

Friends of West Norwood CEMETERY

Newsletter No. 103 – January 2022

Free to members

Chairman's Report

Bob Flanagan

As noted in the September Newsletter, progress with the roadway and drainage works continues apace and will hopefully be finished by the end of January. Contractors idverde have proved excellent partners, and thanks are also due to Lambeth Senior Capital Projects manager Ian Bhoorasingh for the care he has taken in supervising the work. Amusingly, Lambeth refused to tell us the cost of the work despite our role as formal partners in the NLHF project! However, openly available online is the decision paper (of 2 February 2021) for the award of the contract at £1,421,781.

There is also progress with the restoration of the Grade II Listed Auffray and Baldwin Brown monuments. The contract for the repairs was given to Sally Strachey Historic Conservation at an estimated cost of £90,783.97. They have done a good job. The monument to James Baldwin Brown (1820–1884) and family (grave 7,167, square 40) was the first to be fully repaired – it looks splendid! Sadly, as expected the imprint of a manufacturer was not found on the monument, but to me it looks like Doulton ware.



Baldwin Brown Monument

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Baldwin Brown was one of the first graduates of the University of London. He was Minister in Derby in 1843, at Claylands Chapel, Clapham Road in 1846, and at Brixton Independent Chapel, Brixton Road from 1870 until his death. He lived at 5 The Paragon, Streatham Hill, and died at Coombe House, Kingston Hill, Surrey, on 23 June 1884. He married a sister of the sculptor Henry Stormonth Leifchild (1823–1884; grave 20,386, square 40: see www.streathamsociety.org.uk/blog/famous-royal-holloway-sculptor). The ashes of their son Gerard Baldwin Brown (1849–1932), Watson Gordon Professor of Fine Art at the University of Edinburgh 1880–1930, are also buried in the grave.

Whilst the Auffray monument (grave 25,249, square 54) has been stabilised (it had no foundations!), sadly its marble decoration had eroded badly. One column has been beautifully carved by Rupert Westmacott to replace one that had been lost, and attempts have been made to stabilise the others. The portrait medallion too has suffered badly. Attempts are in hand to make good the most badly



Charles Auffray: portrait medallion prior to renovation

damaged areas. The tablet bearing the inscription had also decayed to the extent that a new frame has had to be made in which to affix the fragments prior to reinstatement on the monument. Listed building consent has been sought. All-in-all it has been a massive job that has had to be performed in a very tight space. One can only marvel at the skill of the masons who erected the monument initially.



Auffray memorial: replacement column

A Project Manager for the NLHF Works?

Ever since the award of the NLHF grant we have been asking when a manager was to be appointed to oversee the project as a whole. No appointment has ever been made and the project has limped along notwithstanding, largely driven by prompting from Nicholas Long, Chair of the Delivery Board, and I as representative of the formal partners in the project. The reason for this crazy situation has never been explained.

That such an appointment was envisaged at the very start by the NLHF was confirmed in September when we were at last given a copy of the formal NLHF grant award letter dated February 2019. This inertia long antedates the Covid-19 pandemic and has had inevitable effects on costs, notably the delay in getting a proper survey of the boundary wall at the site of the proposed new entrance in Robson Road. The survey has shown that in essence the wall has no foundations, and further cost estimates are awaited.



Shuttering: Narrow Steps Drainage works: Narrow Road – before and after

As to the second proposed ‘new’ entrance, the reinstatement of the old entrance at the end of Hubbard Road for pedestrian use, all planning and other permissions, including Faculty permission, have been obtained. It just needs someone to drive the project forward. The proposed repurposing of the Lodge as combined Visitor Centre and offices for Bereavement Services has, however, hit a snag. It was planned that Lambeth would staff an office on the ground floor during normal working hours to deal with cemetery matters, but they have now decided not to do this. I don’t think this task can be left to volunteers. This also emphasises the question of the security of the cemetery registers, the safes in which they are kept being too heavy to move.

Sir Robert Shean McConnell, 4th Baronet (1930–2021)

I am sorry to report that Cllr Robert McConnell died in July last year aged 90. Robert was a stalwart friend to the cemetery and for many years was the Liberal Democrat representative to both the Management Advisory Group and the Scheme of Management Committee. He was a consistent attendee and source of sound advice and encouragement in the dark days of the 1990s when FOWNC had few friends in the Town Hall.

Born in Belfast on 23 November 1930, the eldest son of Sir Robert Melville Terence McConnell, 3rd Baronet (1902–1987) and his wife Rosamond Mary Elizabeth née Reade, he succeeded to the Baronetcy in 1987, but never used the title. He was elected Lib Dem councillor for Knight’s Hill in a by-election on 21 March 1996, taking the seat from the Conservatives. He held the seat until 2006. He never married, and is succeeded in the baronetcy by his nephew, Major Terence Reade McConnell (b. 1959).



In addition to his help with the Cemetery, Robert was a *Cllr Robert Shean McConnell* stalwart of the Community Police Consultative Group, sat on the Residential Care Committee, and was a member of the Norwood Town Centre Forum. A long-time

resident in Stockwell Park Road, he was a keen and expert gardener. A chartered surveyor and Town Planner, he worked in town planning in Canada, the US, and Australia, as well as in the UK. The part of his career that meant the most to him was as head of the department of town planning at London South Bank University from the mid-1960s to the mid-80s. I remember him as a quiet, unassuming man who was always sensible and ready to try to help if he could. A great loss.

Newsletter Articles

Deputy Chairman John Clarke has produced a listing of the articles, book reviews, etc. published in our Newsletters from No 3, September 1990 to No 102, September 2021. The listing is available on our website (www.fownc.org/pdf/newsletter-articles.pdf) and is in fact a cumulative Table of Contents that can be downloaded in searchable form. As such it provides a means of accessing Newsletter articles as an alternative to looking for information on specific topics using search engines such as Google. Not surprisingly my own name features 209 times!

Hollywood Graveyard

This website (www.hollywoodgraveyard.com/) features videos of dozens of cemeteries and graveyards around the world. Host Arthur Dark created *Hollywood Graveyard* as a way to keep the memory of the world's greatest entertainers alive by visiting their final resting places. In addition to US graveyards there is a three-part tour of England (www.youtube.com/watch?v=eANpIEjdlOU). There are also videos of Italian churches (www.youtube.com/watch?v=4IJKH-5uYUc) and of graveyards in many other places such as Vienna (www.youtube.com/watch?v=4SyYDPDHPTvs). The standard of grounds maintenance featured puts Norwood to shame...

FOWNC Events

We managed to hold two socially-distanced indoor events last year. After our AGM in October we were treated to an excellent talk *In Pursuit of Special Interest* by Dr Roger Bowdler (see article, p. 14). In November, John Clarke and Peter Hodgkinson reported their extremely thorough and valuable research into World War One burials and commemorations in the cemetery (see article p. 5). However, because of the continuing uncertainty re. the Covid-19 pandemic we have not planned to hold further indoor meetings until the 2022 AGM, which is scheduled for Saturday 15 October. Let us hope a sense of normality has returned by then.

Cemetery Working Parties

Thanks again to Madeline Brockbanks and Sue Williams for taking the initiative and organising the Saturday morning working parties in the Cemetery. These have been well attended and have made a substantial difference to the appearance of the cemetery. In August Lambeth Friends of the Earth gave enthusiastic support. Hopefully they will lend a hand on future occasions.



Lambeth Friends of the Earth, August 2021

Norwood ~ The Great War

John Clarke and Peter Hodgkinson

This project, which was initiated by Colin Fenn in 2014, aims to document the burials and memorials that were present in 1966 prior to the compulsory purchase of the cemetery by Lambeth. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) records 140 burials of Great War servicemen in the cemetery. Hundreds more of those who served were commemorated on family memorials, many of which were demolished illegally in the 1970s and 1980s.

The cards containing monumental inscriptions compiled by the late Eric Smith over 30 years ago and held in Lambeth Archives (see: *Norwood: The Monumental Inscriptions* by John Clarke. Newsletter 96, September 2019) have proved invaluable in attempting to produce a record of these lost memorials. In over 20 visits to the Archives, we discovered some 450 such inscriptions. A search for surviving memorials is in progress.

Service files for both officers and other ranks show that some 66% of those buried in the cemetery died from sickness rather than wounds, 25% in the 1918–19 influenza pandemic. Some 91% of the burials/commemorations are to those who served in the Army, 6% RAF (includes RFC and RNAS), many of whom died in accidents, and 3% RN. Some 68% of those buried or commemorated were born within five miles of the cemetery; the families of a further 13% were living within five miles of the cemetery at the time of the individual's death.

Some 33 % of the memorial inscriptions in the cemetery were to officers, whereas nearly 30% of the private soldiers buried in the cemetery lie in common graves. Thirty-two sets of parents lost two sons, and one family, whose son lies in a common grave, lost 3 of their 6 sons who served. Many civilians connected with the war effort also lie in the cemetery, not to mention two nurses who died in the line of duty.

In all 47% of those killed in the Great War have no known grave: 38% of the commemorations at Norwood were to such men, indicating that the inscription stood in place of a grave. All the more tragic that some 70% of these memorials are now lost, a figure that includes the exact locations of many of the actual burials, the approximate locations of which are now marked by CWGC headstones. As to publication of the research, the plan at this stage is for the bulk of the data to be made available via the internet, which will allow for easy addition of new discoveries. In addition, there will be a printed A5 booklet to set the scene as it were.



Family memorial: Lt RA Gatfield (grave 32,974, square 105). Died 7 June 1917 of wounds received at Messines

Aglaia Coronio née Ionides (1834~1906): Part 1¹

Victoria Solomonidis-Hunter FKC

Aglaia Ionides (grave 30,480, square 28, Greek no. 76), the oldest daughter of Alexander Constantine Ionides (1810–1890) and his wife Euterpe née Sgouta (1816–1892), was born on 20 December 1834 at 9 Finsbury Circus. Since the arrival of the Ionides family from Constantinople in the mid-1820s, this had been their home and also the premises of Ionides and Co., founded by her grandfather Constantine Ipliktsis-Ionides (1785–1852).

Constantine lost most of his business at the outbreak of the 1821 Greek revolution as a consequence of Ottoman retaliation on the Constantinopolitan Greeks and moved to London soon after. In Constantinople, the Ionides had traded in yarn. In England, with prosperous operations in Manchester and London, they were soon established as brokers and merchants of grains and general merchandise, as well as producers of cotton fabrics designed in-house and assigned UK patents, now at the National Archives.

Aglaia's christening on 26 January 1835 at London's Russian Chapel was a grand occasion. Her godfather was Spyridon Tricoupis (1788–1873), the first Greek Ambassador to the Court of St. James and former Greek Prime Minister.

In 1837, her father acquired British citizenship and in 1840, with business prospering, the Ionides moved to an imposing villa 'decorated in advanced style' at 130 Tulse Hill. Aglaia was brought up in a cosmopolitan environment of enterprise, glamour and manifold pursuits, high principles and moral values, as were her siblings Constantine (1833–1900), Luke (1837–1924), Alexander/Alecco (1840–1898, grave 28,255, sq. 28/29, Greek no. 109) and Chariclea (1844–1922). All five made their mark, be it in business and/or the arts. Although distinctly different, they were all 'eager and accomplished members of London's cultural elite'. Their lives form an inseparable unit and, ideally, should be examined together in order to provide the context of their separate contribution to their adopted homeland.



G.F. Watts (1817–1904): A.C. Ionides and family, 1841 (Watts Gallery). Aglaia is fourth from the left

¹ For Part 2: see FOWNC Newsletter 104 (May 2022)

Active in the affairs of the London Greek community, the Ionides were also part of London's civic society, welcoming a star-studded list of guests to their salons and forming friendships with politicians, intellectuals, musicians, and artists to whom they offered patronage and support. Their Sunday 'at homes' in Tulse Hill were famous for the entertainments, theatricals, and balls, together with good food and witty conversation. The convivial 'Tulse Hill' atmosphere described in detail by George du Maurier, comes to life in Aglaia's album of letters by guests. Among them, Alma Tadema, Holman Hunt, John Stuart Mill, Ford Madox Brown, Sir John Millais, Samuel Butler, Thomas Hood, Ellen Terry, Sir Frederic Leighton, George Sand, William Wordsworth, Sir Edwin Landseer, John Ruskin, Sir Max Beerbohm Tree, Chateaubriand, James McNeill Whistler, Dr. Livingstone, Charles Dickens, Lamartine, and Longfellow.

Growing up in Tulse Hill surrounded by exquisite works of art, Aglaia counted among her close friends G.F. Watts who, in 1839, had received his first commission from her father. Soon after, he painted Aglaia as a child and, later, twice as a young woman, becoming one of her life-long friends.



D.G. Rossetti (1828–1882): Aglaia Coronio, 1870 (V&A)

By 1855, aged 20 Aglaia acted as official hostess for her father, now the Greek Consul General, a director of the Crystal Palace Company, and of a number of banks. She was 'one of the most intelligent and witty women of the period', 'so beautiful and stately and magnificently attired', 'a poetical appearance, tall, slender, supple figure, pale face, black eyes, sensitive, quiet, with a dreamful air'.

On 1 September 1855 she married Theodore Coronio (1826–1903), at the Greek church of *Our Saviour* in the City. The wedding was a grand affair: 40 horse-drawn coaches ferried the guests from the church to Tulse Hill for the wedding breakfast and ball, which lasted well into the evening. Theodore was a City merchant, the son of an illustrious Chiot family. 'A good fellow, a wag and very handsome in his youth', he arrived in England in

1843, settling first in Manchester as a 'merchant of silk and cotton goods', and then in London, acquiring British citizenship in 1853.

The young couple's first home was the Corinthian Lodge in Lower Tulse Hill, not far from the Ionides villa. Over the next two years, a daughter and a son were born in quick succession. Theodore and Aglaia lived in Lower Tulse Hill until the end of 1869, when they bought 1a Holland Park for £6,000. It was a detached 3-storey villa, adjacent to her parents' magnificent house at 1 Holland Park, purchased five years earlier for £4,500. The Coronios were now neighbours of the extended Ionides/Cassavetti clan, as well as of the Holland Park circle of artists, which included G.F. Watts, Frederic Leighton, and Valentine Prinsep.

In contrast to the many detailed accounts exalting the beauty of 1 Holland Park, especially after 1880 when it came to her brother Alecco, no pictures or detailed descriptions of Aglaia's house have yet come to light. Still, her exquisitely aesthetic sitting room survives in a watercolour by Anna Alma Tadema (1867–1943), daughter of Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema and one of Coronios' closest friends: against a William Morris wallpaper, Rossetti's *Study for 'Mariana'* (1868, now at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York) takes centre stage. Aglaia's cherished garden, designed in the style of the Chiot landscape, can be glimpsed. It is heartening that it still exists today as the garden of the Greek Embassy.

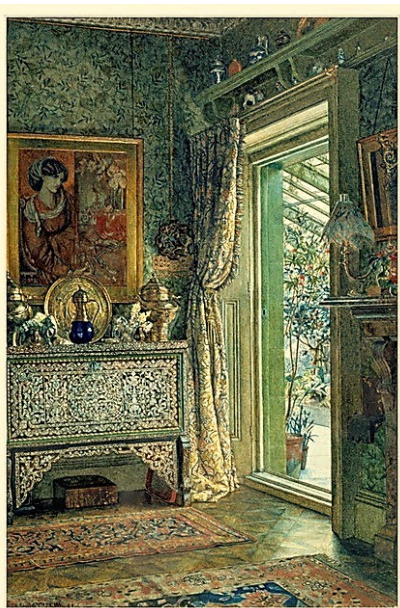
The extant list of works of art owned by Aglaia, provides proof of the 'discreet' beauty of her home. Mainly composed of works by contemporary English artists, it was a collection of great distinction, in line with her aesthetic temperament and in harmony with the concerns of her artist friends.

By 1870, together with her cousin Maria Cassavetti-Zambaco (1843–1914; grave 1,971, sq. 28, Greek no. 77) and Marie Spartali-Stillman (1844–1927; memorial plaque at grave 7,655, square 28; Greek no. 6), Aglaia was known as one of the Pre-Raphaelite 'Three Graces', depicted in Burne-Jones' *The Mill* (1870-1882, now at the V&A). They were three 'of the most celebrated and inspirational beauties of the time'.

Well-travelled and widely read, Aglaia grew to become one of the most sophisticated and shrewd women of her social circle. Reminiscences and autobiographies of her friends and acquaintances highlight her remarkable intelligence and sound judgement, as well as her sense of humour and slight eccentricity.

The Greek magnate Andreas Syngros (1830–1899), a business partner of Aglaia's in-laws who left her a bequest in his will, noted that 'this eccentricity I for one found rather pleasing, because it provided constant opportunity for debate and argument'. As another friend pointed out, her 'sharp tongue concealed an unhappy, but immensely warm-hearted soul'.

Theodore pursued his career in the City and went on to become a member of the Baltic Exchange. However, he suffered losses through bad investments and in 1874 petitioned for bankruptcy. Although their finances did not recover fully, social life continued at the same pace, including travels to Greece, central Europe and the opening of the first Bayreuth Festival in 1876.



*Anna Alma-Tadema (1867–1943):
Drawing Room, 1a Holland Park,
1897(Russell-Cotes Gallery)*

Richard Hine Ming (1822-1887)

John Clarke

Richard Ming spent his working life on the London & South Western Railway (LSWR). He rose to become a senior officer of the company, latterly as Superintendent of the Nine Elms Goods Depot. Ming was born in 1822, the son of Thomas Ming of Holborn. By 1850 he was a 'clerk' at Nine Elms – this position often involved more managerial responsibilities than would be the case today.



Vanload of greenery, Nine Elms (1906)

Work at Nine Elms was 'sectional', i.e. Ming was not only in charge of the carriers, but was also responsible for looking after the wagons. Both sections were 'outdoor', in contrast to the 'indoor' work within the extensive goods sheds that were under a separate manager.

Following the appointment of William Godson (1805/6–1867) as Superintendent of the Line, which included responsibility for passenger and goods work, Ming was made Outdoor Goods Superintendent at Nine Elms. Further change followed in 1853

when the LSWR decided to take in house all cartage across London. This followed successful experiments in Southampton that had created extra business for the company. The model was extended subsequently to cover Windsor, Guildford and Reading.

A management review took place in the early 1860s. Ming became Superintendent at Nine Elms and took over responsibility for cartage not only in London, but also in Southampton, Windsor, Kingston, Reading and other centres. However the management of the stabling remained with the Superintendent of the Line. Only following Godson's death did this come under Ming's control.

In addition to the horse and cartage department, and the operation of Nine Elms yard, Ming was in charge of six inspectors, led by Chief Inspector Lingley. He was also responsible for the night shifts at Nine Elms which were led by Chief Inspector



Unloading Xmas trees, Nine Elms (1906)

Lawrence and two others. In addition, Ming had to monitor the goods rolling stock, making sure there were enough wagons for service across the LSWR system. From time to time he had to report to the Superintendent of the Line of shortages of certain types of wagon. An indication of the increase in goods business may be shown by the fact that in 1851 the LSWR had 1,411 wagons, a figure which had risen to 6,887 by 1881.

Horsepower was essential to the smooth running of the depot. Horses were required not only to help shunt wagons, but also to haul carts to deliver and to collect goods. In 1872 there were nearly 600 horses stabled at Nine Elms. They required considerable care, and one of Ming's tasks was to find ways of reducing costs. In 1868-9, shortly after succeeding Godson, he reported that the work performed by his team of horses was providing the company with a profit of £4,411 (1868) and £6,204 (1869) a year. His report was probably submitted to justify the need for the numbers stabled at Nine Elms.



Mistletoe from Normandy at Nine Elms

On the veterinary side, a Mr. Barber was appointed to give attendance to all horses stabled down the line to Aldershot for 5/- per horse per annum. This left Ming to make separate arrangements for horses stabled on the company's system beyond this area.

Ming, like many other senior officers of the LSWR, was also involved with philanthropic and fundraising work for the company's staff. One example is recorded in the South Western Gazette for April 1884. The occasion was a special sermon given by Rev J.S. Pratt, Vicar of St Stephen's, Albert Square, in aid of St Thomas's Hospital. The sermon had been arranged by the Nine Elms Relief Fund Committee. Ming was one of several senior officials present. The account in the Gazette comments that their attendance 'was highly appreciated by the rank and file'. The collection following the sermon raised £21-12-4, and other donations collected before and after the service raised over £80.

The importance of St Thomas's in the world of the railwayman of the late 19th century cannot be underestimated. Working conditions, especially in a busy goods station with continuous shunting, were very dangerous; many men who sustained injuries of all kinds during the course of their normal duties must have been grateful to have access (if necessary) to such a hospital.

Ming was able to make savings from shoeing and veterinary costs. These had risen from £3-15-0 per horse per year to £4-5-0 each in 1872. By 1878 a Mr. Moon had been contracted to undertake this work for a flat fee of £4-2-6 per horse, a saving of 2/6 each. When Moon died in 1881, Ming recommended that his equipment stored on LSWR premises should be purchased so that the company could shoe its own horses. This created a Farriers Department, alongside savings of £350 a year. To cover the

During Ming's period of office his status in the company rose as the importance of goods traffic grew. The LSWR Goods Manager was earning £750 a year when he retired at the end of 1887; Ming was earning £550 a year at the time of his death; whilst the Superintendent of the Line had a salary of £1,000 a year.

Ming died on 30 March 1887 at his home at 84 Wandsworth Road. His funeral service took place at Norwood on 2 April. The cortege left Wandsworth at 11.45 am, arriving at the cemetery at 12.30. His service took place in the 'Protestant chapel' and all departments of the railway were represented. The account in the *South Western Gazette* described Ming as a 'fine, portly presence', who 'often did good by stealth, as many a poor widow of some old servant, or old servants themselves, still living, can testify'. His grave is 'most pleasantly situated' near the chapel. There have been two further burials there (grave 21,732, square 35): those of his widow, Elizabeth Verrier Ming (buried 25 October 1898, aged 79) and their son Thomas Hine Ming (buried 4 December 1906, aged 62).



The Ming family headstone at Norwood

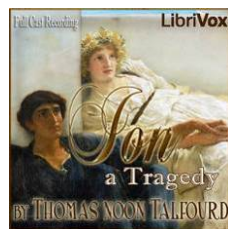


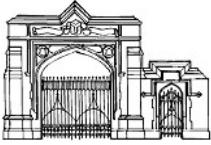
Audiobook Review: Ion

Bob Flanagan

Thomas Noon Talfourd (1795–1854). Ion: a Tragedy. Run time:02:30:21. Zip file size: 70 MB. Catalog date: 29-09-2021. Read by: LibriVox Volunteers. Book Coordinator: Kelly S. Taylor. Free download: <https://librivox.org/ion-by-thomas-noon-talfourd/>

This drama, set in Ancient Greece, was Talfourd's only literary success, but made his name (see Newsletter 87, September 2016). Originally intended to be read, it attracted the attention of William Macready (1793–1873), who successfully produced it on stage at Covent Garden in 1836. It became a much bigger hit a few years later when it was revived with Dame Ellen Terry (1847–1928) taking the part of the tragic hero, Ion. The American actress Charlotte Cushman (1816–1876) and other leading ladies of the day also donned togas to play the doomed young Grecian noble. Credit to the LibriVox team for taking the time to produce this version. Will it revive interest in *Ion*? Well, it is not to my taste that's for sure...





Book Review: When Eternity Fades

Bob Flanagan

Georgia Rauer. *Wenn Ewigkeit vergänglich wird. Londons viktorianische Gartenfriedhöfe gestern und heute.* Edition Frölich, 2021. Hardback, 160 pp. Some 232 monochrome and colour illustrations. ISBN/EAN 978 3 9820807 3 4. € 25.00 including VAT/shipping. www.editionfroelich.de/produkt/wenn-ewigkeit-vergaenglich-wird/

Das beste Buch, das ich je über Londons Gartenfriedhöfe gelesen habe! How ironic that it has taken a German freelance author Georgia Rauer and a German graphic designer Regelindis Westphal to produce this magnificent volume. Admittedly modern production methods and the work of Friends groups made accessible via the internet and inspired largely by the work of Hugh Meller and Chris Brooks as well as by James Stevens Curl from the 1970s onwards have helped.

There is a downside though. Memories of Norwood and it must be said Tower Hamlets and to an extent Nunhead are clouded by the thoughtless destruction wrought by Local Authorities from the 1960s on. I was nevertheless happy to help, as were Brian Parsons and Ian Dungavell. Sadly in my view, no other Friends groups responded.

Primacy of course goes to Kensal Green. The famous lithograph (*der Vogelperspektive*) attributed to Thomas Allom (1804–1872) or to John Griffith (1789–1855) features prominently. Allom himself is buried at Kensal Green, but his daughter Amy's father-in-law William Brumfitt Storr (1798–1864) lies at Norwood in his family plot (grave 9,060, square 50) next to Allom's Dodd Mausoleum (grave 6,368, square 50; see Newsletter 49, January 2004).

The next page of the book features the title page of Laman Blanchard's *A Visit to the General Cemetery at Kensal Green* from *Ainsworth's Magazine* of 1842 and illustrated by William Alfred Delamotte (1775–1863). William's son Freeman Gage Delamotte (1814–1862), a noted typographer, illuminator and friend of J.M.W. Turner, is buried at Norwood (grave 5,647, square 5; monument destroyed). A list of his publications and many examples of his work can be found here: <http://luc.devroye.org/fonts-50584.html>.

Samuel Laman Blanchard (1804–1845) is buried at Norwood (grave 1,051, square 98) in the consecrated area of the cemetery despite his suicide after the death of his wife Ann Elizabeth. Their magnificent tombstone and its inscription were featured in the *Illustrated London News* of 3 January 1851 (see Newsletter 38, May 2000), but sadly no trace now remains. Likewise, there is now no trace of the 9 ft x 9 ft plot (grave 1,986, square 44)



given in 1848 by the South Metropolitan Cemetery Company in the consecrated area of the cemetery on the initiative of George Walker in which the bodies removed from beneath the infamous Enon Chapel, Clements Lane, Strand were reinterred. The plot now lies beneath rows of unmarked common graves.



Memorials to James Benson Wilson (1905–1949; grave 40,347, square 115) and other members of his family

within squares 115/119 as do the family graves of local undertakers JB Wilson and Son – a 1905 photograph of their offices on Norwood Road proudly proclaiming founded 1845 features in the book.

All-in-all this book shows that the study of history, art and architecture, and ‘historical tourism’ can be combined easily and with clarity for the interested reader. Perhaps the publishers will do an English edition one day? Their interest in London reminds me of seeking out what remains of the cemeteries in Berlin some 20 years ago. There was much to look at despite damage caused by the Nazis and the 363 Allied bombing raids, 1940–5.

Of the original Jüdischer Friedhof on Grosse Hamburger Strasse, which dates from 1672, little remains following its destruction by the Nazis in 1943. Its successor on Schönhauser Allee opened in 1827 and was used until 1940. Although also desecrated in 1943, it has been the subject of a major restoration campaign although of course an atmosphere of tremendous sadness pervades the place.² Amongst those buried here is composer Giacomo Meyerbeer (1791–1864).

The Zentralfriedhof Friedrichsfelde dates from 1881 and was open to ‘all denominations and social classes’.³ Following the burials of Karl Liebknecht (1871–1919) and Rosa Luxemburg (1871–1919) and other victims murdered during the conflicts of January 1919, a memorial to the Kommunistische Partei Deutschlands (KPD) and its supporters was designed by the later Bauhaus director Ludwig Mies van der Rohe (1886–1969) and inaugurated in 1926. Sadly, the Nazis demolished it in 1935 and leveled the graves.

² www.berlin.de/sehenswuerdigkeiten/3561204-3558930-juedischer-friedhof-schoenhauser-allee.html

³ www.sozialistenfriedhof.de/index.php?id=sozialistenfriedhof&L=198

In Pursuit of Special Interest

Roger Bowdler

On arriving at English Heritage in 1989, one of my early projects was to assist in the protection of West Norwood Cemetery, then very much at risk. This involved identifying more monuments for listing. I ended my career as Director of Listing at Historic England 28 years later, by which time I had not only reviewed a number of cemeteries, but also written the guidance for identifying monuments of special architectural or historic interest – the currency of listing.

In my view, listing is important as a way of identifying the truly special monuments. This is needed for a number of reasons: to identify priorities for conservation, to assist with interpretation and promotion, and to offer specific protection for notable tombs. You might say that all monuments contribute to the ensemble, and that all lives are deserving of being remembered. Indeed creating a conservation area, or adding a cemetery to the Register of Parks and Gardens maintained by Historic England, now including some 1,600 sites, can do this.



Square 91: Monuments to James (1770–1850) and Joseph (1778–1863) Bailey (graves 2,270 and 8,769, respectively)

Norwood has a very high tally of listed monuments: there are now 64, as well as four listed buildings, a number only surpassed by Kensal Green, which has 151 and four buildings. This is a clear reminder that Norwood was a cemetery of high prestige, attracting a high number of special bespoke monuments.

As well as the burial of distinguished persons, listing can be bestowed on grounds of visual splendour. Nationally, listing in cemeteries is patchy: roughly speaking, the cemeteries in London have fared better than elsewhere. West Norwood is

followed by Highgate, with 62 (and five buildings), the Abbey Cemetery, Bath (32 and two), and Arncliffe Cemetery, Bristol (28 and five). Brompton comes next with 27 (and seven). There is a clear role for the expert enthusiast here. Many special monuments remain to be identified.

Much work remains to be done in identifying the special monuments in English cemeteries. Historic England is kept very busy and listing resources are stretched, but a good submission using the Listing Selection Guide, referred to below, can be very

helpful. Entries on the list can be enhanced by uploading images and new information through the *Enriching the List* mechanism, an obvious way for Friends' groups to participate more in the process. The Bailey tombs illustrated above are unlisted, for example, but are clearly of special interest.⁴ New discoveries go on being made, and the task of keeping the National Heritage List for England as an accurate reflection of the country's most special structures is infinite.

Cemeteries are particularly under-listed. Listing is a protection tool of great importance, as evidenced by its role in providing protection at Norwood and being a driver in the NLHF project that aims to repair the listed boundary wall and 16 listed monuments (see FOWNC Newsletter 95, May 2019).

Sources of Information

Listing Selection Guide: Commemorative Structures

<https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/dlsg-commemorative-structures/>

Register of Parks and Gardens Selection Guide: Landscapes of Remembrance

<https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/drpgsg-landscapes-remembrance/heag091-landscapes-of-remembrance-rpgsg/>

List of Registered Cemeteries

<https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/list-of-registered-cemeteries/registered-cemeteries-list-jan18/>



Forthcoming Events

January-April 2022

Introductory tours will be held on the first Sunday of each month, starting at the cemetery main gate off Norwood Road at 11:00 (2 January, 6 February, 6 March) and 14:30 (3 April), and lasting for 1½–2 hours. Donations are welcome. Pre-book only (www.fownc.org/tickets). The April tour aims to coincide with West Norwood Feast (street markets and other town centre events: <https://westnorwoodfeast.com/>). To register to be notified of additional FOWNC events, please visit www.fownc.org/news/. For details of the Saturday morning working parties, email secretary@fownc.org.

⁴ James Bailey was a surveyor and architect. He lived at 2 Buxton Place, Lambeth, and was buried on 1 October 1850, aged 80. The grave was purchased on 28 September 1850 by Robert Parris of 5 Walsingham Place, Lambeth. Joseph Bailey was born on 30 March 1778. He lived at 13 Southampton Street, Strand and Gothic Cottage, Barnes Green. He died at 35 Southampton Street, Strand, on 26 October 1863, aged 85. His wife Eleanor (1800–1882) purchased the grave on 27 October 1863 and was buried in the same grave on 6 October 1882. She was living at Barnes at the time of her death. James and Joseph may have been brothers. Robert Parris was of architects Willshire and Parris. James Bailey was in partnership with Raymond Willshire (1785–1857; Catacomb 34B) in 1828. Robert Parris might have designed both memorials

A Bit of Mystery – Bob Flanagan

The memorial to inventor Hiram Maxim (grave 34,481, square 129) occupies a prominent position opposite the Maddick mausoleum. Originally buried in grave 34,451, square 29 on 28 November 1916, Maxim had lived at 377 Norwood Road from 1888 when working on his gun. He had married his first wife, the English-born Jane Budden, on 11 May 1867 in Boston, Massachusetts. Their daughter Adelaide had married Eldon Joubert and when their son Maxim (1902–1980)



attended Dulwich College School 1910–12 his grandfather had lived at Ryecotes, Dulwich Common. Hiram had married his secretary and mistress, Sarah, daughter of Charles Haynes of Boston, in 1881. It is not clear if he was divorced at the time. In turn, Sarah's ashes were deposited in the grave on 23 August 1941. Maxim Joubert died at 22 Kempshott Road, SW16 on 24 November 1980, but is not buried at Norwood according to the cemetery records. Likewise, I can find no confirmation that he actually attained the rank of Lt Colonel in the US Army despite the proclamation on the tombstone.

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