



Troxy Cinema programme, Christmas 1948

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Editorial Note:

Philip Mernick, Chairman, Doreen Kendall, Secretary, Harold Mernick, Membership, David Behr, Programme, Ann Sansom, Doreen Osborne, Sigrid Werner and Rosemary Taylor.

All queries regarding membership should be addressed to Harold Mernick, 42 Campbell Road, Bow, London E3 4DT.

Enquiries to Doreen Kendall, 20 Puteaux House, Cranbrook Estate, Bethnal Green, London E2 0RF, Tel: 0208 981 7680, or Philip Mernick, email: phil@mernicks.com. Check out the History Society's website at www.eastlondonhistory.org.uk.

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



Researching Graves

Looking for ancestors in the East End? Join Doreen and Diane Kendall and assist in recording monumental inscriptions in Tower Hamlets Cemetery on the second Sunday of each month, from 2-4 pm.

All volunteers welcome.

Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park is close to Mile End Station.

Guided Walks around the cemetery are offered on the 3rd Sunday of every month starting at 2pm. A good place to begin if you have not been there before and want to get to know the cemetery.

Cover Picture

The Troxy Cinema on Commercial Road, Stepney celebrated its 80th anniversary in 2013. It was an enormous cine-variety theatre seating more than 3500, and was designed, in art deco style, by George Coles, the architect of many similar buildings around London. It closed in 1960 but reopened around 2005 as a multi-function venue. Their 1948 pantomime, Cinderella, starred Jean Kent as Prince Charming and Derek Roy as Buttons.

East London History Society Lecture Programme 2014

Thursday 16th January
The East End Under Fire,
Stephanie Maltman

Thursday 13th February
Stepney Then and Now,
Samantha L. Bird

Thursday 20th March
City of Ships
(P.L.A. 1951 film of London Docks),
Ray Newton and John Tarby

Thursday 10th April
The East End we have lost,
David Webb

Thursday 8th May
*Growing up in Bethnal Green and
thereafter,*
Stan Newens

The lectures are usually held on Thursday evenings at 7.30 pm in the Latimer Congregational Church Hall, Ernest Street, E1. Ernest Street is 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.

Suggestions and ideas for future topics and/or speakers for our Lecture Programme are always welcomed. If you can suggest someone or indeed if you would like to give a talk yourself, please get in touch with David Behr, our Programme co-ordinator, either at one of our lectures or, alternatively, email our Chairman Philip Mernick with your comments and suggestions.

Email: phil@mernicks.com

News Update

People's Plaque Shortlisting

As you may be aware the nomination phase of the Tower Hamlets People's Plaque Scheme has now closed.

A shortlist of 17 nominations has been drawn up for the public to vote. You can see the list of those nominated here:
www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/peoplesplaques or in the **East End Life** distributed on the 18th of November.

Tower Hamlets residents now have one vote to choose their favourite person, place or event to be marked by a plaque.

The seven nominations which receive the most votes will have a plaque installed at a suitable site, subject to permission, to commemorate the significant impact they have made to shaping the cultural history of the borough.

Voting closes on Sunday, December 8.
Residents can vote by completing the online voting form by visiting
www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/peoplesplaques.

The Jewish East End

Details of some of the events we notified you about at the start of the month have now been firmed up. In addition, there are also some further events on the horizon. So here are details where these were not previously given, plus a couple of reminders, plus some new events, all of which we hope you will find of interest. We look forward to seeing you there.

Paintings by Lady Rose Henriques, November 28

Our exhibition of paintings by East End philanthropist Lady Rose Henriques, wife of Sir Basil Henriques, organised in conjunction with Bancroft Road Library, opens on Thursday November 28 with a free event at the library from 6.00 to 7.30. Refreshments are

included. Although not masterpieces the paintings are important social documents, and those on display have been brilliantly restored by Tower Hamlets Council. The exhibition will run until March 2 next year. Bancroft Road Library is at 277 Bancroft Road, London E1 4DQ. Bancroft Road is off the Mile End Road, close to Queen Mary, University of London. The nearest tube is Stepney Green, about 10 minutes walk. Booking for the opening evening is essential on 07941 367 882 or email c.bettington@jeecs.org.uk

Sunday November 17. 2.00pm from Aldgate Tube.

Walk: The Great War and the Jewish East End JEECS chairman Clive Bettington discusses events that occurred in the Jewish East End between 1914 and 1918, including the poetry and art of Rosenberg and Bomberg, the rise of Zionism, the formation of the Jewish Legion etc. Tickets £10 (JEECS members £8) from 07941 367 882 or email c.bettington@jeecs.org.uk

Centenary of Oxford and St George's Club. March 2 2014

We hope lots of you have already bought tickets for this spectacular event at the Troxy Cinema in Commercial Road. Tickets are £30. The organisers are hoping to attract 1,000 people from all over the world. We expect the Joe Loss Orchestra (yes, it's still going strong) to be performing, with the wonderfully restored Wurlitzer cinema organ also able to be played. If anyone you know went to the Oxford and St George's do tell them about the event. You can book on the website at <http://ostg100.co.uk/>

Israel Zangwill: 150th anniversary of his birth. Walk and play reading, January 19 2014

We shall be marking the Zangwill anniversary on January 19 with a dramatised reading of his great work *Children of the Ghetto* by professional actors and with a professional director at the Jewish Museum, in Albert

Street, Camden, London, NW1 7NB, starting at 2.30. Booking details will be available soon. It will also be staged at other venues later. In the morning, Clive Bettington will be leading a walk themed on Zangwill's East End, leaving from Aldgate tube at 10.30. The cost is £8 (non-members £10). Book on 07941 367 882 or email c.bettington@jeecs.org.uk

Rosenberg and Sassoon Lecture: February 27 2014.

This talk by Dr Jean Moorcroft Wilson forms part of Jewish Book Week at Kings Place, 90 York Way, London N1 9AG. The talk is at 7.00; bookings need to be made via <http://www.jewishbookweek.com/festival/jewish-book-week-2014>

Rosenberg play: April 1 2014.

The play *Beating for Light* is based on the life of painter and war poet Isaac Rosenberg. There will be a professional reading of the work on April 1 next year, at 7.00. Venue and booking details will be sent out soon.

Bow School Centenary

This year is the centenary year for the original school building which still forms one part of the Bow School site. As a result the School is planning a celebration of this fact which will take place on the School site on Saturday 29th March and will be called Heritage Day.

The arrangements for the day are still being developed but we are aiming to try and involve as members of the local community as possible in the event.

Everything is changing next year at Bow School. The school is moving to its brand new site in Twelve Trees Crescent and the boys will be joined by girls.

Assistant Head Teacher Jim Morris adds: We are particularly keen to hear from anyone who went to the school and/or had relatives who went to the school. The further back we can go the better but any memories or connection

with the school is something that we are keen to explore and to introduce into the activities that we will be running on the day.

If you would like to share your stories and/or get involved with the actual event in some way, please do get in touch with me, Jim Morris, Assistant Head Teacher. My contact details are : e-mail : morrisj@bow-schol.org.uk. School phone : 0208 980 0118. Direct mobile : 07946587272

Letters, etc

From (Mrs) Sheila Lobel
s.e.lobel@talktalk.net

I am writing to enquire whether any of your members had relatives that played in the Brass Band at Berger Hall, Empson Street, Bromley around the time when my father and five of his brothers were also members.

My father's name was Albert Stokes (my mother always called him Bert) and together with his brother Leonard were the youngest boys of the family. Frederick was the eldest followed by Arthur, Edward and Walter I believe they were all members of the band right up until the beginning of the World War II.

Unfortunately I do not know at what age they would have been taught their specialist instruments and indeed by whom. My father, like many children during the 1920-30's, left school at the age of 14 to start work and may well have joined the band around this time. Unfortunately I have no way of knowing this - hence my enquiry.

Another point of interest may be that it was my mother's eldest sister Florence Cook who was, at that time, the resident pianist for the band and that is how my parents eventually became to meet.

Also the Minister at Berger Hall in 1938 was The Rev. Arthur Gilbert Adams.

I thought a photo of my father in his band uniform might also be useful for your members to see.

With very many thanks to you and your team for a really wonderful Newsletter which I always look forward to receiving and reading with great interest from cover to cover. I only regret that I cannot make your Lecture meetings - because of the travelling distance - which always sound so interesting and informative.



Albert Stokes

From: Valerie Mahler, Eastbourne, East Sussex, BN22 7RE, email
v.mahler712@btinternet.com

I am an Eastender, now living in Eastbourne and wish to thank all the team for all the good work keeping us in touch with our roots. Like

many others I am very proud to say that I am a Cockney and always will be.

I lived in Russia Lane (Bethnal Green) in a court called Ernest Place and I noticed in the latest journal that there is an Ernest Street in Mile End. My dad was called Ernest and I would like to know if the name Ernest has any bearing with the East End?

I have lots of lovely memories of my childhood, we were so happy with so little. I could go on forever with my stories but I know you are very busy.

I am enclosing a copy of a photograph taken in Russia Lane of all the women and children on V.E. day 1945, me and my lovely mum are in the front row 5th from the left - Oh happy days!!

Once again thank you all and stay well.

(Thank you Valerie for your kind words. If you have any interesting stories or anecdotes you would like to share, we would be only too pleased to accept them for publication.)

From Charlie Pitman to Doreen Kendall:

The Autumn Newsletter has coincided with a bout of childhood memories and I hope you can tolerate one of the questions they sometimes leave behind. The school song? Was it one of 'ours' or just common in the locality with the name changed? Not to mention the difference between the words remembered and the song itself.

In particular we gave it our best on the train – Liverpool Street – Chingford, boarded Bethnal Green – on our pre-war sports day on Chingford Plains.

We are the Cephass Street boys
We make a lot of noise
We know our manners
We earn our tanners

We are respected wherever we go
Singing Glory, Glory, Halleluja
Hi titty hi ti
Eat brown bread
Ever see coppers fall down dead
We are the Cephass Street boys.

I'm pleased to see 'manners' comes before the dreaded respect, and earning tanners, or the copper that added up to one, was very much part of life from running errands up. Certainly an early start on a Saturday morning lighting fires for orthodox Jewish households would bring in a tanner that swiftly transformed into Flash Gordon and afterwards, pie and mash. I'll try your tolerance with nonsense no longer

Charlie Pitman



A fun resolution you'll want to keep: Make 2014 the year to discover more about London

At Bishopsgate Institute we have a range of courses that explore areas of London's history and culture you might not have encountered before. Experience the East End in the 17th and 18th century, delve into the history of London's squares, witness the transformation of the docklands and meet eight individuals who helped change the East End for the better. Discover why Ghandi visited Bow or hear the stories behind London's many museums. You can also uncover radical movements in London since the 1930s or rediscover the city's lost buildings.

Find out more about our London interest courses at www.bishopsgate.org.uk/LondonCourses

**In Memory Of Elizabeth Stride –
Murdered By Jack The Ripper 125 Years
Ago.**

**Sunday 30 September: This morning at 1
O'clock in Berner Str. Elisab. Gustafsd.
Stride, who often got help from the church,
was killed. (by "Jack the Ripper?")**

This note, translated from Swedish to English for this article, was written by Johannes Palmér who was the priest in the Swedish Church at Prince's Square, Whitechapel, at the time when Jack the Ripper murders took place. In fact, the note in Palmér's diary is one of the first times where the name Jack the Ripper is mentioned. But in the morning hours after the murder the question mark in Palmér's diary slowly faded away and the police force was more or less convinced that this was another Ripper murder. But who was Elisab. Gustafsd. Stride?

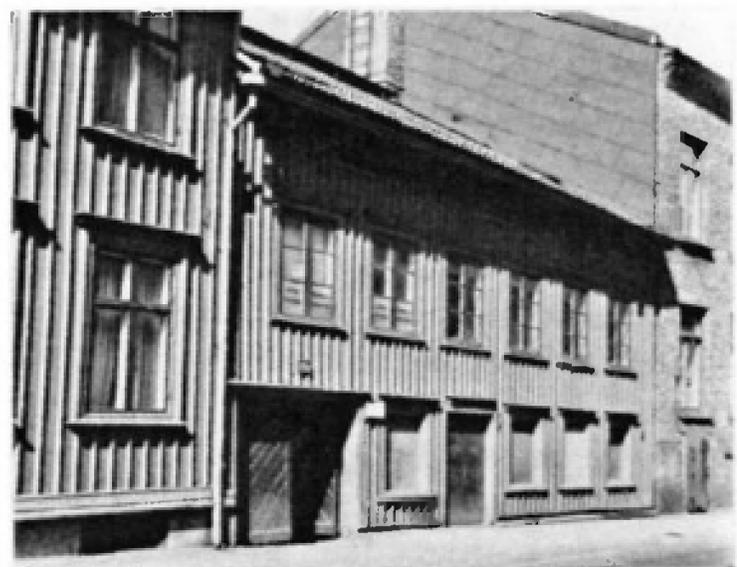
Elisabeth in Sweden:

Elisabeth Gustafsdotter was born on a farm located in a small village, called Stora Tumlehed, Torslanda, near Gothenburg, on the 27th of November 1843. She had three siblings; Anna-Christina (1840-1916), Carl Bernhard (1848-1908) and Svante (1851 - Svante went to New York in 1873. His destiny in America is unknown).



The house in Stora Tumlehed, Torslanda where Elisabeth Gustafsdotter and her siblings were born. Photo: Arne Jacobson.

Their parents were Gustaf Ericsson and Beata Carlsdotter. Elisabeth was confirmed in the church in Torslanda in 1859. On the 14th of October 1860 she followed her sister's footsteps and moved to Majorna which was a suburb of the town Gothenburg. Here she started to work as a servant in the Lars Fredrik Olofsson family who lived at Johannes Kyrkogata 10. For some unknown reason she left the Olofsson family in 1864 and then turned towards prostitution. In March 1865 she was registered in the police files as "Prostitute Woman Number 97" and she is described in the files as: "A woman with blue eyes, brown hair, straight nose, oval face shape and slim body". She told the police that she lived at Pilgatan, a street in Haga, which also was a suburb in Gothenburg. On the 21st of April this year she gave birth to a stillborn baby girl from an unknown father. She frequently visited the hospital "Kurhuset" in Gothenburg and several times got treatment for venereal diseases. On the 17th of October she is treated for a venereal chancre but was reported healthy on the 3rd, 7th and 10th of November. The 10th of November is the same date that she started her second work as a servant. Her new employer was Carl Wenzel, born in Wobern, Bohemia and Maria Ingrid "Inga" Wiesner. This couple lived at Husargatan 27, which was and still is a street just around the corner of Pilgatan.



The Wiesner house at Husargatan 27 where Elisabeth worked as a servant in 1865-1866 just before she went to England. Photo: Gothenburg City Museum.

Maria Wiesner must have been familiar with Elisabeth because she decided to take care of her. In a signed document to the police authorities Maria writes the following:

“The servant Elisabeth Gustafsdotter has been employed in my service since the 10th of November and I am responsible for her decency as long she is in my service.
Gothenburg 13th of November 1865, signed:
Mrs Maria Wejsner, Husargatan, House No: 42”.

House No: 42 was actually a plot of four houses in the year of 1865. The correct number of the Wiesner house was 27. A curious thing about this document is, why did Maria spell her surname Wejsner instead of Wiesner? We can only speculate but the reason could have been that it sounded more Swedish?

After this signed document and a last healthy check on the 17th of November 1865 her name disappears from the police files of prostitutes in Gothenburg. On the 7th of February 1866 she applies, for some unknown reason, to move to the Swedish parish in London, England. The reason for her move could have been that she met a man from England in Gothenburg.

Elizabth in England:

It was not until the 10th of November 1866 that she was registered in the Swedish Church in Princes Square as an “unmarried woman”. In London she continued to work as a servant for a wealthy family near Hyde Park. A policeman used to court her for a while before she got married on Sunday the 7th of March in 1869, to John Thomas Stride at the parish St Giles in the Fields. From now on her name Elisabeth with the letter S in it changed to the English version with a Z.

Soon after the marriage John and Elizabeth moved to East India Dock road in Poplar where they kept a coffee shop at Chrisp Street. In 1870 their coffee shop was located in Upper North Street, Poplar.

In 1871 Elizabeth got to know a man named Sven Olsson. He had just arrived from Sweden with his wife Mathilda and their two children, Ica Magdalena and Jonas Frithiof, to his new employment as a clerk for the Swedish Church at Prince’s Square. The Olsson family settled down in a house at 33 Prince’s Square, located just around the corner of the church. The house, owned by the church, also contained a reading room which Elizabeth frequently visited. Here she read Swedish papers, books, met fellow-countrymen and Swedish seamen. Sven Olsson was the manager of the reading room.



33 Prince’s Square where the clerk Sven Olsson and his family lived. Photo: Swedish church in London.



Elizabeth often visited the Swedish church at Prince’s Square in London. Photo: eastlondonpostcard. co. uk.

Around the 3rd of September 1878 Elizabeth visited the Swedish Church, where she told the clerk Sven Olsson a little lie. She said that she needed assistance because her husband had drowned onboard the paddle steamer S.S.

Princess Alice when it went down on the river Thames after a collision with a ship named Bywell Castle. 650 people drowned but apparently Elizabeth survived. Sven, who people said was very-good hearted, gave her assistance and remembered her as "very" poor. Elizabeth also have been heard saying that not only had her husband been lost in the disaster but her children too. The story was probably told by her to elicit sympathy when asking for financial aid from the Swedish church as there is no evidence to support this statement. No person with the sure-name Stride is mentioned in the passenger list and there is no evidence that Elizabeth got any children except for the stillborn baby she gave birth to in Sweden in 1865. In fact Elizabeth was admitted to the Poplar Workhouse in March 1877, suggesting that the couple already had separated before the Princess Alice went down. The couple reunited by 1881 and were listed as living at 69 Usher Road, Old Ford Road Bow but separated permanently by the end of that year.

It seems that the life of Elizabeth was getting worse after the separation from John. On the 28th of December 1881 through the 4th of January 1882 Elizabeth was treated at the Whitechapel Workhouse Infirmary for bronchitis and there gave her address as Brick Lane. From the Infirmary she moves directly into the Whitechapel Workhouse. From 1882 onwards she lodges on and off at the common lodging house at No. 32 Flower and Dean street which was described as perhaps the foulest and most dangerous street in the whole metropolis. On this street the policemen was forced to walk two and two. Elizabeth's former husband John died at the Poplar and Stepney Sick Asylum in Bromley on the 24th of October 1884 of heart disease, aged 63. He is buried in a public grave in the City Of London Cemetery on the 30th of October.

In the same year that John Thomas Stride past away the Scandinavian Benevolent Society was founded and opened it's office at 33 Prince's Square where Sven Olsson and his family lived. Sven became the secretary for

this organization which purpose was to help the many poor Scandinavian people who lived in London at this time with financial assistance. The priest at the Swedish church, 1887-1903, was a man named Johannes Palmér. He had good knowledge of the financial affairs of the church and the Scandinavian Benevolent organization and in his memories, published in 1903, he wrote that only infirm and honest people from the Scandinavian countries (Sweden, Norway and Denmark) could count on getting financial support from the Scandinavian Benevolent Society. In all likelihood, according to them, Elizabeth did not belong in that category. Despite this Elizabeth received alms from the Swedish church several times. This occurred on the 20th and 23rd of May 1886. In the winter of 1887 the clerk Sven Olsson gave Elizabeth a Swedish hymnbook, which was produced in 1821. On the 15th and 20th September 1888 Elizabeth again receives financial assistance from the Swedish Church. Ten days later she was dead...

The final hours of Elizabeth:

Once again Elizabeth Stride had a quarrel with her boyfriend Michael Kidney who she met sometime in 1885. Their relationship was obviously a stormy one. Elizabeth Tanner, who was the deputy of the common lodging house at No. 32 Flower and Dean Street remembered Elizabeth, under the nickname "Long Liz", very well because she had lodged on and off in her house for the last six years. Elizabeth arrived at the lodging house on the nights of Thursday the 27th and Friday the 28th of September 1888 after another quarrel with her boyfriend.

The weather was showery and windy on the evening on the 29th of September. Elizabeth spends the afternoon cleaning two rooms at the lodging house. For her service she was paid 6d by Elizabeth Tanner. At half past six they both went to the Queen's Head public house at Commercial Street where they stayed for a while. They later arrived back to the lodging house at No. 32 Flower and Dean

Street where Elizabeth Stride went into the kitchen and Elizabeth Tanner went to another part of the building. This was the last time that Tanner saw Stride.

Sometime later, between seven and eight O'clock, she is seen again leaving the lodging house, by Charles Preston and Catherine Lane. Elizabeth gives Lane a large piece of green velvet and asks her to hold it for her until she returns. She also asks Preston to borrow his clothes-brush but he has mislaid it. She then leaves passing by Thomas Bates who was the watchman at the lodging house. He later remembered that she looked "quite cheerful".

Two laborers, Mr. J. Best and John Gardner, saw Elizabeth on the night of the 29th of September. Mr. J. Best said in his testimony:

- I was in the Bricklayer's Arms, Settles Street, about two hundred yards from the scene of the murder on Saturday night, shortly before eleven, and saw a man and a woman in the doorway. They had been served in the public house, and went out when me and my friends came in. It was raining very fast, and they did not appear willing to go out. He was hugging her and kissing her, and as he seemed a respectably dressed man, we were rather astonished at the way he was going on with the woman, who was poorly dressed. We "chipped" him, but he paid no attention. As he stood in the doorway he continually threw sidelong glances into the bar, but would look nobody in the face. I said to him "Why don't you bring the woman in and treat her?" but he gave no answer. If he had been a straight fellow he would have told us to mind our own business, or he would have gone away. I was so certain that there was something up I would have charged him if I could have seen a policeman. When the man could not stand the chaffing any longer he and the woman went off like a shot soon after eleven.

Louis Diemschultz left his home No. 40 Berner Street at about half past eleven Saturday morning on the 29th of September

and returned home exactly at one o'clock on Sunday morning. He noticed the time at the baker's shop at the corner of Berner Street. He had been at the market near the Crystal Palace, and had a barrow like a costermonger's, drawn by a pony, which he kept in George Yard, Cable Street. He drove home to leave his goods into the Duitfield's Yard, a narrow space between No. 40 and No. 42 Berner Street. Despite that both gates were open it was rather dark there. Suddenly his pony shied at some object on the right.

- I looked to see what the object was, and observed that there was something unusual, but could not tell what. It was a dark object. I put my whip handle to it, and tried to lift it up, but as I did not succeed I jumped down from my barrow and struck a match. It was rather windy, and I could only get sufficient light to see that there was some kind of figure there. I could tell from the dress that it was the figure of a woman.

Diemschultz went into the International Workmen's Club, which was located at the rear of Duitfield's Yard, where he asked where his wife was. After finding her he told the people in the club that there was a woman lying in the yard.

It was believed that Diemschultz's arrival at Duitfield's Yard frightened the Ripper, causing him to flee before he performed the mutilations. Diemschultz himself stated he believed Jack the Ripper was in the yard, hiding in the dark when he entered, but escaped when he went into the club looking for his wife. One theory is that the Ripper actually was hiding behind one of the gates when Diemschultz entered the yard.

At this time no one knew that this night was to become what later is known as the "double event". Around 1.45 am, a second body of a woman was found in Mitre Square. Her name was Catherine Eddowes.

At 1.16 am Dr. Fredrick William Blackwell and his assistant Mr. Edward Johnson arrived to Dutfield's Yard where they quickly examined the dead woman, still laying untouched in the dark. Later that night she was transferred to St. George's Mortuary. At three o'clock pm on Monday Dr. Blackwell and Dr. George Bagster Phillips made a post mortem examination. At this early stage no one knew the identity of the dead woman. On the 5th of October, after some confusion, the clerk Sven Olsson solved the mystery. At the inquest, held at Vestry Hall of St. Georges-in-the East, Cable Street, Sven Olsson told the coroner Mr. Wynne E. Baxter the following: 'She came from Sweden. Her name was Elizabeth Stride, and was the wife of John Thomas Stride, carpenter. Her maiden name was Elizabeth Gustafsdotter. She was born in Torslanda, near Gothenburg, on Nov. 27, 1843.'

Elizabeth Stride was buried Saturday the 6th of October in the East London Crematorium & Cemetery, Plaistow in London. The sparse funeral was provided at the expense of the parish by the undertaker, Mr. Hawkes. It is said that the clerk Sven Olsson also attended the funeral. Elizabeth was buried in a common grave, number 15509 in square 37, with four other members of the public. The cemetery erected the headstone around 2002 in an effort to make the grave easier to find as the East London Crematorium & Cemetery often have people inquiring especially about it. The grave was entirely unmarked prior to the addition of the existing stone.

Mary Jane Kelly is supposed to be the last Ripper murder. She was heavily mutilated and found in her own apartment in 13 Miller's Court at Dorset Street on the 9th of November 1888. After a short period of intense terror, lasting from August to November, Jack the Ripper just vanished from the streets of East End.

What happened to him is still a mystery. But one thing is sure, his crimes was so horrible that people today, 125 years later, still talk about them.

After the Ripper murders:

The lodging house at No. 32 Flower and Dean Street where Elizabeth stayed before the murder is long time gone. Only the entrance from Commercial Street still survives to show where Flower and Dean once lay, although the name is commemorated in a Flower and Dean Walk.

The Berner Street/Dutfield's Yard area was the first murder site to be redeveloped. The site was demolished in 1909 to make way for a new school which is today the Harry Gosling Primary School. Stride's murder site is now part of the playground. In 1961 Berner Street was renamed Henriques Street

The clerk Sven Olsson and his wife Mathilda got three more daughters, named Vendla, Regina and Tekla Olsson. When Mathilda suddenly died in 1883 Sven got remarried with another Swedish woman named Bengta Svensdotter. The marriage took place in 1884. His son Frithiof died in 1887. Both Mathilda and Frithiof was buried at the City of London and Tower Hamlets Cemetery (Bow Cemetery).

Sometime in the year of 1894 Sven started to plan for his resignation and in the year of 1898/99 he went back to south Sweden where he, his second wife Bengta and his two daughters, Regina and Tekla, settled down in a small village, named Osby (where I was born). Sven Olsson's two other daughters, Ica and Vendla arrived to Osby in 1901 and 1914. They all lived in a red painted wood house which Sven called "Calm Cottage". In Osby Sven became known for building a very beautiful porch attached to his house, which contained several decorative coloured-windows. In 1914 Regina and Tekla Olsson started to work in a shop in Osby, named 15-Öres-Bazaren. This was owned by Ivar

Bengtsson, the founder of the famous toy factory Brio. In 1936 the two Olsson sisters began to work in Brio's toyshop where they stayed until the early 1940's. Sven died in 1932 and the last of the Olsson family, Tekla Olsson, died in 1966. His daughters never married and had no children. The church in Osby reclaimed the Olsson family grave in 1996. No relatives of the Olsson family exist today. The "Calm Cottage" was demolished in 1959.

The priest Johannes Palmér also left the Swedish Church in London. This occurred in 1903. He settled down in the small village Asmundtorp in south Sweden where he continued to work as a priest, but only for a short period of time. He died in 1904. Relatives of Johannes Palmér exist today.

The old Swedish Church at Prince's Square, which opened in 1728, was closed on the 6th of November 1910. One year later, in 1911, the new Swedish Church opened its doors in Harcourt Street. The old church at Prince's Square was sadly vandalized and plundered before it was demolished in 1921. The LCC bought the site in 1923 for £3,000, for the Metropolitan Association to create a public garden, but later it fell into decline. In 1938 Prince's Square was renamed Swedenborg Square. Today the area is a large open space named Swedenborg Gardens. A small monument in stone marks the spot where the church once stood.

The address 33 Prince's Square where the Olsson family lived changed to 8 Prince's Square in 1898 and later to Swedenborg Square. The Blitz claimed many of the houses on the south and west sides of the Swedenborg Square in 1945 but others stood until the 1960's when slum clearance claimed the rest. The house where Sven Olsson lived was demolished in 1961. Lars Fredrik Olofsson's house at Johannes Kyrkogata 10, Majorna in Gothenburg, where Elizabeth first worked as a servant in 1860–1864, was demolished in 1933. This house had a nick name, "The Ghost

House". The Wiesner house at Husargatan 27, Haga, in Gothenburg, where Elizabeth worked as a servant just before she went to London in 1866, was demolished in 1971. Nearly all the houses from the past are gone to day. This also includes all the old houses in the nearby Pilgatan, where Elizabeth once told the police that she lived.

Fake photographs of Elizabeth turn up from time to time on the internet but no photo of her exists from when she was alive. Only one photo of her has survived and it was taken after the murder, at the mortuary. This photo went mysteriously missing sometime after the 30th of September 1888 but was returned to the Metropolitan Police in 1988 by an anonymous person.

The house in Stora Tumlehed, Torslanda, where Elizabeth and her three siblings grew up, still stands today.

Relatives of Elizabeth:

I have done a lot of research concerning Elizabeth Stride over the last 25 years and found many new interesting facts about her, which later I am going to publish in a book. At the end of 2007 I managed to find several people here in Sweden who are related to Elizabeth's sister, Anna-Christina. Three of them were the Jacobson brothers who all became very interested in my research, inspiring them to travel to London in April 2008. They wanted to visit Elisabeth's grave and the places where their relative once had walked. This was in fact the first time any of Elizabeth's ancestors visited her grave – 120 years after the murder. Many Swedish papers became very interested in this particular event and several articles were published about it. After the visit in London Arne Jacobson told me that they all felt a very strange feeling when they finally found Elisabeth's grave.

The Hope Family in Poplar



Elizabeth's grave in 2008, just before the Jacobson brothers cleaned dirt and grass from it. Photo: Jacobson brothers.



Thomas Hope, b 1807, married **Mary Ann Newson**, b.1808, at Bredhurst, Kent, on 28th October 1828.

They went to live in Chatham, where Thomas was a caulker, presumably in the dockyard. After the birth of four children they moved to 11 Pennyfields, Poplar. There followed another six children, the last of whom died in infancy. It seems that they were well brought up and literate. At least their handwriting was firm and well formed. All the indications are that Thomas was prosperous and by 1841 they were living at 127 West India Dock Road and had a living-in servant.

There were now eight children living and their subsequent lives make interesting reading, although there some intriguing gaps. William Chittenden Hope, b.1830, followed his father as a caulker, for a time at least. It is known that he married and had children. Then he disappeared from the records and his wife married someone else. (At least she had a child with a man Boyland) There is a strong suggestion that he died in Buenos Aires, although this has not been confirmed.

Mary Catherine Hope, b.1832 lived at home until 1862, when she married an American, Egbert Dubois, in New York. They lived in New York, then in South Carolina. She died in 1916 and is buried in New York.

Elizabeth Martha Hope, b.1835, married, aged 20, William Thomas Wilson, described as a Master Mariner. Wilson must have died fairly

He said: 'Maybe she felt that her relatives were visiting her?' At the cemetery they found an old spade and with it they cleaned dirt and grass from the grave. They also planted a small bush of red roses on it.

'We did it as we did at home with our parent's grave. The feeling was very powerful and unreal,' said Michael Jacobson who phoned his children back home and told them about the whole thing.

'It felt very good to honour her, despite how she had lived her life. It also feels good to know that she is buried in a proper cemetery,' said Arne.

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Email: stefan_rantzow7@hotmail.com

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soon, as she married George Hills, the nephew of her Godmother.

Victoria Sarah Hope, b.1837, married another American, Thomas Valentine Wallis in 1858.

Robert Aitken Hope, b.1840, spent some time in the Royal Navy, married and had two children.

Priscilla Emma Marian Hope- my wife's great, great grandmother, b.1842, married Francois (Frank) Perrée, a Master Mariner from Jersey. In 1880 they moved to Liverpool, where she was a Schoolteacher.

Rebecca Phyllis Hope, b.1844, also married an American, James Ebenezer Fuller and lived in the USA.

Jane Newson Hope, b.1847, was a sick child, never married.

At the age of 72, Mary Ann Hope packed up her home in Poplar and moved to the States to live with her daughter Catherine, taking Jane with her. Her niece, Margaret Witter Fuller, was quite a well-known writer. So much so that there are 27 boxes of her papers, including many family document and photographs in a library at Yale. This was the source of the pictures at the beginning of this piece. There are also some items relating to Thomas Hope in Mystic Seaport.

In a book written by Margaret Witter Fuller, 'This Awakening', there is a strong suggestion that Thomas died from an accident on board the Great Eastern, moored in the river, while working for Brunel. We have looked in various sources, but have nothing to substantiate the claim. He did die quite early, at 51. We have collected quite a lot of information about the family. If anyone can add anything, or would like more from us, get in touch.

**John Hill 07931 561791,
Hill291@hotmail.co.uk**

EAST END PHOTOGRAPHERS No 15 - William Bartier

The one underlying problem uppermost in the minds of most Victorian photographers was that of location. The ideal site for a studio was on a main road, near or in a shopping parade, with a low rent and a constant stream of passers-by. Many studios spent a lifetime in the hopeless search for such a location, moving shop from one site to another at regular intervals. One photographer, however, bucked the trend - William Bartier found his ideal location early in his career and never moved. In sum, Bartier and his son stayed on the same site for almost seven decades.

William Bartier (the name was originally spelt Bartear; it was changed in the 1850s, perhaps to give it more of a Huguenot flavour) was born in Spitalfields in 1839. There was a younger brother, George, who helped him to get established as a photographer in the early 1860s, but tragically died of tuberculosis in 1865, when only 23. Already at this period, William Bartier was working from his home in Shoreditch, and employing a couple of assistants. In the late 1860s, he moved to what would become his happy hunting ground in Poplar, with a brief stay in Oriental Street, before opening his first (& only) studio at 134 East India Dock Road in 1873. The studio was located on the corner of Wade Street, almost opposite Trinity Chapel, and most importantly, barely a seagull's squawk from the East India Docks.

Unlike most local photographers, Bartier did not live over the shop. Instead, after a brief stay in Wade Street itself, he established a permanent domicile at 82 East India Dock Road, about a hundred yards up the street. In 1859 he married Harriett Nichols, from Lambeth.; they had seven daughters, and two sons, of whom the younger, Albert became his father's chief assistant as soon as he had left school. Like William Whiffin a generation later, Bartier undertook commissions for

Poplar Council, including the opening of the new Poplar Library in 1894, as well as recording local events such as the opening of Blackwall Tunnel in 1897, and a balloon ascent from Poplar Recreation Ground in 1905. A most unexpected photograph emerged in the 1990s, over a century after it was taken, of a group of Greek gypsies at Millwall in 1886. Contemporary newspaper reports indicate that they were mostly from Eastern Europe, including Turkey, Serbia, Bulgaria and Romania. They had landed at Millwall from Corfu, and pitched tents by the riverside. After a few days stay, the police sent them on to Liverpool; after a number of ugly incidents with local hooligans, they ended up in the United States.

In the 1880s, Bartier had to face a challenge from a rival firm Isaac Abrahams (sometimes known as Butcher 1831 - 1900), who opened a studio at 142 East India Dock Road. It lasted about ten years before Abrahams bowed out. Albert's elder brother, Percy Bartier also helped out briefly in the shop, but he was not really interested in photography, and soon got a job as a bank clerk. The studio continued to flourish. After more than forty years in charge of the studio, William Bartier died in an accident while engaged on war work. On February 20 1915, he had been commissioned to photograph HMS Black Prince in the East India Docks, together with Albert. At some point, it was realised that he had disappeared; he was found unconscious having fallen down a hold in the forepeak. Sadly, he was pronounced dead on arrival at Poplar Hospital. Albert took over the company and steered it through the difficult wartime period - though not without his own problems. Barely a year after his father's death, Albert was charged at Thames Court with failing to register under the Military Service Act. Albert Bartier was most indignant about his summons. "I am the sole male person in this house to look after the business. I have a mother and two sisters to support. I have not attested nor have I received an exemption. I refuse to go to the station, and I am quite resolved in my course". The case

was adjourned for an appeal, which Albert duly won.

1916 was not the only 'annus horribilis' in Bartier's studio life. In March 1898, the shop was badly damaged by a fire, and needed a rebuild, while in November of the same year George Litton, an errand boy, was found guilty of stealing £3/14/-, and sentenced to 12 strokes of the birch. After the war, Albert moved home to Forest Gate, while the old family home at 82 East India Dock Road was used by two of Albert's sisters, Florence and Ada, as a studio for music teaching.



CDV about 1890

The interwar years were a boom time for Bartier's studio, but the onset of the Second World War placed Albert in an increasingly dangerous situation. The daily commute from Forest Gate to East London became almost impossible due to the density of the bombing raids. In the summer of 1940, Albert took the decision to close the studio. He was unmarried, and in his sixties, and there must have been little hope of finding a suitable buyer. Within a few months of the studio's closure, the East India Dock Road was the subject of saturation bombing; in August 1944 a flying bomb took out the entire corner of East India Dock Road and Wade Street, including the now shuttered studio. Brother Percy, the bank clerk, had died in 1926; Albert himself died in Leytonstone on November 24 1953. In the post-war rebuilding of the area Wade Street disappeared, while the

site was covered by the usual grim block of flats, known as Westcott House.



Cabinet size - actor?

Tower Hamlets archives have an interesting collection of some of Bartier's cartes and cabinet cards, including a splendid cabinet card of a late Victorian gentleman in a bizarre fancy dress costume. In order to heighten the effect, the card has been coloured in watercolour by a contemporary hand. It is one of the regrets of the lack of Victorian photographic studio records that his identity will never be known.

David Webb

Launch of The East End Preservation Society in the Main Hall at the Bishopsgate Institute, Wednesday 27th November 6:30pm

The East End Preservation Society by the Gentle Author

Old buildings have been going down like nine pins in the East End recently. They are the latest sad additions to a catalogue of loss that stretches back over more than a century, inducing sufficient grief among the populace to fill the Thames with tears. Yet it is not our nature to be defeated and, upon each occasion, there have been those who have stood up and objected. Many of the most-loved old buildings that survive today owe their existence to such brave souls.

Until now, small groups of people have come together to save a particular building – but the accelerating sequence of losses in recent years, combined with some monstrous developments looming in the immediate future and the failure of the public consultation process, call for collective action.

Thus I write today to conjure into existence The East End Preservation Society as a means to bring together everyone that cares about the East End and is concerned about the future of its built environment. If we can work collectively in large numbers, we can have a stronger influence upon the culture of development that threatens old buildings and be more powerful in our individual campaigns to save them.

Less than a month ago, Mayor of London, Boris Johnson gave his approval to a plan that reduces the venerable structure of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital for Children in Hackney, which represents a noble history of philanthropic service, to a mere facade upon an overblown commercial housing development of questionable quality. A year ago, the Mayor of London overruled a

unanimous vote by the elected members of Tower Hamlets Council to save the Spitalfields Fruit & Wool Exchange, and gave developers licence to replace the building with an office block and shopping mall of generic design, upon which the stone facade of the current building will sit as a painful reminder of the distinctive edifice that once stood there.

In this climate, where democratic decision-making is being undermined and public consultation reduced to a cynical public relations exercise, the rescue of The Marquis of Lansdowne from intended demolition by the Geffrye Museum was a joyful exception to the rule, proving that strength of public feeling can still be successful in saving an old building.

So I ask you to come to the Main Hall at the Bishopsgate Institute on Wednesday 27th November at 6:30pm for the launch of The East End Preservation Society.

Spitalfields resident, writer and campaigner, Dan Cruickshank has been invited to address the assembly. We will be showing images of notable buildings that have been lost and buildings that have been saved in the past. Will Palin, ex-secretary of Save Britain's Heritage, will be assessing the recent history of destruction and introduce reports upon current developments at the Bishopsgate Goodsyrd and in Whitechapel that threaten the East End.

Most importantly, we shall be suggesting ways that you can get involved and proposing how we can become organised to make an effective response to the current crisis. If the future of the East End is important to you, you need to be there.

Philip's Email Inbox:

From: Jo Shearman,
waheho29@talktalk.net

Subject: Henry Roake The Vine Tavern
Mile End Road

I have recently resumed my looking into part of the Roake Family Tree - and have noticed in the England and Wales National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administration) for Henry Roake (d 1877) that Henry is listed as Licensed Victualler of the Vine Tavern at the time of his death and his Nephew Richard W Roake was the Vine Licensed Victualler's Manager. I believe Richard W Roake was the son of Richard (b 1802/1807!) and Jane Roake (nee Underwood) of Chertsey? I would be very grateful and very interested to know more about Henry Roake both the Vine interest and whether you might know who Henry and Richard Roake's parents might be - I believe they might have been Richard and Elizabeth Roake?

Philip Mernick replied:

Dear Jo, the Vine Tavern was much photographed due to its location in the middle of Mile End Road. I am afraid that ELHS cannot help with family history research, that is the province of East of London Family History Society.

Are you aware of the information on the Pubs History web site, they list a lot of Roakes <http://pubshistory.com/LondonPubs/MileEnd/VineTavern.shtml>

From Jo Shearman

Many thanks for your reply and the info - many apologies for my confusion! I am sorry to ask but what does East London History Society cover - does it cover trade interests say in Lambeth(or area) if not where might I direct this enquiry of mine? I will try and make contact with East of London Family History Society re Roake Family History.

From: Phil Mernick

We are interested in all aspects of the history of Tower Hamlets primarily but also Hackney and Newham. Lambeth is in South London, so outside our remit.

Jo responded:

Many thanks for the info you are so helpful. I am sorry to say I clearly don't know my London as well as I should! Sorry to ask yet another question this time about whether in 1851 was H M D Yard in the Tower Hamlets area? It looks like one of my other Ancestors was a Shipwright living in Evelyn Street, St Paul, Greenwich on the 1851 Census? I am curious and interested as to where he may have worked and what the work would have involved?

From: Phil Mernick

There were dockyards at Deptford and Woolwich both of which closed in 1869. Neither are in Tower Hamlets which is on the north bank of the River Thames. Both would have been in Kent in the 19th century. Woolwich is now in the London Borough of Greenwich and Deptford is now in the London Borough of Lewisham. His census address is closer to Deptford than Woolwich so that is probably where he worked. Deptford had reopened for ship building after closure in the early 19th century and I presume that the ships were still largely made of wood.
Philip

From: Julie Kemp, Toowoomba, Queensland.

Subject: a grammar school search

I have been in touch before and wonder if I now could ask about find the grammar school I believe my grandfather and his friend attended. Grandpa GEORGE WILLIAM KEMP and life friend ROBERT IVES JONES were both born in the East End. George born in Nov 1885; Robert earlier in the year. Both fathers were in the liquor business. George William's father was George Kemp who ran The King's Head pub at 8 Bow Road,

Bromley-by-Bow. I'd be so pleased to find something 'new' re my mystery grandfather. Whilst I have core details I lack any 'flesh'. Were there 'grammar' schools in the East End? Both boys left England for Melbourne, Australia and settled there as young men in their twenties. I suspect they were not all that happy after a while. Robert died in 1935 and I think this deeply saddened if not depressed my grandfather leading to his destroying his memorabilia (burning it in the backyard incinerator or discarding the cache when they moved home around this time.) My late father had seen the collection and could recall some of its contents!!!

I've been with Ancestry for years and used other sites but I haven't found either boy at a school. Would you be able to help/advise me further please?

Reply from: Phil Mernick

There were plenty of Grammar schools in East London. The nearest would have been Coopers Company School but there was also Davenant, Parmiters and Raines.

**From: Dell Syrette,
dell.syrette@bigpond.com**

Subject: Sheldon Place

I am trying to find Sheldon Place Bethnal Green Middlesex London which existed in the 1870's can you help, thanks,

From: Phil Mernick

Dear Dell, this is what Mike Elliston's unpublished Topography of Tower Hamlets has to say: Sheldon Place (before 1860 – 1955) was a narrow L-shaped cul-de-sac, east then north off Mansford Street, just south of Claremont Street (Claredale Street), serving about eighteen houses.

There was also a very narrow footpath link to Durham Street (Teesdale Street) to the east. Sheldon Place was closed in 1955 for Bradley House and Connett House.

From: Pat Card

I am gradually putting my family tree together and my great grandfather Daniel Shorey was the licensed victualler at the Albert Arms, East Street, which, it seems, was close to the lodge of the Jews cemetery. I have scoured maps on line but cannot find a map of East Street at around that time 1871 or any reference to the public house. I will in the near future come up to the local library where they may have some information that could help.

Do you have any information that could help me please.

Philip responded:

East Street, Bancroft Road E. [1832-1871]
East Street ran from the eastern end of Alderney Road north to Devonshire Road East. It was laid out in the early 1830s as a route to the Jewish burial ground but was not built up until about 1840. East Street was renumbered into Bancroft Road on 6/01/1871, becoming the part from Alderney Road north to the railway embankment.

Information from "A Topography of Tower Hamlets", Mike Elliston, 2010 (unpublished).

From: Bruce Gilbert, Gloucester, NSW, Aust.

Subject: 19th century Cambridge Road, Bethnal Green

I am in the final stages of some family history research, prior to departing Sydney, Australia, for Europe and London on 10/9/13.

In my family tree research, I have found deaths of a relative (Mariana Soledad GILBERT), aged 35, and her 2 day infant. They both died at "114 Cambridge Road, Bethnal Green in Jan 1883". The informant (seems to be) "M West, Occupist, 114 Cambridge Road, Bethnal Green."

She died a widow from TB and child-birth problems. Her child died of want of nourishment. Her husband's brother was

present at her death. Surprisingly, her husband died a year or two earlier!

I am trying to establish what sort of premises was 114 Cambridge Road, Bethnal Green, and am hoping that you might be able to assist me. I have looked at your various B/G maps, but cannot find a 'Cambridge Road'.

I have done some research in Findmypast.co.uk, using its Street search facility. In the 1881 Census, I could not find any 'even' street numbers for Cambridge St, but found all 'odd' street numbers. In the 1891 UK Census, for 114 Cambridge Road, Bethnal Green, I found 3 families (Lawrence, Hansom and Lightup), total of 11 persons.

My question to you is: In 1883, do you know if 114 Cambridge Road was private dwellings, or some form of hospice, lying-in-hospital, poor/work/alms house, etc.

Hoping that you can assist me.

Philip responded:

The Post office Directory of 1882 (available on-line) lists many even numbered premises on Cambridge Road (now Cambridge Heath Road) but not 114 which indicates that it was a private house.

From: Bruce Gilbert:

- many thanks for your informative reply. Looking at your maps, I could see Cambridge Heath Road, but no Cambridge Road.

Your explanation has closed off another blank for me. Thanks again.

Bookshelf

The Gentle Author's London, £25.00 Between the covers of this magnificent red Album with a gilded cover you will discover more than 600 of the Gentle Author's favourite pictures of London in print for the first time, setting the wonders of our modern metropolis against the pictorial delights of the ancient city, and celebrating the infinite variety of life in the capital.

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Among the multiplicity of visual pleasures to be savoured, garnered from four centuries including our own, enjoy the ostentatious trade cards of Georgian London, the breathtaking lantern slides of Victorian London, the bizarre car crashes of Clerkenwell, the heroic Spitalfields nippers, the soulful dogs of old London, Aaron Biber, London's oldest barber, and Barn the Spoon, the spoon carver. Take a walk through time with the Gentle Author as your guide - be equally amazed at what has been lost of old London and charmed by the unfamiliar marvels of London today.

Stepney Then and Now by Samantha Bird - £14.99. This beautifully illustrated book contains black and white and colour photos.

London's East End then and now by Steve Lewis - £12.99. This photographic book includes not just Tower Hamlets but also Newham and Hackney.

Tracing your East End ancestors by Jane Cox - £14.99. This guide for family historians is a great way to learn about the different sources available for research as well as having an overview of the history of the area.

Spitalfields Life by the Gentle Author £20.00- This book based on the popular blog contains stories both past and present about the Spitalfields area, covering topics such as street life, art, markets, food, immigrant culture, ancient houses and history.

East End neighbourhoods by Brian Girling £12.99 - One of our most popular books this year it contains images of the East End arranged into Maritime Neighbourhoods, Traders' Places, Lost Neighbourhoods, Leisure Time and Celebrations and Aspects of East London.

London's Docklands an illustrated guide by Geoff Marshall £12.99- Part guide book part history, this book outlines the historical developments of the docks from Roman times to the present day.

Battle for the East End by David Rosenberg - £9.99. This book looks at Jewish responses to fascism in the East End in the 1930s. It gives a detailed history of the campaign against Oswald Mosley's Blackshirts which culminated in the Battle of Cable Street.

The Annual Hop London to Kent by Hilary Heffernan - filled with over 200 photographs this book gives a history of the hop-picking tradition of London's East Enders. £12.99 Also available are past favourites written by former alumni of THLHLA such as

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