

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 the site has now changed and expanded the time limit on your credits from a week to 6 months
- **New:** For all you researchers looking for relatives in Scotland- Ancestry have added the 1851 and 1861 census's. For further Scottish research the best Scottish website is Scotlandspeople.gov.uk
- **Trips:** Metropolitan Archives - Saturday 27th January 2007 Details will be announced in meetings
- **1837.com:** 1837online.com have changed their website name to www.findmypast.com as it is easier to remember!
- **Do you know What Britain's Top Ten Surnames are?**
 1. Smith –The most popular name since the middle ages deriving from types of Smith such as the blacksmith or goldsmith.
 2. Jones – A Welsh origin surname which means son of John
 3. Williams – English meaning Son of William
 4. Brown – Comes from a nickname of someone who was either brown haired or brown skinned.
 5. Taylor – comes from the occupation “a Tailor?”
 6. Davies – A Welsh name meaning Son of Davy (David)



The Workhouse

By the 1870's one-third of the population over 70 lived in the workhouse. There are many reasons why and mainly because people were too poor, sick or too old to support themselves. Reasons for this maybe unemployment, for example when Britain went through a stage during the early 1830s of economic depression, this had a huge effect on rural areas which was reducing the need for Agricultural labourers, due to mechanisation. Many unmarried pregnant women entered the workhouse as their only option when they were disowned by their families.

Once entering the workhouse it was like a small village kept hidden from the rest of the world. It had a school, a chapel, an infirmary and work yards that were segregated. Entering the workhouse, all paupers were stripped, bathed (under supervision), and then given a workhouse uniform. Their own clothes would be washed and disinfected and then put into store along with any other possessions which they only got returned to them once they had left the workhouse. The Workhouse was separated into seven sections and each person went into the section which was suited and under no circumstances were families allowed to mix or even talk to each other.

The Seven Sections were separated according to the following :

1. Old or infirm men
2. Able bodied men, and youths above 13.
3. Youths and boys above seven years old and under 13.
4. Old or infirm women
5. Able-bodied women and girls above 16.
6. Girls above seven years old and under 16.
7. Children under 7 seven years of age.

The role of every pauper was to make sure that every person fulfilled their duties in their trades. Whether they were bone crushing, sewing, doing the laundry, at school or regulating coal supply, life was work and the only days they had off in the year was every Sunday, Good Friday and Christmas Day. Life got easier in the workhouse as time went on By 1930, when workhouses were officially abolished, conditions in some places had become much more relaxed.



January

The First month of the year. Named from the Roman God Janus, who is represented with two faces looking in opposite directions – as retrospective to the past, and prospective to the coming year.

*“ Then came old January, wrapped well
In weeds to keep the cold away
Yet did he quake and quiver like to quell
And blewe his nayles to warm them if he may;
For they were numbed with holding all the day,
An hatchet keene, with which he felled wood
And from the trees did lop the needless spray.”*

E. Spenser .1882

We Laugh at Our Names!

In the 1901 Census it appears that some people had to live with some really embarrassing names. Here are some Examples Found from the census:

Rose Shitter
Annie Fanny
Samuel Pants
Ivy Crapper
Ethel Prick
Bud Light
Brooke Trout
Tom Katt

Trades of the Month:

Brabener: Weaver

Boreman: Farmer

Cambist: Money Changer / Banker

Candidarius : Cloth Bleacher

Surname Origin of the Month

Origin and Meaning of “Ayers”

Definition: English: derivative of Ayer. The -s most probably represents a trace of the Latin nominative singular in *heres* ‘heir’, but it may also signify the son or servant of someone known as ‘the heir’, i.e. someone who was heir to some great estate.

Other meanings to this surname-

Derived from the first name *Ealthere* which means “temple army” in Old English.

Means “from Ayr, Scotland”. Location: Celtic

Quiz Time

Why are Parish Registers a useful source for the family historian?

- A. they record all births, deaths, marriages in a parish
- B. In the old days everyone used to go to the parish church
- C. Before 1837, there was no civil registration of births, marriages & deaths.
- D. You can find them all on the internet

What change was introduced to the parish registers in 1754?

- A. It was made compulsory to keep them in the parish chest
- B. Separate registers had to be used for marriages
- C. Registers had to be written in English instead of Latin

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 you would like to share in the newsletter with a story to them.

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