

THE SAINT KITTS CONNECTION

Miss Kathleen Lightowler of Powys contributes this item:

'My sister and I went on a Geest Banana Boat to the Windward Islands in May/June this year - (1988) - and our first port of call on Friday, 3rd June was at St. Kitts (actually a Leeward Island). We were in the centre of Basseterre (the capital) in a shop, when we heard a steel band playing "Onward Christian Soldiers". We immediately came out into the square and saw the steel band on a lorry, followed by a huge procession of pre-school children, accompanied by their teachers and helpers, marching behind the lorry, singing. They were dressed up with flowers, bows etc. and some carried banners. We were told it was an annual gathering of all the pre-school groups on the island, and they were going to a park for the rest of the day.

It was a most moving sight, and tears rolled down my face!

The whole incident stays so vividly in my memory that I thought you might be interested. The hymn sounded quite wonderful played by the steel band'.

and from an earlier letter:

'My late mother, Helen Lightowler (nee Audsley), inherited a pair of framed round daguerrotypes (about 7" across), one of her maternal grandmother and the other of Sabine Baring-Gould. They were both of very handsome people, and my sister and I still treasure, and admire the one of our great-grandmother.

We never knew her, but as children we used to visit our great-aunts in Horbury (Misses Polly and Kate Nettleton) and Miss Alice Brooke, and of course we heard of Sabine Baring-Gould. My mother's mother died before we were born.

My late mother felt that as she had never known SBG and he was no relation (but had obviously been a friend of the Nettletons), she would give the daguerrotype to some group who would value it. As far as I can remember, it would be between 1967 and 1972 that she sent it, either to the Parish Church in Horbury or to the House of Mercy - alas, I do not remember which. I was not living in Yorkshire at that time'.

(Ed: can anyone shed light on the whereabouts of this, or any similar item?)