

Walk in the Footsteps of Horatia Nelson in Pinner

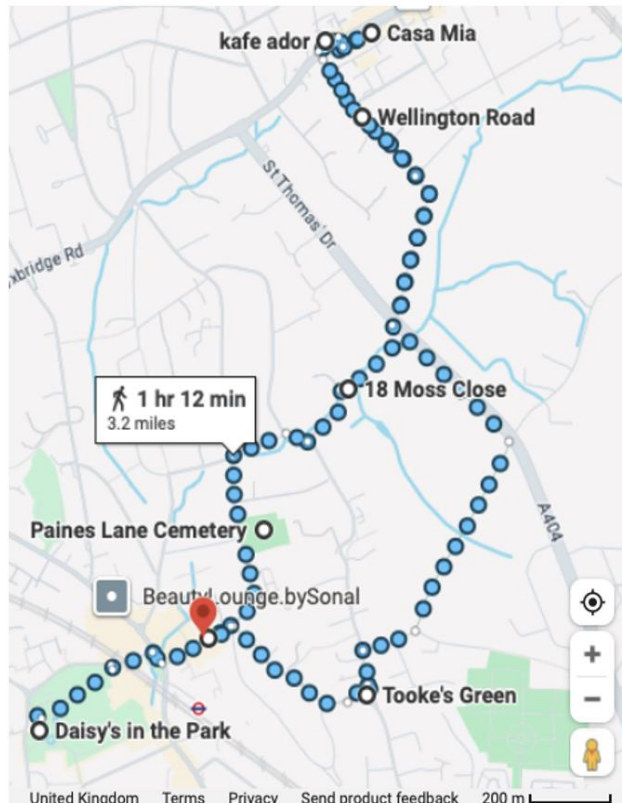


Distance: Approx 3.2 miles / 5km
Elevation: Mostly flat
Time: 1 hr 15 mins at a leisurely pace

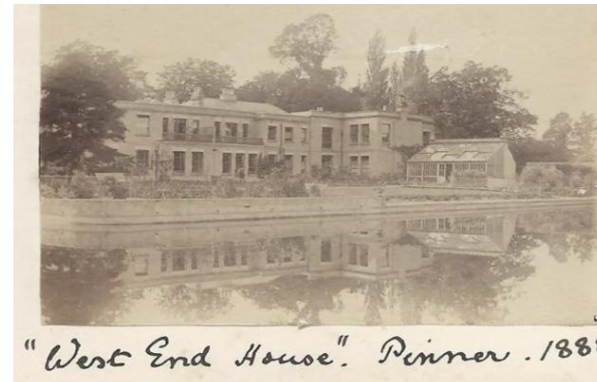
The walk begins at Daisy 's in the Park in Pinner Memorial Park.

Meet at the café, 'Daisy's in the Park' in Pinner Memorial Park. Daisy's Café is within West House.

The walk follows in the footsteps of Horatia Nelson, the illegitimate daughter of Lord Nelson and Emma Hamilton. Horatia was born in 1801 and baptised on May 13th. Horatia's illegitimacy was unacceptable to Georgian Society, so she was baptised with a false surname, Horatia Nelson Thompson and false birthdate 1800.



Nelson's happy place was with Emma and Horatia in their home at Merton. After Nelson's death Emma was shunned by Society and she died in poverty in France with Horatia by her side. Horatia returned to England and lived with relatives until she married Reverend Philip Ward in 1822. Philip was appointed Vicar of Tenterden and they had ten children before he died in 1859. They had been married for thirty-seven years.



"West End House". Pinner. 1888.

In March 1859, Horatia's son Nelson Ward, by then a Lawyer in London rented West House in Pinner. When Horatia's husband died, Horatia and her unmarried daughter Ellen moved to Pinner to be close to her son. They lived in Westend Lodge (now demolished, on the site now occupied by West Lodge.

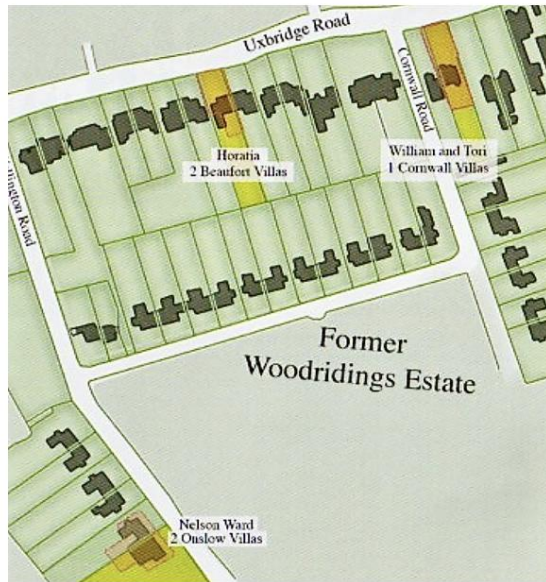
Now walk from West House to Elmdean in Church Lane.



Walk through Pinner Memorial Park onto Bridge Street. Cross over at the crossing by Bridge Street Gardens and walk up the High Street. The current High Street has change little since the days of Horatia. We will return to the High Street later where important events in Horatia's life occurred. At the top of the High Street turn right into Church Lane, passing St John the Baptist Church on your left. Walk down Church until you arrive at Tooke's Green, with its Victorian granite fountain. Elmdean, Horatia's house is on your right.

Horatia moved into New House (now Elmdean) when her son Nelson secured its tenancy in 1862. in Church Lane where she lived with her son Nelson and Daughter Elleanor and two of her grandchildren. New House was the last building as you left Pinner and had considerable grounds. Nelson, a passionate cricketer, established a new pitch for Pinner Cricket Club in its grounds. Nelson married in 1864 and moved to the newly built Onslow Villas on the Woodridings Estate in Pinner, now Hatch End. In 1864, Horatia's youngest son Philip returned from serving with the British Army in India suffering from chronic liver disease. Philip died in 1865 in New House and is buried in Pains Lane cemetery, in Pinner.

Following his death Horatia had no stomach for remaining in New House and followed Nelson to the Woodridings Estate moving into Beaufort Villas on the Uxbridge Road.



Now walk from Elmdean to Wellington Road on the Woodridings Estate.

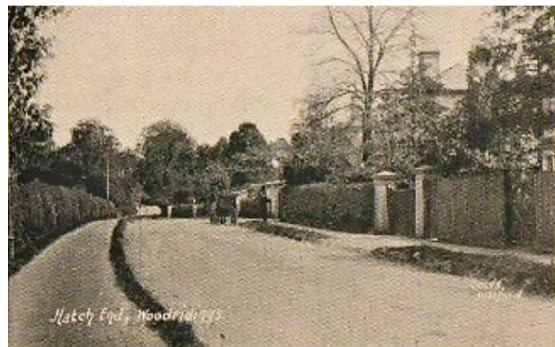
Turn left from Tooke's Green onto Moss Lane. Take first right onto Wakehams Hill, then, after 400mtrs turn left onto a Public Bridleway. Here you get a good view over Pinner Farm and Harrow which has not changed much since Horatia's time. When you get to George V Ave/A404 turn left. After 400mtrs turn right over a style onto a Public Bridleway. Exit the bridleway and walk between houses onto Wellington Road.

Most of the original villas on the Woodridings Estate were replaced by modern housing during the 1930's. No. 42 Wellington Road is one of the few original villas remaining.

The 1871 census shows Horatia at 70, living with her daughter Elenor aged 40, her 8-year-old grandson Philip and Walter Honeyset, her manservant, who had travelled with her from Tenterden. In Onslow Villas, Philip was living with his wife Jessie and their 6 children. In 1872, William, Horatia's middle son, his wife

Tori and their 5 children returned from India and moved into 1 Cornwall Villas on the Woodridings Estate, further up the Uxbridge Road. In 1872, the Woodridings Estate was home to 18 of Nelson's relatives!

Horatia died at her home in 1881, aged 80. She is buried in Paines Lane Cemetery with her daughter Elenor and son Philip. The photo shows the Woodridings Villas on the Uxbridge Road



Lane Cemetery with her daughter Elenor and son Philip. The photo shows the Woodridings Villas on the Uxbridge Road

This is roughly the half way point of the walk and maybe the time for a drink. There are several cafés on the Uxbridge Road including 'kafe ador' at the junction of Uxbridge Road and Wellington Road.

Now we return from Woodridings to Paines Lane Cemetery

Retrace your steps into Wellington Road and along the Public Bridleway to George V Ave/A404. Now cross over the main road and take the public footpath which follows the River Pinn. This path would have been used by Horatia and her family when shopping in the village or attending church. The path takes you to Moss Close. Turn right when you reach Moss Lane, after 50mtrs. Turn left into the footpath between no. 62 and 64 Moss Lane. Turn left onto Paines Lane to reach the cemetery after 100mtrs. Horatia's grave is located 20mtrs into the cemetery on the right. The cemetery opening hours are from 9am to 4-30pm so leave enough time to visit the grave.



Horatia was buried at Paines Lane Cemetery on 11 March 1881 in the plot purchased for the burial of her son Philip and daughter Eleanor. The inscription reads 'Here rests Horatia Nelson Ward, who died March 6. 1881, aged 80, the beloved daughter of Vice Admiral Lord Nelson and widow of the above-named Revd. Philip Ward'.

The inscription originally read 'Horatia, the **adopted** daughter of Vice Admiral Lord Nelson'. The inscription was altered sometime after her death.

Now we return from Paines Lane Cemetery to the High Street.

Turn left on leaving the cemetery and head to the High Street. End the walk at Daisy & Co (33-35 High Street) where Elenor is said to have died.

On the 6th of August 1872, Elenor, by then 48 years old, volunteered to collect an item from a shop in the High Street. During the visit Elenor was hit by a horse bolting from the stable of the Queens Head. She was taken into a grocery store, now Daisy's, and died a little later. Horatia died a year later.

Compiled by Pinner Local History Society. For more information look on www.pinnerlhs.org.uk or follow us on Facebook.