

B376  
Police Book  
for  
Woolwich

District  
48

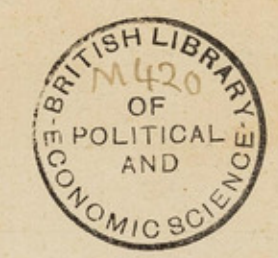
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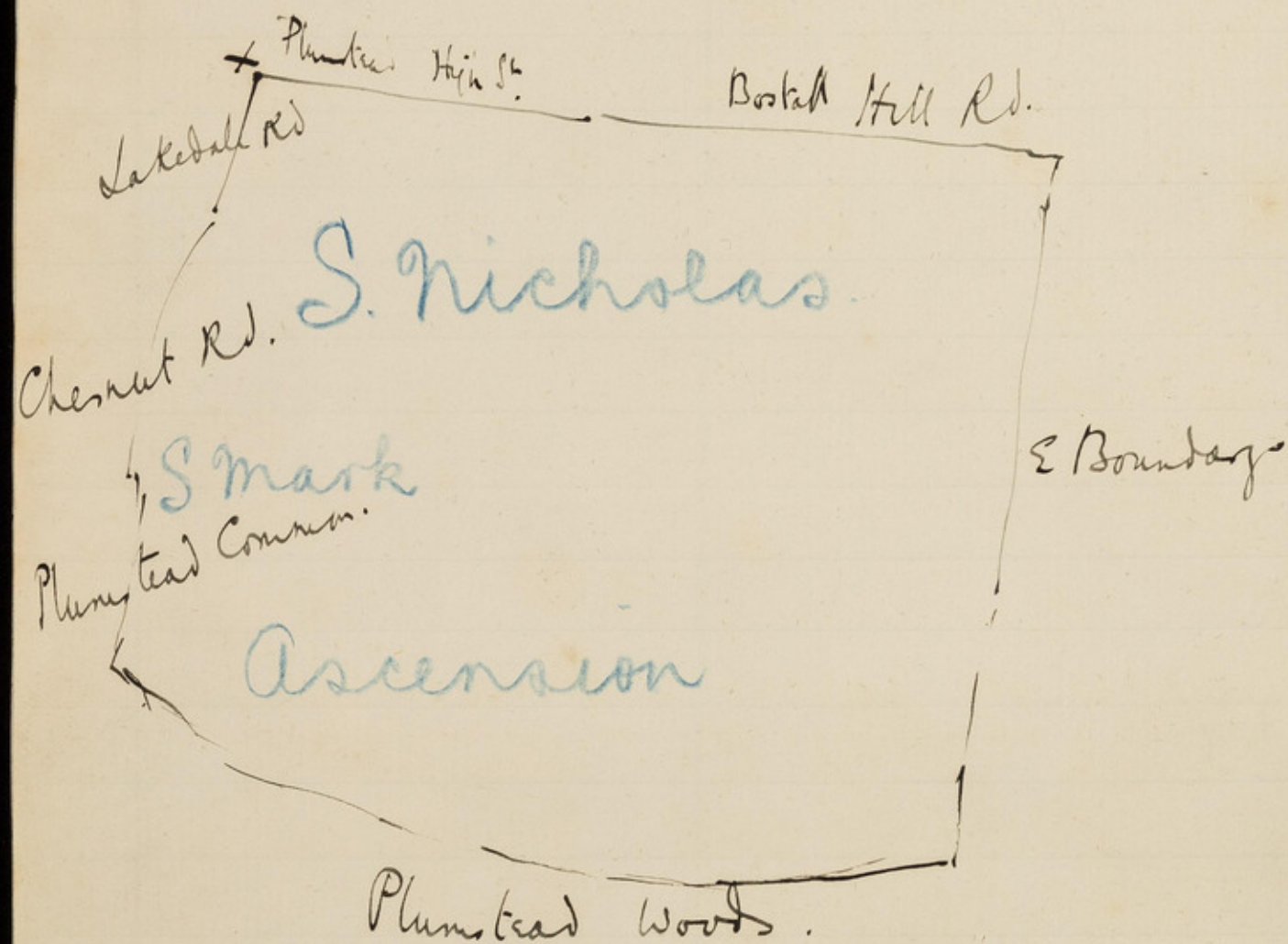


| Police Officer          | Police Division          | District |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|----------|
| Police Constable Clyne  | ✓ R or Woolwich Division | 48       |
| Superintendent Wakeford | ✓ — " —                  | 48       |

| Ecclesiastical parishes covered.                 | Page |
|--------------------------------------------------|------|
| Parts of S. Nicholas & The Ascension, & S. Mark. | 1    |
| Interview at Station, Blackheath Road.           | 23.  |



District roads.



July 4. 1900.

Sist 48.

Police 48  
17

J.H.D.

With P.C. Clyne round district bounded on the N by Plumstead High St & Bostall Hill Rd. on the E by the Eastern boundary of London: On the S by Kings' Highway, Woolwich Cemetery & Plumstead Woods: on the West by Plumstead Common, Chestnut Road & Lakedale Rd: being part of the parishes of S. Nicholas & S. Mark Ascension.

Starting at the corner of Lakedale Rd & Plumstead High St. S down to Lakedale Rd. late Cage Lane. Large Building of the Royal Arsenal Co-operative Society on the W side & tram staples: small shops: pk right up to Plumstead Common. E along to Tewson Rd. 2nd: par at its end: pk to par where it turns S & runs uphill, getting better as the ground rises. S up Lakedale Rd.



New roads in steep Kentish vales.

Old poor streets on S side of  
Plumstead Common.

W down Goldsmith St. : which runs steeply  
westwards to a valley whose bottom is covered  
by Rogden Rd. : pk : W into.

Slade Dale Rd. : mixed : not all built on W side :  
steep drop behind houses on W side : East side  
is better than the west : pk to par : W &  
S along c.

Rogden Rd. : 2st : pk leading W by  
curving hill to c.

Tormount St. : pk : houses on E side of.

Rogden Rd. lies in a steep dip between  
Parkdale & Slade Dale Road - W & S down

Chesnut Rd. : pbd. at top end : NE down

Parkdale : 2st : pk : S across Common to

Macoma Rd. : 2st : red fronted : trees on par-  
-ment : good pk or pbd. : S along c.

Tillic Rd. : houses on E side only : pk to b. E  
& S along c.

Garland St. : 2 : poor : old : field workers in  
market gardens : lb : W along c.

Pendell St. : 2st : a little better : long gardens  
behind : lb to par : 6/- to 8/- for 4 r & W :  
old



## New Roads.

Great Demand

5  
old red tiled houses : the West end of Pendell St  
is still open field with the Shorters Hill  
woods on the S side : ground rises to S :  
field full of bricks & mortar & stacks of  
ready made windows & doors : E to Park  
St & South up a steep bit with houses  
on E side. pass Ch. W over a waste of  
rattled land to a new St called :

Alabama St : unmade Rd : houses on S side  
of 2nd : open fields on the E side : past  
Ch : N down hill down.

St. Mary Rd. : road unmade, houses still  
building but majority built & occupied :  
many look poor : pass Ch. : here I  
met the builder & owner of 700 freeholds  
in these streets who wanted to know whether  
I was about the LCC tramway extension  
& of the benefit such a line would do :  
he said he knew London pretty well but  
considered this the best paying district  
in the Metropolis : steady class coming  
in : leaseholders : used to be rough but  
but



Rents.

Lee tram wanted

7  
but the roughians are market gardeners, have  
to follow their work & are moving further  
out: great many have taken the 99  
year lease: arsenal workers: constant  
waterservice, connected with main sewer:  
he gets his profit on the cost of building  
& on the ground rents: when houses are let  
by the week they bring in from 8/6 to 10/6  
for 4 or 5 r w: He now gets 4/3 per  
foot ground-rent, two years ago could  
only get 4/1: 'But Mr Dawson who is  
a very large owner gets 10/- per foot  
ground rent from the houses facing the  
Common'. Dawson & Kersey are the largest  
builders & Freeholders: wishes he could  
get more land: 'could sell 100 houses  
tomorrow if I had them': clay soil  
has to cost all his gravel: Thinks there  
will be a rush here if the council would  
start a rope tram way: out of the woods  
of St Mary Rd. runs c.  
Morgan Rd.: whose west end comes  
out



New + old road off the S side of  
Plumstead Common.

9  
out a little south of Pendell Rd.: par to lb.  
SE along is  
Timbercroft Rd.: orchards + market gardens  
on N side with a few foremen or farmers  
houses: row of 2st row all tenanted  
on S: par: at the west end by  
Timbercroft Lane, is a set of one-timed  
retitled cottages with neat gardens: lb: just  
~~before~~<sup>before</sup> the lane meets Garland St. is an old  
beer house: N along is  
The Slade: old houses: field workers:  
paraph: SE along is  
Francis St.: older + poorer: gipsy vans:  
Gipsies + Irish: all doors open: a fine way  
going on across the street: lb: N to  
Elm Grove  
Satchell Rd. Just: old: par to lb: Mission Hall  
at N W end of Satchell Rd. E road the Slade  
into  
Blackstone Rd.: a half tenanted + unmade  
road: W side tenanted: E side S end still  
building: purple: running E out of  
it



The Kings' Highway.

Do these with brickfield lie on the  
S side of Kings Highway or the W side  
of Wickham Lane

11  
Southend is a nameless road with 2st houses  
looking on to a bare waste & running E  
to Swinggate Lane: houses on S side only pk.  
N along

Swinggate Lane: oldish houses: par: & one large  
house called Heathfield - red: E & N along.

Bessant Rd.: a deep dip between the S & N ends.  
Visits Heathfield Terrace: rather better E than  
W of Bessant Road: par & pk: E along the  
Kings Highway: runs downhill to the East:

with the common rising abruptly to a flat  
cable land on the N side & dipping steeply  
on the S side to a narrow vale occupied  
by strawberry gardens. passing Woolwich  
cemetery on the S side: & a row of houses  
on the N: pk to par: E into c.

Wickham Lane: which runs along a valley  
made by Plumstead Common on the S & Botolph  
Woods on the N: some houses on S side: the  
N side is taken by French beans & Hubbard  
fields: S past publichouse along a line of cott  
called Cemetery Cottages: to to par. active Brickfield  
is



is opposite : E & south down c.  
South Land Road. more cottages : par till : &  
 another action Brickfield. E along Wickham  
 Lane past a large newish cemetery on a hill  
 on the N side of the road : the lane rises to the  
 E here : nearly the top of the hill being where  
 it meets Lodge Lane which forms the  
 Eastern boundary of London : ground rises  
 here to the N until the level of Bostall  
 wood are reached : raspberry fields on  
 E side : a few old strawberry gardens on W  
 now being ploughed out for building : W  
 through Bostall wood : mixture of fir  
 woods & rough plantation, birches etc.  
 Lecplices about, & a good many people -  
 wild roses : it is a fine wild country  
 wood : E down steep hill back to  
 Plumstead High St. turning S into a  
 cul de sac called.

? pk to par : S down c.  
Wickham Lane : houses on W side only :  
 some old, some new : beginning rising  
 without



Streets off the N side of  
Plumstead Common.

15  
without any particular reason in batches from  
2 to 10: notices badly written on boards  
in front of some inviting the way faces  
to "Winkles & watercress, eggs & cake".  
turning W at the King's Highway & across  
the Common which is here a sandy gravelly  
waste on which only the military are  
allowed to ride or drive: used by a battery  
as an exercise ground: at the east end  
with a steep cliff on either side are a  
set of <sup>2nd det.</sup> Cottages. par to pk. called Bleak Hill  
on large maps. NW to

Viewland Rd.: 2<sup>d</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>: still building: pk:

Congregational Church at NW end. E to.

Riversdale Rd.: 2<sup>nd</sup>: a few old houses: pk.

Stills to the South. E to.

Launders Rd.: old & new houses: 2<sup>nd</sup>: pk. & E

Parrett Rd.: det & semi-det: pk: good

gardens: S up to

Rippolson Rd: 2<sup>nd</sup> poor: Gospel Mission at

NE: poor: people: W to

Speanza St.: many poor at NW end: allot  
ments



Happy Plumstead

17  
ments or market gardens behind the E side.  
"5r & washhouse 8/- has been there 2 years."  
par 6 lb. Naps

Riversdale Rd. West side rather better than East:  
pt to par : N into High St E & S into  
Hall Place : by the Infirmary : steep uphill  
to the Infirmary entrance : poor : lb.

This ends Plumstead.

Plumstead is full of ordinary outwards but it is remarkable in many ways. The houses are ugly, two storied, yellow brick & for the most part new. The streets are straight & the roads are empty <sup>or clean</sup> except when the children tumble out of school & leave a litter of small paper bags which once held pennyworths of sweets or fruit. They are also full of a hurrying straggling crowd of men on their way to & from home during the dinner hour. Otherwise they are empty, the <sup>handons</sup>



house doors shut, the windows & blinds clean  
 & everything seems asleep. The women are at  
 home & busy but they are busy in the yards  
 & small gardens behind & not in front.  
 Street life is not amusing. The door slams behind  
 the child when it comes home from school.  
 At night, except on Saturday night in the High  
 Street, the roads are dull & dark: more of the  
 doors are open than in the day time for many  
 of the men seem to take their evening  
 pipes in front. Villainous strumming on cheap  
 pianos is also a feature: so is the absence  
 of old people. New houses, newly married couples,  
 young families, wives at home, daughters not  
 yet grown up & expecting marriage & home  
 life not factory work as a career; husbands  
 & sons in full steady work, earning more  
 money than they really know how to spend.  
 Where in London is there another such place?  
 Almost the only old established poor are in the  
 Slade - Pentall, Francis, Latchiffe streets, gipsy  
 labourers & market garden workers. But they

Poor areas.



tend to leave, following their work further into Kent.  
The New poor lie to the North of the High Street  
in the low ground of the Plumstead marshes <sup>on the South</sup>  
in the clefts made by the deep dips in the  
Chalk as in Rye Lane & Slade Dale Rd.

The poorest & nastiest area lies between Reishaven  
Rd & Geibaldi Rd: all poverty here due to Irish  
& Drunken labourers.

South of High St the ground rises rapidly  
to Plumstead Common with sudden dips East  
& West. Roads broad & clean. Soil gravel  
& chalk with bits of clay on the high  
ground. Healthy district.

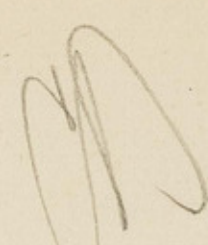
Splendid park in Botall Woods & open heath  
in Plumstead marshes & Plumstead Common.

Wants better train service, trams up the  
hill or along Plumstead Common, a music  
Hall or theatre, more working men's clubs.  
I don't know what will happen if the Arsenal  
went slack & dismissed many thousand men as it  
well might do: at present there is no <sup>ready</sup> means of  
transferring workers to other districts.



Superintendent Wakeford.

October 15. 1900. (48) miscel  
16 Dist 48.



S.H.S.

Interview with O. Wakeford. Superintendent  
of the R. or Woolwich Police Division: at  
the Superintendent's office, in the Police  
Station. Blackheath Rd. S.E.

Sup: Wakeford is a man between 50 & 60  
dark hair & beard turning grey. a small  
keen man with bright eyes. Drops an  
occasional L but he picks it up  
again. He is a keen Churchman and  
teetotaler. Came here as Superintendent  
rather more than a year ago. His father  
before him was a police Superintendent & a  
'Jod'



## Boundaries of the R. Division

## Juvenile Crime.

God fearing man.

The R. Police Division extends from Deptford  
on the West, along the Thames bank on the  
North to Erith reaching to within 1 1/2 miles  
of Deptford, As far South as 'the Cross' &  
West up the S&R to Deptford.

As he had not been very long in the  
Division I spoke to him more on general  
questions than about the character of  
streets.

Juvenile Crime: not increasing here but the  
notices that home <sup>ties</sup> are getting looser.  
growing independence of parents - Children  
in poor districts choose their own Board Schools  
so



27  
So where their friends go. All these societies<sup>3</sup>  
for helping the children weaken the home  
ties. Parents constantly threatened by their  
children with the Society for prevention  
of cruelty to children. School & continuation  
classes take them from home, so do  
Sunday schools & treats, & the case with  
which boys find employment. Mr. Wake-  
ford did not find fault with these agen-  
cies but said that their influence on  
the home was often overlooked.

Another ~~effect~~ result of doing so much  
for the children was its reaction on the  
parents. With this he connected the  
increase of drink among women: with  
The



## Drunk Women.

## Children & Drink

29  
The children so much away the parents<sup>4</sup>  
had more leisure. The increase of drunken  
women is astounding. In Woolwich the  
charges have doubled in the last 10 years -  
224 in 1891, 500 for last year & 501 for  
this year of which there are still 3  
months to run. 'Drunk' means, not  
having had too much only but being  
incapable of getting home.  
With men the charges have increased  
especially in the last two years. Partly  
the war & partly the effect of a

new broom -  
Children & Drink. he has never seen a child  
drunk



Betting

31  
Drunk in the whole course of ~~the~~ his career.<sup>5</sup>  
as a policeman. Last year was his first  
case of juvenile drunkenness when two  
boys who had found two bottles of whisky  
they were found drunk & incapable.  
He is strongly against children being  
sent for beer. 'They slip as they come  
out & the language they hear must be  
bad for them'. He never goes into Pubs  
& never has so that he cannot exactly  
say all that goes on in them but imagines  
that it is pretty bad.

Betting: on the increase: advancing by leaps  
& bounds: so much money to spend in  
Woolwich, must be got rid of & betting  
is



is more indulged in than drink. Men in <sup>6</sup>  
 the street, Newspaper shops & Barber shops  
 are the means of betting. He is having a  
 barbers shop in Woolwich watched now -  
 but 'what good will it do, they will pass  
 their  $\frac{1}{5}$  fine cheerfully & begin again,  
 like the bookies'. Why don't the ~~police~~  
 stop the selling of <sup>racings</sup> tips in the street,  
 why don't they remove obstructions, why  
 don't they arrest Bookies, why don't  
 they prosecute bookies & arrest loose  
 women, why don't they take away  
 the licenses of public houses. Every  
 one is down on the police & the worst  
 of



## Prostitution

35  
of their calumniators are the clergy & 7  
that they most fiercely denounce are the  
things of which they have the least knowledge  
is Public houses & prostitution.

Prostitution. When Mr W's father was Superin-  
-tendent in Woolwich he was offered the  
post of Supt of the Dockyard Police at  
Plymouth. Being a religious man he had  
a horror of the CD acts which he knew  
he wd have to enforce in a Dockyard  
Town: he refused at first but on being  
pressed accepted the post. When he  
saw the working of these acts he be-  
-came a convert. All the fault of prosti-  
tution is not on the men's side. The CD acts  
acted as deterrents to women. Young  
wo.



Brothels.

37  
women who had just taken up the career & were turned back again by the fear of being examined. Those who had not begun ~~had~~ <sup>their</sup> ~~prevented~~ inclinations choked. Those who were diseased were prevented from being the ruin of generations to come i.e. men who after-wards married did not transmit these diseases to their children.

Mr Wakeford would have licensed houses & then clear the streets. Here in Worcester the great difficulty are the soldiers. This last year things have been worse than usual. Great demand for soldiers & a lower grade of man has in consequence been accepted. Military police shield military offenders. Special corporals have been chosen to patrol the Common: last week police attempted to



## Police & military

## Housing & Health.

39  
to arrest two soldiers who were offending  
with women in a public path: the military  
refused to let them interfere & wd not inter-  
fere themselves. Happily the Chief Constable is  
a soldier: ~~he~~ complained to Col. Gates direct  
& the two offending corporals got 10 days im-  
prisonment each.

There is some friction between police & military:  
it is very difficult to deal with public house  
offences when there are always soldiers ready  
to come out on the publicans' side & swear to  
anything. When soldiers are arrested they  
are taken to the station & handed over to  
the military on the first opportunity.

Housing & Health. good: very few slums compar-  
atively: dust hole scattered, was better be-  
fore from the police point of view because  
you



| 3 mls | 40 yds | 5 mls | 154 | houses |
|-------|--------|-------|-----|--------|
| 5320  | :      | 8954  | :   | 1379   |
|       |        |       |     | 2321   |
|       |        |       |     | ≡      |

41  
 You always knew where to put your <sup>10</sup>  
 hand on a man. Not all prostitutes in the  
 Justhote; some army pensioners & many  
 vagrants on their way to Deptford &  
 Notting Dale.

House room scarce, difficult to find place  
 but no crowding as far as he knows in con-  
 sequence: the people are well enough off to  
 refuse to be crowded.

In 1898. The increase of houses was

(P) 1379 houses - making 3 miles 40 yds.

299. 1247 ————— 5 — 154 —

This year it will be much larger.











