

# newsletter

of the **CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY**

No. 93

Jan 1986

## The Purpose and Nature of Domesday Book

Wednesday, January 15th, 7.30pm  
Audio-Visual Room, The Library,  
Westfield College, Kidderpore  
Avenue, N.W.3.

Few members will need to be reminded that 1986 is the 900th anniversary of the completion of Domesday Book, an event being celebrated in various ways, such as exhibitions and publications. We have invited one of our Vice-Presidents, Professor Henry Loyn, who is Professor of History at Westfield College, to speak on this and we are confident that his lecture will be both entertaining and erudite.

## Industrial Archaeology Group Makes Progress

A Group has been re-formed to study transport and industrial archaeology in Camden - it will have close links with the Greater London Industrial Archaeology Society. It has decided to concentrate its efforts initially on some sites in Kentish Town which is a particularly rich area for railway lands and old factories. The aim is to prepare a series of reports which will appear in this Newsletter or else, if too long and suitable, in the Review. Members who would like to join the group should contact its co-ordinator David Thomas at 36 Pearman Street, SE1 7RB

### HORNSEY SOCIETY ACTIVITIES

The Hornsey Historical Society has just issued its programme of events for 1986. Meetings are held at Hornsey Library, Haringey Park, N.8 at 8pm. Talks include one on Hornsey Rise on Feb 12, Panorama Rotundas in London on Mar 12, and People and Politics in Clerkenwell on Jun 11.

## John Lewis - a History of a Shopkeeper

Tuesday, February 25th, 7pm  
Holborn Central Library,  
Theobalds Road, W.C.1

The John Lewis stores are so familiar to us that it is difficult to imagine the beginnings - one small draper's shop in Oxford St. Lewis was eccentric and close with his money there are many good stories about him. The links with Camden are the former John Barnes store and also his old house in Branch Hill, Spedan Tower. Our speaker is Linda Poole, the archivist for the Partnership.

## Directory Delights

When you buy your Hampstead and Highgate Directory for 1885/6 (on sale soon from the CHS bookstall at meetings, or at bookshops and Camden libraries), you may be bewildered by the amount and diversity of information being offered you - so here are a few notes about this fascinating publication.

Not surprisingly, the first section is devoted to a CLASSIFIED LIST OF TRADESMEN, without whose advertisements the cost of publication would have been prohibitive. In fact, a more comprehensive list of trades comes later (page 263), where you will find such forgotten enterprises as bath-chair hire and Galvano-Electric Baths. Subsequent sections offer a MEDICAL DIRECTORY, with about 150 doctors to choose from, and a list of LONDON CLUBS, of which you will note two are exclusively for 'Yacht owners and Gents of Position'.

Under CHURCHES, CHAPELS, INSTITUTIONS, ETC come also Mission Rooms, the Salvation Army Barracks in the Vale of Health, Board Schools and British Schools (e.g. at the Baptist Chapel in Heath Street), the Public Library in Stanfield House, the Volunteer Corps and other vanished organisations.

After the STREETS DIRECTORY, which is

explained on the jacket of our new publication, you will find the ABC of inhabitants. These are divided into PRIVATE INHABITANTS, previously called the Court Directory, and TRADESMEN AND OTHERS. Note that, in the former, anyone of rank precedes others of the same surname: thus Rev. Sydney Boyd tops the list of Boyds. Married ladies on their own appear, mostly without initials, under M for Mrs. By the end of the century, the list of Tradesmen was renamed the Commercial Directory and, inexplicably, all artists were relegated to it from the Private sector. (In the 1932 edition, Henry Moore is classified Commercial.)

The following lists of PUBLIC OFFICERS give a vivid picture of how we were administered a hundred years ago. The Hampstead Vestry (Town Council), which met in the newly opened Vestry Hall in Haverstock Hill, includes many familiar names of local builders, leading grocers and other respectable tradesmen - and Henry Harben, later Sir Henry, chairman of the Prudential and first mayor of Hampstead. Environmental problems are handled by an Inspector of Nuisances and, for refuse collection, a Superintendent of Dusting. The Workhouse in New End (now the hospital), is supervised by the Guardians of the Poor.

All this, and the ADVERTISEMENTS too, will amaze and amuse you while telling you all about grandmother's Hampstead and Highgate.

Christopher Wade

## The Kings Cross Cut

The Kings Cross Cut: A city canal and its community. By Bob Gilbert, price £2.50. Available from some bookshops and the Thornhill Neighbourhood Centre.

This publication begins with an enormous inaccuracy: 'In 1820 the only settlements in an otherwise agricultural area had been the little villages of Battlebridge, where Kings Cross now stands, and of St Pancras, further to the west'. Just a cursory glance at a St Pancras map of twenty years earlier will note the Smallpox Hospital on the site of Kings Cross station and the tightly packed tenements stretching up Pancras Road to the church. To the west, to what the author calls St Pancras, there were very large numbers of houses indeed including, of course, Somers Town.

A few pages later, when the author is discussing tunnel construction, we read that when the original Highgate Archway tunnel collapsed in 1812 several workmen were killed. This is not true - the tunnel collapsed very early one morning before workmen had arrived.

These sort of mistakes are a pity because the publication is interesting, well presented and full of good information about an area of London which has scarcely seen any good times. To it came occupations regarded, even then, as socially unacceptable such as tanning and glue-making. Part of the area was then known laconically as 'Belle Isle' and here, apart from the unsavoury industries, refuse was dumped in increasing amounts. The opening of the Regent's Canal through the area in 1820 did not improve such matters and soon afterwards the notorious Agar Town, a shanty town of short-life shacks, was erected to the dismay of everyone. The railways later obliterated Agar Town but they brought instead their own slums and, of course, incredible noise, dirt and smoke. In the middle of it all - the gasworks.

Comparatively recently the area has received some kind of face-lift. St Pancras old church and its attendant burial grounds (oddly enough, for all their importance locally, not mentioned at all), are a pleasant enough oasis; the canal, the main subject of the book, is available for a pleasant walk; Camley Street is less beat-up (although still with pockets of appalling litter) and the nature park is open. Also houses and small factories are moving back with the help of Camden Council and private business. If only British Rail could be persuaded to take their responsibilities seriously and do away with the urban squalor that passes for railway yards in the area and, dare I say it, if only the gasworks would go away, industrially attractive as they might be, then the area could obtain some well-deserved improvement.

Mr Gilbert reveals lots of interesting detail. Coincidentally, bearing in mind the illustration in this Newsletter, he mentions the ice wells by the canal used by Carlo Gatti, an Italian-Swiss immigrant who set up his ice-cream parlour in London. He collected ice from springs and ponds in winter and stored it in this area in wells sixty feet deep for use in the summer months.

The Kings Cross Cut is worth buying and worth reading.

John Richardson

## Excerpts from Stray Leaves

Deirdre Le Faye has a knack of finding books long out-of-print and forgotten which are fascinating for their detail of London or Camden. She has sent us an extract from a volume entitled 'Stray Leaves from Travel, Sport, Animals and Kindred Subjects' by James Conway Walter, published in 1910. A section called Further Experiences in London is particularly interesting and the first instalment appears below:

The year 1887 was marked by considerable unrest among the masses. Perhaps, after the Chartist riots of the first half of the nineteenth century, there was no more unsettled period. Among other acts of violence was the pulling down, by a turbulent mob, of the iron railings of Hyde Park. In November of that year I happened to be in town, and on Saturday, the 19th of that month, seeing an intimation in a newspaper that a repetition of something of the same kind might be expected next day, Sunday, the day specially convenient for idle 'loafers,' and being always ready to add to my experiences, I spoke to a policeman, and from him I learnt that special constables were to be enrolled for that day. By his instructions I went to a station and offered my services. I was at once enrolled to be on duty in Trafalgar Square, as a member No 12 of C Division, from 8am for the day or as long as I should be required. Accordingly on the morning of Sunday, November 20, after an early breakfast at the Charing Cross Hotel, and having put sandwiches in my pocket, I repaired to Trafalgar Square. I had been supplied with a stout ashen truncheon, and a broad badge of blue and white coarse ribbon to wear on my arm. I found a large force of similar volunteers already gathered together, and by the merest accident I was placed under the command of an officer who hailed from my own county, and with whom, as also with other members of his family, I was already acquainted. I took up my position, with my face eastward, under the eye of my commanding officer, and here we stood from 8am till 8pm with the exception of a relief of five minutes twice or thrice in the day. The mob came and looked at us, and walked round us, but our numbers, and our serried ranks, evidently overawed them, and though they repeated this more than once, they never dared to attack us. 'Discretion' was with them evidently 'the better part of valour.' and in the evening they grad-

ually dispersed; and after waiting some time to see if there would be a renewal of their visits we also were disbanded.

The following evening I had a further experience of rough life in London, which I here give, as I subsequently wrote it out in full.

Having been busy all day, about 7pm I decided to call upon a friend, and probably, if I found him at home, to sup with him. He resided in the neighbourhood of Euston Station and my shortest way to get there lay through the 'Seven Dials' district, not the most reputable part of London. The sights, sounds, and odours, which I here encountered, were not agreeable. The prevailing language consisted largely of oaths, or words of the coarsest description. As to the sights: here lay a woman across her own doorstep in a helpless state of intoxication; there were children playing in the gutter, unshod, unkempt, and ignorant, probably, of all instruction save in villainy. Then if the sights were revolting, the odours were worse.

One felt a burning sense of shame that such scenes could be witnessed in near proximity to wealth and refinement, but I pressed on. I was traversing a passage, which contracted still more, and became, if possible, more slum-like, when it terminated abruptly, and I had to turn off to the right. Here I was confronted by a policeman, who barred my way and forbade further advance. On my expostulating his only reply was, 'There are plenty of them up there without you,' and as he said this, some fifty yards ahead, I saw a crowd jostling, thrusting, reeling and heaving in tumultuous confusion. Their voices were a very babel of loud and angry utterances, accompanied by the sound of blows, both of fist and staff. The police were making a raid on some haunt of vice, while the occupants were struggling in resistance. In a few moments, however, law apparently prevailed. Some of the ringleaders had been taken, and among the rest there was a general stampede. The policeman advised me to beat a retreat, but I preferred waiting to see the course of events. The crowd came tearing along in wild excitement, women unsexed, and men embruted, forcing their headlong way regardless of each other. The policeman withdrew himself within the shelter of a doorway to avoid the rush, from which he could scarcely have escaped without violent treatment.

I stood up close against a wall, hoping that, as being a party unconcerned, they

would pass me by. But a sudden reel in the crowd brought a coarse woman full against me, and as I could not strike out in self-defence I was rolled round, but managed without difficulty to preserve my balance, and found myself hurried helplessly along with the seething mass. Once or twice, I tried to check my course by mounting a step, and laying hold of a door handle, but the tide was too strong, and in spite of such efforts, it bore me along with it. Once I succeeded in getting within an open doorway, but three or four vicious occupants of the interior immediately shouted, 'We have no room for you master,' and by main force thrust me out into the swirling crowd again.

(Don't miss the next breathless instalment in the Newsletter!)

## An old Italian Swiss Restaurant

Reproduced on this page is an illustration from a book of old photographs which illustrated the life of inhabitants of the Ticino canton in Switzerland - an Italian Swiss part of the country. Peter Barber pointed out the picture below as featuring an immigrant family in London who had opened a restaurant in Tottenham Court Road and who were, judging by the sign, previously with the well-known restaurateur, Carlo Gatti. We do not have a date for the picture - research needed please by whoever may be interested!



# newsletter

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

No. 94

Mar 1986

## Walking the Streets of Eighteenth-Century London

Wednesday, Mar 5th, 7.30pm  
Swiss Cottage Library, NW3

This talk by Penelope Corfield of Bedford College is, in a sense, 200 years late, for it is an illustrated guide for 'strangers' visiting London for the first time in the 18th century. Our speaker will be explaining why London was like it was rather than giving a topographical tour. It sounds like a fascinating evening.

### RENEWAL OF SUBSCRIPTIONS

Thankyou for the very good response so far to our Membership Renewal notice. We would like to remind those of you who have not yet paid (and do not have a standing order with your bank) that subscriptions are due on 1st March. A renewal form was enclosed with the January Newsletter, but here is a reminder of the rates:

Ordinary: £5.00  
Joint: £5.50 (two people at same address)  
Senior Citizen and full time student:  
£4.00

Cheques payable to the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY should be sent to Miss Helen Lefroy, Treasurer, Camden History Society, Swiss Cottage Library, Avenue Rd, NW3 3HA

### HAMPSTEAD COMPETITIONS

There are three attractive competitions associated with the Hampstead Millennium celebrations.

One is to write a Millennial Sonnet, the second is to write a Heathman's Diary as it might have appeared in the Hampstead and Highgate Express in the year of your choice, say 1066 for example, and the third is for artists.

Details may be obtained from the High Hill Bookshop, 6/7 Hampstead High Street, NW3 or from Burgh House, New End Square, NW3. There is a charge for each entry form of 50p which goes to charity.

The deadline for return of entries has been extended to 31st March.

## The North London Line – our April talk

15th April, 7pm  
Holborn Central Library  
Theobalds Road, W.C.1

The North London Railway began life in 1851 with the unwieldy name of the East and West India Docks and Birmingham Junction Railway. However, the title summed up the ambitions of the promoters - to link the industrial heartland of Birmingham, via what became the London North Western, to two large London docks. What the proprietors hadn't anticipated was the line's popularity with commuters who were able to get down to the City regions very quickly. Encouraged by this the owners built a spur line from Dalston down to their new Broad Street station. These were the early, successful, days of the North London although it was to see many ups and days subsequently.

Our speaker is R. Michael Robbins, one of our vice-Presidents, and one of the acknowledged experts on London's transport history. A talk not to be missed.

### ADVANCE NOTICE

Please put the following talk in your diary:

May 14th, 7.30pm, Hampstead Parish Church:  
Medieval Hampstead by David Sullivan

### REGENT'S CANAL WALKS

The Inland Waterways Association are organising several walks along the Regent's Canal this year. The meeting place is Camden Town underground station at 2.30pm in each case. On 2 Mar and 4 May the walk is past the Zoo to Paddington, and on 6 April and 1 June the walk is to Islington past St Pancras station. Each walk lasts about 2 hours and costs £1.50 which goes to IWA funds.



# Industrial Archaeology Group

The group is continuing its documentary research - future working sessions are at Holborn Library, Local History Room on 17th March and 14th April beginning at 5.30pm until 7.45pm. There will be other meetings of the group - for details of these please contact the group's co-ordinator, David Thomas, at 36 Pearman Street, SE1 7RB. The aim is to interpret and do notes or articles on industrial or transport buildings, linking research with on-site evidence.

The first subject of such an article is CLAUDIUS ASH, manufacturer of mineral teeth, Anglers Lane, Kentish Town, N.W.5.

On one side of the narrow, short, Anglers Lane is a modest three-storey factory. Anyone taking a second glance will notice that the brick frontage has a pleasant symmetrical design, albeit spoilt by later additions. This was the business end of an international organisation.

The Anglers Lane factory was built on a 'green-field' site in 1864 as workshops for the expanding family firm founded in 1825 by Claudius Ash. This gentleman began his career as a silversmith at 64 St James's St; by 1825 he was at 9 Broad Street (now Broadwick Street), W.1.

Apparently Mr Ash was asked to make false teeth in gold and silver. At that time the only alternative supply of false teeth was from corpses, these 'Waterloo Teeth' being attached to rudimentary denture plates. Mr Ash explored the possibility of making durable, acceptable, teeth from other materials. This became his main activity, and from 1840 directories cease to refer to 'working of gold etc, and instead show him as a manufacturer of mineral teeth, still at Broad Street; by 1864 Nos 7 and 8 were also used.

A contemporary account reads '...a perfect mineral composition. After calcination the minerals were crushed into small pieces, ground dry and finally pestled in a mortar under water until they were absolutely gritless, like the finest white cream; this was then dried and stored in sealed jars until required.' This powder would then be mixed by a bonding agent, moulded to tooth shape and fired in a kiln.-

Mr Ash's sons joined the firm, which branched into manufacture of dental materials. By the 1860s vulcanised rubber (later vulcanite) was available and false teeth could be set into it. The Anglers Lane factory was built at this time to house workshops, the large windows allowing plenty of light. Rate books mention an 'engine', so presumably

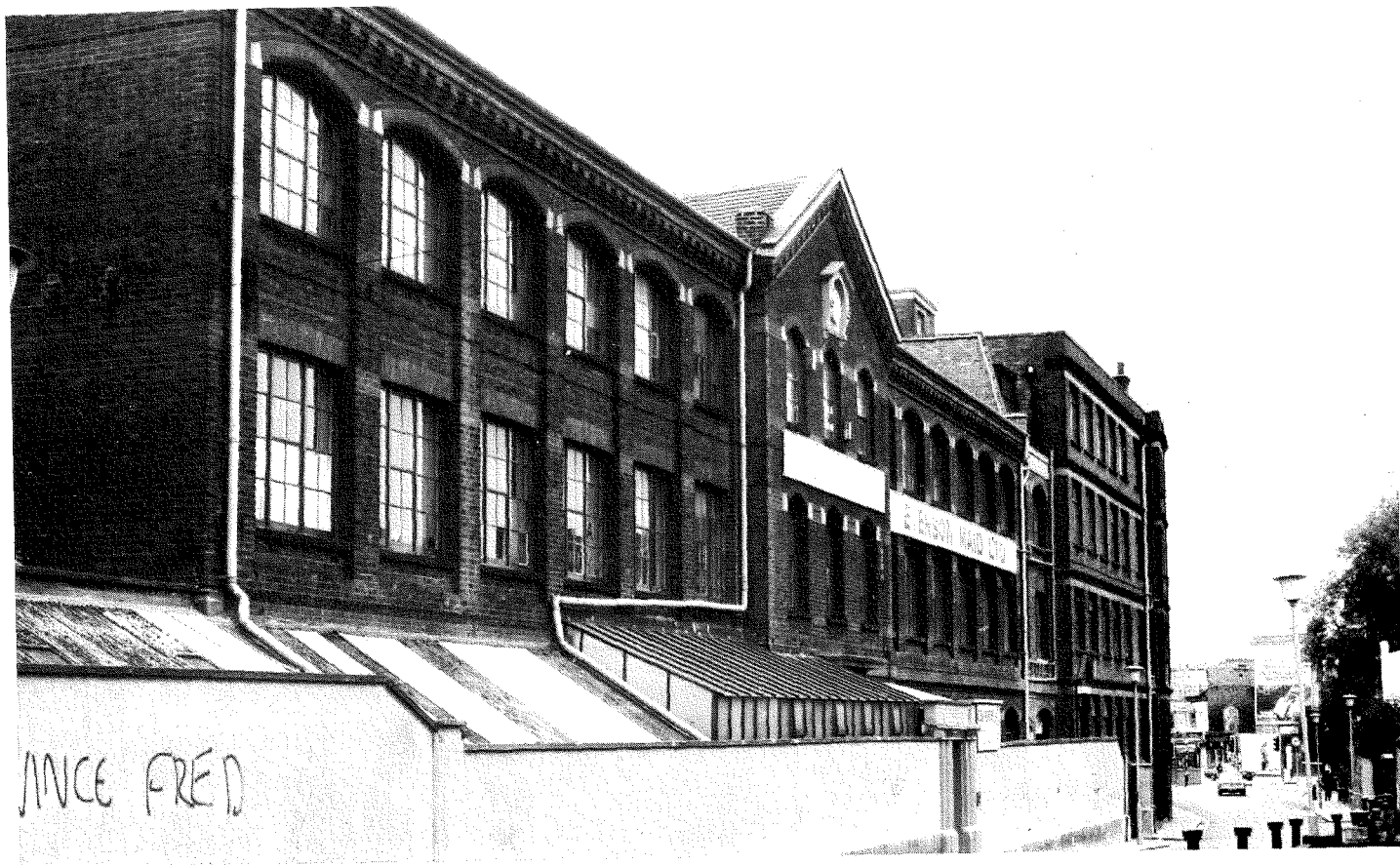
steam power drove the mixing machines via overhead shafting. There was a kiln to fire the porcelain teeth. Dental equipment was also made here. At the rear was a yard, stables and storehouse and the manager lived in a house adjacent to the factory. In the early 1880s the firm had branches in Manchester, Liverpool, Paris, Berlin, Vienna, Hamburg, Copenhagen, St Petersburg and New York, although some branches consisted of agents in short-term leases.

A prospectus issued in 1905, which preceded the setting up of Claudius Ash & Sons Ltd with a share capital of £1 million, says that the firm became two separate companies in 1899, although retaining a close relationship with family members on both boards, and one firm selling the whole of its output to the other. Each firm showed a profit of over £30,000 annually 1901-04. They became one organisation again in 1905.

Meanwhile some changes were occurring at Anglers Lane; the rateable value of the factory, having remained at a similar level for many years, rose from £425 to £613 in 1904 which indicates an enlargement. Within a few years the manager's house had been demolished and the site, plus that of smaller houses adjacent, covered by an extension to the factory. This is easily identified on the right of the picture. The manager did not do too badly - he moved to 2 Parkhill Road. More workshops were taken over at 58 Highgate Road in 1915 and the list of branch addresses included 24 major cities such as Constantinople and Cairo.

In 1924 the firm joined with a competitor, de Trey and Co., itself having branches abroad and a factory in Walton-on-Thames making dental equipment, chairs etc. The new firm became the Amalgamated Dental Co. From this date the history is less clear. The names of Ash and de Trey with those of other former subsidiaries, continued to be used under what is shown in 1967 as the holding company of A.D. International Ltd. The London offices remained at 26-40 Broadwick St until at least 1977, but there is now no trace in the London telephone book. No. 58 Highgate Road was vacated in about 1956, and Anglers Lane in 1965; both premises are in alternative use, although the buildings at the rear of Anglers Lane have been demolished. It is believed that part or all of the work undertaken at Walton-on-Thames was moved elsewhere in England during 1977-78.

Any member who can fill in the later history of the firm, or describe the work, is asked to contact David Thomas. This article is



The Anglers Lane factory of Claudius Ash.

the result of research by Hugh Marks, Malcolm Osmundson (GLIAS), Ann Winser and David Thomas. Further photographs and research data are to be deposited in the Local History Collection at Swiss Cottage. The Heal Collection there has a copy of the 1905 prospectus and a sketch of the factory drawn in 1871 (AV10).

### MILLENNIUM EVENTS

The celebrations for the Hampstead Millennium are now in full swing and you are invited to pick up a brochure from libraries and bookshops. However, in case one eludes you, events of historical bent in March and April are as follows:

Mar 8 to Apr 27: an Exhibition at Burgh House called 'Writers and Hampstead'.. Their observations on the People and the Place 'from Domesday to Drabble. Devised by Ian Norrie. Admission free.

Apr 29: 'The Streets of Hampstead' an illustrated talk by Christopher Wade in the Crypt Room, at St John's Parish church.

And advance notice:

May 3 - July 6 'The Medieval Manor of Hampstead' exhibition at Burgh House.

May 4: Beating the Bounds of Hampstead (details to be announced)

## Directory Delights

The reprinted Hampstead and Highgate Directory for 1885/6 has aroused much interest. And no wonder, for it is full of fascinating stuff. Note how local streets have changed character over the last century - all those bootmakers in Back Lane, nursery gardens in Haverstock Hill and Highgate West Hill, a Field Lane Industrial School in Church Row and tea gardens and sweeps in the Vale of Health. The impact of Highgate Cemetery can be seen in the number of monumental masons in the area.

The names of noted artists pepper the pages: Kate Greenaway, George Du Maurier, Henry Holiday, Gilbert Scott jnr, Bannister Fletcher, Gerard Manley Hopkins and A.A. Milne.

Among the tradesmen you will find such forgotten enterprises as bath-chair hire, cowkeepers, Galvano-Electric Baths and lath renders.

Copies may be obtained for £5.95 at Camden libraries, bookshops and at CHS meetings. It is funded by the Society and Camden Council as part of the Millennium celebrations so please help to make its publication a success by buying one for yourself and another for a present!

## A Photographic Competition

This year, instead of the usual Essay Competition, we are introducing a photographic competition. It is hoped that members will keep their eyes open for features which evoke Camden's past and photograph them - not just to win the competition but to put something into the Camden archives. The entry form is enclosed, so please, in the sunnier months ahead, see what you can find and record.

### OLD PUB NAME DISAPPEARS

Why are our oldest pubs changing their names? In Chalk Farm, the old Tavern became for a few years Pub Lotus, although it has now reverted to the Chalk Farm Tavern.

Recently the rot has spread to Camden Town and Grays Inn Road. We have, at Camden Town, the World's End instead of the Mother Red Cap - a name known in this area of London for hundreds of years, and whose history is detailed in 'Primrose Hill to Euston Road'. Why have we got a Chelsea place name in Camden Town?

The ancient hostelry of the Pindar of Wakefield, although not quite on the original site it had between Grays Inn Road and Battle Bridge, has now been renamed as the Water Rats, commemorating what is not clear.

Where will it end?

Roger Cline

## Stray Leaves (continued)

We continue our excerpt from 'Stray Leaves on Travel, Sport, Animals and Kindred Subjects' by James Conway Walter, published in 1910, in which our hero is loose in the more disreputable parts of the metropolis. In the last episode he was just about to escape from a mob of low people.

'Congratulating myself on this escape, I followed the course of this fresh alley, trusting to the chapter of accidents to bring me presently into some larger thoroughfare, where I could inquire my way. But my adventures were not yet ended. Having recovered breath and composure, I began once more to look about me. I was approaching the entrance of a building, into which several strange-looking men were entering. Led by curiosity, I followed. It proved to be an eating-house, one of the very lowest order, where a meal was provided, table d'hote fashion, for fourpence, barring the drinkables, which everyone selected for himself, according to his means or inclination. I paid my fee, and sat down at one of the tables, wishing to add to my experience of London life. The company was a motley one, and as I afterwards learnt, chiefly thieves, or of kindred fraternity. At first I seemed to attract little attent-

ion. Presently I noticed the exchange of whispers, and glances, while sundry eyes were turned upon me. Possibly, I thought, I might be taken for a detective in disguise; but more probably, the features of every detective in the district were well-known to most of them.

A waiter now placed on the table a trencher of bread, cut into fair-sized blocks, each being the portion intended for one guest. The trencher was pushed on to me, and I secured my portion. The waiter then advanced with a large dish of meat, similarly divided into slices, but the instant it touched the table a scramble commenced, steel forks were brandished, and before it reached me the dish was bare. I beckoned to the waiter, but that official only stood grinning at me. Probably he thought me a fool for not joining in the struggle. A neighbour had the politeness to say, 'Ah! you're a new hand, you don't know the ways yet. That's all they give to this table, and we have to look out for ourselves.'

I sat a little longer, waiting, but nothing more was given. Meanwhile drinkables were brought in, according to order, and now smoking began. I rose to depart. Turning to the corner where I had left my hat and walking-stick, the latter being a gold-headed cane, I could only find the former. The cane had been appropriated by some light-fingered member of the community, wiser in his generation than myself. Having inferred the character of the company into which I had fallen, I thought it safer not to notice too pointedly at this little incident.

As I left the room the waiter approached, as if to ask a 'douceur,' but as I reached the door, he whispered to me, 'If you wish not to be stripped of watch and purse, take to your heels. They've been watching you and some will follow you. Look alive; take the first turn to your right, the next to the left, follow that passage, run hard, and you will reach the main street.'

## Events Secretary Wanted

The Society arranges splendid talks and brings out wonderful publications but our publicity for both is bad. What we need is an Events Secretary, someone who will take the list of meetings to come, write something appetising about each of them after consulting the speaker and then send it to the local papers so that we can get something into them before the event. The same applies to publications. It isn't an arduous job, it just requires a bit of application at several times a year and a reasonable writing style. If anyone is interested, please get in touch with our Secretary, Mrs Jane Ramsay, at Swiss Cottage Library, N.W.3.



# newsletter

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

No. 95

May 1986

## All the King's Men – our June talk and Annual Meeting

Thursday, June 19th, 6.30pm  
Hampstead Parish Church.

To mark the Hampstead Millennium the Society's Annual Meeting this year will be at the Hampstead Parish Church. The business meeting will be at 6.30, followed by a talk by our President, Dr Ann Saunders entitled 'All the King's Men'. This sounds fascinating because it is about all the less renowned servants that hovered about the monarch, and the work that they did as shown in records and monuments in London.

After this talk we shall be having wine and refreshments. We are afraid that we have to levy a charge of £1.50 for this - it will be collected from those who wish to have them, on the night.

Members are invited to make nominations for any or all of the offices of the Society. The present office-holders are:

PRESIDENT: Dr Ann Saunders  
VICE-PRESIDENTS Frank Cole, Anthony Cooper, Professor Henry Loyn, R. Michael Robbins.

CHAIRMAN: John Richardson  
VICE-CHAIRMAN: Christopher Wade  
SECRETARY: Jane Ramsay  
TREASURER: Helen Lefroy  
EDITOR OF REVIEW: Dr John Gage  
MEETINGS SECRETARY: Horace Shooter  
ARCHIVIST: Malcolm Holmes

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Peter Barber, Eric Brassington, Roger Cline, Christina Gee, Philip Greenall, Cherry Lavell, Deirdre Le Faye, Rosemary Weinstein, Gillian Tindall, Ann Winsler.

Helen Lefroy, our Treasurer, and Cherry Lavell on our Council, have both indicated that they wish to stand down this time.

## The Medieval Manor of Hampstead

Wednesday, May 14, 7.30pm.  
Hampstead Parish Church, Church Row, N.W.3

Our May talk is our contribution to the programme of Hampstead's Millennium events. David Sullivan, QC, and chairman of Burgh House Trust, will be talking about Medieval Hampstead, with special reference to the documented history of the manor of the Manor of Hampstead. The Parish Church, being on a medieval site, offers an appropriate venue for the talk.

Members should also visit the exhibition on Medieval Hampstead at Burgh House which runs until Jul 6. David Sullivan, who arranged it, writes:

' "The past is a foreign country..." Medieval and modern Hampstead could not be more foreign to one another. But with imagination and a little knowledge, you can easily banish the boutiques and remove the restaurants. This exhibition will, I hope, supply some of the knowledge, and it will perhaps stir the imagination through the pictures and designs created by my daughter Tessa.

The Abbot and monks of the monastery of St Peter's at Westminster were the lords of the manor of Hampstead for about 600 years; and there is no reason to doubt that a primitive hamlet had existed at the top of the hill for a long time before that. The 700 years between the early settlement, before the Conquest, and the Dissolution of the Abbey in 1540, are the theme of the exhibition.

Hampstead, and its much larger neighbour, Hendon, were two of the Abbey's manors in Middlesex. I have attempted to place them in the context of the Abbey's wide estates - perhaps this is the first time this has been done. But the most important thing is to catch a glimpse of the life of the village, to learn something of

their identities, their families, their feudal vassalage and their gradual emancipation, and the events which overtook them in those long, slow centuries.

Some of the subjects (which are illustrated with copies of records from Westminster Abbey and elsewhere) are the geographical and geological features which led to the settlement of the hill-top; the Anglo-Saxon Charters including the document which has prompted the present Millennium; the Domesday Book records of Hampstead and surrounding manors; the farm accounts of the monks' grange farm; the Surveys and Rentals of the tenants' holdings, including the great valuation of 1312; the identity of the officials who ran the farm; the story of early Belsize; the history of the holdings of the free tenants; the effect of the Black Death upon the village; the part played by the Peasants' Revolt of 1381; the differences between Hampstead and Hendon who have similar records in the Abbey archives.

For the answer to the question whether Hampstead is really celebrating a true Millennium, come and see the exhibition!

A booklet, published by Burgh House, will be available, price £1

## Buried in Hampstead

Next month we are publishing the report of our own graveyard group's survey of Hampstead Parish Churchyard, under the title 'Buried in Hampstead'. It is our first major publication for four years. The book, which is a lively, fully-illustrated analysis of some two and a half thousand monuments, will be on sale at the Annual Meeting (DV), price £3.95, or can be sent to members by post: an order form will appear with our next Newsletter.

Christopher Wade, who has written the book and who claims to have had one foot in the graveyard for over ten years, sums it all up: 'Most London graveyards have been closed to new burials for many years and, where their tombstones have not been broken up for crazy pavements, or ranged like dominoes round the walls, they have suffered a rapid decline. The need to record Hampstead's churchyard seemed to us, way back in 1976, a matter of urgency.'

Another reason for our survey was that our Society had recently completed and published its researches for The Streets of Hampstead, which had naturally unearthed a large number of noteworthy residents, and we were keen to follow them up after they had gone to ground in 'God's Acre'. We could see why Family History societies consider churchyards as 'yards of history'.

Tombstones are particularly helpful and usually reliable about dates of birth and death, and about family relationships; some inscriptions cover three or four generations and some graves grouped together reflect the consanguinity of their inhabitants. Furthermore, many people who chose to be buried in Hampstead must have been either long in residence or much in love with the place, and that added to our interest in them. The long residents included many famous names and, more importantly, many old Hampstead families: here also were all the unsung butchers and bakers and stay-makers (and other past professions) who had serviced Hampstead over the years. Among those who came and saw and succumbed to Hampstead's charms was none less than John Constable, who exclaimed about Hampstead: 'Here let me take my everlasting rest'.

We soon realised that there was much more to be learned than local history and biography. Here was social history - attitudes to life and death and the hereafter, in varying styles of poetry and prose; art history, ranging from Georgian symbolism (all those skulls and crossbones), through Victorian sentimentality, to 20th century reticence; some basic geology, distinguishing between limestone, marble, granite, cragleith and other curious stones; and incidentally some natural history, surrounded as we often were by flowers and trees and cats and the best of British birds.

So we could tell those of our friends who looked on graveyards as deadly dull, that we were working in a sculpture park, set in a nature reserve, recording white plaques which were more informative than blue plaques, and which included the du Mauriers, Beerbohm Tree, Joad, Gaitskell, Anton Walbrook and other household names. Our friends suddenly became more interested. We trust that all serious members of the Society will feel the same.'

## Millennium Musts

Among the Millennium celebrations in Hampstead, watch out for these, which have some historical interest:

May 30, 31 and June 1: Flower Festival in the Parish Church

Jul 5: Carnival Procession through Hampstead, followed by fair on Heath.

Jul 9 and 16: Two talks about Hampstead history by Christopher Wade at Burgh House.

For information contact Edith Kahn (346 3872)

Another small exhibition, which is being squeezed into the Hampstead Museum at Burgh House as part of the Millennium celebrations, concerns that right royal artist, Frank Salisbury. Famous for his official portraits of kings and queens and establishment figures, Salisbury built for himself that eye-catching house in West Heath Road called Sarum Chase, which Pevsner called 'unashamedly Hollywood Tudor'. The exhibition runs from May 31 to July 20. Sarum Chase will itself be having an Open Day on Sunday, June 15. See Millennial posters for details.

The Hampstead Music Club will be giving a Gala Concert on Tuesday, 17 June at Burgh House, at 8pm of items from Jerry Shields' Hampstead Wells programme. There will be music from contemporary Hampstead composers as well from the 18th century when the Wells was at its peak. Admission is free but a collection in aid of the Millennium fund will be made.

### THE GROWTH OF STOKE NEWINGTON

Members may wish to know that a publication called 'The Growth of Stoke Newington' by Jack Whitehead, is available at the Owl Bookshop, Kentish Town. It is an intensive study of a small area of London which schools up and down the country have found a valuable model on which to develop their own Local Studies work.

It is A4, 78pp of maps, drawings and text and costs £4.50. If you wish to buy it direct from the Urban Studies Book Fund, at 55 Parliament Hill, NW3, please add £1 p&p.

## The Annual Outing

The Annual Outing this time goes south to Leeds Castle, possibly the most picturesque castle in England, and to Tunbridge Wells, a place less illustrious than it used to be but well worth the visit. This will take place on Saturday, August 16. Details on on the enclosed form.

### TOMB TOURS

Christopher Wade will lead two tours of Hampstead Parish Churchyard, especially for CHS members, on Saturday 14 June and Wednesday 25 June, starting at the front of the church at 2.30pm.

### MENEGALLI RESEARCHED

Anthony Cooper has done some research into the Menegalli restaurant depicted in Newsletter 93. He writes:

'Menegalli first appears at 87 Tottenham Court Road, refreshment rooms in 1881, under Formaggia and Menegalli. In the previous year the business was in the name of Pietro Morganti. In 1883 (and possibly 1882 but the directory was missing at the Guildhall), the entry is Menegalli, Carlo, refreshment rooms, and this continues till 1900 when it has become Menegalli Charles, restaurant. Has Carlo anglicized his name, or is it a son? Anyway, it is the finish as in 1901 we have Harris, Herbert, refreshment rooms at No 87.

This gives nearly a 20-year span for the photograph, but from the clothes I would guess it is early 1880s, perhaps soon after Menegalli set up on his own.

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL HELP REQUIRED

Members interested in helping to process finds from excavations are welcome to telephone Jean Snelling (346 3553) who looks after daytime sessions on Mondays and evening ones on Tuesdays. The old Inner London Archaeology Unit is now part of the Greater London Archaeological Unit and has moved to 3 Ray Street, off Farringdon Road, (nearest tube Farringdon). The telephone number of the Unit itself is 837 8363.

# Industrial Archaeology Report

The group continues to concentrate on industrial and transport sites in the Kentish Town area. This is an interim report on one such site.

Between Holmes Road and Spring Place is an isolated section of railway viaduct, its 16 red-brick arches currently in use as workshops and stores. It gives the impression of being part of some long-forgotten branch of the nearby North London line but it is, in fact, the remains of the coal drops of the Midland Railway depot.

In the 19th and early 20th centuries such was the importance of coal for domestic use, that almost every railway station had its adjacent coal depot to serve local needs. The Midland Railway, serving as it did the coalfields of the East Midlands, was a major transporter of coal. Its need to convey coal to London was a major factor influencing the extension of its line south from Bedford to St Pancras in 1867 instead of using, as they did, the lines of their rival the Great Northern.

Many depots consisted of a row of sidings where merchants could store coal in the wagons in which it was brought. Trucks were unloaded over the side on demand, the merchant paying demurrage to the owner, either railway company or colliery. From the owner's point of view it was better to unload wagons quickly and return them to service. This could be achieved by the use of coal drops, where wagons on a viaduct were unloaded through apertures in the structure into hoppers beneath. Both the Midland and Great Northern owned a great number of these in London particularly around St Pancras.

The arches in Holmes Road are the last vestige of a busy Midland depot which also had some 40 stables, weighing machines and 10 offices for merchants. The remaining viaduct, which has no shoot apertures, was the northern half of a wide structure; the other part, containing the drops, was demolished in 1972 to make way for the Camden Council depot now on the site. One feature surviving is a 4ft wide enclosed staircase from bottom to top at each end.

Documentary sources have furnished only a partial picture of the depot's operation and history, the rate

books being unhelpful. Only in 1881 and 1939 does the depot receive a specific entry. Normally the site is within an entry for the whole of the Midland's property 'between Euston Road and Haverstock Hill'. Post Office directories are more helpful, but their entries relate to the 10 offices for the coal merchants rather than to the drops. The group is pursuing further investigations at the Public Record Office, Kew.

To date we do not know how the drops were operated. We know that the wagons gained access to the depot on a second viaduct from the north, abutting the centre of the drops viaduct at right angles - the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 for 1879 shows this viaduct to have three tracks. The same source shows a total of 32 tracks extending widthwise across the drops viaduct, two over each arch. (Although OS maps are not always accurate at this level of detail, a 32-track arrangement would make sense in the context of an LMS list of 1928 indicating that each of their 16 arches was divided into two 'bays'. To convey trucks from the central approach viaduct to the tracks across the drops would have required a traverser of some sort.

From a combination of sources we can deduce that the Holmes Road site, formerly used for brickfields, was redeveloped as a coal depot in 1873. The Post Office Directory for 1874 shows 9 of the 10 offices occupied by coal merchants. Midland Railway minutes confirm the construction of these offices at this date, but there is no firm evidence for the drops until the OS map of 1879 and the rate books in 1881.

By the time of nationalization in 1948 only one coal merchant remained he was still there until 1963/4 when the site became a British Road Services depot. The viaduct from the north had been demolished at least ten years earlier so that the coal drops could not have functioned since

This report is based on work by Malcolm Tucker of GLIAS, who surveyed and photographed the site prior to partial demolition in 1972, David Thomas, Tim Smith and David and Ruth Hayes.

# newsletter

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

No. 96

Jul 1986

## The Kentish Town Panorama

Tuesday, July 15th, 7.30pm  
Old Hall, La Sainte Union School.  
Entrance by 9 Croftdown Road, NW5.

The Kentish Town Panorama is a drawing, 39 feet long, of the buildings on either side of the road from Swains Lane, N6, to Camden Town at the turn of the 19th century. It was drawn by James Frederick King who died in 1855, and who lived for much of his life in Kentish Town. First he resided with his father in a house behind the Castle Tavern and later in a house next to what is now Kentish Town underground station. His unique Panorama is being published in a facsimile edition jointly by the London Topographical Society and the London Borough of Camden as a series of 26 panels. With it will be a booklet which introduces and analyzes the panorama and which comes up with some surprising conclusions about it.

The Panorama and its illustrations is the subject of a talk by John Richardson, who compiled the booklet, in July. The venue is a new one for the Society and was chosen because one of the buildings illustrated by Mr King still survives as part of the Convent premises nearby. In tracing the path of the Panorama Mr Richardson will, of course, be taking in a great deal of Kentish Town history.

### PLANS FOR DECEMBER

In December, instead of having a single lecture before our Christmas social, we plan to invite members who have a ten-minute talk about some aspect of local history, to contribute. In other words, we are after a good mix of subjects. We hope that any member who has got such a ten-minute offering will get in touch with Jane Ramsay, our Secretary, so that we can begin to plan the evening.

## Outing to Leeds Castle

Saturday, August 16th

There are still some seats left on the coach for this year's Outing to Leeds Castle in Kent and to Tunbridge Wells. The price for the day, which includes coach fare, entrance fee etc, is £10. Please contact Mrs Gee at Keats House (435 2062) to reserve your ticket!

## The Regent Revisited

Dr Ann Saunders, our busy President, has also been responsible for mounting an exhibition on the Prince Regent at Regent's College, Inner Circle, Regent's Park. If this venue is unfamiliar to you this is because it is the old Bedford College building renamed. The exhibition includes items on loan from many collections and seldom seen.

George IV had a bad press in his lifetime and has been criticised by most historians. This exhibition aims to show that he deserved better. As Prince of Wales, George may have been foolish, extravagant and none too moral, but he was also imaginative, charming, devoted to the Arts and genuinely interested in Science. His studies and his impressive peace-making abilities were put to conscientious use after he came to the throne in 1820.

The new college has taken his title for its own name and the Exhibition opens the new Knapp Gallery here. It is open from 25th June to 26th September from 12.00-6.00pm Mondays to Saturdays. Regent's College (935 8217) is nearest to Baker Street underground station.

NOTE: this is the first CHS Newsletter to be put on a word processor. We would like to thank the law firm of Seifert Sedley Williams for the use of their system for this purpose.



## The Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting was held at Hampstead Parish Church and we had the pleasure of welcoming the Mayor of Camden and the Vicar of Hampstead, both of whom were presented with a copy of a map and list of 2,500 graves in Hampstead Churchyard, by Christopher Wade. Presentations were also made by our President to Helen Lefroy, our outgoing Treasurer, and to Cherry Lavell who has served on our Council for 12 years.

The Chairman revealed that only two local history societies in England were larger than our own, but warned that there was no room for complacency since our fairly stable membership of 450 was, in fact, about 100 lower than about ten years previously. We shall be devoting more energy to raising our membership level and in this connection Carmel Egan has taken on the responsibility of sending out press-releases about the Society. This will, we hope, increase attendances at meetings and also bring about a greater awareness of our existence.

The following officers were appointed:

PRESIDENT: Dr. Ann Saunders  
VICE-PRESIDENTS: Frank Cole, FLA;  
Anthony Cooper, FRIBA; Professor Henry Loyn MA, D. Litt; and R. Michael Robbins PhD, FSA.

CHAIRMAN: John Richardson  
VICE CHAIRMAN: Christopher Wade  
SECRETARY: Jane Ramsay  
TREASURER: Christopher Sanham  
MEETINGS SECRETARY: Horace Shooter  
PUBLICATIONS EDITOR: Dr. John Gage  
PUBLICATIONS MANAGER: Roger Cline  
ARCHIVIST: Malcolm Holmes

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Peter Barber, Eric Brassington, Christina Gee, Philip Greenall, Deirdre Le Faye, Gillian Tindall, Rosemary Weinstein, Ann Winser.

AUDITOR: Jeremy Lefroy

The evening concluded with an entertaining talk by Ann Saunders describing the lives and activities of the minor servants of the Crown in mediaeval and Tudor times entitled 'All the King's Men' - we hope to have another instalment of this at a future occasion.

## Buried in Hampstead on sale

After a gestation period of ten years the Society's latest publication, BURIED IN HAMPSTEAD has just been published and does, of course, aptly mark the Millennium year. Congratulations are due all round! Copies of the maps and list of over 2,500 graves were presented by Christopher Wade to both the Vicar of Hampstead and to the Mayor of Camden at our Annual Meeting in June.

As a special offer to members, those who order a copy this year will have free delivery. The price is £3.95 from CHS Publications, 28 Willoughby Road, NW3.

Buried in Hampstead, in the graveyard of the Parish Church, are not only a remarkable assembly of local residents, but a large number of national figures.

Here are the artists John Constable and George du Maurier, the Labour leader, Hugh Gaitskell; the architects Norman Shaw and George Gilbert Scott Junior; the writers Sir Sidney Colvin and E.V. Knox, the inventors John Harrison and Henry Cort, the philosopher and broadcaster Professor Joad, the poet and mystic Evelyn Underhill; the film stars Kay Kendall and Anton Walbrook; and the actor-managers Sir Gerald du Maurier and Sir Herbert Beerbohm Tree:

Many chose to be buried here because of the beauty of the site. The well-wooded churchyard of St. John-at-Hampstead is a unique survival from mediaeval times and contains a fine collection of Georgian chest tombs, as well as a wide variety of curious epitaphs. Camden History Society's graveyard group has now recorded all the 2,500 inscriptions in the old and new graveyards, and on the elegant monuments in the Church.

This book takes a lively, fully-illustrated look at the group's findings, which concern not only local history, but many aspects of social history: these include changing attitudes to life and death and the hereafter, as shown by epitaphs in varying styles of poetry and prose.

There are notes on infant mortality, longevity, causes of death, body-snatching and symbolism - why, for instance, so many tombstones have skulls and crossbones. 'The Good Grave Guide' is a selection of monuments of special interest for their design and decoration, and there is a 'Who Was Who' with nearly 400 biographical sketches.



Hampstead Churchyard - from the front cover of BURIED IN HAMPSTEAD

### DATA PROTECTION ACT

You may have noticed that we are now using adhesive address labels for the Newsletter envelopes. The Addressograph machinery has broken down once too often and is being discarded. Names and addresses of members have now been put onto a word-processor, and this could mean that we would have to register under the Data Protection Act, 1984. However after careful reading of the small print, we consider we are exempt, as we are holding only names and addresses for mailing purposes. We have to inform you of this, and give you the opportunity to object: if you do object, please contact me as soon as possible. The information will continue to be kept confidential, as it was under the old system, and will not be disclosed to anyone other than officials of the Society.

Jane Ramsay.

### THE SOCIETY

This Newsletter is edited by John Richardson, 32 Ellington St, 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, NW3. Her telephone number is 278 4444 (ext 2422).

The Treasurer is Chris Sanham and the Editor of the annual Review is Dr John Gage, both c/o of the same address.

### MORE PUB NAMES

Julian Tobin writes:

I was interested in your note in a previous Newsletter on the disappearance of old pub names. The Eton Tavern in Adelaide Road is now known as the Viceroy, and the Load of Hay in Haverstock Hill, which for many years was known as the Noble Art, has happily reverted to its old name.

### Zither Find

Recently found in a postcard sale is this Admission Ticket to a Zither concert, long before the days of Anton Karas, at Hampstead Vestry Hall in 1886, in aid of the building fund for Lyndhurst Road chapel. An excellent piece of ephemera!

Programme

OF  
\*\*\* ZITHER \*\*\* CONCERT \*\*\*

AT THE  
VESTRY HALL, HAVERSTOCK HILL,  
ON  
THURSDAY EVENING, APRIL 15th, 1886,  
IN CONNECTION WITH THE ALPINE VILLAGE BAZAAR.

The proceeds to be devoted to the Lyndhurst Road Church  
Building fund.

TO COMMENCE AT EIGHT O'CLOCK.

Hungarian Pedal Cimbal & Xylophone— MADAME CURT SCHULZ.		Arion Zither & Philomèle— HERR CURT SCHULZ. <i>Zitherist to H.R.H. the Princess of Wales.</i>
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Admission One Shilling.

## Stray Leaves (concluded)

We conclude here our excerpts from 'Stray Leaves on Travel, Sport, Animals and Kindred Subjects' by James Conway Walter, published in 1910. The last excerpt, in Newsletter 94, left our hero running away from some rather threatening characters. Now read on, breathlessly....

'Looking over my shoulder as I reached the first turn, I saw some five or six running after me. Having some confidence in my running powers, tested on many a field, I gathered myself together and increased my pace. The next time I looked round I had distanced all but one of my pursuers, but he was gaining upon me. That, however, gave me courage; I had still a reserve of wind and speed, and nothing coming in my way to check me. I baffled my enemy and in five minutes I reached the safety of the thoroughfare. I now took a cab and drove to my friend's lodgings, to tell him my adventure, and he assured me that he should, for the future, value my friendship the more for the risk I had literally run, in showing it.

Another London experience was the following: I returned to London from an expedition in Scotland, reaching King's Cross Station the train having been delayed, after midnight. Leaving my luggage with a night porter who I knew, I walked off to try to get a night's lodging somewhere. After walking about for some time, and finding the hotels closed, I stopped a policeman, told him my difficulty, and asked if he could tell me where I could get a bed, or even a 'shake down,' till the morning. He took me to a place somewhere, so far as I can recollect, at the back of Drury Lane, and said, 'If you can get in there they will provide for you.' This common lodging-house still exists, and is referred to as 'in Drury Lane'. After knocking at the entrance for some time, a drowsy-looking porter opened the door; and I explained to him that I was very tired, that I had no luggage, but that I should be thankful to be allowed to lie down anywhere, if I could only get a rest. He took me upstairs and showed me into a large apartment, where there were a dozen, or more, beds on the floor, mere mattresses, with a certain (or uncertain) amount of blankets and sheets over them. These were, most of them, occupied by a mixed company, whose attire was as mixed and motley as themselves, several having evidently thrown themselves down just as they came in. I myself, not knowing among what

sort of company I had cast my lot, like some others, did not attempt to undress, and specially took care to keep my watch in my pocket. It was not long before I was fast asleep; and I did not awake till the early hours of the morning, when some of these nondescript lodgers began to rise, and went off to another room to make their ablutions. I myself presently arose and had a wash; towels, however, were scanty and not too clean, so I went off to some baths which I knew, in a street at the back of the Royal Academy, and there enjoyed a good bath.'

## Book Review

The History of the Countryside  
by Oliver Rackham. (Dent 1986, £16.95).

Never mind the price, get in the library queue! This lovely book is a tour-de-force of landscape history, for its author handles with a light touch his virtually encyclopaedic knowledge of climate, agriculture, plant and animal life, and even some architecture. His range and authority are breathtaking, but the book seems far shorter than its 400 pages. Landscape history is something my job keeps me in touch with, but even so I found a revelation in almost every page of Rackham. A few random samples must suffice. Leather tanning consumed more oaks from 1780 to 1850 than the naval dockyards. Medieval people (1085-1350) were destroying about 17 acres of woodland a day. Over half the remaining woods disappeared 1840-1980, most under the ever voracious plough. Our graveyard recording group might care to reflect that in the cemetery's weeds there is being recycled, 'while awaiting the Last Trump, part of the phosphate of 10,000 skeletons', the contents of the average village churchyard.

Unfortunately, Hampstead Heath does not receive a mention in the long chapter on heaths, though it would certainly fit into the category 'if neglected, turns into woodland'. Apparently England has kept its heaths more faithfully than the rest of Europe, which should provide some ammunition for the Heath and Old Hampstead Society. (We also discover that had the conservators employed by the City of London read the Epping Forest Act properly, they would not have set about destroying so many of the Forest's ancient features. We must hope that English Heritage and whatever body takes over the Heath, take the full lessons of this book).

Cherry Lavell

# newsletter

No 97

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

Sep 1986

## The Black Books of Lincoln's Inn

Sep 16, 6.30pm.  
Old Hall, Lincoln's Inn.

Our talk in September takes us to the magnificent Old Hall of Lincoln's Inn where Dr Ives, will be talking about the early history of Lincoln's Inn which was founded in the middle of the 14th century. The Old Hall was built between 1489 and 1492 and the opportunity to see it and here the talk should not be missed. Please note the earlier starting time.

## Advance Notice

Nov 12: A talk by Mr Johnson of Johnson & Johnson, opticians, in Tottenham Court Road. At Swiss Cottage Library, 7pm.

Dec 11: Christmas meeting and party. Burgh House, NW3, 7pm.

Feb 5: Prof. Arthur Marwick on 'Beauty in History' - the social and political implications of personal appearance in Western society. Burgh House, 8pm.

## THE CHRISTMAS MEETING

Members are reminded that at our December meeting at Burgh House, which will be held before the Christmas party, we are inviting members to contribute ten-minute talks on subjects of their choice. Details of these should be sent to Christopher Wade (not to Jane Ramsay, as asked in the last Newsletter) at 28 Willoughby Road, NW3.

## Victorian Anarchists - Our October Talk

Oct 28th, 7pm  
Channel 4 Cinema, 60 Charlotte Street, W1  
(For security reasons members and their guests will be asked to sign in.)

Camden, especially Fitzrovia, was the debating ground, of the Anarchist movement which so alarmed the Establishment at the end of the 19th century. Nicholas Walter, of the Rationalist Press, is well-qualified to give us a talk on the personalities and the events of those years. Also, we are trying out a new venue, right in the heart of Fitzrovia.

## ELM COTTAGE, NORTH END

Mr I.F.C. Anstruther, of Barlavington Estate, Petworth, Sussex, is writing a book about the early life of Coventry Patmore (1823-1896) which will end in 1862 with the death of his first wife, Emily. They lived (and she died) in a house known as Elm Cottage at North End, next to the Hare and Hounds. This house was pulled down some time after her death and rebuilt as Elmwood; this is still there. Mr Anstruther would very much like to obtain a picture of Elm Cottage - can anyone help?

## MINT CONDITION

The Museum of London (North London Unit) are looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help process finds from a major new excavation at the Royal Mint, the site of the Abbey of St Mary Graces, as well as other important sites. If you are interested and can spare some time on a regular basis, please contact Steve Pierpoint or Richenda Goffin, D.G.L.A (North London), 3-7 Ray Street, ECl. (837 8363).

## Publications Galore

Members with an eye to early Christmas shopping are reminded of the numerous publications of both the Society and Camden Council now on sale. First there is the Hampstead and Highgate 1886 Directory, a facsimile reprint of this fascinating volume. Price £5.95.

Then there is Hampstead 1000, a book full of illustrations and new research, featuring a thousand years of Hampstead history. Price £7.50.

The Kentish Town Panorama is a facsimile reprint of the celebrated drawings by James King of Kentish Town as it appeared in the early years of the 19th century. Price £12.

Buried in Hampstead also celebrates the Millennium year. Here is a lively, well-researched description of the many graves in Hampstead churchyard - both interesting and famous. Price £3.95.

All these are available at the CHS bookstall at meetings, Camden Council libraries and local bookshops.

## First World War Weapons

Malcolm Holmes writes:

Occasionally I have come across references in newspapers to tanks and guns which were placed on various sites in Camden following the First World War. They were memorials to the War and often a recognition of funds raised by a locality.

I have seen photographs of a tank outside the north entrance to the British Museum, and I know guns were erected near Whitestone Pond, on Fortune Green, and on the site of Belsize Library (removed 1936 when the library was rebuilt). Clearly some of the guns may have stayed until the 2nd World War and intensive scrap metal drives.

I would be interested to hear if any other weaponry, and where located, and when. Photographs would be of particular interest.

(Malcolm may be contacted at the Local History Library, Swiss Cottage Library, Avenue Road, NW3 3HA.

## Holborn Memories

A splendid new publication has just been issued by the Libraries and Arts Dept of the London Borough of Camden. **Memories of Holborn**, edited by Maureen Waugh, is based on the work of the Holborn Local History Group which, since 1983, has explored the history of its own particular part of London, through audio-visual presentations, outings to places of local interest and, not least, through their own personal memories. The group began collecting together old school and family photographs and other personal memorabilia which were subsequently displayed at the Exploring Living Memory exhibition at the Royal Festival Hall in 1984, and later that same year at Holborn Library. However, by far their biggest project has been the completion of an oral history of 20th century Holborn based on the reminiscences of every individual in the group as well as those of a handful of people in the community.

The resulting publication (£1.95) is available at libraries and bookshops. It is attractively produced, lavishly illustrated and contains the memories of people as varied as theatrical performers, coal-merchants, and leather-workers.

### THE ELUSIVE REGENT SCHOOL OF ARMS

We have been asked for help by Mr D.S. Chester in tracing the Regent School of Arms which may, or may not, have been in the borough. His search arises from clearing up his late father's effects and finding a number of awards from the School to his father for fencing and boxing. The writer has already enquired at many places including the Regent Polytechnic and the St Marylebone Local History Library, but without success. He therefore wonders if it was located on the Camden side of Regent's Park. The dates of the awards are from 1927 to 1933.

If anyone has suggestions could they please contact him at 35 Willow Drive, The Conifers, Seaford, East Sussex. (0323 897406).



# One day on a Hampstead Bus

The Editor of the Victoria County History volume on Hampstead, now in preparation, has kindly sent us an extract from the memories of Mr H.V. Borley relating to horse-buses in the area, and a journey he made one Sunday from Pimlico to Hampstead:

'A nice fine, but cold, Sunday snow started to fall about 5 o'clock. We had visited my Uncle and Aunt so we had a hurried tea and started for home. Many other people had the same idea and we had to let two or three buses go before we got places - Mother inside, Father and I on top, where we were soon covered in snow. At the foot of Haverstock Hill the man with the cock-horse appeared, but soon the conductor said "Will the gen'lmen get out and walk please, the 'orses can't make it.". My father who had driven and ridden horses took hold of one of the horses and coaxed him along. Father was in his best frock-coat, with overcoat and silk top hat. Eventually we reached the Town Hall and another bus going to Pimlico arrived and the two drivers had a discussion. We were then told "The bus aint going no further tonight, we're taking the 'orses to the stables.". (The stables were behind the Bird-in-Hand, High Street). So we had to walk over a mile home in the snow; Mother was in her best full length dress.

Tram-men and busmen often had an arrangement with a cafe en route to supply a flask of hot tea or hot food. The man was always attended to immediately; it was the recognized practice.'

## LONDON HISTORY CLASSES

Members may be interested in two adult education classes starting soon, both tutored by Lee Waite, a qualified London guide. An evening class entitled 'London in Depth' will be at Piccadilly (Soho Primary) School, Great Windmill Street W1 (next to the ex-Windmill Theatre), on Wednesdays, 6.15-8.15pm, starting on 25th September for 30 weeks.

A day-time class called 'Discovering London' will be at the old Stanhope

Institute headquarters at the junction of Stanhope Street and Longford Street, NW1. This will be on Thursdays starting 26th September for 30 weeks. Each session will consist of a lecture from 10am to 12 noon and a visit from 1.15-3.15.

Enrolment is at the respective centres from 16th September (12 noon for the day-time class, 5.30pm for the evening class). Both classes are likely to fill up the first day or two, so early enrolment is essential. Telephone enquiries: 388 7106. A Prospectus may be obtained from local libraries.

Also, the Camden Adult Education Institute at Holmes Road NW5 is planning to start a local history group this coming September. It will meet on Fridays, 1-3pm, under the guidance of Jack Whitehead, author of 'The Growth of Stoke Newington'. The choice of areas and topics depends on the wishes of the group members, and it is not to be restricted to Kentish Town.

Interested members should contact Valerie Jacques, Head of the Liberal Studies Dept, and obtain a prospectus from local libraries.

## FREE WESTFIELD COURSES

As a contribution to the Hampstead Millennium Celebrations, Westfield College is proposing to open to the general public two of its lecture courses. There will be no charge for admission: they would be happy to see anyone who would be interested in attending. The first course - An Introduction to Medieval Studies - would be of particular interest to historians. It is an inter-departmental course, covering, among other things, aspects of feudalism, Sutton Hoo, the Bayeux tapestry, church architecture, education, courtly love. It will take place on Thursday afternoons, at 2pm, probably in the Physics Lecture Theatre, Queen's Building, Kidderpore Avenue, NW3.

The second course is on critical concepts, and will concern itself with aspects of narrative, and certain critical terms. It is planned for Thursdays at 4pm, but will begin only in the fifth or sixth week of term.

If any members are interested please contact Professor Peter Dixon, Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Westfield College.

## The Highgate Prophet

Peter Barber has sent in an 1804 engraving of William Powell, 'The Highgate Prophet' about whom very little is known. Has any member come across him?



## CAPITAL GAINS

Our talk in January will be by Dr Hugh Chapman and his theme will be archaeological discoveries of the past 15 years made in London. To whet your appetite an exhibition will run at the Museum of London from 9th September to 1st February, together with a series of lectures and workshops on the same theme. Details of these may be obtained from the Museum.

## BURGH HOUSE HAPPENINGS

On Sep 21st there will be a Book Sale from 11am to 1pm in aid of the library fund. Admittance is 10p.

On Sep 28th at 7.30pm there will be a Millennium event, a Topical Entertainment in prose and verse by Anthony Gooch. The Hostess will be Princess Helen Moutafain (adm £3 inc. wine and refreshments).

## INSURANCE HISTORY

The Chartered Insurance Institute is holding an Insurance History Forum on Friday 24th October on the theme of Insurance in the 2nd World War, which must have been a delicately judged business. Any member who wishes to attend should contact the Assistant Secretary (Administration) at 20 Aldermanbury, EC2.

## BETJEMANIA

The poet John Betjeman lived in his young days in Highgate West Hill. An Exhibition called *Betjeman Remembered* will be at the Highgate Literary and Scientific Institution, South Grove, N6 from September 27th until October 4th, although it would be wise to telephone first to ascertain daily opening times. Admission is 50p with catalogue.

## THE SOCIETY

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The Secretary of the Society is Mrs Jane Ramsay, the Treasurer Christopher Sanham, and the Editor of the Review is Dr John Gage, all of whom may be written to at the Swiss Cottage Library.

## ISLINGTON EVENTS

Our colleagues in Islington have an interesting series of talks planned. It includes:

- Sep 17 - The Worst Street in North London (a street off Holloway Road which was the subject of a recent book by the speaker);
- Nov 19 - Coade Stone;
- Dec 10 - Dickens and Islington;
- Jan 21 - The Origins of the Terraced House;
- Mar 18 - Hatton Garden, with Malcolm Holmes as speaker.

All talks are at the Camden Head, Camden Passage at 8pm.

# newsletter

No 98

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

## An Optician in Tottenham Court Road

Wednesday, Nov 12th, 7.30pm.  
Swiss Cottage Library.

We don't often get the chance to hear a talk about a business long established in Camden. What previously used to be a fairly low-key retailing trade, that of an optician, is the subject of our November talk. Mr Johnson, of Johnson and Johnson who have long been in the Tottenham Court Road, will therefore be giving a talk of much interest.

Looking up William Johnson & Sons, opticians of 188 Tottenham Court Road in, say, the 1928 Kelly's Directory reminds one of a shopping street of a rather different nature than today's. In particular it was a street of furniture dealers. Maple's and Heal's were there of course, but so were Catesby's (who also had a men's outfitters) Shoobred's, Jay's and Wolfe and Hollander. The Johnson business shared its premises with an Elizabeth Johnson, presumably a relative, who did corset-making. Just up the road, occupying two shops, was Wrigley's Chewing Gum Ltd, which must surprise those who thought chewing gum was a post-war thing. And there were a good many cinemas. There was the Grafton just below Warren Street, a Gaiety Cinema at No 22, the Grand at No 24, the Carlton at No 30, and the Majestic at 36; on the site of the Dominion was the Court Playhouse still, presumably, a theatre at that time.

## CAMDEN HISTORY REVIEW COMING SOON

The Camden History Review No 14 will be published this month. Unfortunately it is just too late to go out with this Newsletter and so it will be sent to members separately.

## The Christmas meeting and Party at Burgh House

Thursday, December 11th, 7pm  
Burgh House, New End Square, NW3.

It has become our custom to hold our December meeting in the comfortable rooms of Burgh House. This is because the facilities are such that we can have a meeting and then have a Christmas social.

This year, as has been mentioned in previous Newsletters, we are experimenting by inviting members to contribute 10-minute talks on aspects of Camden history, instead of having one set talk. Those who have a contribution and haven't said so yet, should contact Christopher Wade c/o Burgh House.

Attendance at the meeting is, of course, open to all members, but those who wish to go to the wine and food party afterwards will need to pay. It has been costed out this year at £3.50 per head. Friends of members are welcome as well.

## One Hundred Up—or nearly

Observant readers will notice that this is the 98th edition of the Newsletter. To mark the 100th edition the editor intends to produce a bumper issue and invites short contributions from members. It is not intended to entice away entries which would normally go to the Review, but to gather together a larger number than usual of the items which would usually appear in the Newsletter.

So, please send your items, in good time please, to John Richardson, 32 Ellington Street, N7. The issue will be appearing at the end of February.

# The Industrial Archaeology Group

David Thomas, co-ordinator of the Industrial Archaeology Group, writes: A last-minute exposure of a gap in knowledge has prevented us going ahead with an article for this Newsletter - come along on the date shown below to help us out! This summer we visited several premises around Holmes Road to see what evidence there was inside of former uses and the evolution of the sites. As always, we ended up with a list of queries about whether previous buildings had been adapted and, in particular, just how Birch Bros. used the four separate locations which they had occupied. We'd certainly appreciate advice from any member with local knowledge.

The Industrial Archaeology group meets about monthly at Swiss Cottage or Holborn Library to do research - the next date is at the latter building on Monday, 1st December at 17.45. If you'd like to help us, or know more about the Group, please contact me at 36 Pearman Street, SE1.

## LINES TO CREWE

Michael Allen is researching into the life of Frances Anne Crewe (1744-1818). He is particularly interested in the Crewe villa near Jack Straw's Castle referred to in a number of biographies and diaries. Its position is described in Christopher Wade's *Streets of Hampstead*:

'A cluster of cottages called Littleworth grew up behind Jack Straw's Castle in the eighteenth century, but by 1800 the smallholders had been swept away by a wave of Whig aristocracy. The new residents included Lady Crewe, Lady Camelford and Lord William Grenville, leader in 1806/7 of the government which abolished the slave trade. The villas, which grew to prestigious size, were mostly destroyed by a parachute mine in 1941 and their grounds added to the Heath. Some of the garden trees can still be seen between the pub and Inverforth House. Hill Brow, which led to a villa of that name, now only leads to a car park.'

A number of houses in the area of Jack Straw's Castle are marked on the map published in 1814 with J.J. Park's history of Hampstead, but Mr Allen wonders if any member is able to pinpoint exactly which house it was. Also, are there any illustrations or photographs of the house?

# Another Canal Walk

The Greater London Industrial Archaeology Society (GLIAS) has recently published a new Canal Walk. This takes in the stretch of the Regent's Canal from Kings Cross, through the Battle Bridge Basin (the title recalling the old name for the area) into Islington.

The Walk (which is about 1 1/2 miles), is more than just the buildings on the canal bank but a description of those of industrial importance nearby, so you will find yourself leaving the canal for exploratory walks-

The authors point out that many of the premises on the banks of the canal have archways in their canal facade to allow the passage of horses and carts to pass through. They also reveal a number of enterprises and businesses long forgotten along the route, such as at No 30 York Way the Islington and North London Shoe Black Brigade hostel. Also in York Way was the Self-Opening Tin Box Company.

The main feature of the Walk is, of course, a substantial basin completely invisible from surrounding streets - it would be picturesque if, when the area is sometime redeveloped, this stretch of water could be exposed.

The Walk is a valuable companion to a stroll along a less-known stretch of towpath. Hands up all those who finish their canal walk at Camden Town! It is available at CHS lectures from the bookstall for 10p or from Roger Cline at 34 Kingstown Street, NW1 for an extra 20p postage and packing.

## MISSIONARIES IN MORNINGTON CRESCENT

In our Newsletter No 82 (March 1984) we reproduced a turn-of-the-century postcard featuring the southern end of Mornington Crescent. The view featured what are Nos 1 and 2. In a book entitled *The Glory of the Sons: A History of Eltham College*, a history of a school for sons of missionaries edited by Clifford Whiting in 1952, it is noted that the school, which was founded by the London Missionary Society in Walthamstow in 1842, moved to No 1 Mornington Crescent in 1852 and subsequently took over No 2 as well. They moved to Blackheath in 1857 as the number of pupils had become too great.

## St Giles—a Rookery parish

David R. Green of the Geography Department of King's College, has published an Occasional Paper (No 26) of particular interest to Camden residents. It is entitled **People of the Rookery: A pauper community in Victorian London**, and may be purchased from the Wooldridge Collection at King's College, Strand for £1.50.

Mr Green points out that when the suburb of St Giles was built in the 17th century it had a higher proportion of poor families then, and when in the 18th century new aristocratic estates were built further to the west this led to the St Giles area being completely forsaken by the affluent. Its nineteenth-century image is one of 'narrow streets, dimly-lit courts, its houses encrusted with filth and teeming with vermin, its numerous lodging houses and its population of hawkers, beggars and thieves.' Mr Green goes on to assess the reality of this. From the rate books he is able to ascertain that the St Giles area had few houses to compare in rateable value with surrounding parishes. In one part of the Rookery, around Church Lane, houses were valued as little as £4 a year and it was here that overcrowding was at its worst, where poor Irish immigrants could find something they could afford.

As is common in London topography the worst areas were no more than stone throws from socially much superior parts: in this case the British Museum, Bedford Square and Lincoln's Inn Fields. The building of New Oxford Street swept away some of the slums but those around Drury Lane and Seven Dials remained for some time after.

In fact the building of New Oxford Street exacerbated the problem at first. In 1847 a survey revealed that houses in Church Lane (roughly on the site of Centre Point) frequently contained more than thirty people. Following the clearances to build the new street some houses of 4 rooms here and elsewhere had between 50 and 90 people lodging at night. No 7 Church Lane was a typical example:

'The privy had been taken away and the cesspool covered with boards and earth. The soil underneath oozed up through the boards, saturating the earth with foetid matter. In one of the back rooms several Irish families lived ...The room opposite was occupied by only three families in the

day, but as many as could be got into it at night. The price ranged from "anything they could give me" to 1d and 2d per night. This room fetched 2 shillings per week. Two cases of fever had been taken away from it. The window slid back only eight inches - that was the only means of ventilation. Although this room was not more than nine feet square, daylight did not reach the back of it. It was scarcely high enough for an ordinary man to stand upright in.'

The author analyses the extent of the problem in an attempt to 'prize apart some of the relationships that existed between place, work and folk' and comes to the conclusion that the poor people involved were an inevitable part of the chain of decay, sub-letting and precarious livelihoods.

John Richardson.

## HALL SCHOOL CENTENARY

The Headmaster of the Hall School in Crossfield Road, Hampstead tells us that it is intended to publish in 1988 a history of the School to mark its centenary in 1989.

The Hall is rather unusual in that it is a private school, founded in the heyday of Victorian educational enterprise, which has survived on the same site. The present boys' preparatory school has in fact its precursor in the Belsize School, which started in Buckland Crescent, also in the 1880s. In 1905, the Belsize School moved into the Hall buildings, this latter being originally a private girls' school.

The proposed history will combine accounts of the development of the school, much of the information drawn from school magazines dating back to 1904, with personal memoirs from former pupils and staff. He would be grateful for any material relating to the School that could be sent to him at The Hall, 23 Crossfield Road, NW3.

## KEATS HOUSE SHOP

Those of you who haven't been to Keats House recently will find that there have been some changes, notably in the basement. Here there is now a shop which members will find useful for Christmas shopping. There are books about Keats and friends of course, but also about furniture, cooking etc. There are also dolls, straight out of Kate Greenaway, and stationery for sale.



# Churchyard Corrections

Christopher Wade has received a number of reactions to *Buried in Hampstead*, published by the Society earlier this year.

Christopher Ikin points out that a description such as 'Citizen and Mercer of London' (see pp 14 and 19) does not necessarily imply that the deceased traded as a mercer. The phrase could merely mean that he obtained his Freedom of London by being a liveryman of the Mercers' Company.

Dionys Moore enjoyed the book thoroughly but points out one error on p54 where her grandfather's and father's tombstones are described as being of composition stone. They were, in fact, of Hopton Wood Stone.

E.E.F. Smith, Secretary of the Clapham Antiquarian Society says that the publication 'is an admirable example of what every London parish should produce, but alas all too often the will and the enthusiasm are not there'.

He reports that a few Clapham folk were buried in Hampstead churchyard. They included Sir James Mackintosh, a Scots philosopher and barrister (1763-1832) who died from swallowing a chicken bone.

J.L. Wood writes to enlarge an entry for his grandfather W.P. Ryan who is described as a 'Papal Zouave' on his tombstone. *Buried in Hampstead* quotes Chamber's Dictionary in defining Zouaves as 'French infantry of great dash, originally Algerians, wearing a quasi-Moorish dress'.

Mr Wood points out that the Chamber's definition is not directly relevant to the Papal Zouaves. The French general Clausel, marechal de France and governor of Algeria, formed a native regiment in Algeria in the 1830s and called them Zouaves from the name of the Zwawa tribe which was the chief source of recruitment. They were given an Ottoman kind of uniform, short jacket, baggy trousers, gaiters and a fez kind of cap, with a cockade.

However, the Papal Zouaves were a unit formed to defend the Papal States against the Garibaldini, and recruited from Catholic areas - Ireland, Bavaria etc, in the 1860s. W.P. Ryan was a publisher who was recruited late in the 60s. The Irish were intended to have a fine green and gold

uniform, but owing to muddle and lack of money most of them were given ill-fitting secondhand red and blue stuff.'

Christopher Wade also points out that they have been chided for a serious omission in the list of 'close relations to famous people' which includes such people as the aunt of Jane Austen etc. He says that they have missed out the mother of Joan Collins!

## HENDON CELEBRATES

Every now and then we have reported on the activities of our colleagues, the Hendon and District Archaeological Society, who have recently completed their long excavation on West Heath. Members will be interested to learn that at the Church Farm House Museum at Greyhound Hill, Hendon, is an exhibition called *One Man's Archaeology*, which celebrates 25 years of the Society. It runs until 7th December.

The Museum is open weekdays 10am-1pm and 2pm-5.30pm, but on Tuesdays from 10am-1pm only. On Sunday it is open 2pm-5.30pm. Admission is free.

## THE LAST MILLENNIUM

One of the last Millennium events at the Hampstead Museum, Burgh House, is one called *Artists in Hampstead*, which is a biographical retrospective. Admission is free and it runs from October 4th to December 19th.

The Exhibition has been chosen by Christopher and Diana Wade and it includes 150 artists. Displayed will be a reproduction of at least one picture per artist and details of their residences.

The annual Meeting of the Friends of Burgh House is on November 19th at 8pm. The speaker will be our own President, Dr Ann Saunders.

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