

Friends of West Norwood CEMETERY

Newsletter No. 72 – September 2011

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Chairman's Report

Bob Flanagan

It has been a busy 4 months. Firstly there is no end in sight to the impasse over the capital grant, the powers that be within Lambeth not having met with the Chair of the Scheme of Management Committee, Nicholas Long, to discuss the situation. Meanwhile the state of the block pavement roadway leading into the cemetery continues to deteriorate – there will be an accident here sooner or later. The areas underneath both the Tite arch and the outer gate are particularly dangerous.

The withdrawal of the capital grant delayed the much-needed repair to the railings alongside the roadway adjacent to the library – local people have known for years that the cemetery could be accessed at night at will. I am pleased to report that this repair has now been completed as an emergency task. Whether the delay to this repair was a factor in the theft of the copper roof of the Crematorium on 5/6 June (the thieves came back the next day to finish the job!), or the theft of lead lettering from many more modern memorials, we will never know. The West Norwood Library roof was also stolen at this time, and the thieves will certainly have seen the gap in the railings then if they hadn't already..

These and other local thefts of copper, etc. received considerable publicity - the cemetery twice featured on the front page of the South London Press. Local MP Tessa Jowell accompanied by Cllr Florence Nosegbe and Jo Cleary, Head of Lambeth Adult Services, came to inspect the cemetery on 24 June. They were enthusiastic about the site, and were keen to see it better promoted. However, the members of the party with high heels had trouble walking on the collapsing block pavement!



Evans memorial (grave 35792, square 29) showing damage caused by falling tree

November 1939, aged 62). The only other casualty was the litter bin shown in the photograph, which will have to be discarded!

West Norwood on Film

The cemetery in general and the catacombs in particular are becoming popular venues for filming. The Sky Arts TV channel has been showing the *Dead Art* series that we feature in over the last few months. We still have a couple of copies of the DVD if anyone is interested. Secondly, the Discovery channel plan to film in September for an item comparing the extensive catacomb systems in Malta (some of which date to perhaps 700 BC) and Norwood, looking at the effect of noise and resonance. Finally, the Tate Gallery's John Martin exhibition opens on 21 September. Apparently they plan to use film taken in the catacombs as a trailer in cinemas and to show it at the Tate to tempt people into the exhibition (www.tate.org.uk/britain/exhibitions/johnmartin/default.shtm).

Percy Edwin Kirby (1879–1936)

In the January 2011 Newsletter I noted that one of Thomas Kirby's sons, Percy Edward Kirby, was buried at Norwood in an un-marked grave. Fortunately, further searches have revealed that the headstone is still there. Interestingly, it only lists Percy and an adopted son Jack, who was wounded and listed as missing in France on 23 March 1918, aged 19. Percy married Bertha Augusta Thomas in 1898 and together they had at least 2 children, Dorothy and Doris, Dorothy dying just months after being born, but none are mentioned on the headstone.



Gravestone of Percy Edwin Kirby (grave 38,786, square 68)

As if these thefts were not enough, on 5 June a tree was blown over near to the new memorial garden and one of the few surviving original memorials in that part of the cemetery was damaged. Repair is of course possible and we will see what can be done. The monument commemorates Sidney Herbert Evans (d. 15 October 1921, aged 49), and Blanche Mary Evans (d. 15



Conservation News

Colin Fenn

In Newsletter No. 71 (May 2011) we announced that Lambeth had at last given permission for FOWNC to repair monuments provided that a Faculty was obtained for operations on consecrated ground. Our first petition was agreed in June for the raising of the 1.5 ton headstone of John Hughes (see Newsletter 70, January 2011).



The reinstated Hughes memorial (graves 18,072, 18,353, and 18,354, square 91)

Encouraged by ASCE, we have been talking to the World Monument Fund, who have a 'watchlist' for heritage sites and can assist in fund raising. They seem particularly interested in helping with repairs in the Greek necropolis. They have also put us in contact with other organisations that are looking at systematic monument assessment and repair. English Heritage have also indicated that they wish to see more efforts expended in significant cemeteries next year, and are now looking to prioritise repairs to listed monuments by placing them on their 'at risk' register. They visited on 23 August together with the Lambeth Conservation Officer and they have indicated that there may be up to a dozen listed monuments at Norwood that may become eligible for funding for repair. Recent findings concerning three of the listed monuments appear later in this Newsletter, together with information on a further monument, the long-neglected Tapling mausoleum (grave 13,902, square 38), that in all fairness should also be listed.

I am pleased to report that conservationist Ron Knee has largely completed the work. The headstone was found to be in perfect condition, and all the kerbs and pillars were discovered. All that is missing are the railings save for one small portion. The adjacent headstone to Cypka Ptashinsky Hughes (grave 32,549, square 91) has also been tidied up. We will organize a rededication ceremony in due course in consultation with the colleagues from Donetsk who raised the funds for this project.

Now that this work is complete we plan to petition to repair a further group of monuments using funds that we have been promised from various sources as well as FOWNC funds that we have been husbanding for this purpose. We have also been broadening our attempts to get wider interest in repair and restoration works, as well as undertaking scrub clearance work.

The Wetenhall Mausoleum

Jill Dudman

Following the success of their guide to the Greek section (see Newsletter 71, May 2011), Colin Fenn and James Slattery-Kavanagh are working on a guide to the listed monuments in the rest of the cemetery. It was therefore opportune to check the details of each monument to make sure there were no errors in names, dates, etc., a task which fell to me.



The Wetenhall mausoleum (grave 23,625, square 113)

One of the landmark Grade II listed monuments is the Gothic mausoleum with statuettes of Faith and Hope, attributed to Sophie Beard on the listing description. It sits beside the road in square 113, a buttressed limestone ‘chapel’, whose only inscription is the charming sentiment, in portions on each side of the door: *‘Erected as a last tribute of love / to the memory of a perfect wife and mother’*. It is fairly easy to identify this tomb on the map of the

cemetery: it is the only plot that is the right size, and moreover it is in the right place relative to a few nearby surviving stones that happen to have their grave numbers inscribed on them. Inspection of the Purchase Register in the cemetery office provides details of who is buried here, their dates, the size and ownership of the plot, etc. This register typically records the depth of any brick vault below the larger monuments, but there is no entry in this instance. The map shows this mausoleum is directly over the major sewer that runs north-south from the Robson Road railings, which would explain the absence of a vault.

The late Eric Smith FSA, well known for his (literally) monumental work in the 1970s, when he recorded the surviving memorial inscriptions, amounting to well over 25,000, and compiled an alphabetical card catalogue (see FOWNC Newsletter 7, August 1991), had obviously been here before me. Many years ago whilst perusing this resource, now held at Lambeth Archives, I chanced across the entry for this mausoleum to which Eric had ascribed the name Wetenhall. Thus, I knew that there was a mistake in the 1993 listing description.¹

¹ There is indeed a Beard family vault just a few plots along to the right, according to the register a brick grave number 1,978 – its outline is just visible through the grass.

I have now carried out further research into the Wetenhall family and their mausoleum, based on the cemetery grave register, online censuses, and notices in *The Times* archive.

Henry Horatio Wetenhall and Hebe Ann Parkes were both Londoners. Henry was born in Lambeth about 1829 and became a stockbroker. Hebe was born in Kentish Town about 1836. They married on 1 May 1855 at St Pancras Church, Euston Square. They had at least two sons, Harry Major, born about 1856, and James Granville, born about 1858, both in Kentish Town. They also had at least two daughters, Louisa Madelon, born about 1859, and Hebe Anne (evidently named after her mother), born about 1861.

On 25 April 1865 Henry Horatio, address given as The Poplars, Seven Sisters Road, Stoke Newington, purchased grave 9,732 (square 114) at Norwood for the burial of Edward Charles Wetenhall. I have not been able to find out what relation he was, whether an older person, or perhaps an infant son. In the 1871 census Henry Horatio and Hebe Ann were still living in Stoke Newington, whereas by 1881 Harry Major and James Granville were living (on census day anyway) in Dulwich, both listed as stockbrokers and as nephews of the head of household at that address.

Harry Major, described in *The Times* as the eldest son of H.H. Wetenhall, The Poplars, Finsbury Park, died on 20 September 1883 at West Cowes, Isle of Wight, aged only 27, and was buried in the family grave at Norwood. His mother Hebe Ann died in 1890 and was also buried there. Henry Horatio then seems to have decided to give his family much grander memorialisation. On 4 October 1890 he purchased a new large plot, 14 ft 6 in by 11 ft (grave 23,625, square 113) on the other side of the road from his earlier plot, at a cost of £79.15.0 (equivalent to £40,000 in today's earnings). He had a mausoleum built on the plot, which seems to have taken some months, because the first burials were not until 18 June 1891 when Edward Charles, Harry Major, and Hebe Ann were re-interred there. It now seems clear that Hebe Ann was the 'perfect wife and mother' of the mausoleum inscription. It is of note that the original grave contained persons not named Wetenhall, viz. Edwin Abbott and Ann Eliza Abbott (both died 1873). I have no idea why they were buried in the Wetenhall grave – presumably they still lie there. There is no trace of a monument.



The Wetenhall mausoleum: Faith & Hope

The 1891 census finds Henry Horatio and James Granville living in Devon; perhaps Henry had retired there for his health with James to look after him? At the same time,

sisters Louisa Madelon and Hebe Anne, apparently unmarried, were still living in Stoke Newington. Henry Horatio died in 1893 and was interred in his new mausoleum. James evidently returned to London and in 1901 was living in Streatham, still a stockbroker.

The next burial in the mausoleum plot was Louisa Madelon in 1929. This was followed by the cremated remains of James Granville in 1935, and the cremated remains of Hebe Anne in 1938. Described in *The Times* as the second daughter of H. H. Wetenhall and Mrs H. A. Wetenhall, she died on 23 December 1938 at Ilford, Essex, and her funeral service at West Norwood Crematorium was advertised for 30 December. That was the last interment in the plot, but the final entry in the grave register details a payment (no name given) of £850 on 1 September 1962 (today's equivalent about £30,000) to maintain the mausoleum and plant flowers.

Henry Grissell (*Iron Henry*) (1817-1883)

Colin Fenn

Next to the imposing tomb of Otto Berens (grave 5,408, square 63) at the top of Ship Path sits another listed monument, that of the Grissell family. The first burial in the vault was that of Ann, wife of Thomas De La Garde Grissell FSA, who died on 28 July 1847, aged 70. The purchase register confirms that the plot was sold to Thomas, of Stockwell Common and of East India House, and that when he died aged 69 on 28 October 1847, he too was interred in this deep, 13-shelf vault. Information provided many years ago by Malcolm Tucker (GLIAS) has prompted a reassessment of the later burials in the vault.



The Grade II listed Grissell family monument. The cast iron railings were ripped out in the early 1980s

Ownership of the plot passed at one stage to Thomas' oldest son, Thomas De La Garde Grissell jnr. (1801-1874). He entered into partnership as a contractor with his uncle, Henry Peto. When Henry died that side of the partnership transferred to Samuel Morton Peto (1809-1889), and Peto and Grissell became major contractors. Notable projects included Nelson's Column and part of the new Houses of Parliament. Thomas jnr. moved to Norbury Park, Mickleham, served as High Sheriff of Surrey, and is buried in Mickleham parish churchyard.

But to return to Norwood. Two sons who served with the Bengal Native Infantry, viz. Lt Colonel James Grissell, late of the 46th (South Devonshire) Regiment (1803-1864), and Major Charles Grissell, late of the 61st (South Gloucestershire) Regiment (1805-1855), who died at Jullundur (now Jalandhar in the Punjab) are commemorated on the tomb together with other members of the Grissell family. Notably, two further sons, Martin De La Garde Grissell and Henry Grissell, are interred in the vault.



The Grissell tomb today (grave 1,669, square 63)

Henry, born in London on 4 July 1817, first worked at Bramah's iron foundry.² He was admitted member of the Institution of Civil Engineers on 7 March 1843 on the recommendation of Bramah's partner Mr Smythe Robinson, gaining the nickname *Iron Henry* amongst the other members. In 1841 Henry set up in partnership with brother Martin as ironfounders and contractors at the Regent's Canal Ironworks, Eagle Wharf Road, Hoxton, a large 550 x 150 ft site. Rapidly gaining a high reputation, he provided special castings for all the principal civil engineers of the day, including Robert Stephenson, George Parker Bidder, Messrs. Walker and Burges,³ William Cubitt,⁴ and John Fowler.

Messrs. Grissell made the floors and roofs for the new Houses of Parliament, the roof for London Bridge station,⁵ ironwork for bridges over the river Nene at Great Yarmouth, and a swing bridge for a railway over the River Stour. They produced large works for Portsmouth and Devonport dockyards and the waterworks at Vienna and at Leipzig, as

² Bramah & Robinson installed not only hydraulic catafalques in the chapels at Norwood, of which one dated 1839 survives, but also the cast iron railings on Norwood High Street/Robson Road, and probably the Hubbard Road railings as well (see Newsletters 68, May 2010 and 69, September 2010)

³ Alfred Burges (1796–1886) was father of the noted architect William Burges (1827–1881); both are interred at Norwood (grave 4,478, square 34)

⁴ Sir William Cubitt (1785–1861) (grave 7,740, square 36)

⁵ Designed by Charles Henry Driver (1832–1900; grave 29, 387, square 83; monument demolished) and itself soon to be demolished

well as various works in Russia. They also built the Calf Rock Lighthouse, the Bahamas High Rock Lighthouse, and many other small iron lighthouses.



Grissell tomb: inscription panel to Henry Grissell

Martin left the partnership in 1858, leaving *Iron Henry* to manage the production of ironwork for many new public buildings, including the Italian Opera House, Covent Garden,⁶ and the South Kensington Museum. He also made magnificent gates and railings as can still be seen at Buckingham Palace, the British Museum, and the Royal Exchange, for example.⁷

Henry Grissell was engaged to construct all Stephenson's bridges over the Nile in Egypt, and other bridges and massive cast iron works. His foundry was used as a laboratory, with pioneering examinations of the strength of materials such as cast iron and concrete. He also pre-fabricated a grand bathing-kiosk or river-palace for the vice-regent of Egypt, which was assembled temporarily at his premises at the Isle of Dogs, where its Minton floor tiles, parquet-work, stained-glass, and domes

became a great attraction. But once delivered, the kiosk remained packed-up at Alexandria as the vice-regent had been replaced and the new one no longer wanted it. It was so grand that it was said to have been considered for re-use as a railway station!

Henry wound down the foundry business after 1867, in the wake of a banking crisis and economic depression, and at a time when the Bessemer process for the mass production of steel was rapidly making all previous steel making methods and most uses of cast iron obsolete, but was requiring significant new investment.⁸ Instead, in the last decade of his life *Iron Henry* turned to forestry, purchasing large sawmills and forests at Hernösand in Sweden, a region that boomed as a result of cheap shipping and great demand for timber.

⁶ Frederick Gye jnr (1810–1878) (grave 939, square 98) was the lessee and raised the cash to rebuild after earlier theatre was gutted by fire

⁷ The Royal Exchange was designed by the SMC's architect-director, Sir William Tite (1798–1873, Catacomb 90)

⁸ Sir Henry Bessemer (1813–1898) is buried near the bottom of Ship Path (grave 27,463, square 99)



*Grissell tomb:
Detail*

Henry died on 31 January 1883 at 17 Montagu Square, Marylebone. The Institution of Civil Engineers published a highly complimentary obituary of *Iron Henry*, which finished by saying he was 'loved and respected by all with whom he was associated'. He was buried in the vault at Norwood with his father and mother, and was followed there by Martin, his brother and former business partner (d. 1904). The vault continued to be used by later generations of Grissells, including their married daughters (surnames King and Rugg), receiving 17 burials in all by the time of the last interment (1928). The last entry in the cemetery register was in 1932 when the lease passed to Lewis Henry Rugg.

It seems likely that the heavily galvanised Grissell tomb was a product of the Regent's Canal Foundry, probably made at the time of their parents' death in 1847. This would explain the fashionable Gothic style and fine detailing, including pilasters and colonnades with small angels and blind Gothic windows in-filled with inscribed pink granite panels.

John Thurston (–1850): Billiard Table Manufacturer

Bob Flanagan

John Brown of Streatham has been studying the inscription on the Grade II listed Christopher Trowell Gabriel monument, and noticed the name John Thurston (d. 1850), father of Gabriel's wife Ruth, whom he had married in 1833. John Thurston is also the 'father' of the modern billiard/snooker table, having introduced not only the slate bed (1826), but also rubber cushions (1835). Thurstons remain important billiard/snooker table makers to this day.

Christopher Trowell Gabriel was the son of Thomas Gabriel

(1777–1848) of Brixton. With his father and brother Thomas, Christopher ran the family timber business in Commercial Road, Lambeth. The site is commemorated as Gabriel's Wharf on the South Bank. He lived at Norfolk House, Streatham Hill. He died 2 March 1873 aged 75, and left almost £200,000 (£103 million today, based on average earnings).



*Tomb of Christopher Trowell Gabriel (1797–1873)
and family (grave 2,689, square 52)*



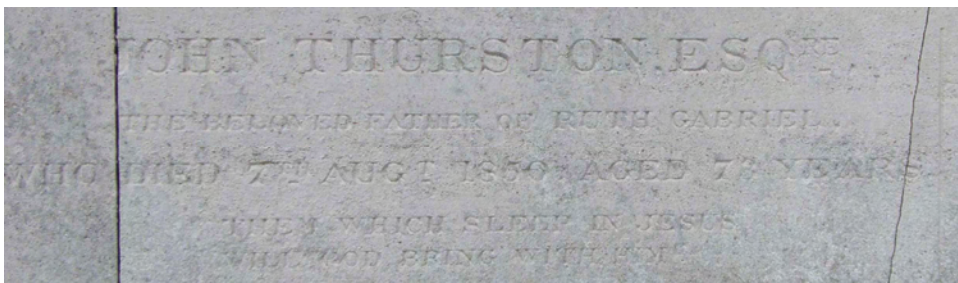
The monument is an elegant chest tomb with a continuous band of festooned bay leaves around the top; the carving is attributed to Kelsey⁹, but I know not on what evidence. However, we do know that the square plan iron railings were cast by J. Mills of 40 Great Russell Street, Bloomsbury because their name features prominently on two of the uprights! The listing description dates the tomb to c. 1873.

Christopher Gabriel senior, Christopher and Thomas's grandfather, had founded the family business in 1770 making tools and chairs, before turning to the timber trade from 1812. Sir Thomas was sole owner and manager 1873–85. He was Alderman for Vintry Ward, City of London, 1859–91, Sheriff of London 1859–60, and Lord Mayor, 1866–7. He died at Edgecombe Hall, Wimbledon Park, 23 February 1891 and is also buried at Norwood (grave 5,534, square 52). He left £371,858 (£180 million today, based on average earnings). A descendant, Peter Gabriel, was apparently a founder member of the band/group *Genesis*.

John Thurston

John Thurston had worked at Gillows of Lancaster's London offices, where they offered not only high quality furniture, but also billiard tables. The Thurston furniture business started in 1799 in premises in Newcastle Street in the parish of St. Clement Danes in the Strand, later trading from 14-16 Catherine Street. Thurston supplied the billiard table to Longwood House on St. Helena that was used by Napoleon in exile. Records show that the first slate bed table was supplied to White's in London (1832).

Snooker was a game invented to be played on a billiard table. Whilst we now refer to snooker tables, snooker cues, etc. it is only since 1945 that snooker has become the dominant game, its position of course reinforced by the advent of colour television. As noted above, John Thurston was responsible for introducing billiard tables with slate beds. The aim was to ensure consistency, as wooden table beds were affected by temperature



Detail of tomb of Christopher Trowell Gabriel. The inscription reads: John Thurston. Esqre. The beloved father of Ruth Gabriel. Who died 7th Augt 1850 aged 73 years

⁹ Charles J. Samuel Kelsey & Son, Sculptors, of Liverpool and London

and other climatic conditions. In 1851, a Thurston table won a Gold Medal at the Great Exhibition and in 1892 the Thurston design was accepted as the 'standard table' by the Billiards Association.



John Thurston (d. 1850)

To prevent damage to the balls as a result of striking the rim of the table, the rim was traditionally upholstered with layers of felt ('list'), the earliest form of 'cushion'. This gave an inconsistent bounce. Again John Thurston innovated and introduced natural rubber cushions, but these behaved differently depending on the ambient temperature. The rubber became very hard in cold weather, and had to be warmed using pans filled with hot water and shaped to fit as closely as possible to the cushion being heated. As a permanent solution, vulcanised rubber (natural rubber hardened with flowers of sulfur¹⁰) was used in cushions from 1845. John Thurston's will is dated 29 June 1850. Beneficiaries were his wife Sarah and his daughter Ruth Gabriel. Christopher Trowell Gabriel was his sole executor.

John Thurston was succeeded in the business by a Mr. G.J. Atkins, who entered into partnership with one Samuel Pitts. Samuel was followed by his son Thomas Pitts and around 1896 a Mr. Stevens, who was the general manager, with his wife's brother, John Craggs, purchased the interest of the firm, which was then made into a limited company. Thurstons enjoyed Royal Patronage and several Royal Warrants were granted during the 19th and early parts of the 20th centuries. All the great billiard/snooker players participated in matches at Thurstons, Australian Walter Lindrum (1898–1960), and Joe Davis (1901–1978) of Derbyshire probably being the most famous.

The Taplings ~ A Bequest to the Nation

Bob Flanagan

Thomas Tapling (or Tupling) was of humble origin, born in Wrawby in North Lincolnshire on 17 March 1818, the third of seven children. By the time he died 63 years later he was the equivalent of a multi-millionaire, having made a fortune from the sale of carpets and household furnishings. He married Elizabeth Anne Keay (1834–1875) in Cheltenham in 1855. First living in Mount Pleasant, Benton's Lane, Lower Norwood, they lived at

¹⁰ Plastics pioneer Alexander Parkes (1813–1890; grave 20,927, square 7, monument destroyed) patented the cold cure rubber vulcanization process (waterproofing fabrics using sulphur chloride and natural rubber in solution in carbon disulphide, a patent sold to Mackintosh & Co) in 1846

Kingswood House in Dulwich from 1869. They had five children. Their eldest son Thomas Keay Tapling amassed the most important unbroken stamp collection in the world, and gave it to the nation – part of it is now on display at the British Library. After Elizabeth died he married Charlotte Anne Gibbons in 1880 at St Stephen's Church, Dulwich – there were no children from this second marriage.

Thomas Keay Tapling was born at Mount Pleasant. He was educated first at home and then from age 15 at Harrow. He graduated BA and LLB in 1880, and MA and LLM in 1883 from Trinity College, Cambridge and was called to the bar at the Middle Temple. However, Thomas Tapling snr died in 1882 and Thomas Keay thenceforth took over the family business of Thomas Tapling & Son. This does not appear to have been a burden and the business prospered and expanded, providing him with the money to travel and build his stamp collection. He had a reputation as an enlightened employer who emphasised temperance and thrift to his employees.



Thomas Tapling snr c. 1860

Tapling played cricket at Cambridge, turning out for Trinity College, Trinity College Long Vacation Club, and Cambridge University Long Vacation Club. He played for the MCC against Cambridge University in 1886, his sole official first-class match. He was included in George Vernon's side for an 1889/90 tour of India and Ceylon, but was unable to play after a close friend was taken ill in Italy and he opted to stay with him. Tapling was also Conservative MP for the Harborough Division of Leicestershire, 1886–1891, and was a member of the Standing Committee on Trade.



Thomas Keay Tapling (1855–1891)

Tapling began collecting stamps as a schoolboy in 1865. During the 1870s and 1880s he purchased existing collections from other philatelists, including those of William Image, W.A.S. Westoby, Edward B. Evans, and Georges and Martial Caillebotte. By 1887 his collection was second only to that of Philippe Ferrari de La Renotière. Among his holdings were many world famous rarities, including both values of the 'Post Office' Mauritius and three examples of the Inverted Head Four Annas of India. It is the only intact private collection formed during the Nineteenth century, and contains examples of almost all the postage stamps and items of postal stationery issued world-wide up to 1889 as well as most of the rarities issued up to 1890.

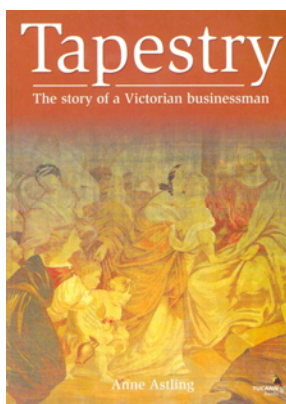
In 1870 or 1871 Tapling joined the Philatelic Society in London (later the Royal Philatelic Society of London), being elected to its Committee in 1876, and becoming Vice-President in 1881. The Tapling Medal, in silver, was created in his memory by the RPSL and first awarded in 1920. His name was recorded on the Roll of Philatelists in 1921 as one of the original 'Fathers of Philately'.

Thomas Keay Tapling died unmarried at the age of 35 (of pleurisy) at Gumley Hall, Market Harborough. His extraordinary stamp collection was bequeathed to the British Museum. The Collection was arranged in the style Tapling favoured by the Philatelic Collections' first curator Edward (later Sir Edward) Bacon, between 1892 and 1899.

The family mausoleum at Norwood near the site of the Dissenters' Chapel holds the remains of Thomas snr, his first wife Annie, and their children Thomas Keay, Annie Mary (1859–1860, removed from St Luke's Churchyard), Sidney William Wilson (1860–1871, removed from the catacombs) and Margaret Elizabeth (1857–1876). It cost £153 to build in 1872 (£82,800 today based on average earnings). Their fifth child Florence Annie Alexandra (1875–1956) was born at the Tapling's seaside home in Brighton, married Thomas Francis Fremantle, 3rd Baron Cottlesloe (1862–1956) in 1896, had 8 children, and died at Swanbourne, Buckinghamshire.

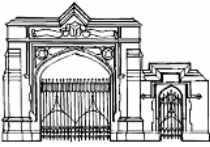


Tapling family mausoleum (grave 13,902, square 38)



Anne Astling. Lincoln: Tucann Books, 2010. Illustrated, 70 pp. Softback, £5.00

Anne Astling is a distant relative of Thomas Keay Tapling and has published a biography of his father Thomas that we hope to stock for the FOWNC bookstall. The booklet is profusely illustrated with photographs of family members and of the places associated with them. Unfortunately, there is not much that can be discerned about the Tapling business other than Thomas snr often fell out with his brothers, and that his warehouse was on Gresham Street, and was labeled Tapling and Beall & Co. Unfortunately too, there is no photo of Mount Pleasant (I have never found one either), which I think was situated at the top of what used to be Pilgrim Hill, adjacent to the cemetery. My house in Durban Road dates to c. 1888 and was built on a pair of plots sold at auction at the break up of the Mount Pleasant Estate in 1886. The owner of the estate had been Thomas Edward Eden (grave 34, square 66; monument destroyed), dentist to Queen Victoria, a subject for a future Newsletter article!

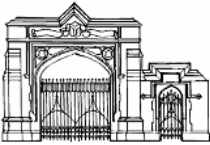
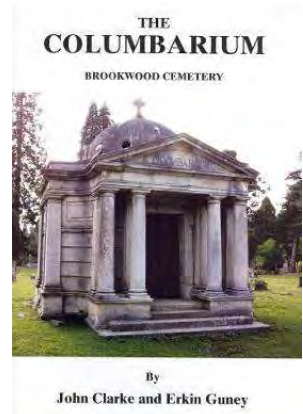


The Columbarium: Brookwood Cemetery

Book Review – Bob Flanagan

John Clarke and Erkin Guney. 2010. Illustrated, 40 pp, £5 post free from Brookwood Park Ltd, Glades House, Cemetery Pales, Brookwood, Woking GU24 0BL

This welcome booklet gives the history of the Grade II listed structure built as a family mausoleum by George Henry Cadogan, 5th Earl Cadogan (1840–1915) in 1877–8. First used for the interment of his eldest son Albert Edward, Viscount Chelsea (1866–78), no further family burials took place there. In 1910 the mausoleum was sold to the London Necropolis Company for £200, a fraction of the amount it had cost to build, after removal of Viscount Chelsea's body to Culford in 1908. Used as a Columbarium for the reception of funerary urns from 1912–82, emergency repairs were completed in 2009. Earl Cadogan's younger brother, the Hon. Charles George Henry Cadogan (1850–1901), is buried just outside the Columbarium.



Open Day ~ Saturday 11 June 2011

Jill Dudman

Lambeth held a cemetery Open Day this year, the first for some time. It was arranged to coincide with London Open Garden Squares Weekend, but unfortunately clashed with the NCFE AGM, which this year was held in Plymouth.

Sadly, the current financial situation at Lambeth meant that the ever-popular attraction of the horse-drawn hearses could not be provided, but there were exhibitions and films in the chapel, the weather held fine, and the day was well-attended. In addition to the usual FOWNC tours, Roy Vickery from the South London Botanical Institute led a tour looking at *West Norwood's Wonderful Weeds (and Other Plants)*. As we strolled around, he plucked samples of numerous plants, some tiny and low on the ground and barely noticeable to the untrained eye. He named them and spoke about uses of them, particularly in folklore, this being one of his principal research areas.

We learned that ribwort plantain was thought to heal cuts, and creeping cinquefoil could be made into a brew for fevers. Dock leaves are well known for treating nettle stings, but also the roots were fed to horses to make their coats shiny. A solution of ivy was used to cleanse clothes, and an infusion of elder flowers with their distinctive smell would keep flies away. Horsetail, with a high silica content, was used for polishing. Ash tree sap was used to treat earache, and thistle sap to treat warts; hawthorn was thought useful for heart

conditions. Cleavers (goosegrass) was fed to turkeys, groundsel was fed to caged birds, and apparently burdock was fed to inmates of workhouses! The dreaded Japanese knotweed (currently undergoing a professional eradication programme in the cemetery) is actually edible, tasting somewhat like rhubarb (we didn't try it). Where a bramble (of which the cemetery has vast numbers) sends out a long arching stem and the far end roots itself, crawling under the arch was thought to cure whooping cough and rickets. I think we may all be grateful for the advent of modern medicine!



Forthcoming FOWNC Events

September-December 2011

General tours: first Sunday of each month (4 September, 2 October, 6 November, 4 December), starting at the cemetery main gate off Norwood Road at 14.30 (11.00 November and December), and lasting for about 2 hours. Talks will be held at Chatsworth Baptist Church, Chatsworth Way (off Norwood Road), SE27 (enter by second door on right in Idmiston Road) as detailed below, starting at 14.30. We welcome donations of £1 per person (£0.50 concessions) towards room hire/conservation projects.

Sunday 18 September: Open House London Weekend

Tours will start at the cemetery main gate at 14.00, 14.30, and 15.00, and end at the Greek chapel, which will be open for viewing with short talks therein. ***Please be aware that as 18 September is also 'European Car-Free Day' Lambeth plan to close part of Norwood High Street, but have promised not to restrict vehicle access to the cemetery.***

Saturday 15 October: AGM and Lecture – The EH Register of Historic Parks and Gardens, Jonathan Lovie

The Garden History Society (GHS) is a statutory consultee on planning proposals for sites identified by English Heritage as being of national significance, and which are included on the Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England. Jonathan Lovie, the Conservation Policy Advisor and Principal Conservation Officer for England at the GHS, was involved in the elevation of West Norwood Cemetery to Grade II* on the Register last year.

Saturday 19 November: Lecture – Brompton Cemetery, John White

Another opportunity to attend this fully-illustrated talk by FOWNC committee member John White, who has the rare distinction of being a tour guide at three of the 'Magnificent Seven' cemeteries, West Norwood, Brompton, and Kensal Green. The presentation will be in effect a tour of the most notable monuments/notable interments at Brompton.

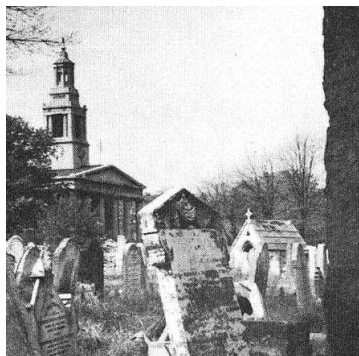
Other Forthcoming Events

Saturday 1 October, 10.00-17.00: Lambeth Archives Open Day

Minet Library, 52 Knatchbull Road, SE5. This year the theme is 'Festival Lambeth' to mark the 60th anniversary of the Festival of Britain. The event will also look at other ways the borough has held public celebrations. The FOWNC bookstall will be present.

A Bit of Mystery – Bob Flanagan

What happened to the Morgan mausoleum? Thomas Morgan was born on 18 April 1819 and was educated at Eton. A London merchant, he was associated with the British Archaeological Association from 1845, and was hon. Treasurer and Vice-president 1875–1890. He was elected FSA in 1875. An authority on Romano-British mosaic pavements, he died at Hillside House, Streatham, on 13 January 1892. His family mausoleum at Norwood was caught in an Eric de Maré photograph in the early 1970s showing its location relative to St Luke's church, but it has now disappeared. It looked to be in good condition. Was it a victim of Lambeth's clearance operations in this part of the cemetery?



*The Morgan family mausoleum
(grave 12,885, square 122)*

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If you would like further information about the Friends, please contact the Secretary.

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