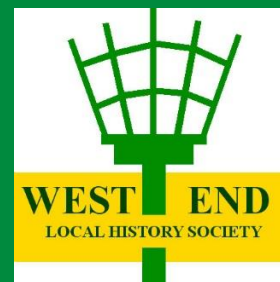


WESTENDER

Newsletter of the West End Local History Society
Spring 2023



WELHS OFFICERS

CHAIRMAN

Neville Dickinson

VICE CHAIR

Kevin Alford

TREASURER

Nigel Edwards

SECRETARY

Lin Dowdell

MINUTES SECRETARY

Vera Dickinson

WEBMASTER

Peter Wallace

MUSEUM CURATOR

Nigel Wood

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Delphine Kinley

RESEARCHERS

Pauline Berry & Paula Downer

EDITOR

Sue Ballard



View of South Stoneham Union Workhouse, West End c.1910

Fancy joining the Committee?

**Apply to the Secretary to be nominated for a post.
Elections will take place at the A.G.M. on 5th April.**

Articles for Westender

email: suballard@yahoo.co.uk or leave hard copies at the museum, please.

Closing Date for contributions to Summer Issue: 19th May 2023.

WELHS ... Preserving our past for your future ...

West End Local History Society is sponsored by



**WEST END
PARISH
COUNCIL**



FOR EVENTS & PUBLICATIONS
VISIT OUR WEBSITE

www.westendlhs.co.uk
email: westendlhs@aol.com

William Jefferies Collins ... the West End Connection

By Nigel Wood

William Jefferies Collins was born in London in 1856, the son of a successful businessman Benjamin Collins, who ran the bookbinding business of Benjamin Collins & Sons of London. He married a music teacher, Mary Martin, and they had a total of six children; Ada, William, Herbert, Ethel, Martyn and Ralph. The Collins building firm seems to be traced back to 1900 when W.J. Collins demolished their original family home at Fortis Green in North London and prepared the grounds for building development. Of his sons, Herbert became the well-known architect (who was also responsible for our museum building, once the village Fire Station as well as the surrounding Orchards Way development), William also became an architect, whilst Ralph became a builder and tragically Martyn was killed in Flanders during the Great War.

William Jefferies Collins became a speculative builder, with a very shrewd business sense, making a fortune out of buying up land adjacent to recently opened railway lines, on which he built houses for the growing middle classes in the suburbs of North London. In 1911, W.J. Collins moved to Southampton, later occupying "The Wilderness" house and estate on the corner of Church Hill and West End Road until 1939. Around 1922, Herbert and his wife Anne also moved to West End and for a few months occupied the gate lodge to "The Wilderness".



William Jefferies Collins

An interesting partnership developed over the years in the Collins family; "W.J." frequently provided the funding, whilst Herbert designed the houses and the building work was carried out by Ralph – an early version of 'keep it in the family'. Throughout his time in West End, he generously contributed to many local charities and deserving cases, making the extensive grounds of "The Wilderness" available to many local events including the forerunner of the local Carnival or Cottagers Show, as it was known, and taking a particular interest in the development of The Boys' Brigade and the Girls' Life Brigade. In 1922 for instance, he donated £10,000 for the new Brigade headquarters in Cranbury Terrace, Southampton. He was a generous supporter of the Royal South Hants and Southampton Hospital and was made a vice-president of the institution and a member of the Management Committee from 1927 until 1937. He also gave generously to the Children's Hospital of which he was vice-president as he also did for the YMCA among countless other good works.

Continued on Page 3

He served as a Parish Councillor for Westend, was a valued member of the Rotary Club of Southampton and one of the oldest members of the Southampton Chamber of Commerce. He served for a time on the Southampton Town Council and was a member of the Court of Governors of Southampton University College (as it was then known).



William Jefferies Collins with the W.I. Twyford Group at The Wilderness

In 1929, Mr and Mrs Collins celebrated their golden wedding anniversary. William Jefferies Collins died in May 1939 aged 84 years. It was said of him, “acts of generosity and kindly thought for those less fortunate than himself in whose welfare he always took a practical interest”. A fitting epitaph for a very kind, generous man.

This article was originally published in “The Partnership” newspaper.

A Life of Hardship and Toil: long-term dependents of the Workhouse

By Sue Ballard, PhD.

In June 1860, Parliament commissioned a survey of all inmates who had been resident in a union workhouse for five years or more. Alongside each inmate’s name, the survey had to state how many years they had been in the workhouse, why they were incapable of caring for themselves and whether or not they had been brought up in a District or Workhouse school. The reasons for being unable to care for themselves were officially divided into six broad categories: “Old Age and Infirmary”, “Mental Disease” (which included both mental illness and learning difficulties, which were not seen as distinct in this period), “Bodily Disease”, “Bodily Defects”, “Moral Defects” (e.g. alcoholism) and “Other Causes” (e.g. orphans or deserted wives).

Continued on Page 4

South Stoneham Poor Law Union, which in addition to West End incorporated parishes as far apart as Hamble and Millbrook, returned a list of 18 inmates (9 women and 9 men) who had been resident for more than five years in the workhouse at West End. The one thing that all 18 subjects have in common is that each was alone in the world, mostly being unmarried, with one or two widows or widowers. Not surprisingly, the most common reason for long-term residence was listed as being of “old age” (10 residents), while 4 were listed as “weak mind” (learning difficulties), 3 as sickness and 1 as “bad legs”. None had been brought up within the system. Comparison with the 1861 census taken the following April gives us the age and place of birth of each inmate, allowing more precise identification.

Four inmates had been in the workhouse for 6 years: Mary Standbridge and John Stewart, both due to old age, and Sarah & Emma Lawes, both due to “weak mind”. Mary Standbridge was recorded in 1861 as an 80 year old widow (i.e. born c.1780), with her occupation listed as servant and her place of birth as Millbrook, Hampshire. Mary is not definitely identified in other censuses. However, in 1851 there was a pauper named Mary Stansbridge with her husband Thomas Stansbridge (a pauper, formerly agricultural labourer) at Millbrook, although her place of birth was recorded as Stockbridge. The couple can be found in Millbrook in 1841, while Thomas was still working and before they became paupers. Mary Standbridge died aged 82 in the final quarter of 1863 at South Stoneham.

John Stewart was born in Scotland and was unmarried. In 1861 he was aged 63 (i.e. born c.1798) and his occupation was listed as gardener. In 1851 he was lodging at the Ship Inn, Millbrook and described as a labourer born in Edinburgh. We see, then, that he had briefly gone up in the world from labourer to gardener before old age rendered him a pauper. John died at South Stoneham in the first quarter of 1866; he was 68 years old.

Sarah & Emma Lawes were sisters and both unmarried. The 1861 census shows them both to have been born in Millbrook, Sarah being aged 45 and Emma aged 39 at the time of census. In 1851, they were both living in Millbrook with their parents - George LAWES, a gardener, born in Amport, Hampshire & Sarah, born in Mitcheldean, Hampshire - and their 22 year old younger brother William, born in Millbrook. Sarah's place of birth is recorded as Overton, Hampshire and Emma's as Southampton. As their parents would have completed the census form, we can assume the details to be more accurate than those competed by the workhouse, which showed both as being born in Millbrook. Sarah was baptized at Overton on 15th July 1816 and Emma at St. Mary's, Southampton on 19th September 1824. Parish records show that there were at least ten children in the family. The 1871 census records both Sarah & Emma as “imbecile from birth”. The 1891 census – which offers a choice of the categories Deaf-and-Dumb; Blind; Imbecile or Idiot; and Lunatic – describes Emma as “lunatic”, highlighting the lack of understanding and distinction between disabilities at this time. Sarah died in the summer of 1875 aged 59, leaving Emma to remain at the South Stoneham Union Workhouse until her death in the first quarter of 1896 at the age of 72. As they had been living in the workhouse for six years in 1860, Sarah & Emma must have entered in 1854. Both parents were still living at that time but were ageing, so may have found it too difficult to manage their disabled daughters; their mother died aged 73 in 1864 and their father at the age of 83 in 1874. Poor Sarah & Emma remained in the workhouse for the rest of their lives – a total of 21 years for Sarah and a staggering 42 years for Emma. Let's hope they were shown some kindness.

Continued on Page 5

Hannah Wade, Joseph Crowder, Manoah Sheppard and Eliza Monaghan were all listed as being resident for 8 years, Eliza due to sickness and the others due to old age. The 1861 census shows Hannah Wade as a 70 year old widow (i.e. born c.1791) who was born at Newport on the Isle of Wight. She appears on the 1851 census as a pauper in the workhouse at St. Luke's, Chelsea, when her age is given as 56 (i.e. born c.1795) and her occupation is recorded as a cook. Although her age is inconsistent with that of the 1861 census, her place of birth matches, suggesting that she was uncertain of her own age – until civil registration was introduced in 1837, many older people could only guess at their own ages if they had no baptism certificate. How long had she lived in Chelsea? Why did she return to Hampshire? Hannah's death is recorded at South Stoneham in the second quarter of 1867, when her age is given as 77 (i.e. born c.1790).

Joseph Crowder was recorded on the 1861 census as unmarried, 69 years old (i.e. born c.1792) and a labourer born in South Stoneham. The 1851 census shows him as a 58 year old agricultural labourer lodging with the Whitlock family in Botley Road, West End. The 1841 census shows him as a lime burner living in lodgings in Grove Street, St. Mary's in Southampton. Joseph Crowder was baptised at South Stoneham on 21st April 1793, the son of Joseph & Mary Crowder. He died at South Stoneham in the third quarter of 1868 aged 74 years.

Manoah Sheppard was born c.1775 at Kingston, Hampshire. In 1861, at the age of 86, he was listed at the workhouse as a widower and a labourer. The 1851 census shows him as a 70 year old labourer, living in Botley High Street with his 75 year old wife Elizabeth, who had been born in South Stoneham. Manoah Sheppard and Elizabeth Hammerton had married on 31st July 1798 at South Stoneham. The 1841 census shows them living at Botley Hill, Botley with a 20 year old James Sheppard, presumably their son; both Manoah and James were agricultural labourers. Manoah Sheppard was baptized at Amport, Hampshire on 26th May 1776, the son of Thomas & Mary Sheppard. His death was registered at South Stoneham in the last quarter of 1863. Ironically, considering that Manoah ended his life in the workhouse, Manoah is a Hebrew name meaning "place of rest".



South Stoneham Union Workhouse (undated) courtesy Mrs Dorothy Sign

Continued on Page 6

Eliza Monaghan is an enigma. No-one of that name is found in Hampshire in the 1861 census, although there is a William MONAGHAN aged 10 in the workhouse. The 1851 census shows a Monaghan family living at Bellona Terrace, Victoria Road, Millbrook. The family consisted of 28 year old George Monaghan, employed as a “computer” at the Ordnance Survey and his wife 35 year old Elizabeth Monaghan (i.e. born c.1816); both were born in Ireland. They had two daughters, Elizabeth aged 5 (i.e. born c.1846) & Mary Teresa aged 3 and a son, 4 month old William Noble Monaghan, all of whom were born in Southampton. The William MONAGHAN in the workhouse in 1861 is of the right age to be William Noble Monaghan of Millbrook and one is tempted to speculate that he and his sister entered the workhouse when their parents died. However, no deaths have been recorded for George or Eliza Monaghan between 1851 & 1860 and William is not on the list of long-term residents in 1860 along with Eliza. Two questions remain: is Eliza Monaghan of the workhouse in 1860 the mother or the daughter of the Monaghan family of Millbrook – or is she someone else entirely? And where did she go between 1860 and 1861? No death is recorded in her name during this time.

Christiana Vare (old age), Thomas Smith (bad legs), Mary Miller (weak mind) and Robert Meacher (sickness) had all been resident for 9 years. Vare is a well-recognised name in West End. Christiana was shown on the 1861 census as 80 years old (i.e. born c.1781) unmarried, a former servant and born in Southampton. The 1851 census also shows her at the workhouse with the added detail that she was born at Holyrood, Southampton. As the censuses were 10 years apart and the 1860 list records her length of stay as being 9 years she must have only just entered the workhouse at the time of the 1851 census. However, no baptism record can be found in the name of Christiana Vare. Her death is recorded at South Stoneham in the third quarter of 1863 when she was 83 years old.

Thomas Smith was a gardener who was 60 years old in 1861 and born at Millbrook. Given that he was a gardener and had “bad legs”, it is tempting to speculate that he suffered from arthritis in hips and knees. In 1851 he was living at Church Road, Millbrook with his widowed sister Mary Noyes and her children, together with his 73 year old widowed father Ishmael, who was also a gardener. Both censuses record Thomas as married and in 1841 we find him as a market gardener living at Romsey Lane, Millbrook with Elizabeth Smith (presumably his wife – marital relationships were not recorded on the 1841 census) and two children, Thomas aged 14 and 13 year old Elizabeth. As he is listed as married thereafter, but there is no sign of his wife and children, it is likely that the couple separated. The death of Thomas Smith aged 66 was recorded at South Stoneham in the second quarter of 1866.

In 1861, Mary Miller was unmarried, aged about 26 (i.e. born c.1835) and her usual occupation was listed as servant. Her place of birth was recorded as Millbrook, Hampshire. The 1851 census shows her as one of four female servants living at 9a St Michael’s Square, when her place of birth is recorded as Southampton. Mary is not definitely identified in any other records, although the 1841 census shows a 5 year old Mary Miller living at Holy Rood, Southampton with her family: 30 year old labourer James Miller, 35 year old Eliza Miller and four children including Mary, who was the only one born in Hampshire.

Continued on Page 7

Robert Meacher is found in the workhouse in both the 1851 & 1861 censuses, in which he is recorded as being born around 1803 in Titchfield, Hampshire. He was a widower and a labourer. His reason for being in the workhouse was “sickness”; a sickness lasting more than ten years suggests a chronic condition such as heart disease or kidney problems, for example. Parish records show that Robert was baptized at Titchfield on 15th January 1804, son of Peter & Sarah Meacher. A Robert Meacher married a spinster named Elizabeth Couzens at St. Mary, Portsea on 6th December 1829, but there is insufficient detail to confirm whether it is the same individual. Robert is not found on census in Hampshire after 1861, but neither is his death recorded locally.



James Whitehorn had been resident for 12 years and Thomas Elkins for 10 years, both of whose reason for residence was recorded as old age. The 1861 census shows James Whitehorn to be an unmarried 80 year old (i.e. born c.1780) labourer born in Millbrook, Hampshire. In fact, the 1861 census shows that there were three individuals by the name of James Whitehorn locally as there was also one living in Millbrook who was born in Eling c.1780 and one at All Saints, Southampton who was born at Millbrook c.1800, both of whom are clearly identifiable in the 1851 census – but our workhouse resident was not found in that census. James WHITEHORN died at South Stoneham in the second quarter of 1862 aged 82.

In 1861 Thomas Elkins, an 84 year old widower, was a labourer born in Compton, Hampshire. In 1851, he was shown as 70 years old (i.e. born c.1781) and a farm labourer living in Botany Bay Road, St. Mary Extra (Sholing) with his wife Jane, who was a laundress, and his 42 year old son Thomas. He is recorded as being born at Owselbury, Hampshire – around 5 miles east of Compton. Thomas’s death is recorded at South Stoneham in the last quarter of 1867 when he was aged 88 (i.e. born c.1779).

Timothy Ware and Mary Heath had both been in the workhouse for 13 years. Timothy’s given reason for being in the workhouse was “sickness”, whereas Mary’s was “weak mind”. The 1851 census shows Timothy Ware as an unmarried labourer born in South Stoneham.

Continued on Page 8

He is found at the workhouse in the 1851 census when he is recorded as 30 years of age (i.e. born c.1821) and a labourer born at Millbrook, Hampshire. He is shown at the workhouse in both the 1871 and 1881 censuses, recorded in 1871 as a discharged soldier and in 1881 as an agricultural labourer. Timothy's age is consistent throughout the censuses but no baptism record has been found in his name. On 26th April 1884, the Hampshire Advertiser report on the meeting of the South Stoneham Union Board of Guardians included the Master's report to the Guardians, which stated that Timothy Ware "who had been for 28 years the doorkeeper at the house, had died. He formerly lived at Shirley; at one time he was in the army, and had been in the house about thirty years." So far, I have been unable to find an army record for Timothy.

Mary Heath was shown on both the 1851 & 1861 censuses as a former servant, unmarried and born in South Stoneham around 1791. She died at South Stoneham in the last quarter of 1869, when her age was given as 75 (i.e. born c.1794). In fact, Mary was baptized at South Stoneham on 18th February 1787, the daughter of William & Mary Heath, so she was three years older than thought.

The inmates who had been resident in the workhouse the longest in 1861 were William Horn, who had been resident for 26 years and Susan Standbrook, resident for 24 years, so should therefore be found at the workhouse in the 1841 & 1851 censuses. The reason given for both of them for being incapable of caring for themselves was old age – but was that the case when they first entered the workhouse? In 1861, William Horn was recorded as being 80 years old (i.e. born c.1781) and a labourer born in South Stoneham. The 1851 census shows him as being unmarried and 61 years old (i.e. born c.1790) – a difference of around 20 years from the age recorded in 1861, rather than the 10 years it should be. In fact, parish records show that William Horn was baptized in South Stoneham on 6th March 1785, the son of Thomas & Sarah Horn.

Susan Standbrook was not listed in the 1861 census, having died in the final quarter of 1860 at the age of 86 (i.e. born c.1774). She is found in the workhouse in the 1851 census under the name Stanbrook (not Standbrook) as unmarried, a former servant born in South Stoneham, but her age is given as 83 (i.e. born c.1768), correlating with her age of 73 on the 1841 census. These two cases show a huge discrepancy in ages for each person and we have to bear in mind that authorities such as the workhouse, who recorded them on census and reported Susanna's death, had no access to records and relied on the information given them by the individual.

No baptism record has been found in or near South Stoneham in the name of Susan Standbrook or Stanbrook. It is possible that she was never baptized or that she had lied about her place of birth. In this period, parishes would carry out settlement examinations to ensure people claiming parish relief belonged there and were empowered to forcibly remove someone from the parish if they originated elsewhere, in order to avoid the cost of their support. Not surprisingly, people would often say they were born in the place where they lived in order to avoid being moved on.

Hampshire parish records show the baptism of a Susanna Stanbrook, daughter of Moses & Martha Stanbrook, at Morestead (about 2 miles east of Twyford) on 6th February 1775. Could this be Susan of the workhouse?

The 1860 list of long-term workhouse residents gives us an insight into the stories behind some of the individuals who were dependent on what was an intentionally harsh system to deter malingers.

Continued on Page 9

For the majority of inmates, the workhouse was a last resort as they became too old or infirm to work, yet it saved them from actual starvation on the streets. What is perhaps striking to us today is the relatively young age at which some individuals were deemed to be too old to care for themselves – John Stewart, for example, had been in the workhouse since the age of 58 because he was too old to care for himself. Exploring the lives of these unfortunates makes us realise that we should count ourselves blessed.

“Relief & Thrift”

With so much in the news these days about food banks and, more recently, fuel poverty, these extracts from the West End parish magazine of February 1910 may be of some interest:

RELIEF AND THRIFT.

Are the conditions of life among many of the working classes in Westend satisfactory and, if not, why not?

The writer's opinion was at once expressed that they were not satisfactory, and that the subject deserved the earnest consideration of the Church Council.

There was a considerable deficit on the Sick and Needy Fund in each of the last two years. This fund, together with the bonuses added to the Clothing and Coal Clubs, and the handsome donations to the Nursing Association, accounted for a very considerable sum of charitable money annually distributed, without taking into account anything that was given privately. In addition to these, the fact of such admirable institutions as the Royal South Hants Infirmary and the Free Eye Hospital, etc., being within reach was a great help, and that they were extensively patronized was proved by the fact that the various departments were so overcrowded.

Taking all these things into consideration the lot of the poorer inhabitants of Westend should be much easier and brighter than of those in many a country village throughout England, where there was often not more than one wealthy family. In such instances all village institutions had, of necessity, to be self-supporting, and the people were compelled to help themselves, and also help one another, and this naturally created a spirit of thrift and independence.

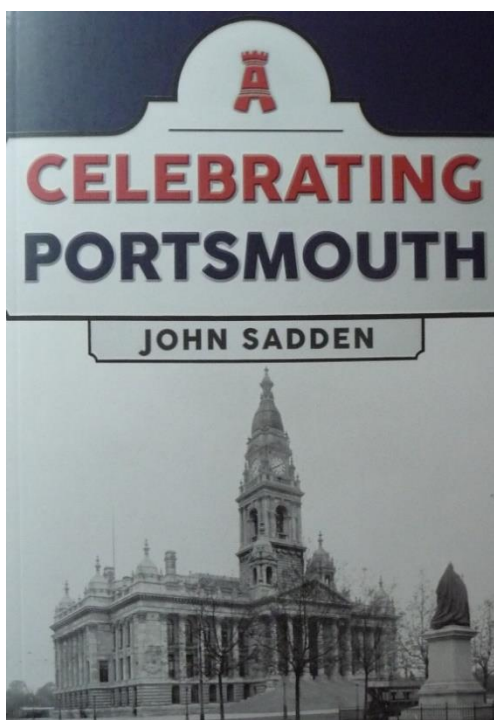
Comparison was made with agricultural villages in the North of England and the Midlands. In the former many of the substantial farmers had risen from the ranks of farm-labourers. In the latter a case had occurred quite recently where there was a demand for small-holdings and a large number of applicants produced their bank books showing balances of £50. Mention was made of the fact that so few of the young people in Westend went away as apprentices or to be trained as school teachers, etc. That Westend generally was not prosperous was evident if one considered for a few moments the amount which the Guardians found it necessary to allow in the way of relief. Figures were quoted showing that a larger proportion of the inhabitants received relief than was the average in Hampshire or in the whole of England and Wales.

As it had been suggested at the last meeting that Westend was not nearly so bad as other parishes in South Stoneham Union, figures were now given showing that per head of population Westend received a larger amount from the Guardians as in and out-door relief combined than any other parish in the Union.

Every sympathy was felt with the honest and deserving poor, and the wish was expressed that some practical proof might be forthcoming that things were better than they appeared to be, for during the last two years the writer had at times found work under prevailing conditions to be of a very disheartening character, though, to their credit be it said, some of the very poorest were a bright example to some more fortunately situated.

Other issues of the parish magazine show that, in addition to the coal club and clothing club mentioned here, attempts to aid the poor of the parish over the years included a boot & shoe club and even a soup kitchen in March 1891, following a prolonged period of severe weather.

BOOK REVIEWS BY NIGEL WOOD



“Celebrating Portsmouth” – by John Sadden

John Sadden’s book entitled “Celebrating Portsmouth” is exactly that, celebrating the many aspects of this historic city on the South Coast. As we have come to expect from Amberley, it is lavishly illustrated with first class images, a hundred in all, and words to match. This tome is a “must have book” for anyone interested in the history of this great city and port.

“Celebrating Portsmouth” by John Sadden

ISBN 9781398104181

£15.99

Amberley Publishing

96 pages 100 illustrations

Also available in Kindle, Kobo and iBook formats

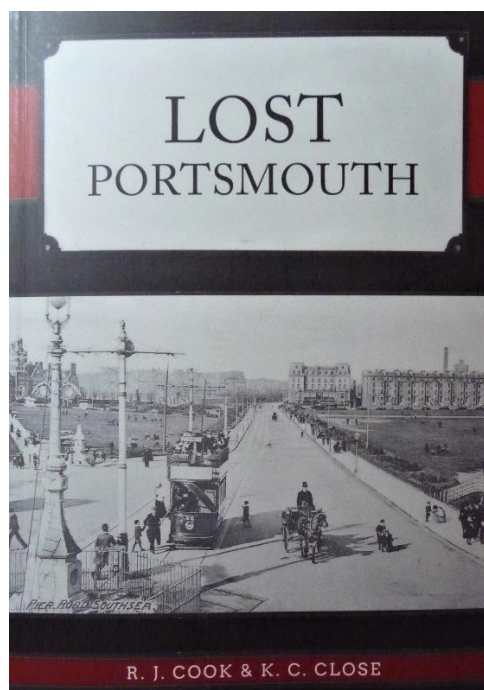
“Lost Portsmouth” by R.J.Cook and K.C.Close

A profusely illustrated new book on Portsmouth from Amberley, this is one not to miss with 160 excellent illustrations, an increase from the usual 100. The book, with the aid of period photographs, illustrates what Portsmouth was once like before so many of the buildings were lost through war and the planners. There is a section dedicated to The Tricorn centre with some amazing photographs of its eventual demise and demolition. As you would expect, the Royal Navy features prominently as well. A fascinating read, well illustrated.

“Lost Portsmouth” by R.J.Cook and K.C.Close

ISBN 9781445699035

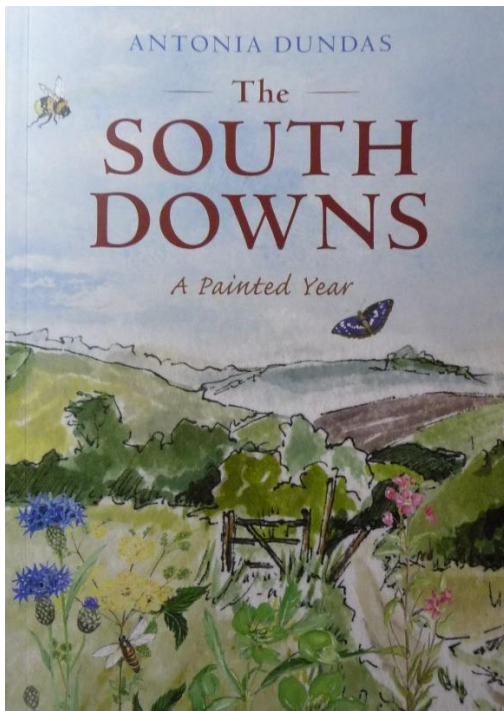
£15.99



Amberley Publishing

96 pages 160 illustrations

Also available in Kindle, Kobo and iBook formats



“THE SOUTH DOWNS a painted year” by Antonia Dundas

This is a most delightful book, a joy to behold with superbly painted colour illustrations. This is one of those books that will appeal to a wide audience, and a good book to keep in your backpack on walks in the South Downs. Appealing to a wide audience from walkers, ramblers and those interested in nature and art. The book is set out in monthly chapters showing you what wildlife is around in that month with painted illustrations to complement the text.

“THE SOUTH DOWNS a painted year” by Antonia Dundas

ISBN 9781398117921

£16.99

Amberley Publishing

128 pages 546 illustrations

Also available in Kindle, Kobo and iBook formats

REVIEWS OF TALKS

December Christmas Meeting

By Roy Andrews

What is almost a Christmas tradition for the Society is one of John Pitman’s presentations, this time entitled ‘My Life on the Stage’. A monologue was delivered by him of his life in amateur dramatics, much of which involved him playing ‘Dames’ in Pantomime as well as producing the shows. There were old props to be displayed with explanations of their use and plenty of humorous stories to regale us with. He sang - or “tried to” - his words! - Songs from the ‘Music Hall’ era and had us, the audience, joining in. I for one was surprised as to how I remembered words of songs I had not heard in many a long year.

After John’s entertainment, it was time for the social part of the evening: this year it had been announced that instead of the usual American Supper where everybody shared it was to be a case of just bring sufficient food for oneself. The message did not seem to have reached everybody as some only bought an item of food but all of the tables seemed to be happy to share amongst themselves and so I hope nobody went hungry.

Southampton and the USA Civil War

A Review by Roy Andrews

At the January Society meeting, Geoff Watts presented another of his fascinating talks, this time one full of intrigue, international politics, skullduggery and cunning against the backdrop of the American Civil War brought about by the election of Abraham Lincoln and his anti slavery stance.

Continued on Page 12

The first thing was for Geoff to show us a map of all of the States that formed the Confederacy in the south. I, for one, brought up on cowboy films, was surprised at the large chunk of the USA that was the Southern side. Although large, most of these states were cotton growing areas whilst the North was the industrial powerhouse. To obtain munitions etc. the South sent two agents to Europe to acquire these but the north found out and sent out ships to search the Atlantic for them. They were eventually found aboard a neutral British ship the SS Trent and seized at gunpoint off the Virgin Islands; this was contrary to international law causing friction with Britain and resulted in President Lincoln having to release the men.

In 1861, one of the ships sent by the South to Europe for supplies, the Nashville, encountered heavy weather in the Atlantic and after stopping at Queenstown (Cork) and Falmouth decided that Southampton would be the best place for repairs to be carried out. She was docked in a dry dock in the Inner Dock where the captain was informed that only storm damage could be repaired. No munitions or strengthening of the ship could be carried out as this would contravene British neutrality. The captain appealed to the local Magistrates but the decision was upheld. The basic repair work would take weeks to complete during which time the crew had the freedom of the town; at the time there was much anti-North feeling in Southampton because of the Trent affair.

The North, hearing of the Nashville, sent one of their ships, the USS Tuscarora, to Southampton where she moored in Southampton water to await the departure of the Southern ship, the intention being to sink the ship outside British territorial waters. Meantime, both sets of crews were allowed ashore and on one occasion, the southern crew came across some northern crew, among them a black man, in a pub 'The Bell' in French Street. The black man was attacked and drawing a gun fired several shots; luckily no one was hit or else this could have become a major international incident between the North/ South and Britain.

To overcome the problem of the two warring ships in neutral Southampton, the Government brought in a law requiring a 24-hour gap between the two ships sailing. To get around this, the Tuscarora would occasionally sail away hoping to tempt the other ship to sail; having failed in this endeavour, it would return to its anchorage in Southampton Water. Eventually the Royal Navy got involved and sent the much larger HMS Shannon to moor alongside the Tuscarora and not let her sail until 24 hours after the Nashville had sailed.

Meanwhile, in Liverpool, a southern states gentleman named James Dunwoody Bulloch arrived to order the building of a 'cargo' steamship named Enrica built entirely of English oak from the John Laird shipyard. On completion, the ship was sailed to the Confederacy via the Azores, re-named the Alabama and converted into an armed raider, the secret intention all along. As she was built of wood, where ever she sailed, repairs could be carried out whereas the new technology of building in iron limited where repairs could be carried out. The Alabama commanded by Captain Raphael Semmes became the most successful raider against Northern ships sinking a total of 65.

Eventually the Alabama found itself on this side of the Atlantic in need of repairs and so put into Cherbourg where it had to wait for permission for the work to be carried out. The US hearing of this sent a warship, USS Kearsarge, to blockade the port and Cpt. Semmes, realizing he had limited options, eventually sailed out to do battle. Word of the upcoming battle had spread and large

Continued on Page 13

crowds gathered to watch, including a British yacht the Deerhound. The battle only lasted an hour with the sinking of the Alabama after which the Deerhound rescued 40 of the crew including the captain and took them to Southampton. The survivors were taken to a sailor's home in Canute Road and from there Cpt. Semmes moved to live in what was later known as 'The Oriental' in Queens Terrace. He was feted by the town populace whenever he was out and about which included having his photo taken, though was not discovered until 1995. He later moved to Millbrook Manor and later left there to tour Europe.

Other stories Geoff gave us were about the New York Tribune telling a pack of lies about the American Consul in Southampton which resulted in the USA demanding fifteen and a half million pounds in compensation until shown to be false. And of attempts to smuggle gold coins into the Southern States by a woman, Rose Greenway, who drowned in the attempt.

East India Co. At Home A Review by Roy Andrews

Dr. Cheryl Butler gave one of her usual informative talks at the February Society meeting on the effects the East India Company's employees had on the wealth of Southampton from the Company's founding on 31st December 1600 until, at the behest of the British government, it lost its power and control in 1858. This was especially interesting as Cheryl told us this was a new area of research for her.

Although there were trade routes from Southampton to the East, the bulk of the Company's trade was via London. During the 17th century, the bulk of trade was in spices; the 18th century saw this change to fabrics from India and the 19th century was tea from China. As the company became rich, families in Britain saw it as a good place to send their sons to obtain for themselves some of this wealth. Once in the employ of the company in the east, many did become extremely rich but the downside was that once in the east, the Company had no easy way for employees to leave and return to this country. Those desperate to get back often found the easiest way was to claim health problems either real or imagined, requiring a return to this country, and often requiring production of forged sickness notes.

However, getting all their wealth back to this country was difficult and often eventually led to problems. Employees returned to England, with some of their wealth; they could then live a high and comfortable life for some years but then found they were unable to extract any more of their money from the East.

For those returning, Southampton, an up and coming Spa town and attractive area to live being close to the Company Headquarters in London, became a popular place to retire. Thirty-three ex-employees bought houses and estates here. They built seaside villas on the outskirts of the town with views, such as Peartree or Millbrook or in the town such as Gloucester Square. Others lived in established houses such as Woolston House, Bannister Park, Bitterne Manor, Merryoak House and Portswood House. Some became Burgesses or Mayor in the town; others, such as General Carnac, invested his wealth in developing the failed Polygon area; he eventually ran out of money and had to return to his wealth still in India where he died.

Continued on Page 14

Many of the returned families intermarried which was always useful when trying to gain employment for their offspring as the East India Co. preferred employing people with family links to the company. Among other better-known families which Cheryl mentioned were the Fitzhughs, Lances and Middletons and as she pointed out the families often brought back their Indian or Chinese servants who would have integrated into the town's society.

WANTED



publicdomainvectors.org

Articles on local history or social history.
Any accompanying images must be copyright free.
email: suballard@yahoo.co.uk
or leave hard copies at the museum, please.

WEST END NEWS

Telegraph Woods

The following message from James Brown appeared on the Southampton Archaeology Society page of Facebook on 11th February 2022:

"Thank you to some of the members who joined me in Telegraph Woods this morning for a small workshop to test a framework being developed to encourage people to monitor scheduled Monuments. Lovely morning to get up close and personal with a Tudor beacon site and a much-disturbed Iron Age hillfort. More details to follow soon on how you could get more involved."

If anyone is interested in joining this project, they can contact James Brown through the Southampton Archaeology Society, details below.

Website: <http://southamptonarchaeology.uk/>

Email: southamptonarchaeology@gmail.com