



Dartford College Ladies Football Team c1975 | in front of their supporters at the Thames Polytechnic Sports Ground, Eltham.

Above photo courtesy of The Österberg Collection

Welcome to the 1 October emailinfo service, the NWKFHS information service, comprising the latest information about the Society and other items of interest for family historians.

(Many thanks to Tony Brown for today's headline photo and the following article / appeal for further information about the Dartford area ladies football teams - Stella.)

I am currently researching and compiling a history that tells the story of our DARTFORD LADIES FOOTBALL TEAMS.

There are five team names that are involved in this research - **DARTFORD F.C. LADIES, DARTFORD COLLEGE LADIES, THAMES POLY LADIES, LONDON GIRLS, and LONDON CORINTHIANS.**

The **DARTFORD COLLEGE LADIES FOOTBALL TEAM** was formed by the students of the Dartford Physical Education Training College (formerly Madame Österberg's College of Physical Education) in Oakfield Lane, Wilmington. Wendy Owen was the driving force behind this team and she went on to represent England Women on 16 occasions, plus another two as a substitute player. She had started at the College in 1972 and within the next few months was organising training sessions, coaching and managing the team.

Wendy left the College in 1975 but the team carried on and later took on the name **THAMES POLY LADIES FOOTBALL TEAM**, as the Thames Polytechnic had merged with the Dartford Physical Education Training College during the 1970s.

The students' team joined the Kent League for women's football in the 1977/78 Season and they trained at the college sports hall in Oakfield Lane, playing their home fixture on the Thames Polytechnic Sports Ground (now the University of Greenwich) at Eltham.



Dartford F.C. Ladies 1999-2000

The **DARTFORD F.C. LADIES TEAM** (photo courtesy of the News Shopper) were later in forming. Not until 1999-2000 season did the team come into existence, started by Julie Sutherland and Jo Pattison under the Dartford F.C. Community Banner. They entered the newly-formed Kent Suburban Women's Football League and were immediately successful in winning the League Cup twice on the trot.

The **LONDON GIRLS FOOTBALL CLUB** were formed around 1985, and changed their name to **LONDON CORINTHIANS FOOTBALL CLUB** in 2010. They have always been a New Eltham-based club but, in recent years, became part of the DARTFORD FOOTBALL CLUB and now play as **Dartford F.C. Women, based at Princes Park.**

If you played for any of these teams or have information relating to their history or anecdotes to share, then Tony would be very pleased to hear from you.

Please contact Tony Brown on email: tonyjan@talktalk.net (that is tonyjan@talktalk.net) or telephone 01322 224261. Alternatively, Tony runs a website on Facebook called "Remembering Dartford's Watling Street Football Ground" and you'll be able to contact him through Facebook Messenger if you are signed up to Facebook. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/3251552795069769>

Please Use Your Vote

Your votes are important and the committee looks forward to receiving them by the cut-off date of 14 October 2020.

If you are a paid up NWKFHS member you will have received your September Journal and an AGM voting form. But the simplest way to vote is to do so online, which saves you postage. **You need to log in to the website first.**

Members, if you wish to read the Annual Report and Annual Accounts before you vote, log in and see here <https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/community/meetings-house-groups/agm/#annual-reports>

<https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/>

<https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/agm-voting>

Logging in

If you haven't logged in before, go to www.nwkfhs.org.uk/ and register using your four digit membership number and all the letters of your surname in capitals with no gaps as your User Name.

Eg if my membership number is 1234 (it isn't!) I would type 1234EAMES as my User Name.

As a first password use Bexley017 (capital B, no gaps and 017 is all numbers)

When entering your email address, use the one you have already advised to the Society.

Any problems, email our webmaster on webmaster@nwkfhs.org.uk

North West Kent FHS Online Workshops for Members

Wednesdays 7th and 14th October: 11.00 - 12.30pm

Errors, Lies and Other Misinformation split into two parts - Part 1 on the 7th and Part 2 on the 14th.

Workshops discussing errors in Official Records and Commercial Search Engines and how to try and spot them. Case studies will be used as part of the discussions

Do you believe what your ancestors told officials and their families?

Do you believe what other researchers tell you, how good is their research?

Are transcriptions accurate and do the indexes reflect the original documents?

Mark Twain said "*If you don't read the newspaper, you're uninformed. If you read the newspaper, you're misinformed.*" You could apply this to family history documents.

This workshop will give you the tools to try to avoid researching someone else's family as yours.

Workshops are only open to paid-up Society members. **But membership is only £10 a year, and, if you join now (ie after 1 October), your membership is valid til 31 December 2021.** <https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/about/our-membership>

To attend any of these workshops email workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk to obtain an invitation code.

Workshops have always been free to members but we've also always asked for a donation, £5 suggested. If you are attending one and would like to make a donation please do so here <https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/shop/nwkfhs-shop/services/society-donation>

Other Useful Websites and online Talks

<http://conferencekeeper.org/virtual/> click the link, then use the **LOCATIONS** tab to find virtual events in your country / timezone.

<https://elephind.com/> a wealth of free information including free historic newspapers. Play with it.

Some of you in the UK may also be U3A (University of the Third Age) members. If so, some zoom family history talks are being held on Friday afternoons in October from 2pm - 3pm and may be of interest. Click the link to see the topics, and book if of interest. <https://u3asites.org.uk/files/l/london-region/docs/familyhistorytalksflyer2.pdf>

The talk on 30 October looks of particular interest:

Stephen Dyer: THE FUTURE FOR FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH

A review of the past, how we got to the present day, and what of the future for researching your ancestors...

The Guild of One Name Studies ("the Guild")

The last emailinfoservice included an item by Jean Toll about the Guild of One Name Studies.

The Guild has arranged some online talks and they are free to all, whether a Guild member or not.

The provisional programme is as follows:

Wednesday 7th October at 8.00pm

Mortality and Morbidity: a study of National Registration death certificates for two families 1837 to 2009

Elizabeth E Green

Wednesday 14th October at 8.00pm

One-Place Studies – thinking laterally: how a one-place study can support surname and population studies

Paul Carter and Pam Smith (Co-founders of 'Name and Place')

Wednesday 21st October at 8pm

Creating a publicly-available common format database of parish register data on baptisms, marriages and burials

Dr Andy Hinde (University of Southampton)

Wednesday 28th October at 8pm
The Ruby One-Name Collaborative Study: how it worked and what I learned
Dr Nikki Brown

Wednesday 4th November at 8pm
Looking at single trees and whole orchards: how genealogists and demographers can work together
Dr Eilidh Garrett (University of Cambridge)

Wednesday 11th November at 8pm
Identifying business proprietors from the census; and using the online Atlas on entrepreneurship
Professor Bob Bennett (University of Cambridge)

You will need to register to take part in each webinar. Please go to <https://one-name.org/seminar-events/> and click on the link for the seminar you are interested in.

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East Wickham and Welling War Memorial Trust - Festival of Remembrance 2020

We have been advised that with great regret that the Trust has had to cancel this year's Festival of Remembrance due to Covid. A simple Act of Remembrance will be held and the names of the men on the war memorial read out, which will be live streamed and also put on its website for later viewing.

Please check the website nearer the time for further information <http://www.ewt.org.uk/>

BERMONDSEY AND MY CHAMBERS ANCESTORS by member Martin White

(Many thanks to Martin for allowing me to use his article. I have learned a great deal about the history of Bermondsey and the leather trade - Stella)

My earliest known Chambers ancestor was William Stephen Chambers, a leather dresser, who was probably born in Bermondsey c1795. A leather dresser is one who finishes leather by colouring, polishing and preparing for use the animal skins after tanning. He carried out the final stages in converting a hide into leather and preparing it to be made into specific goods. As such, the job of the leather dresser must have been much more pleasant than that of a tanner.

William Stephen Chambers married Mary Anne **BUGLAR**, the daughter of William and Hannah Buglar of Bermondsey. William Buglar was also a leather worker. Leather processing was, during the nineteenth century, a huge industry in the Bermondsey area. Tanning had been banned in the City of London due to the noxious smells generated by the tanning industry. The industry therefore moved from the Leadenhall area of London to the Bermondsey area, which was outside the jurisdiction of the City of London. The combination of a good water supply, oak trees (oak bark was used in the tanning process) and plenty of space to keep animals (Bermondsey was then quite rural) led, by the 1790s, to Bermondsey producing one third of all the leather in the country.

Bermondsey was then a town in its own right. Today it is part of the London Borough of Southwark. After the Napoleonic wars, the importance of Southwark grew. New bridges over the Thames were built at Vauxhall (1816), Waterloo (1817) and Southwark (1819). These bridges, in addition to the existing London Bridge, firmly established Southwark as the southern gateway to London. The parishes which make up modern Southwark were not then part of London and were very proud of their individual identities.

Around this time, other industries were becoming established in Bermondsey. The world's first canning factory, Donkin Hall & Gamble, was built in Blue Anchor Lane (now Southwark Bridge Road), Bermondsey In 1812. Samples of canned food were sent to the military authorities in 1813 and Arthur Wellesley, later the Duke of Wellington, found the preserved beef to be 'very good'.

In 1814, a vinegar works was established in Bermondsey by Messrs Slee and Vickers. By 1833 it was the fifth largest vinegar works in the United Kingdom. The company eventually became Sarsons Vinegar, and vinegar production in Bermondsey continued until 1992 when the factory closed.

William Stephen Chambers and Mary nee Buglar had several children. One of them, also named William Stephen Chambers, my great great grandfather, was born in 1820. Like his father, he grew up to become a leather dresser.

The Leather and Skin Market was established in 1833 in Weston Street, Bermondsey. It was built by a company of local tanners and leather dressers. There were two trading areas within the building, one where skins and hides were traded and one which dealt with finished dressed leather.

An enormous change for Bermondsey took place in 1836 with the opening of the first railway in London, the London and

Greenwich Railway. The entire route was built on a series of 878 brick arches. The line was opened from Deptford to Spa Road, Bermondsey in February 1836 and extended to London Bridge in December 1836. Spa Road station closed in 1915.

It was from Bermondsey riverside in 1838 that the artist J. M. W. Turner painted his famous work '*The Fighting Temeraire tugged to her last berth to be broken up*'. The veteran of Trafalgar was broken up at Rotherhithe.

In 1842 in 'Illustrated London Volume 3', edited by Charles Knight, we have the following description of the leather industry in Bermondsey:-

'A circle of a mile in diameter, having its centre at the spot where the Abbey once stood, will include within its limits most of the tanners, the curriers, the fellmongers, the wool staplers, the leather-factors, the leather-dressers, the leather-dyers, the parchment makers, and the blue-makers. There is scarcely a street, a road, a lane into which we can turn without seeing evidence of one or other of these occupations.'

One narrow road – leading from Grange Road to the Kent road – is particularly distinguishable for the number of leather factories which it exhibits on either side; some time-worn and mean, others newly and skilfully erected. Another street, known as Long Lane and lying westward of the church, exhibits nearly twenty distinct establishments where skins or hides undergo some of the many processes to which they are subjected. In Snow's Fields, in Bermondsey New Road, in Russell Street upper and lower, in Willow Walk, and Page's Walk, and Grange Walk, and others whose names we cannot now remember – in all of these, leather, skins and wool seem to be the commodities out of which the wealth of the inhabitants has been created.'

In 1843, William Stephen Chambers married Mary **HOBBS**, the daughter of Thomas Hobbs, who was a sawyer. They had at least six children. Their eldest son, again named William Stephen Chambers, was born in 1843 at Minto Street, Bermondsey. In 1851, the family were living at Carlton Cottages, Bermondsey

In the mid nineteenth century, Bermondsey had some of the worst slums in London. Charles Dickens based the scene where Bill Sykes met his end on the area around Saviour's Dock known as Jacob's Island. Writing in 1845, he described the area thus:-

'Crazy wooden galleries common to the backs of half a dozen houses. with holes from which to look out on the slime beneath; windows, broken and patched, with poles thrust out, on which to dry the linen which is never there; rooms so small, so filthy, so confined, that the air would seem to be so tainted even for the dirt and squalor which they shelter; wooden chambers thrusting themselves out above the mud and threatening to fall into it – as some have done; dirt-besmeared walls and decaying foundations, every repulsive lineament of poverty, every loathsome indication of filth, rot, and garbage: all these ornament the banks of Jacob's Island.'

Another huge change in the life of Bermondsey occurred between 1859 and 1865 with the construction of sewers by Joseph **BAZALGETTE**. The health benefits were enormous. There had been cholera outbreaks in 1832 and in 1849, followed by the 'Great Stink' of 1859. A further outbreak of cholera in 1866 was nothing like as serious as the previous ones.

In 1857 the biscuit manufacturer Peek Frean & Co established a factory at Dockhead, Bermondsey. Peek Frean then moved to a much larger factory in Clements Road in 1866. Bermondsey thereafter earned the nickname 'Biscuit Town'. The biscuit factory continued in production until 1989.

Like his forefathers, William Stephen Chambers grew up to become a leather dresser. The Ordnance Survey map of 1872 clearly reveals the very large extent of the leather industry in Bermondsey. In 1878 a new building was erected alongside the leather market emblazoned with the inscription '*The London Leather, Hide and Wool Exchange*'.

The Ordnance Survey map of 1872 also shows that there were three major breweries in Bermondsey and Wapping. These were the Courage or Anchor Brewery which had been established in 1787 near Horsleydown Old Stairs, the Black Eagle Brewery near Bermondsey Street which was run by Noakes & Co, and the Red Lion Brewery which was situated near the St. Katharine's



**My great grandfather
William Stephen Chambers
1843-1886**

Dock in Wapping.



**My great grandmother
Sarah Jane Chambers nee Wetherilt 1844-1901**

In 1871, William Stephen Chambers, who was now living in the New Kent Road, Southwark, married Sarah Jane **WETHERILT**, the daughter of James Wetherilt and Lucy nee **SMITH**.

Sarah Jane had been working as a servant in the household of Thomas **TAYLOR**, schoolmaster, at 66 Queen Elizabeth Street, Southwark. William and Sarah Chambers had four children, one of whom, Albert Edwin Chambers born in 1876 at 29 Alfred Street, Bermondsey was my grandfather. William Stephen Chambers senior died in 1872, having moved to Spa Road, Southwark. He had clearly prospered. William Stephen Chambers junior died in 1886.

During the late nineteenth century there were further profound changes for Bermondsey. Outside the City, the government of London had been highly fragmented. In 1855 the Metropolitan Board of Works (MBW) had been established to take responsibility for London as a whole. Bermondsey Town Hall was built in 1881 in Spa Road. The London County Council (LCC) was set up in 1888 and all the responsibilities of the MBW were passed to the LCC. The twenty eight Metropolitan Borough Councils, amongst them Bermondsey, were set up by the London Government Act of 1899. Bermondsey Borough Council lasted until 1966 when it was absorbed into an enlarged Southwark. Between 1801 and 1901, the population of Bermondsey increased from 46,281 to 130,760.

In 1901 Albert Edwin Chambers was still living in Bermondsey, at 14 Layard Road. None of the family was now working in the leather industry and Albert was working as a grocer. In 1891, his mother Sarah had been working as a 'Grocer's Porter' and perhaps it was this that inspired Albert to take up the grocery trade.



My maternal grandparents
Albert Edwin Chambers 1876-1944
And Florence Harriet nee Langley 1876-1957

Later in 1901, the family moved from Bermondsey to Nelgarde Road, Catford, now in south east London. My mother told me that they wanted to '*live in the country*'. Catford was then a lot more rural than Bermondsey, the 1914 OS map of Catford shows that there were still a lot of open fields around Catford and neighbouring Lewisham. In 1902 Albert married Florence (Florrie) Harriet **LANGLEY** from Wiltshire.

Two of Florrie's brothers had left Wiltshire to work in Bermondsey as bakers' van men. Albert became acquainted with the Langley brothers and, through them, he met Florrie. On a visit to Wiltshire with either one or both of the Langley brothers he met Florrie at her home, Pond Farm, near Malmesbury.

Albert's grocery business was not based in a shop. He used the family home as a store and delivered grocery items, mostly to households. When he moved to Nelgarde Road, he had an outhouse built at the bottom of the garden where he kept most of his stock. The outhouse was a substantial building with a tiled roof. He was supplied by wholesalers such as Kearley & Tonge and Brooke Bond.

He would take delivery of such items as chests of tea, sacks of sugar, blocks of butter and cheese and large tins of biscuits. He would slice ham and bacon. He blended tea and packed it into individual bags. Sugar was packed likewise. The blocks of butter and cheese were cut into convenient pieces. The hallway of his home in Nelgarde Road was lined with biscuit tins. Albert's granddaughter, my cousin Brenda **LORD** nee Chambers, remembers him giving her glace cherries and a 'finger' of butter as a treat. Delivery to households was carried out on a three wheel box cycle and Brenda remembers a man named Bill being employed to do this.

Albert (Alb) and Florrie (Flo) Chambers continued to live in Nelgarde Road, Catford. They had five children, one of whom, Kathleen Mary Chambers, was my mother. She was their youngest child born in 1919. Following the outbreak of war in 1939 Albert and Florence went to live in Wiltshire with Florrie's family. Albert and Florrie returned to Nelgarde Road in 1944. Albert died of a sudden heart attack in 1944. I was not born until 1948 so I never knew him. My mother spoke very fondly of him. Florrie died in 1957. I remember her very well; she was a really lovely lady

Tanning in Bermondsey declined in the Twentieth Century. The last working tannery in London, S. O. Rowe & Sons of Tanner Street Bermondsey closed in 1997.

Thereafter the tanning industry in Bermondsey was no more.

Many thanks to our contributors to this issue.

I (Stella Eames) welcome photos of people or places (specially historical or family history) in the North West Kent area with a story about them as I like to start each newsletter with a photo and story. Please email me at emailinfoservice@nwkfhs.org.uk with your contributions. Any photos must be your own copyright.

Click on our other links [Blog](#) [Facebook](#) [Flickr](#)

I am a volunteer creating this e-newsletter in my 'spare time' but, if you do notice any errors, please tell me, so that they are not carried forward to the next emailinfo.

I often get asked to publicise family history fairs, new books on genealogy and small genealogy businesses. I use my discretion in including ones which are local to our area or which I think may interest readers. It does not mean that I or NWKFHS has any personal knowledge, or makes any recommendation, about the event or business.

If there is anything else I should be aware of, to give you maximum benefit from this emailinfoservice, please let me know. I do receive many suggestions and requests for external events to be included, but there is only room for so much and I am conscious that the longer this email is, the less likely it is to be read. Some external events I publish on our Facebook page instead. But I'd welcome your opinions on the length and content and whether there is anything additional you'd like included.

Please mention it to others and encourage them to sign up so that we can keep society members and anyone interested in family history informed of NWKFHS activities.

Stella Eames, Editor

emailinfoservice@nwkfhs.org.uk

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Our mailing address is:

North West Kent Family History Society
Society Library 80 Summerhouse Drive
Bexley Kent DA5 2EE

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