

Our Monthly Letter

May 2021

We Are Fun, Friendship and Learning

David Perdue was our special guest at the April meeting. He has been operating the website www.charlesdickenspage.com since 1997, and it had proven to be an invaluable resource for Dickensians. He showed off some of the site's newer features, including an interactive map of Dickens' London, aerial drawings of the city done from a balloon in the 1880s, and maps showing the author's travels in Italy and North America. In recent months, he has been working on an interactive map of Dickens' Higham, including Gads Hill Place, St. Mary's church where the author's daughter Katie was married, and the Crispin and Crispianus pub, which Dickens wrote about in *The Uncommercial Traveller*.

Bob Sloan then led us through chapters 44 through 50 of *David Copperfield*. We began with **Gwen Sweet** reading the part of Dora, David's child bride. **Cynthia Salten** pointed out that the phrase "child bride" could refer just as well to David as Dora, since he chose her as a bride while he himself was still a child. In the following chapter, we saw another marriage of people with unequal dispositions, as **Warren Wyss** took on the role of Doctor Strong, and **Dorothy Smith** his young wife Annie. In a later chapter, **Rosa Smith** read the part of her namesake, Rosa Dartle.

As we moved into chapter 47, we discussed Aunt Betsey. **Sylvia Marks** noted that both David and his aunt married when they were young and foolish. Aunt Betsey visits Dora in the next chapter, but alas her "Little Blossom" withers in its bloom upon the tree! **Kevin Quinn** read Mr. Micawber's letter in chapter 49, and then Bob provided David's narration as we waited for the arrival of Mr. Peggotty (portrayed for us by **Ken Wachtell**) who comes at long last to rescue Little Em'ly. (See the illustration on the next page.)

Karl Holtzschue, who visited us from the other Fellowship branch in New York, said at the close of the meeting he enjoyed our format. We hope the two branches will continue to keep connected! Other attendees included **Mary Apikos**, **James Armstrong**, **Marilyn Baranoski**, **Jeanne Cannon**, **Irma Marie Cerne**, **Tim Clark**, **Susan Detrich**, **Joe Fodor**, **Kate Foster**, **Jerry and Lorretta Frohnhoefer**, **Carrie Lee**, **Mary Jane Mallonee**, **Herb Moskovitz**, **Ann Penhale**, **Ernest Peterson**, **Su Quinn**, **Susan Romanoff**, and **Rhoda Spinner**.

Next up in *David Copperfield*

We hope you can join us at **1:00 on Saturday, May 1st** as we discuss chapters 51-57 of *David Copperfield*. Our moderator will be **Rosa Smith**.

Memorial for Mike Quinn

Saturday, April 24th, was the one-year anniversary of the passing of Mike Quinn, founder of the Friends of Dickens New York and a beloved member of the International Dickens Fellowship.

To commemorate the event, there was a ceremony at Christ Church in Riverdale, where Mike was once a parishioner and where his ashes are now interred. His wife Su and son Carlo both spoke, and Kevin Quinn provided one of the scripture readings.

Attendance was limited due to COVID restrictions, but Su and Carlo set up a camera to livestream the ceremony. One of Mike's friends even brought along a copy of *Bleak House*, so Dickens, too, was there, in a manner of speaking.

It's hard to believe it's been a full year since Mike left us, but his memory remains, and the fellowship he shared continues to live on after him.



Mr. Peggotty's Dream Comes True

When *David Copperfield* was originally published between 1849 and 1850, all of its 38 illustrations were provided by Hablot K. Browne (better known as Phiz) who had worked together with Dickens going back to the later numbers of *Pickwick Papers*.

In the illustration Phiz provided for the end of chapter 50, the mirror in Little Em'ly's room appears to be cracked and a discarded mask lies on the floor, suggestions of the tragic events that have recently occurred.

The title for this illustration was taken from Mr. Peggotty's declaration to David at the close of the chapter: "I thank my Heav'nly Father, as my dream's come true! I thank Him hearty for having guided of me, in His own ways, to my darling!"

Please join us on **Saturday, May 1st** as we discuss chapters 51-57 of *David Copperfield*. For our virtual meeting, we will be using Zoom, which is best viewed on a computer, but can also be accessed via phone. If you have not used Zoom before and have any questions, please contact **Kevin Quinn** at loyalkent@gmail.com or **646-372-5686**.

Beginning at **1:00** on Saturday the first, our meeting can be accessed on the web at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82304656799?pwd=UFQrOUFFc3Nyd3ByQnBXc3NtS2tCdz09>

The meeting ID is **823 0465 6799** and the password is **1812**.

You can also dial in using the number 1-646-558-8656. You will then have to enter the meeting ID, the pound key, a one, the pound key, the password, and then the pound key again. We hope you will be able to join us.