

# Henrietta's Visitors' Book

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Suburb Archives has many interesting artefacts in its collection, as well as written material and photos. One of these is a visitors' book used by the founder of the Suburb, Henrietta Barnett, and her husband Samuel, at their house on Spaniards Road, called by them St Jude's Cottage

but subsequently reverting to Heath End House, its name when the Barnetts bought it. It is a large eighteenth century house, originally built for Lord Erskine (1750-1823), later Lord Chancellor.

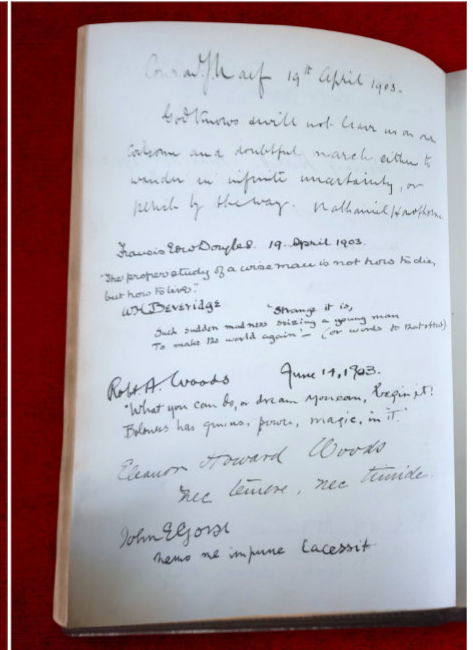
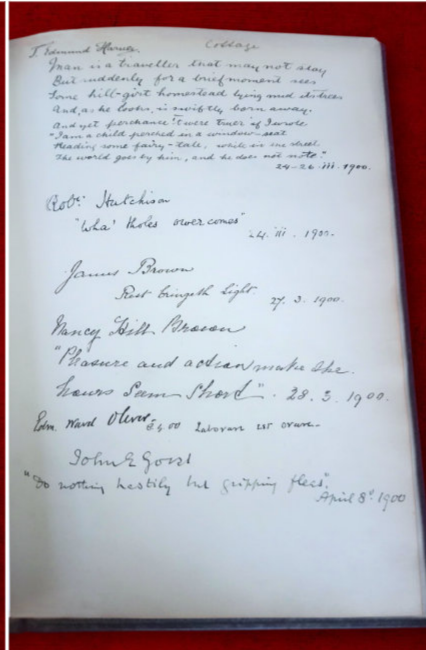
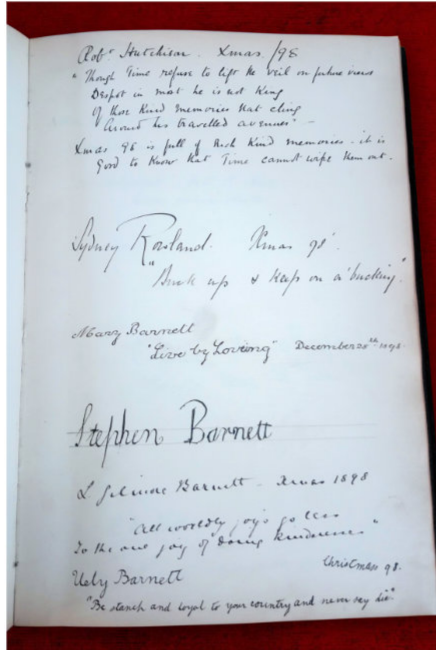
Samuel was vicar of St Jude's Whitechapel, a very deprived parish, and in 1889 they acquired St Jude's Cottage as a retreat where they could get some respite from their

hard work among the sights, sounds and smells of the East End.

They tried to get away there each Friday, calling it their 'restful Sabbath', because they had to be back in Whitechapel in time for early Sunday service. Henrietta rejoiced in its size. "It was large enough", she wrote, "to have rest rooms for tired Toynbee men or workers... and sundry other

'happy family' arrangements", including groups of girls training for domestic service.

The Barnetts enjoyed being able to talk to friends and relations at the Cottage without interruption from parishioners or Toynbee Hall residents. The visitors' book was cherished by Henrietta who made sure all her guests, young and old, signed it. It has hinged, highly



(Left) Uely Barnett (Henrietta and Samuel's nephew, who gave the book to the archives) and his brother and sister Mary and Stephen's entries can be seen on this page; (Centre) One of many entries by, and the signature of, Sir John Gorse is at the bottom of this page; (Right) A quote and signature from William Beveridge and, again, Sir John Gorse.

(Photos: Suburb Archives)

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