

Friends of West Norwood CEMETERY

Newsletter No. 98 – May 2020

Free to members

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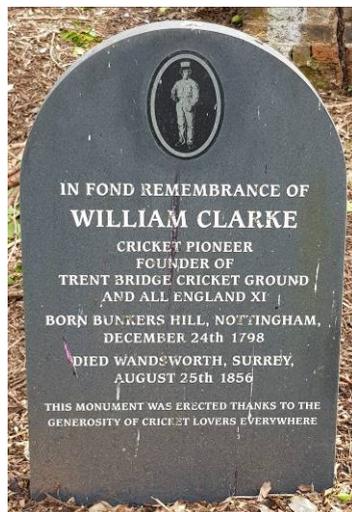
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Chairman's Report

Bob Flanagan

Whilst all our events are on hold pending resolution of the coronavirus pandemic, cemetery matters continue. Firstly, there has been little progress as regards the NLHF project save that I had a meeting with their public engagement consultant, and a quantity surveyor has been appointed. There has, however, been progress with scrub clearance. Most notably areas on either side of Ship path have been cleared revealing a number of fine tombs including that of engineer Joseph Maudslay (1801–1861; grave 4,361, square 77), which was restored in 2004.

Surprisingly the clearance has also revealed a new headstone that marks the approximate position of the grave of cricket pioneer William Clarke (1798–1856; grave 5,078, square 65). Clarke founded Trent Bridge cricket ground and later the All England XI, and thus helped initiate international cricket. He died at Priory Lodge, Wandsworth, on 25 August 1856. There was no trace of an original tombstone (see Newsletter 82, January 2015). Nottinghamshire County Cricket Club had



William Clarke's new memorial

shown interest in placing a monument on his grave, but I had no idea that they or some other body had (presumably) found a relative and/or taken over the rights to the grave and thus been able to obtain a faculty to erect a monument. All this happened in 2004/5 it seems. Of course, if I had known we would have arranged a rededication/celebration similar to that held for the renewed memorial to football (and cricket) pioneer Charles Alcock (see FOWNC Newsletter 36, September 1999)...

Lt Charles H. Wilkinson RFA MC Croix de Guerre Belge (grave 34,937, square 95)

I am sorry to report that the gravestone of Lieutenant Charles Wilkinson (1897–1918) has been badly damaged. The grave featured in *A Bit of Mystery* (Newsletter 80, May 2014). We will do our best to get it repaired if possible.

Research by Peter Hodgkinson and John Clarke for their forthcoming volume on Great War burials and other commemorations at Norwood has now added to our knowledge of Lt Wilkinson. He was born on 26 August 1897 in Eltham, New Zealand. He had attended Nelson College in New Zealand and had come to the UK in 1915 as a medical student.

He attested as Gunner in the 16th Reserve Battery, RFA, on 30 May 1916, and was commissioned on 15 August. Serving with 2 Brigade RFA, he was badly wounded on 30 November 1917 near Cambrai. He was admitted to Eccleston Hospital, nr Liverpool, on Christmas Day 1917 and died of pneumonia at the 1st Western General Hospital, Fazakerley, Liverpool, on 13 October 1918.

He was awarded the Military Cross and the Belgian Croix de Guerre for his actions in 1917. The mystery as to why he is buried at Norwood remains unsolved.

FOWNC Matters

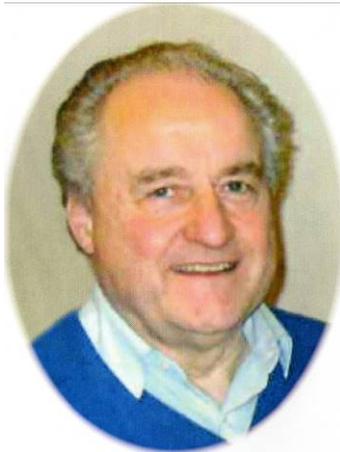
Lambeth Cemeteries staff have been hard at work throughout the present crisis, which had included closing the cemetery to all but essential matters such as funerals, and we would like to record our sincere appreciation of their efforts in these troubled times. Unsurprisingly the National Federation AGM planned for June has been cancelled, as have some events planned by ASCE (the Association of Significant Cemeteries in Europe). Let us hope our own events can resume in the near future. We will do our best to keep members informed via our website and via the Mailchimp mailing list.

John William Hale White (1946–2019)

It is with great sadness that I report the sudden death of FOWNC Trustee, Tour Guide, and representative to the Lambeth Local History Forum, John White. Born in Southwark on 5 December 1946, he grew up in Streatham and Balham. He then lived in Twickenham for many years. He spent his working life with London Underground (he was once their youngest station master) and retired as an area manager.



Lt Wilkinson's grave today



John White

In retirement, he was a member of the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children, volunteered weekly with Twickenham Citizens Advice Bureau and monthly with a Christian organisation for homeless people, The Passage, took courses of study at Birkbeck College, and also became a City of London tour guide. In addition to his work at Norwood, he was a tour guide at Kensal Green and Brompton Cemeteries, and was a member and/or regular attender of meetings of the Streatham, Brixton, Clapham, Balham, Herne Hill, and Norwood Societies, the Crystal Palace Foundation, Southwark & Lambeth Archaeological Society, Richmond & Twickenham Historical Association, the Robert Farnon Society, and the Cinema Theatre Association! He will indeed be sadly missed.

John died in West Middlesex Hospital after a stroke on 10 December last. Just five days before he had celebrated his 73rd birthday by going to East Croydon to watch a Pullman train hauled by Bulleid Pacific Merchant Navy Class *Clan Line* pass through. His funeral mass was held at the Church of St James, Twickenham, on 14 January – his uniform peaked cap was on his coffin. He was buried in East Sheen Cemetery, Richmond.

The Dinosauria Collection

The Royal Mint have issued a series of coins (face value 50 p) commemorating the work of Sir Richard Owen (1804–1892) and of Gideon Mantell (1790–1852; grave 273, square 100) in identifying the remains of the first terrestrial dinosaurs (Qwen’s ‘terrible lizards’). Initially available as a ‘limited-edition gold and silver proof, colour-printed silver proof, colour-printed brilliant uncirculated and standard brilliant uncirculated edition’, the coins in this collection ‘perfectly encapsulate the wonder that dinosaurs inspire in people of all ages’ (www.royalmint.com/our-coins/events/the-dinosauria-collection/). I will reserve judgement on the designs, save to say that *Megalosaurus* does not look particularly terrifying!



As to colour – fanciful or what? It is however true that *Iguanodon* especially continues to fascinate. I even made an appointment to see the famous fossil tooth in Wellington, NZ a couple of years ago. The Natural History Museum, built by Higgs & Hill, founded by William Higgs snr (1824-1883; grave 8,520, square 52), has an excellent discussion re. the Mantells and the discovery of *Iguanodon* (<https://www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/the-discovery-of-iguanodon.html>).

Knowles at Norwood: St Stephen's Chapel

Bob Flanagan

An important event in the history of the cemetery was the coming of the Greeks. On 24 December 1842 a lease was signed by the Cemetery Company and four prominent members of London's Greek community: Eustacio Ralli of 25 Finsbury Circus, Antonio Ralli of 30 Finsbury Circus, Alexander Constantine Ionides of Finsbury Circus, and John Schilizzi of 37 Finsbury Circus. Each was described as a merchant. They paid £300 for the 'exclusive right of burial and interment in the parcel of ground and the right to erect monuments or cenotaphs'. The parcel in square 28 was 52 ft 4 in long and 30 ft wide.

On 5 December 1860 £740 was spent on leasing 3,200 square feet of additional burial space in square 28. The Greek community was to be responsible for the admission of bodies, and a list of burial fees was attached: prices varied from £5 5s for the burial of an adult in a vault or brick grave, to £1 2s for the burial of a child in an open grave.

The second and largest addition occurred following the signing of a lease dated 29 July 1872. No less than 17,561 square feet were added at a cost of £4,390 5s. Out of this, a large section was reserved for Stephen Ralli in perpetuity for the erection of a mortuary chapel (grave 14,564, squares 27/28/41/42). Burials in the chapel, 'if erected', were to be charged at the standard rate. The Greek enclosure now measured some 103 by 184 feet.



St Stephen's Chapel

In 1899 the third expansion of the enclosure occurred when 3,015 square feet were added at a cost of £1,432. It seems probable that an extra strip of land was added early in the 20th century to the west of the last-mentioned parcel, but there is no reference to such a transaction amongst the cemetery papers.

St Stephen's Chapel

St Stephen's Chapel

Michael Constantinides records that on 2 July 1842 it had been agreed with [the] South Metropolitan Cemetery Company to reserve a Greek section at Norwood. The Chapel was constructed in memory of Augustus (Stephen) Ralli (2 November 1856–9 March 1872), who died whilst at Eton College of rheumatic fever (bacterial endocarditis). He

was buried on 16 March 1872 in grave 866, square 28.¹ His father, Stephen (Augustus) Ralli wrote to the General Assembly on 18 March 1872 asking for 'authorization to build at his own expense a small chapel in the Cemetery to the memory of his son Augustus'. On hearing this proposal, the meeting gratefully accepted it and charged the Churchwardens to express to the donor the Community's warm thanks.

The Churchwardens carried out the resolution of the General Meeting and sent a letter of thanks to Stephen Ralli, in the course of which it asked his permission to dedicate the contemplated Chapel to St Stephen 'in order that the remembrance of this valued gift might remain more vivid in the minds of our descendants'. Permission was granted. On 3 January 1893: Ralli gave £1000 to be deposited in a separate account 'the interest on which was to go to the maintenance of the Chapel'. These funds were administered to 1926 by Churchwardens and from then on by specially elected Trustees.

The architect responsible for the Greek Chapel has long remained a subject of conjecture. John Oldrid Scott (1841–1913), son of Sir Gilbert Scott (1811–1878) was the name mentioned most frequently because of his work on the Greek Cathedral in Bayswater. However, the work at Norwood pre-dates the Greek Cathedral (building committee set up 31 January 1874; foundation stone laid 1877) so the dates don't really work. However, FoWNC member Ian Dungavell has found the definitive answer in *The Norwood News* (4 July 1874, page 5):

'GREEK CHURCH – A magnificent building has this week been completed on the north-east side of the ground in the South Metropolitan Cemetery, Lower Norwood, devoted to the use of the Greek community, and erected at the sole expense of Stephen Ralli, Esq, at a cost of about £20,000. The building, which is erected and termed the Greek Church, is in the pure Doric style of architecture, in solid stone masonry of the finest description, the carving of the pediment, &c., being of the most elaborate and costly description, and the entrance to the interior being approached by a noble flight of stone steps. On entering, the internal decorations have a most beautiful and imposing effect. The body of the church is lighted by a large ornamental illuminated stained glass window, a complete work of art in itself, from the laboratory of Messrs. Clayton and Bell, and valued at £1,000. The smaller windows are of ruby coloured glass, which, together with the splendidly finished usual ornamentation, produces a most charming and beautifully subdued effect to the whole. The church is placed in the centre of an area of about 22,000 superficial feet, and is enclosed by an iron boundary railing of most appropriate and exquisite design and richly gilt, the piers, bases, and coping being of Portland cement. This really magnificent work will well repay a visit to all lovers of works of art of this character, and reflects the greatest credit upon all who have been engaged in its erection from the designs and under the supervision of the architect, James Thomas Knowles, Sen., Esq. and the contractors of the building, Messrs Dayman, of Vauxhall Bridge Road. The various works connected with it were carried out under

¹ *The Greek Orthodox Church in London*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1933. Chapter XIV. The Cemetery

the superintendence of Mr. S.W. Brown, clerk of works. The boundary railing and stone work were supplied by Mr. W. Piper, of Norwood.'

The project moved quickly, the chapel appearing to have been built between July 1872 and December 1873. By an assignment dated 30 July 1872, rights over part of the land granted in the Deed of 29 July 1872, namely the right to build a mortuary chapel and to use it for burial services were assigned to Stephen Ralli. Therefore, the instruction to Knowles² would have been during the period mid-March–July 1872. He would have been 66. The equivalent cost today would be somewhere around £2.1 million

The Chapel was assigned to the Trustees by a Deed dated 10 December 1873, but not the rights to the two chambers on either side of the Chapel. By a further Deed dated 4 October 1937 it would appear that the rights that had been assigned and reserved to Stephen Augustus Ralli in the Deed of 10 December 1873 were assigned by the Trustees of the Will of Stephen Augustus Ralli. By an assignment dated 25 November 1937, the rights in the two mortuary chambers of the Chapel were assigned to the Trustees. Between 1937–2019, the Chapel was, in its entirety, owned by the Trustees of The Greek Cathedral Cemetery Enclosures Trust Fund. In 1974 a restoration sponsored by John Pateras was executed poorly. In 2019 the chapel passed to Lambeth Council with certain reservations in respect of rights to hold ceremonies and use of the building.

Sadly, the original stained glass window was lost in World War II. A new etched glass south window designed by Harry Warren Wilson (1894–1968) was inserted in 1952, in turn damaged by an air rifle pellet.³



Harry Warren Wilson. Detail of south window, St Stephen's Chapel

Harry Wilson had trained at Cambridge School of Art and the Royal College of Art. He was Director of the Division of Decoration at UCL for 20 years and artistic adviser to the Department of Overseas Trade. Wilson was known as a stained and engraved glass artist who had worked at the Royal College of Surgeons and St Clement Danes. He produced a set of carved wooden portrait roundels for the special reading room of the Library at the London School of Economics.

Acknowledgment

The contribution of Don Bianco to this article is gratefully acknowledged.

² James Thomas Knowles snr (1806–1884; grave 8,643, square 75 – monument destroyed). See article on Sir Francis Cook (FOWNC Newsletter 92, May 2018)

³ A detail of the window features on some of our FOWNC Xmas Cards

Guy Campbell (1862~1929): Teacher of the Blind

Susan Thornsberry

Under the deep shade of overarching trees at Norwood, just down the slope opposite the crematorium in the unconsecrated portion of the cemetery, lies the final earthly resting place of members of the Campbell family (grave 14,439, square 53). Sadly, the spot is now unmarked owing to the thoughtless, unrecorded, and illegal removal of their tombstone some years ago. Their story, however, merits telling.

Guy Marshall Campbell was born near Boston, Massachusetts in 1862 to American-born (Sir) Francis Joseph Campbell LLD (1832–1914) and Mary Frances (Franny) née Bond (1837–1873). His blind father served as director of the music department and, at times, resident superintendent of the Perkins Institution and Massachusetts Asylum for the Blind. Whilst he was teaching in Tennessee, his anti-slavery views had become known publicly. At one point he was given 24 hours to either renounce them, or be lynched. He refused, but was spared death because of public sympathy for his blindness.

The Royal Normal College

As a child, Guy accompanied his father in travels to unfamiliar areas, learning to be of the utmost assistance by using his own eyesight to provide directions as they walked, an experience that had a great impact on his life. On 23 September 1869, his 7th birthday, he and his parents set sail from the US bound for Berlin, where his father was to study music. Guy's education during these years was provided by his mother, a former public-school teacher and graduate of the State Normal School at Bridgewater, Massachusetts, where she had completed specialised teacher training.⁴



*The Royal Normal College, Upper Norwood
(image courtesy of The Norwood Society)*

By late 1871, the Campbells had moved to London after Francis had become good friends with Dr Thomas Rhodes Armitage (1824–1890), a physician, nearly blind himself, who laboured tirelessly to improve the lives of blind people. The two worked together and, after obtaining donations from generous benefactors, in March 1872 opened at Upper Norwood what would become the Royal Normal College and Academy of Music for the Blind, an institution that would completely revolutionise the education of

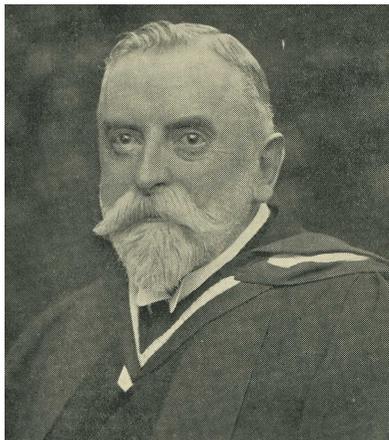
⁴ The term 'normal school' originated in the early 16th century from the French *école normale*, which was a school with model classrooms for use by students learning to become teachers

blind people. There Guy grew up, living with his family in the Principal's Residence and attending nearby Dulwich College (1872–5), and University College School (1876).

In time, the Royal Normal College, established and operated along Francis Campbell's unique educational principles, would provide its students (male and female) with an unparalleled, top-notch academic and musical education together with rigorous physical training and development of Christian character. Specialised teacher training was also offered. The vast majority of students, most of whom came from impoverished backgrounds, would obtain full-time employment as organists, music teachers, choir directors, piano tuners, typists, and shorthand secretaries. Others went on to attend University, becoming ministers and businessmen – an astounding achievement during an era when many blind people languished in poorhouses solely because of their sightlessness. Dr. Campbell also emphasised the importance of actively helping blind graduates find suitable employment, a new concept at the time.

The Royal Normal College was located just off Westow Street, SE19, behind what is now the Phoenix Centre. The occupants were evacuated in World War II. The buildings were bombed and only the College's Piano Tuning building, a long brick structure remains, much of the College site now being covered by Westow Park. The institution itself, known now as the Royal National College for the Blind, is based in Hereford.⁵

In September 1873, Guy's mother died following a long illness, at their home, 5 Paxton Terrace (now 42 Anerley Hill). She was buried in the grave at Norwood purchased by her husband in the unconsecrated area (he was a Presbyterian). In 1875, Francis Campbell remarried, this time to American teacher Sophia Faulkner (1848–1933), and Guy eventually was joined by three half-brothers and a half-sister. Francis Campbell is credited with revolutionising the education of blind people worldwide. Having taken British citizenship, in 1909 he was knighted by King Edward VII for his valuable contributions to education.⁶



Guy Marshall Campbell

Teacher of the Blind

Guy determined to follow in his parents' footsteps and become a teacher. He completed specialised teacher training at the State Normal School in Bridgewater, Massachusetts (1877–8). He also studied at the Royal School of Mines in Kensington (1879–80), completed physical education training at

⁵ See: *The Norwood Review*, Summer 2010, pp. 4-10 (www.norwoodsociety.co.uk/pdf/review189.pdf).

⁶ On his death at Norwood in June 1914, he was cremated at Golders Green and his ashes were interred in his second wife's Faulkner family plot in Woodlawn Cemetery, Acton, Massachusetts. See: (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/72962201/francis-joseph-campbell>)

Harvard University's Hemenway Gymnasium in Massachusetts (1889), and became a Fellow of the College of Teachers of the Blind.

In 1879, he joined the staff of the Royal Normal College, teaching geometry, geography, physiology, French, and German. His specialty, though, was physical training, and he is credited with creating specialised gymnastic training for the blind. Through the years, his blind students amazed countless audiences as they performed daring gymnastic routines, often in conjunction with top gymnasts who were not blind. Guy, with his father, also introduced swimming, roller skating, and cycling to the College's students.

During summer holidays, Guy accompanied his father on expeditions, climbing many of the Alps' most famous peaks. In 1880, the duo ascended the famed Mont Blanc, Francis becoming the first blind man – and Guy, the second youngest climber – ever to accomplish the feat, leading to them both becoming Fellows of the Royal Geographical Society. In other adventures, father and son rode a tandem tricycle across Norway and Guy later helped lead the College's cycling excursions, with groups of sightless students astride multicycles traveling as far as Brighton, Land's End, and Derby.



Mass exercise: physical instruction in the College

by this association. In 1891 he also became the first chairman of the new Royal Life-Saving Society and a year later watched as five of his well-trained blind swimming students from the College earned their proficiency certificates. Many more attained this honour in subsequent years.

His strong interest in swimming led to him becoming a vice-president of the Amateur Diving Association. His leadership in physical education having become well-known, he was invited in 1906 to join the British Olympic Association and chaired two committees for the 1908 Olympic Games. From 1912–14, he chaired the National Gymnastic Festival displays at the Crystal Palace.

Guy had become Vice-Principal of the Royal Normal College in 1901, whereupon he began attending in an official capacity many conferences on the education of the blind.

Recognising the great physical and emotional benefits enjoyed by his students upon strengthening their bodies, Guy determined to likewise help people with eyesight, so in 1891 he helped found the British College of Physical Education, which became the British Association for Physical Training. His book *The Vaulting Horse* became a textbook used

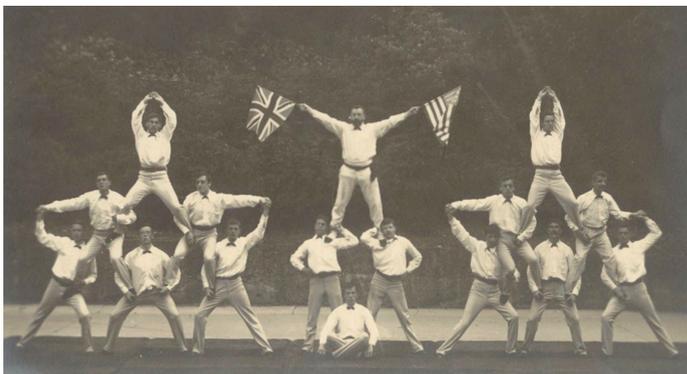
He co-founded in 1908 the Metropolitan Blind Union, serving as honorary secretary for its first 13 years, and co-founded the Union of Associations for the Blind.

In 1892 he had married teacher Louisa (Louie) Bealby of Farnsfield, Nottinghamshire. Tragically, their first child, daughter Mabel Frances, died in 1897 aged only 3 years. She too was laid to rest in the grave of her paternal grandmother at Norwood. Guy and Louie later had a son, Sydney.

Principal of the College

When in 1912, Sir Francis relinquished leadership of the Royal Normal College, Guy succeeded him as Principal and soon raised sufficient funds to both pay off the institution's large mortgage on its property and create an Endowment Fund. Though busy with his College responsibilities, Guy enjoyed participating in the community, serving on various boards and maintaining a very active role in Freemasonry. During World War I, he served as an officer in the Upper Norwood Volunteer Corps, his knowledge of physical training and military drill proving a great asset.

On 2 February 1929 Guy Marshall Campbell died unexpectedly aged 66, after having recently recovered from a serious illness. His funeral at All Saints, Upper Norwood, was partly conducted by the Rev G. Whittleton, the 'blind vicar' of St. Jude's, Thornton Heath and a graduate of the Royal



Pyramids as a form of recreative gymnastics

Normal College. The College choir provided special music. Guy was then laid to rest in the family grave at Norwood. He is remembered as a kind and encouraging Christian gentleman of sterling reputation who devoted his life to helping others.

Upon his death, his widow, Louie Campbell, became Principal of the College, ably serving for five years. When she died ten years after Guy's death, she was laid to rest with her husband.

Thanks to the recording work of the late Eric E.F. Smith FSA (see FOWNC Newsletter 96, September 2019), we know that the family's tombstone (the grave register has no record of any World War II damage) survived until demolished by Lambeth, probably in the early 1970s. The inscription read: Mary Frances Campbell / wife of Francis J. Campbell / Born in Vermont USA 11 January 1837, Died 12 September 1873 / Son Guy Marshall died 2 February 1929 aged 66 / Principal of Royal Normal College for the Blind / His wife Louisa died 1 November 1939 aged 72 / Principal of Royal Normal College 1929-1934 / Mabel Frances Campbell died 25 January 1897 aged 3.

The Muirs of Greenock

Bob Flanagan

As Senior Treasury Counsel, Sir Richard Muir (1857–1924; grave 33,321, square 81) prosecuted in many important trials in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, including that of Hawley Harvey Crippen (1862–1910).

Muir was born in Greenock on 8 March 1857 to Richard Muir, a shoemaker, and his wife Ann Burley (or Burleigh), whom he had married in July 1839. His father was successful and by 1851 was employing 16 men. At that time the family lived in Kelly Street, Greenock. Richard was the third son, and eighth child of 16. Richard snr's business flourished and he began to invest in shipping. By 1861 the family had moved to Clyde Street or Low Gourock Road. In 1881 the Muir family were living at Oakbank on Union Street and young Richard Muir was working as a commission clerk and was active in the *Greenock Royal Rifle Volunteers*. However, he decided to join his elder brother Robert Burleigh Muir (1840–1915), a solicitor, in London.



Sir Richard and Lady Mary Muir

Richard Muir began his career in the law at King's College London and also learnt shorthand at Pitman's school in Chancery Lane. On qualifying as a lawyer he began his apprenticeship in the chambers of Sir Forrest Fulton (1846–1926) in Fountain Court, Middle Temple. He also joined the reporting staff of *The Times* under William Leycester (1826–1893). He developed a reputation as a 1st class verbatim reporter, specialising in parliamentary speeches.

In time he concentrated on legal work, taking over Fountain Court chambers and making a name for himself as thorough and dependable. With a good memory, he was a logical thinker and thorough in his attention to detail, a trait he expected in others, especially police officers working on his cases. He set out everything in a clear precise manner, keeping his notes on small cards ("Muir's playing cards") and used coloured pencils for different aspects of the case.⁷

Muir married William Leycester's daughter Mary Beatrice (1859–1933) in 1889. They lived at 99 Herne Hill from 1898–1916. Their daughter Mary Leycester Muir married Lt.

⁷ Sir Richard David Muir (1857–1924) by Paul Graham (FOWNC Newsletter 31, January 1998)

Robert William Godfrey Kiesow of the Lancashire Fusiliers. Their son, Burleigh Leycester Muir (1890–1918), also a barrister, was educated at Rugby School and Trinity College, Cambridge. He became a Captain in the Army Service Corps and died of influenza in France on 4 November 1918. He left a widow, Vera Brodie MacQueen, whom he had married in 1915, and a young son.

Because he never ‘took silk’, i.e. was never appointed King’s Counsel, Muir was not eligible to become a judge of the King’s Bench Division. He was, however, eligible to become a Recorder. Although he was passed over as Recorder of London, he was appointed Recorder of Colchester by the then Home Secretary, Winston Churchill. Muir was a Master of the Bench of the Middle Temple and was knighted in 1918. He died of ‘double pneumonia’ at 30 Campden House Court, Kensington on 14 January 1924.⁸

Burleigh Leycester Muir is commemorated on the family gravestone at Norwood where two further members of the family are buried as well as Richard and Mary Muir, viz. his



Robert Burleigh Muir



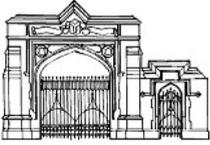
The Muir family gravestone at Norwood

uncle Robert Burleigh Muir and his aunt, Richard Muir’s sister Frances Galbraith Tulloch (1859–1912). Frances, Robert and Sir Richard are also commemorated on the base of the family monument in Greenock Cemetery, Inverclyde. I am grateful to Isobel McCully and Liz Smith for pointing out the Greenock connection with Sir Richard and other interesting snippets re. the extensive Muir family (see for example <http://thegreenockian.blogspot.com/2017/02/the-greenockian-who-prosecuted-crippen.html>).



Muir family monument, Greenock Cemetery

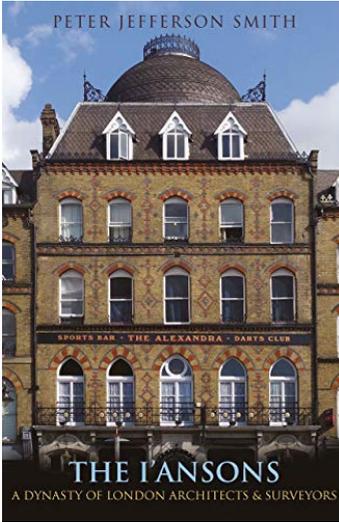
⁸ Muir was attended in his last illness by Sir William Wilcox (1870–1941), the physician turned pathologist who had identified hyoscine (scopolamine) in the remains of Mrs Cora Crippen (Belle Elmore) so many years before



Book Review: The I'Ansons

Nicholas Long

Smith, Peter Jefferson. *The I'Ansons: A Dynasty of London Architects & Surveyors*. London: The Clapham Society/Brown Dog Books. 2019. 550 pp. Paperback. £20. ISBN 978-1-83952-078-5



Peter Jefferson Smith (1939–2018), a Clapham stalwart and former senior civil servant, died in December 2018. He had devoted much of his spare time over the last 40 years to researching the lives of three generations of the I'Anson family. His interest in the I'Ansons was stimulated when researching *Buildings of Clapham* (1978) and discovering many local buildings attributed to an architect of that name. He quickly established there were in fact three with the same name, but at that time little else was known. His book charts their progress through over a hundred years of active participation in construction, reflecting the evolution of surveying and architecture into formal and separate professions. He primarily chronicles the lives of the I'Ansons, but much is revealed about the wider family and the circles in which they moved. Sadly, Peter Jefferson Smith died before his work was finished, but he left a near complete draft.

In order to complete the work for publication, a team led by Alyson Wilson of the Clapham Society was assembled. Professor Andrew Saint (formerly editor of the Survey of London) was consultant editor. The resulting volume sets a high standard for local publishing. The book is comprehensive and highly readable. It is authoritative with full notes and references, is beautifully designed with many illustrations, and contains a useful index and schedules of the known works attributed to each member of the family.

Edward I'Anson snr (1775–1853) was a surveyor and was involved particularly in the construction and maintenance of the Kent and Surrey sewers. His great-nephew Frederic, Lord Leighton (1830–1896), who lived in Germany, painted his portrait in 1851 whilst visiting England to see the family and to visit the Great Exhibition.



Frederic Leighton: Edward I'Anson, 1851



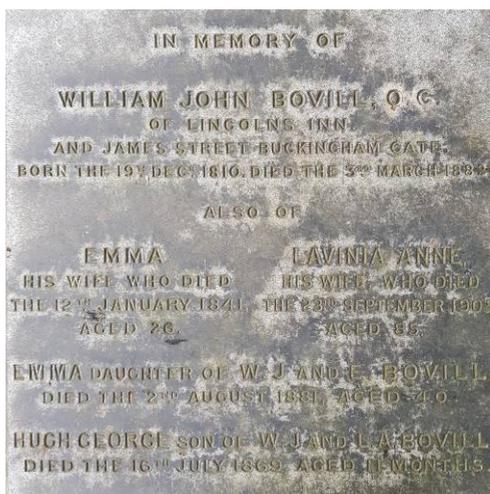
Edward I'Anson's Family Catacomb (No 91)

Metropolitan Cemetery Company 1875–87 and was responsible for the reconstruction of a collapsed section of the north boundary wall 1878–9. He was President of the Royal Institute of British Architects 1886–7. He married twice. His eldest son was nominally distinguished by being known as Edward Blakeway I'Anson (1843–1912). He continued the family architectural practice, working particularly at St Bartholomew's Hospital.

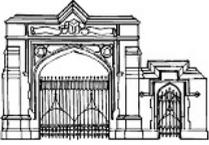
The links with Norwood are significant. Interred in Catacomb 91 (almost opposite Sir William Tite and simply marked 'E.I. 1840') are Edward I'Anson snr, his wife Lavinia Ann née Woolloton (1788–1825) and his son Henry Guest I'Anson (1818–1825). Both the latter were removed from All Hallows, Barking, on 25 January 1841. His daughter Emma Bovill (1814–1841) was also interred in the vault, but was removed to the Bovill family grave in 1882. The last interment in the vault was that of Lavinia's younger sister Emma Maria Mary Ann Hiern (1795–1848). She had married (i) Frederick Mighells van Heythuysen (1782–1828), an attorney at Lincoln's Inn, and (ii) in 1830 Charles Henry Hiern (1788–1871), a surgeon, of Barnstaple, where she died in June 1848.

Emma I'Anson had married William John Bovill QC (1810–1882). Following her death after childbirth, in 1844 he married her younger sister, Lavinia Anne (1820–1905). They were to have eleven children. The Bovill family memorial, a brick vault topped by a granite ledger, is in good condition (grave 12,008, square 90). There is a further I'Anson plot (grave 9,025, square 8), but no monument survives. Buried there are Lavinia Blakeway I'Anson (d. 1864), wife of Edward I'Anson jnr, and their daughters Catherine I'Anson (d. 1866), and Isabel Clara Blakeway I'Anson (d. 1875). Edward I'Anson jnr himself is buried at Headley in Hampshire despite his expressed wish to be buried in his family grave at Norwood.

His son Edward I'Anson jnr (1811–1888) qualified as an architect and was responsible for several buildings, particularly in the City of London and in Clapham. These included the Alexandra Hotel on Clapham Common South Side. Edward jnr really turned the family fortunes, leaving Clapham and settling in Grayshott, on the Surrey/Hampshire border. He was a Director of the South



The Bovill Family Grave: Inscription

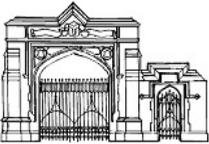


Recent FOWNC Event

Jill Dudman

On 15 February Dr Joe Spence, Master of Dulwich College, and Dr Nick Black, Head of Middle School and editor of *Dulwich: the first 400 years of the College*, gave a joint lecture on the life and times of Canon Alfred James Carver (1826–1909; grave 23,256, square 50). Carver was Master of Dulwich College, 1858–83, and Dr Spence set the scene by looking at other great reforming headmasters of the Victorian age, such as Dr Thomas Arnold of Rugby, in order to place Carver in context.

Dr Black then explained the origins of the College and the situation it was in educationally by the mid-19th century, in order to show how Carver reformed the curriculum by introducing subjects such as modern languages, art and sciences. When the new College buildings designed by Charles Barry Jr. were built in 1870, a chemistry laboratory and an art room were incorporated. For more details see the article in FOWNC Newsletter 97 (January 2020). A note of interest is that Carver married in 1853 Eliza Peek (1829–1907), youngest daughter of William Peek (1791–1870; grave 12,872, square 89) of Peek, Winch & Co., tea merchants (and related to Peek, Frean & Co., biscuit manufacturers).



Forthcoming Events

May – August 2020

Introductory tours are scheduled for the first Sunday of each month (3 May, 7 June, 5 July, 2 August) starting at the cemetery main gate off Norwood Road at 14:30 and lasting for 1½–2 hours. Whether these go ahead is of course dependent on the situation nationally – please consult our website for the latest information. There would be no need to book. Donations would be welcome.

These tours are scheduled to coincide with West Norwood Feast (street markets and other events: <https://westnorwoodfeast.com/>). To register for notification of these and any additional events, please visit www.fownc.org/news/. To join the list of potential volunteers to help with vegetation clearance in the cemetery, please contact Beth Cross (Norwoodhlf@lambeth.gov.uk).

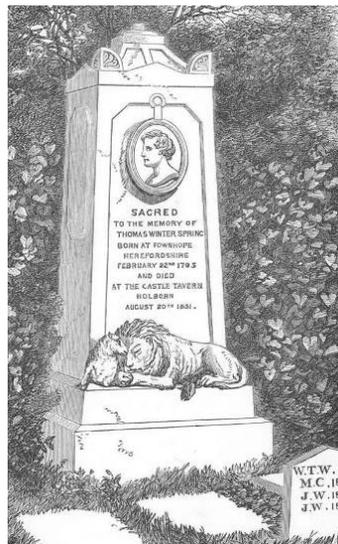
NHLF Sponsored Event

Sunday 31 May: Mindful Photography Workshop

For details see www.westnorwoodcemetery.org/events. The possibility of facilitating a ‘virtual event’ is being explored. For further information, or to book a place contact Beth Cross (Norwoodhlf@lambeth.gov.uk).

A Bit of Mystery – Bob Flanagan

Norwood is unique in that six famous bare-knuckle boxers lie here. Most notable is the grave of Tom Spring née Winter (1795–1851; grave 154, squares 61/73). The accompanying illustration is from *Pugilistica – The History of British Boxing* by Henry Downes Miles (Edinburgh: John Grant, 1906). The manuscript dates from 1880 and correctly indicates the four prior burials in the grave listed on the now lost footstone, suggesting it was drawn from life. Sadly, the lion and the lamb are now so eroded as to be unrecognizable. The monument clearly bears staining indicating that there was once a bronze plaque where the portrait medallion features on the drawing, but the vacant space on the monument is square, not oval. Has anyone a photograph or other drawing of the intact monument? The prior burials are his sons William Thomas (1822–1840), Joseph (1824–1845) and John (1827–1850) Winter, and his sister Maria Charles née Winter (1783–1841).



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