Friends of West Norwood CEMETERY

Newsletter No. 95 – May 2019 Free to members

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Chairman's Report

Bob Flanagan

Members will have heard that the National Lottery Heritage Fund has granted £4,604,800, 68 % of the cost of the *New Beginning* project. We have promised £20,000 in addition to our contribution of volunteer time. Lambeth will make up the difference and provide management and other resources to support the project.

In summary, the project aims to: (1) reinstate the Hubbard Road entrance using the original piers and gates; (2) create a new pedestrian entrance at Robson Road; (3) conserve the listed boundary wall and railings with help from trainees & apprentices; (4) repair/renew drainage systems at key points; (5) carry out road and footpath surfacing works; (6) create a Visitor Centre at the existing cemetery lodge; (7) carry out repairs/enhancements to St Stephen's Chapel, including accessible entry and toilet; (8) repair 16 listed monuments including that of John Wimble (grave 2,952, square 76); (9) employ a co-ordinator to deliver an activities plan; (10) start a volunteering programme; (11) create two 2-yr apprentice posts and develop a trainee/ work experience partnership with

Tomb of Captain John Wimble

Lambeth College construction students; and (12) deliver training to staff and volunteers in bereavement support, conservation, recycling and sustainability, and visitor/venue management. The project will also provide interpretation including exhibitions in the Visitor Centre, digital wayfinding and fixed interpretation at St Stephen's and at other sites. The project is being overseen by a Delivery Board composed in essence of representatives of the Project Development Board.

Christopher Gabriel's Tomb

Another monument scheduled for renovation under the project is that of Christopher Trowell Gabriel (1797–1873; grave 2,689, square 52 - see Newsletter 72, September 2011). Sadly, this monument was damaged in February when a car ran into the low brick wall that was inserted around the Dissenters' Chapel/Crematorium area by Lambeth some 30 years ago. The car partially demolished not only the wall, but also the cast iron railings around the tomb. I have always questioned the legality of this wall (it was inserted without planning permission) and also its value in protecting monuments. Lambeth are pursuing the owner of the car for damages. Let us hope they have more success than in the case of the Nicholl family monument (grave 1,425, square 66; see Newsletter 84, September 2015) in which no insurance money was ever forthcoming.

The renovation (or removal) of the wall around the Dissenters' Chapel/Crematorium area is being discussed with Lambeth. Perhaps some sort of low-key crash barrier of a style similar to that used on motorways (wire rope not steel panel) might be installed to protect vulnerable monuments?

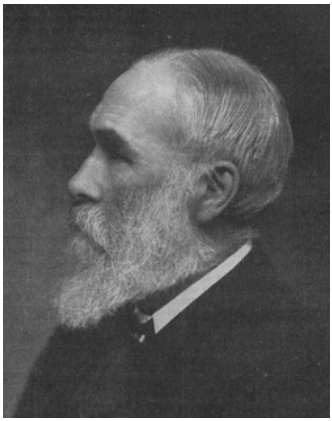
Patricia Jenkyns (1925–2019)

I am very sorry to report the death in a nursing home in Eastbourne on 9 March of Patricia Jenkyns. Patricia, who was born on 1 May 1925, trained as a nurse. She was a Lambeth Councillor, founder in March 1982 of the Herne Hill Society, which she supported actively until she moved to Eastbourne in 1991, and an important force in the foundation of FoWNC. She was a good friend. Her help during the dark days of the 1990 cemetery clearances not only recruited the late John Whelan as an ally, but also helped document the historical significance of the cemetery. Her researches on Sir Henry Bessemer (grave 27,463, square 99) and the Australian artist Adelaide Ironside (grave 11,836, square 77) were especially notable. Donations in her memory should be sent to the Royal Brompton Hospital (www.rbhcharity.org/donate/royal-brompton-hospital/5).

Tomb of Sir Thomas Stevenson (grave 26,543, square 95)

Sir Thomas Stevenson (1838–1908)

FoWNC Newsletter 78 (September 2013) recorded the partial restoration of the memorial to the forensic toxicologist Sir Thomas Stevenson with funds provided by the British Academy of Forensic Sciences and support from his family.



Sir Thomas in later life

A note in the cemetery register records that the monument was badly damaged by 'enemy action' in September 1940, i.e. at the height of the Battle of Britain. We had wondered if parts of the memorial would be found during the restoration, but this proved not to be the case. Nothing further could have been attempted at that time as regards restoring the monument in the absence of a photograph or drawing of the original even if funds had been available.

Well, everything comes to those who wait. I am grateful to Mrs Sandra Flower who when visiting a cousin unearthed the accompanying photograph of the lovely Celtic cross that once adorned the tomb. Sadly, to replace it would cost many thousands of pounds. But at least we now know what it looked like.

11–19 May 2019: National Cemeteries Week and Dying Matters Awareness Week

A week to emphasise the work of Cemetery Friends throughout the UK in keeping cemeteries safe and tidy whilst conserving and managing natural features, restoring significant buildings and monuments, and encouraging the appreciation of cemeteries (www.dyingmatters.org and www.cemeteryfriends.com). If only we had the resources to stage some special events at Norwood…

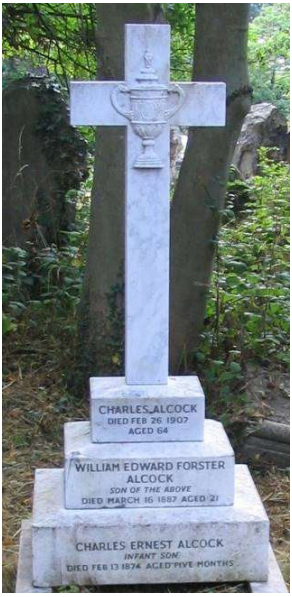
Hedgehogs and Burial Grounds

The UK hedgehog population has declined by 50 % in urban areas and by a third in rural areas since 2000. The *British Hedgehog Preservation Society*, together with the *People's Trust for Endangered Species,* feel that cemeteries and crematoria can play a role in helping to protect the hedgehog population. I have never seen a hedgehog in the cemetery, but should anyone spot one please let me know.

Constantine P. Cavafy (1863–1933)

George Cavafy

Dr Peter Jeffreys of Suffolk University, Boston is writing a biography of the Greek poet Constantine Cavafy, many of whose relatives and family associates are buried in the Greek Enclosure at Norwood. Notably, these include his uncle George Cavafy (1806–1891), a major City merchant and philanthropist, his wife Mary (1815–1882), and his cousin John Cavafy MD, FRCP (1838–1901), a leading surgeon at St George's Hospital, and his wife Marigo née Ralli (1852–1916) (all grave 21,207, square 28). Patrons of the arts, they collected works by William Morris, Dante Gabriel Rossetti, G.F. Watts, James McNeill Whistler, Edward Burne-Jones, and others. As an orphan, Constantine Cavafy spent 7 years in England (1870–7). During that time, his rapport with his relatives and family associates brought him into contact with the work of these artists and gave him the opportunity to experience Victorian society at its height. Cavafy's time in England is thought to have influenced his aesthetics and culture, as well as his poetry. Dr Jeffreys is a leading expert on Cavafy and has published a brief essay on his recent visit to Norwood together with a poem entitled *Greek Necropolis* (see: lsa.umich.edu/modgreek/window-to-greek-culture/c-p--cavafy-forum.html).



Charles Alcock's tomb at Norwood

Charles Alcock (1842–1907; Grave 14,689, Square 86)

Some 20 years ago Paul Graham and I, with help from the writer/broadcaster Bryon Butler and from Don Bianco, managed to raise funds for the restoration of the Alcock family gravestone. Charles Alcock, as secretary of the embryonic Football Association, was instrumental in the foundation of the FA Cup and international football (see Newsletter 36, September 1999). He was also in essence the founder of sports journalism and a noted sports administrator. In this latter capacity he arranged the first cricket Test match to be played in England, England *vs*. Australia at the Kennington Oval in 1880.

I am pleased to report that Steve Rowland of Rowland Brothers, who undertook the original restoration, has kindly offered to clean the memorial as a gesture of goodwill. Sadly, it seems that the memorial in Barnes Old Cemetery, Barnes Common to Alcock's contemporary, the solicitor Ebenezer Cobb Morley (1831–1924), the first man to write down the rules of football, is badly in need of attention (see: www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-6417473/The-father-footballs-lonely-grave-abandoned-overgrown-London-cemetery.html).

Alexander and Mary Croll

Stephen Oxford

Mavis Bank, the second of the grand Victorian villas to be built on Grange Road, Upper Norwood, dates from 1861/2.[1] It was by far the largest villa on the western side of Grange Road, and was built on land around the edge of the Beulah Spa Estate that had been sold by Frederick Horne, who had bought the complete estate in 1859. The first recorded inhabitants were Alexander and Mary Ann Croll née Rea (grave 19,209, square 120), who lived there 1874–1912.[2]

Mavis Bank, 353 Grange Road (courtesy of Croydon Museum)

Alexander (b. 13 April 1811) & Mary, who was born in Ireland on 6 January 1825, married in Dundee on 11 February 1850. By 1861 they were living in Hastings, Sussex, where Alexander was working as a merchant trading with South Africa, possibly importing wheat or wine from Cape Colony.

He had been trading with South Africa since at least 1845 because his name appears that year in a petition signed by over 100 merchants and other residents of the Colony of the Cape of Good Hope opposing changes proposed by the Legislative Council that would affect their ability to recover debts owing to them. However, he may have had some involvement in trading gold or diamonds, which were discovered there from 1860. He probably had trading connections with his wife's relative Richard Townroe (1831–1889), a wealthy diamond merchant based in South Africa.

Between 1854–9 Alexander appears on the register of the *United Grand Lodge of England* as a member of the Freemasons. In 1857–9 he is recorded as living in Port Elizabeth, South Africa. He was an important member of Cape Town society because he became a director of the *Standard Bank of British South Africa*, *Graham's Town Fire and Marine Assurance Company*, and the *London and South African Bank*.

Whatever the commodity he was trading with South Africa, he became very rich indeed because by the time of the 1871 census he had retired aged 59, and had moved to a large semi-detached 4-storey villa at 16 *The Boltons*, Kensington. This road is now one of the ten most expensive addresses in Britain with houses changing hands at around £13 million.

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[1] See: *The Victorian Villas and Residents of Grange Road* by Stephen Oxford (London: Norwood Society, 2018) for an extended version of this article

[2] Alexander Croll, should not be confused with Alexander Angus Croll (1811–1887), an important engineer and Sheriff of London

Alexander and Mary do not appear to have had any children, but often had nephews or nieces staying with them at *The Boltons* and at *Mavis Bank*. Their nephew John Halson, also from Scotland, and his sister Margaret was living with them in 1861. There were also five servants including a cook, a parlour maid, two housemaids, and a coachman, the horses and carriage being kept in the mews to the rear of the house. The coachman's wife and their baby son were also resident.

The Crolls moved to the rather less grand property, *Mavis Bank*, before 1874. Their household had now only six other members, all servants. By this time Alexander's health had deteriorated as can be seen from the fact that they employed two nurses, one described in the census as a 'sick nurse'. The others were a cook and three maids.

Alexander was present at *Mavis Bank* on the night of the 1881 census on 3 April, but died there 10 days later. His death certificate stated that the cause of death was jaundice, which he had been suffering from for 18 months. Today jaundice would not be considered a cause of death, merely a feature of some more serious underlying illness such as hepatitis. He was buried at Norwood (grave 18,575, square 91). He left some £140,000; £11 million at today's values!

Alexander left all his possessions and property to his wife Mary, as well as an annual income from his estate and instructions as to how it should be distributed upon her death. His butler, Thomas Laker was left more than a year's wages, with other servants receiving smaller amounts. Various relations also received legacies and, interestingly, 40 % was to be divided between 'certain public institutions in South Africa'.

The Croll memorial

In 1901 Mary Ann had been joined at *Mavis Bank* by her nephew Eugene Dunbar Townroe, son of Richard Townroe, who had been born in South Africa in 1875. *Mavis Bank* still required a range of servants in order for it to function and so Mary Ann employed a cook and four housemaids.

Over the next 10 years the household increased in size and the links with South Africa were maintained: Cape Town born Sophia Eldon was taken on as companion to Mary Ann. There was no sign of a live-in cook, but by April 1911 Henry Goodes fulfilled the role of butler and was assisted by kitchen, house, and parlour maids.

By now aged 85 Mary Ann needed support and Laura Gooding, a 'sick nurse', was resident at *Mavis Bank*. There were also three maids and Henry Goodes, butler. Mary Ann died on 1 April 1912 and was buried at Norwood (grave 19,209, square 120) in a brick lined grave with entrance that cost £196 7s 0d. Her husband Alexander was moved to join her there. Her executors were Arthur John Brown, Eugene Townroe, and his brother Lionel Edmund Townroe (1872–1927).

Henry Dunn (1801-1878): Educationalist

Claire Grey

Henry Dunn was an important figure in the development of elementary education. He was born in Nottingham on 22 January 1801, the eldest son of Jonathan Dunn (1771–1859), a printer, bookseller/bookbinder, and nonconformist. His mother, Elizabeth née Barnett died when Henry was young. His father remarried and had nine more children.[3]

Henry attended Castle Gate Meeting Independent Chapel, Nottingham. Aged 14, he was apprenticed to his father, but also worked for a time at a lace warehouse in East London. In 1826 he married Euphemia Birrell in Streatham. They had no children. Euphemia was the sister of the Rev. Charles Mitchell Birrell, a Baptist Minister in Liverpool, who is also buried at Norwood (grave 382, square 40 – see FoWNC Newsletter 89, May 2017).

The British and Foreign School Society (BFSS)

In 1798 Joseph Lancaster (1778–1838), a Quaker, founded a free elementary school in Borough Road, Southwark. His educational system was known as the monitorial system, with the abler pupils helping the teacher. This provided for basic education with limited resources. The *Society for Promoting the Lancasterian System for the Education of the Poor* was founded in 1808, largely supported by nonconformists. In 1814 it became the *British and Foreign School Society*.

The BFSS School at Borough in 1830 and in 1862

The BFSS started a number of 'British Schools' and teacher training institutions as well as schools abroad. It distanced itself from the 'National Schools' system that provided an Anglican education: 'in its early days Borough Road was essentially a school to which a training facility was attached, it may be counted as the first teacher training college in England'. The BFSS was the only society of its kind that argued for universal education on non-sectarian lines.

[3] In the 1851 census Jonathan aged 79, married to Phoebe, had 5 children still living at home: Jane, 45, Ann 41, Sarah, 38, Catherine, 35, and Jonathan Newham Dunn, 33, partner with his father. Two granddaughters called Sarah E. and Eleanor P. Andrew aged 16 and 4, respectively, born in Hoxton and Poplar, were visiting. Jonathon and Phoebe's children were baptised at Castle Gate Meeting Independent Chapel, Nottingham, including William Dunn on 3 August 1814. William became a painter and died in Australia in 1866

Henry Dunn's connection with education started at Borough Road School, where he learnt the Lancasterian system. Monitorial systems specified a classroom with the master's desk on a raised platform at one end, forms and desks in the middle with a gap between them and the walls. In time this was superseded by the Glasgow system, which advocated more highly trained teachers.

From 1827–8 Dunn and his wife went to Guatemala. However, the local catholic clergy opposed his methods and he returned home. He wrote an account of his time there that included a description of an aqueduct that supplied the city with water.[4]

BFSS Secretary

Dunn was BFSS secretary from 1828–56. In 1830 he was appointed superintendent at Borough Road. His job included editing the society's reports, and enlisting inspectors to visit their schools. Dunn advertised for more contributions to the BFSS. In addition to their work abroad, he appealed for funds for increasing moral and religious instruction for the well-being of the poor, running more schools in destitute districts, selecting and training more teachers, and extending the system of regular inspection from London to the rest of Britain. He wanted longer training and improved pay and status for teachers.

Possibly Henry Dunn (Camille Silvy, albumen print, 27 September 1861)
© National Portrait Gallery, London

By 1833 the BFSS was one of only two societies to receive Parliamentary grants for building schools. In 1851 it was running 514 schools. This was a small number compared to the Church of England, but each one took twice as many pupils. Dunn was one of the experts who contributed to a parliamentary committee on the state of education in 1834 and gave evidence to a select committee on education in 1838. His advice included making pupils work from 05:00–22:00 hours...

Government Support

The state gave little support to elementary schools funded by voluntary contributions until after the Education Acts of 1870 and 1876. In 1837 Lord Brougham (1778–1868), a liberal, presented a bill for public education, arguing that 'it cannot be doubted that some legislative effort must at length be made to remove from this country the opprobrium of having done less for the education of the people than any of the more civilized nations on earth'. The bill proposed that the Government provided regular funding for education, the

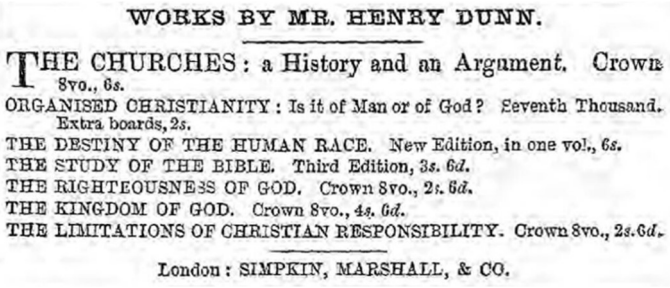
[4] *Henry Dunn.* Guatimala, or, The united provinces of Central America in 1827–8; being sketches and memorandums made during a twelve month's residence in that republic. *New York: G. & C. Carvill, 1828 (available at: https://archive.org/details/guatimalaorunite00dunn)*

establishment of a board of commissioners, who would receive applications for funds and distribute it to schools and teacher training establishments, and the appointment of inspectors to examine them, and authorised town councils to levy a rate to support schools.

Dunn supported state grants to BFSS schools, thinking that they would suffer without it. In May 1837 he suggested that funds should be distributed by 'municipal or district boards, and the sum requisite be raised by local assessment'. He also published a teaching manual *Popular education; or, The normal school manual: containing practical suggestions for daily and Sunday-school teachers: in a series of letters* (London: The Sunday-school Union, 1837) that went to 11 editions.

Dunn agreed with Brougham and wrote a pamphlet *National education, the question of questions being an apology for the Bible in schools for the nation: with remarks on centralization and the voluntary societies, and brief notes on Lord Brougham's bill* (London: T. Ward and Co., 1838) in response to the bill, arguing that Brougham was making schools free from Government opinions 'to secure by every practical means the minority being oppressed by the majority'.

In addition, Dunn suggested that there be a 'Minister of Public Instruction' to act as a link between the country and Parliament. Statistical facts could be collected and good practice disseminated to 'elevate and improve existing establishments'. He thought that if this created public confidence there was less likelihood to be 'the jealousies and heart burnings arising from the conflict of religious parties'. He argued for the Bible to be studied, as it was full of important facts, it promoted intellectual development, and was a book of useful knowledge.


WORKS BY MR. HENRY DUNN.

THE CHURCHES: a History and an Argument. Crown 8vo., 6s.
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London: SIMPKIN, MARSHALL, & CO.

*Henry Dunn: List of works (*The Examiner *16 February 1878)*

There was considerable debate on the role of elementary education. Dunn did not approve of the state system, as being a Congregationalist, he felt it gave too much power to the Anglicans. He collaborated with a master at Borough Road on a series of lesson books that provided lessons for every day of the school year that were widely used in BFSS schools: *Principles of teaching: or, The normal school manual: containing practical suggestions on the government and instruction on children* (London: The Sunday-school Union, 1839) and *The school teacher's manual; containing practical suggestions on teaching, and popular education ed. by T. H. Gallaudet* (Hartford, Reed & Barber, 1839).

By 1841, aged 40 he was living with his wife in Champion Grove, Camberwell. In 1841 under a conservative government the Home Secretary Sir James Graham (1792–1861) proposed a scheme for the education of children working in factories. Graham made several

modifications including that school masters be appointed by bishops and this alienated the nonconformists and the Methodists and the bill was withdrawn.

Dunn wrote a pamphlet: *The Bill or the alternative: a letter to the Right Honourable Sir James Graham* (London: Ward, 1843) against the Factories Education Bill, which he thought would violate religious liberty: fearing that government Inspections of schools were designed to 'rebuke scorn and expose … to justify interference … to furnish proof of necessity for centralization, compulsion and despotic control, … for the sake of ruining the reputation, destroying the prosperity, and ultimately extinguishing, all schools founded by voluntary contributions'. Dunn preferred an increased role for different religious societies to provide their own inspectors. At the same time he felt that the need for education was so great that it could not be done without government funding and in a rich country it should be possible to pay for it.

In 1847 Dunn was in dispute with the Congregational Board who were opposed to state aid. In his 1847 pamphlet *Calm Thoughts on the Recent Minutes of the Committee of Council on Education: And on Their Supposed Bearing Upon the Interests of Civil Freedom and Protestant Nonconformity* he also argued for decent pay for teachers writing: 'to this schoolmaster we offer the pittance of the day-labourer – something below the gains of a prosperous artisan, something far below that of domestic servants'.

Dunn also disagreed with the Unitarians who had accused the BFSS of sectarian instruction. They withdrew their subscriptions to the BFSS and banned the use of Dunn's book in their schools, taking him to court. Dunn accused them of being atheists, and there were calls for his resignation.[5]

The Dunn Family Tomb (grave 10,491, square 41)

In 1856 Dunn retired as BFSS secretary on the grounds of ill health, he but continued to be a BFSS committee member until his death. At the 53rd Annual General Meeting of the BFSS in May 1857 the loss of Henry, who had been secretary for 27 years, was reported. The meeting reinforced the aims of the BFSS when a speaker said: 'The society had found a fundamental ground of religious teaching in which almost all denominations of Christians could cordially unite without any sacrifice of their doctrinal or sectarian feelings'. But the meeting discussed whether it should be 'all' rather

[5] The Unitarian Attack on the British and Foreign School Society; its character and object by Henry Dunn, late secretary of the society. *London: Ward and Co., 27 Paternoster Row, EC. Just published, price 6d, was advertised in* The Globe *on 18 March 1857*

than 'almost all' as the society's 4th rule was: 'That all schools which shall be supplied with teachers at the expense of this institution shall be open to the children of parents of all denominations …No catechism or peculiar religious tenets shall be taught in the schools; that every child shall be enjoined to attend regularly the place of worship to which their parents belong'.

In 1857 the debate within the BFSS became a crisis as they were trying to satisfy the demands of the Unitarians on one side, and the Roman Catholics on the other. Lord John Russell (1792–1878), who chaired their meetings tried to keep the peace by arguing that the teaching in BFSS schools 'must be religious; and if the worst came to the worst, so that there was a total separation of sects, he held that that evil was less than the adoption of a more secular education'. Dunn protested in 1861 about revised codes in government grants to elementary schools.

Retirement at Blackheath and in Brighton

From 1856 Dunn published several books on religious topics. Written from a Congregationalist viewpoint, some under the pseudonym 'Delta', they included *Organised Christianity; Liber Librorum; Life in the Invisible;* and *Sunday Morning,* although the one engraved on his tombstone is *The destiny of the Human race,* which was a collection 'of papers which, had appeared periodically in an editorial form'. He also brought out a new edition of his teaching manual.

In 1870 he moved from 12, Elliot Place, Blackheath, to 7 Holland Road, Brighton. He did not forget his connection to Nottingham, where his brother continued to live and work as a bookseller – shortly before his death he sent the Nottingham Free Library a copy of David Roberts' *Views of the Holy Land.*

Dunn died suddenly after a stroke on 16 March 1878, aged 77. He was buried at Norwood in a ceremony that was described in the *London Daily News* of 22 March. The service was conducted by Revs. J. Martin, J.B. Heard, and Edward White. His family and friends were joined by representatives from Borough College, and by three members of the BFSS committee.

IN MEMORY OF
HENRY DUNN
FOR OVER 20 YEARS SECRETARY
OF THE BRITISH AND FOREIGN SCHOOL SOCIETY
IN LATER LIFE THE AUTHOR OF
THE DESTINY OF THE HUMAN RACE & OF OTHER RELIGIOUS BOOKS
BORN - 1801 DIED 16TH MARCH 1878
SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES
AND OF EUPHEMIA HIS WIFE
WHO DIED AT BLACKHEATH
ON THE 23RD OF FEBRUARY 1879 AGED 79
BECAUSE I LIVE YE SHALL LIVE ALSO

Inscription on the Dunn Family tombstone

In his will he left £25,000 to his wife Euphemia, with the rest being held in trust for poor widows and poor single women. Euphemia herself died less than a year later, leaving under £1,500 because, as part of Henry's will, more legacies were paid on her death. The executor of their wills was their nephew Augustine Birrell. In May 1878 the 73rd Annual Meeting of the BFSS mentioned Henry's death and noted that he had been connected to the society for 50 years.

W.J. Adams: The Man Behind 'Bradshaw'

Bob Flanagan

William James Adams (1807–1873; grave 7,551, square 74) of Fleet Street is the largely forgotten man behind the success of *Bradshaw's Railway Guides*. These handbooks informed the travel and fed the imagination of generations of readers and have in turn reinvented the career of erstwhile Tory politician Michael Portillo.

Adams and Bradshaw

'Bradshaw' was of course the invention of the eponymous Mancunian George Bradshaw (1800–1853), map-engraver turned publisher. However, Adams, his London agent, suggested that the initial price was halved and that the publication became monthly, thus ensuring its success. Adams in turn became the lead publisher. Moreover, he commissioned E.L. Blanchard (1820–1889) to compile a series of guides to lure people onto the trains and more or less invented the concept of rail travel for pleasure – *Bradshaw's Descriptive Guide to the London & Brighton Railway* (1844); *Bradshaw's Descriptive Guide to the London & South Western Railway* (1845); *Bradshaw's Descriptive Guide to the South Eastern Railway* (1846); *Adams's Illustrated Descriptive Guide to the Watering-Places of England, and Companion to the Coast* (1848); *Adams's Pocket Descriptive Guide to the Lake District* (1852) and many more.

As early as 1848 Adams published Edwin Lee's *Continental Travel with an Appendix on the Influence of Climate, the Remedial Advantages of Traveling*. After Bradshaw's unexpected early death,[6] Adams expanded the Bradshaw range of companions, timetables, guides, and maps to cover the railways and cities of the world. In addition, for light reading on the journey, Blanchard and Adams produced *The Carpet Bag, Crammed Full of Light Articles, for Shortening Long Faces and Long Journeys* (1852).

It was thus Adams, in essence, who made 'Bradshaw' the national institution it became. It turns up everywhere in fiction, for example – in Bram Stoker's *Dracula*, in Daphne du Maurier's *Rebecca*, in Max Beerbohm's *Zuleika Dobson*, and in Erskine Childers' *The*

[6] George Bradshaw died from Asiatic cholera whilst visiting a friend near Christiania (now Oslo) in Norway, and is interred in Gamlebyen Cemetery, Oslo

Riddle of the Sands – 'an extraordinary book, Bradshaw, turned to from habit, even when least wanted, as men fondle guns and rods in the close season'. It was loved most of all by crime writers – to disprove an alibi, to project a theory, to hang a plot. There are *Bradshaws* in the Sherlock Holmes stories, in Agatha Christie, and in many other examples of the genre.

W.J. Adams of Fleet Street

Adams was born in Westminster on 12 June 1807, the son of Thomas and Susanna Adams, and baptised at St. James, Piccadilly. He married Sarah Hoole (c. 1813–1877), the daughter of an engineer, at All Saints Poplar on 14 March 1831. Their first child Henry John (1831–1881) was baptised early in 1832: his father was described simply as a mariner. How he progressed to become Bradshaw's London agent in 1841, initially at 170 Fleet Street and then from 1843 at 59 Fleet Street, is unknown.

Fleet-Street and St. Dunstan's West – Mid-Day, 1851

The accompanying illustration, the frontispiece to *Adams's Pocket London Guide Book* (1851), clearly shows his connection to Bradshaw.[7] Another of his comparatively few non-railway publications, *Compendium of the Improvements Effected in Electric Telegraphs by Messrs. Brett and Little, with a Description of their Patent Electro-Telegraphic Converser* (1847), illustrates the range of his interests.

Adams was obsessed with work, one of E.L. Blanchard's 'most industrious'. Although when his children were small the family had homes in Poplar and then Newington, by the 1850s they were all living on the premises at 59 Fleet Street. The eldest son was trained in lithography and his younger brother William Robert (1846–1917) was soon employed as his father's assistant. Both became partners in or about 1868, when the firm became 'W. J. Adams & Sons'. Their only daughter, Catherine Sarah Adams (1844–1861), died sadly of consumption aged 17. She was the first burial in the 11 ft by 6 ft brick vault for 6 coffins at Norwood, which was purchased by her father on 6 May 1861 for £27 15s.

In addition to publishing, Adams was a famously efficient passport agent, able to produce a passport with all the necessary visas in next to no time. He became a freeman of the City of London in 1856 and he was also the senior churchwarden at St. Dunstan in the West, just across the street, in 1869. He died at 59 Fleet Street on 21 December 1873 and was

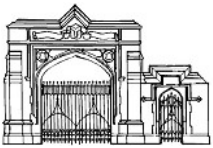
[7] The scene was engraved by Freeman Gage Delamotte (1813/14–1862) (grave 5,647, square 5; monument destroyed) of Red Lion Square, a regular contributor to Adams' publications

buried in the family vault at Norwood on 27 December, leaving an estate valued at under £9,000. His wife Sarah also lies there.

The business continued unchanged as W. J. Adams & Sons at 59 Fleet Street until William Robert Adams retired to Dorking in 1901, the enterprise then reverting to the Blacklock family, Bradshaw's original partners in Manchester. At this point, 'Bradshaw' was still only halfway through its long history – the guides continued to appear until 1961, although the British guide became less relevant following the grouping of the railway companies in 1923.

The Adams family monument

The Adams family monument at Norwood lies alongside what was until the 1920s, when it was taken up for new burials, one of William Tite's curving gravel roads. It is in relatively good condition. The original monument to the famous publishing duo Isabella and Samuel Beeton (grave 8,348, square 64), just along 'Beeton' path, did not fare so well, having been replaced in the 1930s by a modest monument, 'the original having fallen into disrepair' – see: *Mrs Beeton and the Book of Household Management* (FoWNC Newsletter 41, May 2001). As Clarke, Beeton & Co. of 148 Fleet Street, not far from Adams at no. 59 if modern numbering is anything to go by, Sam Beeton had published Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin* (1852), said to be the best-selling novel of the 19th century and the second best-selling book of that century after the Bible. In its first year alone 300,000 copies were sold in the US and one million copies in Britain. 'Bradshaw' in all its guises cannot have been that far behind.

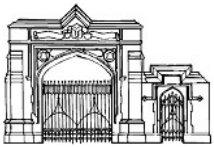


Recent FOWNC Events

Jill Dudman

On 16 February author, business consultant, and journalist David Waller spoke about the engineer Henry Maudslay and his associates. He explained that although the industrial revolution is often thought of as concentrated in the north of this country, a great deal was going on in London. In the early 1800s, Henry Maudslay, after earlier working for Joseph Bramah, opened a factory in Westminster Bridge Road. He invented precision engineering and designed machine tools, which made possible the mass production of machines, with interchangeable components. His partner Joshua Field (grave 3,804, square 27), his son Joseph (grave 4,361, square 77), and his grandson Thomas Henry (grave 20,047, square 92; monument destroyed) all lie at Norwood. David Waller's book *Iron Men: How One London Factory Powered the Industrial Revolution and Shaped the Modern World* is available in paperback (www.anthempress.com/index.php/iron-men-pb).

John Cooper is a retired Keeper of Natural Sciences from the Booth Museum of Natural History in Brighton. We are grateful to him for making the journey here on 16 March to talk about Gideon Mantell (1790–1852; grave 273, square 100), discoverer of some of the large fossil reptiles later called dinosaurs. The talk concerned Mantell's move from his home town Lewes in Sussex to a new base in Brighton in 1833, and the increasingly unfortunate events that unfolded there up to 1838. Mantell already had a collection of fossils, and had been a successful medical practitioner in Lewes. By moving to Brighton he was hoping to make money out of displaying his collection, and building a large medical practice. However, there were too many other doctors in Brighton for him to be able to expand his practice, and the museum of his collection in his house had problems over access times and charging. Ultimately, his museum and his house were taken over by the Sussex Scientific and Literary Institution, obliging Mantell and his family to find other accommodations separately. His financial patron during his period in Brighton, the Earl of Egremont, died, and the closure of his museum became inevitable. His prized collection was sold to the British Museum, and Mantell departed to London for a new practice in Clapham. John Cooper pondered on what may have been for Brighton's museums if Mantell's collection had managed to stay in the town.



Forthcoming Events

May – August 2019

Introductory tours will be held on the first Sunday of each month (5 May, 2 June, 7 July, 4 August), starting at the cemetery main gate off Norwood Road at 14.30, and lasting for about 2 hours. These tours coincide with West Norwood Feast (street markets and other town centre events: https://westnorwoodfeast.com/). There is no formal charge, but we welcome donations. To register for notifications of additional events, please visit www.fownc.org/news/. To join the team of volunteers carrying out vegetation clearance in the cemetery, please contact Beth Cross (BCross@lambeth.gov.uk).

A leaflet detailing the 2019–20 series of local history walks in south London is available from Lambeth libraries, or as PDF. www.lambethlocalhistoryforum.org.uk/.

Other Societies Events

Saturday 18 May, 09:55–17:30. *Great Gardens of Death: Urban Cemeteries of the Nineteenth Century in England*. Symposium at the Art Workers' Guild, London. £55.00. www.victoriansociety.org.uk/events/1997-study-day-great-gardens-of-death-urban-cemeteries-of-the-nineteenth-century-in-england.

Saturday 18 May, 11:00 –17:00: *Nunhead Cemetery Open Day*. Linden Grove, SE15. See: www.fonc.org.uk/2019-open-day.html.

8–9 & 15–16 June, 10:00–17:00. *In the Tracks of Pissarro in Dulwich*, *1871*. Exhibition at Bell House, 27 College Road, Dulwich SE21. www.bellhouse.co.uk. Bell House was the home of the jeweller George Widdowson (grave 7,523, square 36; Grade II listed) and family, 1852–66 (see: www.bellhouse.co.uk/widdowson-family).

A Bit of Mystery – Bob Flanagan

This exquisite carving of a barque graces the tomb (grave 221, square 66) of linen draper Henry Lainson (b. Silchester 1783–1855) and family of Brixton Hill. The 9' x 6'6" plot was purchased on 29 December 1840 for £21 0s 0d. The first burial was that of his wife Elizabeth née Dunkin (b. Islington 1787–1840). The Dunkins were also drapers. Henry was obviously successful, moving from Rotherhithe to Bermondsey, and then to Brixton Hill. After Elizabeth died he purchased Colley Manor at Reigate. Of their 6 children, Henry (b. Rotherhithe 1811–d. Rome 1889) is presumably buried in Rome. However, their daughters Elizabeth (b. Rotherhithe 1814–1849), Louisa (Lucy) (b. Rotherhithe 1820–1865) and Jane (b. Bermondsey 1825–1850) Lainson lie at Norwood together with a son William White Lainson (b. Rotherhithe 1817–1836), removed from St Matthew, Lambeth in 1841. Another daughter Anne (b. Rotherhithe 1822–d. Reigate 1863) married John Nash (1809–1874). They had two sons, John Lainson (1847–1887) and William Henry (1849–1924) Nash. The barque, it seems, is simply decoration?

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