

# FRIENDS OF WEST NORWOOD CEMETERY

Newsletter No. 32 - May 1998

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## Chairman's Report by Bob Flanagan

At last I can report on progress! Firstly, the inaugural meeting of the long-promised South Metropolitan Cemetery [West Norwood Cemetery] Advisory Group was held on Monday 21 April. Representatives of the Diocese, English Heritage, nature conservation bodies, the Greek Community, users of the cemetery, the Victorian Society and ourselves were present in addition to Council members. After an introduction by the Archdeacon's representative and Chairman of the Cemetery Management Committee, Nicholas Long, an agenda drafted by Council officers was followed.

I was elected Chairman without opposition (there were some abstentions) and Dr Brent Elliott (the representative of the Victorian Society on the committee) agreed to serve as Vice-Chairman. Council officers agreed to provide secretarial support and pay such essential expenses as room hire. It was agreed amongst other items that the committee should meet at least four times a year and that one of these meetings would take the form of an Annual General Meeting.

It was further agreed that general rules of procedure governing Council meetings should be followed and that future Group meetings should be held in public unless a confidential item was to be discussed. I have been tasked with drafting a Constitution for the group, and agreeing dates for future meetings and an agenda for the next meeting in consultation with other Group members and Council officers.

## **Conservation News**

Firstly, the (excellent) reinstatement of the Cubitt memorial has been completed by Council contractors. Secondly, I understand that the replacement monument to John Garrett has been carved and is ready for erection in the cemetery. I'm told it too is splendid! All that we now await for completion of the repairs/reinstatements ordered by the Consistory Court are the repair to the Vallentin memorial. The Grane memorial of course can't be replaced until we can find out what the original looked like. We still await movement on the restoration of the de Normandy memorial which was promised in Court "when funds permit".

As to our own efforts, the replacement monument for Charles Alcock, the founder of the FA Cup, international football, Test match cricket in England, sports journalism, etc., was carved last year and is ready for erection in the Cemetery. Unfortunately our application for a faculty to restore this monument has been long delayed within the Diocesan Registry. The reason(s) for this are unclear and we are actively pursuing this matter...

## **Heritage Lottery Fund**

Congratulations to Southwark Council and senior sister organisation, the Friends of Nunhead Cemetery (FONC), who have been awarded a grant of £1.25 million match funding to the councils £1.25 million towards works at Nunhead. This is in addition to grant aid FONC have already obtained towards restoration of the East Lodge. Their lottery bid always struck me as well-planned, the major problem being Southwark's amazing lapse in letting the tenant of the already restored West Lodge buy the property outright at half its then market value. The property has now been offered for sale on the open market.

I still await notification of the reasons behind the rejection of Lambeth's own lottery fund submission for Norwood Cemetery. When I was asked to support this bid and pledge matched funding, the document I was shown included the works required by the Consistory Court as part of the general package of works for which funding was requested. I refused to support this point blank. Apart from any other consideration, this would have meant that FOWNC were paying a proportion of Lambeth's punitive damages for their illegal acts at Norwood over the years!

Our offer of match funding (£5,000, our total assets) was conditional on removal of these items from the planned list of works to be grant aided. I was assured that this had been done before the bid was submitted, although Council officers were vague as to the amount of match funding the Heritage Lottery Board had been told we were committed to. I was never shown a bid and told that it was the final submission, nor was I given a copy of the Board's reply to Lambeth.

*Bob Flanagan*

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# Ellen Henrietta Ranyard (1810-1879)

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by Bob Flanagan



Ellen Ranyard

(Drawing by Don Bianco from a photograph<sup>1</sup>)

**T**he Ranyard Memorial Nursing Home in Blessington Road, Lewisham is a charitable foundation which represents a continuity of service reaching back to the 1850s. Its founder, Ellen Ranyard, was born at Nine Elms, the eldest daughter of John Bayley White, a successful business man and cement maker, on 9 January 1810. In 1826 Ellen and a friend, Elizabeth Saunders, caught fevers whilst visiting the sick poor. Miss Saunders died, and thenceforth Ellen, whose grandmother had presided over the Ladies Bible Committee in Kennington, regularly visited the poor and raised money for supplying them with bibles. Her family moved to Swanscombe, Kent and there she met and married Benjamin Ranyard (d. 10 March 1879, age 86) on 10 January 1839<sup>2</sup>.

Ellen, who wrote under the signature L.N.R., published several works including *The Book and Its Story*, 1852 (written for the British and Foreign Bible Society to mark its jubilee); *Nineveh and its Relicts in the British Museum*, 1852; *The Bible Collectors*, 1854; *Leaves from Life* (poems), 1855; *The Missing Link or Bible Women in the Homes of the London Poor*, 1859; *Life Work, or the Link and the Rivet*, 1861; *The True Institution of Sisterhood*, 1862; *Stones crying out and Rock-Witness to the Narratives of the Bible concerning the Times of the Jews*, 1865; *London and Ten Years Work In It*, 1868; *The Border Land and other Poems*, 1876.

### **The London Bible and Domestic Female Mission**

In 1857 Ellen and her family moved to 13 Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, Bloomsbury. She was appalled by the squalor she saw in Soho, especially around Seven Dials and St Giles' Circus. She described her first walk in the area thus<sup>1</sup>:

'An oppressive, fusty smell assails us as we pass along by the old clothes shops. The dwellers in the cellars beneath the shops are come up this afternoon to breathe the air, the hot and fetid air. The streets are filled with loiterers and loungers. Lazy, dirty women are exhibiting to one another some article of shabby finery, newly revived, which they had just bought. We search in vain amongst the ragged, sallow children for a bright face or a clean pinafore. There is not a true child-face among them all; nothing speaks of God or Nature but one basket of flowers with which a man happens to be turning the corner of the street.

'Some of the dingy windows of those upper floors are open; and, oh, what dirty haggard forms are peering out. Many a pane is stuffed with rags, and all around bespeaks a want of light and air and water. We looked up the dark courts and alleys, which had poured forth those squalid children, and which link the seven streets together, and would fain have entered, but there was something about them which seemed to say "Seek no farther, or you may never return".'

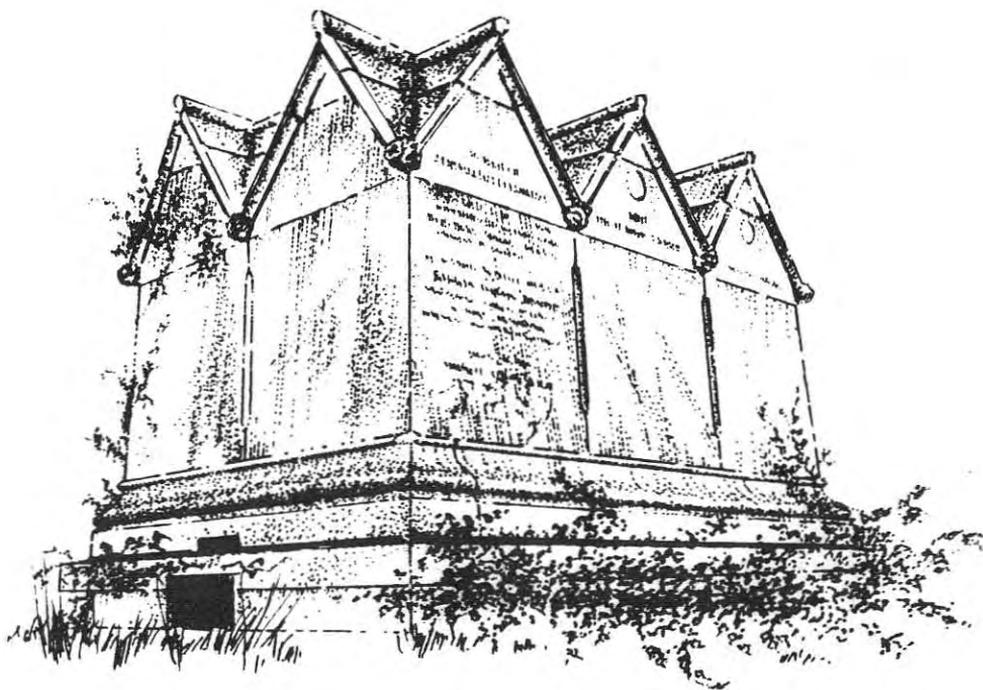
Perhaps predictably, Ellen soon founded a missionary society for supplying bibles. She enlisted the help of Marian B---, a young woman who had grown up in Soho and who had taught herself to read by spelling out words printed in shop windows. Marion's background gave her ready access to situations into which professional workers could not penetrate. The initial project to sell bibles by subscriptions of a penny a week was a success - 70 were bought in the first month by those who spent most of their waking hours in gin shops; at 20 weeks Marion had sold some 130 bibles and 120 testaments.

Mothers' meetings were instituted where those who came were taught to use soap and water, and to sew. They were also shown how to make 12 pints of nourishing soup for 10 d (4 p). By 1859, 37 Bible Women were working in various parts of London, and Ellen formed the London Bible and Domestic Female Mission under the chairmanship of the Earl of Shaftesbury<sup>3</sup>. She described her work in a periodical, *The Book and Its Mission*, which she had founded in 1856. It was renamed *The Missing Link Magazine, or Bible Work at Home and Abroad* in 1865, and was published until her death - Ellen saw her bible women as the (erstwhile missing) link between the (converted) rich and the (unconverted) poor.

The purpose of Ellen's Mission was two-fold, bible supply and the improvement of 'temporal conditions'. Although the early bible women did their best, they were untrained and had little knowledge of hygiene. In consequence, the need to have women trained to nurse the sick in their own homes became apparent. In 1868 a Nursing Branch was opened at Regent Square, Kings Cross. This served both as administrative centre and store for medical supplies. Six bible women volunteered for training as nurses. Three months were spent in hospital medical and surgical wards, with two weeks at a lying-in (maternity) hospital. This development came to the notice of Florence Nightingale who made a contribution of £20.

Ellen Ranyard died of bronchitis on 11 February 1879. Shaftesbury himself attended her funeral. Her monument, an impressive limestone family tombstone (grave 4,220, square 40) near to the Greek cemetery, still survives. At her death more than 170 bible women were employed and takings since 1857 (mostly at a penny a time) amounted to over £130,000, money which would otherwise have been probably spent on gin.

Ranyard family monument at Norwood  
(drawing by Don Bianco)



In 1879, some 70 nurses were working in the poorest districts of London and some 7,000 patients were visited regularly. In all 439 people were directly involved in the work of the Mission at home and 36 more were employed abroad.

### **The Development of the Mission**

Sadly both Ellen's daughters predeceased her, both having died aged 18. Thus her niece, Mrs Self Leonard, became her successor. The work continued with the aid of an anonymous gift of £60,000 together with substantial annual donations from the Hett family. A convalescent scheme was inaugurated and three furnished villas were made available at Southend. However, the benefits of the project were not appreciated by all. One woman is reported to have said, "I've tried one (holiday), I've been from Peckham to Deptford for a few days, but it did me no good".

By 1900 premises in Parker Street (near modern Kingsway), formerly used as a hostel, became a training centre for the Scripture aspect of the Mission. Until that time the bible women had had little or no training, and were chosen for their common sense and integrity. The need was, however, for workers who could explain as well as sell the Gospel, and to this end a 3-month training course was introduced in 1895.

The provision in 1907 of premises in Russell Square enabled all departments of the Mission to be housed together. Subsequently, the Mission was recognised as a training centre for women's work in the Diocese of London, whilst in the nursing branch, where the techniques of district visiting were taught, no candidate was accepted without having had full hospital training. Thus, the Ranyard workers gained acceptance on the staff of parishes and the Ranyard nurse, with her bicycle, became a familiar sight on the streets of London.

In this way the two branches of the work, pastoral and medical, developed independently. There were some 140 nurses, and in parts of South and East London 'Ranyard' became synonymous with 'caring'. After the outbreak of war in 1939, the workers adapted to changed circumstances, and staffed rest centres for those who had lost their homes and frequently carried out their duties in air raid shelters.

In 1953, due to the availability of other forms of church training and lack of funds, the training of Ranyard workers ceased. Twelve years later, when the National Health Act became effective, the Ranyard nurses were absorbed into the District Nursing schemes of some London boroughs. I suspect the Ranyard nurses are important in the history of district/community nursing, but I have not found time to research this area.

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## The Ranyard Memorial Nursing Home

The spirit of Ellen Ranyard then found expression in a different way<sup>4</sup>. Through the generosity of Alfred Parker, who made an initial donation of £20,000, supplemented by a substantial gift from the Ogilvie Charities, the Ranyard Memorial Nursing Home was established in Lewisham on a site provided by the Merchant Taylors' Company.

The foundation stone was laid on 12 March 1959 by the Lord Mayor of London, Sir Harold Gillett, and dedicated by Bertram Simpson, former Bishop of Southwark. The first patients were received on 1 March 1960, and the Home was officially opened by Dame Sybil Thorndyke on 17 May. The accommodation at that time consisted of 29 beds in bright, cheerful wards for 1, 2, 4 or 8 patients.

Subsequently, a further £35,000 were raised and 10 beds were added in 1968. Dame Sybil again opened the extension. In 1985 a further legacy was received from the Parker family. A day room was built in the same year and was opened by Margaret Tyzack, the well known actress who lives in Blackheath, and who had already shown her interest in the Home through a radio appeal for funds.

The Home provides a calm, peaceful and friendly atmosphere for patients in need of full time nursing care. A few of beds are reserved for short term patients, so that relatives or friends who nurse them can have a break or a holiday. The Home is administered by the Trustees of the Ranyard Memorial Charitable Trust and a Management Committee. Further support is provided by the Friends of the Home, who have helped provide additional comforts and amenities for patients; they have also established a Samaritan Fund. A plaque near the entrance reads:

*This Home was built in 1959 by the generosity of  
Alfred Charles Parker of Beckenham assisted by  
a gift from the Trustees of the Ogilvie Charities  
for the spiritual and physical care of the sick and in  
commemoration of the centenary of the Ranyard  
Mission founded by Ellen Ranyard in 1857*

1. *The World's Workers* by Lizzie Alldridge (London: Cassell & Co., 1885)
2. Their second son Arthur Cowper Ranyard (1845-94) was called to the bar at Lincoln's Inn, but from 1871 or thereabouts became well known for his work with the Royal Astronomical Society. He is said to be buried in Kingston Cemetery. More details of his life are to be found in the Dictionary of National Biography
3. Antony Ashley Cooper, 7th Earl of Shaftesbury (1801-85)
4. *The History of Ranyard* by Alfred W. Wood (published privately)

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# Sir Thomas Stevenson (1838-1908)

by Paul Graham

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**T**homas Stevenson was born at Rainton in Yorkshire and educated at John Collis Nesbit's Kennington school of agriculture and chemistry, where he studied scientific farming for a year<sup>1</sup>. In 1857 Stevenson became a medical pupil to Mr Steel of Bradford. He entered Guy's Hospital Medical School in 1859 and graduated MB, London, in 1863 and MD in 1864. He won several gold medals whilst a student. He became MRCP in 1864 and FRCP in 1871. Stevenson became demonstrator in practical chemistry at Guy's in 1864, and was lecturer in chemistry, 1870-98, and in forensic medicine, 1878-1908, in succession to the renowned Dr Alfred Swaine Taylor (1806-80). He also served as the President of the Institute of Chemistry and of the Society of Public Analysts.

In 1872 he became scientific analyst to the Home Office, rising to the position of senior analyst in 1881. In this capacity, he was involved as an expert witness in nearly all of the leading poisoning cases from 1881 until his death. He was considered an admirable witness whose evidence, delivered in a broad Yorkshire accent, was so accurate that cross-examination only served to strengthen its effect. He was the principal scientific witness in two particularly sensational cases where the chief suspects were women, demonstrating that Florence Bravo was not the only wife suspected of circumventing the tortuous Victorian divorce laws by means of poison.

## **The Pimlico Mystery**

Adelaide Bartlett was at the heart of the "Pimlico Mystery" of 1886. She was charged with the murder of her husband Edwin, owner of a string of south London grocery stores, by poisoning him with chloroform. In court it emerged that they and Methodist minister the Rev. George Dyson had comprised a *menage à trois* in a flat in Claverton Street, Pimlico. Edwin had nominated Dyson as his successor as Adelaide's husband should anything befall him. The contents of his stomach were conveyed in specimen jars to Stevenson at Guy's. He testified to the coroner that "there was no other poison beside chloroform present in the stomach."

This was the first recorded case of alleged murder by chloroform. Stevenson agreed at the Old Bailey trial that administering liquid chloroform would cause the recipient such pain as to leave him in no doubt that he was being fed a harmful substance and would leave seared places in the mouth and throat. Stevenson allowed that, whilst the drug had been used in suicide attempts, it posed massive and unpredictable problems for a would-be murderer. Stevenson's opinion was that the lethal dose had been swallowed by the victim rather than administered by his wife. Her barrister, Edward Clarke, later wrote:



Sir Thomas Stevenson  
From *Vanity Fair* 30th November 1899

"The crucial part of the case was reached when Dr Stevenson and Dr Meymott Tidy (another expert on chloroform) came into the witness box. They were both men of high character reputation and were probably the best authorities then living upon the quality of chloroform, and the method and effect of its administration, and their evidence was given with admirable fairness and caution."

Adelaide was found not guilty. This verdict clearly gratified Stevenson. Whether convinced of Adelaide's innocence or seduced by her beauty, he put aside professional detachment and wrote to congratulate her on her victory. Less convinced, or susceptible, was the eminent surgeon, Sir James Paget (1814-99), who spoke for many when he remarked: "Once it was over, she should have told us, in the interests of science, how she did it."

### **The Maybrick Case**

Mrs Florence Maybrick was the American wife of a Liverpool cotton broker. She was accused of poisoning her husband James with arsenic, a drug he regularly took to counter malaria and to act as an aphrodisiac. Eleven jars containing parts of his viscera were conveyed to Stevenson. During the trial in August 1889 he testified that he had found "about one hundredth of a grain" of arsenic in the intestines and one third of a grain of arsenic in the whole liver. None were in the stomach, bile, mouth, heart or lungs. Stevenson stated that:

"the body at the time of death probably contained a fatal dose of arsenic. I have found a little more or a little less than the quantity I did find here in undoubtedly fatal cases of arsenic poisoning."

Florence was found guilty and sentenced to death after a prejudicial summing up by the judge, who shortly afterwards was declared insane! Public and press outrage against those connected with the prosecution ensued (porters even refusing to carry Stevenson's luggage from his hotel to a cab) and the sentence was commuted to life. Florence was released in 1904 by order of the Home Secretary, after serving 15 years. She returned to America where she died in poverty surrounded by cats<sup>2</sup>.

### **Other Notable Cases**

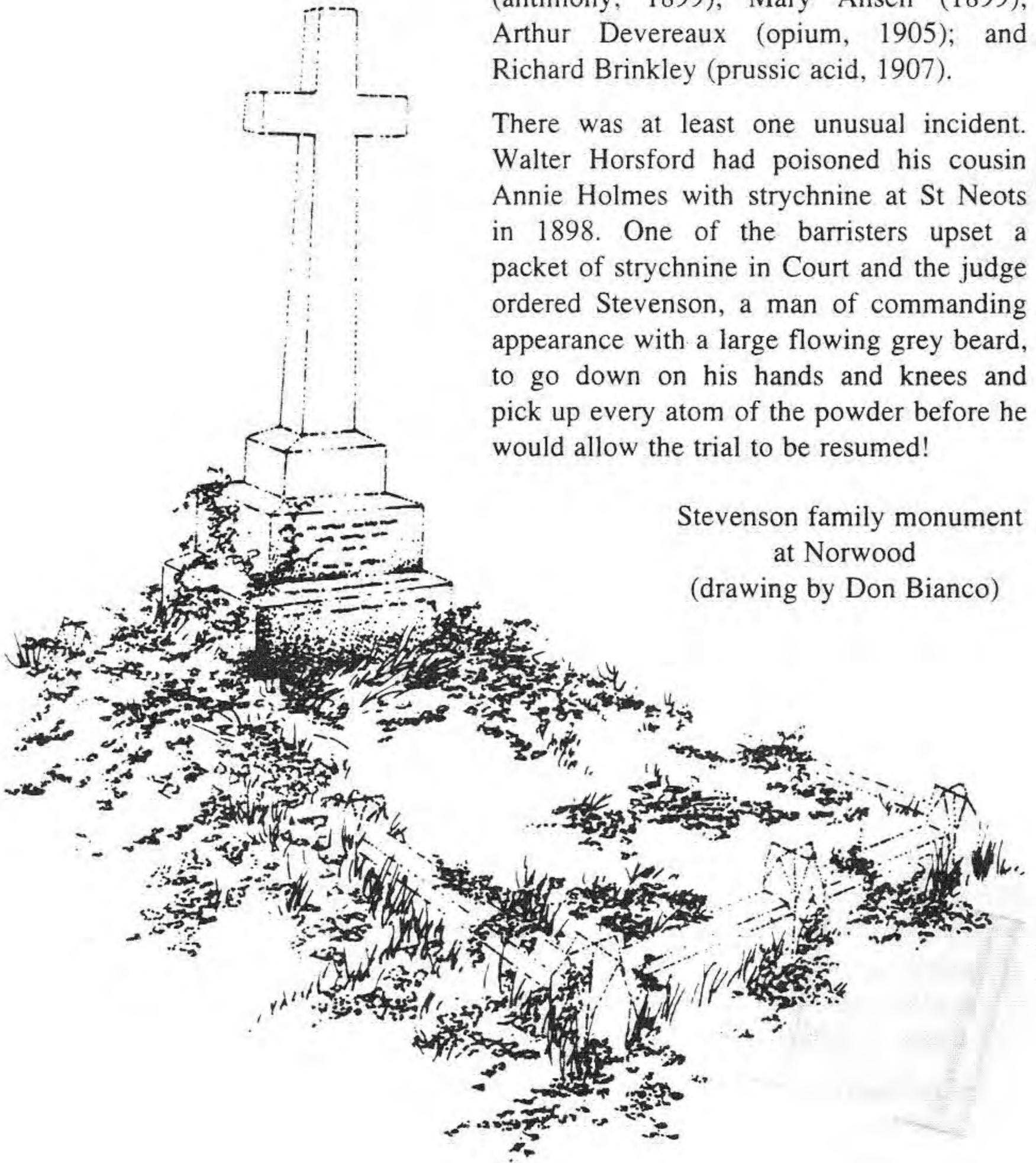
In the course of his professional duties, Stevenson also encountered a husband who killed three of his "wives". George Chapman (Severino Klosowski) was a Pole who adopted the family name of the first of his string of mistresses. He dispatched three of them of whom he had grown tired. The first, a Mrs Spink, died in 1897 after a lingering illness marked by vomiting and diarrhoea, Chapman seemingly having fed her tartar emetic (antimony potassium tartrate) on a regular basis. Her successor, Bessie Taylor went the same way in 1901. The third death, which seemed to persuade the authorities that coincidence was being stretched too far, was that of the third "wife", Maud Marsh, in 1902 at the Monument Tavern, Borough. An autopsy was carried out on her which caused the other two to be exhumed. All the bodies contained antimony. Chapman was arrested, convicted and executed in 1903.

Apart from these cases, Stevenson also gave evidence in many notable murder trials including that of the notorious serial killer Dr Thomas Neil Cream. He poisoned by strychnine Mathilda Clover in Lambeth Road in 1891. Delirium tremens was diagnosed. Only after three similar deaths of prostitutes in 1891 and 1892, was her body exhumed and the true cause of her death established. Cream was tried at the Old Bailey in October 1892 and executed at Newgate the same year.

Others cases included those of Dr George Lamson (aconite, 1882); Edward Bell (antimony, 1899); Mary Ansell (1899); Arthur Devereaux (opium, 1905); and Richard Brinkley (prussic acid, 1907).

There was at least one unusual incident. Walter Horsford had poisoned his cousin Annie Holmes with strychnine at St Neots in 1898. One of the barristers upset a packet of strychnine in Court and the judge ordered Stevenson, a man of commanding appearance with a large flowing grey beard, to go down on his hands and knees and pick up every atom of the powder before he would allow the trial to be resumed!

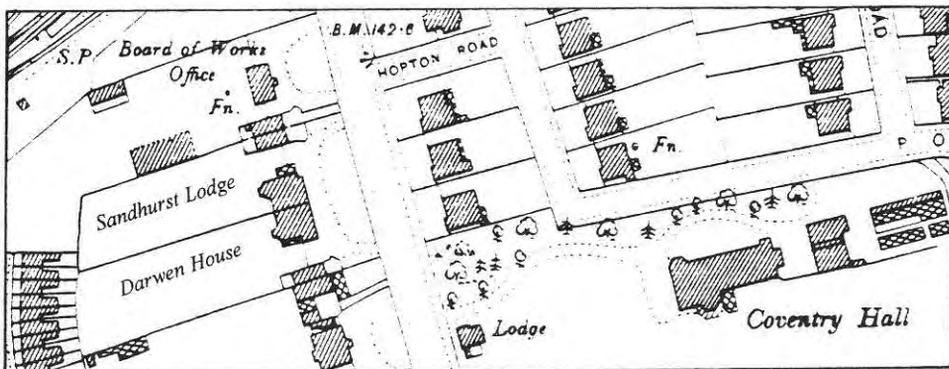
Stevenson family monument  
at Norwood  
(drawing by Don Bianco)



## Private Life

Away from the courtroom and the laboratory, Stevenson was a devout churchman, an active supporter of medical missions abroad and of church schools at home. Untypically, for a man of his age and background, he was a consistent advocate of higher education for women. One of his daughters proved the point by qualifying as a physician before entering the Indian mission field. A contemporary journalist recorded that Stevenson enjoyed a game of tennis and a glass of port after dinner.

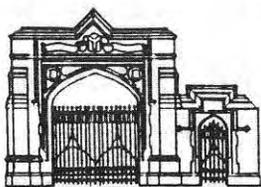
Stevenson was knighted in 1904. He died in a diabetic coma at his home, Sandhurst Lodge, Streatham High Road, on 27 July 1908. His wife Agnes (née Maberly), whom he had married in 1867, died on 18 January 1908 aged 68, and is also buried in the grave at Norwood (grave 26,543, square 95). They had two sons and five daughters. Their tombstone is extant although the cross which presumably rested on top of the shaft is missing. A portrait of Stevenson hangs in the Gordon Museum at Guy's and a caricature by "WAG" appeared in *Vanity Fair* (30 November 1899).



1894 OS Map of Streatham showing location of Sandhurst Lodge in Streatham High Road opposite Hopton Road, near Streatham Railway Station, where Sir Thomas Stevenson died on 27th July 1908

1. Nesbit (1818-1862) had studied chemistry under John Dalton (1766-1844) in Manchester. An expert on guano and other naturally-occurring phosphates, he wrote the immortal *History and Properties of Natural Guanos*, 1860. However, he is chiefly remembered as the father of the novelist Edith Nesbit. He is buried at Norwood, either in the catacombs or in the grave of his own father Anthony Nesbit (1778-1859) (grave 397, square 73) (monument destroyed)

2. For detailed accounts of the Bartlett and Maybrick cases see: *The Pimlico Murder* by Kate Clarke (1990) and *The Poisoned Life of Mrs Maybrick* by Bernard Ryan (1977), respectively



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## Recent FOWNC Events

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Jill Dudman

On 21 February, Nicholas Long opened the year's programme by showing a set of fascinating holiday slides taken on a tour made by himself and a friend, Nicholas Philpot, in NE Italy - the area inland of Venice and Trieste. The subject of their study was a series of war cemeteries and ossuaries for thousands of Italian soldiers (and some Germans) killed in the Great War. After an introduction explaining the sequence of battles in that area, we were treated to views of some remarkable and grandiose pieces of architecture, as well as fields of simple monuments formed from trees. The accompanying narrative, describing the difficulties in locating many of these sites, and the repartee between Nicholas and Nicholas, was also most amusing.

In contrast was the presentation by Jill Dudman on 21 March, involving a unique recording project by the photographer William Strudwick, who captured an extensive series of detailed views of the 1860s industrial Lambeth riverside just before it vanished with the construction of the Albert Embankment. Jill used a map of the period alongside the slide screen to explain the original road layout and indicate where each of the views was taken. The premises of several important manufacturers buried at Norwood, such as Sir Henry Doulton, James Stiff, Henry Millichamp and George Jennings, were illustrated. What little biographical information we have about the photographer is entirely due to genealogical research by George Young, who has located several Strudwick relatives buried at Norwood - unfortunately, mystery still surrounds the whereabouts of William's death and burial. The slides were kindly loaned by Lambeth Archives, who possess the original collection of photographs donated by Charles Woolley (see FOWNC Newsletter No.27, September 1996).

The summer tour season was opened by Bob Flanagan on 19 April, with a tour based on his newly published FOWNC booklet, *West Norwood Cemetery's Musicians*. In addition to the more well-known monuments of Sir August Manns, director of music at the Crystal Palace for nearly 50 years, and Sir Joseph Barnby, founder of the Royal Choral Society, the tour explored further afield to find several gravestones only recently located whilst preparing this book: organist Dr Jacob Bradford, military bandmaster Charles Hassell, pianist Alfred West, and Arnold Safroni-Middleton, composer of the BBC Radio Newsreel march, *Imperial Echoes*. One of the most attractive tombstones is that of violinist John Saunders, with its quotation of a few bars of Schubert's string quintet. Sadly, the majority of the monuments of personalities included in this booklet have disappeared. Normally priced at £3.95, the booklet is available to FOWNC members at a 33% discount.



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## Forthcoming FOWNC Events May - August 1998

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General tours will be held on the first Sunday of each month (3 May, 7 June, 5 July and 2 August). It is hoped that they will be able to include a Catacombs visit. Special tours will also be held every month as detailed below. All tours start at 14.30 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.

### **Sunday 17 May**

#### **Special Tour - Dictionary of National Biography personalities**

**Led by Paul Graham**

Over 200 men and women considered important enough to be commemorated by an entry in the Dictionary of National Biography are buried at Norwood. This tour will feature a selection of surviving gravestones.

### **Sunday 21 June**

#### **Special Tour - Personalities of the Camberwell area**

**Led by Jill Dudman**

A number of prominent residents of Camberwell and environs are buried at Norwood, including steel process inventor Sir Henry Bessemer and art collector Elhanan Bicknell.

### **Sunday 19 July**

#### **Special Tour - Architects at Norwood**

**Led by Don Bianco**

The notable architects buried here include Sir Horace Jones (Tower Bridge), John Belcher (Mappin & Webb building) and of course the cemetery's designer Sir William Tite.

### **Sunday 16 August**

#### **Special Tour - Entertainers at Norwood**

**Led by Bob Flanagan**

To coincide with the publication of another new FOWNC booklet on music hall, a miscellany of personalities including juggler Paul Cinquevalli and dancer Katti Lanner.

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## Other Forthcoming Events

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Monday 11 May - Richmond Branch, International Friendship League - Lecture: West Norwood Cemetery: The Dickens Connection by Paul Graham. Adult College, Parkshot, Richmond, 19.30.

Wednesday 20 May - Friends of Kensal Green Cemetery - Lecture: Death & the Victorians by Robert Stephenson (0171 402 2749 for details)

Saturday 23 May - Friends of Nunhead Cemetery Open Day (0181 693 6191 for details)

Saturday 11 July - Friends of Kensal Green Cemetery Open Day from 10.30 am (0171 402 2749 for details)

Saturday 11 July - St. Leonard's Church, Streatham, Summer Fete including tours of the crypt and the parish graveyard.

Tuesday 28 July - Norwood Society - Lecture: West Norwood Cemetery: The Dickens Connection by Paul Graham. All Saints' Parish Rooms, Beulah Hill SE19, 20.00. Admission £1.

Saturday 15 August - Friends of Kensal Green Cemetery - Tour of Nottingham Cemetery led by Julian Litten (0171 402 2749 for details)

### **Victorian Society Events (Details: 0181 994 1019)**

Monday 27 April - The Necropolis of the Metropolis. Lecture by Julian Litten on the six great London joint stock companies that developed the amazing Victorian cemeteries that ring London. Linnean Society, Piccadilly, 18.30. £6 + SAE or available on the door.

Sunday 30 May - Special Day, Kensal Green Cemetery led by Julian Litten, Roger Bowdler and Eric Robinson focusing on new discoveries and restoration work. Lectures, walks and coffee from 11.00. £12.50 + SAE.

Wednesday 15 July - Clapham Walk - Nicholas Long. To include St Peter (Cutts, 1878-84, screen by Bainbridge Reynolds), bandstand on the Common from 1862 exhibition, and Holy Spirit (a superb church by Burke Downing, 1912-13), the fine Windmill pub, and more besides. 18.30, Clapham Common tube, by the clock tower. £5 on the day.

Saturday 15 August - West Norwood Cemetery Walk - Brent Elliott. Meet at entrance, Norwood High Street, 14.00. £5 on the day.

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## The Cemetery in 1876

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A recent acquisition from a second-hand bookstall has resulted in the discovery of an interesting, if somewhat brief, reference to West Norwood Cemetery. It is contained in a two volume edition of *Handbook to the Environs of London* by James Thorn which was published in 1876. The entry reads:

The *Norwood South Metropolitan Cemetery*, founded in 1836, one of the earliest of the great metropolitan cemeteries, occupies 40 acres of the northern slopes of a hill at Lower Norwood, parts of which command good views across Sydenham, Penge, and Beckenham. The grounds are well laid out, but are becoming crowded with monuments. Many men of mark have their last resting place here.

It is interesting to note that some 40 years after the cemetery was opened it was 'becoming crowded with monuments'.

### Friends of West Norwood Cemetery

The annual subscription to the Friends of West Norwood Cemetery is £2. For further information please contact the Membership Secretary.

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## FOWNC OFFICERS

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### Chairman & Publications Officer:

Bob Flanagan,  
79 Durban Road,  
London SE27 9RW  
Tel: 0181 670 3265

### General Secretary:

Jill Dudman,  
119 Broxholm Road,  
London SE27 OBJ  
Tel: 0181 670 5456

### Hon Treasurer:

George Young,  
12 Swinburne Court,  
Denmark Hill, London SE5 8EP  
Tel: 0171 274 5267

### Membership Secretary:

Rosemary Comber,  
63 Bradley Road,  
London SE19 3NT  
Tel: 0181 653 2741

### Conservation Coordinator:

Paul Graham,  
Flat 4, 9 St. Andrew's Road,  
Surbiton, Surrey KT6 4DT  
Tel: 0181 287 6976

### Events Officer:

Tony Fletcher,  
11 Claverdale Road,  
London SW2 2DJ  
Tel: 0181 671 6551

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