

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF EAST LONDON

NEWSLETTER

Volume 1 Issue 16

Spring 1999



THE MATCH-MAKERS AT THE LAST-END

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Jenny Walk

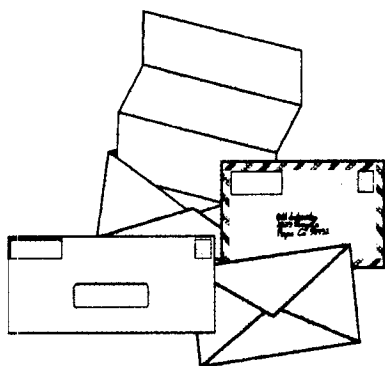
The East London History Society Newsletter is published twice yearly and is free to members of the Society.

The Newsletter is edited, typeset and produced by Rosemary Taylor with the assistance of an editorial team comprising John Harris, Doreen Kendall, David Behr, Philip Mernick and Doreen Osborn.

Letters and articles on East End history and reminiscences are always welcome and we make every effort to publish suitable material.

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Note:

The lectures are held on Thursday evenings at 7.30 pm in the Latimer Congregational Church Hall, Ernest Street, E1, - between Harford Street and WhiteHorse Lane, off Mile End Road (opposite Queen Mary and Westfield College). The nearest Underground Stations are Mile End and Stepney Green. Bus No. 25.

LECTURE PROGRAMME 1999

25th February 1999:

The German Hospital, Hackney
Speaker Elizabeth McKellar

18th March 1999:

The Architecture of Charitable Organisations in the East End, 1880-1905
Speaker Danny Wells

29th April 1999:

The Story of Shadwell
Malcolm Barr-Hamilton

20th May 1999:

Members Open Evening
Don't Forget the Pigeons - East Enders and their Birds and Animals

22nd May 1999:

Spring Coach Trip to St Ives and Elton Hall

Please see details and booking form on the back cover of the Newsletter.

PAVILION OF REMEMBRANCE

John Harris

A memorial to civilians who died in the London Borough of Newham in two World Wars is to be built as part of the Thames Barrier Park. It will commemorate the Silvertown explosion of 1917 and the bombing of Hallsville School in 1940.

On January 19th 1917, a fire broke out at the Brunner Mond munitions factory where TNT was being manufactured, the fire ignited 80 tons of TNT and all building within a 400 yard radius were destroyed. The casualties were officially listed as 69 killed outright, plus 4 who died later in hospital, 98 seriously injured and 600 with minor injuries. The explosion was heard in Norfolk.

The Hallsville School received a direct hit from a large bomb during an air raid in the early hours of September 10th 1940. Hallsville School was situated in Agate Street, Canning Town. It was packed with homeless families whose homes had been destroyed in an earlier raid. These people were waiting to be evacuated to a safe area, but the coaches which should have moved them that afternoon did not show up. There were many stories as to why this happened, the coaches went to the wrong place, or they could not get to Canning Town because of blocked roads. The official death roll was 73 men, women and children, but there were rumours that the casualties were much higher and that many bodies were buried in the ruins and concreted over. This was later disproved.

West Ham Civil Defence Services were so badly neglected by West Ham Council that there was no person to take control and organise when the bombing started. The whole district was in chaos. Hallsville School was a disaster waiting to happen. In the week that followed the Civil Defence Services from Kingston on Thames and Twickenham were sent into the area, where they remained for two weeks.

BOOKSHELF

An Insight into Civilian Internment in Britain during WW1, From the diary of Richard Noschke and a short essay by Rudolf Rocker. (Anglo-German Family History Society Publications - new edition 1998)

Robert Base, of the Anglo-German Family History Society has kindly passed on a copy of their latest publication to our Society. Copies of the above publication are available from him at £4.50. Members may write to him at: 15 Appleford Close, Hoddesdon, Herts EN11 9DE.

The book is in two sections, the first half being the diary of Richard Noschke, a German, married to an Englishwoman, who lived at Hatherley Gardens, East Ham, and at the outbreak of the First World War had been working in London for 25 years. What he meticulously recorded in his diary is almost too painful to read. Richard Noschke was not only summarily sacked from his job in August 1914, where he had worked for over 20 years, it was impossible to get work, as on each subsequent occasion, once his nationality was discovered, he was dismissed. In July 1915, he received notice of internment, and was sent to the Carpenters Road Camp, Stratford and later Alexandra Palace. In February 1918, Richard Noschke was deported to Holland, from where he made his way to Germany, to face the struggle for survival in a country suffering the aftermath of a bitter and bloody war.

Richard Noschke's only crime was to have been born a German. He spent several lonely years during and after the war separated from his English wife and grown-up children, before being re-united with them. In his Last Will and Testament, written on 21 June 1940 (when Britain was once more at war with Germany) he wrote his own Epitaph:

"A German Son he was and wished to remain."

EAST LONDON RECORD

NO. 19 1998

**A4 pb 48 pages
Price 2.75 + 75p p&p**

The East London Record is now on sale in a brand new large format, making it even greater value for money.

Articles include:

George Lansbury and the Bow and Bromley by election of 1912 by John Shepherd.

The Simple Life at Essex House in Bow, C R Ashbee and The Guild of Handicraft by Rosemary Taylor.

Arthur Morrison by Stan Newens MEP.

Bethnal Green's Sailor Tailor by Harold Finch.

Terror at Wenlock Brewery by Stephen Sadler.

Drinking in Mile End in 1750 by Derek Morris.

Tunnel Vision by John Harris.

Book Reviews and information on recent publications and acquisitions in the Local History Library at Bancroft Road.

Enquiries to Doreen Kendall, 20 Puteaux House, Bethnal Green, London E2 0RF

COOKING IN DOCKLANDS, Past and Present by James Page-Roberts. Price £5.95 A5 144 pages. Mudlark Press.

This is a collection of recipes that fed the dockers and their families during the 1930s and 40s, recorded from the memories of Senior Citizens at local Day Centres. Many dishes will appeal to vegetarian cooks as well as traditionalists. Think of potato cakes, bubble and squeak, parsley white sauce, bread sauce etc. Then there is pea and bacon bone soup, eel pie, corned beef hash, boiled salt beef. All the recipes use ingredients and methods suitable for today's cooks.

ESSEX PRIVIES by Stan Jarvis, price £6.95. Countryside Books.

The flushing water closet was invented in the 16th century and Queen Elizabeth I had one of the first installed in Richmond Palace. The Public Health Act 1848 made it law for sanitary arrangements to be fitted to every household. Many of these privies would be fitted down the garden path, a hazardous journey in bad weather, with spiders and rats for company.

LONDON'S LEA VALLEY, Britain's Best Kept Secret, by Jim Lewis, Price 12.00. Published by Phillimore & Co Ltd.

In just over 30 illustrated chapters, Dr. Lewis explores the lives of the many famous and fascinating people from the Lea Valley area who contributed to our industrial heritage, from Belling and Swan, manufacturers of household appliances, to the makers of the Lee Enfield Rifle.

**BETHNAL GREEN
METHODIST CHURCH
Childhood memories of the thirties**

Allan Gardiner

Although I was born in Hackney and lived there until 1937, when I moved right away from the area, my father's family came from Bethnal Green - I have traced them there back to about 1820 - and went to live in Lark Row, off Bishops Way, in about 1862. They started worshipping in the Victoria Park Wesleyan Church (now Bethnal Green Methodist Church) from soon after it opened in 1868 and one member of the family or another worshipped there right up until the Second World War. In fact, my father's aunt was born in Lark Row in 1872, worshipping at the Church for nearly all her life and eventually died close by at Ponsonby House in 1950.

The Church was built in 1868 and was at right angles to the present Church, the front door being in Bonner Road, with a long side-frontage to Approach Road, which consisted of the side of the church and schoolrooms which had three storeys. I believe the school originally housed a day-school (which my Grandfather attended in the 1870s), but was used for the Sunday School and many other church purposes by the time I went there. There was a large yard on the other side, with one entrance from the school building and the other into Bonner Road under an arch, over which lived the caretaker. The Church itself had pews and a gallery along three walls and I can vaguely remember this before the interior was altered after a roof collapse in 1928. The Manse was elsewhere.

The Church had for many years been the chapel of the National Children's Home and was also the birthplace of the Wesley Deaconess Order, but the removal of the Home to Highbury and Harpenden meant the withdrawal of financial support and placed the Church in financial difficulties in 1927. Application was made to be taken over by the East End Mission, which was then under the Superintendency of the Reverend F W Chudleigh, and this was accepted. The Mission then consisted of six missions - the centre at Commercial Road, Stepney; St George's in Cable Street; Lycett on the corner of Mile End Road and Stepney Green;

Gordon Hall in Globe Road; Old Mahogany Bar in Wellclose Square; and Edinburgh Castle in Limehouse (which was where Lloyd-George made his famous 'Limehouse Speech' in 1909 and to these was added Bethnal Green.

The Revd, Robertson Ballard was placed in charge and he was a dynamic personality, but very soon there was a crisis with the fall of the roof in 1928 and major works were put in hand. These included replacing the pews with tip-up seats in the church, reducing the gallery to the back of the church and turning it into a mission hall, with the caption outside of "Church of the Happy Welcome". The Church was also renamed Bethnal Green Central Hall and a new chapter was started. Although my memories of the church before this are misty, they really start from this point.

My introduction to the Church, although I do not remember it of course, was when I was christened by the Revd Walter Budd in the summer of 1924. According to my sister, it was a lovely summer Sunday evening.

My first vague memory was attending the Sunday School Christmas party in 1927. Because of numbers, the parties were always held by departments and this was the only time that my sister and I were in the same department and therefore at the same party. By that time, of course, the East End Mission had taken over the Church and Mr Ballard had arrived.

I remember Mr Ballard as a not very tall man who was bald and, because he was bald must be old! Actually he was then in his mid thirties and did not die until 1982. He was married and had three small daughters, at least one of whom was born whilst he was at Bethnal Green. He actually lived in the manse which was at the far end of Cawley Road in South Hackney alongside Victoria Park and there is a photograph of the house at the bottom of page 26 in "A Pictorial History of Victoria Park". As we lived at the other end of Cawley Road, we often saw him going to and from the Church. He certainly did a great deal to build up the strength of the Church and he had a commanding manner in his sermons which made people listen to him. This once had unfortunate consequences for me, when aged about eight years old, when I quoted something he said to my mother, and Anglo-Catholic, out of

context; he used the expression 'tearing the Gospels out of the Bible' and I told her that that was what Mr Ballard wanted to do fortunately my sister aged about thirteen was there to put the correct interpretation on what he said! He worked very hard in the six years he was at Bethnal Green and when he left in 1933, he handed over a strong Church to his successor, the Revd. Hugh Stevens.

Mr Stevens was older than Mr Ballard and was more of a consolidator. He had two sons, one older and one younger than me. The Church continued to flourish in its many facets and Mr Stevens moved on, in 1939 I believe. Every leader must have a good team around him and there was always one at Bethnal Green. There were two deaconesses: Sister May Dutton was there for the whole time I was there: she was a woman of about fifty and among her many tasks was being in charge of the Intermediate Department of the Sunday School, of which more later. Sister May was assisted first by Sister Florence Deptford, who left in 1934, and then by Sister Helen Bruce, both of whom played their part in the Church. The organist and choirmaster for many years was Mr George H T Williams, who had a furniture factory in Lark Row. The man who kept the place tidy was Mr William Godfrey, the caretaker, a bigish man probably in his forties whose wife helped in the Sunday School and they had a son about my sister's age.

There were obviously many other 'lesser lights' who helped the place 'tick over'. The leader in the choir was an elderly man named Mr Morgan, who died in the thirties, and he was ably assisted by a Mr Hayes and Mrs Williams, the wife of the organist. A Mr Ernest Taylor, who had moved to Walthamstow but kept his allegiance with Bethnal Green, was I believe, the church secretary, and then there was a Miss Olive Humphries, whose family had a dairy at the Old Ford Road end of Approach Road, and who was, I believe, the Sunday School Secretary. They married in the mid-thirties. There was also a strong backing from a set from both sexes in their early twenties, some of whom became local preachers, and there were a number of marriages there too.

I started to go to morning services fairly frequently, in addition to Cub church parades, from the time I was about eight. The Methodists do of course,

because of their circuit system have their ministers and lay preachers moving around to take services, and in addition to our own Mr Ballard and Mr Stevens, I remember the circuit superintendents, the Rev'd. Frederick Chudleigh and after he died in 1932, the Revd Percy Ineson, who was still 'in situ' after the war, the Revd, Edward Price, a rather tall thin man, and Pastor Notman, an older man who was then approaching retirement.' among others. There was also the occasion when the Revd Waker Budd., who christened me and was then at Brentford, returned for the day.

Obviously I found some services tedious and my eyes wandered around the Church to various memorial tablets which adorned the wall and one I can well remember, half way along the Approach Road side, was to Ebenezer Lock who was a timber merchant and died in 1869: the family still had a timber wharf on the canal near the Bonner Bridge in the 1930s. On the odd occasion, I went to an evening service and then I always saw the great-aunt referred to at the beginning of this article.

But my main memories must be with the Sunday School, which I attended from 1927 to 1937. In the very early days the whole building was closed owing to the roof fall and we went temporarily to either the Congregational Church, diagonally opposite, or to Twig, Folly Mission in Bonner Street, but I was then only about four years old and can remember little so I will begin with my time in the infants' department.

When I started at the Sunday School, Walter Earey was the Superintendent and continued to be so until the mid thirties when he moved to Cheshunt. Mr Earey lived at Royston Street, was married with two children and was probably in his midforties in 1930. The School was divided into a number of departments; infants, junior, intermediate and seniors. A beginners class was added in about 1931, and the infants then became the primary. I was never in the beginners, but the primary met in the front hall of the school on the ground floor. It was normally split up into classes with a Miss Rayner in charge: she was a woman of about my father's age and was just the type to initiate young children into Christian ways. Even at this length of time, I think of her as a loveable woman. She moved away to Goodmayes in the mid-thirties. The juniors met in the Church under Mr Champness, a man in

his twenties, and because of the fixed seating it always had to be an open school. He selected me to be a steward for one year, which meant that I had to close the doors before the prayers after the first hymn to keep out the late comers and to help with the collection./ About this time the Catholic Church in Bonner Road started holding boxing shows on Sunday afternoons, which destroyed the serenity of the school, but Mr Ballard put a stop to that. The Intermediates, upstairs in a hall, were under Sister May Dutton and among her teachers were the organist's wife, the caretaker's wife and a Mrs Stokes who lived in Sewardstone Road. There were also senior classes for both girls and boys but I was not familiar with their organisation.

The highlights of the year were, of course, the Summer outing and the Christmas parties. It is so common now for youngsters to jet off to Benidorm, that they could not appreciate how much we looked forward to our yearly day at Southend,, and numbers always increased at School in the early summer so that children could get the qualifying number of attendance. There was one year, 1933 I think, when we went to Hadley Wood, where we all had tea together, but otherwise it was always Southend. The day always started with a long crocodile winding from Approach Road on the usually lengthy walk to catch the train. The first time I went we boarded one at Coborn Road, using the Grove Road entrance, and the train took us to the LNER (Victoria) Station. We also went from Hackney, another long walk, to Southend East another year, before settling to the much shorter walk to Cambridge Heath, but who cared, we were off to on our seaside outing! As it was difficult to arrange teas, we were each given sixpence for the day and ours went on a plate of cockles, a slice of bread and butter and a fizzy drink each. Many of the sixpences finished in the slot machines at the Kursaal! I well remember the 1934 outing: it was a lovely summer day in June and England v Australia Lord's Test Match was on, the last time that England beat Australia there, and there was a kind of primitive scoreboard near the Pier which kept the game up to date - Australia were batting.

The Christmas parties were always good spreads and some sort of entertainment was arranged for afterwards. This might take the form of a film show - silent - in the Church or having entertainers. On one occasion, I was asked to help the entertainers (I

must have been someone's favourite) and was given a shilling - an absolute fortune to me who was used to a halfpenny a week pocket money - for my pains.

In 1935 a new venture was started by the Sunday School. Country outings were organised with an old London Transport double decker bus. The size of the bus - about sixty seats. - restricted numbers and once you had been, you went to the 'back of the queue'. During term time, evening trips were arranged in the summer to Ockenden, then very rural, but there were full days trips in the school holidays. I went on one of each trip.

Outside the Sunday School, there was a local branch of the Missionary Society, which attended annual rallies in April and I recall going to both Westminster Central Hall and Kingsway Hall in different years. A Girls' Fellowship met weekly (I have a 1934 photograph showing them to be about seventy strong). There were men's and women's meetings and a Sisterhood which grew from nine members in 1927 to over six hundred in 1934. A poor man's lawyer also attended regularly.

There were also strong Scout and Guide Movements, who used two rooms (one each) on the lower ground floor exclusively as well as sharing the hall on the first floor. The Scouts and cubs were part of the 1st Bethnal Green Group and I was a Cub for about 18 months until I had to do homework for school. We were led by Miss Baker (she was never called Akela), who was a woman in her twenties, lived off Green Street and was recruited from the Guides. She was helped by a number of older Scouts. The pack was a large one and my main memory was going to a weekend camp at Hadley Wood in September 1933, when there were 14 cubs and six helpers present. We went on the 106 bus to Finsbury Park and a train from there to New Barnet. We went to Cockfosters Parish Church for Matins on Sunday, which I found very confusing as it was my first visit to an Anglican Church. I can also remember an outing to Chingford when, on the return journey the train did not stop at Cambridge Heath and we were carried on to Bethnal Green!

My sister was first in the Brownies and then in the Guides (2nd Bethnal Green) from 1928 to 1937 - when we moved - and went to various summer camps - at least one was in the Isle of Wight - as

well as to weekend camps at West Wickham. The Brownies had a summer outing to Southend each year. The Guides, who were led by Captains Morgan and Blackford, also had a very good bazaar each December to raise funds.

In 1937 we moved from the district and my visits to Bethnal Green from then were few and far between. The church flourished under Revd Hugh Stevens until the War came which brought great differences to us all and particularly to Bethnal Green and the East End. The Manse in Cawley Road was destroyed by a land mine in December 1940 when, I believe, the then Minister (Hugh Stevens having gone in 1939) was killed. As described in a previous newsletter, a land mine fell near the Church on 10th May 1941 and this shattered the building. I remember visiting the area in June 1941 and seeing the ruins with the rather poignant text 'If ye love me keep My Commandments' which was over the arch behind the choir, and which I often looked at when I was in Sunday School, still being visible. I have a photograph of the ruins, although it is wrongly captioned 'Victoria Park Congregational Church'.

The loss of the buildings could not 'kill off the church and it carried on at Twig Folly Mission in Bonner Street until it could be rebuilt in 1959. The manse, now on site, preceded it by some years. The opening ceremony was performed by Mrs George H T Williams, whose husband had been organist and choirmaster in the interwar years and is referred to above. Mrs Williams had been both a Sunday School teacher and member of the choir. Another face from the past, the Revd. Robertson Ballard, who did so much to revive the Church from 1927, was also there.

Others are in a much better position than I am to write on more recent history, and the church looked to be thriving when I was last in Bethnal Green, but to me it will always be the place where my feet were pointed in the right direction to follow the path of Christianity.

The history of the church has been taken mainly from a 1935 book on the East End Mission and from cuttings from The Methodist Recorder. The story between 1927 and 1937 is written from memory and I would welcome any comments from members.

ERNEST WIGNALL and the Free Boots for Poor Children Scheme

Anne Lubin

On March 25, 1933 the City and East London Observer reported a reduction in Poplar Rates of 4d. The Duchess of York opened a block of flats in Ocean Street, Mile End and the Poplar Hospital for Accidents reported a successful year ending with a credit balance of £3500. The Mayor of Stepney visited St Paul's, Day Nursery in Wellclose Square, Whitechapel to give a grant for work to be carried out.

It also reported the Memorial Service of Ernest John Wignall at St Benets Church, Mile End Road.

E J Wignall was born in 1875 at Kenilworth Road, Bethnal Green. He lived and worked for most of his life in East London. In 1902 he married Emily Butler of Ropery Street. He was now living in Antill Road, Bow. They were married at Holy Trinity, Stepney. At the time of his death, Wignall was Registrar at East London College. He acted as clerk to the People's Palace governors, worked with care committees and was a governor of Dalston High School for girls.

Among all these activities he ran a boot fund for children at Dempsey street School and Senrab Street School, Stepney. At the Ragged School parents paid half price for boots, the money being collected in instalments by teachers.

Money for this was solicited from everywhere. Harry Lauder gave £1, Leverton Harris NT £1, the Mercers Company £5, and Lord Tredegar £2, among others. A letter to the Daily Telegraph in 1913 brought some donations.

The appeals mentioned that many children came to school in bare feet and the headteacher kept bandages in order to dress their scratches.

Not surprisingly, the Memorial Service was packed with staff, students and others wishing to pay their respects. All are named in the report and it is possible that some members' grandparents are mentioned. Bancroft Road Library have an copy of the paper.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- **Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd May**

10 am to 5 pm

Society of Genealogists Family History Fair at the Royal Horticultural Hall.

Tickets £4 if purchased before 16th

April from the Society at 14

Charterhouse Buildings, Goswell Road, EC1.

- **31st May - Monday Bank Holiday**

11 am to 4 pm

Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Public Open Day.

BOOKS FOR SALE

We still have some back numbers of the East London Record for sale at £1.00 each. A real bargain!

Nos. 6 & 7, 10, 11, 14, 17 and 18.

Record No. 19 £2.75 + 55p postage.

**A Pictorial History of Victoria Park
Price £6.95 plus £1.50 postage.**

Every Stone Tells a Story - a brief history and guided tour of Tower Hamlets Cemetery £3.50.

WILL CROOKS MP

Last year Paul Tyler gave the Society a lecture on the life of Will Crooks MP and the Labour Party. Paul later arranged to meet the descendants of Will Crooks, who travelled from Falmouth to Poplar. After a muddy walk in Tower Hamlets Cemetery with Doreen Kendall to view Will Crooks grave (with the recently refurbished headstone), the party went to Upper North Street, from where it was possible to see all the streets connected with Will Crooks - Ellesmere Street, Arcadia Street and Northumberland Street.

Subsequently Doreen received the following letter from **Ray Jefferd**, gt grandson of Will Crooks, which we reproduce in part:

Victor and Stella Jefferd were twins born to Emily (nee Crooks) and William Jefferd. Victor's children are Ray and Sue.

As children we (Ray and Sue Jefferd) were forbidden to touch the large brass-bound document box-cum-travelling writing desk which was stuffed full of letters and papers. We dared to investigate enough to know that it held newspapers showing a grand East End funeral and letters from people like George Bernard Shaw and G K Chesterton. Then, as adults, it never occurred to us to enter the parental bedroom. Vic Jefferd always declared that he would go through the Deed Box and make contact with all Will Crooks' descendants when he retired. Vic Jefferd died in July 1980 at the age of 64.

About 4 years ago the Deed Box was stolen in a burglary. Vic's children decided to try to fulfil their father's intention and contact all Will Crooks' descendants..... In July 1987, this resulted in an 81 person gathering near Andover as a result of which clues were gathered that enabled the last 13 to be found. Everyone knew a little of the family but no-one everything.

Paul Tyler is studying Will Crooks for a PhD. Chris Lloyd of the Bancroft Road Library kindly put Paul in touch with us.

We found that George Haw's biography, "Workhouse to Westminster" contains errors and euphemisms where Will Crooks' family were concerned.

Will and his first wife, Matilda (nee South) had twin children (2 boys) of whom four died young. Matilda herself died in 1892. Around this time, the eldest daughter (Minnie Matilda aged 18) went to live with her mother's sister. Will was left with five children, the eldest a boy almost fourteen years old.

The biography tells of Will remarrying a young nurse who was lodging with his mother, one Elizabeth Lake. That was her maiden name. She had been born in Ashleworth near Gloucester in 1854, so she was 39 years old when she married Will Crooks. She was also a widow of Patrick Coulter who she married in Hackney in September 1875. One of Vic Jefferd's most treasured possessions was a violin Elizabeth gave him, which had been made by her father! Altogether she married three widowers and had not a child of her own that we can trace.

The library in Mycenae Road, Greenwich has a full set of the 'Woolwich Pioneer' newspaper. While looking up Emily Crooks' wedding, we found an account of Will Crooks addressing the House of Commons on the fate of children under the custody of the Poor Law (11 Aug. 1911). Aged 8 in 1860, Will vividly described the monstrous figure of the alarming Chairman of the Poplar Guardians leering down at him over his desk and wagging his finger at him: "A big boy like you should be out earning his own living!"

The whole story bristles with loose ends to unravel in every direction. Where were the Jefferds living between 1881 and 1911? Who was Matilda Crooks' sister Faith and where was she in 1892? A female Mayor of Barking

in the 1960s was a niece of Will Crooks. We don't know anything about the families of Will's brothers and sisters. What did happen to Patrick Coulter? A witness at Elizabeth's third wedding was a Kate Cuff, who was she? (There was a Woolwich Councillor S H Cuff who married in Tewkesbury in 1902, where we think he had relations. Ashleworth is mid-way between Gloucester and Tewkesbury. Was there a connection between Elizabeth and the Cuff family? What was the political/religious background of Elizabeth's family?)

We have traced three of Will Crooks' grandparents' families well back into the 18th century. But who was Will's grandfather Richard Crooks and where did he come from?

There are a host of such problems. If anyone of your members ever come across any solutions, we'd love to hear about them.

Miss R J Wilson, from Chipping Campden, writes:

Thank you for sending the copies of East London Record No. 19.

I shall be delivering the copy to the Guild of Handicraft Trust at the Silk Mill this afternoon. One of the other two copies is being placed in the he archives of Campden and District Historical Society and the other is going to our Chairman Mrs Carol Jackson. She lives in Elm Tree House, used by the Guild as a School of Arts and Crafts and also collects books of the Essex House Press.

Frank Johnson, Secretary, The Guild of Handicraft Trust, The Old Silk Mill, Chipping Campden:

Thirty minutes ago Jill Wilson came here and passed to me, for our archives, the latest copy of East London Record, with the compliments of East London History Society. Please convey to your Society our appreciation and thanks

and I'm sure I for one will find Rosemary Taylor's article of great interest.

At some time during the next few weeks (months?) I hope to find time to visit the Geffrye Museum and enjoy the exhibition relating to the Guild which is about to open.

Editor:

The exhibition on C R Ashbee in the East End of London is well worth a visit, and I was fortunate to be invited to the preview, which coincided with the inauguration of the new wing of the museum.

Record No. 19 is selling well at the exhibition, which is very gratifying, as, if our Society is to progress, we need more schemes of this kind, where co-operation between the museum and ourselves has been of mutual benefit.

Joyce Garwood, 42 Aberdeen Gardens, Leigh-on-Sea writes:

My grandparents lived at 11 Maroon Street, just yards from (St Dunstan's) church gates, my daughter wanted to see where her Dad was born in Selsey Street, so we made a nostalgic visit and went to St Dunstan's but unfortunately it was closed, but we were made very welcome by the Rev Ross in St Paul's where 'Dad' was baptised. The Rev. Ross was interested to know that the clock that stood in Burdett Road was now in Stepney Green, so as I had a copy of our newsletter I photocopied a few sheets for him which I hope he finds interesting. He has a book of the history of St Paul's, the pictures of the old church that was bombed, and we saw a plaque of the Rev. Forster that baptised all the four Garwood babies.

I must say what a changed, for the better I think in Locksley St. where I lived for three years, the new houses looked wonderful, compared with the old property that we there, it was a tiring day, but we enjoyed going back or at least I did, my daughter was in a whirl!

St James the Less was also interesting to me, as this was the first time I had seen it, I have a cousin who lived in Morpeth Road and she can remember my father's uncle John James standing at the door of St James, she is now in her mid eighties, so I am always picking her brains for family history. I must say that the time he was verger was in the early years, 1903, but he arranged through the church to have my father and two younger brothers to go to St Matthew's Charity School, this was because their father died in 1901 and Grandma had to manage a large family on very little, times were very hard in those days, weren't they? My father was six years at the time.

I have often read about the cows kept in London in the early days, but I have never seen mentioned that there was a dairy in Maroon St., the cow sheds were at the back of Grandma's yard and the Dairy next door to the yard.

I am helping Dorothy Harvey from New Zealand in her search for the Foster family in Bow. The details are as follows:

**William Foster born 1826 Bow
Married Mary Ann Smith
emigrated to New Zealand
Last address was No. 3 Devons Road, Bow.**

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 1999

For the past five years the ELHS have been hosting a Women's History Workshop for Tower Hamlets Schools, where we focus on the achievements of East End Women, each year highlighting the life and times of a particular woman who lived and worked in the East End of London, but who had not been given the recognition we feel she deserved. Previous 'heroines' have been Clara Grant, Phoebe Hessel, Sylvia Pankhurst, Levina Teerlinc, Dr Hannah Billig. This year we focus on **Maria Dickin**, who in 1917 founded the **People's Dispensary for Sick Animals**, in Whitechapel.



SPRING COACH TRIP 1999

Saturday 22nd May

To St. Ives and Elton Hall

We shall be visiting first the historic market town of St. Ives (Huntingdonshire, not Cornwall!). It is famous for its ancient bridge, which has a 15th century chapel in the middle. Other attractions are the lovely church, and a local history museum, open free on Saturday morning.

There will be a pause for lunch here (own arrangements).

Afterwards, we shall go on to Elton Hall, a splendid house which is still lived in after 300 years by the Proby family. It is partly 17th century and partly 18th century, and stands in its own park. The contents include fine pictures and furniture, and a library with Henry VIII's prayer book.

The gardens include the Bressingham plant centre and a tea room. It is normally open to the public a few days a year, and I have arranged a special visit. We will have a conducted tour of the house.

Please complete the form below to book, and send the coach fare (£7.75). Entrance to the House is £4.50. This will be collected on the coach.

The pick-up will be at Mile End, opposite the station, at 9.30 am.

Please send your bookings to:

Ann Sansom, 18 Hawkdene, London E4 7PF (Tel: 0181 524 4506)

&

SPRING COACH TRIP To St. IVES AND ELTON HALL
SATURDAY 22ND MAY 1999

I/We would like _____ seat/s for the coach trip.

NAME/S _____

ADDRESS _____

TEL. NO. _____ I enclose a cheque/PO for £ _____

(Cheque made payable to the East London History Society.)

Post this form to Ann Sansom, 18 Hawkdene, London E4 7PF