



Anonymous mausoleum (grave 32,171, square 80)

A Bit of Mystery – Bob Flanagan

I've always been intrigued by a beautiful mausoleum situated in the consecrated portion of the Cemetery. I'm told there used to be a similar structure nearby (grave 29,942, square 81), but that this latter mausoleum was pulled down on instruction from the owners some years ago. Be this as it may, the existing mausoleum is likely to date from sometime after about 1880 since it is within the area left as 'reserve' until this time. Unfortunately there is no external clue as to the provenance of the mausoleum! But good news is that it appears that conservation work is being undertaken, although nothing has been said either to me or, as far as I'm aware, to the Scheme of Management Committee. Hopefully there will be more to report in May.

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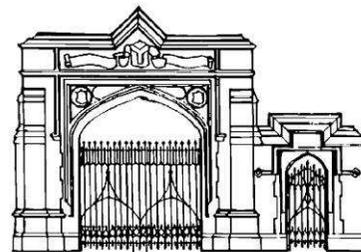
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Friends of West Norwood CEMETERY

Newsletter No. 67 - January 2010

Price £1.00 (Free to members)

Chairman's Report

Bob Flanagan

First, some good news! The illegally situated air-blast cooler is now safely installed on the roof of the crematorium. But bad news is that the infill in the ditch in the new roadway past the Greek section, cut to bring the new electricity supply to the crematorium, is subsiding further. Remedial work will soon be needed on the trench as well as an area of the road on the steepest part of the slope where a crack is beginning to appear in the surface. Too much heavy traffic, or the result of building a substantial roadway on a hill covered with London clay?

Sadly, the monument at the top of the hill leading to the crematorium (grave 1,425, square 66), demolished a year ago, STILL awaits repair. Similarly, there is no progress as regards the proposed work to the Grade II* listed Berens mausoleum (grave 5,408, square 63) and the railings around the Grade II listed Gilbert monument (grave 8,659, square 115) still await attention. This is essentially the text of my September report; it seems obvious that unless we kept up our guard there would be little left of the Cemetery in a few years time.

Public Consultation - the Future of the Cemetery

Prof Leonie Kellaher (London Metropolitan University) has been commissioned by Lambeth to undertake a survey of public attitudes towards, and aspirations for, the Cemetery. This was announced in October with a report due end-November, although the deadline has now slipped to end-December. A preliminary report to the Management Advisory Group on 5 November was interesting – most of the people surveyed were at one with us over the priority to be granted to conservation

In this Issue:

- **Lucy Gallup (1847–1883)**
An Image for Perpetuity Page 4
- **John Hughes (1814–1889)**
Ironmaster & Engineer Page 6
- **Conservation News** Page 10
- **Sir William Henry Dunn Bt (1833–1912)**
Page 11
- **The Rent Day by Douglas Jerrold**
Page 12
- **Recent FOWNC Events** Page 13
- **Forthcoming FOWNC Events**
Page 15
- **A Bit of Mystery**
Page 16

issues while keeping it as working cemetery and crematorium. We await the final report with interest.

The consultation took various forms, including a public meeting at West Norwood Library – this was attended by 8 people, at least 5 of whom were FOWNC members; the others were people we had told about the event! If Lambeth had bothered to advise us in advance we could have publicised the consultation in the September newsletter – as it is we e-mailed the 40 or so members we had addresses for. Could any members who wish to be contacted quickly about forthcoming issues and events please send their addresses to Jill Dudman at secretary@fownc.org?

Scheme of Management Committee (SoMC)

The Archdeacon of Lambeth, the Venerable Chris Skilton, has suggested that it would be useful to have a succinct ‘mission statement’ for the committee to supplement the Committee’s extensive constitution. This is I think an excellent idea. I have proposed the following wording:

“Ensuring the conservation and enhancement of the South Metropolitan Cemetery (West Norwood Cemetery) for the public benefit. The Committee aims to promote knowledge and appreciation of the Cemetery, and to ensure that the operation of the Cemetery is sustainable and fully compliant with regulations covering:

- interment and cremation
- planning and conservation (including nature conservation)
- health and safety
- the consecrated areas
- the rights of individuals and plot-holders
- permitted commemoration (Diocesan churchyard regulations)”

As to other matters, I’m again sorry to report little progress with the development of the Scheme of Management. A further draft has been produced (about 200 pages, most of it non-contentious), but again there is reference to excavation of existing graves to make room for new burials (not at all clear if this would be legal at Norwood) and to removal of existing monuments (again not at all clear how this squares with conservation area legislation, for example). So in my opinion it was not worth Lambeth having the report redrafted. The Scheme of Management Working Group continues to debate the issues.

On another tack, major infrastructure works directed by the SoMC were delayed this year when Lambeth ‘misaid’ the Cemetery’s capital budget. This has now been resolved and the 2009-10 programme includes some vegetation clearance. The perimeters will be the first to benefit and over the next few months we should expect to see ivy and self-seeded trees removed from the walls and railings.

A contractor, City Suburban, have identified trees in the Cemetery that may have been fatally weakened by fungal attack, and which will require attention. Their method of working would mean that cuttings are not removed immediately; but would remain in the Cemetery for a week or two to give wildlife a chance to find new homes. Their work on the general landscape should be able to complement our scrub clearance work around specific monuments.



Forthcoming FOWNC Events

January – April 2010

General tours will be held on the first Sunday of each month, starting at the Cemetery main gate off Norwood Road (3 January, 7 February and 7 March at 11.00, 4 April at 14.30) and lasting for 1½-2 hours. There is no formal charge, but we welcome donations of £1 per person (£0.50 concessions) towards conservation projects.

Spring Lectures

Talks will be held at Chatsworth Baptist Church, Chatsworth Way (off Norwood Road), SE27 (enter by second door on right in Idmiston Road), starting at 14.30. There is no formal charge, but we welcome donations of £1 per person to help cover the room hire.

Saturday 20 February: Lecture - The Greek Enclosure - Colin Fenn



St Stephen's Chapel (Ralli chapel, c. 1872; architect possibly John Oldrid Scott)

FOWNC vice-chair Colin Fenn has been studying the Greek enclosure at Norwood in order to prepare a guide map of the area with notes about the monuments and people buried there, which will be on sale in the near future. This outstanding collection of monuments, of which 18 are listed Grade II or Grade II*, includes St Stephen’s Chapel. Colin will also be detailing new discoveries of notables buried in the enclosure.

Saturday 20 March: Lecture - Romantic Surgery, Radical Politics and Revolutionary Bodysnatching - Druin Burch

Dr Burch will be speaking about the life and work of Sir Astley Cooper, Senior Surgeon at Guy’s Hospital, the subject of his recent book. Apart from the bodysnatching aspect, a further Cemetery connection is that Joseph Towne (1808–1879), who is buried at Norwood (grave 4,045, square 35), was an anatomical modeller and sculptor who worked for Cooper. Towne was recommended to Guy’s by Cooper, and in turn executed a marble bust of Cooper for the museum at Guy’s.



Sir Astley Cooper, Bt (1768–1841)

structures in the public domain are now exposed to the elements with no ongoing care, highly vulnerable to assaults by vandals, in desperate need of maintenance or repair, featuring on Buildings at Risk registers, but falling outside Lottery funding rules. The MMT aims to overcome these problems by encouraging and enabling restoration schemes. It has taken a number of mausolea into its direct care and has completely restored two at great cost: the Grade II* listed Sacheverell Bateman mausoleum in Morley, Derbyshire (£38,000) and the Grade II listed Heathcote mausoleum in Hursley, Hampshire (£58,000). Most impressive were the pictures of the Grade I listed Darnley mausoleum in Cobham, Kent (1786), showing its former appallingly vandalised state and then the results of the work done in a £3 million restoration funded by English Heritage. The MMT has compiled an online national mausoleum gazetteer - visit www.mausolea-monuments.org.uk.

On 21 November, we enjoyed a presentation on Brompton Cemetery by FOWNC committee member John White, who is a tour guide there. The cemetery was founded by the West of London and Westminster Cemetery Company (1840). However, the plan for the buildings, by architect Benjamin Baud, soon ran into difficulties. The magnificent classical design, with a domed Anglican chapel at the head of an avenue flanked by circular colonnades with catacombs beneath, included a pair of chapels on either side (for Roman Catholics and Dissenters), but these additional chapels were never built. Compulsory purchase by the Government followed in the early 1850s, although there now seems a possibility of transfer to the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.

Space permits mention of only a few of the notables buried at Brompton: suffragette Emmeline Pankhurst, singer Richard Tauber, shipping line founder Sir Samuel Cunard, composers Constant Lambert and Lionel Monckton, auctioneer Samuel Sotheby, architect (of the John Britton memorial - grave 5,235, square 119 - at Norwood) George Godwin, railway engineer Sir John Fowler, anaesthetist and epidemiologist Dr John Snow, and creator of the 1851 Great Exhibition, Sir Henry Cole. There is a special plot and monument for Pensioners of the nearby Chelsea Hospital, and a memorial to the Brigade of Guards. Only a few monuments are individually listed, and a survey is currently in progress prior to submitting further proposals to English Heritage. See <http://www.brompton-cemetery.org/> for further information.



Brompton: General view of the chapel, central area and colonnades (courtesy Robert Stephenson)

Finally, Lambeth's Environment Scrutiny Committee discussed the Cemetery on 8 December. Archdeacon Chris Skilton, Colin Fenn, and I attended. I'm grateful to Cabinet member Rachel Heywood, Committee Vice-Chair Clare Whelan, and other members of the committee, who were generally supportive of our stance over the Cemetery. The minutes give only a summary (inaccurate in parts) of the issues discussed: www.lambeth.gov.uk/moderngov/Published/C00000111/M00007050/Minutes.doc.pdf.

FOWNC News

It is of interest that there were some 100 downloads of our last Newsletter within a week of it being placed on the website. We have now registered with PayPal hence donations, subscriptions and book orders, etc., particularly from overseas, can be made simply. See www.fownc.org for further details.

Finally, I must acknowledge our thanks to John Brown (Local History Publications), who has expertly typeset the text free-of-charge since Newsletter 25 (1996). With the advent of more powerful home computers, and John's increasingly busy publication schedule, we felt it was time to take on this task ourselves. We have tried to maintain the corporate image defined by John as you can see.

European Cemeteries Route

We were informed just before Christmas that the planning for this initiative is proceeding apace, and that the City of Bilbao has donated serviced office space for the project in a building in Derio Cemetery, a large municipal cemetery that dates from 1902 (see: www.significantcemeteries.org/en/significant-cemeteries/detail/cemetery-bilbao).

A management plan has been drafted following a successful recent meeting with the Director of the European Institute of Cultural Routes in Luxembourg. Our congratulations to M Luisa Yzaguirre, President of ASCE, and her team for promoting this initiative, and for seeing it through to what looks to be a successful outcome. It is envisaged that visitors will be able to access information concerning each cemetery on the route by either History (people), or Heritage (monuments), as indeed we do at Norwood. The history of the cem-



Derio Cemetery, Bilbao, new headquarters of the European Cemeteries Route



etery itself is also important of course. Many of the proposed categories ask especially for Nobel prize winners – it is interesting to speculate as to who at Norwood would have won a Nobel prize had they been in existence during the 1800s! I nominate Sir Henry Bessemer (1813–1898) (grave 27,463, square 99) for his discovery of the means whereby steel could be produced economically and on a large scale from pig iron – has anyone any other suggestions?

Lucy Gallup (1847–1883) An Image for Perpetuity

Judy Harris

On entering Norwood Cemetery, the prominent Gallup memorial with the photograph of Lucy Gallup gazing serenely into the distance is difficult to miss. The Grade II listed granite monument is topped with a sculpted marble figure in classical robes, with the right hand pointing heavenwards. The face is a good likeness of Lucy. Above the Gallup name, Lucy's photograph is reproduced on a porcelain plaque, a practice quite rare in England in the 1880s. After 125 years the plaque is still in excellent condition.



Gallup memorial: Detail of ceramic portrait of Lucy Gallup

The Gallup family had travelled to America in 1630. Henry Clay Gallup was born there on 6 November 1834. He worked as a travelling agent selling patent medicines for a firm called Jeremiah Curtis and Sons in New York. In the 1860s as a partner in the firm he was sent to London to establish the business in Europe, the Anglo American Drug Company. In 1874, he had an address in Oxford Street, where amongst other items he sold *Fragrant Floriline* (a liquid dentifrice) and the Mexican hair renewer.

Lucy was born on 10 June 1847 in Brompton. They married on 14 June 1870 in Chelsea. Their only child, Henry Curtis Gallup, was born on 24 October 1874. The family lived at Preston House, The Avenue, Gipsy Hill. The drug and cosmetic business was very successful and allowed Henry to afford a fine monument when Lucy died of peritonitis on 31 March 1883 aged 35; her husband died on 31 October 1885 aged 50. They are not directly related to Dr G Gallup, the founder of Gallup opinion polls. Coincidentally, their son Henry married a relative of Frederick Nettlefold, the woodscrew manufacturer, who is also buried at Norwood (grave 19,602, square 37; monument destroyed).

In 1973, Robin Hansell, then a resident of West Norwood studying ceramics at Camberwell College of Art, used images from West Norwood Cemetery for his final degree show. He had long



Gallup memorial at Norwood (grave 19,605, square 120)

meant that the evening lacked the polish usually seen in professional productions. There was the occasional collision between actors entering and exiting the rather cramped space; and reading glasses were dislodged during the more frenetic scenes. These accidents added to the fun of the occasion. Tim Frances stole the show as the amoral broker Bullfrog, the self proclaimed 'prudent capitalist', whose unsavoury work of preying on those facing total ruin was, to him, a constant source both of profit and delight. He was given most of the best comedic lines, including the catch phrase 'Business is Business', which Jerrold clearly intended to be on the lips of his audience in the days immediately following their attendance.

The performance was a great success. There were even calls for *The Rent Day* to be included in the repertoire for a full production in the main theatre, calls that director Abigail Anderson assiduously noted. FOWNC members will be alerted should this come to pass. The text of the play is available for reading on the internet (simply Google *The Rent Day* and Jerrold).



Recent FOWNC Events

Jill Dudman

On Open House London Weekend on 20 September, some 70 visitors attended the tours of the notable monuments, finishing at the Greek Chapel. The major problem encountered was when we opened up the Maddick mausoleum to assemble the bookstall, and discovered water all over the floor. Clearly the roof had been leaking, and because the building is usually closed the water was stagnant and foul-smelling. Thanks to everyone who helped with leading the tours and staffing the bookstall, which we had to arrange under the portico of the Greek Chapel (and of course this building too is suffering severely from water damage to its interior).

After our AGM on 17 October, we were pleased to welcome Hannah Parham to talk about the work of the Mausolea and Monuments Trust. This charity was founded in 1997 for the protection and preservation for the public of mausolea and sepulchral monuments in Britain. These once splendid private



The restored Darnley Mausoleum. Designed by James Wyatt for the 4th Earl of Darnley, it remains unused



The Rent Day by Douglas Jerrold

Paul Graham

The re-opening of the Theatre Royal, Bury St. Edmunds was celebrated with a performance of Douglas Jerrold's most popular play, *Black Eyed Susan* (see Newsletter 61, January 2008). This initiated the theatre's *Restoring the Repertoire* season, in which Georgian plays are revived. The season continued with the rehearsed reading of Jerrold's second most popular piece at The Guildhall, Bury St. Edmunds on 15 October 2009. All this might be said to have been arranged to celebrate the reinstatement of his tombstone (grave 5,452, square 97) at Norwood!

The Rent Day: A Domestic Drama in Two Acts was first performed in 1832 at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane. The publicity for this revival sought to assuage fears that the piece would have no relevance for a modern audience by proclaiming it a play for our credit crunch times. The hero, Martin Heywood (Andrew Piper), faces eviction from the land his family had farmed for generations when he is unable to pay his rent to the rapacious steward Crumbs (David Peart), who convinces no one when he proclaims that he 'often seizes with tears in my eyes'. To compound Heywood's troubles, he unjustly accuses his noble wife Rachel (Anna Hope) of infidelity, and can see no alternative to destitution for himself and his children than working on a slave plantation in the West Indies.

The providential resolution of all his financial problems, the discovery of a large sum of money bequeathed to him by his grandfather, strains credulity to breaking point. The capture of the traducers of his wife, who immediately confess their crime, completes Heywood's salvation. As one of the actors commented in the post-performance discussion, it was only these unlikely accidents that prevented the play's happy ending being replaced by that from *Othello!* This should not give the impression that the evening was one of unrelieved gloom; scenes of light and shade alternated. *The Rent Day* combines an expression of Jerrold's radical politics, expressed in criticism to absentee landlords and their lackeys, with the broad comedy for which his best work was noted.



The Rent Day (1807) by Sir David Wilkie (1785–1841) is said to have inspired Jerrold's play

The 10-strong cast must be congratulated on the energy and unremitting pace of the two-hour performance, which was given without costumes or props, and after only a day's rehearsal. Dependence on the script, and the restricted confines of the venue, inevitably

been interested in cemeteries, finding that a lot of information can be gleaned from studying the monuments of the dead - especially from the Victorians' use of very grand features, such as mausolea, which were symbols of their wealth and power. Images of the dead are preserved in the stones, giving insight into the families and individuals who rested there.



Robin Hansell's degree show, *Camberwell College of Art, 1973. Forms inspired by stones approx. 50 cm high*

Some 25 pieces were displayed in Robin's exhibition held at the Ceylon Tea Centre in Regent Street. Background information on the processes and inspiration was included. His exhibition was subsequently featured in articles in *Ceramic Review* and *Craft Magazine*, highlighting selected examples of the degree leavers' year. Following his postgraduate certificate of education year at Goldsmith's College, Robin taught at Elmwood Pottery and Cumberlow Lodge. He later became Head of Art at Macclesfield College of Art. He now lives in retirement in Ireland, but still has fond memories of many hours spent in West Norwood Cemetery.

Acknowledgement

Further information on the Gallup family was kindly supplied by Simon Gallup, a descendant of Lucy and Henry Clay Gallup.

Robin was inspired by Norwood and by Nunhead, two very different local cemeteries. He was struck by the contrast between the two: one comparatively well-kept, and the other almost totally overgrown. In West Norwood, the stones were dominant and the area ordered and tended, while in Nunhead nature had almost taken over; the monuments were obscured and so had become secondary.

The image of Lucy Gallup particularly tied in with Robin's interest in using photographic images on ceramic. He took many black-and-white photographs in the Cemetery, which he processed and printed himself. He used silk screen printing to make ceramic transfers and collaged them onto the glazed high-fired ceramic pieces, which were then re-fired, making the image permanent as in the original portrait of Lucy Gallup on her stone.



Large platter, approx. 65 cm diameter

John Hughes (1814–1889) Ironmaster & Engineer

Bob Flanagan

Newsletter 38 (May 2000) recorded the reinstatement of the red granite obelisk commemorating James Reed (graves 17,479 & 18,081, square 122). The inscription notes that Reed had been Master of the Tredegar Iron Works for many years. Information has now come to light on a further Norwood ironmaster, John Hughes.



John Hughes (image Glamorgan Record Office)

Hughes was born at Merthyr Tydfil, the son of John Hughes, in 1814 and died after suffering a stroke at the Hotel Angleterre, St Petersburg, some say after a bout of drinking, in 1889. In his 74 years he was associated with the development of the steam engine, and he evolved an improved mounting for naval guns, but it is his part in the development of the Russian iron and steel industry that is of greatest interest. There is also a strong parallel with the career of Richard Henry Brunton (1841–1901) (grave 29,641, square 77), who as the first Western engineer in Imperial Japan, played a major role in the industrialization of that society (see Newsletter 42, September 2001).

Merthyr was the largest and richest of the Welsh iron towns and Hughes worked under his father, an engineer, at the Cyfarthfa Works. Hughes

moved to Ebbw Vale, and then to Newport. There, the Uskside foundry had grown from a small smithy in 1827 into a works that specialized in equipment such as ships' anchors and chains. Hughes is described as proprietor, manager, and director of the works. On 27 October 1844, at St Paul's Church, St Woolos, Newport, Hughes married Elizabeth, daughter of William Lewis. The Lewis family was associated with the Tredegar Arms, adjoining the Uskside foundry and supplying its workers with beer. John and Elizabeth Hughes lived at 36 Church Street, near the works. Their eight children, six boys and two girls, were all born at home in Newport between 1846 and 1858. During the same period Hughes patented a number of inventions in armaments and armour plating.

In 1859 the family moved to London. Through his marine engineering and armament experience Hughes obtained a senior position with the Millwall Engineering and Ship-building Company on Thameside. Later he became a director of the company. The 'Hughes stringer', a new and successful mounting for heavy naval guns, appeared during at this time. In 1864 the firm won the Admiralty trials for producing armour plate for cladding wooden warships (hence ironclads) with the Millwall shield and John Hughes's reputation was secured.

November 1859. A civil engineer, he is remembered for his guides on the construction of railways, docks, drainage, iron bridges and roofs. In his *Rudimentary Treatise on the Locomotive Engine in All Its Phases* (London: John Weale, 1855) he wrote cheerfully 'we may now commit ourselves to the express train, at forty miles per hour, with infinitely far less risk of a broken neck than we could forty years ago'.

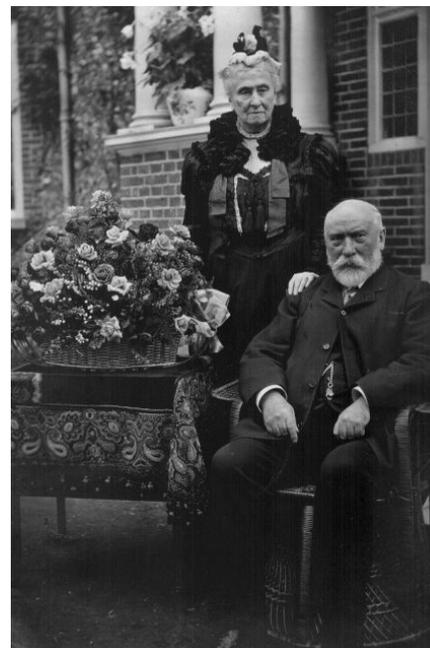


Dempsey family grave (grave 8,644, square 36)

Sir William Henry Dunn Bt (1833–1912)

Bob Flanagan

Steven Ernest Vick of Newport News, Virginia, has written to say that some 15 years ago while visiting a great uncle on Cape Cod, Massachusetts, he found himself rummaging through the basement. Therein he found what appeared to be a writ with a family crest attached with a ribbon. His great aunt vouchsafed that it was the document given to his 4 x great uncle William Dunn, of Dunn Laboratories fame, when he was created baronet in 1895 (see Newsletter 61, January 2008).



Steven's great-grandmother, Mabel Dunn, lived in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and was close to her family, especially Sir William's wife Elizabeth, Lady Dunn. His grandfather, a native of Virginia, married his grandmother, also from Cambridge, Massachusetts, in the 1930s and settled in Virginia until her passing in 1992. Steven's father is now in possession of the family photos that Lady Dunn brought over to the US just after Sir William's death.

Sir William and Lady Dunn (grave 33,242, square 43) - photograph courtesy of the Vick Family of Virginia



Conservation News

Colin Fenn

FOWNC volunteers have resumed scrub clearance work, one aim being to prepare the Cemetery for sports-themed tours prior to the 2012 Olympics. New helpers are always welcome: please contact Rose Fenn at rose@fenn.demon.co.uk. This autumn we have cleared a route to the grave of Sir Richard Everard Webster (Viscount Alverstone) (1842–1915) (grave 16,457, square 76), one of the first Presidents of the Amateur Athletic Association. The large Celtic cross can now be approached from the top of Ship Path. We also cleared the views to the memorial to Charles Alcock (grave 14,689, square 86). Members will recall that his monument was restored with help from the Football Association and Surrey Cricket Club (see Newsletter 36, September 1999).

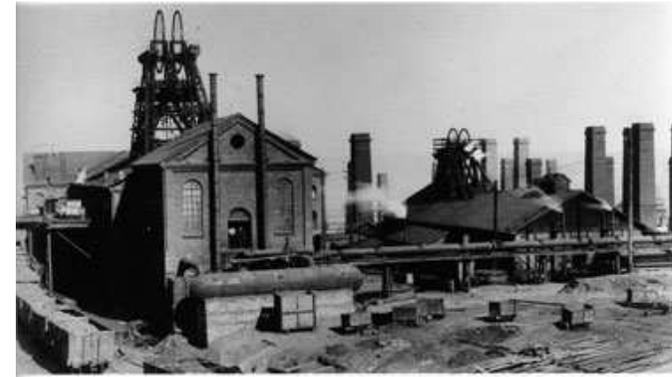


These scrub clearance forays always reveal interesting monuments. Near Alcock, on Hodges path, there is a large Celtic cross decorated with whorls and knots, but leaning with slight surface spalling. The elegantly inscribed name and date: James Battersby Bailey, died 2nd June 1900, led me to a family history forum. It transpires that Bailey was an Irish GP and surgeon who trained at Queens University Belfast, and son of James Luttrell Bailey, Commandant of the Royal Ulster Constabulary. In 1881 he was in general practice at Marden in Kent, but in 1891 he is recorded as a patient in Debrogh House (Home for Inebriates), Watford, whilst his family lived at 49 Alleyn Park, Dulwich. His son, the geologist Sir Edward Battersby Bailey FRS (1881–1965), promoted the theory of plate tectonics in the interwar period.



Monument to James Battersby Bailey (grave 28,608, square 86) and detail of inscription on West side

On another occasion, whilst clearing access to the Catacombs in front of the Grade II listed Dodd mausoleum (grave 6,368, square 50), we revealed a fine brick vault topped with cast- and wrought-iron railings guarding a granite slab. The names record members of the Dempsey family, including George Drysdale Dempsey, who died in Bombay on 14

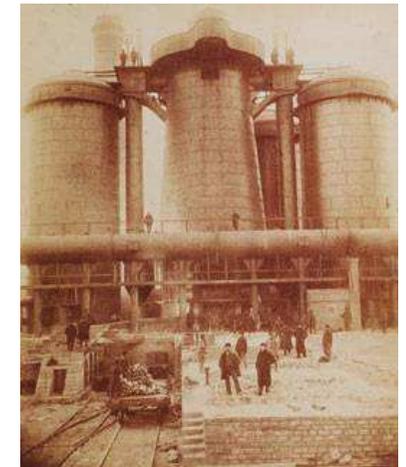


Hughesovka: View of one of the collieries (Glamorgan Record Office)

(now the Ukraine). Although previous attempts at industrial development in the area had not met with success, Hughes decided, after a tour of inspection, to take up the challenge. He bought a concession to build an iron works based on Donbass materials from Prince Sergey Kochubey. A formal agreement was signed with Czar Alexander II in 1868, and the New Russia Company Ltd (Novorossiskoe-Rog) was registered in London with a capital of £300,000. Sir Daniel Gooch, Thomas Brassey, father and son, and Joseph Whitworth were amongst the seventeen original shareholders.

The site chosen for the factory was some 75 km north of the Taganrog and Mariupol docks on the Azov Sea. The iron mine at Krivoi-Rog was nearby. All the equipment needed for the ironworks was hauled by bullock cart across the steppe from Taganrog. In the summer of 1870 Hughes arrived with about 100 specialist ironworkers and miners, mostly recruited from South Wales. During the 1870s blast furnaces were built, collieries and iron ore mines sunk, and brickworks and other facilities established to make the isolated works a self-sufficient complex. On 24 April 1871 the first blast furnace was commissioned despite an unusually severe winter and a cholera epidemic. Regular production began in January 1872. The Russian government provided subsidies at first and relaxed import duties, but stipulated minimum levels of production and key dates.

Hughes and his men overcame the early difficulties and by 1880 were able to produce the agreed weekly quota of iron in a day. The surrounding area was able to provide the works



Hughesovka: Blast furnaces, after 1892 (Glamorgan Record Office)

His work with armour plate attracted the attention of the Russian government. Hughes was invited to St Petersburg to discuss the possibility of plating the naval fortress at Kronstadt. In due course came a proposal that Hughes should establish a metallurgical plant in Russia. Geological surveys had already indicated the mineral riches of the Donbass coal basin

with all the necessary raw materials. Local labourers were recruited and trained to augment the small core of experienced workers brought from South Wales. British workers remained in senior positions until 1917. The 'Hughes factory' gave its name to the settlement that grew up in its shadow. Hughes and his family lived in Hughesovka (Russian: Yuzovka, Юзовка) from 1870; four of his sons helped to establish and run the works, and a number of his grandchildren were born in the town, whose population grew to 50,000 by 1889.

A contemporary account describes John Hughes as 'open-faced, clean-eyed, bluff and handsome, with laughter as well as command in the tones of his voice'. He shared his workers' discomforts during the first winter at the site, and later visited their homes to celebrate a wedding or to greet a new baby. In 1879 Hughes wrote from London to the minister of domains expressing his fears that an outbreak of plague could spread to Hughesovka: 'I have impressed on the workmen in our employ to abstain from drinking vodka ... and also to avoid eating a large amount of cucumbers and melons and especially unripe fruit'. He established hospitals, a fire brigade, and a police force in his town and took a personal interest in the health and general behaviour of his workforce.



The steelworker's hammer is the symbol on Donetsk's coat of arms



Albert Llewellyn Hughes (1857–1907), 1895

When John Hughes died, his body was returned to London for interment at Norwood (grave 18,353 square 91). His funeral took place on 12 July 1889. Others buried in the same grave are Albert Llewellyn Hughes (aged 50, buried 22 January 1907) and Kyra Blackwood (aged 42, 19 January 1937). In an adjacent grave (18,354) lie Ivor Edward Hughes (aged 61, buried 15 January 1916), John James Hughes (aged 68, 30 June 1917), Alice Hughes (aged 51, 10 July 1929) and Gladys Morgan (aged 34, 27 June 1934). In between these two plots (grave 18,072) lie Owen Tudor Thomas (aged 21, 10 May 1880) and Elizabeth Hughes (12 November 1880). There is what seems to be at least a double-width headstone face down over these plots. An adjacent headstone commemorates Cypka Ptashinski Hughes, who died 12 July 1909, aged 19.

Four of Hughes' sons - John James, Arthur David, Ivor Edward, and Albert Llewellyn, were closely involved in running the works. They took over when John Hughes died, sharing the responsibilities between them. It would seem that three of the four are now buried at Norwood with their father and mother Elizabeth. Albert Llewellyn Hughes (1857–1907) was the youngest son. After his father's death, Albert became manager responsible for the blast furnaces and analytical laboratories.

Hughesovka went on to become one of the largest industrial enterprises in the Russian empire. A thriving, mainly Welsh expatriate community was established, living in good quality company housing, and provided with an English school and an Anglican church. Life there was hard, with very cold winters, hot summers, and occasional cholera epidemics, but some families remained in Hughesovka for many years (see www.alangeorge.co.uk/hughesovka.htm).

At the outbreak of World War I the works expanded to produce artillery shells. By 1917 the registered capital of the New Russia Company stood at £2.5 million. During the Russian Revolution most foreign employees left the area if they could, although a few descendants still live there. The Glamorgan Record Office website details some of the difficulties faced by those who did leave (www.glamro.gov.uk/Hughesovka/hka-return.html).

The works were taken over by the Bolsheviks in 1919 – a Welshman had created the 'Hammer' of the 'Hammer and Sickle'! Hughesovka (population 63,708) became Stalino in 1924, and adopted the name Donetsk (Донецьк) after the Seversky Donets river, a tributary of the Don, in 1961. Donetsk was a major town in the short-lived Donetsk-Krivoy Rog Soviet Republic, which was later incorporated into the Ukrainian SSR. The Russian leader Nikita Khrushchev attended school in Donetsk, then still known as Hughesovka. When he came to Britain in 1956 he said 'My father worked in a mine near the Hughesovka Metal Factory, which once belonged to the Welshman, John Hughes'.

At the beginning of World War II, the population of Stalino was 507,000, but after the war only 175,000 remained. During the war a Jewish ghetto was established in which 3,000 Jews died. There was also a concentration camp in which 92,000 further people died. Nowadays, the rebuilt city remains one of the largest industrial centres in the Ukraine with a population of over 1 million. The New Russia Company was formally liquidated only in 1970.

Hughesovka, A Welsh Enterprise in Imperial Russia by Susan Edwards can be obtained from the Glamorgan Record Office, King Edward VII Avenue, Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF10 3NE, Price £1 (www.glamro.gov.uk/Hughesovka/hka-gro.html).



Headstone adjacent to the Hughes graves (square 91). 'Cypka Ptashinsky Hughes. Died on July 12th 1909, aged 19. Loved and deeply regretted by all who knew her'