

Friends of West Norwood CEMETERY

Newsletter No. 102 – September 2021

Free to members

Chairman's Report

Bob Flanagan

The report *Children in the Care of Lambeth Council* (www.iicsa.org.uk/publications/investigation/lambeth-council) is an appalling indictment of the Council and reveals systemic failures in its responsibility for children in its care. It is of particular interest to FOWNC members because it explains a great deal about the attitudes of councillors and officers at Lambeth during the time actions were taken to desecrate the cemetery, including the wholesale destruction of memorials and the illegal resale of grave space. There is no suggestion that the consequences of these actions had the same dreadful effects as those on the children in its care, but the Council failed in other areas for which it had responsibility, notably the cemetery. Another parallel is the failure to act against anyone implicated in unlawful or unauthorised actions at the cemetery or to examine why councillors did not hold the administration to account.

On a happier note, thanks to the efforts of Victoria Solomonidis-Hunter I can now report restoration of a monument in the Greek Enclosure. Joannes (John)



John Gennadius monument

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Gennadius (grave 38,040, square 43, Greek No. 279) was born in Athens, second son of the Greek patriot and scholar George Gennadius. Educated in Malta and in Athens, he worked for Ralli Brothers in London until 1870, when he was appointed attaché to Washington. He served in Constantinople (1872) and London (1875), where he became Chargé d'Affaires, a post he held until his transfer to Vienna in 1882. In 1885 he returned to London as Minister Resident until his resignation in 1892. In 1902 he married Florence Laing Kennedy. In 1910 he was reappointed Ambassador to London, retiring in 1918.

An honorary G.C.V.O., he was made DCL, Oxford, 1882; LLD, St Andrews, 1906; and LLD, Cambridge, 1915. In 1922, Joannes and Florence founded the Gennadius Library in Athens, donating his personal library (ca. 26,000 volumes + archives) to the American School of Classical Studies. He died in East Molesey on 7 September 1932 and was buried on 9 September, aged 88. He left £2,226. The restoration was funded by the Overseers of the Gennadius Library. All credit to them.

NHLF Project

The absence of a delegated manager for this complex project has been felt right from the start. We are now 2 years and 8 months into the planned programme. Despite countless meetings and discussions, and the best efforts of Nicholas Long and I, the only tangible sign of progress is that the drainage improvement works have started on Doulton and St Mary-at-Hill paths. The recent deluges have clearly shown the need for these works, which are designed to make both paths accessible throughout the year and stop the pooling of rainwater at the lowest point of the St Mary-at-Hill path.



Drainage works, St Mary-at-Hill path: much needed!

Nowhere has the absence of someone to actively manage the work packages been more noticeable than in the effort to split up the monument restoration package to give local masons a chance to bid for some of the simpler works on the one hand, and to prioritise the Auffray, Baldwin Brown, and Sparenborg restorations. Although Nicholas and I managed to get Auffray and Baldwin Brown into a separate work package (we asked for this last autumn), Sparenborg was excluded on the grounds that the work was best

undertaken in the summer! In the event, the whole process has taken so long that it will likely be several months before the works on Auffray and Baldwin Brown can begin.



Drainage works: Doulton Path

Even more alarmingly, although I had insisted on being on the tender review panel (in my opinion it can hardly be called a competitive tendering process), I was not shown the tender specification. I only picked up that the specification did not include the restoration of the Celtic Cross that once stood atop the Baldwin Brown monument when I asked why a lead topping to the cross shaft had been included when reviewing the tenders. Thanks to the initiative of Ron Knee some 20 years ago the cross has been stored safely in the cemetery office awaiting reinstatement! Perhaps Saint Rita helped (see p. 5).

Grave Searches - The South Metropolitan (West Norwood) Cemetery

Updated guidance to help find information on people thought to be buried in the cemetery has been placed on our website (www.fownc.org/pdf/grave-search.pdf). It also touches on cremations. The Cemetery Office is not open to the public at present, and the staff have limited time available to answer queries. It should be remembered that Lambeth Council unlawfully destroyed over 20,000 memorials including those on common graves during the 1970s/80s and the chances of finding a memorial over a grave are now not great.

FOWNC Trustees

Following the sad loss of John White early last year and the resignations of Michael Clayton and Andrew Cleminson, I am pleased to welcome Caroline Graham-Brown to join Victoria Solomonidis-Hunter and Tim Stephens as newly-appointed FOWNC Trustees. This brings us to our full complement of nine trustees.

Caroline came to us via Norwood Action Group. An experienced administrator who once worked at the Royal Institution, she has started to administer me already. Victoria too is a modern dynamo. As noted in the January 2021 Newsletter, she was head of Cultural Affairs at the Greek Embassy in London for many years, and seems to know everyone who is anyone in the Greek world.



Caroline Graham-Brown



Victoria Solomonidis-Hunter FKC FRHistS

The Magnificent Seven

Anthony Bliss has produced a video (filmed in infra-red) of each cemetery in turn. It is different I must admit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rNucbgRSEXo>.

FOWNC Website

Our events page www.fownc.org/events now encourages people to subscribe to our mailing list to receive tour booking links when tickets are available. A quick way to find our booking page on Eventbrite is to use the shortcut link www.fownc.org/tickets.

British School at Athens

Victoria Solomonidis has also contributed to the British School at Athens series of podcasts marking the bicentennial of the 1821 Greek Revolution. Two of the talks feature Norwood burials: *The Hellenic Enclosure at WNC and the Cavafy Family Grave*, by Victoria herself, and *The Petrocochino Grave at the Hellenic Enclosure, WNC* by Konstantinos Trimmis (University of Bristol). Details of the talks can be found at www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLgs6fDVMzXZGZtxZBbdwJO7OQfNYBMGtn.

Eustratius (Emmanuel) Petrocochino (1822–1897; grave 11,641, square 28; Greek No. 46) was born at sea during his family's flight from Chios. After a few years in Livorno, they moved to London and, in time, Eustratius joined the family firm of 'Petrocochino Brothers at Palmerston-buildings Old Broad-street, London, and at Manchester, and at Calcutta in the Empire of India'. Indeed, he spent a number of years in Calcutta, where three of his seven children were born.

His wife Angeliki P. Vlasto (1838–1868) died at the birth of their seventh child John (1868–1899). Related to most of the families resting in the Hellenic Enclosure, Eustratius was a Grand Commander of the Order of the Redeemer and a member of the Constitution Committee for the building of Saint Sophia, the Greek Orthodox Cathedral in London.

Captain Sir Samuel Brown(e) of Netherbyres KH FRSE (1776–1852)

A pioneer of chain design and manufacture, and of suspension bridge design and construction, Brown is perhaps best known for the Union Bridge (1820) over the River Tweed, the first vehicular suspension bridge in Britain. He died at the *White Tower* on the now largely demolished Sir John Vanbrugh Estate in Blackheath on 15 March 1852.

Several internet sources including Wikipedia, which cites an obituary in *The Gentleman's Magazine* of 1852 (pp. 519–20), claim that he is buried at Norwood. However, the aforementioned obituary in fact makes no mention of Norwood. Jill Dudman has tracked down a report in the *Kentish Mercury* of Saturday 27 March 1852 recording that he was interred in a vault at St Mary's Church on 'Saturday last' (20 March). St Mary's Church, Greenwich dated from 1823.

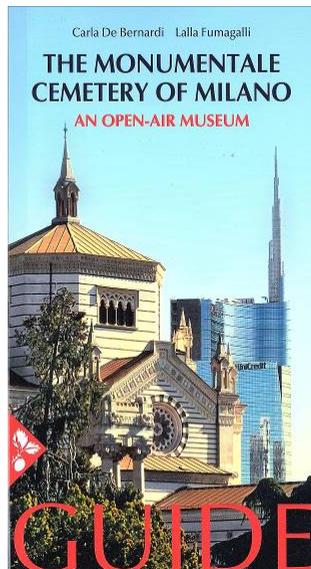
Built to the design of George Basevi (1794–1845), this church was demolished as redundant in 1935–6. It was situated on what is now King William Walk at the St Mary's Gate entrance to Greenwich Park. It is unclear what happened to the vaults, graves, memorials, etc., associated with the church.

Association of Significant Cemeteries in Europe

An English edition of *The Monumentale Cemetery of Milano* by Carla De Bernardi and Lalla Fumagalli (Jaca Book Srl, Milano, 2021) has been produced especially for ASCE members. A collaboration between the Municipality of Milano, the *Amici del Monumentale di Milano*, and the *Fondazione Bracco*, the book carries a Preface by Giuseppe Sala, Mayor of Milan. Its 216 pages are packed with excellent colour photographs, maps, and notes of the featured tombs giving details not only of those interred therein, but also in many cases the designer of the monument. The only problem with the book is that it is so tightly bound that it is difficult to read the inner margins of the text.

First thought of in 1838, it was not until 1863 that architect Carlo Maciachini (1818–1899) was commissioned to proceed with his design based on the Garden Cemetery model. The first plot was opened in 1866, but the cemetery was not completed until 1890. As with Sir William Tite at Norwood, Maciachini himself is buried with his family in the cemetery he designed (West Lower Gallery, A-B Section). Nearby lie the remains of renowned tenor Franco Corelli (1921–2003) and of Herbert Kilpin (1870–1916), a native of Nottingham and one of the two English founders of the Milan Cricket and Football Team (now A.C. Milan, note the English spelling) in 1898. Shades of William Clarke at Norwood (see: FOWNC Newsletter 98, May 2020). They both have pubs named after them in Nottingham.

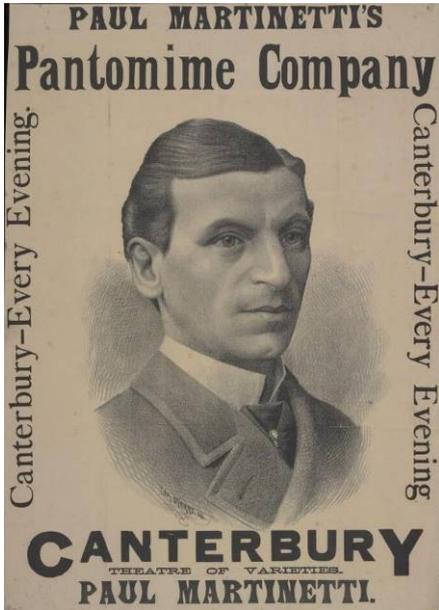
Of the monuments themselves, particularly poignant is the 1945 memorial to the 847 Milanese murdered in extermination camps such as Gusen, an extension of Mauthausen, nicknamed *Knochenmühle*, i.e. the bone grinder, by the Nazis. The book falling open at page 85, another entry that caught my eye was the *Piva Saportas Memorial* of 1957 that features a marble statue of Santa Rita de Casia, 'the advocate of impossible ca(u)ses' and also of victims of abuse. Ironically, I find she has also been adopted by *funcionarios de la administracion local*... Perhaps she will act for both sides in our dealings with Lambeth.



The Martinettis and the Crippens

Bob Flanagan

An American by birth and a successful pantomimist, Paul Martinetti (b. 1851) was buried at Norwood aged 75 on 23 March 1926. The border plot (grave 36,745, square 70) had been purchased by his wife Clara on 20 March 1926. His address was given as British Cottage Hospital, Algiers. Clara too was buried in the grave on 30 May 1945, age 78. Her last address was Ashford Mansions, Elgin Avenue, Torquay, but she died at the Trinity Nursing Home, Falkland Road, Torquay. Sadly, their monument has been demolished.



Paul Martinetti, c. 1918 (V&A Museum)

Martinetti's flat to enquire about Paul, who had been feeling unwell the previous day. Clara Martinetti asked about Cora, he said she was doing well, after which she asked the doctor to 'Give her my love'. Dr. Crippen said he would do so and left.

As time passed, Cora's friends began to miss her. On 2 February, during a Music Hall Ladies' Guild meeting, members noted Cora's absence and Guild Secretary Melinda May went to 39 Hilldrop Crescent to enquire after her. Ethel Le Neve greeted her at the house and gave her letters addressed to Melinda May herself and to the committee. Neither letter was in Cora's handwriting.

The letter addressed to the secretary stated the reason for her absence: '*Illness of a near relative has called me to America on only a few hours' notice, so I must ask you to bring my resignation as treasurer before the meeting to-day*'.

Paul and Clara are now remembered principally because they were the last independent witnesses to see Belle Elmore, Mrs Cora Crippen, alive. On the evening of Monday, 31 January 1910 they met for dinner at the Crippens' home, 39 Hilldrop Crescent N7. Clara Martinetti described the evening in her evidence at Crippen's trial:

'There was no servant in the house. Mrs. Crippen herself cooked the dinner, and I helped to serve it. After dinner we went to their parlour, which was above the room which we had just left and began our game of whist. I helped Mrs. Crippen to clear away the dinner things. We spent the evening playing cards, and we left about half-past one. It was quite a nice evening.'

When Clara Martinetti greeted Cora that evening she did not know that it would be the last time she would see her friend. Later on 1 February, Dr. Crippen arrived at the

A week later, Clara Martinetti went to Hilldrop Crescent and asked why she had received no news from Cora. According to Crippen, Cora was still hurrying towards California. On 20 February 1910, Crippen arrived at the Music Hall Benevolent Fund's ball, accompanied by his mistress Ethel Le Neve, who was wearing one of Cora's brooches. By the end of February, Ethel had moved into 39 Hilldrop Crescent.

The Martinettis received a letter from Crippen dated 20 March that stated Cora was ill with double-pleuropneumonia and that was the reason for his silence. On 24 March, Clara received a telegram from Crippen stating that Cora had passed away the previous day. He would report to Guild members that she had died at his relations in Los Angeles, but when they sent enquiries to them, they said her death was a surprise to them as well, and that Crippen had told them she had died in San Francisco. After telling friends of his wife's death, Crippen accompanied Ethel Le Neve to Dieppe, where they stayed for several days under the name of Mr and Mrs Crippen.

The conclusion to the saga is of course well-known. Such was his reputation for thoroughness that when Crippen learned that his prosecutor was to be Richard Muir (1857–1924; grave 33,321, square 81), he remarked '*I wish it had been anybody else... I fear the worst*'. Muir's cross-examination of Crippen became standard reading material for student barristers in England and Wales and was used to illustrate advocacy skills in general.¹



39 Hilldrop Crescent (demolished 1940)

That the judge in the Crippen trial, the Lord Chief Justice, Viscount Alverstone, also lies at Norwood (grave 16,457 square 76) is again well-known.² His sentencing remarks can be found here https://uploads.guim.co.uk/2018/10/23/Crippen_2.jpg. His monument, a large Celtic Cross, is sadly in serious danger of collapse, its supporting kerbs having been removed. There is yet another Norwood connection to Crippen. John Webster (1878–1927) had become toxicologist Sir Thomas Stevenson's assistant at Guy's in 1901.³ On Stevenson's death he became assistant to [Sir] William Willcox (1870–1941) at St Mary's, who is credited with detecting hyoscine (scopolamine) in the remains found at Hilldrop Crescent thus sealing Crippen's fate. I feel sure that Webster must have been involved in some capacity, if indeed he did not actually perform the analysis.

¹ See: *The Muirs of Greenock* by Bob Flanagan (FOWNC Newsletter 98, May 2020)

² *Rt. Hon. Sir Richard Everard Webster, Viscount Alverstone QC, GCMG, KB (1842–1915)* by Bob Flanagan (FOWNC Newsletter 26, May 1996)

³ Sir Thomas Stevenson (1838–1908; grave 26,543, square 95; see FOWNC Newsletter 95, May 2019)

Constantine Gennadius: The ‘Lost’ Brother

Victoria Solomonidis-Hunter

A few days after the restoration of the Joannes Gennadius monument was completed (see p. 1), Nicholas Long chanced upon a register entry listing the burial of another member of the Gennadius family in the Hellenic Enclosure at Norwood (grave 10,252, square 28). The burial date was 16 April 1866 and the plot had been purchased for £5.5s two days before by Mrs. Artemis Gennadius of Gower Street.

Fellow researcher Pan Pandelis located the plot. It was marked by a beautiful sepulchral stele in the ancient Greek tradition, reminiscent of the stelae in the Kerameikos Cemetery in Athens, with a barely legible inscription in ancient Greek. It bore the name of Constantine Gennadius, his date of birth, 9 May 1846, and his date of death, 12 April 1866.

On seeing the photographs sent by Pan, I realised that this was a monument to Joannes Gennadius’ younger brother Constantine, about whom very little was known. Colleagues at the Gennadius Library in Athens, where the extensive Gennadius family archives are kept, confirmed that they had no record of this burial and that information regarding Constantine himself was scarce.

With Pan’s help, it was ascertained that Constantine died at 5 Gower Street, Bedford Square WC, where he was lodging at Mrs. Hester Randall’s establishment. The cause of death was registered as *phthisis pulmonialis* (pulmonary tuberculosis). His was the 62nd burial in the Enclosure.

But why was this 19-year-old young man in London? Were there any clues on the epitaph? After Pan’s many visits to the Enclosure and dozens of attempts to get a clear picture of the text, we finally had a rough transcription. But the full text was not complete. Photographer Peter Vagvolgyi came to the rescue and the help of Professor Joseph W. Day, an expert on Greek epigrams, was enlisted. He contributed a transcription and translation of the text with extensive commentary: here was a poignant lament, with some clues regarding Constantine and a moving tribute to his mother Artemis.



Constantine Gennadius (1846–1866)

(American School of Classical Studies at Athens, Konstantinos Mangakis Collection)

Professor Day’s first impression is that this is an elegiac epitaph with an impressive bipartite structure, whose metrical choice echoes ancient practice. Its verses are composed in ‘good ancient Greek, successfully imitating ancient poetry and exhibiting several conventional motifs of ancient sepulchral poetry’.



Constantine Gennadius’ stele at Norwood (Peter Vagvolgyi)

Most importantly, the verses give a clue as to the identity of the poet: Joannes Gennadius, 22-years-old at the time, probably composed the epitaph and designed the fine memorial stele. If so, this is a hitherto unknown early work by Gennadius, who went on to become an eminent diplomat, scholar, and bibliophile. The identity of the mason who carved the stele remains unknown, and research continues.

Members of a renowned Athenian family, Joannes and Constantine were two of the four sons of George Gennadius (1786–1854) and Artemis Venizelos (1811–1884). Their father was ‘an illustrious patriot and eminent man of letters, the organizer of the educational system of Modern Greece’. His eight children were exposed to ancient Greek from childhood. In 1922 Joannes established the Gennadius Library in memory of his father, ‘The Great Teacher of the Nation’.

After their father’s death, on the recommendation of the then Chaplain to the British Embassy in Athens, Dr J.H. Hill, 10-year-old Joannes and 8-year-old Constantine were sent to the Protestant School in Malta, a newly established collegiate institution, where they spent the next three years.

After further studies in Athens, Joannes came to London in late 1862 to work for Anthony A. Ralli at 42 Finsbury Circus.⁴ He was soon joined there by his brother Constantine. ‘But’, Joannes noted in 1897, ‘my brother died after a terrible illness... and this deepest sorrow affected my health as well, obliging me to leave for Athens’.

The only known photograph of Constantine was found in the archive of his great nephew Konstantinos Mangakis, at the Gennadius Library. Taken in London probably not long before his death, it depicts a young man ‘the image of his father, both spiritually and physically’, as John was to record years later.

⁴ Anthony A. Ralli (1812–1882) is also buried in the Hellenic Enclosure (grave 16,172, square 27)

Constantine's early death was a tragic event in the long and troubled history of the family. Perhaps unwilling to resurrect painful memories, very little exists in the family archive, other than a few scattered snippets in John's correspondence and a printed pamphlet produced for the memorial service for Constantine in Athens. This solemn occasion took place on 9 July 1866 at the imposing church of Zoodochos Pigi (Mother Virgin, the Lifegiving Spring: <https://zoodohospigi.gr/>), opposite the family home. The congregation included the then Prime Minister Dimitrios Voulgaris (1802–1878), Ministers, MPs, representatives of all political parties, former students of George Gennadius, and many friends of Constantine and his brothers.

ΚΛΕΙΝΗ ΚΩΝΣΤΑΝΤΙΝΟΝ ΕΧΕΙ ΧΘΩΝ ΒΡΕΤΑΝΩΝ
 ΕΣΘΛΟΝ ΑΡΙΣΤΟΝΟΟΥ ΥΙΕΑ ΓΕΝΝΑΔΙΟΥ
 ΠΑΤΡΙΔ[?] ΑΘΗΝΑΙΟΝ ΚΕΡΔΕΜΠΟΡΟΥ ΕΡΜΟΥ ΟΠΗΔΟΝ
 ΕΝΝΕΑΚΑΙΔΕΚΕΤΗΝ ΟΥΣΩι ΑΠΟΦΘΙΜΕΝΟΝ
 ΕΛΛΑΔΟΣ ΕΙ ΠΛΩΕΙΣ ΞΕΙΝΕΣ ΑΚΤΑΣ ΠΑΤΡΙΔΙ ΧΑΙΡΕΙΝ
 ΕΙΠΕ ΦΙΛΗι ΙΕΡΗι ΤΡΙΤΟΓΕΝΟΥΣ ΠΟΛΕΙ
 ΜΗΤΡΙ Δ ΕΜΗι ΧΗΡΗι ΒΑΡΥΠΕΝΘΕΙ ΓΕΝΝΑΔΙΟΙΟ
 ΜΗ ΕΜΟΝ ΑΓΓΕΙΛΗιΣ ΠΟΤΜΟΝ ΕΠ ΑΛΛΟΤΡΙΗΣ
 ΔΥΣΤΗΝΟΥ ΦΕΙΣΑΙ ΠΡΕΣΒΥΤΙΔΟΣ Η ΦΘΙΜΕΝΟΙΟ
 ΚΩΝΣΤΑΝΤΙΝΟΥ ΕΟΥ ΛΥΤΡΗι ΕΠ ΑΓΓΕΛΙΗι
 ΚΩΚΥΤΟΝ ΚΕΝ ΑΛΗΚΤΟΝ ΑΦΕΙΗ ΧΕΡΣΙΝ ΕΘΕΙΡΑΣ
 ΑΜΦΟΤΕΡΗιΣ ΠΟΛΙΟΥ ΚΡΑΤΟΣ ΟΛΟΙΠΤΟΜΕΝΗ

The famous land of the Britons holds Constantine
 excellent son of fine-minded Gennadius, an Athenian by fatherland,
 an attendant of Hermes who trades for profit,
 having perished at nineteen in life.

With a sailing out from Greece to foreign shores, to his fatherland 'farewell'
 he said, the dear sacred city of Athens.

To my mother, Gennadius' heavily grieving widow,
 do not announce my destiny in a foreign (land);
 spare the unhappy old woman, for indeed there perished
 her Constantine in mournful England;
 may she let go of lamentation unceasing, with both hands
 plucking the hair of her grey head

The Epitaph on Constantine Gennadius' stele at Norwood (Prof J.W. Day)

Acknowledgements

This story would not have been unraveled without the help of a number of friends in addition to those mentioned in the text. Dr. Maria Georgopoulou, Director of the Gennadius Library, Dr. Natalia Vogeikoff-Brogan, Director of its Archives and Senior Librarian Irene Solomonidi and Reference Archivist Dr. Eleftheria Daleziou were of great assistance. Professor Catherine Morgan put me in touch with Professor J.W. Day, for which I am most grateful.

The Shoner Family: Biscuit Makers of Lambeth

Dr Philippa Towler

White bread, biscuits, and confectionery were made and sold by the Shoner family in Lambeth for over 100 years. My great, great grandfather Johann Friederich Schönherr (1781–1846), the head of the family, originally came from the Dresden area of Saxony. His apprenticeship certificate was completed in 1798 when he was seventeen.

Johann travelled to London to work in the sugar-baking community in Whitechapel, which attracted many German speaking young men who were happy to labour in the hot boiling houses for good wages. Johann must have worked hard because he saved enough money to secure a 59-year lease on land and premises at Waterloo Terrace, 101–102 Princes Road (now Black Prince Road), Lambeth. The annual rent was £4-10s-0d. He signed his anglicised name John Frederick Shoner on Lady Day, 25 March 1817. Both houses remained in multiple occupancy providing income from sub-letting, with one floor of No. 101 remaining the Shoner family home until 1929.

John married Anna Hannah Vogel (1790–1866) at St Mary’s, Whitechapel in 1822 and brought her south of the river to her new home in Lambeth. A cache of 18th-century family papers has revealed that Anna’s father Johann Georg Vogel (1750–1821) was also lured to London by prospects of a better life in the German community in Whitechapel.

Johann Vogel was originally from Fürth near Nuremberg, and later was described as the court baker of Fahrenbach in Baden Württemberg. He met and married Maria Margaretha Michelin from Obernbreit in Bavaria. The Vogel family lived at 2 Lambeth (sic), Goodman’s Fields, Whitechapel.⁵ There were at least five children. They were part of the congregation that worshipped at St George’s German Lutheran Church, Alie Street, Whitechapel. Anna was later confirmed at the Lutheran Savoy Chapel, off The Strand, on 25 March 1804 by the Rev C Fr Ad Steinkopf.



Johann Friederich Schönherr's Certificate

⁵ An interesting coincidence that Anna lived at ‘Goodman Fields’ and then married ‘Schönherr’ translating to ‘Goodman’

**SHONER'S
PREPARED NURSERY
BUNS.**

A light, nutritious and agreeable Food for Infants and Invalids. Contains in a concentrated form all the element of nutrition.

DIRECTIONS.

Put one Bun in a cup, pour boiling water over it and cover up, when well soaked strain off the water that has not been absorbed, beat well up and it is ready for use.

A little boiled milk may be added according to the age and health of the Infant.

They are well adapted for making nice light Puddings, either boiled or baked.

Well soak six buns in about half a pint of milk, flavor with nutmeg, tie tight in a cloth or basin and boil 20 minutes.

John Frederick Shoner established his own business in 1818 and by 1827 had an entry in Pigot's London Directory as a confectioner at 3 Waterloo Place, Princes Road, Lambeth. In 1841 he was styled as a biscuit maker in the census return. He died at the age of 65 and was buried on 14 September 1846 in the plot at Norwood already bought by him and his wife (grave 1,514, square 96; monument destroyed). Anna outlived her husband by 20 years; she was buried in the same grave on 30 November 1866.

During his lifetime John Frederick Shoner experienced many changes in his work. When he first came to England his confectionery produce would have been in demand by wealthy clients, but over the years sugar and baked goods became cheaper with the introduction of mass production methods. Confectionery grew more widely available in a very

competitive market, hence the family income is likely to have declined. The Lambeth area was also changing as more people migrated to London, with housing and living conditions deteriorating due to overcrowding. Poverty in Lambeth increased, and the biscuit maker's clientele changed.

Anna and John had one son, also called John Frederick Shoner (1824–1862). He was christened on 5 September 1824 at St Mary's, Lambeth. He learned his father's trade, but by 1851 he was making ginger beer. John was still living at 101 Princes Road with his mother and his aunt Marianne, who had joined the household after the death of her husband Henry Jansen in Stepney in 1842.

John Frederick Shoner married Harriet Mary Cocksedge (b. Lambeth 1832) at St Mary's, Lambeth on 8 September 1854. They lived at 4 Church Street, Kennington and raised four children. John Frederick was born in June 1854 and Harriet Hannah in 1856. James Charles Frederick, an infant, was buried in the family grave on 3 June 1861 aged only seven months. Another child, also named James Charles Frederick Shoner, was born on 9 April 1862. Further tragedy then befell the family, because Harriet Hannah died on 16 April 1862, aged six, shortly followed by her father on 20 April 1862, aged 38. Scarlet fever caused both deaths: the warm conditions in the bakehouse were ideal for spreading this bacterial infection and overcoming even an adult man.

**SHONER'S
Unfermented Ginger Beer,**

MANUFACTURED IN ITS ORIGINAL PURITY,
1d. 1½d. & 2d. per Bottle.

Families supplied at the following prices—
9d. 1s. 1d. & 1s. 5d. per Doz.—Cash on delivery.

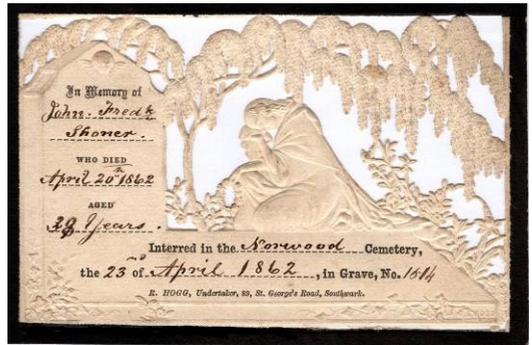
Manufactory: 4, CHURCH STREET, CLAPHAM ROAD,
KENNINGTON PARK.

Delivered within 5 miles, Carriage Free.

Wholesale and Retail SPICE NUT Manufacturer. Retail from 9½d. per 2lb. canister,
delivered as above.
L. Brown and Co., Printers, Newington, S.

Father and daughter were interred in the family grave, Hannah on 19 April, and John on 23 April. John Frederick Shoner's Will bequeathed 'the goodwill of his trade and all his fixtures, impertinents, utensils, stock book and other effects' to his wife, together with some money to support the family. However, Harriet Mary continued to work as a baker, as noted in the 1881 census.

Of the two remaining children, John became a gunsmith apprenticed in 1871 to Charles H. Gilkes, Ironmongers & Gunmakers of 3 Union Row, Tower Hill. James became a pastry cook taught by his mother. By their industry and thrift the family bought the freeholds of Nos. 101 & 102 Princes Road. John Milburn, a clerk to a school, together with his wife and four children shared No. 101 with the Shoners. The Skeen families, likely two brothers who were bookbinders, and their wives and children, 12 people in all, lived at No. 102.



Memorial cards for Harriet and John Shoner



Harriet Mary Shoner with her sons, John Frederick Shoner & James Charles Frederick Shoner

Harriet Mary Shoner died on 13 March 1891, aged 59. She was buried in the family grave on 18 March. She left the freehold of No. 101 to James Charles Frederick and that of No. 102 to John Frederick, her eldest son, by then a ship's chandler. In 1911 both John and his brother James were still living at No. 101 Princes Road. John returned to being a gunsmith making parts for signal guns, and James continued as a shopkeeper selling confectionery.

In 1924 James Charles Frederick Shoner married Violet Selina Lilian Macey (1905–1985). They had two daughters Lilian Rose Harriet (b. 1924, my mother) and Violet Vera

(1925–2017). The family moved subsequently to Mortlake where James suffered a heart attack and died in Richmond Hospital on 31 March 1937 aged 74. He was buried in an adjacent plot to the Shoner family grave, bought by his wife (grave 38,894, square 96); his interment took place on 7 April 1937.

Afterwards the family moved to Ramsgate where John Frederick Shoner died, still a bachelor, on 5 February 1940, aged 85. His body was brought back to war-torn London and buried in grave 1,514 four days later, next to his brother. In total there are seven members of the Shoner family buried in grave 1,514, but their monument has disappeared, almost certainly a victim of the Lambeth clearances of the 1970s/1980s. The 1937 grave of James Charles Frederick Shoner, which bears a headstone with kerbs, is immediately to its left, and the brick vault of Clapham schoolmistress sisters Amy and Sarah Hawkes (grave 5,873, square 96) is to its right.

Black Prince Road was bombed during the Second World War. The remains of the house at No. 101 were subject to a local authority compulsory purchase order, and the land is now part of a post-1960s housing estate. The efforts and aspirations of the early generation of bakers came to an end, and because of the later female lineage the Shoner (Schönherr) name has been lost as well.



James Charles Frederick Shoner's grave-stone (grave 38,894, square 96)

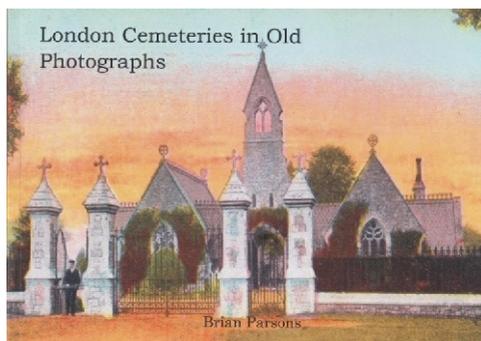


Book Review

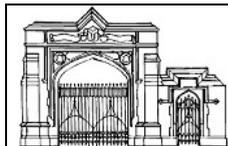
Bob Flanagan

London Cemeteries in Old Photographs

This limited-edition book (94 pp, £12, info@brianparsons.org.uk to order a copy) aims to complement the 6th edition of *London Cemeteries: An Illustrated Guide and Gazetteer* by Hugh Meller and Brian Parsons. *London Cemeteries in Old Photographs* draws together many long-forgotten images of buildings and landscapes that have in most cases changed completely since they were recorded.



Of particular interest to me are the images of Colney Hatch Station at Maiden Lane that from 1861–3 received coffins and mourners from the Great Northern Cemetery Company's station at Belle Isle, north of King's Cross. *'The apartment [mortuary at Maiden Lane] is well ventilated and illuminated at night, while watchers are in attendance to take every needful precaution in case of suspended animation, should any occur'*. A word of caution. In contrast to the book on the *Monumentale Cemetery of Milano* reviewed above (p. 5), this book is so loosely bound it fragments all too easily.



Forthcoming Events

September-December 2021

Introductory tours (pre-book one month in advance only, www.fownc.org/tickets) will be held on the first Sunday of each month subject to Government guidance, starting at the cemetery main gate off Norwood Road at 14:30 (5 September, 3 October) or 11:00 (7 November, 5 December), and lasting for 1½–2 hours. Donations will be welcome. These tours coincide with West Norwood Feast (street markets and other town centre events: <https://westnorwoodfeast.com/>). To register to be notified of additional events please visit www.fownc.org/news/.

Lectures will be held at the Old Library, 14-16 Knights Hill, SE27 0HY as detailed below subject of course to Government guidance starting at 14:30. There is no formal charge, but we welcome donations to cover room hire.⁶

Saturday 16 October – AGM and Lecture: In Pursuit of Special Interest – Identifying the stars of cemetery memorials – Roger Bowdler

Visiting a great cemetery like West Norwood can be a daunting experience. The myriad memorials clamour for attention, and their sheer number overwhelms. How are the key tombs identified? This talk starts out by looking at how tombs have been chosen for listing, and then considers how new discoveries and new understanding can be reflected in conservation and celebration. Dr Bowdler was formerly Director of Designation, i.e. Listing, at Historic England. The talk will be preceded by our AGM.

Saturday 13 November – Lecture: Norwood – The Great War – John Clarke and Peter Hodgkinson

The centenary of the Great War and its aftermath prompted much research and thought. To attempt to assess its impact on Norwood, John and Peter have been documenting monuments in the cemetery that commemorate those who either died as a result of the conflict, or otherwise contributed to the war effort. They have also compiled as much information as possible from records held at Lambeth Archives from lost family monuments that detailed war graves in other parts of the world.

⁶ The building is managed by the Rathbone Society, a local charity, as a community centre, particularly for youth groups, but available to all

A Bit of Mystery – Bob Flanagan

This memorial (grave 6,211, square 65) commemorates Robert Beckwith Towse (1818–1868), late of Clothworkers Hall, who died on 16 May 1868, aged 50, and Julia Ann, his widow who died in Edinburgh on 20 November 1916. Also mentioned is Harold Beckwith Towse, Lt. Colonel in the British Army (late Royal Scots Greys) who died at Kisumu, Kenya Colony, on 22 July 1923 and is buried there. Born on 9 November 1866, he had been posted to HQ Scottish Command as Staff Captain in August 1914. Appointed Major (2nd in command) of 25th Royal Fusiliers, March 1915, he served in East Africa from March 1915–January 1918. He was appointed Officer Commanding Uganda, with the rank of Local Lt. Colonel in November 1915. He was appointed D.A.Q.M.G., G.H.Q., France, in March 1918 until demobilised in July 1919. He was three times Mentioned in Dispatches. One wonders what had called him back to Kenya and what was the cause of his death?



The Towse memorial

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© FOWNC September 2021

The FOWNC Newsletter is published three times a year by

The Friends of West Norwood Cemetery, 79 Durban Road, London SE27 9RW

<https://www.fownc.org/> Twitter: @fownc1837. The annual subscription is £5.

Registered CIO No 1172409. Member of the National Federation of Cemetery Friends (NFCF, <https://www.cemeteryfriends.com/>) and of the Association of Significant Cemeteries of Europe (ASCE, www.significantcemeteries.net)

Printed by SRA, a charity providing training and employment for people with mental health problems (www.sra-ltd.co.uk)
