

B376

Police Book  
for  
Woolwich

District  
48

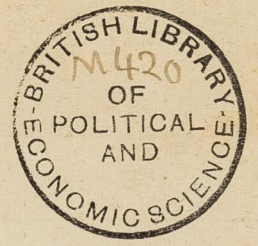
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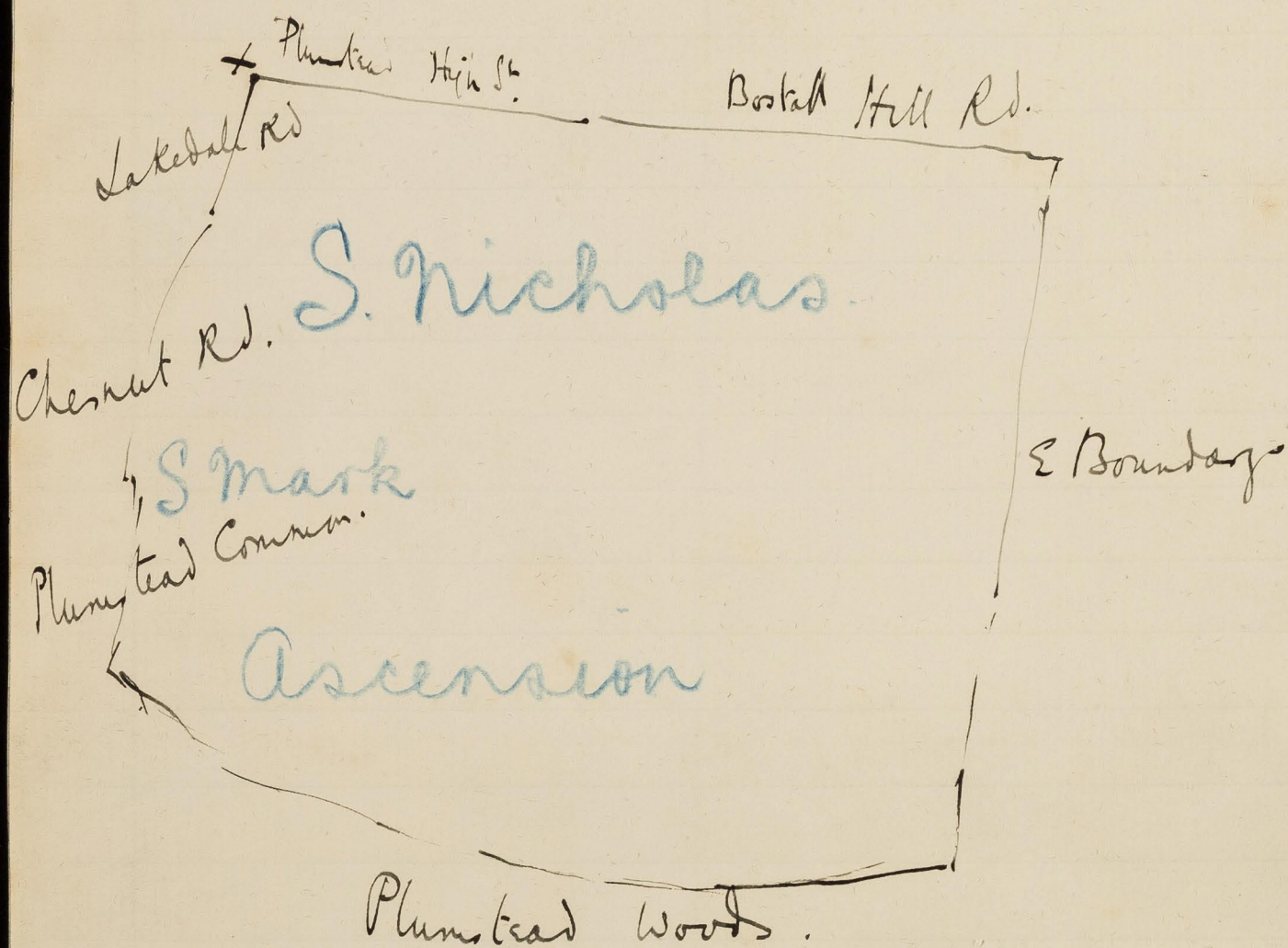


Police Officer	Police Division	District
Police Constable Clynne	✓ R or Woolwich Division	48
Superintendent Wakeford	✓ — " —	48

Ecclesiastical parishes covered.	Page
Parts of S. Nicholas & The Ascension, & S. Mark.	1
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District roads.



July 4. 1900.

Dist 48.

Police  
48  
17

J.H.D.

With P.C. Clynne 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. take 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: pass at its end: pk to pass 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 pav-  
-ment: good pk or pbd: N along c.  
Tillic Rd: houses on E side only: pk by 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: b/- to 8/ for 4 r r w:  
old



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 : pass  
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 here  
but

New Roads.

great demand



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 5r row: 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  
would be a rush here if the council would  
start a rope tram way: out of the woods  
of St. Mary Rd. runs c.  
Mangan 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 tiered  
retitled cottages with neat gardens: lb: <sup>of par</sup>  
~~before~~ the lane meets Garland St. is an old  
beer house: N along is  
The Slade: old houses: field workers:  
purple: SE along is  
Francis St.: older + poorer: gipsy vans:  
Gipsies + Irish: all doors open: a fine woman  
going and across the street: lb: N to  
Elm Grove  
Satchliffe Rd. Just: old: par to lb: Mission Hall  
at N W end of Satchliffe Rd. E road the Slade  
+ S 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

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 of pk: E along the  
Kings Highway: runs downhill to the East:

with the common rising abruptly to a flat  
table 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 part public house along a line of cott  
called Cemetery Cottages: 4 to par. active Brickfield



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 : near 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 platted 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



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>2<sup>nd</sup> det:</sup> cottages, par. topk. called Bleat Hill  
 on large map. NW to  
Viewland Rd.: 2<sup>i</sup> & 2<sup>st</sup>: still building: pk:  
 Congregational Church at NW end. E to.  
Riversdale Rd.: 2<sup>st</sup>: a few old houses: pk.  
 Hills to the South. E to.  
Launders Rd.: old & new houses: 2<sup>st</sup>: pk. & E  
Purcell Rd.: det & semi det: pk: good  
 gardens: S up W  
Rippolson Rd: 2<sup>st</sup> poor: Gospel Mission at  
 NE: poor: people: W to  
Speanza St.: many poor at NE end: allot  
 ment

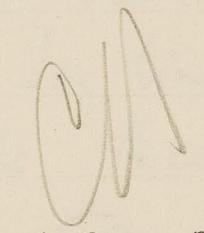
Streets off the N side of  
 Plumstead Common.



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

pas to lb. N up  
Riversdale Rd. West side rather better than East.  
pk to pas : 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 o ordinary outwardsly  
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  
handsons

Happy Plumstead



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, Satchell 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 Ropere & Slade Dale Rds.

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.

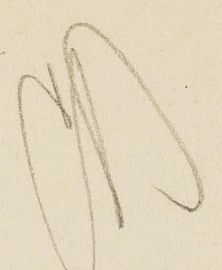
Wants better train service, trams up the  
Hill & along Plumstead Common, a music  
Hall or theatre, more working men's clubs.

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.

Supt. 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 tidy 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 1/2 mile  
of Deptford, As far South as the Cross &  
West up the SER 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 ties are getting looser.  
growing independence of parents - Children  
in four districts choose their own Board Schools  
so



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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 & streets, & 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

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 boom.

Children & Drink. he has never seen a child drunk



Drunk in the whole course of ~~the~~ his cases. <sup>5</sup>  
 as a policeman. Last year was his first  
 case of juvenile drunkenness when two  
 boys who had found two bottles of whis-  
 -key 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

Betting



is more indulged in than drink. Men in  
 the street, Newspaper shops & Barber shops  
 are the means of betting. He is having a  
 Barber shop in Woolwich watched now -  
 but what good will it do, they will pass  
 their £5 fine cheerfully & begin again,  
 like the bookies. Why dont the ~~police~~  
 stop the selling of <sup>racings</sup> tips in the street,  
 why dont they remove obstructions, why  
 dont they arrest Bookies, why dont  
 they prosecute bookies & arrest loose  
 women, why dont they take away  
 the licenses of public houses. Every  
 one is down on the police & the worst  
 of



Prostitution

of their calumniators are the clergy & 7  
what they most fiercely denounce are the  
things of which they have the least knowledge  
ie 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 careers & were turned back again by the fear of being examined. Those who had not begun ~~had~~ <sup>their</sup> ~~presented~~ 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.

to arrest two soldiers who were offending <sup>9</sup> with women in a public path: the military refused to let them interfere & wd not interfere themselves. Happily the Chief Constable is a soldier: she complained to Col. Gates direct & the two offending corporals got 10 days imprisonment each.

There is some friction between police & military: it is very difficult to deal with public house offenses 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 compared. Duct hole scattered, was better before from the police point of view because



yds	yds	houses
5320	8954	1379
3mbs 40yds	5mbs 154	2321
		≡

You always knew where to put your <sup>10</sup> hand on a man. Not all prostitutes in the Southside; 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 consequence: the people are well enough off to refuse to be crowded.

In 1898. The increase of houses was  
 1379 houses - making 3 miles 40 yds.  
 1899. 1247 ————— 5 — 154 —

This year it will be much larger.











