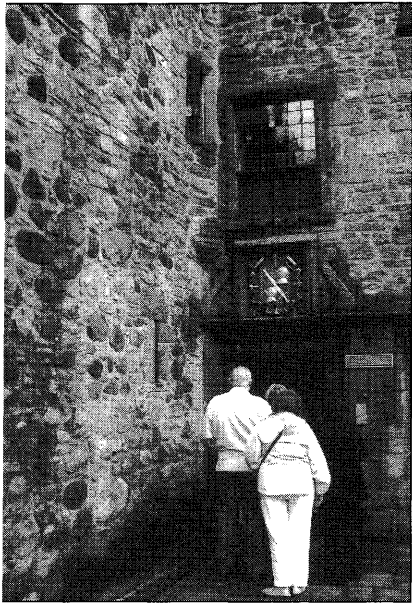
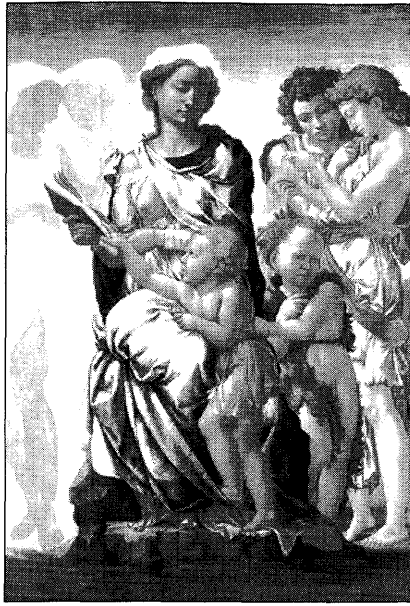


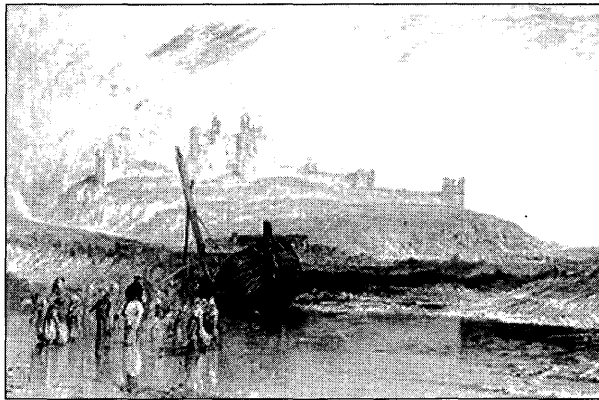
The Gaskell Society



The Gaskell Society visit to Stenhouse Mansion on 9th July. The inscription over the door reads: Patrick Ellis 1623. *Blest be God for all his gifts.* Photo by Janet Kennerley



The Madonna and Child with Saint John and Angel by Michelangelo.



Dunstanbrough Castle: a favourite Turner painting.

THE GASKELL SOCIETY HOME PAGE has all the latest information on meetings.
<http://gaskellsociety.co.uk>

If you have any material or suggestions for future Newsletters, please contact Mrs. Joan Leach, Far Yew Tree House, Chester Road, Tabley, Knutsford, Cheshire WA16 0HN.
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Knutsford, Cheshire
looking up King Street from the foot of Adams Hill

NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2008 - Number 46

Editor's Letter

Joan Leach

We regret that the 2008 Journal is a little late this year but we hope to mail it at the beginning of October.

In this newsletter Fran Baker, Assistant Modern Archivist at the John Rylands University Library, the University of Manchester has written for us a report on the Green and Jamison archive letters, recently acquired by the library. *Recollections of a Victorian gentlewoman* by Marie Moss gives us fascinating links with the Gaskell world and Ann O'Brien reviews The Art Treasures Exhibition: 150 years on. Our trip to Scotland in July is reported by Jean Alston.

The hard working committee of Plymouth Grove Trust and the Friends of Plymouth Grove have held enjoyable and successful fund raising events during this year and hope members will continue to support their efforts. Ann O'Brien in her report has listed future plans.

Our groups in London, Bath and York continue to offer a variety of talks and events. Dudley Barlow, after organising our London group for a number of years, retired to York and helped to launch the York group, however he must now hand over this responsibility and we hope a successor will volunteer. We are grateful to Dudley and his colleague Howard Gregg for all their efforts.

We are working on plans for the bi-centenary year of Elizabeth Gaskell's birth in 2010: both here and in Japan there will be special publications and events. The John Rylands Library is planning an exhibition and events from August to December, 2010. The Alliance of Literary Societies will hold its AGM in Knutsford 15 - 16 May. In 1982 BBC screened *Cousin Phillis*, we would be grateful if anyone can trace a copy of this.

For 2009 we are planning the next conference at the Penrith Campus of The University of Cumbria with a theme of Gaskell in the Lake District with its many literary associations.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2009

Make sure you have the conference date ringed: 17 - 19th July

The AGM meeting at Cross Street Chapel, Manchester will be on 28th March.

Autumn meeting in Knutsford 27th September.

Papers of the Green & Jamison Families

Fran Baker

In the Spring issue of the *Newsletter*, Joan Leach wrote about the Green Letters, a collection of correspondence generated by members of the Green family of Knutsford, who were contemporaries of the Gaskells. Mary Green was a good friend and correspondent of Elizabeth Gaskell, and her husband Henry was minister of Brook Street Unitarian Chapel in Knutsford. The Greens had four daughters of similar ages to the Gaskell girls, with whom they were great friends; they also had a son, (John) Philip, and their family like the Gaskells suffered the early death of a child - Alice died in 1842 at the age of four or five.

These Green letters form a part of the larger Jamison Family Archive: the youngest Green daughter Isabella (who was a year older than Florence Gaskell) married Dr Arthur Jamison in 1875. Arthur died in 1900 but Isabella lived on until 1937, when she died at the grand age of 96. The family archive passed down to Isabella's descendants, ultimately coming to rest at the home of Miss Jean Jamison in Bristol. In June this year, Miss Jamison sold the archive - on behalf of the Jamison family - to the John Rylands University Library (University of Manchester). We were delighted to be able to purchase this archive with the assistance of generous grant aid from the MLA/V&A Purchase Fund, the Friends of the National Libraries, and our own Friends of the John Rylands. It forms another major addition to our Gaskell collections.

For Gaskellians, the highlight of the archive will be 16 holograph letters written by Elizabeth Gaskell. Thirteen of these, sent to Gaskell's close friend Mary Green, have been published in the updated edition of Chapple and Shelston's *Further Letters*. These substantial letters are full of news about Gaskell's own writing, reflections on the work of other writers, news of her family, references to the Green girls, and reports on her travels, hectic domestic life and the activities of mutual friends. She discusses the difficulties she was experiencing with the composition of *Ruth* in 1852, confides her concern about how people will react to the novel, and expresses her relief when she hears the response of Mary and Henry Green to the novel:

Your letter was such a relief (first) & pleasure afterwards. I had fancied from what Miss Mitchell had said of what Mr Green had said that both you & he wd be shocked... I felt almost sure that if people would only read what I had to say they would not be disgusted, - but I feared & still think it probable that many may refuse to read any book of that kind.

She also makes reference to her intense and exhausting work on *The Life of Charlotte Brontë* in 1855; in one brief note she refers to '[u]pwards of 300 letters to read through / copy what is worth in 2 days'. Later she reports on a trip to Birstall to see 'one of dear Miss Brontë's friends' (Ellen Nussey) and to visit locations associated with Brontë's life.

Gaskell also offers solace to her friend when Mary's son Philip decides to move to India in 1860, in order to further his career in the Law. Empathising with Mary's distress at her son's imminent departure, she suggests that Philip, like her own daughter Meta in the past, does not understand 'what the pain of absence *really* is'.

The archive also includes three further letters from Gaskell which have not previously appeared in print. These were sent to Isabella Green, whom Gaskell had referred to as 'a little abomination' in a letter sent to Barbara Fergusson in 1846 (which is also held at the Rylands). Gaskell later revised her opinion of the five-year-old Isabella, who grew up to become a talented amateur artist. One of Gaskell's letters refers to [Edward] Whelan, a stonemason and sculptor who worked with sculptor Thomas Woolner and architect Alfred Waterhouse in the design of the Manchester Assize Courts (constructed during 1859-1864), contributing a series of carved capitals. It seems that Gaskell was acting as an intermediary between Whelan and Isabella Green, who had promised to produce a design for one of the capitals; Gaskell refers to a recent visit from Whelan, who enquired whether Isabella had received some photographs from him, and is very anxious to receive her design.

In addition to the letters from Gaskell herself, there are also 15 letters from Florence Crompton (née Gaskell) and nine letters from Julia Gaskell - all sent to Isabella Green. Florence's letters date from 1864-1874, and are full of family news, details of meetings and exhibitions attended, as well as containing some discussion of politics and reform. In 1864 she mentions a forthcoming breakfast to be held in honour of Garibaldi, with whom her mother and sister Meta had taken tea the previous day; she reports on attending the mass Reform Demonstration in London on 11 February 1867, and on seeing the Queen open Parliament in the same month - commenting that '[a]s the Queen came back there was a distinct hiss and I never saw her so badly received'.

Julia's letters, dating from 1866-1873, are lengthier and fuller than her sister's. They contain lively descriptions of activities and mutual friends, references to her reading matter and travels, as well as much discussion of social and political events in Manchester, London and elsewhere. In 1866 she describes the Social Science lectures she has attended and writes about Barbara Bodichon and female suffrage; in 1867 she discusses the Fenian trials taking place in Manchester, and in the same year refers to her interest in Jamaica (when legal proceedings began against Governor

Edward John Eyre over his role in the suppression of the Jamaican Uprising of 1865).

Some of the letters sent between members of the Green family shed further light on the Gaskells. In the last issue of the *Newsletter*, Joan Leach quoted from Isabella's letter about Elizabeth Gaskell's death, the effect of this on her daughters, and Gaskell's strange presentiment that she would not live through 1865. As friends of the Gaskell daughters, the Green girls and their brother Philip also make references to visits exchanged with the Gaskells over the years and report on their activities; for instance, there are references to two of Marianne Holland (née Gaskell)'s children who were born deaf and dumb, and were to attend the school of William Van Praagh, an early pioneer of lipreading. Philip Green writes to his mother on 30 May 1857 about a letter published in the *Times* on behalf of Elizabeth Gaskell in relation to her biography of Charlotte Brontë. This was, of course, her well-known public retraction over her treatment of Branwell Brontë's dismissal from his post as tutor in the employment of Mrs Lydia Robinson (later Lady Scott) and the allegations she made about their relationship. Lady Scott's solicitors accepted this apology, and Philip concludes '[s]o I hope ends what might have been an extremely awkward affair for Mrs Gaskell', going on to offer his own opinions on the matter.

Even without its Gaskell interest the archive is a goldmine for researchers, and the Greens emerge through their papers as a family worthy of attention and study in their own right. The core of the archive comprises around 450 letters between the Green siblings and their parents spanning a fifty-year period, with the majority of the letters dating from the 1850s-1870s. These letters form a complex web of correspondence, as letters were circulated among the family beyond their direct recipients - for instance, Isabella's accounts of a trip across America in 1872 were forwarded to numerous family members in the UK before being sent on to her brother Philip in India.

The letters touch on a vast wealth of subjects. Travel figures highly, with letters sent home from trips to Paris (including an account of a visit to Madame Mohl's salon), Marseilles, various locations in Belgium and the Netherlands, Rome, Naples, Alexandria and Cairo; also included are Isabella's fascinating accounts of her American visit. There is some discussion of politics, current affairs and world events; Philip, for instance, reports on seeing an exchange between Palmerston and Gladstone in the House of Commons in April 1856, and reference is made to the assassination of Abraham Lincoln in 1865. Religion, art and literature are discussed, and correspondents write about Knutsford acquaintances and society, as well as social events like parties and balls, and customs such as May Day festivities and well-dressings. The whole minutiae of daily life is represented here, from fashions to house decorating to medical treatments. We can also follow major family events

like engagements, marriages, births and deaths. The family suffered a series of losses in the early 1870s: Mary Green died in 1871; Philip's first wife Theresa died the following year; the Rev. Henry Green died in 1873; and Mary Green's elderly mother, who lived with the Greens in Knutsford, died in 1874 - after a long decline and apparently suffering from dementia. Philip's sudden and tragic death in an earthquake in Naples in 1883 (three years after he had suffered a serious stroke) is also documented in the correspondence.

The archive also includes some incoming letters sent to Green family members by other friends and acquaintances - most significantly from Madame Mohl, as well as some letters from John Ruskin relating to attempts to find a drawing master for the school in Knutsford run by the Green daughters. There are some further family papers, including sermons by Henry Green, and correspondence relating to later generations of the family - in particular letters (some dating from as late as the 1920s) sent to Evelyn Jamison, daughter of Isabella, who pursued a successful academic career as a historian at Oxford University.

The Library is indebted to Sarah Tanner, a descendant of the Green family by marriage, who has done an enormous amount of research into the family and produced extremely useful transcripts of much of the correspondence, all of which has been made available to us. We must also thank Joan Leach for initially drawing the archive to our attention, and of course to Jean Jamison for choosing the Rylands as a home for her family papers; the archive will form a valuable resource for researchers both present and future.

Fran Baker is Assistant Modern Literary Archivist at the John Rylands University Library, The University of Manchester.

Editor:

Henry Green, a contemporary of William Gaskell at Glasgow University, was minister of Brook Street Chapel, Knutsford, from 1827 to 1872. The Green and Gaskell families had so much in common that made them close friends: Henry baptised the eldest Gaskell daughter, Marianne, in 1834, and William baptised the eldest Green daughter Emily in 1828.

Henry has an honoured place in the town for his book, *Knutsford: Its Traditions and History, with reminiscences, anecdotes and notices of the neighbourhood* (1857). Elizabeth Gaskell shared his interest and helped in collecting material. Green was a Latin scholar and published an edited facsimile of Whitney's *Emblems* and also a book on Euclid. He ran a night school for a time and frequently gave talks and lectures. At his successful boarding school, amongst the nineteen pupils listed in 1851 was Clement Wedgwood; Sir William Fairbairn's son and Alfred Holt of the Liverpool shipping family also attended. When Henry retired the daughters adapted the school to take girls; Florence and Julia were pupils.

The Green daughters frequently visited the Gaskells at Plymouth Grove, especially for music lessons, concerts and lectures such as Thackeray's, and joined them on holidays at Silverdale, so it is fascinating to learn, from the Green letters, more about them all in later years.

Henry Green subscribed himself in records as 'dissenting minister', and the surviving chapel library books have bookplates for Brook Street 'Presbyterian' Chapel. His was not a narrow faith. He generously lent his slide collection for an entertainment at the opening ceremony of the Wesleyan Chapel in 1865, and Brook Street Chapel was 'lent' for the Congregational Church members to complete their foundation-stone-laying ceremony.

Notes from the Exhibition: Art Treasures in Manchester: 150 years on

Ann O'Brien

Earlier this year, Manchester Art Gallery closed its doors for the last time on its hugely successful exhibition, *Art Treasures in Manchester: 150 years On*. In less than four months over 72,000 people visited it - over a third more than originally anticipated - and this figure excludes the many school parties that attended. Of course this contrasts with the 1.3 million who saw the original exhibition, but then this time there were no enterprising travel companies running day trips to see it and no paternalistic factory owners treating their employees to a day out at the exhibition. We are not in any case comparing like with like. In 1857 this was an entirely new venture, supported by Manchester business-men, encouraged by Prince Albert, and with all the pictures and artefacts lent without charge and without insurance. Such expenditure would be far beyond the reach of any gallery today. Even if it were possible to raise the money, logistically the task just would be too great, not least because so many of the major works have by now gone abroad. Whereas nearly all of the earlier exhibits came from private collections, this time there is only one painting lent from such a source

In 1857, 16,000 exhibits were housed in a purpose built, though temporary, building in Old Trafford. Even though no such extravagance was possible this time, the organisers still achieved a superb display. There were echoes of the Old Trafford building in the (imitation) filigree iron-work arches, incorporating the intertwined letters M A T (Manchester Art Treasures), leading into the alcoves of the exhibition rooms. Decorating the walls of the alcoves was wall-paper which was an exact copy of the original. Flanking both sides of a huge mural of the Great Hall were two suits of armour, which cleverly indicated the size of the hall - all very impressive!

The curators gathered together exhibits from art galleries throughout the country - Italian Old Masters, portraits by Reynolds and Lawrence, landscapes by Turner and Constable, Pre-Raphaelite paintings, water-colours and art photography as well as medieval ivories, majolica, Venetian glass and Chinese and Sevres porcelain.

Both the Liverpool galleries were well represented, as well as smaller local galleries such as those in Bury and Preston. It was good to see, too, that the Victoria and Albert Museum had repaid its debt to Manchester, by lending many items from the Soulages Collection (as well as other items) - this was the collection that the 1857 committee had bought. They were planning to keep it for a gallery which they had hoped to establish in Manchester, using the profits from the exhibition. Sadly this amounted to only £304, so Manchester had to wait another twenty years for its own gallery. In the meantime, Henry Cole, director of the Kensington Museum (later to become the Victoria and Albert Museum), managed to persuade the Board of Trade to allow him to purchase the collection at a rate of £2000 a year! This exhibition has also enjoyed royal patronage - a number of exhibits were from the Royal Collection, although I doubt if Prince Philip was quite as enthusiastic a supporter as was Prince Albert!

In all there were 168 works of art in the present day exhibition, ranging from gold pendants from Etruria (800B.C.-500B.C.) to the work of the 'Modern Masters', many of whom were still living - and still painting - in 1857. Taking pride of place was a painting that caused great excitement in 1857, *The Madonna and Child with Saint John and Angel**, an unfinished work which had only recently been attributed to Michelangelo; as its first public showing after this attribution was in Manchester, it became known as *The Manchester Madonna*. The most popular painting in 1857 was *Chatterton*, and although it was prominently displayed again, this time there was no need for any policeman to guard it! *see back cover

A number of paintings were very evocative of the times: *A letter from the Colonies*, painted in 1852, reminds us of the emigration boom of the 1840s, as it shows a concerned family reading a letter from someone close to them, who has moved overseas. It was lent then by James Eden, the proprietor of Bolton Bleach works - a good indication that not all the industrialists of the area were philistines! *Hindoo Temples at Bindrabunder*, painted by Thomas Daniell, would have been particularly poignant for many visitors, as the Indian Mutiny had begun in May 1857 and was to last for over a year: in fact the organisers of the exhibition closed it for the day on 7th October, as this had been declared a day of mourning - *A National Day of Humiliation*.

Adding interest to this exhibition was one display which asked visitors to choose their favourite painting. *April Love*, painted by Arthur Hughes, one of the youngest of

the Pre-Raphaelites, was voted the winner - and indeed it is a beautiful painting; the vibrant blues of the girl's dress and shawl contrast with the muted brown of the tree bark and green tones of the carefully detailed ivy leaves. The second favourite was Turner's *Dunstanborough Castle** - Turner was the best represented artist in 1857, and remained so in 2007/8 though the 24 paintings and 80 water colours and 150 engravings were now, reduced to one painting and three watercolours, all belonging to Manchester Art Gallery. Another choice, as befits a nation of dog lovers, was Sir Edwin Landseer's *Dignity and Impudence*, the delightful study of Grafton, the bloodhound, and Scratch, a West Highland terrier, the pet dogs of Landseer's patron Jacob Bell. Landseer had 23 paintings in the 1857 exhibition, the highest number for any living artist. *see back cover

In the display cases were beautifully decorated china, glass and metal-work from all over Europe and of course, China. Among the more quirky exhibits were a pot-pourri bowl which had once belonged to Madame de Pompadour and Lucrezia Borgia's mirror! A more poignant exhibit was the *Foundling Hospital Vase*, which was lent to the 1857 exhibition by the Foundling Hospital; the hospital provided the first public gallery of British art, as many contemporary artists donated works to decorate the hospital.

Even more poignant in today's exhibition was *Portraits of Insane Women*, in the extremely interesting photographic display. It is difficult to forget the haunting look of bewilderment on the women's faces. On a brighter note, among the other photographs were a number showing the Victorian interest in botany, as well as the more usual portraits and scenic views. The most controversial photograph at the time was *Two Ways of Life*, which, when later exhibited in Scotland, had one half of the picture covered up because many of the models were nude. However, although the photograph was heavily criticised at the time, it managed to attract wealthy buyers of the few prints available, one of those buyers being Queen Victoria!

The more recent exhibition was made all the more enjoyable by some features which did not appear in the 1857 exhibition. Among these were two musical installations: one where visitors could listen to songs that were popular at the time, including *The Manchester Exhibition Polka Gallop* and *The Manchester Art Treasures Polka*, and another where they could hear some of the music which was performed at the first exhibition by (Sir) Charles Hallé and his small orchestra, as well as the words originally spoken by Hallé himself.

Another interesting feature - one of many - was the inter-active display of the many fine Victorian buildings in the Manchester of 1857; on the wall was a street map of Manchester city centre as it is today, numbers marking the positions of the Victorian buildings and by pressing a button on the monitor it was possible to see what any

particular building looked like in 1857. It was interesting to see how many of these buildings survived and though some had had a change of use, they looked virtually the same.

Just as one of the aims of the first exhibition was to educate as well as to entertain, so too there was an educational element to this exhibition. At the entrance there were wall-boards setting the scene, in words and pictures, of Manchester as it was in 1857. It was not only a city of fine Victorian buildings; it was also a city where people lived in the most appalling conditions. The organisers did well to remind us of this.

Art Treasures in Manchester: 150 years on was a huge success, not only in the number of visitors it attracted but also in giving Manchester such an enjoyable exhibition and a wonderful taste of that earlier triumph.

References

Art Treasures in Manchester: 150 years on, Tristram Hunt and Victoria Whitfield, Manchester Art Gallery, 2007.

My thanks to Meg Parnell of the M.A.G. for all her help.

The Recollections of a Victorian Gentlewoman

Marie Moss

A book-title accidentally spotted, *Elizabeth Anne Galton 1808-1906*, above the sub-title *A Well-connected Gentlewoman*, prompted the thought that the connections of this long-lived lady might conceivably extend to a contemporary of her youth, Elizabeth Stevenson. Interestingly, this proved to be the case.

Elizabeth Anne was the eldest of nine children of Samuel Tertius Galton, a prosperous Birmingham banker who, unnerved by the contagious bank failures of the mid-1820s, gradually ran his business down and retired in 1832 to Leamington Spa. Samuel joined the Church of England when he married but came from an old Quaker family prominent in the commercial life of Birmingham for three generations. He was related to a number of influential people, mostly Quakers, including his mother's family, the Barclays, and via a network of marriages, the Lloyds, Frys, Gurneys, Hoares and Hanburys. Elizabeth Anne's grandfather, Samuel Galton Jnr F.R.S. (1753-1832), a man of broad scientific interests, was a member of

the Lunar Society, which often met at his house. It was Galton's butler who nicknamed the group 'the Lunatiks'. Galton was a generous friend to Joseph Priestley, with whom he had been a student at Warrington, and after the Birmingham Riots helped him with gifts of money and demonstrations of his esteem.

Elizabeth Anne's mother was Violetta, the eldest daughter of Dr Erasmus Darwin by his second marriage. Darwin was also a leading spirit in the Lunar Society and, in the biased if loyal view of his granddaughter, it was he who 'originated all the ideas that Charles Darwin had time and talent to work out'. Charles Darwin was of course cousin to Elizabeth Anne and she frequently stayed with his family, Dr Robert Darwin and Aunt Susan (née Wedgwood) at their home in Shrewsbury, with its pretty garden sloping down to the River Severn. She also loved to visit her Grandmother Darwin at Breadsall Priory, near Derby. 'Happiness Hall' Elizabeth called it - 'the most pleasant cheerful house I ever was in'. Here she mixed with many aunts and uncles, including the two natural daughters of Erasmus Darwin, who had set up a school in Ashbourne 'where my Mother and Aunts (the Sitwells) and most of the young girls in Derbyshire were educated'.

Elizabeth's own education started early: 'I could read well at three years old and could write at five'. At six she started to learn French with a tutor, and German and music with her mother. Every morning before breakfast she was taught arithmetic by her father and she was joined in these lessons by the two daughters of their washerwoman, Sarah and Harriet Bromley. 'Harriet Bromley had a marvellous memory for mental arithmetic, and at ten years old she once multiplied a line of thirty figures in her head mentally, I could never do more than three'. Samuel Galton also taught his children Natural Philosophy. He had an orrery, solar microscope, pantograph, camera obscura, magic lantern and a large telescope to spice up their lessons. It is perhaps not surprising that when Elizabeth Anne was sent away to school at the age of ten she found the experience disappointing.

She writes:

In February 1818 I was sent to school at Miss Byerley's, at Barford near Warwick. There were six Miss Byerleys who taught. Their father married a Wedgwood, a sister I think of the great potter. I was at the school for a year, but was often sent home on account of my eyes, which were often inflamed. I did not learn much at the school, because I was too forward for the lower classes and too young for the upper ones. I never learnt arithmetic or geography after my Father taught me, as I knew more than any of the girls, and my parents wished me to spare my eyes. Marianne and Sarah Priestley, granddaughters of Dr Priestley were at Barford with me and were my particular friends.

John Chapple suggests that the Byerleys' school had begun to falter while at Warwick and was not at its best during the early years at Barford, to where it removed in 1817. Its most prosperous days were at Avonbank, Stratford. Elizabeth Anne was quickly withdrawn and spent much of the following year in a darkened room with 'constant leeches round my eyes'. There is evidence that her friends the Priestley sisters remained to become contemporaries of Elizabeth Stevenson when she joined the school in 1821. Sarah Priestley contributed an arrangement of a French song to Elizabeth's music book and in 1826 Jane Byerley sent Elizabeth news of the two girls in the belief that they had all been at the school together.

Elizabeth Anne's account continues:

I was at school with Anne, Susan, and Agatha, the three daughters of Mr Charles Lloyd of Bingley, and through Mrs C Lloyd my third cousins. They were day scholars and lived in Barford with their Grandfather, Mr Whitehead, and I often spent my half-holidays with them. Mr Whitehead had another daughter, Mrs Greaves, mother of the Mr Greaves we knew here of Barford and The Cliff, Warwick.

This happy recollection is in contrast to Mrs Gaskell's light-hearted claim that she was 'five years at Miss Byerley's and never drank tea out of the house *once*', and remarkable in that these hospitable Barford families were well known to the Holland family and were to become connected with them by marriage. Mary Whitehead became the wife of John Greaves of Radford Semele by Warwick, a Quaker banker with investments in stone quarries and lime and cement works. One of their sons, John Whitehead Greaves, developed slate quarries alongside those of Samuel Holland at Ffestiniog, and in 1835 joined Samuel in working an iron-stone quarry near Abersoch. In 1838 another son, Richard, married Samuel's sister. This was Gaskell's cousin Kate, whom Elizabeth recorded as fording the dangerous quicksands of the Tratte to church in 'wedding dress white chip hat, orange flowers pale lavender satin pelisse trimmed with swansdown'. Richard Greaves was living at Shottery at the time of his marriage and it is more than likely that he and Kate were the hosts to Elizabeth Gaskell and her Knutsford cousins when they stayed at Shottery in April 1849 after the hectic London lionising of the author of *Mary Barton*. An account transmitted by Augustus Hare, and quoted by John Chapple, claims that the party went to 'dine at Mr Greaves at Radford, the father of Mr R. Greaves'. Shortly afterwards Kate and Richard moved to The Cliff, Warwick.

Elizabeth Anne didn't return to school until she was fourteen, and then she was sent for two years to Bath, to a school kept by the five Misses Fournier. On 'coming out' at seventeen, her parents took her travelling and in the years which followed she

was embraced by her extended family in the manner of the time, spending long periods in residence with relatives and friends. She was a great favourite of her Aunt Gurney who lived in St James's Square in London, and it was she who insisted on sending for her trusted doctor when Elizabeth Anne was unwell in 1842.

I had been very out of health for some time, and my Aunt Gurney was anxious I should consult Dr Holland which I did. He was a most agreeable man, quite a Courtier in manner, full of anecdotes etc., and a very clever man. He was related to my cousins, the Darwins of Shrewsbury, and called me his cousin. I saw him several times, and if he wished me to continue the same medicine, he would give me a useful prescription for a cough or something else in return for the fee.

The charm of Gaskell's cousin Dr Henry Holland was legendary and it clearly stayed long in the memory of this patient. The following winter Elizabeth Anne was back with her Aunt, helping to nurse her Uncle Hudson Gurney whose death was 'hourly expected'. She recalls that Sir Henry Holland came at least once every day and Mr Young the surgeon slept every night in the house; the prudent housemaid changed his room every few days 'to keep the beds aired'. Aunt Gurney's faith in Henry Holland was amply justified. After several months her husband recovered, to live a further twenty years, dying at the age of ninety-one. The health of Mr Young, who was used to air the damp beds, is not recorded.

Elizabeth Anne also lived well into her nineties and towards the end of her life used her diaries, letters and family papers to augment the memories which she set down in the 'Galton Book', now in the Galton Laboratory at University College, London. She also dictated reminiscences to her daughter. Andrew Moilliet, a direct descendant of her sister Lucy, has skilfully edited these sources to produce a fascinating volume of recollections. They include eye-witness accounts of national events (Elizabeth Anne was present at Queen Victoria's Coronation and watched her Jubilee celebrations in 1897), homely anecdotes of men of outstanding achievement (James Watt, Matthew Boulton, Robert Owen, etc.) and useful, as well as delightful, insights into middle-class family life in the nineteenth century.

Sources:

Andrew Moilliet, *Elizabeth Anne Galton (1808-1906). A Well-connected Gentlewoman*. Published by Leonie Press, Hartford, Cheshire, 2003. Copies can be obtained by cheque (£10.99 + £1.75 p&p) to Andrew Moilliet, 27 Maple Rd, Bramhall, Stockport SK7 2DH. I am grateful to Mr Moilliet for permission to quote from his book.

John Chapple, *The Early Years* (Manchester, 1997).

Jenny Uglow, *The Lunar Men* (London, 2002).



Elspeth Smellie entertains the Gaskell Society on Tuesday evening, July 8th 2008 at the Tontine Hall, Peebles, Scotland. Photo by Adrienne Stennett.



At the National Library of Scotland. Joan Leach and Dudley Green read Gaskell letter (GL339) about Haworth. Photo by Katharine Solomon.

Tour in Scottish Lowlands, 7 - 11 July, 2008

Jean Alston

Forty or so members and friends visited the Scottish Lowlands, once again to follow Elizabeth Gaskell's family history and literary experiences and contacts. The Tontine Hotel, Peebles, proved to be a good location and base for our outings. An early arrival on Monday allowed some to follow the town trail of fine buildings and river side walk; our only opportunity to enjoy Peebles during the tightly packed itinerary. Our after-dinner talk was about Sir Walter Scott and his home Abbotsford, in preparation for the Wednesday visit.

Tuesday's drive was to Berwick-upon-Tweed, where Elizabeth's paternal ancestors had lived and where her father, William, grew up. A tour of the Town Hall introduced us to the nineteenth-century building which had housed meetings of the Freemen; William Stevenson and his son John were both Freemen. The city gaol was situated on the top floor with splendid views, rather than the dungeon situation which is more usual. The bastions of the town were built on the instructions of Elizabeth 1st and remain in good order today. Many of our party enjoyed walking the bastions and thought of young William Stevenson whose mother complained that he played truant to run about the walls. Perhaps like us he appreciated the excellent views of the river and sea, and the coast around Lindisfarne to the south. We gather, from a number of writings, that the Stevenson boys were greatly influenced by Berwick's River Tweed and North Sea location and that two of William's younger brothers were at sea during the wars with France. William, after a successful education, pursued farming, scientific writing and other more sedentary occupations.

Melrose was our location for Wednesday's visit. The tour of Abbotsford was greatly enhanced by our excellent guide Roderich who clearly loved and was well-versed in his subject. Sir Walter Scott was a prolific writer and his publications would have greatly influenced Elizabeth Gaskell and her contemporaries. Abbotsford was located well above the river and several members walked to Abbots Ford itself, discussing the place and its likely function in history. The estate was extensive and included fine walled gardens for our enjoyment. Melrose Abbey, National Trust walled gardens and several tea rooms provided warm relaxation for the afternoon.

Thursday was the day for Edinburgh. A house of partly mediaeval origin known as Stenhouse Mansion was visited by some of the group. Elizabeth Gaskell's parents, may have farmed from this building (see *The Early Years* by John Chapple) It is now owned by the NT for Scotland and used by Historic Scotland as a conservation centre.

A tour of the National Library of Scotland had been arranged for the afternoon. We were in for a treat! Some of Gaskell's letters were provided for our perusal - and we were actually allowed to handle and read them. I, for example, had letters relating to the Brontë biography which referred to Mary Taylor's involvement in trade after she went out to New Zealand and kept a shop there.

Our day for returning home was Friday but we were not to be denied another important visit. New Lanark was the creation of David Dale and Robert Owen and was coeval with and similar to Quarry Bank Mill, created by Samuel Greg in the eighteenth century. However, the New Lanark river and valley were somewhat grander than those at Quarry Bank and I believe the social structure was organised on more cooperative principles. We were permitted to visit Robert Owen's House, a mill worker's house, the village store and the school. I was interested to learn that no child began work before the age of ten and would have received up to seven years education before that time. Part-time education continued after the age of ten. Restoration of the mill had begun in the early 1970s and seemed to have retained much of the authentic character and atmosphere of its creators.

During all the above visits, the weather was fine and sometimes warm. We are indebted to Ian Campbell for his welcome and introduction to Edinburgh, Joan Leach and Janet Kennerley for arranging the tour and to Elizabeth Williams for her help with planning the journey times. This was, yet again, an informative and enjoyable break for Gaskell members. Indeed, we had a splendid tour.

Editor:

Elizabeth had an affection for Scotland which shows in her work: Dr Gibson in *Wives and Daughters*, for example, had a Scottish accent and in *Cranford*, Major Gordon and Jessie Brown marry and live in Scotland. Elizabeth Gaskell had an early experience of Scotland when she stayed in Edinburgh over two winters as a young lady: a portrait and bust of her date from this visit.

After William Stevenson married Elizabeth Holland on 1st of December 1797 they tried farming at Saughton Mills, also known as Stenhouse, near Edinburgh.* Here they were friendly with James Cleghorn, who as an expert in agriculture, advised them. He was also a friend of Burns who addressed a letter to him, '*Mr Cleghorn, farmer. God bless the trade!*' and later wrote, '*Congratulations to Mrs Cleghorn. I should much like to see the little angel.*' Elizabeth's unusual middle name was a tribute to these friends and perhaps in memory of a child they had lost.

An advert in the *Edinburgh Evening Courant* of 20th January 1797 was for 'two farms to let at Saughton Mills, apply to Mrs Cleghorn' In spite of the Cleghorns help farming yielded little success and the Stevensons moved into Edinburgh where William did some tutoring and they ran a lodging house, moving several times.

Elizabeth Gaskell visited Edinburgh in 1855 and probably stayed at Peebles for a few days, perhaps meeting Robert Chambers there. She wrote to him in March 1859 after reading his *Domestic Annals of Scotland* that it '*warms up all my Scottish blood – and makes me wish heartily that our four girls could see something of Scotland*'; she reminded him of their visit three years before and asked for his help in arranging a holiday on the west coast.

She wrote to Ellen Nussey that '*Edinburgh, compared to London, is like a vivid page of history compared to a dull lecture on political economy*'. (GL 624)

Her final visit to Scotland was in 1864 when she and Meta stayed with Dr. Allman, Professor of Natural History, who was married to Louisa Shaen; and here the last portrait we have of her was taken in an Edinburgh studio.

Reading *Elizabeth Gaskell The Early Years* by John Chapple greatly enhanced our visits to Berwick-upon-Tweed and Edinburgh. *see back cover

Friends of Plymouth Grove

Ann O'Brien

The six months since the last report have been full of activity for all involved with Plymouth Grove. The open days on the first Sunday of every month have continued to have a steady flow of visitors, numbers not reaching the dizzy heights of our Cranford Open Days (to the relief of all concerned, I think!) but, nevertheless, providing much needed income, especially from the book-shop sales. We have also had a number of different groups in during the week, including a visit from our good friends at the Brook Street Unitarian Chapel. All our visitors continue to be very impressed with the house itself as well as with the talks, given mainly by Janet, and of course with the refreshments.

In March we had the first of our special events at the house, when Ann Brooks gave an illustrated talk on Villa Gardens and whetted our appetites for what we hope will eventually be created at Plymouth Grove, once the restoration has been completed. Then in June we had a most informative and entertaining talk, 'In the footsteps of William Gaskell', given by our good friend, John Midgley, the recently retired minister at Cross Street Chapel. Mr Midgley linked the work of William Gaskell with the work of Unitarians today, showing how, then as now, Unitarianism is an all-inclusive and non-judgemental religion.

One of our most successful events took place not at the house, but in the Methodist Church Hall in Alderley Edge: this was the immensely enjoyable musical production

'Music for the Gaskells', performed by Opus 5. Everyone present agreed that this was indeed a night to remember. We are hopeful that the performance may be repeated, at a different venue so that many more may enjoy it.

Delia Corry and Charles Foster once more entertained us with their now famous, in Gaskell circles at least, 'At Home with the Gaskells'. This time it was held at Altrincham Grammar School for Girls and it was good to see people not usually at Plymouth Grove events coming along to see what we have to offer! Both these events served as good publicity for the house, as well as generating much needed funds. Our thanks to Opus 5 and, once again, to Delia and Charles.

Here are details of our forthcoming programme, to which all members of the Gaskell Society are, as always, most welcome:

Autumn Events: As usual, the house will be open from 12-4 p.m. on the first Sunday of the month; then on

Saturday, September 13th and Sunday 14th: Heritage Week-end when the house will be open from 10-4 p.m. On both days there will be displays, Gaskell presentations, memories corner, videos, drop-in children's activities, bookstall, short slide lectures and refreshments. Admission free.

Sunday 28th September: 'Mary Barton's Manchester' - an illustrated talk by the eminent architect and architectural historian, John Archer. This talk will focus on the town's streets and buildings which would have been so familiar to Mary and her family. This is sure to appeal to many interested not only in Gaskell but also in the local history of Manchester, so early booking is recommended. This could be a good way to round off the week-end for those attending the Gaskell Autumn meeting in Knutsford on Saturday 27th September. Doors open at 2 p.m for the talk to begin at 2.30. To book, phone Hilda Holmes (0161) 487 2593. £7.50, including afternoon tea in the drawing room where Elizabeth Gaskell wrote *Cranford*.

Sunday 6th October: 12-4 p.m. Open Day and Plant Sale: plants may be ordered in advance. All are good quality plants at reasonable prices. Please come and buy, and do bring us plants from your own garden for sale on the day. Further details from Hilda Holmes (0161) 487 2593.

Sunday 9th November: 'My Lady Ludlow - a dramatised reading'. This costumed event presents Elizabeth Gaskell's little-known short story (part of which was used in the recent televised 'Cranford'). Delia Corrie will be our Lady Ludlow, with Mary Wright, Vin Tuohy, Chris Burton and Joan Hill. Adaptation by Robin Allan. Again, this event is sure to be popular, following the T.V. adaptation, so book early. Doors open at 2 p.m., performance begins 2.30 p.m. £10, including afternoon tea. Pre-booking essential - phone Hilda Holmes (0161) 487 2593. (Pay on the door.)

Sunday 7th December: 12 – 2 p.m., Open Day (n.b. early closing on this day). Usual exhibitions, tours, bookstall (free).

2.30 p.m: The Grace Darling Singers' Christmas Music & Reading. Enjoy their performance and sing some favourite carols, followed by seasonal refreshments. Pre-booking essential, phone Hilda Holmes (0161) 487 2593. £7.50. Pay on the door.

We would also like to bring to your attention a Day School to be held at the Friends' Meeting House, Mount Street, Manchester (just off Albert Square), on **Saturday February 21st 2009.**

'An Underrated Victorian: Sir James P Kay-Shuttleworth: Medicine, Cholera, the Poor Law, Education and Fiction'

Cost £20, including tea and coffee. Lunch available locally. To book ring Hilda Holmes (0161) 487 2593, and send payment to her at 8 Peter Street, Hazel Grove, Stockport, SK7 4BQ. (Cheques payable to Manchester Historic Buildings Trust.)

So you see we have a full and varied programme, with something which we hope will appeal to everyone. We thank Hilda for taking all our bookings - I'm sure you know her phone number off by heart now! We are always pleased to see anyone who wishes to help, either at any of our regular Sunday Open Days and/or any of our other events, either on Sundays or during the week. We have a number of groups visiting in the next few months and we would welcome you with open arms if you could spare the time to help at just one of these events or visits. Please contact Ann Waddington (email ann@waddington26.fsnet.co.uk) and she will give dates when we need help. Of course we continue to be grateful to all those who have helped in the past.

Finally, can I repeat Janet's request that you write to her, stating your support for the restoration of the home of Elizabeth Gaskell? It will be of enormous help when the trustees are seeking funding if they can show that there is a large body of people who want this project to succeed. If you haven't already joined the Friends of Plymouth Grove, please give it some consideration - the minimum donation is only £5 a year and for this you get two newsletters and, of course, Friends' events. I would like to emphasise here that being a friend need not take up any more of your time than filling in the form and writing the cheque or card number. While we welcome help it is by no means obligatory; we need as many friends as possible, so please think about it. Christine Lingard is also Membership Secretary of the Friends of Plymouth Grove so contact her if you would like to join us! (email: lingardgsms@aol.com)

*Janet Allan, Chairman, Manchester Historic Buildings Trust, c/o 10 Dale Road, New Mills, High Peak, SK22 4NW. Email: janet@janetbook.fsnet.co.uk
The new web-site for Plymouth Grove is at www.elizabethgaskellhouse.org

THE 2008 AGM OF THE ALLIANCE OF LITERARY SOCIETIES

Report by Janet Kennerley

This year's AGM of the ALS was held at the Holiday Inn, Coate, near Swindon in Wiltshire, and was superbly hosted by The Richard Jefferies Society. The hotel was conveniently opposite Coate Farm, birthplace of this author in 1848, which now houses the Jefferies Museum.

Lady Treitel, Vice-President of the Society, gave us a delightful welcome and told us briefly of the life and work of Jefferies and his association with the local rural area, known at "Jefferies Land" which is constantly under pressure from planners and builders due to creeping urbanisation. Despite development however, many of the scenes of his countryside, as yet, still exist and those who wish can experience them – as delegates were invited to do later on during the ALS weekend. During his tragically short life, Jefferies wrote many books about the local people and natural history, particularly fascinating for their chronicles of the last days of a rustic community before mechanisation drove workers off the land. His work has been a major influence on many writers including Edward Thomas, W H Hudson, Henry Williamson, D H Lawrence, Arthur Ransome and John Fowles. He has been described as a many sided genius and major studies of mysticism have anthologised his work and discussed his ideas largely portrayed in "The Story of my Heart". He wrote one of the great novels for boys, "Bevis", as well as several highly original novels for adult readers including "Amaryllis at the Fair" and "After London". Jefferies' writing is heavily influenced by his years spent at Coate and there is a strong autobiographical element to many of his books and essays. However, the author believed that his literary career would be better served living nearer London, so after his marriage in 1874 to a local girl, the young couple and their son moved to Surbiton in 1877, but he died 10 years later at Goring-by-Sea in Sussex.

The AGM was chaired by Linda Curry (John Clare Society) with approximately 40 delegates in attendance, including the President, Aeronwy Thomas. We were told that there are now 99 member societies of the ALS, of which 20 were represented. A new website has been set up at minimum costs and secretarial expenses were low, probably due to the fact that there has been a vacancy since the last AGM. Fortunately this post has now been filled by Anita Fernandez-Young (Dickens Fellowship).

The second volume of the ALS Journal "ALSo..." is now available, with Literary Tourism as the theme. (Joan Leach and Janet Kennerley have limited copies –

please ask if you are interested.) Free electronic copies are available to members – contact Linda Curry at the following email - l.j.curry@bham.ac.uk. In this 2008 edition, Joan Leach's excellent article "Knutsford as Cranford" can be found on page 25 to 30, which I hope will give readers from the member societies of the Alliance of Literary Societies a tempting taste of what we have to offer when The Gaskell Society hosts the AGM weekend during May 2010.

The Arts & Humanities Research Council is planning a project under the title "Beyond Text" researching into Literary Societies and their effect on the enlarging the reading repertoires of members and the function of literary societies in general. The Council is calling for the setting up of workshops to consider pairs of authors, e.g. the representative from the Virginia Woolf Society was keen to match Arnold Bennett with Virginia Woolf. The proposal is not for an academic exercise, but an appeal to ordinary readers and an encouragement to all societies regardless of membership levels to collaborate. Applications for funding can be sent to the Arts & Humanities Research Council. The ALS Journal's theme for 2009 will be "Beyond Text". If any society member is interested in contributing an article, please contact Linda Curry (as above). More detail on this theme is including in the front part of the 2008 Journal. "ALSo .. " is distributed to all member societies and beyond and is an excellent opportunity to highlight a particular writer (required by 1st November 2008 please).

A request was granted for £100 from ALS funds towards a plaque for the Croydon home of D H Lawrence where he wrote "Sons and Lovers" in 1908.

After the lunch break, the group were invited to reassemble at the Jefferies Museum across the road from the hotel, where we watched a short film produced by the Richard Jefferies Society showing local places associated with the writer. A walk was then led around the immediate countryside including Coate Water.

About 20 members stayed on for dinner at the Holiday Inn. The evening's entertainment included recitations and impromptu singing while Aeronwy Thomas delighted everyone with some information about her recent American tour including a piece of her own composition and then another one written by her father, Dylan Thomas, which she recited - a most enjoyable close to an interesting day.

For the few who had stayed over until Sunday, the hard working members of the Richard Jefferies Society, under the guidance of John Price and Jean Saunders, had organised a fascinating Literary Treasure Trail, an opportunity to explore the North Wiltshire countryside and places that Jefferies immortalised in his works. We enjoyed Liddington Hill, Chisledon Church, Burderop House & Park, Burderop Downs and Woods, and Gamekeeper's Cottage at Hodson. Welcome refreshments were

available at the Museum until we had completed as much as time would allow – an excellent weekend.

There is uncertainty about next year's AGM venue. It had been hoped that this could take place in Dublin during June 2009, but as yet, this is still to be confirmed. The Gaskell Society looks forward to being the host in Knutsford on 15/16th May during Gaskell's special bicentenary year during 2010. It is worth reminding Gaskell members that anyone in membership of a society which subscribes to the ALS is welcome to attend this annual event. I am always pleased to pass on details.

Book Notes

Christine Lingard

Patrick Brontë; Father of Genius by Dudley Green. Nonsuch Press, £20.

Not even the most fervent Gaskell enthusiast would deny that her portrait of Charlotte Brontë's father in her biography of her friend was, to quote the Archbishop of Canterbury in his introduction to this book, 'a vivid but misleading picture'. Dudley Green has attempted to redress the balance in this scholarly biography, which makes full reference to documentary sources. It provides a welcome addition to his recent edition of the letters of Patrick Brontë. Though I might add that despite her unsympathetic account to her last visit to the old man (p. 329) Gaskell wrote, on a flyleaf preserved in the Manchester Central Library:

I visited Haworth in November 1860, and found Mr Brontë, as clear and strong in intellect as ever, although confined to bed by advancing age. He was full of interest in Italian politics, and of admiration of Garibaldi, and spoke to me, and my family with tender and affectionate interest. E.C. Gaskell. May 3rd 1861.

Interestingly there is also a new biography of the other man in Charlotte's life - her husband, Rev. Arthur Bell Nicholls:

Mr Charlotte Brontë: the Life of Arthur Bell Nicholls by Alan H. Adamson. McGill-Queen's University Press (Canada), £15.

Also published this year:

Private Sphere to World Stage: from Austen to Eliot by Elizabeth Sabiston. Ashgate, £50.

Including an essay - 'The iron of slavery in her heart: the literary relationship of Elizabeth Gaskell and Harriet Beecher Stowe'.

Reading the nineteenth-century novel: Austen to Eliot by Alison Case and Harry E. Shaw. Blackwell, £50; also available in paperback, £5.90.

A useful analysis of novels that are uniquely representative of the time period, including the work of Austen, Eliot, Scott, Thackeray, Gaskell, Dickens, Trollope, Braddon, and the Brontë sisters. For students and teachers.

Romantic Echoes in the Victorian Era, edited by Andrew Radford and Mark Sandy. Ashgate 2008, £55.

A collection of essays with extensive coverage ranging from Byron, Keats and the romantic poets to Swinburne, Hopkins and Oscar Wilde.

It includes an essay, 'Mr. Osborne's secret: Elizabeth Gaskell, *Wives and Daughters*, and the gender of Romanticism' by Vincent Newey.

Due later this year:

The Lure of Illustration in the Nineteenth Century: Picture and Press by Laurel Brake and Marysa Demoor. Palgrave Macmillan, £45, due December.

A history of periodical literature and illustration in the nineteenth century with 56 illustrations, including a discussion of Dickens' periodical editing. It also includes an essay by Joanne Shattock, 'Elizabeth Gaskell - journalism and letters'.

Family Likeness: Sex, Marriage, and Incest from Jane Austen to Virginia Woolf by Mary Jean Corbett of Miami University. Cornell University Press, £45, due November.

Shows how Victorian attitudes to marriages between relations differed from today, and why such marriages were more attractive to Victorian women than those to a stranger. The Brontës, George Eliot, and Elizabeth Gaskell are also discussed.

Mr. Langshaw's Square Piano by Madeline Gould. Corvo Books; 64 Duncan Terrace, London N1 8AG £13.99 Reviewed by Helen Smith.

This book is much more than the biography of one Broadwood serial no. 10651, made in 1807 which the author acquired at auction in 2004 and subsequently had restored. This volume covers social history in Britain and its colonies in the 18th and 19th centuries, the development of the piano from the harpsichord onwards in London and on the continent, the Langshaw family in Lancaster and elsewhere, as an adjunct to the author's meticulous researches into the history and provenance of her own square piano.

The book covers such a wide spectrum that it could have formed a more condensed volume on the Langshaw family: their background, education and music-making; and also a sequel on Broadwoods in Britain and abroad, combined with the author's theories on social history as reflected through piano ownership in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Madeline Goold writes very fluently although with occasional repetition. She uses humour and imagination now and again to enliven rather dry letters. On occasion the content can be turgid. However it is written with feeling and compassion and at times is deeply moving. The book is well illustrated, has an extensive bibliography but no index. This recent book will entertain anyone with interests in archives, pianos and in particular, Broadwoods. Of special interest to the Gaskell Society are references to Francis Sharpe, "organist and society music teacher of Knutsford, Cheshire", Emily Sharpe, née Langshaw, and also to Mrs. Gaskell and her beloved Cranford."

Footnote: Readers who enjoy this book may also like "The Piano Tuner", a novel by Daniel Mason (Picador, 2003).

Autumn General Meeting

At the Methodist Church, Princess Street, Knutsford
Saturday 27th September 2008

Meet at 10.30 a.m. for Coffee.

11.00 a.m. **Patsy Stoneman:** 'Adapting novels for TV : the BBC's production of Cranford', illustrated with film-clips on DVD.

Patsy lectures in English at Hull University and specialises in the adaptation of Victorian novels for stage and screen. She is author of *Jane Eyre on Stage 1838-1882*.

Lunch 12.30 - 2.00 p.m. approx. £10 (pay on the day)

2.15 p.m. approx. 'Gaskells, Langshaws and family networks', an illustrated talk by **Tim Austin**.

'I do think Mr and Mrs Langshaw are charming', wrote Elizabeth in 1854.

'New' Gaskell letters from her to Emily Langshaw and between their daughters reveal their friendships.

Tim Austin, a descendant of the Sharpe, Whittaker and Langshaw families, all known to Elizabeth, will give a talk exploring these families and their links with Knutsford.

Book with Joan Leach, on 01565 634668, or at joanleach@aol.com

Sunday 28 September, 10.45 am At Brook Street Chapel, Knutsford, flowers will be laid on the Gaskell grave.

11.00am Harvest Festival service

After the service a ploughman's lunch will be served in the schoolroom at a cost of £5 2 p.m. for 2.30 p.m. at 84 Plymouth Grove:

'Mary Barton's Manchester': an illustrated lecture by John Archer, architect and architectural historian.

Pre-booking essential: phone Hilda Holmes (0161) 487 2593. £7.50. Pay on the door.

London and South East Group

Saturday November 8 2008: Gwen Clarke: 'Elizabeth Gaskell and the Victorian Conduct Book - Respect or Rebellion?'

In the nineteenth-century girls & young women - especially young wives - were bombarded with literature concerned with what was perceived to be the correct way to behave, hence the conduct or etiquette book. Did these publications influence Gaskell at all - either in her life or in her work? Gwen will seek to discover the answer by examining some of the conduct books, together with examples from Gaskell's letters & fiction.

Saturday February 14 2009: Fran Baker: 'Intimate and Trusted correspondents: the Gaskells and the Greens'.

Fran, who is an archivist and in charge of the Gaskell Collection at the John Rylands Library, University of Manchester, will consider the correspondence of the Green family - Mary Green was a friend of Gaskell and their daughters were good friends too.

Saturday May 9 2009: Shirley Foster: 'Character and Environment: Freedom and Enclosure'.

Shirley will lead a discussion on Sylvia's Lovers.

She will talk for about 25 minutes and then there will be a discussion based on some selected passages which she will indicate in advance. More homework!!

Saturday June 6 2009

3 - 5.30 pm or thereabouts

A Tea party in the garden (weather permitting!!) at 85 Calton Avenue Dulwich London SE21 7DF.

Bring your favourite reading about the summer or gardens or any seasonally appropriate reading. It does not have to be Gaskell! Weather permitting we shall have tea first followed by our readings in the garden. You don't have to read but your reading would be welcome.

Yorkshire Group

September 20th 2008, 2.00 p.m., at the Friends Meeting House, Friargate:

Joan Leach: 'George Smith, prince of publishers'.

Details from Dudley Barlow on 01904 750366 or at dudleybarlow@hotmail.co.uk

Dudley is retiring as group secretary so we hope another member will take on this role which is not too arduous, mainly arranging 2 or 3 meetings a year.

North West Group

Cross Street Chapel. Manchester

Held on the second Tuesdays in the month at 1.00pm. The chapel will be open from 12.15 with tea and coffee for those who bring sandwiches

October 14	Manchester to Liverpool by train in 1834 by Bernard Champness
November 11	A Matter of Wonder: travelling by train in the Victorian novel by Alan Shelston
December 9	Christmas carol service conducted by the minister Revd Jane Barraclough
February 10	Stolen Childhoods: Victorian child workers in cotton and other trades by Sue Wilkes
March 10	Robert Owen in Manchester by Alan Kidd

Knutsford, St John's Church Hall

Meetings are usually held on the last Wednesday of each month:

29th October, 3rd December (the room is not available for 26th November), 28th

January, 25th February, 25th March, and 29th April

Talks and discussions led by Elizabeth Williams are preceded by

buffet lunch at 12.15. Cost, £7.50

Alan Shelston will give an introductory talk on *Cousin Phillis* at the October meeting.

Followed by discussion on the novella at the meeting on 3rd December.

We are using the Wordsworth edition of *Cranford and Other stories*. Knutsford Heritage Centre and Plymouth Grove have copies for sale.

A New Year event will be held at the Leicester Warren Hall in Knutsford on Wednesday, 7th January. Gillian Stapleton of The History Wardrobe will present *Jane Eyre: The well-dressed governess*. Tea will be served. Booking details later.

The Gaskell Society South-West

Programme for November 2008 - August 2009

Saturday November 8th 2.00 for 2.30pm. St Michael's Church Crypt (opposite Waitrose.) Members £2, Visitors £3.00 including coffee etc before the meeting begins

"Did Elizabeth Gaskell read Jane Austen?"

This will take the form of a debate comparing the attitudes of both authors to marriage, family life, religion and the place of women in society. There will be plenty of opportunity for the audience to participate. Visitors very welcome.

Monday January 14th 7.00pm. New Year Supper "Bring and Share" 138, Fairfield Park Road, Bath BA1 6JT Rosemary and Tony Marshall
Tel. 01225 426732

Saturday April 5th. 3.00 pm. Flat 4, 97, Sydney Place. Bathwick, Bath BA2 6NE by kind invitation of Mrs. Joan Chandler. Visitors very welcome.

"Dramatising Elizabeth Gaskell" by Gaskell scholar Dr. Brenda McKay followed by tea and biscuits. Members £2 Visitors £3.00

Sunday August 16th The Summer Tea - 3.00 for 3.30
(The topic for brief readings of poetry and prose will be "Children in literature")

Any queries to Mrs. Rosemary Marshall

138, Fairfield Park Road, Bath BA1 6JT

Tel: 01225 426732 E-mail: rosemary_marshall@yahoo.com

Linda Curry, Chair, Alliance of Literary Societies

You might be interested to learn that the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust offers opportunities for British Citizens to travel overseas to undertake study projects related to their trade, profession or particular interest. These fellowships are open to applicants of any age and from all walks of life, irrespective of academic or professional qualifications. In 2008, the average grant was £5,300 to cover an overseas visit of 4 - 8 weeks (a minimum of 4).

Applications must be in by 14 October 2008. More detail is available from their website at www.wcmt.org.uk, or you can email them at office@wcmt.org.uk or phone them on 020 7584 9315.