



Sheffield
General
Cemetery
Trust

undertakings

Edition 88
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News and Events

The Cemetery park looks and sounds particularly attractive during the spring and summer months, with the flowing green of the trees, the sounds of birds – a bird song phone app is particularly useful here! – and sweeps of wild flowers flanking the main drive. Summer is always a busy time, the long days and warm weather creating space for a variety of activities. This year has brought a beer and jazz festival, one among the many music events organised by Andy, several exhibitions both in the Samuel Worth Chapel and around the grounds, the publication of a new book, *The Demon Drink* by Cathy Spence, and events for National Cemeteries Week. Also, for the first time, Sheffield General Cemetery hosted Sharrow Festival, one of several community groups with which the Trust collaborates.

The landscape team continues, as always, to work on site despite the heatwave, just as difficult in its own way as the winter rain and cold. Gates have been reinstalled on the Nicholson monument, which look wonderful. The restoration and siting of the new railings has also revealed part of the Dissenters' Wall, which originally separated the Nonconformist from the Anglican areas, and which elsewhere is today largely hidden by undergrowth.

Tours have been well attended and outreach talks have been given. Enquirers continue to email with requests for information, and in some cases contribute to our archives—and to this publication. Enquirers from other countries often arrive during the summer months, most recently Jennifer Jorgensen, from Canada, on her second family history tour in twelve months.

It is also always exciting to meet descendants of families that have already been researched. During National Cemeteries Week, the Research Team held an open day in the Chapel and were thrilled to meet John Eberlin, descendant of a pork butcher who came here from Wurtenburg in the 1840s.

The weekend of 20th /21st September will see the return of Heritage Open Day. This year's theme is Architecture . There will be tours, exhibitions on site and in the Samuel Worth Chapel, and talks by Dr Julie Rugg *How the Church lost the plot: a history of Victorian Cemeteries*, and by Catie Evans with Phil Parnham on *The renovation of the Samuel Worth Chapel and the Gatehouse*. There will also be an opportunity to meet the Research team on September 18th. Details will be published on the Trust's website and on social media.



From top left, clockwise: Research team Open Day, National Cemeteries week, WW II Exhibition, restored gate to Nicholson monument, Sally Rodgers, Libraries and Archives Engagement Officer, Cathy Spence and Dave Hunt at the launch of The Demon Drink.

Dave Hunt, Chair



We are fortunate to have a great team of Trustees who set the direction for the Trust and, because we do not have the money to employ a general manager, carry out the roles which would normally sit with that manager including managing our wonderful staff and freelancers. Our Trustees are very hands on, unlike many charities where Trustees have a few meetings a year to approve policies and major decisions.

I do not underestimate how much of a time commitment this can mean, especially to Trustees with jobs and families. With this in mind both Jonathan McMahon (Finance) and Mark Ridington (Health and Safety) have decided to step down as Trustees after around 2 years in the role. On behalf of the Trustee Board, our staff and members and of course our band of amazing volunteers, I would like to thank Jonathan and Mark for their work and support in a period where the Trust has greatly expanded its activities which has led to opportunities and challenges.

I am sure both will remain in touch with us and wish them the very best for the future - and special good wishes to Mark who is getting married shortly in the Samuel Worth Chapel!

However we have been very pleased to welcome four new people who are in the process of becoming Trustees, going through a 'getting to know you' period before hopefully being formally appointed soon. Elliott Crossley, Dawn Brissenden and Ruth Willis have been with us for 1 to 2 months, whilst Paul Vandrill (Finance) is about to take up his role.

This brings our Trustee numbers up to 10 and gives us an even wider range of skills and experience so that each team in the Trust has a Trustee working with them to discuss plans and ideas.

This month the Trust is sorry to say farewell to



longstanding volunteer Jo Meredith. Over many years Jo has been a great asset to the Cemetery both in her role as a Trustee and in her commitment to the Burial Research & Interpretation team, as well as volunteering with the Friday Landscape team. She has been involved in both researching the history of the Cemetery and promoting it through tours, which she also organised, and books. Most recently she has kept track of book stocks ensuring that our onsite pop-up bookstalls and our offsite vendors such as local bookshops and Sheffield Museums always have stock to sell.

Recently Jo decided that she wanted to step back from her involvement in the Cemetery but not before she had passed her knowledge of publishing and selling books on to Helen and Zoff who are now in charge of book sales. We will still be seeing Jo occasionally; she is still working with Zoff who is taking over sales to bookshops, and will still be visiting friends in the Cemetery.

Thanks to

The following organisations which have generously offered grant support to the Trust:

Sheffield Councillors from the South Local Area Committee - a grant of £750 for planting near the Catacombs to improve biodiversity especially for pollinators

Sheffield City Council Parks and Countryside team for a grant of £1000 for consumables used by the landscape teams

Aurelius Trust for funding a large part of the £4000 costs of repairs to the pediment and pointing on the back wall of the Samuel Worth Chapel which will reduce the risk of leaks in heavy rain.

And thanks to Colin from the Tuesday landscape group for donating a 200m hosepipe to the Trust

And to all our hardworking volunteers and staff, including everyone who has also contributed to this edition of Undertakings!

Introducing Ruth Willis



Ruth spent 12 years as the Chief Executive of South Yorkshire Community Foundation Ltd. Prior to that she had a career in the charity sector, both as a chief executive and as a member of a number of charitable boards and spent 24 years in local government, working in the areas of housing and environmental services. She has also worked as a consultant and interim manager.

My first contact with the Sheffield General Cemetery Trust was through attending a number of events at the Samuel Worth Chapel and that led to my discovery of an amazing resource within Sheffield which I realise lots of people just don't know about. So when the opportunity arose to join the fantastic team at Sheffield General Cemetery Trust I was really interested. Everyone associated with the charity is passionate and enthusiastic about maintaining and developing the Cemetery as a community resource, as well as a nature reserve and Grade 2 Listed Park.

I have a particular interest in the environment and heritage so I hope to bring my skills to the Charity to assist in it's continued sustainability for the residents of Sheffield and wider afield.

Introducing Paul Vandrill



I first came to Sheffield as an eighteen year old to study at the University. Many years later we're still living close by, having worked all over the place I never moved away. I think Sheffield can have that effect on certain people! So now I'm happy to be able to try and 'put something back' by getting involved with charities, volunteer organisations and start up businesses in and around the area. I've enjoyed a long and varied career as an FCA qualified accountant undertaking FD, CFO and CEO roles as well as running my own consultancy business - hopefully I can now bring some of the benefits of

this experience to my Trustee role.

I still have the desire to work, learn new things and meet new and interesting people. When Dave explained all about the Trust it clearly offers these opportunities.

Introducing Elliott Crossley

Elliott is an Architectural technologist with 15+ years of experience, currently working as Director of Digital Delivery at BDP, one of the UK's leading architecture and engineering firms. Combining expertise in building design and digital innovation, Elliott leads technology adoption across BDP's 19 global offices, contributing to award-winning Architectural projects such as AstraZeneca's Discovery Centre in Cambridge, Alder Hey Children's Hospital in Liverpool, and the Palace of Westminster Restoration for the Houses of Parliament.



A resident of Nether Edge, Elliott values community spaces and actively supports local initiatives. With the Trust, he aims to support the safeguarding of the Cemetery site (for both wildlife and humans alike!) whilst bringing new ideas on how technology might allow us to tell stories of the past in new ways.

Introducing Dawn Brissenden

Dawn is currently studying for her PhD in Folklore and Digital Culture at DeMontfort University, and has a background in research, editorial and publishing. She has always been passionate about the importance of storytelling as a means of cultural and historical preservation, something which drew her to the Cemetery. Since moving to Sheffield, she has been a regular visitor of the Cemetery, enjoying its historic landscape, open spaces and community atmosphere and was excited by the opportunity to support such a space. Her hope is that through her skills and experience she will be able to support the trust as well as the R.I.P team in order to help them continue to make a difference and expand their capabilities.



Surveys

Sally Puddifoot Landscape Conservation Manager

One of the most enjoyable aspects of the work we do on site is to survey its wildlife. We do this for several reasons - so we can understand what species live and breed here, and which visit seasonally. Knowing what species are present enables us to protect beneficial or rare species, and to remove or limit the spread of species where they harm the site. Surveys give us a detailed picture of the health of the site, so that we know where and when we may need to adjust our vegetation management. Ecologist-led surveys, by a person skilled in that area of study, produce data that is both accurate and verifiable. Ecologist-led surveys are expensive, and we seek funding to be able to commission them as they are so important. Another type of survey is a Citizen Survey. A Citizen Survey is done by unskilled members of the public, allowing everyone to participate in scientific research by collecting and reporting data on various species and habitats. Surveys are fun for participants; they improve field skills and there is nothing more enjoyable than looking or listening for wildlife. Data may be less accurate but generally inaccuracies are ironed out by volume of data.



Song thrush .Creative Commons

Birds: We participate in the Big Garden Bird Watch survey – usually at the end of January when the RSPB undertake the National survey. We have done this annually for nearly 10 years. Static surveyors Julie and Martin stand for an hour and record the birds that they see. It is a snapshot but with 10 years of data it is now a significant snapshot as trends of birds seen more or perhaps less regularly will become apparent. This year, and thanks to funding from the James Neill Trust Fund and the King Charles III Charitable Fund, I have been able to commission a Breeding Bird survey. This is an in-depth survey at dawn and dusk which monitor and record evidence of breeding bird populations. The results of this survey are due back shortly.

Butterflies: During the summer Sue and Claire with the help of Yi Chen on occasions, monitor and record the butterflies. This year has been an exceptional year for butterflies and moths. Sadly it also means an increase in the non-native box moth, the larvae of which are devastating our box hedges. They have recorded holly blue, comma, peacock and ringlet. No sightings so far of cinnabar moths – we used to have very healthy populations, but the ragwort (its sole food source) was lost during the project



Holly Blue. Creative Commons

and is only slowly coming back.

Plants: We survey plants for general understanding of the botany of the cemetery; we also specifically survey for Japanese knotweed as it is a plant under Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. The results of the Japanese knotweed survey are sent to the council, and a licensed contractor treats it with herbicide

Invertebrates:: Currently we cannot survey for invertebrates other than butterflies. It's a very specialist skillset which requires years of study, training and experience. We will

hope to resume our bug hunt event which is a fun citizen survey for local families that gives us a snapshot of the invertebrate life in the cemetery.

Bats and other mammals: This an area we wish to develop. We record bats in our annual bat walk. We had training a few years ago on identifying bats and we use bat detectors which help us identify them. Sheffield University students have done a mammal survey, and we are awaiting data but we think hedgehogs are present on site which, if verified, is very exciting.



Azure damselfly. Creative Commons



Jakob's photo of Daubenton bat

If you'd like to support our programme of wildlife surveys by donating however small or big an amount – we can use it for equipment, training or Ecologist costs. Please contact me by email: sally.puddifoot@gencem.org
Thank you in advance.

The Ascent of Mr and Mrs Graham

Nicky Woods

The minutes of the meeting of the Directors of the Sheffield General Cemetery Company for 28 August 1837 contain an intriguing entry:

“That the Cemetery gates be kept closed, except to persons on business, on Tuesday 5th and Thursday 7th of September next, on which days the ascent of Mr and Mrs Graham will take place from the Botanical Gardens.”

Could this refer to some sort of “spiritual” ascent to the Cemetery starting at the Botanical Gardens? Did the unfortunate garden-loving Mr and Mrs Graham die together? But why would the Cemetery gates need closing?

An advertisement in the Sheffield Independent of Saturday 26 August suggests a more plausible interpretation:

BALLOON ASCENT!!
FROM THE
BOTANICAL GARDENS.
THE Committee of the SHEFFIELD BOTANICAL GARDENS have great pleasure in announcing that
MRS. GRAHAM,
THE CELEBRATED AERONAUT,
will make an ASCENT from the GARDENS in the Afternoon of **TUESDAY, 5th of SEPTEMBER.**
Further Particulars will appear next week.
N. B. The Committee are in treaty with Mr. Graham to make an Ascent on **THURSDAY, 7th of SEPTEMBER.**

Margaret Graham (1804-1864) was a celebrated balloonist and the first British woman to fly solo. She had been introduced to ballooning by her rather less well-known husband George Graham and took to it enthusiastically, becoming a celebrity and much sought-after. Clearly it was something of a coup for the Botanical Gardens to have engaged her for their gala days. The Botanical Gardens opened in 1836 and the proprietors put on a series of open days with exhibitions, displays of plants and bands playing music to promote the gardens and encourage paying visitors and subscribers. Another advertisement sets out the charges for entry: 1s for Proprietors and Subscribers, 1s 6d for “The Public” and 6d for children under 12 years of age.

The Directors of the General Cemetery would probably have read this advert with some alarm. Newspaper articles about Margaret Graham's previous ascents reported crowds of thousands assembling to try and catch a glimpse of the balloon going up, and the location of the Cemetery on the opposite side of the Porter Valley to the Botanical Gardens would clearly make it an ideal place to see the spectacle without paying. Since the Cemetery opened there had been problems with vandalism to the trees and monuments so the Directors would have been keen to avoid big crowds gathering on balloon days.

Further adverts in the newspapers indicate that the ascents were delayed but give us more details of the spectacle to come. An advert in the Sheffield Iris on Tuesday 19 September 1837 promises that the "celebrated Aeronaut Mrs Graham" will make an ascent from the gardens and that "Two parachutes, on different principles, will be suspended from the Car of the Balloon, in one of which a Monkey will be sent up". Another advert identifies the unfortunate monkey as Jacko. Presumably the Cemetery Directors kept a close eye on the changes of date.

Eventually the flights did take place and were fully recorded in the Sheffield Iris on Tuesday 3 October 1837. From the first paragraphs, it's clear that the fears of the Cemetery Directors were fully justified. The first ascent was delayed again due to a "...want of gas sufficient to inflate the balloon". Obviously there was much disappointment among the paying crowd at the Botanical Gardens but also among the "...many thousands who had congregated on the rising grounds about the Cemetery and the Snuff Mills, on the trees from whence a view of the machine, the grounds, and the company could be had, and in the line the balloon was expected to take from the direction of the wind. We regret to hear that the length of time they had to wait, induced many of them to become impatient and do considerable damages to the turnips, potatoes and fences". The damaged crops may have been located in the acres to the east of the Cemetery let out as fields or allotments. The flight finally took place the next day Wednesday 27 September though the balloon was still sluggish due to rain and a lack of gas. The monkey was spared this ascent and Margaret Graham went up by herself and without her travelling companion as planned, finally coming down near Grindleford Bridge. Further troubles accompanied the second ascent on Monday 2 October, again with a large crowd in attendance. Once again Margaret Graham travelled alone though the monkey this time was let down by parachute, apparently landing without injury. But her own landing near Conisborough was more eventful. Having landed, the balloon couldn't be deflated and was eventually punctured, collapsing on three unfortunate local men who had come to help, who were rendered unconscious for a time.

Margaret Graham made another ascent from the Piece Hall in Halifax on 31 October

which Anne Lister recorded in her diary: "About 4 1/2 p.m. Ann [Walker presumably] and I and the servants all saw Mrs. Graham in her balloon, was to ascend at 3 p.m. from the Piece Hall, over Hipperholm - might be 400 or 500 yards high? the parachute like a black speck".[West Yorkshire Archive Service, Calderdale SH:/ML/E/20/0153]



SHEFFIELD BOTANICAL GARDENS.

THE Committee of Management of the BOTANICAL and HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY have pleasure in announcing to the Nobility, Gentry, and the Public at large, of Sheffield, and the neighbouring Towns, that they have engaged the celebrated Aeronaut, Mrs. GRAHAM to ASCEND FROM THE GARDENS next TUESDAY, the 25th instant.

Two Parachutes, on different principles, will be suspended from the Car of the Balloon, in one of which a Monkey will be sent up.

The Committee have likewise engaged Mr. GRAHAM to make an Ascent next THURSDAY, the 28th instant, with two Parachutes also.

A full BAND of MUSIC will be in attendance on both days.

Terms of Admission to see the Filling of the BALLOON and the Ascent, will be as follows:—

	Tuesday.		Thursday.	
	s.	d.	s.	d.
Proprietors and Subscribers	1 0	0 6	
The Public	1 6	1 0	
Children under Twelve Years of Age		0 6	0 6	

Proprietors and Subscribers are requested to purchase Tickets of Admission on or before TUESDAY FORENOON, at either of the Lodges, or at the Office of the Secretary, Mr. EBENEZER SMITH, Norfolk Street.

Should the Weather prove unfavourable for the Ascent on either day, public notice will be given, and the Ascent will take place on the following day.

Sheffield Independent 23 September 1837

Margaret Graham, a splendid and intrepid woman, died in her bed despite numerous accidents and injuries, was buried in Abney Park, London and only recently memorialised with a headstone.

As for the Cemetery, there’s no report of damage or disaster so presumably the gates were closed as needed and only those privileged to be on-site enjoyed the sight of Margaret Graham sailing over.



Heritage Open Weekend

Architecture

20/21st September 2025

Tours, Talks, and Exhibitions.

Meet the Research Team
18th September

Burial Research Team News

Sue Turner

The Burial Research team members were excited recently when documents turned up relating to 'The Clearances'. The papers told of the proceedings when Sheffield City Council took over the Cemetery in December 1979. Their intention, amongst other things, was to clear headstones and making an accessible open green space for the local community.

Before the bulldozers moved on to the site in June 1980 anyone who could prove entitlement to a grave space was offered a new grave in one of the other Sheffield Municipal Cemeteries free of charge. In reality it was difficult to find plot holders and very few graves were moved to other cemeteries or bodies exhumed. Approximately 8,000 graves were affected in phase one, the area between Sandford's Walk and the Porter Brook. Many of the gravestones were crushed and made into paths, some pieces were used as path edging and just a handful of stones were moved to other positions within the Cemetery.

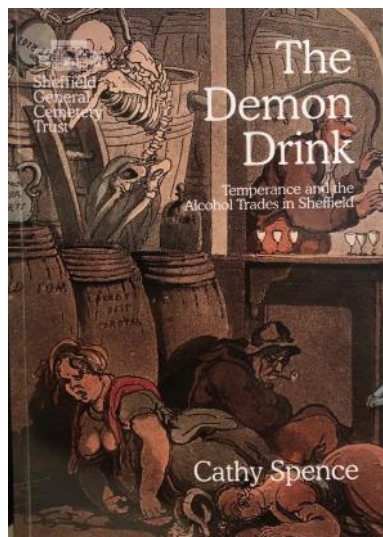
30 men were employed for a year - one foreman, four gangers, two drivers and the rest labourers. Two men (students) proceeded ahead of the gang, recording all inscriptions on every memorial in the Cemetery – their work took 20 weeks. All persons employed came under a Job Creation Scheme funded by the Manpower Services Commission. Work was completed by July 1981 resulting in the level open green space we know today.

The second phase of the Clearances, the steeply sloping area to the south of Sandford's Walk, began in January 1983 and continued throughout that year with work affecting around 5,000 graves. By January 1984 the work was complete, and the future of the two listed on-site buildings was being discussed. It was hoped that negotiations with the Sheffield Society for the Encouragement of Art would result in the Non-conformist Chapel being given a new lease of life, but discussions faltered over the Society's request for 30 car parking spaces adjacent to the Chapel. Plans for the renovation of the Anglican Church were also unsuccessful when an application for it to become a restaurant to be named 'Angel's Delight' was rejected.

The Research team are always keen to discover more about the history of the Cemetery. If you have any stories or photos that you are willing to share, please get in touch via the Cemetery Office or by emailing research@gencem.org. Thank you.

The Demon Drink: Temperance and Alcohol Trades in Sheffield by Cathy Spence

Review



In June, *The Demon Drink: Temperance and the Alcohol Trades in Sheffield*, by Cathy Spence, was published by the Trust. Cathy is also the author of *A Window into the Workhouse*, and this book, equally well researched, opens another window into the realities of living in Victorian Sheffield.

As Sheffield grew and became increasingly industrialised in the 19th century, licensed premises were vital community hubs, as well as offering employment opportunities. Enjoying a drink after a strenuous day in the steel works, or to escape the misery of poverty and deprivation, gave pleasure to many. At the same time, the habit impacted adversely on families and increased anti social behaviour. As a result, this era also saw the rise of the temperance

movement, largely connected to the town's Nonconformist Chapels, that believed alcohol was the cause of many societal problems.

There are over 250 entries in the Cemetery records for innkeepers, publicans and licensed victuallers, either as burials or grave owners. These include Lydia Binney (1798–1865) who ran the White Bear Inn on High Street for 17 years and John Tyrer (1831–1883) who spent over £1,000 (equivalent to £150,000 today) renovating the Three Whitesmiths pub near Lady's Bridge only for magistrates to initially refuse its license. Plus, William Frith (1878–1925), a former landlord of the Brunswick Hotel in Haymarket, who was involved in a tragic event at the Hamilton Temperance Hotel on Eyre Street after experiencing financial troubles.

Temperance activists connected to the Cemetery include Charles Mahony (1857–1929), a dentist who practised painless tooth extraction using 'mesmeric influence', Reverend Charles Henry Collins (1820–1884), Secretary of the British Temperance League and a strong advocate of vegetarianism, and Sarah Jane Bagshawe (1854–1930), member of the Sheffield Women's Christian Temperance Association for over 50 years. In 1884, temperance campaigners produced a *Drink Map of Sheffield* showing 1,250 licensed premises in the town and a further 360 off-licences; they fought

back by appealing to people to ‘sign the pledge’ and abstain from drinking, and by opening hotels, cafes, and coffee houses in the town as alternatives. The last temperance bar in Sheffield, Jack’s Temperance Bar on Langsett Road S6, shut in 1984. The British Temperance League moved its HQ to Sheffield in 1880 and remained here until 1992.

The Demon Drink delves into the lives of those who made their living from selling alcohol and those who made it their life’s work to oppose them, providing the reader with a fascinating insight into the complexities of nineteenth century life.

The Demon Drink £9.99. Available at gencem.org/shop or at Cemetery events.

Around the Cemetery Site



Images: S. Baxter, D. Hunt.

Researching Uncle Sam

David Worth

In the last issue, we left Samuel Worth, in March 1829, on the steps of Sheffield Cathedral with his new bride, Anne Andrews. This brings us to the first of a number of mysteries. Their marriage notice in the Sheffield Independent, describes Anne as the only daughter of William C Andrews of Canton Cottage, Uppertorpe. However, no William (with or without a C) appears in any local or national records that I have located. Anne's middle name was Nettleship, her mother's maiden name, and Nancy is a diminutive name for Anne. Anne's mother, Anne Nettleship, was registered as marrying John Andrews in September 1785 at Sheffield Cathedral and John is further "confirmed" as Anne's father by her baptism entry in the Cathedral records in 1798. Has John died by the time of his daughter's marriage and Anne perhaps remarried a relative of her deceased husband? You would expect that the witnesses on Anne's marriage record would be family but a further question arises. Whilst one of the witnesses is an Andrews, his Christian name, which begins with J, is illegible but is not John and certainly is not William. We can then only assume that the name on the wedding notice in the Independent is, in fact, an error.

Samuel had been living for some time in his office in Chapel Walk but in 1831 he moved both home and office to East Parade close by the Cathedral. In 1841 he appeared in the census of that year as living in St. George's Terrace, close to St Georges Church (opened 1825) off Broad Lane. His wife was still alive and they had 3 daughters: Harriet Andrews Worth (11), Anne Nettleship Worth (9) and Eliza Isabella Worth (8). With the development in transport in the late 1840's the family moved back close to his home territory in the small village of Holme in Nottinghamshire. This is 10 miles north of Newark and 15 miles from Hougham and his family. Anne died at Christmas 1855 and was buried in the Sheffield General Cemetery that Samuel had designed. By 1861 Samuel and his 3 daughters had moved to Clinton Place in Worksop where Samuel died in January 1870. He was buried with Anne in the Sheffield Cemetery. I am sure as his professional life will show he was a wealthy man but I have not been able to find his probate record. However, his two unmarried daughters (see paragraph below) who died 30 years later, at the turn of the century, both left the equivalent of £150 000 in today's money.

Samuel's second daughter, Anne Nettleship, was married November 1860 in Worksop Priory Church to William Hughes Penny, a solicitor from Bath in Somerset. They moved to Sculcoates in Hull and had 4 or 5 children, 2 (or 3) boys and 1 (or 2) girls. Therein lies another little mystery. 2-year-old Alec Andrews Penny (his Grandfather's surname) in the 1871 census becomes 12-year-old Alice A. in the 1881 census. You would think that

a solicitor would know who his children were, and which sex, especially when the birth was officially registered as Alice in February 1869. It is more likely, however, to be the census taker's error. Thereafter, Alice disappeared but Alec lived on until his death in 1957. Anne died in 1893 and in 1896, at 58 years of age, William married Isabella Young, a 35-year-old from the Isle of Wight. He died in Hull in 1902.

Of Anne and William's children (born between 1861 and 1869) only their eldest child, William Huges Penny, also a solicitor, married. He joined the Civil Service and, we presume served overseas, as he is missing from both the 1891 and 1901 Census returns. He married in the second half of the 1890's as his first child, Winifred was born in 1898 and this was also, probably, overseas as there is no trace of either her or that fact. His wife must have died after 1900 when their second child, Margaret, was born, as he married his second wife, Minnie Walter, in Bournemouth in 1905, presumably on a visit home. They had 2 boys, Arthur and William. William was stationed for probably 20 years in Sandakan in British North Borneo as all 4 children were born there. A fifth son, Gordon, was born in Bournemouth in late 1911. This brings us to yet another minor mystery. Sometime during his time in Borneo his surname, Penny, becomes Penney and, from census records, his siblings all seem to fall in with this. Why add an E to your name? Is Penney too common a surname? Something we may never know. William and Minnie lived on in Bournemouth to 1960 and 1973 respectively.

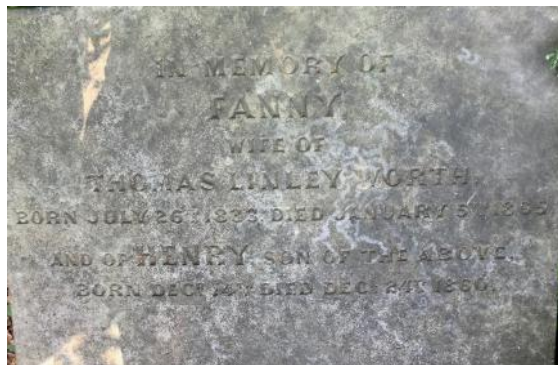
Of the Penney children, all except Gordon, the youngest, married. He moved to Rhodesia and died there in 2000. Margaret emigrated to Mexico, married there to Thomas Brown and then seems to have moved north to USA and then Canada. She may have had children but locating a Thomas and/or Margaret Brown somewhere in North America in the 1930's/40's with no clue is looking for a proverbial needle in a haystack. Both William and Winifred married but had no children as far as I can find. By 1939, Arthur had moved to Worcester, married Doris Instan and was a permanent way labourer, presumably on the railway, with 3 children. Due to the redaction in the 1939 census only the name of two of these can be read, Gillian and Suzanne, and all were born between 1935 and 1939. Further tracing from that, as other family tree researchers will know, is difficult especially with daughters as their married names are unknown. They, or their children, are then, possibly, the only direct descendants of Samuel Worth, Architect of Sheffield.

But what of Samuel's two other daughters, Harriet and Elizabeth? Neither of them married and with, what would have been a reasonable inheritance from their father they were able to enjoy a good lifestyle. Harriet stayed for a time with her sister and husband in Hull and then "retired" to Bridlington. Elizabeth, the youngest daughter, had by 1871, moved to Shanklin in the Isle of Wight and she later joined her sister in Bridlington. They both died there, in 1891 and 1898 respectively.

Samuel's brother Henry, as you may recall, followed him to Sheffield sometime in the early 1820's. He and Samuel are both recorded as living on Glossop Road in the Parliamentary Poll records of 1835. By the time of the 1841 census both had moved a short distance; Samuel, as mentioned earlier, north to St Georges Terrace and Henry, south to Devonshire Street, in which he was described as a builder. He had also married Mary Linley, a member of a local family who had lived in Norton since at least the 1500's and who had many interesting national connections. By 1851 he had moved another short distance to Swiss Place, Broomhall. This is a short row of fine Georgian Houses which still exist today behind St Silas Church on Hanover Street. He also now had his own workshop in Rockingham Street and was described as a joiner and builder employing one man. One can well imagine the two brothers, directly and/or indirectly, supporting each other in their work. Henry died in June 1866 and his probate record lists him with an estate in today's money of £500 000. Mary, his widow, moved in with her daughter, Sarah Frances, who had married a wealthy silverware manufacturer and was living at Parkhead. The professional and local connection continues with Henry's son, Thomas Linley, my Great Grandfather. He was listed in the 1861 census as an Architect Clerk living in William Street, 5 minutes' walk from his father. By 1871 he has been promoted Architects Manager and moved to the suburb of Banner Cross, Ecclesall. He died in 1881 at the early age of 46.

The move Samuel and his brother made in the 1820's from Hougham to Sheffield was certainly a very positive one for them, their families and descendants.

Next issue: Uncle Sam's professional work and the buildings that still exist as a memorial to him.



*Left: Grave of Samuel Worth and his wife Anne.
Above: Grave of Fanny, wife of Thomas Linley Worth. Their infant son Henry is commemorated.*

Heritage Open Day

Sue Turner, Research and Interpretation.

The choice of Architecture as the theme for this year's Heritage Open Days festival of history and culture fits perfectly with research already underway by the Cemetery's Burial Research team. Over 50 architects are known to have connections with the Cemetery, and many are buried here so we have a lot of information to share about their careers and the buildings they designed.

Perhaps best known is **Samuel Worth** who won the competition in 1834 to design and layout the Cemetery . From 1828-31 Worth was in partnership with **James Harrison** and their work included the Free Writing School on Townhead Street and the Surgeon's Hall, for the Medical Society on Surrey Street.

The Flockton family were a well-respected firm of architects in Sheffield throughout the Victorian era. **William Flockton** designed The Mount, a substantial building in Broomhill, and the Wesley Proprietary School, now King Edward VII School, before being asked to design the Cemetery's Anglican Church in the late 1840s. William and other members of his family were buried in a grave close to the Church.

Edward Mitchel Gibbs, who in his early career was in partnership with members of the Flockton family, played a large part in the development of Sheffield. In his lifetime he watched Sheffield grow from a comparatively small town to a large industrial city and was responsible for many of its most impressive and important buildings, particularly the civic ones. Of him it was said, 'If you want to see a monument to this man, look around you'. Gibbs' cremated remains were added to the family grave in the Anglican area in 1935.

As well as buildings, architects were called upon to design monuments and the memorial in the Cemetery to Alderman Thomas Edward Burch was designed by **Thomas Alfred Wilson**, an architect of Campo Lane who also designed the United Methodist Free Church at Heeley. The imposing Burch memorial occupies a prime position in front of the Samuel Worth Chapel, is over four metres tall and made up of a column on a plinth topped by an urn within an enclosure of elaborate wrought iron.

This is just a snapshot of some of the architects buried in the Cemetery. The Samuel Worth Chapel will be open for the Burial Research Open Day on 18 September, 10.30-3.30pm and on Saturday and Sunday, 20th/21st of September where you can find out more about the architects and architecture of the Cemetery. More details of our events during Heritage Open Days are available through our website at gencem.org.

‘And the band played on’

Bombardier Charles Hadfield 1844-1877

Helen Brown

In its Victorian heyday Sheffield General Cemetery was a busy – and noisy – place. There were stone masons, coffin makers, grave diggers, and gardeners working on the site, and there could be six or more funerals a day, each with its own group of mourners.

Some of these funerals, and perhaps particularly military ones, were notably well attended by the public. We know that funeral processions, especially those accompanied by bands, were an enticing source of free public entertainment at a time when there few other opportunities of this kind for many people who had little money to spare. But why some of these funerals became as violent as this one clearly did, with apparently very little provocation, is less obvious.

Bombardier Charles Hadfield, who died aged 33, was a metal smith living at 5 Court, Broomhall Street with his wife Eliza, two daughters and three sons. Courts were generally a group of small houses, often made up of back-to-backs so it’s unlikely the family was very well off. Charles had been a member of the Sheffield Volunteer Artillery Corps and he ‘was interred with the usual military honours at the General Cemetery’. The funeral procession would probably have walked from Broomhall Street, down to Ecclesall Road and then into the Cemetery at the Gatehouse, a distance of a little under a mile. It took place on a ‘Saint Monday’ which in that period was the day on which working people, particularly those in the metal trades, enjoyed some leisure time; they might be recovering from their indulgences the day before, having been paid on the Saturday and had a drink or two on Sunday. This tradition may explain the very large turnout and the upset which followed.

The press report of Hadfield’s funeral gives a detailed picture of the size of the turnout, whether family members, work colleagues, or the plain curious, and the elaborate arrangements made by the Artillery Corps:

A detachment of the corps numbering some fifty men accompanied the funeral procession from deceased’s house in Broomhall-street, the coffin with the dead man’s sword and busby being conveyed on gun-carriage. The band played the “Dead March in Saul” at intervals along the route and also at the grave side, where the customary three volleys of blank cartridge were fired. A great crowd

of persons accompanied the procession along its entire route, and as the cemetery was neared the road was completely blocked up in order to gain access to the cemetery, a tremendous rush was made for the principal gateway as soon as the gates were opened, and the pressure was so great that several women and children were thrown down and trampled underfoot by the crowd which surged over them from behind.



*19th century artillery busby
Auckland Museum*

Some heavy-handed policing was needed to control the situation:

With great promptitude and presence of mind, however, Sergeant Bennett and his men forced back the crowd, and ultimately, although with the aid of their staves, they managed to prevent what otherwise might have been a very serious accident. As it was, several children and a couple of women were badly hurt. One child's injuries were, however, very serious, and it is now being surgically attended at its home. Another child which had been in its mother's arms was thrown down and somewhat badly bruised, the mother herself being also trampled upon and cut about the head. There can be no doubt but for the energy of the police these and others would have been killed on the spot.

The newspaper report makes it clear that this was not an isolated incident, and that women with young children were generally advised to stay away from popular funerals:

It would, of course, be useless here to enter upon the question of the advisability or otherwise of military funerals, but may very well repeat the warning so often given against the practice of women with children in their arms mingling with crowds such as are invariably attracted to these spectacles. One of those who was thrown down estimates that there were between thirty and forty persons on the ground when the roughs behind made their foolish and ruffianly rush, and he fully agrees with our reporter in saying that it is owing to the prompt action of the police that there was not alarming sacrifice of life. He further states that the screaming of the women and the shouting of the men were most heartrending.

Sheffield Daily Telegraph 7 July 1877

Given this level of excitement and upset it is rather surprising to find that Charles Hadfield was buried in a public grave (P2 89) in the Anglican area. There is no memorial inscription.

Sharrow Festival

Shirley Baxter

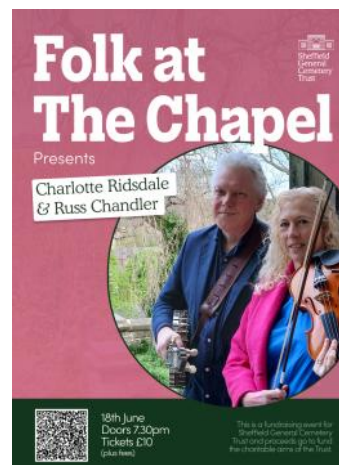
On a blazing hot day in July, Sharrow Festival, sponsored by Abbeydale Breweries and the Sarah Nulty Power of Music Foundation, took over the Cemetery green space with a programme of music much enjoyed by an appreciative audience. Sheffield General Cemetery ran two bars, one in the green space and one in the Samuel Worth Chapel, where there was more music. The final band on the big open air stage was Jungle Lion, a ska band, which inspired a lot of people, young, middling and old to dance, some exuberantly, others more gently. It was a great community event, with a friendly, happy, atmosphere, drawing in many people who had not previously visited the site, and very well organised.

Special thanks are due to all the volunteers who helped at this event, especially those who worked from midday until early evening in the heat, serving drinks or welcoming visitors to the Chapel.

Folk at the Chapel: Charlotte Ridsdale and Russ Chandler

In June, Charlotte and Russ performed an evening of folk music to an enthusiastic and receptive audience which filled the Samuel Worth Chapel.

Russ, accompanying himself with banjo and guitar, sang some songs no longer commonly heard, including one from the time of the Napoleonic Wars, an apt choice given that we have several veterans of those wars in the Cemetery. Other songs reflected the plight of the oppressed or of the ordinary citizen caught up in events beyond his/her control.



Charlotte accompanied herself with guitar and violin and was joined for different numbers by some of her musician friends, including an oboist. Charlotte writes much of her own material, currently songs inspired by the women of Sheffield General Cemetery. One of these, *Attercliffe Girl*, a song about the Chartist Mary Holberry, was performed for the first time at this concert.

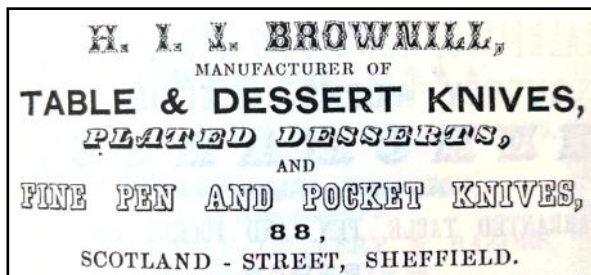


Sharrow Festival from top left clockwise: The main stage, Jungle Lion playing, Jane, festival steward, Paul, Security for Events, festival audience, Julie after a day selling drinks, Julian and Julie, bar volunteers, Al minding the books and the Chapel, Phil, bar volunteer.

Henry John James Brownill, Cutler Andrew Littlewood

In the last issue , Andrew wrote about the ceramic tiles on the Brownill monument, and the possible connection with H J J Brownill's work for Methodist New Connexion Missions abroad. For this issue he shares his research on H J J Brownill's personal and professional life. Note that where initials were used, including on his grave memorial, his name was written as H I J Brownill.

Henry was born in Sheffield in 1818 to John and Elizabeth. John was a cutler, at Hollis



White's Sheffield Directory. 1849, Sheffield Libraries

and Brownill", based at Eldon Street, between Henry Crookes, and H. J. J. Brownill, as manufacturers of pen knives had been dissolved. Brownill was also recorded as being a property owner at Rivelin, so was eligible to vote.

Croft, Sheffield, making patent knives and forks. John died when Henry was thirteen years old. Henry went on to be a cutler too, and in 1840 married Elizabeth Smith. The couple were recorded in the 1841 Census at Eldon Street with their 4-month-old son, John. In 1842, a notice in the London Gazette stated that a partnership "Crookes

By 1845 Brownill had his own business and home at 88 Scotland Street, as a manufacturer of pen, pocket and sporting knives. By 1852 the company were specialising in silver fruit and dessert knives. The 1851 Census recorded that Henry and Elizabeth Brownill were living at Wentworth Terrace at St. Philip's. The couple now had five children and were employing a servant and a nurse. By 1858, Brownill owned a series of properties on Scotland Street, including a grinding wheel, which previously were owned by the Peace family. (See below.)

At the 1861 Census, the Brownill family had grown by a further two children, now residing at Oxford Street, Nether Hallam. Henry Brownill was recorded as a retired Culter, aged 42. A year later, daughter Elizabeth died so the grave plot in Sheffield General Cemetery was purchased.

In 1862, Henry is recorded as "a gentleman" meaning he was retired and living on his own means. In June that year, Henry's eldest son, John, married the youngest daughter of Josphe Peace of Joseph Peace and Co, Steel Makers. The Peace family also lived on Oxford Street. Henry now began an interest in politics, standing as a council candidate for the Liberal party in the St Philip's Ward. In his canvassing Henry is described as

“having a large interest in the town and property from which an annual income of £600 was derived, a freeholder since 21”. Brownill was elected councillor in November 1862 and the following year he had become involved in Joseph Peace and Co., taking orders for them.

In March 1864, the bursting of Bradfield Reservoir occurred (now known as The Great Sheffield Flood). Councillor Brownill joined the committee to collect relief subscriptions and became a leading member of the Tools Committee charged with supplying replacement tools to men who had no means to a living after losing their equipment in the Flood. It ended in May 1866, when workmen presented Brownill with a rosewood desk they had made in recognition of his help. Brownill resigned as councillor in November.

At the close of 1865, The London Gazette announced that Joseph Peace & Co., had been dissolved – “the business of Steel Manufacturers, Rollers, Tilters and Forgers will be continued at Merchant Works by Samuel Johnstone Hobson and John Brownill, in conjunction with Mr. Henry John James Brownill, under the style of Brownill, Hobson and Brownill. The business of Saw Manufacturers will be continued by Joseph Peace, under the style Joseph Peace & Co.”. Brownill, Hobson and Brownill only lasted until March 1867 when Henry Brownill and Samuel Hobson left. The steel mills then rejoined the saw business under the name “Joseph Peace and Co.” being run by Joseph Peace and John Brownill. Shortly afterwards Joseph Peace and Co. was incorporated and became Joseph Peace and Co. Ltd. One of the directors of this new business was H. I. J. Brownill and its chairman was John Tasker. The 1871 Census recorded Henry Brownill as a Retired Manufacturer. He and his family had moved to Broomgrove Road.

The Chairman, Alderman John Tasker, also ran an organisation called The Montgomery Funding Societies. Henry Brownill was a member of the management committee. Investors bought shares in a fund. The money was lent out to other investors at an interest rate. The fund ran for 92 lunar months, then the loaned money was to be paid back to the fund, and the shareholders got their money back, plus any profits. Henry Brownill was an investor in these funds and also, around October 1869, he took out a loan with Tasker for £2,000 at an interest rate of 5½ percent. About the same time, Brownill was also letting out his old Essex Works at 88 Scotland Street.

In 1872 Upper Chippinghouse Road was built, a speculative build of large villas suited for the new middle-class. Henry Brownill acquired number 18, called Beech House. However, Joseph Peace and Co. Ltd. was struggling and in December 1872 a petition for winding up was filed, leading to a shareholder’s decision to voluntarily close the company and appoint liquidators, one of whom was William Fisher Tasker, John Tasker’s son.

In 1873 there was a court case called Tasker v Brownill, possibly in the Court of the Exchequer. The court case was followed in 1874 by a public meeting regarding the

Montgomery Funding Societies, especially to hear the report of an auditor appointed by the Court of the Exchequer. Brownill had made some claims that profits were not being distributed. Also, the societies were being heavily criticised by Mr. Plimsoll, M.P. for Sheffield, who had published a pamphlet on the failing of their management and a claim that fictitious shares were being allocated. The auditor (Blackburn) found no basis for either claim. William Fisher Tasker read a report from the funds management stating considerable harm had been done to the societies. The report then went on "to show the manner in which Mr. Brownill was connected with the firm of Messrs. Jospeh Peace and Co., and the financial position of Mr. Brownill in relation to that firm. It showed the grounds upon which the lawsuit had been bought against Mr. Brownill by the representatives of the society, and the question in dispute" [which is not explained in the newspaper]. The report stated the amount which Mr. Brownill had agreed to pay the society in discharge of this liability to it, and the time in which the debt and costs was to be discharged. "The society had not dealt harshly with Mr. Brownill but had given him facilities for paying off the debt due to it." Brownill also spoke at the meeting, received with hisses and cheers, and stating: "Two acquisitions had been made against him: That whilst a member of the committee he lent himself £2,000 at 5½ percent interest, and that he wished to repudiate and to deny his responsibilities to the societies. Brownill claimed the committee had lent him £2,000 at 5½ percent. This was followed by a statement that Brownill took no part in the committee's deliberations regarding the loan. "He made an arrangement with them to find the £2,000 at five percent, on condition that he got his writings [deeds] which the society held." He received a reply in September 1869 from John Tasker that the £2,000 was declined until he complied with the motion in reference to Joseph Peace. The reason the £2,000 loan was declined was because he declined to become surety for Joseph Peace. Peace had made application for a loan, and it was granted provided Messrs. Hobson joined in the surety. The society had Brownill's deeds, but he could not comply with their requirement without them. Ultimately the loan to Brownill was effected and he did not wish to deny his responsibility to the society there-to." The meeting accepted the auditor's report and voted against Brownill.

In June 1874 an advertisement from an auction house states that Brownill had been ordered to sell all contents of 18 Chippinghouse Road, by order of the Sheriff of York. In March 1876 the house was up for sale. The Brownills left Sheffield for Worksop.

In August 1877 a letter appeared in the Sheffield Independent newspaper, signed "A Shareholder", which stated that the 29th Commercial Funding Society had a balance of £1,630 that had not been distributed to shareholders, and comparing the results of this fund against a positive outcome for the 32nd fund which had been paid out. This letter began a lengthy chain of 'Letters to the Editor' correspondence. A second auditing firm (Barber Bros. & Wortley) had been appointed to investigate too. They responded to the letter, through the newspaper, saying they had a different balance to the first auditor and inviting shareholders to call upon them. This was followed by a further letter

from the President of the Societies, John Buxton, saying he was aware of the discrepancies between the auditors. Silence followed then for five months, when Buxton wrote again to the editor saying he had checked figures and the second audit was correct, but he could not say why dividends had not been paid. As the management had not responded through the newspaper, perhaps the matter should be dropped? "An Investing Shareholder" then wrote saying "Mr. Tasker said there wasn't a balance as the fund lost money due to Mr. Brownill". Mr. Brownill then wrote saying he had a receipt from Tasker showing he had paid back all monies he owed on 18 September 1874 (so just after his Chippinghouse Road home had been cleared). More letters followed, back and forth, including from Brownill, until 26 March 1878, when an executor of John Tasker's Will wrote (Tasker having died in April 1877) stating that Mr. Tasker had been inappropriately transferring money between funds so funds could be closed off within the advertised timescales. This led to shortfalls if the assets did not return the forecasted amount. Mr. Tasker had to pay in £7,323 to make the books balance, but it should have been the shareholders who paid this money. John Tasker paid the money to save his reputation, and, being Mayor of Sheffield at the time, the reputation of the town. The worry of the loss accelerated the death of John Tasker and his wife. There was no fraud, just bad management.

A public meeting was called at the Temperance Hall. The funds President, Buxton, said he could not understand or reconcile the accounts. Wm. Fisher Tasker said he was now solely in charge of the funds, the accountancy had been changed, the stress of everything caused his father's death, that Buxton was still seeking a payout, and referred to Brownill's conduct. Brownill replied criticising the management and auditing costs and still seeking a dividend return on the 29th club. Another speaker accused Brownill of "everlastingly attempting to degrade the dead". A motion was put forward: "That, in the judgement of this meeting, the report of Messrs. Barber Bothers and Wortley is substantially correct, and that consequently there are no assets that can be divided amongst the shareholders of the 29th Commercial Funding Society". The vote was passed with all in favour but two (no doubt Buxton and Brownill). The vote was received with loud applause.

After losing his Chippinghouse Road home, Henry Brownill moved to Sunny Side, Worksop. There is little information to be found of his life in Worksop (other than the funding society dispute). Brownill had two properties on the street, and he let out the other one. The 1881 census shows Henry and Elizabeth at 22 Carlton Road (close to Sunny Side) and Henry was described as a Retired Cutlery Manufacturer. In 1886 Brownill took out a patent for "metal plates for street sewers" - why is not known, however his address on this notice is "Sheffield".

Henry John James Brownill died on 27 October 1890 and his address was recorded as 90 Sharrow Lane, Sheffield.

Events

Keep up to date by visiting

gencem.org/whats-on

Tickets for the history tours, which usually take place on the first Sunday of the month, should be booked through our website www.gencem.org which links to TicketSource.

The café and bookstall in the Samuel Worth Chapel are open on tour days.

Book your tickets at ticketsource.co.uk/sgct

Membership

You can join us as a member by visiting

gencem.org/membership

The membership costs £10 per person per year and is renewable from the date of joining.

This edition of Undertakings was edited by Shirley Baxter



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