

newsletter

No 63

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

Jan 1981

The Catholic Apostolic Church – our January talk

Thur. January 22nd 7.30pm
Dr Williams' Library, 14 Gordon Sq,
W.C.1

The building of the Catholic Apostolic Church in Gordon Square commenced in 1856 - it was designed by Raphael Brandon. The sect itself is one of the more unusual in the country and our lecture by David Tierney should prove of particular interest to members as indeed will the venue.

Memories of a London Schoolboy

Thur. February 26th, 7.30pm
Swiss Cottage Library, N.W.3

Some members will have already bought the recent CGS publication 'Memories of a London Schoolboy'. This is an edited version of the diaries (1826-30) of John Thomas Pocock. Christina Gee, archivist to Keats House and co-editor of the Diary, will be talking about the fascinating material there was available in the original manuscripts and also how the publication was compiled.

The Society has already received many compliments on the book and this talk will, we hope, encourage others to buy, as well as expanding the scene for those who have already read it.

WHERE WERE THEY?

Can any member tell me where Bellina Villas (Kentish Town) and Camden Cottages were? I am looking for these in connection with a Joseph Cundall, a Victorian publisher and founder member of the Royal Photographic Society, who lived at 12 Camden Cottages in 1847, and at 3 Bellina Villas in 1856. His son, Herbert Winston Cundall, a writer, was baptised in 1848 at St Pancras Old Church.

Peter Cundall

New Street History Groups

Since the formation of the Society we have tried to publish comprehensive historical guides to the streets of the borough. Three covered Hampstead and in addition we have a Camden Town Walk and a Kentish Town Packet. The Chalk Farm group have almost finished their work and with luck the Streets of Chalk Farm will be published this year. We would now like to turn our attention to both Somers Town and Bloomsbury. We would like to hear from any members who would like to take part in the research for these. They should contact our Secretary, Mrs Jane Ramsay, c/o Swiss Cottage Library, Avenue Road, N.W.3

Transport Group

The next meeting of the Transport Group is on Friday, January 16th at 6pm at Swiss Cottage Library Meetings' Room.

We are still investigating the Bass Store and we would like to know the answers to certain questions: What is porter, why has it declined in popularity and was it drunk in particular by manual workers? Why was such a large volume of beer (3.6 million gallons) stored at one time and does porter need to mature? What were the dimensions of a 36 gallon barrel, how much did it weigh and how was it handled?

We have a number of other projects in hand and interested members should contact me at 31 Earlsmead Road, N.W.10 (969 2529).

John Lawson

ADVANCE NOTICE

Mar 12th: Prof. Bernard Crick on George Orwell. 7.30pm, Working Men's College, Crowndale Road, N.W.1.

April: Talk still to be arranged

Rara Avis

The Wheater is a bird, 5½ inches in length, with a distinctive white rump and was euphemistically renamed to sound something like the coarser, but more descriptive Old English name. This bird is a rare visitor to Hampstead Heath but it is said to have had an indirect connection with the former ownership of part of the Heath and much of Hampstead.

Over 300 years ago, the finest and fattest of these birds were to be found on the Downs about Beachy Head, the domain of Mr William Wilson a well-to-do gentleman of Yorkshire descent whose family fortunes resulted from speculations in ironworks and marriages with heiresses.

Wheatears were then a table delicacy and it was said that at a dinner given by the Earl of Dorset to King Charles II and the Duke of York, they had eaten 20 dozen of them. The supply of wheaters was a great card in Mr Wilson's hand and he played it freely and ably. That he was courting favour was patent but who shall say whether his loyalty or his wheatears had most to do with his elevation to the rank of baronet almost immediately after the Restoration. One may surmise that the latter was the case when considering the following letter from his nephew, secretary to the Earl of Norwich, referring to another feast:

'Hon. Sir, I must acknowledge that both yourself and my good aunte have bin never wanting in heaping of multitudes of favours upon me; but especially among the rest, in presenting my Lord with this noble present, which hath made such a deep impression in his Lordship's thoughts of yourself and mee. For our greater honour, his

Lordship has carried your present, in his own hands and presented it to his Majesty, and told his Majesty from whence they came, and his Majesty was pleased to say that he never eat such fat birds before.'

Mr Wilson got his baronetcy and there was obviously some truth in the old saying that wheatears deserved a conspicuous quartering in the Wilson coat of arms.

Needless to say, the family prospered as a result of their new social status and this must have enabled them to look further afield in property acquisition and advantageous marriages.

So began the line of baronets, the sixth of which, Sir Thomas Spencer Wilson, acquired the manor of Hampstead in 1777 and whose descendants, the Maryon Wilsons, were to feature prominently in Hampstead's history.

I would like to write that a little bird told me this but the source of information is the Sussex Archaeological Collections, Vol XI 1859, which contains extracts from manuscripts of the Wilson family.

NB. The 'Hampstead connection' began much earlier than 1777. Prior to his succession the second baronet, Sir William Wilson, married Richard Peacock of North End in 1675.

I find the connection with North End interesting. I knew a lady who could trace her ancestry back to 1680 at North End. Also, a Mr Crampton, who died last August aged 93 (Ramsey McDonald's chauffeur) came from a line of North End residents. His father was bailiff at Wyldes Farm (Tooley's Farm).

Eric George

Publication News

Reactions to our DIARY OF A LONDON SCHOOL-BOY by John Thomas Pocock have been most enthusiastic. Our members found it a popular Christmas present; bookshops have been re-ordering supplies, and schoolmasters have been reading extracts to their classes. The Ham & High and other local papers have added their encouragement.

Our member, John Winter-Lotimer, has been doing some research on John Pocock's famous walk to Hastings, as he knows the route well. One inexplicable entry in the diary referred to walking down Madame's Court Hill, somewhere south of Bromley, and our member has identified this as Polhill, south of Badgers Mount on the A21. The Ordnance Survey shows buildings marked as Morants Court, and this is presumably the name that our diarist misheard.

Various other queries remain to be answered. Can other members help? Where was the West End Chapel mentioned on 13.4.28? Who was Sambro, quoted on 21.8.28? What were cheese-cutter legs (17.12.29)? And what is the origin of 'Another pint for the printer' (29.8.29)?

Good news for CHS members. We are keeping the price of the Diary down to £2.50 for them (instead of £3) until further notice.

Christopher Wade

The Hampstead Heath Rail Disaster

Gillian Tindall sends the following extract from 'Our Railways, their Origin, Development, Incident and Romance' by J Pendleton (Cassell 1896):

'It was...the boast of the London and North-Western that they had never had a great disaster; but within the last few years... the company have not been quite so fortunate, and the memory of Easter 1892, is a sad one in many a family on account of the piteous disaster that occurred on Hampstead Heath Station. Thousands of holiday-makers had climbed the hill and roamed about the Heath - joyous, exuberant, light-hearted - a typical London crowd out on Bank Holiday, delighted with the consciousness that they were free for a few hours from the city's roar of traffic and incessant round of toil..

'Clouds gathered this day on the Heath; rain and sleet fell; and the people, among whom were many young children, surged towards the railway station. The platform was soon crowded, and the staircase leading down to it rapidly got into the same condition. The company were running trains every quarter of an hour to the City, with special trains in between; but this train movement was altogether inadequate to carry away the struggling multitude. The passengers on the edge of the platform, fearing lest they should fall beneath the passing trains, pushed backward, and the crowd behind, having no outlet, found themselves in the midst of a frightful crush. The station was of curious make. The ticket-collector's box, instead of being at the top, was at the bottom of the staircase, encroaching on the passage way, and near it was a pair of gates that opened inwards. Beyond these gates - which, according to the stationmaster's story, were open on the day of the disaster - a flight of 30 steps led to the booking office, and down these stairs the people hurried, until they were inextricably wedged into a dense mass, struggling and screaming for help.

'Such was the crush that the back of the ticket-collector's box was smashed in, and some of the panes were shattered. A man's head was forced through the glass on the right hand side of the box, and he was powerless, with his throat cut just across the broken glass. "For God's sake, stand back; you will kill him!" cried Exton, the ticket-collector, trying in vain to push the excursionists head away. On the other side of the ticket-box another man narrowly escaped having his ear shaved off by the broken glass; and a boy had his head jammed between the box and the railings. This boy, tripping against one of the rail-foot

projections on the staircase, fell against the box, others stumbled over him, and the pressure of the crowd, partly from the platform but chiefly from behind, wrought the mischief. At the top of the staircase there were jokes and frolic, and the refrain of the senseless song "Ta-ra-ra boom-de-ay". At the bottom of the staircase there were the cries and screams of an entangled mass of people. So fierce was the struggling that a child was dragged from its mother's arms, so fearful the crush that many women swooned, and one row of excursionists were pressed, as in a vice till their faces became blue through lack of breath. When the peril was realised by those free to act, the work of rescue was prompt; but it was found that no fewer than eight persons - two women and six boys - had been crushed to death.'

At the inquest the Jury found that the ticket box was dangerously placed, and that more arrangements were needed to regulate the traffic of passengers. The station was subsequently modified, with a new upstairs office and a new entrance. In that form it survived till its complete rebuilding in the late 1960s.

This disaster, unlike that of 1861 on the same line (see The Kentish Town Packet) does not seem to have passed into local history, and I have not come across an account of it elsewhere. It is, I suppose, too much to hope now, in 1980, that any of our readership is likely to remember it, but possibly some member of CHS recalls it being mentioned when they were children?

WEST HAMPSTEAD MULBERRIES

A recent purchaser of our Streets of West Hampstead (now sold out) read with interest on page 44 'Four mulberry trees reputedly marked the corners of the (Kilburn) Priory Estate...in Quex Road, Boundary Road, Springfield Lane and the fourth somewhere near St Mary's Church. However, no trace of these trees has been found today.' The reader wrote to us from 196 Goldhurst Terrace, which is near St Mary's, to report a very large old mulberry tree in her garden. Can anyone find the other three?

LAMAS TOURS

The London and Middlesex Archaeological Society are organising a number of foreign tours this year. They include Rome, Florence, Sienna, the Chateaux of the Loire, Greece etc. Full particulars may be obtained from Lawrence Snell, 27 Wooley Hill, Selly Oak, Birmingham B29 4AA. (Send s.a.e.)

I was delighted to see on receiving Camden History Review No 8 and Newsletter No 61 that I could associate myself with something on almost every page.

Take the Newsletter first. I was born and bred in St Silas Street at No 24, when it was called Preston Street. It was joined to Marsden Street by a short road which now is like an archway leading from Marsden Street to the 'square' forming garage approach. We called this short street 'The Opening'. My mother's parents were the first tenants of No 24 and it continued in my family's tenancy for a hundred years. It is surprising that I never knew this other Moody family so close to us.

On page 6 of CHR 8 is a picture of the Tailors' Almshouses. Our house backed up to these and my brother and I had a room which looked out to a window of a room which, we understood, was used as a mortuary there. The church bell would toll for a death and young as we were we would keep our heads under the bed clothes in case a ghost appeared.

I moved from Kentish Town in 1950 having been married at Holy Trinity, Clarence Road, in 1927, and I had a small shop at the top of Harwood Street in the early days of the Second World War. I was in 'Z' Battery of the Home Guard manning the Rocket Projectors stationed by the flats at South End Road.

On page 12 of the Review mention is made of a particular rainfall at Haverstock Hill on April 10/11 1878. This must have been the storm my father told us of. Two men went down into the sewers but the storm came on and they drowned. One body was found as far away as Bow and the other never discovered.

Albert Edward Moody

NEW MEMBERS

New members include:

Michael Chambers, I. Parkin, Miss Lucie Polak, Miss R. Sheils, Mrs Anne Swain, D. Whyman

THE SOCIETY

This Newsletter is edited by John Richardson, 32 Ellington St, N.7. (607 1628), to whom all contributions should be sent. The Secretary of the Society is Mrs Jane Ramsay, Swiss Cottage Library, N.W.3. The Treasurer is Miss Helen Lefroy at the same address. Editor of Publications is Christopher Wade, 28 Willoughby Road, N.W.3

DATE REQUIRED

The photograph shown of Waterlow Park with St Joseph's Church, Highgate in the background, has been printed from a lantern slide loaned to us by one of our members. We would welcome more precise dating from your members.

Dr Joan Schwitzer
Chairman, Hornsey Historical Society



newsletter

No 64

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

Mar 1981

George Orwell - our March talk

March 12th, 7.30pm
Working Men's College, Crowndale Rd, N.W.1

Last year a major new biography of George Orwell appeared by Professor Bernard Crick. It attracted much critical acclaim. Orwell lived for some time in Camden - a plaque was installed last year at 50 Lawford Road, Kentish Town, one of his addresses. His career spanned education at Eton, much poverty, working at a bookshop in South End Green and fighting in the Spanish Civil War. He has put into our collective consciousness a year - 1984 - which we dread as though it was a precise prediction by him, although the conditions he describes could occur at any time.

We have been fortunate in persuading Prof. Crick to talk to us on Orwell in March and we look forward to it very much.

Advance Notice

May 18: St Pancras Church Hall, Lancing St, N.W.1. Basil Leverton on Funeral Undertaking in Camden

June: Date and venue to be announced. Beatrice Shearer on Population Studies

July 23: The Holme, Regent's Park. AGM and Dr Ann Saunders on the Villas of Regent's Park together with Exhibition

July 4: Conducted walk from Gospel Oak to Kenwood led by Peter Barber

Aug: date to be announced. Outing to Hastings area based on the Pocock Diary

Sep: to be arranged

Oct 20: Jack Straw's Castle, North End Way, N.W.3. Andrew Prescott on The Peasants' Revolt

Nov 19: Venue to be announced. Dr Helen Wallis on the Maps of North London

Dec: To be announced

The Ragged Schools of St Pancras

Mon. April 6th 7.30pm
Holborn Central Library, Theobalds Rd, W.C.1

Anyone familiar with research into Camden's local history will know that there is little summarised information on its social history and in particular on the treatment of the poor. The material is there - masses of it - to be researched but the historian is on practically virgin territory. One member of the CHS who is working in this field is Richard Conquest whose interest lies in the poorer areas of St Pancras and this talk is the result of one aspect of his studies.

The Ragged Schools were the first places of any size to give education to children without means and they have an important place in the development of national and local education.

Subscription Renewals

Subscriptions for the year 1981-2 are due on March 1st. It is a great help to the Treasurer if these are paid promptly by those members who have not signed a Banker's Order. Rates are as follows:

Individual £3.00
Joint: £3.50
Associates £3.50
OAP and full time students £2.50

Cheques should be made payable to the Camden History Society and sent to the Treasurer, c/o Swiss Cottage Library, 88 Avenue Road, N.W.3 together with the renewal form enclosed with this Newsletter. Subscriptions may now be covenanted for four (or seven or ten) years. It would be appreciated if more members would agree to sign covenants

New Members' Meeting

Every now and then the Society holds a special meeting for new members or those who want to find out more about the Society. The meeting takes the form of introductory talks from some of the Society's officers plus a guided tour around the local history collection at Swiss Cottage including the strong-room of treasures in the basement. The tour is a revelation to most and quite often members later join research groups or take up an individual project.

The next New Members' meeting is on Monday April 13th, in the Children's Library at Swiss Cottage, starting at 7.15pm

The AGM and Nominations for Officers

The Society usually holds its Annual General Meeting in a historic building in the borough. To coincide with an important exhibition depicting the Villas of Regent's Park, the meeting this year has been postponed to July 23rd. We are able to hold it at The Holme, Bedford College and Dr Ann Saunders, London historian and vice-president of the Society, will be the speaker.

Members are invited to submit nominations for officers and members of the Council. The present list is as follows:

President: Charles Lee

Vice Presidents: R.M. Robbins, W.R. Maidment, Lord Greenwood, Dr Ann Saunders, Prof. Valerie Pearl

Chairman: John Richardson

Vice-Chairman: Gillian Tindall

Secretary: Jane Ramsay

Treasurer: Miss Helen Lefroy

Publications Editor: Christopher Wade

Meetings Secretary: Horace Shooter

Archivist: Malcolm Holmes

Council Members: E.G. Brassington, Anthony Cooper, Mrs C.M. Gee, Philip Greenall, Coral Howells, Cherry Lavell, Deirdre Le Faye, Rosemary Weinstein, Ann Winser

Co-opted Members: John Lawson, David Thomas Peter Barber

Auditor: P. Russell

NEW MEMBERS

New members include Mrs P.A. Clarke, M. Green, Ruth and David Hayes, D. Jockelson, Debby Hyams, Myra Malkin, Miss S.A. Nicholls, Mrs M. Orson, Mr Payne, Miss S. Pittard, Ms Paola Populin, Mrs D. Rau, Mrs P. Robinson, A. Sacks, K. Sugden, Ms A. Taylor, Mr and Mrs J.R. Williams

OLD LONDON POSTCARDS

Postcards have been re-discovered as a source of local history - the local libraries of Edwardian times did not collect contemporary photographs, an omission which emphasises the work of a local history department in their retention of current material. New books of postcard views are therefore welcome however presented and priced.

Recently published is 'Old London Postcard Album' edited by Charles Skilton a past President of the Postcard Association, price £4.95 published by Skilton and Shaw.

To my mind though I find this publication with only 48pp hopelessly overdressed in hard cover and badly overpriced when one considers that most of the 86 illustrations are of central London views and printed in a rather dull sepia.

If one is to publish a book with this title then its range ought to be larger or else there should be regional booklets such as the Then and Now series gives us.

JR

PICTURES WANTED

Mr Harold Ford is researching a famous murder which occurred in Agar Grove (then St Paul's Road) in Edwardian times. He is particularly interested in tracking down old postcards, or photocopies, of three pubs connected with the murder - The Eagle (corner of Camden Road and Royal College St.), The Adam and Eve at the corner of Euston Road and Hampstead Road, and the Pindar of Wakefield in Grays Inn Road. Can any member help? Mr Ford's address is 24 Woodside Road, Irby, Wirral, Merseyside L61 4UL

BURGH HOUSE HAPPENINGS

We are already showing two exhibitions at Burgh House which have been extended to the end of March: they are Hampstead Schooldays and Eleanor Farjeon. Following these in April will be an unusual and exciting exhibition of original drawings called 'Views Around the Heath'. These are sketches of Hampstead, Highgate, Kentish Town and the Heath area attributed to John Claude Nattes and they were done between 1810 and 1815. The sketches capture the remote rurality of the Heath and a dewy evocation of Hampstead and its surroundings as Keats and Constable knew them. All the drawings will be for sale at prices between about £8 and £30, so this is a chance for CHS members to acquire original drawings of historical and local interest.

Christopher Wade

HIGHGATE EXHIBITION

The Highgate Literary and Scientific Institution has had to postpone the exhibition describing its lecturers planned for January 1981, as announced in the November Newsletter. It is now hoped to hold this from May 9 to 16th 1981.

The forthcoming exhibition will be larger, as in addition to illustrating the life and work of many of the lecturers who have come to the Institution during the last 100 years, it will include items displayed in the exhibition held last October, and other exhibits of interest.

BELLINA VILLAS

Anthony Cooper, Christopher Hall and V. Landymore have all responded in locating Bellina Villas and Camden Cottages for Peter Cundall (Newsletter 63). Bellina Villas were on the west side of Fortess Road between Willow Walk and Lady Somerset Road. Camden Cottages were on the north east side of St Pancras Way, crossing Camden Road, from Wilmot Place to Agar Grove.

The Hampstead Triplet

Deirdre Le Faye sends us an extract from the Strand Magazine Vol. XVI in 1898 which dealt with triplets. It pictures a Hampstead trio. Their surname is Nichols and their christian names are Ernest, Amelia and Frederick and they live at one of the Mount Vernon cottages in Hampstead. The illustration of them, taken by Porter Brothers of Hampstead shows them at eleven months' old. The article relates:

'The triplets are now sixteen months old, and have just recovered from a bad attack of whooping cough. They were very delicate when they were three months old, but as they have so successfully recovered it is likely that they will easily recover from other illnesses. They are now healthy children, one boy being already able to stand. The contributor to the Strand is 'anxious to get something for the parents of the triplets, who are only working people, and can ill afford the expense involved. The father is a plumber's labourer.'

It is a long shot but can any member fill in the 20th century story of them?

Highgate Road Chapel

To commemorate the 100th anniversary of Highgate Road Chapel in 1977 Ann Winser, one of our members, has published a history. Its foundation was the work of James Coxeter, a surgical instrument maker who lived in what was then called The Grove opposite the site of the chapel. In 1874 the estate which comprised Grove End House, Lodge and Villa came on the market. Coxeter bought the Lodge and Villa and gave the villa to the London Baptist Association and then formed a committee to raise the money to build a chapel there. The Chapel was eventually to build a mission hall as well at 20 Fortess Grove (the Falkland Hall) and send missionaries into darkest Highgate New Town.

The story of its foundation and subsequent career is told in Miss Winser's account. Almost all the information is, as far as I know, presented for the first time and we should be grateful to her for her thorough research and the tenacity in seeing it published.

(Highgate Road Chapel - A Brief History. 35pp, A4 size, duplicated, illustrations, price 50p. Obtainable from Ann Winser, 68b Twisden Road, N.W.5)

J.R.

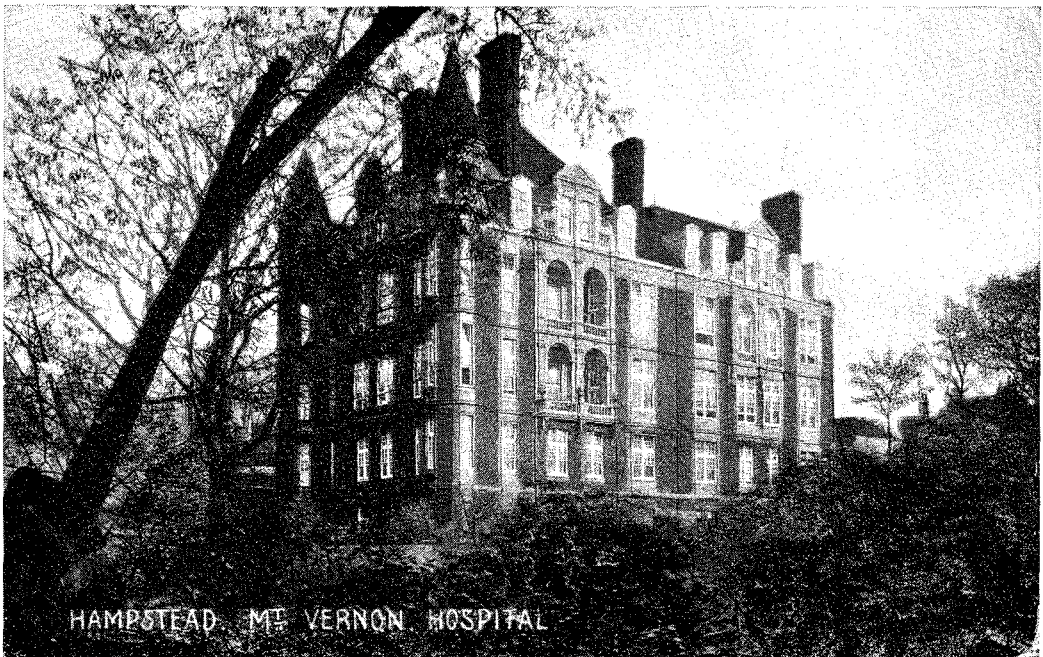
Camden has many hospitals. Four of them, from postcards of the first decade of this century, are presented here.



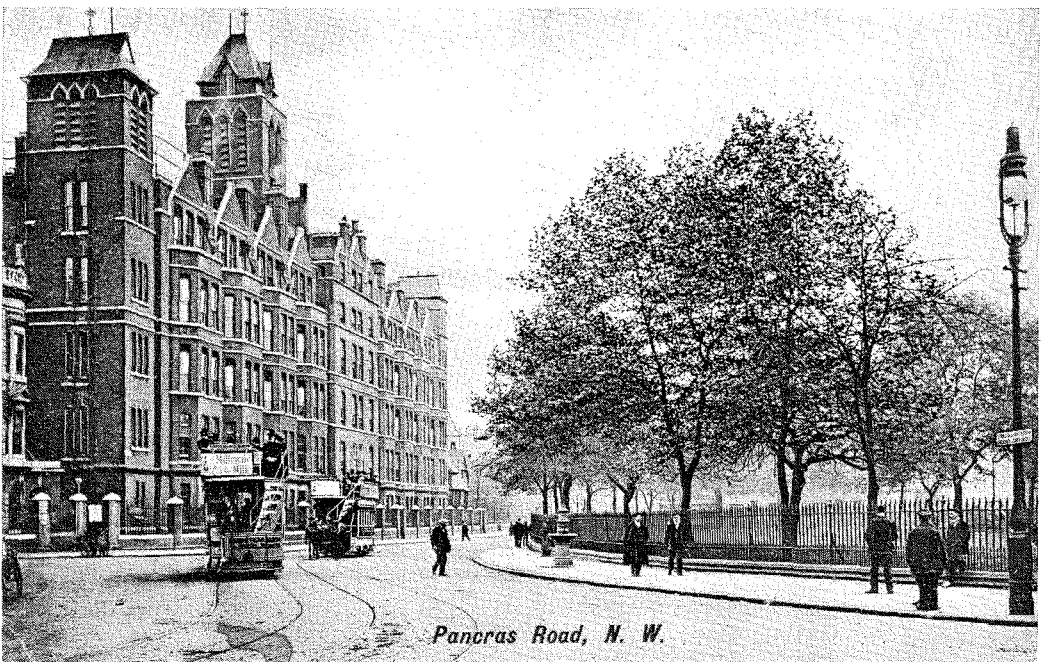
The Hospital for Sick Children Great Ormond Street. Nurses House, No 44 Gt Ormond Street



Hampstead General Hospital now
rebuilt as the Royal Free



Mount Vernon Hospital, Hampstead



St Pancras Infirmary, Pancras Way
corner with Crowndale Road

newsletter

No 65

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

May 1981

The St Pancras Way of Death

'Carpenter, Undertaker Etc'
a talk by Basil Leverton
May 18th, 7.30pm at Regent's Park
Library, Robert Street, N.W.1

Almost certainly the oldest firm in Camden is Levertons, the funeral undertakers of Camden Town. They began in 1789 opposite Tolmers Square which was then a reservoir. In those days undertakers were usually carpenters as well - which explains the title of Basil Leverton's talk. The history of the firm covers that period when funerals were both ostentatious and mawkish, with much regard to social status. It will be a fascinating talk.

The venue is a new one for us - it is just off Hampstead Road. Nearest tube stations are Mornington Crescent and Warren Street.

Advance Notice

- July 23rd, 6.30pm: The Annual General Meeting, The Holme, Bedford College, Regent's Park
Aug 8th: Outing, principally to Hastings, but connected with the travels of John Thomas Pocock
Sep: (date to be arranged) a West Hampstead Symposium
Oct 20th, 7.30pm: 'The Peasants' Revolt' by Andrew Prescott, at Jack Straw's Castle
Nov 19th: The Maps of North London by Dr Helen Wallis

NEW MEMBERS

New members include:
Mrs P. Clarke, M. Green, Mr and Mrs D. Hayes, D. Jockelson, Ms D. Hyams, Ms M. Malkin, Miss S. Nicholls, Miss M. Orson, Mr Payne, Miss S. Pittard, Ms P. Populin, Mrs D. Rau, Mrs P. Robinson, A. Sacks, K. Sugden, Ms A. Taylor Mr and Mrs J. Williams, Mr and Mrs J. Bishop, Mrs E. Dicker, Dr. J Gage, A. Mostyn, Miss J. Newell, Mrs A. Williamson, J. Wynne

Population Studies - our June talk

June 16th, 7.30pm
Swiss Cottage Library

The study of population - its content and movement - has become an important one in local history research. It takes into account social upheavals, industrial developments, fashionable changes and its analysis helps to give overall perspective to the history of an area. Beatrice Shearer, of the Cambridge Population Studies Group, is an acknowledged authority on the subject.

The Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting this year is at The Holme, Bedford College, Regent's Park on July 23rd, and coincides with an exhibition of the Villas of Regent's Park. We are fortunate that Dr. Ann Saunders, a Vice-President of the Society, will give a talk on the subject of the exhibition.

The meeting is, of course, free to members, but we have also arranged for refreshments and wine after the meeting. These will cost £2 and the enclosed form should be returned by July 8th to give us some idea of the numbers to cater for. Members are invited to bring guests if they wish. You are invited for 6.30pm to see the Exhibition, the meeting will begin at 7pm and the talk at 7.30pm. Refreshments will be at 8.15pm

HIGHGATE WALK

The Society is having an unusual Highgate walk on July 4th. It will follow the St Pancras-Hampstead boundary from Gospel Oak to the Kenwood area with diversions east and west. Our guide is Peter Barber and we shall be meeting at Gospel Oak station, Mansfield Road at 3pm

Publication News

Camden Libraries have recently published an illustrated folder which contains details of walks around the historic houses of Hampstead and Highgate open to the public. It is available free at libraries and is called 'A Day Out in Hampstead and Highgate'.

Homsey Historical Society, which recently celebrated its 10th anniversary, are soon to publish their second Highgate Walk called 'Rural Highgate'.

Members may also be interested in 'The Hungry Years: the struggle for survival in Edmonton and Enfield before 1400'. Until now we have known almost nothing of Enfield, Edmonton and Southgate throughout those centuries called mediaeval. Indeed it had been thought that little could be discovered, but after 4 years' labour the author, David Pam, with a band of helpers, has uncovered the stories of a multitude of criminals, labourers, peasants and merchants who were there six or seven hundred years ago. He shows them working in the fields, quarrelling over boundary marks, the trade and the buildings. There is endemic violence of vast proportions compared with our own times. Murders are commonplace, punishment is harsh. The book has 11 illustrations and 2 maps. Copies may be obtained from David Pam, Southgate Town Hall, Green Lanes, N.13 price £1.10 inc. postage. Make cheques payable to the Edmonton Hundred Historical Society.

Members may wish to be reminded of The London Journal which contains excellent and authoritative articles on aspects of London's history. It costs £8 per annum (2 issues) and may be obtained c/o Dept of History, Queen Mary's College, Mile End Road, E.1.

SOVEREIGN MEMBER

Congratulations to Philip Greenall, a member of our Council, who has been elected President for 1981-3 of the London Numismatic Club. His current interest is in 17th century Middlesex tokens - issued when there was a coin shortage. He tells us that the hobby though intriguing is frustrating in that prudence dictates that his collection has to remain in a bank strongroom.

Mr Gregory

Gwilym Gregory, known to everyone as Greg, died in March. He was the second secretary of this Society and the longest-serving before he retired and went to live in Wiltshire. An obituary by Frank Cole, Director of Camden's libraries is printed below.

I first knew Greg in St Pancras days and he always impressed me by his modesty, enquiring mind and efficiency. He can be credited with keeping the cause of local history alive well before it became popular, and with the growth of this Society. He took an early retirement to live in the countryside which he liked so much and near to Wales where he came from, but even then took another job in social work and kept up his interest in local history there, making occasional visits to Camden, arranging last year's outing and sending helpful letters from time to time. He will be much missed.

John Richardson

GWILYM GREGORY died on 10th March 1981. After graduating in 1938 he attended the School of Librarianship at University College, London. War service was followed by brief periods working in libraries in the West Riding and Merton & Morden. When he retired on medical grounds in 1976 he had served the St Pancras and Camden library services for just 29 years, having been Assistant Director since 1974 with responsibility for the appointment and training of staff and for general administration following the reorganisation of the Boroughs in 1965.

Gwilym Gregory was a quiet, scholarly yet versatile librarian: he gained considerable satisfaction from his editorship of the library magazine, the St Pancras Journal and its successor the Camden Journal. He thus seemed a natural choice as Secretary of the Society which he served for six years and his competent handling of its affairs contributed to a rapid growth of membership and activity. Mr Gregory established close links between the Society and the Borough and was modestly proud of this relationship, the envy of colleagues in some other areas.

It is sad that his death followed so soon after his retirement and move to Wiltshire. Our sympathy goes to his wife, son and daughter.

Frank Cole

New Acquisitions

I hope to make this a regular feature of the Newsletter, listing not just new publications but important donations or purchases of older material. I will also be including interesting additions in the recent past which many members may be unaware of.

The shelf number of material is shown for most items and it can be of assistance if this is quoted. Copies added to Swiss Cottage Local History Library are shown by 'A' and to Holborn by 'B', all items for reference use only. Other copies may often be found in other Camden lending or reference libraries.

Malcolm Holmes
Local History Librarian

ANNUAL ABSTRACT OF GREATER LONDON STATISTICS (GLC)

One of the major sources of statistical data available for London. Current and all previous editions in stock. A later Newsletter will list statistical sources old and new. (40 A)

CLAY TOBACCO PIPES (Eric Ayto) 1979
22.93 Pamphlet A and B

A GUIDE TO LONDON'S CHURCHES (M. Blatch) 1978. (16 A & B)

HOW OLD IS YOUR HOUSE? (Pamela Cunnington) 1980.

Emphasis on architectural styles, features and materials with an introductory chapter on documentary sources.

57.1 A

ELGAR: THE HAMPSTEAD SCENE (Dr. L. Eickhoff 1980) 75.1 ELGAR Pamphlet. A

EUSTON ROAD SCHOOL catalogue of an exhibition of paintings and drawings (1948)
53.2904 Pamphlet A

PLACE-NAMES OF GREATER LONDON (John Field 1980) 89.2 A & B

TAPE RECORDING LOCAL HISTORY (David Haines 1977) 00.0013 Pamphlet A

HOUSE PRICES IN THE GLC AREA 1939-71
Danuta Jachniak 60.8 Pamphlet A

CECIL SHARP HOUSE: A SOUVENIR (David Jex 1980) 54.52 Pamphlet A

HOW TO RECORD GRAVEYARDS (Jeremy Jones 1979) 74.5 Pamphlet A

A PROJECT INVESTIGATING THE ARCHITECTURAL AND DESIGN HISTORY OF JOHN BARNES DEPARTMENT STORE AND ST. JOHN'S COURT FINCHLEY ROAD (Open University Project 1979) 64 JOHN A

ASLEF 1880-1980 (Brian Murphy)
61.921 Pamphlet A

THE HISTORY OF ISLINGTON (John Nelson 1811) Facs. edition with 79 extra illustrations 96.9 A

HOW TO RECORD YOUR FAMILY TREE (Patrick Palgrave-Moore 1979)

I see many enquirers into family history searching through their haphazard file of notes, often being confused by the entries they have made. This book stresses the importance of unambiguous systematic recording and suggests various approaches. 74.01 Pamphlet A & B

APPROACHES TO LOCAL HISTORY (Alan Rogers 2nd ed. 1977)

Very useful guidance to, and explanation of source material. 00.001 A & B

ST. PANCRAS SCHOOL FOR MOTHERS
Scrapbook 1907-

The first school in England to welcome mothers to instruct them in infant hygiene. Opened in Chalton Street and later moved to Ampthill Square. This very useful donation would make an ideal source for an article or as a base for further research A

SALTER REX 125 years of property services 1979.

Founded 1854 by Joseph Salter in what is now 311 Kentish Town Road, now situated at 265-7 Kentish Town Road. 60.82 Pamphlet A

THROUGH LONDON BY CANAL 1885

Reprinted from Harper's New Monthly Magazine 1885 48.32 A

A METHODIST'S GUIDE TO LONDON AND THE SOUTH EAST (John Vickers and Betty Young 1980)

Provides very useful historical data and walks. 18.5 Pamphlet A & B

THE GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY Vol. 1 (John Wrottesley 1979) 48.591 A

Somers Town Group

A number of members have expressed interest in the formation of a Somers Town group which would have the aim of publishing a booklet on the area. This group will begin work soon and any other members interested should write to the Secretary.

BURGH HOUSE EVENTS

Future activities include:

9-28th May: Exhibition of Paintings of Hampstead by Donald Towner

16th May: Exhibition: The Manor of Hampstead - the story of Hampstead from Anglo-Saxon times and its agricultural history, arranged by David Sullivan

17th May: Heath Walk: Plants of the Heath, led by Daniel Scott. (3pm)

6th June: Exhibition: Elgar - the Hampstead Scene, illustrating the composer's life and work during his period at Netherhall Gardens.

LOCAL HISTORY PUBLICATIONS FAIR.

On May 15th at Holborn Library all the constituent library authorities in the London and Home Counties area will display their own local history publications. Camden will, of course, be there, but members are strongly urged to see what other authorities are doing. It starts at 12 noon.

THE TRANSPORT GROUP

The next meeting of the Transport Group will be on 18th May at 6pm. The main purpose of the meeting is to finalise present research projects and to introduce new members to the activities. This will take place at Swiss Cottage library meetings room.

FIRST THINGS FIRST!

A glimpse of 19th century priorities may be obtained from the St Pancras Vestry minutes of 1858. A deputation backed by a considerable number of ratepayers attended a vestry meeting to protest against the Vestry fixing the date of the Vestry elections on the same day of the Derby. After discussion the Vestry climbed down and chose another date.

JR

VOLUNTARY HELP AT HIGHGATE CEMETERY

The Friends of Highgate Cemetery are continuing their series of Open Days at this historic cemetery. The next three are on 7th June, 16th August, and 27th September. Meet at the gates in Swains Lane at 1pm (open until 5pm).

The Friends urgently require voluntary helpers to assist in the task of compiling a record of monuments in the Cemetery while they may still be read. Copying inscriptions and drawing monuments are the principal tasks involved but work also needs to be done collating the results with the records of burials and examining obituary columns and local newspapers for biographical information. If you are interested please contact Major Roy Battcock, 6 Maresfield Gardens, N.W.3. Recording takes place on Sunday afternoons from 2pm to 5pm, meeting at the main gate in Swains Lane.

LESLIE NEWMAN

Members will be pleased to learn that Leslie Newman is recovering from a recent illness. His address is 27 Mallow Park, Pinkneys Green, Maidenhead, Berks

SUBSCRIPTIONS PLEASE!

All those members who have not yet renewed their subscriptions (see previous Newsletter) are urged to do so as soon as possible - it saves our Treasurer a lot of time and expense.

This Newsletter is published by the Camden History Society and is edited by John Richardson to whom all contributions should be sent at 32 Ellington Street, N.7.

SECRETARY: Mrs Jane Ramsay, c/o Swiss Cottage Library, Avenue Road, N.W.3 (278 4444 ext 3002)

TREASURER: Helen Lefroy at the same address

EDITOR OF PUBLICATIONS: Christopher Wade, 28 Willoughby Road, N.W.3

newsletter

No 66

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

Jul 1981

The Annual Meeting

July 23rd at 6.30pm

The Holme, Bedford College, Regent's Park

The Annual General Meeting was mentioned at length in the last Newsletter. This is mainly a reminder that it coincides with an exhibition of the Villas of Regent's Park and a talk on that subject by Dr Ann Saunders. Refreshments are provided afterwards at a cost of £2 and a booking form for these was enclosed with the last newsletter.

We hope that many of you will come for what promises to be a very pleasant evening in one of our more picturesque locations. Refreshments are of course optional and if you don't want them do come to the meeting anyway.

CONFERENCE ON SOUTHERN DEFENCES

The Society for Post Medieval Archaeology is organising its autumn conference at Dover this year. It has as its theme the later defences of southern England. The proximity of the continent has ensured that Dover itself is rich in fortifications and the conference will be in Dover Castle. Among those giving papers will be Andrew Saunders, Chief Inspector of Ancient Monuments, Arthur Conway, Curator of Local History at Portsmouth Museum, Victor Smith well-known for his work on Kent defences, and John Kenyon who has made a special study of early artillery works on the South Coast. There will be a tour of the castle to look at its later features, as well as a visit to Drop Redoubt, the recently restored Grand Shaft and the remarkable Admiralty Turret.

The Conference takes place on the 25-27th September. On the Saturday there will be a half-day trip to Calais to see some of the later defences there. The non-residential fee will be £12 which includes the Calais trip and interested people should apply by 22nd August to J.G. Coad, Baileys Reed, Salehurst, Robertsbridge, Sussex.

The Society Outing

August 8th

This year's annual outing has been devised by Christina Gee. Usually we visit historic places having a connection with Camden and this year our trip is linked to the diaries of John Thomas Pocock, extracts of which were published by the Society last year. Consequently we shall be following some of the route he covered on his prodigiously long walks and visiting Hastings, Battle and Bodiam Castle. Details of time and costs are on the enclosed booking form and members are urged to book early.

A Regents Canal Walk

David Thomas is organising an evening stroll through Regent's Park looking at items of interest en route on Thursday, 16th July. The walk will then go to Dingwall's basin and the former railway horse stables off Chalk Farm Road. Copies of the Society's town trail covering the route will be available.

Meet at Warwick Avenue underground station, 6.30pm. It will finish about 8.45pm

Advance Notice

Sep (date still to be finalised) Symposium on West Hampstead

Oct 20: The Peasants' Revolt, 1381. Talk by Andrew Prescott at Jack Straw's Castle

Nov 19: The Maps of North London by Dr Helen Wallis

BURGH HOUSE EVENT

On the 29th August Burgh House are mounting an exhibition called 'Waterways of London'. Aptly these are watercolours by David Thomas (but not, confusingly enough our own member David Thomas who is our expert on London Waterways). It runs until September 10th.

New Acquisitions

Recent acquisitions to the Local History Collection are listed below. Copies at Swiss Cottage Library are noted with the letter 'A' and at Holborn Library 'B'.

I'LL FIGHT YOU FOR IT! Behind the struggle for Covent Garden. By Brian Anson, Jonathan Cape 1981. (B)

Describes the confrontation which occurred with planners, architects, conservationists, following proposals to move Covent Garden Market and replan a very large area.

A REVOLUTION IN LONDON HOUSING. LCC housing architects and their work 1893-1914. By Susan Beattie. GLC/Architectural Press 1980 (B)

Camden references, particularly to Boume Estate in Holborn.

PEOPLE'S THEATRE. By David Bradby and John McCormick. Croom Helm, 1978. (A) Particularly useful for its section on the Unity Theatre, with brief references to other community based theatres

LONDON STATUES: A guide to London's outdoor statues and sculpture. By Arthur Byron. Constable 1981. (A and B) Well illustrated guide to the subject with useful key maps and brief details of sculptors.

WELLS COATES: a monograph. By Sherban Cantacuzino. Gordon Fraser, 1978. (A) Acquired for the information on the Lawn Road Flats 'Isokon', designed by Coates.

OPEN SPACES: new theatre and the RSC. by Colin Chambers. Eyre Methuen 1980. (A) Of particular value for accounts of the Warehouse, and The Place in Dukes Road. Much of the book deals with The Other Place.

THE FAMILY HISTORY BOOK: a guide to tracing your ancestors. By Stella Colwell. Phaidon 1980 (A)

One of the fastest growing hobbies is family history, the next most popular seems to be writing books on the subject. One of the latest additions in the field. Well illustrated.

WATE'S BOOK OF LONDON CHURCHYARDS: a guide to the old churchyards and burial grounds of the City and central London. (A and B) Revised by Harvey Hackman. Collins 1981 Useful, up to date account. Gives the background to the local burial grounds, many of which are today used as pleasant gardens.

PLANS OF LEASEHOLD ESTATES 1833-34 and 1835. R.A. and C.H. Strachan. Manuscript notes and plans. (A) Shows development of part of the land between what is now Royal College Street and St Pancras Way.

THEATRE LONDON published by London Transport 1980. (A and B) Informative guide both to current details for theatre goers plus brief but useful history of each one.

THE RAILWAY WORKERS 1840-1970 by Frank McKenna. Faber 1980. (A)

Most of our books on railways deal mainly with the original expansion of the companies and feats of railway engineering. A welcome addition is this volume with its fascinating detail of the life of a wide range of people involved in running the railways. While of general interest it does have a number of Camden references to e.g Hampden Club, Somers Town, and to Camden and Kentish Town sheds

GRANDFATHER'S LONDON by O.J. Morris. Godfrey Cave Associates 1979 repr. of 1956 publication. (A)

Delightful illustrations and text on the street characters one often finds references to - cat-meat men, organ grinders, fish hawkers etc. No Camden scenes but it helps to capture the atmosphere of earlier days when similar characters walked Camden streets

COURTAULD INSTITUTE ILLUSTRATION ARCHIVES. Archives 4. Late 18th and 19th century sculpture in the British Isles. Pt 10, London. By Benedict Read and Philip Jackson-Ward. Harvey Miller/Courtauld Institute 1979. (A) Many Camden items particularly in Bloomsbury - the Russell Hotel and the sculpture taken from the old Imperial Hotel well covered. Invaluable for details of items which may be difficult to see clearly from the street.

HAMPSTEAD AS IT WAS by Clive R. Smith. C.R. Smith, 1981. (A)

Many postcards here have not been previously published in other books. In addition to the old views for each one a photograph is provided showing the scene today.

VICTORIAN BUILDINGS OF LONDON 1837-1887 Gavin Stamp and Colin Amery. Architectural Press 1980. (A) Illustrations with good descriptive accounts of over 100 significant buildings, about 15 of which are in Camden. Includes Holly Village, St Pancras Station, Church of Christ the King in Gordon Square, St Stephens.

HENRY WELLCOME: the man, his Collection and his Legacy. By Helen Turner. Wellcome Trust/Heinemann 1980. (A)

Account of the wealthy philanthropist who left his great fortune and the future of his world wide pharmaceutical business for the support of medical research. Based in Euston Road, the Wellcome Foundation also houses The Museum of Medical Science.

Malcolm Holmes

HAMPSTEAD AS IT WAS

One of the advantages of collecting postcards depicting Hampstead is that there are so many of them. You can go to a postcard fair and be reasonably confident of picking up at least one that you don't have in your collection. Clive Smith has been brave enough to launch out on his own with a number of books featuring Edwardian postcards of north London - Golders Green, Finchley, Harrow etc - and he now publishes 'Hampstead As It Was' compiled and published by Clive Smith, 62 Greyhound Hill, N.W.4. (Price £1.50) It mainly concerns itself with buildings, street scenes and Hampstead Heath Fair and keeps away from Heath scenes. Some of the pictures are rare ones and Mr Smith should be encouraged to go on publishing what, quite often, are the only photographic records of the time still available. My main criticism is that the book is erratically designed.

John Richardson

DIARY IN DEMAND

Orders and reorders for our Diary of a London Schoolboy continue to come in from all over the country and from the United States and South Africa. Among recent reviews are that of the London Topographical Society's Newsletter: "This Diary gives a remarkably vivid picture of the day-to-day life of a boy between 12 and 15 years old." That of the Genealogist's Magazine: "A fine example of what a local history society can do as a contribution to family history in the shape of an attractively presented and illustrated booklet.

In addition A.J.P. Taylor has just discovered our Camden Town Walk - he mentioned it in his column in The Listener on June 25th. "I am always on the look-out for new walks and have been surprised by finding one near home. A neat little pamphlet presents...a two-hour stretch of topography and literary echoes. Dickens turns up in nearly every street. H.G. Wells was almost as mobile. Sickert spent much of his life in Camden Town and is also commemorated by what he used to describe as 'the statue of my father-in-law'. Guess who? Altogether a rewarding excursion on a quiet Sunday morning or even on a busy weekday."

H. G. WELLS RESEARCH

'Pipeline' the magazine of the Polytechnic of North London reports, under the splendid pun of a headline 'The History of Mr Poly' that H.G. Wells Society has lent on permanent loan a collection of 200 volumes to do with Wells who was a resident of Camden Town at one time. It should be available for research there by September 1st and anyone wishing to see it should contact Ann Winser at the Polytechnic Library in Prince of Wales Road, N.W.5 on 607 2789 ext4080

PHOTOGRAPHERS WANTED

Members who don't know of it already may like to know that the Camden History Society is responsible for a scheme whereby we employ a professional photographer to record the borough's buildings. When the scheme began in 1974 it was a race against the bulldozers but the rate of development has slowed down of late. However, at the present rate of expenditure the year 2000 will see the photographic scheme still incomplete. Our photographer has recorded Highgate New Town, Tolmers Square, West Kentish Town and parts of Covent Garden before demolition, and also Fitzrovia and parts of Holborn and Camden Town before modernisation. The pictures are principally of an architectural nature inasmuch as we wanted to record the buildings and features in a methodical way. Thus terraces of similar houses will have one or two examples photographed, but individual premises will have their own photograph. Contact prints of each picture are stored at Swiss Cottage Library and may be used for illustrating books, lectures etc.

What we now want to do is to encourage members with photographic skill to record Camden's street life and mood. What seems ordinary and banal today, such as a traffic jam in Heath Street will seem quaint (at least we hope so) in a hundred year's time. We want, in short, pictures with people and transport in them doing ordinary or extraordinary things. Anyone intending to participate in this new scheme should first of all contact Malcolm Holmes, the Local History Library on 278 4444 x3007 or see him at Swiss Cottage Library.



An example of how street scenes quickly date and become almost quaint (see previous page) is this photograph from the GLC Collection taken in 1945. It is at the now busy junction of Camden and Kentish Town Road/Great College Street

BLACK COMMUNITIES IN CAMDEN

Marika Sherwood in the Department of Sociology, Polytechnic of North London, Ladbrooke House, Highbury Grove, N.5. writes:

I am trying to do some research into the history of Black people in Britain this century prior to 1952. There were, for instance, communities of Black people in the Cambridge Circus area in the '30s and around Mornington Crescent in the '40s. That they existed is virtually all I know! During the last war there was, I believe, a whole ARP crew of Blacks in the St Pancras area, but the ARP records have been destroyed. Can anyone help?

NEW MEMBERS

New members include:

Miss Helen Egford, Miss Nina Feldman, Miss Grace Ramsey, Mrs Kathleen Roberts, Miss P. Russell-Smith and Mr and Mrs H. Studdert.

This Newsletter is published by the Camden History Society and edited by John Richardson, 32 Ellington Street, N.7 to whom all contributions should be sent. The Secretary of the Society is Mrs Jane Ramsay, c/o Swiss Cottage Library, Avenue Road N.W.3 and the Treasurer is Miss Helen Iefroy at the same address. The Editor of Publications is Christopher Wade at 28 Willoughby Road, N.W.3

newsletter

No 67

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

SEP 1981

West Hampstead Symposium

Saturday, 3rd October, 2.15-5pm
St James' Church Hall, Sherriff Road, N.W.6

The area between Finchley Road and Kilburn High Road has had very little historical study made on it until recent years. Alas, still so much information remains only in people's memories which may not therefore be available to future generations. Perhaps your memory can help to add to our knowledge of the area during the afternoon.

The speakers have drawn heavily from their recent research, often using sources other local historians may not have used, to add a fresh insight into the area and its people.

The speakers are Michael Alpert with 'The Bus from West End Green', an historical account of the transport of West Hampstead;

Dick Wendling on 'The Battles for West End and Fortune Green'. Common land and open spaces in many areas were lost to local people in the 18th and 19th centuries as land was enclosed or sold to developers. The people of West Hampstead fought hard to preserve land they had traditionally used. The last speaker is Mike Redley on 'Village to Suburb' an account of speculative builders and their achievements.

Publication News

The booklet dealing with the streets of Chalk Farm compiled by a group led by Anthony Cooper is at the printers and Christopher Wade is hopeful that it will be out in time to make a good Christmas present.

The book actually covers Chalk Farm to Euston Road and there is no collective name for that area. So, the book is entitled 'Chalk Farm to Euston Road. A Survey of West Camden Streets'.

Members may also be interested to learn that Historical Publications, in association with the Society, is publishing a book on Fitzrovia, the first publication to deal in detail with the area. It has been written by Nick Bailey, a member of the Society and it is hoped to have this published for Christmas as well. It is profusely illustrated.

The Peasants' Revolt

Tuesday, October 20th, 7.30pm
Jack Straw's Castle by Whitestone Pond, Hampstead. (Dickens Room)

Six hundred years ago the Peasants' Revolt erupted in Essex and Kent. The iniquities of the feudal system and the unfair taxation made men bold enough to risk their necks in rebellion. A great many did lose their necks, including Jack Straw who led the group which set fire to the treasurer's new manor at Highbury. Andrew Prescott, of the British Museum, is presenting this talk on the anniversary of this famous uprising and it only right that we should meet at Jack Straw's Castle, however true or untrue the legend that his headquarters were hereabouts.

Accommodation is limited in the Dickens Room. The manager of Jack Straw's, Mr Haldane, has kindly offered the room free and our agreement is that people should be admitted on a first come, first in basis. We have no idea how many of the clientele may wish to leave the bar and come into the lecture - in fact it will be an interesting experiment!

Publicity Officer Wanted

What the Society needs is a Publicity officer. This would involve regular news items to the press and the extension of our publications' selling outlets. It is not a particularly time consuming job but it does need flair, and it is an important post in the next stage of the Society's development. If you think you might suit please contact the Secretary, Jane Ramsay at Swiss Cottage Library, Avenue Road, N.W.3

The Essay Competition

The Essay Competition with its subject 'Camden at War' was very popular. We hope to make a booklet from the results and there is, at the time of writing, an exhibition at Swiss Cottage Library on the same theme which is compulsive viewing. The prizewinners will be announced in November. The next theme for our competition will be Camden Schooldays.

Africans in Camden

Basil Leverton has responded to Marika Sherwood's enquiry in the last Newsletter re black communities in Camden prior to 1952. He writes:

Quite a number of West African residents were in Mornington Crescent, Arlington Road and Eversholt Street. The most distinguished was the late Nigerian Chief John Adetayo Otolorin in Arlington Road, who had lived in our neighbourhood for many years, until he died in 1963 when he was aged 77. He had been held in some esteem and friendly regard by those around here and as a Chief did stand as one of authority. His obituary notice in the Daily Telegraph and St Pancras Chronicle read "Otolorin. On July 3rd 1963 in London, Chief John Adetayo Otolorin of Nigeria aged 77. Funeral Service at St Matthews Church, Oakley Square N.W.1.. followed by interment at Fulham Cemetery, North Sheen. He had served in the 1939/45 war in the Merchant Navy on a ship getting supplies to Tobruk if my memory is correct.

Another Chief, Ladipo Solanke, lived at 1 South Villas, Camden Square, N.W.1 and he was a Nigerian, the obituary notice in the Times and Telegraph referred to him as founder of the West African Students' Union. The further report indicated that his service was conducted by the Bishop of Ondo-Benin in the presence of the Bishops of Lagos and Ibadan (the Lambeth Conference coincidentally had brought these Bishops to London). Chief Solanke was aged 72 and I believe had been in St Pancras for many years presumably back to the '40s.

A NEW HISTORY OF EMMANUEL CHURCH

A new publication on Emmanuel Church, Lyncroft Gardens, N.W.6 has just been published by Jennifer Tucker. It traces its history from its earliest years when a small Mission Church was erected in 1874 for the 300 to 400 inhabitants of the small hamlet of West End. It has over 20 illustrations, including some very old photographs of the original Mission Church. It costs £2.50 and can be obtained from Ms Tucker at 2 Hillcrest Court, Shoot-up Hill, N.W.2, from the Church itself, the CHS bookstall at meetings or from the West Hampstead Community Centre at 62 Mill Lane, N.W.6.

THE ANNOTATED POCOCK

Christina Gee, editor of the Pocock Diary (published by the Society) adds a postscript to Pocock's entry for July 21st 1829 where he says that "Moschelle the Italian composer left us today..." Ignaz Moscheles and his family were resident in London at Chester Place in the 1820s. In the life of her husband (published in 1873) Charlotte Moscheles writes: "In the early spring of this year (1829) Moscheles is deeply moved by domestic sorrow and anxiety. His eldest boy died on the 23rd of March, and the only remaining child was in delicate health during the whole winter. "The poor mother," he says in his diary, "knows nothing but anxiety, sorrow and sleepless nights. One of our darlings is in his grave; with God's help she will be spared her one remaining treasure. As a man I have a load of sorrow to bear, as an artist I belong to the public." Moscheles was spared the fresh sorrow that at one time seemed so imminent. Change of air and scene worked so beneficially on the child's health, that as early as June the parents were free from all anxiety, and able to enjoy the society of artistic friends who visited London in this year, and were carried off by Moscheles to spend their Sundays with him in the country." Moscheles left England in August 1829. It would appear that the 'Change of air and scene that worked so beneficially...' was none other than the country air of Kilburn.

LOCK-UP PLAQUE

The Hampstead Plaque Fund continues on apace under the prodding of Ralph Wade. This time a plaque commemorating the Hampstead Parish Lock Up was unveiled by the Commissioner of Police Sir David McNee in Cannon Lane. The lock-up was built c1730 and served the local parish for nearly 100 years when the Metropolitan Police took over responsibility for containing suspected criminals

CORRECTION

Basil Leverton remarks that the Riley car shown on our 1945 picture in the last Newsletter has a white band at the rear end and recalls that cars had these at either end as an aid in the black-out. Incidentally the caption to that picture was all wrong. The road junction was Royal College Street and Camden Road (not Great College Street which was the old name).

LINKS WITH THE LIGHT BRIGADE

Ernest Rushbrook has sent us the following link between Camden and the Charge of the Light Brigade.

'Honour the Light Brigade' by William Lummis and Kenneth Wynn gives a list of names and information about the men who served in the Light Brigade during the Crimean War. Among the names are 1379 Private John Hickey who rode in the Charge, on the 25th October 1854 with the 4th Light Dragoons. During the 1890s he was in the St Pancras Workhouse, blind and paralysed.

1064 Private Charles Aldous rode in the Charge with the 17th Lancers and was severely wounded, but after discharge lived at 28 Coldbath Square, Clerkenwell, being for some years the Secretary of the Balaclava Commemoration Society.

924 Private John Smith also of the 17th Lancers rode in the Charge. He died in ST Pancras Workhouse in 1899.

The Annual Dinner of the Balaclava Commemoration Society was at the Holborn Restaurant in 1896, at the Horseshoe Hotel, Tottenham Court Road in 1903, and the two final dinners in 1910 and 1913 with 13 and 6 survivors respectively, were at the Holborn Restaurant.

THE GOOD OLD DAYS

St Pancras Vestry in the 19th century was not slow to criticise its staff or to dismiss them. Dr Hillier, their first Medical Officer of Health had the temerity to criticise the Vestry for their tardiness in implementing public health measures and was rewarded with a prolonged battle to obtain an office for himself and furniture in which to lock his papers and shelves on which to put his books and files.

In 1867 Mr Curtis, a Sanitary Inspector, was criticised for his 'slowness of walking when out in the performance of his duties and for incivility to ratepayers' When interviewed he pleaded gout. He was reprimanded for his lack of courtesy and his laxity in the performance of his work.

Another Sanitary Inspector, Mr Hartley, was criticised because he had been seen 'standing for some time in conversation with his fellow Inspector'. He was cautioned as to his future behaviour

John Richardson

PARK REPRINTED

Park's 1814 book on the topography and natural history of Hampstead is now very difficult to buy even if you have the money. The good news is that it is being reprinted in a luxury edition. The bad news is that it will be very expensive. It is being republished by Nottingham Court Press, 4-7 Nottingham Court, Shorts Gardens, W.C.2 in December 1981. The edition will be limited to 550 and within that quantity there are three different qualities of binding ranging from £87.50 to £225.00.

ILLUSTRATION REQUIRED

Have any members seen any old photographs of 25 College Crescent, known up to 1909 as 11 College Terrace? Possibly even ones of the lower end of Fitzjohn's Avenue may be of use as a postcard of this at Swiss Cottage library shows College Crescent in the foreground but only number 26 next door. Any information will be forwarded to the enquirer by Malcolm Holmes, Local History Librarian at Swiss Cottage Library.

MRS PATRICK CAMPBELL

An American researcher is interested in finding out more about the school which Mrs Patrick Campbell (1865-1940) attended in Hampstead for one or two years. Her maiden name was Beatrice Stella Tanner and the time would be about 1876-78. Any leads?

The Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting was held with great success at Bedford College. The setting, the exhibition, the talk and the catering were popular with everyone. Officers and Council were elected as follows:

PRESIDENT: Charles Lee F.C.I.T.

VICE PRESIDENTS: R.M. Robbins, W.R. Maidment, Lord Greenwood, Dr Ann Saunders, Prof. Valerie Pearl

CHAIRMAN: John Richardson

VICE CHAIRMAN: Gillian Tindall

SECRETARY: Jane Ramsay

TREASURER: Helen Lefroy

PUBLICATIONS EDITOR: Christopher Wade

ARCHIVIST: Malcolm Holmes

NEW MEMBERS

New members include:

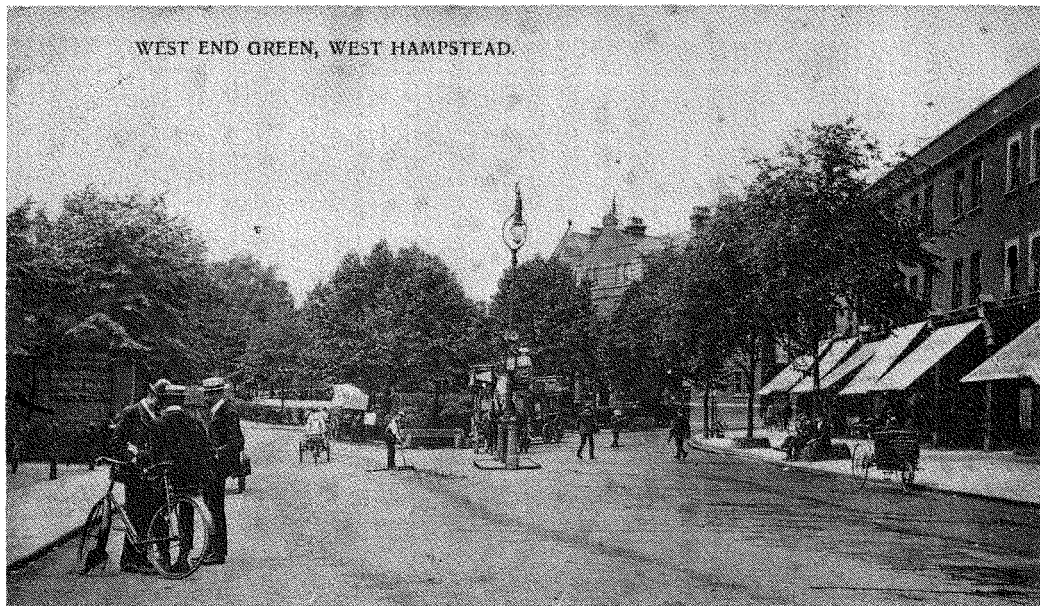
Albert Moody, Charles and Patricia Hutton, Miss J. Watt, Ms P Valdez, Richard Conquest, Mr and Mrs J.P. Lawton

Two of the three illustrations below are topical. One is a picture of the old Jack Straw's Castle (destroyed in the last War), the second an Edwardian scene at West End Green. Both of these are associated with the forthcoming talks. The last one, of Loudon Road is there because its a good street scene. The cross is presumably to mark the home of the correspondent.

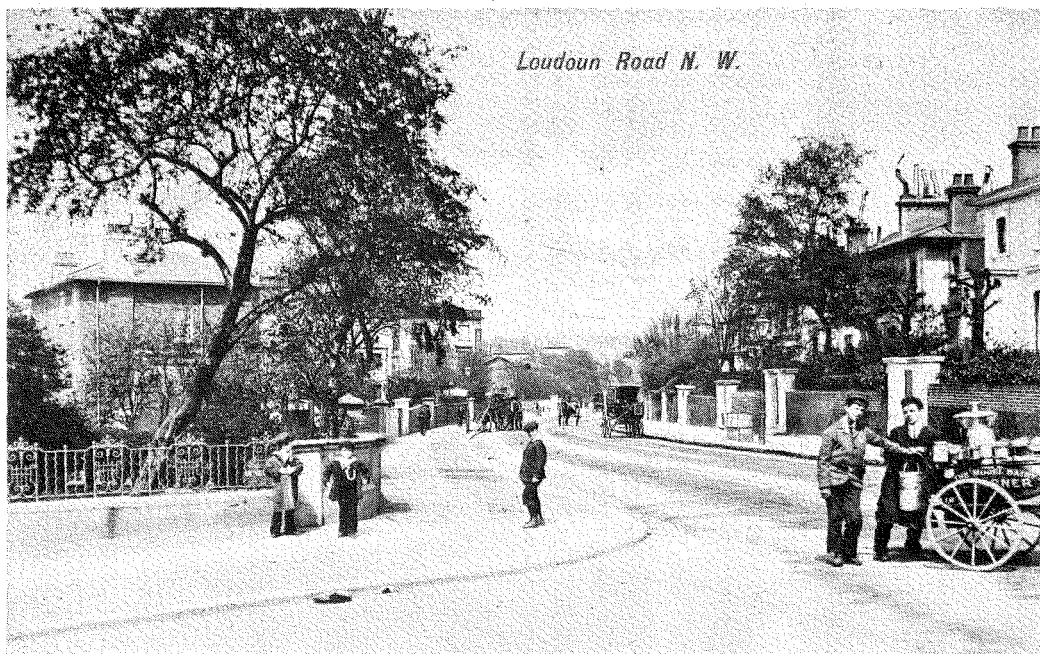


21077

Hampstead. Jack Straw's Castle.



WEST END GREEN, WEST HAMPSTEAD.



Loudon Road N. W.

newsletter

No 68

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

Nov 1981

The Maps of London

Thursday, Nov 19th 7.30pm
Swiss Cottage Library

London is almost certainly the most mapped city in the world. There are rich collections at the national libraries, the GLC and in the London boroughs. Our talk this November will assess the history of this treasure trove with particular attention being paid to those of north London. Our speaker is Dr Helen Wallis, Map Librarian at the British Library.

Fitzrovia – a new book

A new book on Fitzrovia - that area which encompasses Tottenham Court Rd and Charlotte Street - is to be published late November, in time to make an excellent Christmas present. It is by Nick Bailey, a resident of Fitzrovia and a member of this Society. It takes the form of a very well illustrated general history and a street-by-street guide and is the only book, in print, to deal with the area. The locality's cultural heyday was in the 30s and 40s. A large part was replaced by office building in the 60s but conservation has been strong since so that the area retains its distinctive character.

The book (paperback) costs £2.90 and is published by Historical Publications Ltd in association with Camden History Society. It will be obtainable from bookshops and the CHS stand at meetings or else by post from CHS Publications, 28 Willoughby Road, N.W.3 plus 43p postage and packing.

We are hoping that Nick Bailey will give an illustrated talk on Fitzrovia in January but so far the date and venue are not confirmed.

Disraeli – a local man who made good

Wednesday, 16th December, 7.30pm
Holborn Central Library,
Theobalds Road, W.C.1

Benjamin Disraeli died a hundred years ago. He was born at 22 Theobalds Road (near the venue for our talk). He was descended from a family of Levantine Jews but was baptised a Christian when he was 13. He was, of course, a novelist of repute as well as a statesman and his remarkable career will be described by Frederick McArdell, curator of Hughenden Manor, High Wycombe, Disraeli's home for many years.

Publication News

With this Newsletter is enclosed your copy of Camden History Review No 9. The article on Admiral's House by Felicity Marpole contains a local history scoop in showing that an admiral did not, as is commonly said, reside there. It contains also Isobel Watson's fascinating account of the development of Model Housing in Camden and much more besides. Additional copies may be obtained from CHS Publications, 28 Willoughby Road, N.W.3 price £1 plus 20p postage, as also can back numbers of the Review

LOCAL HISTORY EVENING CLASSES

The Camden Institute has a small group of people interested in studying the history of Camden. If you would like to join the group please contact Valerie Michaelson, Head of the Liberal Studies Department, by writing to her at the Camden Institute, 87 Holmes Road, N.W.5 or by telephoning on 267 1791 or 267 1414. (Leave your name, address and phone number and Miss Michaelson will contact you). The group will meet each Wednesday from 7.30 to 9.30pm at Haverstock School, Crogsland Road, N.W.1 from the 13th January 1982 if sufficient people join.

Essay Competitions Past and Present

The Prize winners of our fourth Essay Competition 'Camden At War' are:

1st Prize (£10) (Donated by the Ham & High) - Mrs Elizabeth Sadler, Coachman's Cottage, Thankerton, Biggar, Lanarks.

2nd Prize (£5) (Donated by Owl Bookshop) Michael Rubinstein, 2 South Square, N.W.11

3rd Prize (£3) Miss Judith Todd, Ash Lodge, 40 The Green, N.14

4th Prize (£2) Dr Louise Eickhoff, Llidiaart Road, Moel-y-Garth, Welshpool

This competition attracted more entries than usual, mostly from ex Camden residents. The Society, possibly in collaboration with the Camden Libraries Dept, hope to publish a booklet of wartime reminiscences. In this connection we would like to know, just to round the subject up, if anyone has Boer War memories!

The subject of the next competition is 'Camden Schooldays'. Entries can be personal reminiscences or transcribed memories of others. Local schools may like to take this on as a project, interviewing former pupils and writing up the result.

Were they the happiest days of your life? Were the teachers strict? What happened to the problem pupils? Was there a punishment book? Was there a teacher who was particularly remembered - or indeed were you a teacher in earlier days when teaching methods, equipment and buildings were so very different? What sort of games and sports did you play?

Schools of all types are eligible, catering for any age group. In addition colleges and any further educational establishments can be included. However a school must have been in what is now Camden.

For those unable to collect reminiscences or have none themselves, an essay on the history of a school would be fine.

For an entry form please send a SAE to Christopher Wade, 28 Willoughby Road, N.W.3. Prizes will be roughly as the previous competition and the judges will be Rosemary Weinstein of the Museum of London, Malcolm Holmes, Local History Librarian and Christopher Wade. Closing date for entries is 30 April 1982

LIGHTING COLUMNS LISTED

Peter Scott writes:

The Department of the Environment has recently included 12 St Pancras public lighting columns on the Statutory List of Buildings of Architectural or Historical Interest. Eleven of them are in the centre of Tottenham Court Road. This street was the first to be lit electrically by St Pancras Vestry, the first municipal authority in London to adopt the electric light system. These columns, which bear later alterations, were originally lit in January 1892. Three of the columns display the (incorrect, in heraldic terms) St Pancras coat of arms. The remaining column is at the north west corner of Gordon Square. It is the last St Pancras vestry column to retain its original carbon arc lamp cradle-type fitting, although converted to take an incandescent lamp. It has remained unlit since 1976. Under the acanthus leaf decoration the door displays the Vestry seal - St Pancras standing on a Roman soldier.

Further details re the St Pancras lighting columns are published in "Vestry Arc" by Peter Scott from 11 Duffield Close, Greenhill, Harrow, Middx price 90p plus 30p postage.

THE PRIORY MULBERRY TREES

Jenny Woolf writes:

In the Newsletter of January 1981 it was thought that all but one of the mulberry trees marking the boundaries of the Kilburn Priory estate had disappeared. However I suspect that one other exists - in the grounds of George Eliot Infants' School which adjoins Boundary Road. I have also heard from Miss Cornforth of 42 Birchington Road who says that one near St Mary's Church, in the garden of 132 Abbey Road has unfortunately been cut down recently.

NEW MEMBERS

New Members include:

Albert Moody, Mr and Mrs Hutton, Miss J. Watt, Ms P. Valdez, Alex and Roberta de Joia, Richard Conquest, Mr and Mrs J.P. Lawton

Another Rail Accident

On the morning of Saturday, October 27th, 1907, West Hampstead Metropolitan Line station was engulfed in fog. At ten to eight, neighbouring streets were shaken by a loud crash, following by a frightening rending noise. Crowds rushed on to the footbridge at the south end of the platforms. A horrifying sight emerged from the swirling fog. On the down side, roughly where the northbound Metropolitan track runs today, one train standing in the station had been run into from behind by another. The front carriage of the second train had pierced the last coach of the first one and reared up through the roof.

A few passengers on the first train struggled out and rushed back to the impacted carriage. A number of men were pinned under the wreckage. Passengers and staff set to work. Amid the debris they found three men horribly crushed by the bumpers, and three more still alive, including the driver of the second train, still in his cab.

The police-station in West End Lane, opposite St James' church, notified local doctors. Fearing a heavy toll the police arranged for the neighbouring West Hampstead Town Hall to be used as an emergency mortuary. Only three men, however, were killed in the crash. They were a Woodford butcher working at Ainslie's of 330 West End lane, a carpenter from Clerkenwell on his way to Harrow, and a Dulwich man who worked for his father's cleaning firm and was bound for Willesden Green. Happily the cars had remained upright, thus removing any danger of fire or electrocution. The Town Hall (not municipal headquarters but merely a large hall for hiring), was not needed.

What had caused the collision? A Board of Trade enquiry, a coroner's inquest, and finally a trial for manslaughter at the Old Bailey would reveal a strange concatenation of circumstances, some unanswered questions and a conscience-stricken railway company.

The driver of the second train had found the fog very heavy at West Hampstead. As he began to apply his brakes the standing train loomed up through the fog too late for him to stop.

But why was the first train still there and why was the second train free to proceed? The answer could only be given by Signalman Hollis who since 1895 had worked in the signal box at the south end of West Hampstead. Hollis overslept that morning and came on duty forty

minutes late at 6.40am. The night signalman covered for him. Nevertheless, his lateness led to insinuations that he was still agitated over an hour later when the crash occurred. In fact the level of calm and discipline required by the signalman was astounding. Answering a question put by his area union secretary, Hollis stated that he had to book and clear 201 passenger trains alone through West Hampstead between 6am and 2pm.

Hollis said that in the foggy conditions of that morning he thought that the first train had left the station and claimed that his indicators showed that it had passed into the next section on its way to Kilburn. He did not check visually because he could not in the fog. Asked why he had not requested a man to be placed on the platform to call up train movements to him, Hollis claimed that he had previously been refused such help. The Board of Trade inspector claimed that Hollis must have tampered with the mechanism in order to give the second train the signal to come into the station. Some splinters of glass found in the box later that day led to the suspicion that Hollis had broken the glass case in order to move the instruments.

The inquest, on November 20th, returned a verdict of culpable negligence. The next day Hollis was charged with manslaughter. The Metropolitan Railway suspended him on full pay and put up his bail. At the trial at the Central Criminal Court on Jan 10th, 1908, Hollis and the witnesses repeated their story. The judge summed up that a verdict of manslaughter would require 'gross' not 'mere' negligence. Hollis's negligence had lain in not checking visually that the first train had actually left. Behind the judge's direction lay the awareness that Hollis could hardly be blamed for the fog or the rush with which he had to work. The judge's hint was taken by the jury which acquitted the signalman.

Implicitly then, the Metropolitan Railway was at fault. Press comment was that a service of the frequency of the recently-electrified Met. ought not to rely on the skill of an overworked signalman, especially since the semi-automatic apparatus was so liable to malfunction.

In its defence, the Metropolitan pointed out that this was the first accident since it had commenced operations in 1863. It was also the first accident of its kind with electric signalling. All the same, the company made no bones about paying claims without argument to the relatives of the dead and to the injured, and automatic signalling was rapidly proceeded with.

Michael Alpert

HELP WANTED

Angela Taylor, Local Projects Liaison Officer at the Polytechnic of North London writes:

The Polytechnic needs a voluntary part-time archivist to help. Our records go back to 1880 and cover both the educational and more general local history. We have two collections, one relating to the North Western Polytechnic, opened in 1929 and the other relating to the Northern Polytechnic opened in 1896.

Our ideal helper would work independently but under my supervision for a minimum of a half-day a fortnight. Unfortunately weekend work is not possible but some evenings are. Please contact me at 6072789 Ext 2451 or Ann Winser on Ext. 4082.

GEORGE WILLIAMS

Geoffrey Palmer, Director of Christian Purposes and Special Projects at the YMCA in Great Russell Street, points out that 1982 will be the centenary of the National Council of YMCAs in this country. He feels that there should be some fitting reminder that George Williams, the principal founder of the YMCA was a resident of Bloomsbury for 50 years. He lived at 30 Woburn Square from 1855-1880 and from then until 1905 at 13 Russell Square. Unfortunately the first address was demolished c1971 and is now occupied by a pathway between Faculties of the University, and the second was demolished in 1939 and is replaced by a building currently used by the DHSS.

It is the GLC's policy only to put plaques on residences which still exist and Mr Palmer is therefore interested to hear of any alternative ideas to mark the residence of George Williams. He is, incidentally, commemorated in both Westminster Abbey and St Paul's Cathedral. In the Abbey there are two portraits of him in stained glass and in St Paul's there is his tomb in the Crypt and a bust with a memorial on the wall.

Anyone interested in learning more about George Williams will find a booklet published by the London Central YMCA in 1975 entitled 'A Man in his Setting: The relevance of George Williams' by Dr Clyde Binfield, very useful.

BURGH HOUSE EVENTS

The events at Burgh House include:

Nov 22: 3pm Illustrated talk: Restoration of Stained Glass by June Lennox of the Glass Conservation Dept, V & A

Dec 3, 8pm, Felix Aprahamian talks on the Music of London in the 1930s

Dec 11, 8pm, Architecture in the Twenties and Thirties by Alan Powers

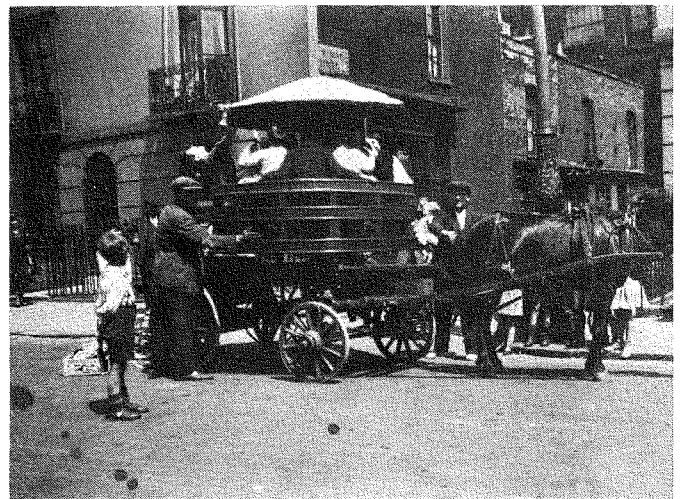
The museum has had a rich haul of acquisitions during the last few months..an old fork head found on the Blue Star site, a school ink-pot dug up near the Rosslyn Hill chapel, a clay pipe given by Mr H. Frank, a large photograph of Christchurch choir c1933 etc.

ITINERANT ROUNDABOUTS

Marguarita Fuller writes:

I was looking through my late father's old photos and found this illustration of his mobile roundabout. The kids used to get a free ride on it in exchange for a jam jar. It was taken somewhere near Mornington Crescent.

(Ed. note: A street name visible on the original photo is Wybert Street, which was off Munster Square)



THE SOCIETY

This Newsletter is published by the Camden History Society and edited by John Richardson, 32 Ellington Street, N.7 to whom all contributions should be sent. The Secretary of the Society is Mrs Jane Ramsay, c/o Swiss Cottage Library, Avenue Road N.W.3 and the Treasurer is Miss Helen Lefroy at the same address. The Editor of Publications is Christopher Wade at 28 Willoughby Road, N.W.3