AMAZING ADVENTURES.

Drawn by, Harry B. Neilson.
and written by, S. Baring Gould.

London: Frederick Warne & Co. & New York
The Aims of the Sabine Baring-Gould Appreciation Society

The aims of the Society are to enable those interested in the man and his work to share their enthusiasm and spread the interest among others. These aims are to be achieved by means of Newsletters, a membership list, website, Annual Gathering at venues with some association with Sabine Baring-Gould, and publication of the Transactions.

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Front and rear covers

This is the cover from the book Amazing Adventures, written by Sabine with colourful illustrations by Harry B. Neilson and published by Frederick Warne & Co in 1903. This was a departure from Sabine’s usual style. By today’s standards it is politically incorrect with the stereotyped African Sambo and Chinaman San Toy as the opening chapter reproduced on pp14-15, and the concluding remarks on p. 15, show

Plea for more articles

The last two issues of the Newsletter have been down to only 16 pages (as opposed to the usual 20pp). As editor, I am largely dependant on contributions from members, and luckily I can usually rely (often at short notice) on articles and snippets from a small core of contributors. However, it would be nice to include material (long or short) from members outside this regular group. Please pick up a pen and start writing.

Deadline for Newsletter 70: 15 Oct 2012
Have you ever heard that wonderful hymn blared forth by massed bands? Have you ever listened to your regimental band play it on their way to or from Sunday church-service? Have you ever felt the thrill—the cold chill, creep up your back until it came with a rush to the very roots of your hair, when you heard it as you marched on parade in the old home town? Is there anything more inspiring than its marching rhythm—its words and simplicity of meaning? Has it not been the old reliable of band-leaders for years to bring applause from an unresponsive audience? Does it not appeal to you as the battle-hymn of the hour—the very thing we need—that extra something not exprest by bayonets or bursting shells, but the human dynamic force back of them inspired to an. Overwhelming victorious strength?

"We will not have time to sing it in the trenches nor going over the top, but we can sing it and have our bands play it as they march through the streets of America, England, France, Italy, and Russia on our way to the front. It will proclaim to nations everywhere that America has a divine objective.

"Let us then sing it everywhere, on the march, in the divine service—in our hearts. Let it grow and kindle within us. Let us thoroughly understand our objective in that song, so that no matter what the experience or sacrifice may be we will stick to our task with that tenacity which has ever marked American victory. Therefore, let the bands sound off—The Battle-Hymn of America:

Onward, Christian Soldiers!
Marching as to war,
With the Cross of Jesus
Going on before;
Christ, the Royal Master,
Leads against the foe;
Forward into battle,
See his banners go.

Commenting on the suggestion, the Camp Hancock edition of *Trench and Camp* published at Augusta, Ga., says: "His suggestion is an excellent one. No hymn is more universally sung. No hymn rings with the martial spirit as does 'Onward, Christian Soldiers!' There is a dignity, a sweep of majesty in the setting that enraptures and enobles any soul the least bit responsive to emotion. We have heard it sung by 20,000 people and the effect was tremendous. It has been sung in our hearing by small gatherings, and never does it fail to impart virility and a challenge to the holiest impulses. We heartily indorse the suggestion."
With Magic in My Eyes

West Country Literary Landscapes

A new book by Anthony Gibson

Returning from his very first journey to Cornwall in 1870, Thomas Hardy wrote:

When I came back from Lyonesse
With magic in my eyes...

Now in 2011, in a marvellous new book, fellow SBGAS member Anthony Gibson has returned from a journey, not around the legendary Arthurian land of Lyonesse, but around the whole South West Peninsula. From this journey, Anthony also came back with magic in his eyes, having literally walked in the footsteps of no less than thirty-two literary figures associated in one way or another with South West landscapes.

The magic reveals itself in the way in which Anthony interweaves an account of his journey with his very personal perceptions of the lives of his subjects together with comments on many of the works and landscapes with which they are associated.

Along the way, we are treated to subtle insights into the lives of such well-known figures as Blackmore, Christie, Hardy, Lawrence, Williamson and Woolf. We are also introduced to less well known, but equally fascinating, figures like Jack Clemo and Charles Sissons. I particularly enjoyed Anthony’s fresh approach to some of my own favourites, including Baring-Gould, Coleridge, Hawker and Hughes.

Sabine Baring-Gould is well represented, not only at Lewtrenchard, but also at various locations in Red Spider, John Herring, Urith, Winefred and the Dartmoor Idylls. He is also mentioned elsewhere in the narra-
tive, when his work is considered alongside that of other authors who used the same locations. Thus Anthony takes us for a stroll along the Undercliff of Winefred with John Fowles and The French Lieutenant’s Woman. Sometimes, his characters are shared with other authors - Cruel Coppinger of The Roar of the Sea with Hawker; the Rev John Froude of Devon Characters and Strange Events with Blackmore in The Maid of Sker.

It is a long time since I have enjoyed a book so much. Most of the time, I read with a smile on my face as, in my mind, I walked with Anthony on his epic journey. At others, I was a trifle wistful as I realised that old age now makes it impossible for me get out there and walk the many walks that are not only described in the book, but can be found in more detail on the accompanying website: www.withmagic.moonfruit.com

This important book is in hardback and has numerous illustrations and maps, together with a forward by Michael Morpurgo. ISBN: 978-0-9568511-0-9. The book normally sells for £20, but is generously offered to SBGAS members at the reduced price of £17, including p&p. Contact Stephen Chalke at Fairfields Books, 17 George’s Road, Bath BA1 6EY. Tel. 01225-335813.

Ron Wawman

Shock, horror!

Colin White recently watched the BBC2 transmission of "Heritage Heroes" from 6.30pm. Our guides - John Craven and Jules Hudson—were motoring in Devon and talking about Hatherleigh. One of them, I cannot recall who, said that "the man who wrote "Onward Christian Soldiers" once lived there!"
Martin Graebe found the following article in from Thomas Wright’s, *Hind Head; or, the English Switzerland, and its literary and historical associations*, London: Simpkin, Marshall, Hamilton, Knt, & Co. Ltd., 1898

**Broom-Squire**

Having rounded the Punch Bowl we were presently in the very, midst of the locale of Mr. Baring-Gould’s striking novel The Broom Squire into which is worked the story of Hind Head's unfortunate sailor.

Mr. Baring-Gould tells me that the idea of a story concerning the Punch Bowl originated with Mr. Stedman, of the firm of Methuen & Co., and that the neighbourhood was worked up during a visit, to Thursley Vicarage. The Rev. F. H. Gouch and Mrs. Gouch, who know intimately the ways of the people, gave valuable assistance. "Before I went there," adds Mr. Baring-Gould. "I had no idea of a plot. The Punch Howl, the murder, and Thursley marsh suggested it."

The Broom Squire opens with a description of the "Ship" (the "Red Lion") tavern in Thursley on the Portsmouth road, which the traveller would come upon a little before the ascent over Hind Head.

The tavern sign, rudely painted, bore, besides a presentment of the vessel, the inscription on one side of the board:

Now before the hill you climb,
Come and drink good ale and wine"

On the other side of the board the legend run thus:

"Now the hill you're safely over,
Drink, your spirit* to recover."

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The New Penguin Book of English Folk Songs

By Steve Roud and Julia Bishop

The Penguin Book of Folk Songs, edited by Ralph Vaughan Williams and A. L. Lloyd, was published in 1959 and rapidly became the most valued source of traditional English songs. This completely new selection by Steve Roud and Julia Bishop is sure to become equally valued in the 21st Century. Its 542 pages contain 150 Songs with extensive notes to the songs, a general introduction by Steve Roud and an introduction to the music by Julia Bishop.

Vaughan Williams and Lloyd selected their songs primarily from the Journal of the Folk Song Society and its successors. This collection includes versions of songs from other collections, many of them not available in the 1950s or collected in the second half of the Twentieth Century. The songs include 11 taken from Sabine Baring-Gould’s manuscripts.

Martin and Shan Graebe will be supporting Steve Roud and Julia Bishop at events taking place during folk and literature festivals, singing songs taken from the book.

The ill-fated sailor is supposed to enter this tavern a little before sunset one September evening, carrying a baby, which, by the by, never had existence until Mr. Baring-Gould popped it into the sailor's arms. In the inn are four men, and a boy named Iver, the son of the inn-keeper. The baby turns out to be the sailor's motherless daughter, whom he is carrying to Portsmouth to be cared for by an aunt.

Whilst drinking, he rather ostentatiously displays a good deal of money which attracts the attention of three of the men, who volunteer to accompany him on his journey.

The fourth, who sat by the fire, is Jonas Kink, alias Bide-about, a broom-squire—the personage who gives the name to the story. He is described as "a young man with heavy brows and a large mouth devoid of lips, set tight as a snapped man-trap. He had keen, restless, watchful eyes. His hair was sandy, thrust forward over his brow, and hanging low behind."

On hearing the proposal of the three rogues the Broom-squire made the remark, "If I were going over Hind Head and by the Punch Bowl at night with as much money in my pocket as that seaman there—I'd choose my companions better."

This led to a disturbance, which, however, was by and by-quieted. It then turned out that the babe had no name, not having been christened. Mr. Baring-Gould here turns to account his remarkable knowledge of folk-lore, and the hostess says: "Do you know what happens if a child dies and hasn't been christened? It becomes a wanderer."

"What do you mean?"

"It ain't a Christian, so it can't go to heaven. It ain't done no evil, so it can't go to hell; and so the poor spirit wanders about in the wind, and never has no rest. You can hear them piping in the trees and sobbing at the winder. I've heard 'em scores of times. How will you like that when at sea to have your own child sighing and sobbin' up in the rigging of the vessel, eh?"

The sailor, however, did not seem to be much affected by this speech, and having settled the score he took back his baby from the woman, and, with the "three cut-throat rascals," turned out to mount the hill.

Half an hour after, the Broom-squire and the boy Iver also ascend the hill in order to reach the Broom-squire's house, which was situated in the Punch Bowl. As they proceed on their way they stumble against something, and it turns out to be the dead body of the sailor, who had been robbed and stripped [see p. 13]. A little further off was found the baby, which, however, was uninjured.

The remainder of Mr. Baring-Gould's intensely interesting, though lugubrious story, is taken up with the adventures of the sailor's daughter, who, by the by, lest it should become a wanderer was christened by the boy Iver, with the extraordinary name of Mehetabel.

The Broom Squire contains some inaccuracies. For example there is an allusion to the Vicar of Milford, though at the date of the murder there was no vicar and not even a church at Milford. Its chief blemish, however, is that it gives a delusive impression of the Punch Howl. From it, a person who had never visited Hind Head might imagine a gloomy, depressing spot, sunless as Tartarus, and where there is nothing but avalanche, and weeping and gnashing of teeth. This is the more remarkable because Mr. Baring-Gould is the merriest of men. He is the life of any company; even Dean Hole does not possess a richer fund of drollery.

No praise, however, is too high for those portions of the story that deal with Thursley and Pudmere. What Mr. Le Gallienne's "Quest" is to Waggoner's Wells, Mr. Baring-Gould's Broom Squire is to that fascinating habitat of queer animals and rare plants—Thursley Marshes.
SBG REFERENCES compiled by David Shacklock

The Golden Staircase (previously notified publication by Jack, illustrations by Spooner) – published by Nelson, illustrated by CE & HM Brock (both versions contain An Evening Hymn (Now The Day is Over) and The Olive Tree.


Sacred Songs & Solos + New Hymns & Solos compiled by Ira D Sankey – Morgan & Scott – 594 Now The Day is Over (5 vs) – tune J Barnby; 600 The Resurrection Morn (5 vs) – tune Ira D Sankey; 611 Onward Christian Soldiers (5 vs) – tune St Gertrude/Sullivan

Choral Anthems compiled by John Burnham Nicholson 1892 – 40 Onward (3.5pp version of Onward Christian Soldiers)


Andrew Barr – Songs of Praise – Lion 2004 – p. 83 TTN (3vs)

The Hymnal Companion to the Book of Common Prayer – Longmans
Crossing, SB-G and Dartmoor Archaeology

Elizabeth Goldsworthy refers to the recent article (Crossing—The Western Gate of Dartmoor) in Newsletter 68 and adds that in Crossing’s Guide to Dartmoor, Crossing talks also of the contribution of Robert Burnard and the Rev. Irvine K. Anderson.

After describing Hexworthy he writes "Across the river is Huccaby House, the residence of Mr Robert Burnard, FSA, whose researches on Dartmoor have thrown much light on the subject of its pre-historic antiquities, as well as upon its ancient mining. Mr Burnard may be regarded as the pioneer of spade work among the rude stone remains, and both singly and in conjunction with the Rev. S Baring-Gould, and the Rev Irvine K Anderson of Mary Tavy has done good service in this direction."

When one looks at photographs of the various working parties they seem to have been organized by Robert Burnard. From his photographs it is clear that RB knew the moor and each week end he walked from the station at Princetown to Huccaby and back again. I believe some of RB’s annotated maps of Dartmoor have just turned up.

As a child, Huccaby visits were always a joy.

Welcome to the following new member

Mr Richard Burleigh, Oakside, Lower Sea Lane, Charmouth, Dorset, DT6 6NS Tel. 01297 560489

Frontispiece from 8th edition of the Broom-Squire showing Jonas Kirk (alias the Broom-Squire) and Iver finding the body of the dead sailor (see p.7)
Amazing Adventures

Shipwrecked Sailors.

There were Jack and Sambo and little San Toy,
A mate, a cook, and a cabin boy,
Red or black they were, or yellow,
In colour unlike, yet each a good fellow,
Although so varied in form and hue,
In everything else, good men and true.

HEY sailed from England, bound for Borneo, and a favourable wind carried them on. For the first ten days Jack was engaged in kicking, cuffing and licking the crew into shape. The cook was busy in the galley over dainty dishes, but as the passengers were all too sea-sick to eat, these became the perquisite of the sailors. Little San Toy was kept running about attending to the sea-sick passengers. But when off the Coast of Africa a grievous storm arose, the waves ran mountains high, and—

Alack in the ship was stowe a hole
And to Davey's locker sank every soul,
Save Jack and Sambo and little San Toy,
The mate and the cook and the cabin boy.

They managed to secure a boat, and escaped to shore with nothing save a rifle, some powder and shot, and a red umbrella. The captain, a heroic man, would not desert his vessel, but sank along with the passengers and the rest of the crew. Jack and Sambo and San Toy not being heroic, did not see it—and escaped. On reaching land they divested themselves of their garments, and first dried their skins and then their clothes. The sun shone out in a cloudless sky, both of which had been wanted during the gale, but had not turned up till it was over. A lively discussion ensued as to what was to be done; what course to be pursued. Jack advised that they should follow his nose, San Toy that they should direct their way in

- that indicated by his pig-tail; whereas, Sambo being in his native country, thought it well that they should lie on their backs, go nowhere, but bask in the sun. They were without occupation, the mate had no crew to discipline, Sambo no food to cook, and San Toy no passengers to minister to. As they sat in discussion, a monster approached and cut all discussion short. Jack not having Goldsmith's "Natural History" by him was unable to give it a name. Sambo knew it, and called it a 'Mtungabagaboo -mgenga, which conveyed no idea to the minds of his companions, but San Toy having no mind, to speak of, did not trouble himself as to what the beast was, but jumped up and ran, and his companions did the same. They would escape from it first, and learn what it was and what were its habits, and to what species it belonged, at their leisure, later.

The concluding chapter entitled All's Well that Ends Well ends with Jack saying patronisingly 'Gentlemen—you have on the whole behaved well, and I overlook your defects and accept you as brothers. We serve under the same glorious flag'. Here he waved over his head the Union Jack he had fashioned out of part of Sambo's clothing; 'we maintain the dignity of the British Crown. We have stretched the boundaries of the Empire to embrace new lands. You black man, and you yellow man, working with me as your headpiece.'

Never Completely Submerged

Ron Wawman reports that new material is now available to peruse or download from my website www.nevercompletelysubmerged.co.uk:

1. The Memoirs of Sabine's daughter, Joan Priestley
2. The recollections by Joan's daughter, Joyce Rawstone, of her grandparents, Sabine and Grace, and of her childhood
3. A Comprehensive catalogue of 198 letters to Sabine from various publishers.
4. A catalogue of the contents of Sabine's Common Place Book (Scrapbook) 1887-1919.
Annual Gathering (Oct 12 – 14, 2012)

Draft Programme

This programme is a draft. The latest version is available on the SBGAS website and will be sent by e-mail to members nearer the time.

Friday October 12th At Jethros (formerly Ardoch Lodge)
18:00 Committee Meeting Chair: Martin Graebe
19:30 Evening meal

Saturday October 13th Lewtrenchard Manor Hotel (Lew House)
09:45 Chairman’s Welcome Martin Graebe
10:00 B-G’s garden and nearby estate. Talk by Ron Wawman followed by a short walk (with local historian Albert Spry) in the garden and
nearby.
Ron Wawman and Albert Spry
11:15 Coffee and Biscuits
11:30 [tba] see the website www.sbgas.org
12:15 Some Baring-Gould Mysteries Becky Smith
13:00 Buffet lunch
14:15 SB-G’s last, unpublished, work – The Growth of Religious Convictions
Ron Wawman
15:00 [tba] – see the website www.sbgas.org
15:45 Afternoon Tea
16:15 A short history of Widdicombe Fair [the song] Martin & Shan
Graebe
16:30 Book Sale
19:00 for 19:30 Evening meal at the Castle Inn
Lydford After the meal there will be a quiz devised by Martin and
Shan to test members knowledge of SB-G. Teams to be formed on
the evening. There will be [modest] prizes for the winning team

Sunday October 14th Lewtrenchard Manor Hotel (Lew House)
10:00 Baring-Gould and European Romanticism Bob Mann
11.00 Coffee and biscuits
11.30 Lew House – the final phase. In 1912, with the completion of the
balcony, SB-G finally finished the rebuilding of the house. Ron Wawman talks about this last phase of the building.
12:15 AGM Chair: Martin Graebe
13:00 Close of meeting, Lunch and Departure

BARING-GOULD TITLES CURRENTLY AVAILABLE

This list is constantly expanding, and older titles are gradually being left out, to save space. Almost certainly there are omissions. Bossiney Books and Llanerch are regularly producing books by or including SB-G. By far one of the biggest publishers of SB-G material is Kessinger Publishing (www.kessingerpub.com) - over 62 titles are currently available, although some of the 'titles' are in fact chapters from some of SB-G’s books. If anyone knows of additional titles, please let the Editor know.


“Five Devon Seafarers”, Taken from SB-G's Devonshire Characters. Bossiney
Books. 2000. £2.99,

“Six Devon Rogues” Taken from Devonshire Characters and Strange Events. Bossi-

“A Book of Folklore” Paperback. Praxis Books 1993. £5.00


“Red Spider” Paperback. Praxis Books 1993 £5.00


“Court Royal” Paperback. Praxis Books. April 2005. £10.00


Margery of Quetber with Other Strange and Curious Tales. Paperback, Praxis

“Iceland its Scenes and Sagas”. Signal Books. £12.99

“Queen of Love” Gloucester: Nonsuch Publishing. £6.


Charnwood Publications, 2002. £12.95 (£2.00 P&P) Available from the author at 13
Grove Road, Horbury, Wakefield, West Yorkshire, WF4 6AG

“The West Country as Literary Invention” Simon Trezise. University of Exeter

“Never Completely Submerged. The Diary of Sabine Baring-Gould.” Transcribed
by Ron Wawman. Grosvenor House Publishing. 2009. £9.99 (see website)

A 71-page Bibliography is available from the Hon. Editor.