

Roots in the Forest



St John the Baptist Church, Leytonstone

WALTHAM FOREST FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

**September 2023
ISSN 0143-215X**

WALTHAM FOREST FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

www.wffhs.org.uk

PRESIDENT **Barrie Burton Esq**

Chairman

Tim Valder-Hogg, 55 Tower Road, Epping, Essex, CM16 5EN
Tel: 01992 610880 Email: t.a.n.hogg@ntlworld.com

Secretary

Mark Carroll, 41 Hornbeam Road, Epping CM16 7JU
Tel: 01992 813014 M: 07902208028 Email: dr.mcarroll@gmail.com

Treasurer/Membership Secretary

Brian Unwin, 22 Dale View Crescent, London E4 6PQ
Tel: 020 8529 4907 Email: brian.unwin@ntlworld.com

Editor

Kathy Unwin, 22 Dale View Crescent, London E4 6PQ
Tel: 020 8529 4907 Email: kathy.unwin@ntlworld.com

Ejournals Co-ordinator

Gill Nichols, 221 Vicarage Road, Leyton, London E10 7HQ
Tel: 07793 558452 Email: gill.star@btopenworld.com

Committee Member

Andrew Childs, 8 Sybourn Street, London, E17 8HA
Email: andrewchilds88@gmail.com

Bookstall/Projects

Barrie Burton, 49 Sky Peals Road, Woodford Green, IG8 9NE
Tel: 020 8527 4807 Email: barriefb49@hotmail.co.uk

Exchange journals

**Please send all printed exchange journals to Barrie Burton,
49 Sky Peals Road, Woodford Green, Essex IG8 9NE**

Roots in the Forest

The Journal of the Waltham Forest Family History Society

September 2023

<i>Contents</i>	<i>Page</i>
Love letters from Leytonstone.....	<u>2</u>
Book review.....	<u>11</u>
What does the Family History Federation do for us?.....	<u>13</u>
Soldier, tailor, typefounder.....	<u>16</u>
St Peter-in-the-Forest.....	<u>19</u>
Married by JP.....	<u>23</u>
Summer lunch 2023.....	<u>25</u>
A-Z of family history.....	<u>29</u>
A posthumous son of Tisbury, Wiltshire.....	<u>30</u>
Cover story.....	<u>31</u>
Diary.....	<u>32</u>

While every effort has been made to trace the copyright holders of illustrations this has not always proved possible, if you have any information, please let us know.

LOVE LETTERS FROM LEYTONSTONE – Mark Carroll

Introduction

My partner's cousin, John MATHEWS, was a keen family historian. Over the course of more than 20 years he amassed a large collection of genealogical information and memorabilia from all branches of his family tree. When he died in 2021, I helped his son to sort through his family history stuff with a view to retaining the most meaningful items, which could perhaps be donated to the Society of Genealogists (SoG). There were BMD certificates, *In Memoriam* cards, wills, photographs, letters, family trees and miscellaneous items. Of particular note were 98 letters written by “Bert” over the period 1904–1906 and sent from Leytonstone in north-east London (but at that time in Essex) to “my sweetheart Emmie”. Who were Bert and Emmie, and why did he send so many love letters? Furthermore, what do the letters reveal about the lives of the families of these two Edwardian lovers in that part of the capital?

Bert

From John's family history research, it was a simple matter to identify the two lovers: they were his paternal grandparents, Bertram Alfred Mathews (1880–1958) (Fig 1) and Emma Mary BATES (1880–1963). Bert's father, Edward Alfred Mathews (1849–1912), worked as a joint maker for the Great Eastern Railway (GER) based at Stratford, east London. On his death an obituary in the company's staff magazine of February 1913 provided considerable detail about his career. Bert followed in his father's footsteps and joined the GER in 1896. By 1904 he had become a fireman on a wage of 4s 6d (20p) per day. At that time he was living at 106 Frith Road, Leytonstone, just a stone's throw to the west of the West Ham Poor Law Union Workhouse. By 1913 he had been promoted to driver at a time when a locomotive engine driver was a highly respected job in society. A 1945 letter to him from the GER administrators records the company's appreciation of his 49 years of “long and faithful service”. During that time, he kept logbooks with details of every train journey he ever made during his career: the locomotive type, from where, to where – all organised by date, like a diary. It even included comments on those periods when he had been off sick or away on holiday. It seemed to me that these logbooks represented an important resource

for anyone interested in the history of the GER, and so I contacted Bernard ANDERSON of the Great Eastern Railway Society. In July 2022 he came – by train! – from the Essex coast to my home near Epping to collect the logbooks and a few old photos of Bert with his trains. They now reside in the GER Society’s museum collection.



Figure 1. Bertram Mathews, 1905

The love letters also provide much more information on Bert’s working life. They record how he often had a 5am start to his day, and at other times he might only get to bed at one in the morning. Although based at Stratford in east London, his daily routes might take him to Croydon, Hertford, south London or the Essex coast. On holidays – for others – he might take a ‘special’ to Southend-on-Sea or to Crystal Palace, when the crowds could be noisy and high-spirited. The weather was occasionally a significant factor, with the rain making him depressed or the fog causing delays and missed connections. One time his cab was bombarded with potatoes thrown by a boy from an overhead footbridge. Bert resolved that the next time that happened, he would dowse the boy with hot water from the train’s hose – an action that would probably get him dismissed in the present day and age! He talks with feeling in the letters about the close relationship between him as the fireman (or stoker) and the engine driver, who had personal responsibility for the train, its passengers and his fellow workers aboard. After the 1926 reorganisation of the various British rail companies, Bert stayed on working for the new London & North East Railway (LNER) company based

at Stratford (ref 1). He clearly loved his job, despite the unsocial hours and the hard, grimy work. He retired in 1945 at the age of 65.

Emmie

Emma Mary Bates (Fig 2) – also known in the family as Emmie, Cissie or Sis – was born in the Holborn district of central London to Medwell Bates, a lithographer and printer, and his wife Emma née DEANE. In 1881 the family was living in Shoreditch, east London; in 1891 in Tottenham, north London; and in 1901 in Steele Road, Leytonstone, on the opposite side of the High Road from the workhouse and thus not far from Bert in Frith Road. By this time, at the age of 20, Emmie was working as a blouse machinist and had siblings Alice, Charles George, Florence, Minnie and William. Alice, aged 14 then, also worked as a blouse machinist at a time when the school leaving age was 12. From two of the letters in John's collection it is clear that Emmie put her needlework skills to good use, for she was asked in 1905 to make clothes for a friend's children.



Figure 2. Emma Bates

Emmie's health as a young woman was not good – she apparently suffered from erysipelas, an acute streptococcal infection of the skin. Bert recalled that on 11th March 1906 she was taken to the London Hospital (now the Royal London Hospital) in Whitechapel, east

London. Her main medical problems seem to have been leg ulcers and advanced gum disease – perhaps she also had defective connective tissue as a result of scurvy (deficiency of vitamin C)? Some of the letters in John’s collection are from various family members wishing her a speedy recovery and exhorting her to eat well – “Otherwise how can you expect the holes in your leg to get better?” She has all her teeth removed – at a time before conservative dentistry – and she noted approvingly that her “gums have healed over nicely”. However, it must have been painful for her. She was sent to recuperate at Parkwood Convalescent Home in Swanley, Kent (Fig 3), where 30 of the 120 beds were reserved for patients of the London Hospital. Her stay there was free, with the hospital even paying her rail fare, but visitors were only allowed on a Sunday.



Figure 3. Parkwood Convalescent Home, 1902
*[Photo courtesy of the Lost Hospitals website:
<https://ezitis.myzen.co.uk/parkwood.html>]*

The wider family

John had constructed family trees going back to the 18th century for both the Mathews and the Bates families; I have combined the relevant parts into a single composite tree (Fig 4). The two families in the 19th century were typically large. Bert’s father Edward was one of 11 siblings, while Bert himself was one of 10. Emmie had 6 brothers and sisters (one died in infancy) and her father Medwell had 8. Come the 20th century, Bert and Emmie limited themselves to only three children, one of whom died as a baby at the age of only 6 days: Gladys Emma was buried on 2nd May 1908 in Manor Park Cemetery at Forest Gate, London E7.

Bert provides us in his own words with details of some members of his family in a 1906 document: a page torn out of a large diary has a list headed “Important Dates”, although not all the details there are correct. For example, 31st January 1903 is stated (correctly) to be the wedding day of his brother, Sidney Edward, who fought in the British Army in the Boer War, after leaving for South Africa in February 1900 and apparently arriving home in November 1903 – Bert surely meant 1902? 20th February 1904 was the date of the “Death of Uncle Alf” – Alfred Henry Mathews. His “Aunt Ann” was stated to have died on 31st May 1904 – in actual fact, his great-aunt Ann Jane née Mathews. The entry for “Florrie’s wedding day”, 3rd August 1905, related to his older sister, Florence Fanny. “Death of Uncle George” was noted to have taken place on 6th March 1906 – not his paternal uncle, George Arthur Mathews (died 1892), but perhaps a maternal uncle or an uncle by marriage. Anyway, the 1906 document provides useful information for the 21st century family historian.

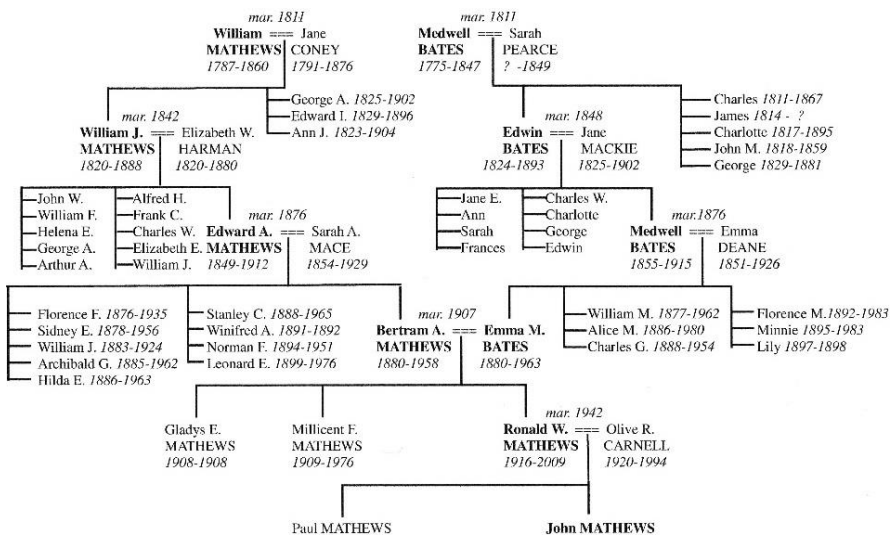


Figure 4. Family tree of MATHIEWS and BATES

Most members of the Mathews and Bates families seem to have lived in east London: either in Leytonstone, or in Poplar in the present-day Docklands area of London. They visited one another on a regular basis, usually for tea and biscuits, or went off on excursions together. In his letters Bert describes visits to Loughton and to various Essex

seaside resorts, as well as long walks through the southern part of Epping Forest in the areas around Leytonstone and Snaresbrook. Sometimes he cycled there too. Family members also went to concerts held at the GER Mechanics' Institute at Stratford. Indeed, some of them were musically talented: Bert himself played the mandolin and concertina. Several of the young men were also sporty: Bert's brother Archie played football to a high standard, and another played cricket likewise. Cycling was a favourite pastime among all the young folk, with Bert making forays from his home north into Epping Forest. One branch of the family was more distant geographically yet close emotionally. Bert's maternal aunt Sarah Ann née MACE (1854–1929) had married and settled in South Nutfield, Surrey; he and his siblings stayed in close contact with their relatives there, with a particular bond to their cousin Alice.

Bert and Emmie's married life

The 1906 "Important Dates" document provides some helpful family history information. It notes the birthdays of Bert and Emmie as being 9th July and 18th August respectively. It also records when the couple probably first met formally with her family: "23rd March 1904 First appointment with Miss E. Bates" (*sic*). However, they must have met socially before then, as his first letter to her is dated 22nd February 1904. They continued to meet in her home on his days off, usually on a Sunday afternoon, but invariably with one of her sisters or some other family member present to act as a chaperone. They sometimes had an hour alone together, a time that Bert notes frustratedly in several letters as being too short and too infrequent. Despite these setbacks Emmie and Bert became engaged on 5th March 1905.

The couple's courtship was undoubtedly interrupted by Emmie's health problems. Her hospital stay, followed by the time in the convalescent home, set back their plans for an early wedding. Bert's letters indicate that he nevertheless kept an eye out for household items to buy that they would need in their married life. He tells her one time that he has seen a "nice toilet with stand" – does he mean a wash handbasin, before the days of modern plumbing? Emmie eventually fully recovered, and the couple were married at St Columba's Church in the parish of Wanstead Slip in south-east

Leytonstone, on 6th July 1907 (Fig 5). The witnesses were his brother William and her sister Alice.



Figure 5. 1907 wedding of Emma Bates and Bertram Mathews (centre, seated)

Bert's father is seated far left; Emmie's parents are seated on her left

Emmie gave birth to a daughter, Millicent Florence, in Leyton on 12th September 1909. Millie never married, and she died in 1976 in the Waltham Forest area. At the outbreak of the Great War in 1914, Bert – as a railway worker – was in a ‘protected occupation’, and so he and his family stayed in east London for the next four years. A son, Ronald William, joined them in 1916; he gained his secondary education by means of a scholarship to Leyton County School for Boys in Essex Road, E11. During World War 2 Bert’s 1943 National Registration Identity Card, present in John’s collection, gives the family’s address then as 40 Chelmsford Road, Leytonstone, E11, and later as 127 Hainault Road, E11. Ronald and his wife Olive went on to have two sons, John and his older brother Paul, and Bert and Emmie still had many years of life ahead of them when they were photographed with their grandsons in 1952 on their 45th wedding anniversary (Fig 6).



*Figure 6. 45th wedding anniversary of Bert and Emmie
(Back row) Olive and Ron Mathews
(Front row) Paul, Bert, Emmie and John Mathews*

Bert and Emmie's deaths and legacy

Bert and Emmie's home was 127 Hainault Road, Leytonstone, when he died on 1st September 1958 in Whipps Cross Hospital, a short distance away. His will confirmed that his estate amounted to a net total of £2,383 16s 2d, all of which he bequeathed to Emmie, who was to be his sole executrix. Emmie herself died at home on 17th December 1963. She left £3,251 2s in her will, which had originally been written in 1956 and thus during Bert's lifetime. Fortunately, she had made provision for his prior death, and had appointed Ronald and Millicent to be her executors. To her son she bequeathed the small wardrobe with the clothing in it, plus a watch; to her daughter she left the family home, with the residue of her estate to be divided equally between the two of them. The wills, both in John's collection, provide us with examples of the signatures of Bert and Emmie in later life (Fig 7). The couple were buried in the City of London Cemetery, Wanstead (Square 572, Grave 121037).

B. A. Mathews *E. W. Mathews.*

Figure 7. Signatures of Bertram Mathews (left) and Emma Mathews (right)

So back to the Society of Genealogists in 2023 and the legacy of the family history research of John Mathews. I documented all his genealogical documents and other information in the form of a catalogue as an Excel spreadsheet. There were altogether over 370 items, including 120 letters. There were also five research files in ring binders that have details of all the family members that John had studied; they were prepared during the period 2008–2010, and contain largely what he referred to as “register reports” and “family group sheets”. These provide detailed information on every individual in every branch of his family tree, from the 1700s to the present day. Altogether across the five files there are 900 pages, mainly typed and with some internal duplication, as well as family trees and photographs – the latter mostly labelled with names and dates (thank you, John!). I emailed the catalogue to the SoG’s archivist, whose initial response was that they would charge a fee of at least £450 to accept the donation of John’s family history material and integrate it into their systems; after some negotiation the fee was reduced to £250. I then made photographic copies of most of the items in the collection before packing them into a box weighing 15kg to be sent by courier to the SoG. The digital images and the catalogue spreadsheet were then copied on to a CD to be given to various members of the Mathews family. In this way I hope to ensure that much of John’s family history collection will be preserved as a legacy of his 20 years of research.

On a broader note, this article illustrates a dilemma that we all face as family historians: what is going to happen to all the genealogical material that *you* have amassed in the course of your research? Is one of your relatives willing to take on the mantle of “family genealogist”, or will all your hard-earned research items end up in a skip?

Acknowledgements

I thank Tim Mathews for giving me access to his father’s family history research material.

References

1. Hardy, F (2012) *My Ancestor Was A ... Railway Worker*, pp5-9, London: Society of Genealogists Enterprises Ltd

BOOK REVIEW – Mark Carroll

***Tracing your ancestors using DNA*, by Holton, G S (ed), 2019, 255pp, Pen & Sword Books, £14.99 or less, ISBN 9781526733092**

This recently reissued book is intended as an introduction to the rapidly advancing field of genetic genealogy and its application to family history research. Its editor and the several contributors acknowledge that, since its first publication in 2019, the latest developments will soon render some aspects in the book out of date. Nevertheless, the content admirably covers the principles and key applications of the topic. Reading it will benefit not only the genealogist considering whether to embark on DNA testing, but also those who have already taken a DNA test. The authors are associated with Strathclyde University in Scotland, with its successful online genealogy courses, and thus have practical experience of delivering adult learning modules in this field.

The first three chapters provide an overview of genetic genealogy. Here and throughout the book there is emphasis on how DNA analysis will not replace traditional family history research – the two approaches are complementary. There is a good balanced account of the pros and cons of DNA testing for family historians, with case studies of its applications. Indeed, the examples used throughout the book illustrate the potential benefits and limitations of the approach. The ethical and legal aspects of genetic genealogy are well covered; in fact they are stressed throughout the book so that the reader can make informed choices. The principles of inheritance are lucidly explained, as are the potentially confusing terms used in the field, with emphasis on how the family historian can avoid pitfalls and focus attention to best effect. The writers have generally worked hard to avoid too much jargon, helped by a glossary at the end of the book.

Each of the next three chapters addresses one of the main types of DNA test: autosomal, Y-chromosomal, and mitochondrial. Autosomal testing – the approach used by most family historians – identifies matches to ‘DNA cousins’ who may or may not have a well-researched family tree. The book has advice on how best to contact such matches, with informative case studies that illustrate the

techniques one can apply to maximise the information to be gleaned from the test results. The chapter on Y-DNA testing is heavy going: hardest to understand, with excessive jargon and fewer practical examples of applications relevant to family historians. Mitochondrial DNA testing, though less useful to family historians, is succinctly and clearly addressed, with some illuminating examples.

With the basics of genetic genealogy now covered, the authors go on to address in depth some applied aspects of the subject. It is at this point that they consider how a novice might choose between the various DNA testing companies. There is a clear overview of the key features behind making an informed choice, plus a timely reminder to consider the legacy of one's raw DNA data. The chapter on projects is one of the best in the book. It describes some excellent examples of collaborative work that blends genetic genealogy with traditional family history research so as to generate cross-fertilisation of ideas; it also provides helpful advice on setting up and running a project. The following chapter provides yet more illuminating studies that use this integrated approach, with examples of problems solved and hypotheses tested, based on Y-DNA and autosomal DNA. There is an excellent account of 'ancient DNA' from archaeological specimens, though the applications are currently more in the areas of population genetics and early human migrations. The skeleton of King Richard III features prominently here, as does the solving of forensic 'cold cases' in America. The final chapter looks ahead to likely future developments in the field of genetic genealogy. In fact, some are already here: DNA phenotyping and reconstruction of ancestors' genomes can potentially predict what one's forebears might have looked like; 'universal' family trees are being created by several groups with the aim of integrating the myriad of current family trees and confirming the links by DNA testing. For family historians the 'holy grail' is to close the 'genetic-genealogical gap': the limitations of present-day DNA testing and the mutations that underlie it mean that one cannot derive genealogically relevant information beyond about six generations into the past.

This book will undoubtedly be of value to anyone who has already taken a DNA test, who wants to make the most of their results, or who is considering an upgrade to a different test. The text is, overall,

admirably clearly written – an achievement in itself, given the extensive use of specialised terms in genetic genealogy. The multiple authors have tried hard to cross-refer to other relevant parts of the book, but there is inevitably some repetition of material. The numerous diagrams are very helpful but would be more so if they were in colour rather than in greyscale and if some had a more detailed explanatory rubric. There is no mention of the Leeds clustering tool for assigning DNA cousins to a common shared great-grandparent, though a similar approach *is* described. The suggested further reading, mainly websites, is readily accessible and potentially useful. The case studies and examples cited throughout the book are one of its most valuable features, as they illustrate how a family historian might best interpret his or her own results. Most of the families studied by the authors have Scottish, Irish or American roots, but the principles will still apply to most of us. There are other up-to-date books available on genetic genealogy, such as that by Blaine Bettinger, but this one will provide the British family historian with all the essential tools with which to embark confidently on the exciting genealogical journey that DNA testing can provide.

WHAT DOES THE FAMILY HISTORY FEDERATION DO FOR US? – Mark Carroll

Like most family history societies (FHSs) in the UK, Waltham Forest FHS has from its inception in 1978 been a member of the Family History Federation (FHF) – formerly the Federation of FHSs. We pay them an annual subscription of £30, but what do we get in return? On 20th May 2023 I attended online the FHF's Annual General Meeting and the General Meeting that followed it, and was able to see at first hand the progress the Federation has been making, with potential benefits for us all.

The Federation acts as a focal point for all groups, both British and worldwide, with an interest in genealogy. WFFHS's annual subscription provides us with public liability insurance for our meetings and events. Owing to its size, it is well placed to negotiate with the commercial family history organisations. Thus, WFFHS now

has a contract with FindMyPast, through the Federation, to derive income from external users accessing some of our digitised resources. Informing member societies of developments in family history is also one of the Federation's remits. For example, it produces a monthly *Really Useful Bulletin* that is sent out electronically to all WFFHS members; it also produces podcasts on aspects of family history research. The Federation has a website called *Parish Chest*, which acts as a marketplace for its merchandise, principally books; but that facility can also act as a cost-free means to collect an FHS's annual subscriptions electronically from its members – though WFFHS has not yet availed itself of that service.

The AGM was chaired by the FHF President, Dr Janet Few, who coincidentally will give a talk to WFFHS in February 2024 – “A genealogist's worst nightmare”. Steve Manning was re-elected as Chair, and three new Committee members have brought ‘fresh blood’ into the Federation's Committee, with specialist areas of expertise: in DNA and genetic genealogy, in archives, and with an overseas perspective. With its charitable organisation and its commercial company taken together, the Federation made an overall profit of about £10,000 in 2022/23.

The General Meeting was, as expected, more interesting, and it showcased two developments in particular that are likely to benefit member FHSs. Steve Manning spoke about the FHF's *Really Useful Show*, which has been run twice now online. Feedback from participant FHSs in 2022 was rather critical of its structure, in particular the need to man a society's electronic ‘booth’ continuously, with many online visitors losing interest and leaving early. The Federation now suggests that any participant society should prepare an electronic 10-15 minute talk emphasising the unique features of that FHS, with a link to its website so that visitors can follow up their interest. Although online family history shows and fairs are likely to be the future of such events, many of us regret not being able to talk to a human being in real life there. Thus, the Federation intends organising a ‘live’ family history show in April 2024 in Cambridge-shire, with input and organisation contributed by all the FHSs in the East of England region in a collaborative venture. Ian Waller, the Committee member with responsibility for education and publica-

tions, described the latest developments in the Federation's new initiative, a website called *Explore Your Genealogy* (EYG) – <https://www.exploreyourgenealogy.co.uk/>. This is a free website with many attributed articles that will eventually incorporate all community-facing FHF information, including *Find a Society*. If you have not already browsed the EYG website, I would encourage you to do so!

Steve Manning concluded his presentation to the General Meeting by expressing concern for the future of the family history community, with some smaller FHSs struggling to survive – though WFFHS's numbers remain stable at 50-55. He offered support and help to those societies, in the form of journal articles they could use and advice on technical matters, such as running online meetings. The Federation appears to be in good hands at the moment, with expertise that can benefit all its member FHSs.

FAMILY HISTORY Federation
Supporting Family Historians since 1974

We ❤️ Family History

SPECIAL PRICE
for all FHF member societies
ONLY £12
Using Checkout Code
SOCIETY23

FHF REALLY USEFUL
Family History Show

Interactive **WORKSHOPS**
Knowledgeable **SPEAKERS**
Friendly **FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETIES**

ONLINE EVENT 2023
Full Price
TICKETS £15

SAVE THE DATES Friday 17th November 10am-10pm and
Saturday 18th November 10am-6pm GMT

LEARN MORE and BUY NOW at
www.fhf-reallyuseful.com

SOLDIER, TAILOR, TYPEFOUNDER – John Watts

James Clark was born on 20th August 1741 in Barony, Scotland. He married Henrietta Martin on 15th January 1771 in Glasgow. They had eight children, including my five times great-grandfather James Clark, born in February 1775 (Fig 1).

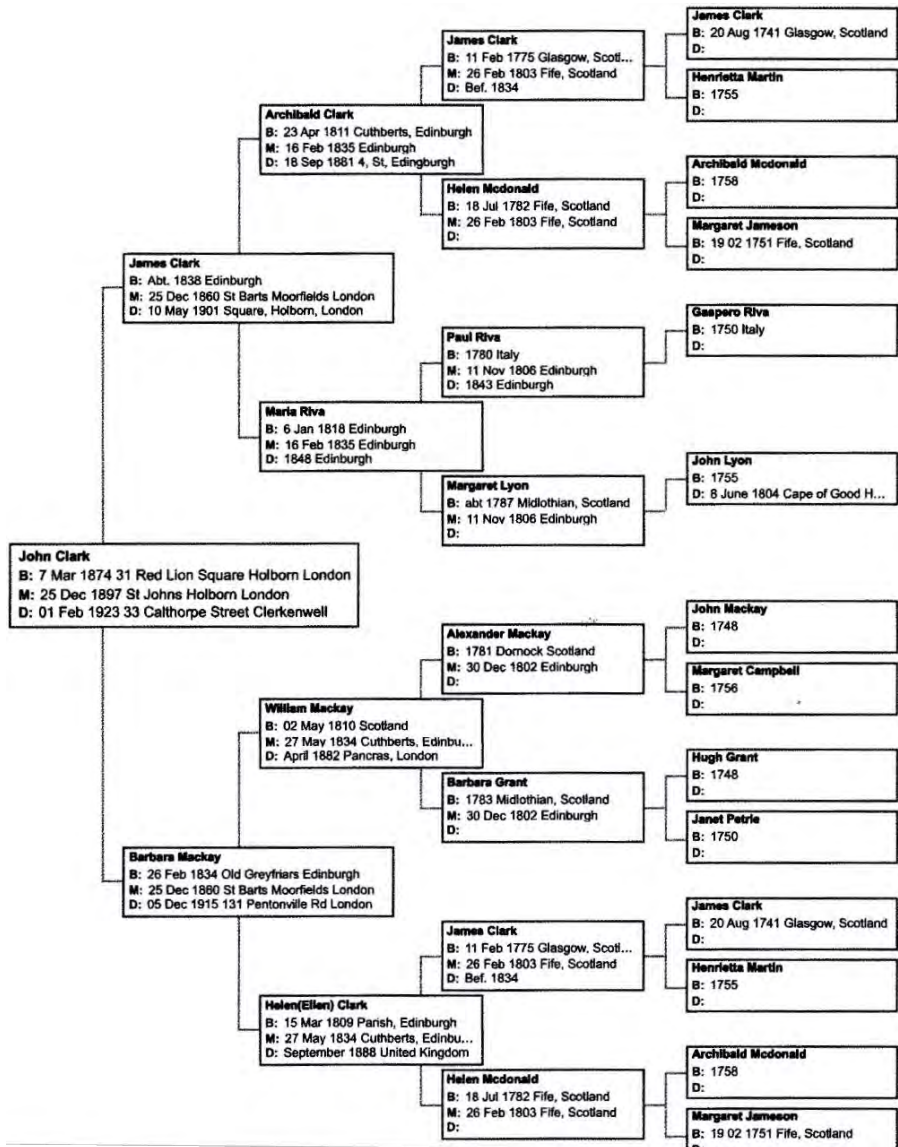


Fig 1 John Clark's family tree

James enlisted in the 116th Foot, Perthshire Highlanders, in 1794, which was disbanded that year. He transferred to the 42nd Foot, Black Watch. Chelsea Pensioners discharge documents show that he was wounded in his left leg on 21st March 1801, in the Battle of Alexandria, in Egypt, fighting Napoleon's army (see Fig 2). He was discharged on 28th October 1802. The document states that James was born in Barony, near the 'market town' of Glasgow, and he was a taylor (sic) by trade with 8½ years' service in the 42nd Foot.

James Clark was married to Helen Macdonald in Inverkeithing, Fife. They had seven children, including Helen, born in 1809, and Archibald, born in 1811. On 16th February 1835 Archibald Clark, listed as a typesetter,¹ married Maria Riva, who was of Italian descent. Maria was baptised, in 1818, in the Roman Catholic church. Their marriage is recorded in both Protestant and Roman Catholic records. There are no records of their children's births or baptisms, but there was no compulsion to record Scottish BMDs before 1855.

On the 1841 census Archibald Clark, aged 30, typesetter, is living with wife Marion and three children, including son James. On the 1851 Edinburgh census Archibald, listed as typesetter, is now a widower living with his six children, including son James aged 13, a typesetter apprentice, and his brother Archibald aged 10, also a typesetter apprentice!

On 25th December 1860, James Clark (Archibald's son) a typesetter aged 25 married Barbara Mackay, 24, at St Bartholomew's, Moorfields, London. The records show Archibald as James's father and Barbara's father as William Mackay, a typesetter. Barbara was born on 26th February 1854, recorded in Roman Catholic records of Edinburgh Cathedral, her father is William and her mother is Helen Clark. Helen Clark, born 1809, above, is the sister of Archibald, making James and Barbara first cousins. I believe that James moved from Edinburgh to London to live with the Mackays.

James and Barbara are shown on the 1861 census from Scotland, living in London; there are no children. Their first child Helen was born on 27th October 1861, followed by another five children.

¹ A typesetter is someone who casts metal printing type.

His Majesty's 42nd ^{regt} ^{of Foot} Regiment of Foot
whereof Gen^l Sir H. Munro ^{is} Colonel.

THESE are to certify, that the Bearer hereof, *James Clark private* in *Major Stewart's* Company of the aforesaid Regiment, born in the Parish of *Barroness* in or near the Market Town of *Glasgow* in the County of *Lanark* Aged *26* and by Trade a *Taylor* hath served honestly and faithfully in the said Regiment *8 1/2* Years: But by a *wound* received in the *Left Leg* on the *21st March 1801* in *Egypt* and *being entitled to his Discharge*

is hereby Discharged, and humbly recommended as a proper Object of His Majesty's Royal Bounty of CHELSEA HOSPITAL. He having first received all just Demands of Pay, Clothing, &c. from his Entry into the said Regiment to the Date of this Discharge, as appears by his Receipt on the Back hereof.

Given under my Hand, and the Seal of the Regiment,
at *Cairncastle* this *20th* Day of
October 18 *02*
John Erskine *William Wilson*

Fig 2 James Clark's discharge papers

In 1868 we find James living on the premises of the Patent Typefounder Company. He was there until his death in 1901. His father Archibald continued to live in Edinburgh until his death on 18th September 1881.

Since 1855, it has been compulsory to register BMDs and we find that the death entry has a wealth of information showing: the date and the time of death at 06.45am, married to (1) Marion Riva, (2) Margaret Stewart, occupation typefounder with his address, his father listed as James Clark, a private in the 42nd Foot and his mother's name Macdonald. It also shows the cause of death and informant.

The names that are in my Scottish family are CLARK, RIVA, MACKAY and DOUGLAS, with more than ten typefounders, three first cousin marriages plus six second cousin marriages!

The documents from the Chelsea Pensioner records and the death entry of Archibald allowed me to bridge the current generation to James Clark, born in 1741; more than 250 years of my family.

Sources:

Scotland's People BMD's pre-post 1855; Edinburgh Roman Catholic Registers and Censuses; Chelsea Pensioners Discharge Document; National Archives on Find My Past; London Marriage, certificate held; Ancestry London Census.

ST PETER-IN-THE-FOREST, WALTHAMSTOW – Barrie Burton, Mark Carroll and Tim Valder-Hogg

Waltham Forest FHS has had a long association with the church of St Peter-in-the-Forest, Walthamstow. On 8th July 2023 the church held an Arts and Heritage Fair to celebrate the recent completion of the renovation of the building. The Society contributed to the event in three ways: our usual stall, with items for sale and a laptop with internet access, thanks to an efficient Wi-Fi connection helpfully provided by the church; a talk by our President, Barrie Burton, on the history of the church and WFFHS's links with it; and a churchyard tour by our Chairman, Tim Valder-Hogg, highlighting some of the significant graves there. There were also displays of art and photography, plus a poetry reading and a talk on Walthamstow men who fell in the Great War. Tim collaborated with a local photographer, Paula Smith, to produce an atmospheric image of the south side of

the church by using a pinhole camera (Fig 1). Fortunately, most of the events were held inside the church, as the weather forecast of thunderstorms turned out to be accurate!



Fig 1. Pinhole camera photograph of St Peter's

The fabric of the church building has been considerably upgraded as a result of the renovation, which has also stabilised the structure after it had threatened to collapse. The work has, though, been carried out in a sympathetic way, retaining the key original features. A significant improvement has been the addition of an impressive audio-visual set-up, with two screens where PowerPoint slides can be displayed. Barrie's talk illustrated the historical development of St Peter's and the surrounding area, whose population exploded in the 19th century, in part as a result of the arrival of the railway line extension to Epping (Fig 2). Transcribing the memorial inscriptions on the gravestones in the churchyard was the first project undertaken by WFFHS, starting in 1979. He described some of the problems we faced and the early errors we committed before finally completing the project in 2017. He also pointed out some personal links with the church: both he and our Secretary, Mark Carroll, were baptised at St Peter's, and both sets of parents had been married there in the 1940s. All the time that Barrie was speaking, an artist was cleverly portraying the key points of his talk in sketch format (Fig 3).



Fig 2. Barrie's talk in progress in front of east window
The Mayor and vicar are seated second and fourth from left, the artist is standing (far left)



Fig 3. Artist's sketch of the content of Barrie's talk

Tim's churchyard tours were somewhat curtailed by the rainy weather (Fig 4). However, he was able to show visitors around the graves and to describe the life-history of some of the significant people buried there. Meanwhile, inside in the dry, Mark and Barrie chatted to visitors to our stall. Two of them were WFFHS members who for different reasons are unable to make it to our monthly meetings, so it was good to be able to put a face to the name on the membership list! Rosemary was researching a William MASKALL, a 'gentleman of Walthamstow, Essex', who left a will in 1784. We found his burial online at St Mary's Walthamstow, and those of three other possible family members, for they are in fact entered on the WFFHS 'Records' website. Success! A non-member, Bess, said she was three-quarters Jewish and one-quarter Christian, with an English great-grandfather called Charles Robert SNELL, born in Merton, Surrey, but who moved to Salisbury, Wiltshire. With just this information to go on, our searching of the online family history websites was able to provide her with a considerable amount of information on the family: his date of birth, the names of his parents and siblings and children, and his death in 1954. More success! An internet connection at such events is so useful at our stall. By the end of the afternoon Barrie had also taken £9 in sales of publications – more than usual for such an occasion. We did not recruit any new members to WFFHS that day, but each such event that we attend has its own particular outcome.



Fig 4. Tim (left) leading a churchyard tour

MARRIED BY JP – Tim Valder-Hogg

Having a “flick through” the marriages in one of the early Walthamstow parish registers, I noticed something I thought unusual at the time. The entry read “May. The 11th day were married George Byford of Henham and Hannah Wood of Rickling by Tho: Smith Esq Justice of the Peace”. Entries in registers before 1813 are usually freehand with no prescribed form. I looked at other entries and most of the others on the page were also before a JP. A distant memory came to me that the status of marriages during the Interregnum (the time between the dissolution of the monarchy and its re-establishment) was somewhat dubious. A quick look on Wikipedia told me that the Interregnum was from 1649 to 1660, and the page I was looking at was for 1657.

Going back a few pages I found at the top of a new page the statement “The Names and Surnames of all such psons as have beene maryed since the 29th of September Anno Dom 1653”. From this point the marriage entries contain more information than before. It turns out that this date has significance. In August 1653, there was “An Act touching Marriages and the Registring thereof; and also touching Births and Burials”. This Act required that marriages took place before a Justice of the Peace.

The Act set out other requirements. Of significance that:

- Parties had to give three weeks’ notice in writing to the Register (the term used for the registrar) covering the parishes the parties lived in.
- Banns (though not called that) had to be published in the church on the three preceding Sundays or, if the parties wished, in the marketplace on market day in the three preceding weeks.
- A certificate of banns was required before marriage could take place.
- Two credible witnesses to the marriage were needed.
- The form of words to be used was prescribed.
- Records of marriages (and births and burials) had to be kept.
- Previous registers must be surrendered to the Register.
- Those under age 21 needed permission of a parent or guardian.
- The age of consent to marriage was set at 16 for a man and 14 for a woman.

No other form of marriage within the Commonwealth of England, after 29th September 1653, was to be held or accepted a Marriage according to the Laws of England. This is not to say that there was no previous marriage law or that there had been no need for banns or a licence or even registers, indeed these things were required by Canon (church) law, but the structures of the church had been abolished in 1646 and there was a lack of regulation in this area.

In Walthamstow the record of banns published show that most were published in church on “Severall Sabbath Days”, but at least one publication was on “3 severall markt Days [specified] without opposition”. This reminds me of the Civil Registration process, nearly 200 years later, of reading the list of parties wishing to be married in the Board of Guardians meetings, though possibly more effectively public.

Some marriages in this register took place elsewhere, “This day were maryed Sr William Batten & Mis Elizabeth Woodstocke (by me) in St Johns Church in London”, so it appears that a JP was not restricted as to where he may marry people. People could marry in the county or city or town corporate where notice had been given. Though there seems to have been no requirement to marry in church, at least some did.

Another example suggests that either notice could also be given in any place people wanted to be married, or that the law wasn't quite adhered to. “A Contract of Matrimony betweene William Batten of Lincolnes Inn Esqr the one party & Margaret Allcocke of Rochester in Kent the other party was 3 several Sundays, viz on 24th & 31st of January 9th February 1657 without opposition & afterwards married by me T.C.” [Thomas Conyers].

It seems that after 1657 the system started to break down and the marriage entries returned to a simple form giving the date and the parties married but not the person officiating or making reference to banns. It would be almost another hundred years before such process was again required by Hardwicke's 1753 Marriage Act, and nearly two hundred before civil registration was reintroduced.

References: 1602 Canon Law <https://www.anglican.net/doctrines/1604-canon-law/>; 1653 Act <https://www.british-history.ac.uk/no-series/acts-ordinances-interregnum/pp715-718>.

SUMMER LUNCH 2023 – MARK CARROLL

This year the base for the WFFHS Summer Lunch was Leytonstone, but the weather forecast for Sunday 30th July was not promising – correct, as it turned out. Fourteen members met at The Walnut Tree pub there over lunch for a chat about our latest progress (or lack of it) with our recent family history research. We then ambled down to nearby St John’s Church where the historical tour was to begin, led by me. I gave an introduction to the history of Leytonstone, recounting its origins as a hamlet in the 14th century with a supposedly Roman milestone and situated on the main highway from London to East Anglia. In 1670 it had only 23 houses, but several of them were the homes of wealthy merchants from the City. However, at this time there was no church there and the inhabitants had to tramp across the fields to Leyton St Mary. Only in 1749 was a chapel built, followed in 1833 by St John’s Church. Tim Valder-Hogg then gave the group a brief account of WFFHS’s work in transcribing some of the church’s registers (Fig 1).



Fig 1 Tim (left) expounding in front of St John’s Church

The group then made its way down the west side of the main road until it reached Leytonstone High Road station, built by the Midland Railway in 1894. By this time a light drizzle had set in, leading to the

loss of a couple of members. There followed a description of the impact of the development of the railways in that part of north-east London. The Great Eastern Railway line from Liverpool Street to Stratford was extended to Leytonstone in 1856 and electrified in 1947. A tramway was constructed from Stratford to the Green Man junction at Leytonstone in 1878. The development of these transport links led to the area becoming a dormitory suburb for workers in the City and the London docks, with a resultant explosion in the population. Further down the main road we stopped at the former site of the family home of Alfred Hitchcock at 517 High Road – pulled down in 1980 and now a petrol station.

There are numerous references to the Hollywood director in the place of his 1899 birth, with murals depicting scenes from his films on the walls of the passageway out of Leytonstone tube station (Fig 2).

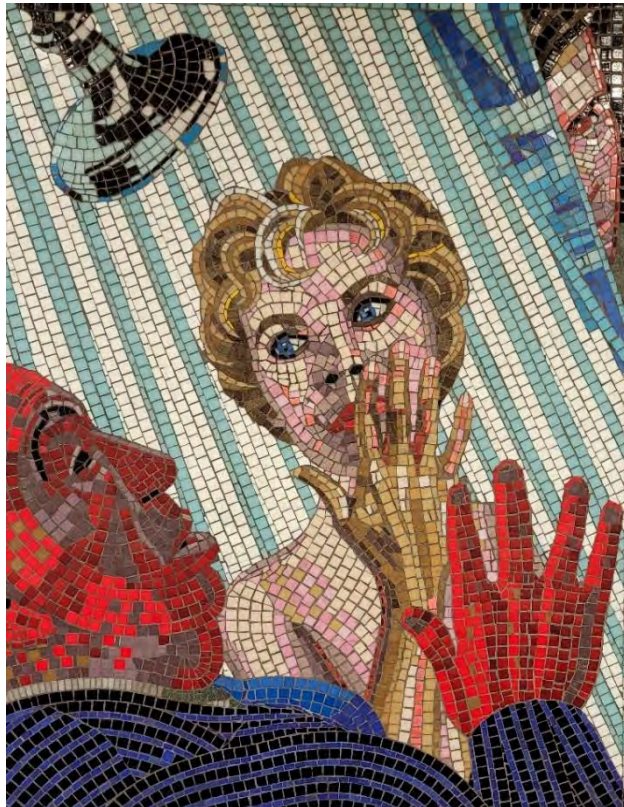


Fig 2 One of the mosaics in Leytonstone tube station depicting “Psycho”

There is even a Blue Plaque on the wall of the petrol station that celebrates his cinematic achievements (Fig 3). His parents, William and Emma née Whelan, ran a greengrocer's shop there, together with Alfred's older siblings William and Nellie. Several members of the extended Hitchcock family are buried in the nearby Catholic cemetery of St Patrick. By now the heavy drizzle led to the departure of a couple more group members.



Fig 3 The blue plaque at the petrol station

We crossed over to the east side of the High Road to the war memorial and I gave an account of West Ham Poor Law Union and its workhouse. Built in 1840, its surviving buildings lie a couple of hundred yards further south. It was a major social institution in the area in the 19th and early 20th centuries, with several blocks housing accommodation for staff and inmates, plus a chapel and an infirmary that became Whipps Cross Hospital in 1903. To avoid the social stigma associated with the workhouse, it changed its name in the early 20th century to Central Home Leytonstone (CHL). WFFHS has digitised its admission registers for female inmates from 1930 to the 1960s; the corresponding registers for males have been lost. Inmates were the socially destitute from not only West Ham but also the Waltham Forest area plus Wanstead and Woodford; they included the old and infirm but also unmarried mothers. Baptisms in the chapel at

CHL were recorded in the registers of nearby Holy Trinity Church, and those have also been digitised by WFFHS.

The heavy drizzle was now a light rain and the group lost more members. We proceeded up the east side of the High Road as far as Davies Lane, where we encountered some notable Leytonstone families and personages. Wealthy local families included the Davies, Bosanquets and Cottons, with William Cotton being one-time Governor of the Bank of England. Further up the High Road at Sycamore House (now demolished) lived Dr Lister, who in the 19th century developed the use of antiseptics for making surgical operations safer. At the far end of Davies Lane lay the former Home of the Good Shepherd for “fallen women”; I wondered why there are no homes for “fallen men”! Beyond Davies Lane is Bushwood, with its avenues of trees that originally led up to Wanstead House (now demolished). According to the Hearth Tax returns of the 17th century, its 40 hearths made it one of the biggest houses in Essex. The light rain was now a heavy rain, and only a plucky few continued on to the bitter end of the historical tour of Leytonstone.

At Browning Road – originally called Back Lane – we saw the Conservation Area with its pretty cottages from the 1830s, the original water pump for the area and the modern streetlights that mimic the Victorian gas lamps that used to be there. The road was the site of Hutchison House, an orphanage from the late 19th century to the 1940s. We continued past the Green Man pub (now called O’Neills) erected in 1668 and across the High Road to Leytonstone House, home of the Buxton family who grew rich from the brewing industry. The building was in time taken over by Bethnal Green Poor Law Union to be used as an industrial school, and later became a home for mentally handicapped children. The by now truly soaked and very small group ended the tour at Tesco supermarket, where one wall has plaques describing the history of the local area. There are individual plaques dedicated to the Bethnal Green Union, Leytonstone House, the Buxton family, and how Leytonstone got its name. Hopefully if WFFHS runs a similar event next summer, the weather will be kinder to us.

A to Z of FAMILY HISTORY – Barbara Harpin

I is for:

IMAGES OF ENGLAND

Listed buildings <https://historicengland.org.uk/>

They hold major collections of national importance, covering archaeology, architecture, social and local history. Collections include photographs, drawings, plans and documents. Over a million records can be searched online.

INTERNATIONAL GENEALOGICAL INDEX (IGI)

<https://familysearch.org>, which can be searched free. Records, Images, Family Tree, Genealogies, Catalog, Books and Wiki. One to point out is *Genealogies* – a large directory of family trees, also known as lineages or pedigrees, that people and organisations have shared with FamilySearch. Information is organised into collections and make it available to search.

INQUESTS

Not many survive; those that do are usually in County Records Offices. Some of the inquests were reported in the local, regional and national papers at the time. From the 19th century onwards, a newspaper report may be the only surviving account.

The book written by J Gibson and C Rogers, *Coroner's Records in England and Wales*, has good information and there are guides on TNA website.

IRISH FAMINE (also known as *The Great Famine*)

<https://www.theirishstory.com/2016/10/18/the-great-irish-famine-1845-1851-a-brief-overview/>

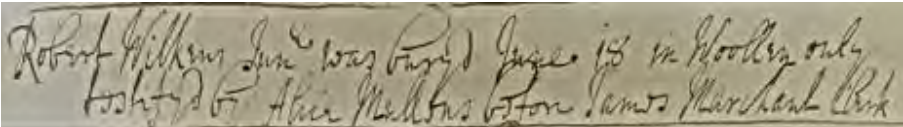
Between 1845 and 1852 Ireland suffered a period of starvation, disease and emigration.

A less well-known site with a lot of information on the many orphans is <https://irishfaminememorial.org/orphans/>.

The young women who went to the Australian colonies during the famine years were from workhouses in all 32 counties throughout Ireland. All were destitute and many had lost their parents and families, so were ‘orphans’ in the modern sense of the word. Others were simply unable to support themselves within the family. The term ‘orphan’, meaning loss of at least one parent, did apply to the vast majority of the 4,114 who took up the offer under Earl Grey’s Famine Orphan Scheme. The Australian Monument to the Great Irish Famine (1845-1852) is located at the Hyde Park Barracks, on Macquarie Street, Sydney.

A POSTHUMOUS SON OF TISBURY, WILTSHIRE – Barrie Burton

John, the posthumous son of Robert WILKINS, was baptised on 28th September 1715.

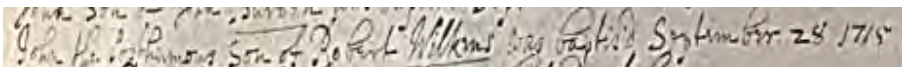


Robert Wilkins Junr was buried June 18 in Woolven only
testfyd by Alice Mullen before James Marchant Clerk

On coming across the above, my initial thought was that John had died on his way to his baptism. Then picking up the wrong dictionary (Latin/English), all I could find was “Posthumous – last born”; but then picking up the right one it stated “Posthumous (of a child) born after its father’s death”. So it was Robert who had died. You live and learn, after having been doing this hobby for 46 years.

Since finding the above, I have looked at the Tisbury burial records for 1715 and found the following:

Robert Wilkins Junr was buryd in woolwen only testfyd by Alice MULLENS before James MARCHANT Clerk.



John Wilkins was baptizd September 28 1715

COVER STORY: ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, LEYTONSTONE – Kathy Unwin

The cover photo was taken outside the church after our summer lunch (see page 25). The people of Leytonstone had quite a fight to have a church built for their community.

In 1748 they made a request for a Chapel to be built locally, as their nearest church was St Mary's in Leyton, 1½ miles away. Leytonstone was just a small village at this time but there were many large houses in the area. Revd Dubordieu, the Vicar of Leyton, recommended that the request be refused, his argument being that the poor could walk and the wealthier people could go by carriage to his church. However, the only way to his church was a path through fields, which in bad weather was impassable both by foot and carriage.

The people of Leytonstone persisted, and a Chapel was built and ready by April 1749. Still fighting to keep his congregation, the Vicar of Leyton refused to take part in the services, and they were briefly held by a Mr Carter, but as he had no authority to do so, the services were stopped in 1750 and the Chapel was not used for services again until 1754, this time with official approval.

In December 1818 it was necessary to enlarge the premises, and in 1819 the Vicar of Leyton agreed to the proposed alterations. The Chapel was reopened in January 1820. In July 1830 the Vicar of Leyton issued an address about the new Chapel, where he expressed his regret that the existing Chapel having been erected on leasehold ground, though licensed by the Bishop for divine service, could not be consecrated, and he felt that the building was inadequate for the population of 1,600.

A proposal was made to erect a new permanent Chapel, and by 30th October 1830 nearly £2,500 had been raised. The Governor of the Bank of England, William Cotton, bought and donated the land on which the church was built. He lived at a house called Wallwood in the area. The first stone was laid by Revd Laprimaudaye on 20th July 1832 and the new Chapel and burial ground were consecrated and dedicated by the Bishop of London on 31st October 1833.

**Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month
(except August) at 8pm
either at Spruce Hill Baptist Church Hall, Brookscroft Road,
Walthamstow E17 or on Zoom**

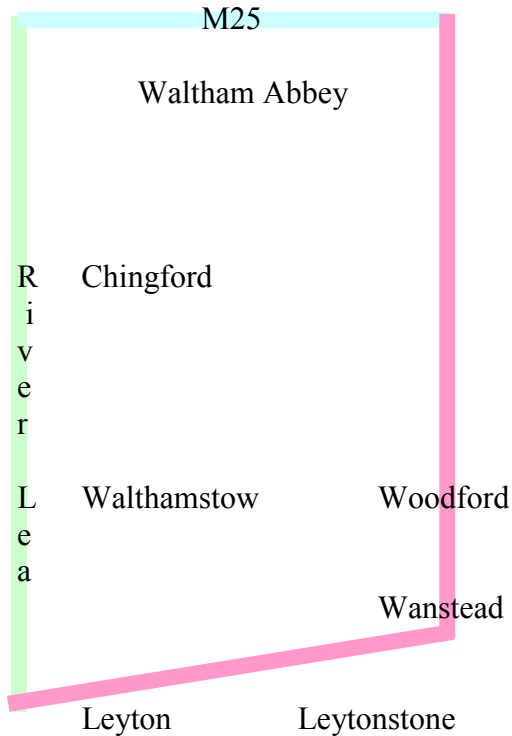
Subscription rates

UK:	Individual £15	ejournal £12
	Household £18	ejournal £15
	Institutions £15	ejournal £12
Overseas:	£19	ejournal £12

DIARY

- 10th Oct Workshop: A Family History Puzzle (Hall) – Mark Carroll**
- 14th Nov AGM (Zoom) – President, Barrie Burton**
- 12th Dec Talk: Maps for family historians (Zoom) – Gill Blanchard**
- 9th Jan Workshop: Quiz and social (Hall) – Mark Carroll**
- 13th Feb Talk: A genealogist’s worst nightmare (Zoom) – Janet Few**
- 12th Mar Workshop (Hall): Researching Military Ancestors – Chris Hunt**

Waltham Forest FHS



The Society covers an area largely defined by the River Lea, M25 and A11/A104 roads. This includes the London Borough of Waltham Forest, comprising the old Essex metropolitan boroughs of Chingford, Leyton and Walthamstow, and extends to Waltham Abbey in the north.

© Waltham Forest



Family History Society

If undelivered, please return to:
Kathy Unwin, 22 Dale View Crescent, E4 6PQ