

Roll: **19130218-0702**

Camera: **Document: DOC**

Subject:

Postcard to Elsie from her Sister in Brockley.

Notes:

In February 1913 my Nana Fulford, Elsie Hannett as she was then, 22 years old, received at least two communications from London. One was a letter from her Uncle St Luke in Camden and the other a postcard from her eldest sister Florence in Brockley. Both were postmarked 18th February 1913 and both were in response to Elsie's own correspondence.

When writing to Florence Elsie had sent news of her own state of health and that of her Mother, she also had mentioned Stanley and that she might visit him the following Saturday. Stanley was Thomas Stanley Roadley, a school teacher at Hayden Road Council School in Nottingham. Stanley, the Son of a farmer in Normanton, was in 1913 a school teacher at Haydn Road School. Other letters would seem to indicate the families were close. Stanley became a pilot in the Royal Flying Corp in 1915 and a dead [war hero](#) in 1917. Elsie kept a press cutting reporting his death. I suspect that it may be that Elsie or one of her sisters was engaged to be married to Stanley.

Florence Elizabeth Hannett was the oldest of nine children born to Eliza and John Robert Hannett, Elsie was the youngest. Florence had been born in Nottingham in 1873, she married George Shepherd Hirst, three years her junior, in 1898 when she was 22 years old. In 1900 they had a boy, Leslie G who's thirteenth birthday was coming up on Sunday 23rd February.

From the census data we know that the family were living in Greenwich in 1901 and that George was a, or perhaps the, National Free Church Council secretary (stet). It is possible that 1901 was the year that the Hirsts moved to London as it was the year that the National Council of Evangelical Free Churches (which I assume is the same body) initiated a [united mission to the nation](#) in order to stem the tide of secularism and the exodus of the masses from the nonconformist churches.

The house, at 41 Sprules Road, must have been new build then, I think. Today, February 2023, it would be described as a 4 bedroomed Victorian Terrace with a guide price of £1,000,000. One of those bedrooms would have to be in the attic as such properties I am sure, were built with two bedrooms only with a possible third over a back addition.

In 1913, when Florence writes her reply to Elsie, the family is living in the more palatial 8 Montague Gardens. This house is just a mile down the road, it faces on to Hilly Fields park in Brockley which I would imagine to be the site of many adventures for the young Leslie.

The house, aside from the slightly unkempt front gardens appears unchanged in a hundred and ten years. Strangely these houses now fetch little more than those in Sprules Road. Number 8 was sold for £640,00 in 2004 which according to the Bank of England translated to £1,057,338.95 in January 2023 and is equivalent to £11,578.09 in 1913.

The postcard has a photograph of the house on the front and is postmarked:

"Brockley S S.E. 3.15 PM FE 18 13"

Florence writes;

*"8 Montague Avenue, Brockley S.E.
Feby 18th
When are you coming to get the breezes of Brockley.*

*Leslie will be 13, next Sunday
It was so nice to get some news from home this morning.*

*I am sorry that you are not making greater progress &
Mother too, but the weather is against her.
Please give my best wishes to Stanley if you go on Saty.*

*Yes I am in it too, I am just getting over a bout of Influenza.
I too am looking for the silver linings,*

Lots of love Flo."
</quote>

Dates:

The date of the postcard is established by the postmark. Other dates are those at the time of downloading the images.

Frames:

- MPS-0001 19130218 12:00:00 8 Montague Avenue.
- DOC-0001 19130218 15:15:00 Postcard to Elsie.
- WWW-0003 20230301 21:30:00 8 Montague Avenue in 2023.
- WWW-0004 20230301 21:45:00 Hilly Fields from no.8 in 2023.
- WWW-0005 20230301 22:35:00 41 Sprules Road.



DOC-0001 - Postcard from Florence in Brockley.



MPS-0001 - Picture postcard 8 Montague Avenue, Brockley.



WWW-0003 - 8 Montague Avenue in 2023.



WWW-0004 - Hilly Fields from number 8.



WWW-0005 - 41 Sprules Road, Greenwich in 2023.