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## Editorial

Another clutch of excellent articles and research notes, written by both professional and amateur historians, are printed in this issue: we welcome some new authors and welcome back some familiar names. I was delighted when Janet Few, whose thesis I examined at Exeter University in 2009, undertook to bring to publication some of the work of her late fellow research student, Caroline Verney. The result is a fascinating insight into the world of the farm servant in north Devon in the nineteenth century, and a detailed exploration of the reliance upon family labour in the same area. The paper adds considerably to the growing revisionist historiography on this subject, some of which has appeared in recent years in *LPS*.

Samantha Williams, a long-standing member of the LPSS Committee, follows with a paper on unmarried mothers and the New Poor Law in Hertfordshire, which utilises—*inter alia*—data compiled by one of my erstwhile research students at the Centre for Regional and Local History at the University of Hertfordshire, and published in 2005 as a ‘bonus file’ on our Herts 1851 Census CD Rom. Under the Old Poor Law fathers were expected to provide financial maintenance for their children and mothers to care for and rear them. The New Poor Law sought to shift all responsibility on to mothers, and Williams concludes that the Bastardy Clauses of the New Poor Law, overall, had a negative impact upon the well-being of unmarried mothers. For although unmarried mothers could and did use the new Hatfield Union Workhouse as a lying hospital to help them through their pregnancy, the fact that this was institutional provision, and carried both a stigma and a disciplinary aspect, weighed heavily on the negative side.

For our third article we are delighted to publish another piece written by one of our regular amateur contributors. Here Audrey Perkyms provides further insight into the demographic and social history of nineteenth-century Kent through an analysis of occupations recorded in the five censuses between 1841 and 1881. Her detailed analysis of the six parishes of Halstow, Hartlip, Newington, Rainham, Stockbury and Upchurch demonstrates the difficulties of defining any area as ‘rural’ or ‘industrial’. Alongside the brick and cement industries found here supplying a large, external market, small-scale industries also remained, meeting local needs, and agriculture continued even in the most industrialised parishes. In the southern parishes agricultural pursuits remained static, whereas in the intermediate ones agricultural production actually increased, with new developments in fruit growing and market gardening, assisted by modern transport facilities and access to the large London market. There was a dearth of opportunities for the employment of women, and married women were much less likely to return an occupation than single or widowed women, although many of these would have been looking after children. The lack of employment opportunities, together with the increased

ease of travel, explain the extent of female out-migration, just as the increased opportunities for men explain their in-migration into the industrialised areas. The contrast between the types of occupation in different areas explains the difference in the percentage growth in population between 1841 and 1881.

Two research notes are published in this issue. The first is by one of our most long-standing supporters, Michael Saxby, who pays homage to the late Richard Wall by publishing the fruits of research on the subject of marriage horizons conducted under Richard's guidance at the University of London many years ago. The second comes from our newly appointed editor, Jonathan Healey, and provides a gloss on some fascinating documents pertaining to the grain trade in Cumbria in the late sixteenth century.

This edition is completed by another very comprehensive Review of Recent Periodical Literature, compiled by Jonathan Healey, Andrew Hinde and Rebecca Oakes.

### **LPSS conferences**

The thirteenth LPSS Spring conference was held in at the Friends Meeting House, Euston Road, London on Saturday 13 April 2013 on the theme of *Urban mortality in Britain*. My thanks to all of those who gave papers or attended, and to Karen Rothery for her help in organising the event. A full report is included in this issue. The Autumn conference 2013 will be held Lancaster University on Saturday 16 November, on the theme of *Immigrant communities in Britain*, with papers ranging from the later medieval period to the twentieth century. Speakers include Colin Pooley, Mark Ormrod, Don MacRaild, Caroline Bressey, David Feldman, Kathey Burrell, Wendy Uglioni and Nissa Finney. Full information can be found in the recently circulated *LPSS Newsletter*. The Spring 2014 conference will be held in Oxford on the theme of *Populations in Crisis*.

### **Editorial matters**

This is the last issue of *LPS* I will edit after 14 years before the mast, and I leave the journal a little regretfully, but delighted that it will now pass to the safe hands of one of the brightest social and local historians of his generation, Jonathan Healey. Jonathan fully embraces the philosophy of the journal that I and my various editorial boards have nurtured over the past years, as his article in the recent *LPSS Newsletter* so clearly demonstrates. I must also thank him for his kind words about my contribution as editor, and thank also Colin Pooley for his most generous appraisal of my period of office, also printed in the *Newsletter* 53.

There are two possible ways for me to sign off. I could now launch into a long tirade about lost youth, expectations mocked, ambitions thwarted and the frustrations of working in the university sector during a period of almost continuous austerity. Or I could go quietly, celebrating the opportunities that I have had to work with so many wonderful colleagues

(and some less wonderful), to write on such a variety of topics in social, economic and demographic history, and to perform in front of so many captive student audiences. It's been a blast, really, and *LPS* has formed a very important part of the whole experience. I intend to continue to write, but now to my own deadlines rather than those dictated by demanding editors or Research Excellence Frameworks.

Of course, as many of you know, I am now a very unusual animal indeed—an academic turned businessman—the reverse of a path more frequently travelled. Somewhat bizzarely, I'm now managing director of two limited companies and one half of a trading partnership. And the cap seems to fit, for Yoxford Antiques Centre and Gardens is thriving, as is The Flying Goose Café, and my 'inner spiv' has finally emerged (careful now ...) in my role as a partner in Cobnut Antiques. So, if any of you are in need of quality antique furniture, silver, china, books, etcetera etcetera, at knock-down prices (honestly guv), or want to sample some fine, home-made local produce close by the Suffolk heritage coast ... you know where to come.

My thanks once again go to Viv Williams of Cambrian Typesetters for laying out this issue, and to our printer, Halstan.

Nigel Goose  
October 2013