

HEZEKIAH MOSCOW

(Ching Ghook)

- c1862 - born
- 1854 - Chinese migrant workers – indentured - began to arrive in Jamaica, making it possible that he was mixed race.

Hezekiah Moscow was, most likely, “Ezekiah Mascoe”. I believe his surname was Mascoe, but sounded like Moscow to the Cockney ear when said with a Jamaican accent. I’ve come to this conclusion through purely circumstantial evidence.... that there is a concentration of an Afro-Caribbean Family from St Andrew’s, Stoney Hill, Kingston, Jamaica, and although the evidence for this is circumstantial, I believe that this was Hezekiah’s family of origin.

The surname Mascoe, and the Christian name “Ezekiah” (Hezekiah) was prominent within that family at exactly the time that Hezekiah was born and on through the time when he was most famous. Interestingly it seems that there were not always birth records for all births, perhaps because of illegitimacy, for children born in the 1860s, some only turning up in the records when they married, and my theory is that Hezekiah was one of these. A number of men in the family joined the British Army and traveled abroad, and some eventually came to England in later years.

Paul McNeil - timedetectors.blog

- Moscow was a teenage ship’s cabin boy, travelling the world and he arrived here at about the age of 19 (*Where Did You Go, Hezekiah Moscow? The Life and Times of Ching Hook (Part I: 1882-87)* - grapplingwithhistory.com - by Sarah Elizabeth Cox)

Record

1882

THE METROPOLITAN, DOWNHAM-ROAD, KINGSLAND-ROAD (Proprietor, Mr. Moseley). — The final heat of the 9st competition will take place on Monday next, May 8, between G. Satchell, Beaky Smith, Ching Ghook (the black), when Mr. Walter Ricardo will attend and present the winner with the prize. The *Sporting Life* will appoint a referee.

‘The Sporting Life’: 6th May 1882

In May 1882 there was a Newspaper report of a black boxer named “Ching Ghook” in May 1882, described as “the black” fighting at the Metropolitan Pub in London, Hezekiah was taking part in the final heat of a 9 stone (i.e. 126 pound) category.

Mentioning the fact that he was black was to add to the novelty and draw a bigger crowd, as most Londoners, outside of those who lived in the Docks, or who had served onboard ship or in the army had never seen a black person in the flesh, and this would have peaked the curiosity of the average Londoner.

Although somewhat uncomfortable to our ears, the term was not necessarily meant as a derogatory term, rather it was descriptive, and was meant to create excitement and draw the crowds, to create a “gimmick” to encourage gambling and the backing of certain boxers (even though such gambling was illegal). The use of a nickname was not unusual at the time, and one of the other competitors was a man named “Beaky” Smith, most likely because he had a big nose! Punters didn’t want to see boring boxers, that craved men with a good back story, or that stood out in some other way.

In September 1882, there was a Newspaper report of a boxer named “Ching Hook” alongside a number of other boxers (including one other West Indian boxer named Alec Monroe) fighting at the Goldsmith’s Arms London, every Saturday and Monday evening. This implies exhibition matches rather than competitive, so the boxers would have been receiving some sort of payment rather than a prize purse, otherwise there is no way that they would have been able to have fought to such a regular timetable due to injuries.

7 Oct Obe Attenbury Exh 3 'Bluecoat Boy', Dorset Street, Spitalfields
Bye – first series – 9st. 4lb.competition

BOXING.
COMPETITION AT THE EAST-END.

Mr. W. C. Lewis's saloon, which has just been redecorated for the season, at the Bluecoat Boy, Dorset-street, Spitalfields, was patronised by a numerous company last Saturday evening, when a silver cup was offered by the proprietor for competition between six selected lads. The accepted ones were Reuben Baxter, Bill Newton, Ching Ghook (the "sable Chinaman"), Sidney Baker, William Baxter, and Bob Nevill. After the draw had taken place, and Bill Carter had been selected as referee, and Mr. J. Vanner as timekeeper, the competition was commenced. First Bout: W. winner, and "Sugar" Goodson the loser. Third Bout: Ching Ghook sparred a very amusing bye with Obe Attenbury, Nevill, Ghook's opponent, feeling too unwell to compete. There not now being time to conclude the competition, the finals were postponed until Saturday next, October 14. During the evening some

'The Sporting Life': 19th October 1882

14 Oct William Baxter W pts 3 'Bluecoat Boy', Dorset Street, Spitalfields
Semi-final – 9st. 4lb.competition

14 Oct Reuben Baxter L pts 3 'Bluecoat Boy', Dorset Street, Spitalfields
Final – 9st. 4lb.competition

BOXING AT SPITALFIELDS.—Last Saturday the final bouts of a 9st 4lb competition (the preliminaries of which had been got through a week previous) were decided at the Bluecoat Boy, Dorset-street, Spitalfields. Three competitors were left in, viz, R. Baxter, Ching Ghook, and W. Baxter. The first-named drew the bye, and Ching Ghook beat W. Baxter easily; the final, however, was a very near thing, and ultimately R. Baxter, who, of course, was the fresher of the two, gained the verdict. There was also some capital exhibition sparring.

'Bell's Life in London and Sporting Chronicle': 21st October 1882

24 Oct Alex Munro Exh. 3 'Bluecoat Boy', Dorset Street, Spitalfields
Benefit to Bill Newton

Bill Newton Exh. 3

BENEFIT TO BILL NEWTON.

ON Tuesday evening, despite the wretched weather, there was a rare muster of talent at Mr W. C. Lewis's saloon, the Bluecoat Boy, Dorset-street, Spitalfields, attracted by an assault of arms given by several well-known professionals on behalf of Bill Newton. Mr W. H. Corrie, and Sam Croker, who were both busy; Ching Ghook and A. Munro knocked each other about with great energy, followed by J. Stenbaur and Bob Ferrers, who acquitted themselves to the satisfaction of all. The bluecoat and Ching Ghook appeared with black and white gloves as a wind-up to a capital evening's programme.

'The Sportsman': 26th October 1882

25 Oct Alec Munro Exh. 3 Old Mile End Gate Tavern
Sugar Goodson Exh. 3 Old Mile End Gate Tavern

TOWER HAMLETS AND EAST LONDON BOXING CLUB.—The 8st 6lb competition, commenced on Tuesday evening, October 17, was brought to a successful conclusion at the Old Mile-End Gate Tavern on Wednesday evening last. Return:—Second Bout: A. Munro with young Smith. Final: Ames beat Miller. Several well-known boxers set-to during the evening, the following donning the mittens:—Ching Ghook and Alec Munroe, Taffy (of Whitechapel)

Walker, George Nottage and Saunders's Novice, Sugar Gordon and Ching Ghook, &c., &c. Mr. H. Green was referee, and Joe Farrell M.C.

'The Sporting Life': 28th October 1882

30 Oct

Bill Newton

Exh. 3

'The Goldsmiths' Arms', Little Sutton Street,

Clerkenwell

JACK HENLEY'S BENEFIT.

Yesternight (Monday) this young boxer, who has been the victor in several competitions, was accorded a complimentary benefit at Mr. W. Ward's, the Goldsmith's Arms, Little Sutton-street, Clerkenwell. The competition was for amateurs under 9st.

H. Woodstock was referee. In the course of the evening some good exhibition boxing was shown by the following:—Ching Ghook v. W. Newton, D. Cox v. George Roberts, the brothers Bob and

'The Sporting Life': 31st October 1882

11 Nov

W. Tyson

Exh. 3

'The Goldsmiths' Arms', Little Sutton Street,

Clerkenwell

DICK ROBERTS' 9st COMPETITION.

On Saturday evening last the saloon attached to Mr. W. Ward's, the Goldsmiths' Arms, Little Sutton-street, Clerkenwell, was crowded in every part, the great attraction being a competition for 9st men, organised by the custodian of the room, Dick Roberts.

During the evening some excellent exhibition sparring was indulged in between the brothers Tom and Sam Longer, Ching Ghook and W. Tyson, Jem Gorrie and J. Borrell. Arthur Cooner

'The Sporting Life': 14th November 1882

14 Nov

Benefit postponed

CHING GHOOK'S BENEFIT.—This coloured boxer (the winner of half a dozen competitions) was to have taken his first benefit last night (Tuesday) at Mr. W. Maydon's, the Old Mile-End Gate Tavern, Whitechapel-road, but although his brother pugs mustered in good force (amongst whom we noticed the ever-obliging Joe Farrell, Alec Munroe, Mike Pollock, Roach, Newton, Welsh, &c.), the public did not attend in sufficient numbers to make the affair a success. This was probably owing to three other entertainments of this class taking place at the same time. It was therefore deemed advisable to postpone it until Wednesday next, November 22, when all tickets issued will be available.

'The Sporting Life': 15th November 1882

BENEFIT TO GEORGE STEADMAN.—This well-known lad unfortunately broke his leg some time since, and a benefit has been organised for him, which is fixed to take place on Monday evening, the 27th inst., at Mrs. Napper's, the Five Inkhorns, New Nichol-street, Shoreditch, when a competition for a handsome cup will be sparred for by Alec Munroe and Ching Ghook. M.C.'s, Ben Webb and George Nottage. Wind-up between Steadman and Sam Croker.

'The Sporting Life': 21st November 1882

28 Nov

O. Kingston

Exh. 3

'Lord Palmerston', Stayner's Road, Mile End

JACK EWEN'S COMPETITIONS.

Yesternight (Tuesday) this clever boxer, who has been the victor in several well-contested competitions, was accorded a complimentary benefit at Mr. Gammage's, the Lord Palmerston, Stayner's-road, Mile-End-road, on which occasion his patrons gave two handsome prizes, to be competed for by amateurs not exceeding 9st, and professionals at 9st 6lb respectively. The large saloon was filled in

During the intervals the following gave evidence of their skill in exhibition boxing:—Dave Cable v. G. Smith, H. Vanner v. John Mitchell, Joe Carr v. J. Milner, H. Hughes v. O. Ewen, and O. Kingston v. Ching Ghook.

'The Sporting Life': 29th November 1882

1883

20 Jan

2nd place in 880 yards handicap race

CHELSEA BATHS GYMNASIUM

880 YARDS HANDICAP.—Second series: Heat 1: J. Moss 100 yards start, 1; W. Vernon 55, 2; Joe Vernon 40, 3. Won easily; a bad third.—Heat 2: R. Hadley 88, 1; Ching Ghook 110, 2. Won easily.—Heat 3: G.

'Bell's Life in London and Sporting Chronicle': 27th January 1883

2 May

Jem Chamberlain

Exh. 3

Old Mile End Gate, 174, Whitechapel Road

First series - 10st competition

2 May

G. Nottage

L pts 3

Old Mile End Gate, 174, Whitechapel Road

Final - 10st competition

MR. BALLAM'S COMPETITION.

Yesterday (Wednesday) there was a good muster at Mr. W. Mazdon's, the Old Mile-End Gate, 174, Whitechapel-road, to witness the final bout of an 8st 4lb, and a 10st competition in its entirety. Results:—10st Competition.—First Bout: G. Nottage beat W. Spinks. Second Bout: Ching Ghook sparred a bye with Jem Chamberlain. Final: Nottage beat Ching Ghook. 8st 4lb

'The Sporting Life': 3rd May 1883

24 May

J.T. Godfrey

Exh. 3

'The Griffin', Shoreditch

JACK HARTLEY'S BENEFIT.

This sometime famous pugilist, whose last encounter within the "magic circle" was with "Stiff-un," of Norwich, something like seventeen years ago, took a complimentary benefit last (Thursday) evening, at Mr. Riley's, The Griffin, Shoreditch, when the following boxers gave fairly good exhibitions:—Prof. Dunbar, Alec. Munroe, Reuben Baxter, Mr. Goddy, J. Griffiths, Jack Clark, E. Burchell, W. Baxter, Jem Hartley, W. Smith, J. T. Godfrey and Ching Ghook (a grand spar), Sam Baxter and Miley Hall, Joe

'The Sporting Life': 25th May 1883

29 May

Walter Pickard

W pts 3

Alexandra Rink, Nottingham

Semi-final – all-England 10st. 4lb. competition

29 May

George Wilson

L pts 3

Alexandra Rink, Nottingham

Final – all-England 10st. 4lb. competition

31 May

Owen Hannan

Exh. 3

'The Griffin', Shoreditch

GEORGE CROCKETT'S BENEFIT.

This well-known pugilist, who, besides having figured with more than average success in about a score battles within the magic circle, rests his claim to popularity on the fact that when encounters with the "raw-uns" were as common as glove competitions are nowadays, he was deemed good enough to be pitted against the redoubtable Jem Maco, took a complimentary benefit last Thursday evening, at Mr. Riley's, the Griffin, Shoreditch. As was to be expected there was a numerous attendance, the spacious hall being thoroughly well filled, many of the notabilities of a bygone era being present, prominent amongst whom were Jemmy Shaw, Joe Rowe, Bos Tyler, Simon Finighty, G. Robert's, sen., &c. The competition advertised to take place was postponed, owing to the fact that only two "pugs" (Owen Hannan and Ching Ghook) out of the six entered put in an appearance. This was all the more to be regretted.

such prizes usually are. Despite this omission, a capital night's entertainment was provided, any quantity of boxers turning up to render such assistance as they might. The following gave exhibitions:—Bos Furze and Ned Donnelly, R. Baxter and Ted Gobby, Alec Munro and R. Dunbar, W. Baxter and Jem Boots, Guttridge and Greenfield, G. Gregg and J. M'Cormack, the Brothers Laxton, Ching Ghook and O. Hannan (the most interesting bout of the evening), Bob Feathers and J. Wil-

'The Sporting Life': 2nd June 1883

4 Sep

Harry Mead

Exh. 3

'Blue Anchor', Little Anchor Street, Shoreditch

JEM GOODE'S BENEFIT (CONTINUED).

That famous trysting place for boxers and backers in that glorious olden time which has been so laboriously written up by the pessimists in sport—who affect to believe that “everything that is, is wrong”—the Blue Anchor, Little Anchor-street, Shoreditch, where decent liquor and

following noted boxers, amateur and professional, gave exhibitions:—Owen Harman and Jack Clarke, Young Bendoph and Cox (of Islington), Caddy Middings and George Parish (of Haggerston), Tom Symonds and Pat Condon, Obe Atterbury and T. Goodson, Smith and Preston, Bill Goode and Mr. Griffiths (amateur), J. Henley and Jem Laxton, Ching Ghook and Harry Mead (the latter a really brilliant spar). The wind-up, which was, as advertised,

‘The Sporting Life’: 6th September 1883

17 Oct Jack Davenport Exh. 3 *‘The Old Apollo’, Hare Street, Brick Lane*

MILEY HALL'S 9st COMPETITION.

On Wednesday, at Mr. Cusack's, the Old Apollo, Hare-street, Brick-lane, was decided the second round and final bout of the above competition, commenced on Monday, October 8, when it had to be postponed on account of an accident to the raised platform. Details:—

In addition to the competition, the following exhibited their skill with the gloves:—Ching Ghook and Davenport (a newly-imported black), Alec Roberts and Jem Smith, the Brothers Baxter.

‘The Sporting Life’: 19th October 1883

23 Oct Alec Roberts Exh. 3 *‘The Devonshire Arms’, Ironmonger Row, St Luke's.*

CHING GHOOK AND ALEC ROBERTS'S 8st 6lb COMPETITION.

ON Tuesday evening, a large company assembled at Mr Painter's, Devonshire Arms (late Pitman's), Ironmonger-row, St. Luke's, to witness the final bout of the 8st 6lb competition, under the management of Ching Ghook and Alec Roberts. The affair was under the able superinten-

Young Crawley, &c., the wind-up being between Alec Roberts and Ching Ghook, a really fine spar. Final bout:

‘The Sportsman’: 26th October 1883

25 Oct W. Warder Exh. 3 *Seabright Musical Hall, Hill Street, Hackney Road*

Bye bout in 9st. amateur competition

25 Oct Snowball Exh. 3 *Seabright Musical Hall, Hill Street, Hackney Road*

PROFESSOR E. KELLY'S COMPETITION.

Last evening (Thursday) there was a good attendance at the Seabright Music Hall, Hill-street, Hackney-road, on the occasion of a competition, open to amateurs not exceeding 9st, for a silver cup, under the usual rules. Considering this was the first event of the season promoted by the Professor, there was a large entry, ten having signified their intention of competing, but several seceded, and the results were as follows:—

9st Competition.—First Bout: M. Dooley sparred a smart bye with H. Brown. Second Bout: W. Warder (of St. Luke's) sparred a light bye with Ching Ghook. Third Bout: H. Cooper beat W.

Exhibition boxing by W. Baxter v. A. Cheese, E. Jones v. W. Hinte, W. Hook v. A. Dickson, Bundy v. Bartram, Ching Ghook v. Snowball, Yorker v. J. Sawyer, and others concluded a good enter-

‘The Sporting Life’: 26th October 1883

26 Nov Arthur Cooper W pts 3 *‘Blue Anchor’, Church Street, Shoreditch*

First series – all-England 10st. 4lb. competition

PROFESSIONAL 10st 4lb COMPETITION AT SHOREDITCH.

ONE of the competitions periodically held at the old sporting house of Mr W. Richardson, the Blue Anchor, Church-street, Shoreditch, was brought off in the usual style last evening. The prize money at stake for the successful ones amounted to 15*l.*, and eight men were selected to box for the prizes. The meeting partook more of the

Ching Ghook beat Arthur Cooper.—The first-named went for his man, but Cooper, showing the better judgment, kept him off and scored most points. In the second round, Cooper still showed best. Just before the call of time, however, Cooper received a blow which, accidental or otherwise, was decidedly in the wrong place, and consequent on this he was somewhat slow afterwards, the verdict being in favour of the black.

'The Sportsman': 28th November 1883

Of Ching Ghook and Cooper it has to be said about the defeated man that he was a substitute, that he was none too well prepared for the event, and that he received an unlucky blow "below the belt" during the second round which caused time to be called rather suddenly. Ghook is a full-blooded African, quick and tricky; after his defeat of Cooper he looked like winning easily. He is considerably the cleverest boxer of the eight engaged, but he appears to be a bit thick in the wind, and lacks the staying power shown by at least one of the others. When Picton and Roberts began

'The Referee': 2nd December 1883

26 Nov

Pat Condon

W pts 3

'Blue Anchor', Church Street, Shoreditch

Semi-final – all-England 10st. 4lb. competition

SECOND ROUND.—Ching Ghook beat Condon.—In the first round Condon, if anything, had a shade the best of the points. The black, however, would not be stopped, and worked away with pluck and strength, and gradually wore his man down, receiving at the finish a well-earned verdict. Pickton beat M'Farlane.—The last named had

'The Sportsman': 28th November 1883

of the first series of bouts. In the second ties Ching Ghook, who is a negro from the West Indies, was opposed by Condon, who is a good specimen of the Irish cockney. Condon was superior in height, weight, and length of reach to his opponent, but the black's excessive trickiness more than counterbalanced these advantages, and the judges had no need to hesitate over their verdict at the end of the third round. Picton's contest

'Weekly Dispatch' (London): 2nd December 1883

The first series having come to an end, the names of the four winners were put in a hat and drawn out again. By this means it was discovered that Ghook would have to meet Condon, and Picton Macfarlane. As was generally anticipated, the black won his heat, but not without a severe tussle. His tricky style appeared to somewhat bother Condon, who is much more at home with a man who will stand well up to him and force the fighting. Condon did his best, and once or twice, as he warmed to his work, looked like taking a lead, but he always fell off again in manner most tantalising to his supporters. During the third round the black went away hand over hand, and there was no necessity for much consultation among the judges at the conclu-

'The Referee': 2nd December 1883

27 Nov

Jim Pickton

L pts 3

'Blue Anchor', Church Street, Shoreditch

Final – all-England 10st. 4lb. competition

FINAL BOUT.—Pickton beat Ching Ghook.—In this the last named was first to start the work, and making all the play he had the best of points. In the second Pickton pulled up, and matters became more equal. In the third he still showed to advantage, and another round was ordered. In this both men set to work with a will, and after a very pluckily-contested bout Pickton was awarded the first prize.

'The Sportsman': 28th November 1883

who accordingly received the award. The final between Picton and the black man was another exceptionally close contest, and again an extra round had to be ordered, which resulted just the least little bit possible in Picton's favour, and that young gentleman was accordingly awarded first prize. The black's fine show had, however, so prepossessed the company in his favour that a sportsman present at once gave him a sovereign, and, the example being thus set, silver showered upon the lucky darky from all quarters. This, with the £4 he took as second prize, made his pecuniary reward probably quite equal to the winner's tenner. The management of the competition was of the excellent description customary at this house.

'Weekly Dispatch' (London): 2nd December 1883

After a rest which both of them well deserved, Ghook and Picton came on for the final essay. General opinion was decidedly in favour of the black, as although Picton had shown himself both game and determined he was evidently unskilled in the niceties of the art to the same extent as his foe, whose boxing has a very taking appearance—more taking than it is effective. But Picton is a youth who is not to be denied, and he once again showed that it is possible to put pretty boxing to a complete disadvantage by means of straight and heavy hitting. He possesses a very good left, and will in time have a good right also. The use of the right hand is not learnt in five minutes. Some people, although very clever with the left, never learn the proper use of the right; but Picton showed more than once that he is on the straight road to the secret. Several times after the black had made play and appeared to be completely his master, Picton, by means of rapid blows with left and right, altogether changed the complexion of affairs. So the battle went on for the three rounds, during which sometimes it looked odds on one, sometimes odds on the other. Had the bout come to an end in the middle of the third round, Ghook would have won with a bit to spare; but here Picton's determination came to his aid, and gradually he crept up, now delivering one hand and now the other, until, when the allotted four minutes had run out, no one of the three judges was able to express an opinion either way. Thus a fourth round had to be ordered, at the end of which, although there was "nothing in it," what there was inclined in the direction of Picton, who accordingly received first money. So close was the finish that it would have been more satisfactory—that is, more satisfactory to me—if first and second prizes had been put together and divided. As, according to the conditions under which the men competed, this was not considered right, the award was given to Picton as the man who in the concluding round certainly held the advantage. As events turned out, Ghook did not suffer pecuniarily. In addition to second prize a subscription was made for him in the room, which must have brought him in something like a fiver.

'The Referee': 2nd December 1883

19 Dec

J. Millison

Exh. 3

'The Griffin', High Street, Shoreditch

C. CHEESE'S BENEFIT.

This clever young boxer, who has played a prominent part in several competitions, and so recently as Monday won the principal prize in a £10 competition, was accorded a complimentary benefit last night at Mr. J. Riley's large saloon, the Griffin, High-street, Shoreditch, on which occasion he was well patronised by the general public, and his brother professionals also appeared in strong force. The most prominent of those who exhibited their

Amateur: T. Thurgood v. J. Picton; Ching Ghook v. J. Millison (Saw Mill); T. Rowan v. J. Freeman; C. Burchell v. B. Cheese:

'The Sporting Life': 20th December 1883

1884

What we know is that he first appeared in his role as a Lion/Bear Tamer in 1884 at the East London Aquarium immediately after the previous incumbent, another West Indian named "Alicamoussa" who left the Aquarium sometime in 1882/1883. It appears that the two men were known to each other, and seems likely that Alicamoussa either recruited or at least trained Hezekiah Moscow as his replacement as an animal tamer at the East London Aquarium, allowing Alicamoussa to take his now perfected act further afield.

However the first mention of him at the East London Aquarium was under the pseudonym "Ching Hooke" in December 1883, ready for the Christmas season, advertised as performing several times daily "with the Bears, Wolves, and Hyenas".



Evening 421

Sir JOHN BENNETT in Opening the New Additions said - That the Institution, to which the admission was only One Penny, was a marvel. There was natural history and science for the million, there were wax-works and also a theatre. He congratulated the Proprietor on his judgment, enterprise and liberal outlay.
Vide City Press, December 3, 1881.

"Sir JOHN BENNETT, in a very characteristic speech, described the East London Aquarium as a marvellous institution in the midst of a multitude of people, and opened at a price which brings it within reach of all. A penny is the coin of the people, he said, and he pointed out that it is now becoming respectable and even fashionable."
Vide Society, December, 7th, 1881.

Sir JOHN BENNETT said, "This place of entertainment was the wonder of many people. It was a marvellous institution."
Vide Eastern Express, December 10th, 1881.

"This place of entertainment has become exceedingly and, it may be added, deservedly popular in the neighbourhood in which it is situated."
Vide Sir John Bennett's Speech, Daily News, December 2nd, 1881.

"The exhibition is well worthy a visit, and is calculated to be a decided boon to London, sources of amusement being very limited indeed."
Vide The Citizen, December 3rd, 1881.

EAST LONDON AQUARIUM
MENAGERIE & WAX WORK EXHIBITION
BISHOPSGATE STREET
OPPOSITE WORSHIP STREET ADJOINING BISHOPSGATE STATION ON C.E.R.
ADMISSION ONE PENNY
UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT
FOR DETAILED PARTICULARS SEE HAND BILLS.

PERFORMANCES DAILY IN THE THEATRE AT 2.4.6.8 & 10.
ENTRANCE.
BEAR & MONKEY ROOM.
LIONS PERFORM DAILY AT 3.7. & 9.30.
CAVE WITH ILLUMINATED VIEWS.
RIFLE GALLERY, BIRD SHOWS &c.
WAX WORKS NEW ADDITION WITH ROOM OVER.
THE TANKS WITH SEAL &c.
FOUNTAIN.

C.R. Brown, Painter, 40, St. John St. E.C.

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2 Feb

At Worship-street, on Saturday, Hezekiah Moscow, aged 35, was charged with cruelly ill-treating a bear, by striking it on the ribs, and having four other bears in the same cage in poor condition. The magistrates, however, dismissed the summons.

'Nottingham Journal': 4th February 1884

ALLEGED CRUELTY AT THE EAST LONDON AQUARIUM.

To the Editor of the BOROUGH OF HACKNEY EXPRESS and SHOREDITCH OBSERVER.

SIR,—It is always unpleasant to be aspersed especially when calumnies cannot be refuted without delay, and when opponents and critics alike are dead to all sense of ordinary justice. Fortunately, however, it is possible to obtain an impartial hearing through your valuable columns, and I thank you in anticipation for publishing this letter. On Friday the 1st inst. Hezekiah Moscow, an employé of mine, was charged at the instance of the Royal Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals with cruelly ill treating some bears by beating them with a whip. The charge was brought by an officer named Utting who is now being proceeded against for perjury. Now although I have numerous witnesses of unimpeachable veracity to prove that Utting's statements are simple untruths; although I have scientific evidence to prove the the whip used—an unloaded ordinary light whip, open to anyone's

inspection—could not hurt a dog much less a bear; although I utterly deny that any cruelty is permitted here, yet the Daily Press has published and severely commented upon Utting's unsupported testimony and has placed me as proprietor of the Aquarium under an unjust and abominable stigma.

I protest, Sir, against *ex parte* statements being accepted as facts. It is my misfortune that the case was dismissed upon a technical point, for had it been fully heard the innocence of Moscow would have been established. Fortunately it is possible to obtain justice even if delayed. The presiding magistrate himself has commented upon the "misleading" and "garbled" reports that have appeared, but his words, of course, have not been made public. I only ask for justice, for "a fair field and no favour." With this given me I am confident that it will be proved that my establishment has been most unwarrantably aspersed.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

EDWARD G. SIM.

East London Aquarium, Bishopsgate.

Feb 7, 1884.

'Shoreditch Observer': 16th February 1884

CHARGE AGAINST A LION-TAMER.

At Worship Street Police Court, London, on Saturday, Hezekiah Moscow (25), described as a "lion-tamer," employed at the East London Aquarium, in Bishopsgate, appeared in answer to a summons at the instance of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, for having cruelly ill-treated a certain domestic animal, to wit, a bear.—The defendant, "a man of colour," gave an address at Pope's Head Court, Spitalfields. He pleaded not guilty, and Mr. Blackwell, barrister, appeared on his behalf.—Mr. Blackwell having taken some preliminary objections,—Eli Udden, an officer of the society, then stated: At seven p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 12, in consequence of instructions, I was in the East London Aquarium. I saw Moscow enter a cage in which were four bears. The animals were in poor condition, one was almost entirely denuded of its coat and seemed to be in a weak and sickly state. The bears were made to jump over a board, and the defendant struck them with a drophong whip with all his force, to make them jump. I counted sixty blows. The naked bear appeared too weak to jump over the board, and dragged its hind legs. When struck the animals howled and moaned, apparently in pain. When the jumping was over defendant reversed his whip, and commenced an attack on the largest of the bears, giving it three crushing blows on the ribs with the butt-end of the whip. That made the bear moan. He jumped on its back, rode it across the den into an adjoining compartment, and there again thrashed it with the butt-end of the whip. He then went to the

"naked" bear, and dealt it three blows on the skull with the end of the whip. A little while afterwards the performance was concluded, and Moscow came out of the den and closed the gate. Witness then went near the cage, and could plainly see the effects of the defendant's violence on the animals. One had wounds on its head, and the others bore wheals about their bodies. The witness concluded by detailing his conversation with the defendant after the performance, and with the proprietor, who said if he knew of any cruelty there he would at once stop it.—Cross-examined by Mr. Blackwell: Did you go into the cage? (Laughter.)—Witness: No, I did not; but I will go in if you'll come as well. (Loud laughter.)—Mr. Blackwell: Only answer my question.—The witness said he had no opportunity of seeing the bears except as an ordinary visitor to the menagerie.—Why did not you ask the keeper to unbar the cage and let you in?—I would not go near a strange dog, much less a den of bears?—Why "much less a den of bears?"—I don't see the sense of that.—Counsel: Answer the question, sir.—Well, it would be because I should not care to be bitten.—Mr. Hannay here stopped the case abruptly, and said he had come to the conclusion that the defendant could not be convicted there, and that the statute did not regard a bear as a "domestic animal." Animals kept in captivity were, doubtless, worthy of protection by the statutes, but he could not find out that they had yet been afforded it by Parliament. The present Act was beyond doubt confined in its limits to what were known as "domestic animals," and it was impossible to hold that the bears in question were fit to be classed as such. He therefore dismissed the summons.—Mr. Blackwell asked for costs, but Mr. Hannay refused to allow these.—The society's officer intimated that it was very likely the complainants would appeal.

'Central Glamorgan Gazette': 8th February 1884

THE ALLEGED CRUELTY TO A BEAR.

At Worship street, on Monday, application was renewed by Mr. Blackwell, on behalf of the proprietor of the East London Aquarium, for a summons against Wm. Udding, an officer of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Udding had given evidence on the hearing of a summons against Hezekiah Moscow, a performer, alleged to have cruelly whipped four bears at the aquarium in question. An amended information was submitted in support of the present application, wherein Moscow denied the cruelty.

Mr. Hannay having examined the deposition, observed that Moscow stated that none of the four bears were in bad condition, but this was difficult to prove. He also said, 'I struck no blow with full force,' and added, 'nor with the butt end of my whip.' This was definite, but the information went on—'Nor did I strike any crushing blow.' Who could say what was a crushing blow?

Mr. Blackwell: With the butt end of the whip.

Mr. Hannay: Very well: that is definite.

The deposition goes on—'Nor did the animals howl with pain.' If you struck out 'with pain' I could understand it.

Mr. Blackwell: I should have to bring before you, on the hearing of the case, a person who is acquainted with the habits of bears, and who would be able to say that the howling of pain by a bear is a totally different thing to the howling produced—

Mr. Hannay: The society's officer or any ordinary observer, hearing the howling, might suppose the bear was in pain.

Mr. Blackwell: He growls rather than howls.

Mr. Hannay: The deposition continues—'Nor were wounds or any marks caused by the violence of Moscow.'

Mr. Blackwell: We deny that there were any.

Mr. Hannay: You must get your other deponent to corroborate these matters. It has always been the practice, especially since the passing of the Vexatious Indictments Act, to insist upon care at the Police-court. When you get the other witness and his deposition is not before me, the summons will be issued.

'Hackney and Kingsland Gazette': 13th February 1884

15 Feb

Macfarlane

W pts 3

'Blue Anchor', Church Street, Shoreditch

First series - - all-England 10st. 4lb. competition

sorted. The result of the first essay was that Ching Ghook, the black, beat Macfarlane, the ex-amateur. Mac struggled gamely, but the trickiness of the buck nigger was too much

'The Referee': 17th February 1884

15 Feb

Tom Picton

L pts 3

'Blue Anchor', Church Street, Shoreditch

Semi-final - all-England 10st. 4lb. competition

THE PERFORMING BEARS CASE.

At Worship-street, on Monday, an application was made by Mr Blackwell, on behalf of the proprietor of the East London Aquarium, for a summons for perjury against one Wm. Udding, an officer of the Royal Society for Preventing Cruelty to Animals. It will be remembered that the officer named gave evidence upon a summons taken at the instance of the society, against Hezekiah Moscow, a performer at the Aquarium, for having cruelly whipped four bears during a performance, and in his evidence Udding swore that Moscow struck the bears with the butt-end of a whip, and that the blows caused visible marks upon their bodies. The information now handed up to support the present application comprised the depositions of Moscow and of another person, and both subscribed to the assertion that no single blow was struck by the butt-end of the whip, and that there were no visible marks of injury on the bears. There were likewise counter-statements to those in the evidence of Udding, such as that the animals were in good condition, that no "full" blows were struck with the whip, and that they did not "moan from pain." It was further explained to the magistrate that there was an entire answer to the allegation of cruelty, and that evidence to supply such reply would have been called at the hearing if the case had been allowed to run its full course.

Mr Hannay said he had examined the information, and as he wished to have something definite upon which to act, he cited the two contradictions mentioned above, which would, he thought, justify him in granting the summons applied for. It was incumbent on him where he could not perceive any motive for false swearing on the part of the society's officer, to act cautiously, and to insist upon a direct and definite denial of some of the statements in his evidence.

Mr Blackwell said the proprietor of the Aquarium, having made the fullest inquiry, had no hesitation in saying there was gross exaggeration in Udding's evidence. The summons was granted.

'The Era': 16th February 1884

In the second series Picton beat Ghook, and Wall beat Cooper. It was expected that the trial between Picton and Ghook would be both close and exciting. These two had been left in the final of the previous competition, and a fourth round had to be ordered before the judges could separate them. This time Ghook appeared to be winning well during the first round, and for some little while in the second, but then he began to fall off, and Picton scored with such rapidity that there was no difficulty in deciding when time was called that the white man was the winner. Ghook always commences very well, but with an opponent who can keep him going he falls off notably during the last round. His pines want clearing. Wall, in his meeting

'The Referee': 17th February 1884

THE ALLEGED CRUELTY TO BEARS.

At Worship-street police-court on Monday, application was renewed by Mr. Blackwell, on the behalf of the proprietor of the East London Aquarium, for a summons for perjury against William Udding, an officer of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, who gave evidence on the hearing of a summons against Hezekiah Moscow, a performer, who was alleged to have cruelly whipped four bears at the resort in question. An amended information was submitted in support of the present application, wherein Moscow denied the cruelty.

Mr. Hannay, the magistrate, having examined the deposition, observed that Moscow stated that none of the four bears were in bad condition, but this was difficult to prove. He also said, "I struck no blow with full force," and added, "nor with the butt end of my whip." This was definite, but the information went on—"Nor did I strike any crushing blow." Who could say what was a crushing blow?—Mr. Blackwell: With the butt end of the whip.

Mr. Hannay: Very well; that is definite. The deposition goes on—"Nor did the animals howl with pain." If you struck out "with pain" I could understand it.—Mr. Blackwell: I should have to bring before you, on the hearing of the case, a person who is acquainted with the habits of bears, and who would be able to say that the howling of pain of a

bear is a totally different thing to the howling produced.—Mr. Hannay: The society's officer or any ordinary observer, hearing the howling might suppose the bear was in pain.—Mr. Blackwell: He growls rather than howls.—Mr. Hannay: The deposition continues—"Nor were weals or any marks caused by the violence of Moscow."—Mr. Blackwell: We deny that there were any.

Mr. Hannay: You must get your other deponent to corroborate these matters. It has always been the practice, especially since the passing of the Vexatious Indictments Act, to insist upon care at the police-court. When you get the other witness and his deposition is put before me, the summons will be issued. I do not wish to put you to unnecessary trouble, but it is incumbent upon me, where I cannot see any motive for a man to swear falsely, to be careful in granting a summons. You must state there were no blows with the butt end of the whip and there were no weals.

Mr. Blackwell promised to furnish the necessary corroborative testimony, and then reminded the magistrate that when the case was originally discharged on a technical ground that he had said he was prepared with a complete answer to the charge. The proprietor of the Aquarium was convinced that there had been gross exaggeration.

'Lloyd's Weekly Newspaper': 17th February 1884

Moscow was living at Pope Head Court at the time. The development was just off Quaker Street in Spitalfields.

BEARS AND THEIR KEEPERS

In London, on Tuesday, at the Worship-street Police-court, the adjourned hearing of the summons against Henry Utting, an officer of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, charging him with having committed wilful and corrupt perjury in connection with a prosecution by the Society against Hezekiah Moscow, for cruelty, was resumed before Mr. Harnay. Mr. Blackwell prosecuted; Mr. Montagu Williams defended. The principal statements in which perjury was alleged were that the man Moscow used the butt end of a whip to make the bears jump; that the animals screamed with pain; and that he dealt one of them some "crushing" blows with the whip. Four witnesses—including Moscow—were called at the last hearing, and their evidence went to rebut the defendant's sworn testimony. Mr. Blackwell now called a ticket collector named Feins, in the employ of the Great Eastern Railway, who said he was present at the performance in question—on the 12th of January. He saw the whole of the proceedings, and he was able to swear positively that Moscow, who was in the cage putting the bears through their performance, did not strike a single blow with the butt end of the whip, nor did he give any blows which the witness considered severe. The next witness called was Joseph Abraham, who, Mr. Blackwell said, would give the "scientific" evidence. The witness described himself as a "Naturalist," of St. George's-in-the-East-road. He said he examined the four

bears in question at the Aquarium on the 1st February, the day of the hearing of the summons against Moscow. They were all in good condition, except that one of them had shed its hair, which was a perfectly natural occurrence, and took place yearly, sometimes during a single night. The witness took the whip produced into his hand, and said he thought it would not hurt any bear. Bears' hides were very thick, and witness knew that heavier whips were used upon bears. It was not a weapon a man would use if he wished to inflict pain; and if Moscow held it as stated—a little way up the handle, and did not strike with the butt end—witness did not think "cruelty" could have been caused. Bears were accustomed to make a peculiar noise; and more so when they were pained than otherwise. Mr. Blackwell: I lay no stress on that. Mr. Harnay: You can scarcely say whether they were pleased or not with a whip. (Laughter.) The witness also further stated that it would be dangerous for a performer to use undue severity to have while confined in a cage with them, as they might become savage and make an attack. If a performer struck them cruelly while in the den, the witness did not think the man would come out again alive. After some further evidence, Mr. Harnay expressed the opinion that it was a case which should go before a jury. A formal adjournment for the completion of the depositions was then taken prior to the defendant being committed for trial.

'Cradley Heath & Stourbridge Observer': 29th March 1884

In this court case the RSPCA Inspector said that he had witnessed Hezekiah Moscow, described as "a man of colour" and a "Lion Tamer" enter a cage of bears and force them to perform for a crowd of paying spectators by the use of a heavy whip, beating them up to sixty times in total and leaving visible marks on their bodies and heads, forcing them to jump over a plank, and culminating in him riding on the back of one of them before leaving the cage.

The RSPCA Inspector gave a good account of himself in court, taking on the lawyer for the defence in cross examination. It's easy to imagine the hard bitten RSPCA Inspector, well used to verbal and even physical attacks in carrying out his job not being intimidated by the be-wigged Lawyer, who, was not used to men from a working class background taking the rise out of him:

Defence: "Did you get into the cage?" (To which there was laughter in the court)

RSPCA: "No I did not, but I will go in if you will come as well." (More laughter in court)

Defence: "Why didn't you ask the keeper to unbar the cage and let you in?"

RSPCA: "I would not go near a strange dog, let alone a den of bears." (Even more laughter in court).

The Defence Council became quite angry at the ribbing he was receiving from the Inspector, and eventually the Magistrate, having had enough of his court being turned into a vaudeville act, stopped the trial, as it was clear that the Parliamentary protection of animals bills only applied to domestic animals such as Cows, Dogs, and horses etc, and a Bear did not fall into that category.

Subsequently the RSPCA appealed, and the owner of the show attempted to prosecute the RSPCA Inspector for perjury. But nothing came of either attempt, as the Law needed reinterpretation and clarity before a court could decide on any such outcome.

So the outcome was indecisive, but it did cause Hezekiah Moscow to leave the show, and despite the publicity, the wild animal show and the London Aquarium did not last for much longer, and eventually the owner filed for Bankruptcy.

Paul McNeil - timedetectors.blog

PROFESSOR HUNDREDS' ASSAULT OF ARMS.
 YOUNG'S Assembly Room, Mare-street, Hackney, was fully attended last (Monday) evening, when this noted professor of the popular art of boxing gave his annual entertainment, which was not only thoroughly appreciated by the spectators, but must have proved highly satisfactory from a monetary point of view to the talented *beneficiare*. Professor E. Kelley, of Glasgow, and

a swinging hipec, both being greatly cheered. Harry Mead, winner of fifteen competitions, sparred admirably with "Ching Ghook," and was much admired and applauded at the finish. Mr J. W. Gordon went through
'The Sportsman': 13th May 1884

19 May Harry Mead Exh.3 'The Goldsmith's Arms', Little Sutton Street, St. Luke's

HARRY MEAD'S BENEFIT.
 LAST evening Mr W. Ward's well-known boxing saloon, attached to the Goldsmith's Arms, Little Sutton-street, St. Luke's, was well attended on the occasion of a complimentary benefit to the clever professional, Harry Mead, who has proved the victor in innumerable competitions open to lads at 9st. Boxers turned up in plenty,

H. Webb, the *beneficiare* winding up the evening's amusement with Ching Ghook (black). Jem Smith made an efficient M.C.

'The Sportsman': 20th May 1884

14 Jun Jack Davenport W pts 3 West End School of Arms, Newman Street, Soho
First series – all-England 10st. 6lb competition
 14 Jun Alec Roberts L pts 3 West End School of Arms, Newman Street, Soho
Semi-final – all-England 10st. 6lb competition

PROFESSIONAL 10st 6lb COMPETITION AT THE WEST-END.
 Early in the present week a competition, confined to eight men took place at that well-known rendezvous, the West-End School of Arms, for substantial prizes, in the presence of a numerous company, most of those engaged being well-known professionals in the manly art. The first pair to oppose each other were Arthur Cooper

and Ching Ghook. Ching Ghook and Davenport then stepped into the ring, and this proved to be a capital contest, Davenport struggling manfully against his more experienced antagonist, who at the finish of the three rounds gained the verdict. The last pair were Alec

Roberts and Ching Ghook. Roberts beat Ching Ghook.—The former, who appears to have greatly improved of late, fairly wore down his opponent towards the finish, and was returned the victor. Final Bout: A. Roberts beat A. Cooper.—Both were

The Sporting Life': 19th June 1884

25 Nov W. Natty Exh. 3 Recreation Hall: the Surrey Rifle Volunteers

W. SPRINGALL'S ASSAULT-OF-ARMS.
 THE large recreation hall of the 4th Surrey R.V., in Kennington-lane, was crowded last Tuesday evening, when the above well-known professional instructor (who is shortly about to go to America) was accorded a complimentary benefit. The programme opened with a capital

show, with little to choose between them. The next pair to set-to furnished a change, W. Natty and the black, Ching Ghook, opposing each other, and a rattling fine show was given. Another pair of professionals (Jem Laxton and

'The Sportsman': 27th November 1884

6 Dec Arthur Cooper L pts 3 'Blue Anchor', Church Street, Shoreditch
Semi-final – all-England 10st. 4lb. competition
 1885

15 Jan	Alec Roberts	W pts 3	'Blue Anchor', Church Street, Shoreditch <i>First series – 10st. 4lb. competition</i>
15 Jan	Arthur Cooper	L pts 4	'Blue Anchor', Church Street, Shoreditch <i>Second series – 10st. 4lb. competition</i>
<p>Thursday evening an equally successful show was provided by Tom Symonds, acting under the direction of Mr. B. J. Angle, with at least one distinct improvement—the change of venue from the ground floor to the big room up stairs, which had been appropriately fitted up in honour of the occasion, and which, being both spacious and lofty, added very much to the comfort of all present. The company was both numerous and select, and principally consisted of men connected in some way or other with that mysterious "House" whose operations are thought by some to have almost as much to do with the country's welfare or the reverse as have the doings "in another place." The men selected by Symonds were Picton, Kendrick, W. Cheese, Walker, Cooper, Donoghue, Ching Ghook, and Alec Roberts.</p> <p><i>'Weekly Dispatch' (London): 18th January 1885</i></p> <p>clear. The other winners in the first series were Cheese, Cooper, and Ching Ghook. Of their bouts it need only be said that Cooper showed considerable improvement on his previous form, and that the black's defeat of Alec Roberts was a great surprise to Roberts's friends. In the second series</p> <p><i>'Weekly Dispatch' (London): 18th January 1885</i></p> <p>viously. The last pair for the first series were A. Roberts (one of a numerous family of boxers) and Ching Ghook, the black. 'Roberts was the exception I have already mentioned to the rule in respect of weight. He looked to me all 10st 4lb, while Ghook was if anything smaller than the others who had preceded him. Roberts's strength and determination are undeniable; had he and Ghook been fighting it would have been a hundred to one on him; but they were not; and starting with an advantage, the negro managed to hold it to the finish, though by then Roberts was coming up hand over hand. His friends thought he had won on the post, but the judges decided in favour of the cullud pusson.</p> <p><i>'The Referee': 18th January 1885</i></p> <p>youth's superior wind and better style. Cooper's encounter with Ching Ghook was a very close thing, and the judges ordered a fourth round, which was, if anything, closer than those which preceded it. Cooper received the award. The</p> <p><i>'Weekly Dispatch' (London): 18th January 1885</i></p> <p>surprise and discomfiture. Cooper and Ching Ghook were the other couple, and on his ancient reputation the black ought to have won easily. But while he has been going off Cooper has been coming on; the result was to give us an exhibition so even that at the end of the third round points were declared equal, and a fourth round was ordered. In this Cooper outstayed his man and just won. It seems to me that Ghook falls away very soon; he is always at his best in the first series, when he is fresh and full of confidence. In two or three competitions it has looked during the first series as though he must win, and then he has gone all to pieces. This left Cooper and Cheese in to contend for first</p> <p><i>'The Referee': 18th January 1885</i></p>			
25 Feb	Harry Bartlett	Exh. 3	'The Coach and Horses', Beak Street., Regent St. <i>First series bye – 10st. competition</i>
25 Feb	Bill Cheese	W pts 3	'The Coach and Horses', Beak Street, Regent St. <i>Second series – 10st. competition</i>
25 Feb	Sam Baxter	L pts 3	'The Coach and Horses', Beak Street, Regent St. <i>Final – 10st. competition</i>

MR. J. FLEMING'S COMPETITION.
 THERE was a very good company at the Coach and Horses, Beak street, Regent street, last evening, when a competition organised by the proprietor for a 5/1 prize was decided. Amongst the company present many well known supporters were observed, Messrs W. G. and J.

amount to spare. Ching Ghook beat W. Cheese - This was perhaps the hardest-fought bout of the night. Cheese going in his usual style, forced the fighting, and throughout three hard-fought rounds there was not a lot to spare between them, the verdict being given in favour of Ching Ghook. Final bout. - Baxter beat Ching Ghook. A fine tussle resulted from this set-to. Baxter was giving away something in the matter of weight, but showing by far the best science he gradually wore his man down, and at the finish was credited with a well-earned victory. The

'The Sportsman': 26th February 1885

Mar

Ghook hospitalised

ward their promised amounts to the treasurer." Jack Hicks then announced that he had visited Ching Ghook, who had left the hospital and was in the room, but was far from strong. Bill Goode said the committee would do all in their power to assist him, and eventually it was arranged a grand display should be held at the above house on Monday, May 4. The proposal

'The Sporting Life': 31st March 1885

14 May

Arthur Cooper

Exh. 3

St. Andrew's Hall, Newman Street, Oxford St.

Bat Mullins 12th annual assault-at-arms

BENEFIT TO BAT MULLINS.
 The twelfth annual assault at arms, promoted by this genial and clever professor of the fistic art, Bat Mullins, was duly brought off, under the most happy auspices, last (Thursday) night, the venue, St. Andrew's Hall, Newman-street, Oxford-street, being well-known to all those interested in the noble art of self-defence.

received. The spectators were then treated to something worth looking at on A. Cooper (the winner of many competitions) and Ching Ghook mounting the platform, the perpetual smile of the former contrasting strongly with the unmoved countenance of the black. There was none of the blustering, slap-dash business with them, their really pretty exhibition of sparring being received by the large and critical company with every sign of delight, the only fault being that the worthy M.C., Ned Donnelly, was continually calling upon them to "break away." Another good bout followed on Young

'The Sporting Life': 15th May 1885

PROFESSIONAL BOXING ASSOCIATION.

DEATH OF ALEC MUNRO.—Last evening (Tuesday) a meeting was convened at their head-quarters, Mr. W. Richardson's, the Blue Anchor, Church-street, Shoreditch, under the impression that poor Alec was friendless. Mr. J. Knifton occupied the chair, and was faced by W. Goode, and amongst those who attended were most of the prominent members. In opening the proceedings the chairman stated this was one of the emergencies which the association had been formed to provide for. Since the announcement had appeared in the *Sporting Life* he had been informed that the deceased's friend and pupil, "Ching Ghook," had already taken the matter in hand, and had commenced a subscription to defray the funeral expenses. He need not say this reflected the highest credit on that boxer, who would now state his views. "Ching Ghook," who was much affected, stated the deceased had been the means of making him a boxer, and as they had always been fast friends, he should take it as a favour if they would allow him to carry out the funeral arrangements as a mark of respect and gratitude to his benefactor. This was at once acceded to, and it was announced that subscriptions would be received by Mr. Richardson, the Blue Anchor, Church-street, Shoreditch, and Mr. Neary, of the Griffin, High-street, Shoreditch. It being understood that if there was any deficiency it should be defrayed out of the funds of the association. The funeral will take place at the Ilford Cemetery on Sunday afternoon next, starting from Mr. Neary's, the Griffin, as above, at two o'clock.

'The Sporting Life': 9th September 1885

FUNERAL OF A COLOURED PUGILIST.

On Sunday afternoon there was an extraordinary scene at the funeral of Alexander Munroe, the coloured pugilist, who was fatally stabbed at a common lodging-house, in Pearl-street, Spitalfields. Bethnal-green-road and its surroundings were thronged by a dense mass of vehicles and pedestrians, and when the open funeral car containing the coffin of deceased started for Ilford Cemetery, it was computed there could not have been less than 20,000 persons present. The deceased, who was well known in pugilistic circles, had been in England 15 years, having come from King's Town, Jamaica, in 1870. He had been engaged in a large number of prize fights, one of his first encounters being with "Billy Crane." This was fought on Wanstead Flats, in May, 1880, and lasted over an hour and a half, finally ending in a draw. His next fight was with a coloured man, known as the "Meat Market Black," whom he easily beat in two rounds. He afterwards had an encounter with one of his pupils, "Ching Hook." This was at first fought with gloves, both men being backed heavily. Nothing came of this, however, and in 1882 the contest was renewed in a public-house in Shoreditch, for a purse of gold, with a similar result, the struggle having lasted one hour and 20 minutes. The deceased was also engaged in several other minor fights in which he generally came off the victor.

'Tavistock Gazette': September 1885

14 Sep

?

Exh. 3

'Blue Anchor', Church Street, Shoreditch

BENEFIT TO GEORGE PEARSON.

PACKED with an audience that filled the sparring-room at Richardson's well-known hostelry, the Blue Anchor, Shoreditch, from floor to ceiling, the benefit accorded last evening to George Pearson must be chronicled a grand success. The different boxers that in turn filled the

fence to Hibbard's smart attack. The mention of Ching Ghook and a friend for the next spar gave rise to tumultuous applause as the former stepped into the ring, the audience evidently intending it as a mark of sympathy for the coloured man's loss of his friend Alec Munroe. Very slow and cautious was Ching's commencement, and he even allowed his opponent to get on once or twice in succession without a return, but warming to his work, Ghook made more than ample amends, and so warm was the round getting that Pat Condon's advice of "have a blow, my lads," evidently came as a welcome to the pair. The two succeeding rounds were of a like description, and at the conclusion Ching Ghook, in a characteristic speech, thanked the company for their applause, and remarked that he had done all he possibly could for his deceased friend, and had carried out the funeral arrangements as decently as laid in his power. Ted Jones and Sam Milner

'The Sportsman': 15th September 1885

THE LATE ALEC. MUNROE.—Ching Ghook called at our office yesterday, in company with Mr. Stokes, of the Gun and Tent, Fort-street, Spitalfields, and stated that they are having a monumental head and foot stone of suitable design placed over the remains of poor Alec. Munroe. Due notice will be given when it will be uncovered for public inspection.

'The Sporting Life': 19th September 1885

3 Nov

Bob Dunbar

Exh. 3

Brighton Pavilion

Benefit assault-at-arms for the Brighton Volunteer Fire Brigade

Still in search of sport, I spent on Tuesday night an hour or so under the Dome—this is the name given a spacious concert-hall which forms part of the Pavilion—where an assault-at-arms had been arranged for the benefit of the Brighton Volunteer Fire Brigade. Entertainments of this

they thought it merited. The first pair to show were Dunbar, a man with one eye, whom I have seen at Richardson's, and Ching Ghook, a gentleman in black, who has several times ere now been described to readers. Ching does not seem as spry as he used to be, and the cyclopean one did much better than I had expected. Usually the darkey scores tremendously fast to begin with, and it is only towards the finish of a competition, when he fades away, that he gets caught and passed by ordinary antagonists. In an exhibition spar I should have thought the advantage would have been entirely with Ch. Gk.; that it wasn't goes to show how little I know about boxing. The next couple

'The Referee': 8th November 1885

17 Nov

G. Nottage

Exh. 3

'The Griffin', High Street, Shoreditch

ARTHUR COOPER'S BENEFIT.

This well-known boxer, the winner of a large number of competitions, including Tom Symonds's £10 and £20 Competitions, was accorded a benefit last (Tuesday) evening, at the Griffin, Shoreditch, when the large saloon attached to this hostelry was well filled by a very select company, which bids fair to show the high estimation in which Arthur is held by his friends. During the

the company by their grand display. G. Nottage v. Ching Ghook (black) made a capital spar of three rounds. J. Donoghue (pro-

'The Sporting Life': 18th November 1885

1886

Jan

Ghook is instructor to the Nottingham Amateur Boxing Association

Boxing.—Gentlemen who are desirous of becoming proficient may be interested to know that the members of the Nottingham Amateur Boxing Association meet every Tuesday and Thursday at 8 p.m. at the Malt Cross Hall, St. James-street, Nottingham. Instructors, Professor Will Atkins and the coloured champion, Prince Ching Ghook, of London. Terms on application.

'Empire News & The Umpire': 31st January 1886

AN AMATEUR BOXING ASSOCIATION AT NOTTINGHAM.
The first meeting of an Amateur Boxing Association at the lace town took place at the Malt Cross Hall, St James's-street, Nottingham, last week, when a goodly number of members were enrolled, and the rules were read and passed. The subscription being only

requiring instruction. Will Atkinson, the Irish ex-Champion, has been appointed instructor, and he has a most able coadjutor in our old Cockney acquaintance, Ching-Ghook, whom we wish a cordial success in his new venture.

'Bell's Life in London and Sporting Chronicle': 3rd February 1886

22 Mar

George Wilson

Exh. 3

The Circus, Campbell Street, Leicester

THE CIRCUS.—An "assault at arms" took place at the Circus, Campbell-street, on Monday night, the performance being a complimentary benefit to Mr. George Wilson, the light-weight champion boxer. There was a large attendance and

entertainment concluding with a boxing contest between George Wilson, light weight champion, v. Ching Ghook, coloured boxer. Some very good con-

'Leicester Daily Mercury': 23rd March 1886

7 Apr

George Wilson

Exh. 3

Corn Exchange, Newark

ASSAULT-AT-ARMS AT NEWARK.—Last night an assault-at-arms was held in the Corn Exchange, Newark, when there was a large attendance. The affair, which was organised under the auspices of the Nottingham and Newark Amateur Boxing Clubs, was arranged as a complimentary benefit to Ching Ghook, a well-known coloured light-weight boxer, who has been acting as instructor in this district for some time. Exhibitions

were some capital illustrations of the art of self-defence given, those between George Fryer and Will Atkins and Ching Ghook and George Wilson being so much appreciated that the performers were recalled.

'Nottingham Evening Post': 8th April 1886

no remarks." The grand finale was the wind-up between Ching Ghook, the prince of Coloured Boxers and Instructor to the N.A.B.C., and Geo. Wilson, of Leicester, the light-weight champion. Prince Ching Ghook was introduced to Newark about three months ago, when he was engaged as the Instructor of the Club. He has experienced a most eventful life. He is a native of the West Indies, and entered upon a sailor's career as a cabin boy. Having enjoyed a sailor's life for several years, visiting nearly every part of the globe, he found himself at last in the port of London. Always having an inclination for the manly art of self-defence he was not long before he distinguished himself in the boxing world. He has won seven prizes in open competition and two with the "raw 'uns." The skill displayed by Ching Ghook and Wilson on Wednesday was of a high-class character, the scientific merit of each falling forth loud applause. The "Assault-at-Arms"

'The Newark Herald': 10th April 1886

3 May Bill Cheese Exh. 3 Red Cross Tavern, Bethnal Green

RED CROSS TAVERN, BETHNAL GREEN.

The commodious saloon adjoining the above house was well filled on Monday evening, when a 9st 4lb competition (under the management of W. Cheese and G. Cunningham) was successfully carried out. Money prizes to the value of £10 were offered by a few well-

son, and Bill Cheese and Ching Ghook.

'The Sporting Life': 5th May 1886

28 Jun C. Wall Exh. 3 'Blue Anchor', Church Street, Shoreditch

CHING GHOOK'S BENEFIT.

Last (Monday) evening this talented coloured boxer, who has been the victor in many a well-contested encounter, and is, in fact, one of the best coloured boxers that has been seen in the metropolis for many years, was accorded a complimentary benefit at Mr. W. Richardson's, the Blue Anchor, Church-street, Shoreditch, the large saloon, despite the heat, being well filled. His brother boxers also attended in good force, the most conspicuous being E. Jones v. J. Meaders, Gibbs v. J. Greenleaf, W. Cheese v. Isaacs, Phippen v. Savage, W. Newton v. T. Taylor, W. Cheese v. Sim Solomon, the Brothers Carr, and the wind-up was between Ching Ghook and C. Wall. J. Haley, of Shadwell, was M.C.

'The Sporting Life': 29th June 1886

13 Dec Clarence Holt Exh. 3 Oriental Hotel, Blackfriars

ENTERTAINMENT AT THE ORIENTAL HOTEL.

Professor Caddy Middings called his friends together last evening to witness a display of boxing, fencing, wrestling, &c., at the well-known rendezvous near Blackfriars Bridge. Shortly before eight o'clock Professor Ned Donnehy, author of "The Noble Art of Self Defence," and Tom Smith took up their respective positions as M.C.'s, surrounded by a numerous and select company. Liddiard and Billy Roberts were the first to display their skill, followed by Ching Ghook and Clarence Holt, who rendered a good account of

'The Sporting Life': 14th December 1886

1887

19 Jan Sam Baxter L pts 3 'Blue Anchor', Church Street, Shoreditch

First series – all-England 10st. 4lb. competition

21 Feb Jem Hook W pts 3 Imperial Theatre, Westminster

First series – all-England 10st. 10lb. competition

BOXING COMPETITIONS IN LONDON.

The Imperial Theatre, Westminster, was crowded last evening, when an assault-at-arms, promoted by the proprietors of the *Sportsman*, took place. The programme contained a number of exhibition bouts at boxing, and with sabres, rapiers, and bayonets; but the principal interest was centred in a couple of boxing competitions for professionals, for each of which prizes amounting to £25.

In the competition for men not exceeding 10st. 10lb., only three pairs figured, so that a bye will occur in the second round. W. Brown, of Birmingham, the Amateur Middle-weight Champion of 1884, defeated W. Hatcher, W. Cheese had an easy task in disposing of Glover, and Ching Ghook (a negro) was successful against J. Hook. The second round and final bouts will be decided this evening.

'Birmingham Mail': 22nd February 1887

22 Feb

William Brown

L pts 3

Royal Aquarium Theatre

Semi-final – all-England 10st. 10lb. competition

the second series of the 10st. 10lb. competition W. Brown beat Ching Ghook, and W. Cheese sparred a

'The Globe': 23rd February 1887

4 Apr

Bob Dunbar

Exh. 3

Red Cross Tavern, Hare Street, Bethnal Green

JEM BALL'S BENEFIT.

In spite of counter attractions the large hall of the Red Cross, Hare-street, Bethnal Green (proprietor, Mr. Delaforce), was well filled on the 4th by a select company, gentlemen amateurs being well to the fore. Ball being well respected. Dick Dabbs and

level best (Thorogood is evidently a favourite). Then a rare treat was afforded the company by Bob Dunbar and the popular coloured champion Ching Ghook. This was something worth seeing, both doing their best, the company applauding to the echo such clever exponents. C. Davis and Burton rendered a good account of them.

'The Sporting Life': 6th April 1887

20 Apr

Bob Dunbar

Exh. 3

HQ of the Royal Artillery Company

HONOURABLE ARTILLERY COMPANY'S ASSAULT AT ARMS.

Fashion was plenty at the head-quarters of this, the oldest of the train bands, last night. Never within our memory has there been such a gay lot gathered together. It was certainly one of the best and brightest assaults the Hon. Artillery Company have given. And that is saying a great deal. But these gatherings are always one of the sights of the "assaults" season. What a great proof is thereby adduced that such shows produce a lively pleasure that never satiates or cloy. However, we continually say the same

BOXING.—Ching Ghook (black) and Dunbar (white).—Immediately they had completed their respective toilettes the fun began. Dunbar dressed his gloves with white chalk, and Ching Ghook used the humble blacking. Dunbar proved first artist at work, and daubed Ghook's nose white. The latter was not behind at the game, and quickly converted that paleface into ebony black. Both proved very clever, and we never saw such a pair of professional beauties before. Whether their painting would pass

'The Sporting Life': 21st April 1887

23 May

Walter Dennison

Exh. 3

'Blue Anchor', Church Street, Shoreditch

BOB DUNBAR AND CHING GHOOK'S BENEFIT.

The Blue Anchor, Shoreditch, was crowded on the 23rd inst., and these professors provided a good bill of fare, including boxing, wrestling, and feats of arms. Many substantial supporters of boxing were present, and boxers in galore, including Denny Harring-

twenty entries, at the Royal Aquarium. The black champion, Ching Ghook, is well known in London, and has won several competitions in grand style. He made a good fight with Picton, who many thought was the best 10st 4lb man at that time in England. In all the darkie has won nine open competitions and seven glove fights, his last victory being over Dunbar in an eight round competition for points. As a sort of an eye opener two pupils of Chings's commenced proceedings, and were followed by Rueben and Bill

rare ovation. Dunbar, owing to a cowardly attack upon him in the street a day or two ago, was unable to wind-up, but Mr. Walter Dennison and Ching Ghook gave the company a treat. Jack

'The Sporting Life': 25th May 1887

25 May

Ghook attends Derby Day

MERCUS BUTTERFIELD
WEDNESDAY.—THE DERBY DAY.
(BY OUR SPECIAL CONNOISSEUR.)
"Stick to the Baron." It sounded like old times to hear
...tion dinned in one's ears, as it was, over and

... poor time of it. It was refreshing to find
... the noble art of self-defence was represented
... illustrated by Ching Ghook (I trust I spell
... correctly), and certain coloured damsels, who
... were put forward as his daughters. It is a joke in
... America that a Vasser girl—a girl who answers to our
... maiden—when she is asked to dance, she replies,
... "I do not dance, but I don't mind putting on the gloves
... with you." Ching—what's his other name?—shows the
... of his opinions in pugilism by submitting to public
... young women who can box in the scientific manner.
... married and single, who can do this thing unscien-
... tifically, are not uncommon. Perhaps a poorer card has never

'The Sporting Life': 26th May 1887

30 Sep

Bill Cheese

W pts 6

'Blue Anchor', Church Street, Shoreditch

BOXING AT THE EAST-END OF LONDON.

On Friday night the commodious saloon attached to the Blue Anchor, Church street, Shoreditch, was crowded with spectators to witness the opening entertainment for the season 1887-88. Never since he took over the

pair were Bill Cheese and the black, Ching Ghook, the former's bad luck sticking to him, as, after a capital struggle, he again had to put up with defeat. Good as the competitions were

'Gloucestershire Echo': 1st October 1887

6 Oct

Johnny Walker

Exh. 3

St. James' Hall, Piccadilly

JAKE KILRAIN IN ENGLAND.

A large attendance thronged St. James' Hall, Piccadilly, last evening, when an assault-at-arms was given on the occasion of Jake Kilrain, who is matched to fight Jem Smith, of England, for the championship of the world, making his first public appearance in England. A lengthy programme had

Amongst the boxers Arthur Bobbett and Alec Roberts, Ching Ghook and Johnny Walker, and Mr. E. Gobby and George Roberts were seen to advantage in the first part of the programme, which also included sword feats

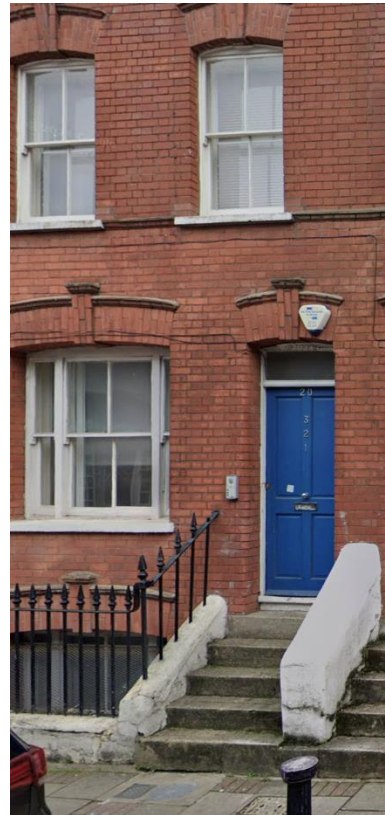
'Sheffield Evening Telegraph': 7th October

13 Oct

Was living at 20 Settles Street, Commercial Road, Whitechapel



Corner of Fordham Street & Settles Street



17 Oct

Arthur Bobbett

L pts 6

Lambeth School of Arms

BOXING EXHIBITION AT LAMBETH
Last evening a couple of glove contests at the Lambeth School of Arms attracted a large company. The first event was a six-round battle between Ching Ghook (a coloured boxer) and Arthur Bobbett. At the outset the black did most of the leading off, and secured an advantage: but, becoming weak in the last three rounds, his opponent administered severe punishment, and won somewhat easily. The

'The Echo': 18th October 1887

21 Oct

Bill Cheese

Exh. 3

2nd Tower Hamlets Rifles Drill Hall, Whitechapel Road

SECOND TOWER HAMLETS RIFLES' ANNUAL ASSAULT AT ARMS.
Another proof of the steady increase in public favour of the ancient sport of boxing was afforded on Saturday evening last, when the members of the 2nd Tower Hamlets Rifles held their annual assault, as in previous years, at the spacious drill hall in the Whitechapel-road, which many of our readers may remember as the Effingham—afterwards the East London—Theatre, the building
manner. Boxing by Ching Ghook and Bill Cheese, with blackened and whitened gloves, went a long way towards amusing the company, the antics of the nigger especially so. A squad of nine

'The Sporting Life': 25th October 1887

9 Nov

Ted Burchell

Exh. 3

St. James' Hall, Piccadilly

SULLIVAN'S ASSAULT-AT-ARMS.
 Last evening, at St. James's Hall, Piccadilly, London, a grand assault-at-arms was given, it being the first appearance in this country of John L. Sullivan, the champion pugilist of America, whose visit to these

'The Nottingham Evening Post': 10th November 1887

6 Dec
 7 Dec

Felix Scott
 Dave Burke

Drew 4
 Exh. 3

'The Red Lion', Fleet Street
Teddington Town Hall

BOB HABBIJAM'S 8ST COMPETITION AND ASSAULT D'ARMES AT TEDDINGTON.
 On Wednesday evening the pretty little riverside town of Teddington was all astir on the occasion of an open competition for eight selected competitors, who were restricted to 8st, the prize being a £20 cup, presented by Mr. W.

succeeded by Dave Burke and Ching Ghook, who were also warmly received, and their undoubted talents duly recognised.

'The Sporting Life': 10th December 1887

12 Dec

Jack Wannop
 Alec Roberts

Exh. 3
 Exh. 3

Corn Exchange, Oxford

ASSAULT-AT-ARMS AT THE CORN EXCHANGE.—This event came off on Monday, and consisted of an exhibition of talent which deserved a far larger audience than it obtained on that evening, for although the programme was considerably changed, yet it could hardly be said that it was altered for the worse. In the boxing, Wannop and Ching Ghook showed to considerable advantage, and the latter's bout with Roberts was especially brilliant and lively. Of the other feats, the Indian

boxing, Ching Ghook (the black champion) v. A. Roberts, (of the Bellaise Club, and the London Scottish); rapier

'The Oxfordshire Weekly News': 14th December 1887

27 Dec

'pupil'

Exh. 3

Havelock Gymnasium, London Fields

THE HAVELOCK GYMNASIUM.
JACK STEVENS AND YOUNG BODGER, FOR A PURSE.
 These old opponents, who both hail from Spitalfields, and who a few months ago fought a determined battle in the old style, met last evening at the Havelock Gymnasium, London Fields, to box six rounds, under Queensberry rules, for a prize given by the proprietor, Mr. J. Bambridge, and the affair was decided before a rather select company.
 In addition to the chief event there was some fairly good exhibition sparring, amongst those who were the most conspicuous being the following couples:—Isaac Hoare v. W. Day, Ching Ghook and pupil, and Pat Carriek v. an

'The Sporting Life': 28th December 1887

1888

2 Jan

Sam Baxter

Exh. 3

Seabright Musical Hall, Hill Street, Hackney Road

SAM BAXTER AND CHING GHOOK. AT THE SEBRIGHT MUSIC HALL.
 The unparalleled Sam Baxter and the accomplished Ching Ghook made their first appearance on the stage of the Seabright Music Hall last (Monday) night, and received a welcome of an extraordinary character. The house rose *en masse* when the men appeared on the stage, and before they were allowed to place themselves into position, had to bow their acknowledgments over and over again. The place was crammed to suffocation, and money was unwillingly refused at seven o'clock. The two wrestlers, Smith and

gentleman every inch of him. Ching Ghook is equally deserving of praise, and on his being introduced as the champion coloured boxer of the world, the enthusiasm was boundless. Possibly a better matched pair could not be found to illustrate the art of boxing, as each man is in the front rank of his profession. On facing each other Baxter led off bang in the darkey's face and got away; then followed some very pretty sparring, both men using the left with precision. The second round was a splendid display of science. Each man fought with both hands, and as they warmed to their work some tremendous facers were given and received. Baxter is as cool as the proverbial cucumber, but the ebony knight sent as good as he received, and the round ended with honours easy. On the third time of asking each did all he knew, and some rib-benders were delivered to the great delight of the company. The lads were loudly cheered on retiring, and received a vociferous recall. Without doubt Sam Baxter and Ching Ghook are the class of men to ennoble the art of boxing, as it would be difficult to meet with a better-mannered or a more scientific couple of professors of the manly art. The programme

'The Sporting Life': 3rd January 1888

Later in January and into February we find Hook seconding young fighters or acting as MC at exhibition bouts at the Old Mile End Gate Tavern and the Queen Adelaide in Whitechapel, before taking a benefit at the Blue Anchor in Shoreditch. The latter event saw an unnamed trainee of Hook vs Jimmy Earle in a bout that "afforded continual merriment, both striking some very funny attitudes and giving away each other's heads to be tapped" (*The Sporting Life*, Wednesday 15 February 1888). A chap called Clarence Holt also encouraged his 8-year-old dwarf nephews to get in the ring.

Sarah Elizabeth Cox

4 Feb **Jack Magee** **Exh. 3 'Red Lion Tavern', Red Lion Court, Fleet Street.**

SERGT. GREEN'S 8th COMPETITION.
The boxing saloon at the Red Lion Tavern, Red Lion-court, Fleet-street, was densely packed on Saturday evening to witness an 8th Competition, promoted by Sergt. Green, for a gold-centre medal. Particular care was taken in

'The Sportsman': 6th February 1888

13 Feb

CHING GHOOK'S BENEFIT AT TOM SYMONDS'S.
The inclement weather of Monday last caused many of Ching Ghook's would-be patrons to be present in mind only. Nevertheless a fairly good company assembled inside the saloon attached to the Blue Anchor, Church-street, Shoreditch, and fully appreciated the bill of fare as put before them by the M.C., Fred. Johnson, the

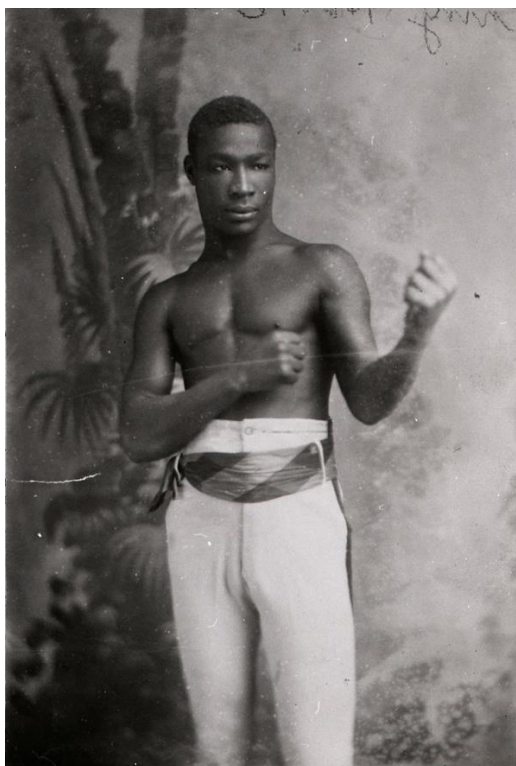
'The Sporting Life': 15th February 1888

5 Mar **Russell** **L pts The Pelican Club, Denman Street**

The "Pelicaneries" was very extensively patronised on Monday last, when a capital exposition of the "noble art" was given in a competition, in which six well-known "knights of the mittens" took part. The final round might have been called a study in black and white, the contestants being Russell and Ching Ghook. The white man, however, carried too many guns for his sable vis-a-vis, and when "Time!" was called had won handsomely. Another little function took

'The Sporting Life': 10th March 1888

Apr East End photographer Harry Carpenter (1860-1906)



10 Apr

Bill Cheese

W pts 3

The Royal Agricultural Hall, Islington

First series – English 10st. 2ln. competition

THE TOURNAMENT IN LONDON.

A bumper attendance must again be chronicled at the Agricultural Hall, Islington, last (Tuesday) evening, when the second instalment of the week's boxing was presented. At eight o'clock over 4,000 spectators were in attendance, and later in the evening the influx of visitors was approaching a record. The great

Ching Hook (Shoreditch) beat W Cheese (Hoxton).— Both went in for slogging after the first half minute, and some warm work ensued. Just on the call of "Time" Cheese was knocked out of the ring, falling amongst the handsomen. The second round was decidedly of a ding-dong order, Cheese just getting the better of the exchanges. The third round was in favour of Ching. The verdict, however, was, though correct, far from being popular. R Leary (Deptford) beat J Donoghue

'The Sporting Chronicle': 11th April 1888

13 Apr

Dick Leary

L pts 3

The Royal Agricultural Hall, Islington

Semi-final – English 10st. 2ln. competition

of points. Wm Leary (Deptford) beat Ching Hook. Both went at it hammer and tongs, and, clinching, fell side by side. Re-starting, Leary made good use of the left, and keeping the "darkie" out, maintained his lead, winning after a really magnificently-contested bout.

'The Sporting Chronicle': 13th April 1888

**THE SHURY TESTIMONIAL FUND.
A GRAND ASSAULT AT ARMS**
Will be held at
THE IMPERIAL THEATRE, ROYAL AQUARIUM.

ON
SATURDAY NEXT, MAY 5.

Commencing at half-past seven p.m. Under the Patronage of Sir Claude de Crespigny, Bart., Henry Irving, Esq., and a General Committee, representing the principal London Athletic Associations, Clubs, and Sporting Papers.

BOXING.

Bill Goode (of Shadwell) v. R. Hair (Belsize and North London Boxing Clubs).

Jacob Hyams v. Ching Ghook.

Jack Massey v. Alf. Mitchell (of Cardiff).

H. Barnes v. Bill Goode (of Battersea).

Dick Roberts v. Caddy Middings.

W. J. King (Belsize Boxing Club) v. A. F. Bestinson (Belsize Boxing Club).

Ben Seth v. H. A. Fawcett (Cestus Boxing Club).

E. Doland (Cestus Boxing Club) v. G. Ruskil (West End School of Arms).

H. Windett (Myddleton B.C.) v. Professor Bat Mullins.

E. White v. S. B. Dunsley (St. James's A.C.)

B. Winston (trainer to Yale College, U.S.A.) v. Jack Sharp, (Horton).

Sam Blacklock v. Bill Hook.

and

JEM SMITH v. TOM SMITH.

Gymnastics by the St. James's Athletic Club.

Fencing, sword feats, &c., by Messrs. H. Vane Stow, A. K. Wallace, P. Maris, Professors Crier, Waite, Otterway, Dean, and M'Pherson.

Quarter-staves—Sergeant Green v. Mr. Page.

Seconds—Jack Baldock and Jack Harper.

M.C.—Mr. G. J. Garland, middle-weight amateur champion, 1878.

Pianist, Mr. Warren Tear.

Private boxes from one guinea; orchestra stalls, 10s. 6d.; stalls, 6s.; dress circle, 3s.; pit, 2s.; gallery, 1s. Tickets of admission may be obtained at the *Sporting Life*, *Sportswoman*, and of Mr. J. Grose, athletic outfitter, Old Jewry, E.C., which will also admit to the Aquarium.—[ADVT.]

6 Jul

Jack Donoghue

Exh. 3

Pelican Club, Denman Street

BOXING CONTESTS AT THE PELICAN CLUB.

Though exhibitions of the art of self-defence were at one time considered purely a winter amusement, such cannot be termed the case now, as boxing seems to flourish all the year round. At any rate, the noble army of Pelicans do not let it die out at their establishment in Denman-street, as yesterday a large company assembled there to witness a couple of six-round contests, under the usual

an exhibition spar of three rounds duration, between those old hands at the business, Ching Ghook and Jack Donoghue, fairly delighted the company, the clever antics of the darkey causing roars of laughter. Mr. J. Fleming officiated with his accustomed

'The Sporting Life': 7th July 1888

Aug

Hook was handed the keys to the City of Norwich pub on Wentworth Street, Whitechapel. The "well ventilated" and spacious gym, with its 13 foot boxing ring, was now under Hook's management and public sparring took place every Saturday and Monday night. Granted the honorary boxing title of Professor by the end of 1888, we also find Hook teaching every Tuesday night at the Watford Boxing Club.

Sarah Elizabeth Cox

25 Aug

BOXING COMPETITIONS IN WHITECHAPEL.

But a moderate attendance at the City of Norwich, Wentworth-street, Whitechapel, on Saturday, when the final bouts of a 9st and 7st 6lb boxing competitions, the preliminaries of which had been got through on the Monday previous were set for decision. The room, however, which is under the management of Ching Ghook, is one of the most spacious in the metropolis devoted to the sport, having a capital ring, nearly 13ft. square, in the centre, and as the room is also well ventilated, visitors can view the amusement in comfort. Both the exhibition boxing and the competitions

'The Sporting Life': 29th August 1888

6 Nov Dick Leary Exh. 3 Leisure Hall, High Street, Deptford

BOB WHITE'S BENEFIT.

THE spacious hall in High-street, Deptford, yecept the "Lecture Hall," was packed last evening, upwards of 700 persons assembling to do honour to the above well-known pugilist and pedestrian. A capital entertainment had been provided, including such boxing talent as the Baxter Brothers, Pudney Sullivan, Dick Leary, and Ching Ghook,

'The Sportsman': 7th November 1888

10 Sep Jack Watson Exh. 3 'Red Lion and Spread Eagle', 94, High Street, Whitechapel

EIGHT-ROUND CONTEST AT THE RED LION AND SPREAD EAGLE.

The commodious and well-ventilated saloon attached to the Red Lion and Spread Eagle, Whitechapel, was on Monday evening crowded with a very respectable and orderly audience to witness an eight-round contest, and some of the finest exhibition boxing it has ever been our lot to witness. Under the latter heading we must particularly mention Arthur Haynes and Clarence Holt, Mark Jacobs and Charles Mansford, Linney Solomons ("Mooney Eye") and Jack Stevens, Alf. Cardiff and G. Baxter, also those coloured exponents, Ching Ghook and J. Watson, of Deptford. By far the

'The Sporting Life': 12th September 1888

24 Nov Dick Leary Exh. 3 Leisure hall, High Street, Deptford

JACK WATSON'S BENEFIT.

Though the entertainment provided consisted, with the exception of one item, exclusively of exhibition boxing, this proved sufficient to fill the Lecture Hall, High-street, Deptford, on Saturday evening, when Jack Watson, the coloured boxer, who has lately resided in the neighbourhood, took his first benefit. Though the

M. Sexton v. C. Hugger; y, Dick Leary (Deptford) v. Ching Ghook (who made a capital show), H. Goddard v. E. Vincent, and K.

'The Sporting Life': 27th November 1888

4 Dec Dave Burke L pts 3 Royal Aquarium Theatre, Westminster

First series – English 10st. 2lb. competition

FRANK HINDE'S BOXING TOURNAMENT AT THE AQUARIUM THEATRE.

Officials:—Judges: Messrs. B. J. Angle, T. Anderson, Eugene Cox, Fred. Eden, G. J. Garland, Reg. Wakefield, C. P. Young (Amateur Boxing Association). M.C.'s: Frank Hinde and Walter Laburnum. Seconds: Bob Habbijam, Jack Baldock, Jack Harper, and Bob Kirby.

VERDICT. CHING GHOOK and Dave Burke were the last couple. They both commenced by body fighting, splendid countering ensued, and to the close the boxing was particularly good. The second round Ghook started in good form, but Burke sent in the left cleverly. "Bung him one for old Ireland, Dave!" said an enthusiast in the gallery, and Dave obliged him. Grand work with the left, and some very clever manœuvring on the part of both. In the last round they forced matters, and coolly went to work. Standing well apart, bang went right and left, and to the end the display was exceptionally good, and the verdict on the conclusion of a most exciting rally went to Burke. With this

DAVE BURKE (late Lambeth) beat **CHING GHOOK** (coloured boxer).—This was another excellent display of science on the part of both. Burke, who was self-trained this time, was much below the stipulated weight, but he nevertheless appeared somewhat stronger than he has been in his last two matches, and boxed with all the dash that he was famous for a couple of years ago. The exchanges during the first round were of a very even description. The Darkey, who displayed great activity, delivering his left time after time with great force and precision, but in the next round Burke scored very fast, and when they started for the last Ching continually got to close quarters, and did good execution with both hands on the dial, but, getting to outfighting again, Burke had the best of the deal, and scored a popular victory, the judging throughout leaving nothing to be desired.

'The Sporting Life': 5th December 1888

1889

He was back at Belmont's Sebright to kick off '89 with a week of exhibition boxing against another black "champion", Jack Watson, and on the 3rd of February that year Hook was elected, unanimously, by members of the Professional Boxing Association to become an active and voting member. The same week, Watson and Hook joined the weekly changing company of sketch artists, singers and performing animals at the Royal Albert Music Hall, Canning Town.

Sarah Elizabeth Cox

PROFESSIONAL BOXING ASSOCIATION.

Despite the fact that rain was falling heavily at the time fixed for the usual meeting at head-quarters, Mr. Tom Symonds', the Blue Anchor, Church-street, Shoreditch, there was an unusually large attendance on the evening of February 3. Mr. Dick Edward was in the chair, faced by Sergeant W. Green. The hon. sec., Jack M'Farlane, having read the minutes of the previous meeting, they were passed without dissent. The revised rules were then read by the hon. sec., and with an addition to Rule 9 respecting defaulters were carried unanimously, and ordered to be printed forthwith. Ching Ghook, Harry Denny, and Ben Heath were next elected as active members without opposition. Tom French was proposed by Sergeant Green, and seconded by Owen Goody, for election at the next meeting. Harry Goody, in a suitable speech, called attention to the case of the veteran Bill Hundreds, who has been suffering from illness for a considerable time. Ultimately, after a lengthy discussion, it was proposed by Dick Edwards, and seconded by the vice-chairman, that Hundreds should be granted £3 out of the funds. On being put

'The Sporting Life': 6th February 1889

7 Feb
Town

Jack Watson

Exh. 4

Royal Albert Music Hall, Victoria Dock Road, Canning

JOE BURCHELL'S BENEFIT.

Last evening (Thursday) the Royal Albert Music Hall, Victoria Dock-road, Canning Town, was crowded to excess, the occasion being the benefit of the genial Joe Burchell, who of late has made his mark among the boxing community as M.C., and at the present time is hessing the business on behalf of those clever ebony boxers, Ching Ghook and Jack Watson, who have been engaged at this hall during the week, and are drawing crowded houses. The pro-

Koester and Phil Ocker. On the two coloured champions—Ching Ghook and Jack Watson—appearing, they were greeted with loud cheers, and it is needless to state that the noble art of self-defence was shown in its true form, they having to reappear to box an extra round. In the body of the hall were Jem Sullivan, R. Sadler. H.

'The Sporting Life': 8th February 1889

13 Mar Pat Condon W pts 3 Royal Agricultural Hall, Islington

First series – English 10st. 4lb. competition

BOXING TOURNAMENT AT THE AGRICULTURAL HALL.

There was no falling off in the attendance of spectators at Islington yesterday evening, and there was just the same enthusiasm excited over the several contests in the competition that formed the programme. In the first series of the 10st. 4lb. contest Ching Ghook, the black, defeated Pat Condon; E. White,

'Sheffield Daily Telegraph': 14th March 1889

15 Mar Ted White L pts 3 Royal Agricultural Hall, Islington

Semi-final – English 10st. 4lb. competition

tion. Those standing in the 10st 4lb contest are E. White, Clerkenwell, who defeated Ching Ghook, whilst Samuel

'London Daily Chronicle': 16th March 1889

30 Mar Bill Batteller Exh. 3 'Blue Anchor', Church Street, Shoreditch

(Old Ford), Bill Cheese v. an amateur, Ching Ghook v. Bill Batteller (St. Luke's), and Young Tiffen and Seaton, the general

'The Sporting Life': 1st April 1889

12 Apr Harry Denny L pts 6 'Blue Anchor', Church Street, Shoreditch

The annual entertainment organised by the proprietor of the Blue Anchor, Shoreditch (Tom Symonds), for the members of the London Stock Exchange, took place last night, when, besides exhibition boxing by the brothers Wall 'Toff' and Bill, and Professors W. Meddings and J. Handley, three six-round glove contests were decided, the combatants being heavy, middle, and light weights, who appeared in the

the ring was Ching Ghook, another "darker," and Harry Denny, who is looked upon as the best champion. This was another good battle, the white man securing the verdict.

'The Sporting Chronicle': 13th April 1889

22 Apr Dave Burke L pts 3 Royal Agricultural Hall, Islington

First series – English 10st. competition

Last night an important boxing tournament, for prizes amounting to £1,000., was commenced at the Agricultural Hall, Islington. In addition to the serious boxing, there will be competitions for veterans. The first of these was for men over fifty years of age who had appeared in the prize-ring, and the

and winning with something in hand. Dave Burke (Lambeth) and Ching Ghook, the nigger, then met, and after a very bad display of boxing, in which there was a lot of wrestling and clinching, the verdict was given to Burke. J. Kendrick (Lambeth) was over weight, and his

'The Birmingham Daily Post':- 23rd April 1889

24 Apr Alfred Suffolk L pts 3 Royal Agricultural Hall, Islington

Consolation Stakes. First Series : Alfred Suffolk (Lambeth) beat Ching Ghook (Shoreditch). This was a good spar, the exchanges being very even, but Suffolk just won. W. Gunn (Plumstead),

'London Daily Chronicle': 25th April 1889

15 May

Jacob Hyams

Exh. 3

St. Andrew's Hall, Newman Street

BAT MULLINS'S ASSAULT AT ARMS.

With the decline of the boxing season proper comes as a matter of course the annual display given by Mullins, in addition to those who, professionals and amateurs alike, stand by the veteran for auld lang syne, and his good conduct both in and out of the ring.

by B. White, but the result astonished the company. For last night's entertainment Mullins selected his native heath—St. Andrew's Hall, Newman-street, Oxford. Time was when boxing held great sway in this locale, then called Cambridge Hall. It was a favourite rendezvous, but

the last round. They were recalled. Jacob Hyams and Ching Ghook were applauded as they entered the arena. It was a grand exhibition, and well worthy the reputation of the boxers. An encore was stoutly demanded. Mr. A. F. Bettinson and Alec Roberts

'The Sporting Life': 16th May 1889

15 Jul

George Baxter

Exh. 3

Bell Lane

Netherlands Choral and Dramatic Club, Bell Lane.—"Really excellent" was the verdict given by about 700 members and friends who assembled at the above club on Monday evening last to witness Mr. Ted Saunders' boxing carnival. The programme,

splendid science was shown by George Baxter, who sparred three exhibition rounds with Ching Ghook (the coloured champion);

'East London Observer': 20th July 1889

Aug At the end of August 1889, Hook took over management of the boxing saloon attached to the Walnut Tree pub on Bull Lane, Stepney. A *Sporting Life* article titled CHING GHOOK'S OPENING NIGHT described the place as "crowded to excess" for his tournament open to men under 8 stone 4lb. Across 1889 a scattering of references to Hook not fighting at quite his best begin to appear but are countered with regular praise for his fighting skills, oratory abilities and ability to entertain with comedic talent.

Sarah Elizabeth Cox

31 Aug

CHING GHOOK'S OPENING NIGHT.

On Saturday evening Mr. Walter Flight's boxing saloon attached to the Walnut Tree, Bull-lane, Stepney, was crowded to excess, it being the opening night, under the management of that clever ebony boxer, Ching Ghook. An 8st 4lb amateur competition had been announced to take place, but on the roll being called over only two answered to their names. Ching, who is determined to keep faith with the public, signified his intention of giving the prize (a handsome cup) for the two lads to compete for in a six rounds contest. Both lads agreed, and a capital one it was from

'The Sporting Life': 4th September 1889

9 Sep

Jack Watson

Exh. 3

Albion Tavern, Redman Road, Mile End

THE PARAGON BOXING CLUB.

On Monday evening Mr. Rogers's boxing saloon, attached to the Albion Tavern, Redman-road, Mile-End, the head-quarters of the Paragon Boxing Club, was crowded to excess to witness an 8st amateur competition promoted by the captain, C. Stevens, and Jack Ellis, instructor to the club. The officials were—judges, Dave

Then came the spar of the evening between those two coloured boxers, Jack Watson and Ching Ghook. Jerry Collins v. B.

'The Sporting Life': 11th September 1889

1 Nov Jem Burchell Exh. 3 Pentonville Baths

TWO SIX ROUNDS CONTESTS AT THE PENTONVILLE BATHS.

There was a large company present here on Friday, to witness a couple of six rounds contests, promoted by Arthur Gutteridge.

v. F. W. Bates (amateur), Gutteridge's Midgets, Jem Burchell and Ching Ghook, and the wind-up between A. Gutteridge and

'The Sporting Life': 6th November 1889

3 Nov T. Euston W pts 3 Pelican Club

First series – 10st. competition

THE PELICAN CLUB.

Officials:—Judges: Messrs. John L. Shine and F. B. Maddison. Timekeeper: Lord De Clifford. Referee: Mr. R. Watson.

An attractive programme was provided for the amusement of members on the 3rd, one of the chief features being the appearance of Sandow, the young man from the neighbourhood of the Russian frontier, who on Saturday last defeated Samson. Mr. J. Fleming, the boxing manager, introduced Sandow, and expressed regret that he (Sandow) was unable, owing to a slight sprain of the pectoral muscles, to give an exhibition of chain-breaking or weight-lifting (for which the writer was not sorry), but he would strip and show his marvellous muscular development, which he did, to the evident satisfaction of his admirers, who gave vent to exclamations of astonishment as Sandow posed in a well studied style, calculated to display the tissues to the best possible advantage. The

3 Nov Nat Bell W pts 3 Pelican Club

Second series – 10st. competition

3 Nov Alf Suffolk L pts 3 Pelican Club

Final – 10st. competition

CHING GHOOK beat T. EUSTON.

Round 1.—Ching short, and Euston countered him. Throughout the boxing was fast and furious, and mutually advantageous until the last minute, when the coloured man had rather the best of it.

Round 2.—Half-way through Ghook took a commanding lead, and once Euston was knocked down, but quickly resumed.

Round 3.—Weight told its inevitable tale, and although Euston boxed very pluckily Ghook was the cleverer, and finally won.

CHING GHOOK beat NAT BELL.

Round 1.—Bell, very weak, could not well withstand the onslaughts of Ghook, and had the worst of the exchanges.

Round 2.—Ching made great use of his left in this bout, and Bell rose to the occasion, but was receiver general.

Round 3.—Ghook took a good lead, and, clever with it, ultimately won, after a determined set-to.

FINAL.

ALF SUFFOLK defeated CHING GHOOK.

Round 1.—Suffolk had all the best of the round, the former's left rarely being out of Ching's face.

Round 2.—Again Suffolk forced matters, and Ghook manifested improvement. Several rallies came about, but Suffolk was master of the situation.

Round 3.—Suffolk led off, and Ching being slow and indifferent, his opponent finally won.

Barney Shennard and Bill Kennedy ably acted as seconds.

'The Sporting Life': 5th November 1889

9 Nov Dave Burke Exh. 3 Sadler's Wells Theatre

SADLER'S WELLS THEATRE.

Officials:—Judges: Toff Wall, Cuddy Meddings, W. Talbot, W. Hatcher, Alec Roberts, and Dick Roberts. Timekeepers: Mr. Dick Swift, and Mr. E. Simons, of Birmingham. M.C.

Exhibition Boxing.—Fred Johnson v. Jem Laxton, Ching Ghook v. Dave Burke. An interval to gargle the thorax, as explained by

'The Sporting Life': 12th November 1889

26 Nov

Bill Smith

Exh. 3

King's Arms, Quaker Street, Spitalfields

SIX ROUNDS CONTEST IN SPITALFIELDS.

Although not crowded, there was a fair attendance of spectators at Reuben Barter's Saloon, the King's Arms, Quaker-street, Spitalfields, last evening, when the principal attraction announced was a six-round contest between a couple of bantam weights, Con Haggerty and Tom Seaton, both of whom belonged to the neigh-

first-named gaining a clever victory. During the evening there was some very good exhibition boxing between Jem Squires' Midgets, Charley Mitchell (Bethnal Green) v. Clarence Holt, Tom Matthews v. Dave Shannon (amateur), and Ching Ghook v. Bill Smith (Hoxton). The judges for the contest were Ching Ghook and Chris. Palmer, Mr. J. T. Hulls officiating as referee.

'The Sporting Life': 27th November 1889

30 Nov

Bill Smith

Exh. 3

'Blue Anchor', Church Street, Shoreditch

BOXING AT TOM SYMONDS'.

On Saturday night the old saloon attached to the Blue Anchor, Church-street, Shoreditch, so long known to the fancy and its patrons as "Old Bill Richardson's," was simply packed by a critical audience, who are weekly drawn hither, knowing they can always get the value of their money, and spend an enjoyable evening. The room, which can boast of a well-pitched ring, is adorned with portraits and engravings of all the best known exponents, past and present, of the noble art, besides many well-known characters in other branches of sport. A capital evening's amusement had

first-named gaining a clever victory. During the evening there was some very good exhibition boxing between Jem Squires' Midgets, Charley Mitchell (Bethnal Green) v. Clarence Holt, Tom Matthews v. Dave Shannon (amateur), and Ching Ghook v. Bill Smith (Hoxton). The judges for the contest were Ching Ghook and Chris. Palmer, Mr. J. T. Hulls officiating as referee.

'The Sporting Life': 3rd December 1889

4 Dec

Nat Bell

W pts 3

Royal Aquarium Theatre, Westminster

First series – English 10st. competition

The great boxing tournament under the management of Frank Hinde was continued at the Westminster Aquarium, last evening, when the first bouts of the 10st. and 9st competition were worked through. The attendance was again a good one and the boxing witnessed was certainly the best seen during the week.

The concluding bout between Ching Ghook (black) and Nat Bell was exciting, as in the second round Bell nearly knocked his opponent out. However, the coloured gentleman rallied and was in the end declared the winner.

'York Herald'; 5th December 1889

6 Dec

Bill Cheese

L pts 3

Imperial Theatre

Second series – English 10st. competition

allow him to play his usual game of slipping away. Cheese and the black, Ching Ghook, had a hard-hitting spar, the latter, after forcing the pace, being decisively beaten. Messrs B. J. Angle and J. H. Douglas were the judges.

W. CHEESE (Shoreditch) BEAT CHING GHOOK (Shoreditch).

Cheese at once dashed in with the left and avoided the counter, and some smart in-fighting followed, Cheese upsetting the nigger's equilibrium with the left. He continued to force the fighting, and Ching Ghook seemed a bit slow, but made one or two points, leaving off the first round, however, with the disadvantage. The second round saw Cheese again leading, he being handy with the left, but the dusky one at times took the lead, dashing in "one, two" on Cheese's face. A sharp rally was in favour of Ching Ghook, who then made himself felt on the body. It now became the black's turn to lead, and he was doing most work when the timekeeper's stentorian voice declared the round at an end. In the third round Ching at once landed his opponent heavily with the left, and some even exchanges saw Cheese again on the aggressive. To the end of the round the deliveries were heavy, but, if anything, in favour of the white. A bustling round was the last one, and Cheese got the left on the point, only to be countered heavily with the right. A rally was concluded by cries of "Break away!" and to the end it was give-and-take, both showing claret. The award justly went to Cheese.

'The Sportsman': 7th December 1889

10 Dec

Lachie Thompson

L pts 6

Sadler's Wells Theatre

First series – 10sr. 4lb. competition

Griffiths, and Lachie Thompson performed in similar style on Ching Ghook. A couple of four-round con-

'Sheffield Daily Telegraph': 11th December 1889

1890

18 Jan

George Baxter

Exh. 3

'Blue Anchor', Church Street, Shoreditch

25 Jan

A 16-year-old printer named Arthur Knight collapsed and died in the ring at the Exmouth Arms, Clerkenwell, at a night of exhibition boxing run by Hook, as "master of ceremonies". An uncle of Knight's stated at the inquest a week later, that the lad was an epileptic and "not strong" yet he was a regular attendee at the Exmouth Arms boxing club where he had trained without a problem.

After about a minute in the first round of light sparring, someone called time. Knight was "rushed" to his corner by Hook, where the teenager fainted. Every effort to revive him was sought but by the time a doctor arrived, Knight was dead.

Dr Eber Chambers, performing the post-mortem, found no injuries at all upon Knight's body but death was said to have been caused by "compression on the brain" leading to a rupture of blood vessels, "caused by a time when the young man was excited, and the heart's action was accelerated by boxing". Edward Barry, his opponent, was also Knight's housemate, they both wore gloves, and neither had delivered a hard blow in a bout that was only meant to show form. The Coroner observed that the rupture may have been caused by any sort of excitement, boxing-related or not, and a jury cleared Barry, giving Knight's death as "natural causes". Two days after the inquest, Hook was back at the packed out Exmouth Arms, judging a 9 stone boxing competition.

Sarah Elizabeth Cox

SUDDEN DEATH WHILST BOXING.

On Saturday evening a boxing competition, organised by Professor T. Tully, was in course of progress at the Exmouth Arms, Clerkenwell, London, and four couples had boxed the orthodox three rounds, when Arthur Knight and a friend, Edward Berry, were announced as the next pair to compete. For a time matters went all right, a light scientific style being adopted. Suddenly, however, Knight was seen to stand still and stare upwards, dropping his hands. Ching Ghook, who officiated as master of the ceremonies, rushed to the lad and bore him to his corner. Medical aid was sought, and every effort made to restore life, but without effect. The deceased, a working lad, was very fond of boxing, and had taken part in several competitions. On more than one occasion he has had a fit, and doubtless epilepsy in this instance will be found to be the cause of death.

'Brecknock Beacon': 31st January 1890

The Alhambra Palace of Varieties (Proprietors, Messrs. Salmon and Potts): This hall continues to receive a good share of patronage, the catering being in every way satisfactory. The leading item this week is the engagement of Corporal Higgins, Professor Ching Hook, and Miss Alice Daultrey, who give a very clever and amusing performance, introducing some capital boxing. Miss Amy Leslie receives a hearty welcome at every turn. Tom Anderson is a capital negro comedian, and the Andertons' popularity is great here, for their singing and dancing are above the average. Alice Davidson, Louie Vernon, and Miss Emily Melnotte complete the bill. Good business rules.

'The Music Hall and Theatre Review': 8th February 1890

Feb-Sep

Appears in music hall in Hull (then in Merthyr Tydfil, Birmingham, Leeds, Wigan, Portsmouth, Dover)

ALHAMBRA PALACE PORTER-STREET.
1. THE DUTCH GIRL! The Funniest Sketch in the Music Halls. Merriest Production Travelling. MR JAMES TAYLOR and MISS ADA ALEXANDER, the Greatest Dutch Impersonator.
2. MISS ALICE DAVIDSON.
3. RETTA RICHTER.
4. Corporal HIGGINS, CHING HOOK, and MISS ALICE DAULTREY. 5. LE MONTE.
6. MR W. D. FARELL. 7. Your Old Favourites, CONWAY and LELAND, the Monipedeas.
8. Mr GEO. REGENT. Comic, Topical, and Extempore Vocalist.
FRIDAY NIGHT, Complimentary Benefit to Mr George Regent

'Hull Daily Mail': 20th February 1890

In 1890, Hezekiah went on the road with his comic sparring act to good acclaim, appearing between 1890 and 1891 at the Alhambra Palace Hull, Garcia's Princes Palace Leeds, The Gaiety Palace Birmingham, Princes Theatre Bradford, Whitechapel Horns Pub Barkingside, The New Alhambra Landport, Victoria Hall Westminster.

Paul McNeil - timedetectors.blog

18 Mar

Frank Young

L pts 3

Sanger's Circus, Sheffield

First series – 11st. 4lb. competition

just won. The third bout between Ching Ghook (the black) and Frank Young was quite equal to its predecessors in point of excitement, as the sympathies of the spectators were with Ching Ghook, who was much the smaller man. The darky was by far the cleverer, and although Young received the verdict it was not in accordance with the views of the spectators.

the winner. Frank Young, Notting Hill, beat Ching Ghook. In the first and second round the black kept lashing Young in the face with the left, and time after time got out of the way of Young's right. On entering the third round Young got home the right repeatedly on Ching's body, and at the finish the Notting Hill boxer was adjudged the winner.

'Sheffield Daily Telegraph': 19th March 1890

22 Mar Dick Gammon Exh. 3 Sanger's Circus

pitch. The coloured 10st champion, Ching Ghook, and Dick Gammon, both of London, next boxed three rounds, in which the darkey showed his superiority over his lesser opponent.

'Sheffield Daily Telegraph': 24th March 1890

24 Mar Felix Scott Exh. 3 Public Rooms, Jarratt Street, Hull

SHELLEY'S TOURNAMENT AT HULL.
The inclement weather was no doubt the cause of a very poor audience at the Public Rooms, Jarratt-street, Hull, last evening, when Mr. J. H. Shelley opened his second assault at arms and boxing tournament. Proceedings commenced with a club exercise

of applause. Ching Ghook (whom Mr. Shelley announced had been matched against Felix Scott for the coloured championship of England) and Ellis, of Nottingham, next boxed three rounds. The

'The Sporting Life': 25th March 1890

Apr

OXFORD PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr Richard Weignell.—Corporal Higgins and Professor Ching Ghook, assisted by Miss Alice Daultrey, boxers, head the bill, and are deservedly well received. Didier and Firth, comedians and musicians, are warmly applauded for a clever show; Teddy Mosedale, comic; Professor Lucas with his limelight views; Miss Alice Davidson, burlesque actress; Miss Fanny Guyton, serio; Sisters Olive, duettists; Mdlle. Elsie, French vocalist, bicyclist, and dancer; and Miss Minnie Gough, serio and male impersonator, draw large houses.

'The Era': 5th April 1890

10 Jun 'an amateur; Exh. 3 Albion & Paragon gymnasium, Redman's Road, Mile End

Ching Ghook (black) v. an amateur. Bob Whittle (Manchester) and Jack Suttle then wrestled the best of three falls. M.C.'s, Phil Koski and Jem Young.

'The Sporting Life': 12th June 1890

15 Jul Tom Lawrence Exh. 3 Horns Public House, Barkingside

BARKINGSIDE.
BOXING COMPETITIONS.—A series of boxing competition came off at the Horns public-house, Barkingside, on Tuesday evening. The chief item on the programme was a six-round contest for a prize consisting of a silver hunter watch. Queensbury rules were observed. The

contest was to have been between Tom Lawrence, of Stratford, and Fred Carr, of West Ham, but the latter did not appear. Lawrence and Ching Hook went through some exhibition boxing, as also did T. Warner, of Leytonstone.

'Essex Times': 16th July 1890

21 Jul *Marriage in St. Ann's Church, Whitechapel to Bermondsey-born Mary Ann Maddin, aged 31. She was born in Ireland.*

True to her faith, Mary married Hezekiah under the rites of the Roman Catholic Church, and to be a legal marriage as such, it was certified by the local civil registrar and two independent witnesses, as Catholic Priests would not be able to sign a marriage certificate until 1898.

This led to an interesting discovery, as the two witnesses were "Lascoff" and "Mary Humphrey" a married couple. Lascoff Humphrey (sometimes John, sometimes Humphreys) was the real name of the Lion Tamer Alicamoussa, who had gone on tour of the UK after most likely training Hezekiah to take his place at the East London Aquarium. Lascoff was originally from St Vincent in the West Indies. Lascoff's wife, Mary (actually Marian) was, like Hezekiah's wife, an Irish Cockney from South London.

After his marriage in 1890, Hezekiah went on the road with his comic sparring act to good acclaim, appearing between 1890 and 1891 at the Alhambra Palace Hull, Garcia's Princes Palace Leeds, The Gaiety Palace Birmingham, Princes Theatre Bradford, Whitechapel Horns Pub Barkingside, The New Alhambra Landport, Victoria Hall Westminster.

Paul McNeil - timedetectives.blog

9 Sep *Dick Gammon* *Exh. 3* *United Brothers Club, Commercial Street*

THREE CONTESTS AT THE UNITED BROTHERS CLUB.
The spacious hall attached to this club in Commercial-street, E., was crowded to excess on Tuesday evening last, when Dick Gammon was accorded a complimentary benefit, and right royally did his friends rally round him. A rather lengthy bill of fare was at

(Bethnal Green), the wind-up being between Dick Gammon and Ching Ghook. The committee did all in their power to preserve

'The Sporting Life': 11th September 1890

20 Dec *Dave Burke* *Exh. 3* *Victoria Hall, Walthamstow*

PROFESSOR E. WHITE'S ASSAULT-AT-ARMS.
Assisted by a number of well-known amateurs and professionals, Professor E. White, an ex-amateur champion boxer, successfully held an assault-at-arms at the Victoria Hall, Walthamstow, this (Saturday) evening. Owing to the inclement weather, several of the competitors could not attend, and the programme was necessarily curtailed; but, nevertheless, those spectators who braved the elements were rewarded with a capital show of boxing. Proceedings opened with an exhibition bout between Ching Hook and Dave Burke, after which was decided a six-round contest between Tom

'The Referee': 21st December 1890

27 Dec *Jack Field* *W pts 4* *'The Blue Anchor', Shoreditch*

1891

13 Jan

Hospitalised with abscesses in the thigh

MR CHING GHOOK, of Daultray, Higgins, and Ching Ghook, sketch artists, is laid up in the Leicester Infirmary. On Monday evening he appeared with his company at the Gaiety Palace of Varieties, but next day he was taken to the infirmary, where he remains, suffering from abscesses in the thigh.

'The Era': 17th January 1891

23 Feb *George Wilson* *Exh. 3* *Wells' Rooms, Bay Street, Leicester*

Wells' Rooms in Bay-street, Leicester, were crowded last Monday evening on the occasion of a complimentary benefit to Ching Ghook, who whilst on a visit to the town recently was knocked up with illness and confined to the Infirmary. As a send-off after his discharge, George Wilson arranged Monday's evening's proceedings, the chief item in which was a 9st. 6lb. amateur competition. The entry

the verdict. During the evening George Wilson engaged in three rounds with Ching Ghook, which furnished a pleasing exhibition of the "noble art." At the close, Ghook returned thanks to Wilson for his efforts on his (Ghook's) behalf, and to the local talent for their support. The proceedings passed off satisfactorily.

'Leicester Daily Post': 24th February 1891

COMPLIMENTARY BENEFIT TO CHING GHOOK.

The Wells Rooms at Leicester were crowded on Monday evening, on the occasion of a complimentary benefit to Ching Ghook, of London, who, whilst travelling with a theatrical company, was struck down with illness in the hosiery centre. Upon receiving his discharge from the hospital, George Wilson was loth to let the black leave the town without a send-off, and it must have been gratifying to Ghook—a boxer of twenty years' standing—that the sports in Leicester rallied round him in such large numbers. During the evening George Wilson engaged in a three rounds exhibition spar with Ching, which furnished a pleasing exhibition of the noble art, but the chief feature of the evening's bill of fare

'The Sporting Life': 26th February 1891

23 Mar

Harry Avis

Exh. 3

King's Arms, Waltham Abbey

BOXING AT WALTHAM ABBEY.

Harry Avis's spacious boxing saloon at the King's Arms, Waltham Abbey, was fairly attended on Monday night, the occasion being a six-round contest between Paul Rowley (of Waltham) and Ern Harvey (of Old Ford). Punctually to time Jem Porter, the M.C., introduced G. Spillett and W. West into the ring, these being followed in quick time by L. Spillett and P. Redman, and M. Spillett v. G. Spillett, this go being as good as the contest itself, the brothers fighting all the time. Not very often do Harry Avis's patrons have the pleasure of seeing him don the mittens, but he did so on this occasion with Ching Ghook (the coloured champion), and they were greeted with enthusiasm. After they had had three very scientific rounds, the ring was cleared for the contest, in

'The Sporting Life': 25th March 1891

18 Jun

[Daughter Eliza Margaret Moscow born, in Norton Folgate, London..](#)

Jul

[Daughter baptised as a Roman Catholic.](#)

By 1891 Hezekiah and Mary were living in a single room in Elder St Whitechapel, in a shared house with the King family, the head of which was a Lithographic Printer a pretty reasonable job for a working man, William King was letting or sub-letting a room in the house to Hezekiah and Mary.

Paul McNeil - [timedetectives.blog](#)



<https://thelondoni.com>

22 Sep

Kit Marney

Exh. 3

Deptford

SIX ROUNDS CONTEST NEAR DEPTFORD.
J. HOLLOWAY v. W. STEVENS, FOR A PURSE.
 These lads—the first-named of whom hails from New Cross and the latter from Bermondsey—met at a sporting rendezvous near Deptford on Tuesday evening to box six rounds under Queensberry Rules for a prize presented by some local sportsmen. There was a large and orderly company present, and, before the event of the evening took place, the following couples displayed their ability in the exhibition line:—The Brothers F. and E. Barman (Bermondsey), Tom and Jem Chapman (Deptford), Ching Ghook (black) v. Kit Marney (Deptford), who made a capital show, and J. Hill

'The Sporting Life': 24th September 1891

17 Nov

Harry Avis

Exh. 3

Waltham Abbey

GLOVE CONTESTS AT WALTHAM ABBEY.
THE METROPOLIS v. WALTHAM DISTRICT.
 One of those select companies which at stated intervals visit Mr. Harry Avis's hostelry at Waltham Abbey, and are comprised mostly of "Bulls and Bears," were present last Tuesday evening, when a choice bill of fare was submitted, and three eight rounds contests were served up, decidedly hot and warm, more especially minutes, when he gave in. The boss of the place, Harry Avis, was more than efficient as M.C., and as a finale wound up with that gentleman of colour ye!e!e! Ching Ghook.

'Sporting Life': 14th November 1891

23 Nov

Alf Suffolk

Exh. 3

National Sporting Club, Covent Garden

himself with. Previous to the contest Alf Suffolk and Ching Ghook sparred three capital rounds, creating loud laughter, and Messrs. Carver and Clark wrestled in various styles,

'The Sporting Life': 24th November 1891

11 Dec

George Sullivan

Exh. 3

Theatre Royal, Colchester

THE NOBLE ART AT COLCHESTER.

MR MACKENZIE'S SHOW.

On Friday night 'the old-fashioned Essex town of Colchester was all excitement. A gentleman well known and deservedly popular, not in the neighbourhood alone, Mr W. Mackenzie, a Pelican and a true sportsman, did a charitable deed, and we are pleased to say the residents turned out in goodly numbers to support him. On several occasions Mr Mackenzie has spent his money lavishly over exhibitions of the noble art, and on Friday he supplemented this by defraying the expenses of a boxing entertainment given in the Theatre Royal, Colchester, the proceeds of which he divided equally between the Essex and Colchester Hospital and the Eastern Counties' Asylum,

bustling spar between George Sullivan and the black, Ching Ghook, was very well received. Both men sparred in fine form, and the darkey has not recently shown so well. This over, two Bloomsbury men, Jack

'The Sportsman': 14th December 1891

BELSIZE BOXING CLUB.

(Eyre Arms Assembly Rooms, St. John's Wood, N.W.)

The tenth annual display takes place on Tuesday. Programme: —Horizontal bar by German Gymnastic Society, clubs by Mr. Fred Esden, B.B.C., lance and sword exercise by the Royal Horse Guards (Blue), feats of strength by Messrs. Geo S. Richmond, J. Szalay, L. Elliott, R. Spencer, Algey Spencer, and Pierre Stahl, quarterstaff and bayonet v. Bayonet by members of the Victoria Rifles. Boxing by Messrs. J. Steers (M.B.C.), J. Hoare (O.G.S.), E. Dettmer (S.B.C.), F. Curtis (S.B.C.), G. F. Belsey (Poly. B.C.), J. J. Rowe (R.V.A.A.C.), E. Doland, V. Barker (B.B.C.), W. J. King (B.B.C.), H. King (B.B.C.), T. Bishop (B.B.C.), E. Davey (B.B.C.), and Mr. F. Hollis (B.B.C.); Professors Bill (Chesterfield) Goode, Caddy Meddings, Alec Roberts, Jem Brock, Ching Ghook, and Billy McCarthy (middle-weight champion of Australia). Full military band. M.C.'s, Messrs. B. J. Angle and A. F. Betinson.

'The Sporting Life': 10th December 1891

15 Dec

E. Davey (Belsize BC) Exh. 3 Eyre Arms Assembly Room, St. John's Wood

Belsize BC 10th Annual Display

'The 10th annual display, on 15th December was considered "much above the average of such displays". Despite the pouring rain, or "unfavourable meteorological surroundings", in the prose of the day, the building was "packed to suffocation." Between events, the audience was regaled by a string band. Belsize novice E. Davey boxed the mysterious Ghing Ghook, a racist ring name for Hezekiah Moscow, who had a brief ring career, and disappeared from view leaving behind a wife and young baby. Though Caribbean-born Ghook had been the victim of racism, and apocryphal stories that he had Chinese ancestry, and used to be a lion tamer, he was a popular performer on this Belsize show and later became instructor to the Watford Boxing Club.'

'The Belsize Boxing Club' by Kevin Batchelor

ended their exertions they were deservedly cheered. Mr. E. Davey (Belsize B.C.) and Ching Ghook (professional) were the next pair of boxers, and throughout the clean hitting and clever tactics of the coloured individual were much admired and loudly applauded.

'The Sporting Life': 16th December 1891

1892

11 Jan

Bill Cheese

W pts 10

National Sporting Club, Covent Garden

GLOVE CONTEST IN LONDON.—At the National Sporting Club, London last evening, a couple of contests with the gloves were decided before a large company of members. Tom Woolley, of Walsall, and Reuben Baxter, of London, boxed for a valuable purse, both scaling 1st 5lb. This contest lasted five rounds, Baxter, after a wary battle, settling his man with a hot left-hander.—Bill Cheese and Ching Ghook, the black, boxed ten rounds, the latter winning after a good set-to.

'Edinburgh Evening News': 12th January 1892

THE NATIONAL SPORTING CLUB.
REUBEN BAXTER
 BEAT
TOM WOOLLEY,
 AND
CHING GHOOK
 OPPOSED
BILL CHEESE.

Of the four men who appeared last evening at the club in Covent Garden, two, at least, are advancing towards that goal which, with the help of self preservation (better known as the first law of nature) and a providential escape from the fatal effects of *La Grippe*, will carry them into the rank and file of the veteran class. We refer to Bill Cheese and Ching Ghook, the gentleman of colour and entertaining verbosity when in the humour for oratory. Ching's first appearance on the boards we well remember. He was contemporary with Alec Munroe (sometimes written Monro, but it was all the same to Alec for you paid your money and took your choice). As you are aware, dear reader, Munroe

—a gentleman of colour—has long since gone where the good niggers go. He was a light-hearted, merry fellow was Alec, but the poor little nig in a doss house within the purlieus of Spitalfields was mortally stabbed. There was a good deal of sympathy expressed in his behalf, and many were the stories told concerning Alec's drolleries, for truth to tell he was a remarkably diverting little body in the magic circle. Looking at his old companion in arms last evening, we pictured to ourselves Munroe's wonderful leap to the rear when his opponent led off, and called to mind the yells of delight with which both boxers and their supporters greeted the coon's agility. People who go boxing nowadays are so terribly in earnest (at least they appear to be) that it is comforting to recall the

they appear to be) that it is comforting to recall the eccentricities of men like Munroe, who could so cleverly vary the shady side of the noble art, and raise a laugh instead of a well rounded adjective. And yet he was not by any means a champion, but none the worse for that, seeing that he was all the more useful in his particular role. His sprite-like antics always convulsed the company with laughter, and, coupled with a knowledge of boxing well removed from mediocrity, he richly earned the reward of merit which, in his time, rarely reached beyond what scientists term "the nobbings." In London boxing circles Alec was sadly misused, more especially by Ching Ghook, to whom he was a man and a "brudder." As to Bill Cheese,

dispose of the man from Walsall. Then the decks were cleared for the Cheese and Ghook display. Ching, we may mention, was taught the rudiments of the art at the Blue Coat Boy by Lewis when Ghook worked as pot boy for Punch. He is a West Indian black, and, strange to say, lived and toiled in the district where his confrere, Alec Munroe, met his death. Last evening Ching was reported by no manner of means well, though "not off his feed." Cheese therefore was confident, and had the best of the first five rounds. In the next three there was little to choose, but the last bout ended in favour of Ching. Summed up, the general opinion was that Cheese had won, but it was ruled otherwise, and Ghook proclaimed the winner. Prefacing details with the announcement that Mr. B. J. Anglo was referee, and Mr. T. Anderson time-keeper, we get along with the actual facts.

'The Sporting Life': 12th January 1892

25 Jan

Theo Norton
 Jack Stevens

Exh. 3
 Exh. 3

Co-operative Hall, Ipswich
 Co-operative Hall, Ipswich

CO-OPERATIVE HALL.—A large company was present at the Carr Street Hall on Monday evening to witness a somewhat mixed entertainment, including boxing contests, military assaults-at-arms, and comic singing, being the first half of a two nights' performance of the kind. In the first part

showing great proficiency in these military exercises. Some very clever sparring was then witnessed between Ching Ghook, a coloured champion boxer hailing from Shoreditch, and Theo. Norton, of Ipswich, which was heartily applauded. The evening's amusements were wound up with exciting rounds between Ching Ghook and Jack Stevens, a Metropolitan pugilist, who has been the victor in many glove contests. Each of the men went to work in a spirited manner, it being best characterised as a regular "give and take" business. The utmost

'East Anglian Daily Times': 26th January 1892

15 Feb
Bermondsey

George Johnson

Exh. 3

Exchange Gymnasium, Salisbury Street, Jamaica Road,

30 Mar

The last time that Marian saw her husband, Hezekiah Moscow

Reverting to the name of Ching Ghook, there was a mystery surrounding his end. It so happened that he was engaged to give an exhibition at an East-End hall, and after doing so he bade his friends "Good-night." He was never seen again in or out of the ring.

The People'; 25th March 1934

13 Jul

CHING GHOOK WANTED.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "SPORTING LIFE."

SIR,—My husband, Hezekiah Moscow, better known as Ching Ghook, has been missing from home since March 30 last. I cannot trace him anywhere, nor can the police. I feel convinced that he must have met with harm, and I should indeed be thankful if some one could find him, as I cannot believe that he has deserted me and my infant. I thought if I explained my case some members of the sporting fraternity would kindly help me, as I am in great need of assistance, as I only earn seven shillings per week, and I have to support my baby out of that. I should be truly thankful if anyone would take an interest in my case for the sake of my little one; or if by some means my husband could be found, as he was a good husband and a kind father.—Yours, &c.,

MARIAN MOSCOW.

27, Gun-street, Spitalfields, July 11, 1892.

'Sporting Life': 13th July 1892

1894

22 Dec

We remember being at Bill Richardson's when Toff Wall and Ching Ghook were sparring. In this plebeian quarter of the world the "nuts" are so thick that a "shower" of coppers is only esteemed when it is heavy. A good old-fashioned penny-piece happened to hit the woolly head of the black Ching Ghook, who even then did not desire that the spectators should not throw coppers, but said he preferred being struck by half-a-crown rather than a penny.

'Boxing World and Mirror of Life': 22nd December 1894

1895

Hezekiah Moscow appears in the admission record for his daughter Eliza at George Yard School in Whitechapel London, at the time the family were living at 36 White Lion Street, St George, Whitechapel. (or Islington?)

Paul McNeil - timedetectives.blog



White Lion Street, Spitalfields. 1912. London Picture Archive

1896

8 May

*** WOULD Frank Craig send his address to Mrs. Moscow, 15, White Lion-street, Norton Folgate, London, as she is anxious to know any particulars respecting Ching Ghook.

'The Sporting Life': 8th May 1896

1897

23 Jun

— That many persons wondered where to and why the once famous coloured boxer Ching Ghook disappeared from London some ten years since.
— That Charley Smith, the ex-English feather-weight boxer, who has recently arrived in this country from America, informed us that he met Ching Ghook in New York stone broke, friendless, and almost starving.

J. SANFORD (Glamorgan).—Ching Ghook, a black boxer, who was at one time a feature in London boxing rooms, disappeared from England some years ago, and is now, so we are informed, acting as a kind of dock constable on one of the American piers.

'Boxing World and Mirror of Life': 23rd June 1897

1901

Life went on for Hezekiah's abandoned family, by 1901 Mary and Eliza were living in Whitechapel in a large tenement building split into numerous individual single room flats, containing a bed, table and chairs and fire place, with a shared tap and sink on a landing, and probably a privy (toilet) shared by all, outside in the yard, for urgent use there would've been a "Chamber Pot", under the bed, otherwise called a "Gazunder" ("Goes Under" the bed), .

Mary took up work Office Cleaning, what was called a "Char Lady" or simply a "Char" she would have probably had to go in either in the evening after the office workers had left for the day or in the early hours of the morning prior to their arrival in the morning, 9 year old Eliza would most likely had been left with neighbours or just on her own in the house depending on the shift that Eliza was working. Wages were low, barely survivable, this poverty may have been what drove Eliza's desperate attempt at the advert in the Adelaide Observer, although it is possible that Mary had used Eliza's name as a way of trying to prod Hezekiah's conscience about abandoning the family.

1904

Not to be put off, even after his wife had given up hope of finding him, his daughter Eliza persisted. And in 1904 the following advert for Missing Persons was printed in the Adelaide Observer:

Moscow (Hezekiah), coloured pugilist, known as Ching Ghook, 13 years ago, is sought by his daughter Eliza.

Quite a sad and forlorn attempt to find her father. Why her plea should have been aimed at Australia is not clear, and I can find no reference to Hezekiah being in Australia.

1908

Mary was admitted to Stepney Workhouse Infirmary with a septic wrist, she was a Tailor's Presser, putting the creases into trousers and other clothes, either with an Iron or a steam pressing machine, an occupation that could easily lead to burns, which in the less than cleanly environment of Victorian London could easily turn septic. She was in the infirmary for just over a week at the end of December 1908 to the end of the first week in January 1909.

Paul McNeil - timedetectors.blog

1910

**DICK BURGE RECALLS A
MEMORABLE FIGHT
WITH BOBBY FOSTER AT NEWCASTLE,
AND RELATES STORIES OF FAMOUS
FIGHTERS HE HAS MET.**

There I boxed Ching Hook, the black man. He was a fine fighter, but I was too much for him. I shall never forget how he took his pummelling until he could stand it no longer, and then he stopped and cried in the ring like a child. Defeat at the hands of a youngster was a sad blow for him. I was sorry for the poor fellow, and I often wish I knew what became of him. He went off to America after his defeat, and we have never heard a word of him to this day.

'Thomson's Weekly News': 11th June 1910

1911

As Eliza grew older and was able to work, the lot of her and her mother slightly improved, and in 1911 Eliza was working with her mother as a Char Lady Office Cleaning. They managed to find lodgings in a five roomed house in Spitalfields, courtesy of a young Jewish Cockney School Teacher named Solomon Aarons and his wife and child. Mary and Eliza must have seemed respectable despite their background in poverty, and it's possible that they may have helped with the housework as part payment for their lodgings. It is also possible that having the surname "Moscow" may have lead Solomon to believe that they were Jewish, or at least Hezekiah had been, "Moscow" being a commonly adopted name by East European Jews coming from Russia.

In 1918 Mary and Eliza must have been making a respectable living for themselves as we find Mary Registered to vote, and a time when most women were unable to. This was not for the Parliamentary Elections, but was for Local Government Elections, her qualification seems to have been "Occupation" i.e. she occupied a premises that made her eligible to vote, even as a lodger in a house of a high enough rateable value, she could qualify if she paid enough rent.

1921

Mary and Eliza were separated, Mary being a patient in the Infirmary of the Hackney Workhouse and Eliza living in a three room flat in Stoke Newington in the East End. It seems likely to me that the two had been living together until Mary fell ill and needed to go to the Infirmary, so I don't believe she was an "inmate" as such, and is described as a "Patient", as well as this, Eliza is described as "Daughter" on the census which is crossed through and replaced with "Head" as well as the address being listed as being inhabited by a "Mrs" Moscow, all seeming to point to their separation being a temporary one. Mary was still a Char working for an Oil Broker's firm in the City of London (the central business and finance district) and Eliza was a Housekeeper (one level above a cleaner) for a Colliery Proprietor also in the City of London.

1938

In 1938, at the mature age of 47, Eliza married a 59 year old Postman named Henry Frederick Thompson from Bethnal Green. Henry was a War Veteran who had served in the Seaforth Highlanders in the Boer War, and The London

Regiment in the First World War, when he was wounded in action. Taking his pension Henry and Eliza moved to Dartford in Kent, a semi-rural part of Kent at the time.

1939

It also seems that they took Eliza's Mum Mary with them, as she died in Dartford in 1939.

1949

Ten years later in 1949 Henry died.

1968

Eliza carried on living in Kent, eventually dying there in 1968. Eliza had been born at the height of the Victorian age, to a Celebrity West Indian Boxer and Lion Tamer, had looked after her mother after her father abandoned them, lived through the Boer war, and two World Wars, seeing first Zeppelins bombing London, then V1 Rockets raining down on Kent during the Blitz. When she was born travel was by Horse and Steam power, by the time she died there were men travelling to space. As far as we know, she never discovered what happened to her father Hezekiah Moscow

Who was Hezekiah Moscow?

My theory is that Hezekiah Moscow was, most likely, "Ezekiah Mascoe". I believe his surname was Mascoe, but sounded like Moscow to the Cockney ear when said with a Jamaican accent. I've come to this conclusion through purely circumstantial evidence, there is no direct evidence whatsoever as to who he was, so we are left with speculation.

The circumstantial evidence is that there is a concentration of an Afro-Caribbean Family from St Andrew's, Stoney Hill, Kingston, Jamaica, and although the evidence for this is circumstantial, I believe that this was Hezekiah's family of origin. The surname Mascoe, and the Christian name "Ezekiah" (Hezekiah) was prominent within that family at exactly the time that Hezekiah was born and on through the time when he was most famous. Interestingly it seems that there were not always birth records for all births, perhaps because of illegitimacy, for children born in the 1860s, some only turning up in the records when they married, and my theory is that Hezekiah was one of these. A number of men in the family joined the British Army and traveled abroad, and some eventually came to England in later years.

Where did Hezekiah End Up?

Interestingly a few of the men from the Mascoe family went to work in America, and one at least worked in the Docks around New York around the time that Hezekiah was rumoured to have been there working as a Dockside Policeman. For my money that is where he came from, and perhaps he did die, as per the later rumours, penniless and destitute in New York.

Paul McNeil - timedetectors.blog

2025

21 Feb

A TV drama, 'A Thousand Blows', set in the 1880s East End, and loosely based on the boxing life of Hezekiah Moscow, using research by Sarah Elizabeth Cox is streamed by Disney+

'Created by Steven Knight, and starring Malachi Kirby, Stephen Graham and Erin Doherty, the drama is set in the 1880s East End and very loosely inspired by the real characters of Hezekiah Moscow (Kirby), Alec Munroe (Francis Lovehall) and Sugar Goodson (Graham). Alongside the male boxing cast are a crew of badass lady pickpockets and swindlers based on the real 19th and 20th century gang, the Forty Thieves or Forty Elephants, led by Mary Carr (Doherty).

I am the boxing historian, or historical consultant on the show. I am also the first person (that I know of!) to have researched and publicly written on Moscow and Munroe, and the rights to this research were bought by the production company, used by the writers, and read by some of the actors. I provided detailed feedback on many iterations of every episode's scripts, trying to ensure historical accuracy within reason.

It is, however, a drama, not a documentary. The storylines and many biographical details for the men portrayed have been dreamt up by the brilliant A Thousand Blows creative team. The inspiration comes from real lives. Sugar Goodson, Treacle Goodson, Munroe, Moscow, Punch Lewis, Mary Carr, were real people.'

Sarah Elizabeth Cox

Boxing record: Total 113: W17 - L23 - D1 - Exh.72