and available from the Berkshire FHS shop

Sometimes the certificates could be in response to the family falling on hard times, often after the birth of yet another baby, a lot of certificates have very new born babies on them. If they presented to the parish looking for relief the likelihood is that the parish would examine them to establish where they were settled, and then send to the overseers of that parish for a certificate, and an agreement to pay up. If they didn’t they could be removed.

In some parishes, like the ones I have studied in Reading, a bunch of certificates were issued all in one go, around the same time that the poor rates start going up. This is good housekeeping on the part of the parish in difficult times. They are making sure they know who is going to pay for their settlers in the event of the need for relief. It does not mean that the settlers have applied for relief.

(contd.)

Subscribed To wit.

W E Richard Knight
Henry Stronach and William Blackhall

Church-Wardens and Overseers of the Poor of the Parish of St. Andrew in the County of Middlesex do hereby own and acknowledge Richard Knight and Elizabeth his wife and their two children James Elizabeth of about the age of one year and a quarter and William of about the age of seven months to be our Inhabitant; legally settled in the Parish of St. Andrew in the County of Middlesex in Witness whereof we have hereunto set our Hands and Seals, this fourth Day of April in the fourth fifth Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord King George the Third by the Grace of God of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, KING, Defender of the Faith. And in the Year of our Lord, 1752.

Attest by
John Poynter
Ch. Poynter

Richard Knight
Wm Blackhall
Henry Stronach



To the Church-Wardens and Overseers of the Poor of the Parish of St. Andrew in the County of Middlesex or either of them.

W E whose Hands are hereunto subscribed, two of his Majesty's Justices of Peace for the County of Middlesex do allow of the above-written Certificate. And we do also certify that John Poynter one of the Witnesses who attested the Execution of the said Certificate, hath made Oath before us that he did see the Church-Wardens and Overseers, whose Names and Seal are to the said Certificate subscribed and set, severally sign and seal the said Certificate, and that the Names of the said Richard Knight and Elizabeth his wife whose Names are above subscribed, at Witness to the Execution of the said Certificate, are of the same proper Handwriting. Dated the 4th Day of April in the Year of our Lord, 1752.

Henry Stronach
William Blackhall

Most settlement certificates look like this. (contd.)

If you do find a settlement certificate, then you could well be on threshold of a treasury of information about your family. It is worth searching then under “examinations” to find out if there is an examination associated with the certificate. This could be in the parish of origin, but is most likely in the host parish, and would have been carried out by the JPs. This will give a huge amount of information, where the man has worked all his life, what he has been paid, properties rented, all his marriages and relationships, apprenticeships, parish positions, where he has paid rates, times in prison, in the armed forces and any amount more. It may also be worth looking at “removals”, to see if the unfortunate family were sent back to where they came from. The last source associated with this is a possible appeal at the Quarter Sessions. If you find a removal, then the chances are that the origin parish appealed, which means there will be a case in the County Quarter Session minutes from around the time of the removal.

Settlement certificates are a real jewel if you can associate one with your family. Good luck!

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

By Ann Kentfield

We were very pleased to receive from our member Ann this article which resurrects a feature we had in our March 2009 edition (page 19).

Our genealogical explorations have recently taken us into Kent and the family of VENNERS. Our particular hope is to show a family linkage between two VENNERs marrying each other in 1734.

The bride, Mary, certainly belongs to our lot, and surely the groom, John, must be related somehow, so that all their descendants (many!) would add quite a bit of foliage to our tree.

Unfortunately, identity of surname is not too conclusive, VENNERS in Kent being, as they say in the wild flower books, locally common, we are of course well back in time and a demonstrable relationship still eludes us.

However, we were cheered up along the way by another VENNER twig with some wonderful nomenclature. Perfectly plainly named parents Thomas and Elizabeth VENNER (married 1782) chose really fancy names for their children; Philadelphia, Jude, Juliana Marthiana, Vicesimus and Zeborah. That last appears regularly in documents like baptisms, marriages (his and his children's) and censuses. He was a coastguard and preventive officer and so was posted to a wide selection of places – and he always seems to have been known as Zebra.

This may give us immediate visions of black and white stripes, but would this have been the case at the turn of the 18th/19th centuries?

To be sure, the first real zebra had arrived in England in 1762 as a present for Queen Charlotte, became an instant celebrity and was beautifully painted by George Stubbs, but it and its successor died before our man was born in 1789.

It wasn't until 1894 that Lord Walter Rothschild's famous zebra-hauled carriage astonished Londoners, well after our Zebra's death in 1862. Perhaps the connection didn't spring all that readily to the minds of his contemporaries or did he have to put up with perennial quips? I wonder! Maybe there should be a competition for the most extraordinary names found on people's trees? I think Zebra VENNER and his sister Juliana Marthiana would be my entries!

NB If anyone has stumbled across 'odd given names' please send them in together with the story that goes with them.

MEMORIES TRIGGERED BY PHOTOGRAPHS

By Janet Hewitt-Winch (H52)

Reading Alan Rowland's article 'Danger at Home' in the June issue, I did find the photographs (especially the one of the Victorian fire guard) really interesting. I am sure there are many of us who still remember the old mantles, one puff and they disintegrated and woe betide any small investigative fingers should they dare to touch one!

My father, Walter Stanley PEGGREM was born at 11 Rigby's Row, Dawley in 1909 the 10th child of Thomas George (1869-1936) and Elizabeth Ann (nee STOCKER (1871-1964)) PEGGREM. In the 1939 Register my father, along with his brother William, two of his unmarried sisters (Elizabeth and Doris) and my grandmother were living at 8 Bolingbroke Cottages.

Uncle William worked in the G.W.R. Goods Yard at Hayes/Harlington Railway Station, both my aunts were employed at the 'Gram Factory'* and my father was listed as a 'Wire Goods Maker'. His employer was N(athaniel) Greening & Sons Limited of Britannia Works, Hayes.

The company was originally set up in Warrington in 1799 where their factory name was also Britannia.

At the time of my parents' marriage in 1941, my father gave his address as 1 Pinkwell Avenue, Harlington and his occupation was still a Wire Worker. However, by 1943 they were living at 20 Fairdale Gardens, Hayes, which they probably rented and in 1945 they bought their first house. This was at 6 Holmbury Gardens, Hayes, which is where I was born. Then some two years later in 1948 we moved away from Hayes to Reading, Berkshire.

Being a wire worker was definitely in my father's blood and he became a master craftsman, so much so, that he always had plans to have his own business but not in the Hayes area. He never had grand wishes for a large business with a number of employees, just enough for him to be self-employed, to make a comfortable living and provide adequately for my mother and myself. (contd.)

Always very careful with his money he saved well, and in 1948 the opportunity to buy a reasonably sized corner grocery shop complete with house next door arose which fitted the bill exactly for him and he achieved his ambition with the move to Reading. It was in early December of that year that we made the move. Not having a motor car of our own, the three of us travelled in the rear of the removal van along with our golden retriever, Sandy. Although only 18 months old I still clearly remember the journey propped up in my perambulator between my parents who sat in armchairs with Sandy at my father's feet.

My mother ran the shop for about a year before, with council permission, they changed its use to light industrial. The conversion was carried out to my father's design and for the first few years he traded under his own name. He soon took on a sleeping partner, Jim Kingstone, and changed the company name to: The 'Kaypee' Wireworks.

My father continued to make a number of these products and may have been sub-contracted to Greenings for fireguards, litter bins and sieves. He worked incredibly hard for a number of years and built up a very successful business which enabled him to retire at the age of 53.

I became absolutely fascinated with the things he made, basically anything out of wire was never a difficulty and he produced some really beautiful work. Garden borders and arches, rose 'umbrella's', snow-guard, balloon guards (for fitting into the top of chimney pots to deter birds), sieves, litter bins, and many other items.

There were also some wonderfully decorative fire and nursery guards and he obtained many special commissions.

Every item was made from scratch by hand. He made templates for everything from wood which were pieces of high craftsmanship in themselves and I remember how proud I felt seeing the end results with everything made by hand with not a piece of machinery in sight.

(contd.)

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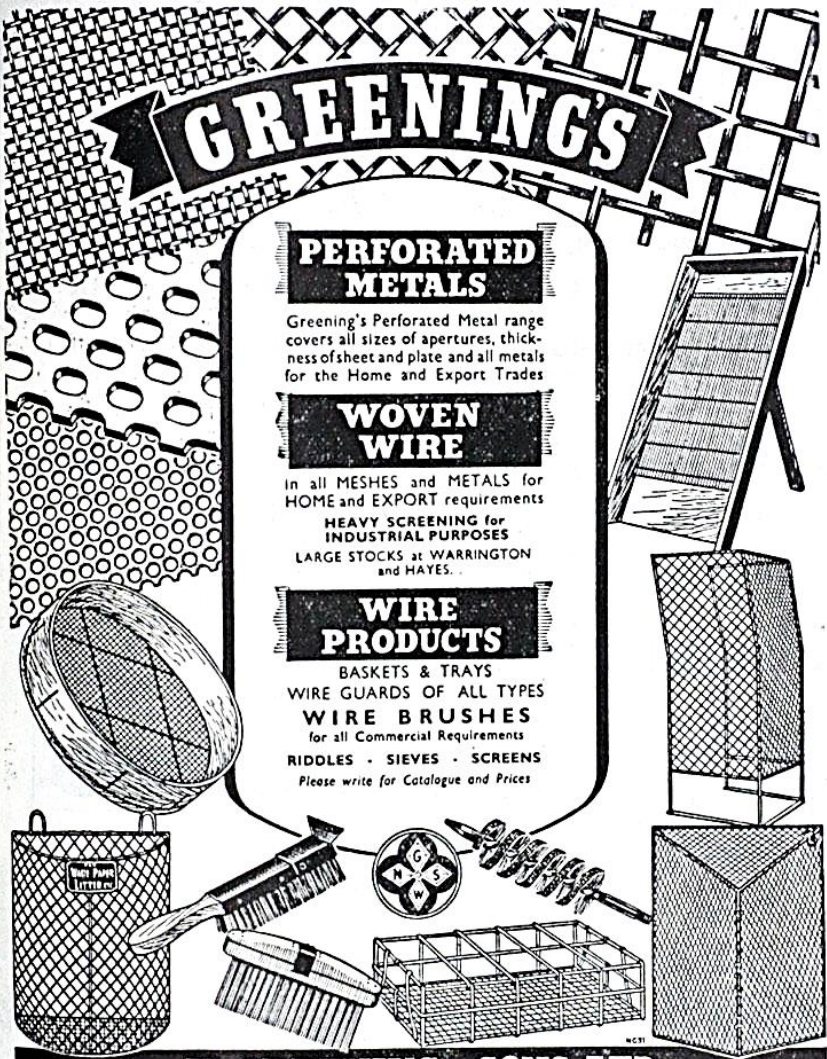
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Greenings' advertising copy.

(contd.)

During my childhood I was often to be found in the 'works' where I helped him make these items and it never ceased to amaze me how clever he was and of the meticulous care he took with everything he made. I inherited his tools and even now I could quite easily make any of these things.

However, my parents did not wish me to take over the business as they felt a female working in a man's world would not really be accepted at that time and they were right I suppose, but it did disappoint me very much that they did not consider I could make a 'go' of it which I knew I could.

In 1962, after my father retired, the shop was converted back to a corner shop and my mother ran this for only a few years before the council compulsorily purchased a good swathe of properties in the area for re-development in the late 1960's. Unfortunately, this was the way of change for so many areas but photographs of that time always generate pure feelings of nostalgia.



With my father outside the corner shop in c1964/5

(contd.)

NB *The 'Gram Factory' was the colloquial name given to the His Masters Voice (later E.M.I.) factory by the employees. It is most gratifying when the editor's ramblings produce not only interest but fire the memory circuits into life to produce a follow up article, thank you Janet.

QUEENIE

By Janet Hewitt-Winch

In a recent tidying I came across a lovely little book which I had purchased many years ago from a charity shop.


FOURTEEN SONGS
FROM
When We Were Very Young

By
A. A. MILNE

Music by
H. FRASER-SIMSON


Decorations by
E. H. SHEPARD

Buckingham Palace



In march time

They're changing guard at Buck-ingham Pal-ace -



(contd.)

Entitled 'Fourteen Songs from When We Were Very Young' by A. A. Milne complete with music and small drawings/illustrations by E. H. Shephard. It was originally published in 1924 and this copy is an 8th edition dated 1926.

Inside the front cover it is signed with the name Queenie B. SOUTHCOMBE 1928. It is written in a bold, flourishing script, perhaps she had been given the book as a birthday or Christmas present.

A photograph of a handwritten signature in brown ink on a light-colored background. The signature reads "Queenie B. Southcombe" in a bold, cursive script. Below the name, the date "1928." is written in the same script. The entire signature and date are enclosed within a thin blue rectangular border.

Curiosity overcame me and I set about tracing Queenie which, with only the name and that date, was a bit tricky.

Eventually I found that she was born Gwendolen Beatrice SOUTHCOMBE in Milborne Port, Near Sherborne, Somerset on 29th June 1905 to Bernard and Caroline Edith (nee RAVES) SOUTHCOMBE, she was known by the family soubriquet of Queenie. Bernard and Caroline had married in Highbury, London in 1901 and Queenie had a brother, Hector George, who was two years younger.

Bernard SOUTHCOMBE was the owner of a glove manufacturing company in the Tintinhull area of Sherborne supplying high quality gloves to the likes of Marks and Spencer and others. The gloves, which were in great demand, were made from kid leather or doe skin. He travelled to various parts of the world, presumably on business, sometimes accompanied by his family.

In 1911 the family were living at Cross House, Milborne Port, Sherborne, Bernard was aged 42 and his occupation was Leather Glove Manufacturer, born in Tintinhull.

(contd.)

His wife Caroline was aged 37 born in Stoke Newington, Surrey, Gwendolen Beatrice age 5, Hector George age 3 and three servants.

Queenie married Frederick D. WALKER in Wincanton in 1937. In the Tintinhull Parish magazine a parishioner wrote an article which mentioned the wedding and the fact that she had ten bridesmaids. The bridesmaids were all linked by garlands of flowers ranging from pale pink to purple and the article was accompanied by a black and white photograph.



NB Unfortunately the quality of the photograph leaves a lot to be desired.

In 1939 Queenie was living at Duncombe Place, York but Frederick was living elsewhere in the county from which he originated. They had a daughter, April R. WALKER, born in 1943 in Sherborne.

She became a well-known actress who appeared on the stage and a number of television programmes including *The Onedin Line*, *Fawlty Towers*, *The Two Ronnies* and a number of others. She married Anthony ISAACS a composer of film and television scores, in fact he wrote the music used for *The Onedin Line*. (contd.)

At some point Queenie and Frederick divorced for in 1955 she is living with William COLES the proprietor of the Rock Inn, Haytor Vale, South Devon. In 1959 Queenie married William COLES and in 1964 Frederick married Dorothy DUNDERDALE. Queenie died in April 1998 in North Dorset district aged 92.

Amazing what one finds in a charity shop.

PINNER FAIR

By Gill May



The team comprising from left to right: Val, John, Jenny and Gill

(contd.)

We had an enjoyable day at Pinner Village Show on the Saturday 10th September. The weather had been wet beforehand and it was quite muddy underfoot but it was reasonably warm on the day with the occasional shower.

It was a very busy day with a variety of stalls raising funds for their particular causes. Not only did we sell paperback books (adult and children's), we also had many soft toys, jigsaw puzzles and children's toys for sale. All proceeds from these sales go to help the Society function throughout the year.

We had various conversations regarding family history and hopefully we may see some people join the Society or visit us at the research centre in the future

MARIA'S STORY

By Barbara Nield

Barbara originally set down this story in 2012 but decided not to go ahead with its appearance in the journal. She then carried out further research which added to the story and now feels that it can be told.

When we embark on our family history research journey, we know we must be prepared for whatever comes to light. Perhaps shotgun marriages, workhouse admissions, wartime bravery and deaths but sometimes we may discover something totally unexpected and fortunately rare.

In 2012, during research into my BONTEMS family history, I discovered a story which was a great shock and a great sadness. It took a little while for me to read it properly. Eventually I reminded myself that as nothing could change what had happened over 150 years ago, it was history so I read it.

My great, great, great grandmother killed her baby grand daughter!

(contd.)

Maria Isabella RUTH was first married to Francis BONTEMS. After his death she married Jonathan BECKETT, a brewer and grocer, on 14th February 1820 in Wing, Bucks.

Maria was left 'a most highly respectable widow' when Jonathan died in 1855.

Maria had, for the two years following Jonathan's death, lived with their son Jesse, his wife Jane and their children. The great friendship and kindness that existed within the family had been remarked on many times. It was also said that Maria loved her grand daughter dearly.



All Saints Church, Wing.

Jonathan had provided Maria with a weekly income of 12 shillings and passed his businesses on to Jesse.

(contd.)

However, it was also said that, for those two years, Maria had become very dull and despondent. She left Jesse's home some five or six weeks before the date of the tragedy to move in with her daughter Ruth BOWDEN, her husband and family who also lived in the same village.

On the day of the murder, 30th December, 1856, Maria left the BOWDEN dwelling and went to Jesse's house. Her daughter-in-law, Jane BECKETT, said "oh mother you have come to see us". Maria replied "Yes, but I have not come on a very pleasant errand, I have come to kill you all. I must do it as I am mad and the devil tempts me, for he has given me a razor".

She took from her pocket a razor, grabbed hold of and cut Jane's arm. Jane screamed which brought a workman from outside to her rescue. He took the razor from Maria's hand and tried to sit her down but she resisted. She went back through the house and left. Jane asked if she should go with her and he said no, it was better that she could go.

Maria must have returned to the BOWDEN dwelling for, a few moments later, Jane heard a scream from Ruth BOWDEN. Ruth who had been upstairs probably did not know her mother had returned from the BECKETT house. She had left her five year old son downstairs rocking his 11 month old sister in her cradle.

The child's screams brought Ruth hurriedly downstairs where she found baby Jane badly injured about the throat and her mother, Maria, in a terrible state, as if she was in a fit. The case was widely reported in the National press and an inquest into the death of baby Jane BOWDEN was held at the Cock Inn in the village of Wing on 1st January, 1857.

After hearing evidence from the family, Ezra Tripp (a bricklayer of Wing), Mr. W James Bodger (surgeon Leighton Buzzard) and police constable Job Denson, the Coroner summed up the evidence to the Jury.

Without a moment's deliberation the jury returned a unanimous verdict of wilful murder against Maria and she was committed to Aylesbury Gaol, to await her trial at the next March assizes for the murder of Jane Bowden.

(contd.)



The Cock Inn, 1905 (from Google)

Maria's trial took place at the Aylesbury Assizes on 10th March, 1857. Mr. Wroth was counsel for the prosecution, Mr. Power and Mr. Mills appeared for the prisoner. Mr. Power, having addressed the jury, urged that his unfortunate client was entitled to an acquittal on the grounds of insanity.

The Chief Baron directed them to say whether they were satisfied by the evidence that the prisoner, at the time she took away the life of her grandchild, was in a state on insanity, so as not to render her criminally responsible for that horrible act.

The jury at once returned a verdict of Not Guilty on the grounds of insanity. Her sentence 'to be kept in strict custody during her Majesty's Pleasure'.

(contd.)

Maria was admitted to the Bethlem Hospital on 24th July, 1858, where she died on 16th January, 1860. Two days later a post mortem and inquest were held and the cause of death was given as 'bronchitis and dropsy - natural'.

Name <i>Maria Dabiba Bockett.</i>		Age <i>67</i>	Admitted <i>24 July 1858.</i>	
Residence (place of abode) <i>Bucks. Gaol</i>		Occupation <i>Green & Blue House Keeper</i>		
Time when brought				
Normal	Irregular	Wetted	Number of Children	Age of youngest child
<i>~</i>	<i>~</i>	<i>yes</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>22</i>
Whether the first Attack		Age on first Attack	Duration of existing Attack	How often previous Attacks
<i>Had attacks of melancholy at times for 2 years previously.</i>			<i>Has shown no indication of insanity since Commitment of the Prisoner</i>	
Continued in any Lunatic Asylum.		Where.	When.	And how long.
Suggested cause of insanity.		Existing Displacement from business at the death of her husband on a <i>Weekly Allowance</i> .		
Progressing				
Previous delusions, or the way in which the Insanity is manifested		<i>At the Commitment of the Prisoner declared she must kill somebody in order to get to Heaven</i>		
Whether Suicidal.		Whether dangerous to others.		
<i>No</i>		<i>No</i>		
State of Bodily Health.	Before the Insanity commenced.	Degree of Education.		
	At the present time. <i>Bad</i>	<i>Imperfect</i>		
Religion Profession.		Has the Patient been of sound mind.		
<i>Baptist</i>		<i>Yes</i>		
Temper and disposition prior to Insanity commencing.		And the degree of Relationship.		
Cause or mode of Impairment.		When and where tried.		
<i>Death of a Grandchild, having failed in her attempt on it's mother.</i>		<i>Sent Spices by 1st March 1857 - Asylia</i>		
Verdict of Jury.		Sentence.		
<i>Insanities on Ground of Insanity</i>		<i>To be kept in strict Custody during the Majesty's Pleasure</i>		
Prescriptions.				
Discharge.				
		Left the Hospital.		<i>Dead 16 Jan^y 1860 Chronic Bronchitis General Dropsy</i>

Maria's admission sheet to Bethlem Hospital

(contd.)

A sad ending to the life of a hard-working wife and mother of eight children whose 'supposed cause of insanity' was 'displacement from business at the death of her husband', i.e. Jonathan BECKETT.

The report on her admission to Bethlem Hospital stated she had at times experienced attacks of melancholy over a period of two years. At the time of the murder, she declared 'she must kill somebody to send them to heaven'. After the day of her crime, she had shown no indications of insanity.

Her first husband, Francis BONTEMS, had died aged only 30, not long after the birth of their second son William (who became a Baptist Minister). Their first born John Francis BONTEMS was my great, great grandfather, who led a very full, interesting life, eventually becoming an Alderman in the Common Council of the City of London. He also met a tragic end to his life, on the way home from one of their meetings he was knocked down by a horse-drawn tram!

A fascinating family to research who have given me much pleasure since I started in 1989. I hope some interest has also been generated in our journal readers.

NB The original buildings of the St. Bethlehem Hospital eventually became part of the modern day Imperial War Museum.

A TALK — POSTED IN THE PAST

Report by John Symons

On Thursday 15th September 2022 Helen Baggott gave an online talk with which John immediately felt a certain affinity.

As someone with hundreds of inherited postcards this talk was obviously going to appeal and it did not disappoint. Ever since national postal deliveries were instituted, postcards were the preferred medium for short but succinct messages. The emails of their day perhaps they had almost the same sense of immediacy. My uncle wrote to his mother, my grandmother, on a postcard, reminding her that term ended at his boarding school in a few days and would she please not forget to collect him or send him the train fare home. Ignoring the need for a reminder, he knew that the card would be delivered the same or next day and would, he trusted, be acted on. Postcards were cheaper to send than letters.

Helen decided to investigate stories from postcards that have come into her possession and uncover the stories half hidden in a few short lines of writing. Using her best detective skills she finds stories about lives that may have otherwise gone unnoticed or unrecorded. She set out to find information about their lives at the time without delving too far backwards or forwards.

The first person she researched was Gilbert Freeman, a Private in the British Army, who had a postcard sent to him at Chelsea Barracks in 1913.

He unfortunately died during the First World War but by searching the Commonwealth War Graves Commission site she found his family in Saltash, Cornwall, where Gilbert's name is on the War Memorial. His name is also on the memorial in Stonehouse in Gloucestershire where his father William Freeman lived. She also found photos of the barracks showing his fellow soldiers and much else besides.

(contd.)

Helen provided a fully illustrated and detailed account of some of the other people she had researched. She collated and edited these and further stories to publish two books “Posted in the Past” and “Posted in the Past – A Second Delivery”. There will be many more to find if she has the time.

As another perspective, the postcards below are from my collection.

The first was written by my aunt’s future husband, Alfred Overal, to his father from Japan in 1928 en route to China following a diplomatic posting to Shanghai. He was there for many years. He had served in the Royal Flying Corps and the R.A.F. as an early pilot and was I think an Air Attaché.



The second, more humdrum perhaps, was written to my mother in 1935 from ‘R.G.’ to say that ‘the day of the dance is Tuesday January 8th and did she recognize the view (of a barn)?’

(contd.)

This looks like a personally taken photograph used as a post card and I have other examples of this genre. No, I don't recognise it or the sender but I hope the dance went ahead and a good time was had by all! Perhaps you have examples as well and this talk will inspire you to find out more.



(contd.)

I have found that they often offer clues about the lives of our families that can't be found in official records. If you have stories of your own, I'm sure we would be delighted to hear.

GOOD NEWS — BUT IT WILL COST YOU!

We have not had to wait too long to learn that the 1921 census is available on subscription. Findmypast offer an upgrade to their Pro subscription which gives unlimited access to the census images etc.

Inevitably there is a charge for this added facility which amounts to £19.99. If you decide to take them up on this offer it will be added to the unexpired portion of your Pro subscription until renewal is due.

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

By Patricia Reynolds

We are coming to the end of another year and all the hopes that we would be back to how life was before Covid are not to be. In fact I doubt those good times will ever completely return. We have all lost friends, family and colleagues making it a very sad time for many. Our thoughts go out to all those affected.

The society continues to function and we welcome all those that have joined us over the last few weeks. It also the time for existing members to remember to renew their membership as subscriptions are due on 1st January 2023.

John will have mentioned online the various ways that payment can be made and there is a form with this journal, for you to complete, which also details the ways in which you can pay. Please note that if paying by cheque it should be made payable to Hillingdon Family History Society (in full, not initials) and not to me.

Thanks also go to John and Alan who kept the journal so interesting and up to date with all the news throughout the year.

I must thank as well all of you who have written to me or telephoned for a chat – I enjoy them all!

It just remains for me to wish you all a Happy Christmas and the very best of better times in 2023.

Hillingdon Family History Society

The 35th Annual General Meeting to be held on
Thursday 16th March 2023 at 2 pm

Agenda

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 34th Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 17th March 2022
3. Matters arising
4. Caretaker Chairman's Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Election of Officers:
7. President
8. Chairman
9. Vice Chairman
10. Administrative Secretary
11. Treasurer
12. Executive Committee (maximum 15 members)
The following are proposed:
Patricia Reynolds, Alan Rowland, Valerie Fitch and Anne Moss.
13. Appointment of Auditor
14. Any other business

Nominations for the above should be with the Administrative Secretary, Gill May by 16th February 2023.

(contd.)

H.F.H.S. 34th A.G.M held on Thursday 17th March 2022 Minutes

1. Apologies for absence Charles Hampshire and Anne Moss.
2. Minutes of the 32nd/33rd A.G.M. held via zoom on Thursday 18th March 2021. Unanimously accepted and proposed.
There were no matters arising.
3. The Chairman's report (printed in the June 2022 issue of the journal) was read and accepted. Proposed by Chris Allum and seconded by John Symons.
4. The Hon. Treasurer was unavailable but the unaudited accounts will be issued in the June journal. Proposed by Gill May and seconded by Jenny Mundy.
5. The following Officers were elected:

President	:	Michael Gandy
Chairman	:	Ian Harvey
Vice-Chairman	:	John Symons
Administrative Secretary	:	Gill May
Treasurer	:	Charles Hampshire

Unanimously proposed and accepted.
A vote of thanks was expressed to Michael Gandy for continuing to be our President.
6. The following, together with the above, were elected to the Executive committee:
Patricia Reynolds: Alan Rowland: Valerie Fitch: Anne Moss
All the committee were unanimously proposed and accepted.
7. Appointment of Auditor, Julie Ross-Smith.
Julie Ross-Smith is carrying out the audit for this year. It was agreed that she will be appointed Auditor going forward. Unanimously proposed.
8. Any other business.
None.

Nominations for the above should be with the Administrative Secretary, Gill May by 16th February 2023.

CAN WE HELP YOU?

We undertake limited investigations by searching the London Metropolitan Archives, the National Archives and other London record offices. On line we can also carry out national investigations embracing the whole of the U.K. and some countries worldwide.

For this service we make a charge of £5.00 per research hour for members (£10.00 per hour for non-members), plus the cost of any expenses incurred such as copying, postage etc. Should you wish to make use of this service please submit your request which should be as specific as possible and give a clear indication of the upper limit of expenditure you are willing to incur.

If an investigation is unsuccessful or produces negative results you must appreciate that the charges will still apply.

HELP LINE

This service provides space in the journal where members and non-members can advertise their need for help and/or assistance. All of us have probably become 'stuck' at some point in our researches so this facility may just help you on your way.

The answer might lie in our corner of Middlesex so our local knowledge may be able to help but should it be further afield we stand a good chance of locating it with our computers.

Members may advertise at no cost, but a charge of £2 for each entry is made for non-members.

(contd.)

Send your queries for both of these services (with as much specific detail as possible please and payment) to the Membership Secretary at the address inside the back cover.

DON'T FORGET THIS FACILITY

A gentle reminder, our website carries a number of other societies' journals which can be viewed in the Members' Area. Others will be added when received.

FROM SOCIETIES IN ENGLAND	
Airedale and Wharfedale F.H.S.	Doncaster F.H.S.
Barnsley F.H.S.	Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies
Bedfordshire F.H.S.	Felixstowe F.H.S.
Berkshire F.H.S.	Lancashire F.H.S.
Calderdale F.H.S.	Nottinghamshire F.H.S.
Cheshire F.H.S.	West Middlesex F.H.S.
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British Columbia Genealogical Society F.H.S.	
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Heraldry and Genealogical Society of Canberra	South Australia Genealogy Society
Richmond Tweed F.H.S.	

H.F.H.S. PUBLICATIONS

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Postage and packaging as follows:

- For each set of fiche..... £1.50
- For each CD–ROM to UK address £2.00
- For airmail to overseas addresses.....Email Mrs. G. May for costs.

Cheques should be in pounds STERLING, crossed A/C payee and made payable to Hillingdon Family History Society.

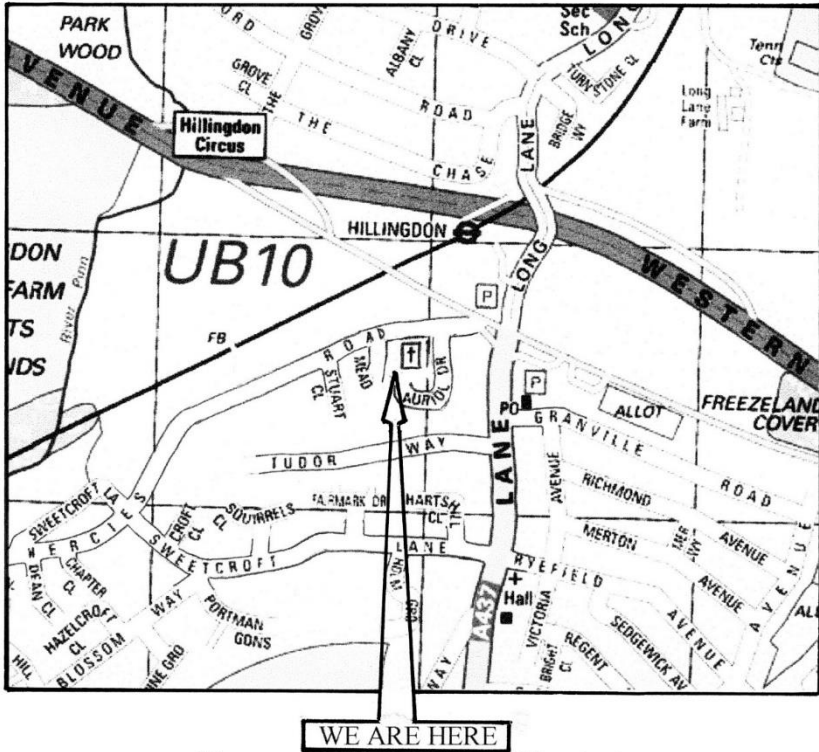
The publications can be obtained from:

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

WHERE TO FIND US



(The geographical centre of Hillingdon)

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

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

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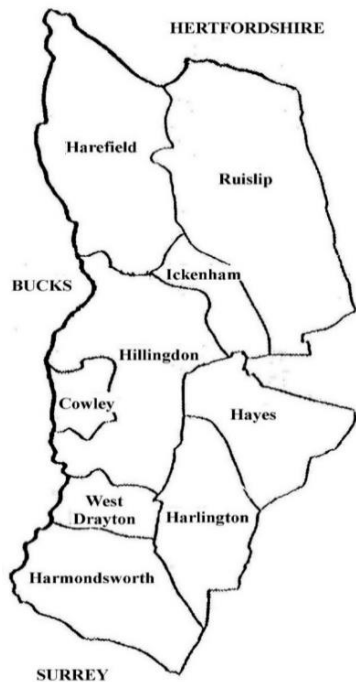
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THE LONDON BOROUGH OF HILLINGDON



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,
Middlesex. UB7 8LR U.K.*