

What are we to make of the great number of books that are coming out in time - or too early even - for the centenary of the Whitechapel murders of 1888, attributed to the unknown (and some claim, unknowable at this remove of time), Jack the Ripper?

Already there are protestors outside the Spitalfields pub that now bears his name (it was formerly called The Ten Bells), and objecting to this name. They also object to the gimmicks (Jack the Ripper tee-shirts, postcards, blood-coloured cocktails, etc.) that seem to them to be a glorification of the unknown maniac at a time when many women feel it is unsafe to walk down the streets at night. Imagine, they say, naming a pub after the Yorkshire 'Ripper' or the Hungerford massacre.

While we may sympathise with the women's protest (and personally, I agree with it), surely we cannot protest against the books? I haven't read any of them but from the reviews, I gather that they all offer new theories on who the murderer was, as well as in some cases, refuting previous theories.

In some way they must all be contributing to, or at least attempting to contribute to, our knowledge of the past. Anyone who finds the subject distasteful doesn't have to read them. But then.....

One of these books is being promoted by a competition in the Jack the Ripper pub, according to a Guardian report of 7 December. The suspicion arises that a contribution to a writer's and publisher's bank balance may have been more a motivation than any contribution to historical truth. And how is it that so many centenary books on the subject have come out in 1987?

A piece in The Sunday Times (6 December) suggests an answer. A television programme will come out in 1988, which, in revealing the true identity of the maniac, will make all speculation redundant. But wait..... Sue Carlyle, a local councillor and chairperson of the Stepney Neighbourhood, which covers the area where the murders took place, has promised she will refuse permission to film in the area if it is about Jack the Ripper (East London Advertiser 4 December). So maybe there will be no film, and the books may never become obsolete, and speculation may go on for another hundred years. Meantime, the question may be asked, should the East London Record review these books if we receive copies? So far we haven't received any, so the matter may not arise.

We have, however, already received many interesting books for review in the next Record. Bertha Sokeloff's book on Edith Ramsey will be of great interest to the many members of the East London History Society who knew her - Stepney Books have done a great service in bringing the book out.

Peter Marcan Publications have sent us two interesting books, A Mid-Victorian East End Album, reproducing engravings and articles from the period, and One Dinner a Week at Travels in the East. This latter is a reprint of a book that first appeared in 1884.

The Journeyman's Press book, Furnishing the World; The East London Furniture Trade 1830-1980, has also been received, providing an excellent follow-up for anyone who visited the exhibition of the same name at the Geffrye Museum. Dirk Nishen Publishing (the English language branch of a German publishing house) has brought out three books of photographs, one on the River Thames; one on the Blitz; and one on City streets in the twenties and early-thirties.

Finally, Andrew Byrne gave us a copy of his new book, London's Georgian House (The Georgian Press, £9.95 paperback). Full of local interest (Stoke Newington, Hackney, Spitalfields, Stepney, Whitechapel, Bow, are all included), the illustrations are of a high standard and it is hard to understand how so lavish a book could have been produced so cheaply. Full reviews of all these books will be in East London Record, Nr.11. (Autumn 1988)

 If any member has old copies of East London Record, we should be pleased to receive them. People still make requests but some copies are now out of print and we cannot supply.

The Spring trip will be on SATURDAY 7th MAY. We shall be visiting first the town of Newbury, allowing time to look around and have lunch (not arranged). The Newbury District Museum will be open free; it is housed in picturesque 17th and 18th century buildings and includes displays on ballooning, the canal, the Civil War battles of Newbury, and traditional crafts.

The Sandham Memorial Chapel will be visited next - it was built in the 1920's as a war memorial and the walls are covered with paintings by Stanley Spencer.

The Vyne was originally built in the early 16th century but has 17th and 18th century additions. I found it an exceptionally interesting house, with a number of unusual features, for instance, an early Tudor chapel with very fine woodwork and early Renaissance stained glass. There is a splendid Palladian staircase, and a long gallery with unusual panelling. It is set in attractive grounds, about four miles from Basingstoke. Good teas are available.

The Vyne and Sandham Memorial Chapel are National Trust properties, so entry is free to NT members. The entrance charges for next year are not known at present. For this year they are £1.80 (The Vyne) and 60p (Sandham).

The COACH FARE - not including entries to properties - £4

For this trip, I will be trying out two pick-up points: Stratford Broadway and Mile End. Please indicate on the booking form which you will use.

Times :- Stratford Broadway 9.15am
Mile End (opp. Stn) 9.30am

(NB. Booking Form is enclosed separately with the newsletter).

BITS and PIECES ... from Doreen Kendall

HENRY WILLIAM SHEARMAN b1837 - d1905 PHOTOGRAPHIC ARTIST

1862-67 4 Queens Terrace, Commercial Road

1868-73 Regents Terrace, Commercial Road

1875-78 343 Mile End Road

with son 325 Mile End Road

Does any member have any family photographs taken by Henry William Shearman? His descendants in Australia would love to have a copy if they have.

Antique Fairs have produced 3 boxes of old photographs since receiving this request. So far there have been two carte-de-visites by local photographers. These are:-
WILLIAM WRIGHT 189-190 Bethnal Green Road, E2.

G M SATCHFIELD 72 Hannibal Road, Stepney Green, E.

at 25p each they were local history at bargain prices. So please look at backs of old photos and see if we can help our Australian reader.

A book, 'Fashion a la carte' 1860-1900, by Avril Lansdell, has been published by Shire Publications Ltd at £2.50

"A camera that could take several photographs at one time was developed in France in the 1850's, taking good, cheap pictures. The finished pictures were 2½"x4", which was the size of visiting cards, and became known as cartes-de-visite. Thousands of these little photographs were taken between 1860 and 1900. They became an obsession with the British, from the lowest to the highest, sending these cheap pictures to their relatives.

This book reproduces 200, showing a record of Victorian clothes over a period of forty years... a well-researched book which will appeal to us all.

Do we have an oldest member? Mr E G Payne is very proud that he was born in 1896, at 30 Trelawyn Road, Hackney, his mother's family coming from Mile End Place. His father and two uncles spent their working lives with East London Waterworks, so East London Record No.8, with its article on Hackney Water by Keith Fairclough was of great interest.

The following information is the result of the small questionair sent out with the subscription reminder forms. Many thanks to those members supplying information. I have tried to give some sort of order to the replies and, hopefully, members with similar interests will be able to communicate with others. Any letters can be sent via me, at 9 Avon Road, London E17 3RB. I will then put the members in touch with each other. Here we go

QUESTION - IF YOUR INTEREST IS ACTIVE, WHAT ACTIVITY ARE YOU ENGAGED IN?

TEACHING and WALKS/VISITS:

- Adam Joseph. Living History. Leading guided walks on East London history and giving lectures.
- Charles Pculsen Teaching London history in Adult Education. Qualified Guide and Lecturer. Writer.
- David French Visits to normally inaccessible places in East London.
- John Boyes Research, writing and lecturing.
- Alexander Gander Writing articles of local interest.
- Jean Olwyn Maynard I am writing a book about Mile End.

MAPS and PHOTOGRAPHS :

- Mr H Read I am interested in old maps of East London.
- Mr D W Sleight Copying old photographs of Wapping by taking photographs from the same position as original photographer. Collecting early street maps (Wapping - Stepney).

GRAVEYARDS and CHURCHES:

- Wendy Jonas Local church - archivist and monumental inscription recording.
- W Wilford
- a) London Head Teachers Association 1888-1988
 - b) Graveyard Survey, St Peter, South Weald.
 - c) Committee of Brentwood Historical Society.

FAMILY HISTORY:

- Mrs Margaret Brown Family History.
- Mrs Jean Vagg Secretary of East of London Family History Society, and Committee member of N.M.F.H.S.
- Mr W Wakefield To build up background to great-grandparents life in East London through the middle of the last century - a sea-captain and silk-trade dyer.
- Mr S Newman Family History - own and genealogy.
- Colin Mitchell Joint hobby with wife in tracing ancenstry.

HISTORY OF BOW:

- Gail Duobin History of Tredegar Square in Bow.
- Bradley Snooks To find meaning of street names in Bow.. and all Bow history.

- Mrs Isabel Watson Research on development of South Hackney, also freehold land societies.
- Davis Heath I work for the Hackney Society as Architectural Adviser.
- MISCELLANEOUS:
- Ms Eileen Brooke Have not got an activity. Looking for something statistical or could perhaps help someone who has data but not used to handling.
- Ms Bryony Batchelor Waltham Forest Oral History Society.
- Peter Sanders Chairman of Stansted Local History Society. Engaged in several projects.
- Simon Goodman Jewish residency of East End, 1890's to 1945.
- Stephen Aidelkoff Anglo-Jewish History.
- Dr Stuart Murray Mostly research and investigation into adolescence and youth provisions.
- Dr Joseph Green Local research on East End History.
- Malcolm Tucker Industrial archaeology, recording/research on site (G.L.I.A.S.)
-

QUESTION - WOULD YOU LIKE THE NEWSLETTER TO BE ANY DIFFERENT... IF SO, HOW?

- Jean Olwyn Maynard I work full-time and cannot attend meetings. The newsletter keeps me in touch. I enjoyed the outing to Stoner Park.
- Mrs Elizabeth Thompson Earlier information about outings if possible.
- Dr Stuart Murray It might be interesting and worthwhile to publish a membership list with their particular interests. Also, what about asking older members if they own any record books or diaries or other written material which may be related to a particular institution, club or society. Quite often, people don't realise how important contemporary accounts are. The 'trend' is for oral history, although written contemporary documentation is so important as clarification.
- Mrs Margaret Brown Committee members - names, positions, etc.
- Malcolm Tucker The reminiscences and recent accounts of meetings are most worthwhile but I think the field should be broader, eg., reports of research, of a shorter nature than E.L. Record.
- Rev. David Wollen Have you read Sylvia Pankhurst's wonderful THE HOME FRONT? Is there a guide to historical sites of East London (and map)? There ought to be.
- Wendy Jonas More attractive. I realise the cost is important but a line-block here and there (even the same one) and coloured A4 would help. More space between paragraphs in long articles makes easier reading.
- Alastair Ross Could it be A5 size.. more like a pocket magazine (and similar to East London Record).

Whilst appreciating the problems of a volunteer run Society, a large letter and published more often, with an increased subscription would be welcome.

Colin Mitchell

Would it be possible to design a simple emblem or something similar in black and white, to facilitate photo-copying and thus give a personality and identity to the Society. I am not thinking of Lions Rampart etc., but something that reflects the working-class and their historical background. Is it worthwhile including a suggestion along these lines in the next edition? Who knows, perhaps we have some budding artists in our midst! If there is a positive response the Committee might consider a nominal reward of a £5 book token for the best design.

Gail Durbin

Qyite happy, although it would be nice to see it better produced - I would be prepared to pay higher subscription.

Joan Hardinges

I thought the August 1987 newsletter was well presented and very interesting and would like to see the inclusion of history articles in future editions (similar to 'King John's Palace' and 'Overlap in History').

Michael Ellison

Only in shape and size - reduced to half the height and thus double in bulk.

Mr F C Wright

No change, satisfactory as it is except for some illustrations.

Mrs M Wiltshire

I wonder if you could spare more space for searches, not necessarily history search but old friends, school friends, or anybody who has lost touch.

.....Some compliment... bunched together to save room....

David Heath

No, I like it the way it is.

Mrs E Bean

Quite happy with how it is at the present time.

Irene Smith

Very interesting as it is now presented.

Ms Eileen Brocke

I have found the newsletters very interesting.

Mr & Mrs K Cable

No, fine as it is.

W Wilford

I find it interesting and informative.

Leonard Archer

I find the present format of the newsletter just what I would like it to be, with plenty of local information. What more does a member want?

Mr S Newman

No - it is very diverse and interesting.

Mr D W Sleight

The newsletter and E.L. Record are excellent. Keep them that way, even if it means increasing the subscription.

John Boyes

No - the short articles are very interesting and provide a varied commentary on East London history which supplements East London Record.

David French

No - the newsletter is excellent.

Mr H Read

No - I find it acceptable.

Ruth Richardson

No - I like it! Very best wishes.

QUESTION - WHAT ITEMS WOULD YOU LIKE IN OUR PROGRAMME?

Mr W R Warman

Any historical items of interest.

Christine Chinnery

Visits to old or historically interesting buildings or streets, with on-site talks. I went to a talk held at the Princelet Street Synagogue.. about the synagogue in Victorian times and it was most interesting because we were actually there.

Mrs Elizabeth Thompson

Information on street names.

Dr Stuart Murray

Certainly more about youth and youth provision in East London.

- Ms Bryony Batchelor Current mixed programme looks good.
- David Heath I like lectures. Wish I could get there more often.
- Wendy Jonas Workhouse in East End, last century - life and conditions.
- Mr H Read Old maps of East London
- David French Visits to normally inaccessible places in East London
- Irene Smith Visits to places of interest.
- Charles Poulsen Matters relating to the Jewish East End 1880-1945.
- Mrs Isabel Watson Inclusion of the London Hospital Estates lecture, previously cancelled, or similar.
- Bradley Snooks Meetings to talk about local history and show each other your work and photos.
- Joan Grant Papers on minorities (Irish, Afro-Caribbean, Asian, etc).
- Ruth Richardson The same sort of mix as you do now.
- Mr F C Wright If not already being done - some taping of other resident's reminiscences.
- Michael Humby Transport history.
- Mrs K J Root Repeat of Victorian Funerals - Repeat of Jackie Leboff, Music Hall songs.
- Mary Davidge Any items concerning the history of East London, (Tower Hamlets in particular).



Well, that's it folks! I found the response interesting. Speaking as the producer of the newsletter, I should, like some of the suggestions, like to see it better produced. Yes, we could include illustrations and we could space the text out a bit more but..... the newsletter is meant to be a cheap way of communicating as much as possible, especially to members who cannot attend our meetings. As a result, it is produced in the cheapest way we can, on a duplicator. Ideally, we would have a little litho machine... perhaps we will in time.

Older members will recall that the newsletter used to be just one or two sheets but the cost of enveloping and stamping this small newsletter was just as great as our present enlarged one... and so we print as much as we can. I think we'll have to soldier on for a little time yet. You may bear in mind that we do produce a much better printed annual booklet... but this costs over £1.. and only just breaks even. In any case, our newsletter doesn't want to go into competition with E.L. Record.

I hope you all find the list of members interests of value. Perhaps there is someone pursuing the same line of interest as yourself. I look forward to passing some contacts on from you. Incidentally, my own interests are photography, writing, oral history (all held in abeyance at present due to pressure of other work). I was hoping at some time to pair up with someone who needed decent photography for their project... and hope again to in the future. My opinion is that many booked fall down on this aspect.

Will all those who replied to the questionnaire accept the thanks of the Committee... and trust us to take notice of your views.



KEEPING COWS IN THE EAST END ... contributed by Carolyn Merion

When people migrated to London in the 19th century they brought with them a familiar companion from the countryside - the cow. Of course it didn't happen as simply as that sounds. The people didn't lead their cows along the country roads to London - the cows probably came separately from the people (though their mode of travel has not been studied).

But what we know is that the London environment included many cows and cowkeepers. In the 1890's, when the urban population was at its most crowded, especially in the East End, the cows were crowded in with the people. Almost 600 cowkeepers looked after an estimated 15 cows each, or about 9,000 cows.

On cold winter nights the warmth of their bodies in the cowhouses helped keep warm the houses of the people next door. Not to speak of the nourishment the cows' milk gave to generations of hungry people. It is hard for us to imagine, 100 years later, what it was like when four or five times as many people as now, lived in inner London - plus all these cows, and thousands of horses too.

London in the 1890's was a different kind of city from now. Every little street was full of activity. Hundreds of turnings are listed in the contemporary Post Office directories, each with a wide variety of occupations. For example, take Red Lion Court (now Puma Court) off Commercial Street in Spitalfields in 1891:-

- 4 Sawyer, Richard Francis, hairdresser
- 5 Davies, Thomas, dairy
- 6 Schneiderman, Mrs Hannah, chandler's shop
- 10 Vignes, Charles, blacksmith
- 11 Gibbons, William, boot and shoe maker

The mixture of occupations in Red Lion Court in 1891 was continued around the corner in Commercial Street. Starting at Flower and Dean Street corner to the south, the numbers in the directory go as follows :-

- 64 Hart & Levy Wholesale clothiers
- 66 Tebbitt Bros., leather mfrs
- 68 Wright and Butler Lim, lamp mfrs
- 70 Lazarus, John, grocer
- 72 Harris, Michael, baker
- here is Fashion Street
- 74 Queens Head, Morris Jsph Myers
- 76 Midland Counties Aerated Bread Co, Ltd
- 78 Clark, Wm Geo, tobacconist
- 80 Cohen, Alexander, greengrocer
- 82 Beer, Augustus, coffee rooms
- here is Church Street' (now Fournier Street)
- 84 Ten Bells, Edward John Rose
- 86 Simmonds, Isaac, fruit salesman
- 88 Gower, William, fishmonger
- 90 Cohen, Morris, mantle mfr
- here is Red Lion Court
- 92 Dearlove, John beer retailer
- 94 Maynard, James, coffee house
- 96 Andrew, Davis, potatoe salesman
- 98 Levy, Harris, fried fish shop
- 100 Hunt, Mrs Ann, coffee rooms
- 102 Smith, Misses L & A wholesale cfnrs
- 104 Webster, Robt B, potatoe salesman
- 106 Squier, Wm Henry, horse repository
- 106 Stapletons Repository
- 108 Wakefield, David, potato salesman
- 110 Golden Heart, Mrs Charlotte Cakebread
- here is Hanbury Street

Going back to the subject of cowkeepers:- No 5 in Red Lion Court was occupied by cowkeepers before and after Thomas Davies. Someone who signed as M Ritz, who wrote to a local paper in 1978, remembered seeing cows there.

The 1861 census gives: Henry Anderson, 28, dairyman, born in Dulwich; Elizabeth Anderson, 28, born in Kennington, their four children, Elizabeth, 9, born in Clapham, Charles, 7, born in Camberwell, Henry, 4, born in Shadwell, and Sophia, 1, born in Spitalfields. One can guess that the Andersons had formerly kept cows in south London and moved to the East End, perhaps with their cows. In the 1871 census, they are still keeping cows, though Henry has died or moved away. Elizabeth is given as head of the household, with Dairy as her occupation..

The Post Office directories for 1872-75 give George Anderson, dairy, at No.5, but by 1876 the occupier is given as Evan David Morgan. In the period 1923-1958 it was Daniel Jones, dairyman, but we are not sure how long cows were actually kept on the premises.

When I was young, my mother used to talk about some family connections with the Creeds, of which she was quite proud, but I took little notice at the time and thought she must be exaggerating. Recently I have been researching my family history and thought I would find out about the Creeds.

In my aunt's papers I found a letter from C J Creed to my grandmother about a legacy which his half-sister had left her. From this start I went to her will, and back to birth and marriage certificates and census returns to the common ancestor. I also found unexpected entries in the Dictionary of National Biography and 'Who was Who' for C J Creed's children, who are the 'Creed family academics' of my title, and were my mother's second cousins. There was an even more unexpected link with Queen Mary College (the meeting place of East London History Society).

The 'common ancestor' was Thomas Creed, a coachman of Gloucester. He was the father of John White Creed - a village schoolmaster - and Ellen Creed, a servant, who married Henry George Sawyer, a carpenter, later a grocer, of Gloucester. Their daughter, Emily Mary White Sawyer, married William Henry Bustin, a photographer, of Hereford, and was my grandmother.

John White Creed was married twice - I have not traced his first marriage. His second marriage was to Mary Hillier, a village schoolmistress at Castle Combe, Wiltshire. They were married in London, at St. Margarets Westminster, on 23rd March 1856. Collin John Creed was born only just over three months later on the 2nd of July, at Castle Combe - maybe that was why they got married in London? Surely, village schoolteachers in Victorian times would have to be very respectable!

Their son, Collin, went to Oxford (B.A. 1878) and entered the Church. An old Crockford gave me a list of his appointments - he was, among other things, Vicar of St. Peter's Leicester, and Rector of Farthinghoe, Northants.

His eldest son, John Martin Creed, also a clergyman, became Ely Professor of Divinity at Cambridge from 1926 to 1940. His second son, Edward Ffoliott Creed, was Senior Pathologist at King's College Hospital. His third son, Sir Thomas Percival Creed, was a barrister and served as a colonial judge in the Sudan and Iraq. Afterwards, he became a university administrator - he was Principal of Queen Mary College from 1952, and Vice-Chancellor of London University from 1964 to 1967. His fourth son, Stephen Creed, was a Fellow of New College, Oxford, and his daughter, Mary, a lecturer at Aberystwyth.

All of them (except for Mary) are in 'Who was Who', and John Martin and Sir Thomas in the Dictionary of National Biography.

As you will see, I have not traced all the family members - or indeed living members of the Creed family, who must exist. Nor have I been able to go back beyond the early 19th century, though my mother thought we must be descended from the Creed who appears in Pepys' diary as a clerk in the Navy Office. As Pepys describes him as a 'sad rogue' or in similarly pejorative tones, I do not think I want him as an ancestor very much!

On the whole, however, I feel proud of my full name - Ann Jennifer Creed Sansom.

Will the member whose grand-daughter tore up his East London Record telephone Doreen Kendall. (981.7680), ... For members wishing to complete a set, we have five No.5's. This issue has a green cover, picturing a steam engine.

Reader Mr W W Hill wants a copy of E.L. Record No.7. A distant relative of his was John H Pierce, who helped rescue the Crown Jewels in 1841, when there was a fire at The Tower of London

SOCIETY PROGRAMME (For remainder of season. Please note item previously advised as 19 January Wednesday SHOULD READ 19 January TUESDAY.)

- 19 Jan THE YIDDISH TRADE UNION (United Ladies Tailor's Union)
Tue. by Mitch Mindel (ex President)

- 17 Feb DOWN OUR TURNING - SOCIAL LIFE IN NEWHAM BETWEEN THE WARS
Wed by Howard Bloch (East London History Society)

- 26 Mar WALK - RELIGIOUS HOUSES OF EAST LONDON - led by Alfred French - meet at
Sat corner Houndsditch/Bishopsgate at 2.30pm

- 15 Mar ACROSS 7 SEAS AND 13 RIVERS - The first Bangladeshi settlers in London.
Tue by Caroline Adams

- 13 Apr PRINCELET STREET SYNAGOGUE 1862-1910 - includes new information.
Wed by Mr S C Melnick

- 12 May STANLEY TONGUE MEMORIAL LECTURE at Hackney Archives Dept., DeBeauvoir Rd., N1
Thur VICTORIAN PUBLIC BUILDINGS IN HACKNEY by Robert Thorne

- 24 June DAYS OUT IN EPPING FOREST
Fri by Stan Newens MEP (London Central) and David Wilkinson of Loughton

(To be followed by a day out in the forest - date to be announced).

The Jewish Historical Society have arranged :- (at Florence Michael's Hall,
Grove End Road, NW8)

17 Mar THE ROTHSCHILDS AS PORTRAYED IN VICTORIAN MAGAZINES
by Mrs Anne Cowen.

19 May JEWISH/CHRISTIAN DISPUTATIONS AND THE 12th CENTURY RENAISSANCE.

Enquiries to J H S 33 Seymour Place, London W1H 5AP

BOOKING FORM - COACH TRIP - BOOKING FORM - COACH TRIP - BOOKING FORM - COACH TRIP

Detach and return to Ann Sansom 18 Hawkdene London E4 7FF

COACH TRIP - Saturday 7 May 1988 - Pick-up points - Stratford Broadway 9.15am
Mile End Station 9.30am

I/we would like seats for the coach trip to Newbury/Sandham Church/etc.

Enclosed is cheque/P.O. for £ (NB Cost of coach trip only £4 each)

Name/s

Address

..... Phone Number

Note from your Membership Secretary.

Some members may not have yet paid their subscriptions for the current year. These members will also receive a payment reminder slip from me (with this newsletter). All other members may rest assured I have received their subscriptions. Thank you.