

Family history at London Transport Museum

Introduction

This information sheet is for family historians 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 have survived because there is no statutory requirement to keep them beyond a few years. The guide to sources below is designed to help you identify surviving records and where they are located.

Sources at London Transport Museum

Museum Library

The Museum Library holds published books on family history research and general sources relating to different groups of transport workers. A visit to the Library can be useful to gather background information about the working lives of public transport workers in London.

Staff magazines

The main source of information for individual staff members is our collection of staff magazines. These date from 1914 to the present day. The name 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.

We are happy to check a name if enquirers know the specific date when a retirement or other significant event occurred. Alternatively you are welcome to make an appointment to visit our Library and look at the digitised version of the magazines yourself. From past experience we know that browsing through the magazines is a worthwhile activity as they represent a powerful record of the working lives of people in the organisation, even if no specific references are found to family members.

See the full list of titles and dates at the end of this information sheet.

First World War sources

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.

Reference 2007/10380 and 2007/10379

This is a list of names extracted from the staff magazine *News of T.O.T.* Names were first 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.

London County Council (LCC)

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

Reference 1998/106065

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

Museum collection

The Museum holds a small number of staff registers and war memorials.

Staff registers

City & South London Railway staff register
c1890-1913
Reference 1992/395

London Road Car Company
Discipline register 1904-1908
Reference 1990/156

London Tramways Company
Staff register c1890
Reference 2007/11016

Metropolitan Railway
List of officers and staff in receipt of £200 per annum and upwards, c1899
Reference 1998/109307

Metropolitan Railway
Register of female staff c1915-1920
Reference 2007/11017

War memorials

The Elmers End memorial is in the Museum gallery at Covent Garden. Other memorials are in the collection at our Acton Depot. Please contact the Duty Curator at the Museum to enquire about access collections@ltmuseum.co.uk :

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

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

Second World War, 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'.

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

Second World War, 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 c1950.

For more information about research at the Museum, visiting the Library or making an enquiry see:
<http://www.ltmuseum.co.uk/collections/research>

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

Sources at Transport for London Corporate Archives

Transport for London Corporate Archives are responsible for the official records of Transport for London (TfL), London Transport, and other predecessor companies. This includes surviving personnel records such as staff registers.

The Archives maintain a series of research guides outlining the records they hold, including guides to sources for genealogical research available at TfL Archives and elsewhere, including the Museum. The full list of guides is on the TfL website:

<https://tfl.gov.uk/corporate/about-tfl/culture-and-heritage/corporate-archives/the-collections>

Other sources

Railway staff – main line railways

London Transport Museum does not hold any staff records for main line railway companies.

The National Railway Museum also does not hold staff records but has a useful page of advice on their website if you are looking for an ancestor who worked for a main line railway company:

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

Published guides to railway records are also available:

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)

Taxis and Private Hire

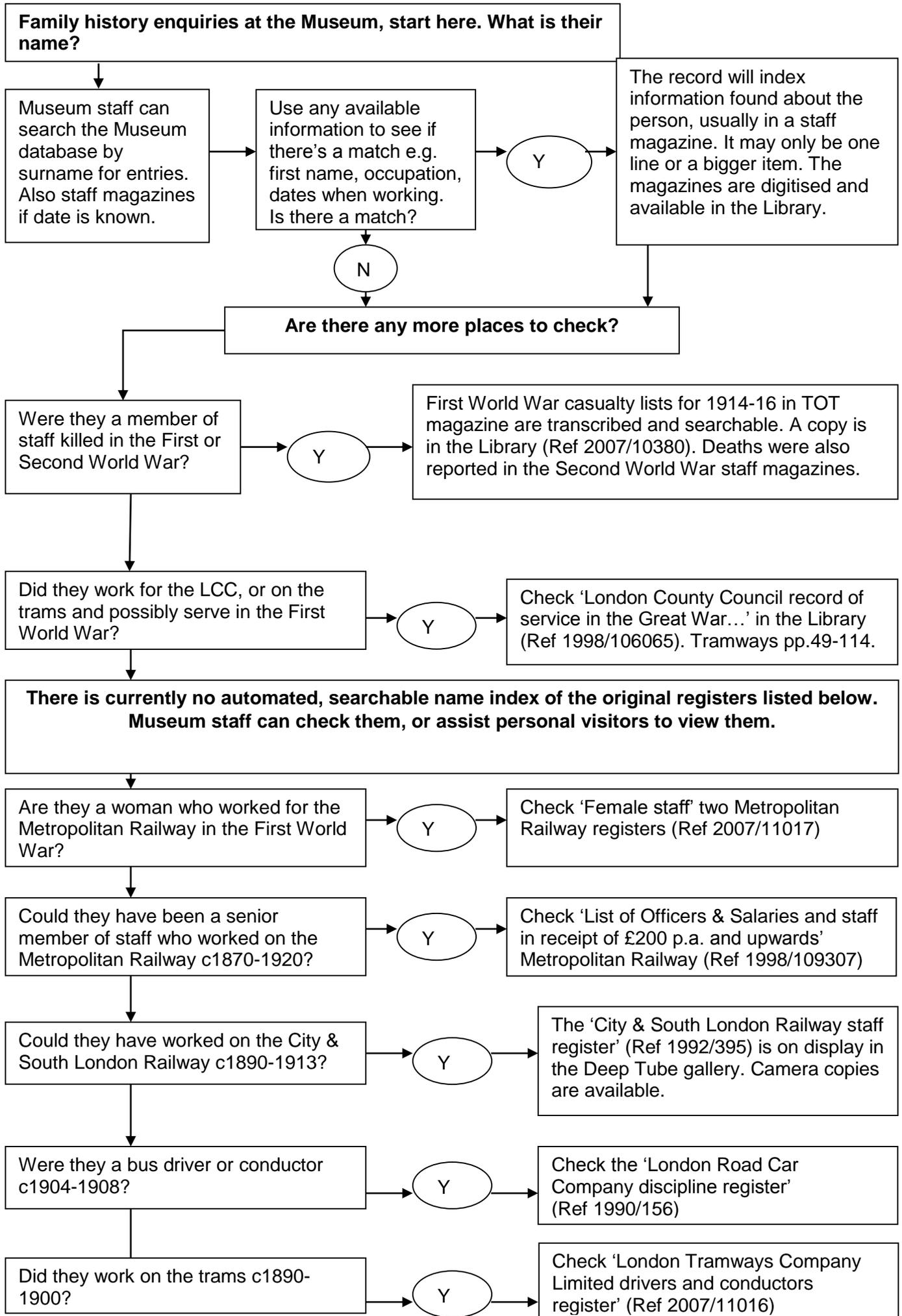
The Museum does not hold any staff records for taxi or cab drivers, nor does TfL Corporate Archives.

The TfL Taxi and Private Hire Office is responsible for all matters to do with current licensing of taxi and private hire services.

<https://tfl.gov.uk/corporate/about-tfl/what-we-do/taxi-and-private-hire>

London Metropolitan Archives has information on vehicle registration and licensing.

<https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/things-to-do/london-metropolitan-archives/Pages/default.aspx>



London Transport Museum Library – list of staff magazines

Titles are listed in chronological order

Magazine title	Content (all magazines are illustrated with photographs)	Issues start - finish
T.O.T fortnightly news News of T.O.T <i>[Train Omnibus Tram]</i>	Newsletter of the First World War relief fund for staff of the Underground Electric Railways Company of London (UERL) and associated companies e.g. the London General Omnibus Company. Includes letters from members of staff serving at the Front (such as drivers of B-type buses) and their families and colleagues at home; staff casualty lists (1914-1916); and reports of staff social and sporting events.	No. 1 (19 Sept. 1914) - no. 96 (Mar. 1922), May 1922, July 1922
The 'Met' accountants' gazette	Metropolitan Railway departmental newsletter.	No. 1 (Dec. 1915) - no. 25 (Dec. 1917)
Athletic and social news	London General Omnibus Company	Jan. 1918 - no. 56 (Aug. 1922)
T.O.T. staff magazine	First official staff magazine of the Underground Electric Railways Company of London (UERL) to represent all staff across Underground, bus and tram operations. Includes company news and information during a period of expansion and technological development. Reports of staff social events and activities; staff retirements and obituaries; senior appointments; staff awards; general interest articles.	Vol. 1 no. 1 (Oct. 1922) - vol. 11 no. 146 (Dec. 1933)
Thomas Tilling Social and Athletic Club bulletin	The bus operator Thomas Tilling, which operated in areas including London.	Vol. 2 no. 2 (Feb. 1925)
Tilling's staff magazine	'The official organ of the Tilling's Staff Welfare Society and the Tilling's Social and Athletic Club'	Vol. 4 no. 29 (Jan. 1929) - vol. 8 no. 85 (Sept. 1933)
Pennyfare	Official staff magazine following the formation of London Transport. Continues with similar content to T.O.T. staff magazine until the Second World War. During wartime sport and social activities are again included in the main magazine, which is reduced in size. Staff contribution to the war effort is reported as are casualties at home and on war service.	Jan. 1934 – Mar. 1947
Pennyfare sports supplement and social news	Reports of staff social events and sports activities.	No.1 (Jan. 1937) - no.12 (Dec. 1937), no. 15 (Mar. 1938), no. 20 (Aug. 1938), no. 22 (Oct. 1938) - no. 30 (Jun. 1939), no. 32 (Aug. 1939)
The Home Guard : supplement to Pennyfare	Newsletter for London Transport Home Guard	Apr. 1941 - Dec. 1944
The kitbag	London Transport (Chiswick) Branch of the Railway Clerks' Association	v. 6, no. 5 (1943), v. 7, no. 1, 4, 6-12 (1944-1945), v. 8, no. 1-4, 6, 8-10 (1945)
London Transport magazine	Post-war return to a larger format with more detail about company activities. Reports of staff social and sporting activities continue. Addition of 'women's interest' items such as knitting patterns and recipes. Staff retirements and	Vol. 1 no. 1 (Apr. 1947) – vol. 26 no. 12 (Mar. 1973)

	obituaries; senior appointments; staff awards; general interest articles.	
LT news LRT news	Fortnightly newspaper containing company and staff news.	No. 1 (6 Apr. 1973) – no. 449 (18 Dec. 1995)
London lines	Last LT house magazine up to the formation of TfL.	1990-2001

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