

FOR MY ANTARCTIC FRIENDS & "LOW-LATITUDE" CORRESPONDENTS, A BRIEF SUMMARY OF A RECENT TRIP TO THE UK, IN PART A HUNTING EXPEDITION FOR EVEN MORE SITES FOR THE "LOW-LATITUDE ANTARCTIC GAZETTEER." CHECK OUT THE WEBPAGE IN THE MONTHS TO COME FOR MORE DETAILS & PHOTOS (<http://top.monad.net/~rstephenson/>)

[Excluded from this are details on good food and drink and visits with friends and general sightseeing. I DIDN'T spend all my time tracking down these LLAG sites!]
[Numbers in parentheses refer to my database]

Friday 16 January 1998. On my way to my barber, always my first stop in from Heathrow (that is, after checking in with my London hostess, Julia Bradford), I photographed the exterior of the Cavalry & Guards Club (012), inside hangs Dollman's famous painting of Oates. Later that day, photographed 1 Savile Row (033), once the home of the RGS and the offices of the Discovery Expedition, and 4 New Burlington Street (188), Shackleton's office from 1913.

Saturday 17 January 1998. Devoted to good wine and food, visiting friends and the theatre.

Sunday 18 January 1998. Photographed the Edward Wilson Memorial House (123) at 26 Queen Anne Street. Will return when it's open. Over to Regents Park where I track down what was 4 Osnaburgh Terrace (282), now the White House Hotel but once the site of the home of Thomas Orde-Lees, one of Shackleton's 'Endurance' men, then to Madame Tussaud's (184) where there once was an effigy of Shackleton (no longer on display but in storage). Last stop of the day, the British Museum (242) where I had a look at Case I in Room 30 where Scott's journal resides, opened to entry for 17 March 1912.

Monday 19 January 1998. Stopped by Waterloo Place to revisit and photograph the Scott statue (006), also the Franklin one opposite (not strictly Antarctic but Franklin was governor general in Hobart when Ross stopped in). Then to nearby 9 Lower Regent Street (284) where Shackleton had an office around 1906. Tried next to find 16 Norfolk Street, Strand (165) where Weddell lived for a time: the whole area is now a new superblock. Then to St Clement Danes (164) smack in the middle of the Strand where Weddell is buried. The churchyard is long gone as is any evidence of his grave or headstone.

Tuesday 20 January 1998. To the Royal Geographical Society to buy some maps and to re-photograph the Shackleton statue (007) on the Exhibition Road facade and to photograph the Clements Markham bust (269) beside the entrance and the oil portrait of Markham (270) on the ground floor. Next on the agenda was to find two Shackleton houses: The first is at 11 Vicarage Gate, Kensington (189), now the Abbey Hotel (where the Shackletons moved to in 1913) and then Palace Court, Bayswater (182). Unfortunately I don't know the number of the latter where they lived for a few months in 1906. After fish and chips at Geales, my favorite fish restaurant, I headed for 56 Oakley Street (001), Scott's house, so indicated by the blue plaque. From there I trudged to 21 Eccleston Square (268), where Sir Clements Markham lived and where Scott wrote at least some of the 'Voyage of the Discovery.' Last call of the day was 36-38 Victoria Street (145) where the Terra Nova expedition offices were located. It's now a superblock, New Scotland Yard I think. Great evening at the Reform Club with my friend, Janet. We were disappointed not to run into Phineas Fogg.

Wednesday 21 January 1998. Off to Dulwich to spend time with Harding Dunnett of the James Caird Society. Started out at Dulwich College (292) where the 'James Caird' (010) usually resides (it's now in Bonn at an Antarctic exhibit, soon to be transported to the American Museum of Natural History in New York). Met the college archivist, Jan Piggott, and went through some

of the artifacts and papers related to Shackleton. They own Kipling's copy of the 'Aurora Australis,' a highpoint for any collector of Antarcticana. Sat in the chair from the manager's villa at Stromness, South Georgia (278) and even have a photograph to prove it. From Dulwich, Harding and I drove to Blackheath where we had a look at Sir James Clark Ross' house (135) at 2 Eliot Place. After lunch at his nearby house, Harding and I set out for Greenwich Observatory where we found the gravestone of Edmond Halley (271) embedded in the wall of the Observatory. From there under the river and over to All Hallows by the Tower (280) where reportedly the crow's nest of the 'Quest' resides. (This would be the first of three visits; the crypt where the crows nest is was closed for repairs).

Thursday 22 January 1998. By train out to Windsor and Eton to track down an Oates plaque (111) at the college. Found it in the Library after some false starts. On the way back into London stopped at Putney and tracked down 7 Heathview Gardens (187) where the Shackleton's lived between 1911 and 1913. Back to the Edward Wilson Memorial House (123) which is the home of the Guild for Health. A number of Wilson drawings and watercolors (some original, some prints) are on display.

Friday 23 January 1998. Off to Paddington where I caught a train to Cardiff. Got a room at the upscale and historic Park Hotel (285) at which both Scott and Shackleton gave lectures. Wanted to stay at the Royal Hotel (127) where the farewell reception for Scott was held on June 13, 1910 and the home of the Captain Scott Society; but it's undergoing renovation. I did get inside, though, and took some photos of the Scott Room and the Society's display case. Also visited the 'Newt and Cucumber,'(286) a pub that has a modern plaque commemorating Scott. My next stop was Cardiff's grand City Hall, alas also closed for renovations. An agreeable parking lot attendant took pity on me and unlocked the big front door and took me into to see and photograph the large and impressive Scott Memorial Tablet (152).

Saturday 24 January 1998. A busy day in Cardiff. Picked up a rental car and headed for Roath Park to see the Scott clock tower in the form of a lighthouse (153) presented to the City by F. C. Bowring (who had sold the 'Terra Nova' to the expedition, then bought it back again afterwards). Feeling increasingly confident driving the car I journeyed west to 17 Mayfield Avenue (155), a house lived in by William Lashly in the 1920s. Back into the city to Scott Road (295), a short street named for Scott by the Cardiff Millenium Stadium. From there I went down to Cardiff Bay and the docks area. Took a photograph of Scott Harbour (296) which I'm guessing was where the 'Terra Nova' was docked prior to its departure. Walked from there to the Industrial & Maritime Museum (199) where the figurehead from the 'Terra Nova'(149) is on display. A few steps away is Scott's Brasserie (298), a restaurant named for Scott but with nothing relevant on display. But up Bute Street stands 'The Packet,'(297) a pub with at least one Scott-associated photograph on the wall, a view of the 'Terra Nova' leaving from Cardiff on June 15, 1910. After enjoying a pint of 'Brains,' the local bitter, walked up to The Exchange (287) in Mount Stuart Square where the officers and crew of the 'Terra Nova' were welcomed on July 16, 1913. From the Docks I retraced my route back to central Cardiff and quickly stopped at the Mansion House (289) where Lt Evans, Kathleen Scott and others had been entertained (actually I've since learned it was at the earlier Mansion House down the street, which may or may not still stand; means another trip to Cardiff). Decided to head for Swansea which isn't that far away and then decided to keep going to the Gower Peninsula and Rhosili out at the very end. Got there after dark and fortunately found a place to stay at the Worms Head Hotel.

Sunday 25 January 1998. Up early and walked away out toward Worms Head a lovely scene. Rhosili has associations with P. O. Edgar Evans. Decided best way to see the memorial plaque for Evans in the Church of St Mary the Virgin (209) was to go to the Sunday service. Sat next to the plaque and after the service photographed it. Then drove the short distance to Middleton and found Fernhill Top Cottage (210) where Evans was born on March 7, 1876. Back in Middleton is the Ship Farm, once the Ship Inn (219) which Evans' wife Lois' family kept (the Farm is still

owned by the Beynon family). From there I went on to Swansea, my first stop being the marvelous Swansea Museum (221) which has a large marble bust of Evans, one of his boots, and a few other things of interest. I walked from there up to St Mary's Church (223) where there is a memorial chair for Evans; it being Sunday the church was of course locked up so I couldn't see it. Nearby is the site of the Castle Hotel (214) where Evans worked after leaving school at 13. His school, by the way, was St Helens (211) on Vincent Street. Most of the other Evans sites in Swansea were destroyed during World War II. From Swansea I went on my way eastward getting back to Cardiff just as the day ended. That evening had a wonderful dinner and visit with the Salisburys and Joneses. Matthew Salisbury is the Secretary of the Captain Scott Society.

Monday 26 January 1998. Before leaving Cardiff I went back to the Docks and found the Royal Hamadryad Hospital (150) where once there were four plaques commemorating Scott (and his four companions), Henry Rennick, Lt Pennell and Captain Evans. By late morning I was in Gloucester at the Cathedral where Wilson's sledge flag (124) hangs in the Lady Chapel. Upon arrival I learned that the chapel was closed. On the other hand the guide said there was no such flag in the Cathedral and never had been to his knowledge. Well, I have a postcard showing it hanging there so what can I say. Cheltenham's not far away and I was there for lunch. Driving in I passed Wilson's birthplace at 91 Montpelier Terrace (004) and his statue (023) by Kathleen Scott on The Promenade. Fortunately the Cheltenham Art Gallery & Museum (022) was open and I spent some time in the room devoted to Wilson. Leaving Cheltenham I had a fruitless search for a block of flats (005) named for Wilson on Princess Elizabeth Way. With "Low-Latitude" hunting finished for the day, I headed for Bickley House in Worcestershire where I was well looked after by my friends Jane and Michael Hogan.

27 January 1998. Heading for Cambridge, my first stop was in Binton at St Peter's Church where there are lovely stained glass windows commemorating the Scott party (133). Kathleen Scott's brother was the Rector at Binton; he's buried there, the marker featuring a crucifix sculpted by Kathleen. My next stop was the delightful village of Aston Abbots near Aylesbury. After a pub lunch I went in search for Mrs Ford, who the publican said knew everything about the village where James Clark Ross lived and died. I found her house on Ross Road (224) and we walked over to St James the Great Church (151) which she unlocked for me so I could view the memorial window. In the churchyard is his grave (154) and nearby his house, Aston House (196). We drove in to have a look. Out back is a small pond with two islands that Ross named 'Erebus' and 'Terror' after his two ships. From there I went on to Eversholt in Bedfordshire, the home village of Frank Wild. I wanted to see the memorial plaque (121) in St John the Baptist Church but the church was locked. I tracked down the keys at Church Farm. The kind but somewhat daft man there restores vintage racing cars and keeps peacocks, llamas and wallabies. Soon after dark I found myself in Cambridge, ensconced in a hotel a hundred yards from the Scott Polar Research Institute (008).

Wednesday 28 January 1998. Spent the day talking with Bob Headland, SPRI's archivist, and Charles Swithinbank, 'Mr Antarctic,' and going through some SPRI files looking for this and that. As a result, now I have still more "Low-Latitude" sites to check out. Took a break and walked into the center and took a photo of St Andrew the Great (087) inside of which is the Cook Memorial which I visited back in 1995.

Thursday 29 January 1998. Off from Cambridge in mid-morning and over to Gestingthorpe, the village that L.E.G. Oates called home. The family place is Gestingthorpe Hall (218), visible from the road and still the home of Oates'. Nearly across the way is St Mary the Virgin Church where a memorial plaque (120) for Oates adorns the wall. Apparently Oates's mother polished the plaque every week until her dying day. It still shines. On to Saxmundham where I had a very pleasant stay with Antony and Jill Bowring and their three girls. Antony, who accompanied Ran Fiennes on the Trans-Globe Expedition (Jill, too; she was the expedition cook), is the great

grand nephew of F. C. Bowring who presented Cardiff with the 'Terra Nova' figurehead and paid for the Clock tower in Roath Park.

Friday 30 January 1998. Now heading south, across the Thames and to Chatham where I found, almost by accident, St George's Centre, formerly St George's Church (129). There on the wall is a Scott memorial plaque. It had been removed and at one time was at Selborne at the Oates Museum but has thankfully been restored to its original location. From there down to the coast at Eastbourne where I found yet another Shackleton house, this one at 14 Milnthorpe Road (258). A blue plaque was installed on the facade in 1994. My other Eastbourne site was elusive. I have newspaper clippings reporting an Oates plaque (112) in St Anne's Church, Hartfield Road. I found the road without trouble but no St. Anne's and none listed in the phone book. Time was passing by so I went on my way going along the coast arriving at Brighton just as it was getting dark.

Saturday 31 January 1998. Up bright and early and off to find two Brighton houses lived in by Edward Bransfield (the English claimant to the title of 'first to report seeing the Antarctic continent') and a third where he is now eternally resting. Found the first two (11 Clifton Road (299) and 61 London Road (301), now a pub called 'The Hogshead.') but the last was more difficult. Located in the Brighton Extra Mural Cemetery, Bransfield's grave (098) is in the cemetery's oldest part, a section so completely and totally inundated with vines and underbrush that it proved completely impenetrable. I took a photo anyway; nobody can easily prove it isn't his grave. Then on my way westward along the coast to Goring-by-Sea and 66 Barrington Road (267) where Lionel Greenstreet, first officer of the 'Endurance' and the last survivor of the expedition, lived out his years. Next stop, St Mary's Church at Aldingbourne near Chichester where I had heard there might be a memorial window (126) to Admiral Sir Reginald Skelton, chief engineer on the Discovery expedition, one featuring an Emperor penguin. The church was locked so I'll have to leave that to another time. A short time later I found myself in Hambledon, Hampshire, where William Lashly was born and where he ended his days at 'Minna Bluff,' his house (207) on West Street. As I took a photograph, an elderly man came out of the house; it was John Willgoss who with his wife has lived in the house since 1941 shortly after Lashly's death. On the wall of the front hall Mr Willgoss had a National Geographic map with Minna Bluff circled. The front gate still has the name 'Minna Bluff' set into it. He told me about a new housing estate up the road called 'Lashly Meadow' (302) which I dutifully went off to find and photograph. Soon thereafter I arrived in Bishop's Sutton and The Mill House, home of old friends Martin and Margaret Henderson, their daughter Anna and son Jack where I spent two pleasant nights.

Sunday 1 February 1998. I was running out of "Low-Latitude" sites to visit but there were still some in nearby Portsmouth so Martin and I set out late Sunday morning and headed for Portsmouth's dockland. First stop the Royal Naval Museum (248). Found nothing on display with an Antarctic connection although one of the staff said he thought there might be a Scott sledge somewhere in the collection. Across from the Museum, though, is a bronze statue of Scott (303), sculpted by Kathleen Scott and featuring a sled dog oddly huddled beside Scott, not one known as a great exponent of dogs for polar transport. Now this statue is unaccountably behind a iron fence which in turn is set off by a further barrier, for what purpose was unclear to us. A guard wouldn't let us approach the fence in order to take a photo. But after some chatting up of another guard we got permission to walk up to the fence, heavily supervised that is, to take a few photos. That accomplished we decided to tour Nelson's 'Victory,' a few paces away. It was now time to find a couple of houses lived in by P. O. Evans. We asked a policeman for directions and he was shocked that we would want to go to such areas of Portsmouth. "Don't leave your car there," he cautioned. Both neighborhoods seemed pretty tame to me: The first, Stamshaw, was mostly modest terrace housing. Evans lived at 12 Walden Street (216) upon moving to Portsmouth after he married Lois Beynon. Later, they moved to nearby Buckland, to 52 Chapel Street (217). We found the street but number 52 must have bit the dust in recent years; in its

place a housing estate. There are some other LLAG sites in or around Portsmouth, but we were due back in Bishop's Sutton so those will be left to another time.

Monday 2 February 1998. Back to London. Dropped off the rental car and headed once again to All Hallows Church to see the Quest's crows nest. Did get down into the crypt this time but there was a problem in taking a photograph. Must call the vicar I was told. Did so later and set up an appointment to return the next day. Then set out for St Paul's Cathedral to see the Scott Party memorial plaque (110), unveiled by Asquith on May 5, 1916. Lunchtime approaching I headed for Gordon's Wine Cellars on Villiers Street, one of the great London venues, above which Rudyard Kipling lived for awhile. After some gallery going I found myself at 1 Whitehall Place, the National Liberal Club. Also at that address is the Savage Club (031), which has hosted dinners for a number of polar explorers: Scott and his colleagues were feted here on July 6, 1901 and again on November 5, 1904, and Shackleton on June 19, 1909. Framed dinner menus hang everywhere and Nansen signed his name on the wall (which was transplanted to the Club's present premises). The few members there in mid-afternoon welcomed me like a long lost friend and after two beers and some good conversation I was on my way again.

Tuesday 3 February 1998. For the third time returned to All Hallows by the Tower (280), this time successfully getting my photograph of the crows nest. Then after some other stops by tube to Mile End Road in the East End, a long and busy street where at Number 66 (273) Captain James Cook lived. The house is gone though its neighbors survive, and on the successor brick wall is a handsome slate plaque commemorating the site.

Wednesday 4 February 1998. My two last sites of the trip, both associated with William Bruce who led the Scottish National Antarctic Expedition of 1902-04. The first was his house at 43 Kensington Gardens Square (305), not an easy address to find (do you realize how many variations of Kensington and Gardens there are in London?). The second, to which he moved from the first, was 18 Royal Crescent (304), in more elegant Holland Park.

So there's the "Low-Latitude Antarctic Gazetteer" portion of my trip. The next day I was on my way back to New Hampshire. Next time: Northern England, the West Country and Scotland, and perhaps Ireland where I'm dying to visit The South Pole Inn, Tom Crean's pub!

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2 Feb 98