

Cemetery Mile Notes

Angelo Antonio Antonucci (1913, G61ca)

- Born 1860 in Picinisco, Lazio – small village 7000ft up in the Apennines.
- Area dominated by “brigands” and family gradually emigrated
- Angelo, the youngest, probably remained to look after his parents. Married Lucia Palombo and, on death of father, upped roots too and arrived in Plymouth 1895ish.
- Set up ice-cream business in Teignmouth in 1901
- Ice-cream started commercially in London in 1840. A luxury for the public but carried risk of disease – ice cut from frozen Regents canal, sold in small glasses called penny-licks – linked to spread of TB!!
- Problem of sanitation remained until next century. Reports of Ptomaine poisoning in Plymouth and Torquay in 1900 “Medical Officer of Health (Dr. Karkeek) was on the alert, and had visited the places where the compound is prepared in Torquay, in July or August last. He found that one ice cream vendor prepared his concoction in a stable, where animals were kept, that another used a stable in which no horses or other animals were kept, and that the third made his in a wash-house. We have often felt that if people could see the conditions under which these compounds are mixed, and the places where they are stored after being made, there would be far less consumption of it.”
- The ptomaines were alkaloids produced by the decomposition of animal substances
- 1901 bills in parliament to regulate manufacture and sale of ice-cream. Ice imported from US
- Ice-cream wars in Teignmouth in 1904 reports. The Exeter and Plymouth Gazette of 26th August 1904 reported: “A ‘hokey-pokey’ row took place on Teignmouth Den on the occasion of the Regatta. Two Italian ice-cream vendors assaulted another of the same nationality”. : 'Gelati, ecco un poco!'
- OBSTRUCTION: “At Teignmouth yesterday, Joseph Antonucci and Jack Antonucci, ice-cream vendors, were charged with causing an obstruction in Den road on Bank Holiday. P.C. Dallyn said defendants were doing a good trade, and did not seem to mind causing obstruction. P.S. Holland said they had nearly 20,000 people in the town on that day. Both defendants were fined 7s. 6d. inclusive.”
- DIVERSIFICATION into “chip-potato” carts for winter months 1911
- Angelo Antonio Antonucci died in 1913, aged only 53.

Robert Arthington (1900,K103un)

- Born in Leeds 1823. Only son, of Robert and Maria Arthington, a wealthy Quaker family. His father ran a successful brewery business but his conscience eventually caused him to give it up and devote himself to the cause of temperance
- Both his parents died in 1864 and he inherited an enormous fortune of over £200,000. When informed once of the size of his fortune he replied “No man has a right to so much money”.
- He invested his inheritance wisely. His wealth increased and enabled him to undertake what he saw as his life’s philanthropic work of spreading the gospel.
- His generosity can perhaps be attributed to the teachings of his mother who believed a man should 'Do his duty to his fellow creature'.
- Much of the money was spent on the infrastructure behind evangelism - boats, railways, missions, schools and education, hospitals, settlements.
- Railways of India; Establishment of Arthington, Liberia & re-patriation of slaves from US; Congo mission and purchase of steamer “Peace” for the Congo river; Mission of Misoram, NE India; Missionary work in Korea & China; Arthington exploration of Central America; Leeds hospital for Women & Children
- There were life-changing struggles in his personal life: In 1870 his life changed. He fell in love, had a large new house built in Headingley Lane for himself and his prospective bride – but he was jilted at the last minute. He never recovered and became a recluse, living in poverty
- It is recorded that:
“In the later years of the nineteenth century an odd, gloomy figure was to be seen from time to time in Headingley village, buying a few necessities of life, dressed in old clothes green with age and an ancient stovepipe hat passed down from his father. This was Robert Arthington, often called ‘the Headingley miser’, the subject of much talk and speculation in his lifetime and legendary after his death for his legacies of over a million pounds”.
- It has been quoted that: “His life in his Teignmouth retreat was cleaner, if humbler, for on arriving he inquired of an old boatman for lodgings. The boatman, seeing an aged man of poverty-stricken appearance, offered him quarters in his own house. And there Robert Arthington ended his days among kindly people, who had no suspicion of his fabulous wealth.”
- When he died in 1900 he left £1,000,000 worth £175 million today. This was placed in a trust to be used to continue his life’s work for a further 25 years

Thomas Aggett (1906,T156)

- Railway Poet of the West - Born Saltash 1863; Father worked on the Royal Albert Bridge (opened 1859) under Brunel; Moved to Torquay & started work as a farmer's boy
- 1880 spent 2 years as a footman to an invalid widow on Isle of Wight; Fine library in the house created his love of Byron and Burns. Apparently read over and over until he knew poems by heart. But had to do it furtively – housekeeper!!
- Father died 1881, whilst he was there; 1882 joined Great Western railway
- 1883:*"I paid a visit to the 'Land o'Burns' having a week's leave, with a free pass to Manchester and back. I started on my pilgrimage as devoutly as ever good Mussulman started for the shrine of Mohammed at Mecca, and never have I so thoroughly enjoyed myself as I did that week in visiting the places of interest connected with Scotland's national bard."*
- Settled in Teignmouth, married Emily Lavis in 1885 and had five children –
- Died 16th August 1906, aged 43 – young like his father.
- Poetry: Published 2 books under the name Autolycus – "Demon Hunter, a Legend of Torquay" and "Vagabond Verses"
- Aggett's view (in preface to first book): *"I do not aspire to genius, neither do I pretend to have written anything exceptionally good, and if the reader derives the same amount of pleasure in reading as I have in writing the poems, I shall consider it sufficient recompense, and feel justified in having printed them; if, on the other hand, they are found incapable of affording any pleasure, I can only excuse myself, by saying they never would have been printed had it not been for the hope of benefiting the Widows and Orphans' Fund of the Great Western Railway".*
- Address of Teignmouth to her Local Board:
- With lamentations loud and deep
Great cause have I, alas! to weep,
My Council members seem asleep,
I'm so dejected
For I whom they profess to keep
Am quite neglected

Thomas Abel Brimage Spratt (1888, W6)

- Born 1811, Woodway House, one of thirteen children, eldest son of Commander James Spratt RN
- Entered navy 1827, attached to the surveying branch until 1863 in surveying the Mediterranean.
- Interrupted by the Crimean War, commander of the "Spitfire" in the Black Sea, was decorated and awarded Companion of the Order of the Bath after the Crimea War in 1855.
- BUT HE WAS THE INDIANA JONES OF HIS TIME!!
- Fellow of the Geological Society in 1843, Royal Society in 1856, Royal Geographical Society in 1859, Society of Antiquaries in 1873, and the Zoological Society of London in 1883.
- PROBABLY MOST IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION ... TROY
- "Spratt's Map" used by archaeologists Heinrich Schliemann, Wilhelm Dorpfeld, and Carl Blegen, which contributed to the discovery of Troy,
- Why? because the name *Troy* with a question mark was added by a German professor of classical antiquities, Forschammer, working with Spratt in July 1839

Leah Laforge (1888, S10)

- Born in 1861, described as “a black-eyed, chestnut-haired Devonshire beauty”.
- daughter of Samuel Lee, a well-to-do draper of Teignmouth, and his wife, also named Leah.
- Left England to become governess to the children of Empress Augusta in Berlin.
- Met another courtier - Jules Laforge; He was described as “a handsome cigar-smoking dandy who relished the opportunity to wear frock coats, topers, and morning dress when he went over to sit with the old Empress and read her the *Revue des deux mondes*”.
- But for a long time he had admired Englishwomen – he once wrote to a friend “As you know, there are three sexes – men, women and English girls”.
- She had a whirlwind romance with Jules Laforge, left Berlin, got married on December 31st 1886 in England at the Church of St Barnabas in Kensington and then returned to Paris.
- Jules Laforge was no ordinary poet. He is widely recognised as the father of modern poetry and the creator of “free verse” or “*vers libre*” as it was known at the time
- Less than a year after their marriage Jules was dead (20th August 1887), having contracted TB
- BUT LEAH ENSURED ALL HIS MANUSCRIPTS WERE SAVED FOR PUBLICATION – she handed them over to his friend Teodor Wyzewa
- Leah died in London a year later (6th June 1888) from the same disease.
- T S Eliot discovered Laforge in 1908 when he was at Harvard and it changed his life. Eliot said “Laforge was the first to teach me how to speak, to teach me the poetic possibilities of my own idiom of speech”
- Ezra Pound said that Eliot without Laforge was unlikely to have been anything other than a professor of philosophy instead of Nobel prize winner.

James Bower Bower (1920 O116)

- **CHANGED SURNAME** to benefit from an inheritance from his uncle James Henry Bower
- **A Pillar of the Community:** Vicar’s Warden, Trustee of Teignmouth Hospital, Newton Abbot Board of Guardians, East Devon and Teignmouth Club member, Commodore of Corinthian sailing Club, Secretary of Diocesan Choral Association
- **BUT** on June 30th 1908 there was a blot on his escutcheon, a crime was committed
- Caught in flagrante **BATHING WITHOUT A COSTUME**
- In words of the PC “*He took off all his clothes and in a nude state, entered the water*”
- THEN 3 attempts to pervert the course of justice:
 - Asked the PC not to report him;
 - At the station said to the sergeant "One of your constables has caught me this morning bathing without a costume. I hope that nothing will be done in it. I should not wish to have it reported."
 - Later he met with the Superintendent and asked “Is there any way out of it? Can't I make donation to some Institution or other?” He afterwards offered £50 to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund, which he eventually raised to £100
- **RESULT:** A £1 fine and 14s 6d costs **But what of his reputation?**

Georgiana Caroline Barbara Mainwaring (1881, O47)

- An army officer's wife (Major General Captain Edward Rowland Mainwaring) and the last of the lady hostages of the Kabul disaster of 1842.
- 6 January 1842, 16,000 members of the British Kabul force, the 'Army of the Indus', fled from Kabul under the illusion of safe-conduct promised by the eastern Afghan tribes
- Elphinstone's army to be allowed safe passage to the British garrison at Jalalabad, 90 miles away. BUT it suffered numerous attacks from Afghan tribesmen in the winter snows of the Hindu Kush.
- Many died of exposure, frostbite or were killed during the fighting. In total the British army lost 4,500 troops along with about 10,000 civilians
- The final stand outside a village called Gandamak on 13 January where the last 200 frostbitten soldiers found themselves surrounded by several thousand Ghilzai tribesmen.
- Only British survivor - Surgeon William Brydon who rode alone into Jellalabad, one week later.
- known as the "Massacre of Elphinstone's Army" - Described as the worst British military disaster until the fall of Singapore a century later and upto that time the greatest defeat ever inflicted on the British by an Asian enemy.
- Over 100 hostages had been taken.
- The Relief Force of 8000 men under General Pollock set out in September.
- Widely termed the "Army of Retribution" its advance marked with utmost savagery - whole populations were slaughtered and villages burnt.
- RELEASE OF HOSTAGES - reached Kabul on 15 September Thirty-five British officers, fifty-one private soldiers, twelve officers' wives and twenty-two children taken hostage by Akbar Khan were released. Prisoners and escort arrived in Kabul on 21st September 1842 to a rapturous greeting.
- Georgiana Mainwaring and her infant son Edward were amongst those released from their ordeal.
- TELLING THE STORY - "A Journal of the Disasters in Afghanistan 1841-2 by Lady Florentia Sale
- QUOTE: Mrs. M.'s sufferings were very great; and she deserves much credit for having preserved her child through these dreadful scenes. She not only had to walk a considerable distance with her child in her arms through the deep snow, but had also to pick her way over the bodies of the dead, dying, and wounded, both men and cattle, and constantly to cross the streams of water, wet up to the knees, pushed and shoved about by men and animals, the enemy keeping up a sharp fire, and several persons being killed close to her.
- Georgiana had two more children and remained in India until her husband died in 1868. Then she returned to Teignmouth. Died 1881 aged 67. Her infant son survived to become Colonel Edward Philipson Mainwaring.

Samuel Poole (1906, H98un)

- Pioneer of photography in Teignmouth
- Born in Taunton 1924, married Mary Ann, started as a house-builder and by 1851 was doing so well they had their own house with 2 children and a servant.
- Upped roots around 1859 with 4 children and moved to Teignmouth to start a photography business
- WHY? BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY? “Cartes de Visite” – started 1854 when a French photographer, André Adolphe Eugène Disdéri patented a method for creating multiple negatives on a single plate. The cards opened up photography to the masses and became really popular after 1859 when Disdéri published Napoleon III’s photograph in this format.
- Also scenic photography (Great storm of 1859 – his photo of destruction of railway appeared in Illustrated London News) & covered Royal visit (Prince and Princess of Wales) in 1865 to Botallack in Cornwall.
- After this Samuel officially designated photographer to the Prince and Princess of Wales
- Sadly though, most of Samuel’s work seems to have disappeared
- By 1871 3 more children and 2 sons now working in the business as “photographic artists”
- Wife died 1890, Samuel remarried in 1895 (Sarah Rossiter, widow of jeweller Ebenezer Rossiter)
- The business continued as a family business until at least 1906 when Samuel died
- 3 sons established their own photographic businesses. Most famous was Arthur Poole whose collection of 70,000 photographic plates is in the National Photographic Archives in Dublin

Isabella Jane English (1888, F30ca)

- April 30th 1795 the Benedictine Nuns of Dunkirk fled the French Revolution and came to London
- Lived in the Hammersmith Nunnery for next 60-70 years but needed their own convent
- Enter Isabella Jane English. Born 1814 she had acquired a huge inheritance which she was to spend on charitable causes. One of those causes was the founding of St Scholastica’s Abbey (patron saint of Benedictine nuns, education, ‘convulsive’ children and is invoked against storms and rain; 10th Feb is St Scholastica’s Day)
- 1861, September - Purchase of Dun Esk, Teignmouth
- 1862 (early) - Isabella visits Pope Pius IX, Rome, for blessing
- 1862, July 8 - Foundation Stone laid (she laid the 3rd stone)
- She returned to Rome in December taking with her a statue of St Peter, given to her by Isambard Brunel, to be blessed by the Pope.
- 1863, September 7 - Nuns start to arrive (help of Mrs Isambard Kingdom Brunel)
- 1864, September 29th - Consecration of the Abbey
- the best piece of architecture of which Teignmouth can boast
- Cost £14000 = c. £2.2 million today
- 8th January 1869 “Our Holy Father, Pope Pius IX, conferred the honour of ‘Roman Countess’ on Miss Isabella Jane English, of Dun Esk, Teignmouth This title has been given to her on account of her devotion to Rome and the Holy See”
- Died 1st September 1888 – wanted to be buried in the convent but not allowed because she hadn’t died there.

Sophia Crawford (1878, J22co)

- Born 1799 to the Reverend James Mockler and his wife Sybella. Married in 1830 to Captain Abraham Crawford. He had spent 30 years virtually full-time at sea. Invalided home in 1829. By 1851 census living at 38 Dawlish Street with her mother and sister Catherine.
- First novel published in 1850. Then a relatively brief but prolific period of published works – in the next seven years she wrote five novels in 14 volumes.
- Why did she start?: A whim, prompted perhaps by changes in life?; Competition with husband – he wrote first volume of his reminiscences in same year; Or perhaps it was motivated by the 1850 Public Libraries Act.
- ON HER STYLE: Romance - “Mills & Boone-ish”: “This is a very good novel, or rather, romance, for the regular devourers of that class of article, but for no others” “it will do very well. Where one better romance is made and offered for sale there are at least ten worse; and many people will prefer it to the fiction immediately preceding it.”
- EXAMPLE: from *The Story of a Nun* Did it inspire the famous scene in *The Thomas Crown Affair* of Steve McQueen and Faye Dunaway playing chess (!):

MAKE LOVE AT CHESS

Thus a few weeks went on, and still that feeling of diffidence which real love always inspires prevented Frederick Ratcliff from confessing the passion his fair mistress had raised in his bosom, and Helen herself assisted in protracting this disclosure, by denying him with girlish coquettishness an opportunity of speaking to her in private.

Nevertheless, her evident pleasure in receiving his attentions at last emboldened the timid lover, and when, one evening, at a game of chess, on which he was vainly trying to fix his thoughts, Helen said to him, playfully, after sweeping away his best pieces one after the other -

"See, Mr. Ratcliff, I have taken your two knights and one castle, and if you do not play better, I shall take all your other pieces too."

He could not resist any longer, but seizing the little white hand which hovered temptingly over the board, and pressing her delicate rosy-tipped fingers, exclaimed -

"Take everything, dear Miss Vivian; but take me too with them—say—speak—do not keep me in this cruel suspense. Shall it be so?" murmured he, eagerly, while Helen, covered with blushes, overturned all the men on the board, and rose hastily.

There was music going on at the other end of the room. Nobody was attending to them, nobody heard him whisperingly press his suit, or marked her downcast eyes. However, it was all settled.

Albert Best (1920, J29co)

- Born in Teignmouth in 1840 only 25 years after the Battle of Waterloo and lived here his whole life.
- Started work on his 14th birthday; served a 7 year apprenticeship to become a plumber. Later set up on his own, creating a family firm which became a major employer in the town in his lifetime
- The firm later became J.G. Best and Sons, Builders and Ironmongers at 11 to 15 Somerset Place. That business finally closed down in the late 1970's.
- BUT MORE THAN A PLUMBER: Made lead coffins. nocturnal activities at St Scholastica's Abbey, helping with the coffin of the Abbess; His firm also built the Shaldon memorial clock tower, erected in 1921 to commemorate the twenty-six local men who died during the First World War.
- Probably the pinnacle of his professional career, in conjunction with W Hawking of Dawlish, was to create Venford Reservoir in a beautiful segment of Dartmoor, just above the village of Holne. Project started in 1901 and formally opened in 1907. It holds approximately 198 million gallons of water, covers around 33 acres and provides Paignton's water supply.
- THE SOCIAL HISTORIAN. He did this through keeping a diary from 1865 until a week before his death in 1920.
- The entries in his diaries tend to be quite a succinct and pragmatic, or factual record of his day-to-day activities. It is interesting that he didn't offer much by way of opinion about the events taking place, such as the bread riots in Teignmouth; described a race from the Teignmouth Inn in Dawlish to the Dawlish Inn in Teignmouth!
- I was also intrigued that he wasn't married. As a successful businessman you would think that he would be quite a catch in the Teignmouth of his day.

William Carl Edward Bodnar (1862, E83co)

- Beware of marrying a cad and a bounder. Remember Sergeant Troy (played by Terence Stamp) in far from the Madding Crowd?? Well Teignmouth had someone similar.
- 1852 Baron Charles A. Bodnar, late Captain of the Honved Hussars, under General Dembinsky, during the whole of the Hungarian war landed in Falmouth, settled in Teignmouth, won the heart of Maria Louisa Croydon and they married in June. 1853.
- Maria was soon pregnant and had a son, Wilhelm Carl Edward on July 19th 1854
- BUT her husband then showed his true colours – he deserted Maria and their child and fled to Portsmouth to join the navy, enlisting on the St. George, a 120 gun vessel which was part of the Baltic Fleet
- He returned to London where he seems to have run off with someone's money and a reward had been posted for his whereabouts
- He changed his name to Charles Wales and joined the British Italian Legion based in Susa, where he became a Sergeant-Major quartermaster
- Finally he bigamously married an inn-keeper's daughter, Carlota Ozelli
- Maria eventually managed to sue for divorce in 1860 in the absence of her husband.
- Nothing more was heard of him.
- Maria's son died on 4th December 1862, barely one year after Maria secured her decree nisi. His grave is in the cemetery but he is also commemorated in St Michael's Church, Teignmouth.
- Maria is buried close by, we think in an unmarked grave.

Harold Frank Ricketts (1916, Mm207)

- Constable in the Met 1913, married Kate Gilpin Sept 1916, went down to Teignmouth for honeymoon, staying with her mother Elizabeth
- An evening boat trip - 6 people in boat – Harold & Kate, mother, sister Florrie + 2 children; Going up to Shaldon bridge (Florrie rowing) to drop off Florrie & daughter who lived in Bishops; Reached Polly Steps, heard cries of “Help” from young lad, Stanley Drew in trouble in the high Spring tide
- Harold tried to rescue and had pulled him half-way into the boat; But boy grabbed Harold around the neck and both fell into the water; The boat also tipped over so now 7 people in the water
- People had now gathered on the dockside and several jumped in to help those in trouble; Stanley Drew was rescued after several attempts.
- In the mellee though Harold had disappeared underwater; His body was found 4 hours later six foot under water about 25 yards away
- Harold’s funeral took place 3 days later – an unmarked grave but he was later recognised through a plaque in the loggia wall of Postman’s Park. Postman’s Park is just north of St Paul’s Cathedral, next to former GPO headquarters – hence “Postman’s” park; 1900 location for George Frederic Watts's “Memorial to Heroic Self Sacrifice”

John Hewett (1911, II16)

- The first vicar of Babbacombe, appointed in 1867, prior to the consecration of the building on All Saints Day (November 1) by the great Samuel Wilberforce, Bishop of Oxford.
- He was an exemplary social worker, sympathetic and earnest, an ardent supporter of the temperance cause and famed for the ‘rare eloquence’ of his sermons.
- Most distinguished member of his regular congregation was Duchess of Sutherland (former Mistress of the Robes to Queen Victoria). Her husband was close friend of the Prince of Wales
- But the most exalted figure who ever visited the church was the much-beloved Princess of Wales (the future Queen-Empress consort of Edward VII). Alexandra and her three daughters stayed with the Duchess in her villa throughout March 1886
- The House of Rest: intended to provide rest and recuperation for working women who suffered or were under pressure in their working conditions. Patronage of the Duchess of Sutherland. Father John Hewett actively involved in its inception and ongoing governance. Starting up in 1878 it went from strength to strength, ending up as three houses accommodating upto 30 women at a time.
- Mabel’s Tale and the House of Mercy: “As a child of 5, Mabel was sold to an organ grinder in Plymouth and walked many of the roads in Cornwall, singing to raise money for her owner”. was the illegitimate child of a ‘slipshod’ woman and abandoned, to be put in the workhouse. Then left with the Pratts (the organ grinder) in a Plymouth slum where she shared a filthy, infested room with them and others. She was turned out onto the street at age 9 and eventually ended up at the Devon House of Mercy in Bovey Tracey. She finds some peace there and stays until age 15 when she returns to the world, enters service and eventually marries
- 1882 Father Hewett joined the management council and was soon promoting the House of Mercy. “The work of the House of Mercy was truly one of Christian charity, and one which everyone should support and encourage as a Christian duty. If they could even survey the domestic working of this admirable institution he was sure that everybody present would support it by their contributions and by their prayers.”

William Frederick Yeames (1918, Mm77)

- Born on 18th December 1835 in Taganrog, Russia where his father was the British consul.
- By 1848 Yeames was in London where he learned anatomy and composition from Sir George Scharf, who was director of the National Portrait Gallery.
- 1852 he travelled to Italy, painted landscape studies and copied Old Masters, including the frescoes of Raphael in the Vatican.
- St John's Wood Clique 1859 returned to London, joined the loose association of artists known as the St John's Wood Clique
- The group concentrated on subjects of an historical nature and narrative paintings in which the story was revealed by close study of the actions and expressions of the subjects. In Yeames's work this technique evolved into the genre known as the 'problem picture', in which the narrative of the image creates an unresolved dilemma or paradox for the viewer.
- His most famous painting, now on display in the Walker Art Gallery in Liverpool, is entitled "*And when did you last see your father?*"
- Exhibited at the Royal Academy and was made an Associate (ARA) in 1866. Also librarian of the Royal Academy and curator of the Painted Hall at the Royal Naval College, Greenwich.
- Blue Plaque In 2000, a blue plaque commemorating Yeames was installed at his former home, 8 Campbell Road, Hanwell, London, where he lived from 1894 until 1912
- Gradually, however, his eyesight deteriorated and he last exhibited in 1910 and in 1912 he had a seizure from which he never fully recovered.
- He and wife Anne moved to Brimley House in Higher Brimley Road, Teignmouth for the benefit of his health and celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in 1915. William died three years later on 3rd May 1918.
- In a biography by his niece she writes
"And on the cross which marks the spot where we laid him, in that beautiful hillside cemetery, within sight of the sea, changeful as life itself, on one hand, and the still purple moors on the other, my aunt had the same word inscribed which marks the tomb of Albert Durer in Nuremberg :
EMIGRAVIT."
- Short for the Latin expression "Ex hac vita ad Dominum emigravit" – "He emigrated from this life to the Lord.")