

Friends of West Norwood CEMETERY

Newsletter No. 108 – September 2023

Free to members

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Resignation of Bob Flanagan

We regret to report that Bob Flanagan has resigned as Chairman and as a Trustee of the Friends.

Bob's contribution to the Friends has been both unparalleled and significant. Indeed, the Friends would not have achieved so much without the benefit of his unequalled and proven dedication, knowledge, energy, commitment and contribution.

Bob has been a member of the Friends since its first days and has been deeply involved in its development. He was at the heart of the litigation during the period 1990-1994 and the further hearings which followed; these provided the Friends with a unique status among all the Cemetery Friends groups.

In addition, Bob has been serving on the West Norwood Cemetery National Lottery Heritage Fund Implementation Board and chaired for many years the Advisory Group responsible for advising the West Norwood Cemetery Scheme of Management Committee. (The papers for these bodies can be accessed on the Lambeth Council website.) As Editor of this newsletter, Bob contributed well over 220 articles over the years (making him by far our most prolific author), thus providing the Friends with a permanent record of the cemetery's history over time. Bob is also the author of several valuable guides to the cemetery.

We also regret to report that Sir Colin Berry, who had been acting as Interim Chairman during Bob's agreed

period of absence, has decided to step down from this role, but remains a Trustee.

For the time being John Clarke, the Deputy Chairman, has agreed to act as Interim Chairman and Editor.

Recent News

Caroline Brown, John Clarke and Jill Dudman

Ibbotson memorial

We are pleased to report that repairs to the Grade II listed Ibbotson memorial (grave 30,960, square 104) have been largely completed and the protective screens surrounding the memorial have been removed. The result is stunning, the unusual memorial being a showpiece for Doulton blue ceramic work. The official listing by Historic England describes it as a ‘cross on pedestal with grave slab, manufactured by Doulton of Lambeth.’¹ Mottled blue and buff ceramic. Gadroon enriched base carries rectangular pedestal with inset panels; surmounted by blue ceramic cross with paterae. Stone grave slab with blue ceramic kerb.’² A missing section of the ceramic kerbing to the memorial remains to be produced by a suitable ceramicist and the recent repairs still require glazing.

The memorial was erected in memory of Thomas Ibbotson (1832-1904), a hat manufacturer of Southwark, who died at Guildford Road SW on 24 September, aged 72 years. Other family members in the grave are Ronald Ibbotson (1908-1919), the only child of Arthur and Ann Ibbotson; and Thomas’s widow Mary Ann who died at ‘Sypsies’, Esher on 21 February 1920 aged 87 years.



Update on other NLHF-funded memorial repairs

Lambeth officers recently reported on these to the NLHF Implementation Board, noting that repairs to the Balli mausoleum (grave 19,003, square 29) are 85% complete. The glazing, ironmongery, marble doors and reveal were due to be delivered and installed in July/August. The cleaning of the Dodd mausoleum (grave 6,368, square 50) is reported to

¹ Both John Doulton (1793-1873; grave 1,808, square 40) and Sir Henry Doulton (1820-1897; grave 22,589, square 36) are buried in the cemetery. They are included in Bob Flanagan’s *West Norwood Cemetery: An Illustrated Guide* (FOWNC, 2022).

² See <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1250687?section=official-list-entry> which includes earlier photographs of the memorial.

be 15% complete, whilst the NLHF have confirmed the contingency sum can be used to fund the Consultants' options appraisal report. The Grissell monument (grave 1,669, square 63) is 98% complete and only awaits the installation of metal grilles. Lastly the Sparenborg memorial (grave 31,119, square 81) is 99% complete and awaits a ceramicist to produce a ceramic grille.

The new Portakabin

A Portakabin was placed opposite the Cemetery Lodge in the early morning of 17 July. It will be the temporary home for Bereavement Services once work starts on the conversion of the Lodge to incorporate the new Visitor Centre. Full services to the temporary offices remain to be connected. The new structure was delivered by lorry and set in place by a large crane, being lifted over the Tite arch. We are assured that appropriate risk and site assessments had taken place beforehand.



Crowdfunding the restoration of the grave of John Newlands



Peter Newlands has created a crowdfunding page on the JustGiving website to help raise funds for the restoration of this memorial. The target figure is £4,749 to reinstate the lead lettering and clean the memorial.

John Alexander Reina Newlands (1837-1898, grave 17,440, square 109) was a British chemist who discovered the 'Law of Octaves' in 1864, five years before the Russian chemist Dimitri Mendeleev (1834-1907) announced the discovery of what is now universally known as the

Periodic Table. Although Newlands' discovery was ridiculed by some of his contemporaries, his discoveries were published in the *Chemical News*.³ In 1884 he published his collected papers *On the Discovery of the Periodic Law and on Relations Among the Atomic Weights*; whilst in 1887 the Royal Society awarded Newlands its Davy Medal. This bronze medal is awarded annually for outstanding contributions in the field of chemistry. Named after Humphry Davy FRS (1778-1829), the chemist and inventor of the Davy Lamp, it was first awarded in 1877. In 1998 Newlands' work was further recognised when the Royal Society of Chemistry arranged for a blue plaque to be placed on his childhood home in West Square, Lambeth.

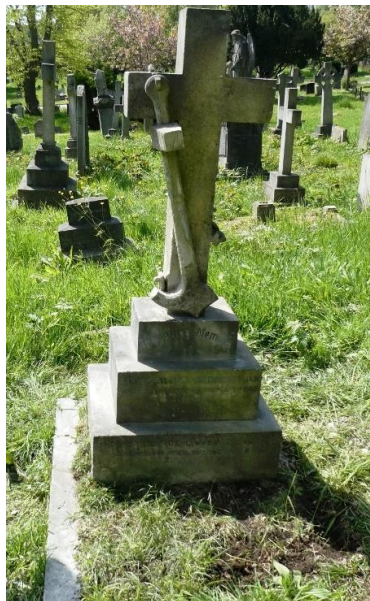
Just before going to press, we heard that the Heritage of London Trust has promised a large donation so it seems the memorial will definitely be refurbished sometime this Autumn. We are aware that a number of members have already made donations to this project, and further details may be found at <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/jar-newlands-memorial-restoration>

Restoration of the grave of Rear Admiral James Bedbrook

James Bedbrook has informed us that members of the wider Bedbrook family have collectively paid for repairs to the grave of Rear Admiral James Albert Bedbrook (1845-1902; grave 30,188, square 105) and his wife Matilda Ann (née Crocker, 1845-1907). Latterly they lived at Haresfield House, Blenkarne Road, Wandsworth Common.⁴

The original memorial was damaged by bombs dropped during the Second World War. Rather than commission a complete replacement, the family decided to have the cross repaired and set upright. Nevertheless, the broken anchor serves as a reminder of the battering this memorial endured during the war.

Rear Admiral James Bedbrook was a naval engineer and part of the team that designed HMS *Warrior*. This was the Royal Navy's first iron hulled armoured battleship, launched in 1860. At the time it was the most advanced battleship in the world, the pride of the Navy, and referred to by contemporaries as the 'iron marvel'. HMS *Warrior* is one of the attractions at the Portsmouth Historic Dockyard.



³ A useful summary of Newlands' early papers from the *Chemical News* can be found at <https://web.lemoyne.edu/~giunta/EA/NEWLANDSann.HTML>

⁴ Wikipedia includes a charming portrait of the couple, for which see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Albert_Bedbrook

A Bit of Mystery (Resolved?): The Case of Penelope Ziffo

Pan Pandelis

Oh where, oh where is little Penelope? One of the biggest mysteries of the Hellenic Enclosure concerns the (unknown) whereabouts of Penelope Ziffo (1834-1838), whose alleged reburial on 3 September 1842 – two months after the initial site was allotted to the Brotherhood of the Greek Community in London – was reportedly the Enclosure's first interment.

The primary source of this information is unclear, but what is clear is that South Metropolitan Cemetery (SMC) records show that the only grave purchased and used in



Loukis Laras illustration by Theodore Jacques Ralli (1852-1909)

the Enclosure in 1842 was grave 514, square 28; Greek no. 4 (no. 1 on the original Greek plan) for the burial on 17 September of Aglaia Tricoupi (c. 1829-1842), the 12-year-old daughter of Greece's first prime minister and thrice ambassador to London, Spyridon Tricoupi (1788-1873) and Catherine Mavrocordato (1800-1871). So where is Penelope? Might she have been buried with Aglaia? Was she actually moved to Norwood? And if she was, where was she moved

from?

Penelope was born on 16 August 1834 in Trieste, the daughter of Luke George Ziffo (1800-1876) and Despina Capari (1809-1884). Luke was a merchant of old Chian aristocratic descent whose adventures during his escape from Chios during the Greek War of Independence inspired man of letters Demetrius Vikelas (1835-1908) to write his short, beautifully descriptive novel *Loukis Laras* (Hestia, 1879).⁵

⁵ The novel was translated into English in 1881 by diplomat and bibliophile Joannes Gennadius (1844-1932), whose grave (grave 38,040, square 43; Greek no. 279) was recently restored through a donation by the Overseers of the Gennadius Library Athens.

Despina was very much the heroine of one of those adventures: held captive as a young girl in a Turkish harem during the massacre of Chios, her release was secured by a large ransom of “*gold and silver objects*” paid by her future husband, who carried her away disguised as a “*peasant-boy*” on the back of a donkey.

Luke and Despina are buried in grave 13,305, square 28; Greek no. 34, a plot purchased long after Penelope’s death: in 1871. That plot’s monument bears no inscription to Penelope, nor does any other grave in the Enclosure, and her name does not appear in either the SMC burial registers or the *Greek Cemetery Register Book (Norwood)* held at the Greek Cathedral of Saint Sophia in London. So, where was she buried?

Penelope died of “*brain fever*” on 3 January 1838 in London. At the time, the Ziffos lived at 8 Blomfield Street, off Finsbury Circus, where many Greek merchant families settled in the early part of the 19th century. Blomfield Street and Finsbury Circus were in the Parish of St. Stephen’s, Coleman Street, and previous research – related to the ongoing cataloguing of all memorials and “residents” of the Enclosure – identified one of those residents, Eustratius Demetrius Spartali (1814-1831 –



St. Stephen’s, Coleman Street

grave 7,655, square 28; Greek 6), as having been buried in the cemetery of St. Stephen’s Church, Coleman Street, in December 1831 and translated to the Enclosure in July 1845. His relocation is confirmed by corroborating data in SMC records and the burial register covering the period from 1813 to 1853 of St. Stephen’s Church, whose vicar, Josiah Pratt (1768-1844), wrote most correctly in the margin next to Eustratius’s 1831 entry: “*The Remains of this Party were removed under a Faculty from the Bishop of London to the Norwood Cemetery, July 5th, 1845.*” This lead led to the discovery of three other Greek burials at St. Stephen’s Church: John Luke Mavrogordato (1781-1832), Stephen Pantia Ralli (1833-1834) – who was also moved to Norwood on 27 August 1862 (grave 866, square 28; Greek no. 3) – and, yes, Penelope, who was buried on 5 January 1838 (and whose surname was transcribed on Ancestry.com as “*Liffs*”!). The discovery of this little group was a great one; for the purpose of this research, but also for those of us who have

wondered where the Greek Community buried their dead before the acquisition of the Hellenic Enclosure.⁶

A short version of this article could end with a couple more longish sentences, but for the sake of thrill and suspense, with the good grace of the editor, let us buckle our seat belts and consider the hypothesis that Penelope was buried with Aglaia in September 1842.

The period that saw Penelope's illness, death, burial and supposed reburial (1837-1842) was not an easy one for her father on the business front too. Merchanting is a business of ups and downs, and the settled prosperity that Luke and his family came to enjoy was then far from a foregone conclusion. Indeed, and remarkably, two references to Luke's difficult circumstances appear in contemporaneous newspapers published in Manchester, a city with which Luke, a cotton merchant, had strong links and where he and his family settled after leaving Blomfield Street at the end of 1839. The first reference appears in a report on the money markets published in the *Manchester Times* in July 1837. It reads, "*Money has been more plentiful, and there appears to be a more general feeling of confidence, except with the Greek houses, several of which have given way in the course of the week... Messrs Ziffo and Co., one of the houses which have given way, it is said, owe a considerable amount...*" The second appeared six years later, in August 1843, in an article published in the *Manchester Courier*, which announced, "*A pleasing instance of honest and honourable feeling has this week been exhibited on the part of a Greek merchant who was unfortunate here some few years ago. The party in question, whose name is ZIFFO, (we delight to put it on record), has paid his creditors in full...*" Exemplary display of honesty aside, it would not be unfair to suggest that with his finances being as they were in 1842, it is unlikely that Luke would have been willing or in a position to incur both the expense of having his daughter's remains moved to Norwood and the cost of a Norwood grave. So, to reduce such outlay, might he have arranged for Penelope to be buried with Aglaia?

This hypothesis that the two girls were buried together has, in my opinion, little merit. Yes, their fathers would unquestionably have known each other. The Greek community in England was not a large one at that time and it was intricately interconnected. Merchant Luke and Ambassador Tricoupi, two of its leading personalities, would have had dealings professionally. On a personal front, the Ziffo and Tricoupi families even enjoyed distant, but nonetheless real, family connections by marriage through the Mavrogordato clan. Though in Manchester, Luke would have been informed of the arrangement agreed between the Greek Brotherhood and the SMC in the summer of 1842, and he would also likely have known of Aglaia's ill health (she died of "*water in the head*" – probably meningitis, the same illness that likely carried away Penelope). But if the two grieving fathers had agreed to bury their daughters together, why is there no inscription bearing Penelope's name on the Tricoupi grave? Why is there no reference to the relocation of her remains in the records of either the SMC, St. Stephen's Church or the Greek Cathedral? Are we to believe that one of the very first burials at the Enclosure

⁶ Another Greek burial identified in the course of this research was Demetrius Mavrogordato (c. 1815-1825): on 26 April 1825 in the churchyard of St. Swithin, London Stone (destroyed in the Blitz).

was carried out on the sly of the church authorities? That two pillars of the Greek community in England – a principled community – could have agreed to such a clandestine operation? And if they were buried together – presumably after the grave was purchased on 4 September 1842 – would they not have been buried on the same day? How does one make heads or tails of the dates of Penelope's alleged reburial (3 September 1842) and Aglaia's confirmed burial (5 September 1842)?

No.	Name	Location	Date	Age
690	John, John	34 ft. Cons	20th 44	71
691	John, John	34 ft. Cons	20th 44	71
692	John, John	34 ft. Cons	20th 44	71
693	John, John	34 ft. Cons	20th 44	71
694	John, John	34 ft. Cons	20th 44	71
695	John, John	34 ft. Cons	20th 44	71
696	John, John	34 ft. Cons	20th 44	71
697	John, John	34 ft. Cons	20th 44	71
698	John, John	34 ft. Cons	20th 44	71
699	John, John	34 ft. Cons	20th 44	71
700	John, John	34 ft. Cons	20th 44	71

No.	Name	Location	Date	Age
695	Aglaia Tricoupi	Greek	5th 44	28

Extract from the Gravediggers' note book

The matter of these dates may be of significance, and it is worth making a quick note on the discrepancies that exist in the dates recorded in English and Greek documents. Protestant England adopted the Gregorian calendar in 1752, while the Greek Orthodox world used the Julian calendar until 1923. This parallel use of the two calendars resulted

in a difference of 12 days throughout the 19th century. Helpfully, some documents kept in the archives of the Greek Cathedral reviewed for this research show both dates: for instance, Penelope's date of death is recorded in the Cathedral's *Index of Deaths* as "3rd (15th) January" 1838; Aglaia's dates of death and burial as "3rd (15th) September" and "5th (17th) September" 1842. Yes, the date of Penelope's alleged reburial, 3 September 1842, is also the date of Aglaia's death. Might that detail have been a factor in the genesis of the mystery surrounding Penelope's whereabouts?



The Aglaia Tricoupi grave (recently restored through a private donation to FoWNC)

I have examined many records in trying to solve this mystery and while it would be pretentious to suggest that I have reviewed every pertinent source of information, I believe that the ultimate solution lies in a remarkable little book held under the watchful, caring eyes of the team at Lambeth Archives.

Described in their catalogue as a "well-thumbed, closely-written field book containing retrospective notes, after digging, on local positions of graves (e.g. 'next to...' or '4 feet beyond...')", the SMC *Gravediggers' note book* is a true marvel to behold. Small enough to fit in a large coat pocket, 250 pages long and covered in soft smudges of brown earth, it records every burial and re-burial at Norwood – whether in the catacombs, common graves or private ones – from the very first on 12 December 1837 (Harriett Raincock, 1796-1837 – grave 1, square 91) to the 8,044th on 20

September 1854 (Horatio Lachlan Seymour, 1807-1854 – grave 4,149, square 49). All 24 Greek burials known to have occurred in the Enclosure in that period are meticulously recorded, including Eustratius Spartali's aforementioned reburial in July 1845.

Tellingly, I dare say conclusively, the notebook does not contain an entry for Penelope on 3 September 1842, either 12 days before or 12 days after, or at any time throughout 1842, within or outside the Enclosure. Unless Luke had his daughter's remains translated to Norwood in the middle of the night, *sub rosa*, in an unrecorded, unmarked, nonextant grave, it is my opinion that Penelope Ziffo remained in the cemetery of St. Stephen's Church, Coleman Street, undisturbed – until the Blitz, when both the church and its

cemetery were destroyed – and Aglaia Tricoupi, West Norwood Cemetery’s 695th burial, was the Hellenic Enclosure’s first. You can unfasten your seat belt now, dear reader. May the souls of these poor little girls rest in peace.

Acknowledgements

My thanks go to the watchful, caring teams at Lambeth Archives, the London Metropolitan Archives, the West Norwood Cemetery Office and the Hellenic Centre; Katerina Georgiadis at the Greek Cathedral, whose patience is truly constant; Niki Watts, a most adept and generous translator; and of course, Victoria Solomonidis-Hunter, the guiding spirit of our efforts to revitalise and preserve the Hellenic Enclosure.

Surviving the Western Front but Falling Victim to the Blitz: Alfred George Perkins (1896~1940)

Peter Hodgkinson

Alfred George Perkins survived the rigours of the trenches on the Western Front only to perish when an enemy bomb hit the Rose and Crown public house, Crown Lane, where Knights Hill meets Beulah Hill on 18 October 1940. He is a new addition to Peter Hodgkinson and John Clarke’s work *Norwood and the Great War*, published by the FOWNC last year, which now lists 626 individuals who served in the war and who are buried or commemorated in the cemetery.⁷

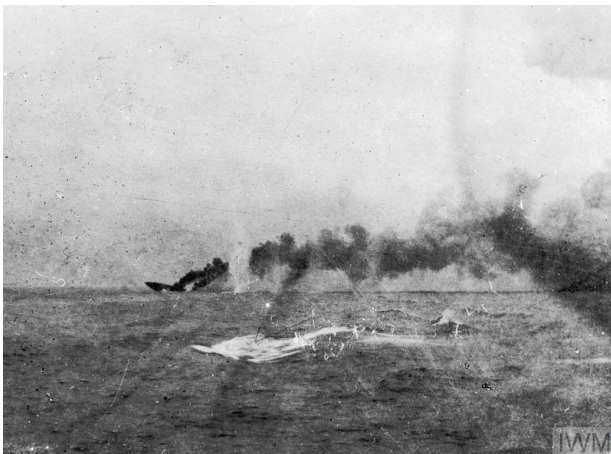
Alfred Perkins’s service was uncovered by John Clarke and myself, as we have begun work on a similar volume concerning the Second World War. In contrast to the Great War a large number of civilians emerge as buried, cremated or commemorated at West Norwood, victims of The Blitz or later strikes by V1 and V2 rocket weapons. Alfred, buried in common grave 21,947, square 44, is one of 6 of the 21 deaths at the Rose and Crown buried here.

Alfred was the son of Robert John Perkins, a meat market porter, and Amy Louisa Perkins of 12 Sancroft Street, Kennington Cross. He was one of five boys – sadly the name is too common to be sure how many of them served during the Great War – but Alfred’s brother, Albert Arthur (b. 1893) had joined the Royal Navy in June 1915. On 31 May 1916 he was an Able Seaman on HMS *Indefatigable*, part of Admiral Beatty’s Battlecruiser Squadron at the Battle of Jutland which was hit by shells and suffered an

⁷ See FOWNC Newsletter 106, January 2023, p.4

explosion. Of her crew of 1,019, only three survived. Three battlecruisers were lost to magazine explosions that day causing Beatty to remark 'There seems to be something wrong with our bloody ships today', hardly a fitting epitaph for Albert. As both his parents are likely buried in common graves (at Tooting and possibly West Norwood), Albert's sacrifice is recorded only on the Plymouth Naval Memorial.

Born in 1896, Alfred attested on 7 July 1915, reaching the rank of Lance Corporal (471344) in the 12th Battalion London Regiment. He arrived on the Western Front on 6 February 1916 and on 1 July that year, in the disastrous attack at Gommecourt on the first day of the Battle of the Somme, his actions led to the award



HMS Indefatigable sinking
[Imperial War Museum image Q64302]

of the Distinguished Conduct Medal 'For conspicuous gallantry in action. He stood alone on the enemy's parapet and threw bombs into their trenches, when the remainder of his company was held up by uncut wire.' Stalled, D Company found itself enfiladed by machine guns from the left with the enemy standing up to throw hand grenades. With nearly all wounded, a Lewis Gun team arrived and Major Lewis Farewell Jones led a party of eight through the wire, all bar Perkins soon being hit. Alfred later recounted (the unit war diary tells us) 'that he got into the German trench where he was seized by two Germans but managed to beat them off by striking them in the face with a bomb he was holding ... he then got back on to the German parapet and was seen ... standing there throwing his bombs into the German trench'.

Alfred's store of endurance would become exhausted on 26 April 1918. On that day the enemy heavily shelled the battalion's trenches at Cachy and 'he was blown up with three other men in a dug out ... the others being killed'. Dug free, he was still unconscious on arrival at 12th Casualty Clearing Station the following day. 'Tremors' were noted when he came to. Transferred to the UK, on 18 May he was moved to the Bradford War Hospital, a psychiatric facility. He was discharged from the Army on 22 March 1919 suffering from neurasthenia, pensioned at 13/9d a week. The symptoms of many such men would improve over time. Thirteen percent of servicemen who were awarded pensions after the war were psychological casualties, and the majority (85% of perhaps 200,000) were for diagnoses of neurasthenia and shell shock. Later in 1919 Alfred married Marie Lilian Monnery and the couple had three children: Marie, Francis and Eric, the family latterly living at 145 Tivoli Road, Albert working as a plasterer.



The Tesco Express at Crown Lane is the former Rose and Crown pub which was rebuilt in 1956-7

The bombing of the Rose and Crown caused the heaviest loss of life in West Norwood in the Second World War. The pub was rebuilt in 1956-7 but closed in 2009, and is now a Tesco Express. It would have been Alfred's local, Tivoli Road being 350 metres away. And so, Alfred Perkins, after two and three-quarter years on the Western Front, surviving burial, became one of the 70,000 civilian deaths in the UK of World

War Two. It is to be hoped that, just as his story has been rescued, that John Clarke and Peter Hodgkinson's new project (hopefully to appear in 2024) will unearth more.

Early Ashes at West Norwood: Catherine Eyre Woods & William Noel Woods

John Clarke

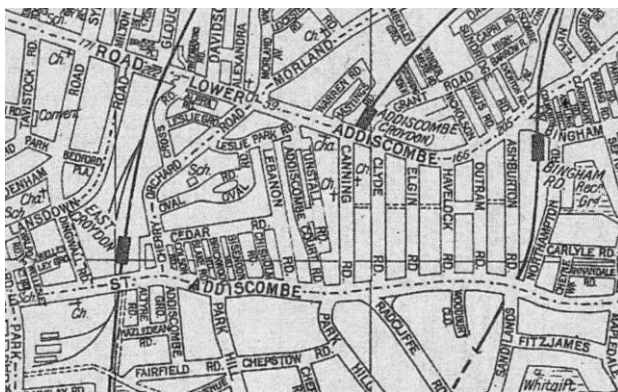
Catherine Eyre Woods (1857-1890; grave 24,101, square 37) and her husband William Noel Woods (1856-1892) are believed to be the second and third set of ashes to be buried in the cemetery.

Catherine Woods (née Anelay) was born in Marylebone in 1857. She and William were married in Lewisham in 1883. Catherine died at their home, Clifton Villa, Ulundi Road, Westcombe Park on 13 December 1890, aged 33 years. Her cremation took place at Woking on 17 November. It lasted one and a half hours, and Catherine was the 152nd person to be cremated there. Two friends - Messrs Brounlow and Anelay - were noted as being present, her brother-in-law and cousin respectively. A memorial service was also held at the Norwood Baptist Chapel, Upper Norwood, led by Rev. Samuel Tipple, although the timing of this remains unclear. They had one daughter, Dorothy Juliet (c.1885-1901), who is also buried with them.

William Woods was born in Holborn in 1856. At the time of his death he was a 36 year old widower of independent means. He lived at 58 Elgin Road, Addiscombe, with his young daughter and housekeeper. His body was discovered in the afternoon of Thursday 17 November 1892 by his housekeeper, Mrs. Charlotte Spratley, in a field off Radcliffe Road. Woods had a bullet wound to his head and a revolver by his side. An inquest was held the following day at the Croydon Union Infirmary and was widely reported in the press. The inquest was chaired by Dr. Jackson JP, the Borough Coroner, to investigate the circumstances of this curious affair.

At the inquest, Mrs. Spratley stated she last saw Woods about 12.50pm the previous afternoon. He told her he was going to the railway cutting to collect insect specimens from a small pond and to practice shooting with a revolver. Apparently Woods had been a regular visitor to this spot for both purposes. He promised to return for dinner at 1.30pm, when he was expecting to meet his brother-in-law. When he did not return, Mrs. Spratley went to look for him because the ground was wet and slippery. Woods suffered

from rheumatism, and she was concerned he might have fallen and injured himself. Instead she found him dead on a slope in a field near the railway lying on his back, with his hands straight down by his side. The revolver was beside him. His right eye was destroyed and there was blood on his hair and face. Mrs. Spratley also noticed that Woods had improvised a target from an old coal scuttle upon which he had chalked three rings. She supposed the pistol had gone off and caused his wound. She also found his basket which contained some flowers for his daughter, together with some chickweed for their bird, and some insect specimens.



Map showing Elgin Road (right of centre) and the field off Radcliffe Road (below), Addiscombe, Surrey.

Mrs. Spratley had lived with Woods for five years. As previously mentioned his wife Catherine had died in 1890. Although he had been depressed following her death, Woods had never mentioned suicide or seemed tired of life, which was now largely devoted to caring for his daughter.

Mrs. Spratley returned home to meet Catherine's brother, Henry Frank Anelay. He was an engineer, although unemployed at this time. Anelay lived at 8 Eton Grove, Blackheath, and had arranged to meet Woods for dinner. When he did not arrive, he accompanied Mrs. Spratley to the field where the sight of Woods' body upset him considerably. The first person he thought of telling was one of Woods' relatives who

worked in the City. (At this point during the inquest the Coroner commented that it would have been more appropriate to inform the police before travelling into London.) Anelay did so only on his return, when he informed Police Sergeant Tett of the death. Together they went to Dr. Shadforth Morton, the Divisional Surgeon, who accompanied them to the field where Woods still lay. The body was then removed to the mortuary at the Infirmary.

The Coroner's Officer, Mr. Brown, took custody of the revolver which had three spent cartridges and two unused. There were three holes in the target on the field.

Dr. Morton examined the body in the field at about 7.20pm. He noted gunpowder marks about the eye and he had no doubt the wound had been caused by a bullet. He believed Woods was looking down the barrel when the pistol went off accidentally, but it was equally possible he slipped and so caused the injury.

The jury returned a verdict of 'accidental death from a bullet wound'.

Woods' father, William Fell Woods, of Gorse House, Forest Hill, made arrangements for the funeral. He engaged the firm of Halford Lupton Mills, based in Cambridge Place, Paddington, to make all necessary arrangements. Mills was an early advocate of cremation and had also undertaken Catherine's funeral in 1890. The cremation took place at St John's, Woking, on 23 November. The Cremation Society's officials recorded it took one and a half hours to complete, and Woods was the 345th person to be cremated there. Only two friends - Messrs Brounlow and Sambrook – were noted as being present. Woods' ashes were subsequently taken away by the undertaker.

The two sets of ashes were placed in the family vault on 4 March 1893 by their father, who had purchased the grave on 15 July 1891. There were four further burials in this vault: Dorothy Juliet Woods (c.1885-1901), Emma Woods (c.1829-1904), William Fell Woods (c.1829-1906) and Beatrice Eleanor Woods (1860-1936). Regrettably no trace of the memorial remains, being in one of the areas cleared by Lambeth Council. Nor does a record of the inscription survive from the records of Eric Smith held in Lambeth Archives. The memorial would have been near the crematorium chimney in square 37.

Sources

Croydon Chronicle 19 November 1892, p.5 'Fatal accident with a revolver'.

Morning Post 21 November 1892, p.6 'Extraordinary affair at Croydon'.

Norwood News 26 November 1892, p.7 'Fatal accident at Addiscombe'.



Forthcoming FOWNC & Other Events

September - December 2023

Introductory tours are held on the first Sunday of each month, starting at the main gate on Norwood Road at 14:30 (3 September, 1 October) or at 11:00 (5 November, 3 December) and lasting for 1½–2 hours, and we strongly encourage donations. The FOWNC bookstall will be present. Pre-book only at www.fownc.org/tickets. 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.

Saturday 14 October at 14.30. Guided Walk Celebrating Black History Month. Andrea Woodside will lead a walk featuring a number of graves relevant to Black History Month. Pre-book only at www.fownc.org/tickets. The FOWNC bookstall will be present.

FOWNC Lectures are held at the Old Library, 14-16 Knights Hill, SE27 0HY as detailed below starting at 14:30. Pre-book only at www.fownc.org/tickets. The FOWNC bookstall will be present. (Any members who are not on the internet should just turn up).

Saturday 21 October FOWNC AGM & Lecture at 14:30. London Cemeteries: An Illustrated Guide and Gazetteer. Dr Brian Parsons

We welcome back Dr Brian Parsons who will talk about the new edition of *London Cemeteries: An Illustrated Guide and Gazetteer* which is now a standard reference work. First published in 1981 and originally compiled by Hugh Meller on his own, this book has become a classic guide to the cemeteries of Greater London. Copies of the book, which is published by The History Press at the anticipated price of £25, will be available for purchase.

Saturday 18 November. FOWNC Lecture at 14:30. The Wood That Built London. Chris Schuler

In his book *The Wood That Built London*, published last year, Chris Schuler charts the fortunes of the Great North Wood that once covered much of South London. A number of mature trees, survivals of the Great North Wood, were included in the landscaping of the South Metropolitan Cemetery. A tree survey performed by the Parks Agency in 2005 identified one oak thought to date from 1540–1640, and core samples show that 14 more oaks and an ash also pre-dated the foundation of the Cemetery in 1837.

Other Forthcoming Events

The **Lambeth Heritage Festival** continues throughout September. Further details of the programme of events are posted at <https://www.lambeth.gov.uk/lambeth-heritage-festival>

Saturday 16 September Lecture at 14:00. Sir William Tite, architect of the Gothic revival West Norwood Cemetery. Nicholas Long

Lecture and brief tour of the cemetery. The event is free, but places need to be reserved via Eventbrite at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/sir-william-tite-architect-of-the-gothic-revival-west-norwood-cemetery-tickets-679276693877>

October is London Month of the Dead. The full programme may be seen online at <http://www.londonmonthofthedeath.com/> for further details.

Monday 2 October Mausolea & Monuments Trust Lecture at 18.30. Memory and Memorialisation in UK Crematoria 1890s to the Present. The Gallery, 75 Cowcross Street, London EC1M 6EL. Also streamed on-line for those unable to attend. Free, pre-book at <https://www.mmtrust.org.uk/events.php>

For other events happening in the Cemetery, including those organised by the National Lottery Heritage Fund project, see <https://www.westnorwoodcemetery.org/events>

We welcome contributions to this newsletter on any topic relevant to West Norwood Cemetery. These may be sent to trustees@fownc.org or to our postal address (see below) at any time.

The newsletter is published three times a year in January, May and September, with the copy deadline a month before the publication date. If there is insufficient space, your contribution may appear in a later issue.

FOWNC Contacts

Interim Chairman: John Clarke, 35 Addison Gardens, Surbiton, Surrey KT5 8DJ
(Tel: +44 20 8390 7121; email trustees@fownc.org)

Hon Secretary & Tours Organiser: Jill Dudman, 119 Broxholm Road, London SE27 0BJ
(Tel: +44 20 8670 5456; e-mail: secretary@fownc.org)

Hon Treasurer: Anna Long, 1st & 2nd Floor Flat, 47 Hambalt Road, London SW4 9EQ
(Tel: +44 7940 581 654; e-mail: treasurer@fownc.org)

Webmaster: James Slattery-Kavanagh, Quotes, 3 Cricketfield, Newick, East Sussex BN8 4LL (Tel: +44 1825 723943; e-mail: webmaster@fownc.org)

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