

Romany Routes

The journal of the Romany & Traveller Family History Society



March 2024

Vol 16 No 6

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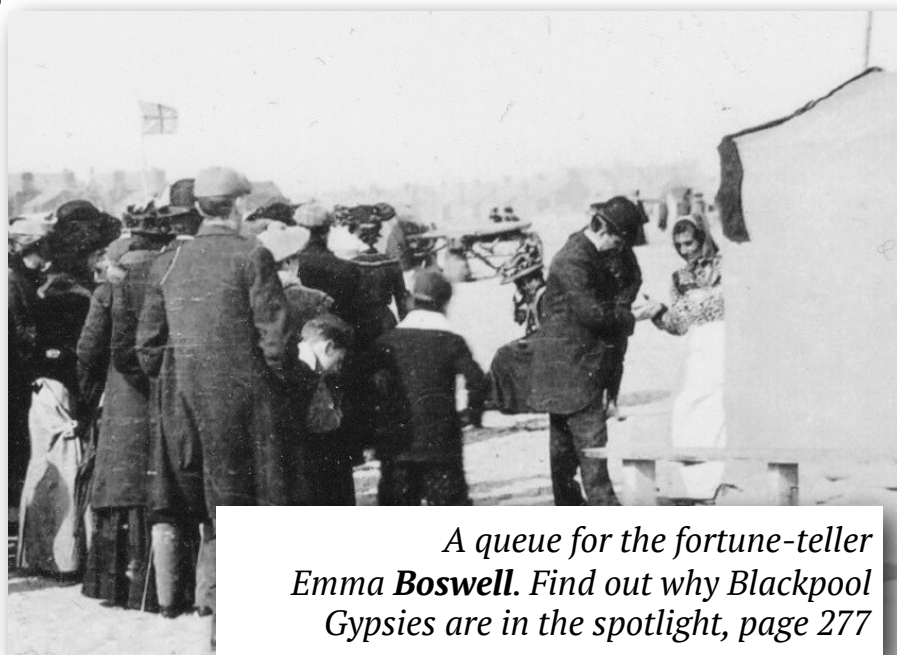
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*A queue for the fortune-teller Emma **Boswell**. Find out why Blackpool Gypsies are in the spotlight, page 277*

A photographic first? Scottish Travellers at St James Fair, Kelso, 1886

By Mark Baillie

The image opposite shows Travellers preparing to leave the marketplace in Kelso in the Scottish Borders on 6 August 1886, the morning after the St James Fair.

A variety of large vans are arranged around the square with smaller carts towards the foreground. Look closely and you'll see two large policemen in the centre. Although the annual 'morning after' gathering was regarded as a local spectacle, it stemmed from a rule that Travellers had to leave town the day after the Fair. Front and centre, a group of lads pose for the camera but most people go about their business, seemingly unaware they are being photographed.

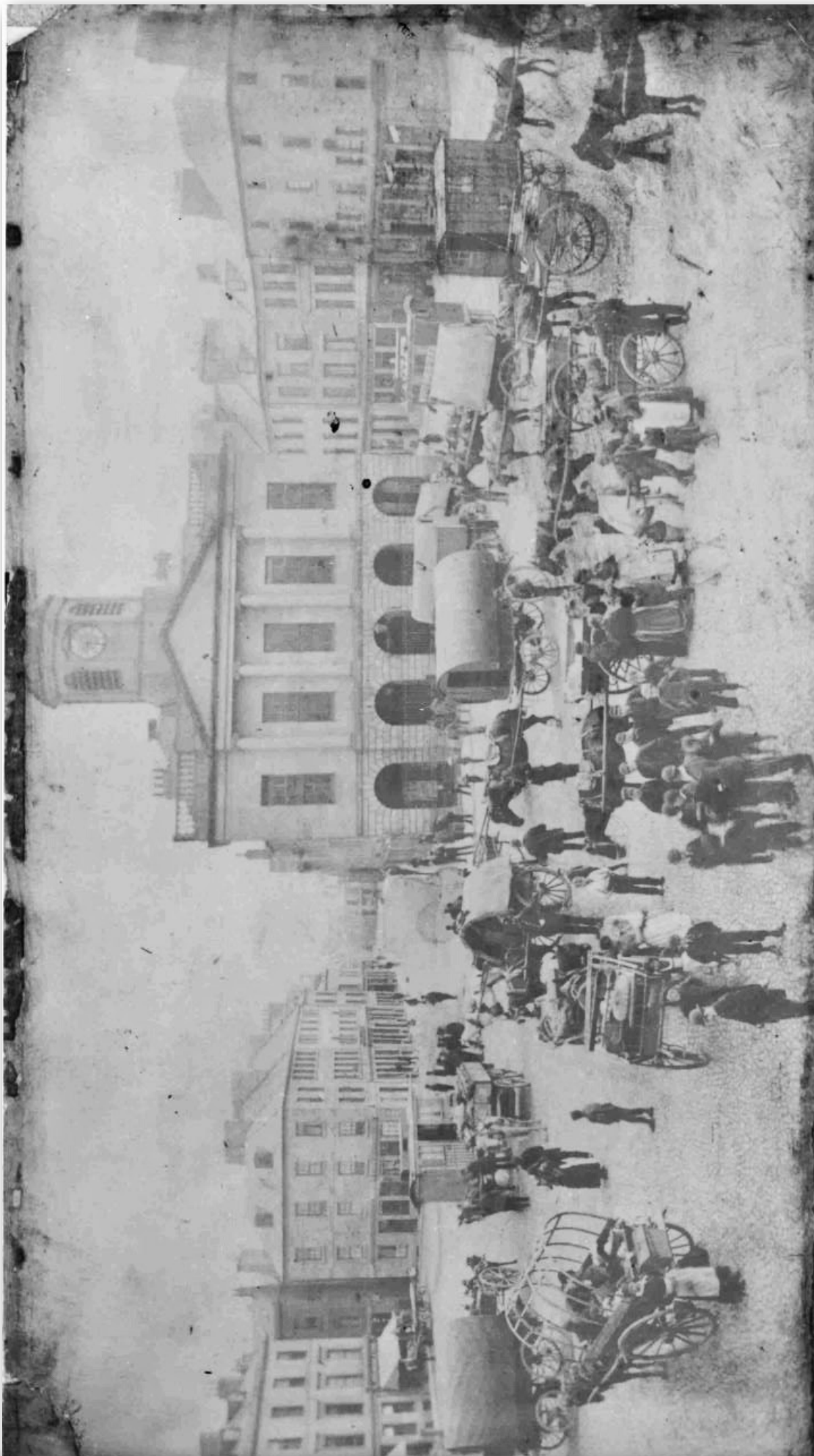
Photo studios first opened in Scotland in the 1840s but the technology was still being developed for decades after, so this could well be the first ever photo of Scottish Travellers. I'm yet to find any such images of an earlier date. In some reproductions, this photo is printed with a caption detailing the owners of every van, including their nicknames and places of birth. Nine families are mentioned in total including the **Baillies**, **Blyths**, **Watsons** and **Douglasses**. It's worth including an excerpt of this:

*"...The two vans with white horse and dark one standing immediately behind Matthew **Baillie** and in front of 'Wood's Fancy Emporium' belong to a showman named 'Hazard' who may be seen leaning against the near shaft of the larger van. The man at the head of the dark horse is Thomas **Neilson** from Fife (one of the Border Neilsons)..."*

The photo appears in the book *Kelsae - A History of Kelso From Earliest Times* by Alistair **Moffat**, published by Mainstream in 1985. There is no information on copyright or where the photo was first published, though it seems likely that it was taken for a local newspaper. A deeper mystery is the identity of the author of the caption and their connection to the Traveller families.

The Editor adds: "If you're searching for Scottish Traveller families - or for English and Welsh Gypsies who travelled across the Borders into Scotland - then you could find Andrew **McCormick's** *The Tinkler-Gypsies* of interest.

It was first published in 1906. McCormick was a leading member of the Gypsy Lore Society and also a keen photographer. So his book contains numerous shots of the families he met as well as the conversations he had with them. It can be found free in fully digitised form at the Internet Archive website:
<https://archive.org>"



Kelso marketplace in the Scottish Borders in August 1886, the morning after the St James Fair. This could be the first photograph of Scottish Travellers ever discovered.

WEB WINDOW

Surrey project maps locations of historic Romany and Traveller encampments
A project in the county of Surrey is currently indentifying and recording the places where Romanies and other Travellers used to camp in times past. There's also an archaeological element in the mapping. If you hear of similar projects in other counties, please let us know. Our thanks to Chy Hersey for the link.
<https://t.ly/1K7KL>

Gypsies of the New Forest - A Photo Story

This feature by the late Ryalla Duffy on the *Travellers' Times* website includes information about life in the New Forest encampments in south Hampshire plus historic photos that we think haven't been published online before.
<https://t.ly/vyYkL>

READ
ABOUT
A NEW
FOREST
GYPSIES
EXHIBITION,
PAGE 268

"What field? Where?" A campaign to introduce British Romany and Traveller history to a much wider audience

This academic article by Becky Taylor, Professor of Modern History at the University of East Anglia, proposes that the history of Romanies and Travellers in the British Isles should not be the sole preserve of Romani scholars but deserves to be familiar to everyone with an interest in social history. Again, our thanks to Chy Hersey.
<https://t.ly/HBQYz>

Photos of Reservoi Smith and husband Ted Goodman: photos of the people and places of the Milton Keynes area before the city was built

The free Living Archive website hosts a series of photos and slides taken in 1969 or 1970 in New Bradwell and surrounding villages that eventually became part of the city of Milton Keynes. Search on "Reservoi **Smith**", "Ted **Goodman**" and "Caravan" to see portraits of Reservoi and Ted and photos of other Travellers in Buckinghamshire. They married in 1893, both aged 22, and lived in a vardo in Goodman's scrapyard on Newport Road, New Bradwell. Our thanks to Dianne Sutton for the link.
<https://t.ly/rO6Td>

What websites do **you** find the most useful for your Romany, Traveller, Fairground or Circus family history research? Or what newly launched family history sources or developments have you heard about? Please share them with us. Contact the Editor: details are on the inside front cover.

Help solve the mystery of a Romany woman's grave in Devon

By Ana Collingridge

The discovery of a Romany woman's grave in a Honiton churchyard has presented a mystery for volunteers working on a community heritage and oral history project. *Telling Our Stories – Finding Our Roots* is a new multi-cultural history project, currently focusing on the Devon towns of Ilfracombe and Honiton. The project has received a grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund and is being managed by the global learning charity, Devon Development Education. Community Heritage Co-ordinators Abi Obene (Ilfracombe) and Jess Huffman (Honiton) are overseeing the project in their respective towns.

Young mother of four Edith **Smith**, the wife of Wisdom Smith and daughter of Tenet and Kezia **Buckland**, aged 37 years, died of “dropsy” on 25 July 1891 while in the Honiton area. It is not known whether she was visiting family, attending the annual Fair or just passing through the town. But news reports of her funeral

- which took place at St Michael's Church on Monday 27 July - suggest that the family may have been well-known locally.

A write-up of Edith's funeral appeared in the *Devon and Exeter Gazette*:

“...Long before the appointed time, the streets leading to the churchyard were lined with people. The church and churchyard were also very full...” The report continues with “...wreaths and crosses of beautiful flowers...” which were sent by “...leading gentry and tradesmen of the town and neighbourhood...” The amount of floral tributes also seem to point to a family that local residents saw as friends.

On a recent visit to St Michael's Churchyard, sadly it appears that Edith's grave hasn't been tended for quite some time. Possibly the descendants of her three sons, believed to have been named Nelson, Nathan and Wisdom, and her only daughter Sophia, do not know the whereabouts of Edith's final resting



place. In later years she was not joined in the grave by her husband.

Let us hope that the final words on the breastplate of Edith's polished oak coffin have rung true: *"Weep not for me my children dear, I am not dead but sleeping here. Rested from some grief and pain, soon we all shall meet again."* If one of your ancestors was among the 40 to 50 mourners who followed the open hearse on that sad occasion or if you have any information about the Romany heritage of Honiton and its surrounding area through family connections, please share your stories so that they can be preserved for future generations. Jess Huffman, the Community Heritage Co-ordinator for Honiton, would like to hear from you at: jesstosfor@gmail.com

The Editor adds: "If you're able to help Jess, why not also send your information about Edith and her family to us at *Romany Routes* as well. There's a number of RTFHS members with an interest in West County Smiths and Bucklands. Thank you."

Saturday

13

April 2024

Hope you've saved the date! Join us online for 'Up with the lark', a talk for RTFHS members about people who worked the land

Well-known family history speaker Ian Waller will introduce you to what life was like for those who were casual or long term 'Ag Labs', plus the wealth of records available to you. It's at 10.00 GMT over Zoom. The Zoom link will be sent to all members of the Romany Routes email group about a week before the talk. So if you're not already a member of the group please go to page 284 to find out how to join. See you there.

Helping with the harvest: strawberry pickers below and hop pickers to the right, both courtesy of Bob Dawson.



A distinguished Romany cousin?

By Frances Brown

When going through old photos and memorabilia recently I came across a record of a delightful meeting I had with the writer Laurie Lee on 11 May 1996. The occasion was a literary lunch held at the Swallow Royal Hotel in Bristol. During this I sat next to Laurie sharing his bottle of Rioja and lively conversation.

"I wouldn't be surprised to find that you have Gypsy blood – with a name like 'Lee'," I said.

"Nor would I," he said. *"But it's not from my father's side. More like my mother's."*

"Why? What was she called?"

"Light," he said. *"Annie Emily **Light**."*

"There you go then," I said. *"My great-great-grandmother was Matilda Light."*

We then digressed to Laurie's experiences in the Spanish Civil War and it was only when we were signing menu cards at the end of the meal that I saw he had autographed mine with *"From your loving cousin Laurie Lee Light"*.

Now I'm wondering if there is any RTFHS member researching the Light family whose tree might include Laurie's branch? Here is a summary:

March 1878: John Light married Frances Emma Morse at Newent, Gloucestershire.

1879: Annie Emily Light born at Quedgely, Gloucestershire.

1891 Census, Quedgely, Gloucestershire

John Light aged 39, Coachman, born Berkeley, Gloucestershire (Inn Keeper in 1901)

Frances Light aged 40

Annie Emily Light, 12

Charles Henry Light, 10

Sydney John Light, 8

Edward Thomas Light, 6

Raymond Alfred Light, 4

George Frederick Light, 1.

11 May 1911: Annie Emily Light married Reginald J. Lee at Stroud, Gloucestershire.

The Editor adds: "If you have Light ancestors and recognise the names in Laurie Lee's Light ancestry, please get in touch with me in the first instance. My contact details are on the inside front cover. Thank you."

Well-known writer Laurie Lee - left - with RTFHS member and fellow writer Frances Brown at a literary event in Bristol in 1996. Could they be Light cousins? And could you be too?



from your
loving cousin
Laurie Lee Light

*The message on the menu card collected by RTFHS member
Frances Brown from the writer Laurie Lee*

What would you like to hear at RTFHS events?

We're always looking ahead and planning the programmes and displays for future Society Days and Open Days. So if there's a topic relating to Gypsy, Traveller or Fairground family history that you'd like to learn about or there's a particular speaker you'd like to hear, please let us know. The Editor's contact details are on the inside cover. And see page 257 for this year's RTFHS event.

Settlement Examinations: another mini-biography about a Loveridge

From Christine Clarke

The value of seeking out Settlement Papers - both Examinations and Removal Orders - in County Record Offices is well illustrated by this wonderful example from Christine Clarke relating to her **Loveridge** ancestors. If you have any similar ones to share, please contact the Editor, details on the inside front cover.

Towcester Union Settlement Examinations, 1848-1861, Northamptonshire

Job Loveridge, Towcester, Tinker - 28 Apr 1859

"I am aged about 74 years of age and was born in a Camp at Ridgemount Beds (near the Duke of Bedford's) and christened there of parents belonging to Towcester. My Father William Loveridge had some Cottages at Towcester when I was a boy. He bought them before I was born and sold them when I was about ten or twelve years of age. I was youngest Son. My Father lived in one of the Cottages 3 or 4 years but travelled occasionally. He bought the Cottages of Mr **Sheppard** and sold them to him again for 100 Guineas. The same sum he gave for them. My Father never had any other property. He was drowned 27 or 28 [*crossed out*] years ago. I was never apprenticed. My Brother in Law taught me the trade. I have never done anything to gain a Settlement in my own right. The Cottages let for about 50s each. I have been living at Towcester about 2 years this last time. I lived at Roade, Paulerspury and several other places. I am having relief in consequence of having a bad hand (a thorn). I was lawfully married to my present wife Jane and have had 14 Children all dead or married but 4 or 5. None now with me. I have a single daughter at Sewell at Hulcote [*pencil addition - now married to Thomas Newberry, Catch Gate*]. I am receiving 3s 6d and 2 Loaves weekly for me and my wife from Towcester. The lawsuit between Towcester & Shutlanger was about one of my Brothers [*sic*] sons. They were thrown to Shutlanger. I lived with my Father till he drowned at Irthlingboro. He never had a House to live in but camped and in Lodgings."

Settlement at Towcester

"My oldest Bro'r Moses - 89 - lives at Olney. When Father sold cottages we travelled about camping and at Public Ho [*sic*] for a night or two, principally at Stoke [Palin] and such places & nr Denton and Long [Rance] and frequently lived out Coventry way (per ribbons & more than ten miles from Towcester - sometimes fifty miles off.

Asher is my Brother Thomas Son. Brothers Thomas & Riley Brothers and Sons of Moses. Riley's [] Settlement and was thrown to Shutlanger. Asher has a wife but no family. Reported Asher a common charge 15 Apr 1862."

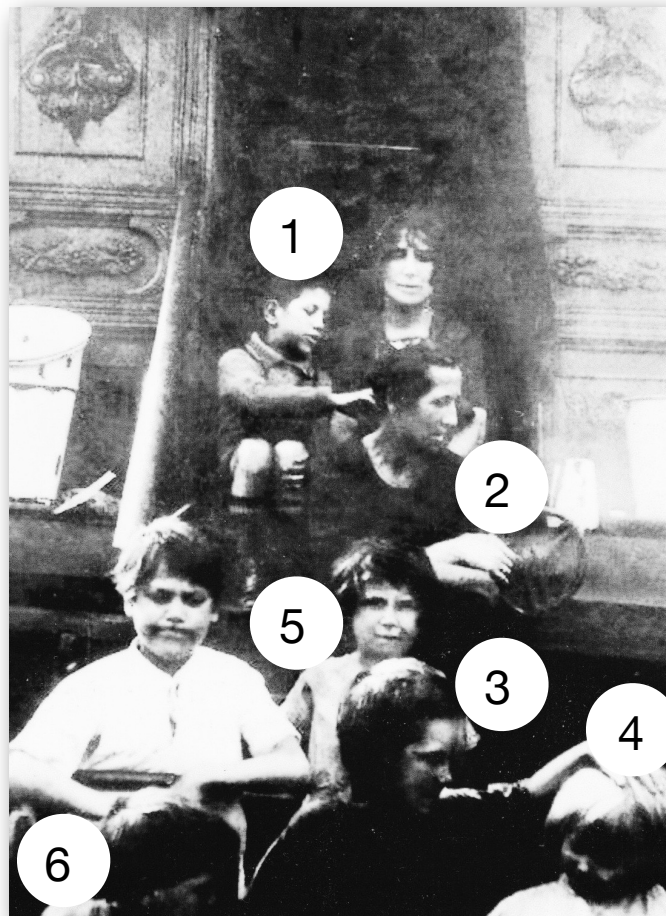
URBAN TRAVELLERS

Encampments, fairgrounds and winter quarters in cities and towns

In this occasional feature we share information, memories and photos about the urban stopping places of our Travelling ancestors: Gypsy and Traveller encampments, fairground and circus sites and overwintering quarters in the hearts of cities and towns. Please let us know of any your own people used regularly or any that you come across in your research.

Today you'll find an unprepossessing roundabout in Tottenham, North London. On one side of it is Tottenham Hale mainline and Underground stations, a modern glass and steel block. On another is a retail park filled with big household names. A busy bus station stands in the centre. It's only on the other two sides that remnants exist of the late 19th century terraced houses and light industrial factories that must once have covered this area.

It's not a place where you'd expect to find traces of Romany history but go back 100 years and you'll see a narrow yard between the houses that backed onto the railway, next to the Station Master's House. The short stretch of road here is called The Hale. The cobbled yard itself was "The Hale Yard" or "School Yard" or even at one point "The Old Barn Yard" but most often "Old School Yard". Sadly there's no evidence of it now.



The late RTFHS member Irene Colbert knew a lot about Old School Yard. Her grandmother Emma **Kefford** née **Taylor** leased it for many years. Other Travellers would regularly pull in, sometimes for a short stay, sometimes long enough for them to be captured by annual Electoral Registers. It was also the childhood home of Irene's mother Rene **Manning** (number 3 in the photo) and Rene's siblings George (number 1) and Hilda (number 6). The van here was Emma's.

Irene identified the people in this photo - which also appears on the back cover of this journal - as:

1. George Manning
2. Rose Manning née **Smith**
3. Rene Manning
4. Emma Kefford (a child)
5. Rose **Cooper**
6. Hilda Manning.

The Manning family were Show folk with their roots in Hertfordshire. So it isn't surprising that many of Emma Kefford's visitors at Old School Yard were not only relatives but also earned their livelihoods on the fairground.

You'll find evidence of this in the baptisms and a marriage listed in the *From parish registers and certificates* feature starting on page 285, selected because they feature "Old School Yard" as abode. Here - for example - is Joseph **Bentley** recorded as a "Travelling Fairman" and Rose **Smith** as a "Travelling Showwoman". Rose appears in the photo on the previous page, number 2. She is the daughter of Emma by her first husband Edward Smith.

Census returns, Electoral Registers, parish registers and birth, marriage and death certificates combine to show how popular the Yard was as a pulling-in place for different families in the first three decades of the 20th century

Visitors and semi-permanent residents in Old School Yard, c1905-1929

- **1905: Walter Brinkley** dies in the Yard.
- **1911: Delia Draper** (née Taylor), Travelling Showwoman & Stall Keeper; Mrs Thora Draper; Jony Gumble aged 9 (relative); William Burgess, Servant - Labourer to Travelling Showman; living in the Yard. Source: 1911 census.
- **1913: Joseph Kefford**, husband of Emma, dies in the Yard.
- **1914: Elias Draper** dies in the Royal Chest Hospital, City Road, London, with his occupation and address given as Showman of Old School Yard. His widow E. Draper give the same address as the informant on the death certificate.
- **1917: John Cox**, husband of Emily Draper, gives the Yard as his address in his World War I Army Pension Record.
- **1924: Rene Manning**, daughter of Rose Manning née Smith and Joseph Manning, born in the Yard.
- **1929: Annie Bentley, Joseph Bentley, George Cooper, James Cooper, Eliza Kefford, Emma Kefford, Joseph Kefford, Joseph Manning, Rose Manning, Albert Smith and Emily Smith.** Source: Electoral Register.

Curiously, despite the fact that Old School Yard was obviously inhabited for at least 30 years, on and off, no map-makers seem to have discovered it. An appeal to the Haringey Archive for help 10 years ago brought no results. They had never heard of the Yard and couldn't find a map or directory that showed it. Neither is it clear what "school" gave the Yard its name. If anyone has any references to the Yard in their family documents, please let the Editor know.

FROM THE FAMILY ALBUM



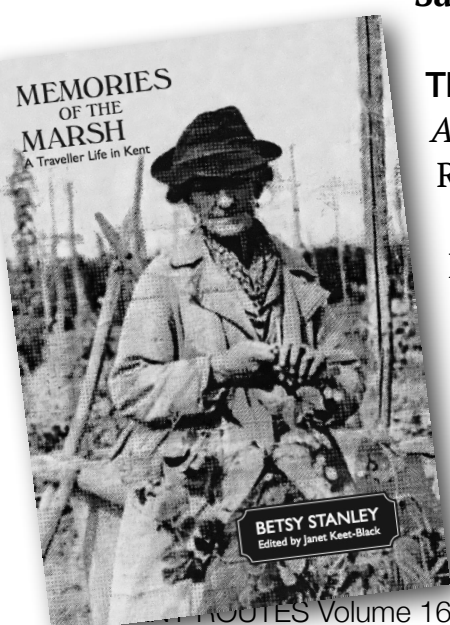
Anne Hughes says: “This photo was given to me by the late RTFHS member Betsy Stanley née Cooper. Some of the people in it were identified by her. They are members of her Cooper family, namely:

1. Samuel Cooper. 2. Henry Cooper Senior. 3. Annie Cooper. 4. Sam Cooper Senior. 5. Lena Cooper, wife of Sam. 6. Lena Cooper, daughter of Lena and Sam. 7. Henry Cooper Junior.”

The Editor adds: “Betsy was the author of *Memories of the Marsh: A Traveller Life in Kent*. It’s the story of her life growing up in the Romany/Traveller encampment on Belvedere Marsh in North Kent.

It looks very likely that some of these Coopers lived on or regularly visited the Marsh. If you know more about them please get in touch. My details are on the inside front cover. And if you’d like more information about the RTFHS publication *Memories of the Marsh* and how to order it, please go to this page of the RTFHS website:

<https://rtfhs.org.uk/publications/familyhistories/>”



Blackpool Gypsies in the spotlight online

By the *Routes* Editorial Team



The *Travellers' Times* printed and online edition for Winter 2023-24 features the South Shore Gypsy community in Blackpool, Lancashire, on its History page. The community lived on the sand dunes where the Pleasure Beach Amusement Park stands today.

RTFHS President Bob Dawson supplied two photos from his Gallery dating from the first decade of the 20th century to illustrate the article. There's one of Trafalgar **Boswell** and his wife Athaliah **Whatnell** and members of their family with their bender, van and a switchback railway in the background. Another shows Jennie **Boswell** née **Dunton**, the second wife of Tobias Boswell, greeting crowds at her fortune-telling booth. Tobias is included in the photo. He is the uncle of Trafalgar.

A third image - shown above - is of Pamela **Mullenger**, the daughter of Lementeni **Smith**, the great-grandmother of the Editor, standing by the side of a fortune-telling booth. It appears to be a white canvas ex-Army bell tent.

Travellers' Times can be seen free on their website here:
<https://t.ly/sOu6S>

The Editor adds: "Did your family belong to the South Shore Gypsy community like mine did? I'd be pleased to hear from you and share information. My details are on the inside front cover."

The umbrella mender

By Anne-Marie Ford

The pretty church of St Stephen's in St Albans, Hertfordshire, was the setting for the baptism of Jane **Smith**, daughter of Gypsies Christopher and Priscilla on 3 February 1811. Christopher Smith and his first wife Priscilla **Shaw** had several children baptised in Hertfordshire, and subsequently Christopher and his second wife, Maria, also favoured the county, although Christopher himself claimed to have been born at Great Brington in Northamptonshire, and, it seems, considered that as home territory.

Christopher Smith was to live into extreme old age, and was always to be found travelling much the same beat, and always accompanied by family members. A censorious article in the *Hertfordshire Express and General Advertiser* of 5 November 1870 makes reference to "*an old Gypsy named Christopher Smith, and his son Joseph, who appeared attired in a very dilapidated suit of clothes and presented an unsightly appearance, were charged under the vagrancy act.*" The 1871 census finds him, "*aged 86 years,*" and still claiming birth in Great Brington, Northants, with several family members, at Clavering, Essex, "*in tents.*" His second wife, Maria, is present, with sons Barthy (Bartholomew) and Moses and, in a neighbouring tent, Christopher's son, Stephen, and his wife Susan, with children Cornelius aged four and Sydney, an infant. In June of the same year Christopher, together with sons Moses and Stephen, were charged with vagrancy, found "*encamping on the highway in the parish of King's Walden,*" in four tents, with a donkey and cart, and accompanied by two women and children.

Great Brington was the location which Christopher's daughter, Jane, was also to claim as her place of birth in one of the two 1861 census records in which she appears. At Brent Pelham, Hertfordshire, she is with her husband Richard **Carey**, a travelling tinker, who claimed birth at Banbury in Oxfordshire in 1791, and at Clavering, Saffron Walden, Essex, where the couple have been joined by Jane's brother, Moses Smith, a tinker and chair bottomer, aged 35; Moses claimed birth at Stocking Pelham in Hertfordshire, but was actually baptised on 24 January 1819 at Colmworth, Bedfordshire, and so, in reality, was about 42 years of age.

Three years after these census records, on 29 March 1864, the local paper reported on the petty sessions at Waltham Abbey:

ABOUT ANNE-MARIE FORD. Anne is the great-great granddaughter of Thomas Boswell, and a descendant of Bucklands, Smiths and Lees, as well as the Boswell tribe. She writes and researches monthly articles for the website **GypsyGenealogy.org** through which she can be contacted, and has written two books for the RTFHS about the Stanley tribe, which is her specialist area.



“Richard Carey and Moses Smith, two Gypsies, were charged with being asleep under a tent and having no visible means of subsistence. A former conviction being proved against Smith, he was sentenced to 21 days imprisonment and Carey to 14 days.”

By the autumn of that same year tragedy had struck the family, with Jane’s sudden death, and the *Hertfordshire Express and General Advertiser* of 8 October 1864 carried a report of the inquest regarding

“Jane Smith, a Gypsy woman, aged 54, who died in an encampment on the Roman road leading from Baldock to Walkern.” Richard Carey deposed that the deceased woman had lived with him as his wife for 43 years; she was born in Wheathampstead; Joseph and William Smith, rush chair bottomers, usually travelled with them. On the Monday previous the whole party were encamped together on the above named road in two tents. The deceased seemed naturally a healthy woman, but she complained occasionally of a pain in her left side. On the day of her decease she ate and drank as usual, and in the evening, between 5 and 6 o’clock, as she was sitting on the grass near to witness, she coughed and threw up blood; her own tent was about eight yards distance and she tried to move away into it but she fell down on her knees. Joseph Smith picked her up and she died in his arms.

Christopher Smith deposed that the deceased was his daughter, that she had lived with Carey as his wife for many years, and that he was always kind and gentle in his behaviour towards her. Joseph Smith deposed that he saw the deceased fall on her knees, he ran to pick her up, blood came from her mouth, and she died in about five minutes afterwards without speaking, or marking any noise except a gurgling in the throat.

Mr Augustus **Dixey**, surgeon of Baldock, deposed that he had examined the body of the deceased and found no marks of violence upon it; his opinion was that the deceased had died from some rupture of some blood vessel in the stomach depending upon congestion, arising from disease of the heart.

Since Jane was only 54 years of age at her death, the assertion at the inquest that she had lived with Richard Carey for 43 years could not have been fact, but it is clear that they travelled with members of her family and, in spite of the



*An elderly 19th century umbrella mender.
Courtesy of Wikimedia Creative Commons*

considerable age gap, seemed amicably united. Her husband was to die just three years later, and he, too, was subject to an inquest as to the cause of death, which was reported in the *Hertfordshire Guardian* of 12 March 1867:

“Great Berkhamsted

On Saturday inst., an inquest was held at the Union Workhouse...on the body of Richard Carey, an itinerant umbrella mender, about 75 years old, who was discovered dead in a barn in the occupation of Mr Redding at Harriott End, Northchurch, on the Thursday previous. It appeared from the evidence that the poor old man had been in the habit of sleeping abroad, sometimes in a barn, at others lighting a fire by the roadside; that he fell down from weakness after receiving relief in Mrs Redding’s house the day before, and crept into the barn for shelter, where next day he was found dead. Mr Hilder, surgeon, considered that he died from exhaustion and debility.”

A postscript to Richard’s sad demise appeared in the *Hertfordshire Guardian* of 16 March, when “George **Harris**, a Gypsy, was charged with stealing a quantity of tools, of the value of 2/6d, on 28th ult., the property of the late Richard Carey, from a barn at Harriott’s End. He was committed to prison for six weeks.”



Know of any Gypsy, Traveller, Fairground or Circus family history/ heritage events happening near you in 2024?

Please let us know so that we can share the information. We’ll be pleased to hear about online events too. And if you attend one, why not write a few words for *Romany Routes* and send in a photo or two. This one, courtesy of Ellen Stuart, shows a bow-top and its owners attending the Gypsy Roma Traveller History event in Dorchester, Dorset, in June 2023. Check Diary Dates on page 288 for this year’s event.



More Indexers needed for the RTFHS Master Index of Travelling People. Come on board! See page 276.

FROM PARISH REGISTERS AND CERTIFICATES

Romany Routes has a long tradition of bringing you finds from parish registers and transcriptions taken from birth, marriage and death certificates.

As always, to protect people's privacy, we will only publish details of births/baptisms that took place before December 1920, marriages before December 1940 and deaths/burials before December 1965. Please send us yours. Our thanks to Rod Berrieman and Tony Dixon for their contributions this time.

Births and baptisms

Ann Ford

Bp 7 August 1786, Thame, Oxfordshire, daughter of William and Ann **Ford**, Travellers. *[From Rod Berrieman]*

Susanna Shatlow

Bp 12 May 1786, Thame, Oxfordshire, daughter of John and Charlotte **Shatlow**, Travellers. *[From Rod Berrieman]*

Mary Ann Sherwood

Bp 15 April 1789, Thame, Oxfordshire, daughter of John and Charlotte **Sherwood**, Travellers. *[From Rod Berrieman]*

James Brinkley

Bp 3 January 1912, St Peter's, South Tottenham, London, son of Job and Lavinia **Brinkley**, The Hale Yard, Traveller.

Charity Penfold

Bp 17 March 1912, St Peter's, South Tottenham, London, daughter of Frederick and Ada **Penfold**, Old School Yard, The Hale, Travellers.

Esther Spencer

Bp 25 April 1909, St Peter's, South Tottenham, London, daughter of William and Louisa **Spencer**, School Yard, The Hale, Traveller.

Rellie Smith

Bp 3 February 1909, St Peter's, South Tottenham, London, daughter of Charles and Henrietta **Smith**, School Yard, The Hale, Traveller.

LEARN MORE
ABOUT OLD
SCHOOL
YARD,
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Emma Bentley

Born 10 January 1924, In a Caravan, Old School Yard, The Hale, Tottenham, London, daughter of Joseph **Bentley** and Annie Bentley formerly **Smith**,

Travelling Fairman. Informant: A. Bentley, Mother, In a Caravan, Old School Yard, The Hale, Tottenham. *[From Tony Dixon]*

Arthur Gray Waterfield

Bp 27 July 1887, Sculthorpe, Norfolk, son of Joseph and Margaret **Waterfield**, of Norwich in a Van resting in Sculthorpe, Hawker, 12 months old, Privately. *[Baptised same day as child below.]*

Naomi Welford

Bp 27 July 1887, Sculthorpe, Norfolk, daughter of James and Mary Anne **Welford**, of Dickleburg, Van resting in Sculthorpe, Hawker, born 23 July 1887. Privately. *[Baptised same day as child above.]*

Solomon Alexander Cooper

Bp 18 August 1889, St Mary's, Woodford, Essex, son of Duke and Eliza **Cooper**, Gipsy.

Elias Draper

Bp 7 June 1914, Westcliff on Sea, Essex, son of Elias and Caroline **Draper**, Licensed Hawker, Eastwood. Born 30 November 1913.

Marriages

Manning and Smith

Married 31 May 1916, Register Office, Edmonton, London
Joseph **Manning**/aged 33/Bachelor/General Hawker/Old School Yard Tottenham Hale/son of Samuel Manning, Showman
Rose **Smith**/24/Spinster/Travelling Showwoman/Old School Yard Tottenham Hale/daughter of Edward Smith deceased, Showman
Bride and groom both sign: J. Manning and R. Smith
Witnesses: A. **Bentley** *[signs]* and Ernest **Harris** *[signs X]*



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Deaths and burials

James Johnson

Buried 31 January 1724/5, Sandbach, Cheshire. Son of Saml. **Johnson**, a traveller, Sandbach.

James Johnson

Buried 8 March 1752, Oakington, Cambridgeshire. Son of Tim **Johnson**, travelling man.

Eliza West

Buried 17 February 1926, aged 73, St Paul's, Astley Bridge, Lancashire. Of caravan, Duncan Square, Oswaldtwistle.

Lipy West

Buried 2 December 1915, aged 32, St Paul's, Astley Bridge, Lancashire. Of caravan back of Union Road, Oswaldtwistle.

The Editor adds: "Remember that there are also large collections of baptisms, births, marriages, burials and deaths on the RTFHS website. We add to these regularly so do check there now and again. We may have discovered your family members. Find the links to these indexes on our Free Records page: <http://rtfhs.org.uk/free-records/>"



What surnames appear this time?

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A photo taken in Old School Yard, The Hale, Tottenham, North London, in the 1920s. The Yard was rented for many years by Traveller Emma Kefford and was a regular pull-in for other Travellers. This van is Emma's. The names of those pictured are in the Urban Travellers article inside.

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