

# Ian H Waller FSG FGRA

## IN AND OUT OF LONDON

### Tracing your ancestors as they move in, around and out of London

Tracing your ancestors in London is:

NOT IMPOSSIBLE

CHALLENGING

REQUIRES KNOWLEDGE

NEEDS PATIENCE

It relies upon exactly the same techniques as any other research. The only difference is EMPHASIS

### THE POPULATION IN CONTEXT

London in 1800 – 1,000,000

London in 1900 – 6,000,000

In 1900 the population (turn of the 20th century) was made up by:

65% born in London

26% born elsewhere in England & Wales

1.8% born in Scotland

2.4% born in Ireland

4.8% born in foreign lands

### WHO MOVED INTO LONDON

The general trend was for those in rural areas with less than 5,000 population 60.8% of those who moved to live in London were from such areas.

Domestic servants, Labourers, Skilled craftsmen and Apprentices

### IN & OUT – A RESEARCH HEADACHE

Industrial Revolution gave high employment possibilities

Increase in shipping and dock work

Attracted a labour force including many Irish

Seamen particularly those from foreign climes became “stranded” and settled in London

The Great Exhibition of 1851 revolutionised perceptions of the capital and people took the opportunity to move there.

Transport made movement in and out easy – commuting began in the mid 1800s

Development of suburbia and the garden city movement

### FINDING RECORDS OF THE MOVE IN - PROVINCIAL RECORDS FIRST

Try school log books to find information about a move. Pupils recorded as leaving school

Look for helpful newspaper reports, articles, job advertisements etc.

Consider other family members who may have moved to London

Clues from Census or 1939 register entries

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Military or Navy discharge often give a new residential address  
Job promotion (railways, Post office etc.)  
When identified locate where in London they moved to.

### WHY THE MOVE INTO LONDON

Employment related moves or to find work  
Be near to extended families  
Migration for economic reason  
Avoid detection because of crime, desertion etc. - In London anyone could be anonymous.  
Remained after a voyage e.g. Lascars  
Desertion from a marriage  
Image of a better or more stable life.

No magic answers to why people went to London

CIVIL REGISTRATION

CENSUS RETURNS

PARISH REGISTERS

DIRECTORIES & TAX LISTS

POOR LAW RECORDS

WILLS

OCCUPATIONAL RECORDS

NEWSPAPERS

DEPOSITIONS

DEEDS

APPRENTICES AND LIVERY COMPANIES

ESTATE & MANORIAL RECORDS

MILITIA RECORDS

SCHOOL RECORDS

HOSPITAL RECORDS

Use on line resources first

PARISH & NONCONFORMIST REGISTERS

ELECTORAL REGISTERS

WILLS

FREEDOM PAPERS

POOR LAW RECORDS

CONFIRMATION BOOKS

SCHOOL ADMISSION REGISTERS

LONDON RECORD OFFICES

LONDON METROPOLITAN ARCHIVES

WESTMINSTER CITY ARCHIVES

GUILDHALL LIBRARY

ESSEX RECORD OFFICE

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CENTRE FOR KENTISH STUDIES  
SURREY HERITAGE CENTRE  
LOCAL BOROUGH ARCHIVES

THE BISHOPSGATE INSTITUTE - The London Archive Centre

London Co-operative Society Records  
Ratepayers Associations  
London Provident Institution 1821-1864  
White Dog Society from 1784  
Huge number of Directories etc  
Oral histories of Thames Watermen  
London Dock Workers  
Family Archives

### CHURCH RECORDS

BAPTISMS, MARRIAGES & BURIALS On line at Ancestry  
Coverage: Baptisms up to c 1920, Marriages up to c 1936, Burials up to c 2003  
Nonconformist registers  
Indexing is not always accurate  
NOT EVERY REGISTER IS INCLUDED

### CONFIRMATION RECORDS - 1850-1921

### WEST MIDDLESEX MARRIAGE INDEX

Acton, Ashford, Cowley, Ealing, Edmonton, Enfield, Feltham, Finchley, Great Stanmore, Greenford, Hampton, Hanworth, Harefield, Harlington, Hayes, Heston, Hillingdon, Hounslow, Ickenham, Monken Hadley, New Brentford, Northall (Northholt), Pinner, South Mimms, Stanwell, Sunbury, Teddington, Tottenham, Twickenham, Uxbridge, West Drayton. 84,863 marriages from the 61 parishes

### OTHER LONDON BASED INDEXES

Boyd's Marriage Index  
Pallot's Marriage Index 1780 – 1837 (covers 103 of the 105 parishes in City of London and others)  
Fleet Marriages before 1754 (including Holy Trinity Minories and St James Duke's Place)  
Pallot's Baptism Index 1780-1837 (covers 22 parishes of London & Middlesex)  
Boyd's Burial Index 1538-1853 (entries mainly from City of London & Westminster although some Middlesex parishes included)  
Boyd's Inhabitants of London 1200-1946

### CHURCHYARD BURIALS

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All London Churchyard burials ceased by 1854. After that year the Garden Cemetery system developed around the capital

The main cemeteries in London were:

Abney Park – 1840

Brompton – 1840

Highgate – 1839

Kensal Green – 1832

Nunhead – 1840

Tower Hamlets – 1841

West Norwood – 1837

City of London - 1854

Brookwood Surrey.

Great Northern Cemetery, Barnet - 1855

### ESTATE RECORDS

Many records of estate owners exist including Duchy of Lancaster, Peabody Trust etc.

PEABODY TRUST - Established 1862 to provide housing for the poor. First estate built in Spitalfields in 1864. By 1885 was housing 50,000 of London's Poor.

ARCHIVE IS AT THE LMA

PROPERTY AND TENANT REGISTERS

ACCOUNTING RECORDS (RENT PAYMENTS)

TENANCY REGISTERS

PLANS

WESTMINSTER HOUSING TRUST

LABOURERS FRIENDLY SOCIETY - (provider of London allotments)

SUTTON HOUSING TRUST

### CHARLES BOOTH ARCHIVE

Survey of London Poverty and the trades so associated 1886-1903

CHARLES BOOTH ARCHIVE ONLINE - <https://booth.lse.ac.uk/>

Police notebooks

Jewish notebooks

Union casebooks

### MIDDLESEX DEEDS REGISTRY

Registers and Memorials exist from 1709 (Memorials were in large part destroyed by bombing in World War Two)

Indexes 1709-1919 on microfilm at the LMA

Indexes from 1920 are originals

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Information needed: approx date and name of the first party  
Some deeds not registered until years after the transaction  
Deeds, Mortgages and Leases on property in the County of London (Not the City)

### FIRE INSURANCE RECORDS

Established in London from late 17th century  
Many restricted their business to the London area  
Domestic, Trade and Industrial premises were usually insured as were contents provided they were not associated with a hazardous trade  
POLICY REGISTERS provide the best information some of which are indexed

### CITY LIVERY COMPANIES - 107 different companies

One of the main sources of Trade, Apprentices and freemen throughout London (including Middlesex and Westminster)  
Records from c1580-1880  
Apprenticeship Admission registers  
Binding Books  
Lists of Freemen  
Quartermen Books (subs)  
Court Minutes

### COMPANY MEMBERSHIP

Apprenticeship  
Patrimony - only if father was a member of the guild  
Redemption – by payment of a fee  
None of these ensured that the member would practice in the company trade  
Most Livery Companies had members from different social backgrounds and from all over the country  
Most did not have women members

### FREEDOM ARCHIVES

City Freedom archive substitutes information within individual livery company records  
Contains significant biographical information of use to family historians  
Practical necessity for all who plied trade.  
Before mid 19th century certain groups were compelled to be free

Aldermen and Sheriffs  
Liverymen  
Corporation of London Employees  
Retail traders  
Sworn brokers  
Licensed victualler

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Journeyman

QUALIFICATIONS: Over 21 and British or Commonwealth citizen

### BUSINESS RECORDS

Masses of records of businesses from London & Middlesex are deposited in archives throughout the metropolis

Use "Greater London History Sources" Vol 1 & 2 to identify them.

Examples:

- James Archer, carpenter
- Lucas Birch, confectioner
- Butterworth & Co. publishers
- Kleinwort Benson, bankers
- Pearsons, coal merchants
- Sun Insurance, fire insurance company
- J Sainsbury, grocers and provision merchants
- Berger Paints, paint manufacturers

### TRANSPORT FOR LONDON ARCHIVES

Group Archives Staff Index for the bus and tramway companies 1899-1925 are available. Staff information on London Aircraft Production Group for World War Two are also held. Records of the London General Omnibus Company are held at the Newnham Archives

PORT OF LONDON ARCHIVES - Held by Docklands Museum

### HOSPITALS AND ASYLUMS

Large numbers of London inhabitants became ill and/or were patients in hospitals. Many Londoners worked for hospitals in the medical professions or as support staff. Hospital Archives can be accessed in various London repositories using the Hospital Records Database (not updated since 2012 but still on Discovery)

### HOSPITAL ARCHIVES

Our ancestors may have been in:

- Workhouse infirmaries (London Poor Law Unions)
- Hospitals for Women & Children
- Special hospitals
- Psychiatric hospitals or asylums
- Fever Hospitals
- Charity Hospitals

### ALLEYS & COURTYARDS OF LONDON

<https://www.theundergroundmap.com/wp/alleys-and-courtyards/>

### STREET NAMES & NUMBERS

London streets changed their names frequently.

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Street numbering altered as roads were extended. Although someone may be living at a different address they may still be in the same house.

### EFFECTS OF MIGRATION TO LONDON

HOUSEHOLDS – it changed household structure

FAMILIES – it affected family relationships

INDIVIDUALS – it changed perceptions and aspirations

### WHO MOVED OUT & WHO STAYED

Movement out of London began in the 1860s

Mainly artisan classes and professions

Better housing and environment

Lower crime rates

Improved education

Employees moved out

Manual labourers/workers remained

Had established community or were subject to the Flit

Had fewer prospects of stable jobs in provincial or rural areas

Had little income to be able to afford a move

### MOVE TO SUBURBIA

Suburbia has existed around London for 200 years.

Originally Middlesex was a series of small villages

Railway system enabled suburbia to grow and was responsible for most movement out of London – since 1863

The Garden City movement began in 1903 with Letchworth being the first Garden City

Controlled outward migration began in 1907 and continued through to the development of new towns such as Bracknell, Hemel Hempstead, Basildon etc. –

Outside of suburbia.

### PROVING THE CONNECTION

Eliminate or confirm events such as baptisms, burials etc.

Develop a family circle – investigate extended family

Try to relate back to some explanation for the original move and if necessary search the local archive where the family originated

Look for property records, deeds, rental agreements etc

Look at school records and congregational records for the various religions

### MOVEMENT OUT IS NOT ALWAYS AS WELL DOCUMENTED AS MOVEMENT IN

THE PROCESS - Use all resources available

Find out what is held and visit local and private archives

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Think about your ancestors occupation and where they worked in relation to where they may have lived – most lived in close proximity to their work

Consider how often they moved - (usually frequently)

Few people owned their property – most rented their accommodation – even up to the 1960s.

Trace them in and out of the Metropolis

Don't just rely on major archives

**LONDON WAS FOR THE ANONYMOUS!**

In some cases you may never be able to piece together all the details of your ancestors time in London.

**THE EMPHASIS IS: KNOWLEDGE, PERSISTENCE , PATIENCE**