

Friends of West Norwood CEMETERY

Newsletter No. 85 – January 2016

Free to members

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Chairman's Report

Bob Flanagan

Major news this month is that the Heritage Lottery Fund bid has been successful. The grant was submitted by Lambeth with our support under the HLF Parks for People programme and is for £241,000. This represents 52 % of the development costs of a Round Two bid of £4,804,800 towards the total project cost of £7,165,333. The bid envisages capital investment in drainage, footpath, and roadway improvements, boundary wall, railings, and entrance gate repair/maintenance, landscape restoration, signage and furniture improvements, and works to monuments including some in the Greek Cemetery.

In addition, the possibilities of building a visitor centre by the main gate and of a second, pedestrian entrance to the cemetery at eastern end of Robson Road to give access to St Stephen's Chapel in order to promote its use for evening events will be explored, together with new ways of interpreting the history of the site. The bid also includes provision for training for staff and volunteers, and for apprentices in horticulture and in stone/monument repair/conservation. All-



*Butterfield family monument
(grave 25,732, square 64)*

in-all then a comprehensive programme of works is envisaged that, together with the proposed agreed way forward on grave re-use should ensure the future of the cemetery for years to come. Grave re-use of course is a thorny question as enquiries as to graves of relatives come in ever more frequently and often yield new information about those buried or otherwise commemorated in the cemetery. The internet has been a major factor here of course – what was life like without it?



Lost monument to Augustus Siebe and family (grave 4,522, square 24).

FOWNC News

As noted last January, 2015 marked 25 years of FOWNC. To commemorate this milestone, Colin and Rose Fenn have masterminded the production of an anniversary booklet. Copies will be circulated to members and will also be accessible from our website, which will have the advantage of full colour illustrations! A copy will be given to new members and will serve to give background information on what we have achieved over the years, as well as delineating future goals. We also plan to include more detail of such things as monument restoration/reinstatement on our website.

Other news is that there is a move led by Royal Parks, who look after Brompton cemetery, to create a ‘Magnificent Seven’ brand that can be used in tourist trails, etc. to encourage

appreciation of our cemeteries. This is a welcome initiative deserving of widespread support. One thing we have succeeded in doing is raising the profile of the cemetery not only nationally, but also internationally.

Finally, at the end of the summer we hosted two bat-spotting walks. Dr Iain Boulton, the Council's wildlife expert, led us around the Cemetery at dusk to seek out tiny Common and Soprano Pipistrelles and listen to their high-pitched calls with bat-detectors. The Cemetery's 40 acres are a rich source of food for bats, which fly through to skim thousands of insects from the trees each night. Other larger species found in Lambeth include the Noctule, Serotine and Leisler's bat. Our visitors - close on 90 people - also had the chance to see the new uplighting to the mausolea beside the entrance.

Brian John Bloice

The recent death of Brian Bloice has left a great void in Local History circles in South London. He and his partner Judy Harris were founder members of FOWNC, and he lectured to us several times, including on the life and work of Sir Henry Tate, and on Doultons and other Lambeth potters, all of whom buried at Norwood of course.

Brian was born in Lambeth on 10 August 1939. On leaving Henry Thornton Grammar School in 1957 he joined Southwark Council as an analytical chemist. He rose to head their Public Analyst Department, where he was responsible for the analysis of food, drugs, and environmental samples until the service closed in 1991.

From the early 1960s Brian volunteered in archaeological excavation work, and went on to direct a number of projects. Whilst researching the Lambeth potteries he helped discover the first remains of Delftware kilns in this country. He was the founder secretary in 1965 of the Southwark & Lambeth Archaeological Society, later vice-chairman, recently President. This work grew into an interest in local history, his enthusiasm leading to lecturing posts at Morley College and several other adult education institutes.



Brian Bloice (1939–2015)

In 1976 Brian moved to Streatham and joined the Streatham Society. He helped organise walks, talks, exhibitions, coach trips and other events, wrote books, answered website enquiries, looked at planning applications, and was latterly chairman. His research in 1986 into Streatham's former silk mill building caused it to be spot-listed just hours before demolition was due, and he played a major part in preserving many other historic Streatham buildings threatened by redevelopment projects.

For many years Brian served on, and was latterly chairman of, the Lambeth Local History Forum. His last achievement before illness overtook him was his part in organising this year's Lambeth Heritage Festival in September. He died on 29 October and was cremated at Norwood on 18 November. His funeral was attended by well over 100 people, including the Mayor of Lambeth and representatives of the many societies he had worked with over the years. We extend our sincere sympathies to his long-time partner Judy.

Rosemary Anne Comber (1930-2015)

Bob Flanagan

It is with great personal sadness that I report the death of Rosemary Comber who, together with her husband David, laid the foundations of FOWNC in 1989, David serving for many years as Treasurer, and Rosemary as Membership Secretary. We would not have achieved so much were it not for their enthusiasm and support in the early years.

Rosemary Anne Seaton was born on 30 April 1930 to Esther and Austin Seaton, younger sister to Henry and Dorothy. She grew up in Birmingham and attended the King Edward Girls School. She passed her Higher School Certificate at 17 and gained entry to King's College Hospital School of Nursing, but had to spend a year doing her National Nursery Examination Board certificate because she was too young to start at King's. Whilst studying at King's she met David, a Londoner, at the Lambeth School of Dancing. They married in 1953 in Handsworth, Birmingham, and spent their honeymoon in Paris. They continued to dance and qualified to Gold standard in Ballroom and Latin American. On retirement they re-took their dance medals.

Rosemary worked at King's for many years, before eventually becoming a school nurse. After having studied at King's, she lived in South London for the rest of her life. She was involved with many volunteer groups including Civil Defence, St John's Ambulance, the Hospital Car Service, and Meals on Wheels. A keen gardener, Rosemary built lovely gardens at all her homes, latterly in West and Upper Norwood, and she used to have an allotment. She was a member of the Townswomen's Guild, the Norwood Society, the Lambeth Horticultural Society, and the Norwood Grove social club.

Rosemary started leading guided tours of the cemetery, organised by Geoffrey Manning, in the late 1980s, under the auspices of the Norwood Society. She became one of the FOWNC team leading first-Sunday-of-the-month tours, and appeared briefly in a TV programme on places in London that featured the catacombs. She also pioneered a tour of the graves of notable women, and whilst leading a tour discovered the grave of Dr John Sutherland (1808-1891; grave 24,102, square 86; see Newsletter 36, September 1999), recognising his name from her studies of Florence Nightingale.

After David died in 1998 (see Newsletter 34, January 1999), Rosemary lived independently, continuing an active social life with the support of her friends. Her love of gardening and dancing kept her younger than her years. She was always ready to help, but



Rosemary Comber (1930–2015)

never interfered. She took pleasure in the success of others and enjoyed seeing people enjoy themselves. She had a nurse's sense of humour. Rosemary was above all a caring and kind friend to everyone she met. She had a Christian faith having been brought up in the Anglican tradition, but was unable to attend church in later years. She did however listen to sermons online from other churches.

Sadly Rosemary died in King's on 11 October after a short illness, and was cremated at Norwood on 27 October. Many friends and representatives of the numerous groups she had helped over the years attended the committal service together with her son Lawrence Comber and her daughter Judy Hicks and the rest of her family. We will all miss her, but we also give thanks for her life and her friendship.

A. Yeatman & Sons: 130 Year Celebration

Bob Flanagan

Saturday 26 September saw Yeatman's Funeral Services celebrate 130 years of operation in Norwood. To commemorate this milestone and also the refurbishment of their offices on Norwood Road, Yeatman's held an open day attended by the Mayor of Lambeth, Cllr Donatus Anyanwu, who unveiled a plaque to commemorate the event.

According to J.B. Wilson (*Story of Norwood*, 1973) Albert Yeatman's original premises were on Norwood High Street adjacent to the cemetery in the first of four houses situated between the two cemetery gates. It was thought that these houses were built at the same time as St. Luke's Church (1824–36) because they were adorned with the same Grecian pediments as the church. No 1 High Street, Osborne Lodge, was occupied by a Mr Honey, a



Plaque in Yeatman's refurbished offices

solicitor and from 1886 by Yeatman's. No 4 was once occupied by another stonemason, Mr. Bolingbroke. These houses were almost totally destroyed by a flying bomb in 1944 that also demolished the cemetery lodge (see Newsletter 77, May 2013).

Yeatman's also had a shop at 2 Knights Hill on the corner of Bloom Grove. In 1931 they moved into Piper's building on Norwood Road. In time they also became undertakers, and by 1974 were no longer masons. The last remaining male member of the Yeatman family, Ronald Yeatman, sold the company to Alfred Smith of Southwark in 1974. A condition of that sale was that the Yeatman name should be retained on the Norwood premises. Incidentally in 1936 there were newspaper reports of Ronald Yeatman building the world's smallest cinema with 21 seats in his house on Knights Hill!



Sharon Wickes of Yeatman's & Cllr Anyanwu

that of other monumental masons has been lost thanks to the thoughtless clearances that the cemetery suffered at the hands of Lambeth from 1970–1990.

On a happier note, Cook's Carriages of Hockley were also on hand at the 130 year celebration offering tours of the cemetery in a white Landau pulled by a pair of beautiful Dutch Friesian horses. The Friesian is apparently the traditional funeral horse, more commonly known as the *Belgian Black*. When the horses were first imported to Britain there was no suitable embarkation port in the Netherlands, and so they were exported from Antwerp on barges. They were then taken up the Thames to the Elephant and Castle area of London where they were sold at market every Thursday. World War II saw the supply of horses cut off resulting in the motor hearse replacing the horse-drawn hearse in the late 1940s. A ride in a horse-drawn carriage round the cemetery was a great thrill for me as I had never been in a horse-drawn vehicle before, despite hearing and reading about them over the years. It was especially interesting seeing how hard the horses had to work going up Steep Hill, and in turn feeling the effect of the brake applied to help them guide the carriage down from the Crematorium to the

Yeatman & Sons were also at Garratt Lane, Tooting, and Streatham Vale.¹ The whole subject of stonemasons and undertakers that operated in the Norwood area has been researched by Barbara Thomas, who will be discussing her findings on 20 February (see Forthcoming Events, p 19). Nowadays, some Yeatman memorials survive in the cemetery, along with monuments provided by other local stonemasons: Minter, Piper (later the Art Memorial Co.), and Wilson. It is of course sad that so much of their work and



Cook's Landau and the Gilbert memorial

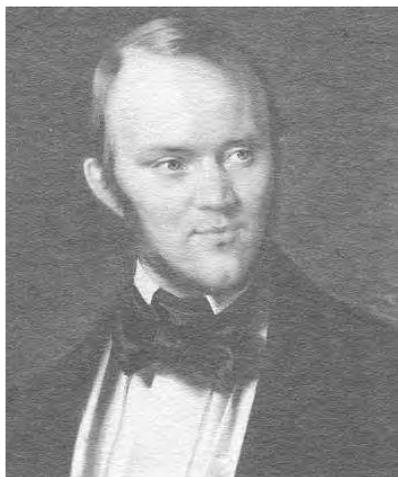
Greek Cemetery – horses have to work pulling carriages downhill as well as uphill!

¹ There is another A. Yeatman, funeral directors, in the Poole area, but I am unsure as to any connection to the Norwood Yeatman's

Alexander Kleinwort (1815-1886) & Family

Malcolm Chase

Alexander Friedrich Heinrich Kleinwort became one of the most successful merchant bankers of his generation, facilitating trade between British and German companies. He and his family had a long connection with South London in general, and with the German colony at Denmark Hill in particular. But the outbreak of World War One would have brought down Kleinwort's bank, and with it the whole British banking system, had not the Bank of England intervened.



Alexander Kleinwort (1815-1886)

Alexander Kleinwort was born to a landed family at Schloss Gerdeshagen in Satow, Mecklenburg. The family moved to Hamburg and became merchants. Alexander was apprenticed to the leading merchant house in the English trade in 1831, but decided to seek his fortune in the Spanish colony of Cuba. He set sail for Cuba on 22 April 1838, arriving in Havana on 14 June 1838 according to his journal. He joined Drake Bros & Co, one of the oldest merchant houses in Cuba, as a copyist in charge of their European correspondence in English and French. He was promoted chief clerk in May 1840 and second accountant in August 1842. He began to trade on his own account in every kind of commodity, ranging from shirts to cigars, and began to build up some capital. He was promoted manager in 1845 and was able to visit London and his family in Hamburg in 1846.

Heinrich and Friederike Greverus

Alexander was met in London by Heinrich Greverus, Drake's London agent. After visiting Hamburg he returned to London and acquired first-hand experience of Greverus' agency for Drake's. He stayed with Heinrich and his wife Friederike in their home, *Grove House* on Denmark Hill, where he fell in love with their only daughter, Sophie.

The 18th century Greveruses were erudite theologians in the Oldenburg area of northern Germany. Heinrich's father, Johann, was the first Greverus to go into commerce. He trained in Liverpool and Amsterdam before obtaining the European agency for Drake's in London. He became successful enough to set up his own firm H. Greverus & Co at 3 White Hart Court off Lombard Street and to settle his family in Camberwell. The Greveruses were part of a large German colony in Denmark Hill. Until the early 19th century Camberwell remained a rural village. It was just a four mile carriage drive from the City and many people built large houses there.

Friends of the Greveruses in Denmark Hill were the Beneckes.² Mendelssohn had visited in 1842 and whilst there composed *Spring Song*, which was originally entitled *Camberwell Green*. Wagner was a later visitor. Alexander and Sophie were invited to musical soirées there. The Beneckes' house was demolished in 1907 to form Ruskin Park.

Wealth and Marriage

On 1 November 1848 Alexander was lucky enough to be made a partner in the restructured firm with a friend, Edward Cohen. Alexander had saved sufficient money from his trading activities to be able to contribute \$50,000 to the new partnership. When Drake and Cohen both retired in 1851, Alexander was left with a 15% share in the firm, thus realising his dream of riches and being able to support a family. He and Sophie married on 24 January 1852 at St. Giles, Camberwell and returned to Havana. Their first daughter, Wilhelmina (Minnie), my great grandmother, was born in Cuba on 19 January 1853. Heinrich Greverus had come to stay in December 1852 and by the time he left in April he had decided to retire and offered Alexander a partnership in his firm.

Alexander and Sophie stayed in Cuba until December 1854. Their second daughter, Sophie, was born in September 1854 and their two sons, Herman and Alexander (Alex) Drake were born in London in 1856 and in 1858, respectively. In London they lived at *The Glebe*, Grove Hill, a large Victorian house set in spacious grounds on a hill, with a view of the Crystal Palace. The



Kleinwort family vault (grave 6,981, square 49)

house was given to them by Sophie's parents. It had its own small dairy. Alexander used to walk to work and when his sons Alex and Herman joined the bank, they too had to walk, even though a new railway ran along the bottom of the grounds after March 1865.

The German Lutheran church in Windsor Road (now Windsor Walk) was founded in 1854 by a congregation formed from local Anglo-German families. Prince Albert headed the list of subscribers. Some 80 German families lived within walking distance of each other in Denmark Hill and the Kleinworts socialised and did business with the Greveruses, Schrodgers, Beneckes, Donners, Huths, and Brandts, amongst others, mostly still speaking German amongst themselves. Minnie's diaries (1872–1917) are nearly all in German, but when she wrote in English she was fluent.

² Henriette Elizabeth Benecke (-1893) (grave 25,101, square 106) was Mendelssohn's wife's aunt

Sadly, Sophie died in childbirth in 1860. Her daughter, Charlotte, also died, and mother and daughter were both buried at Norwood in an elaborate tomb near to the Episcopalian Mortuary Chapel (grave 6,981, square 49). Sophie's parents Heinrich and Friederike Greverus were reinterred there in 1860 from grave 3,203 (square 47). Alexander himself died on 7 January 1886 and in turn was buried in the vault.

SOPHIE CHARLOTTE WIFE OF
 ALEXANDER F.H. KLEINWORT ESQRE.
 BORN JUNE 26TH 1820, DIED JUNE 5TH 1860
 AND CHARLOTTE, THEIR INFANT DAUGHTER
 BORN JUNE 4TH 1860, DIED JUNE 6TH 1860
 ALEXANDER F.H. KLEINWORT
 BORN GERDESHAGEN, SATOW, MECKLENBURG
 18TH NOVEMBER 1815
 DIED AT THE GLEBE, GROVE HILL, CAMBERWELL
 7TH JANUARY 1886

IN MEMORY OF
 H.D. GREVERUS ESQRE.
 BORN MARCH 11TH 1785
 DIED MARCH 17TH 1860
 AND OF HIS WIFE
 FRIEDERIKE CHARLOTTE
 BORN AUGUST 25TH 1791
 DIED JUNE 5TH 1852

FREDERICK HENRY
 SECOND SON OF
 ALEXANDER D. AND ETIENNETTE KLEINWORT
 BORN 14TH AUGUST 1895
 DIED 19TH SEPTEMBER 1896

Inscriptions: Kleinwort tomb (grave 6,981, square 49)

daughter, Sophie, married Carlo Andreae, a member of another old German family, in 1873. They lived in a spacious house in Champion Hill, *Crestalta*. Sadly Carlo died on 16 February 1888, but not before they had had four sons. One, also Carlo, died in infancy, but Herman became a partner in the bank, while Eddie became a 'company doctor', lived at *Tandridge Court*, and now has over 100 descendants. Carlo Andreae and his infant son lie in grave 19,881 (square 49) due south of the Kleinwort tomb together with the cremated remains of Magdalene Caroline Andreae (d. 1915) and Sophie herself (d. 1942).

Kleinwort, Sons and Company

Alexander's firm Drake, Kleinwort & Cohen had moved into premises at 7 Mincing Lane in 1858. They then moved into their own building at 20 Fenchurch Street in 1863, becoming Kleinwort & Cohen in 1871. When Edward Cohen retired in 1883 the firm became Kleinwort, Sons & Co. The two sons, Herman and Alex, were trained rigorously by their father and sent to a gymnasium in Karlsruhe and university in Antwerp specifically to learn languages. They both started as clerks at £8 per month. After Alexander's death Herman and Alex, who became the 1st baronet (Sir Alexander Drake

Minnie married Robert Martin, who, despite his English-sounding name, came from an old Palatinate family, where they had been hereditary foresters for centuries. Robert had moved from Frankfurt to the London firm of his cousin, Robert de Clermont. They married on 2 April 1872, and he was immediately invited to join the Kleinwort family firm. Robert was very able, but turned down a partnership. However, he became Manager and remained in post for 30 years at a salary of £5,000 per annum (1880). Their first house was near Denmark Hill station, but by 1878 they had moved to a Georgian house, *Uplands*, on Champion Hill. The descendants of their eight children still meet regularly.

Alexander and Sophie's second

Kleinwort) in 1909, ran the company for many years. They were succeeded in the 1930s by Alex's sons Ernest and Cyril.

The bank developed into one of the leading merchant banks in the City, operating as a receiving agent for Anglo-German trade. Three quarters of their clients were German, and included its biggest chemical companies, such as IG Farben and Liebig's Extract of Meat Co in Argentina.

The Great War

When Russia mobilized in the run-up to World War I there was a rush for gold and all leading currencies were suspended, rendering the Gold Standard inoperative. At the start of the 1914 August Bank Holiday £350 million of bills were circulating in London, of which £120 million were German in origin. Kleinwort's had the biggest exposure to these bills, and faced a now-impossible obligation to make payments to other British banks of £3m per day.

Alex joined an emergency weekend meeting of other leading bankers at the Treasury. All the acceptance houses were in effect insolvent and this exposure would lead to the total collapse of the British – and global – banking system. It was agreed to extend the bank holiday for a week, postponing payments on all bills of exchange to hold off a run on the banks.³ The Bank of England agreed to provide lines of credit to all banks – effectively injecting the missing £120 million into the system. Montague Norman, the head of the Bank of England, wrote *'The war, I fear, may be long and none can foresee its results; it must make the world and all of us poorer. Many will be ruined'* in his diary that weekend.

This bail-out restored confidence in the British banking system and, encouraged by Anglophiles such as J.P. Morgan, enabled Britain to continue trading freely with its major partners in the US and elsewhere throughout the war. However, Kleinwort's fell under anti-German suspicion and were investigated by the Treasury, accused of *'keeping back considerable sums of money belonging to alien enemies that ought to go to the Public Trustee'*. The accusation was baseless, but hurt the business. Herman was excluded from visiting the bank and was placed under *de facto* house arrest at his home in Kent.

Kleinwort, Benson

In World War II, Kleinwort's again lost all its business in most of continental Europe. To avoid the danger of bombing the main office was moved to Bolnore, near Haywards Heath. Kleinwort, Sons & Co was converted into a limited company in 1955 and merged with Robert Benson Lonsdale in 1961 to form Kleinwort, Benson. After some good years in the 1980s when it was a leader in privatisations it was taken over by Dresdner Bank in July 1995. 20 Fenchurch Street, where Kleinwort, Benson had erected a 25-story building in 1968, was pulled down in 2009 and is now the site of the so-called *Walkie-Talkie* skyscraper. Kleinwort, Benson still exists as a leading private bank, as part of the RHI International group.⁴

³ Almost exactly a century later the collapse of Lehman Brothers led to similar interventions on the global financial markets

⁴ See *Kleinwort Benson* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1997) and *Beyond the Banking Hall: A History of the Kleinwort Family* (2000), both by Jehanne Wake, for more information

Champion Hill

Champion Hill had formed part of Sir Claude Champion de Creigny's large country estate. In the 1900s it contained some of Camberwell's finest Georgian houses. At that time it had gates at each end, with gatekeepers. Wilhelmina Kleinwort (Minnie) had married Robert Martin on 2 April 1872. Initially they lived opposite Denmark Hill station. Gussie, the eldest son, later recalled the stationmaster calling out the name of the station every 15 minutes.



Martin and Andreae tombstones (square 49)

From 1877 they lived at *Uplands*, Champion Hill, an old Georgian house, but in 1888 they moved to a fine new house, *Redcourt*, built on the pastures of *Uplands* in 1887, directly opposite *Crestalta*. *Redcourt* was a large house with a stable block for six horses. Robert Martin was described as 'horse mad' by one of his sons and used to ride every morning before breakfast around the then wooded areas of Dulwich and Sydenham. In fact he was riding until three days before his death in 1929.

IN MEMORY OF
CARLO ALEXANDER
INFANT SON OF
JOHN CHARLES (CARLO) AND SOPHIE CHARLOTTE ANDREA
BORN 1ST SEPT 1882 DIED 10TH NOV 1883

ALSO THE ABOVE
JOHN CHARLES (CARLO) ANDREA
BORN 24TH JULY 1845 DIED 16TH FEBY 1888

Inscriptions: Andreae tombstone (grave 19,881, square 49)

over to *Homes for Working Boys in London (Incorporated)* and renamed *Rossie House*, 7 Champion Hill. It was dedicated in a service held on 23 July 1926 and could hold 50 boys. It was pulled down for redevelopment in the 1970s.

The Martins are remembered by a graceful memorial (grave 20,961, square 49) in front of the Andreae grave. Their cremated remains lie in the grave, as do those of two of Minnie's grandsons, Philip and Peter Martin, who both died young.

The Martin children regarded *Redcourt* as the family home. Bunty Chase had a photo album, passed down from Emmie (my grandmother), named *Dear Old Redcourt 1906*, with just six large photos. Oliver Martin, Gussie's grandson, has an almost identical album, so probably there were originally 8 copies. Robert's grandson Bobbie Henschel, of the well-known Henschel locomotive manufacturing firm based in Kassel, named his house at Brissago *Casa Cortile Rosso* after it.

Minnie died at *Redcourt* in November 1917. In 1919 Robert moved to Bourne-mouth, but retained *Redcourt* and used to stay there in the early 1920s. His son Bobby lived there with his family until April 1924. *Redcourt* was later handed

The third Kleinwort household took root on Champion Hill when Herman Kleinwort, who had married Marguerite Gunther, daughter of the Antwerp banker Otto Gunther, built *The Platanes*⁵ in 1882, next door to *Crestalta* on Champion Hill. Herman eventually moved to a grand house, 45 Belgrave Square, and was the first of the family to establish himself as a country gentleman when he bought *Wierton Place*, near Maidstone.

The Platanes, *Crestalta* and *Redcourt* were only a 15 minute walk from *The Glebe*, although the Kleinworts sometimes took a 'fly'. Alex had continued to live at *The Glebe* after his father's death. He married Etiennette Girard from outside their immediate circle. They acquired a Mayfair town house, 30 Curzon Street, and also bought a country estate at Bolnore, near Haywards Heath. *The Glebe* was finally sold in 1909 and is now the site of a council estate. Herman gave *The Platanes* to King's College in 1910. It continues to serve as a student hostel and its name can still be seen on a gatepost.

WILHELMINA FRIEDERICKE MARTIN KLEINWORT
BORN AT HAVANA 12TH JANUARY 1853
DIED AT LONDON 25TH NOVEMBER 1917

ALSO PHILIPP LUDWIG ROBERT MARTIN
BORN IN FRANKFURT o/M FEBRUARY 18TH 1846
DIED BOURNEMOUTH HANTS JULY 2ND 1929
BELOVED HUSBAND OF THE ABOVE

PHILIP FYERS MARTIN

AGED 12
BORN FEBRUARY 11TH 1919
PASSED ON APRIL 14TH 1931 AT SUTTON SURREY

DOUGLAS PETER FYERS MARTIN

AGED 12
BORN JUNE 20TH 1921
PASSED ON MARCH 10TH 1934

Inscriptions: Martin tombstone (grave 20,961, square 49)

James William Lawson (1799-1868) & *The Times*

Jean Milne

James William, the eldest son of James and Mary Ann Lawson, was born in Fleet Street on 28 December 1799. After his father died he carried on the family business, which included writing a newsletter circulated to subscribers as well as printing *The Times*. He was still involved in August 1833 when he and his brother John Joseph⁶ were named in a motion by the Irish Catholic MP Daniel O'Connell demanding that as printer and registered proprietors of *The Times* they be called to the Bar of the House of Commons to answer for an item they had published that displeased him.

On 29 October 1833 a partnership between James and Charles Barker (1791–1859) was dissolved.⁷ In 1841 James was living at Kennington Oval. In his household were Emma

⁵ German for plane trees

⁶ See Newsletter 84, September 2015

⁷ Charles Barker is buried at Highgate. The partnership, which involved brokering advertising space in *The Times*, was established in Birch Lane as Lawson & Barker in 1812. Charles Barker & Sons, Advertising Agents, became a limited company in 1913. In 1986 the agency was floated,

Horne, aged 4 and Harriett Horne, 2, children of his sister Mary Ann and her husband Abraham Horne. The identity of a Jane Lawson who was also living at his address remains a mystery. It is unlikely that she was his wife because on 14 August 1841 he married Amelia Lydia Williams (11 Nov 1800–5 March 1865) in Guernsey. She was the 4th daughter of Henry Thomas Williams of Reading, Berkshire, and Honoria Torriano. She died at *Bafford House*, nr Cheltenham, the home of her sister Isabella Constantia, widow of Sir David Leighton. The announcement of her death stated that she was the ‘wife of James William Lawson of Caen, Normandy’.

James was living at *The Laurels*, Gravesend when he died on 24 October 1868 and was buried at Norwood (grave 958, square 78). His executors were his brother-in-law William Graves Hayes, of Southall, and his nephew Edward Horne, of Devonshire Square, City of London, wine merchant. His will and 2 codicils make no mention of any children of his own, but provided that his portion of the share of *The Times* as well as the residue from the sale of personal property (valued at £12,000) and of his real estate, be divided into 4 equal shares to be distributed to each of his 2 surviving sisters,⁸ and in the case of the 2 sisters who predeceased him, to their children.

Mary Ann Horne neé Lawson (1804–1871): Scandal in Camberwell

Mary Ann, the second daughter of James and Mary Ann Lawson, was born in Fleet Street on 19 February 1804. She married Abraham Horne, one of 12 children of Thomas Horne (1782–1864) and Ann Jane Driver (1781–1863) on 22 August 1833 at Christ Church, Southwark. The newspaper announcements of the marriage state that she was James Lawson’s eldest daughter of Garston Hall, Surrey. Abraham Horne was a wine merchant and member of the Clothworkers’ Company. His father was a successful coal merchant and also a member of the Clothworkers’ Company – he and his wife had been born into Quaker families, but had been baptized together with 10 of their children in the Anglican church on 21 December 1824 at Holy Trinity, Clapham.

Abraham and Mary Ann had 5 children: Edward Lawson (b. 20 November 1834), Mary Jane (3 May–28 October 1836), Emma (christened 6 September 1837), Harriett Elizabeth (baptized 5 April 1839), and Julia Truman (b. 24 October 1840). The 1841 census hints at the disaster that befell the family at that time. Mary Horne and the infant Julia were living with her in-laws Thomas and Ann Driver at Gordon Square, St Pancras. The three older children are all listed at Foxley Road, Kennington, with 2 servants and no parents. However, because the census was enumerated over several days they reappear elsewhere, Harriett and Emma in the household of their mother’s brother James Lawson at 34 Kennington Oval, and Edward in the household of Samuel Truman, also in Kennington.⁹ In the 1851 census, when she and her 4 children were living in the household of her widowed aunt Elizabeth Garthwaite, she lists herself as a widow and ‘proprietress of *The*

changed its name to BNB Resources (1989) and then to BNB Recruitment Solutions (2004), but went into administration in 2009, the oldest advertising agency in the City of London

⁸ Louisa Sophia Lawson, daughter of James Lawson & Mary Ann Truman, sister of John Joseph Lawson, did not marry. She died on 17 March 1853 and was buried at Norwood (grave 958, square 78) on 24 March

⁹ Samuel Truman was the brother of Mary Ann Truman, wife of James Lawson

Times’, hiding the fact that Abraham had abandoned her. A newspaper report had announced her shame to the world in May 1841:

‘Elopement - A great sensation has been excited at Camberwell by the elopement of a widow lady named Hallan of Cottage-green, with a Mr Abraham Horne, of the Foxley-road. The paramour of the lady has deserted a wife & four young children in the most heartless manner, besides having absconded from his creditors to a large amount. The guilty parties were traced to Montreuil, on the road to Paris, where they were arrested under a false passport, the man having assumed the name of Alfred Hallan (the lady’s name). It is supposed they intended to proceed to America.’

Before their marriage, Abraham and Mary Ann Horne and James William Lawson and John Joseph Lawson, the Executors and Administrators of the estate of James Lawson, had made settlement of the part of the share of 1/16th of *The Times* to which Mary Ann was entitled under the intestacy of her father. James William and John Joseph held the share in trust to permit Mary Ann to receive the income arising from her part of the share for her lifetime and, after her death, to permit Abraham Horne if he survived her to receive the income for his lifetime. Once they both had died the income was to be held in trust for each of their children as tenants in common, once they reached 21 or, in the case of girls, married.

Mary Ann was obviously concerned that Abraham might benefit from her inheritance and thus initiated divorce in March 1860. She specified that Abraham had run off to France in April 1841 with Deborah Matilda Hallen; that in 1842, and for several years afterwards, he committed adultery with a woman named Norton at Sydenham in Surrey; and that from 1851 he had cohabited with Harriet Berry, who passed for his wife, and during that time lived with her at Surrey Terrace, Lorimer Road, Surrey, at Chatham Place, Walworth, and at Albany Road, Camberwell, and by whom he had had two or more children.

Abraham Horne and Harriet Windsor Berry were married at Christ Church, Spitalfields on 24 August 1861. Abraham died aged 61 and was buried at Nunhead on 8 June 1867. Harriet died 31 March 1899 at 5 Grosvenor Terrace, Camberwell and was buried at Nunhead on 8 April. Their two children were Ada Windsor Horne Berry (1850–1934) and Other Windsor Horne Berry (1852–1896, buried at Nunhead 1 January 1896); both used the surname Horne and neither married. Other committed suicide by drinking cyanide in the aftermath of a silver robbery at his place of work in Regent Street where he was cashier for the Silversmiths, Messrs Elkington & Co.

Mary Ann Horne’s son Edward Lawson Horne attended Oxford University in 1861. He was admitted to the Clothworkers’ Company in 1869 and became a wine merchant in the City. He married Elizabeth ‘Bessie’ Denziloe on 15 April 1868 at Allington, Bridport, Dorset, and they had at least 4 children. From at least 1871 he and his family lived at 54 Angell Road, Brixton until his death in 1912. He too is buried at Norwood (grave 33,226, square 78; monument destroyed), as is Mary Ann Horne herself (grave 958, square 78).

Eliza Hayes neé Lawson

Eliza (11 March 1808, Bouverie Street, City of London–22 July 1844) was the third daughter of James and Mary Ann Lawson. As with her 4 older siblings, she was baptized

at St Dunstan-in-the-West in the City of London. She married William Graves Hayes¹⁰ in the parish of St Ann, Blackfriars on 8 November 1836. Their only child, Eliza Cornwallis, second wife of Charles Augustus Wright (*vide infra*), was born 27 November 1838 when they were living in Park Street, Camberwell.

In 1841 they were living at Claremont Lodge, Park Street, Camberwell, and William's occupation is recorded as newsagent. Eliza, age 2, was a visitor in the home of her Hayes grandparents at Southall along with her two unmarried Hayes aunts Eliza Ann and Emily Caroline, and her cousin, Elizabeth Haverson, 13, daughter of a third and recently widowed Hayes aunt, Laura. Also in the household of her grandparents was George McLaughlin, who later married Eliza Ann Hayes. The younger Hayes family had moved to Grosvenor Park, Camberwell, by the time Eliza Hayes died and was buried at Norwood (grave 957, square 78).

Julia Lydia Mayhew neé Lawson

Julia, the fourth daughter of James and Mary Ann Lawson, was born 4 March 1811 and baptized at All Hallows, Tottenham. She married Anthony Mayhew (born c. 1813, the fourth son of John Mayhew of Beccles), a dispensing chemist [Anthony Mayhew (late Gall & Cubitt) Family & Dispensing Chemist, 42 Abbeygate Street] in Bury St Edmunds, on 25 February 1841 at St Mary Newington in the presence of her brother James William Lawson, and her sister Mary Ann together with her husband Abraham Horne. Sadly, Anthony Mayhew 'of Glastonbury in the County of Somerset, Chemist at present residing at Bath' wrote his will on 6 March 1845 and died on 13 March at Bath.

Three children were born in quick succession at Bury St Edmunds, but two died as young adults and both lie at Norwood (grave 8,384, square 78). Mary Elizabeth Mayhew (16 March 1844–31 January 1863, Union Grove, Clapham) was buried on 7 February 1863, and John Charles Mayhew (1843–1865, Matlock Bath, Derbyshire).¹¹

Anthony Lawson Mayhew (23 February 1842–21 December 1916) became Chaplain and Hebrew lecturer at Wadham College, Oxford, and died in Warneford Asylum, Oxford. He was the only one of the children to marry – on 27 December 1865 at Banbury Parish church to Jane Innes Griffin, who died 26 March 1916 at 21 Norham Road, Oxford aged 72. The *Gloucester Journal* of 30 December 1916 recorded his death thus: 'The death has taken place at Oxford of the Revd Anthony Lawson Mayhew [sic] who was from 1880–1912 Chaplain of Wadham College, and was one of the foremost English scholars and philologists in the country'.

¹⁰ His sister Laura Graves Hayes (1 January 1804–1876) married John Haverson at St Swithin's, London on 25 December 1824 and was buried at Norwood (grave 7,665, square 2; monument destroyed) on 2 March 1876. William Graves Hayes' 3 younger siblings were baptized at St Mary's Woolnorth. One of them, Eliza Ann Hayes (25 November 1813–1872), married George Edward McLaughlin, a surgeon (c. 1819–29 December 1897) on 18 September 1851. Both are buried in the above private grave together with Sarah Hannah McLaughlin, mother of George (d. 1861, age 79) and Emily Louisa McLaughlin, daughter of George and Eliza (1853–1898)

¹¹ Their grave lies immediately behind that of James William Lawson (grave 958, square 78); see Newsletter 84, September 2015. Others buried in the grave are Marianne Innes (1868), James Henry Innes (1913), and Annie Innes (1923)

Charles Templar Lawson

Charles Templar was the 8th and youngest child of James and Mary Ann Lawson. He died at Kennington on 7 December 1847, age 32, and was buried at Norwood (grave 958, square 78) on 11 December.

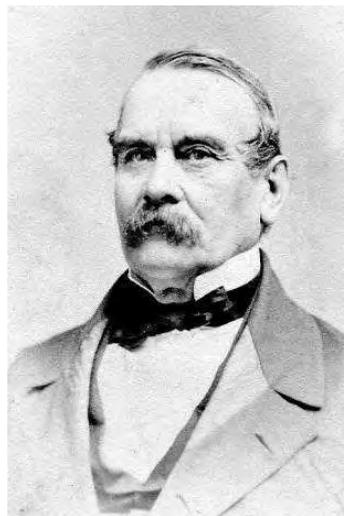
Frances ('Fanny') Wright neé Lawson

Frances was the 2nd daughter of James and Mary Ann Lawson (born Fleet Street 21 February 1806–1 September 1854). She married John Wright of Tynemouth, Northumberland (b. 14 August 1800), the son of John Wright and Lydia neé Clark of Wallsend, on 14 May 1825 in Coulsdon. They had 6 children whilst in London. John (b. 30 November 1827) and Fanny (6 January–14 May 1829) were born in Upper Gower Street, St Pancras. At this time John Wright gave his occupation as 'gentleman', but by the time their next 2 children (Marianna, b. 1 June 1830 and Emily Frances, b. 8 March 1832) were baptized at Christ Church, Southwark, they were living in Albion Place, and John gave his occupation as Coal Factor. Two years later when their son Charles Augustus Wright (1834–1907) was baptized (b. 3 May 1834) at Kensington, their abode was given as Paddington and John's occupation had reverted to 'gentleman'. Two years after that they were living in Savage Gardens and when their daughter Jessie was baptized at St Olave Hart Street, John described himself as a merchant. John Joseph Lawson's headstone recorded that Jessie was his godchild and that she died aged 18 months in March 1838.

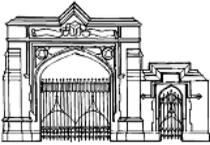
The Malta Times

After Jessie's death, John Wright and his family moved to Malta. Obituaries for their son Charles Augustus state that they arrived in Malta in 1841. More children were born to them in Sliema: Julia Lydia (b. 26 January 1843); Alfred Lawson (b. 1 July 1844); William Elsworth (25 March 1846–17 January 1847); and Louisa Charlotte (b. 5 November 1849). John Wright's reason for moving to Malta is unclear; however when his son William Elsworth died, he was recorded as the 'son of John Wright proprietor of *The Malta Times*'. Further research is required to ascertain John Wright's involvement with *The Malta Times*. It was not until censorship was lifted in Malta in 1839 that newspapers were permitted on the island. The first, *The Harlequin*, began in 1839 and made its first appearance under its new name *The Malta Times* on 5 April 1840. It was published every 5 days, with the date of publication coinciding with the sailings of the Marseilles packet, which took copies to Europe and England. *The Malta Times* was much quoted in England.

John and Fanny Wright remained in Malta until some point in 1854, but then left for England. At least two of their children stayed behind in Malta: Charles Augustus (1834–1907), and his older brother John, who married Vicenza Calleja in 1852, and who died in Naples in 1882. Their son, Julyan Carmel (Giuliano Carmelo) Wright, married Aloisea Casolani in 1890 in Malta, and died in Valetta on 10 May 1926.



*John Wright jnr c.1863 by
Charles Gregory, Montreal*



Celebrity Cooks: Mrs Beeton

Exhibition review – John White

The celebrity chef is nothing new. Last year the Guildhall Library presented an exhibition about several Victorian celebrity cooks, including Mrs Isabella Beeton (1836–1865), who of course lies at Norwood (grave 8,348, square 64). The Guildhall Library often has small exhibitions on fascinating subjects and this was no exception, being of particular interest to those familiar with Norwood. The aim was to mark 150 years since Mrs Beeton's death and the growing interest in the history of cookery.



The exhibition was largely devoted to the famous cookery books held in the Guildhall Library's extensive archive. There were also displays about two other famous Victorian cooks: Eliza Acton (1799–1859) and Alexis Soyer (1810–1858), chef of the Reform Club in Pall Mall, who has a substantial monument in Kensal Green Cemetery. The exhibition was accompanied by an informative booklet and a pleasing audio soundtrack featuring a lady's voice humming cheerfully whilst preparing food, with sound effects of running water, the cutting of vegetables, the clatter of utensils, and the distant chatter of guests arriving in the hall of an imaginary house.

Isabella Mary Mayson was born in Milk Street, no more than 100 yards from the Guildhall Library, as was her future husband, Samuel Orchard Beeton (1831–1877); they married in 1856 and both lie in the same grave at Norwood.¹²

The Englishwoman's Domestic Magazine, 'an illustrated journal combining practical information, instruction and amusement', was published by Sam Beeton between

1852 and 1879. Isabella contributed a supplement that was published monthly from 1859–61. The supplements were later brought together and published as *Beeton's Book of Household Management*, which sold 60,000 copies in its first year and two million by

¹² See *Norwood Cemetery – An Introductory Guide* and *West Norwood Cemetery's Dickens Connections* by Paul Graham (1995), both still available from the FOWNC bookstall

1868. However, the venture attracted criticism because more recipes were published than Isabella could possibly have tried herself. The exhibition suggested that Isabella's role was rather that of a compiler and collector of recipes than someone who had tried everything herself.

As we know Isabella died tragically from puerperal fever and peritonitis just after the birth of her fourth son, aged only 28. We will never know what she might have achieved in a longer lifespan. Sadly, she had lost an earlier child and another had died aged three months; only her last two survived into adulthood.

By 1867, Sam Beeton too was a sick man and his business was in financial difficulty. He had tuberculosis and his bank, Overend & Gurney, had failed. He sold his copyrights and those of his late wife to the publisher Ward, Lock and Co., and a number of editions under this publisher's imprint, covering several decades, were on display. A talk about Mrs Beeton to coincide with the exhibition was given by Tina Baxter, a City of London Guide, who will be speaking on this same topic at our AGM on 15 October.



Recent FOWNC Events

Jill Dudman

This year our contribution to Open House London Weekend was held on Saturday 19 September, in co-operation with the Clockworks Museum. Some 80 or so visitors attended our tours, finishing at the Greek chapel, which was open for viewing. Thanks to everyone who helped with leading the tours, staffing the FOWNC bookstall, and especially Colin Fenn for giving talks to all the tour parties in the Greek chapel.

After our AGM on 17 October, we welcomed Nick Catford, a leading member of Subterranea Britannica and an outstanding photographer. He showed many views from his large collection of photographs of underground sites in London, many of them normally inaccessible and some now lost. He emphasized that he is certainly not one of the breed known as 'urban explorers' who illegally break into places, and all his work was done with the permission of the relevant authorities. In addition to the catacombs at Norwood, he showed numerous closed tube stations, bomb shelters, the Crystal Palace subway, and much else, relating amusing anecdotes of his experiences in these places. His superb photographs of the Norwood catacombs can be seen at: http://www.subbrit.org.uk/sb-sites/sites/w/west_norwood_cemetery/index.shtml.

On 21 November, Joe Cain, Professor of History and Philosophy of Biology at UCL, gave a talk on the life and work of Gideon Mantell MRCS, FRS (1790–1852; grave 273, square 100), a pioneer of palaeontology. Prof Cain spoke about the phases of Mantell's life in Lewes, Brighton, and London, charting his early success in collecting and identifying dinosaur fossils and the sad decline of his later years. Mantell, as a doctor, was able to bring a tooth to the Royal College of Surgeons whose museum held many animal remains for comparative anatomy, where he found that it resembled the tooth of an iguana, although much larger, and he accordingly scaled up the size of his proposed creature which he named *Iguanodon*. Norwood resident Prof Cain and colleagues have recently

founded the Friends of Crystal Palace Dinosaurs to promote their conservation (<http://cpdinosaurs.org>), and he gave us a fascinating insight. The two Iguanodons on the island in the lake are different: the one at the front is of Mantell's lizard form, whereas the one behind is of the rhinoceros form preferred by his bitter rival Richard Owen, who did so much to erase Mantell's name from scientific history. Thus, the sculptor Benjamin Waterhouse Hawkins credited both men when building these models.



Forthcoming Events

January – April 2016

Introductory tours will be held on the first Sunday of each month (3 January, 7 February and 6 March at 11.00; 3 April at 14.30) starting at the cemetery main gate off Norwood Road and lasting for 1½-2 hours. There is no formal charge, but we welcome donations. The April tour coincides with West Norwood Feast (street markets and town centre events, see www.westnorwoodfeast.com). To receive notifications of additional events, including occasional members-only tours of the Anglican Catacombs (advance bookings only), and our monthly Saturday morning scrub clearance sessions, please register an e-mail address at secretary@fownc.org or a telephone number at 020 8670 5456.

Saturday 6 February, 10.45: A Taste of History – Victorian Tour and Lunch

As part of West Norwood & Tulse Hill Food Week, a food-themed cemetery tour will be followed by a Victorian-inspired buffet at award-winning gastro pub Tulse Hill Hotel. The event will be bookable through Grub Club at <http://grubclub.com/west-norwood-food-week/west-norwood-food-week-a-taste-of-history-a-victorian-tour-and-lunch/4739>

Lectures will be held in the Lounge of Chatsworth Baptist Church (access by the Family Centre entrance), Idmiston Road, SE27, as detailed below, starting at 14.30. There is no formal charge, but we welcome donations to cover refreshments and room hire.

Saturday 20 February: Lecture – The Business of Funerals. Barbara Thomas

Following the opening of the South Metropolitan Cemetery at Lower Norwood in 1837 stonemasons and undertakers proliferated nearby. FOWNC member Barbara has been researching these firms, including some familiar names, as well as the stonemasons and undertakers of Upper Norwood. The latter were more commonly associated with the Crystal Palace District Cemetery founded in 1876. Barbara will introduce these trades within the general historical context of the undertaking business.

Saturday 19 March: Norwood: The Voice of Bygone Days. Adrian Falks

Foremost among the musicians interred at Norwood is Sir August Manns (1825–1907; grave 31,828, square 81), director of music at the Crystal Palace for nearly 50 years, who conducted the first performances in this country of works by many composers, British and European. Using recorded music illustrations, Adrian, chairman of the Croydon Recorded Music Society, will offer an impression of what it might have been like to have heard some of these compositions and those of performers interred or otherwise commemorated at Norwood when the works featured were new to audiences.

A Bit of Mystery – Bob Flanagan

Another aerial photograph from 1969 (see Newsletter 84, September 2015), this time showing the lost Horrocks mausoleum (grave 38,732, square 103). According to the cemetery register the building, which originally contained only Dora Werner Horrocks (–1936), was bombed in October 1940 and her body was removed to the catacombs beneath the crematorium before reinterment with others named Horrocks and Warne from the catacombs in July 1989. The register now describes the plot as a border grave. I was told many years ago that the Horrocks family were Lancashire cotton magnates. Has anyone any further information?



Horrocks mausoleum (square 103)

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