

newsletter

No 11

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

FEB 1972

February and March Events

An illustrated talk on

The Fleet River

by Richard Henwood

Thursday 17 February at 7.30pm

Swiss Cottage Library, N. W. 3.

Refreshments will be served after the lecture.

A folder with details of monthly events for the year from 1 March will shortly be distributed to members. In the meantime, please note in your diary a most interesting event in March - a visit to the Royal Veterinary College in Royal College Street, on Thursday 23 March at 6.30pm. Please note the time in particular and turn up in strength! Mr R. Catton, Librarian of the College, will give a lecture on its history. There will also be a supporting display of prints and documents. "The College", as it is known in Camden Town, was established in 1791 and is probably one of the oldest educational establishments in the borough. It has a fascinating history and this is a talk you should not miss.

The Streets of Hampstead

Members will know that the Society has begun a historical survey of the streets of Camden. The first volume, on Hampstead Village, will be appearing in a few months' time. We are happy to announce that Mr Ian Norrie of High Hill Bookshops has agreed to finance the publication and the project will be a joint one between High Hill and this Society. This particular part of Camden has been researched by a group of members under the leadership of Wilfrid Meadows and the publication has been compiled by Christopher Wade. More details will appear in our next Newsletter.

Tour of St. Pancras Churches

As part of the Camden Festival, and to help celebrate the 150th anniversary of the building of the new St Pancras church, the Society is arranging a conducted tour of both the old and new St Pancras churches. The old church is not open very often and this event will give an opportunity for Society members to be shown round one of the most distinguished buildings in the Borough.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE

The Annual Conference of London Archaeologists will be held in the Livery Hall of Guildhall on 4 March. The programme has not as yet been finalised but speakers should be Peter Marsden, Brian Bloice, Nick Farrant, Stan Warren and Dennis Hazlegrove. Tickets are 45p and are obtainable from Miss B. Powell, 73 Southwark Bridge Road, S. E. 1.

ROCQUE MAP REPUBLISHED

The Local History Committee of the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society has just announced the publication, by courtesy of the Trustees of the British Museum, of a facsimile of A Topographical map of the County of Middlesex by John Rocque 1754. This map, on a scale of 2 inches to 1 mile, has been produced on two sheets, each 40 x 30 inches, and is priced at £1.00 (including packing and postage). Pre-paid orders should be sent to the Hon. Librarian, London and Middlesex Archaeological Society, Bishopsgate Institute, 230 Bishopsgate, London, E.C.2. Cheques should be made payable to the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society.

Chalk Farm Tavern

If I may answer the comments in the December newsletter, I agree with Miss Le Faye that 75 Regent's Park Road (Primrose Hill Antiques) is one of the oldest remaining buildings in the area, but I do not think it was part of Chalk Farm. It does not show on the large scale c.1800 map, and is clearly shown on Daw's 'St. Pancras 1849', being the next building to the south-west of the Chalk Farm Tavern. The next beyond that was Chester Cottage and is now the right hand half of the Regent's Park Garage.

I am trying to name and date these early buildings, but at present can only say of No. 75 that it was built before 1846 and was occupied in the 1850's by George Camp, Cowkeeper and Dairyman.

Harveys' 'farm outbuildings' at the back were built since the first ordnance survey of 1870, which just shows a garden and I think makes it quite clear that the 'Farmhouse' was one of the Caroline Place houses shown on Daw 1849.

Mrs. Tyler is of course right in saying that Harveys did not claim to occupy the Chalk Farm Tavern site. I did not suggest this, but my first letter was paraphrased a little misleadingly. I have not gone so far back in history as she has, but I think the rear part of the Tavern shown in the 1845 engraving, which might be a timber building, could be part of the old farm and is basically pre 19th century. The front colonnaded part was evidently rebuilt in the early 19th century in two instalments on the site of older accretions demolished.

Anthony Cooper

THE PNEUMATIC RAILWAY

This railway, to which reference was made in the October Newsletter, was not built by the Post Office but by a private company called the Pneumatic Despatch Co. Ltd., headed by the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos. This undertaking was incorporated as a limited company in 1859 and empowered to open up streets to lay its tubes and apparatus. In addition to the Eversholt Street line, a much longer line was built from Euston to Holborn and opened in 1865. Eventually it was ex-

tended to St Martins-le-Grand in 1869. Neither line was used other than experimentally. After having lain derelict for many years the tubes were acquired by the Postmaster-General in 1922 and sections of them are now used for telephone cables.

Charles Lee

ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

The next meetings of this Group will be on 13 March and 10 April at St Pancras Library at 6.30pm.

ANNUAL MEETING

The Society's Annual Meeting will be on 15 May at the Working Men's College in Crowndale Road.

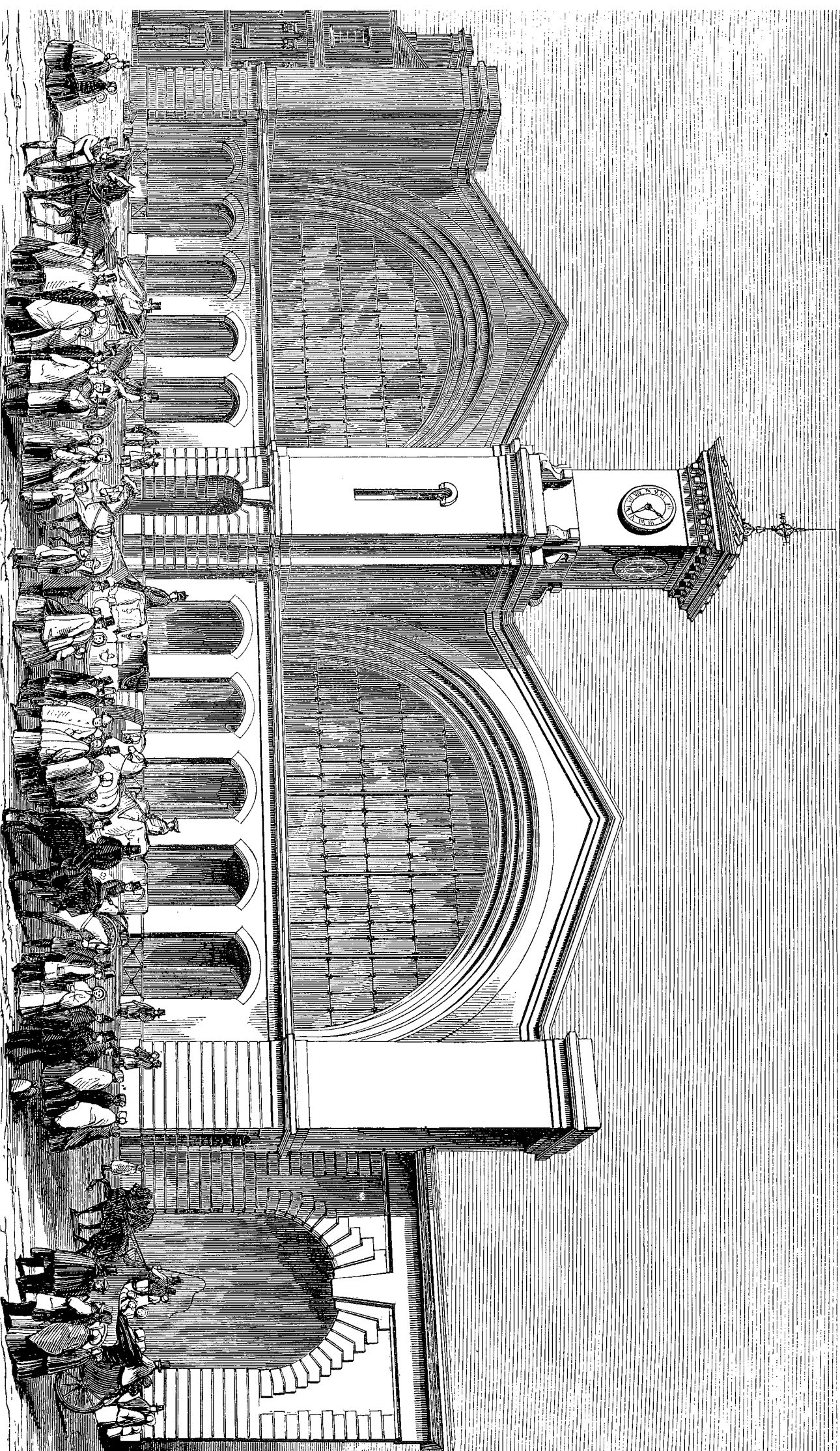
Kings Cross Renovation

With the announcement that the innovations to King's Cross Station are to be completed in mid-1973, when a sleek, streamlined facade will be revealed to the public, it may be of interest to look back to the time when the design for the station was first envisaged.

When it was opened on 14 October 1852, King's Cross was London's largest station, and its roof was the most extensive in the world, constructed on the same principles as the roof of the Tzar's riding-school in Moscow. The clock adorning the tower came from the Crystal Palace in Hyde Park. The station replaced a temporary one in Maiden Lane (York Way) which began on 8 August 1850, with a service to Peterborough. The building of the present King's Cross was designed by Lewis Cubitt, the Great Northern Railway engineer, and although the plans were accepted from an architectural point of view, the financial aspect did not please the shareholders who protested at the extravagance. Above the cost of the building - £123,000 - a further £65,000 had to be paid to buyout the old Smallpox Hospital which lay on the site.

It was at King's Cross in 1873 that the first sleeping-car in Great Britain went into service on the King's Cross to Glasgow run and in 1879 the first dining-car left here for Leeds.

Perhaps renovation will restore to the station something of its grand aspect as shown in the print.



KING'S CROSS STATION OF THE GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY, LONDON.—MR. LEWIS CURRIE, ARCHITECT.

New Publications

Some publications available from the Standing Conference for Local History are:

Ways and Means in Local History. Intended for the enthusiastic amateur, this booklet points a way to the study of local history. 50 pages. 55p.

Crafts, Trades and Industries. The books in this booklist provide sources of information about the tools, processes, development and working conditions of the traditional crafts, trades and industries. 13p.

Directory for Local Historians Lists organisations, authorities, and record offices from which the local historian may wish to seek assistance. 13p.

Ordnance Survey Maps Describes the use which can be made of the Ordnance Survey Maps as a primary source of evidence in determining local historical changes. 50p.

The Local Historian A quarterly magazine, its articles cover general background material, sources and research methods, discuss the validity of different types of evidence and introduce new techniques. Book reviews. £1.05 for annual subscription.

All these may be obtained from 26 Bedford Square, W. C. 1.

TOURIST GUIDES WANTED

The London Appreciation Society has asked the Society if any members would be interested in acting as guides round the more historic parts of Camden. Those interested, and with the necessary knowledge, should contact the Secretary of the London Appreciation Society at 8 Scarsdale Villas, W. 8. (937 9067)

MEMBERSHIP

The membership of the Society is now 360.

Old Postcards

One of the attractive enthusiasms of the early part of this century was the production of postcards, not of just the more photogenic views, but of the most unprepossessing streets. Ainger Road, pictured here, a quiet road at the back of Regent's Park Road, is a good example. It has absolutely no claim to fame and, although tastes do change, it is unlikely that it would ever be regarded as an attractive street. The postcard from which this illustration is taken is in full colour as well.

Members may well have old postcards like this in their files. If they have it would be most useful if they could notify the Secretary with details of them.



newsletter

No 12

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

APR 1972

Excursion to Forty Hall, Enfield

Saturday afternoon, 13 May

Forty Hall is a very fine example of Jacobean architecture, its erection having been begun in 1629 for Sir Nicholas Raynton, a wealthy haberdasher who became Lord Mayor of London in 1632. It is in the classical style though not by an architect whom we can name with certainty, and resembles a few other country houses of slightly later date, notably Chevening in Kent, Thorpe Hall at Peterborough, and Balls Park, Hertfordshire, by Edward Carter.

Sir Nicholas had acquired the site as part of the manor of Worcesters in 1616 from the second Earl of Salisbury but the estate is now limited to ornamental gardens, with a small lake, and an adjoining farm, the open fields of which serve to give an extensive vista to the north of the house, enhanced by an avenue of lime trees laid out in the 18th century.

Ownership of the Hall successively passed by marriage to Sir John Wolstenholme, of Edmonton, who repaired and modernised it, and later to Eliab Breton on whose death it was sold in 1787 to Edmund Armstrong. The last-named, who had extensive repairs and alterations carried out which included plastering the walls, died in 1799 when it was sold to James Meyer. It remained in the Meyer family until 1895 when it was bought by Mr H.C.B. Bowles and occupied by his newly married son Major (later Colonel Sir) Henry Ferryman Bowles. On the death of Sir Henry in 1943 his grandson, Mr Derek H. Parker Bowles, took up residence at the Hall. The mansion and estate were again put up for sale in 1951 and were bought by Enfield Urban District Council. The grounds were later opened to the public and from 1955 the Hall contained an exhibition of local history.

In 1962 the former Enfield Borough Council embarked upon an extensive scheme of restoration and development of the house and outbuildings. The Hall itself was reopened in 1966 and the conversion of the outbuildings was completed in 1969.

A ticket giving full details will be sent to members making a firm booking by 21 April. The exact cost, unlikely to exceed 75p, cannot be accurately calculated until the size of the party is known.

The Streets of Hampstead

The group of members which set out on the daunting task of recording the history of each of the streets in Hampstead Village, finished their work very quickly.

Prior to the publication of their survey, compiled by Christopher Wade, the group are giving an illustrated report on the discoveries they made and their method of working.

This will be at the Rosslyn Hill Chapel, Rosslyn Hill, at 8pm on April 18th.

Members who want to buy a copy of the group's book on Hampstead streets, at a pre-publication price, are invited to order on the form enclosed with this Newsletter.

19th Century Hampstead Exhibition

An Exhibition entitled '19th Century Hampstead in Watercolours', is to be held in conjunction with the publication of the Society's book on Hampstead streets. It will be at Swiss Cottage Library from June 10th to July 1st, and at Keats Grove Library from July 8th to July 29th.

Where was Boudicca's Battle?

Several writers have speculated that Boudicca's last stand against the Romans in AD 60 (or 61; even the date is in doubt) may have happened somewhere in the vicinity of Camden Borough. However, the evidence of Tacitus, who wrote only a generation after the event and had good access to Roman military information on Britain, really cannot support such an interpretation. Tacitus says that after the revolt began the Roman army fell back, not only from London but also from Verulamium (St. Albans), because these towns had no defences at the time. The Roman general Suetonius preferred to retreat and pick a really good site on which to await the British onslaught; the eventual battle ended in gory defeat for the British and the suicide of Boudicca (commonly but wrongly known as Boadicea).

It is perfectly clear therefore that the Roman army was well north of St. Albans before it fought the British, so a location anywhere in Camden, as suggested at a recent meeting of the Camden History Society is, unhappily, out of the question. In fact we shall probably never know where the battle was held; but the best modern opinion puts it in the Midlands, somewhere between Towcester (Northants.) and Wall (Staffs.). An important fact is that Suetonius had to retreat along Watling Street to meet his infantry, which was hurrying from N. Wales where it had been in action when the rebellion began.

It is worth quoting at length the note by Dudley and Webster, authors of the most recent study of the period (The Rebellion of Boudicca, 1962, p. 152), since it epitomises much that happens in local history studies:-

"It seems impossible to be more precise (than the location suggested, near Atherstone, Warks., on Watling Street). The speculation of nearly three centuries has produced many candidates for the site of the battle, but few can be taken seriously. The British antiquary clings firmly to the belief that all historical events can be placed on the map, and that most of them happened in his own county A "tradition" quoted by several antiquaries of the early 19th century places the site

in Islington: as recently as 1937 this was revived by Lewis Spence, who engagingly places Kings Cross Station in the defile occupied by Suetonius. . . ." (my underlining)

Dudley and Webster go on to admit that they too have plumped for their own county (Warwickshire) and thus follow in the "best" traditions of local history; but at least they have argued the case with close reference to such evidence as we have, and with careful attention to topography.

Cherry Lavell

May Events

15 May

AGM at the Working Men's College, Crown-dale Road, NW1. The business meeting at 6.30pm will be followed at 7.30pm by a lecture on Frederick Denison Maurice (1805-1872), founder of the WMC.

The Society's Patron, The Worshipful the Mayor of Camden, Councillor A.E. Skinner, JP, will be present.

20 May

A tour of St Pancras Church, Euston Road, NW1, conducted by Mr Charles Lee, author of "St Pancras Church and parish". Meet at entrance at 10am.

27 May

A visit to St Pancras Old Church, Pancras Road, with Mr Charles Lee as guide. Meet at Church at 10am.

ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP MEETINGS

Would members please note that the meetings announced for 1 May, 5 June, 2 October and 6 November have been cancelled. Details of future meetings will be circulated as soon as possible.

LOST RIVERS OF LONDON

Members who attended Richard Henwood's lecture on the Fleet River may be interested to know that 'Lost Rivers of London' by Nicholas Barton, published by Dent, contains much material on this river and can be obtained at local bookshops, price £1.50.

THE LONDON DIOCESAN PENITENTIARY

Richard Franklin would be interested to obtain information on the London Diocesan Penitentiary in Highgate. It was founded in 1854 to provide a place for fallen women and was still in existence in 1876. His address is 55 Shirlock Road, NW3.

LEIGHTON ROAD PRESERVATION

Putting aside the debate on wholesale re-development of Victorian parts of Camden there can surely be no disagreement when individual houses, of great character, are threatened in planning applications where the general public stands to gain not at all. Gillian Tindall, one of our members, and Lord Donaldson, are leading a campaign to save 28 Leighton Road, pictured here, from demolition. It is a Regency house with a Doric columned porch and was built when fields stretched to the north of it and the road ended at a stile. It is under threat not because it has been swept up in a large-scale road or housing scheme, but because it is next door to a GPO sorting office which is due for extension. The land covered by the house and its garden is not actually needed for the extension but under the terms of the planning proposal before Camden Council it would be used for a drive-in for GPO vans. Mrs Tindall contends that there is adequate means of access from the rear of the site by the railway or, alternatively the Post Office should use the drive-in on the other side of the sorting office, at present owned by Shaw and Kilburn.



King's Cross Station

Jonathan Tyler writes:

A correction and a query on your interesting piece on Kings Cross. The architect was Lewis Cubitt, but he was not the Great Northern's engineer. That office was held by Sir William Cubitt, assisted by his son Joseph. Lewis was the brother of Thomas (and also of another William), the founder of the well-known building firm. All five were active as engineers in the early 1850's. The two families both came from Norfolk, and Alan Jackson, in London's Termini (1969), implies a distant connection.

Your line drawing does not show Kings Cross as it was built: where did it appear, and how did it come to be inaccurate? Jackson has an attractive early water-colour, showing the unspoilt elegance of the design. It portrays a flat roofline, and a six-arch arcade. Your drawing has ten arches, slightly lower side-towers (also the central tower?) and rather silly pediments to the rounded main arches. It is much less pleasing.

Was the illustrator careless, or did Cubitt have second thoughts. If so, who prompted them.

We are grateful also to Mr Charles Lee for pointing out to us the confusion of Cubitts in the last edition. While on the subject of this family we would remind members of the talk on October 11th by Hermione Hobhouse who recently published the most authoritative work on the Cubitt buildings in London.

THE KING'S GERMAN LEGION

Mr R. W. Gould writes to ask if any member can help him with his researches:

"Whilst researching the King's German Legion, 1803 to 1816, I have obtained two subsistence accounts which indicate that most of the 1st and some of the 2nd company, KGL foot artillery, were quartered at 86, Hatton Gardens, EC1 from 25th August, 1805 until 24th September, 1805. A third account, held by the Ogilby Trust, Ministry of Defence, shows that at least two senior NCOs of the Legion occupied the building from 25th September, 1805 until the end of October that year.

This is extremely curious, as at the beginning of October, 1805, both companies were under orders to march to Deal, where they eventually embarked as part of an expedition to Hanover. Furthermore, there is nothing in the KGL records to suggest that any of their units were ever stationed in London.

The documents in question came to light when 86, Hatton Gardens was damaged by fire as the result of enemy action in 1942. The frontage of this address, according to Tallis's Street Views of London 1838-1840, was very narrow and unless the building had considerable depth it would hardly be suitable for housing some hundred or more men. The rating receipts for 1805, even if I could follow the collector's route, do not shed any light on this matter.

Perhaps one of your members may have knowledge of the Legion being mentioned in the history of the Borough. I am particularly interested to find the reason why a battery of artillery should have been quartered in London in the middle of the Napoleonic Wars. Had this unit been a cavalry regiment, one might have suspected their presence as aid to civil power.

Any assistance will be greatly appreciated."

Would any member who can help Mr Gould please write to him direct at 14, Abbotsford Road, Goodmayes, Ilford, Essex.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

John Richardson, Chairman of the Society, will be moving on April 28th, to 15 Rosebery Road, N. 10 (883 9453)

Fenton House Garden Party

The Secretary reports that requests are already being received for the Garden Party at Fenton House on 21 June.

After a more accurate costing of a truly delightful programme (musical and gastronomic) being prepared for us, it has been found necessary to charge £1.25. Would members please note and write to Secretary for tickets as soon as possible.

THE GREEN LANES PUMPING STATION

Although outside Camden we feel that members may want to know that a considerable fight is going on in Hackney for the retention of the Metropolitan Water Board Pumping Station. Pevsner's description will whet the appetite of those who don't know the building: 'An amazing folly, dating from 1854-6 and designed by Chadwell Mulne. The degree of variety of motifs and outline is beyond belief. The chimney is a tall polygonal castle tower. In addition a big round angle tower with a square top, stage-set diagonally, and at the opposite angle, a turret with a French-looking conical top. The keep itself buttressed and with gothic windows.'

One of the organisers of the campaign to save the building is Nicholas Ray of 35 Willes Road, NW5. Those members who want more details or who think that they might help can contact him there on 485 3559.

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ASSISTANT SECRETARY:	Coral Howells
ARCHIVIST:	Christina Gee

newsletter

No 13

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

JUN 1972

Excursion to 'Constable's Country'

Although John Constable, RA, lived in Camden (Charlotte Street, Lower Terrace and Well Walk) from 1821 to 1837, even we think of him primarily as belonging to East Anglia. We hope, therefore, that you will approve of the committee's choice of a day coach-trip to "Constable's country" for our summer excursion on Saturday, 22 July, and that you will be able to come.

Lest any member should not know of the frequently quoted extract from a letter written by Constable in 1832, here it is -

"In the coach yesterday, coming from Suffolk, were two gentlemen and myself, all strangers to each other. In passing the Vale of Dedham, one of them remarked, on my saying it was beautiful: 'Yes, Sir, this is Constable's country.' I then told them who I was, lest he should spoil it."

We have arranged two conducted tours in the course of the afternoon but there will be plenty of time for members to indulge in their own explorations of Dedham, a village recently pronounced "as beautiful as any in England".

The provisional itinerary is as follows:-

- 10am leave Camden Town (just north of Camden Town underground station in Kentish Town Road)
- 10.15am leave Hampstead (Rosslyn Hill, opposite Pilgrims Lane)
- 10.30am leave Highgate (Pond Square)

Members are asked to bring a packed lunch which they may like to eat en route. We hope to fit in a break for coffee on the way.

1.30pm arrive Flatford Mill, where we have allowed ninety minutes for walking or a row on the River Stour or just enjoying the scenery immortalised by Constable.

3pm leave for Dedham and a visit to Castle House, home of the late Sir Alfred Munnings. This charming house in its beautiful setting is being specially opened for us.

4.15pm "Cream tea" at the 16th century Essex Rose Tea House.

5.15pm a visit to the splendid Parish Church of St Mary, Dedham. The Vicar, Canon A. R. Johnston, has kindly offered to show us round.

We shall then be free in Dedham until we set off for home at 7pm, arriving in London at 9.30pm.

Some thought will be given to devising interesting routes for both journeys.

Mr Leslie Newman is preparing a written commentary on the trip and copies of this will be given to members coming.

Cost per person, including coach, admission to Castle House and tea - £1.50.

Please return enclosed booking form as soon as possible and not later than 10 July.

SOCIAL HISTORY GROUP

Arrangements have been made for meetings of the Social History Group at the St Pancras Library at 7pm on 24 July and 18 September.

New members are welcome to attend.

Camden Town Fifty Years Ago

It is a pity that Street Directories are a relatively modern invention - they speak louder than most evidence from the past. A Kelly's directory for 1922 will provide a picture of what you know to have irrevocably disappeared and clues to development since. Nothing quite compares with finding Marks and Spencers in High Street, Camden, described as a 'bazaar' or, as I did, finding that a house I previously owned was, in 1922, lived in by someone called George Snuggs.

Camden High Street, like other High Streets, has changed from being predominantly composed of privately owned businesses to chain stores now. In fact the most remarkable survivals for such a transient street are five such private firms. Bowmans is the most obvious example, but who would imagine that C. Luper, clothier, just north of Bowmans, has been there since 1922? Trills, the stationers (on the other side of the road at that time), and Romany's, the present-day Mecca for handymen, are survivals, and so too is Miller, Beale and Hider, glass merchants.

There were in Camden High Street, in 1922, 15 furniture shops, 15 restaurants and 8 milliners - even superficial examination will reveal how chain stores and the demand for different commodities has reduced these. Three theatres were there - the Camden and Bedford and also the Britannia Picture Palace on the site of the present cinema.

The Premium Trading Stamp Co - an early experiment in sales promotion - was at no. 82, and the East St Pancras Reform Club at 94. It is interesting to note that the narrow borough of St Pancras was divided politically into east and west rather than the later north and south. The Club's rivals, the St Pancras Labour Party and Trades Council were round the corner at 67 Camden Road, between Royal College Street and St Pancras Way.

The concentration of piano manufacturers in this area is shown in the directory. In the High Street itself there was Charles Brinnie at 76, and the Piano String Co, Hecksher & Co, Manuel & Co were all in Bayham Street, Collard & Collard in Oval Road, Squire & Longson, Cremona,

Eungblut Rogers & Co, Caldecourt Bros. were in Royal College Street, to name just some of the many.

Jacobs and Kemp at 156 High Street were dentists - advertising the English and American methods, whatever they were. Mr Bangs was a builder at 142 and George Onion a greengrocer at 190a. The St Pancras Chronicle had its office at 198, and the staunchly Conservative St Pancras Gazette (now the Camden Journal) was at no. 80.

The surrounding streets were full of small manufacturers utilising the old workshops backing on to the High Street. In Arlington Road there were more piano makers, in Bayham Street a marble works, furniture makers and motor body builders.

Camden Road was an interesting mixture. The Gas Light and Coke Company were on the North Thames Gas site, the ABC had their bakery but not nearly so large then as now; the St Pancras Boys Club was also on the ABC site together with some artists. (The old Camden Studios in Camden Street, incidentally, list three sculptors and five artists, none of whom have come down to the posterity I know about.) The British Dentists Hospital flourished between Camden Street and the canal, and by North London station, presumably with the same fascia as today, was A. Brilliant & Son, tobacconists.

The south side of Camden Road has three familiar names listed - George and Battin, tailors, next to the Red Cap, that splendid shop selling suitcases and trunks, Montague Saxby, and Westacotts the estate agents. The British Hospital for Mental Disorders and Brain Diseases faced Westacotts across Lyme Street.

George Palmer, the pet shop, was in Parkway, a street which had a similar commercial character to the one it has recently acquired. There were bookshops, antique dealers, a stamp merchant, several printers, even more piano makers, an employment agency and a number of small traders like saddlers, watchmakers etc.

The scope for comparison is endless and fascinating, but my favourite survival is a vast replica of a ham hanging out of the top window of 178a Royal College Street. I was told that the shop had been a grocers,

WALLACE & CO.



High-class
Ladies'
and
Gent's
Tailors

SUITS AND COSTUMES, Well Tailored, £4 4 0
18, Camden Road, London, N.W.

*Opposite Gas Light & Coke Co.'s Offices.
Two minutes from Camden Town Tube Station.*

PATTERNS SENT ON APPLICATION.

in the hands of one family, since the 18th century! This is not very likely, and is almost certainly untrue, but the 1922 Directory does list that particular shop as being the Ham and Beef Warehouse of James Major - which does explain the vast sign outside.

John Richardson

VISIT TO SYNAGOGUE

As an additional event in September the Society has been offered a visit to Hampstead Synagogue together with a talk on the early days of Jewish life in Hampstead. More details will be published in the August Newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the Society has now reached its highest ever total - 385.

Hampstead Brewery

Mr P. Wingrave-Newell writes:-

"I am endeavouring to gather information on an old Brewery in Hampstead. The Brewery originally built in 1720 and later rebuilt in 1869 has, to my present somewhat limited knowledge, not been used for some 80 years. It is situated at the rear of 3-9a Hampstead High Street and few people are even aware of its existence being fronted by shops. I imagine that it is not coincidence that either side of the narrow entrance to the Brewery site from the High Street it is flanked on one side by a Public House, the King of Bohemia (Whitbread), and on the other side by an Off Licence now owned by Threshers.

The purpose for this task is to compile a monograph on the Brewery in full a detail as possible as part of my architectural course at the North London Polytechnic.

I would be most obliged if you could help me in any way possible and if not directly, perhaps you may be able to suggest a source which may prove profitable."

Would any member who can help please write to Mr Wingrave-Newell at 24 Steele's Road, Hampstead, London, NW3.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Some members have still not yet renewed their subscriptions despite reminders. It would be of great help if those members who do want to remain in the Society would send their subscription to our Treasurer, Mr Wilfrid Meadows, 9 Pilgrims Lane, NW3. Those who joined after 1 October last year do not need to renew.

OFFICERS

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TREASURER:	Wilfrid Meadows
PUBLICATIONS SECRETARY:	Christopher Wade
ASSISTANT SECRETARY:	Coral Howells
ARCHIVIST:	Christina Gee

Publications Report

The Streets of Hampstead is now being circulated to those who ordered copies. Owing to printing problems, the big map at the back of the book has not come up to expectations and it is being redrawn and reprinted. Free copies of the new map will shortly be available, on request, from the High Hill Bookshop or from the Publications Secretary, Camden History Society, 28 Willoughby Road, London, NW3 1SA.

Members ordered 250 copies at the pre-publication price and the volume is now on sale at High Hill Bookshop.

Business has also been brisk for Barratt's Annals (in conjunction with Lionel Leventhal).

Meanwhile, the newly-formed Publications Sub-Committee, consisting of Messrs. F.D. Cole, John Parkhurst, Wilfrid Meadows and Christopher Wade (Hon. Publications Secretary), is planning ahead.

The next publication will probably be the transcript of the Society's Archaeology symposium of last November, but problems of transcription from tape (two tape-recorders blew up) have seriously delayed this. Printer's estimates are now being solicited and members who ordered copies in advance should not abandon hope.

Cherry Lavell has completed her bibliography Beginning in local history and it will shortly be published by Camden's Libraries and Arts Department. It is hoped eventually to offer free copies of this to all members of the Society.

Finally, the Committee is anxious to produce an annual Camden history review, which will include a record of the Society's activities, transcripts of lectures, occasional papers by members and a reference section. Contributions for this will be welcomed by the Publications Secretary.

Christopher Wade

HORNSEY HISTORY

The Hornsey Journal is to publish, beginning on 21 July, a series on the history of that area. It is written by Ian Murray, Archivist to Haringey.

The Regent's Canal

Significant steps are being taken along the length of the Regent's Canal to make the towpath accessible to the public and the waterway an amenity instead of an industrial slum. Camden Council has recently completed the re-opening of the walk from the Cumberland Basin next to London Zoo to the Chalk Farm Road.

Simultaneously the Council has published an attractive brochure called 'Camden's Canalside Walk' (obtainable from the Planning Department at Holborn Town Hall), dealing with its history and present improvements. Unfortunately the historical part of the booklet has a number of errors. Mr Charles Lee has kindly summarised the main ones for those members who keep the brochure:

- 1) The brochure says that 'Until the turn of the 17th century London was linked to the Midlands by the Thames and the Oxford Canal.' Mr Lee points out that the Canal was not joined to the Thames until 1790.
- 2) The Grand Junction Canal was opened in 1805 as stated, but that was only the final stretch. At the London end the route from Brentford to Uxbridge had been brought into use by 1794 and the Paddington Arm in 1801.
- 3) The brochure mentions a 'Roman canal built over 2000 years ago.' The Romans, of course, had not then arrived in this country.
- 4) Robert Stephenson is mis-spelt Stevenson.
- 5) The paragraphs dealing with the railway winding machines at Chalk Farm contain a number of errors. The railway service to Euston was inaugurated in 1837 and not 1827; steam locomotives were used at the very first to negotiate the gradient from Chalk Farm to Euston and were later, in 1837, superseded by the cable traction machines which were not displaced until 1844 and not 1884.

TYPING HELP WANTED

Members who feel that they could type out manuscripts for publication would help us if they could contact Mr Gregory, our Secretary.

newsletter

No 14

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

Aug 1972

Visit to Lincoln's Inn

Saturday, 2 September, 10.30 a.m.

Visit to Lincoln's Inn, WC2. The tour will be conducted by the Librarian. Would members coming please meet at the Porter's Lodge at the entrance to Lincoln's Inn Fields at 10.25 a.m.

Visit to Hampstead Synagogue

Visit to the Hampstead Synagogue, Dennington Park Road, NW6 (buses 28 and 159 - nearest Underground Station, West Hampstead) for a tour conducted by Rabbi Raymond Apple and a talk on the early days of Jewish life in Hampstead.

Engraved for Chamberlain's History of London.



View of LINCOLN'S INN

November Event

We hope that members who enjoyed the "Chronicle" films on television recently will welcome the opportunity of seeing two of the programmes again. Although they have not yet been released for hire, Paul Johnstone who produced them for BBC Television, has kindly made them available to us for our film evening at the Swiss Cottage Library on 16 November 1972.

The first half of the programme will be devoted to an account of six industrial archaeology projects, finalists in a "Chronicle" competition. These varied projects may well provide ideas and inspiration for our own groups.

After an interval for coffee, we will then show the film Lost treasure of Jerusalem.

In 1891, a young and impoverished French priest, Bérenger Saunière, discovered four parchments hidden in the church in the tiny village of Rennes-le-Chateau. They contained a series of coded messages - and it was these that led him apparently to an incredible fortune. Thereafter he lived in great luxury, spending money at a prodigious rate. He built himself a chateau and a small estate, entertained lavishly, assisted those of his parishioners who were in need and even constructed a two-mile road from the village to the town in the valley below. What had he found? He died in 1917, having spent over one million pounds. But he never said what he had discovered or where it was.

Did he find a great treasure? Did he even find the remains of the treasure of Solomon's Temple in Jerusalem? For the messages in the parchments indicated that to find a solution to the mystery, the search must start at Jerusalem to follow a train that leads to southwest France and finally to Rennes-le-Chateau, Saunière's village.

Saunière's predecessors left him a strange series of clues, including coded parchments and mysterious gravestones. He in turn, left for posterity an equally complicated trail to follow - a baffling

series of hints and indications that can still be seen in the little village church of Rennes-le-Chateau, restored and redecorated at his own expense. The whole building resembles a gigantic crossword puzzle - and Chronicle solves some of the hidden messages!

But the most startling discovery about a vital clue to the mystery concerns one of the most famous paintings by the seventeenth century artist Nicholas Poussin, "Les Bergers D'Arcadia". Art historians have always considered the landscape in the painting to be totally imaginary.

But its details and features can be identified and matched with actual landscape features that one can see from a precise point in the countryside near Rennes-le-Chateau.

Chronicle goes on a treasure hunt. The programme was filmed in the church and village of Rennes-le-Chateau and in the dramatic countryside nearby. By using contemporary stills of the people and artifacts involved, ranging from spiders to skulls, and through the painstaking work of Henry Lincoln who has written the script and who also appears in the programme, Chronicle reveals some of the coded messages hidden in the parchments and in the bizarre imagery of Saunière's church. The programme tries to solve a mystery that is still alive today in the village of Rennes-le-Chateau.

BLOOMSBURY: THE STORY OF A THOUSAND YEARS

Malcolm Holmes, a member of the Camden library staff and the Camden History Society, will be the lecturer for this new course at the Stanhope Institute - Bloomsbury Branch, Queens Square, WC1. It starts in September on Tuesdays and those interested will be able to attend either the afternoon or the evening session.

The course will cover the history of the area from earliest times and will indicate future developments that may affect Bloomsbury. Visits and talks by other specialists will form an important part of the course.

EXCURSION TO SPARSHOLT ROMAN VILLA

The Hendon Archaeological Society have invited Camden History Society members to join them on a day excursion to Spars-holt Roman Villa on Saturday, 9 September. Any member wishing to go should contact Mr Jeremy Clynes, 66 Hampstead Way, NW11 (435 4271)

The Hendon Society recently organised an excursion to Dover and very kindly, although at short notice, invited us to join them. As many members as possible were notified and a number of us were able to see the excavations which, as Sir Mortimer Wheeler has put it, have added "new chapters to the history of this traditional gateway of Britain".

Camden Institute local history courses

CHS members Viv Morris and Brenda Tyler will be running courses for the Camden Institute in the coming session.

Miss Morris will supervise the work of a group of students who will engage in local history projects of their own choice. Enrolment from 18 September at Parliament Hill School. Mrs Tyler's course is on the history of Hampstead. Further details can be obtained from the Camden Institute, Holmes Road, NW5.

Storing Camden's Modern Noises

May I make an appeal for technical assistance on an unusual recording project which I am undertaking for the Camden History Society?

It has been agreed that I should prepare a number of tape programmes for the society (30 - 45 minutes in length) which reflect contemporary life in the Borough of Camden. Each tape will have a specific theme and form the basis of an evening's meeting of the society.

To supplement my own mains tape-recorder I should be glad to hear from anyone who shares my interest in this way of documenting local history and who could help with the loan of a portable battery tape-recorder of professional quality (7½ips, ½ or full track) for the project.

Alan T. Raby, 97 Chetwynd Road, Kentish Town, NW5.

FLORA OF THE HEATH

Thomas Johnson's Iter Planetarum (1629) and Descriptio Itineris Planetarum (1632), dealing with botanizing in Kent and on Hampstead Heath are both rare books, only two copies being known of the Iter and five of the Descriptio.

A newly published volume, Botanical journeys in Kent and Hampstead by Thomas Johnson, edited by J.S.L. Gilmour 1972 (£5.25 from any bookseller) from the University of Pittsburgh includes facsimile reproductions and translations of the two works, together with the modern scientific names for the plants and animals recorded, maps showing Johnson's routes and a number of introductory articles and appendices on various aspects of the journey and their botanical results. The publishers say that these works "are not only of outstanding interest for the history of the discovery of the British flora - they are also fascinating and lively accounts of the joys and hardships of seventeenth century travel in Southern England". They can now be read in English for the first time.

Lecture by Hermione Hobhouse

May we remind readers of the joint event with the Camden Civic Society on Wednesday, 11 October at the Swiss Cottage Library. This is an illustrated lecture entitled Lost Camden by Hermione Hobhouse.

Her two books, Lost London; a century of demolition and decay and Thomas Cubitt, master builder were published last year.

Education in Camden - a special Extra-Mural Class

At the prompting of the Society, London University, through the WEA, are arranging a special class on the History of Education in Camden. The tutor is Jim Alexander B.A. and the session starts at the end of September.

This course is most strongly recommended to members and those wishing to enrol should do so on Monday, 25 September at 7pm, at 32 Tavistock Square, WC1.

A Social History Symposium – October 21st

Camden is particularly rich in social history sources - largely unexplored. The Society's Social History Group is arranging a one-day symposium which will examine just a few of these in a varied programme.

The event is on Saturday, 21 October, at Holborn Library, starting at 10am.

The programme includes the following papers:

- 'Poorhouse or pesthouse?' - some scandalous incidents in the history of St Pancras Workhouse
- 'The baronesses of Clerkenwell'
- 'The Hoares of Hampstead' - a prominent local family
- 'A History of chapels'
- 'The cost of living in Camden c1880'
- 'The Select Few' - an account of the fight to preserve the Close Vestry system in St Pancras
- 'The Boys' Home for the training and maintenance of destitute boys'
- 'Statues in Camden of people who have brought social changes'
- 'Parliament Hill and the route into Camden Town' - some comments based upon a poem by Sir John Betjeman.

There will be time for questions and discussion and any member who wishes to make a special contribution is invited to contact Leslie Newman, 12 Gay Bowers, Hockley, Essex.

A fee of 50p will include the cost of morning coffee and afternoon tea. Would members wishing to come please return the enclosed form as soon as possible.

HIGHGATE VILLAGE SURVEY

Now that the Streets of Hampstead has been published, members of the Society are turning their attention to other areas. Two groups are working at the moment, one covering Belsize Village area and the other, a new group, dealing with Highgate Village including those areas of it outside the Borough of Camden.

CENTENARY OF ST MARY'S, PRIMROSE HILL

One of the papers in the Social History one-day Symposium in October will deal with history of the Boys' Home for the training and maintenance of destitute boys. The building of St Pancras Station led to the removal of the Boys' Home from Euston Road to the corner of Regent's Park Road and Ainger Road. The popularity of the services in the school's Chapel led in turn to the need for a mission church and to the present church of St Mary's, Primrose Hill, built by the architect William Manning between 1870 and 1872. To mark the centenary, Mr Francis Stephens ARCA has produced a most readable account of its origins and history and a detailed description of the remarkable Victorian Gothic building as it is today. The third vicar, Percy Dearmer, is famous as the author of many books, notably The parson's handbook. His story and that of the other vicars and personalities, are told at some length and Mr Stephens also touches on the history of Primrose Hill and Chalk Farm. The 48-page booklet is well-illustrated and attractively produced. Copies at 50p each can be obtained by post from the Vicarage, 7 Elsworth Road, LONDON, NW3 3DS.

MEMBERSHIP – ANOTHER LANDMARK

In July the membership of the Society reached 401 - the highest ever recorded.

OFFICERS

CHAIRMAN:	John Richardson
SECRETARY:	G. D. Gregory St. Pancras Library 100 Euston Road NW1 2AJ (278 4444)
TREASURER:	Wilfrid Meadows
PUBLICATIONS SECRETARY:	Christopher Wade
ASSISTANT SECRETARY:	Coral Howells
ARCHIVIST:	Christina Gee

newsletter

No 15

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

Nov 1972

December and January Events

Those of us who heard Dr. Hartston speak at the Social History Symposium will know that we have a treat in store. The speaker is President of the History Section of the Royal Society of Medicine and has made a special study of the history of the poor law in London. His lecture is entitled "Provision for the sick poor in London 1700-1900" and will be given in the meetings room of the St Pancras Library on 7 December at 7.30 pm

Dr. Hartston agreed to give his lecture early in the month before we all get too preoccupied with Christmas.

Members who have not visited this library and who would like a brief conducted tour before the lecture, at 6.45 pm, are asked to contact Mr Gregory as soon as possible at 278 4444 ext. 2192

Another lecture of outstanding interest will be given at the same library on 11 January 1973 at 7.30 pm, when Professor J. H. Burns will speak about "Jeremy Bentham and the founding of University College".

DO MAKE A NOTE OF BOTH DATES

ADVERTISEMENT

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Diary of Events

- 7 Dec Provision for the Sick Poor in London 1700-1900. A talk by Dr. William Hartston at St Pancras Library 7.30pm
- 8 Dec The Importance of Coins in Archaeology - L & MAS (for details see 17 Nov)
- 9 Dec Visit to Map Room of British Museum - L & MAS (for details see 17 Nov)

Two lectures contrasted sharply: Richard Franklin spoke on the earnings and budget of a working-class girl in late Victorian times; Mrs. Tyler recounted the biographies of members of the Hampstead banking family, the Hoares.

The final item of the day, by Mrs. Gee, the Borough Archivist, was a forum of questions and answers on how help can be given to researchers of the local collections held by the Borough Libraries department.

Dr. Hartston gave the vote of thanks.

THE SOCIAL HISTORY SYMPOSIUM

This symposium, organised by the Social History Group, provided for the forty members who attended, a day of diverse comment on some aspects of Camden's social history.

Miss Joan Morris, the opening speaker, outlined the history of the canonesses of Clerkenwell and detailed their property-owning rights and status in medieval society. Allied to this topic was that presented by Horace Shooter who gave an account of his researches into the places of worship in Camden. The Borough is rich in statues to people who have brought social changes and on this topic Miss Viv Morris, using colour transparencies, gave a stimulating lecture.

Our members may know Sir John Betjeman's poem 'Parliament Hill', wherein is described, through the eyes of a young boy, the journey by tram from Highgate to Camden Town in the early nineteen hundreds. By the showing of slides, appropriate to the period, Mrs. Howells, by reference to the poem and extracts from correspondence with Sir John, realistically re-created this journey.

Forming a trio of related subjects were those presented by our Chairman, John Richardson, on the efforts to establish in St. Pancras a Select Vestry; the Boys' Home, Regent's Park Road, by Miss Beck, and an account of some scandalous incidents in the history of St. Pancras workhouse by Mrs. Wooldridge. All these speakers were making original comment on unpublished documents.

A fountain pen was found in the Holborn Library Hall after the Symposium. Would the owner please contact Mr Gregory at St Pancras Library.

CATALOGUING PHOTOGRAPHS

Volunteers are still required to help with the cataloguing of the London Transport photographs in the Local History Collection at Swiss Cottage Library. Interested members should contact Mrs C. M. Gee, Keats House, Keats Grove, NW 3. (278 4444 ext. 3140).

CAMDEN BOOK LIST

Miss Cherry Lavell has recently compiled a basic book list for researchers into Camden history. This has now been published by the Camden Libraries department and will be circulated to members of the Society.

THE CAMDEN JOURNAL

The current issue of the Camden Journal, issued by Camden Libraries department, is a must for local history students. It contains an historical review of the Ordnance Survey, an article on the maps at St Pancras Library and features on Maps and the Local Historian and Guidebooks.

Coleridge at Highgate

For centuries Highgate had been the sanctuary of those seeking refuge from the divers plagues that had afflicted London throughout its history. The salutary atmosphere had attracted many whose failing health could no longer support the rigours of the capital, and it was here that Samuel Taylor Coleridge resolved to pass the last years of his life. Throughout, Coleridge's constitution had been weak, a tendency to rheumatics being exacerbated by a visit to Scotland in 1803 when the cold, wet weather resulted in a particularly severe attack. It was at this period that the poet's dependence on opium became evident, and it was a dependence which was to increase as the pressures from home and work multiplied.

In April 1816, James Gillman, a medical practitioner residing in Highgate, received a request from a colleague to accept into his home a poet whose physical and spiritual health required not only the professional attention of a doctor, but also the sympathetic devotion of friends. The identity of the poet was not immediately revealed, but James Gilman and his wife, Anne, both in their thirties, guessed that the new occupant of their home was to be the celebrated Coleridge.

It was in his 43rd year that Coleridge took up residence in Moreton House, South Grove, the home of the Gillmans from 1816-1823. He is vividly described by Carlyle as he 'sat on the brow of Highgate Hill. . . looking down on London and its smoke-tumult, like a sage escaped from the inanity of life's battle attracting towards him the thoughts of innumerable brave souls still engaged there. . . a kind of Magus, girt in mystery and enigma, whispering strange things.' The sylvan tranquillity of Highgate soothed his anguish and he delighted in Kenwood's 'delicious groves and alleys - a grand cathedral aisle of giant lime trees. . . .'

In December 1823 the Gillmans moved to No. 3 The Grove, then known as Quality Walk. It was here that Coleridge held his renowned 'Attic Evenings' where Shelley, Keats, Charles and Mary Lamb, Edward Irving, the preacher, and numerous other notables of the period were accustomed to

gather, in part to make their own contributions to the proceedings, but principally to listen to the brilliant conversation of Coleridge.

He became familiar with all the lanes and byways of Highgate, frequenting in particular Millfield Lane, which later became known as 'The Poets' Way'. His somewhat corpulent figure was recognised by the local children, and he was often to be seen pursued by a group from 'the little Kingdom of Heavenites' as he called them in search of the 'sweeties' he invariably secreted in his pockets.

Despite the ideal conditions this was Coleridge's least productive period. Soon after his arrival at The Grove 'Christabel' was published, but the succeeding years saw only the appearance of a few minor poems. The most significant work to emerge was 'Aids to Reflection' which was published in 1825.

Coleridge died on 25 July 1834 at the age of 61. His funeral was attended by only a few intimate friends. He was buried originally in the Chapel at Highgate School, but in 1961 his remains were transferred to St. Michael's Church.

Beverley Monchar

NEW PUBLICATIONS

London for Everyman: revised by Godfrey Thompson after William Kent, with 48pp of coloured maps. An Aldine paperback, price 95p

A History of Building Regulations in London 1189-1972: by C. C. Knowles and P. H. Pitt, price £3.95

London Signs: an alphabetical guide to the signs of pubs, tradesmen and societies in London from the earliest times, by Bryant Lillywhite. Allen & Unwin, £8.50

Victorian London: by Priscilla Metcalfe. Cassell, £2.75

Local Maps and Views 1600-1850 of Barnet: a limited edition of 2 maps and 9 views. From Barnet Libraries, price £1.50

A History of Architecture in and Around London: by Walter Godfrey. Phoenix House, £1.00

London Street Names – a Review

Just as mountaineers assault Everest 'Because it is there', so do others evidently compile new reference works because they are not there. "I began London Street Names," says Gillian Bebbington in her preface, "after searching in vain for a convenient alphabetical reference book giving the history of any London street in which I happened to work, live or visit." She later narrowed her field to examining the name of each street because "the background determining the name reveals so much of the street's general history". She also restricted her survey to the inner boroughs of London only and to the sort of streets encompassed by the larger London atlases. This means that Golders Green and Hendon, for instance, are excluded and so are the back alleys of Hampstead like Golden Yard and Murray Terrace. But the book still covers a vast area of over twenty-five square miles, ranging from Highgate down to Lambeth and from Earls Court across to the Tower of London: so the whole of Camden is included and there are nearly four thousand entries altogether.

The streets covered by the book are shown on maps at the back which, as they mark the boundaries of the original large estates, are especially welcome. The clashes of rival estates are mentioned in the book's introductory chapters as a reason for the haphazard development of so many streets. One owner would sell up his land but his neighbour would refuse and the result is the rich crop of culs-de-sac we now have in London.

In her chapter on the "Semantics of Street Names", Mrs. Bebbington discusses the three main categories of names: descriptive, possessive and topical. The latter may commemorate a famous victory, e. g. Waterloo and Trafalgar, or one now forgotten such as Maida (in Spain) during the Peninsular War. How many residents of Maida Vale knew that? Most topical names refer to royalty or great men - but the English are reticent about "great men". Winston Churchill, for instance, has no commemorative street in London, though Churchill Road in Kentish Town was at least named after one of his ancestors.

So to the main part of the book, which is the street-by-street A. B. C., bristling with derivations, biographies and dates. Particularly interesting are the multiple entries, as for "Camden", where a whole range of street names, picked out in bold type, are worked into the text. We are told, for example, that Camden Town passed to "John, created 1st Marquis Camden, and then to John's children, George the 2nd Marquis, Georgiana and Caroline. George married Harriet Murray, daughter of the Bishop of Rochester...". There are helpful family-trees also for the larger estate owners, who named streets after their sisters and their cousins and their aunts. The A. B. C. method brings out some entertaining juxtapositions, too. Baynes Mews in Belsize Park is named after an editor of the Encyclopaedia Britannica while Baynes Street in Camden Town commemorates a chief electrical engineer for the local Council.

Inevitably there are some Camden names about which our own Street Names Group will feel they have a superior local knowledge. We can sympathise with Mrs. Bebbington for thinking that Shepherd's Walk was derived from sheep (rather than Thomas Shepherd), especially as there is a famous, sheep-filled print of the area in 1827 - one, in fact, which she includes among her ten illustrations. But elsewhere the author has no need to feel sheepish. Her book has a great air of authority, the result of all her painstaking research, and it has been compiled with a happy combination of the academic and the romantic.

Christopher Wade

CAMDEN IN COLOUR

Camden Council has recently published an excellent portfolio of eight colour reproductions of prints in the Local History Collections. The prints measure approximately 10"x13" and are printed by Collotype. At £2 per set they are a bargain. They can be obtained from the Director of Libraries and Arts, St Pancras Library, 100 Euston Road, NW1.