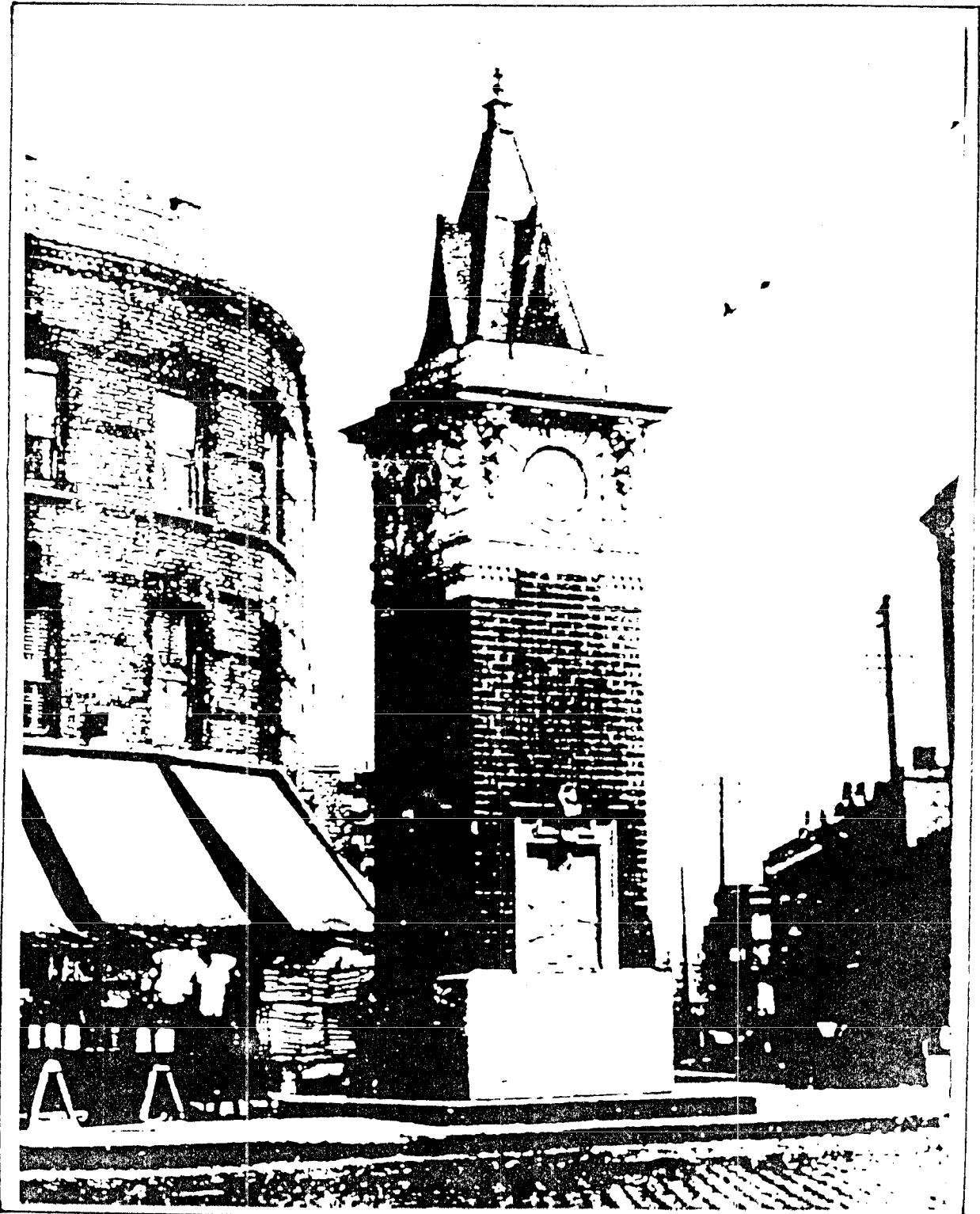

EAST

LONDON HISTORY

SOCIETY

Spring Newsletter 1992

Volume 1 No.1



ATKINSON MEMORIAL CLOCK, Burdett Road. Removed to Stepney Green in 1934

A SUMMER OF CELEBRATIONS - TEEF & EAST END YESTERDAYS

East End Yesterdays 1992 is being held this year from June 23rd to 28th. The theme for this year's celebration of Oral History is **STRUGGLE AND CONFLICT IN THE EAST END.**

The programme will include several walks around East London. Some already planned are a walk along Brick Lane ending in food and music in Brick Lane's newly opened Music Hall; a walk along Cable Street ending in a pub; a walk around Wapping - Life in the London Docks; the Blitz Trail and a walk around Blackwall, which will include a meal in a riverside pub, and finally, a walk in the footsteps of the suffragettes of Bow.

There will also be exhibitions in Oxford House and the Ragged School Museum on the themes of the struggle for survival, war/refugees, fascism in the East End, and the struggle of childhood.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS AND A PROGRAMME PLEASE CONTACT MAGGIE HEWITT ON TELE: 071 739 9001.

You can also write or phone me on the No. below, if you require a programme sent to you.

Rosemary Taylor
5 Pusey House
Saracen Street
Poplar
London E14 6HG

Tele: 071 515 2960(eves)

The East End Festival has also been planned for the last week of June, culminating in a weekend of fun and frolic in Millwall Park on the Isle of Dogs - A Lark in the Park.

The East London History Society will be setting up an exhibition and an Information Stall. We hope to have a preview of our forthcoming publication on Victoria Park, using Philip Mernick's excellent collection of old postcards. There will also be a video presentation and, hopefully, a slide presentation. More information nearer the time.

Again, for further information on times, or if you require a programme, please contact me on the number below.

We do hope you are able to drop in and support us.

Notice Board

The Island History Trust is interested in hearing from anyone with stories to tell about the Isle of Dogs. They publish life stories and works of local history, as well as a regular newsletter. The Trust's archives are at Island House, 4 Roserton Street, Isle of Dogs, E14 3PG.

And a reminder that if you would like to send us a short article or feature of local interest for inclusion in our next newsletter, please try and get it to us by September.

POSTCARDS OF POPLAR AND BOW, THE CHURCHES OF POPLAR, AND THE EVER-POPULAR CANARY WHARF ARE STILL AVAILABLE - Please call Rosemary 071 5152960

Letters from Our Members

Dr Schultz-Gubehke writes from Valencia, Spain:

I was sad to learn of the death of Mr Searle, who has kindly and faithfully provided with all the Record's issues ever since I happened to come across No. 2 and decided to subscribe to it. For a distant admirer of the society's work, living in Germany and now in Spain, his devoted work and his friendly remarks along with each year's issue have helped to keep alive the interest in the local history of the East End.

Over the years the Record has become quite professional, while the variety of contributors is as interesting as always. This year I enjoyed the articles about the pavement entertainers and the journeymen bakers most. Last year's payment for the Record has been a bit difficult because banks over here could not provide me with one-pound bank notes(!). This year I shall try a different way. Thanks again and good wishes for the year to come.

Mr E W Austin of Warrington, Cheshire writes:

My ancestors were all furriers in the East end during the late 1700's and early 1800's. Have you any publications that cover this topic. If not perhaps you could send me anything of a general nature pertaining to life in the East End around this period.

Ed: Our Secretary Doreen Kendall has sent Mr Austin a leaflet on a Hudson Bay Exhibition, as well as an article on the garment trade in Spitalfields. Can any of our members offer some specific advice or information to Mr Austin, or even better, an article on the fur trade in the East End for our next Newsletter would be welcomed.

Charles Wakefield from Leytonstone has enquired about a book entitled Daddy Eirt. Does anyone possess a copy? Please contact Doreen Kendall if you can help.

Derrick Streeton, Westcliff-on-Sea writes:

I'm pleased to have "discovered" the ELHS as I was born in Poplar, but left as a child in 1940 (courtesy German airforce - but no hard feelings, as I subsequently married a German). After a lapse of 50 years, I'm pleased to say we

again have a Streeton in the East End - my son now lives in Bow!

Mrs Darleen Wolfe writes from Canada:

(Re: the article in Record No.13). I have an ancestor Frederick Hinken, of German descent who on his daughter's birth certificate was a sugar house labourer. Their address was 9 Conants, Whitechapel, in October 1861 (wife's name was Sophia, nee Johnson.) Please advise what other publications the ELHS has concerning: (a) German "communities", organisations, churches, lifestyles etc in East London, and (b) Calico Printers, Hackney (another ancestor, James Lawrence is listed as a calico printer on daughter's marriage certificate in St John's Parish Church in MArch 1867, address at that time Cecil Villa, Nightingale Road, Hackney.

Ken Gay, from North London, found the article on Elizabeth Fry (Record No. 14) of special interest:

I lived close to West Ham Park (near the house where Joseph Lister was born) and knew these locations. The Cedars I remember from before the war as the headquarters of the Territorials. When my mother died a few years ago, aged 93, I stopped going to West Ham for the first time in my life.

Mary Atkins from Leigh on Sea, Essex was delighted have found two copies of Echoes of the East End, by Venetia Murray, thanks to Doreen's efforts. One copy was for Ted Harrison's son in Australia. Mary Atkins writes:

Ted, a wonderful painter of pictures in words, lived in Hoxton all his life and enjoyed talking about the old East End of his childhood to the local school children. There are two paper back books, one called PLAYING ALONG THE CANAL, published by CHUG (1988 Canals in Hackney Users Group), - Ted Harrison's memories. The other WHEN WE WERE KIDS ON THE CORNER OF THE STREET published by Hoxton Hall and Hackney Adult Education Institute (1983) - Ted is one of 4 writers in that. We have both books as well as videos we taped from TV programmes he appeared in about the East End, so we are very lucky in that respect - so much family history has been lost through not recording it.

Letters from our Members

Miss Mary Chamberlain, Rossendale Lancashire, has written asking for information on Brabazon Street, Bromley by Bow between 1891 - 1920. She says:

I am tracing my paternal family tree back to my Great, great grandfather who died in 1897. He had lived at No. 31 - presumably then a row of terraces rather than the current block of flats.

(Ed. Can any of our members help Miss Chamberlain?)

G Hurley of Loughton Essex has responded to the request for information on Barge Builders:

The only barge slipway used to be just above Mile End Lock - Regents Canal. This was used to repair Charrington's Gardener and Lockett (wooden craft). These craft took coal from Regents Canal Basin to Kensal Rise Gasworks. I suggest that Mr Harrison writes to British Waterways, Enfield Lock, Middx. They might give him the information he is seeking.

Jean Cotton, from Chalfont St Giles is in search of a famous Poplar name:

My husband's ancestor was Captain Joseph Cotton, Deputy Master (1745-1825). I have collected quite a lot of information on his family. Thank you (to Doreen) for giving me details of Huddart's life, (Unpathed Waters), which is of special interest as Capt. Joseph Cotton's son William worked for him and became partner in Huddart & Co firm at Limehouse. William Cotton also wrote a memoir of Huddart which won him a medal from the Institution of Civil Engineers, printed in 1855.

Mrs Anne Davenport, 12 Monsell Drive, Leicester LE2 8PN is hoping one of our members can solve the mystery of Mile End Toll Gate:

In 1947 my husband's grandfather, Lewis Davenport, had some correspondence with a firm of monumental masons about a headstone for the grave of Horace Goldin, the famous illusionist. The firm was J Samuel & Son, of 42 Raven row, Mile End Gate. In one of his letters Lewis wrote:

Mile End Gate brings back memories. My father bought the old Toll Gate that used to stand at the corner of Cambridge

Heath Road. It was taken to Woodford and I slept in it many a time when a boy.

In his reply, the secretary of J Samuel & Son mentioned that his firm had been in this immediate vicinity for some 120 to 130 years and had photographs of the toll gate.

Lewis Davenport was born in 1881 and the toll gate was removed in 1866, so it cannot have been the toll gate that Lewis' father bought. He might, however, have bought a toll booth or toll house. He was described as a cooper and dealer on his death certificate in 1890, so he could conceivably have used the toll booth for storage.

The prints of the toll gate show two square buildings, one on each side of the gate, which I presume were the toll booths. I wondered if they were demolished at the same time as the gate.

Some family history is of relevance. Lewis Davenport was a conjuror on the music halls and was known by his stage name; his real name was George Ryan. His father was George James Ryan. Unfortunately, the Bancroft Library has no information that might throw any light on Lewis' story about the Mile End Toll Gate. I wonder if any of your members could help.

Ed: An intriguing story - please keep us posted!

Andy Goss, 36 Alexander Avenue, Enderby, Leicester LE9 5NA has also asked for our help:

I wonder if you could be willing to publish within your newsletter an appeal for any relative of Joseph Barnett to contact me at the above address. The Joseph Barnett I am interested in lived in Whitechapel at the time of the Ripper murders of 1888 and was the live-in lover of the last victim, Mary Kelly.

I am a Midlands based journalist conducting some research into Barnett's life and am trying to trace Denis Barnett, Joseph's great grandson, who is said to still live in the East End.

I am, quite simply, looking for an opportunity to speak to Denis Barnett, or indeed, anyone connected with Joseph Barnett who may be able to shed some light upon their relative's history.

The purpose of my research is for an article to be published in my local newspaper in Leicester, a city where Joseph Barnett lived and worked for a time before returning to the East End.

V C H in Crisis

Isobel Watson, Chair of Friends of Hackney Archives, is appealing to ELHS members:

I don't know if you are aware of the recent troubles in the Victoria County History funding. This year Tower Hamlets were so slow paying their annual contribution that the University of London historians working on the Stepney/Hackney/Bethnal Green volume, originally due for publication this year, have been put on short time. This means (a) all their work is slowed up and (b) inevitably they will give priority to working on areas (like Westminster) who pay the full whack. Hackney have for several years only paid a part of their proper share. This year it was augmented by a charity grant, but next year it will be only about a quarter of the proper sum. Worse yet, Tower Hamlets have decided to pay nothing at all next year. Goodness knows when, if ever, we will see the local volume, in which several years' work has been invested: I am writing to several Hackney Councillors who are known to be interested in local history. It is not so easy to identify these in Tower Hamlets. Is there anything the ELHS can do to add your voices? And can you suggest any other Councillors who might take an interest?

(Ed: This is indeed a very distressing piece of information. May I urge all our members to write to their respective local councillors to rethink their approach to funding this vital source of historical research.)

Stan Newens, Euro MP London Central, and a long-standing member of the ELHS writes:

In congratulating you and your team of writers on the newsletters which you produce, may I ask whether you publish two or three editions each year. In 1990, I received newsletters labelled Spring, Autumn and Christmas, but in 1991 Spring and Christmas only. If I have been overlooked, I should be grateful if you could let me have the one that I have missed - presumably Autumn 1991. Would it not be sensible to number them, so that the correct sequence is self-evident?

(Ed: No you haven't missed one, Stan. The reason why there were 3 in 1990 was that in the previous year the newsletters had been rather sketchy, and we had a backlog of letters and news items to pass on. We've taken up the idea of numbering the newsletters, and have started with this one.)

I would like to make several comments on the Christmas 1991 newsletter:

1. Contribution by Bradley Snooks: The dockers Union leader buried in Tower Hamlets Cemetery is Harry ORBELL (not ORDELL), born 4 November 1858, died 22 March 1914. The memorial was erected by his Union. He was a key figure in the 1889 Dockers Strike, when he was in charge at Tilbury. Later he was an organiser and a member of the PLA. He lived at 6 Ridgdale Street Bow.

2. The Drinking Fountain, erected in Victoria Park in 1867 and designed by Henry Darbishire, cost Baroness Angela Burdett-Coutts £7,000 (not £6,000) according to Edna Healey: *Lady Unknown - the life of Angela Burdett-Coutts*, London 1978 p. 164.

3. Note to the Obituary of Alan Searle

Percy Holman MP whom I knew reasonably well, was a Labour, not a Liberal MP. The last Liberal MP for Bethnal Green was Percy Harris who was defeated in 1945.

David Rees, Architect, 52 Trehurst Steet, London E5 OEB, has embarked on a research into the influence of Second World War damage on the post-war development of East London, and would like to know if any work has already been done in this area.

SALVATION ARMY RIOTS

I have been searching through the Hackney and Kingsland Gazette recently and came across a most unusual report (15.2.1882)

The roughs of Bethnal Green have latterly been assiduously forming a "Skeleton Army", which is to parade the streets in opposition to the Salvation Army. Clubs have been procured for its members and banners made containing strangely devised emblems. On Sunday (12.2.1882) these roughs fell in with the Salvation Army at Cambridge Road and a general melee ensued, hats and umbrellas were smashed and several persons trampled upon and injured. The captains of the two armies engaged in an altercation concerning the merits and demerits of their respective parties, while the rank and file fought fiercely for their respective causes. The police were called to the scene and soon succeeded in quelling the disturbance and ultimately cleared the street.

C J LLOYD

Poplar and The Scottish Estate

When Hugh and David MacIntosh were the contractors for the groundwork necessitated by the construction of the London Docks and East India Docks, which opened in 1805 and 1806 respectively, they lived at Bromley Hall Bromley by Bow near the River Lea.

The land at Stepney was purchased by them for the purpose dumping the spoil from the excavation of the docks. This land was purchased from the Mercers company and was later bisected by the construction of the Commercial Road which ran from Limehouse church to Aldgate. In 1828 the liberty of Havering was purchased from the Crown by Hugh MacIntosh and when he developed the land the brothers had bought at Stepney, some of the squares and streets took their names from Havering. Thus we have Bower Street and Havering Street on the south side of Commercial Road and Arbour Square on the north side to name but two or three. The Stepney estate still stands with their green squares and well built houses, an interesting example of early 19th century planning.

The land to the north of the East India Docks as far as Bromley, bordered to the east by the River Lea and to the west by what is known today as Brunswick Road, was known as Bromley Marsh, being some eight or nine feet below Thames high water mark. However this land was exceedingly fertile and was farmed for many years by the MacIntosh family and indeed was known locally as MacIntosh farm. Around the end of the 19th century this land was developed as a housing estate, the so-called Scottish Estate. Roads and streets were given scottish names and were named in alphabetical order south to north i.e. Aberfeldy and Athol Street, Blair Street, Culloden Street, Dee Street, Etrick Street, Findhorn Street, Glencoe Street, Highland Street, right through the alphabet to z - Zetland Street.

On the 18 October 1920 I was born at No. 45 Blair Street in the Parish of South Bromley in the then Metropolitan Borough of Poplar, now once again since 1965 included as it once was in the Borough of Tower Hamlets.

As a child I attended the infants and junior school at Culloden Street, where my father was the assistant schoolkeeper. The school was destroyed by enemy action during the 2nd World War as was the well known hostelry the Aberfeldy Tavern and the church of All Hallows by the docks, which was a sad loss as much of the priceless

furnishings came from Sir Christopher Wren's church, All Hallows, Bread Street.

The organ casing was salvaged from the ruins and is now back where it rightfully belongs in the City of London, encasing the new Noel Mander organ in the restored Wren church of St Mary Abchurch. The front cover was also salvaged and that too is back where it belongs, in the City of London. In fact it is now in the restored Wren church of St Andrews by the Wardrobe.

After serving throughout the 2nd World War in the Royal Air Force, I settled in the Romford and Hornchurch area now once again, since 1965, in the Borough of Havering. It is interesting to note that the name of MacIntoch is commemorated in Havering by MacIntosh Road in Romford.

During post war redevelopment some of the old street names in Poplar have sadly disappeared for ever. Blair Street was rebuilt, two of the pleasant low rise blocks of flats constructed being named Jarvis Bay House and Rawalpindi House to commemorate the two historic armed merchant cruisers which fought so courageously in the battle of the Atlantic during World War Two. But the site of the house where I was born and raised is now occupied by the post war Aberfeldy Tavern.

EDWARD J HARRISON

(Transcribed from tape by Rosemary Taylor)

We were all saddened to hear of the death of Edward Harrison in November 1991. I had the privilege of speaking to Mr Harrison shortly before he died. He kindly offered to help me fill some of the gaps in my research into the Blackwall area, and promised an article for the newsletter. He never got to writing it, and a few weeks later the Island History Newsletter informed us of his passing away. However, he did send me a tape he had been working on, part of which is reproduced in this newsletter. Members who came to the Hoppicking Lecture which was unavoidably cancelled, had the opportunity of hearing Edward Harrison's memories of Blackwall and Poplar.)

The Bundle Woman of Bow

From the East London Advertiser, 3 Jan 1992:

The lost grave of Clara Grant - the Farthing Bundle Lady - has been found in Tower Hamlets Park Cemetery Park. Her headstone had disappeared under a mass of brambles and it was by chance that the 52 year old gravestone was discovered. Members of The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park (Rusty Peasey and his team) set to and cleared the spot. After hacking their way through the undergrowth they eventually found the headstone, which is shaped like an open book. The inscription on it reads: *In Loving Memory of the Farthing Bundle Lady, Clara Grant. Died 10th October 1949 in her 83rd year From her family, staff and settlement friends.*

mas a Becket on the bridge itself. The Tower of London is on the right of the bridge with strange bulged tops to the turrets. fishmongers Hall with its medieval battle-ment structure, which was burnt down in the fire is to the left of the bridge. Then Henry VIII's palace of Brideswell and Baynards Castle, the cranes on Three Cranes Wharf, then Middle Temple Hall with riverside gardens in front and great houses leading up to the Strand and Whitehall on the extreme left of the picture. On the south bank four theatres are visible, ranging from left to right, the Swan, Hope, Rose and Globe and finally, St Saviours Parish church and the Great Hall of the Bishops of Winchester.

DOREEN KENDALL

Note: Limited Edition Prints of the painting are on sale at Bancroft Library.

PAINTING OF THE CITY PANORAMA BEFORE THE GREAT FIRE 1666

A lot of interest has been shown in the rare Panorama painting given to the Whitechapel Library Tower Hamlets in 1892 by M P Samuel Montagu. Its use of oil and colour give a vivid view of London. The last painted record of the whole of the City before it was destroyed in the Great Fire of London in 1666, the view is from the south bank of the Thames at Southwark.

The painting was last seen by the public before the war. Tower Hamlets Globe Town Neighbourhood decided to sell the painting as they lacked the facilities or insurance to put it on public display.

The Museum of London paid £170,000 plus an undisclosed sum to be paid to Sotheby's following its withdrawal from their sale in July 1991.

Topographical oil paintings are rare, the artist may be the Dutch painter Claude DeJongh. It appears to have copied the mistaken course of the Thames beyond the Tower which originated in an engraving by Claes Jansz Visscher in 1638.

The painting is dominated by St Pauls without its wooden steeple, burnt down in 1561. Clearly seen are the rotting heads of traitors on the gateway to London Bridge, with Nonsuch House built of wood and the chapel of St Tho-

QUAKER TAPESTRY

(Read our member Lella Raymond's article on Elizabeth Fry in the Record No. 14, (1991))

The enormous Quaker Tapestry which has been stitched all over the world began humbly in 1981 as the combined idea of Anne Wynn-Wilson and her eleven year old pupil Jonathan. It grew to a point where 4,000 people in ten countries were involved. The tapestry consists of 78 panels each 25" x 21" for ease of travelling when embroidering and for exhibitions.

The whole of the history of the Quaker Movement is embroidered in these panels from George Fox, founder member, the marriage ceremony, the 5,000 quakers who refused to support either side of the War of Independence, the 4,000 persecuted Welsh members who emigrated to America, the botanists and the wonderful plants associated with them. Whatever your interest you will find a panel dedicated to it.

Our East End interest is in two panels to Elizabeth Fry. When women were being deported to Australia in irons, in the 19th century, she persuaded the authorities to try and make the journey more tolerable. She helped to organise the women into support groups for school and sewing for the journey. She arranged that each woman would receive gifts of a bag of threads, patchwork pieces, needles and pins, everything necessary to make patchwork quilts. Quilting served several purposes. It occupied some of the long hours of the journey and provided

Elizabeth Fry and the Quakers contd...

items that could be sold or offered proof of needle work skills to prospective employers. It helped them clothe their families for the rest of their lives, through skills learnt on board ship.

Elizabeth Fry, from 1818 to 1843 visited all the 106 convict ships with 12,000 women and children being transported to Botany Bay, and tried to make their lives on board ship a little more civilized. Transportation was not abolished until after her death.

Another panel is dedicated to Mary Hughes. Her house clearly identified in Valance Road Whitechapel.

If any members are on holiday at any of the following places, a visit is recommended:

Quaker Tapestry Exhibitions 1992

17-14 May Street (West Country)

18-30 May Cambridge

4-30 June Manchester

4-18 July Lincoln

25 July- 23 August York

27 August - 3 Sept Truro.

For further information about any of these exhibitions contact Margaret Simpson 0272 663513, 36 Nutgrove Avenue, Bristol.

TS EXMOUTH - REUNION

John Hunter would like to hear from anyone who was trained on the TS EXMOUTH, at Grays in Essex. This ship was used by the LCC from 1905 to 1939. Young boys were sent to the training ship from about the age of eleven, as a preparation for a career in the Merchant Navy. John is hoping to arrange a reunion later this year. Please write to him at the address below

John Hunter, 125 Whitehorse Road,
Tower Hamlets, London E1 ONL
Tele: 071 790 9158

48 TYPE STREET - At Risk

Alerted by an advertisement in the East London Advertiser in February, spotted by Doreen Kendall, who has taken a keen interest in the above building, the ELHS Chair wrote to Globe Town Neighbourhood Planning Officer:

Members of the Local History Society have expressed grave concern at the news that a locally listed building is to be demolished. This is a sad state of affairs when a building has been allowed to deteriorate so badly from neglect that a clearance order is being sought to allow the area to be redeveloped.

This Georgian classic style building is part of the development of Regents Canal and Dock for local building in the 1840s. It later became known as the Globe Town rent office for the Cranbrook area, and subsequently bought for use as an office for delivery of tram lines for the area. The building became the property of the LCC at the beginning of this century. In 1989 one of our members Doreen Kendall reported the damage to the building by fire, and the subsequent reassurance from the Historic Buildings Research Officer indicated that Globe Town Neighbourhood were aware of the historic importance of the building.

As a History Society we would request that our view be placed on record. We deplore the intention to demolish 48 Type Street, it would be a sad loss to an area known for its classic housing along Old Ford Road and the decision will be detrimental to this conservation area.

CANARY WHARF - Lighting up the Skies

Three local artists pooled their talents to light up the sky and usher in the New Year with a spectacular display of lasers on Canary Wharf. Anne Beam, Peter Fink and Martyn Butler of Limehouse Causeway were given the rare opportunity of displaying their work to millions of Londoners as One Canada Square flashed a complex sequence of computerised patterns every night for three weeks in January.

Stepney Green Clock Tower

Len Darling of Crediton, Devon, enquired about the Stepney Clock Tower which once stood at the junction of Burdett Road and Bow Common Lane before being moved to Stepney Green. The reason for his interest was that his great-grandfather Robert Pratt was employed as a caretaker and handyman by the doctor in whose memory the clock tower was erected - Stanley B Atkinson (and whose bust greets us at the head of the stairs at Bancroft Road Library!)

Doreen Kendall supplied a very grateful Mr Darling with all the information he required. The Clock Tower was featured on the cover of the 1969 edition of the East London Record. We thought it a good idea to reproduce the article which appeared in the January 1969 edition of our Newsletter.

The many people who have occasion to walk through Stepney Green cannot fail to observe the Clock Tower, and among them many must be curious as to its history. In the first place, it originally stood in the centre of Burdett Road at the junction of Bow Common Lane, Canal Road and Coutts Road, where it was erected in 1913 as a memorial to Dr Stanley B Atkinson, a prominent social worker in the East End of London, particularly within the Borough of Stepney, and incidentally there is a bust statue of the Doctor in the Mile End Public Library in Bancroft Road.

The reason for the removal of the Tower to Stepney Green was that by 1933 it had become a danger on account of the enormously increasing volume of traffic. In those days there was a very frequent service of electric trams along the Burdett Road, and in consequence, the powers that be were compelled to come to the conclusion that the structure could not in the interest of public safety remain in its original position, particularly in respect of its danger to pedestrian traffic.

The Council at that time, however were most anxious that if at all possible, the memorial should be preserved in the Borough and eventually in January 1934 the removal was made to its present site in Stepney Green.

The scheme for the removal was entrusted to the Borough Engineer and Surveyors Department who resolved to tackle the job by bodily transporting the tower in one piece instead of demolishing and rebuilding it. The structure was built of brick walls with plinth etc measuring about 8 feet x 8 feet and 35 feet in height, being hollow

internally where the clock mechanism is (or was) housed and weighed about 30 tons.

For those interested in this somewhat ingenious operation I will briefly relate the proceedings though I will be calling upon my memory of some 35 years ago.

To make this whole venture a reasonable possibility lay in the good fortune and knowledge that an eminent transport firm by the name of E W Rudd Ltd of Poplar owned a very special type of vehicle which they had designed for transporting at that time the largest of transformers and which was most suitable to cope with the removal of this structure.

The first stage was to sever the building from its conventional foundation, then temporarily cradle it externally and strut internally with stout timbers with the object of preventing the whole thing from collapsing. This work together with the preparation of the new foundation at Stepney Green took about two to three weeks and was performed by the Council's Works Department.

Having accomplished this much it fell to the Saturday night of 28 January 1934 to carry out the removal after the last trams had passed it at about 1 am. The height of the tower ascended much above the height of the overhead tram power wires therefore these had to be temporarily taken down (current switched off) before being able to move away. In the meantime, the transport firm was busily carrying out the necessary jacking up and securing the tower to the vehicle to support same in a perpendicular position. All being ready, it was in the light of acetylene flares and witnessed by hundreds of interested Stepney people who found the whole spectacle sufficiently attractive to keep them from their beds, that the tower was lifted on to the vehicle, and at about 6 am on Sunday, this most unusual cargo moved off. The route was along Canal Road, Mile End Road, (with heads popping out of bedroom windows to witness the somewhat strange sight) and on to Stepney Green which was safely reached at about 8 am.

There was some speculation as to how the load would behave when cornering the roads and traversing the bridge over the Regents Canal in Mile End Road, but fortunately with the aid and skill of the steam tractor driver these were negotiated successfully. Quite a large number of the spectators at Burdett Road followed the whole proceedings through to Stepney Green, and in conclusion, I can happily relate nothing fell apart, not even a speck of dust was lost.

PERCY T PALMER

January 1969

SUTTON HOUSE - HACKNEY

A large group of around 25 members of the ELHS visited Sutton House on 7 March. We had initially enquired about the possibility of the Society visiting the house on a weekend, and fortunately we were able to take advantage of an Open Day, when the architects, craftsmen and other dedicated helpers were on hand to give us a detailed and instructive tour of the house. With the help of the Sutton House Appeal, the National Trust and English Heritage, the house is being lovingly and painstakingly restored to its former glory. Having established conclusively that the building is the oldest house in East London, the National Trust, who incidentally have owned the house since 1938, yet allowed it to fall into a deplorable state of decay and neglect, have finally woken up to its unique importance. It is hoped that within a year from now the house will be opened to the public, refurnished and restored.

ROSEMARY TAYLOR

ELHS at the Fair

The East London History Society were represented at two Craft Fairs recently. St Peters Hall Wapping on 2nd December run by the Wapping Trust had all the local history stalls and a beautiful craft stall full of hand-made gifts for the tree and table. We had our new Record No. 14 to sell.

On Saturday 7th December, on a morning white with frost, Rosemary, Diane and I had set up our table in the St Johns of Hackney church, along with the Ragged School, Hackney Archives, Stoke Newington Reservoirs Trust, Friends of Hackney Archives, and Lynx Theatre. We were all arranged around the main body of this huge church with other stalls selling crafts, all in aid of Sutton House.

We were pleased to see so many of our members walking around and enjoying a very limited viewing of Sutton House due to the building work going on there. As (very cold) successful sellers of the Record, we enjoyed the two organ recitals, the choir singing all our favourite carols, and the bell ringers played a peal of bells for an hour at mid-day, and the sound of the bells at they rang out across the huge greens surrounding the church, all white with frost created an unforgettable memory.

DOREEN KENDALL

WAR MEMORIALS

QUEEN MARY'S HOSPITAL FOR THE EAST END STRATFORD.

In the previous issue of the newsletter, I remarked that war memorials were never intentionally destroyed but were allowed to fade away by neglect, and even lack of knowledge of what they are, and what they represent.

I have been proved wrong; what could be said to have been one of the largest war memorials in the United Kingdom was demolished to make way for a housing project, and it happened in the heart of the East End.

On the 2nd May 1918, the Mayor of West Ham, Alderman Will Thorne, JP MP called a public meeting at the Public Hall Canning Town and became Treasurer of a fund set up to raise £6,000 "to erect an additional wing to Queen Mary's Hospital as a memorial to those West Ham citizens who have made sacrifices for us".

The wing was built in chant Square, and became the Out-Patients Department, the fourth biggest in the country. It was opened on Armistice Day 1924, in a ceremony performed by Prince Henry, and dedicated by the Bishop of Chelmsford.

It was bulldozed in 1986 to make way for housing. The memorial in the main hall was smashed, and used for hard-core.

JOHN HARRIS

Newham in View

Newham Library Service has produced a set of 16 postcards showing views of Newham between 1903 and 1939. The black and white postcards are presented in an attractive folder, and depict images of life in Newham before 1939. There are views of the docks at work, with Thames barges on the river, of people relaxing with street parties for the Royal Silver Jubilee of 1935, and hop picking. The history of the borough is shown through the Silvertown Explosion of 1917 which was one of the worst disasters in Britain during the First World War, and more happily the opening of Beckton Lido in 1937 by the then Mayor of West Ham Daisy Parsons.

Many of the photographs were taken by George Taylor who lived in New Barn Street. All the originals are held at the Local Studies Library at Stratford Library.

The Set of 16 is priced at £2.50 and is available from local libraries. For further details contact Howard Bloch, 081 534 4545 ext 25662.

The Society receives a great deal of correspondence from its members, as well as from people researching their family history or generally enquiring about aspects of local history or publications. Doreen Kendall, our secretary does her best to respond to each query, but on occasion the sheer volume of mail makes this a daunting task. Letters and enquiries referring to the Record are passed on to the Editor Colm Kerrigan; letters which may be of interest to our members, who might perhaps be able to supply the missing information being sought, are sent to me for inclusion in the newsletter. A considerable amount of research is carried out by John Harris, our membership secretary, and Doreen Kendall, with the advice and invaluable assistance of our two librarians, Chris Lloyd and Harry Watton. Whilst we are happy to be of assistance to our members, as best we can, there is inevitably a limit to our time and resources.

We also receive a number of enquiries from people tracing their ancestors, who have spent time at the Bancroft Road Library, with limited success. While we do endeavour to respond to their enquiries, it is not always possible for us to actively assist in helping people to research their family history. There are, however, societies dedicated to this pursuit and the East of London Family History Society would be delighted to hear from anyone engaged in tracing their past.

Please write to Mr F Brown, East of London Family History Society, 8 Ilfracombe Gardens, Chadwell Heath, Romford, Essex RM6 4RP.

The Island History Trust, Island House, Roserton Street, London E14 3PG has a large collection of photographs relating to families from the Isle of Dogs. They are not only very well indexed but are a valuable source of family history. Eve Hostetler and her dedicated team would be happy to answer your queries. The archives may be visited on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons, or by arrangement.

ROSEMARY TAYLOR

Calling all Members:

Short articles/memories are welcome for inclusion in the Newsletter. Please send to Rosemary Taylor, Doreen Kendall or John Harris

To remind you of the remaining events for our programme year:

Wednesday 8 April:

BILLY AND CHARLIE - the Shadwell Fakers

Philip Mernick's highly entertaining talk on two East End charlatans, who duped Victorians with their fake antiquities. Illustrated with examples from Philip's own extensive collection of coins.

Thursday 7 May:

POST WAR EAST LONDON - Members' memories

Come along with your memories of what it was like after the 2nd World War, talk about it, display any of your treasured possessions from the post-war era, or simply enjoy an evening listening to other people's reminiscences.

There will be a photographic exhibition of the Lansbury Estate, Poplar - the 1951 live architectural exhibition of the Festival of Britain.

Thursday 14 May:

Visit to Royal London Hospital Archives, led by Jonathan Evans, District Archivist.

Meet at the Crypt of St Augustine with St Philip's Church Newark Street, Stepney. 6.30 pm.

Saturday 27 June:

Walk Around Tower Hill, led by Ann Sansom

Meet at Tower Hill District Line Station 2.30 pm.

Rosemary Taylor
5 Pusey House
Saracen Street
Poplar
London E14 6HG

Doreen Kendall
20 Puteaux House
Cranbrook Estate
London E1 ORF

SPRING COACH TRIP

Our Spring Coach trip will be on Saturday May 16. We shall be visiting first the attractive village of West Hoathly where there is a small and interesting folk museum in the Priest House (15th century). The emphasis is on samplers and needlework. We shall have a break for lunch here or in the nearby small town of Forest Row. Then we shall visit Standen a National Trust house in the neighbourhood, which is the northern part of Sussex, between East Grinstead and Ashdown Forest.

Standen is a late Victorian house designed by Philip Webb, friend of William Morris. The interior has been carefully restored, with Morris textiles and wallpapers, and good furniture of the period: it is complete even down to the original electric light fittings. There is a beautiful hillside garden with fine views across the Medway valley.

The coach fare will be £6.00. Entrance to Standen is extra - £4.00 but free for NT members. Entrance to the Priest House Museum is £1.00. Lunch as stated above will be at West Hoathly or Forest Row, depending on facilities available (own arrangements or bring a picnic).

Pick-up will be at Mile End, opposite the station, at 9.30 am. Please send your bookings, enclosing the coach fare but not entrance fees, to Ann Sansom on the Booking Form below. Please make cheques to East London History Society.

SPRING COACH TRIP 1992 - BOOKING SLIP	
Please send to: Ann Sansom, 18 Hawkdene, London, E4 7PF Tele: 081 524 4506	
I would like _____ seat/s for the coach trip on May 16th.	I enclose a cheque/PO for £ _____ (£6 per head)
NAME _____	
ADDRESS _____ _____ _____ _____	
TELEPHONE NO. _____	