

# Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives



## Census 2021 is here!

**CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.**

*Before writing on this Schedule please read the Exemptions and the Instructions given on the other side of the paper, as well as the headings of the Columns. The entries should be written in Ink.*

*The contents of the Schedule will be treated as confidential. Strict care will be taken that no information is disclosed with regard to individual persons. The returns are not to be used for proof of age, in connection with Old Age Pensions, or for any other purpose than the preparation of Statistical Tables.*

NAME AND SURNAME	RELATIONSHIP TO HEAD OF FAMILY	SEX	AGE	PARTICULARS AS TO MARRIAGE				PROFESSION OR OCCUPATION				BIRTHPLACE		NATURALITY	INFIRMITY
				Married	Single	Widow	Divorced	Particulars	Industry or Service	Whether Employed	Whether Working as a Volunteer	(1) If born in the United Kingdom, with the name at age 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95, and 100.	(2) If born in any other part of the British Empire, with the name of the Colony, Protectorate, or State.		
George Lansbury	Head	M	52	Married				Tradesman & General Merchant or Broker of Real Estate		Employed		Essex	Essex	British	
Elizabeth Jane Lansbury	Wife	F	50	Married	20	12	9	at Home				Essex	Essex	British	
Annie Lansbury	Daughter	F	22	Single				at Home				Essex	Essex	British	
William Arthur Lansbury	Son	M	20	Single				Tradesman		Employed		Essex	Essex	British	
Edwin Jane Lansbury	Son	M	18	Single				Tradesman		Employed		Essex	Essex	British	
Dorothy Lansbury	Daughter	F	16	Single				at School				Essex	Essex	British	
Paula Lansbury	Daughter	F	14	Single				at School				Essex	Essex	British	

(To be filled up by the Enumerator)

(To be filled up by, or on behalf of the Head of Family or other person in occupation, or in charge, of this dwelling.)

I declare that this Schedule is correctly filled up to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature *George Lansbury*

11 Rooms  
Postal Address: 101, 4, 10, 3 St. Stephen's Rd. Bow, London E

George Lansbury's census submission in 1911.

**Sunday 21 March** is Census Day and every household in England and Wales will be asked to take part in the unique survey which has taken place in its current form every 10 years since 1841 – except during the Second World War.

The census provides a crucial snapshot of the nation and helps to plan and fund public services. So, it's important that everyone is counted, because besides the benefits to historians of the future, census data helps to ensure local areas receive a fair and appropriate share of public funding. Households in Tower Hamlets are now receiving letters in the post which include a unique code to complete the census online - it's now digital for the first time in census history! But if this presents difficulties, paper copies of the form can be requested by anyone who needs one.

If you've researched local or family history you know just how important historical census records are when trying to discover information about the past. To inspire you, we have [created a webpage](#) highlighting some of the notable East Enders featured in censuses past - including their own census returns, photos and other special archive materials.

So why not delve into the past of some of our local famous faces, find out more about the census taking place this month and remember to take your place in history!

## Women's History Month



*Film still from 'The Life and Times of Miriam Moses'*

### Virtual Cinema: The Life and Times of Miriam Moses

**Thursday 18 March 5.00-6.30 | Free | Online Event**

As part of Women's History Month we are delighted to present a free online screening of a 1997 documentary from our collections recently digitised, which tells the story of a Jewish East End icon.

Miriam Moses OBE (1886-1965) was a social activist, reformer and the first female mayor of the London Borough of Stepney.

Known as 'The Angel of the East End' Miriam began her social work at the age of 18. This film follows her endeavours, from her time as a nurse, her contributions to the Jewish League for Women's Suffrage, and the founding of the Brady Girl's Club in 1925 which provided essential aid and social support to local Jewish families and children.

FREE ONLINE EVENT via Zoom. To reserve your place please email: [localistory@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:localistory@towerhamlets.gov.uk) or book via [Eventbrite](#)

## Bangladesh 50: events announced



Commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Bangladesh, Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives is proud to announce a programme of free online events exploring the connections between the War of Independence in 1971 and the local community here in the East End.

The first month of events are listed below and we have more planned for April and May which are also open for booking, with more to come! Check out the full listings here: <https://www.ideastore.co.uk/local-history-whats-on>

All events will be hosted by us on Zoom. Watch this space for further updates and follow the hashtag #Bangladesh50

## Birangonas: Towards Ethical Testimonies of Sexual Violence During Conflict

**Thursday 25 March 6.00-7.30**

Join Prof. Nayanika Mookherjee to explore her research on public memories of sexual violence during the 1971 War of Independence. This includes testimonies of survivors, state officials and human rights activists which have been examined through an ethnographic lens, alongside archival sources and cultural representations. Together these histories inspired and informed the creation of a new graphic novel and a set of ethical guidelines to steer the processes involved in uncovering these experiences. Book your FREE tickets [here](#).

## 1971: Women's Contributions

**Sunday 28 March 2.00-4.00**

Women living in the UK made valuable contributions to the Bangladesh War of Independence but their stories are seldom explored. Join Dr. Romena Toki of Central London Youth Development in conversation with Ms. Shefali Haque who will be looking at the critical, political, financial, and moral support organised by women, Bengali and non-Bengali, based in the UK in 1971. Book your FREE tickets [here](#).

## The Spirit of '71: the Bangladeshi War of Independence in Tower Hamlets

**Wednesday 31 March 6.00-7.30**

'Joi Bangla!' in London – or how to fight a war from 5,000 miles away. In this talk historian [Sarah Glynn](#) will explore the ways in which Bengalis living in Tower Hamlets supported the independence struggle, and set the events of 1971 in the historical context of community activism in the East End. Book your FREE tickets [here](#).

## 1971 in the UK: a photographic exploration

**Saturday 3 April 5.00-7.00**

[Ujjal Das](#) is a journalist turned curator based in Canada with a specific interest in the role of expatriate Bengalis in the Bangladesh War of Independence. Over the last ten years he has collected many rare records ranging from photographs to posters, leaflets, letters and press cuttings from Bangla and English newspapers. Join us for an illustrated talk exploring his collection, which also includes the first postal stamp issued by the new nation of Bangladesh. Book your FREE tickets [here](#).

**Coming soon:** the launch of a new public artwork and exhibition which has been devised and produced collaboratively by the project's Citizen Researchers with lead artist Ruhul Abdin.

***Bangladesh 50 Years** is a strand of Citizen UK, a partnership project led by the National Portrait Gallery in collaboration with local archives. It is supported by National Lottery Heritage Fund, Art Fund and Canary Wharf Group.*

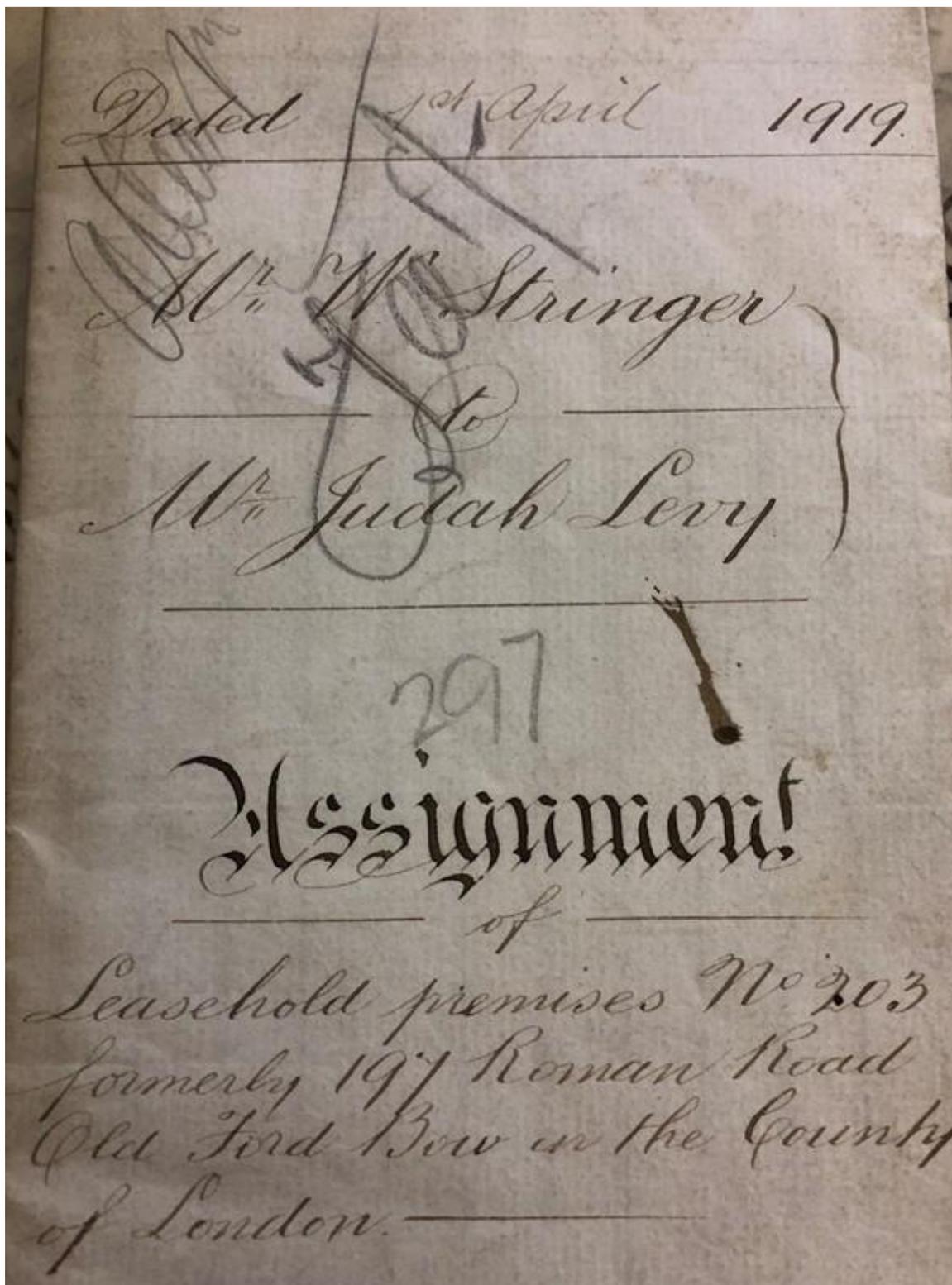
## We're back! Re-opening from Tuesday 13 April

Following the recent announcement of lockdown easing, we're happy to announce that the collections at Tower Hamlets Local History Library and Archives will once again be available for you to use. The Reading Room will be open on an appointments basis from Tuesday 13 April, for two days a week initially. As before, there are procedures in place to ensure everyone's safety:

- You'll need to pre-book an appointment to visit us. Slots will be available on Tuesdays and Fridays at the following times:
  - Morning: 11am -1.30pm
  - Afternoon: 2pm -4.30pm
- You will need to pre-order items from the collection that you'd like to look at. The full range of our resources, including periodicals on microfilm, will be available. Not sure what we've got? [Search our collections catalogue](#).
- Free access to Ancestry.com will also be available onsite, using a PC or on your own device.
- We will be taking bookings for appointments via email from Monday 22 March. For details of the procedure and how to book, see our [Visitor Information webpage](#).
- Our events programme will remain online -no public gatherings will be taking place in the building for the time being.

Please note that as previously, the approved timeline for libraries to reopen is contingent on the latest government restrictions, so this date may be subject to change. We're very excited to see you all, but please don't drop in-you must have a confirmed appointment to enter the building, and we hate to turn people away!

## A Jewish greengrocer in Roman Road



Assignment of lease to Judah Levy (B/LEV/1)

### Stories from our property title deeds

Property title deeds are an important source in documenting land ownership and changing landscapes sometimes providing astonishing or unexpected levels of detail. We have recently catalogued a collection of title deeds relating to 197 Roman Road (later 203 Roman Road), Old Ford (reference B/LEV/1).

Dating from 1875 to 1919 the bundle of deeds charts the occupiers and owners through successive leases. Plans of the premises are included. The most recent document is an assignment of the lease in 1919 to **Judah Levy**, fruit and greengrocer.

The 1911 census describes Judah Levy as a fruiterer living at 33 Mossford Street, Burdett

Road, Mile End.

Cross-referring with earlier censuses, we discover that Judah Levy was born in Aldgate in c.1886. In c.1908 he and Amelia married, she having also been born in Aldgate in c.1885. When Judah Levy was assigned the lease and moved in 1919 to 203 Roman Road he was living at 57 Strahan Road, Bow.

According to a member of the wider family who donated these records, Judah Levy owned the business. He and wife Amelia (also spelled Amella) lived behind the Roman Road shop. The premises also had space for their horse and cart. The building was bombed during the Second World War (1939-1945) so they later moved across the road to an empty shop. They had no children. Amella Levy outlived her husband and died in the 1960s.

For further details on the parties in the deeds visit our online catalogue, [B/LEV/1](#). Explore our user guide <https://www.ideastore.co.uk/title-deeds-user-guide>

If you would like to share any further details about Judah and Amelia Levy or have records to donate we would love to hear from you.

## Most popular research subjects

The results are in! After collecting a year's-worth of data and crunching the numbers, we can reveal that 2020's top 10 most popular research subjects - according to the books and pamphlets from the Local History Library consulted by researchers in our reading room - are:

1. Ethnic groups, migrants and race relations
2. Recreation
3. Housing
4. Town planning and improvements
5. London
6. Chemical industries
7. Biography
8. Politics, Political Parties and associations
9. Education
10. Life of the people

Although our opening hours have sadly been very limited for most of 2020, this is consistent with the preceding years' data which showed that ethnic groups, migrants and race relations was also the most popular research subject in 2018 and 2019.

If you'd like to know out what we hold on any of these topics you can find out by searching our [online catalogue](#) or by checking out the newly updated [user guides](#) on our website.

## Goodbye Genova (for now)

Our Heritage Trainee, local resident Genova Messiah, who joined our team in 2019 after two years volunteering, has just gone on maternity leave.

Genova has been undertaking a Level 3 Apprenticeship in Library, Information and Archive Services Assistant and has been undertaking a wide range of tasks for us including assisting with public enquiries, curating exhibitions, cataloguing collections, and contributing to the delivery of our learning and participation programme. This broad experience has informed the written assignments she has had to submit for the apprenticeship.

If you've attended one of our online events you will no doubt have witnessed her passion for

local history, whether she is leading discussions with the Idea Store Prime Time groups or delivering a session for primary school children. She also developed a series of Black History Month events, a podcast on workhouses and led an Explore Your Archives event earlier this year on our rolled building plans.

In lockdown her energy, ideas and commitment have been critical to our team as we grappled with adapting our outreach plans from in-person events to virtual sessions.

Genova will return to us in a year's time to complete her Apprenticeship. We wish her and family all the very best and already miss her very much.



*Genova pictured in the Reading Room with photograph collections.*

## Contact us

### Contact Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives

We are currently closed to the public due to national government restrictions, and our staff are working from home without access to the collections onsite.

- Email us: [localhistory@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:localhistory@towerhamlets.gov.uk)
- Visit our website: <http://www.ideastore.co.uk/local-history>