

THE TERRIER



THE FRIENDS OF HACKNEY ARCHIVES NEWSLETTER

No. 22

Spring 1991

From the Chair

The Friends of Hackney Archives have now been in being for over five years (the Terrier, it may have been noticed, is now over 21). Looking back, I hope that Friends are pleased with their achievements. First and foremost, we have been able, through the Donations Fund, to ease into the record office much material that would otherwise have been dispersed: trade catalogues, illustrative material, diaries and (the matter of the moment yet again) theatre posters.

Our most grateful thanks to the many members who contributed to the Britannia posters appeal. We can now close the appeal; thanks to a generous grant of £450 from the Victoria and Albert Museum, and the kindness of many Friends, the posters now belong to the London Borough of Hackney; and the Friends will sponsor their conservation. It is hoped that they will go on display later in the year; you are urged to come and inspect them when they do, for they are very splendid! (A sample appears on this page: Maud Jeffries depicted in "The Sign of the Cross".)

Last year many Friends took the trouble to complete a questionnaire, which the Committee digested with interest, and concluded that the current mix of an strong annual lecture, summer walks and visits to places of interest was broadly right. We were also asked, by some of our respondents, to supply to them names and addresses of members with similar interests. This we are reluctant to do without the express permission of those concerned. If, however, readers write to us with a view to publication, asking for other readers to get in touch with them directly, we would gladly publish their requests.

In 1985 membership of the Friends plus a subscription to the Terrier cost £5 each year. It will be no surprise to any reader that the costs of producing the newsletter have crept up, not least because it is now typeset (which, it may be noticed, has the side effect of packing in more written content to the page). For the time being we look like being able to hold the cost at its current level; we cannot assume this can go on for ever. But do not let

anyone be put off offering us material. In particular, researchers often in the course of their reading strike across something intriguing or entertaining, which may not be what they were looking for, but which is worth sharing with a wider audience. However short an article it might form, share it with us!

Archives Department News

Now that Sue McKenzie has gone on maternity leave, and Julie John's YDS stint has come to an end, there may be some difficulty for David Mander and Jean Wait to guarantee full coverage of normal opening hours, and for the time being late opening on Thursdays has been suspended. Pre-arranged appointments will therefore be more than ever necessary. The good news, however, is that there is to be a temporary replacement for six months of Sue's absence, and as we go to press it seems that the post will shortly be advertised.

Isobel Watson



EMILY AND PHILIP GOSSE:

Hackney's Eminent 19th Century Naturalists

North of the cemetery chapel in Abney Park lies Emily Gosse (1806-1857). Her burial ranks as one of the cemetery's most important, although, regrettably, it has been overlooked until recently [1]. She was a prominent 19th century naturalist, and prolific author.

Emily's gravestone is in plain sandstone, with a brief inscription. Beside it stands a huge, dead, ivy-clad tree, whose hollow base was, until recently, a fox's earth. Dried remains of large bracket fungi (*rigidoporus ulmarius*) provide proof that this tree was an ancient elm. It is the only remaining tree from the early 18th century Elm Walk which was planted when the grounds of Abney House were laid out. It is the oldest such tree in Hackney.

Emily's son Edmund is now better-known than Emily herself. He became a distinguished literary critic and biographer, but was best known for his autobiographical work about his childhood, "Father and Son".

Father and Son

In "Father and Son" Edmund recounts his difficult upbringing. Both Emily and Philip were deeply puritanical parents, paragons of virtue, believers in a materially simple life and a form of socialism; and dedicated to hard work. Impossible though this upbringing was for the young Edmund, his parents' convictions were accompanied by a further, uncompromising obsession with achieving a leading role in the biological sciences.

At times, Philip and Emily even indulged in monitoring Edmund's growth, and writing to each other about his



Emily's grave in Abney Park Cemetery



Emily Bowes: from a family portrait

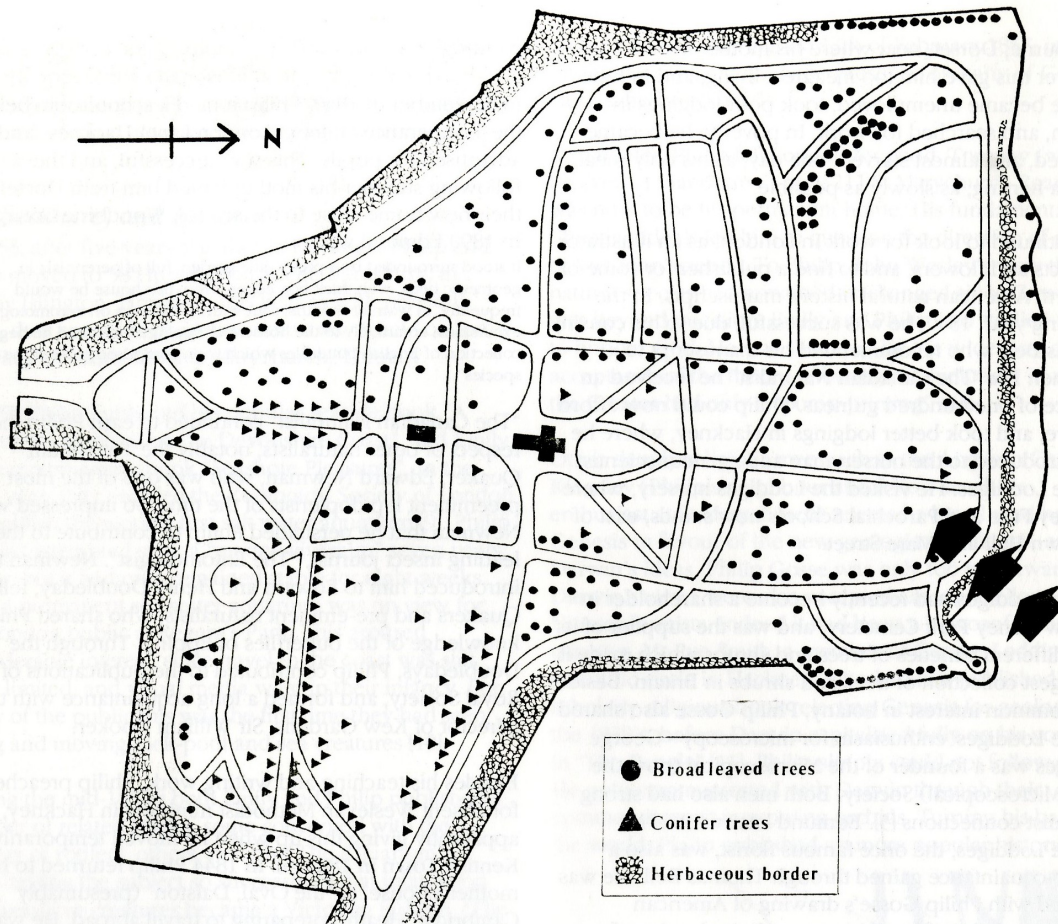
biological development. But the most bizarre, and to many Victorians shocking, manifestation of this obsession was Philip's publication of a detailed account of Emily's painful illness and death, with only a cursory mention of her simple burial at Abney Park.

Emily and Philip Gosse actually studied, and wrote about, a wide range of science and natural history topics; but history has left most of their miscellaneous achievements to one side, concentrating on their solid work on seashore life. For theirs was a pioneering influence on the development of the Victorian fashion for keeping seashore life in marine aquaria at home, in museums, and schools; and for descending in droves upon seaside rock-pools. An account of this popularisation has been written by Lynn Barber, in her readily accessible book "The Heyday of Natural History" (1980).

Because their seashore work was, by necessity, carried out near their second home in St Marychurch, Torquay, and because this was where Philip retired after Emily's death, the Gosses have become part of the celebrated local history of Torquay. Their life in Hackney has been all but forgotten.

Emily Gosse

Emily Bowes came from a distinguished New England family. She was related to the General who signed the American Declaration of Independence. However her parents, Hannah Troutbeck and William Bowes, chose a future back in England, and came to settle at Upper Clapton [2]. Their grave can easily be found in the grounds of Old St Mary's Church, Stoke Newington, close to Clissold Park. Still legible are the details of the death of William Bowes, on June 14th 1850, aged 78. The stone



The site of Emily Gosse's grave, and the original planting has survived the delapidation which led to the re-landscaping of the churchyard by the Metropolitan Public Gardens Association in the 1880's, and the extensive wartime bombing of the church.

Rather less is known about Emily's early life than that of her husband Philip Gosse, but it was through their membership of the puritanical Plymouth Brethren in Hackney that Emily and Philip met [3].

Philip Gosse: his early life

Philip Gosse was brought up in Dorset, where his aunt (the mother of Professor Thomas Bell, and herself a scientist) encouraged him to study seashore life and entomology. His son believed that he had Huguenot ancestry, although there have apparently been Gosses at Ringwood, Hampshire, where Philip's father was born, from the earliest parish registers in 1561.

Because his father's income was small, Philip left school early to earn a wage as a clerk. In 1827 his employers sent him to Newfoundland, where he devoted his spare time to learning more about its insect-life than anyone had known before. Unfortunately he failed to publish most of these observations and drawings [4]. His son Edmund believed these to have been the most formative years of

Philip's life, in which he changed from a collector into a scientist; particularly after Philip bought a secondhand copy of Adam's "Essays in the Microscope" in Newfoundland in May 1832. Ann Thwaite quotes him as saying "How much happiness, which chequers my earthly existence may have depended on the laying out of ten shillings at a book sale".

Towards the end of 1832, Philip returned briefly to England. His sister had come close to death, and Philip became obsessively religious in an insular way, believing that "it was proper to exclude from his companionship all those whose opinion on religious matters did not coincide with his own".

Philip then returned to Newfoundland for three years, and sought work as a teacher in Canada. His pupils became a "volunteer corps of collectors" of insects; but in spite of this preoccupation, Philip was driven to leave Canada, thoroughly sickened by the widespread acceptance - even amongst Methodist preachers - of slavery.

In 1839 Philip returned to England for good. He hoped to become a Wesleyan Methodist preacher; but, try as he might, he was unsuccessful. Temporarily he was however welcomed in the pulpit of a congregational chapel at

Wimbourne, Dorset, near where his mother lived. However this gave him too meagre a living, and in June 1839 he became unemployed, took poor lodgings in London, and searched for work. In poverty, he became dispirited, and almost starved: one day, as his only meal, he ate a herring, as slowly as possible.

He continued to look for work in London, as an illustrator of insects and flowers, and to find a publisher for some of his North American natural history manuscripts. In the following year, 1840, he was successful, due to his cousin, Thomas Bell, who recommended his manuscript to a publisher. For "The Canadian Naturalist" he received an advance of one hundred guineas. Philip could now afford to move, and took better lodgings in Hackney, where he was introduced to the nurseryman and amateur scientist George Loddiges. He visited the Loddiges nursery, where Hackney Free and Parochial Schools now stands, east of the Town Hall and Mare Street.

George Loddiges had recently become a shareholder in the new Abney Park Cemetery, and was the supplier of its 2,500 different varieties of trees and shrubs which made it the largest collection of trees and shrubs in Britain. Beside their common interest in botany, Philip Gosse also shared George Loddiges' enthusiasm for microscopy - George Loddiges was a founder of the Microscopical (now the Royal Microscopical) Society. Both men also had strong Methodist connections [5]. Edmund later wrote: "Mr George Loddiges, the once famous florist, was also a useful acquaintance gained through Thomas Bell. He was charmed with Philip Gosse's drawing of American flowers, made him free of his own admired series of orchid houses and nurseries, and recommended him to seek employment in ladies' schools as a teacher of flower



284 Queensbridge Road. Philip Gosse's Hackney lodgings

painting".

In September of 1840, Philip rented a schoolroom behind the Temperance Hotel in London Lane, Hackney, and advertised for pupils. This was successful, and the following summer his mother joined him from Dorset in their new home close to the school: Woodbine Cottage.

In 1890 Edmund wrote:

It stood surrounded by a pretty little garden, full of perennials in geometric beds, with thick box edges. From this house he would frequently, in warmer months, start with all his boys on entomologising excursions, commonly to the borders of Epping Forest, and he began a collection of English butterflies which soon comprised most of the local species".

"The Canadian Naturalist" continued to earn Philip the respect of other naturalists, notably the Tottenham Quaker, Edward Newman, who was one of the most preeminent lepidopterists of the time. So impressed was Newman that he persuaded Philip to contribute to the leading insect journal, "The Entomologist". Newman then introduced him to Edward and Henry Doubleday, fellow Quakers and pre-eminent naturalists, who shared Philip's knowledge of the butterflies of Epping. Through the Doubledays, Philip contributed to the publications of the Royal Society, and formed a long acquaintance with the Director of Kew Gardens, Sir William Hooker.

Besides his teaching and writing work, Philip preached for absent Wesleyan Methodist ministers in Hackney, apparently giving this up when he moved temporarily to Kentish Town in 1843 [6]. In 1844 Philip returned to his mother's house, at "the Oval, Dalston" (presumably Cambridge Heath), preparing to travel abroad. He was now well-known in the right circles, and the British Museum had commissioned him to travel to Jamaica to discover and collect birds and insects and to write and illustrate the definitive book, "Birds of Jamaica".

Two years later, Philip returned to Hackney [7]. Perhaps it was at this date that he first joined the Plymouth Brethren, through whom he met Emily Bowes. It was a small circle. As their son depicts it -

"In its beginning and when Philip Gosse and his friends first gathered round a table in a bare room in Hackney, this Utopian dream of a Christian socialism, with all its simplicity, naivety and earnest faith, was one at which those who knew human nature better might smile, but which was neither ignoble nor unattractive."

The Marriage

In 1848 Emily and Philip married. They lived at first with Philip's mother at 13, Trafalgar Terrace, Mortimer Road, De Beauvoir Square. Soon, however, strains developed with Philip's mother, particularly as she was left out of their mutual obsession with biology [8]. In June 1849 they bought a microscope, and their serious scientific collaboration began. Philip completed "Popular British Ornithology", and now turned his attention to tiny water creatures called rotifers. Emily pored over the standard German work on rotifers, "Die Infusionstierchen", using her knowledge of German to produce a good translation. Meanwhile Philip bred the rotifers on hemp and poppy infusions in pans, in their back garden at Hackney.

Late in 1849 their son Edmund was born, almost lifeless. His birth apparently changed little in his parents' fixed outlook and interests. Philip simply wrote in his diary "E. delivered of a son. Received green swallow from Jamaica".

The Seashore, and Aquaria

In 1853, after five years together in Hackney, Philip and Emily moved to 58 Huntingdon Street, Barnsbury, in nearby Islington. However, this year as with previous years, they spent much of their time away from London, studying seashore life at St Marychurch, Torquay.

In 1853 Philip published his popular seaside book "A Naturalist's Rambles on the Devonshire Coast", and Emily her complementary book "Seashore Pleasures". In the same year, they enabled the Zoological Society of London to establish the world's first salt water aquarium [9]. Philip had first attempted such a "marine vivarium" seven years earlier, but it had only remained stable for eight weeks. Now a permanent sea water aquarium was on view for the London public at Regent's Park. This aroused considerable interest, since travel to the coast was still fairly limited, and visual media were in their infancy. For many of the public this was the first time they had seen living and moving rock-pool and sea creatures [10].

During the mid-1850's both Emily and Philip published a number of related books, some concerned with the biology of rotifers, others, notably "The Aquarium", popularising the subject so successfully that infatuation with seashore creatures became a Victorian fashion. (The very word "aquarium" is credited, by the Oxford English Dictionary, to the Gosses.) In 1855 a cheaper version of the book was published as "A Handbook to the Marine Aquarium", and sold out almost immediately. With the profits, the Gosses donated money to a missionary to work amongst the poor.

Philip stimulated the public imagination further by publishing seven hundred original illustrations of marine creatures. In 1856, as an accolade, the Royal Society elected him a Fellow. Emily's religious and social books also sold well. Her "Little Book on Education", as she called it, was published as "Abraham and his Children", and delighted book critics. Her "Tracts" were sold in tens of thousands, one title selling over a million copies.

Last years

The tremendous output was not to last. In the mid-1850's Emily became very ill with breast cancer. Medical advice was crude, to burn the cancerous cells with nitric acid. This painful treatment over many weeks had no effect, and the opiates used to relieve the pain became addictive. In vain, Emily turned to homeopathy. She died in 1857.

From their Huntingdon Street address, Philip published a short account of Emily's painful illness; to mournful Victorians it was quite the wrong thing to do. He recorded his wife's burial rather plainly: "Her dust was deposited

on the Friday following the 13th of February 1857, in Abney Park Cemetery, in the presence of many of God's elect, who loved her."

A year later, Philip left London for good. Torquay (where he lived at "Sandhurst", now 211 St Marychurch Road) was now to be his permanent home. His fundamentalist Christian ideals led him to question the direction of much of Victorian science. To Philip, John Wesley's view that all natural species had remained unchanged since Creation, was beyond question. Emily and Philip had studied them to honour God. He was shattered by the widespread acceptance of the theory of biological evolution, in which the Creator had only a "pump-priming" role.

Other deeply religious men such as the Anglican Charles Kingsley (Philip's neighbour and fellow seashore-enthusiast at St Marychurch) rejected a literal reading of Genesis in favour of the new geological evidence, and Darwin's ideas. Philip Gosse was only too well aware that Darwin's views were also accepted amongst fellow Nonconformists. Indeed it had been a Nonconformist minister, Mr Pye-Smith, a member of George Loddiges' scientific circle in Hackney, who had first published a scholarly religious book rejecting Genesis for geology in the 1830's, before Darwin capitalised fully on his voyage in "The Beagle" [11]. Philip simply could not follow suit. He only communicated with Darwin through their common interest in growing orchids. Turning his back on the world, Philip published no more popular history



The Gosses' first family home, 56 Mortimer Road

books during the final twenty years of his life, and studiously avoided giving papers about his continuing researches to the Royal Society.

He was buried at Torquay Cemetery, Hele Road, as was his second wife.

David Solman

Notes

[1] Grave 17673 in square 54 (square B6 in "A Guide to Abney Park Cemetery", by Paul Joyce), a few rows back, to the east of the Little Elm Walk. The inscription reads "THE DUST OF EMILY GOSSE, who slept in Jesus Feb 10th 1857, awaits here the morning of the FIRST RESURRECTION".

[2] William and Hannah Bowes lived in the 1840's at Valentine Houses, Brook Street (now Northwold Road), Upper Clapton. These appear to have been on the south side, west of the present line of Geldeston Road. In the Hackney directory for 1843 Arthur Bowes, Emily's younger brother, is listed as a "schoolmaster" in Brook Street, and directories between 1847 and 1851 give the names of her brothers Edmund and Arthur, as "E. and A. Bowes".

[3] Ann Thwaite (Bibliography) suggests that the congregation in which Emily and Philip may have met gathered in "Ellis's rooms, Well Street": op. cit., p. 12. They were married on 22nd September 1848 at Brook Street Chapel, Tottenham, by a ceremony performed by Robert Howard in the presence of the Registrar. Later there was a Plymouth Brethren chapel in Brook Street, Upper Clapton, shown on the Ordnance Survey map of 1868 near the present junction of Northwold Road with Narford Road, and thus close to Emily's family home; but in the 1840's this appears to have been in use by Wesleyans.

[4] Philip's first manuscript, written in Newfoundland, was a natural history of its insects, but he never found a publisher.

[5] The Loddiges had a number of Methodist connections. There is a memorial to the memory of the Methodist minister, the Rev. Fawcett-Pyle and his wife, nee Loddiges, at Abney House Corner, Church Street,

in Abney Park Cemetery.

[6] His address was 73 Gloucester Place. According to Edmund Gosse, Philip left the Methodists at this date, but in a letter from Philip to his brother in 1848, Philip claims to have "broken bread" with the brethren and Emily for several years, i.e. before he left for Jamaica. See Ann Thwaite, p. 13.

[7] At 16, Richmond Terrace, Queen's Road (now 284 Queensbridge Road E8).

[8] The house is now known as 56 Mortimer Road, N1; the father's residence and son's birth are commemorated by a blue plaque. Philip's mother later left the house and a servant was employed.

[9] This would not have been possible without the much earlier work of Joseph Priestley, another nonconformist who also lived for a short time in Hackney. His work on the development of marine aquaria is mentioned by Shirley Hibberd in "Rustic Adornments" (1856, republished 1987). Hibberd, a leading nonconformist, lived in Stoke Newington and is buried in Abney Park Cemetery.


[10] Philip Gosse's achievements included an "ingenious" preparation for making artificial seawater: Hibberd, p. 32 (which also includes a popular account of Gosse's aquarium and its development).

[11] Dr Pye Smith, a fellow of the Geological Society before Charles Darwin - is buried in Dr Watts's walk, Abney Park Cemetery opposite the Bowes/Loddiges tomb.

Bibliography

See generally Edmund Gosse, "The Life of Philip Henry Gosse F.R.S." (1890); Edmund Gosse's account of his relationship with his father, "Father and Son" (1907); Ann Thwaite, "Edmund Gosse: a literary landscape" (1984); Lynn Barber, "The Heyday of Natural History" (1980); Dictionary of National Biography.

The editor wishes to thank David Mander for his help in locating the sites of the Bowes residence and Brethren Chapel in Upper Clapton.

Family Mourning.

*Special hands kept on the premises
for making up every requisite
at short notice*

*And Experienced Tailors sent out to
take orders.*

MRS GANDY.

Barrington House,
422, High Street
STOKE NEWINGTON.

TWO LONG-LOST HACKNEY SCHOOLS

One of the most elusive of institutions in Hackney is the private school. From the 1660's onwards, Hackney was a choice location for private academies and places of education for nonconformists. Later, girls' boarding-schools flourished. Few of these institutions were long-lived, and virtually none left records [1]. Newcome's Academy (or "Hackney School"), closed and demolished in 1819 for the building of the London Orphan Asylum, was famous in its day for the plays produced by the pupils. Some cast lists, and other notes, survive in the Tyssen collection, and in some of the cuttings books [2]. With the growth of Hackney from the 19th century, initially the private schools also grew in numbers. In 1823 there were 46 establishments, rising to 68 in 1825, and by 1843 there were no less than 82 persons listed as teaching or keeping private schools [3]. Both sets of figures refer to the old civil parish of Hackney only, and exclude Shoreditch and Stoke Newington. But the building development of the later 19th century, and the introduction of Board schools after the Education Act 1870, combined to reduce the private sector. The later period is one of closures, not replaced by new private schools, or by schools moving out to more rural or suburban locations.

Well-street, Hackney.—Mrs. DE LATRE being informed, that the insidious reports (so often propagated within the three last years) of her going to leave off business, are still renewed; begs leave to assure her friends, &c. that such a thing is very far from her present thoughts, she intending to carry on the School Business, for which she respectfully solicits her friends' favours; and farther gives notice, that having dissolved her Partnership, the School is wholly carried on, on her own account. 1770

The Misses Herbert at Upper Clapton

Recently, light has been shed on two of these ephemeral private schools. At Vestry House Museum, Walthamstow, there is on display a tea service of the 1820's, Staffordshire ware, comprising some 55 surviving pieces. These belonged to a family who lived in that area, one of whose members hand painted eleven of the saucers with local scenes. Two of these depict Hackney subjects: the "Priory" in Lower Clapton - a house on the west side of Lower Clapton Road; and "The Misses Herbert's at Upper Clapton". When Vestry House acquired the tea service in the late 1970's, Hackney Archives Department was asked if it could identify the Misses Herbert, but proved unable to do so [4]. Now, with the aid of the newly-acquired 1821 census, this has been possible.

The house was later called Parkfield, becoming 125 Upper Clapton Road, and stood on the west side of the road. It probably dated from the early years of the 19th century, and was in use as a school in 1821. In 1831 only one of the Misses Herbert, Ann, is given in the census,

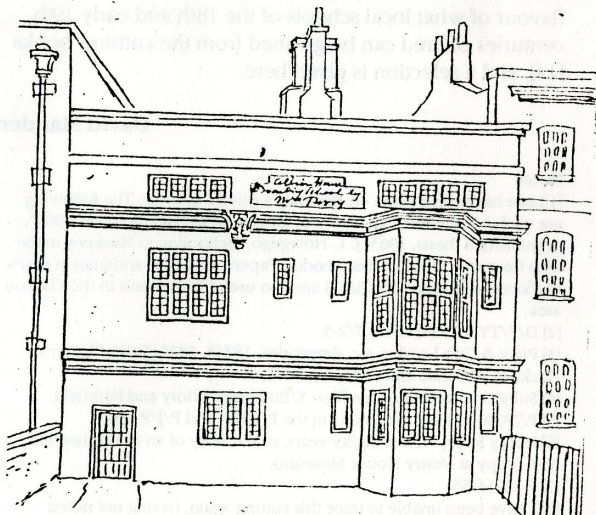
and the house is not marked as a school, suggesting that in the intervening decade one sister had died and the survivor given up her teaching [5]. Henry Solly's younger sister was at school there in the 1820's, and he recalled as a special treat being given for his eighth birthday "a pretty little new saddle-pad for my pony and a beautiful leather riding whip and then being allowed to ride over [from Walthamstow] to Upper Clapton... to spend the day with her there, by leave of the excellent lady, Miss Herbert (formerly governess in our family) who kept the school" [6]. The note in brackets is important, as it suggests one route by which women could raise the necessary money and gain the expertise to launch themselves into running ladies' schools.

BOW-STREET. 19.2.66-18706
An Usher belonging to a school in the neighbourhood of Hackney, was on Thursday ordered to find bail to appear to a charge of having inhumanly beaten with a whangce cane, a scholar of the name of Layman, son to the American Consul. Sir W. Parsons reprobated such a mode of punishment very severely, and recommended, as the most proper mode of punishing boys, to deprive them of play, make them do an extra number of sums, and learn extra tasks; &c.

Mrs Perry's Albion House

The quest for the second school began with two hitherto unidentified illustrations from the Tyssen collections [7]. One had lost its reference number from the former collection; the other was inscribed "Albion House, Hackney, a boarding school kept by Mrs Perry". This latter, a pen and ink sketch, also includes a detail of the head of the gutter spout, with a date of 1656 on it, and neighbouring houses. The first drawing showed that the house had a plaster front and would appear to have fronted on to a green, roughly fenced, and with two figures in early 19th century dress passing.

The period was too early for directories, and the census returns revealed no trace of Mrs Perry. The piece of green



Albion House, The Triangle

provided small clues, and by elimination it seemed possible that Albion House might front on to the small piece of green by the Triangle, Mare Street. An advert in a cuttings book seemed to confirm this possibility [8], but the supposition was confirmed just after Christmas, when a deposit of deeds for the property shed a little more light on Albion House school [9]. A ratebook search completed the picture.

PREPARATORY EDUCATION.
At Miss GILBERT'S BOARDING SCHOOL,
WELL-STREET, HACKNEY.

YOUNG GENTLEMEN under Eight Years of Age are genteelly accommodated, and carefully qualified for the more important Institutions.

Terms, including Board and teaching the English Language grammatically, Sixteen Guineas per Annum, and One Guinea Entrance.

Those to whom it will be an object desirable may have the advantage of a convenient Cold Bath.

• Writing, Arithmetic, Dancing, French, and Latin, if required, taught by proper Masters.

The School will be opened again on Monday next, the 22d instant.

The property became 111-113 Mare Street. When Albion House acquired its name is yet to be discovered, but in 1726 it was owned by the Read family. An abstract of title - taking the story to 1801, when the house had descended to Daniel Danvers - includes a sketch plan of part of the house, including reference to a schoolroom [10]. Although the professions of occupiers are not recorded in the ratebooks, it is likely that some of the successive female occupants from 1789 onwards used it as a school. Mrs Perry was the latest in a line, moving in shortly after 1801 and remaining until some time after 1806 [11]. Her successor, John Taylor, was there in 1821, and possibly until the end of the house [12]. Shortly before 1824 the owners, then the May family, had (through trustees) leased it to a builder, William Lucas, who demolished it and replaced it by two new houses on the same site [13].

We have no record of what was taught - either by the Misses Herbert or in Albion House school - or to whom, since no memoirs of pupils have yet come to light. Some flavour of what local schools of the 18th and early 19th centuries offered can be gleaned from the cuttings books [14], and a selection is given here.

David Mander

Notes

[1] Little has been written on Hackney's private schools. The following are useful: F. Geffen, "The Story of Education in Hackney 1616-1900", unpublished thesis, 1963; J. L. Howgego, "Schooling in Hackney in the 19th Century", (1961) 4 East London Papers no.2. The antiquarian notes of Florence Bagust (D/F/BAG) are also useful for schools in the Clapton area.

[2] D/F/TYS 70/14; H/LD 7/2-3.

[3] Pigot & Co's London etc, directories, 18243, 1825; Caleb Turner's Hackney Almanac and directory, 1843.

[4] Subject correspondence files: S/Buildings: Priory and Parkfield.

[5] P/J/CW 124 and ratebooks in the P/J/CW and P/J/P series.

[6] Henry Solly, "These eighty years, or the story of an unfinished life", I, 35-6 (copy at Vestry House Museum).

[7] P 12254-55

[8] I have been unable to trace this cutting again, having not noted where I first saw it!

[9] M 4379/1-27

[10] ib. /1

[11] P/J/CW 95; 97-99, 103, 109-110, P/J/P 166, 171

[12] P/J/CW 124; M 4379/3

[13] M 4379/3

[14] H/LD 7/2-3.

GROVE, HACKNEY: 1790

MISS ROGERSON takes this opportunity of returning Thanks to her Friends who have honoured her with their support and encouragement, and begs leave to solicit their future favours; also informs the Public in general, that her SCHOOL opens again on Monday next, the 22th Inst.

Miss Rogerson has room enough to accommodate a Lady or two to board in the family way, besides Scholars.

A Half Boarder wanted.

PAYING FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT, 1868

A collection of miscellaneous 19th century newspaper cuttings in the Archives Department's printed collection contains the following item, from 1868:

The "compound householder" difficulty was the cause of an extraordinary scene of excitement yesterday week at the Town hall, Hackney. More than 6000 persons, occupiers of small tenements in the parish, who formerly compounded with their landlords to pay the taxes and rates, but who are now, under the new Reform Act, all assessed, were summoned before the magistrates for refusing to pay rates. Long before the hour fixed for hearing the summonses the approaches to the hall were crowded to excess, and by ten and eleven o'clock the crush became fearful. Several women were lifted out of the crowd in a fainting condition. Most of the defendants were poor hard-working women, who were paying 6s. and 7s. per week rent. In many instances the rate collectors bore testimony to the wretched condition of the persons summoned, and their being utterly unable to pay the amount of the rates; but the magistrates had no alternative but to make an order that they must be paid, a certain time being allowed them to do so.

Slipped disc

We apologise to Norman Alvey for an error that appeared in the Table on page 2 of Terrier no. 21. However, we are sure that the alert reader will have realised that the words "(per head per week)" should have appeared under "Current income" and not "Father's annual income"! The error seems to have been caused by computer failing to talk properly to computer - together with a certain lack of editorial legerdemain.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 14th May 1991 at 7.30 p.m.

Annual General Meeting, followed at 8 p.m. by

The Stanley Tongue Memorial Lecture, by Jean Wait:

"It happened first in Hackney": some local pioneers

at the Unity Club, 96 Dalston Lane E8

Sunday 14th July at 2.30 p.m.

Dalston Walk, led by Keith Sugden

Meet outside the Castle pub, Shacklewell Lane, E8

Produced for the Friends of Hackney Archives, Hackney Archives Department, Rose Lipman Library, De Beauvoir Road, London N1 5SQ (telephone 071-241 2886) by Wednesbury Wordsetters, London E1.