



THE HACKNEY TERRIER

HACKNEY ARCHIVES

No. 58

NEWSLETTER

Winter 2001



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From the left: Martin Taylor, David Mander and Michael Kirkland of the Hackney Archives 1997-2001, with apologies to Titian

New to Hackney Archives

Acquisitions, loans and deposits

Archives

We have received a small but highly useful donation from Mr Dennis Burkett. His maternal grandfather worked at **C.R. Heward & Sons** wholesale ironmongers of 62 Homerton High Street and featured in a photograph of the workshop published in *An illustrated account of Hackney and District*, published in the late 1890s. The account draws on popular published sources of the time, but the second half of the book contains a range of short accounts of local businesses, with photographs. We will feature Hewards in the next Terrier.

Mr Burkett also donated four family photographs. Two show wedding scenes, one shows another workshop view at Hewards, taken on 26 November 1901, and the fourth is a splendid view of the building of the Southwold Road Primitive Methodist Church, undated but sometime between 1906 and 1912.

The records of **Bush Boake Allen** will come into HAD on 13 December. To accommodate them we have shipped out Shoreditch rate books to rented storage at London Metropolitan Archives. The bulk of these large rate books have small duplicate rough rate books, which staff have always produced in preference to the large and heavy volumes - since the rough rate books contain the key information sought by the vast majority of customers. We have sample microfilmed selective years before and after the rough rate book series - a difficult decision, but use has not been high, and one record group has to be moved out to suitable storage if we are to continue to be able to take in archive collections.

We have also received deeds for property in **Elsdale Street, Paradise Place and Charles Terrace, Cassland Road** (1796-1913); a chemist's prescription register c1895-1913 (the chemist is unidentified but his customers came from the Dalston area lying between **Kingsland High Street/Road and Mare Street**) and 65 card drawers containing the property and tenancy card records for Hackney Council from c1940-1981.

All the above are listed (the tenancy records will be accessible to those prepared to give an undertaking not to disclose personal details, since they are closed for unlimited access until 2031). Jacqueline Bradshaw Price has repaired the binding of the chemist's register. David has also listed a set of tree location plans for the **Mapledene and Shrubland estate** from 1979, the C of E Infant School, Hoxton presentation album to the retiring head teacher (1959) and a set of school reports for the private Hackney High School for Girls from c1902-04.

The British Railways Residuary Board has also donated four small boxes of premises files for property in Hackney. The majority of the material appears to be 20th c and does not include any of the original infrastructure drawings. It covers bridges, stations and railway land.

Finally thanks to the Friends and to Isobel Watson. The Historic Manuscripts Commission notified us of a group of title deeds coming up for sale on 22 November. The documents relate to property in the Homerton area and date back to 1598. The Friends have purchased them on our behalf, and initially at least, they will be deposited with us. See page 4.

Office News

As the Friends are aware, both Martin Taylor and Michael Kirkland have now left HAD but two new staff have now been appointed.

Edward (Ted) Rogers started on 10 December as the Senior Archivist. Ted has been working for the British Railways Residuary Board, and has wide ranging experience. Peter Kent started on 26 November 2001 as the IT and Searchroom Officer. Peter was previously employed at the Imperial War Museum, and has experience of a range of source cataloguing and managing a scanning programme.

Alan Fields' period of placement ended on 4 December. Alan picked up the sources and searchroom services quickly and proved invaluable in helping keep the service open - though he confused more than one customer who has wondered what he is doing out of London Metropolitan Archives!

Alan codified and in some cases edited the range of information leaflets we produce and has also helped keep pace with the email and letter enquiries. David would also like to thank Alan for his help in getting out the job packs, and to Michele Guimarin for her support and for sharing the interviewing.

The two day a week opening pattern has remained to allow time for staff induction. After Christmas we re-open on Thursday 3 January 2002 and Thursday openings will be restored from that date. Additional opening hours will be announced next

Moving on...

It doesn't seem that long since I was writing a small introductory piece for the *Terrier* following my appointment as senior assistant archivist at HAD. Now after nearly four years a lust for power, and the realisation that if I'm ever going to get a foot on the property

ladder I need to leave the south-east, have driven me up north, and I'm writing a farewell piece.

I enjoyed my time at Hackney enormously. In David Michael and Jacqueline I had colleagues with whom it was great fun to work. The pressures of helping run a small office which did so much told on all of us at times, but the achievements to which we all contributed made up for them. I also enjoyed living in Hackney - quite different from Hull in a lot of ways!

I'd like to thank the Friends for all their support during the last four years, and for the generous leaving present - the only *Victoria County History* volume for my ancestral county Lincolnshire. I was pleased that David, Michael and I were able to co-author the forthcoming *Impressions of Hackney*, and hope to see many of the Friends at the launch.

Martin Taylor.

The past five years at the archives was a voyage of discovery, challenge and fulfilment - a dramatic statement, but true. As Martin has said, we were all in it together; I learned so much from working with David, Martin and Jaqueline and I'd like to add thanks to Lilian Gibbens, Joan Potter, (and from the early days) Peter Foynes and Michelle Vincent. Also thanks to all the Friends and users of the archives.

I'll miss the archives themselves too; the documents, volumes, plans, photos, even the rate books! It has been fantastic being immersed in the past and present of Hackney; my home for the past 15 years and ancestral home. So in many ways I'm still here; on the Friends Committee, I'll continue to produce the *Terrier* and in my new post for Hackney in the Web-site Team, I'll always be keen to work with David on new local and family history internet projects.

Michael Kirkland.

Publications

This year's book, *Impressions of Hackney 1861-2001*, will unfortunately not appear before Christmas. Publication is now set for 28 December 2001, and HAD and the Friends will hold a launch party on the 18th January. It is a hardback, price £14.99. and will be on sale at the special price of £13.00 until 15 February 2002.

David Mander has also produced *Walthamstow Past*, published by Historical Publications in November 2001. There has been no comprehensive history of Hackney's Essex neighbour in recent years and many of the illustrations have not been published before. Dedicated Hackney fans may be gratified by the River Lea and on finding familiar historical figures showing up in unfamiliar climes...

Walthamstow Past costs £15.95. For signed copies please contact HAD.

News from the Friends

Tudor & Stuart Homerton

On 22 November the Friends once more raided the war chest. A batch of deeds came up for auction, part of a collection formerly belonging to the physician and scientist William Harvey (1578-1657), discoverer of the circulation of the blood. It is a mystery how they got into the good doctor's possession, but they were found (together with a great number of family documents and a handful of property deeds from the City) in a 16th century painted iron chest which had been sealed since 1821.

The documents effect successive transfers (1598-1652) of an estate in Homerton, between the high road and 'Homerton field'. In 1598 this consisted of a two houses, both with gardens and orchard, already subdivided; the larger 'late in the occupa-

tion of Elizabeth Sutton, widow'. The vendor and purchaser were citizens Blount and Swynnerton, the latter being Lord Mayor when he sold the property on to Richard Cheney, a goldsmith, in 1613.

The collection fills a gap in the Hackney collection both in point of time and of place, dealing with a period about which all too little is known, and demonstrating the splitting up of substantial estates in what was a very up-market area at a relatively early date. The final transaction, selling on by the Cheney heir, dates from a few years before Dr Harvey's death.

Maybe it was the romance of the chest and its contents, but prices at the sale were higher than we hoped and expected. It cost us a little more than £280 to save these documents from the hands of the dealers, and to bring them into public ownership in perpetuity.

Award for Archaeology

On 29 November, Awards for All announced a grant of £5,000 to the Friends for the publication of an updated text of Archaeology in Hackney, in the version produced by Dr Keith Sugden. It is hoped that this will be published in the spring of 2002, with the help of the Museum of London Archaeology Service, and will be circulated to local schools as well as being made available to the general public.

New Treasurer

Martin Taylor, as many readers will know, has now taken up his post as City Archivist for Hull. We are delighted that Michele Guimarin, who has been a good friend of the Friends already, and gave much valuable advice on our successful grant application, has nobly stepped into his place as Treasurer.

Isobel Watson
Chair, Friends of Hackney Archives.

FEATURES

Tudor Hackney

Immediate Theatre are now well into their performances of the drama of Jane and John Daniell, mostly intended for schools. These will provide the *Tudor Hackney* project with feedback from local children, which will be used to ensure that the completed web site is accessible.

Simon Jones, who is working with 360 Vision on the virtual reality rectory house, is busy producing drawings of some of the buildings that the visitor to the web site will see, starting from the ford across Hackney Brook (where the North London line bridge now crosses), walking past the original church and Urswick's House, and finishing with a glimpse of the Templars House (later the Blue Posts) at the top of the road on the right hand side.

Graham Reed is drawing some of the items from the Crown's inventory of the furniture. David Mander is in the course of transcribing Jane Daniell's inventory of her clothes and other possessions, which provides such extraordinary detail of the family's clothes, ornaments, medicines and table ware.



Heward & Sons

One hundred years ago on Homerton High Street, Hewards workshop 26th November 1901. Just to the east of Bridge Street, the front of the shop is seen in views of Homerton High Street in the 1890's. We will feature more on Hewards next issue.

378 Kingsland Road

Following the article on Kingsland Road in Hackney History Vol.6, we heard from Mrs Gill Bassett, who has an ancestral home among the buildings mentioned. Her father and grandfather told her much about their life and times in Hackney. The story of the Moss's shop continues....

Dad and his brothers belonged to the local scouts, Fred also went boxing at a local club. It was essential for London youngsters to learn self defence in an area like Hackney. Both brothers and sisters attended Sunday School at Homer House Chapel held above a dance hall in Lenthall Road. In 1918 Homer House Chapel amalgamated with The Plymouth Brethren, a Christian sect founded by Captain Maberly in Balls Pond Road. The Mission was called Maberly Hall. My father for a short time, his four sisters for much longer attended the brethren meetings.

Across the road from 378 was the Metropolitan Hospital and the Ross family kept the doctors and nurses busy. Albert ran into the parlour just as my grandma was dishing up the stew, they bumped into each other and the stew went all over Albert's chest so off to the Met. for treatment. Fred my father remembers having his tonsils out at about the age of six. He told me he went into the Metropolitan as an out-patient. The tonsils were removed and his brother took him home.

He remembered being carried over his brother's shoulder and looking down at the tramway track on Kingsland Road. His mum gave him milk to drink and from then on Fred disliked milk as the memory of blood and milk stuck always in his mind. Another time Fred was helping grandma on wash day. Putting the washing through the wooden mangle while his mum turned the big handle Fred forgot to keep his fingers clear so in through the wooden rollers went his

little fingers. Back over again to the Met, who did a wonderful job stitching up two fingers. Father's sister Emily did orderly and cleaning work at the hospital. A bomb dropped nearby and Emily was trapped for a time. She seemed to be OK, and went back to work this time helping in the dining room down at St. Bartholomews Hospital. Sadly she developed a brain tumour and died at St. Barts in 1916 age 25. Grandma's mother Mary Ann Herring died in the Met. in 1893 age 58. Her husband Thomas then went to stay at 378 with his daughter at different times, he died in 1924.

The Metropolitan Hospital was very profitable for my grandfather. He had a contract to cut hair and shave the male patients including the dead so they had a good send off. My father and brothers in turn were asked or should I say coerced to accompany their dad to lather the patients, then Mr. Moss would follow up with shaving.

By 1913 five of the family were working. Henry went to an Insurance Office, Albert and Arthur worked for the Omnibus Co. as mechanics. Emily worked at the Met. and Lily worked as an unpaid skivvy running the home and looking after my father and his two younger sisters while her mum and dad worked in the shop. The eldest son Edwin worked at University College Hospital serving in the new X-Ray department on maintaining the machines. Early in 1914 he was asked by his firm if he would be interested in helping to open a branch in Australia. As Edwin had bad colds and coughs he was pleased to accept especially as Australia had such a lovely climate.

On the 4th August 1914 war broke out against Germany. Following quote is taken from the words of my aunt "While arrangements were made for Edwin's trip the 1914 war broke out but it would be all over by Christmas! So plans went ahead and after getting married we set off; assisted fares had not been heard off." My uncle and

aunt married quickly at a Registry Office on the 29th August 1914, otherwise they would have been treated as single people, as cohabiting was not accepted at that time.

They set off from Liverpool on the 12th September 1914. After a terribly long journey they arrived in Sydney and faced appalling conditions. By Christmas they finally rented a little cottage on the heights of North Sydney. Alas the war did not end by Christmas and there was no way Edwin would remain out of it. He joined up and took charge of the first Australian X-Ray plant for the troops. He was in the Medical Corps and sailed all over including Egypt and back to England on the hospital ship 'Adelaide'.

He left his wife alone in a strange and wild country. He managed to see his mum in the Kingsland Road and give her a piece of jewellery from Australia. It was the last time he was to return to England. They had 3 children, 11 grandchildren and there are now 57 descendants all over OZ. I have met over three quarters of them. The gold brooch of my grandmother my father acquired after her death. My mother wore it almost constantly. When Mum died I returned the brooch back to my cousin Thelma, the daughter of Uncle Edwin. She already knows which granddaughter she will hand it on to. Thelma was so chuffed to have the gift.

In 1914 when the first world war began the four of the Moss boys old enough went to war. Emily as I have said before did orderly work. Daughter Lily ran the home in Kingsland Road. In 1915 Mr. Moss's neighbours were John O'Connor & Co. Butchers at 382. Mrs. Blanche Attwood a confectioner lived at 374. Christopher Eyre a boot repairer at 374A. Next door to granddad at 376 Philip Best the baker lived. Grandfa-

ther said Mr. Best was a German and during the war the windows of his shop were all smashed by anti German locals. He asked Edwin if his wife and children could stay with the Moss family until his windows were repaired, Mr. Moss refused because had he done so the windows of his shop would have been damaged and no doubt Edwin's customers would have gone elsewhere.

In 1917 my father went across the road to work for Mr. Alfred William Lankshear, a bookbinder, at number 341 and 341A Kingsland Road. Fred's apprenticeship lasted seven years until 1924. In 1918 Henry, Albert, Arthur and Edwin from Australia amazingly all returned home. Only Henry was wounded in the leg at Arras which caused constant pain for the rest of his life. The other Moss boys were physically well but like most of our lads mentally scarred.



The back of 378 Kingsland Road, Dalston, 1910. Top: Arthur, Edwin, Win, Henry, Albert. Middle: Emily, Edwin, Mary Ann, Lily. Bottom: Violet, Fred (Mrs Bassett's father), Vera.

After the war Uncle Albert returning home from the Somme put his mind to marriage. He was very good with his hands and built his bedroom furniture in the upstairs front much to his parents' annoyance. Furniture was

hoisted up into houses through outside windows. Uncle's bedroom suite went out through 378 Kingsland Road to be taken to Albert and Ivy his wife's new flat. All but the wardrobe, this was too big to get through the upstairs front window. I wonder if the wardrobe is still in the room today.

All the family married except Lily who only went out to the local shops in the Waste and to church at Maberly Hall. Moving with her parents in 1935 to Edmonton was very traumatic and with the shock of her mum's death in 1938 she had a breakdown and was committed to a mental asylum in 1940 and died there in 1947. Violet and Vera did shop work until they married.

My grandfather in 1940 went to live with his daughter Violet and family at Kingsbury for 11 years. Edwin Moss died in 1951 age 85. He always had a cigarette in his mouth but never inhaled, the ash got longer and longer until it dropped off into his lap. My cousins and I used to bet each other on how long the length of ash would stay. Sometimes nearly half the length of the cigarette. Edwin was teetotal, just as well as most of his life he was wielding a cut throat razor in his hand. Grandma did like her nip of gin collected in a jug from the Fox pub along the road. She did not have much pleasure in life, bearing children and working in the shop. She died in Edmonton in 1938 age 74.

I had no idea numbers 374/380 Kingsland Road have survived from the 1770's and that John Spears, a warehouseman, lived in the house from its construction, and I'd like to find out more. My mother's family also came from Hackney, her Grandfather Devis Goode's family were brickmakers and bricklayers. Our family rumour has it that they made bricks for Moscow to build the Kremlin!

(Thankyou Mrs Bassett; a search form is in the post.)

Friends' Interests

Please send your family and local history queries for Friends Interests to Hackney Archives.

Ron Roe in Lavenham, Suffolk, England
hillis@waitrose.com

is looking for information on:

Daniel ROE 1825-1834 Biggleswade, Beds.
EVANS (EVINS), ROE, PARKER,
HOLDSWORTH, BATES in East London
PARKER in Southwark and Camberwell
BEAUMONT in Streatham and Dorking
MITCHELL in Hillingdon.

Mrs P Graves c/o 2 Owls Retreat,
Colchester, Essex CO4 3FE
his_graves@online.emich.edu

is a historian looking for personal accounts of life in the 1920-30's East End.

Sean and Raina Bolan , Drive Cottage,
Campden House Estate, Chipping Cam-
den, Glos. GL55 6UP
raina@rbolan.freeserve.co.uk are looking for any information about a film, The Caretaker starring Alan Bates, made in 1962, which apparently features the Nightingale Road area before redevelopment in 1966.

Credits & Contacts

The Hackney Terrier was produced by David Mander and Michael Kirkland. The Terrier is a quarterly newsletter distributed free to members of the Friends of Hackney Archives. Membership of the Friends is open to all. The subscription is £10 for each calendar year, (plus £2 for each additional member at the same address) or £20 (in sterling) for overseas members. Membership also includes a free copy of the annual journal, Hackney History.

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 **Hackney**