



# LOCAL POPULATION STUDIES SOCIETY

LPSS Newsletter 48

February 2011

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## Editorial, by Peter Franklin

We are now approaching a time of changes. I am sorry to report that after 10 years our series of spring conferences at St Albans is now at an end. No more shall we drive up the hill (why did they build St Albans on a hill?), look out for the church with the tower, as shown on our Ordnance Survey maps, make a sharp right turn and find ourselves almost immediately at the University of Hertfordshire’s Law Faculty. We were always made welcome there, although the seating could have been more comfortable and the heating didn’t always work... More seriously, this is a nice opportunity to acknowledge Nigel Goose’s work in organising and presenting all ten of those events, from 2001 to 2010. The Society is very much in his debt for making an outstanding contribution to our conference programme and providing us with a regular venue for so long, something we have never had before.

Happily Nigel is still organising the event, it is only the *venue* that has changed. We will still be in Hertfordshire, but now at Campus West in Welwyn Garden City, run by Welwyn and Hatfield Borough Council. The date of the conference is Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> April, and a full programme and booking form will be found at the end of this Newsletter.

And by an odd coincidence the Durham Fair is also moving this spring. The long-running north-eastern local history fair is moving from the Durham County Council offices in the City of Durham, and will next be held at the National Railway Museum’s branch in Shildon on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May – see brief details on page 11, below. We look forward to taking the Society’s stall to represent L.P.S.S. at this event.

**Stop Press:** Preparations are also now advanced for our Autumn Conference. The date is to be Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2011, the subject will be ‘Death and Disease in the Community’, and the venue will be the University of Leicester’s Centre for English Local History.

Full details will appear in Newsletter 49.

## **Notice of the Society's Annual General Meeting, 2011**

The Annual General Meeting of the Local Population Studies Society will be held at 12.45 p.m. on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2011, at Campus West, The Campus, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire, AL8 6BX. All members of the Society are warmly invited to attend.

### **Agenda**

1. Apologies for absence
2. Chairman's Welcome
3. Minutes of the 2010 AGM (printed in this Newsletter, see below)
4. Matters arising
5. Secretary's Report
6. Treasurer's Report
7. Conference Report
8. Book Club Report
9. Newsletter Editor's Report
10. *Local Population Studies* Editor's Report
11. LPS General Office Report
12. Review of LPS Editor's honorarium
13. Elections to the Committee
14. Any other business

Elections to the Committee – The Chairman, Professor Colin Pooley, comes to the end of his first term of office this year, as does one Ordinary Officer, Dr Samantha Williams. Both are eligible for re-election. There are currently no vacancies on the Committee. Constitutionally, anyone wishing to put themselves forward for election, or to nominate someone else, should submit a written nomination, stating the position for which they are standing and whether or not the candidate will be attending the AGM, accompanied by statements of support from five members of the Society, to the Hon. Secretary at the address below by 16<sup>th</sup> March 2011.

Any other business – if you wish any further items to be added to the Agenda, please send them by Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> April to the Hon. Secretary at either the postal or email address below.

Christine Jones, Hon. Secretary  
17a Romford Close, Colchester, Essex, CO4 0AP  
Email: [cejone@btinternet.com](mailto:cejone@btinternet.com)

## **Minutes of the Local Population Studies Society's Annual General Meeting, 2010**

The Annual General Meeting of the Local Population Studies Society was held at 12.45 p.m. on Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> April 2010, at the Law Faculty, University of Hertfordshire, St Albans, Herts.

There were 21 people present. Professor Colin Pooley chaired the meeting.

1. Apologies for absence  

Eilidh Garrett, who had been seriously ill. Members were invited to sign a card for her.
2. Chairman's welcome

The chairman welcomed everyone and said that it had been a relatively straightforward year. He thanked the members of the Committee for their hard work.

3. Minutes of the last AGM

The minutes of the previous AGM were approved with no amendments. It was agreed that in future these should be printed in the LPSS Newsletter.

4. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

5. Secretary's Report

The work of the Committee, collectively and individually, was described. Karen Rothery had taken over from Nick Hawkes as Administrator of the *LPS* Office in January. An appeal was made for someone to take over from Sam Williams the task of maintaining and developing the website. The Committee recommended no changes in either the Constitution or the subscription rates. The recent death of Professor Richard Lawton was noted.

6. Treasurer's Report

Copy attached. The balance was healthy because of the recruitment of new members and the fact that no new books had been published during the year.

7. Book Club

The accounts were distributed. Income was down, less having been taken at conferences and through the postal trade. Despite this, there was a surplus on the year. Stock had been increased in preparation for this conference. Thanks were expressed to Terry Shaw both for providing transport and for acting as Treasurer.

8. Newsletter Report

Thanks were expressed to other members of the Committee who had assisted in the production of the Newsletter, and to Nigel Goose and Karen Rothery for printing and distribution. In response to a question on distribution, it was hoped that the appointment of a new Office Administrator would ensure that this would be smoother in future.

9. *Local Populations Studies* Editor's Report

The new format had now been finalised following a lot of work by the Editorial Board. Nigel Goose paid tribute to Matthew Woollard, who had stood down from the board, and welcomed Mark Freeman in his place. There was a good throughput of quality articles. The problems with the office, the membership lists and the distribution of journals and Newsletters were now largely resolved by the appointment of Karen Rothery as Office Administrator.

10. Elections to the Committee

Rowena Burgess, previously an Ordinary Committee member, was nominated and elected to the vacant post of Vice-Chair. Graham Butler was proposed by Sam Williams, seconded by Nigel Goose, and elected to be an Ordinary Committee member. That still left a vacancy for

one further Ordinary Committee member but there were no nominations. However, this does mean that if a member offers to take on the work in connection with the website, they could be co-opted to the Committee during the year and formally elected at the next AGM.

Colin Pooley thanked all the members of the Committee and said that it was functioning extremely efficiently.

#### 11. Review of the *LPS* Editor's honorarium

This had stood at £2,500 per annum since it was first offered in 2006. In view of the substantial editorial work carried out by Nigel Goose the Committee recommended that it be increased to £3,000 per annum. This was agreed unanimously.

#### 12. Any other business

There was no other business.

The meeting closed at 1.15 p.m.

## **Officers of the Society**

### *Executive Officers*

#### Chairman

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Email: [lps@herts.ac.uk](mailto:lps@herts.ac.uk)

### **Deal College – the lighter side of life, from Gillian Chiverton**

As we seek to write a history of the past, a search through local newspapers and directories can shed light on many aspects of social events. In Newsletter 46, I wrote about difficulties with the census encountered in my research on Deal College, and I thought that it would be interesting to draw attention to the lighter side of school life uncovered since my previous contribution.

Deal was a sixteenth-century new town which grew up along the beach and expanded as a consequence of the Royal Marine presence and the shipping in the Downs, and was known as a 'sad smuggling town'.<sup>1</sup> As the shipping declined due to the growth of Dover, hotel proprietors sought to attract visitors with reports of the salubrious air and the benefits of sea bathing. Even the local boarding schools sang the praises of the healthy living conditions Deal provided for those young people fortunate enough to be educated in their establishments.

An advertisement in *Pain's Directory* under the heading of 'Education' details the curriculum of Deal College. Scholars there would be taught 'Classical and Modern Languages, Mathematics, Book-keeping, Physics, Shorthand and all Commercial Subjects.' The school was set in nine acres of land, about half of which was used for recreational purposes. Pupils were taught the 'best and most modern system of Gymnastics by a thoroughly-trained and competent Military Drill Instructor. They enjoy

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<sup>1</sup> 'They drove to Deal, a sad smuggling town, where Lady Hales bought run goods, and wrote to ask Fanny to accept a small part of her purchase, viz, a piece of chintz.' Fanny Burney's diary, quoted in G. Holyoake, *Sad Smuggling Town*, (S.B. Publications, 2001).

constant and excellent Bathing during the summer months, and there is a Swimming Class for those who are desirous of learning this valuable art.<sup>2</sup>

The census of 1891 shows the Principal of the college to be James R. Lush, and, as well as his family and resident staff, lists sixty-eight pupils, with four boys coming from as far afield as Australia, Belgium, Brazil and France. It would appear, from a report in the local paper on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1871 about proceedings at the Borough Petty Sessions, that most of these were on the beach early in the morning:

“Mr Cattermole attended to ask that the Superintendent might be instructed to lay an information against Mr Lush, the schoolmaster, for bathing his boys from the open beach at the south side of Sandown Castle at 8 o’clock, and close to his machines, which were used principally by ladies who went to his place for privacy, but who had complained very greatly of the annoyance they experienced from the conduct he now complained of ... why should Mr Lush be allowed to act in opposition to the order issued by the Mayor prohibiting bathing from any part of the beach (except from a machine) after 8 o’clock?

Mr Brown said the matter had been mentioned to the Mayor (who was unavoidably absent), and he might mention that, upon reconsidering the matter, the Mayor had come to the conclusion that the order he had issued was rather too sweeping, and that every facility for bathing should be afforded to a school of young gentlemen, many of whom had been sent to this town in order that they might have the benefit of bathing ... Of course, if Mr Cattermole wished it, a summons could be issued against Mr Lush and the case could be fully gone into, but both the Mayor and himself did not think there could be any objections to persons bathing from the beach opposite the old Lifeboat house, provided they kept a proper distance from the machines ... After some further conversation, Mr Cattermole left the Court evidently very much dissatisfied.”<sup>3</sup>

The result of this apparent disregard of his complaint would appear to have led to an aggrieved Mr Cattermole sending the following letter, published in the same edition of the local paper:

“Sir – Is there not an order issued by the Mayor that nobody above ten years of age is allowed to bathe naked on the open beach after 8 a.m., and should we not reasonably expect that this order be obeyed, at least by those who sit in authority over us and teach our young?

I keep the ‘Castle’ Inn at Sandown. On Thursday last at 12 o’clock an ‘eminent’ schoolmaster, with evidently more regard for notoriety than common decency, brought some sixty persons of all years and sizes to bathe within a few yards of my machines, where a family of nine persons, five of them young ladies, were bathing. I remonstrated with him in vain – he said he would do as he pleased; so I am compelled to appeal to public opinion through your columns, and ask to be protected from such an injury to my business.

(signed) Thomas Cattermole.”<sup>4</sup>

There is no record of subsequent proceedings, so it would appear that the bathing from the beach by the young men, who would have been a source of income to the town, continued unchallenged!

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<sup>2</sup> *Pain’s 1890 Directory.*

<sup>3</sup> *East Kent Mercury or Deal & Walmer Telegram*, 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1871.

<sup>4</sup> Ditto.

## **Deal College Postscript and Appeal, from Gillian Chiverton**

It was a great encouragement to me to receive, within the first week of the publication of Newsletter 46, an email from Dr Mark Allen, University of Winchester, with some hints on how I could trace James Lush (the Principal of Deal College) in census listings. In an exchange of emails, he was able to furnish me with information which has been very helpful, and I am grateful for the interest shown to a budding author.

It has been suggested to me that my book will be enhanced by original photographs of the numerous small schools I have been able to track down so far. Therefore, I would like to ask if any readers have in their possession old postcards of Deal and Walmer showing such schools. While I have already put in a plea via the pages of our local newspaper, many of these postcards will have been sent far and wide in the years gone by. Who knows how far they may have reached? I do know from census listings that teachers and pupils came from France and Germany, and from as far afield as India, Canada, Australia and Ceylon.

[Gillian Chiverton can be contacted by post at 'The Quest', Marine Road, Walmer, Kent, CT14 7DN, and by email at: [gillian.chiverton@btinternet.com](mailto:gillian.chiverton@btinternet.com)]

## **These You Have Missed: Sven B.F. Jansson's *Swedish Vikings in England. The Evidence of the Rune Stones*, from Peter Franklin**

The popular British picture of the Vikings has changed a great deal in recent decades. The old images of invasion, rape and pillage now play a much less important part, and early medieval Scandinavians are much more likely to be seen as craftsmen or traders than they were before. The York Archaeological Trust, which has carried out a number of major digs in York and runs a permanent exhibition at the Jorvik Viking Centre in that city, deserves a lot of the credit for this. TV programmes like Channel Four's *Time Team* have also done a lot to popularise the new view. The day is coming when the man in the street will object to pictures of Vikings with horns on their helmets on the grounds that that sort of headgear was more likely to be found in the Iron Age, while the helmets with wings had probably been stolen from an old-fashioned production of Wagner's *Ring*.

Sven B.F. Jansson's *Swedish Vikings in England* is actually the text of a lecture, the Dorothea Coke Memorial Lecture in Northern Studies that was given at University College, London, on 11th March 1965, so there are plenty of good reasons for readers having missed it. Some of us had 'done' the Vikings in the previous year, but were still at junior school. Fortunately University College saw that it was published. Because of its origins it makes a very short book - only 20-odd pages, including the illustrations - but it added a new dimension to the Viking story. The Vikings who came to England had long been seen as a mixture of Norwegians and Danes. Swedish ones mostly went to the east, where some journeyed across Russia, and even further, but Jansson produced written evidence that some came to England.

And that evidence was of a fascinating kind, for it is scattered across the Swedish countryside in the form of inscriptions on standing stones. Standing stones in England can be rather dull - I'm not trying to offend the fans of stone circles, the followers of Aubrey Burl, Gerald S. Hawkins, and others, what I mean is that you don't often find something interesting to read on them. The Swedes, however, have lots of stones - Jansson says "a couple of thousand" - which have runic inscriptions in Old Norse, carved to commemorate those who went off on voyages and did not come back.

Swedish Vikings certainly got around. Some of those commemorated lost their lives "in Finland", "in Jutland", "in Italy", and "in the Saracens' land". The latter included those who had gone with the wonderfully-named Ingvar the Far-Traveller. But while most had sailed eastwards, these inscriptions also record voyages to the west. The most common destination mentioned is "Greece", meaning the Byzantine Empire, but England comes a rather surprising second.

Some of the men commemorated were given surnames like “Ænglandsfari”, *the England-farer*, which suggest that they had come here on trading expeditions. Others had taken a more old-fashioned Viking role. A chieftain called Spjut, “had been in the west, township taken and attacked”. In his case England is not specifically mentioned, but others definitely had come here, such as one Gudve who “was west in England, had his share in the geld”. Some are known to have served with Canute, amongst his ‘housecarls’, or ‘tinglith’, like one Gere, “who in the west served in the thingalith [sic]”. Gere came from Kålsta in Hägeby Parish, Uppland, where his sons erected a beautiful stone of elaborate design, with runes which read;-

“• sterkar • auk • hioruarthr • letu • reisa • thensa •  
stein • at • fathur sin keira • sum • uestr • sat •  
i thikalithi • kuth hialbi salu”

(I have had to use “th” for the runes which have hard and soft “th” sounds.)

The meaning is, “Stärker and Hjorvard had this stone raised in memory of their father Gere, who in the west served in the thingalith. God help his soul”.

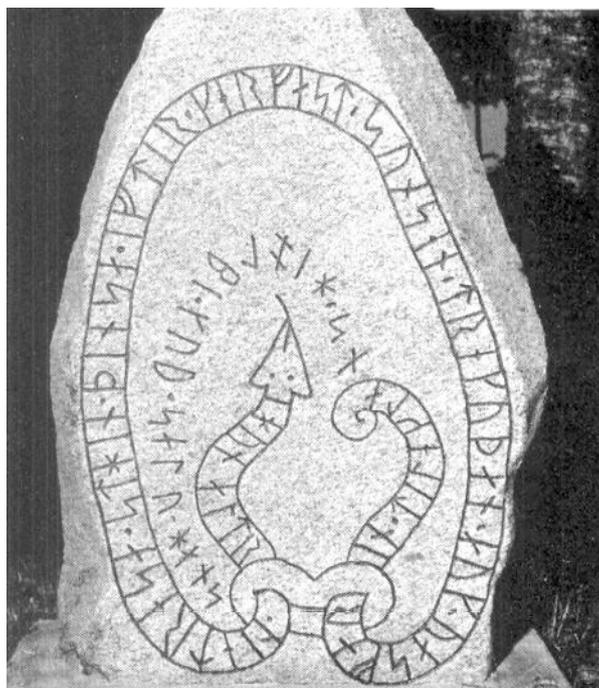


*Gere's stone, standing at Kålsta in Hägeby Parish, Uppland.*

At a place called Berga in Skultuna Parish, a man called Gunnvald erected two of these stones. One commemorated his stepson Orm, who was “a daring young man, and he had gone eastward with Ingvar”, and the other his son Gerfast, who was “a daring young man, and he had gone to England”;-

“dræng gothan ok vas farinn til Ænglands”.

Gerfast got a stone of simpler design than Gere’s, with the World Serpent coiled around it.



*Gerfast’s stone, standing at Berga in Skultuna Parish, Västmanland.*

Occasionally a particular place in England is named, as in the cases of Manne and Svenne, who “lie in London”, and Gunnar, who had been buried “in a stone coffin in England, in Bath”.

The author stresses the richness of his material, and we are lucky to have written evidence for hundreds of ordinary named Swedes at this period. But it does have many limitations. The runic inscriptions are very short, and they do not include dates. Nevertheless, it is possible to date them roughly by changes in the forms of the runes and in the Old Norse language, and this shows that those mentioning voyages to England belong to late Viking times, mostly to the period 1000-1050. This was a time when Christianity was growing in Sweden, partly as a result of the English missionaries who were active there, as well as being a time of opportunities to get some Danegeld or to join Canute’s guards.

The total number of stones in which England is named is, alas, only 25. We are in a medieval world of very small samples, and the fact that this is the second most common of the named destinations is probably just chance. The sample is limited in other ways too: every person named is a man, and there seems to be a social bias, for Jansson calls these men “Swedish yeomen and yeomen’s sons”. Erecting these inscribed stones may have been an expensive business, and many people may not have been able to afford to commemorate their relatives in this way. Would anyone have put up such a stone to remember any of the craftsmen who had workshops on the banks of the River Foss in York, only a stone’s throw from the present-day Jorvik Viking Centre?



*Gunnar's stone, standing at Nävelsjö.*

There is one rune-stone reference to Swedish Vikings which I think I ought to mention, although it is not to be found in Jansson's work. It isn't there because it is not in Sweden and it is not genuine. The Kensington Stone is to be found not at Kensington in London but at Kensington, Minnesota. It records an expedition by eight Swedes and 22 Norwegians who were heading west from the famous Vinland. This would surely have been the farthest west that any Swedish Vikings ever got, but it is a fake, and its lengthy inscription, odd spellings and lack of grammar show it to be such. A splendid little book by Jeffrey R. Redmond debunks this and a whole collection of other Viking hoaxes. He tells the story of a little group of nineteenth-century Minnesota farmers of Norwegian descent. Amongst other motives, these men were fed up with the attention being given to Christopher Columbus, so they set to work and made their very own rune stone to commemorate their own distant forebears. Maybe you can still see it if you go to Kensington, Minnesota. Perhaps it is good for the tourist trade.

#### References:

Sven B.F. Jansson, *Swedish Vikings in England. The Evidence of the Rune Stones*, (H.K. Lewis & Co. Ltd., London, 1966).

Jeffrey R. Redmond, *'Viking' Hoaxes in North America*, (Carlton Press Inc., New York, 1979).

Readers who would like a general account of runes, with plenty of illustrations, are recommended to R.I. Page's book *Runes*, in the British Museum Publications 'Reading the Past' series, published 1987.

The Jorvik Viking Centre is a few minutes' walk from York Castle Museum, and is open daily. For further information write to: Jorvik Viking Centre, Coppergate, York YO1 9WT, or see: [www.jorvik-viking-centre.co.uk](http://www.jorvik-viking-centre.co.uk)

## **Working-Class Poverty in Edwardian Britain: A New Find from Bangor**

The late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries saw a whole series of studies of poverty. The pioneering efforts of individuals such as Charles Booth in London and Seebohm Rowntree in York are still the best known of these, but official bodies soon also became involved. In 1903, the Board of Trade investigated the cost of food to urban working-class families, but its report, published as *Consumption of Food and Cost of Living* (Parliamentary Papers 1903, LXVII), was criticised for its reliance upon incomplete returns and its bias towards London. This prompted a further enquiry to be held in the following year, when details were collected of incomes, rents and food expenditure for periods of one week during July-September 1904 from all parts of the British Isles. These further results were published as *Consumption and the Cost of Food* (P.P. 1905, LXXXIV), but the Board of Trade made no use of many returns because they were received late, or they did not give the information it wanted, or in the form it wanted.

These unused returns have been discovered in the library of Bangor University (Prifysgol Bangor). It turns out that they contain much useful information, and Ian Gazeley and Andrew Newell have now made use of their evidence in a paper published in the current issue of the *Economic History Review*.

The full reference is: I. Gazeley and A. Newell, 'Poverty in Edwardian Britain', *Economic History Review* (Vol.64, No.1, February 2011), pp. 52-71.

## **Forthcoming Events**

**19 March 2011, Preston**, University of Central Lancashire Institute of Family and Local History, Conference on the Census.

Speakers will be David Alan Gatley, who is giving his lecture on 'Big Brother', Andy Gritt, Peter Park, and Audrey Collins from the National Archives.

For details and bookings, please contact: Susan Bailey, Administrator – I.L.F.H., University of Central Lancashire, Preston PR1 2HE, tel: 01772 893053, or Email: [smbailey@uclan.ac.uk](mailto:smbailey@uclan.ac.uk)

**16 April 2011, Welwyn Garden City, L.P.S.S. Spring Conference**, "Domestic Service in England, 1600-2000", at Campus West, Welwyn Garden City, Herts.

*See page 20, below, for full programme and booking form.*

**14 May 2011, Shildon, County Durham**, "Yesterday Belongs To You 10".

The local history fair which has been held regularly at the Durham County Council headquarters in the City of Durham is now moving to The National Railway Museum at Shildon.

Shildon is a small town about 10 miles south of Durham and just outside the much better-known Bishop Auckland.

We look forward to another successful fair, with dozens of historical societies from the North East putting on their own stalls.

For details please contact: Pam Porter, Events Officer, Locomotion – The National Railway Museum at Shildon, Shildon, County Durham DL14 1PQ; tel: 01388 771445, or Email: [pam.porter@nrm.gov.uk](mailto:pam.porter@nrm.gov.uk)

**12 November 2011, Leicester, L.P.S.S. Autumn Conference**, "Death and Disease in the Community", at the Centre for English Local History, University of Leicester.

*Details to be announced in Newsletter 49.*

## **News from the Local Population History Book Club, from Peter Franklin**

### **Conference Bookstall**

I am sorry that we could not bring the bookstall to the Norwich Conference in November. The distance was simply too great.

### **New Title**

Some of us are old-fashioned enough to expect that a book with 'Icknield Way' in its title would be a study of a prehistoric trackway, written by an archaeologist. However, Peter Bysouth's *Hertfordshire's Icknield Way. 19<sup>th</sup> Century Migration Frontier and Marriage Obstacle*, (E.A.H. Press, 2010), is something quite different, as its subtitle shows.

Could ancient features of the landscape really mark boundaries which influenced people's lives, and in important ways too, as late as the 19<sup>th</sup> century? Peter Bysouth examines this intriguing proposition and backs up his argument with enough tables and figures to satisfy the most demanding LPSS member.

The book is produced in paperback by the E.A.H. Press in Cambridge, and the price is remarkable: it sells for £9-50 in bookshops, and for £7-60 from the Book Club. (Plus postage, of course: see below.)

### **Price Increases**

Some old favourites are back in stock at brand new prices. These are, of course, higher than before. David Hey's *Family History and Local History in England*, and Ralph Houlbrooke's *The English Family, 1450-1700*, are both now £29-99 in paperback. We will sell them at £23-95, giving our usual 20 per cent saving.

Anne Kussmaul's *A general view of the rural economy of England, 1538-1840*, now costs £27-99 in paperback. Our price is £22-35, again giving our usual saving.

### **Welwyn Garden City Conference, 16 April 2011**

We look forward to bringing our full bookstall, with about 80 titles, to the Society's first conference at Welwyn Garden City on Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> April 2011.

### **Ordering by Post**

The Book Club keeps about 80 per cent of its listed titles in stock, and can supply any of them quickly by post. We have a Post Office in the next street! Send your order to Dr Peter Franklin, LPH Book Club, 46 Fountain Street, ACCRINGTON BB5 0QP.

Postage is extra, and is charged at actual cost. This is difficult to predict – the easiest thing to do is to send an "open cheque" with an upper limit marked in order to allow for the extra cost. If in doubt, consult your bank. Orders are usually sent by second-class post, in order to keep costs down. If you wish your order to be sent first class, please indicate this.

Please make cheques payable to 'L.P.H. Book Club'.

## Price List

This list accurate at: 9 February 2011.

M. Anderson, Approaches to the history of the western family, 1500-1914, (Cambridge U.P., 1980).	£11-15
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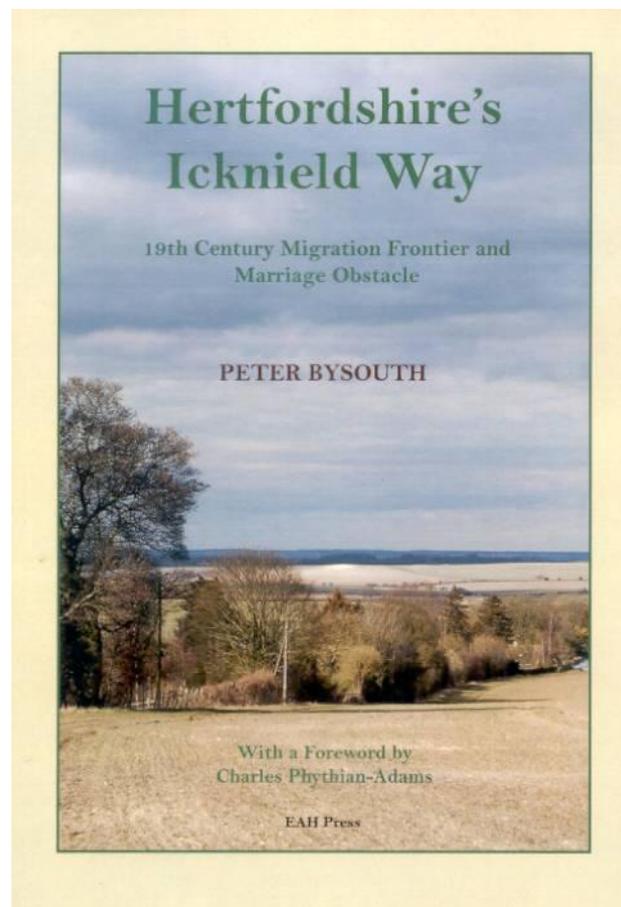
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Abbreviations used;-

F.F.H.S. = The Federation of Family History Societies.  
H.G.R.G. = The Historical Geography Research Group.  
O.P.R. = Original Parish Registers.  
U.P. = University Press.

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Peter Bysouth, *Hertfordshire's Icknield Way. 19<sup>th</sup> Century Migration Frontier and Marriage Obstacle* (E.A.H. Press, 2010), is available from LPH Book Club, 46 Fountain Street, ACCRINGTON BB5 0QP, at a Club price of £7-60, plus postage.

## End Notes

### **Humbug Billy and the Bradford Poisonings: Shocking Case Heard at York Castle**

“Joseph Neal was a wholesale confectioner who wanted to make a batch of peppermint creams. It was common practice at the time to adulterate foodstuffs with daft, an inert substance that was low in cost and used in place of a more expensive ingredient. The content of daft was variable: it might be plaster of Paris, sulphate of lime or powdered limestone. Joseph Neal sent his lodger, James Archer, to the chemist and druggist Charles Hodgson five miles away in Baildon Bridge to acquire the required daft.

Hodgson the chemist was unwell, but was available. His assistant William Goddard attended to the request and asked his master where the daft was to be found. He was told that it was in a cask in the corner of the stock room, where various items were stored. The assistant found it, weighed out 12lb (5.45kg) as requested. Unfortunately, what he weighed was not daft at all, but arsenic trioxide.

The peppermint lozenges were prepared by James Appleton, an assistant, using 40lb (18.2kg) sugar, 4lb (1.8kg) gum and the daft – in this case, arsenic. James felt unwell and sneezed throughout the process. The sweets did not look the same as usual, and took longer to dry. The next day, though, a large batch of the peppermint lozenges (40lb/18.2kg) were sold to a market stall trader, William Hardaker, known locally as Humbug Billy. The price was marked down by half a penny per pound from 8d to 7½d because of the unusual colour of the sweets.

On 30 October, market day, Humbug Billy set up stall in the Saturday market. He ate one of the peppermint lozenges and felt unwell, so much so that he had to ask someone to take over his stall. It was later estimated that around 1000 peppermints were sold that day, and the inquest revealed that some of the remaining lozenges contained between 11 and 16 grains of arsenic apiece. The peppermint creams were potentially lethal for just four to five grains of arsenic can kill, less in some instances.

The sweets did not take long to take effect. Two boys died overnight, and their physician contacted the police, suspecting poisoning. Several more people died the following day, and there were numerous cases of severe gastrointestinal illness. At first an outbreak of cholera was suspected, but it quickly became clear from the number of reports of poisoning coming back from physicians that the sick and dying had all eaten a peppermint from Humbug Billy. The police traced the source of the problem back from Billy, who was ill in bed, to James Neal, and then back to Hodgson the chemist and his assistant Goddard. Goddard showed police the cask he had taken the daft from, and Hodgson realised the mistake.

The police acted quickly, touring public houses and churches to alert the people of the danger, and bell-ringers toured the town. By the Monday morning, notices had been put up throughout the town, warning people of the danger. Nevertheless 12 people had died by midday, and 100 were gravely ill. Furthermore, the neighbouring towns and villages were blissfully unaware of this lethal confectionery, and more people died. In total, 20 people died, mostly children since their lower body mass made them more susceptible to the poison, and 200 people were taken ill.

Neal’s lozenges were confiscated. This was no easy task, as the peppermints had been added to mixed selection bags, and a policeman had to sort through them to find the offending articles. He suffered itching of the hands and stinging eyes as a result. Goddard, the chemist’s assistant who had accidentally sold the arsenic, was charged with manslaughter on 1 November, shortly after Hodgson the chemist and James Neal, the confectioner, were also committed to trial for the same offence.

The trio were sent to court in York in December 1858. The jury decided that it could not bring about a conviction for manslaughter because there had been no intent to poison; what had happened was a tragic accident.”

Jane Eastoe, *Victorian Pharmacy. Rediscovering Forgotten Remedies and Recipes* (Pavilion, 2010), pp. 114-116.

### **More ‘Miss, Piano’: Problems of Giving a Party at Ullathorne, near Barchester**

“The order of the day was to be as follows. The quality, as the upper classes in rural districts are designated by the lower with so much true discrimination, were to eat a breakfast, and the non-quality were to eat a dinner. Two marquees had been erected for these two banquets, that for the quality on the esoteric or garden side of a certain deep ha-ha; and that for the non-quality on the exoteric or paddock side of the same. Both were of huge dimensions; that on the outer side was, one may say, on an egregious scale; but Mr Plomacy declared that neither would be sufficient. To remedy this, an auxiliary banquet was prepared in the dining-room, and a subsidiary board was to be spread sub dio for the accommodation of the lower class of yokels on the Ullathorne property.

No one who has not had a hand in the preparation of such an affair can understand the manifold difficulties which Miss Thorne encountered in her project. ...

In the first place there was a dreadful line to be drawn. Who were to dispose themselves within the ha-ha, and who without? To this the unthinking will give an off-hand answer, as they will to every ponderous question. Oh, the bishop and suchlike within the ha-ha; and Farmer Greenacre and suchlike without. True, my unthinking friend, but who shall define these suchlikes? It is in such definitions that the whole difficulty of society consists. To seat the bishop in an armchair on the lawn and place Farmer Greenacre at the end of a long table in the paddock is easy enough; but where will you put Mrs Lookaloft, whose husband though a tenant on the estate hunts in a red coat, whose daughters go to a fashionable seminary in Barchester, who calls her farm house Rosebank, and who has a pianoforte in her drawing-room? The Misses Lookaloft, as they call themselves, won't sit contented among the bumpkins. Mrs Lookaloft won't squeeze her fine clothes on a bench and talk familiarly about cream and ducklings to good Mrs Greenacre. And yet Mrs Lookaloft is no fit companion and never has been the associate of the Thornes and the Grantlys. And if Mrs Lookaloft be admitted within the sanctum of fashionable life, if she be allowed with her three daughters to leap the ha-ha, why not the wives and daughters of other families also? Mrs Greenacre is at present well contented with the paddock, but she might cease to be so if she saw Mrs Lookaloft on the lawn. And thus poor Miss Thorne had a hard time of it.

And how was she to divide her guests between the marquee and the parlour? She had a countess coming, an Honourable John and an Honourable George, and a whole bevy of Ladies Amelia, Rosina, Margareta, etc.; she had a leash of baronets with their baronnettes; and, as we all know, she had a bishop. If she put them on the lawn, no one would go into the parlour, no one would go into the tent.

... She gave up all idea of any arbitrary division of her guests, and determined if possible to put the bishop on the lawn and the countess in the house, to sprinkle the baronets, and thus divide the attractions. What to do with the Lookalofts even Mr Plomacy could not decide. They must take their chance. They had been specially told in the invitation that all the tenants had been invited; and they might probably have the good sense to stay away if they objected to mix with the rest of the tenantry.”

Anthony Trollope, *Barchester Towers* (1857), Chapter XXXV.

### **Leaving Ireland**

“Leaving Ireland was no wrench at all. I took the mail boat, like most others, sat up all night, watched the drinking, the spilling, walked the deck, remembered how Mr Thackeray and Mr Heinrich Böll had come in by boat to write leisurely about it, remembered the myriad others, natives, who had gone out to forget. Euston Station was a jungle, grim and impersonal, the very pigeons looked factory-made, and when I saw the faces of the English I thought not of the long catalogue of blood-letting history, but of murder stories I had read in the Sunday papers and of that swarthy visiting English woman from long ago who brought corn caps and a powder puff stitched into her hanky.

This was to be home. It had nothing to recommend it. Unhealthy, unfriendly, mortarish and to my ignorant eye morbid because I kept seeing wreaths and did not know that there was such a thing in England as Remembrance Sunday.

But I had got away. That was my victory. The real quarrel with Ireland began to burgeon in me then; I had thought of how it had warped me, and those around me, and their parents before them, all stooped by a variety of fears – fear of church, fear of gombeenism, fear of phantoms, fear of ridicule, fear of hunger, fear of annihilation, and fear of their own deeply ingrained aggression that can only strike a blow at each other, not having the innate authority to strike at those who are higher. Pity arose too, pity for a land so often denuded, pity for a people reluctant to admit that there is anything wrong. That is why we leave. Because we beg to differ. Because we dread the psychological choke. But leaving is only conditional. The person you are, is anathema to the person you would like to be.”

Edna O’Brien, *Mother Ireland* (1976), Chapter 7.

**From *Punch***



**A SOFT ANSWER**

“SUSAN, JUST LOOK HERE! I CAN WRITE MY NAME IN THE DUST ON THE TOP OF THIS TABLE!”  
“LOR, MUM, SO YOU CAN! NOW I NEVER HAD NO EDGERCATION MYSELF!”

**The Local Population Studies Society Spring Conference  
Campus West, The Campus, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire AL8 6BX  
Saturday 16th April 2011**

**Domestic Service in England, 1600-2000**

*Sponsored by The Economic History Society, The Centre for Regional and Local History, University of Hertfordshire, and LPSS*

- 9.30-10.10 Registration and coffee.  
10.10-10.15 Welcome – Nigel Goose (University of Hertfordshire and LPSS).
- 10.15-11.30 Panel One: Service in the Long Eighteenth Century.  
‘Domestic service and the law of settlement in the West End, 1725-1824’ – Jeremy Boulton and Leonard Schwarz (Universities of Newcastle and Birmingham).  
‘Bodies in service. Waged domestic work and the making of modern persons’ – Carolyn Stedman (University of Warwick).
- 11.30-12.45 Panel Two: Late Victorian Servants.  
“‘It takes ‘Great Pains’ to instruct my domestic servant!!” Investigating childcare practices by domestic servants in the later 19<sup>th</sup> century’ – Melanie Reynolds (Oxford Brookes University).  
“‘A stranger in the house’? Servants and childcare in late-nineteenth-century England’ – Sian Pooley (Cambridge University).
- 12.45-1.30 AGM of the Local Population Studies Society.  
1.00-2.30 Lunch.
- 2.30-4.30 Panel Three: The Rise and Decline of Domestic Service.  
‘Who did the servants serve? The occupational, social and geographical structure of service in England, c. 1600-1750’ – Jacob Field (Cambridge University).  
‘Who kept domestic servants 1851-1921: geographic and social variations’ – David Thorpe (Honorary Senior Research Fellow, UCL).  
“‘The holes left by the departed Mary-Ann’: servantless homes and the decline of domestic service in twentieth century Britain’ – Lucy Delap (Cambridge University).
- 4.30 Tea and conference closes.

.....  
The conference fee is £25 for LPSS members, £30 for non-members, inclusive of all refreshments. Please reserve ... places. I enclose a cheque for £ ... (payable to ‘Local Population Studies Society’).

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Please return to Local Population Studies, School of Humanities, University of Hertfordshire, College Lane, Hatfield, Herts. AL10 9AB, by 7<sup>th</sup> April 2011.  
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