

# FRIENDS OF WEST NORWOOD CEMETERY

NEWSLETTER NO.24: OCTOBER 1995

*Price 50 pence*

*Free to Members*

## Chairman's Report - Bob Flanagan

After the apparent successes of previous years, it was perhaps inevitable that 1995 would appear to be an anticlimax. Virtually all our efforts to preserve what remains of the cemetery and to initiate some tombstone conservation projects have remained in limbo. This is in part because Lambeth have been disputing aspects of the Chancellor's judgement, notably that relating to use of hitherto unused burial space in private graves. This is surprising since Lambeth's own counsel agreed in court that this practice was illegal at Norwood. A further factor is, I feel, a debate within English Heritage as to their role now that 'Lottery Money' (administered via the Department of National Heritage) is such a big player on the scene. This has meant that our applications for grants to help with certain projects (Alcock, Jennings, etc) have been sidelined. A further factor is that the faculty jurisdiction invoked to save what remains of the cemetery itself adds a further layer of bureaucracy (and costs) when it comes to trying to repair/reinstate individual tombstones.

A depressing aspect of the year has been the fragmentation of the 'united front' I engineered between ourselves (representing the Norwood Society), some individuals with special interests, and Nicholas Long, who had been waging a personal battle against Lambeth's management of the cemetery. Nicholas' involvement with FOWNC ensured close ties with the Victorian Society and other national bodies and his enthusiasm and expertise in planning and conservation matters were assets of incalculable value. However, Nicholas' appointment as Archdeacon's representative and consequent official divorce from FOWNC has meant that he now carries on his battle under his new title. This has in turn meant that I have had to shoulder the burden of such negotiations as there have been with Lambeth and the Diocese as well as doing all

the jobs I did last year (Chairman, Publications Officer, Newsletter editor, National Federation representative, etc). Clearly this situation cannot continue indefinitely.

## *FOWNC Membership and Officers*

Some 60 members did not renew their membership at the beginning of the year, but we have just about made up the shortfall with new members. To lose so many members at once is sad, but looked at as a percentage of our total membership it does not seem too bad. The difference from previous years is that we have not made a gain overall. We had little response to a questionnaire sent to ex-members asking why they had not renewed.

Thanks to stalwarts Rosemary Comber, Jill Dudman, Celia Smith, Margaret Jackman, Rosemary Dawson, Paul Graham, George Young and Tom Easton for their continuing support. Celia is soon to take up an appointment as Superintendent of the West London Crematorium. We offer her our congratulations and best wishes for this new challenge. Sadly only two new committee members (Paul and George) have come forward since the formation of FOWNC and stayed the course. As discussed below, we need greater activity from the membership if we are to survive as an effective force. We have vacancies on the committee for a vice-chairman and, subject to the proviso below, an events officer at the very least. Fortunately, all the current committee members are willing to soldier on for another year, but 'new blood' is needed now if FOWNC is to survive in the long term.

## *FOWNC Newsletter and Publications*

To me the most positive feature of the year thus far has been the help we have received from John Brown in planning and producing our publications.

and from Don Bianco in providing line drawings, maps and, frankly, simple encouragement. Order forms for both '*Sportsmen*' and '*Dickens*' are enclosed - if you have already purchased copies then pass the form on to an interested friend, or buy extra copies as presents... More publications are planned once we have substantially recovered our costs, including a new general guide to the cemetery. As part of this process I hope to run down our stocks of some other publications.

In order to make best use of our resources I propose to reduce the frequency of the Newsletter to 4-monthly from January. This will be produced in an A5 format by John Brown to the same standard as '*Sportsmen*' and '*Dickens*'. One obvious advantage is that we will be able to reproduce photographs properly. If members feel that a reduction in the frequency of Newsletter publication is undesirable, then practical help in the form of submitted articles and illustrations, news items, etc is an urgent prerequisite. Only two members responded to my appeal for articles published in the January Newsletter...

#### *FOWNC Meetings and Tours*

Despite our best efforts to produce a broadly-based programme of events, the attendance at indoor meetings has been below that of previous years. This means that not only do contributions hardly cover the costs of room hire and speaker's expenses, but also that publications sales sometimes do not justify the effort of setting up the stall. I therefore propose to reduce the frequency of indoor meetings to two for 1996. These meetings will be held in February (John Gardner on Thomas Cubitt and Belgravia) and in October (Michael Slater on Norwood and the Victorian Theatre). This latter meeting will be followed by the 1996 AGM. If attendance at these meetings is again poor then we may have to abandon lectures altogether for 1997.

I appreciate that some members greatly value the Saturday meetings as they cannot participate in the tours. However, we have to balance this against the other factors involved, not least of which is the embarrassment suffered when only a handful of people turn up to hear an excellent lecturer. If members are opposed to this move, then (i) come to the meetings and (ii) volunteer to act as meetings organiser. Note that this involves room booking, organising speakers (including travel arrangements), arranging for catering and projection facilities, etc.

Attendance at tours continues to be unpredictable. I was faced with a sea of faces (50 or so people - far too many for one guide to cope with) when I

did my mystery tour in August, whilst on some occasions for general tours the attendance is in the region of 5. What can we do about this? At Kensal Green (who charge £2 a head) they sometimes have 200+ people turn up on a Sunday afternoon! Perhaps more widespread and reliable Newspaper coverage is the answer - someone with experience in public relations/advertising could be of great help here. Be all this as it may, we plan to continue with the programme of general and specialist tours, and perhaps expand on the theme of 'mystery' tours.

#### *FOWNC and Lambeth Council*

In recent weeks there have been signs of a shift in Lambeth's attitude to the cemetery and to us. Firstly, I am pleased to report that Mr Mackay, Cemetery Superintendent, has organised scrub clearance works in the important area surrounding the Pond mausoleum. Secondly, I am hopeful that we can begin negotiations in the near future for our own noticeboard in the cemetery. Thirdly, there is widespread support amongst officers for a project based at Lambeth Archives which would aim to produce a computerized record of the burials, photographs, and other archival material relating to the cemetery held by Lambeth and by bodies such as ourselves. Jon Newman, Borough Archivist, and I have been asked to submit an outline proposal.

Finally, there again seems to be widespread support for a phased (and ambitious) programme of conservation works which hopefully would qualify for external funding. The stages envisaged at present are:

(i) Boundary wall/gate/iron railings (all Grade II listed - first stage full structural survey already underway).

(ii) Landscaping, including the removal of unsightly litter bins, inappropriate signs, etc, to recreate as far as possible Tite's original design. The first stage would be the commissioning of a survey to ascertain how much of Tite's design survives.

(iii) Reconstruction of the Episcopal Chapel to provide an architectural focus to the cemetery and a Visitor/Interpretation Centre. This would also provide for the stabilization of the Catacombs, restoration of the coffin-lift, and reinstatement of the memorial plaques on the colonnades. This could also incorporate commemoration of those whose memorials have been demolished illegally by Lambeth over the last few years. The first stage (a structural survey of the catacombs/rose garden) is being undertaken by English Heritage.

(iv) A phased (and concurrent) programme of restoration of individual tombstones involving families and external organizations whenever possible. First stages: (a) Lambeth to restore some listed tombs (Sir William Cubitt, John Garrett, William Grane [not possible yet], Gideon Mantell, Ann Joyce, William Punshon and James Gilbert) in response to the Consistory Court judgement. (b) Lambeth should restore the monument to Florence Vallentin

(d. 1937) - this was damaged by work undertaken by Lambeth after January 1991. Restoration was promised by Counsel for Lambeth during the Court hearing. (c) Lambeth should restore the tombstone of Alphonse de Normandy which was demolished during works in 1990 despite a specific request to spare it. (d) FOWNC to restore the memorial to David Roberts. (e) English Heritage to restore the monument to Anne Farrow.

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### The Royal Opera House and the National Lottery - Bob Flanagan

Much has been made in the press of the recent £55 million grant to the Royal Opera House. However, it is not widely known that the present building and indeed the Floral Hall (why was this built?) owe their existence (albeit indirectly) to the State Lottery which was discontinued in 1826. The prime player was Frederick Gye junior (1810-1878). Gye's father, also Frederick, was a printer and obtained a contract for printing the State Lottery tickets. Having acquired some tickets which had not been sold he won a prize of £30,000. In 1821 Gye senior and his partners in the London Wine Co, Thomas Bish and Richard Hughes, purchased Vauxhall Gardens for £28,000 from the Tyers family. Gye took a great interest in Vauxhall and continued to manage this enterprise until 1840.

Frederick Gye junior helped his father in the management of Vauxhall Gardens from ca. 1830. An entrepreneur, he is credited with introducing an improved limelight which was used to illuminate Clarkson Stanfield's diorama painted for the pantomime *Harlequin and Peeping Tom of Coventry* at Covent Garden Theatre in December 1837. Later Gye became associated with Jullien at Covent Garden from 1843 and was acting-manager when Jullien opened Drury Lane as an Opera House in 1847. Gye became Edward Delafield's business manager when his Royal Italian Opera Company opened at Covent Garden in 1848. Delafield himself went bankrupt in July 1849. The company thereupon formed a co-operative and Gye was confirmed as manager.

Gye obviously rose to the challenge because by September 1849 had himself obtained a seven-year lease on the theatre and was receiving an annual salary of £1,500. Many operas were performed in the ensuing years. In 1853 Verdi's *Rigoletto* and, in 1855, *Il Trovatore* had their English premieres and the theatre increased in popularity. Later in 1855 Covent Garden theatre was sub-let to the illusionist John Anderson, who had already lost

two theatres by fire and, on 5 March 1856, the last day of his lease, he lost a third. Gye was only offered £8,000 by the insurers for the properties in the theatre as opposed to the estimated value of £40,000. During the 1856 and 1857 seasons the company performed at the Lyceum while Gye busied himself in raising the £120,000 needed to rebuild Covent Garden.

The new theatre was built to the design of E.M. Barry (in six months!) and incorporated reliefs by Flaxman, survivals from the previous building. On 15 May 1858 Gye opened the new theatre with a performance of Meyerbeer's *Les Huguenots*. From 1860 concerts were given in the Floral Hall adjoining Covent Garden Market. As a producer Gye made mistakes. After refusing many times to stage Gounod's *Faust*, for example, he at last presented it after its great success at Her Majesty's in 1863. Nevertheless, he remains one of the most successful managers of operatic establishments ever seen in England. In his will he left Covent Garden Theatre (now the Royal Opera House) and the Floral Hall to his children, the management devolving on Ernest Gye and one of his brothers. Unfortunately Ernest was not as successful as his father and The Royal Italian Opera Company was wound up in 1884.

A life-size marble statue of Gye by the well-connected artist with the long name, Prinz Viktor Ferdinand Franz Eugen Gustav Adolf Constantin Friedrich von Hohenlohe-Langenborg, Graf von Gleichen (1833-1891) - his mother was half-sister to Queen Victoria - remains on display at the Opera House. Sadly the monument on Gye's grave (grave 939, square 98) at Norwood was demolished sometime in the 1980s. A couple of years ago the Archivist at the Opera House, Franchesca Franchi, obtained a promise of £500 towards the reinstatement of a tombstone. Unfortunately this project, like so many others, has been held up by Lambeth's attitude to FOWNC and more recently by the dispute over the Chancellor's judgement. I am at present trying to find out if the money is still available.

## Publications News – Bob Flanagan

*Norwood Past and Present* compiled by John W Brown. Softback, 40 pp. £2.95, 1995

A welcome reprint from Allan Galer's book 'Norwood and Dulwich: Past and Present' published in 1890. Whilst the 'Past' is interesting, to me Galer's 'Present' is of especial value since it records a contemporary view. Amongst the buildings and institutions discussed, several of which have either vanished or been subsumed, are St Luke's Church ('it cannot ... be called a pleasing structure'), the Norwood Free Library, the Westmoreland School, the Lambeth Parochial Schools, the Jew's Hospital, the Norwood Institute, and the Royal Normal College for the Blind.

'Our' cemetery is dismissed summarily ('there are not nearly so many famous names as ... in the great northern burial grounds'), but then a list of notable burials follow. However, there are several mistakes. The most widely copied hence the most irritating are (i) George Bolwell Davidge is given the middle name 'Bothwell', and (ii) Harriet Waylett is given the name 'Kate Kearney', a name it seems she never used – although married to George Lee in later life, she continued to appear as 'Mrs Waylett, late Miss Cooke of Bath'. A prize to the first person to send me a list of all the other mistakes in this section (pages 25 and 26). The deadline is 1 December 1995. My decision is final!

*A Historical Tour of Nunhead and Peckham Rye* by Ron Woollacott. Softback, 72 pp. £2.95, 1995.

Ron Woollacott will be known to many members as chairman of our sister organization, the Friends of Nunhead Cemetery (FONC). This booklet complements the FONC publications we stock and will be welcomed by all with an interest in the history of South London. After giving a short history of the area, Ron defines three walks and gives detailed

notes of many sites and people of interest. One personality connected with Norwood is William Downton JP (1851-1913), grandson of the actor William Downton (grave 2,388, square 96 – William junior is buried in Camberwell Old Cemetery). Can anyone spot any other Norwood connections?

## Joseph Angus MA DD (1816-1902)

Contact with the group researching the New Dictionary of National Biography has revealed a further Norwood 'resident' who is commemorated in the original edition, bringing the current total to 210. Joseph Angus was born in Northumberland and graduated MA from Edinburgh in 1837 after studying for the Baptist ministry at Stepney College. After 'accepting a call' to New Park Street Chapel, Southwark (later to become famous by its association with C.H. Spurgeon) in 1838, he became secretary of the Baptist Missionary Society.

Angus was appointed President of Stepney College in 1849, a position he held until 1893. The degree of DD was conferred on him in 1852 by Brown University, Rhode Island. He published several religious works and held various positions as examiner in English. He was elected to the first London School Board in 1870. 'As a theologian he was essentially conservative; in a controversy of 1870 he upheld the doctrine of eternal torments; he was not without mellowing influences in his later years'...

In 1841 Angus had married Amelia, fourth daughter of the shorthand writer William Brodie Gurney. He died at Hampstead on 28 August 1902 and was buried at Norwood in the Gurney family vault – Joseph Gurney (1744-1815), William Brodie Gurney (1777-1855), and Joseph Gurney (1804-1879), who also feature in the DNB, are buried in the same vault (grave 419, square 40). The grave is illustrated in Paul Graham's book '*Dickens Connections*'.

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## A Little Victorian Social History –

John B. Cavanagh

Grave 18,882 against the south wall of the cemetery (square 96) is unmarked. The headstone, if one existed, may have been lost during the last war. The only occupant of the grave is Frederic Garfit (1814-1881), a Lincolnshire man who moved to Brixton not many years before he died, seemingly to live with the family governess. This was a common enough tale at that time – extra-marital arrangements were carefully hidden lest conventional sensibilities were offended.

Frederic Garfit came from a 'good' Lincolnshire family. His grandfather, William Garfit III, was the head of a well-established and prosperous bank in Boston, Claypon and Garfit. Towards the end of the 19th century Claypon and Garfit became united with Lloyds Bank. The elder Garfit's sons, William and Thomas, were both successful, one in banking and the other in the law. The third son, John, Frederic's father, married the daughter of a wealthy Gainsborough wine merchant, John Coates, in 1804. The marriage was blessed with six sons and two daughters, but three years after the death of

his father-in-law in 1830 the wine business went bankrupt.

Frederic was the fifth son of the family. He became a solicitor in Brigg, Lincolnshire, no doubt with the help of his uncle Thomas, the barrister. Like his father he had the good fortune to marry well. His bride, Eliza Georgiana, was the only daughter of a wealthy Gainsborough merchant, George Archer Bellwood. The marriage took place in 1841, but even then George Bellwood may have had serious reservations about the match. His eleven page will, prepared in 1856 by a firm of London solicitors, made absolutely certain that his not inconsiderable fortune did not pass into Frederic's hands.

When George Bellwood died in 1858 all his assets were held in trust for his daughter's benefit. On her death this was to pass to his grandson, Horace Garfit, on the strict understanding that the latter changed his name to Bellwood. Eliza died in 1868 and not long afterwards Horace Garfit, now Bellwood, purchased for himself a commission in the 3rd (Prince of Wales' Own) Dragoon Guards, without doubt an expensive undertaking. Frederic was, however, able to assume administration for Eliza's personal money, some £8,000, a tidy sum in those days.

The 1871 Census records that Frederic's household at Scawby, a village near Brigg, contained three daughters, viz. Georgiana (27 years), Edith (17 years), and Amy (14 years). In addition, a resident governess from Warwick, Helen Ryland, was responsible for the education of the younger daughters. What happened during the next ten years

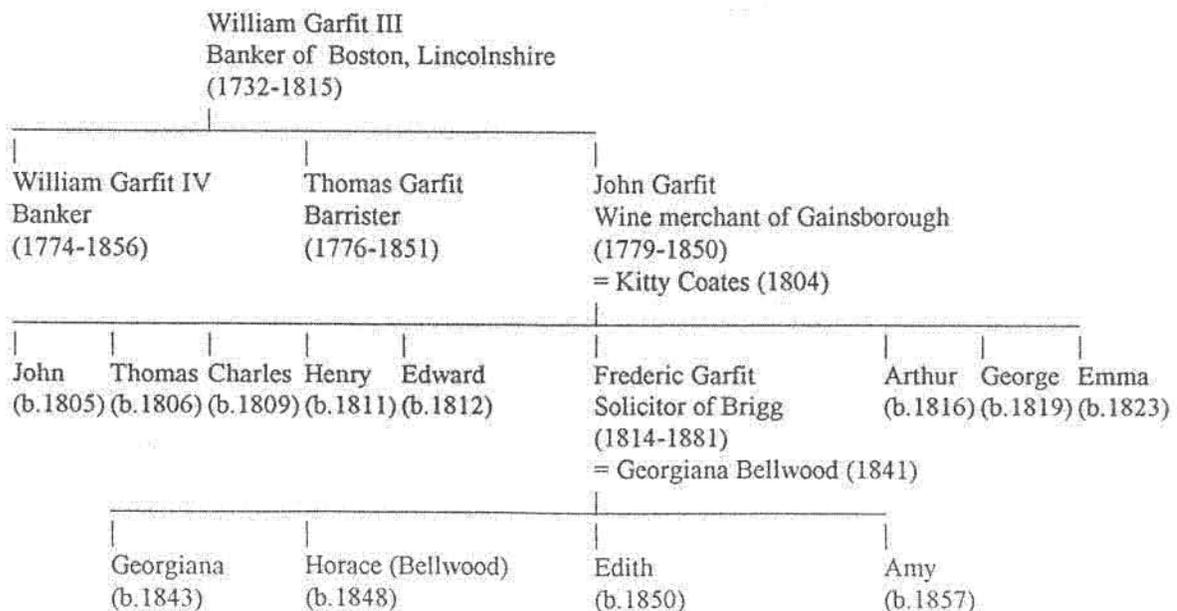
remains a mystery, but the 1881 Census shows that the family was no longer in Scawby. Indeed, we now find Helen Ryland at No 13 of a newly built row of houses in The Avenue (now Kings Avenue), Long Acre, Brixton. She is recorded as head of the establishment together with Frederic Garfit, a retired solicitor, who called himself 'uncle', and Helen's niece, Susan Clark, a 'scholar', aged 17.

Frederic Garfit died in December 1881 and was buried at Norwood on the 29th of that month. The plot was purchased by his son, Captain Horace Bellwood. The old gentleman had probably come to London to get away from the stifling social atmosphere of rural Lincolnshire so that he could live out his days with a congenial companion well away from his son and daughters, all of whom were married. He did not leave a will so that what little remained of his property must have gone to Helen. Her fate is unknown.

We know nothing of Frederic Garfit's character although one suspects that when young he, and perhaps his father too, had great charm. They were both clearly capable of attracting wealthy young women. Both may also have been somewhat wayward, unreliable and perhaps imaginative, qualities of little value in business. Such characteristics seem to have cropped up in subsequent generations, so perhaps these assumptions are correct...

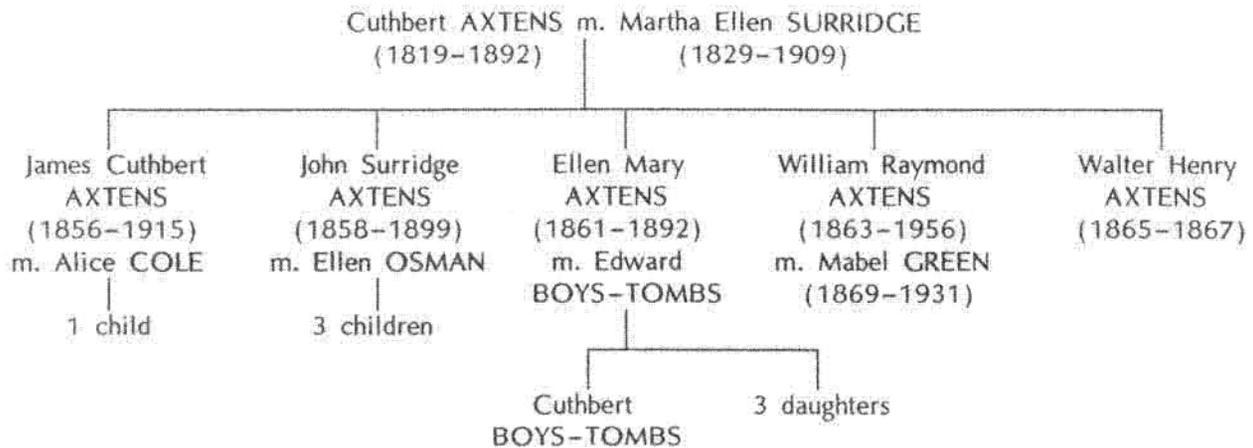
This story of escape and fulfilment must have been repeated over and again in Victorian times. Indeed, we know that such well known figures as Charles Dickens and Wilkie Collins had similar attachments. I wonder how many other similar cases there were amongst those now interred in the cemetery and about whom we presently know nothing?

#### Garfit Family Tree



## THE AXTEENS - A FAMILY OF DRAPERS

Barbara Chick



The group of Axtens/Boys-Tombs graves stand in square 24 of West Norwood Cemetery, beside the road leading down from the crematorium to the Greek Cemetery. Cuthbert Axtens, whose grave is on the right of the group, was the first arrival in London of a group of London drapers, all members of his or his wife's family. The son of a Somerset dairyman, he came to London in the mid-1830s to take up an apprenticeship as a draper at Swan & Edgar. [William Edgar (1791-1869) is buried at Norwood: square 52, grave 12,138.] His Sundays were spent with his aunt and uncle, Cuthbert and Sarah Raymond, also up from Somerset. His uncle was established as a cheesemonger in Finsbury Place.

In 1849 Cuthbert Axtens was sent by his Aunt Raymond to Paddington Station to meet a young lady, Martha Surridge, who was coming up to London from Devon to become apprenticed to a court milliner in Maddox Street. Cuthbert is said to have joked that he would willingly "meet her and marry her", which indeed is just what he did. Martha's father, a farmer, had died two years previously leaving a legacy to each of his children, to set them up in a business or career of their choice. With Martha's legacy and Cuthbert's savings (£500 each), they were able to buy their own drapery business at 226 Kennington Park Road. They were married on 9 August 1851 at St James Piccadilly, which had been their local church in their apprentice days. After the ceremony, they spent the day at Hampton Court by way of a honeymoon, arriving back at the shop just before closing time at 10 pm for a wedding supper on the premises.

Cuthbert and Martha had five children, all born and brought up at 226 Kennington Park Road: James Cuthbert, John Surridge, Ellen Mary, William Raymond and Walter Henry, the last of whom died in childhood. Not surprisingly, in 1870 the family moved from the shop to live at 170 Kennington Park Road. Other members of Martha's

family had also settled in London and set up drapery businesses in Hackney, Kilburn and Edgware Road; most of them are buried at Highgate.

By 1871, Cuthbert's business had expanded into neighbouring premises and he was employing ten assistants, among whom were at least two of his Axtens nephews. In due course, his elder sons James and John entered the business, but it could not accommodate William, who borrowed £1,000 from his father in 1887 to buy into partnership with Cornelius Quin (1830-1902); the latter had had a drapery shop at 430 Brixton Road since 1873. The business subsequently prospered under the name of Quin & Axtens, although Cornelius Quin sold out of the partnership after a few years. Nothing further is known of him, except that he is buried at Norwood (square 96, grave 13,098).

One by one William Axtens bought up the whole block of shops between Ferndale Road and Stockwell Road (in one case taking a law suit to the House of Lords), and combined them to become a well-known department store. In 1889 he married Mabel Letitia Green, a court dress-maker (and member of the Green family, makers of chocolate blancmange), at Christ Church Streatham. They lived first on Brixton Hill, moving later to St Margaret's, 13 Leigham Court Road, Streatham (now the Constitutional Club).

Returning, however, to Kennington Park Road and the fortunes of the rest of the Axtens family: John Axtens had married Ellen Osman in 1882, and his sister Ellen had married Edward Boys-Tombs, a blouse manufacturer, in 1886. Both weddings took place at Claylands Congregational Chapel near the Oval, where their father Cuthbert was a deacon, John was a member of the choir and Ellen was a Sunday School teacher. In earlier times, a fellow deacon with Cuthbert Axtens had been John Doulton senior (1793-1873) of the Lambeth pottery firm (buried in square 40, grave 1,808 at

Norwood); and the Rev James Baldwin Brown (1820-1884) had been the minister for 24 years (buried in square 40, grave 7,167). After some years of neglect, Claylands Chapel has been restored and is now in use as offices.

Cuthbert Axtens died in 1892, and a few months later his daughter Ellen Boys-Tombs died of a heart attack, two weeks after the birth of her fourth child, Marjorie. After her death (and burial in square 24, grave 24,535), her brothers James and John Axtens had their father's body reburied in a grave (24,604) adjacent to hers. Previously Cuthbert had been buried in a grave originally for his infant son Walter (square 10, grave 10,698), and next to the grave of his mother-in-law, Susan Surridge, towards the rear wall of the cemetery. John also in the same year bought the plot in front of Ellen's (grave 24,799) for the future use of his own family, so that no stranger's grave should stand in front of hers.

The two elder Axtens brothers, James and John, continued to run the business at Kennington Park Road. Family legend has it that they were so unhappy as drapers, that each went to work on alternate days, while the other stayed at home to drown his sorrows. So often it is hard to be the son of a successful father. James dropped out after the first year, and nothing further is known of him; he does not appear to be buried at Norwood. John died at his home in Albert Square, Clapham Road in 1899, and subsequently the Kennington business was sold up. A shorter cross was chosen for his grave, so that Ellen's should not be hidden. [It should be remarked that John's daughter, Madeline Storr, recorded most of the family events detailed here.]

Following now the surviving family members into the twentieth century, Cuthbert Boys-Tombs, son

of William's late sister Ellen, joined his uncle to become assistant manager of Quin & Axtens shortly before the First World War, a position that was interrupted by service in the RFC. Although the business was bought by the neighbouring department store Bon Marché in 1920, William Axtens remained very much in charge, with Cuthbert Boys-Tombs supervising a complete refurbishment, including a new facade, under his direction. This arrangement continued until 1929, when William retired and the store (together with Bon Marché and Pratts of Streatham) was bought by Selfridges. Neither uncle nor nephew needed to work again. In 1940 the group of stores was acquired by John Lewis, but a year later Quin & Axtens was destroyed by bombing.

Due to his wife Mabel's deteriorating health, William took a suite of rooms in Queen's Hotel, Eastbourne after his retirement, where sadly she took her own life in 1931. She was buried in a grave (27,362) a few yards to the left of the other three Axtens graves, which William had bought in 1897 for a relative of hers. He remained in Eastbourne throughout the 1930s looked after by his chauffeur and companion, but moved at the outbreak of the Second World War to Woodlands Hotel, Sidmouth, where he died in 1956 at the age of 93, leaving an estate of £327,000. William's cremated remains were interred in his grave with his late wife.

\*FOWNC member Barbara Chick is a great-granddaughter of Cuthbert Axtens (a granddaughter of Ellen Boys-Tombs). Her family information forming the basis of this article has been supplemented by Brian Bloice's research into the history of the Quin & Axtens store and Jill Dudman's research in the burial register. One of the most pleasing aspects of this article is that all the graves numbered here still have intact tombstones.

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Lambeth Archives Department

## Forthcoming FOWNC Events – Oct–Dec 1995

General tours will be held on the first Sunday of each month (1 October, 5 November, 3 December). The October tour starts at 14.30, and the winter tours start at 11.00, at the Cemetery main gate off Norwood Road, and they last for 2 hours or so. There is no formal charge but we welcome donations of £1 per person (£0.50 concessions) towards conservation projects.

Talks will be held as detailed below in Chatsworth Baptist Church, Chatsworth Way, SE27, starting at 14.30. Chatsworth Way leads off Norwood Road, but the entrance to the meeting room is at the side of the Church in Idmiston Road. Again, there is no formal charge but we welcome donations of at least £1 per person to help cover costs (hall hire, etc).

### Saturday 21 October: Lecture – Tower Bridge, 1894–1994 – David Perrett

Two Norwood 'residents', the architect Sir Horace Jones and the builder Sir John Jackson, helped with the project which resulted in the opening of Tower Bridge in 1894. Although utilitarian in function, it is now a major tourist attraction. Dr David Perrett is a noted industrial historian and member of the Greater London Industrial Archaeology Society.

This lecture will be followed by our AGM. As our chairman has appealed elsewhere in this newsletter, please come and tell us what you, the members, want – and perhaps volunteer a few hours of your time. Also, to clear some of our old book stocks, a number of titles will be on sale at reduced prices.

### Saturday 18 November: Lecture – Streatham Connections – John Brown

Many of the great and good (and wealthy) of Streatham and environs, notably Arthur Anderson, Sir John Key, William Leaf, Sir Hiram Maxim, Frederick Nettlefold and Sir Henry Tate, have come to rest in Norwood. FOWNC member John Brown is well known for his work on St Leonard's churchyard in the centre of Streatham and as a local history lecturer and publisher.

## Other Forthcoming Events

St Gabriel's Church, Warwick Square, Pimlico, SW1 – Autumn Lectures:

Wednesday 18 October, 19.45: Thomas Cubitt, Builder of Belgravia and Pimlico

Wednesday 25 October, 19.45: St Gabriel's, Parish Church of Cubittopolis

The lecturer will be the distinguished historian and writer, Hermione Hobhouse, MBE, FSA. Admission £5 per lecture including a glass of wine, or £8.50 season ticket for both lectures.

## Review of FOWNC Events – Summer 1995

Outside of the long hot dry spell of late July and August, this summer's FOWNC tours have suffered remarkably badly with the weather. Almost every general and special tour in June, July and September was rain-affected (or overcast and threatening an imminent downpour). This was reflected by the attendances in these months: merely single figures at the general tours, and even Paul Graham's Dickens Connections tour on 16 July and Nicholas Reed's Artistic Connections tour on 17 September did not attract very large crowds. These were both re-runs of tours last held two years ago, and fuller reports of their content may be found in FOWNC Newsletter No.16, October 1993.

Only the two August tours produced substantial gatherings of people, notably Bob Flanagan's Magical Mystery Tour on 20 August with nearly 50. We looked at a number of tombs that rarely or never get included in our tours, one particular theme being mausoleums: Bob pointed out several of these, including some major specimens that we tend normally to walk straight past – perhaps because they have so little identifying inscription on them. Several of the monuments that were newly listed Grade II a couple of years ago were also included: Thomas Ibbotson (cross with blue ceramic veneer), Sparenborg, Baldwin Brown (terracotta Celtic cross), and the Kershaw/Elworthy tombs by Alfred Waterhouse with their fine railings.

## FOWNC Officers – 1995

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Vacancy

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Bob Flanagan and Jill Dudman

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