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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TOT* News</td>
<td>1914-1922</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The ‘Met’ accountants’ gazette (Metropolitan Railway only)</td>
<td>Dec 1915 - Dec 1917</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOT Staff Magazine</td>
<td>1922-1933</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pennyfare</td>
<td>1934-1947</td>
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<tr>
<td>London Transport Magazine</td>
<td>1947-1973</td>
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<tr>
<td>LT News</td>
<td>1973-1983</td>
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<tr>
<td>LRT News</td>
<td>1983-1995</td>
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<tr>
<td>On the move (covers the Underground only)</td>
<td>1996-</td>
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</tbody>
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*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

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](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](http://www.nrm.org.uk/NRM/ResearchAndArchive/researchhelp/FamilyHistory)

**Cab and taxi drivers**


**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/collections/research)
[http://www.ltmuseum.co.uk/visit/library](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)
Family history enquiries start here. What is their name?

- Museum staff can search the Museum database by surname for entries.
- Use any available information to see if there's a match e.g. first name, occupation, dates when working. Is there a match?

Yes

- The record will index information found about the person, usually in a staff magazine. It may only be one line or a bigger item. The original sources are held in the Library.

No

Are there any more places to check?

Yes

- Were they a member of staff killed in the First or Second World War?

Yes

- WW1 casualty lists for 1914-16 in TOT magazine* are transcribed and searchable. A copy is in the Library (IMS 2007/10380). Deaths were also reported in the WW2 period staff magazine. If not found on our database the magazines can be checked by date. See the TfL Archives sheet for a list of war memorials held in the Museum and in situ.

No

- Did they work on the trams and possibly serve in the First World War?

Yes


Are there any more places to check?

Yes

- Did they work on the trams c.1890-1900?

Yes


No

- There is currently no automated, searchable name index of the original registers listed below. They are fragile and/or more complicated to use.

  - Museum staff can check them, or assist personal visitors to view them.

Yes

- Were they a man who worked for the Metropolitan Railway in the First World War?

Yes

- Check ‘Female staff’ two Metropolitan Railway registers in the Library (IMS 2007/11017).

No

- Could they have been a senior member of staff who worked on the Metropolitan Railway c1870-1920?

Yes

- Check ‘List of Officers & Salaries and staff in receipt of £200 p.a. and upwards’ Metropolitan Railway (IMS 1998/109307).

No

- Could they have worked on the City & South London Railway c.1890-1913?

Yes

- The ‘City & South London Railway staff register’ (IMS 1992/395) is on display in the Deep Tube gallery. Camera copies are available.

No

- Were they a bus driver or conductor c.1904-1908?

Yes

- Check the ‘London Road Car Company discipline register’ in the Library (IMS 1990/156).

No

- Did they work on the trams c.1890-1900?

Yes