



March 2020

**Tadley and District History Society
(TADS) - www.tadshistory.com**

**Next meeting - Wednesday 18th March 2020
at St. Paul's Church Hall, 8.00 to 9.30pm**

**‘The History of Smelly Alley, Reading;
fish and the decline of fishmongers ’**

By Kevin Little

(Everybody welcome - visitors £3.00)

Tadley Map Day

Our map day is at Tadley Library on Saturday 14th March. On page 5 there is a poster giving full details. Please come along if you are interested in seeing the old maps we have and the way the district has changed. Or send your friends and neighbours.

*Comments, queries and suggestions to Richard Brown (0118) 9700100,
e-mail: richard@ilexind.plus.com or Carol Stevens (0118) 9701578*

www.tadshistory.com

TADS Meeting 15th April 2020

‘1752 and all that; derivation of the modern calendar’

By Mark Bowman

TADS Meeting 19th February 2020

The Zulu Wars of 1879 and the death of the Prince Imperial.

By Richard Anderson

Talk about a 19th century prince who had a lively life, so also has our Speaker Richard, the ‘galloping major’ from the song of yesteryear. He, with a sergeant major’s voice, didn’t need our microphone.

Having spent some time at Sandhurst Military Academy in 1973, he had an eye for a gun: a big 8 inch Long Tom, and then a nuclear gun. Richard joined the Royal Artillery Regiment spending time in Paderborn, Germany; Belize (formally British Honduras); three tours of Northern Ireland AND supported the SAS; AND is now deputy Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire. Quite a busy lad who also has a commercial landscaping business. Never a still moment, Richard helps out at Sandhurst; is a Kensal Green Cemetery guide; and does twice weekly talks putting all his fees into the Polio Plus charity. He’s made £70,000 so far. A thoroughly good egg

Richard promised a ‘big twist’ at the end of his multi-faceted talk --- and some! The Prince Imperial (1856 to 1879) son of Napoleon III and Empress Eugenie was the great nephew of Napoleon I who constantly tried to terrorise us Brits in the 18th and 19th centuries. However this young prince was a very clever Anglophile who loved luxury (and the fairer sex it seems!) As a 14 year old his father involved him in the Franco Prussian war (1870). The French were defeated and somehow the Prince Imperial’s whole family ended up on our shores at Hastings, East Sussex, in room 28 of the Grand Hotel. From there on to Chislehurst, Kent, and the Prince to the Woolwich ‘Shop’ (Military Academy) to train as a gunner. His mum and dad were very friendly with

Victoria and Albert and the two Queens socialised very well. So also did the Prince with the Queen Victoria's youngest daughter Beatrice.....

The expression 'talking shop' means to 'talk technical'. Moreover at the Shop the young gunners played snooker rather than billiards - the Shop Soldiers were known as 'Snookers'. If ever the Prince was in trouble at the Shop, his two servants took the blame!

Good at sketching the Prince no doubt contributed to the new art of Ordnance mapmaking -- maps being made originally for WAR purposes.

Being a bit of a romantic and good with a sword as well as a gun and a pencil, the Prince did a spot of duelling in Aldershot before being transferred to South Africa with 'G' battery RHA to Fight the Zulus in 1879. The Zulus were a smart bunch who could go without food or water for 3 to 4 days but had a drug under their tongues!

They had to draw blood with their swords before marrying.... We Brits didn't do well and in the 1879 battle of Isandlwana, Lord Chelmsford charged and lost 1500 soldiers. Queen Victoria was very annoyed at our losses and instructed P.M. Benjamin Disraeli to give the new troops everything they needed -- lots of ammunition, but our rocket launchers were useless and the noise frightened the horses. The Zulus were under the impression that marmalade tins were involved and they were also afraid

The Prince was out scouting when he spied a Zulu woman nearby and decided she was more interesting than fighting. The Zulu warriors were outraged at the raping and killed the 23 year old Prince and his little dog on 1st June 1879. It was Zulu custom to slit the enemies' stomachs to release their souls to RIP. However the Prince was not mutilated because he had been dishonourable in raping the Zulu woman.

Obviously there was great consternation among our top officers and they put the Prince's entrails in a Huntley and Palmer biscuit tin and made a death mask before shipping his decomposing body back home.

When his mother, Empress Eugenie, found out she was grief stricken and travelled to South Africa to view the killing site. Here she planted six trees, one of which remains.

Lieutenant Carey who'd been the Prince's C.O. was cashiered (lost rank, pension and sent to Coventry. Queen Victoria intervened and restored CAPTAIN Carey's rank, etc because he had been truthful and also rescued the Prince's uniform. The Prince was buried at Chislehurst and more lastingly at St. Michael's Benedictine Abbey at Farnborough , Hants. (His parents are also buried there).

Suddenly Richard revealed his big twist Queen Victoria's youngest, Beatrice had become pregnant through her love affair with the Prince Imperial. She was spirited up to Scotland to the Ferguson family, for the birth of a boy who took the Ferguson's surname and allegedly had the big round eyes. Richard said that it is believed that every six weeks our Princess Beatrice of York secretly puts a posy of flowers by the Prince's sarcophagus in Farnborough Abbey. Her mother's maiden name was Ferguson.... Maybe the Prince Imperial was Beatrice's great, great, grandfather.

A tragic tale. Richard said the Zulu problem is ongoing and his dear friend David Rattray was murdered there quite recently. We have to ask ourselves -- does any good ever come out of colonialism?

Thank you Richard, you are a marvellous storyteller and a real good egg! It was a mind-blowing tale full of twists and turns.

Rosemary bond

Footnotes by the Editor:

1. Other accounts of the Prince Imperial's death are considerably less ignominious, but whatever the truth, he was rashly disobeying orders.

2. The French have requested the return of Napoleon III's body to France, as a bargaining ploy for Brexit. The Foreign Office seems to be pushing any decision towards the Benedictine Monks of Farnborough.

Louis-Napoléon Bonaparte (1856-1879), Prince Imperial, only child of Napoleon III of France and his Empress consort Eugénie. Age 22.



Tadley and District Historical Society



9.30am - 15.30pm Saturday 14th March 2020

Tadley Library, Mulfords Hill, Tadley RG26 3JE

Tadley Map Day



See what your street was like more than 150 years ago!

Use interactive maps to show how Tadley has changed over the last 150 years.

Compare old maps of Tadley with current Google Earth.

Look at census records for Tadley, Pamber and Baughurst from 1841.

See the index of Tadley family members, their ages and occupations.

Local Tithe maps, Manorial records, and Inclosure records

tadshistory.com

What's on? Events which may be of interest.

Milestones Museum. For coming events tel. 01256 477766 or see <http://hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk/milestones-museum>

15 Feb - 19 Apr. - **Space Explorers.** An out of this world brick adventure! Explore over 20 space-related brick models, complete two interactive mission trails, ride a flying saucer, and much more!

Willis Museum - The museum is running an ever changing series of special exhibitions in the Sainsbury Gallery. The Museum also holds workshops on assorted topics including children's activities in the holidays. *For information tel. 01256 465902 or see <http://hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk/venue-events/52>*

18 Jan - 18 Apr. - **Microsculpture.** The Insect Portraits of Levon Biss

Friends of the Willis Museum (7.30 pm at the museum - Non-members £2, booking essential through the museum telephone number 01256 465902)

19 March - **Castles in the Air** - Bizarre Victorian Inventions by Nick Brazil

Basingstoke Archaeological and Historical Society (*Meetings at Church Cottage at 7.30pm*)

9 April - The influence of the church on the emergence of North Hampshire towns by Derek Spruce – BAHS

I am sorry to report that **Gill Baldock** of Hamble Drive passed away at the end of last month after a short illness. Gill was a TADS member for several years. Also **Ann Broad**'s husband, Michael has died. Some of you may remember him through the life-saving club and as a councillor.

***TADS annual membership is £18 per person.
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