

# Family history at London Transport Museum

## Introduction

This information sheet is for family historians interested in researching ancestors who have connections with public transport in London. Many thousands of people have been employed across the different modes of transport over the years, but relatively few records survive since there is no statutory requirement to keep them beyond a few years.

The overview below, and step-by-step guide to sources, is designed to help you establish whether the Museum has any records related to your research. If relevant information is found, it may be possible to provide copies or a transcript of the entry. Each request is dealt with on a case by case basis, depending on the condition of the original records.

## Sources at London Transport Museum

### Staff magazines

From 1914 to the present day, the main source of information for individual staff members is our collection of staff magazines. The title and format of the magazines has changed over time, but the kind of information they contain remains fairly constant. Brief references to individual staff might typically be found in notices of retirement, obituaries, or reports on social activities. During the years of the two world wars references may also be made to individuals serving in the forces.

Title	Dates
TOT* News	1914-1922
The 'Met' accountants' gazette (Metropolitan Railway only)	Dec 1915 - Dec 1917
TOT Staff Magazine	1922-1933
Pennyfare	1934-1947
London Transport Magazine	1947-1973
LT News	1973-1983
LRT News	1983-1995
On the move (covers the Underground only)	1996-

\*TOT stands for Train Omnibus Tram.

From 1996 onwards the magazines split into modes. *On the move* covers the Underground and separate magazines produced by the commercial operators cover buses.

The Museum has an index to staff mentioned in the magazines, but not all the magazines are covered. If the name you are looking for is not found in the index, we are happy to check a specific date if enquirers know when a retirement or other significant event occurred.

If a more extensive search is required you will need to make an appointment to visit the library and look at the magazines yourself, or commission someone to undertake the research on your behalf. Looking through the magazines can be very worthwhile as they provide an evocative introduction to the working and social lives of people in the organisation, even if no specific references to family members are found.

## **Staff registers**

The Museum also holds a number of staff registers and war memorials. Details of these and other records which may be relevant to your research are also contained in factsheets produced by Transport for London Corporate Archives  
<http://www.tfl.gov.uk/corporate/historicalarchives/17333.aspx>

City & South London Railway  
Staff register c.1890-1913

London County Council Tramways  
Record of service in the Great War 1914-1918 by members of the Council's staff (1922)

A copy of this book was given to all LCC staff who served in the war or their next of kin. It gives brief details of their war service, including tramways staff.

London Road Car Company  
Discipline register 1904-1908

London Tramways Company  
Staff register c.1890

Metropolitan Railway  
List of officers and staff in receipt of £200 per annum and upwards, c.1899  
Register of female staff c.1915-1920

## **War memorials**

Apart from the Elmers End memorial, which is in the Museum at Covent Garden, the memorials are in the collection at our Acton store. Please contact the Museum's Curatorial department to enquire about access:

World War I Audit Office Staff Memorial Plaque  
LTM Inventory Reference 1997/13161

World War I Surveyors Department, London General Omnibus Company,  
Staff Memorial Plaque  
LTM Inventory Reference 1996/2976

World War I T.O.T. (Train Omnibus Tram) roll of honour: soldiers and sailors from the T.O.T. services who have laid down their lives or have suffered honourable wounds in the nation's defence, 1914-16.

The Museum compiled this list from issues of the Underground Group staff magazine, 'News of T.O.T.'. The first list was published as a supplement to the magazine in March 1916 and included casualties since 1914. The last list was published in December 1916. The practice of publishing casualty lists appears to have stopped after that date.

World War II Elmers End Bus Garage, Memorial Plaque  
LTM Inventory Reference 2000/8161

This commemorates and lists the names of ten London Transport staff who were killed on 18 July 1944 when the garage was directly hit by a German V1 flying bomb. The memorial is on display in the gallery dedicated to 'London's transport at war'.

World War II 44th Battalion, City of London, Home Guard, LPTB' Memorial Plaque  
LTM Inventory Reference 1996/113

World War II 'London Transport Workers Memorial Laboratory' Memorial Plaque  
LTM Inventory Reference 2000/15806

This is a section of the façade from Manor House Hospital, Golders Green c.1950.

## Sources at Transport for London Corporate Archives

Transport for London Corporate Archives hold the official records of Transport for London (TfL), London Transport and other predecessor companies.

A factsheet on staff records and family history is published on the Transport for London website. It includes sources available at TfL Archives and elsewhere, including the Museum. Contact details, copies of factsheets and other information about the Archives are on the TfL website at <http://www.tfl.gov.uk/corporate/historicalarchives/17333.aspx>

### Railway staff – main line

Sometimes when we are asked for information, it transpires that the person worked for other companies, often on main line railways. The National Railway Museum does not hold staff records, but has useful advice for family historians on their website:

<http://www.nrm.org.uk/NRM/ResearchAndArchive/researchhelp/FamilyHistory>

### Cab and taxi drivers

Neither the Museum nor TfL Corporate Archives holds any records for taxi drivers. London Metropolitan Archives has produced an information leaflet number 46 'Vehicle registration and licensing records' which usefully gathers together the available information.

<http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/things-to-do/archives-and-city-history/london-metropolitan-archives/Documents/visitor-information/46%20Vehicle%20registration%20and%20licensing%20records.pdf>

The Public Carriage Office <http://www.tfl.gov.uk/corporate/modesoftransport/1632.aspx> is responsible for all matters to do with current licensing of taxi and private hire services.

### Museum Library

When no information can be found about specific individuals, a visit to the Library can be useful to find out general information about the working lives of people on all modes of public transport in London. The Library also has general books on family history research and sources relating to specific groups of transport workers. To make an appointment ring +44 (0)20 7565 7280. More information about the Library and visiting can be found on our website:

<http://www.ltmuseum.co.uk/collections/research>  
<http://www.ltmuseum.co.uk/visit/library>

### Published sources

Tracing your ancestors in the National Archives / Amanda Bevan (2006)

My ancestors were Thames watermen: a guide to tracing your Thames watermen and lightermen ancestors / by James W. Legon (2006)

Was your grandfather a railwayman: a directory of records relating to staff employed by railways ... / compiled by Tom Richards (2002)

Railway records: a guide to sources / Cliff Edwards , Public Record Office (2001)

Railway ancestors: a guide to the staff records of the railway companies of England and Wales 1822-1947 / David T. Hawkings (1995)

