

Friends of West Norwood CEMETERY

Newsletter No. 63 - September 2008

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Chairman's Report

by Bob Flanagan

Cemetery Open Day

This year's Open Day was held on 7 June, organised by Avril Kirby, site manager, and her staff, who provided help with researching burial records in the office and tours of the crematorium. The usual attractions of horse-drawn and motorcycle hearses and funeral directors' displays were present, and Lambeth park rangers led nature walks. In the chapel, organ recitals alternated with showings of the Engel Entertainment 'Dead Art' DVD about the cemetery. The FOWNC bookstall in the Maddick mausoleum was busy all day, with the new guide book and the DVD selling especially well. We also put on two guided tours, which each attracted around 20 people.



Deputy Mayor Cllr. Chris Wellbelove and Lambeth Cemeteries Manager Ken Dry at the opening of the Memorial Garden



The Worshipful Charles George QC and the memorial plaque to Spencer John Bent VC, MM

A highlight of the day was the rededication of the new Memorial Garden by Lambeth Deputy Mayor Councillor Chris Wellbelove. The garden is the result of a £250,000 renovation funded by the Council under the auspices of the Scheme of Management Committee (SoMC) chaired by Nicholas Long and the Management Advisory Group that I chair. The Worshipful Charles George QC, Chancellor of the Diocese of Southwark, then unveiled a plaque to Victoria Cross holder Spencer John Bent who was cremated at Norwood (see FOWNC Newsletter 61, January 2008). Some 60 people attended the ceremonies.



SoMC Chair Nicholas Long releases a white dove watched by the Venerable Christopher Skilton, Archdeacon of Lambeth

Cemetery Issues

Sadly the cemetery Open Day was Avril Kirby's last event with us as she has been appointed Cemeteries Manager for the London Borough of Southwark. Avril has been a good friend to FOWNC and we wish her well in her new role. We do have a permanent record of her, however, as she features on our DVD!

On other matters, the crematorium is now closed for a few months for refurbishment. It had been hoped to coordinate this with further work on the roadways leading up to the crematorium, but this has not proved possible. Scrub clearance is a continuing problem, and whilst the capital programme has largely succeeded in removing the worst growths of ivy from the walls and railings, much more needs to be done to try to safeguard many monuments from further damage. FOWNC Vice-chair Colin Fenn aims to coordinate some 'gardening parties' in the Autumn (contact details, p. 16).

Finally, the 23 July SoMC meeting resolved to seek Counsel's opinion on the legal status of the cemetery. This is in the context of the reuse of graves powers set out in the *London Local Authorities Act 2007* and their applicability to the South Metropolitan Cemetery. The SoMC is anxious to press ahead with the long-term plan for the cemetery and a definitive understanding of the legal position in relation to reuse is essential before detailed work commences.

Park Hall Trading Estate

Somewhat ironically in view of Colin Fenn's report on 'Future Norwood' (p. 4), SoMC Chair Nicholas Long and I have been invited to consult with representatives of the site owners (planning consultant and architect) over redevelopment of the northern section of this estate, i.e. the corner adjoining Robson Road. A member of Lambeth's planning office was present as an observer. The plans discussed envisaged retaining and enhancing the mixed light industrial use of the area, and as presented are extremely sympathetic to the need to respect and enhance the NE corner of the cemetery adjacent to the new Memorial Garden. Early consultation with stakeholders on an enlightened plan, a contrast indeed to Lambeth's own machinations over *Future Norwood*...

Tower Bridge to Babylon

Members may recall the review (FOWNC Newsletter 57, September 2006) of *Tower Bridge to Babylon: the Life and Work of Sir John Jackson, Civil Engineer* by Patricia Spencer-Silver. The publishers are now offering this excellent 240-page hardback at £20 (incl P&P). To order, please send your name, address, and cheque to Six Martlets Publishing, PO Box 7480, Sudbury CO10 9WP. Further details of the book can be found on the Newcomen Society website (<http://www.newcomen.com/books.htm>).

The Cemetery on TV

Committee member John White reports that the cemetery is to feature in a new series of *Minder*, with Shane Ritchie playing the role of Arthur Daley's nephew. The series is being made for Talkback Thames and will be shown on Channel Five next year. Use of the cemetery in this way presumably earns revenue for Lambeth, but does rather conflict with the principle that the cemetery is a place of reverence for the repose of the dead and in the consecrated areas (more than two thirds of the cemetery) not least, an area where the sanctity of Christian burial should be upheld. Perhaps in the end it all depends on the storyline. Doubtless we will find out in due course...

National Federation of Cemetery Friends

This year's AGM was hosted by the Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park. The youngest of the original 'magnificent seven' London commercial cemeteries (founded 1841), Tower Hamlets has had a difficult history since 1945, but nevertheless still contains some magnificent monuments and is an oasis of calm in the busy East End of London. Don Bianco, Pam Gray, and I represented FOWNC. The meeting followed the usual format of tours of the cemetery in the morning, with the AGM being held in the afternoon. The usual topics also featured, grave reuse and memorial safety predominating. There was also discussion of the forthcoming Association of Significant Cemeteries in Europe (ASCE) AGM, which is to be hosted by the Friends of Flaybrick Memorial Gardens, Wirral, in September.

Lambeth's 'Future Norwood' Regeneration Plans

by Colin Fenn

In December 2007 Lambeth Council approved plans that could allow the area between York Hill and Lansdowne Hill off Norwood Road to be redeveloped into a supermarket with housing and a public square.

Lambeth sent a consultation document to local residents on further changes to the master plan for West Norwood/Tulse Hill in July. Major changes such as pedestrianisation of Norwood High Street (at least in part), with two-way traffic restored to Knights Hill, are mooted yet neither TfL, nor the railway companies are involved (and in fact the railway company has independently suggested reducing the frequency of services).

While acknowledging the cemetery as a landmark, some of the suggested options were:

- (i) to open up new gates and paths in the cemetery,
- (ii) to rebuild West Norwood library with new housing above it, and
- (iii) to replace Park Hall industrial estate behind the new memorial garden with up to 500 new homes.

There had been no prior consultation with Lambeth's own cemetery management (!), English Heritage, or FOWNC. We have therefore submitted a formal response noting that we would be pleased to see positive developments within West Norwood, but listing our concerns about inappropriate developments that would degrade the Conservation Area around the cemetery. We also pointed out the obstacles to creating new access routes through the cemetery. Not only have the paths to now-closed gates been filled with graves by Lambeth, but also the additional operating costs of maintaining safety and security in the cemetery would be prohibitive.

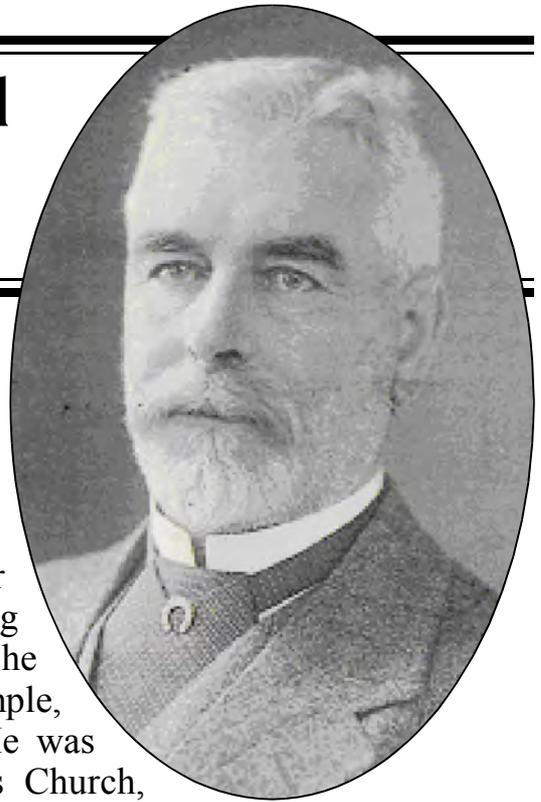
A further point made was to emphasize the visitor potential of the cemetery, and the benefit of tourism to the Norwood economy – in so doing we had to point out that Lambeth's description of the cemetery as the '*Highgate of South London*' just did not do justice to this internationally important site.

We fear that public expectations have been set unrealistically high because of these oversights. Nevertheless, the exercise may prove to be an opportunity to raise the profile of the cemetery, and we will seek to engage with Lambeth's Regeneration Department over the plans.

Sir James Arndell Youl (1810-1904)

by Bob Starling

James Arndell Youl, my great great grandfather, was an important figure in the development of Van Diemen's Land, now Tasmania. His father the Reverend John Youl was a missionary with the London Missionary Society, serving in Tahiti 1800-7. Returning to Sydney he became the minister and schoolmaster at Ebenezer Church, Portland Head, near Windsor. After being ordained as an Anglican priest in England in 1815, he was appointed to the Chaplaincy at Port Dalrymple, Tasmania, taking up this appointment in 1819. He was largely responsible for the building of St John's Church, Launceston, which he opened for worship in 1825.



James Arndell Youl

James was born at Caddai, near Windsor, New South Wales (NSW) on 28 December 1810. He was called 'Arndell' after Thomas Arndell, Assistant Surgeon to the new settlement in Australia, who sailed with the First Convict Fleet in 1787. He was at school in England when news reached him of his father's death in 1827. He promptly assumed the position of head of the family at the property in Van Diemen's Land that had been acquired from 1819. James was awarded 500 acres of land at Symmons Plains in 1827. His male siblings also received similar land grants from the Crown. By 1828 James had purchased several other grants from the families of Bostock, Lucas, McNab, and Smith.

James was appointed JP (1837) and a magistrate, and was keenly interested in public affairs. He married Eliza Cox on 9 July 1839 at *Clarendon*, Evandale, Tasmania. Eliza was born 25 August 1817 at Richmond, NSW, the second daughter of Lieutenant William Cox (1789-1850) and Elizabeth Piper (1792-1872) of Hobartville, Richmond, NSW. William Cox Jnr, eldest son of William Cox snr, is now best remembered for building the first road over the Blue Mountains. James and Eliza had five boys and eight girls.

In 1833 James developed his grazing interests and carried a stud of Camden Merions with the nucleus obtained from James Cox family at *Clarendon* until 1854 when he sold them to William Gibson of Scone. The stud became one of the most famous in Australia. James was also a shareholder in the English, Scottish and Australian Bank Ltd, and a director of the Commercial Banking Company of Sydney.

Originally the Youl family homestead at Symmons Plains consisted of three small locations that had been purchased by John Youl before August 1826. In 1839 James built the 16-room two-storeyed house as it stands today, using convict labour and bricks made on the property. James managed Symmons Plains for many years.

Symmons Plains has remained continuously in the Youl family. Today it comprises 8,000 acres and carries approximately 20,000 sheep and 600 Hereford cattle. Some 1,000 head of cattle are bred on Clark Island of the Furneaux Group and are brought back to the homestead property for fattening prior to market. Situated on the South Esk River, the homestead is surrounded by magnificent 100-year-old oaks in a spacious lawn and well-kept gardens sloping down to the river.

In 1854 James, Eliza and possibly the first eight children left to live in England at Clapham Park, where their children could be educated. Symmons Plains was leased to small farmers until 1875. Eliza died 4 January 1881 at *Waratah House*, Clapham Park and was placed in Catacomb N46 at Norwood on 10 January. James then married Charlotte Robertson, youngest daughter of Richard Williams of Philipville, British Legation, Brussels, and the widow of William Robertson of *Caldecott House*, Clapham Park, on 30 September 1882 at the house of Her Britannic Majesty's Legation at Brussels. There was no issue from the marriage of James and Charlotte. James died from bronchitis on 5 June 1904 and was buried at Norwood (grave 31,004, square 104) on 12 October 1904. His monument still survives, albeit having lost the cross that presumably surmounted the plinth. His estate was valued at £159,853. Harry and Eliza Youl also now lie in the grave.



Harry Youl was born 4 March 1841 at Symmons Plains, Tasmania. Educated at Sandhurst, he was gazetted 1 July 1859 as Cornet in the 4th Light Dragoons, afterwards the 4th Queen's Own Hussars. He purchased his release 1 February 1864, and sailed from Plymouth for Melbourne in the *Monarch* in May 1864. He went to Burrawong, NSW, 40 miles from Forbes, as manager of a station which had been changed from cattle to sheep. On 9 February 1867 at St John's Church, Heidelberg, Victoria he married Emma Mary Gear Martin (born 6 July 1844 at Heidelberg, Victoria, died Cheltenham, England 24 June 1916). He returned to Melbourne for a time, then in 1870 moved to England with wife and child to *Waratah House*, Clapham Park. He eventually took a house in Upper Tulse Hill, but died 5 March 1876 at Brentford or Chiswick, aged 35. He too was interred in Catacomb N46 (10 March 1876).

Harry Youl (1841-1876)

Photograph courtesy of John Lawrie from a ceramic portrait

Agent General in London

James Youl had visited Tasmania in 1860 and next year the government appointed him their honorary accredited agent in London. He left Melbourne for London on the *Behar* in January 1861. A commissioner for the 1862 London International Exhibition, he reported on the display of Tasmanian timber overseas and on remedial measures to overcome prejudice against their use, especially in ship-building. For seven years he was honorary secretary and treasurer of the Australian Association, which persuaded the British government to improve mail services to Australia and to accept Australian sovereigns as legal tender in Britain. In 1868 he was a founder and vice-president of the Colonial Society (Royal Colonial Institute), London, and from February-October 1888 acted as Agent General for Tasmania.

In England, Youl undertook many services for the colony over some 50 years. From his experience in Tasmania, he was well acquainted with its political, social, and commercial conditions and requirements. He was thus able to impart information to British statesmen that was useful to them and to the colony especially in the early days of Parliamentary government.

The Introduction of Salmon and Trout

James Youl achieved lasting fame by introducing trout and salmon to Australia and New Zealand. Attempts in 1841 and 1852 had failed because of the difficulty of keeping eggs alive *en route* to Tasmania. His shipments of ova on the *Curling* in 1860 and *Beautiful Star* in 1862 also failed. The length of the voyage, rough weather, and the heat of the tropics, combined to make what appeared to be insurmountable obstacles in the days before refrigeration.

Dr Matthias Gaunt of Launceston had suggested early in 1860 that perhaps the ova could be frozen in England and hurried out in a fast ship. But when Professor TH Huxley was asked about the idea, he told William Archer of the *Cheshnut*, at Deloraine, who had been in touch with him on the matter, that freezing would undoubtedly kill them; and several trials proved that he was right.

At this stage, James Youl started experimenting. He placed salmon ova in the underground vaults of the Wenham Lake Ice Company, where tons of ice-blocks for summer use were cut and stored each winter. But he did not put them in direct contact with the ice itself. There he left them for the length of time a boat might be expected to take to reach Tasmania – 120 days – and watched them hatch, which was normal enough, but much slower than it otherwise would have been.

James Youl wrote to his friends in Tasmania telling them of the success of his experiment, saying that he was very hopeful now of transporting the ova safely round the world by packing them in ice. Governor Gore Brown at Hobart heard the news with delight, and, after discussing the matter fully with both Houses of Parliament, appointed Commissioners to find a place to put the ova, if they should happen to survive the long journey, and make all the other necessary arrangements for their reception.

Mr G F Read of *Redlands* at New Norfolk gave three acres of land a mile from his homestead to create salmon and trout ponds on the River Plenty, a site that had been chosen by the Commission as being ideal. Here there was an abundance of cool, fresh, running water; the bed of the river suitably gravelly, and the depth of the Derwent, where the Plenty joined it, was exactly right for the salmon, which of course must have access to the ocean to gain their full development. Another strong point was that the ship bringing the eggs would be able to come within easy distance of the hatching ponds.

Tremendous interest in the scheme was now shown all over the country, both here and on the mainland. The Tasmanian Government made money available to help with the expenses, and New Zealand contributed £200. Finally, the first consignment of ova left England in 1862, under the care of Mr William Ramsbottom, who, with his father, had had long experience in dealing with salmon and their ova.

But the *Beautiful Star* on which they were coming was delayed by engine trouble and the need for repairs took longer than expected. After a passage of over five months, in spite of the careful treatment they had received, all the ova were dead. Rust from the iron tanks of the water supply had covered and killed some of them, and the gravel the eggs were resting on in the glass troughs had shifted with the pitching of the vessel and killed the remainder. One trough packed by James Youl with the ova resting on moss had survived longer than the others.

It was a bitter disappointment for everyone concerned, but James Youl was not easily beaten. Writing to his friend in Tasmania he said 'I have noticed while in Paris that both the salmon and trout ova are being constantly sent considerable distances packed in wet moss. But I was informed that they would not live many days in it, and even then, their eyes must be developed before they could be safely moved'.

Other experiments had proved that the ova could live without light or air, and that not even a continuous supply of fresh water was necessary. By 1864, James Youl was ready to try again. He had little trouble in persuading the owners of the ship *Norfolk* to let him have fifty tons of valuable space for this exciting second attempt, and generously the owners of the ship refused payment of a hundred guineas that Youl offered them out of his own pocket.

The ship's ice-house was very carefully fitted out – the best ships of that period had ice-houses, even the *Beautiful Star* had had one – for preserving fruit, milk and vegetables as long as possible during lengthy voyages.

One hundred and eighty-one pine boxes were prepared. They measured 12 x 8 x 5 inches, and they were perforated at the top, bottom, and sides. Small lumps of charcoal covered the bottom of each box, to keep the water clean, and on top of the charcoal was a layer of broken ice, and, most important of all, fresh, carefully washed, living moss was then added, with the roots attached, to form a nest for the ova, and, it was hoped, supply a certain amount of oxygen. Another layer of moss covered the eggs, then more crushed ice. When the contents of the boxes had been saturated with ice water, the lids were screwed down tightly. Altogether there were 100,000 salmon and 3,000 trout ova in this shipment. The boxes were packed closely on the floor of the ice-house, with 25 tons of ice in square blocks piled nine feet high on top of them.

Of course, nothing could be done to prevent the ice from melting slowly during the voyage, but the ice-house was insulated as well as possible, and the ova were expected to benefit as long as the ice lasted. The door was then locked and sealed, for no other water than that from the melting ice was to be introduced, although careful provision for drainage was installed.

The *Norfolk* left England on 21 January 1864. After a hurried, but uneventful voyage, she reached Melbourne on 15 April. There the ice-house was unlocked, while everyone held their breath, and to the intense satisfaction of the little crowd, it was learned that more than half the ice had not melted. And when a few boxes were inspected, the ova seemed in good condition.

The precious boxes were immediately transferred to a Government steamer, which had been secured for the purpose by Edward Wilson, President of the Acclimatization Society of Victoria. The little ship steamed at full speed across Bass Strait, with smoke

belching from her funnel, down the east coast of Tasmania and up the Derwent to New Norfolk. There boxes were wrapped in blankets with some of the remaining ice and carried, slung on bamboo poles, by forty bearers, over four miles of rough bush track to the salmon ponds.

Wooden troughs, with gravel covering the bottom, were ready waiting, and water from the Plenty was flowing gently through them. Carefully the layers of moss, with the ova resting on them, were laid in the troughs, and the water gradually carried them on to the gravel.

Mr Morton Allport, chief of the Hobart committee, and Mr Ramsbottom, who had come from England with them, then announced, that as far as they could see, 15,000 of the salmon ova and 300 trout ova were still living. It was discovered that in all the boxes where the moss was still fresh and green after the 91 day voyage, the ova were still living, but where the moss had died the ova had generally died with it. The whole cost of the scheme had been £700.

On 4 May, the first trout emerged, and on the following day the first salmon ever to swim in the Southern Hemisphere were hatched; two hundred healthy young trout and several thousand salmon all told. Twice a day they were fed on boiled liver and constant guard was kept over them. But most of the trout escaped into the Derwent, where one was taken four years later that weighed 9¼ lb. In 1865 2,000 splendid young salmon were released to make the perilous, but necessary journey to the sea, but none of them ever returned.

James Youl, Sir Robert Officer and Sir James Agnew, with Mr Morton Allport, were all closely connected with the coming of salmon, salmon trout and brown trout to Tasmania, and from here they were finally shipped to the rivers of Australia and New Zealand. It had been one of the most successful and exciting experiments in the whole history of acclimatisation. Youl was created CMG in 1874 and KCMG in 1891 for the part he had played in bringing about the transportation of the salmon and trout ova.

The Tasmanian commissioners investigating the achievement reported in 1864 that: ‘The untiring zeal and indefatigable exertions of Mr. Youl stand forth conspicuous, and have been mainly instrumental in bringing the present experiment to a successful issue.’ They described the results of experiments that he had directed in 1863 as ‘one of the most valuable discoveries ever yet made in the art of pisciculture’.



***Youl Family Monument at Norwood
(grave 31,004, square 104)***

Continued on page 15.

William Collingwood Smith (1815-87) Painter in Watercolours

by Betty Griffin



William Collingwood Smith

My first article on this subject (FOWNC Newsletter 49, January 2004) attracted internet contacts from around the world. In addition, former FOWNC treasurer George Young has kindly carried out some family history research, and has examined the tombstone. As a result, more information is available and some errors have come to light.

My correspondent in this country has been Alan J Smith, a direct descendant of Collingwood Smith and his first wife. Collingwood Smith married Sarah Watson at Cheltenham in March 1838, and their son John Alfred was born at Islington in June 1844. The family tree from there is somewhat obscure, and what happened to Sarah and John Alfred remains a mystery.

The statement, taken from the *Dictionary of British Artists*, that Jane Sophia Egerton, an artist, was married to Collingwood Smith, has proved to be erroneous. It is probable that she was a student studying at his school of art in Streatham Hill. She died in the late 1850s.

Collingwood Smith's second wife was Louisa Triquet. They married at Camberwell in June 1847, and their son William Harding was born there in September 1848. Louisa died in 1910, aged about 85. William Harding, also an artist, lived in Streatham Hill and died in 1923, unmarried with no children. Father, mother and son are all buried together (grave 21,669, square 86), and their names are recorded on the tombstone.



William Collingwood Smith - Harvest scene: 21.8 x 52 cm



William Collingwood Smith - Ilfracombe: 16.8 x 51.4 cm

Another correspondent has been John Harbold in Maryland, USA. He is very interested in Collingwood Smith's work, and has collected reproductions of paintings and sketches by him, together with a few original works. Those reproduced here include a view which is not named, but could have been sketched from the top of Brixton Hill or Streatham Hill, when the area was farmland, possibly with London to the right; a view of Ilfracombe, Devon; and a view near Bakewell.

Collingwood Smith is known to have drawn a couple of local sketches: a view of the mill at the top of Brixton Hill, near Morrish Road, which was demolished about 1858; and a view of Streatham Common in 1871.

Illustrations of paintings are all watercolour with touches of bodycolour over pencil on paper, reproduced courtesy of John Harbold.



William Collingwood Smith - Near Bakewell, Derbyshire: 34.5 x 50.8 cm

Theatre Review

by Paul Graham

Oh! Smith – The King of Terror.

New Model Theatre, The Guildhall, Bury St. Edmunds, 12 May 2008.



Oh! Smith – The King of Terror
(programme detail, photo: Rainer Sennewald)

The life and stage career of Richard John Smith (1786-1855), popularly known as O. Smith after his success as Obi in the melodrama *Three Fingered Jack* at the Surrey Theatre in 1829, was celebrated in this production, which formed part of the Bury Festival. Written by Robert Poulter, who expertly operated the toy theatre and supplied the voices of the other characters, and with Peter Baldwin as Smith, the actor's fame for playing demons, bandits, assassins, monsters and pirates was affectionately recalled.

Any reservations that a Georgian toy theatre would be too restricted a canvas to do justice to Smith's reputation as a portrayer of larger-than-life characters were soon allayed. In a brief biographical introduction Smith was described as a performer of 'terrible parts', which the subsequent enactments of scenes from some of his greatest melodramatic triumphs demonstrated was clearly a phrase that could be taken in both a literal and a colloquial sense. As the Monster in *Frankenstein* (1826) Smith was restricted to inarticulate grunts, but in long neglected pieces such as *The Bottle Imp* (1828), *The Black Vulture* (1830), and *The Wreck Ashore* (1831), Mr Baldwin could give full reign to the demonic laugh for which Smith was famous, and which was characterised by Dickens as 'belonging only to poets and Mr O. Smith of the Adelphi Theatre'.

During the run of *The Bottle Imp* at the Lyceum Smith wrote, tongue very firmly in cheek, to the management that:

'For the last five years of my life, I have played nothing but demons, devils, monsters and assassins, and this line of business, however amusing it may be to the public, or profitable to managers, has proved totally destructive to my peace of mind, detrimental to my interests, and injurious to my health. I find myself banished from all respectable society; what man will receive the devil upon friendly terms, or introduce A Demon into his family circle? My infernal reputation follows me everywhere...'

Some episodes that were dramatised from Smith's early life outside the theatre were fascinating. At seventeen he joined the crew of a merchant ship and rescued two Africans who had been captured and were otherwise destined to be enslaved. Back in England, as a young provincial actor, he attempted to walk over the Pennines from

Sheffield to Rochdale in a February snowstorm. This time it was his turn to be rescued – by a dog who attracted its master to Smith’s desperate plight. Smith was a talented watercolourist, and had worked as a theatrical scene painter alongside Clarkson Stanfield.

Both the begetters of this entertainment are clearly enthusiasts for Victorian toy theatre and for the reputation of those who trod the boards of the real thing. They are to be congratulated for devising this entertaining labour of love. See http://www.theatreroyal.org/PEO/site/whats_on/index.php?nav=details&sc=10897 for more details including a couple of images of the production.

Smith is buried at Norwood in grave 4,385, square 19. Sadly, his monument was subsequently destroyed and his grave re-used.

Book Review

by Bob Flanagan

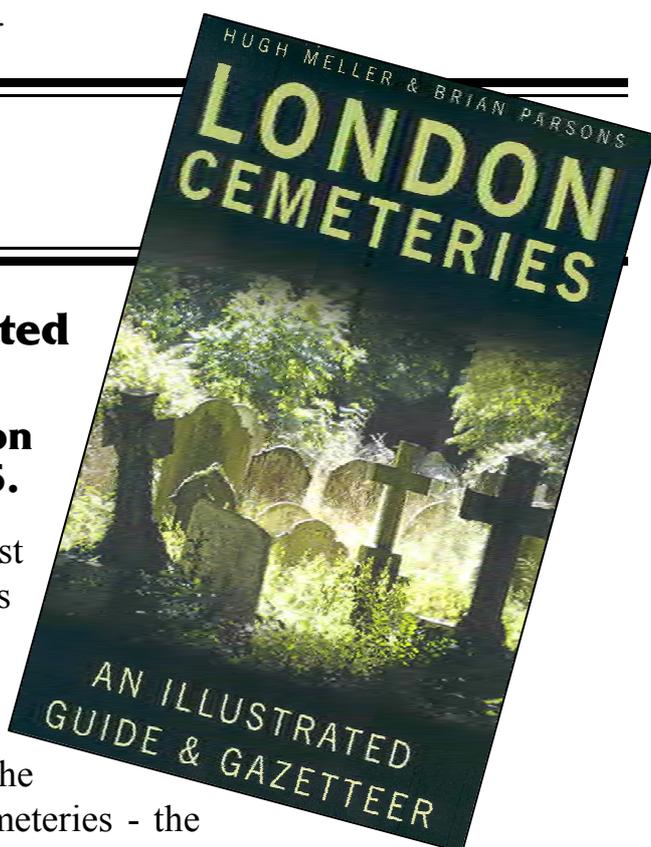
London Cemeteries: An Illustrated Guide and Gazetteer.

Hugh Meller & Brian Parsons. Edition 4. The History Press. Hardback, £25.

After the fiascos of editions 2 and 3, at last proper justice has been done to Hugh Meller’s classic work, first published in 1981, that helped inspire many of us to help safeguard what remains of London’s heritage of funerary monuments. It brings together all the aspects I find of such interest in visiting cemeteries - the history of the cemetery itself, its buildings and monuments, and the histories of those buried or otherwise commemorated there.

As before, the introductory chapters provide information on the history, planning, monuments and buildings, flora and fauna and epitaphs, while the gazetteer gives details of 126 cemeteries in the London area. Summary details of some 2,000 notables buried or commemorated in each place are also included. The book is illustrated with over 230 photographs, including many rare archive images. Unfortunately the scanning has gone awry in a couple of them, but this is a minor quibble.

This is a great book to dip into. I’m sure it and its successors will continue to inform Londoners and visitors alike about this important aspect of our Capital’s heritage for many years to come.





Forthcoming FOWNC Events September-December 2008

General tours will be held on the first Sunday of each month. Tours on 7 September and 5 October start at 14.30, and tours on 2 November and 7 December start at 11.00, at the cemetery main gate off Norwood Road, and they last for 1½-2 hours. There is no formal charge, but we welcome donations of £1 per person (£0.50 concessions) towards conservation projects. The new cemetery guidebook that is designed to accompany these tours will be on sale (£2.50).

Sunday 21 September: Open House London

This is a London-wide free event in which buildings normally closed to the public open their doors. There will be tours of the cemetery starting at the main gate at 14.00, 14.30 and 15.00, each lasting 1½ hours and finishing at the Greek Chapel, which will be open for viewing.

The FOWNC bookstall will be on display in the Maddick mausoleum. Volunteers for stewarding and the bookstall will be most welcome – please contact Jill Dudman!

Saturday 27 September, 14.00:

Special Tour - Mausolea and Monuments Trust

FOWNC Chair Bob Flanagan will lead a special tour starting at the main gate, in memory of Dr Thomas Cocke, who died this year and was a major inspiration behind the work of the Mausolea and Monuments Trust (www.mausolea-monuments.org.uk). Bob's tour will concentrate on mausolea and other major monuments, past and present, and may include access to the Catacombs. FOWNC members welcome (£3 donation to the Trust requested).

Autumn Lectures

Talks will be held at Chatsworth Baptist Church, Chatsworth Way (off Norwood Road), SE27 (enter by second door on right in Idmiston Road) as detailed below, starting at 14.30. There is no formal charge, but we welcome donations of £1 per person to help cover the room hire.

Saturday 18 October: AGM and lecture - London Cemeteries: A Look at the Twentieth Century by Brian Parsons

Following the AGM, this presentation will focus on the development of cemeteries in London during the last one hundred years. Brian has worked in the London funeral

industry for over 25 years and is the editor of *Funeral Service Journal*. He has just helped produce Edition 4 of Hugh Meller's classic work *London Cemeteries: an Illustrated Guide and Gazetteer* (see Book review, p. 13).

Saturday 22 November: Lecture -

Indignities Suffered by the Famous Dead, by Robert Stephenson

[Note: fourth Saturday this month]

This illustrated talk tells the shameful tale of posthumous ignominy inflicted on some notable corpses over the last thousand years. Robert is a qualified City of London guide, a tour leader at Kensal Green and Brompton cemeteries, and a long-term FOWNC member. He teaches on London and on death studies.

Other Forthcoming Events

Saturday 8 November, 10.00-17.00:

Lambeth Archives Open Day

Minet Library, 52 Knatchbull Road, SE5. This year's theme is 'Celebrating a century' – in commemoration of the opening of Lambeth Town Hall in 1908. The FOWNC bookstall will be present as usual – volunteers please!

Sir James Arndell Youl (1810-1904)

Continued from page 9

PS Seager (*Concise History of the Acclimatisation of the Salmonidae in Tasmania*, 1888), attributes to him ‘the first practical attempt to test what had previously been many times suggested’:

“Youl wrote later that, when he had first begun to study the problem of transportation of ova he knew as much about the subject ‘as a waggon horse’, yet he succeeded by rejecting accepted ideas and employing a systematic and scientific approach. When success ultimately came he claimed no credit for the idea which, he said, had first been suggested to him in Paris. As well as a determination to succeed, Youl possessed wit, tact and great personal charm.”

New Zealand presented a silver cup to him – the cup is still in the possession of the Youl Family – and in 1866 he received the gold medal of La Société d’Acclimatisation. Not only has fly-fishing now become a major tourist attraction in Tasmania, but more than 13,000 tons of salmon and trout are farmed for the dinner plates of Australia.

CEMETERY DVD

In the summer of 2007 a US film-making company, Engel Entertainment, visited Norwood. Brent Elliott (Vice-chair of the Management Advisory Group), Avril Kirby (Site Manager) and Bob Flanagan spent some three days in total with them in the cemetery, including the annual open day. The result is a very well produced 27-minute programme on DVD, giving something of the flavour of the cemetery and of its history, with commentary by the above three as well as the US presenter.

Famous 'residents' such as Mrs Beeton and Charles Bravo are featured, along with architecturally notable monuments and the open day activities. The programme is part of a series with the running title 'Dead Art', and was shown at our March meeting. We now have limited stocks of the Norwood DVD for sale, at £8.50 (incl. p&p) from Jill Dudman or Bob Flanagan, contact details opposite.

Friends of West Norwood Cemetery

The annual subscription to the Friends of West Norwood Cemetery is £3. For further information please contact the Secretary.

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