

Forage Friday: Neighbours

Friday 17 April 2020

Welcome to Forage Friday: Neighbours – sharing our heritage from Bruce Castle Museum & Archive.

Today, is Forage Friday and we're going to think about our neighbours, and do a little neighbourhood and street history, foraging through our own collections but also using some online sources that can help you with your research whilst we are at home.

One of the more commonly said positive aspects of the Covid-19 crisis is the fact that we're all getting to know our neighbours a little better. Even if it's just to say hello during the 8 o'clock Clap for the NHS, Keyworkers and Carers in the street, or you're helping look after someone in isolation (or someone is looking after you!), we're appreciating and getting to know our neighbours more.

With people having some extra time on their hands it might be a good time to look at doing some family or building history or researching about the history of your street. As libraries and archives are currently closed, you're going to have to look at online sources of information. We appreciate that some of these online resources are available through subscription, so perhaps you can look around for special deals and join with other members of your family - or your neighbours! – to help reduce costs.

Haringey's Library Service has some free [online research resources](#) that you can use, logging in with your library card.

So, to help illustrate how you might go about doing some of your own research we're going to take as an example some neighbours that lived in Bruce Grove in the early 1900s.



Bruce Grove 1911, looking towards Lordship Lane, with the tram to Wood Green

From the collections and © Bruce Castle Museum (Haringey Archive and Museum Service)

By the early 1900s Bruce Grove itself was a busy street with lovely grand houses along it leading, as it does now, from the High Road to Lordship Lane in

Tottenham, with Bruce Castle at the top. The Ordnance Survey Map of 1915 shows us some very large houses set back from the road with gardens (circled below in red) just by the station. This is where we are looking today, especially at nos.8 and 9 Bruce Grove.



Ordnance Survey Map 1915, from collections at Bruce Castle Museum & Archive

Using websites such as Ancestry or Find My Past, you can access a lot of information about people who lived in your street such as:

- census (every 10 years from 1841-1911), these list who was living in a particular house, their age, sex and occupation, relation to others in the house and where they were born.
- birth, baptism, marriage and death registries
- street and trade directories
- immigration records
- wills and probate
- military records

In our very first post in March, we looked at the exhibition that was to be launched at Bruce Castle but postponed until we are able to reopen again, [‘Sisters, Sirens and Saints: Imagining the Women of Beatrice Offor’](#). The artist Beatrice Offor lived at 8 Bruce Grove with her husband, James Beavan, who was a businessman and also an Alderman for Tottenham Urban District Council from 1905.



Beatrice and James Beavan are seen here seated with a group of other Primrose League fundraising friends.

A family photograph - courtesy and © Christopher Beavan



This very peaceful and inviting painting 'A Tangle in My Garden', was painted by Beatrice Offor in 1917. It shows the Beavans' garden at 8 Bruce Grove.

The painting was exhibited at the Royal Academy that same year, 1917.

© Bruce Castle Museum (Haringey Archive and Museum Service)

Below is an excerpt from a street directory dated 1910-1911, and we can see in the far right-hand column a list of people living in Bruce Grove. You can see James Philip Beavan listed at number 8 and their neighbour at number 9 is Alexander Maffuniades.

London, England, City Directories, 1736-1943 for Alexander Maffuniades
Tottenham and Edmonton Directory 1910-1911

47 High Road, MAP 1 3A. SOUTH SIDE. 21 Pardoe Jas. chimney swp Lawrence W. & Son, building contractors	84 Harris Michael Charles 86 Bateman George Percy 88 Morrish Ernest James 90 Blythe Mrs 92 Mattingly Thos. decorator	1 MOORE WILLIAM & SON , builders 2 Townsend John W 3 Blinch Joseph 3 Blinch Miss Ethel, ladies' tailor 4 Grund George 5 Saville Walter 6 Howard Miss 7 Woods Miss 8 Beavan James Philip 9 Maffuniades Alexander 10 Peart William 11 Osborn Frank 12 Moore William Joseph ... here is Woodside gdns ... 13 Roche James 14 Union Club Ltd. (The) (Martin Schindler)
NORTH SIDE. BROOK STREET CHAPEL SUNDAY SCHOOL & MISSION HALL 44 Young Men's Mission Room Bruce Castle parade. See LORDSHIP LANE. Bruce Castle road (Tottenham) from Lordship lane	WEST SIDE. 1 Brand John 3 Bridges John Alfred 5 Gribble Mrs 7 Jones Frederick Henry 9 Matthews Mrs 11 Wiggins Mrs 13 Bateman Harry 15 Haas Nathan 17 Flack George H 19 Giles Alexander George 21 Whipple Edwin John 23 Fuller John	

Tottenham and Edmonton Directory, 1910-1911, taken from www.ancestry.co.uk

We can find more information about Alexander Maffuniades and his family by taking a look at the census of 1911. This shows that he was Greek and born in Constantinople (now Istanbul, Turkey), in 1849. He lived at number 9 Bruce Grove with his wife Jane, three daughters (Nelly, Ruby and Euterpe) and two sons (Platon and [Ectos] Alexios), as well as his sister Eurydike and her daughter Matilda (both born in Constantinople) and one servant, Sarah Waight.

It must have been a busy house, but as the map shows, it was a large house. Alexander was a master lithographic printer and noted as an employer, suggesting that he owned his business. His oldest son Platon also worked for him as a manager.

Family Name, Surname or Matronym, when known	Sex	Age	Marital Status	Profession, Trade, Occupation, or Service	Place of Birth	Country and Year of Birth
Alexander Maffuniades	Head	62	Married	Master Printer	Constantinople	1849
Jane Maffuniades	Wife	61	Married		Constantinople	1849
Platon Maffuniades	Son	17	Single	Manager	Constantinople	1894
Nelly Maffuniades	Daughter	16	Single		Constantinople	1895
Ruby Maffuniades	Daughter	14	Single		Constantinople	1897
Euterpe Maffuniades	Daughter	12	Single		Constantinople	1899
Eurydike Maffuniades	Sister	65	Single		Constantinople	1844
Matilda Eurydike	Sister	30	Single		Constantinople	1881
Sarah Waight	Servant	21	Single		Constantinople	1890

Census for 1911 for Bruce Grove, taken from www.ancestry.co.uk

This street directory entry shows his business address at 8 Duke Street in Aldgate, central London 1890. It is believed he later moved the business to Tottenham.

Duke street, 19 Aldgate (E.C.) to Bevis Marks. MAP O9, P9.

1 Mills Thomas & Co, tailors
 3 King Mrs. Eliza, dining rooms
 9 Roebuck, Robt. Reuben Moss
 13 Howden Wm.A.&Son, gas engnrs
 15 Silver Isaac, confectioner
 19 Lanniss Joseph, dairy
 21 Romain Moses, jeweller
 23 Taylor Samuel, carman
 27 Richards Hy. chandler's shop
 31 United Synagogue Sexton's Office
 33 Vallentine Philip, printer
 41 Swaebe Mrs. Sarah, butcher

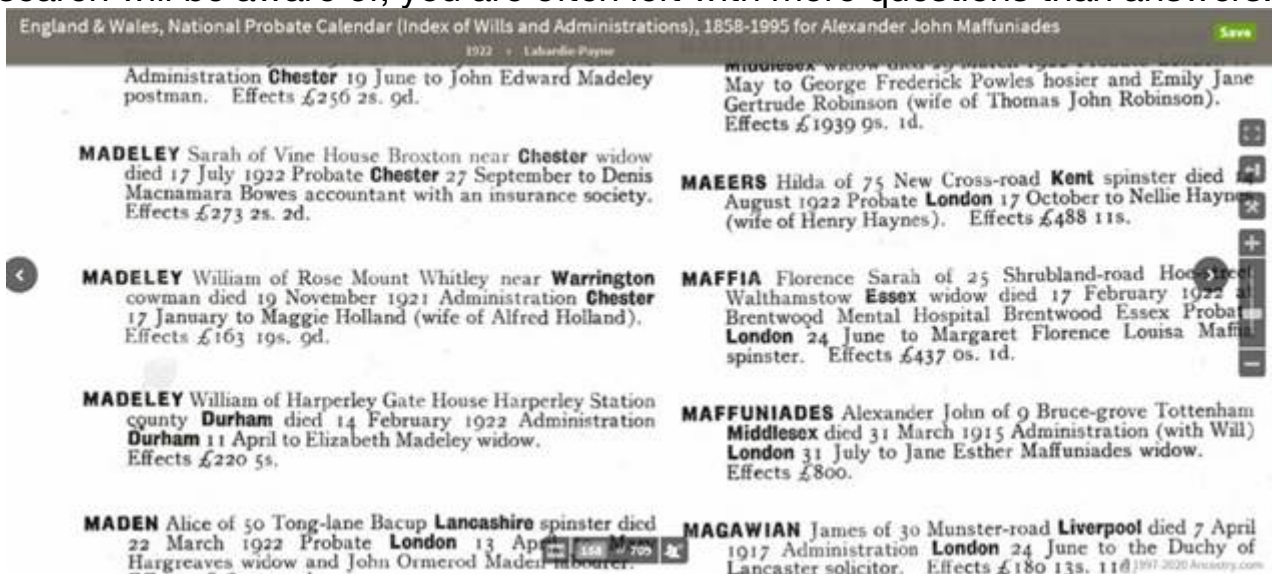
... here is St. James' place ..
 43 St. James's tavern, Alex. Williams
 8 Hyams Henry H. insurance agt
 8 Broad, Meat & Coal Charity (Jews), Institution for Relieving the Indigent Blind of the Jewish Persuasion,
 8 Jews' College (Office),
 8 Jewish Ladies' Benevolent Loan Society, Hy. H. Hyams, sec
 8 Maffuniades Alex. J. & Co. lithogrph
 8 Broadway & Palmer, book edge marblers

... here is a row of courts ...
 4 Brown Christoph. Matt. bootma
 5 Peron Madame Margt. stayma
 5 Jex Madame Sarah, dressmaker
 6 Willis Hy. Wm. David, dairymn
 6 Hyde George, tailor
 7 Albion, Fredk. William Bevan
 ... here is Robert street ...
 17 Finch John, builder &c
 18 Loffet Adolphe & Co. wine mers
 18 Patricot Madame
 18 Cattle William James
 18 Cécile Madame Nivart, dressmkr
 19 Fay Henry & Co. tailors
 ... here is Oxford street ...
DUKE STREET MANSIONS:—
 1 English Apple & Fruit Growing Co. Lim. Richd. Dean, sec
 2 Sampson George, tailor
 3 Battam & Heywood, decorators
 1 to 8 French Hon. Capt. & Lady
 1 to 8 Cure Miss Capel
 1 to 8 Keatinge Baroness
 1 to 8 Wordie John Carter
 1 to 8 Cummings Admiral Sir Arth'r
 4 Corti John, boot & shoemaker
 5 Waugh & Son, upholsterers
 6 Abbott George Van & Son, dietetic depot
 7 Davy M'dme. Eliza, ladies' outfitt'r

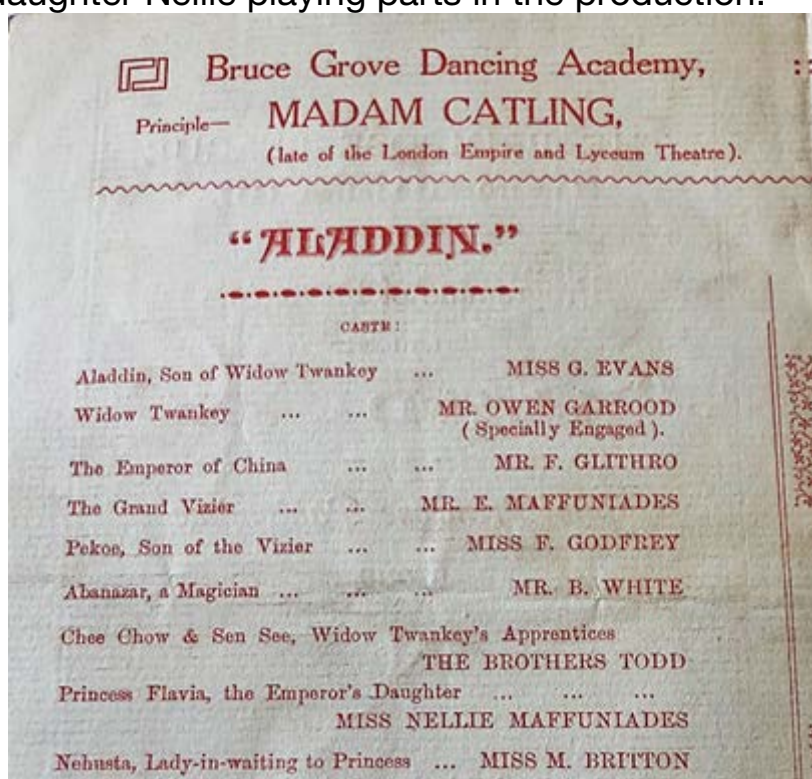
City of London Directory, 1890, taken from www.ancestry.co.uk

The document below is from the National Probate Calendar 1858-1995 and shows that Alexander died 31 March 1915 and left £800 to his wife Jane. Curiously, the probate was settled in 31 July 1922, over seven years after his death. So, although it shows he left a will, it does point to there being some complications with the settlement of his estate, or maybe it was because it had been wartime. Unfortunately we're not able to find anything else out about what

the problem might've been, and as anyone who has done much family history research will be aware of, you are often left with more questions than answers!



We know that both James Beavan and Alexander Maffuniades had connections with each other in addition to just being neighbours. Both were members of the [Primrose League](#) in Tottenham, and below we have a programme of a pantomime performance of Aladdin, put on by the Primrose League and The Primrose Pantomime Troupe at Sperling Road Schools on 24 April 1913 to raise money for local charities, including the local hospital. You can see Alexander's son Ectos and daughter Nellie playing parts in the production.



© Bruce Castle Museum (Haringey Archive and Museum Service)

We're now going to shift our focus onto the youngest son Ectos Maffuniades (also known as Alexios in the 1911 census, as above). Ectos was born 1896, grew up at 9 Bruce Grove and went to Tottenham Grammar School for Boys from 1905-1909. Below is a picture of Ectos with his mother Jane in their garden at 9

Bruce Grove. Like many local youth and men, he joined the army in 1914 and served with the 10th Battalion Royal Fusiliers during the First World War.



© Bruce Castle Museum (Haringey Archive and Museum Service)



This image shows Ectos in the trenches on the Western Front, with rifles, bayonets, and a periscope to look out across the enemy lines c.1915.

© Bruce Castle Museum (Haringey Archive and Museum Service)

He was awarded a Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM) for bravery for saving his Captain during action. The *London Gazette* on 15 March 1916 announced the award of his medal: “*For conspicuous gallantry in carrying a wounded comrade, at great personal risk, into a place of safety. On a previous occasion he remained out alone with his Captain, who was wounded, dragged him a distance of 100 yards into a place of comparative safety, and remained with him till stretcher-bearers arrived.*” Tragically, Pte Ectos Maffuniades (or ‘Muffins’ as he was

affectionately known by his fellow soldiers) died in action on 28 May 1916, soon after saving Captain Roberts' life. Ectos was only 20 years old. As we saw above, this was just over a year since the death of his father in March 1915, a terrible time for the Maffuniades family in Bruce Grove.



Newspaper cutting, from unknown source, 1916

We can find reference to Ectos', and other war veterans, death and burial on the [Commonwealth War Graves Commission](#) website. Below are some records available from the site, listing his burial in in the war cemetery at [Berles-au-Bois](#) in the north of France.

INDEX No. Fr. 501 BERLES-AU-BOIS CHURCHYARD EXT.	JELLEY, Lce. Cpl. J. R., 7320. 10th Bn. Royal Fusiliers. 10th June, 1916. Age 23. Son of Mr. and Mrs. R. Jelley, of 9, Breer St., Wandsworth Bridge Rd., Fulham, London. H. 10.	MACDONALD, Lce. Cpl. Norman, 3/7192. 2nd Bn. Seaforth Highlanders. Killed in action 21st April, 1916. Age 20. Son of William and Ann McLeod Macdonald, of 11, Sheshader Point, Stornoway. D. 1.
	JENKINS, Rfn. Arthur, 4941. 1st/1st Bn. Monmouthshire Regt. Killed in action 25th Sept., 1916. Age 22. Son of John and Harriet Jenkins, of Lacey Green, Wilmslow, Cheshire. G. 1.	MAFFUNIADES, Pte. E., 466, D.C.M. 10th Bn. Royal Fusiliers. 28th May, 1916. E. 3.
	JENNINGS, Ftr. ^{George} 37987. 128th Bde. Royal Field Artillery. 4th April, 1916. C. 8.	MALIN, Pte. R., 10419. 6th Bn. Leicestershire Regt. 18th Dec., 1915. U. 7.
	JONES, Pte. A. H., 27378. 19th Bn. The King's Liverpool Regt. 3rd Jan., 1917. P. 1.	MARSHALL, Pte. Thomas, 10183. 6th Bn. Leicestershire Regt. 8th Oct., 1915. Age 20. Son of Albert and Sarah Ann Marshall, of 4, Albert Place, Loughborough. S. 11.

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT. 23.7.20. Army Form V. 5972
GRAVES REGISTRATION REPORT FORM.

REPORT No. 1. SCHEDULE No. 3/c.

Commune:- Berles au Bois.

PLACE OF BURIAL BERLES AU BOIS, CHURCHYARD EXT.

Map Reference Sic.W.15.n.6.1.

- 6 SEP 1920

The following are buried here:-

Regiment	No.	Name	Rank and Initials	Date of Death	Cross Erected or G. R. U. A.	Plot, Row and Grave
Part of Row "D" ROW "D" (CONT'D)						
2/Snaforth's	1575	BAKER ✓	PTG.A.	21.4.16	✓ GRU	2.
15/Sec. Bty. RFA.	56687	BLANCHE ✓	GNR.W.E.T.28.4.16		✓ GRU	3.
-Co-	50034	NAHE ✓	GNR.B.	"	✓ "	4.
1/R. Irish Fus.	38728	NICHOLLS ✓	PTG.J.	"	✓ "	5.
-Co-	8101	McCARTNEY ✓	PTG.J.	26.4.16	✓ "	6.
-Co-	10698	GRAHAM ✓	PTG.J.	"	✓ "	7.
-Co-	17274	HENDERSON ✓	PTG.T.	30.4.16	✓ "	8.
Rec.	5386	CAMPBELL ✓	PTG.J.	"	✓ "	9.
-Co-	11310	CRAIG ✓	PTG.C.	"	✓ "	10.
13/E.R.C.	N/4721	FALCONBRIDGE ✓	L/C.N.	23.5.16	✓ "	11.
Part of Row "E" ROW "E"						
127/E.O.C.	10461	GILES ✓	PTG.W.R.28.8.16		✓ GRU	1.
10/R.Fus.	1912	WILLEY ✓	PTG.A.C.	8.6.16	✓ "	2.
-Co-	2 466	MAFFUILLAS ✓	PTG.E.	28.8.16	✓ "	3.
-Co-	88	DAVIS ✓	PTG.N.	26.8.16	✓ <i>NEW MEM.</i>	
-Co-	216	ROME ✓	PTG.A.S.	"	✓ <i>JEW MEM. E.S.</i>	

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Both documents above from the [Commonwealth War Graves Commission](http://www.commonwealthwargraves.com) website.

We have at Bruce Castle the war memorial boards for both the First and Second World Wars for the Tottenham Grammar School, which also commemorates Ectos and other former students who died during the conflict.

Some of you might also be aware that the house on the other side of the Beavans' home, number 7 Bruce Grove, has an interesting history in itself, with a very special resident, Luke Howard (1772-1864) the 'Namer of Clouds'. The house itself is currently in a state of disrepair, but you can still see from the street the [English Heritage Blue Plaque commemorating him](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/blue-plaques/luke-howard) on the building (Tottenham's first Blue Plaque from EH). We'll not go into his life here, as we will be coming back to a dedicated post coming up soon, but we can see another family member, 'Miss Howard', living at number 6 in the street directory of 1910-11 shown above.



HOME FOR MISSIONARIES, 7 BRUCE GROVE, TOTTENHAM.

These images are the front and rear views of Number 7 Bruce Grove in 1907, when it was a Home for Missionaries. © Bruce Castle Museum (Haringey Archive and Museum Service)

By having a look at the various online sites you can begin to find out about the history of your street, and the lives of some of its residents, and all from the comfort of your sofa. When we're open again you're all very welcome to [make an appointment to visit the Search Room](#) at Bruce Castle to look at the material we hold in the archive such as maps, street directories, photos and newspapers to help build up a bigger picture about the history of your street and neighbourhood. Meanwhile, don't forget to say hello to your neighbours - and maybe ask them about their own stories. It is so important to be in touch with one another.

Stay well, keep those safe distances and stay indoors.
Until our next post,
Best wishes from us all at Bruce Castle

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