

Explorations:

collections by and about women
at Lambeth Archives



Introduction

The purpose of this guide is to:

- ◇ highlight archive collections held by Lambeth Archives that are by and about women,
- ◇ celebrate the centenary of the 1918 Representation of the People Act,
- ◇ and to encourage local people and communities to deposit materials at Lambeth Archives in which a diverse range of women's voices can be heard loudly and clearly.

ELECTRIC MANSIONS.	
Quance, Alice	1
Quance, Richard	1
Smith, Daisy Maud Eliza	3
Smith, Herbert George	3
Egerton, Richard	5
Anning, Albert Charles	6
Anning, Maud Marion	6
Aarons, Catherine	7
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Popkiss, Amelia Louisa	8
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Putley, Clara	9
Putley, Percy William	9
Mirchiner, Ada Louisa	11
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Flood, Beatrice Maud	14
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Turnham, Adelaide	19
Newman, Grace Mary	20
Day, Ralph	24
Day, Sarah	24

Women are vastly under-represented in all UK archive collections, but in local authority archives, this inequality is magnified because women were absent from voting registers in large numbers until 1918, when some women over 30 were given the right to vote in parliamentary elections for the first time.

This means that archive users have a much harder time finding out about women and their stories (personal, political or otherwise) than they do those of men. This also leads to the assumption that women did not play any part in public life until the twentieth century, which is not the case.

Women have often had to work outside of the official political system in order to get their voices heard, and as such their activities were often only recorded at one remove, in newspapers or as court reports, or in parish poor law records; not in their own words. This is even more true for women from BAME or working class backgrounds, and the under-representation of these women in archives continues to be a major problem.

There is a certain power in a person being represented on their own terms in the historic record. As such, we have highlighted a number of collections where women's voices are clearly audible, alongside those collections where women's agency is limited.

This guide is not intended to be complete, and we hope it will encourage local Lambeth residents and communities to deposit their own archive materials with us to help preserve lesser heard voices and experiences for the future.

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Additional Sources

Aside from our archival collections, our local history sources can contain useful information too:

Local history books and press cuttings: These are ordered by subject and are available in our search room. There is a subject called Women, Ref. 505, and Women's Rights Ref. 502 but there are also many other widely related subjects that you can find in the green subject guide in our search room.

Local Newspapers: These can be a rich source of information. Most of our newspapers are microfilmed and we do also hold a newspaper index which includes subjects relating to women.

Images: over 12,000 images are available on our images website, Lambeth Landmark, on a range of subjects. Visit <https://boroughphotos.org/lambeth/>

Politics

The Olive Morris Collection - IV/279

1967—2009

Olive Morris was a Black community activist working in late 1960s and 1970s South London (Brixton) and Manchester. Morris became involved in community activism around 1968, and was a member of the Brixton core of the British Black Panther Movement.

Black women's struggles were at the heart of Olive Morris' work, and she was co-founder of the Brixton Black Women's Group in 1974, and the Organisation of Women of Asian and African Descent (OWAAD) in 1978. Morris was central to the squatters' movement of that decade. She read social sciences at the University of Manchester and became involved with community groups in Moss Side, and was an active member of the Manchester Black Women's Co-operative and the Black Women's Mutual Aid Group.

On returning to Brixton in 1978, she started working at Brixton Law Centre at their Juvenile Unit. She died at the age of 27 from Hodgkin's Lymphoma.

This collection was brought together and catalogued by the Remembering Olive Collective.

Includes: photographs, ephemera and oral histories relating to Olive Morris



Come to the first PUBLIC MEETING OF:

BLACK PEOPLE AGAINST STATE HARASSMENT (BASH)

**MEETING PLACE – ABENG, 5 GRESHAM ROAD, SW9
TIME – 4 p.m., SUNDAY, 1st OCTOBER, 1978**

SPEAKERS FROM:

**THE 'SUS' CAMPAIGN • THE BLACK
LIBERATOR • BRADFORD ASIAN YOUTHS • MUKHTI
BLACK PEOPLES INFORMATION CENTRE**

ORGANIZATIONS:

**BLACK SOCIALIST ALLIANCE (BSA) • BRADFORD ASIAN
YOUTH (BAY) • MUKHTI (An Asian Collective)
BLACK PEOPLES INFORMATION CENTRE (BPIC)
THE BLACK LIBERATOR (TBL) • THE 'SUS' CAMPAIGN (BPOCAS)
BRIXTON AD-HOC COMMITTEE AGAINST POLICE
REPRESSION (BACAPR) • THE BLACK WOMEN'S GROUP (BWG)
With supporting Black Organizations outside of London**

For further information ring: Ricky 671 3450, and Cecil 969 4123/969 9825
Published by BASH, 121 Railton Road, London, SE24.

Streatham Townswomen's Guild – IV/254

1956-1997

Townswomen's Guilds were founded in 1928, formed from the Suffrage movement after women won the vote. The aim of the organisation was to educate women to be citizens, and to provide a meeting place for them to develop educationally and socially. The Streatham Townswomen Guild records date from 1956-1997.

Includes: minute books, annual reports, national council meeting minutes, and ephemera. An embroidered banner and a chairman's medallion have been moved to our museum collection.

Cllr. Clare Whelan OBE, Mayor of Lambeth – IV/315

1991-2001, 2013

Cllr. Clare Whelan OBE, was a Conservative councillor who represented the Thurlow Park ward from 1990 -2014. Cllr. Whelan was the first lady Mayor of Lambeth 2000-2001 and served as a Cabinet Member in the joint administration with the Liberal Democrats 2002-2006.

Includes: Minutes, correspondence, photographs and ephemera mainly relating to Cllr. Whelan

Clapham Women's Liberal Association – IV/125

1911

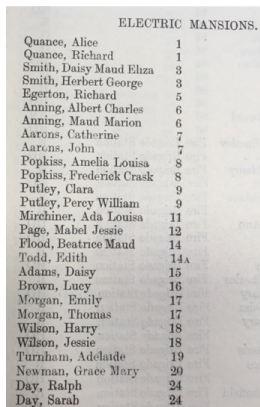
Presentation volume given to Miss Came by the Association on her resignation as president. Local associations campaigned on behalf of the Liberal Party in their local areas, and often obtained opinions for the Party on political issues.

Electoral Registers -P2/VL (1832- 1899) and Local Studies Library (1899-)

From 1869 female rate-payers were able to vote in local elections for the first time.

From 1918 women were eligible to vote in parliamentary elections if they over 30 and either met a £10 property qualification or were married to a householder.

From 1928 all women over 21 were eligible to vote.



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Health and Social Purpose

Lambeth Women's Project - IV/289

1979-2012

The Lambeth Women's Project (LWP) existed from 1979 to 2012 and provided a women-run space dedicated to women's services.

Based at 166a Stockwell Road, these services included information, counselling, craft, yoga, art and music activities for women of all ages. Beginning as Lambeth Girls Project, LWP provided a variety of crucial services and maintained a number of partnerships for over 30 years.

It was considered a lifeline to women in Lambeth, not just locally but also nationally. LWP played host to a number of different projects and events including The Remembering Olive Collective (ROC), the first Ladies Rock Camp! UK and Girls Rock Camp! UK and the first Black Feminists UK public event, along with art/archival research group X Marks the Spot.

LWP was an umbrella organisation which worked with other organisations including Muslim Sisters Jaamat and The Eritrean Women's Action for Development.

Includes: minutes, annual reports, photographs, ephemera and video tapes.



South London Hospital for Women – IV/247

1923-1948

The South London Hospital for Women was founded in 1912 to meet the demands of women for medical treatment by members of their own sex. The establishment of the hospital was due to the efforts of Dr. Maud Chadburn, surgeon, and colleague of the medical pioneer Elizabeth Garrett Anderson. In 1988 the hospital was closed .

Although this is an incomplete collection it reveal many of the problems and situation which confronted the hospital during wartime.

Includes: administrative and personnel records mostly from the Second World War period, covering the years 1938 to 1946.

The Friendly Almshouses – IV/105

1802-1990

The Friendly Female Society (renamed The Friendly Almshouses in 1939) was founded in January 1802 'for the relief of poor infirm aged widows and single women of good character who have seen better days'.

The society erected almshouses at Albany Road, Camberwell, and on Stockwell Park Road, and is notable for the fact that from its beginnings it has been run by an exclusively female committee, and for the royal patronage it has received.

Includes: minute books, election minutes, cash books, rules, and lists of subscribers.

Loughborough Junction Maternity and Child Welfare Centre - IV/24

1918-1950

The centre was founded to provide treatment, advice and classes for new mothers and babies in Lambeth, as well as training for nurses and midwives. Initially based at 39 Loughborough Park, then 109 Sussex Road in Brixton, the centre was run by a female superintendent and medical officer until it closed in 1963. The collection charts the medical treatment of women's health from 1918, through war time and the founding of the NHS through to the 1950s.

Includes: minute books, accounts, annual reports

Health and Social Purpose (continued)

Women's League of Health and Beauty, Streatham – IV/258

c.1900-2005

The Women's League of Health and Beauty (WLHB) was founded by Mary Bagot Stack in 1930. Born in Dublin in 1883 she developed rheumatic fever at the age of 17 when she was forced to give up her dream of a career and independence. Influenced by Mrs Josef Conn who specialised in remedial health exercises, Mary took a course at the Conn Institute in London in 1907. She went on to develop classes and training in this systematic exercise regime to help women re-invigorate and release tension after a hard day's work. The work of the League still continues today under a new name of The Fitness League.

In 1934 Eileen Barnes, a young teacher of these exercises, brought the WLHB to Streatham where she taught for 49 years. League members have travelled throughout Britain and other parts of the world taking part in various demonstrations and rallies, all of which are reflected in this collection.

Includes: annual reports, magazines, photographs, medals and ephemera



Camberwell District Nursing Association – IV/249

1890-1974

The Camberwell District Nursing Association was founded in 1890 by Mary Minet. Mary was the first superintendent of the South London District Nursing Association in Battersea in 1881.

Following her marriage, Mary founded the Camberwell District Nursing Association “to nurse the sick poor in their houses”. The association’s first office was at 54 Knatchbull Road.

Includes: cuttings book containing photographs, annual reports and ephemera. See also the Brixton District Nursing Association.



Brixton District Nursing Association – IV/69 and IV/142

1933-75

The Association was founded in October 1902 to provide professional nursing attendance for the sick poor of Brixton in their own homes., based at 47 Tulse Hill from 1906.

Includes: Minutes, financial and administrative correspondence, annual reports. See also the papers of Brixton Dispensary (IV/142).

Queen Victoria Girls' Club – IV/68

1945-51

Founded in 1887 the Queen Victoria Girls’ Club, also known as the Queen Victoria Club for Working Girls, was based at 122 Kennington Road and provided activities for local girls including drama, dancing, crafts, and nursing.

Includes: minutes, bills, annual reports, correspondence, receipts and expenditure

Health and Social Purpose (continued)

Magdalen Hospital Trust – IV/73

1757-1973

In March 1758, Robert Dingley proposed the establishment of a home for penitent prostitutes (or girls whose seduction had left them with no alternative to a life of prostitution). The hospital moved to Streatham in 1866.

From 1934 the hospital was recognised as an approved school. In 1938, the words 'for the reception of penitent prostitutes' were dropped from the title. In 1944, the Magdalen became the Classifying School for the South of England where girls were sent by Juvenile Courts for assessment before their future was decided. The school was closed in 1966.

Includes: administration records, minutes, rules, histories of select inmates, annual statements.



Lady Margaret Hall Settlement – IV/183

1897-1987

Based in 129 Kennington Road, Lady Margaret Hall Settlement provided living accommodation for a group of young graduate women from Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, '...with the purpose and object of doing religious, social and educational work in Lambeth or elsewhere within...London'. The settlement was set up in 1897 as part of a broader socialist movement to involve university students in experiencing life and social conditions in industrial cities.

From their base they worked in the local area with boys and girls clubs and groups for the elderly and sick. Key early figures included warden Edith Pearson, who ensured the

settlement helped local people to gain apprenticeships and training.

The settlement continued to play a role in Lambeth throughout the twentieth century. In 1980 the settlement moved from Kennington Road to premises on Wandsworth Road where it remains today still continuing in its supportive work in the community.

Includes: memoranda and articles of association, minutes, agendas, correspondence, annual reports, reports and related papers, accounts, balance sheets, cashbooks, ledgers, fundraising records, personal records, property records

Settlement Examinations & Removal Orders

From 1662 onwards individual parishes conducted settlement examinations to determine the right of an individual (and sometimes unborn illegitimate children) to claim residence and poor relief in that parish. They were intended to restrict migration and to provide a basis for exclusion of outsiders from parishes. Those thought 'likely to be chargeable' to another parish could be removed by order.

These records include examinations and removal orders for both men and women, but they give insight into the ordinary lives of poor women at a time when their lives would often go un-recorded.

Settlement examinations of women in the Lying-in Hospital 1805-1807 – P/2/43, 43a

Removal Orders to Streatham 1712-1836– P/S/2/64

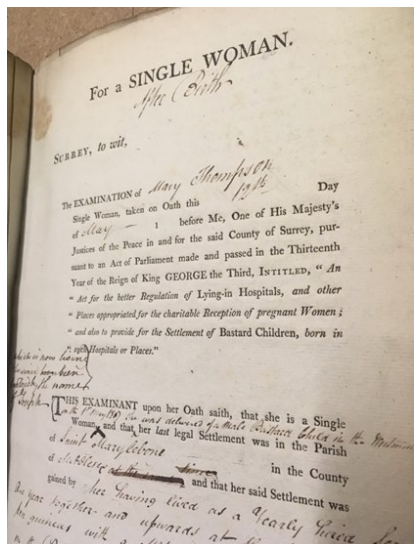
Removals from Streatham 1713-1834 – P/S/2/65

Settlement examinations—P/S/2/25-28
(indexed)

Settlement examinations 1766-1816- P/S/2/68
(listed)

Settlement certificates 1694-1819—P/S/2/69
(listed)

Apprenticeship Indentures 1686-1829 - P/S/4/29/1 (listed)



Education

Morley College – IV/224

1888-2013

Morley College originated in the work of the Coffee Music Halls Company Ltd., which promoted temperance and the arts in London. The college was established by Emma Cons, a visionary and social reformer who fought to improve standards of London's Waterloo district. In 1880, Cons, with the support of the Coffee Music Halls Company Ltd., leased what is now known as the 'Old Vic' theatre and created the Royal Victoria Coffee and Music Hall.

In 1882 the hall began to host weekly lectures in which eminent scientists would address the public on a wide range of topics. The success of these lectures led to the establishment of Morley Memorial College for working men and women, named after Samuel Morley, a textile manufacturer, MP and philanthropist who contributed to Morley College. It was the first institution of its kind to admit both men and women on an equal footing.

Includes: constitutions, reports, minutes, finance, college prospectus and magazines, photographs, cuttings and material relating to Morley history and personalities including founder Emma Cons.



St Martin's in the Fields High School for Girls – IV/230

1701-1964

St Martin's Middle school for Girls was founded in central London in 1700. In 1913 a property was purchased in Tulse Hill, and the school moved to its new premises there in 1928.

Includes: Records relating to both the boys and girls charity (parochial) schools until the 19th Century, and from 1873 onwards the High School for Girls only.

Streatham College for Girls, Magazine – IV/236

1907-1913

The school was located at 254 Streatham High Road in a house known as 'The Shrubbery'. By 1910 the school had changed its name to Streatham College for Girls, and the school closed in 1933.

Includes: the magazines contain articles on school news, activities and exam results, the curriculum, names of prize winners, members of 'The Old Girls' Association', prefects and monitors

Marjorie Porter MBE, educator – IV/293

1950-2009

Clapham-born Marjorie Porter started her teaching career Peckham and Camberwell. She took part in community work and campaigned for causes including equalities, the arts, young people and peace, and was awarded an MBE in 1999.

Includes: photos, cuttings and memorabilia from Porter's time when head of Ashmole School, Kennington and Johanna School, Waterloo from the 1950s.

St Gabriel's College photo collection – IV/299

1910

St Gabriel's College on Cormont Road, Camberwell was an Anglican training college for women teachers, which opened in 1900.

Includes: portrait photographs of students at the college.

Agnes Crockett – IV/321

1887-1890

Agnes Crockett attended the Crampton Street Girls School, a London School Board school in the Lambeth Division. The school is now Crampton Primary school.

Includes: school examination certificates and examples of schoolwork, needlework

War

Autograph book of Daisy Matchin– IV/314

1917-18

Daisy Matchin lived at 20 Holmewood Road, Brixton Hill and worked as a nurse at several hospitals during the First World War caring for wounded servicemen.

Includes: autographs, typically poems, messages, cartoons and illustrations written and

Vera Awdrey– IV/169

1939-1946

Vera Awdrey lived at 14 Franconia Road, Clapham. She started the series of cuttings books with the outbreak of war in August 1939.

Includes: mostly cuttings from the national and local press describing the progress of the war. In the early volumes there is also a considerable amount of other material including diary notes, correspondence with friends and relatives, and papers relating to Mrs Awdrey's service in the Metropolitan Police and ephemera, including food wrappers and government notices.



Herta Loebenstein – IV/276

1908-1940

Herta Loebenstein, a Jewish refugee born in Germany in 1921, was sent by her family in August 1939 to live with relatives at 238 Croxted Road. She later moved to 72 Half Moon Lane, Herne Hill where she was injured during an air raid on 12 September 1940 and died a day later.

Includes: family photographs, correspondence from her family and boyfriend, school reports, an emigration letter, newspaper clippings.



Art & Photography

London Wall – IV/288

1982-1992

In 1982 the artist Louise Vines started up a mural workshop at Brass Tacks' workshop/studio in Brixton Hill; its public art projects included the painting of the Brixton Centre mobile creche and murals at Oval House Theatre, Belthorn Clinic and Moffatt Clinic. Artists working at the project were Mark Beaven, Maggie Clyde, Susan Elliott, Sonia Martin, Graham Stewart and Louise Vines.

In 1983 the four women artists reconstituted themselves as a public art group and registered charity, London Wall Ltd. They described themselves as 'a four woman mural painting group, the first of its kind in London' and were originally based in a Loughborough Junction railway arch before moving to Clapham. The artists worked on murals and mosaics in public spaces mainly in Lambeth including the St. George's residences and Bellefields Road I mural, but also works across London.

From 1986 the cooperative comprised two practising artists, Sonia Martin and Louise Vines who worked on funded projects including the Bellefields Road II mural.

Includes: Records of public art projects in inner London, many associated with the GLC arts programme carried out by a cooperative of women with a particular interest in issues including peace, anti-racism and community engagement.



Art & Photography (continued)

Blackfriars Photography Project – IV/182

1975-1985

The Blackfriars Photography Project was a project initiated by the Blackfriars Settlement; originally founded in 1887 as the Women's University Settlement, it was based off Blackfriars Road, Southwark. The photography project was involved in recording political events and community activities in Southwark and North Lambeth. The project closed in July 1994 as a result of losing its funding.



Includes: photographs relating to Lambeth

Doulton Presentation Volumes – 12/369

1882

These two extraordinary items were made by the art department of Doulton Potteries, Lambeth in 1882. They were presented to Henry Doulton by the female artists in his employment, to celebrate the success of their work in the previous decade. Together the two volumes provide a remarkable record of highly skilled female artists working in Lambeth in the late nineteenth century.

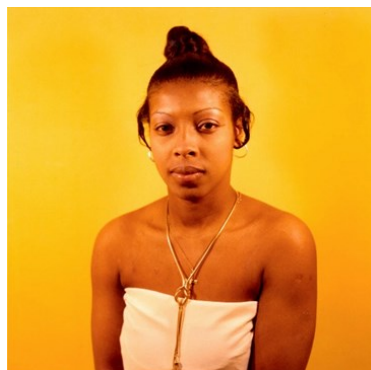
Includes: volume I contains signatures and marks of all the 'Lady Artists and Assistants', and volume II contains photographs of the lady artists and assistants.

Harry Jacobs – IV/233

c.1960-1997

In the 1950s Harry Jacobs started a photography business taking portrait photographs of families in their homes. He became an established photographer for the local Black community in Brixton.

Includes: many of the photo subjects are local women in informal and family portraits, as well as professional portraits of hairdressers, lawyers and nurses.



Everyday Life

Diary of Henrietta Thornhill - IV/82

1864-1879

Henrietta Thornhill was an orphan and in 1864 she was 17 and living at Liston Hall, the home of her grandmother on the Essex/Suffolk border. Her diaries detail her life in a large household with many servants. Daily life, visits, prayer, the weather, birthdays and other details are all carefully recorded.

Dorothy Dickson's photos and memorabilia – IV/253

1917-1945

Dorothy Dickson lived at 36 Grantham Road with her parents and her brother. She was a member of the Girls' Life Brigade, and attended Stockwell Training College practicing school in the 1920s.

Includes: family photographs, school photographs, a cookery notebook, rent books, and ephemera



Diaries of Miss Hilda Hooper – IV/72

1923-61; 1843-64

A chronological series of small engagement diaries, compiled by Miss Hilda Hooper (an art mistress) during her time at City of London girls' school. Each instalment gives a brief account of her daily thoughts and activities. The collection also includes a copy of a diary of Miss Hooper's ancestor, Mary Jane Hooper, 1843-1864.

Includes: diaries, small bundle of papers, 1 larger diary volume

Mrs Winifred Cope's household papers – IV/90

1950-59

This collection consists of the household accounts of Mrs Winifred Cope, and provides insight into household accounting in Lambeth in the 1950s, as well as details about shopping habits and other aspects of Mrs Cope's life.

Everyday Life (continued)

Macfarlane household bills– IV/99

1877-94

This collection consists of receipts and account books kept by Mr and Mrs Macfarlane of 34 Kempshott Road, Streatham. The receipts present a picture of middle class life in Streatham in the mid to late nineteenth century, covering a range of expenses from wine and spirits merchants, dressmakers and fishmongers, to donations to the Ragged Schools Union and the Church Missionary Society. From the receipts we know that Mrs Macfarlane was a member of the Streatham Common Lawn tennis club, that she liked sherry, and took art wood-carving classes at the City & Guilds Institute in Kennington.

Includes: seven bundles of receipts and thirteen account books

Personal papers of Mrs Doris Nicholls – IV/146

1942-1984

This collection is comprised of the personal financial papers of Mrs Doris Nicholls. Mrs Nicholls catalogued her expenditure on a weekly basis from the 1940s to the 1980s, providing a snapshot of personal accounting for the period.

Includes: bank books, household accounts, bills, cheque books, rent books, accounts for a holiday to Scotland, pension receipts



Berry family of Streatham – IV/215

1921-1993

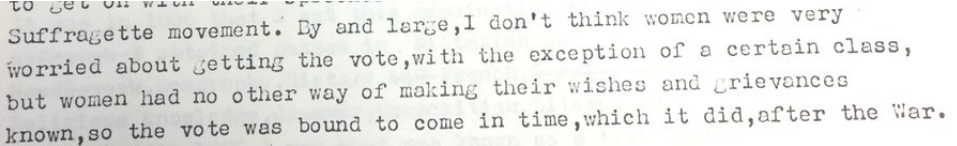
In 1907 Frederick William Berry married Anna Louisa Danielsohn and they moved to a house in Prentis Road, Streatham. Two of their children, Freda and Greta, attended Streatham College for Girls. Freda became a teacher and emigrated to Newfoundland. During the War she was a Canadian naval officer, and she died in 1988. Greta was a teacher but worked as a photographic model between the 1930's and 1950's modelling for subjects as diverse as "Stork" margarine and the wartime Civil Nursing Reserve.

Includes: family papers, invites, photographs, ephemera

Alice Steel nee Goodman; autobiography– IV/92

1891-1970

This is a typescript autobiography of Mrs Alice Elizabeth Frances Steel, c.1891-1970. Titled 'Story of an ordinary person', Alice lived her early life in SE5.



to get on with the Suffragette movement. By and large, I don't think women were very worried about getting the vote, with the exception of a certain class, but women had no other way of making their wishes and grievances known, so the vote was bound to come in time, which it did, after the War.

Graham-Polhill family– IV/4

1803-57

The Graham-Polhill family owned a large estate on Clapham Common Northside, and this collection consists of verses, letters and a year's edition of the Family Chronicle, a newspaper produced by the children in an imitation of grand society reporting. The verses by Mrs Elizabeth Graham are particularly interesting as she had published, under the pseudonym Theresa Tidy, a popular work called Eighteen Maxims on Neatness and Order.

The letters reveal a great deal about the family and the social life of the time, and particularly Mr and Mrs Graham-Polhill's daughter, Anne.

Brixton Orphanage, Guild of Perseverance – IV/277

1902-36

These are the personal records of Annie A Cotsford who was a child at the orphanage from 1907-1918. Upon leaving she joined the Guild of Perseverance.

The Brixton Orphanage was established in 1876. The Guild of Perseverance was set up in 1919 as a social group for former pupils at the orphanage to stay in touch with the institution, via its newsletter.

Includes: newsletters, papers, personal photographs and ephemera

Crawley family photographs and ephemera – IV/283

1909-1970

The second section of this collection relates to Kate Crawley's attendance at St Matthews church and school, Denmark Hill and her membership of the Girls' Social Union there along with her two aunts, Helen and Florence Thompson, in the 1930s.

Includes: Mainly family photographs with some letters and printed ephemera.

Lambeth Archives

Lambeth Archives is the local history library and archive for the borough. The Archives collects, makes available and preserves historic records and published material relating to Lambeth and its people, past and present. These collections chart the growth and histories of Lambeth over the centuries. You can visit Lambeth Archives to trace your family history, your house history, to discover the origins of your neighbourhood or look at how the area is governed. Staff are on hand to assist you.

Access is free and you do not need to make an appointment.

Lambeth Archives
Minet Library, 52 Knatchbull Road, London, SE5 9QY

Tel: 020 7926 6076 Email: archives@lambeth.gov.uk

Web: www.lambeth.gov.uk/archives

Image website <http://boroughphotos.org/lambeth/>

Twitter: [@LambethArchives](https://twitter.com/LambethArchives)

We are open:

Monday 1pm - 8pm

Tuesday 10am - 6pm

Thursday 10am - 6pm

Friday 10am - 3pm

Saturday 9am - 1pm & 2pm - 5pm

