

Waltham Abbey Newsletter

Issue : 5

Date: Wednesday 21st February 2007

Next Meeting Wednesday 21st March 2007

Our Website : www.walthamabbeygenealogy.co.uk



Notice Board

➤ Trip to Metropolitan!

Thank you to all those who came to the Metropolitan. It was certainly an interesting day out and hopefully we will be arranging to go back there for all the people who were unable to come. It is definitely worth while for anyone who has London Ancestors.

➤ scotlandspeople.gov.uk –

Good news for everyone who has joined up to Scotlandspeople.gov.uk or who are looking for Scottish ancestors - the site has added a few changes and expanded the time limit on your credits from 7 days – 90 days. Also the OPR (old parochial registers) images are now online to access.

➤ New- ancestorsonboard.com

findmypast.com has put together a website for the first time where you can trace millions of long distance journeys from the UK to America. Take a look you might find some interesting records on there.

➤ Ancestry.co.uk – New for this month on Ancestry the website has added Hamburg Passenger list 1850-1934 and a public member photo section. Ancestry is such a large website and is continuing to update and add on many records, sometimes it's hard to remember and keep up with what records that are available. So maybe just spend some time navigating the site and familiarising yourself with it, so that you know where to search for records when you need to.

➤ Some Useful Websites –

www.photolondon.org.uk

www.hackney.gov.uk

www.churchplansonline.org

www.a2a.org.uk

www.irish-origins.com

www.institutions.org.uk



How common was Bigamy?

“Bigamy” means to have two wives or husbands at once. How common was this ? Could this actually be answer to why you (the researcher) is hitting a brick wall in tracing your ancestors. Bigamy was probably more popular than we realize. Most bigamists never saw the inside of a courtroom because most cases were never brought to court or made aware of. The reason being was because most prosecutions were normally initiated by the victims rather than the state. In most cases the victims never had the money to take it further and as neither was involved there was little reason to go to the trouble and expense of prosecution.

Between the years 1714- 1799 out of 56,375 prisoners only 263 people were charged with bigamy and as the decades went on this decreased and only a few were recognized.

How to detect the Bigamist!

One example is my 2nd great grandmother, Agnes Paterson. In the year 1901, on the census in London under the parish of the St George in the East, Agnes was married to my grandfather John William Hollis and they had four children Arthur, Alexander, Ernest and Ettie. I was really struggling to find out anything about them, all I had was what my aunts had told me, the story that Agnes came from Scotland and after 1901 they all went back to Troon in Scotland to live. But they struggled with money and John took the two eldest children, Arthur and Alexander back to London to find work. But because of lack of money they were never reunited as a family and rumors were that they even tried to walk from London to Scotland but never succeeded. However after researching and discovering Scotlandspeople.gov.uk I found Agnes death certificate in 1941 and underneath her name which stuck out like saw thumb was all these surnames. Hollis, Ferguson, Devin and Paterson. Very confused I researched further and found that a year after the 1901 census Agnes had re-married to an Alexander Ferguson in Troon, Scotland and on the Certificate it stated widower of John William Hollis. As I already have John's death certificate showing that he died in 1941 this made me have doubts about if I had the correct person. So I continued to research further and discovered that seven years later she had done the same thing again and married a John Devin and lived in Glasgow. Scotland's records are far more detailed than England and Wales, so when I found Ernest's marriage to an Elizabeth Noble in 1919,



It stated that his father John William Hollis was deceased and his mother Agnes Delvin, widow of John William Hollis, Alexander Fergusson and nee Paterson was living in Glasgow, where she lived till her death the same year as her first husband, my 2nd great grandfather John William Hollis in 1941. So my Agnes was a bit of lass in her time so I wonder how often this occurred.

February

This month derives its name from the word **Februare**, to purify; or from **Februa**, the Roman festival of expiation, which was celebrated through the latter part of this month.

*“One month is past, another is begun,
Since merry bells rang out of the dying year,
And buds of the rarest green began to peer,
As if impatient for a warmer sun;
And though the distant hills are bleak and dun;
The virgin snowdrop, like a lambent fire,
Pierces the cold earth with its green –streaked
spire
And in the dark woods, the wandering little one
May find a primrose.” Hartley Coleridge .1842*

Cup of Tea ?

There is one thing we still all have in common with our ancestors. No doubt we all enjoy a good cup of tea and so did they. Although tea is one of the most popular Traditional English drinks it was a late comer to the British shores. It dates back millennium BC in China; it was not until the mid 17th century that the beverage first appeared in England. Ever since we have been addicted!

English Tea Cakes Recipe –

Ingredients – 1 lb. Plain flour, ½ teaspoon of salt, 2 oz lard and margarine ½ oz yeast , 1 oz of sugar, ½ pt of warm milk and 2-3 oz currants (if liked)

Sift warm flour & salt & rub in the fat. Cream the yeast with sugar, add the warm milk to it and mix with the flour and fruit to light elastic dough. Put to rise to double its size. Divide risen dough into 4-6 pieces, knead each into a round and roll out to the size of the plate. Place on greased baking sheets, prick the top neatly, and allow to prove for 15 min. Bake in a hot oven (425° F., Gas 7) for 20- 25min. If liked , the cakes may be brushed with egg and water before baking or rubbed over with margarine.
Serve 4-6 cakes Tea Cakes

Mick and Sue’s Quiz Time

Alternative Names For Music Groups/ Acts and Performers. Have a go this is Fun!

- 1-Deviants or a twist in a wire
- 2- 1 tenth of a litre
- 3- Sandy coast young men
- 4-End of a prayer on turning in a road
- 5- Insects
- 6-Prickly bushes
- 7-Moving pebbles
- 8-A tribe living in a illuminated warning building
- 9- They don’t live in the east
- 10-Last for ever
- 11-Hard of hearing wild cat
- 12-A well educated organisation
- 13- The beginning of everything
- 14- Plaster or helping ring
- 15- Slim Elizabeth
- 16- Maters and paters
- 17- A Preserve
- 18- Pius bretheren
- 19- throttling murderers
- 20- weapons and thorny flowers
- 21- Law enforcers
- 22- residents from a small hamlet
- 23- repeat more than damp,repeat
- 24- Wallop crash bang
- 25-have the one there
- 26- dizzy light dyed hair
- 27-initial start organisation septets
- 28-every canonised person
- 29- unemployed benefit application
- 30- shelters from the sun or light

Contribute to the Newsletter

Tell us how your getting on with your research so far and have you discovered any hidden skeletons you want share with us. Have you come across some unexpected Ancestors, lost relatives, a famous Ancestor? Or do you have any old photos and stories you would like to share in the newsletter, its all history and we’d be happy to hear it.

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