

Kings Bromley Historians 2015

The Life and Times of Agnes, the Little Queen of Kings Bromley



On the 25th April 1922, Lilian Bromley Davenport, grand-daughter of Agnes Lane, wrote "times are changed since the days when my dear grandmother ruled like a little Queen at Kings Bromley and expected everyone to bow to her will in all things." Agnes 'ruled' at Kings Bromley from 1828 until 1885. This is her story and that of the village in which she lived.

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The picture on the cover is of Agnes Bagot as a young teenager from a drawing that Lady Bagot kindly allowed Kings Bromley Historians to copy. The idea of writing this 'life' sprang from my receiving, from Rosemary Lane, the photographs of Agnes and her family, many of which are reproduced here in Chapters 3, 4 & 5. Towards the end of her life, Agnes had lived at Leigh Rectory with her son Ernald Lane, Rosemary's grandfather; she presumably left the photos to him. The writing on the photos is in the handwriting of Gerald Lane who must have labelled them with the help of his father, Ernald. This was extremely fortunate, as otherwise we would have had little idea of who was who. I decided that the story of Agnes and her family could provide a narrative around which a social history of Kings Bromley village could be weaved. It is a fact that the lives of ordinary people are mostly unrecorded and even when they are, they can be uneventful and not very interesting to read about. The social historian has the problem of how to bring to life the dry statistical information contained in censuses, parish records, registers of electors etc. The 'life and times' device is one way of doing this. *Allan Howard*.

This work is dedicated to Rosemary Lane, MBE FCSP DipTP, pioneer physiotherapist and great granddaughter of Agnes Lane - who was considered by her father, Gerald, to be a 'pure Bagot'.