

newsletter

No 16

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

FEB 1973

February's Lecture – The History of Hampstead

A last minute reminder of our February event -

On Thursday, 15 February, at 7.30 pm at the Swiss Cottage Library, Professor F. M. L. Thompson, MA, DPhil, of Bedford College, will give a lecture on the History of Hampstead.

The lecture will be an appetiser for Professor Thompson's book on the same subject, commissioned by Hampstead Borough Council and due to be published later this year by Routledge and Kegan Paul.

The March Lecture

A printed folder giving dates of lectures and other events for the programme year from 1 March is being prepared and will be sent to members shortly. The first event, on 29 March, will be a lecture by Mr Peter Knowles-Brown whose jeweller's shop has for long been a familiar feature of Hampstead High Street. His lecture, entitled "A Shop in the High Street" will give the fascinating story of this family business.

THE PNEUMATIC DISPATCH RAILWAY

Members may also like to know of Mr Charles E. Lee's lecture at 5.30 pm on 14 February at the Science Museum. Mr Lee is a well-known transport historian and a member of the Council of the Camden History Society.

HELP WITH BRASS RUBBINGS

We have been asked if any of our members is knowledgeable about brass rubbings and could spare a small amount of time to supervise the work of an 18-year-old girl student. She is working for her Duke of Edinburgh's gold medal and has chosen the subject as her hobby.

Will any member able to help please contact the Secretary of the Society.

The Field Lane Story

A pamphlet with the above title recently published by the Field Lane Foundation, provides a fascinating insight into the way of life in the 19th Century Saffron Hill area of Holborn. This was one of the worst "Rookeries" in London, perhaps matched only by the St. Giles Rookery near St. Giles in the Fields Church.

The dark, insanitary, dilapidated buildings were the overcrowded homes of London's poor, and drunkenness, vice and crime were prevalent. It was an area into which the police hesitated to venture, and this became the lair of such notorious characters as Jonathan Wild, Jack Sheppard and Jerry Abershaw. Many of the thieves' houses in which they lived, had trapdoors and exits leading to other alleys and streets into which they could make an easy getaway.

In this area the Field Lane Foundation (under various names) from 1841 onwards, tried to provide schooling for children too poor to obtain education elsewhere - part of the Ragged School Movement - and some accommodation for destitute men and women.

The schools were later moved to Hampstead, the boys to Hillfield Road, off Fortune Green Lane, and the girls to 9 and 9a Church Row.

The Foundation now concentrates mainly on care for the elderly by providing a number of homes outside London and a community centre at 32 Cubitt Street WC1.

Copies of the pamphlet may be obtained from The Secretary, The Field Lane Foundation, 16 Vine Hill, Clerkenwell Road, London, EC1R 5EA, price 15p (including postage).

The Morgan Family in St. Pancras

The recent death of Mr Fred Reynolds Morgan, at the age of 95, head of the Kentish Town building firm, is a reminder of one of the two families that used to dominate farming in the St Pancras area - the other being the Rhodes family.

It is claimed that the Morgan family's connection with the parish dates back to 1630 although I have found no evidence to substantiate this. Certainly a William Morgan was established in a farm on the Christ Church Estate (Caversham Road, Islip Street, Gaisford Street and Oseney Crescent) in the 18th century but the Court Rolls of Canteloves (the manor in which the Estate fell) and the records of Christ Church College are not particularly helpful in supplying the date of his lease. It may be that the Court Rolls are deficient because the Morgans were sub-lessees. Christ Church records show a request from William Morgan in 1774 asking for an abatement of rent, and this request is repeated quite a few times up to 1831 when Morgan gave up the Estate 'being perfectly satisfied that to continue in it would be the means of my going to a gaol or a work-house.'

The 1804 map of St Pancras is more informative however. William Morgan was farming about 75 acres on the Christ Church Estate and elsewhere, and Richard Morgan, on the other side of the road, occupied about 68 acres in the Holmes Road and Malden Road area.

The Morgan house on the Christ Church Estate, which had probably been there since the 16th century, had 4 bedrooms, 2 sitting rooms and 3 attics. In 1784 William Morgan also bought a 99-year lease on the site of the old Kentish Town Chapel (where Sainsbury's now stands in Kentish Town Road). He built himself another house there and this is today commemorated by a pub called The Old Farmhouse. The decision to convert this site from sacred to secular use aroused a court case between the Churchwardens of St Pancras and their Vicar.

John Richardson

CAMDEN MILESTONES

I am interested in the date of the milestone by Whitestone Pond (map reference 26277 86250), also the purpose of the granite pillar nearby (26283 86275), and of a granite pillar in North End (26145 86989). marked

'HP 1833' in the manner of a boundary stone, though I am certain that it never was one, some monumental purpose being the only possibility. Also, in Highgate, a stone without an inscription stands below the wall of No 18 South Grove (28230 87208). My interest in these stones is that their purpose is open to speculation, and I am surprised that no parish record of them seems to exist.

I am told that you sometimes publish such inquiries in your Newsletter. I would be grateful for any information.

T. Whale
29 Hurst Avenue
Highgate N6 5TX

Diary of Events

Members will know that the Society is affiliated to the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society and may like to know of forthcoming events:

16 February - The George Eades Lecture, "Heralds and heraldry" by Mrs I. Eades at the Bishopsgate Institute at 6.30 pm.

24 February - Visit to Bruce Castle, Lordship Lane, Tottenham, N.17 at 2.30 pm, conducted by Miss E. Flint, BA, Bruce Castle Museum.

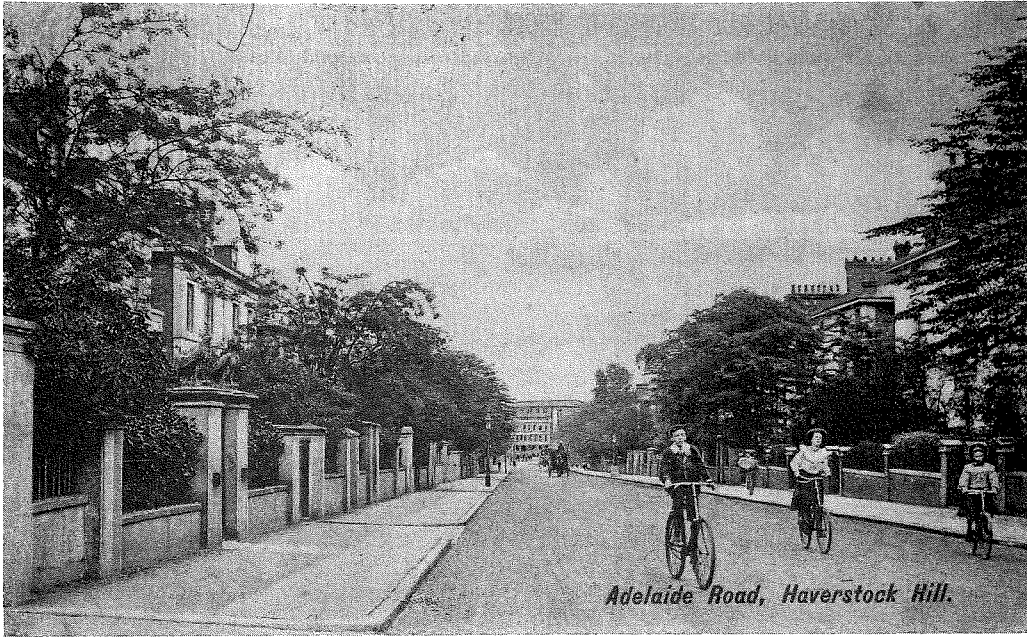
Bruce Castle is a late Elizabethan manor house, considered by the Department of the Environment to be the most important building of its kind in North London. It houses a local history collection, a Postal history collection of national importance and the Museum of the Middlesex Regiment. There will also be an art exhibition and a short film bearing on the collections.

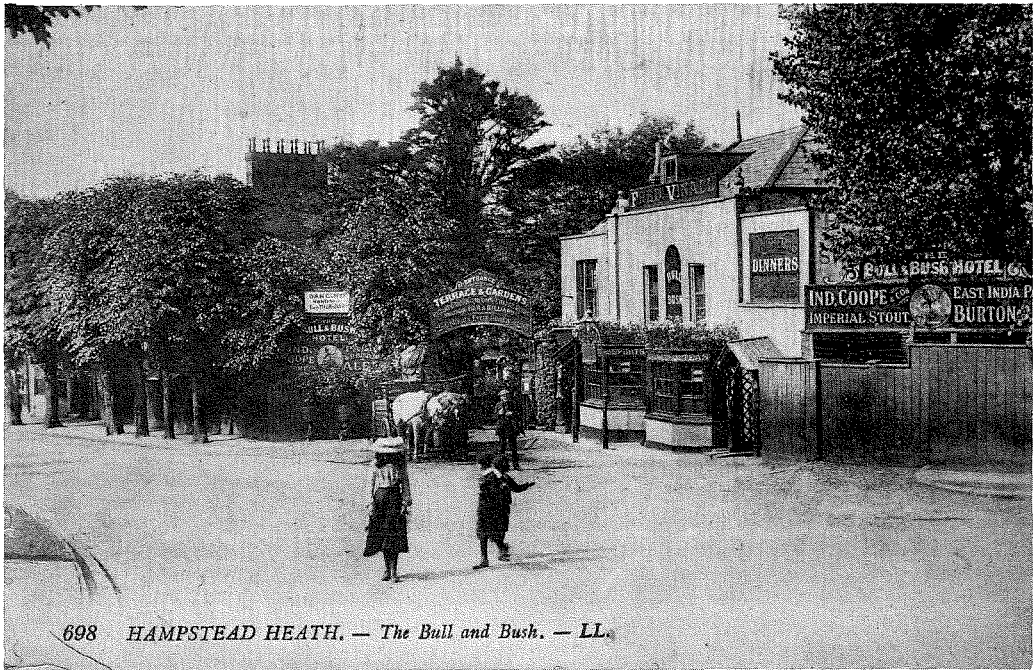
16 March - Lecture, "Recent excavations at Ardleigh Castle, Essex", by P.L. Drewett, BA, Assistant Inspector of Ancient Monuments, Department of the Environment, Bishopsgate Institute, 6.30 pm.

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

Some Camden Postcards





698 HAMPSTEAD HEATH. — The Bull and Bush. — LL.



722 HAMPSTEAD. — Rosslyn Hill. — LL.



10491

Town Hall.

Hampstead.

newsletter

No 17

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

MAR 1973

Forthcoming Events

We have four events in the near future. Shortly after Peter Knowles-Brown's lecture on 29 March on 'The Life of a Hampstead Shopkeeper from 1891', we have Horace Shooter's lecture on the history of Nonconformist Chapels of Hampstead on Tuesday, 3 April. Mr Shooter has, with a lot of original research, made this subject his speciality. For this event we are guests of the Rosslyn Hill Chapel.

Later, in the week of the Annual General Meeting, on Friday, 18 May, Mrs Lena Jeger, MP, will speak on 'Bloomsbury - The Beginning and the Future'. This will be at 7.30pm at the Holborn Library Hall, 32-38 Theobald's Road, WC1. Members will then be able to see an exhibition of items kindly loaned by the Departments of Planning and Communications, and Libraries and Arts. Refreshments will be served after the lecture.

Harry Llewellyn Gordon

The programme of the Society's events for the coming year is enclosed with this Newsletter. Additional events and more news on existing ones will come through the Newsletter. The first additional event will be an exhibition of more than thirty Paintings and Drawings of Camden, by Harry Llewellyn Gordon in the Lending Library at Swiss Cottage for three weeks from 14 April.

Peter Carey, Camden's Visual Arts Manager, who is kindly arranging the exhibition for us, says that Harry Gordon has lived and worked in Camden Town and Swiss Cottage and his drawings include the pubs, streets, music halls, theatres and markets of the borough.



Hampstead Village at the turn of this century - the scene for the talk by Peter Knowles-Brown on March 29th.

Annual General Meeting

In keeping with the practice of the past two years, we shall again hold our Annual General Meeting in one of the borough's many interesting buildings, this time at Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, NW1. It is on 14 May. The business meeting will commence at 6.30pm and refreshments will be available immediately afterwards. The Director at Cecil Sharp House, Mr S.A. Matthews, will give a talk on the history of the House and of the English Folk Dance and Song Society. This will start at about 7.30pm.

Cecil Sharp House is a few minutes' walk along Parkway from Camden Town tube station. We hope that members will make a special effort to attend.

Nominations, signed by two members, for the election of officers should be sent to the Secretary at St Pancras Library, 100 Euston Road, NW1. May we remind members that the offices are: President (Sir John Wolfenden), Vice-Presidents (Sir Colin Anderson, Sir John Betjeman, Sir James Brown), Chairman (John Richardson), Treasurer (Wilfrid Meadows), Secretary (G.D. Gregory), Assistant Secretary (Coral Howells), Archivist (Christina Gee), Publications Secretary (Christopher Wade). Other members of the Council at present are Charles Lee, John Parkhurst, Leslie Newman, Mrs G. Gosling, Mrs Jan Burt, Miss J. Harmston, Malcolm Holmes, E.G. Brassington, Mrs J. Ramsay, Miss V. Morris and H. Shooter.

MEMBERSHIP

The membership of the Society now stands at 360.

SOCIAL HISTORY GROUP

This Group is now concentrating on arrangements for its one-day symposium on Saturday, 30 June, called 'Edwardian Camden'. Subjects will include Theatres, Women's Suffrage, Pubs and Hospitals.

The Group meets next on 30 April at 7pm in the Meetings Room, Swiss Cottage Library.

Camden History Review

Our first Camden History Review is now at the printers and, all being well, we hope to publish at the end of April. If the response is encouraging, we intend to publish a new Review every year.

The first issue is written almost entirely by our own members. It includes a number of talks given at our Archaeological and Social History Symposia, together with special features commemorating the Society's activities in the past year.

Among the subjects covered are:

Sir John Betjeman's poem 'Parliament Hill Fields' as a piece of local history
Industrial Archaeology in Camden
The Baroness Burdett-Coutts in Highgate
Constable's Hampstead
The Woodehouse Journal of old St Pancras
Trade in Nineteenth Century Highgate
The Piano Making Industry in Camden

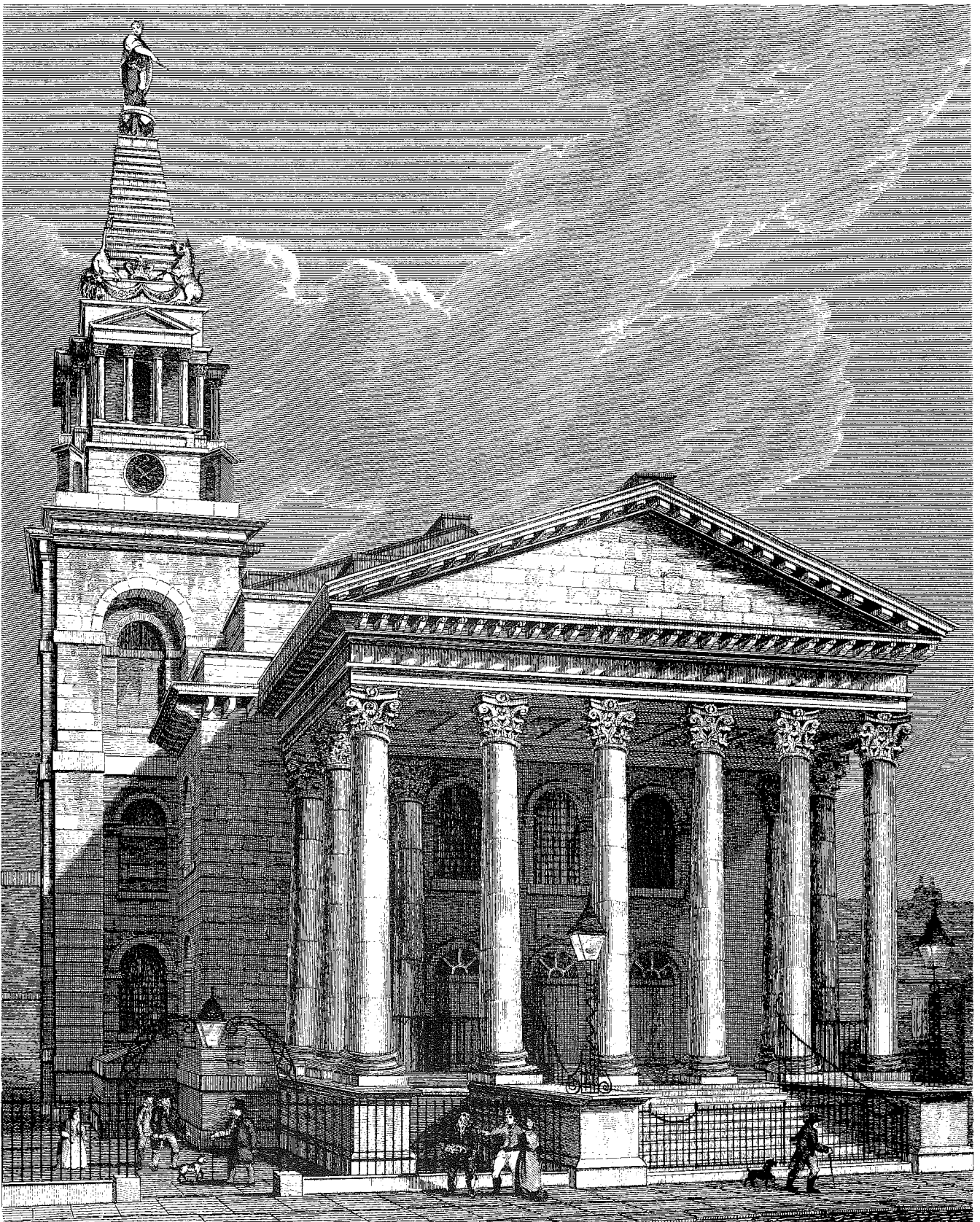
There is also a reference section including a chronology of early maps of Hampstead.

The contributors include David Brinklow, Richard Franklin, Christina Gee, Coral Howells, Leslie Newman and Elizabeth Read.

The Review is being handsomely produced on art paper with a large number of illustrations, including old prints of Downshire Hill, the Round House, Field Lane and other parts of Holborn.

You will find an order form enclosed with this Newsletter, which offers the Review to CHS members at a special pre-publication price. Remaining copies will be sold to the public at 75p. Please send your order in as soon as possible and also tell your friends about this new publication. We need the support of a fairly large readership to make this new venture worthwhile.

STOP PRESS NEWS: Members will be pleased to learn that Camden Council has generously granted us £100 to help launch this publication.



Drawn by Shepherd & Engraved by W. Wise for the Architectural Series of London Churches.

ST GEORGE'S BLOOMSBURY,

Is Situated on the North of Hart Street and W. of Bloomsbury Sq.^{re} is one of the fifty new Churches was built by Mr. Hawksmoor and Consecrated 1731.—The general effect of this Church both Exterior and Interior is Elegant, although some Critics may disapprove of parts.—This Parish was taken from St. Giles in the fields by an act of Parliament 1730 and dedicated to St. George in honour of George I.

Rev.^d Tho.^s Willis C.L. Rector. 1791 succeeded the Rev.^d Charles Tarrant D.D.

Hawksmoor in Holborn

One of the finest of Nicholas Hawksmoor's churches, St. George's, Bloomsbury Way has been closed since the middle of 1972 by a Dangerous Structures Notice served by Camden Borough Council. It was considered that the wooden roof trusses put in by Hawksmoor were coming apart and that the ceiling and part of the roof were in imminent danger of collapse.

Repairs are in progress and the church is expected to open again in June.

The parish of St. George, Bloomsbury was formed out of the parish of St. Giles-in-the-Fields in 1724 and was one of the fifty new churches for London proposed by Queen Anne's Commissioners. The architect was Nicholas Hawksmoor, Surveyor General of Westminster and a former assistant and pupil of Sir Christopher Wren; he had worked under Wren during the whole of the building of St. Paul's Cathedral.

Land was purchased from Lady Rachel Russell and the Duchess of Bedford for a sum of £1,000 and the church was consecrated in 1730 having cost £9,793 to build.

The tower followed almost precisely the proportions and measurements of the tomb of Mausolus, erected at Halicarnassus in 353 BC, but with the substitution of a statue of George I surmounting the stepped pyramid. The statue, presented by William Hucks, a local brewer, caused so much contemporary mocking that variations of the following rhyme had wide circulations:

"When Henry the Eighth left
the Pope in the lurch
The Protestants made him
the head of the Church;
But George's good subjects,
the Bloomsbury people,
Instead of the Church, made
him head of the steeple."

St. George's is the distinctive church tower depicted in the background in Hogarth's caricature "Gin Lane" set in the squalid slums of the nearby St. Giles' Rookery.

Help is urgently needed to preserve this building. The cost of repairs is expected to exceed £15,000 and any contributions will be gratefully accepted by the Rector, The Reverend Prebendary Henry Cooper, The Rectory, 6 Gower Street, London, WC1E 6DP. Telephone 01-636-5572.

Malcolm Holmes

An attractive 1799 colour print of the church forms part of a set of reproductions "Eight views of Camden in colour 1799-1850" Published by the London Borough of Camden and available from any Camden Library price £2.

Anniversaries 1973

For local anniversary hunters in 1973, there is a rich yield in the Writers and Artists year book. One of the most venerable of all is SIR RICHARD WHITTINGTON, who "turned again" on Highgate Hill; he died in March 1423. 400 years later died the eminent lawyer and wit, LORD ERSKINE, who successfully defended Lord George Gordon. In 1788 he came to live in a spacious house on the Heath, of which the present Erskine House is only a smaller survival.

A later public figure was that benevolent pioneer of life assurance for workers SIR HENRY HARBEN, who became the first Mayor of Hampstead (in 1900) and incidentally presented to that borough its first Central library building; born in 1823, he achieved "DNB" status.

The Hon John Collier's striking portrait of SIR GERALD DU MAURIER, "The Producer", presented to Hampstead in 1934 and familiar to countless visitors to the old Town Hall, reminds us of the close association with Hampstead of the three generations of Du Mauriers living successively in Church Row, New Grove House and Cannon Hall. First the inimitable artist and novelist George du Maurier; then his son Sir Gerald who occupied Cannon Hall from 1916 until his death in 1934; and later his grand-daughters who are among our most distinguished contemporary writers.

Statistically indeed, literary anniversaries have pride of place in this year's collection. Well-known titles published fifty years ago include books by John Masefield, John Drinkwater, James Elroy Flecker, David Garnett, Aldous Huxley and D.H. Lawrence (all resident in Hampstead at some time). Lawrence's friend KATHERINE MANSFIELD, soon after her marriage in 1918 to John Middleton Murry, came to live at 17 East Heath Road. Two years later ill-health compelled her to move to Italy where she died in January 1923. Another well-known member of the literary circles of the time was the distinguished critic A. R. ORAGE. As editor of The New Age and later of New English Weekly, he exercised much influence on the writers of his time until his death in 1934. (Born in January 1873, he lived for some time at Bryan House, The Mount, Heath Street.)

From the last century came the poet COVENTRY PATMORE (born in 1823 and resident from 1861 briefly at Elm Cottage, North End); and the publisher CHARLES KNIGHT who is not to be overlooked among the abundance of successful and mainly enlightened nineteenth century Hampstead publishers which are interestingly described by Professor Hales in the Hampstead Annual of 1904-5. Knight's Penny Cyclopaedia was a brave enterprise in popular culture, although it lost him a lot of money. He lived from 1830-1835 at houses in the Vale of Health, Finchley Road, Carlton Villas and Eldon Road, and he died in March 1873.

Maybe we should not have left until the last the only 'non-resident' worth mentioning. SIR THOMAS WROTH (1516 to 1573) was the first Lord of the Manor of Hampstead - no less! All in all, then, not a bad haul for the local anniversary-collector!

L. B. Saunders

The Streets of Hampstead

A number of people have written in to Christopher Wade, the compiler of our book The Streets of Hampstead, with their own memories of the area. We shall be printing excerpts from their letters in the next few Newsletters, beginning with this issue.

Those members who are well enough informed to know how to get Radio London on their sets may have heard a feature on the publication recently.

CHS member Mrs. B. M. M. Tree writes from Gosport:

My mother was born at 88 Heath Street which, with nos. 86 and 90, formed Claremont Terrace. My great-uncle was offered the lease of the three houses for £250 but he didn't take the trouble! His father had the houses built on allotments with a stream at the end (a tributary of the Fleet, now underground). Has anyone felt, seen or heard there the ghost of my great-aunt, Mrs. James Whittingstall Bean? I did. She died in 1922. There was a ghost also at no. 4 North End, which we let to the Keowns (sub-editor of Punch before the war). I wonder if it could be connected with the gibbet, not far up the road. My great-grandmother saw a man tarred and hanging in chains from that tree.

I went to school at St. Margaret's, Oak Hill Park, with Angela and Daphne du Maurier and my cousin Patrick Evans was the original 'Little Billee' in Trilby, both on stage and drawn in the book by George du Maurier. The Vicar's Warden's staff at the Parish Church has engraved on it 'William Mallard 1820'. He was one of my ancestors (born 1783). My great-uncle Mortimer Evans founded the Constitutional Club at Romney's studio. I still have a table napkin from there, original markings. I spoke to Ramsay MacDonald about letting his dog run loose by the Whitestone Pond and nearly causing an accident. I remember the forge in Heath Street in working order when I used to go to the Priory School (I am now nearly 70).

At Collins Farm, owned or rented by my great-great-aunt Collins, my great-aunt as a child spent Christmas when Dickens stayed there. The Collins family originally were connected with the Clan Connell and were with the second 'flight of the Wild Geese' from Ulster. Later they married into the Mallard family of Hampstead.

OTHER SOCIETIES

St Pancras Antiquarian Society visits St Paul's Cathedral on Friday, 13 April for the City of London Annual United Service at 11.30am. A permit to attend can be obtained by sending a stamped, addressed envelope to the Secretary, Mr E. G. Brassington, 2 Stonegate, St Silas Place, NW5. The Society also visits Bath on Saturday, 28 April, coach fare £1.50.

The Hampstead Branch of the National Trust has a number of London, country and garden visits in its spring and summer programme. Write to Mrs E. Maude, 5 Downshire Hill, NW3 for membership details.

The London and Middlesex Archaeological Society has a coach visit to Allington Castle and Aylesford Priory (The Friars) on 14 April. Application for tickets (£1.35) and further details from Mr F. J. Froom, 7 Henry's Avenue, Woodford Green, Essex.

RESCUE

Your Council is urgently considering the most effective way of bringing together again members interested in archaeology into an active group. We hope to give further news in the next Newsletter. In the meantime members may like to hear of an interesting symposium organised by the Rescue Fighting Fund at the London School of Economics, Houghton Street, WC2 on Saturday, 7 April. There will be papers by Philip Rhazt (University of Birmingham), Dr John Alexander (University of London), Chris Musson (Rescue Archaeology Group), Martin Biddle (Chairman, Rescue), and others. Tickets £2.00 are available from Mr B. J. Philip, West Kent Archaeological Group, 5 Harvest Bank Road, West Wickham, Kent.

OLD CAMDEN POSTCARDS

We have received a number of letters welcoming the reproduction of old Camden postcards in the last Newsletter. Members will be interested to learn that an exhibition is planned at a later date of this now neglected form of illustration. In the meantime the Secretary would be glad to hear from any members who have old postcards and perhaps they would contact him with details.

AN INDEX-IN

The Society's Archivist, Mrs Christina Gee, invites anyone interested in helping catalogue a large collection of London Transport photographs (c1904) to join her in an Index-in on Thursday, 5 April from 6.30 to 9pm. It will be in the Meetings Room at Swiss Cottage Library. The areas covered by the photographs include Kentish Town, Camden Town, Hampstead Road, Chalk Farm and Tottenham Court Road. Coffee and biscuits will be served. Please let Mrs Gee (278 4444 ext 3140) know if you are coming.

THE ANNALS OF HAMPSTEAD

Enclosed with this Newsletter is a copy of a review of the reprint edition of Barratt's Annals of Hampstead. It is by Gillian Tindall, one of our members, and was originally published in New Society.

We thought it would be interesting to record just how the republication of the Annals came about.

The publishers are Lionel Leventhal Ltd who moved from Childs Hill to Hampstead in 1971. Their main imprint, Arms and Armour Press, publish books for collectors and students, including facsimile reprints of out-of-print books.

The original suggestion to reprint Barratt came from Mrs Gee, Camden's Archivist. Mr Leventhal was looking for the best old book on Hampstead to reprint as a way of celebrating his move into Hampstead and, despite the magnitude of reprinting a work of such bulk, he went ahead. After advance orders had been taken from members of this Society (which was associated with the project) and from the Heath and Old Hampstead Society, the book was published in eight months.

By the time of the publication party at Burgh House, attended by the Mayor of Camden, all the subscribers' edition had been sold. A number of the standard limited edition of 350 sets are still available and a prospectus may be obtained from Lionel Leventhal Ltd, 2-6 Hampstead High Street, NW3.

Currently Mr Leventhal is looking ahead to reprinting later this year the classic study of Highgate by John H. Lloyd.

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No 18

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

MAY 1973

The Edwardian Camden Symposium

This event, arranged by the Society's Social History and Photographic Indexing Groups, is on Saturday 30 June at Burgh House, starting at 2.45pm and ending at 7.00pm.

The programme will include the following papers:

Life and Work of Kate Greenaway

Some Hampstead Pubs

Transport in Edwardian Camden and its influence on the Social Scene

The Omega Workshop in Fitzroy Square - A Bloomsbury Group enterprise in Decorative Art

Hampstead Musical and Music Hall
Hampstead

All Hallows, Gospel Oak - the Church and its Congregation.

Also of interest will be an account of the history of Burgh House and the display of photographs and other items of the period.

The fee of £1 includes tea. Would members wishing to come please return the enclosed for as soon as possible.

Joanna Baillie and her Circle

Our joint event in June with the Hampstead Branch of the National Trust will revive the memory of a lady whom Wordsworth regarded as "the model of an English Gentlewoman" and whom Sir Walter Scott thought was the best dramatic writer Britain had produced since Shakespeare. This lady was Miss Joanna Baillie, a Scotswoman who came to live in Hampstead in the early 1790's and remained there until her death in 1851. Between 1798 and 1836 Miss Baillie wrote a series

of Plays on the Passions, the most famous of which was De Monfort, played in 1800 at the Drury Lane Theatre with Mrs Siddons and J.P. Kemble in the leading roles, and revived in 1820 by Edmund Kean. She was also a poet and some of her songs were set to music by Sir Henry Bishop. An edition of her Collected Works appeared in 1851, "My great monster book" as she called it.

What is perhaps most interesting to us now is Joanna Baillie's brilliant circle of friends, who included Sir Walter Scott, Mrs Barbauld, Wordsworth and Southey, Maria Edgeworth, Mrs Siddons and William Wilberforce. All these visited her at Bolton House, her home in Hampstead. Miss Baillie died at the age of 88; she is buried in Hampstead parish churchyard.

Our commemorative event will take the form of an Exhibition and a Soiree.

The Exhibition will be on June 2nd and 3rd, 2.15-6.00pm at Bolton House, Windmill Hill, N.W.3. Entrance is 20p. There will be further items at Fenton House on the same days. The Soiree, with music and readings from the works of Joanna Baillie and her contemporaries, plus buffet supper and wine, will be on

June 3rd at 7.45pm at Fenton House. Entrance by ticket only costs £3. (Proceeds are in aid of Fenton House). Please apply to the Hon. Mrs Fred. Uhlman, 47 Downshire Hill, N.W.3.

SOCIAL HISTORY GROUP

The next meeting of the Group will be on June 4th at 7pm in the Meetings' Room at Swiss Cottage Library

The Summer Outing

The summer coach outing has been arranged this year to visit in rural Buckinghamshire places associated with Camden personalities.

Leaving Hampstead (Rosslyn Hill, opposite Rosslyn Chapel) at 10am we shall first visit Chenies, to see the splendid Bedford Chapel. We shall stop in Ashridge Park for a picnic lunch, continuing by Ivinghoe Beacon and the Vale of Aylesbury to Claydon House, built in the 18th century by the 2nd Earl of Verney. There are some magnificent rooms, including Florence Nightingale's bedroom and museum. We shall have tea at Claydon.

After tea we shall move on to Hughenden Manor near High Wycombe where Benjamin Disraeli lived from 1847 to his death in 1881

We expect to be back in London by 7.30pm.

The cost of the trip will be £1.50, including coach, tea and tips. Members who are not also members of the National Trust will need a further 55p for admission charges on the day. Please bring a packed lunch. Please return the slip enclosed with this Newsletter together with £1.50 per person.

A BARRATT MYSTERY

Mr L.B. Saunders, the Reference Librarian at Swiss Cottage has written to ask if Barratt, the eminent author of the Hampstead 'Annals' stayed unmarried as stated by Gillian Tindall in her recent review of the reprint of his famous book.

This, he contends, is not borne out by the two extracts from the Hampstead and Highgate Express quoted below:

March 15, 1890: "Our neighbours Mr and Mrs Barratt of Bellmoor, celebrated their silver wedding on Tuesday evening when they entertained a large party of friends."

January 14th 1928: Obituary. Mrs Florence Barratt died last Saturday morning at her residence at Bellmoor

Archaeology in Camden

Spectacular finds such as those at Dover last year and a growing appreciation of the value of physical evidence from the past to complement written records, have led to a surge of interest in urban archaeology. The speed and finality of modern urban development serve to emphasise the urgency of the need for informed archaeological interest and action in good time.

There is a growing list of local authorities who have appointed a professional archaeologist in the museum or planning department, to undertake or supervise the work. Even if this were to happen in Camden, the Camden History Society could still make a useful contribution. Until then we have a vital role to play.

A glance at the membership enrolment forms shows that archaeology is the most frequently listed subject interest. Your council is now anxious to establish in more detail the nature of this interest, with a view to re-forming an archaeology group as soon as possible. Miss Cherry Lavell, already known to members as compiler of a booklist on local history, has prepared a questionnaire to elicit this information. David Brinklow a young, professional archaeologist, has kindly agreed to analyse members' replies and we hope that all those interested will complete the forms and return them to him as soon as possible.

OTHER SOCIETIES

The National Trust - Hampstead Centre
Visits to Bath, Prior House and Dyrham Park, 30 June

Visit to Luton Hoo and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds HQ, on July 14th

Further details from the Hon. Mrs Fred. Uhlman, 47 Downshire Hill, N.W.3.

London and Middlesex Archaeological Society

Visit to Cirencester 23 June.
Details from Mr F.J. Froom, 7, Henry's Avenue, Woodford Green, Essex

The Annual Meeting

The Chairman's Address:

One thing hasn't changed and that is that this is the most pleasant society of which I've been Chairman!

After three years we are able to look back with a certain amount of perspective.

Firstly the Society owes much to co-operation from the London Borough of Camden. They have always been generous when we have asked for funds for particular projects, but more important, the help we get from their staff, which of course includes our own Secretary Mr Gregory, is invaluable.

We aimed to stimulate interest in the history of the borough and without doubt this has happened, although it is difficult to say if we could have done it better.

Most people are interested in their neighbourhood's past, like to see old prints and pictures, like to re-collect childhood, and get a great deal of pleasure from identifying themselves with an area. It is an odd thing, then, that the Archive Service of Camden is really not equipped in funds and manpower to exploit the situation. By that I mean that not only should they provide material for the scholars, and they do this very well, but they should have the time and resources to bring in the man from the street.

This sort of work the Society aims to do and if we have shortcomings, and we have, there are still some in this particular field, mainly from the same reason as the Archive Department - lack of personnel.

In terms of membership and funds we have been successful. We are one of the largest local history societies in this country. We have built up funds so that we can publish material, but I don't want you to be misled about the financial situation. Printing costs a lot of money and the amount of material to be published is vast. Most publications would not make money and we have been fortunate to have a profitable beginning.

Research has tended to be a personal rather than a co-operative thing. If this is a situation which cannot be altered - certainly I would find it difficult myself to jointly research - then perhaps we ought to have informal society get-togethers at which we just gossip local history. We don't have time to do this at council meetings and we fall into the trap of so many voluntary organisations - we don't have time to talk about the subject we are trying to interest others in.

We mentioned last year that no progress had been made by the Borough Council in providing an Archives Centre. I have to report that still no progress has been made and that Lauderdale House is still empty and sad. Lauderdale is not an ideal location anyway and there are rumours that St John's Mews may be made suitable for our purpose.

The Social History Group has done well this year. They have kept together, entertained us for a day, and another to come, and retained their enthusiasm.

The Street History Group has moved south to Belsize and another one is working on the very difficult area of Highgate Village which is in three boroughs and cannot be divided up.

Photographs are still being catalogued and many members are working on private projects. We hope to make our delayed start on our Domesday Photographic Survey of Camden soon before too many more buildings fall to dust. Also we hope to revive the Archaeology Group soon.

Mr Lionel Levanthal, who published jointly with the Society the reprint of Barratts Annals of Hampstead, has given the Society a sum of money to be used for historical purposes. Your council proposes to institute an essay prize, matching Mr Levanthal's gift with our own money. Details of this will be announced later.

John Richardson

West Kentish Town Exhibition

Mrs Joan Walton, Branch Librarian of Athlone Street, N.W.5., has put together a small exhibition on the theme of the history of the area as part of the local Neighbourhood Festival. It can be seen during normal opening hours up to June 2.

Items on display include photographs, prints, maps, and newspaper cuttings and Miss Walton's aim has been to depict the changing scene over the past 150 years

Well worth a visit.

KATHERINE MANSFIELD IN HAMPSTEAD

When Katherine Mansfield first learned that she had consumption she wrote to her friend 'L.M.': "A sanatorium would kill me...I am to try a cure at home e.g. Hampstead." The Consumptive Hospital at Mount Vernon was already famous. In 1918, soon after she married the critic Middleton Murry, they moved into no.17 East Heath Road, a tall grey house which they nicknamed 'The Elephant'. For a short time they enjoyed a literary life in Hampstead with visits from Virginia Woolf and Walter de la Mare and meetings with D.H. Lawrence who was then staying in Holly Mount.

During this period, Katherine wrote several short stories, e.g. 'Suburban Fairy Tale', and she achieved new fame with the publication of 'Bliss'. But the Hampstead winters were too severe for her and in the autumn of 1919 she went abroad in search of sunshine. In September 1920 she moved to Menton and this was the end of her Hampstead association apart from a brief stay at a Pond Street flat in August 1922. She died the following year, exactly 50 years ago.

The East Heath Road house now bears a blue plaque to Katherine Mansfield (1888-1923) and Middleton Murry (1889-1957). The house is not featured in the current television series, perhaps because it is no longer grey. It is, in fact, nearer to being a pink elephant.

Christopher Wade.

St Pancras Anniversaries

The Midland Grand Hotel

May 5th saw the centenary of that imposing neo-Gothic palace fronting Euston Road. This was the date when guests walked through the doors to be greeted by a magnificence not to be seen in any other of the capital's hotels. It was a typically Victorian extravagance. Members of the Architectural Association hailed it as being 'too loud' in some places, even by contemporary standards. The opinion overall, however, was that

was favourable, the furnishings and 'the coloured ceiling decorations to some of the best bedrooms executed from Sir Gilbert Scott's own designs' being particularly commended.

Alexandra Theatre, Camden Town

The theatre which was opened on May 31st 1873, was situated in Park Street, (now Parkway), Camden Town. Its first productions were the operetta 'Marguerite' and a new drama by Robert Reece entitled 'Friendship'. The life of the Royal Alexandra was brief, for it was destroyed by fire in 1881. It rose phoenix-like in 1890, this time as the Royal Park Theatre. Later, the Royal Park Hall was erected there at the turn of the century and then it was turned into a workshop and cabinet factory.

The Streets of Hampstead

Mrs W. D. Pitt of Ashford, Kent, recalls some residents of Frogna Gardens:

W. J. H. Brodrick, who was a well-known London magistrate, lived at no. 12, Alice Delysia, the actress, at no. 7 I think, Lord Pentland, Viceroy of India, at no. 18, Elizabeth Bergner, the actress, also at no. 18 and lastly my father, Henry V. Ashley, who was a noted architect. He designed and built no. 20 in the 1920s and lived in the house until his death in 1945. My father's most notable work was Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, WC, the design for which he won in an architectural competition. He was responsible for several buildings in Hampstead, including the Columbarium in the Parish Church burial ground and I hope this is being kept in good order.

newsletter

No. 19

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

AUG 1973

Visit to British Museum Map Room

Would members interested in the visit to the British Museum Map Room on 8 September please ask the Secretary for a ticket before 28 August

A special exhibition will be prepared for the CHS party, and Dr Helen Wallis, Superintendent of the Map Room, will talk to us. The foundation collections and many of the libraries subsequently acquired by the British Museum are rich in maps. The Copyright Act of 1911 has ensured that the Museum has acquired a copy of all maps published in the United Kingdom since that date. The Museum is therefore the national repository of British map production, past and present.

This party will be limited to 40 and you are advised to apply as soon as possible for a ticket, if you want to come.

Archaeological Group

David Brinklow thanks those members who have replied to the questionnaire issued with the last Newsletter. He hopes to write to everyone soon and to call a meeting in September. We are fortunate to have as a member Miss Cherry Lavell, of the Council for British Archaeology, whom we hope to persuade to talk at the first meeting and to show some Rescue slides.

PAY UP!

Mr Meadows reports that several members have not yet paid their subscription for the current year. Full membership is still only £1.00, joint (husband and wife) membership £1.50, associate membership (for schools and other organisations) £2.00. Students and pensioners may pay at a reduced rate of 50p. It will greatly help Mr Meadows if anyone who has not renewed his membership will do so promptly.

The Campaign for an Archaeologist

Members may have read in the press that we are urging Camden Council to appoint a professional Archaeologist. This coincides with other approaches being made to the London boroughs by the London Museum and the Department of the Environment.

Our view is that in the next ten years, with so much redevelopment happening - in Holborn and South St Pancras - that important archaeological evidence will be lost because of present day construction methods. Both of these areas were important 'service' communities to the City of London, but we know very little about very early developments.

We feel that only a professional archaeologist, within the Planning Department, will have the necessary knowledge and authority to plan investigations that avoid last-minute operations and prevent delays on demolition or construction.

We are hopeful that Camden will be sympathetic to the proposal and that we, as a society, will be able to offer a great deal of knowledge and voluntary help if a person is appointed.

Essay Prize

Mr Lionel Leventhal, publisher of the reprint of Barratt's Annals, has kindly donated 25 guineas to the Society in appreciation of our help with the project. We are now consulting Head Teachers to decide how the money can best be used as an essay or project prize for school children. The summer holidays may delay a decision for a while. Members who have ideas on the subject are asked to write to the Secretary.

Thos. Barratt - the last word

Mrs Gee, our Hon. Archivist, writes:

"Re the query in the Newsletter regarding Thomas J. Barratt's marital state, I have now acquired his marriage certificate: On March 11 1865 Thomas James Barratt married Mary Frances Pears, both being of full age and neither having been married before. Their address is given as Malden Road and his profession as 'Perfumer'. The witnesses were Francis Pears (bride's father) and Andrew Pears. They were married at St. Pancras Church by E.P. Cachemaille.

Barratt became Chairman of Pears Soap. I have no idea yet as to who Mrs Florence Barratt was - she may have been his son's wife - always supposing he had a son."

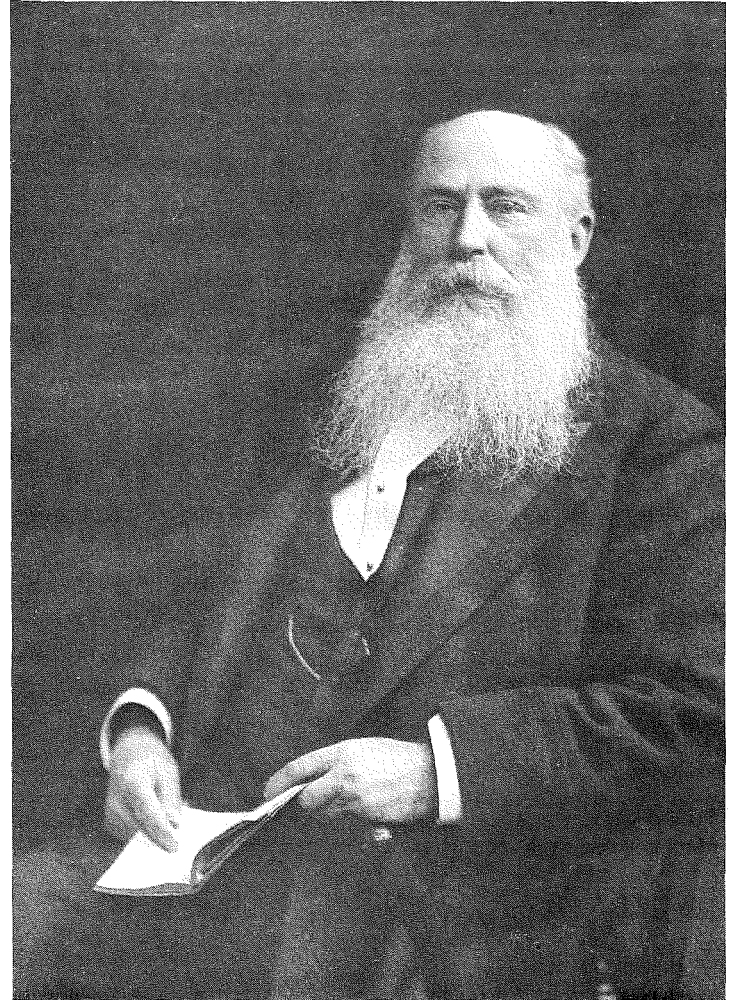
Mr Hugh Curtis writes:

"I have a copy of 'Records of the Manor Parish and Borough of Hampstead' by F.E. Baines, published in 1890, and on the flysheet there is a dedication which reads as follows:- 'The Misses James, with Mr and Mrs Barratt's kind regards, 24th June 1890'. When I compared the signature with that in my signed copies of Barratt's 'Hampstead Annals', I was convinced that the writing was exactly the same, and I contacted Mr. Saunders in order to show the page to him. He is also convinced that the dedication is in Mr. Barratt's handwriting and he has taken a photostat copy.

I think that this information is a further small confirmation that Mr. Barratt was married and that Gillian Tindall was mistaken."

AN INVITATION

The Railway and Canal Historical Society have written to invite CHS members to a lecture entitled: Road transport and its relevance to waterway and railway history at the Science Museum on Saturday, 6 October at 17.30 hours. Admission is free by ticket available from Mr A.C.F. Hadfield, 93 Kempe Road, London, NW6.



Thomas Barratt

THE SUMMER OUTING

Our excuse for a drive through Buckinghamshire on 21 July was to follow up three Camden connections - the Russells - we were afforded a rare opportunity of visiting the Bedford Chapel at Chenies, thought to contain the finest collection of monuments in one place in the country. Then Florence Nightingale who lived at one time at Highgate and also spent much time with her sister at Claydon House, still set in rural, lush countryside and containing many interesting relics of Florence Nightingale. Our itinerary then took us south, through Aylesbury, past Chequers and the Hampden country to Hughenden Manor, Disraeli's home from 1848 until his death in 1881. Disraeli was, of course, born in 1804 in Holborn, not far from the Theobald's Road Library. A busy day - and we also managed to fit in a picnic lunch break at Ashridge. Mr Meadows succeeded in shepherding us happily through the day without giving us an impression of split-second timing which was, in fact, involved.

17th Century Highgate - the October Events

As members will know there is already a Highgate Street History Group in existence. Its task is a complex one because Highgate straddles so many borough and parish borders, but the intention is to treat Highgate as an entity and disregard the fact that only part of it is in Camden.

As a forerunner to the publication the Society, together with the Highgate Literary and Scientific Institution and the Highgate Society, are presenting a talk and exhibition on 17th century Highgate.

The talk, by Mrs Gwyneth Gosling, the Librarian of the HLSI, is on Tuesday, 9th October at the Institute at 8 pm. The Exhibition, arranged by the Highgate Society, is in the Society's premises next door to the Institute. The hours of opening are as follows:

9th Oct	Preview of Exhibition after Mrs Gosling's talk.
10th Oct	2.00 pm - 6.00 pm
11th Oct	6.00 pm - 9.00 pm
12th Oct	6.00 pm - 9.00 pm
13th Oct	10.30 am - 12 noon 3.00 pm - 9.00 pm

CAMDEN HISTORY REVIEW

Publications Secretary writes:

I very much regret the delay in publishing our first Review.

I spent some of my pre-Easter holiday tramping to telephone booths to enquire if copies were rolling off the press. The answers then - and for the next three months - were negative but optimistic. The promise now, as ever, is for 'early next month'. I can only say to all our kind advance subscribers that they will receive their copies before anyone else, and to other prospective readers I must declare that I think the Review will be well worth waiting for.

C. W.

The Streets of Hampstead

Here is another of the interesting letters received by Christopher Wade, the compiler of our book The Streets of Hampstead. It is from F. J. Cridlan of Oak Tree House, Redington Gardens:

I am writing to tell you a little of the story of this house, which is better known than many thanks to the book Recollections of my Life by Henry Holiday, published by Heinemann, 1914. He was born in June 1839 and is quite well-known as a painter but so far more successfully as a cartoonist for stained-glass windows, which are in many states of America and in many churches in this country, including one in Westminster Abbey to the memory of Brunel.

He was a Pre-Raphaelite and a friend of Burne Jones, who was one of many artist visitors to this house. His daughter Winifred was a musician and the first performance in England of Schubert's Octet in F for strings took place here.

He had trouble in getting glass made with the traditional colours that were available on the Continent, and in 1890 he entered the trade by opening his own glass-works in Church Row in the house of Mr Gardner, an architect.

Like others in your book, he knew Basil Champneys, who built this house when he got the chance of leasing some land from the Branch Hill Estate. He moved into it in March 1874 and later obtained the freehold. I am only the fourth owner of it.

When built the house could only be approached through Heysham Lane or Branch Hill and the farms mentioned in your book lay to the west of it. I have a photograph taken early this century which still shows a football pitch and a haystack on this ground. When Redington Gardens was built the entrance was moved to give access from that road.

Holiday was a Liberal in politics and he was a supporter of the non-militant suffragettes. Amongst many interesting visitors to the house other than the Pre-Raphaelite artists were Lewis Carroll,

for whom Holiday illustrated The Hunting of the Snark, Lady Swinburne, mother of the poet, Gladstone, Asquith, Lord Haldane, Sylvia Pankhurst and almost certainly Mr and Mrs Sidney Webb.

Holiday's best known painting hangs in the Walker Art Gallery and shows Dante being cut by Beatrice as she walks past him near the Ponte Vecchio in Florence. Holiday died in 1927.

Camden Maps

Members will be interested to know that Miss Beverley Monchar is preparing a list of Camden maps. This will be published by the Libraries and Arts Department about the end of the year. In the meantime, the British Museum's Select list of works on the history of cartography may be an interesting preparation for our visit in September:

GENERAL

BAGROW, Leo History of Cartography. Revised by R. A. Skelton. London: Watts, 1964. (Reprinted, with corrections, 1966)

CRONE, G. R. Maps and their Makers. Fourth (revised) edition. London: Hutchinson, 1968

SKELTON, R. A. Decorative Printed Maps of the 15th to 18th Centuries. London: Staples Press, 1952. (Reprinted by Spring Books, 1965)

SKELTON, R. A. Explorers' Maps. London: Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1958. (Reprinted by Spring Books, 1970)

TOOLEY, R. V. Maps and Map-Makers. Fourth edition. London: B. T. Batsford, 1970

GREAT BRITAIN

CRONE, G. R., CAMPBELL, E. M. J. and SKELTON, R. A. "Landmarks in British Cartography". In Geographical Journal vol. CXXVII (1962), pp. 406-30. (Available as an offprint)

LYNAM, Edward The Map-Maker's Art. London: Batchworth Press, 1953

LYNAM, Edward British Maps and Map-Makers. London: William Collins, 1944

STANDING CONFERENCE FOR LOCAL HISTORY. The Historian's Guide to Ordnance Survey Maps. Reprinted from 'The Amateur Historian' with additional material. London: Published for The Standing Conference for Local History by the National Council of Social Service. 1965. Papers by J. B. Harley and C. W. Phillips

THE NATIONAL TRUST

To tempt you to join the National Trust as well, here is some news of forthcoming events arranged by the Hampstead Centre -

22 August

Visit to Hall Place Garden and Danson Park, Bexley. Apply to Mrs G. Weeks, 18 Keats Grove, NW3.

26 August

Countrywalk from Rickmansworth to Northwood. Details from Miss Molly Dyer, 38 Southwood Park, Southwood Lawn Road, N6.

14-16 September

Norfolk weekend, based on University of East Anglia. Details from Mrs F. Uhlman, 47 Downshire Hill, NW3.

29 September

Visit to Foreign Office. Details from Mr D. H. King, 19 Rudall Crescent, NW3 1RR.

6 October

Visit to Wakehurst Place Garden, near Ardingly, Sussex. Details from Mrs G. Weeks, 18 Keats Grove, NW3.

Joanna Baillie Weekend

The Hon. Mrs. Fred Uhlman, Secretary of the Hampstead Branch of the National Trust writes:

"On behalf of our Committee I want to thank you very much for the wonderful help you gave us for the Joanna Baillie weekend which contributed so much to its very great success. You will be pleased to hear that, as a result of this enjoyable event we were able to add a further £180 to the Fenton House Appeal Fund and so bring the total so far to £3,000."

newsletter

No. 20

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

OCT 1973

The Camden History Review is published

More than 200 copies of the first Camden History Review have already been sold. Edited by Christopher Wade it is a highly attractive booklet and sells for 65p plus 5p post/delivery to members.

The first edition, made possible by a grant of £100 from Camden Council, includes the following articles:

Small Boy on a Kentish Town Tram
Remains to be Seen (industrial archaeology)
The remarkable Baroness Burdett-Coutts
An Ivory Tower in Gordon Square
Constable's Country
When the Farming had to stop
St Pancras in the Time of Witches
It all began with J. C. Bach (St Pancras
Piano industry)

Those members who haven't already bought a copy are urged to buy one direct from Christopher Wade, 28 Willoughby Road, NW3.

The November Lecture

Please note a change in our programme. Mr. Charles Hadfield will be unable to give us his lecture on the Regent's Canal and we hope that it can be included in a future programme. Instead, we have another most attractive event, an illustrated lecture by Dr Ann Saunders on the HISTORY OF REGENT'S PARK. Dr Saunders' book "Regent's Park; a study of the development of the area from 1086 to the present day" was published in 1969 by David & Charles. The speaker is an authority on the subject and has a superb set of slides.

The lecture will be given at the Chalk Farm Library, Sharples Hall Street, NW1, at 8pm on Thursday, 8 November.

ARCHWAY REVISITED

Work proceeds interminably in the Archway Road, widening the road beneath the 1897 Archway Bridge. This unusual postcard shows the original bridge still standing beneath the present one.



Christmas Party

The Society's main social event for December will be the Christmas Party. This will be an opportunity for members to meet informally in an appropriately festive atmosphere of good food, good cheer and good conversation.

The party will be on Monday evening, 10 December, from 7.30pm-11pm at the Town Hall, Euston Road. We shall be in the Small Hall, entrance in Bidborough Street. A substantial buffet supper will be served and the bar will be open also.

There will be a small exhibition of personalities of the Borough, "Famous Faces and their Places" which will form the basis for an identification game. We can all look forward to a pleasurable evening spent in "the company of clever, well-informed people, who have a great deal of conversation; that is what I call good company." And as a seasonal compliment to our members, I would add Jane Austen's comment, "That is not good company--that is the best."

Cost of the evening will be £1.25.

Would those wishing to come to the party please return the slip enclosed with this Newsletter to the Secretary.

Photographic Scheme Begins

With the aid of a grant from Camden Council the Society has begun its 'Domesday' photographic survey of Camden. We have commissioned M. D. Trace, whose studios are at Camden Lock, to do the first part of the survey for us. The intention is to photograph every street and building of interest in the Borough and our initial effort will be concentrated in those areas where development is threatened. A contact print of each photograph will be deposited in the Public Library collection and members of the public will be able to use prints of these.

ST PANCRAS STATION

The Society has written to the Director of Planning for Camden to ask if representations can be made to British Rail asking for a clean-up of the facade of St Pancras Station.

Book Review

The London that was Rome: the Imperial City Recreated by the New Archaeology
by Michael Harrison, Allen & Unwin, 1971

'There has never been a book like this', the publisher says; true enough, though there are many books in this amiably dotty "Atlantis" genre. Taken in small doses it makes a good bedside book, as you subside to sleep chuckling over its wilder flights. The author has devised a way he thinks will infallibly reveal the past (he is not very modest about it). He calls this method The New Archaeology, although it has nothing at all to do with the retrieval of material evidence but is, if anything, a kind of etymology. (Mr. Harrison's method is on no account to be confused with what real archaeologists call 'The New Archaeology' which, though it uses many refined techniques, does ultimately depend on potsherds and post-holes.)

No, Mr. Harrison's method depends entirely on those Old Welsh words which entered the language as Latin borrowings during the Roman occupation of Britain; for instance, the Latin for chain is catena, which becomes cadwyn in Welsh, while caseus (cheese) becomes caws, and so on. From the rules of sound-shifts which seem to govern these changes Mr. Harrison attempts to 'read back' from place-names in the City of London, taking several stages until he arrives at something like a Latin word. The astonishing results may be seen in the name Bartholomew, from which Mr. Harrison takes us to Matronalia (a Roman festival for married women) in no less than eight stages of sound-shifts.

What impels him to this kind of argument is his conviction that a London once thoroughly Romanised could not have vanished without leaving its place-names behind. He rejects the orthodox view that the Saxons had little use for Roman London, and he may be right at that (although archaeological evidence for Roman-to-Saxon continuity is still, in 1973, of the slimmest). But his attempts to find continuity from Roman through Saxon and Norman to medieval times are strained past belief. It is well-established that Romano-British names in the entire eastern half of Britain were submerged by the Saxon tongue; why then

should London have escaped. Mr. Harrison however believes that the names of the smallest alleys and courts of Roman London were retained, even if in corrupt form, throughout Saxon and Norman times. The gap of at least 600 years between his 'discovered' Latin names and the earliest written London names does not seem to worry him in the least. Think for a moment about that 600 years' gap.

One of his oddest quirks, however, is to reject the saints' names that occur in City churches. Now this is just perverse, for there are good historical reasons for churches being dedicated to particular saints; and to tell us, for example, that the church named for St Edmund King and Martyr really derives from ad administrationem, or that St Andrew's comes from antro ('at the military lock-up') is carrying pet theories to absurd destinations. Note too that Mr. Harrison's 'special laws of Old London phonology' lead to some curious twists of Latin meanings. Not only does he derive St Botolph from mulcta, a fine, but he compounds this foolishness by interpreting this as 'customs barrier', for which there is no justification whatever. Botolph was a real person, a 7th-century Benedictine abbot with a special care for travellers - this is why his churches are at the City Bars, not because of some imagined Roman customs-post! (Mr. Harrison does not mention the sixty-plus other St Botolph churches up and down the country. . . .)

Pubs also come under Mr. Harrison's displeasure: Saracen's Head, we learn, originates not in Crusader times at all, but from sarcinarium, a Roman military armoury! This, and arguments like it, leads Mr. Harrison into the impossible position of claiming no less than six forts for Roman London instead of the one real one. He disregards the intolerable strain this would have placed on military dispositions here, and can give no supporting evidence for his theory. Other pub-names he dismisses include The Cock and all its variants, which come, we are told, from coquina, a cook-shop or eating-house. The last straw is his assertion that a Roman baths or balnearium gave rise to the names Baynard's Castle (and another historical figure bites the dust), Banyard, Panyard, Bell, Bandy Leg, Baron's Yard, Peahen. . .

and so on and so on. . . . No, the whole theory fails lamentably, not least because of its extreme tortuousness where a perfectly simple, rational, historical explanation already exists. The saints' names do refer to saints, not St Andrew's to a lock-up, St Anne's to tin or St Nicholas to Jupiter Nicaeus. (Incidentally, another reviewer of this book has demonstrated that Michael Harrison, treated on his own rules, must derive from Macellarius' son - i.e. the son of a shop-keeper.)

Mr. Harrison commits howler after howler in the archaeology, and even the written history, of Roman Britain. Even so, he may rightly feel that scholars who have steeped themselves life-long in their subject could still be badly wrong about it. But nothing whatever that he has put forward in this book can possibly overturn W F Grimes or Ralph Merrifield on Roman London, or Ekwall on the medieval street-names of the City. The forced marriage of the separate entities Roman London and Medieval London in this book could hardly be less fruitful.

Cherry Lavell

More Streets of Hampstead

Those members who already own a copy of the Society's 'The Streets of Hampstead' will be pleased to learn that the next volume 'More Streets of Hampstead', covering the Belsize area, is finished and with the printers. It is likely to be published early in the new year. Once again the Society is working in co-operation with the High Hill Press.

The first volume of the series has been a profitable one for the Society and the book is now being revised and a second edition printed.

In the meantime, groups are working on Highgate Village and West Hampstead. Gradually the whole of the Borough will be surveyed in the same way.

Another Index-In

The Society's Archivist, Mrs Christina Gee, invites anyone interested in helping catalogue a large collection of London Transport photographs (c.1904) to join her in an Index-in on Wednesday, 31 October, from 6.30pm to 9pm. It will be in the Meetings Room at Swiss Cottage Library. The areas covered by the photographs include Kentish Town, Camden Town, Hampstead Road, Chalk Farm and Tottenham Court Road. Coffee and biscuits will be served. Please let Mrs. Gee (278 4444 ext 3140) know if you are coming. A previous meeting held earlier in the year was highly successful.

OTHER SOCIETIES

The London and Middlesex Archaeological Society

Friday, 19 October

6.30pm 'The Middlesex County Record Society 1884-1894: Its Achievement and its Premature Death' by W.J. Smith. At the Bishopsgate Institute.

Saturday, 3 November

2.30pm Visit to the National Monuments Record, Fortress House, 23 Savile Row.

Saturday, 17 November

Local History Conference, Livery Hall, Guildhall. Dr H. Dyos, Professor of Urban History in the University of Leicester, will speak on 'Some Aspects of the History of Victorian London'. Exhibitions will be mounted by various local history societies. Admission will be by ticket only obtainable from the Honorary Secretary, Local History Committee, 3 Cameron House, Highland Rd, Bromley, Kent. A conference fee of 35p, including tea, will be charged.

The Holborn Society

Thursday, 22 November

Holborn Town Hall 6.30pm.

Miss Hermione Hobhouse talking on Thomas Cubitt (slides). Please advise Miss J.M. Warren, 3 Belvedere Court, Catherine Rd, Surbiton.

The St Pancras Antiquarian Society

Tuesday, 20 November

The Church of the Holy Sepulchre 10.45am. Annual Service of the Festival of Saint Cecilia. Tickets from Mr E.G. Brassington, 2 Stonegate, Saint Silas Place, NW5.

The London Society

Tuesday, 13 November

Visit to three City Churches, meet at Guildhall, Front Entrance at 2.30pm.

Friday, 30 November

Lecture at Royal Society of Arts at 5.30pm on "London's Theatre Buildings".

THE FIRST ST PANCRAS FIRE ENGINES

Two hundred years ago St Pancras Vestry bought their first two fire-engines. By 1819 the parish had three machines, one stationed at Cleveland Mews, the second at Phoenix Road and the third in Pancras Way near the church.

ST JOHN'S DOWNSHIRE HILL

St. John's, Downshire Hill, is celebrating its 150th Anniversary.

There is an interesting programme of lectures and a small exhibition at the Church throughout October.

A small booklet has also been published and is available from the Church. This will be reviewed in the next issue of the Newsletter.

ESTATE AGENTS' RECORDS

The Society has written to Camden's Director of Libraries and Arts urging him to make efforts to secure old and unwanted records from old-established estate agents in the Borough.

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

Local Publications EDITION

Newsletter

No. 21
DEC 1973

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

The January Lecture— Kentish Town

The subject of January's talk is the history of Kentish Town and the speaker is John Richardson, the Chairman of the Society. The basis for his talk is the remarkable Kentish Town rolls, which consist of a drawing of every building from Swains Lane to the Mother Red Cap, and cover 30 ft of paper.

This really unusual document was drawn by James Frederick King about the middle of the last century. He was a St Pancras resident, descended from a Huguenot family, and was an official at Somerset House from 1820 to 1830.

Brand new slides of the drawings have been produced and Mr Richardson will comment on these and show how the development of the various estates along Highgate and Kentish Town roads dictated the architecture and layout of this part of Camden.

The talk will be at a new venue - the Polytechnic of North London in Kentish Town Road at 7.30 pm. - Jan 24th

MEMBERSHIP UP AGAIN

At one stage recently the membership increased to a record total of 439. However, our Treasurer since then has done his annual pruning of the membership lists, noting all those who had not, for one reason or another, renewed their subscription. The official total is now 374 which is substantially above the figure at the same stage last year.

CAMDEN HISTORY REVIEW SELLING WELL

We printed only 750 copies of the History Review as we thought it would be a minority interest. However, already 500 copies have been sold.

Camden Gets Its Archaeologist

After approaches made by the Society and the London & Middlesex Archaeological Society, Camden Council has agreed to participate in a scheme which provides archaeologists for seven boroughs north of the Thames. A unit would be established, whose expenses would be met by the seven boroughs and the Department of the Environment, and would work under the auspices of the L & MA Society. Camden has gone even further and authorised the appointment of a consultant archaeologist until the unit can be established.

This is very welcome news indeed and is a great spur to L & MAS in their efforts to set up this unit. It goes without saying, as in so many things, that Camden is the first borough to agree to the proposal.

There is no doubt that any archaeologist appointed will need to spend a lot of time initially on research. No survey of previous finds in Camden exists and old maps need to be studied to pinpoint those areas most likely to yield finds. It can safely be said that most of Holborn is a potential archaeological area.

The intention is to provide Camden with a summary of information eventually and recommendations for future excavations in the light of future development plans and research indications. The archaeologist will need the enthusiastic help of this Society and will, we hope, provide the impetus needed for the re-formation of the Archaeology group.

MRS CONNELLY

It is with great regret that we record the death of Mrs Savilla Connelly. She had been an enthusiastic member of this Society since its formation and helped on several groups where she was very much liked. She will be greatly missed.

The Camden Historian's Bookshelf

A review of recent local history publications by Christopher Wade

'Publish and be praised' should be the watchword of old-established societies and institutions, who can tell us so much about local history. Inevitably the story of a church or school is also the history of a parish or locality growing and changing. It shows the community reacting to national upheavals and celebrating periods of affluence. It also reflects the patterns of the country's social history.

Our own Society is anxious not only to publish its own material but to help promote publications from other local institutions. Such booklets are often hard to trace and to buy because they never appear in shops and they have restricted outlets to the public. We are now urging all publishers of Camden history to send us samples of their wares - both for review in this Newsletter and for sale at our meetings. We hope, for instance, that some of the publications reviewed below will be available from our peripatetic bookstall.

The Heath and Old Hampstead Society Newsletter

For members only, but worth mentioning here as it has blossomed under Bill Risebero's enterprising editorship into a mini-magazine. The latest issue includes a survey of members' attitudes to current problems of Hampstead and the Heath.

(Membership details from the Secretary, 17 Hogarth Hill, NW11.)

Mrs Humphry Ward by Enid Huws Jones (Heinemann £2.75)

Biography of a lady of letters who is mostly remembered now for founding the Mary Ward Settlement in Tavistock Place.

The Blue Plaques of Barnet, edited by Philippa Bernard. 32 pages, 8 pages of illustrations. Price 34 pence (incl. post) from the Secretary, Hendon and District Archaeological Society, 88 Temple Fortune Lane, NW11.

Not strictly about Camden but these biographical notes on Barnet's plaque-worthy residents include Pavlova and others right on our borders.

The First Hundred Years: a brief history of Holy Trinity Church (Finchley Road) 1872-1972, by P.R. Butcher, 24 pages, 5 illustrations by P. Luscombe. 3 (rather puzzling) maps. Price 25 pence from the Church or Vicarage.

At last some light on the less romantic part of Hampstead, usually left out of all those histories of the old borough. Trinity started in 1865 as a brick-built mission hall in Belsize Lane (on the site of the Tavistock Clinic) and its first minister was the Rev. Henry Sharpe, fresh from the Ontario backwoods. He needed to be tough for 'combatting drink and the devil among the rough and dissolute navvies whose picks and shovels were implementing the railway revolution.' Sharpe remained with the church for 35 years and the story of his ministry is the history of the burgeoning suburb around him.

A Short History of St John's, Downshire Hill, Hampstead 1823-73. Anon.

24 pages, 3 pictures of the church and 5 portraits. Price 25 pence ('at least') from the Church or Vicarage or Mrs P. Hannay, 37 Downshire Hill, NW3.

Most Hampstead histories claim that this church was built in 1818 as a Chapel of Ease to Hampstead Parish Church and that the architect was probably C.R. Cockerell. So it comes as a shock now to find all these three facts disputed by the anonymous authors of this booklet. St John's is now celebrating 150 years as a Proprietary Chapel, which it evidently always was. It is now, in fact, the last privately-owned church left in London. As for its architect, there was none. This handsome structure is now revealed to be the work of William Woods, a builder of Kennington, who 'designed' this church at about the same time as one he erected in North Brixton. This is a well-researched and attractively produced booklet.

The School in Mill Lane. The History of Emmanuel Primary School, West Hampstead, 1845-1972, by Trevor S. Jennings. 21 pages of typescript. Price 50 pence (sold in aid of the rebuilding fund) from the School, Mill Lane, NW6.

A detailed account by its ex-headmaster of 'the little village school' that grew in West Hampstead to the point where it now has to be rebuilt on another site.

Holly Lodge Estate. Anon. 30 pages. 7 photographs, 1 print, 1 map of 1907. Price 20 pence from the Secretary, Holly Lodge Estate Committee, 16 Makepeace Avenue, Highgate, N6 6EJ.

This is partly a history (by Mrs Edna Healey) and partly a round-up of Estate Regulations about such problems as parking cars. The story of Holly Lodge and Baroness Burdett-Coutts' extravagant life there is, of course, highly readable (as it was in our own Camden History Review) and one can only gasp at her dressing her gardeners in Swiss peasant costumes to greet her guests at a party. The whole publication gives intriguing insight into what the 'Guardian' once called 'a mixture of garden suburb and Tudor half-timber-style speculative development of the late 1920s.'

St Mary's, Primrose Hill. Anon (but much by our member Gladys Beck). 48 pages, profusely illustrated. Price not shown, but 50 pence from High Hill Bookshop. Published in 1972 but still notable as a lively guide and history of a parish's centenary.

More Streets of Hampstead in January

The second of our series of publications devoted to the history of the streets of the borough will be on sale soon. The book will be launched in January and there will also be an exhibition of paintings and prints at Swiss Cottage to coincide with its publication.

The first book, on Hampstead Village, sold 3000 copies and is now reprinted. This second volume covers the Belsize area. In addition, groups are working on the West End and Kilburn areas, Highgate, and Kentish Town.

The History of Hampstead

The long-awaited history of Hampstead, commissioned by the old Hampstead Council and written by Professor F. M. L. Thompson, will be published in January. It is entitled Hampstead: Building a Borough 1650-1964 and will be published by Routledge & Kegan Paul. The publishers are making a special pre-publication offer at the reduced price of £5.95 (down from £7.50), and members will be circu-

Ambrose Heal and the Heal Collection

For many decades the name 'Heal's' has been synonymous with the finest selection available of modern furniture. It is a tradition that has been built up for over a century from generation to generation of a gifted family.

St Pancras residents have, however, another reason to respect the name of Heal. Not only does the history of the firm lie deep within the borough, but local historians, seeking after their own past have invariably found the answers in the rich treasures of the Heal Collection. Indeed, without this magnificent hoard of cuttings, prints, photographs, posters, maps and deeds (many of which have been laboriously copied by hand from material in the British Museum), there would be no history of St Pancras.

It is apt, therefore, at this time, to remember Ambrose Heal who died in October 1913 at the age of 66. His assiduous collecting for over forty years, and his magnanimous gesture in donating this material to the borough of St Pancras should not go unrecognised, even though his worth is sometimes overshadowed by his more famous son - Sir Ambrose Heal - author of several learned works, and a collector as well. He, unlike his father, merited an obituary in The Times. Even the local paper did not mention the death of the father.

Much of his life was taken up by his involvement in the family business. He was chairman, entering the partnership in 1878. In 1907 the firm became a limited company with Ambrose as chairman and his two sons as managing directors. The last eighteen years of his life were spent at Pinner where he featured largely in local activities. He was chairman of the Pinner Men's Club, a member of the Pinner Horticultural Society and sidesman of the parish church. He also found time to be a member of the Painter-Stainers' Company, as well as being one of the original members of the Council for the Preservation of Business Archives. His literary endeavours were not so glittering as those of his son, but the little booklet: 'The Old Farm House in Tottenham Court Road' (1913) is a concise and interesting account of the history of Heal & Sons.

A letter to the St Pancras Guardian by his friend F.W. Avant recalls that Heal objected to leaving the Collection to the British Museum where it would probably be buried in the vaults and be inaccessible to St Pancras residents.

Beverley Monchar

Camden Photographs

In response to the paragraph in the last Newsletter about the Photographic Survey, Miss Mary Mitcehl contacted the Society. She has a most impressive collection of photographs, mainly of the St Pancras area, including buildings now demolished. Industrial archaeology is a particular interest. She has arranged to provide prints for the Society and we are most grateful to her. We should be delighted to hear from anyone else who has had the opportunity to build up a similar collection.

Jane Ramsay

Local History Course

There is to be a short course, given by one of our Members, Leslie Newman, on THE PRINCIPLES OF LOCAL HISTORY. It will be at the Camden Institute, Haverstock Branch, beginning on 17th January and ending on April 4th. For details ring 485 4722.

Letter

Cherry Lavell's review of Michael Harrison's book in the October issue of the Newsletter is, so far as I know, fair comment, accurate, true and learned.

But it's damned bad manners. The same point can be made without such discourtesy - an ill-mannered moronic lout whom I was discussing with an acquaintance was described by that acquaintance as "not insane but not quite up to standard", which is much less offensive than saying, as I have, that he is an ill-mannered moronic lout and probably more factual, because there is nothing more telling than a simple statement of the facts without the adjectives.

Cherry Lavell (Mr. ? Mrs. ? Miss ?)'s review is only marginally offensive and would not normally deserve a letter but I am prompted to write by two thoughts. One is that a public Society should be more careful than a commercial review. The second is the memory of an article two or three issues ago denying the claim of a Chalk Farm furniture shop to be on some historical site. No doubt your review was accurate, but it was the type of offensive article that can make the Society lose members.'

Mr J.A. Barnett

Nineteenth Century Hampstead and Belsize

An Exhibition of watercolours, prints and photographs arranged by Camden History Society in connection with its new publication

MORE STREETS OF HAMPSTEAD

	January 12 - February 9	Swiss Cottage Library
	? February 16 - March 16	Heath Branch Library, Keats Grove
	?? March 23 - April 6	Sharpleshall Street Library

MORE STREETS OF HAMPSTEAD, which surveys the southern sector of the old borough of Hampstead, is being published early in 1974 by High Hill Books in association with Camden History Society.

Copies will be available at local bookshops price £1.00 or from Camden History Society c/o 28 Willoughby Road, NW3 1SA. price £1.07 including postage/delivery.

A special price and order form for members will be included in the next Newsletter.