

"Cracknells",
Hempstead,
Saffron Walden,
Essex.
CB10 2PD.
11/03/2004.

Dear Sirs,

I am the local history recorder for Hempstead and a member of the local history group. We are interested in the organisation that existed in the village between the wars, run by the Church Army at Hempstead Hall, and described in Kelly's directory of 1922 as an emigration colony, and in the same directory of 1937 as Church Army Training Farms. Please do you have in your archives any information about this establishment that you can copy to us, as we are currently trying to build a picture of life in the village 1919-1939. Any information that you can supply will be gratefully received.

Thanking you in anticipation,
Yours sincerely,

Alan A. Weedon.



Mr Alan A Weedon
"Cracknells"
Hempstead
Saffron Walden
Essex
CB10 2PD

Dear Alan,

Thank you for your inquiry dated 11th March 2004.

By way of explanation our resident archivist retired in the late 1990s and we have been attempting to undertake the research work within our existing resources supplemented by employing an archivist on a casual basis.

However it has now been decided that we can no longer continue to fund the research or to undertake the work within the staff group.

Obviously we would be extremely reluctant to close the doors of our archives to inquiries and therefore we have obtained the services of someone outside the Society to deal with the work but I must inform you that Church Army would need to make a charge for the work.

Accordingly if you wish me to proceed with the research I need to receive from you an initial fee of £20 to fund the preliminary inquiry. However I feel I need to state that I can give no guarantee that our initial research will result in the provision of any information.

Should we be unable to complete the research within the initial period- but that it is clear to us that more research will reveal more information- I will advise you how long the additional research will take and the approximate likely cost.

I hope you will understand our need to concentrate our resources on our "frontline" Evangelistic ministry.

Yours sincerely

Personnel Services
Church Army
109 Station Road
Sidcup
Kent
DA15 7AD

“Cracknells”,
Hempstead,
Saffron Walden,
Essex.
CB10 2PD.

Dear Pat,

Thank you for your letter regarding the Church Army archives. We would like you to initiate an enquiry into the Church Army establishment at Hempstead Hall and enclose a cheque for £20.

We still have a connection with the Church Army in that our parish church of St. Andrew`s, of which I am churchwarden, for the last few years has sponsored Capt. Gordon Banks in Truro.

Yours sincerely,

Alan A. Weedon.

Church Army,
Marlowe House,
109, Station Road,
Sidcup,
Kent.
DA15 7AD.



Mr A A Weedon
"Cracknells"
Hempstead
Saffron Walden
Essex CB10 2PD

16 April 2004

Dear Mr Weedon

HEMPSTEAD HALL

Thank you for your letter dated 2 April, together with your cheque for £20.00 in respect of the cost of research.

Hempstead Hall is first mentioned in our Annual Reports in the early 1900s. Church Army was involved in emigration work from before the turn of the last century and this grew into a large activity. The normal pattern was to help emigrant families to Canada, providing there was a breadwinner amongst them, but isolated children were not sent overseas at all. We also helped young men to emigrate to Canada, Australia and a small number to New Zealand, but these lads would have been trained on our special farm in Hempstead, Essex, or in one of our youth hostels for practical skills such as woodwork, shoe making/repairs etc. In other words they had a trade behind them. Either through our own officers or through other charities all who emigrated received after care help to make sure that they were being properly housed and cared for.

I enclose photocopies taken from our Annual Reports, which I hope will give you an insight into the history of Hempstead Hall and would like to wish you well in your research.

Yours sincerely

Pat Lee
Archives