

NEWSLETTER

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Editor:

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QUOTABLE QUOTE

The past is not dead. It isn't even past.

William Faulkner

Why waste your money looking up your family tree? Just go into politics and your opponents will do it for you.

Mark Twain

I don't know who my grandfather was, I am much more concerned to know what his grandson will be.

Abraham Lincoln

If you cannot get rid of the family skeleton, you may as well make it dance.

George Bernard Shaw

Next Edition due:
September 2012

EDITORIAL

Do you use "Favorites" (in IE) or "Bookmarks" (in Firefox)? I do and have a special folder for my genealogical favourite web sites—in fact I have two, one for South African websites and one for International websites which might be useful for genealogical research.

Having written an article looking at websites which might help a family historian looking up ancestors in London (and what fun I had visiting these sites to check them out!), I thought perhaps we could share with each other our favourite websites when we do genealogical research online.

Next newsletter I'll include my fairly short list of South African favourite sites. Why don't you join in and send me a list of your sites? If you want to you can include comments on why you like a particular site but it is not essential.

What is your opinion of One-Place-Studies (OPS)? To me they sound very interesting and perhaps we as the CTFH Society could get involved in setting one up for Cape Town—too vast perhaps—then at least one of the suburbs. Any suggestions of a suitable suburb for us to tackle?

The NICHOLLS family left behind many children when George and Mary Ann left Cape Town in 1875 after two of their daughters had drowned at Kalk Bay. Do you know of any of the descendents of these children still in South Africa? Do they know of the lovely stained-glass window at St Paul's, Rondebosch?

BRITS IN SOUTH AMERICA

While searching through UK Census records I found a branch of my family had had three children born in "Buenos Ayres, Argentina". I also found on Sharon Warr's site a link which said: "British Settlers in Argentina - Lost an ancestor? Try this huge indexed collection of records from Argentina documenting the presence of thousands of British and other English-speaking residents there. Includes baptisms, marriages, deaths from the Anglican and Scots Presbyterian churches and more..."

This looks a good site for missing English

ancestors (mainly 19th Century) who instead of going to the colonies went to South America.

Address: <http://www.argbrit.org/>

Didn't find my family there unfortunately. Looking for Alfred Robert HYDE born 1846 in Portsea, Hants. He had an Irish wife called Bridget. The Family Search Site (LDS) gave me a baptism with the father named as *Alfredo Ruperto HIDE* and his wife as *Brigida Prenon*. Do you think PRENON is her surname? Or Spanish for "maiden name not known"?

ONE-PLACE-STUDY : A CHALLENGE TO US ALL!

In an article in the May 2012 Edition of *Family Tree* I got to learn about one-place-studies. I had heard of One-Name Studies where genealogists collect all and every possible detail about anyone with the same surname.

The article went on to describe Online-Parish-Clerks something I else I hadn't heard of. OPC collect all data of a particular parish and put it online. I think that is what I am starting to do with St Paul's Rondebosch.

On the other hand One-Place-Study.org tells us that OPS "consider your ancestors in their physical and social context. By learning about your ancestors' neighbours and studying the historical environment and events, big and small, that took place within a village you can gain a greater understanding of your own genealogy." Of course, in the UK with all its small villages and hamlets it is easier to collect data (census records, baptismal, marriage and burial registers and other histories) than it is in South Africa.

I have ancestors who lived in Graaff Reinet before moving on to Colesburg and Kimberley. It would be great if the historical and genealogical details of these towns could be placed on a special website for that town. I know that sites such as ancestry24.com can give us details of registers, voters' rolls and almanacs etc. but after finding an ancestor it would be nice to read a bit of background about the town and the ancestor's neighbours, without having to wade through other towns' stuff..

The problems in setting up such websites are multiple. Firstly, the gathering of data requires more than an single enthusiastic individual. It requires a team of keen volunteers. In the UK, the local data seems so much accessible than it is out here in South Africa. But is this really the case or is it that we have never tried to access it, transcribe it, and place it on the World Wide Web? We do have an additional problem in that many of the our citizens' histories are only available in an oral tradition but perhaps setting up an OPS for a town could become an opportunity for us to capture some of these oral histories and tradition.

The second problem is cost. Although in the UK it is volunteers who do the data collection and transcriptions hopefully it will be the same here but the captured BMD records with pictures and stories will soon use up many megabytes of space on ISP's servers and they don't come cheap. Although only last week I received a Newsletter from my ISP (MWeb) which spoke about a free uncapped

website space for MWeb subscribers. Perhaps I'll create a web page and start uploading St Paul's data to such a site.

I'm not sure who sponsors the web pages overseas. Whether it is the enthusiastic individual or whether they are free – our CTFHS web page is hosted and sponsored by RSAWeb - or even if it is some local authority or tourism board. Do the local tourism boards know the number of tourist who come to look up their family histories?

But this is the newsletter of the CTFHS and unfortunately Cape Town is a bit too big for a OPS to be set up. But how about a suburb? Recently I joined a *Fish Hoek Appreciation* group on Facebook. It was set up by Nicholas Pneumaticatos (Fish Hoek-ites will recognise the surname as the family that ran the café near the beach). At the moment the group members post comments such as "Who remembers Mr Brewis from Fish Hoek Primary School?" and a host of comments follow sometimes with old school photos. This is basically the start of a OPS on an informal basis.

In the UK there are many OPS already in existence. Alex Cole, a New Zealander, has done a page on Wing, Buckinghamshire but on the OPS web site (<http://www.one-place-studies.org/>) you can find a host of other villages and hamlets with OPS information available.

OPS offer a rich and valuable source for family and local historians but they are immense and run by volunteers who strive to bring this wealth of information to us in our homes – many miles from the actual village or hamlet.

Derek Pratt

Post Script:

To see an example of a small village OPS web page I went to the page for Grayshott village on the Surrey, Hampshire boundary where my son has recently moved. It was quite an eye-opener to see what data has been placed on the page. It is a great resource! Check it out. <http://www.johnowensmith.co.uk/headley/grayshot.htm>

MERCHANTS FROM THE CAPE

Many well-known citizens of Cape Town were often listed as 'Merchant' and if they returned to the UK and appeared in Census Records, their occupation is often listed as 'Former merchant in the Cape of Good Hope'. So what is a 'Merchant'?

My on line dictionary says:

mer·chant (mûrchnt) n.

1. *One whose occupation is the wholesale purchase and retail sale of goods for profit.*
2. *One who runs a retail business; a shopkeeper.*

The Website www.capetown.at/heritage/history/brit_reform_merch_art.htm tells us:

The Cape Merchant Class

Merchants, many of whom had worked for the East India Company, established themselves at Cape Town and developed a strong import/ export industry.

Utilising the global reach of British commerce, they prospered by exporting Cape produce - particularly wine in the 1820s and wool later in the century. They also imported goods such as coffee, horses, wood and coal to sell locally and for re-export. As wheat, wine and dried fruit exports grew, so shipping greatly increased, eclipsing the volumes seen under the VOC, and Cape Town became the home port for many new companies, no longer just a 'stopping off place'.

A society in London - the Cape of Good Hope Trading Society - helped the merchants develop their markets, and represented their interests in London. The merchants also enjoyed trade networks throughout the empire, and access to capital in London. In this way British traders at the Cape became a wealthy class and stimulated commerce by lifting the smothering blanket of monopoly control imposed by the VOC.

By the 1820s the merchants had become the backbone of a powerful middle class in the Cape, fewer in number than the Dutch but more active and energetic. They campaigned for better infrastructure at the Cape, particularly a harbour. They demanded the relaxation of controls to allow private banks to operate and also opposed slavery, partly for moral reasons but also to create a much larger and more fluid pool of labour.

Companies and Banks

The aspirations of the Cape middle class for the liberalisation of commerce found expression in the foundation of the Cape of Good Hope Bank by John Bardwell Ebdon in 1837, the first private bank in the Cape and still active today. An investment company

called 'The Board of Executors' began a year later and remains a significant Cape Town company.

By this time there was a proliferation of joint-stock companies, mainly based on local capital. Compensation paid for the emancipation of slaves created capital among the urban middle class. They financed building programmes for the liberated slaves. The growth in the wage-earning labour market helped to produce economic growth, upon which the middle class were able to capitalise.

While individuals in the town prospered by property and business development, joint stock companies were mainly associated with agriculture, particularly the growth of the Merino wool industry in the Eastern Cape.

In 1845 Mutual Life was founded as an insurance company (now the very large company, Old Mutual). The first major external (London) investment was in 1855 for the Cape Town Railway and Docks Company. By 1860 there were five local banks and several insurance based institutions. In 1861 the London and South African Bank was formed.

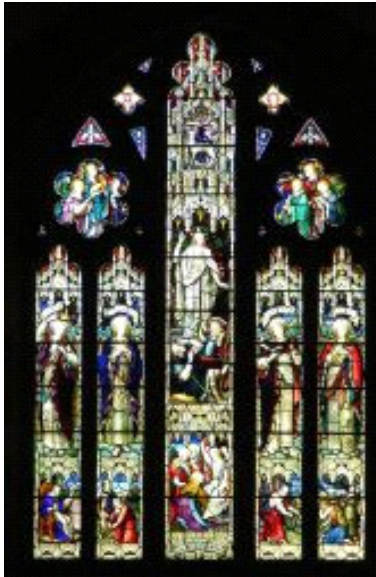
Mining and the Economic Boom

The development of financial and political structures during the eighteenth century suddenly bore fruit with the discovery of diamonds in 1867. The Alfred basin of the harbour had been completed and soon it was the entry point for an unprecedented traffic of men and supplies ready to take the railway up to Kimberley and try their luck on the farm of 'de Beer'.

By 1872 there were 50,000 miners living in Kimberley. The economy of the Cape grew fivefold in five years, 1870 - 1875. For the first time significant amounts of capital were invested in the Cape by London based banks and companies, leading to a dramatic increase in local joint-stock companies.

By the 1890s they were building grand colonial headquarters along Adderley Street, such as the Standard Bank, which is still in use and a prominent Cape Town building.

The NICHOLLS Family: Devastated by drowning



St Paul's East Window

For the past eight years I have walked past a beautiful stained glass window and a memorial plaque to Mary Ann, Emma and Madeline as well as George Ross NICHOLLS.

The Stained glass window is behind the high altar at St Paul's in Rondebosch and it and the memorial plaque on the wall in north transept are of an extreme high quality and must have been

very expensive. The plaque tells the reader that Emma and Madeline had been drowned while swimming at Kalk Bay. Mary Ann was their mother and George Ross, their brother who had died earlier in 'the Colony of the Cape of Good Hope'. Besides feeling pity for the NICHOLLS parents at their loss, I did not pay much attention to the memorial or the window.

Then in Lent 2012 I decided to present the scripture passages behind some of the stained glass windows at St Paul's.



The east end NICHOLLS Memorial Plaque window, above the altar consists of five lancet-type windows. The centre one, appropriately for an east end window shows the living Christ rising from tomb. In the two pairs of windows on either, we see two figures each in biblical-type robes with a label in Latin above their heads. On the left is *Fides* and *Humilitas* and on the right *Spes* and *Caritas*. Three are of course Faith, Hope and Charity (or Love) taken from 1 Cor 13 and presumably Humility was added to

balance the window with two on either side of the Resurrection.

While researching for this Lenten talk I came across, in an old shoe box, an extract from the Will of George John NICHOLLS, the donor of the plaque and the window. His Will states:

And I hereby direct that the said fund shall be known as 'The Nicholls Memorial Fund' and shall be held upon and applied to the following trusts and purposes in memory of my dear wife and our children Emma and Madeline who were drowned in Kalk Bay and our Son George Robert who died after I left the Colony, that is to say in the first place providing and erecting a window in Rondebosch Church near Cape Town to their memory.

As to this I wish the trustees of this my will to have regard to a separate memorandum which I have made but which memorandum is not to be taken as part of this my will."

The separate **Memorandum as to the Memorial Window** says:

It is my desire & wish if practicable, that a handsome memorial window be erected in the Chancel of Rondebosch Church in memory of My dear wife, and our two daughter who were drowned at Kalk Bay & were buried in the Churchyard adjoining, as well in memory of our other children who have been taken to their rest.

The subject to be faith Hope and Charity in their broadest sense, symbolised under special design, for which the following [is] to be taken as a guide, in carrying out my views.

I wish the features of my wife and daughters to be represented in their design- my wife representing Faith [pencilled in 49 above name] Emma, Charity [pencilled in 20 above name] and Madeline, Hope [pencilled in 14 above name]. The design to bring out strongly as possible some emblem of devoted faith and unselfish love and illustrating my wife's leading characteristics, as well as her almost unexampled patience under trying

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(Continued from page 4)



Mrs Mary Ann NICHOLLS

circumstances. Also Emma's self sacrificing love and courage, as shewn in her rushing into the sea, in the endeavour to save her sisters, losing her life in the attempt.

I have used the word 'courage' because it was almost her last word spoken to her sisters the struggling



Madeline NICHOLLS

in the sea, to try and cheer them, and hope applicable to Madeline's hopefulness, in looking forward to her home life on leaving school, almost her last

conversation with me, being on that subject - when she remarked very casually, "I do so love my home" as well as looking to her future home in heaven,



Emma NICHOLLS

which seems to have been constantly present to her mind during her last days on earth, she often quoting and singing "day by day the voice saith come enter thine eternal

home" (191st Hymn Old Edition A&M) [See end of this article for the entire hymn]

Beneath the windows (if erected) a memorial brass to be placed, recording in suitable terms that



George Robert NICHOLLS

the above window has been erected in terms of my will in loving memory of my dear wife and our two daughters taken from us so suddenly - as well as our other children taken to their rest and should from any cause the

window not be erected (I am not prepared to recommend its erection elsewhere) I should still wish that a handsome memorial brass be placed somewhere in the Rondebosch Church with suitable inscription as above indicated.

Geo J Nicholls

The stained-glass faces from the Window at St Paul's are shown on this page. I wonder if they are in fact real likenesses of the wife and three children of George NICHOLLS, especially as George Ross NICHOLLS was only four when he died. Obviously the figure Humility is an older person. So, are the others also merely representations with artistic license? The window face of Mary Ann NICHOLLS, shows an older, motherly type of lady which gives an impression of faithfulness and the other two girls show their ages of 22 and 15 years but also shows their characteristics of Hope and Love.

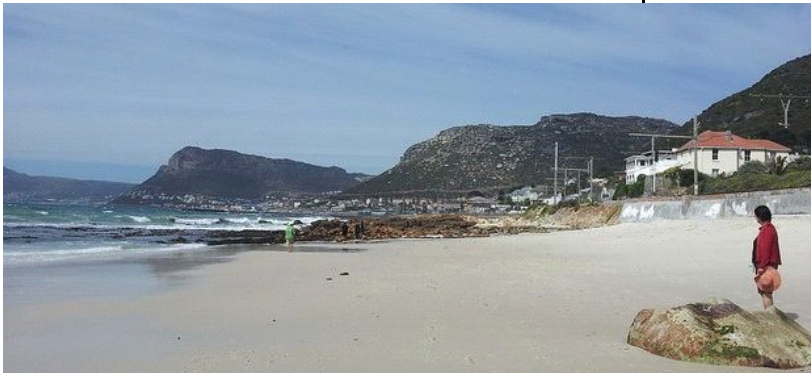
Last month our chairperson, David Slingsby asked if I had seen a chapter from the biography of the Arderne family - **The Ardernes & Their Garden: A family Chronicle** by Arderne Tredgold. The book describes the tragedy when Emma and Madeline drowned. I hadn't seen this chapter, and so he forwarded a copy to me which helps to fill in more details of the event.

But even such halcyon summer holidays had their tragedies. On January 8th, 1874, Mr George John Nicholls, a banker and shipper of Cape Town, took his three daughters, Emma (22), Madeline (15) and Edith (13) for an early morning bathe on the beach that is now called Nicholls or Danger Beach; the second name is well deserved for the beach shelves steeply and there is often a strong backwash. That morning the backwash caught all three girls and, hampered by their heavy bathing costumes, they were swept helpless out to sea.

Their father, who could not swim, rushed frantically up the beach calling out that his daughters were drowning and that he would give £10,000 to anyone who would save them.

Henry Arderne and Henry Beard were just getting into their Cape cart to drive to Wynberg when they heard the shouts for help.

Arderne dashed to the house of Mr Abraham Auret who, with his eldest son,



Danger Beach today. Although it does not look that dangerous, it is renown for its strong back-current.

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was already on the stoep from where they could see the drowning girls. Mr Auret jumped into the cart with the two other men, they whipped up the horses and galloped to the harbour at Kalk Bay.

"A boat! A boat!" they shouted, "three ladies are drowning!" A Malay, Salie Gafuur, immediately offered his boat, the men jumped in and rowed as fast as they could to the drowning girls. Only one of them, Edith, was still conscious when they reached her and as Arderne caught hold of her to pull her into the boat she gasped, "Please hold me tight and don't drop me into the water again." Arderne and Beard then pulled Madeline in, but they could see there was barely a spark of life left in her. Arderne held her in his arms to try to revive her, but she died before the boat reached Kalk Bay.

Many people had rushed down to the beach to see if they could help but not many people were good swimmers then, and they had to watch helplessly the three struggling girls. Emma had drowned before the boat reached them and had been swept towards the other beach. A brother of Auret, Henry, and John Gainsford waded waist deep into the sea to save the girl from being dashed against the rocks and managed to carry her ashore, only to find that she must have drowned long before they brought her in.

Sadly the cart drove back from Kalk

Bay, with the only survivor of the three sisters, Edith, and the body of Madeline.

It was one of those accidents which should never have happened. Mr Auret, knowing how treacherous the sea had been at that beach, was so worried at seeing the girls bathing there that only four days before the tragedy he had sent his Philippino fisherman, Manuel, to warn them not to go too far out as it was too risky- the current could be violent and sweep them out to sea Emma had laughed and said: "If need be we could swim to England."

Mr Nicholls was so shocked by the tragedy that he left the Cape soon afterwards and retired to London. Before he left he gave a pension to fisherman, Salie Gafuur, who had rowed his boat to the rescue, and , presented a font to the English church at Kalk Bay.

There is also a memorial to the girls and a stained glass window in St Paul's church, Rondebosch. Not many remember how Nicholls beach got its name... but every year a number of people in poor circumstances have reason to grateful to Mr Nicholls. He was a very wealthy man and in his will he left about £20,000 (10% of his estate) for a fund, the interest of which was to be paid annually in Cape Town to persons "of genteel birth" who had fallen on hard times.

But who was George John NICHOLLS?

Obviously from the high-quality window and plaque as well as the generous bequest mentioned above, he must have been very wealthy. Like so many ancestors we find in the Cape in the 19th Century, George J. NICHOLLS is listed as "a Merchant" [See article elsewhere in this Newsletter on this]

A little bit of internet research brought forth an interesting history.

George John NICHOLLS was born 2nd June 1819, the son of William and Frances NICHOLLS of 78 Moffat Terrace, City Road, London. He was baptised at St Leonard's, Shoreditch on 27th June 1819 and his father is described as "Gentleman" implying that he was a man of means, not in trade or other profession.

According to an email from Edward Martin (unfortunately his email address is now defunct) George

NICHOLLS came to the Cape in August 1841 – he must have been 22 years old. By December 1841 he had set himself in business in Grahamstown in partnership with the well known Cape Town merchant company, A. Chiappini & Co.

While in Grahamstown George NICHOLLS married Mary Ann HEADEN at the Grahamstown Cathedral on 7 Oct. 1843. The register states that she was a spinster 'of this parish', 'of full age', residing in Grahamstown. She was literate [in other words she was able to sign the register] and the witnesses to the marriage were Arthur SEARLE, Emily OGILVIE and Jabez HART.

In 1844 Nichol's business moved to Mossel Bay but closed a year later and the NICHOLLS family returned to Grahamstown. While still in Mossel Bay, a son, Charles Edward NICHOLLS was born (21st August 1844). This was to be the start of a family which would have fifteen children over the next twenty years. See the end of this article for the list of the family of George John and Mary Anne NICHOLLS.

Back in Grahamstown, NICHOLLS was supported by another well known merchant from Cape Town – Hamilton Ross & Co. They are listed as Merchant in High Street (1848-49) and New Street (1853).

In 1854 the NICHOLLS family moved to Cape Town and set up the firm Porter, Nicholls & Van der Byl with Francis Porter, a parishioner of St Paul's who was also brother of William Porter, Attorney-General of the Cape (after whom Porter Reformatory is named). Van der Byl was Francis Porter's brother-in-law.

In 1856, the partnership was dissolved and NICHOLLS went into business on his own account. He appears in the Cape Almanac from 1861 till 1868 at various

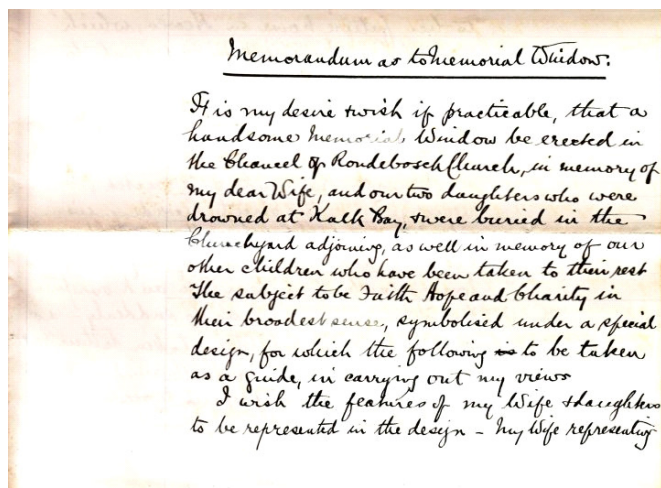
addresses in Castle Street (variously at No. 2,3,4 and 6) and resident at Rondebosch. In the 1875 edition of the Cape Almanac his profession is given as "Manager, Colonial Bank and resident in Rondebosch". 1875 was a year after the tragedy at Kalk Bay and the year in which George John NICHOLLS and his family returned to the UK.

George NICHOLLS wife, Mary Ann, died 16 Oct. 1877, aged 49. The 1881 UK Census shows George living with five unmarried daughters, his sister Eliza and his youngest son Alfred Mamer NICHOLLS at 72 Holland Rd, Kensington, London. In the 1891 Census shows the same household except that Alice Florence NICHOLLS has gone. According to FreeBMD she married George BULLOCKS in the Sept quarter 1886 but neither her or George appear in subsequent Census records. By 1901 Mary Ann NICHOLL had disappeared from the list of those children still living with their father, now at 8 Courtfield Gardens, Kensington.

On 29 September 1907, George John NICHOLLS died in Kensington leaving effects to the value of £221 235 9s 3d to his two spinster daughters, Louisa Francis Mary NICHOLLS and Annie Jarvie NICHOLLS.

NICHOLLS FAMILY DATA

Baptisms and other events in the lives of the NICHOLLS children enabled some of them to be placed into the list while other information indicated that there were some undetected children where neither baptism or other records could be found. A short biography of Charles Edward NICHOLLS found in *Men of our Time* (on line at ancestry24.com) told me that he was the oldest of 15 children. So I had a starting point. Alfred Mamer NICHOLLS appears to be the youngest – born 1864. Although Mary Anne – George's wife, was stated to be of full age in the marriage register, at her death in 1877 it is stated that she is 49 years meaning she was born in 1828. So when she married in 1843 she could have been only 15 years old and would have been only 36 when Alfred was born – presumed to be her 15th child. So she could have had more children after the ones I've found. Furthermore, a grave at Lady Grey for a George Robert NICHOLLS 'the fourth son of G J NICHOLLS, formerly of Cape Town' has on its stone that George Robert was in his 27th year and died in 1881 which means he was born 1853/4.



Memorandum to George NICHOLLS Will

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a1 William NICHOLLS m. Frances

.....b1 George John NICHOLLS b. 2 Jun 1819 d.27 Sep 1907 m 7 Oct 1843
Mary Ann HEADEN

.....c1 Charles Edward NICHOLLS b 24 Aug 1844- Mossel Bay d 27 Oct
1915 – Cape Town

.....c2 George Ross NICHOLLS b1845 Grahamstown d1849 Grahamstown

.....c3 Louisa Francis Mary NICHOLLS b1848 - Unknown d1933
Kensington

.....c4 Emma NICHOLLS b1850- Grahamstown d 8 Jan 1874 Kalk Bay

.....c5 Annie NICHOLLS b1852 – Grahamstown d1933 E. Preston, Sussex

.....c6 Henry Cathcart NICHOLLS b1854 Rondebosch d19xx

.....c7 George Robert NICHOLLS b1855 Rondebosch d1881 Lady Grey

.....c8 Alice Florence NICHOLLS b1856 Rondebosch d19xx

.....c9 Harold NICHOLLS b1857 Rondebosch d1857 Rondebosch

.....c10 Madeleine Margaret NICHOLLS b1858 Rondebosch d 8 Jan 1874

.....c11 Edith Catherine Shipley NICHOLAS b1860 Rondebosch d1928
Worthing, Sussex

.....c12 Norman NICHOLLS b1861 Rondebosch d 1861 Rondebosch

.....c13 Mary Anne NICHOLLS b1863 Rondebosch d

.....c14 Alfred Mamer NICHOLLS b1864 Rondebosch d1933 Horsham,
Sussex

This still leaves one more child to be detected!

Hymn 191 Hymns Ancient and Modern(1867 Edition)

Christ will gather in His own

To the place where He is gone,
Where their heart and treasure lie,
Where our life is hid on high.

Day by day the voice saith, "Come,
Enter thine eternal home";
Asking not if we can spare
This dear soul it summons there.

Had He asked us, well we know
We should cry, "O spare this blow!"
Yes, with streaming tears should pray,
"Lord, we love him, let him stay."
[substitute her if appropriate]

But the Lord doth naught amiss,
And, since He hath ordered this,
We have naught to do but still
Rest in silence on His will.

Many a heart no longer here,
Ah! was all too inly dear,
Yet, O Love, 'tis Thou dost call,
Thou wilt be our All in all.

LONDON WEBSITE RESOURCES

The "Who do you think you are" magazine in May had an article on how to do research on your family from London. It was a 10 page spread dealing with old as well as modern information including a list of Family History societies in the London area and the different London Boroughs and where their records are kept.

Also included was a list of websites which could be useful. I'm going to list them below with the magazine's comments on them and then my own but perhaps you should try them out as well and not take the magazine's comments or mine as 'gospel'. The text in italics are the editors experience of the site.

1864 and 1868 London Maps

<http://london1868.com> and

<http://london1864.com>

Interactive maps: Charles Weller (1868), and Stanford's Library Map of London and its suburbs (1864) showing all the proposed Metropolitan Railways and improvements.

From large collection on <http://mapco.net>.

Although fascinating to see the lay out of the city, they do take some time to load and with only a four year difference (1864 to 1868) they don't show a great difference.

AIM25 - Archives in London and the M25 area

www.aim25.ac.uk

Descriptions of the archives of over 100 higher education institutions, learned societies, cultural organisations and livery companies within the Greater London area.

This is definitely a description of what is available where. I looked up St Leonard's, Shoreditch to find a description of what registers are where and how many metres of shelf space they take. It is like an online library catalogue card

Ancestry

www.ancestry.co.uk

Ever-increasing data to be found here, including: parish and nonconformist registers; electoral registers (1847-1965); selected wills and probate;

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Poor Law records (1517-1973); and City Freedoms (1681 -1925).

I am fortunate to be able to subscribe to this resource and have used it almost daily. In my May talk to the Society, the baptism records I showed came from this site.

British History Online

www.british-history.ac.uk

Digital library containing some of the core printed primary and secondary sources for the medieval and modern history of the British Isles - a substantial collection for London.

I hadn't been to this site before. It is called "British History" so it doesn't only cover London. I looked up (for the fun of it) Deans of St Paul's Cathedral 1548-1867 and it duly gave a text list of all the Deans during that period. It's offering of data is vast and wide but by no means comprehensive (eg Parliamentary data seems to be during the Tudor times but maybe more careful searching can produce the goods you are looking for. I did a name search for NICHOLLS and it produced copious information.

Charles Booth Poverty Map 1888-89

<http://booth.lse.ac.uk>

Charles Booth Online Archive; with links to the Poverty Maps.

If you know the street address of your ancestor in London then these maps can tell you whether they lived in a poor, middleclass or upper-class neighbourhood. Fascinating to see the diversity in one small area – perhaps something we South African still have to learn. Looking up St Leonard's Shoreditch I found the streets in front of the church were classified by Charles Booth as being well-to-do middle class while the streets behind the church – leading to Spitalfield Market were extremely poor.

COLLAGE

<http://collage.cityoflondon.gov.uk>

Provides access to some 20,000 images from the Guildhall's main COLLAGE database of over 30,000 works.

This site enables you to view and purchase images of London. I've lived in a flat in Great Coram Street and when I entered this it found an aquatint of the Russell Institute. If you don't mind a large "C" across the middle of your picture they could be illegally ripped off the site or they could be purchased. The prices vary from £7.50 to £15.

Deceased Online

www.deceasedonline.com

A central database for statutory UK burials and cremations - a growing collection for the London area, currently from six boroughs.

This site has a nation wide database of burials and cremations but it is something that still has to collect data. If the cemetery or crematorium where your relative was dealt with is online it might be a great site otherwise keep checking back.

Derelict London

www.derelictlondon.com

3,000 photographs of London today

Hmmm – not sure this site will be useful to genealogist unless they know exactly where there ancestors lived and they can find it on this site and see what state it is in today. Many of the pictures made me sad because there are some beautiful old buildings which have gone to rack and ruin.

The Dictionary of Victorian London

www.victorianlondon.org/index1.htm

Contains many out-of-copyright books and assorted illustrations.

Another fascinating site dealing with Victorian London. Contains many and varied items including some maps from a variety of dates in the 19th Century which can be downloaded and enlarged.

FamilySearch wiki

www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/London

A brilliant resource for those researching in London. Concentrates on the City (church records, wills and more) but there are links to information for Middlesex and other parts of the metropolis.

As the magazine said, a brilliant resource for those researching London. I meandered a round reading up web pages and move on to web sites for London based organization etc for about half-an-hour. Don't expect to come to this site, enter your ancestor into a search box and have your family tree presented to you on a plate but do expect to have fascinating doors being opened for you.

findmypast.co.uk

www.findmypast.co.uk

Various London baptisms, marriages and burials (especially Docklands, Thameside and Medway); Boyd's (1538-1872) and City of London (1813-1890) burials; Boyd's Inhabitants of London (1200-1946);

(Continued on page 10)

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Thames watermen and lightermen 1688-2010;
London Courts probate index (1750-1858).
Westminster parish registers to be added during
2012.

*I subscribe to this site because I find their way of
displaying the census records are easy to find and
capture. More and more data is being added
regularly. I can't wait for the Westminster parish
registers to come online!*

Locating London's Past

www.locatinglondon.org

Access to many digital resources relating to early
modern and 18th-century London.

*Perhaps too early for any of my relatives so I
battled to get any data out of this website. Why
don't you have a go and see what results you can
get?*

London Lives

www.londonlives.org

1680-1800, 240,000 manuscripts from eight
archives and 15 datasets, giving access to 3.35
million names

*This websites seems to offer the same data set as
locating London (see above) but its user interface is
so much simpler with the a default keyword search
as well as offering a Browse – I checked out the
Workhouse Records of St Martin's Parish. It only
offers data up to year 1800.*

London Street Name Changes

[www.maps.thehunthouse.net/Streets/
Street_Name_Changes.htm](http://www.maps.thehunthouse.net/Streets/Street_Name_Changes.htm)

Lists of the street name changes that took place in
London between two periods: 1857-1929, and
1929-1945.

*If you've ever searched a modern map for a street
found in an early census and you can't find it in your
London A-Z then this website is for you! It is easy to
use and should be most useful.*

Museum of London Picture Library

www.museumoflondonimages.com

Over 35,000 images illustrating the history of
London and the life of its people from prehistoric
times to the present.

*I entered Russell Square and got 4 images – two
from the 1950s showing people in and around the
square, one map of the area from Charles Booth –
see above - and one modern one of an art-house
cinema in the Brunswick Centre which I recognised*

as still being like that today.

Old Bailey Sessions Proceedings

www.oldbaileyonline.org

197,745 criminal trials held at London's central criminal
court offer the names of defendants, victims and
witnesses.

*This site gives the trial summaries from 1600s onwards.
So if you have criminal ancestors tried in the Old Bailey
this is a good site. I have certainly found a few ancestors
on this site – not as the criminal but as the victims or
witnesses to the crime!*

Origins Network

www.origins.net

Includes selected London marriages and Middlesex
baptisms, and Livery Company apprenticeships (1442-
1850).

*This unfortunately is a subscription site with average
annual subscription of £55*

NEXT EDITION: What's your SA Genealogical Favourite
Website?

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where to start & to write it as a novel which not only
gives it much wider appeal, but also leaves room for
colouring in the sketch of what we do feel we know to
be the truth. We need to remember that this is a record
not only for a better understanding of ourselves as
there are repeating patterns in families, but almost a
duty to write as a legacy for family in the future.

The Interloper is a significant & memorable book, but
only if you can manage the endurance & determination
it requires to read. Ms Lewis is a very good writer, but it
is written in a style that is very difficult to read. I felt
you need to qualify as worthy enough, to be privileged
enough to read this book.

However despite it not having universal appeal it is a
very special book, but if I had not met Heather Parker
Lewis I would not have been inspired enough to have
managed to have finished reading it.

She has also written:

Also God's Children?encounters with street kids
The Prison Speaks: Men's Voices/South African Jails
God's Gangsters? The history, language, rituals, secrets
& myths of South African prison gangs
Successful Self-Publishing in South Africa
The Wannabe Writer in South Africa
The Good Estate Agent in South Africa

MEETINGS LAST QUARTER

APRIL 2012



Heather Parker Lewis

I was in the UK for my son's wedding on the Saturday of our April Meeting but fortunately Sharon Barry-Taylor was willing to give us feedback on the talk by Heather Parker Lewis. She writes:

I did not feel qualified to write this until I had finished the book "The Interloper" that I borrowed from our library, this I managed to do last night. So I am going to give you my impression of both the talk & the book.

This was my 1st meeting & as an aspiring writer I was very excited that it was in the form of a tool to write our own Life Stories.

Heather Parker Lewis is a strong, resilient woman who is multi faceted, which makes her interesting, unusual & unconventional. Her background as a social worker has enriched her depth of understanding as a writer & Heather has a stage presence which is dramatic. The combination of which for me was captivating, as she has much to share from her own vast experience of both writing & self publishing.

This talk was encouraging for us to to actually do what so many of us dream of but struggle to do ~ unlock our own family history. The best advice was practical on

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MAY 2012

The speaker at our May meeting was the editor of this newsletter. It is a bit hard for me to report on my own talk! Many people have spoken to me about my presentation and I thank them for the compliments.

It was originally presented to the Women's Association at my parish and so was aimed at people who had no genealogical research experience. From what people

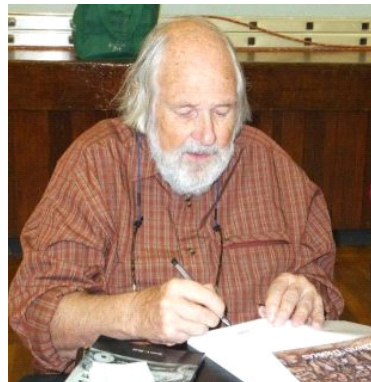
at the CTFHS meeting said, this was its main attraction because often we don't know how to move on to the next step once we've started our research. The Committee took cognisance of this at its last meeting and hopeful we will in the future not only have speakers with items of historical interest but also give us hints and ideas to assist us in our own family research.



The May talk dealt with the BOWE family and it was great having a descendent of this family, Margaret Gundry present to add more in depth details than I had found up to that point.

Thomas BOWE

JUNE 2012



David Thomas signing his book

Our speaker at the June meeting was David Thomas who spoke about the "men who would not march". These were the Town Guard of Concordia, in Namaqualand near O'Kiep. The British authorities wanted them to come into O'Kiep but they

thought that surrender to the Boer forces would be a safer option for their families.

David is a great story-teller in the Helen Robinson mode and as he unravelled his story he kept us spell bound. His book, *The Men who would not march* was on sale and a copy is in the CTFHS Library. It includes a list of names of those in the Concordia Town Guard.

CAPE TOWN FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

WEBSITE:

<http://www.family-history.co.za/>

Contains lots of interesting and useful information

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Third Saturday of each month at St John's Church Hall, Wynberg

COMMITTEE 2012-13

CHAIRPERSON:

David Slingsby

SECRETARY:

Ann Smythe

TREASURER:

Vacant

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LIBRARIAN

Cynthia Winstanly

TEA LADIES

Betty Nelson

Lucille le Roux

WORKSHOP CO-ORDINATOR

Lois Harley

WEBMASTER

WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

In 2012 Lois Harley is scaling back on Workshops because of her own other commitments but she is doing an ongoing workshop on Practical Family History for U3A

Back Page Humour:



I started a family tree too,
but I gave it up fairly quickly:
Way too many relatives...

WIZARD OF ID by Brant Parker

