

# Friends of West Norwood CEMETERY

Newsletter No. 107 – May 2023

Free to members

## Chairman's Report

Bob Flanagan

For at least the last 25 years I have pointed out to the Council that the lack of proper grounds maintenance will in time lead to the loss of what remains of our historic cemetery. I have lost count of the Lambeth Tree Officers I have had to deal with and of the hours spent in trying to get the problem taken seriously. Further damage this year has only served to further emphasise the problem. Trees are the biggest hazard to people as well as to monuments in the cemetery and surely Lambeth are obliged to mitigate such risks? The cemetery will never be an attractive and secure place for new burials given the scale of the destruction that occurs regularly.

As to the NLHF Project, I am sorry to report that I have no current information. I spent ages in December and in January last on the procurement for the new entrances and Visitor Centre, but I'm told the recommended tender still awaits approval. The project is of course over budget because of the delays and of the unexpected work needed



*Unnecessary destruction 2023 – Square 104*

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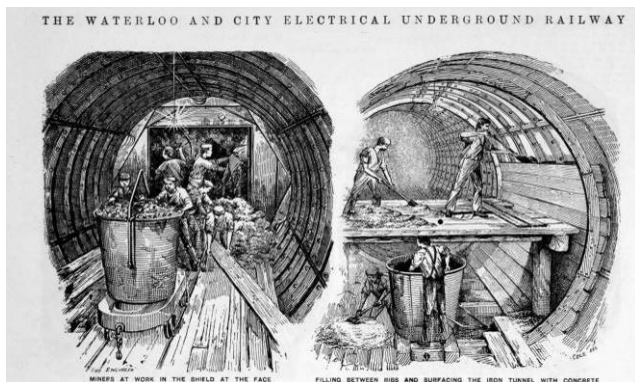
to properly restore the Dodd Mausoleum (grave 6,368, square 50) and St Stephen's Mortuary Chapel (grave 14,564, squares 27/28/41/42). Moreover, it seems Lambeth Highways may not have been properly consulted over the proposed Robson Road entrance. Likewise the owners of the Industrial Estate, hence pedestrian safety concerns will likely have to be debated in full as to the implications of enhanced footfall at this busy road junction. This in addition to concerns over the practicalities of inserting the entrance itself following the discovery of the work needed to ensure a stable foundation.

The proposed Hubbard Road entrance also awaits resolution of the street works required and associated costs. I can report that Nicholas Long has tried to get progress via the Project Steering Group, but it seems that yet another Lambeth internal reorganisation may be in the offing so further delays might be expected...

Finally, some good news. The masts on the Wimble memorial (grave 2,952, square 76) are to be reinstated as per a photograph of the original monument. Further thought suggests that the carving represents a ship 'in ordinary', i.e. awaiting its fate with rigging and spars removed, a fitting tribute to a ship's captain come to the end of his voyage.

### *The Tower Subway*

Opened in 1869, the *Tower Subway* was the first railway tunnel to run under the Thames. The engineer James Henry Greathead (1844–1896; grave 27,103, square 83), a pupil of engineer Peter William Barlow (1809–1885), used a modified version of the tunneling shield developed by Sir Marc Isambard Brunel (1769–1849) when excavating the *Thames Tunnel* (1825–42) at Rotherhithe. Greathead was granted three patents for different shield designs. The shield, the first cylindrical tunnelling shield, used to construct the *Tower Subway* was 7 ft 3 in (2.21 m) in diameter.<sup>1</sup>



*Greathead's Tunneling Shield – Waterloo and City Railway*

Originally the train in the tunnel was pulled along via a cable by steam engines at each side of the river. However, the system proved unreliable and closed after a few months, and the tunnel was converted for use by pedestrians. But even this second life as a foot tunnel didn't last long. While the *Tower Subway* charged a toll, a new arrival just down-river, *Tower Bridge* - designed by Sir Horace Jones (1819–1887; grave 12,335, square 89) in collaboration with Sir John Wolfe Barry (1836–1918) – did not.

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<sup>1</sup> More details of Greathead's achievements can be found in Rob Cartwright's book *James Henry Greathead (1844–1896)* - see: Newsletter 104, May 2022

The *Tower Subway* was closed to the public in 1898 and converted to house hydraulic power lines. Following a near miss from a bomb during World War II, it now serves as a home for Vodafone's telecommunication lines. Vodafone have recently produced a video to enable us to see the inside of the tunnel: [www.vodafone.co.uk/newscentre/our-network/the-history-of-vodafones-153-year-old-tunnel-under-the-thames/](http://www.vodafone.co.uk/newscentre/our-network/the-history-of-vodafones-153-year-old-tunnel-under-the-thames/).

*Sir William Tite CB FSA FRS PRIBA MP (1798–1873) Catacomb 90*

Tite was of course architect to the South Metropolitan Cemetery Company. Two notable anniversaries fall this year: the 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth fell on 7 February and 20 April was the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death – he was interred at Norwood on 26 April 1873. In 1853–4, he also did work at Brookwood Cemetery for the London Necropolis Company. His other works include Carlisle Citadel Station and notably the Royal Exchange in addition to work for the Eastern Counties, London & Blackwall, London & Southampton railways, the London & Westminster bank in Lothbury, and the Hon Irish Society, which involved spending time in Londonderry.

Ebenezer Trotman (1809–1865; grave 9531, square 35 – monument destroyed) entered Tite's office as a junior clerk and rose to become his principal assistant. His mother's sister married Sir John Easthope (1784–1865; grave 121, square 34). Trotman may well have played a leading role in the design of Norwood: he specialised in Tudor and Gothic revival architecture.

*Southside Rehabilitation Association (SRA) to lose its NHS Lambeth funding*

SRA, who print this Newsletter, support people with long-term mental disabilities. However, it has been reported that SRA is now facing a complete withdrawal of funding from NHS Lambeth. SRA is a charity that raises some of its own funds and pays its small staff the London living wage. No alternative provision has been made for its clients. You can read more about SRA's services here: [www.sra-ltd.co.uk/](http://www.sra-ltd.co.uk/). Please consider signing the petition to stop this funding cut now: <https://chng.it/6BN5gC7SWQ>.

*Retirement of John Rourke*

Gravedigger John Rourke is celebrating his retirement after 45 years at Lambeth. Starting work in grounds maintenance at 17, John joined Lambeth's Parks team straight from school. He has been helping to care for Lambeth's green spaces for his whole adult life – almost a half-century.

John moved to working exclusively in Cemeteries in 1977. Working across Lambeth, Streatham and Norwood Cemeteries, he helped the bereaved families of the borough for decades. For over 10 years he was the primary gravedigger at Norwood. His work for the Borough's grounds and community over the years has been invaluable. John will be ending his service to the Borough at 62 years old. He will be sorely missed by the Bereavement Services staff and the broader community. We wish him well in his retirement.



*John Rourke*

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# The Norwood Society and the Friends

Bob Flanagan

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Many people had expressed concern in the 1970s and 1980s at the destruction Lambeth Council were wreaking in our once magnificent cemetery. However, it was the Norwood Society publication *In Loving Memory of West Norwood Cemetery* by Geoffrey Manning (1989) that exposed the illegal actions of the Council to a wider audience. I was just confused by the quiet description of lost listed monuments, but our founder Nicholas Reed took it upon himself to do something about it.

In the 1980s the Norwood Society was the community organisation for ‘the Norwoods’. In 1989 it was debated whether the Friends should either be an independent organisation, or should work under the Norwood Society banner. In the event advice primarily from Joan Warwick and Leo Held (Vice-chair and Chair, respectively, of the Norwood Society)<sup>2</sup> was that FOWNC should go its own way. Important considerations were that interest in the cemetery encompassed a far wider area than ‘Norwood’ and, secondly, that it was obvious that future dealings with Lambeth would command a major effort by a dedicated group. Our achievements are documented in *1990-2015: 25 Years of Research and Conservation* ([www.fownc.org/pdf/fownc25years.pdf](http://www.fownc.org/pdf/fownc25years.pdf)) and in our Newsletters, all of which are freely available on our website.

For many years FOWNC founder members David & Rosemary Comber<sup>3</sup> acted as the liaison with the Norwood Society, a role taken on for a while by Jill Dudman, but now sadly lapsed.

Be this as it may, the *Norwood Review* continues to publish articles of interest on the cemetery and its residents. At present their website has links to pdfs of almost all issues from Winter 2008 (Edition 183)–Autumn 2021 together with notes on the content of all issues back to No 1 (Winter 1959/60).<sup>4</sup> More recent issues are added regularly.



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<sup>2</sup> See: [www.norwoodociety.co.uk/pdf/review185.pdf](http://www.norwoodociety.co.uk/pdf/review185.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> See: FOWNC Newsletters 34 and 85 (January 1999 and January 2016, respectively)

<sup>4</sup> See: [www.norwoodociety.co.uk/norwood-review](http://www.norwoodociety.co.uk/norwood-review)

I will in time list some articles of especial interest to FOWNC members on our website ([www.fownc.org](http://www.fownc.org)). Notably, *Is it Death or Renaissance for Norwood Cemetery?* by Richard Offer (Edition 65, 1983) documents a tour of the Cemetery led by Geoffrey Manning and details some of the misinformation peddled by the Council at that time.

Importantly, Edition 231 carries an article entitled *The South Metropolitan Cemetery* by Beryl Cheeseman (née Geary) that gives detailed insight into the Cheeseman family and their involvement with the cemetery for over 100 years. The family came to Lower Norwood in 1860, and members of the family were employed in various roles including grave-digging, gardening, and gate-keeping.

Beryl records that her father-in-law Robert Charles (Charlie) Cheeseman was employed age 14 in 1918. With many horses tramping the paths and tracks, Charlie's first job was to keep the pathways clean and tidy, especially from horse manure. It is easy to forget that for some 100 years funerals were by horse-drawn hearse and carriage. Moreover, tombstones were delivered by horse and cart before being erected. Every time I walk past the massive granite gravestone of Thomas Cubitt (grave 649, square 48), for example, I marvel at the effort involved in making and installing it 170 or so years ago.



*South Metropolitan Cemetery Company letter head found on a skip in the cemetery!*

Beryl also records that 'Grandad's ashes were buried [in an] urn on the site we always called the *Cheeseman acres*, where, before the destruction took place, eight family tombstones had stood. We buried my father-in-law's ashes in an urn together with a piece of metal and planted daffodil bulbs so we would know where the position was. My children, all very interested, decided to come back the following week with spades and a metal detector to find out if the urn was still there. Suddenly they were surrounded by security guards! After explaining to them why they were there and that they were not body-snatchers all was well! Later the grandchildren planted snowdrops.' I too had been notified of the excavation by someone working on the Industrial Estate that overlooks the cemetery and went over to see what was happening, so I can confirm the story!

Whilst recording the sadness of many families at the destruction of the gravestones of their forbears (little did they know that it was all illegal), there are lighter touches. For example, whilst her husband was working as a stonemason/letter cutter for Yeatman & Sons, there was a sudden influx of people dressed in 18<sup>th</sup> century costume. Apparently, it was an anniversary of a famous bare-knuckle fighter, either Johnny, or Harry Broome.

'Wreaths of cider apples being placed on the grave, a few jugs of cider were handed around and the party spent the best part of an hour drinking, laughing and investigating the surroundings. The group then placed a plaque on the grave recording the anniversary.



Unfortunately, the plaque soon disappeared'. I do wonder, however, if the recipient of the plaque was Thomas Winter (Tom Spring) (1795–1851; grave 154, square 61/73), undoubtedly the most famous pugilist buried at Norwood. He hailed from Hereford hence the wreaths of cider apples would make sense – the Broomes were born in Birmingham. Moreover, the actual location of the Broome grave is now lost.<sup>5</sup>



*Tom Spring's grave c. 1880*

indicating that there was once a bronze plaque where the portrait medallion features on the drawing, but the vacant space on the monument is square, not oval.

*Herefordshire Past* carries an interesting article about Tom Spring that details some of his most famous fights (<https://herefordshirepast.co.uk/people/tom-spring>) and notes that there is a memorial to him at his birthplace near Woolhope in Herefordshire. It also notes that after his death in 1851 his name was more or less forgotten until in 1951 a *Tom Spring Memorial Committee* was formed by A.V. Lucas, a Herefordshire Police Sergeant, and 'a memorial was funded for West Norwood in London'. One wonders what happened to the project?

As noted in Newsletter 105, Norwood is unique in that we now know that seven famous bare-knuckle boxers lie here. Six of them feature in *Pugilistica – The History of British Boxing* by Henry Downes Miles (Edinburgh: John Grant, 1906). The manuscript dates from 1880 and the adjacent line drawing correctly indicates the four prior burials in the grave listed on the now lost footstone to the Spring monument, suggesting it was drawn from life. The prior burials were his sons William Thomas (1822–1840), Joseph (1824–1845) and John (1827–1850) Winter, and his sister Maria Charles née Winter (1783–1841).

Sadly, the poignant carving of the lion lying down with the lamb is now so badly eroded as to be almost unrecognisable. The monument clearly bears staining indicating



*Tom Spring's gravestone today*

<sup>5</sup> Johnny Broome (*Young Duckrow*, 1818–1855) is buried together with his brother Thomas Henry Alfred (Harry) Broome (1825–1865), who became heavy-weight champion of England in September 1851 (grave 2,008, square 61 – monument destroyed)

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# A Tale of Two Nurses ~ An Update

Peter Hodgkinson and John Clarke

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*The second memorial panel (J to Y) at St Luke's Church, West Norwood*



*Nurse Smith's name on the panel at St Luke's Church*

area. For further details see: [www.norwoodsociety.co.uk/research/st-lukes-burial-register](http://www.norwoodsociety.co.uk/research/st-lukes-burial-register).

*A Tale of Two Nurses* (Newsletter 104, May 2022) described the careers of Hilda Ayre Smith (1878-1916; grave 34,235 square 82, memorial lost) and Doris Helen Swanston (1897-1919; cremated, remains in Niche I.12, now lost). Both appear in the pages of our publication *Norwood and the Great War – Reflections on Military and Social History* (FOWNC, 2022).

Whilst the CWGC recognises Nurse Swanston's war service, and has subsequently recorded her name on the new 1914–1918 Memorial at Brookwood, nr. Woking, the CWGC does not recognise Nurse Smith as a war casualty. This inequity has been compounded by the loss of Nurse Smith's gravestone as a result of the illegal clearance work undertaken by Lambeth Council up to 1991.

We have now discovered that Hilda Smith is commemorated on the second memorial panel outside St. Luke's Church. These panels were photographed recently so we could match the names listed on these panels against those in our guide. Thus, Nurse Smith's contribution to the Great War is commemorated locally.

Members may like to know that the memorial panels record 318 names, 36 of which feature in our book.

St Luke's itself was open for burials from 1825–1894. Most burials took place in the churchyard, but some coffins were deposited in a crypt beneath the church and now lie behind a wall at the southern end of that

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# James Short McMaster (1830~1920)

Bob Flanagan

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James McMaster was born in Ower, Co Galway. Together with his uncle William McMaster (1811–1887) and brother Arthur Robinson McMaster (1828–1881), he became a partner in the firm William McMaster and Nephews in Toronto, Ontario in 1859.

William McMaster, the first president of the Canadian Bank of Commerce 1867–87, was a prominent Canadian businessman and politician. A devout Baptist, he helped found McMaster University in Toronto, since 1930 based in Hamilton, Ontario. His nephew Samuel Fenton McMaster (–1888) married Elizabeth Jennet née Wylie (1847–1903) in 1865. In turn she became head of the committee that founded the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto.



*James Short McMaster*

In 1859 James moved to Manchester to look after the English interest of the new company. In 1860 he married Sarah Elizabeth Ann née Wardley (1843–1876). In later life he lived at Park Place, Mitcham. He died at the National Club in York, a suburb of Toronto. He was buried at Norwood on 2 July 1920 in the plot he had purchased on 14 June 1876 following the death of his

wife Sarah on 13 June. Their grave is in a prominent position in unconsecrated ground near to the site of the Dissenters' Chapel (grave 16,051, square 37).

Their son Arthur Copestake McMaster (1873–) married Cora Mae née Henry (1881–). Their daughter Mary (1864–1954) married Sir Jeremiah Colman Bt. (1859–1942) in 1885. In turn, in 1924 their son Sir Jeremiah Colman Bt. (1886–1961) married Edith Gwendolen née Tritton (1902–1980), daughter of Sir Alfred Ernest Tritton Bt (1873–1939) and thus grand-daughter of Sir Charles Ernest Tritton Bt (1845–1918; grave 26,669, square 19).

Thanks to Mary Sumners of EastYork, Ontario for alerting us to this notable grave.



*McMaster family monument*



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# The Coopers and the Trevanions: Scandals Galore

Bob Flanagan

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The story of erstwhile convict James Underwood (grave 852, square 62) who, having made a fortune in Australia, retired to England, was told in Newsletter 60 (September 2007). Daniel Cooper (1785–1853) was also transported to Australia and in turn became a successful merchant, financier, shipowner, and shipping agent. His elegant tombstone (grave 3,651, square 53) was listed Grade II in 1993.

Born in Bolton, Cooper arrived in New South Wales on 18 January 1816. He received a conditional pardon in 1818 and an absolute pardon in 1821. He married fellow convict Hannah Dodd in 1819. His first business interests were a general store, an adjoining inn, a small investment in shipping, and a brewery. His fortune expanded when he became a partner in the firm of Hutchinson, Terry and Co. (also known as the Waterloo Co.) and in 1825 he and Solomon Levey became the sole owners of the firm, which became generally known as Cooper and Levey.

The firm had spectacular success, expanding into importing a full range of goods, pioneering the export of Australian wool, and investing in whaling and sealing expeditions. The firm's ships visited many parts of the coast of New Zealand, and other places such as Tahiti. Port Cooper and Port Levy on Banks Peninsula were named for them, but the former was renamed Port Victoria by the surveyors of the Canterbury Association. Subsequently, it became known as Lyttelton Harbour after its port town, Lyttelton. Amongst other properties, the firm acquired the estate of Captain John Piper, which included more than 1,100 acres at Woollahra and Rose Bay. He built Cleveland House in Surry Hills in about 1823–24.



*The Cooper/Trevanion Family tomb*

In 1826 Levey left Sydney for England to further the firm's business interests. While he was there, he became involved with Thomas Peel in the colonisation of Western Australia, which was a financial disaster for him, and did not return. Cooper continued to manage the firm. Cooper also built up a personal fortune in real estate, independent of his interest in the firm. He countered the efforts of the Bank of New South Wales to force his firm out of the banking business and was elected a Governor of the Bank in 1828.

In October 1831 Cooper sailed for England. He undertook general supervision of the firm from England, and appointed managers in Sydney. He died at Brighton on 3 November

1853. His third wife Alice purchased the grave at Norwood on 7 November 1853. Alice herself died at Portland Place, Clapham Road and was buried in the vault on 7 September 1854, age 62.

### *Hugh Arundell Trevanion - A Sensational Divorce*

Daniel Cooper had no children. However, he had taken a great interest in the education and business training of his namesake, nephew, and major heir, [Sir] Daniel Cooper Bt, 1821–1902), the speaker of the first parliament of New South Wales, 1856–60.



*Mrs Florence Trevanion*

Sir Daniel's daughter Florence Eva (1856–1916) married a barrister, Hugh Arundell Trevanion (1859–1918), on 10 June 1882 in Piccadilly in London. They had four children, Florence Nellie (1883–1884), Hugh Eric (1885–1912), Charles Cecil (1886–1950), and Arundell Claude (1887–1922). Florence Eva, Florence Nellie, Hugh Eric, and Arundell Claude are buried in the family vault at Norwood. Ada Trevanion (1829–1882), a distant relative of Hugh Arundell may also lie in the vault (originally buried in grave 18,979, square 80).<sup>6</sup>

Hugh Arundell proved violent and unfaithful to Florence. In due course she was granted a divorce by Sir James Hannen (1821–1894; Catcomb 26) in the Probate and Divorce Division of the High Court on 10 December 1888. At Court, Florence said that the marriage was not known to her family until an hour after the ceremony had been performed. She was at the time 26 years old and her husband 22. After the marriage there was a settlement made regarding her fortune. In 1883 they were living in London. The respondent at that time treated her with the greatest cruelty.

They were living at Albert Mansions. In April, he knocked her down, pulled her out of bed, and cut her left eye open. That was a week after her baby Florence was born. In 1884 the respondent came home intoxicated and again assaulted her. In 1884 they were in Ireland on a visit to her sister. Here the respondent again beat her and gave her a black eye. In 1887 they were living at Teignmouth. Here the respondent's

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<sup>6</sup> Hugh Arundell Trevanion was the son of Hugh Charles Trevanion (1828–1901) and his wife Frances née Bowes-Lyon (1832–1903). Her brother Claude George Bowes-Lyon (1824–1904) became 13<sup>th</sup> Earl of Strathmore and Kinghorn. His son Claude George Bowes-Lyon, 14<sup>th</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Strathmore and Kinghorn (1855–1944) was the father of Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon (1900–2002), the late Queen Mother

conduct was very violent. He came home late. She asked where he had been, and he told her that was no business of hers. He gave her on that occasion another black eye. She had three black eyes during the time she lived with the respondent.

In October 1887 at Teignmouth the respondent kicked her violently, and his conduct was so outrageous that she had to leave him. After that she found a letter in the respondent's pocketbook which revealed to her the improper conduct of the respondent with a young woman named Evelyn Savage; but she forgave him on the promise that he would treat her better.

However, on 9 and 10 October he again committed violent assaults upon her. She was then compelled to leave him. She went to her father's house in Kensington, where she was attended by Dr. Merriman and was confined to her bed for 10 days. The respondent had been convicted of two assaults on her before the magistrates at Teignmouth and was sentenced to imprisonment for six weeks.

Dr. Merriman, the medical attendant of Sir Daniel and Lady Cooper, proved the serious nature of the injuries the petitioner had sustained. She was bruised all over her body. The marks appeared to have been caused by pinching and kicking. Evelyn Savage proved the misconduct of the respondent. She said she had given birth to a child of which Mr. Trevanion was the father. His Lordship pronounced a *decree nisi* with cost and gave the petitioner custody of the children of the marriage.

#### *Murder or Suicide?*

At the time of his death, Florence's son Hugh Eric Trevanion was unmarried and had an investment income of about £1,400 per annum. A barbiturate addict known to have possessed morphine at various times, he died of Veronal (sodium barbitol) poisoning on 9 September 1912 in his flat, 10 Grand Avenue Mansions, Hove where he lived with his friend and companion Albert Roe.

At the inquest held in his flat in Hove, 'the emotions of the coroner, jury and witnesses were aroused by the distress of his mother Florence, and the painful disclosures of the deceased's drug habits'. The cause of death being obvious, the coroner did not order a post-mortem. The verdict of the jury was death by misadventure from Veronal poisoning and Hugh Trevanion was buried in due course in the Cooper vault at Norwood. He left £51,829.

However, Florence insisted that police investigate the circumstances of the death and application for exhumation was made to the Home Office. The Trevanion family and the police were aware of the peculiar relations of the two young men, no doubt homosexual. There was certainly a possible motive for murder by poisoning even though the grounds for suspicion were not very strong. Roe was not only the sole beneficiary of the will of his friend, but also had



*Hugh Eric Trevanion*

received about £10,000 from Trevanion during his lifetime in return for his companionship and the abandonment of his career in the Merchant Navy.

### *The Exhumation*

[Sir] William Henry Willcox (1870–1941) and [Sir] Bernard Henry Spilsbury (1877–1947), who had worked together on the Crippen case (see: Newsletter 102, September 2021), carried out the exhumation in the presence of Mrs. Trevanion on 8 October 1912. She identified the body of her son dressed in a silk nightgown, pinned by a brooch in the shape of an umbrella and set with diamonds, formerly her own property. There were two bangles on the right wrist. At the post-mortem they found no sign of physical disease in a well-preserved body, but analysis of the main organs alone showed over 81 grains (approximately equivalent 5.2 grams) of Veronal – the normal dose was 10–15 grains (0.6–1 gram). No morphine was found.

The verdict of the first inquest having been quashed by the High Court – [Sir] Richard Muir (1857–1924; grave 33,321, square 81) had appeared for the Director of Public Prosecutions, [Sir] Charles Mathews – HM Coroner Mr. Vere Benson opened the second inquest on 24 January 1913. The Magistrates' Court at Hove was barely large enough to accommodate the press reporters and members of the public who attended. It was probably the longest inquest Willcox ever attended. The greater part of seven days was taken up by the case. Willcox was so interested that he was present on six days in Court, the case finishing on 14 February.



The evidence of Spilsbury and of Willcox was accepted. They agreed that the well-preserved body showed no sign of natural disease. Willcox estimated that the fatal dose of Veronal was about 150 grains allowing for the large amount of drug distributed throughout the body, and that the dose had been administered within about 36 hours of death. His estimate of a fatal dose was about 50 grains. In the last three months he had seen six cases of Ver-

onal poisoning including a case who recovered following a dose of 45 grains. In the case of Trevanion, it would have been difficult to dissolve such a large fatal dose in half a



bottle of wine, which he was known to have taken at dinner on the evening of his death, and if given in a cup of hot coffee the taste of Veronal would have been detectable.

### *Was it Murder?*

Trevanion, according to the evidence of his medical attendants in Hove and in London, had taken overdoses on at least two previous occasions; first in July 1912, when he had regained consciousness after artificial respiration, and more recently he had recovered from a dose of Veronal admitted by Trevanion to have been over 100 grains. He had been taking Veronal for several years and seemed to have revelled in his addiction, having boasted of his capacity to tolerate large doses of the drug and of alcohol.

The London doctor described him as an amusing and brilliantly clever young man, quick at repartee but effeminate in manner and appearance, and very much under the influence of Roe whom he considered had done his best to wean him from drugs and alcohol.

Roe impressed the court by his honesty and candour and interested those present in the account of his career. He had joined the Merchant Navy after school and obtained a Master Mariner's Certificate. He first met Trevanion when he was first officer on the *Oratava* on a trip to Australia in 1906. A close friendship then began. He found Trevanion depressed by his family quarrels in which his mother was involved. On a second cruise to Australia Trevanion was accompanied by his brother and was noticed to take Veronal and alcohol to excess.

Roe did his best to interest the young man in other activities. His help and friendship were so much appreciated that Trevanion implored him to resign his career at sea and become his permanent companion, as he later agreed to do in 1909. A few weeks before the tragedy Roe informed Trevanion that he contemplated marriage, which would have involved leaving the deceased's service and the disruption of their friendship.

### *The Verdict*

The coroner's summing up lasted an hour and three quarters but was in favour of suicide. How, he asked, had deceased come to take a dose of Veronal in the region of 150 grains? Did he take it himself; or was it administered by another? By exclusion Roe was the only person with a possible motive and opportunity, but there was no evidence of administration by him. Though he stood to benefit by the deceased's will he had sacrificed his career to be Trevanion's companion and had already been well rewarded financially.

After 25 minutes the jury recorded a verdict of 'Death by an overdose of Veronal but how and by whom administered there was no evidence to show'. Their rider was 'we consider that Veronal and drugs of a similar nature (barbiturates) should be forthwith placed on the poisons schedule and it should be made illegal to procure the drug unless prescribed by a medical man'. The jury thus acted on Willcox's opinion as expressed in his evidence.

The case was the only one in his career in which Willcox was photographed while giving evidence in a Court of Law, and it was reported as headline news by most of the daily papers of that time. 'It was clearly a case of suicide, more likely accidental than intentional, and an example, often quoted by Willcox in later years, of barbiturate addiction, the existence of which was for long denied by several eminent authorities.'

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# Henry William Lindow ~ A Mystery Explained

John Clarke and Brian Parsons

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Our research on early cremations at Woking has explained a long-standing Norwood mystery. Henry Lindow was a soldier, cricketer, and stockbroker. His graceful monument (grave 12,629, square 32) records ‘Here placed by his widow ashes of H.W. Lindow, Esq.’ ‘Cremated by his own desire’. But there was no crematorium at Norwood until 1915. The answer is simple: he was cremated at Woking.



*The Lindow Memorial at Norwood*

Born in Cheltenham in 1824, as a child Lindow lived in Moreton-in-Marsh. He was educated at Rugby School. He purchased a commission as a cornet in the 17<sup>th</sup> Lancers in July 1844 and was promoted lieutenant in 1845. He made his debut at Lord's as a 1<sup>st</sup> class cricketer for the Fast Bowlers in the *Fast v. Slow* match of 1849. He made three further 1<sup>st</sup> class appearances in 1849, for the Marylebone Cricket Club against Oxford University. He scored 36 runs in his four matches, with a highest score of 11. He also played for William Clarke's All-England XI against Kent and against Hampshire.<sup>7</sup> After retiring from the army, Lindow trained as a stockbroker in the City of London, eventually working for Lindow, King & Company of 5 Angel Court, Throgmorton Street. He married Eliza Mitchell in Westminster in 1867. He died at 14 Hobart Place, Eaton Square, on 16 February 1887, aged 62.

His cremation took place at St John's, Woking on 26 February 1887. The arrangements were made by Richard Austin, his solicitor and executor. The funeral directors were William Garstin & Sons of 5 Welbeck Street, Marylebone. The Cremation Society recorded that the body was ‘burned in a shroud’, i.e. the body was removed from its coffin, as was the case in a handful of early cremations, and that the cremation took one hour and 20 minutes to complete. Lindow was the 16<sup>th</sup> person to be cremated at Woking. Among those present were Messrs. Prentis and Eassie of the Cremation Society

Lindow's widow Eliza arranged for a fine memorial to be placed over the brick vault. It incorporates a prominent stone urn placed on two bases as part of the design. The epitaph refers to her husband's connection with the 17<sup>th</sup> Lancers, but not his time as a cricketer, or his work in the City. Eliza lived on into the 20<sup>th</sup> century, dying in Monte Carlo in February 1905. She was buried alongside her husband on 4 March 1905.

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<sup>7</sup> William Clarke (1798–1856; grave 5,078, square 65). See: FOWNC Newsletter 98, May 2020

The registers at Woking make no mention of the destination of the ashes. Moreover, the burial of the ashes is not recorded in the registers of the South Metropolitan Cemetery Company, despite the fact Lindow had purchased the brick grave as far back as 17 March 1870. But in the early years of cremation burial authorities were uncertain as to whether there was any necessity, legal or otherwise, for recording the burial of ashes.



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## Forthcoming FOWNC Events

May - September 2023

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Introductory tours are held on the first Sunday of each month to coincide with Norwood Feast (street markets, food, and much more: <https://westnorwoodfeast.com/>), starting at the main gate on Norwood Road at 14:30 (7 May, 4 June, 2 July, 6 August, 3 September) and lasting for 1½–2 hours. There is no formal charge, but we welcome donations. The FOWNC bookstall will be present. Pre-book only: [www.fownc.org/tickets](http://www.fownc.org/tickets) and specify the number of tickets required. There is no need to print tickets.

We will obtain your email address from your Eventbrite booking and will sometimes send you information as to events in the cemetery. You will be able to unsubscribe from the list at any time.

### *FOWNC/NLHF Project Events*

For details of planned FOWNC events please see our website and also register for our monthly News Update ([secretary@fownc.org](mailto:secretary@fownc.org)).

Please see: [www.westnorwoodcemetery.org/events](http://www.westnorwoodcemetery.org/events) for details of events planned to support the NLHF project.

### **September: Lambeth Heritage Festival – Lambeth Local History Forum (LLHF)**

The borough-wide festival will continue throughout September. The programme will be available from the LLHF website [www.lambethlocalhistoryforum.org.uk/](http://www.lambethlocalhistoryforum.org.uk/) in due course.

### **Saturday 2 September: Lambeth Local History Fair. West Norwood Picturehouse**

Stalls operated by LLHF member societies, with a programme of local history talks and films held throughout the day. The events will be coordinated by the LLHF, in association with Norwood Forum, FOWNC, and the Norwood Society.

One talk will be by FOWNC member Dr Jane Jordan, a specialist in Victorian literature and culture. More details will be circulated in the monthly FOWNC news update.

### **Walks: West Norwood – More Than Just a Cemetery – Selina Rice, Norwood Society – 10:30, 11:30, 12:30, 13:30, 14:30.**

The walks will visit key heritage locations in West Norwood other than the cemetery. The walks will be led by Lambeth tour guides in partnership with the Norwood Society. Each walk will take 50 minutes. Meet at the entrance to St Luke's Church, Knights Hill. Booking essential: [www.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk). Cost £6.

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## A Bit of Mystery – Bob Flanagan

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The vocalist and actress Harriet Waylett (Miss Cooke, Mrs Harriet Lee) (1798–1851) married an actor named Waylett and appeared as ‘Mrs Waylett, late Miss Cooke’. Later she married musician George Alexander Lee (1802–1851) and is recorded as Mrs Lee in the burial register (grave 2,892, square 74 – monument destroyed). She seems to have been quite a character (‘her life was associated with many scandals’), but she is credited as being ‘symmetrically proportioned’, ‘almost as popular in ballad and song as Madame Vestris’ and ‘acceptable in... masculine characters generally’! *Kate Kearney*, written by George Lee, was amongst her most popular songs.



In the *Story of Norwood* (Norwood Society, 1990), JB Wilson records that Waylett Place in West Norwood (he notes prior to 1911 known as Thomas Place), is named in her memory, but is this true? Wilson also asserts that her stage name was Kate Carney. However, this is incorrect. Kate Carney (Kate Patterson, born Catherine Mary Pattinson, 1869–1950) was a noted Music Hall performer who lived for a while in Brixton.

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