

Abbey Genealogy Enthusiasts

Date - Wednesday 16th September 2009

Next Meeting - 21st October 2009

Issue 34

www.walthamabbeygenealogy.co.uk



Notice Board

➤ Family Tree Builder

For those of you who have no family tree software and would like something to organize your research a bit better you can copy and paste the link below into your browser. This is a free copy and is quite helpful.

www.myheritage.com/family-tree-builder

➤ Home Improvement Show

At Earls Court from the 2nd-4th October 2009 Nick Barratt will be revealing how to discover the history of your home.

www.improveyourhomeshow.co.uk/period

➤ Look Up Old Trades

I have recently started adding old trades to my website so feel free to have a browse. It's a long way from finished but have a look it may help.

www.familypast.co.uk/oldtrades.htm

➤ Ancestry

Ancestry continues to add more parish records and other poor law and workhouse records.

www.ancestry.co.uk

➤ British-Genealogy

FREE! If you are a true family historian, it is not enough to just to collect names to build a family tree. It is important to find out everything possible about your ancestors and put meat on the bones with information about where they lived, how they lived their lives, information about their occupations, and what influenced their thinking and decision making.

www.british-genealogy.com

Our Research

Many of us within the club have been researching now for quite some time and have got a better idea about our ancestors or at least a particular ancestor. James has been researching his great grandfather for about four to five years now and although he has hit many brick walls and had to go through many different records he has managed to build up a here he has put together what he knows.



James John Davis 1876 – 1924

Father: **James John Davis**

Mother: **Catherine Bridget Handley**

James John Davis was the son of James John Davis senior and Catherine Bridget Davis nee Handley. James junior was born in Chelsea, West London in 1876. Some time after that, the family moved across the water to Battersea as they are recorded in the 1881 census as living there.

In 1886 when James junior was only 9 years old he lost his father to TB, leaving his mother to bring up himself and his two sisters, Edith Catherine Mary Davis and Eleanor Davis. When James John Davis senior died, Catherine didn't have a job and relied on James' wage from his painting a decorating to feed the family. Catherine remarried a John Pullen a few years later and had another three children.

Research Journal

In the 1881 census James John senior worked for a landlady called Mary Pullen, a link between the two have not be made yet.

Research Journal

However now James John junior was now under the name of Pullen and is why I could not find him for 5 years in the 1891 census. On top of that the census was transcribed as 'Pulling' not



Research Journal

I found James' WW1 Army Service Record on Ancestry and from this I learnt he was in another regiment before WW1. The record gave his army number so I took this to the National Archives and eventually found his original record in the WO97 series of papers.

James John junior joined the 3rd East Surrey Regiment in 1893, perhaps to escape his step father or to get out of financial difficulties. James did not stay in the 3rd East Surrey Regiment for long. A year later he joined the Royal Horse Artillery and travelled India where he was a driver. James was most probably awarded the India General Service Medal, however finding this out for a fact would be hard.

Research Journal

My father has a ring, which he was told came from India; however, not knowing any of this he dismissed it and has kept it in his draw for over 60 years. I believe this ring was James John Davis' as no other member of the family has been to India.

As James was still in India at the time of the 1901 census he is not recorded on it. James John junior returned home in 1903 and wasted no time. He was soon married to Elizabeth Lily Taylor who also lived in Chelsea. Before marrying, they both lived together in 13 Wickersley Road Battersea. James took up his father's occupation as a painter and decorator before joining the army, so after being married he carried it on. In 1904 Elizabeth gave birth to another James John Davis at 6 Home Road, Battersea. A few years later in 1906 a second Elizabeth was born.

In the 1911 census James was still living at 6 Home Road and by this time he and Elizabeth Lily have had another two children Frederick William Davis (My Grandfather) and Bernard Charles Davis.

Research Journal

The 1911 census was the turning point in my research as on the census return was a Kathleen Handley record as a Cousin to the head of the house. This matched up with a marriage certificate I found in the London Metropolitan Archives and confirm who James John Davis' parents were.

World War 1 broke out in 1914, James John Davis joined the Royal Artillery in 1918. He was stationed in the UK and never saw action.

Research Journal

After the 1911 census and Army Service Records I had to think of other records to search. I start with "Electoral Registers".

I found James and Elizabeth still living at 6 Home Road in 1923 using the Electoral Registers. James John Davis died in 1924.

Article By James Davis

Records of Interest

- James has got Marriage Records for St Luke's In Chelsea 1870 - 1873

An Autumn Poem

"I love fall! Fall is exciting.
Its apples and cider.
It's an airborne spider.
It's pumpkins in bins.
It's burrs on dog's chins.
It's wind blowing leaves.
It's chilly red knees.
It's nuts on the ground.
It's a crisp dry sound.
It's green leaves turning
And the smell of them burning.
It's clouds in the sky.
It's fall. That's why...
I love fall."

If you want to contribute to the newsletter or share your research please feel free to contact myself
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