



NEWSLETTER

NEWS FROM THE CEMETERY

Unexpected, but welcome, visitors

James Cockburn, *Non-Catholic Cemetery Testaccio Rome* (2017)

Coincidences can be very strange. The previous Newsletter featured a posthumous portrait of Devereux Plantagenet Cockburn who died young in 1850. The very day that it went to the printers, we had an unannounced visit from James Cockburn, Devereux's great-grandson. James himself is an artist and potter and we reproduce here an oil painting inspired by his visit. The tradition of artists in the Cemetery continues.

Other unexpected visitors were Koichiro Kawase and his wife Nobuko from Japan. For our piece (see *Newsletter 29*), about Masataka Kawase (1840-1919), Japanese ambassador to Italy, and his three infant children who died in Rome, several Japanese scholars had had no luck tracing any other children of the marriage who had survived. To our delight Koichiro announced himself as the grandson of Makoto, the last of nine children of Masataka and his wife Hideko. Naturally he was moved to see the graves of his grandfather's siblings whom he had never known.



The Kawases with Amanda Thursfield

Commemorating Henry Piggott, Wesleyan Methodist missionary



Henry James Piggott. Photo: Archivio Fotografico Valdese, Fondo Chiese Metodiste

November 30 saw the centenary of the death of Henry James Piggott (1831-1917), the founder of Wesleyan Methodist missions in Italy. The Evangelical Methodist Churches in Italy (OPCEMI) marked it with a commemoration held in the chapel and at the graveside (Zone 2.14.22). Revd. Dr Tim Macquiban kindly contributed the following note:

The founder of Wesleyan Methodist missions to Italy was born in Lowestoft, England, in 1831, the son of a former missionary to Sierra Leone. Henry Piggott was educated at Kingswood School and Wesley College Taunton, before attending the University of London where he obtained a first class degree in Classics. He entered the ministry of the Wesley Methodist Connexion and served in local churches in Oxford, Hastings and Hammersmith in London. He resisted the call to overseas work until challenged by the new opportunities for mission to Italy following the Risorgimento.

In 1861 he and Richard Green came to Italy. Piggott initially worked in the north, and then the Veneto, founding churches in Ivrea, Intra, Cremona, Parma, Padua and La Spezia. Then in 1873 he moved the centre of his work to Rome where he remained until his death. He was superintendent of the work of Methodism in the Italy District until his "retirement" in 1903, during which time he travelled and preached throughout the country. In response to the demand for more ministers as the denomination increased its members and preaching places, schools and a theological college were established.

Piggott was a great advocate for Protestant missions in Italy, writing articles in the British religious press. He also contributed to biblical scholarship in Italian (he was President of the Italian Bible Society as well as its Sunday School Union). He admired the great orator and founder of the Italian Free Church, Alessandro Gavazzi, former chaplain to Garibaldi (buried here at Zone 1.13.15). Gavazzi's Rome base at Ponte Sant'Angelo Church came into Wesleyan Methodism in 1903 when the two churches merged. On display there is the memorial tablet, formerly housed at the church in Via della Scrofa where Piggott lived, that records his death

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after 56 years of ministry in Italy. In his grave (Zone 2.14.22) there are also buried his wife and daughter Mary. This great preacher and pastor, scholar and theologian was the bedrock upon which Methodism in Italy was established and grew.



Using eco-friendly biocides in the garden

We use biocides in the Cemetery for combating plant pests and for cleaning monuments but always in an environmentally responsible way. Il Trattore, whose work in the garden elicits much praise from visitors, uses no products that could be harmful to people or wildlife or the resident cats. Stone conservators have seen EU and Italian legislation outlaw various biocides used in the past, leading to a greater interest in 'natural' products. Last year the Istituto Superiore per la Conservazione e il Restauro, Italy's oldest state conservation institute (founded in 1939), conducted some biocide field trials in the Cemetery. Selecting two marble monuments, Anna Maria Petrini, Marco Bartolini and Antonella Basile tested four commercial biocides and three natural plant oils. The Cemetery is proud to collaborate with the Institute in promoting responsible conservation.



WHO THEY WERE

Georg August Spangenberg, army doctor and art collector

Georg August Spangenberg had a distinguished career as a doctor for the military during and after the Napoleonic wars. Coming from the town of Bützow, south of Rostock in northern Germany, he was baptised in Güstrow nearby on 13 October 1779 (Spangenberg never knew his precise birthdate). He studied medicine in Halle, Göttingen and Würzburg where he graduated in 1801.

While there he gained experience in the French military hospital and spent seven months in Vienna for the same purpose. A year in Paris allowed him to attend lectures by Pinel, Boyer and Dupuytren and to work with the leading hospitals and doctors of the time. Back in Germany in 1803, the Duke of Brunswick, Carl Wilhelm Ferdinand, appointed him his personal physician on condition that he lecture at the Collegium Anatomico-chirurgicum in Brunswick (Braunschweig). He took on the role of secretary and then assessor for the local health authority and published several medical works.



Photo: A. Störk

The headstone of Spangenberg

His life now became caught up in political events. In October 1806 the twin battles of Jena and Auerstedt saw Napoleon decisively defeat the Prussian army. In the battle the Duke of Brunswick was shot in the temple, losing his sight. Spangenberg fled with his employer to Brunswick and then, with the French army approaching, on to Otten-

The Pyramid floodlit

The pyramid is now floodlit at night thanks to the power company ACEA (photo: Francesco Fotia).



Photo: Francesco Fotia



Pompeo Batoni, *Carl Wilhelm Ferdinand, later Duke of Brunswick*, 1767, oil on canvas (Herzog Anton Ulrich Museum, Brunswick)

sen (near Hamburg) which was neutral Danish territory. There the Duke died, and Spangenberg returned to a Brunswick occupied by the French army.

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The following year Napoleon created the kingdom of Westphalia for his youngest brother, Jérôme Bonaparte, with his residence at Kassel. Jérôme founded a military academy in Brunswick and appointed Spangenberg as doctor and professor. In 1812 he became Jérôme's personal doctor and moved to Kassel. But the end of Napoleon's empire and the dissolution of the kingdom of Westphalia left Spangenberg's reputation tarnished for having served the enemy. He therefore established a medical practice in Hamburg. There his wife, Minna Hinneberg, whom he had married in 1804, gave birth to a son, Wilhelm Heinrich, but she herself died two weeks later.

Spangenberg was also an art connoisseur and owned a remarkable painting collection, mainly comprising Flemish Old Masters. He had visited Italy several times for its art. Both his sons from his second marriage in 1823 (to Louise Marie Sillem) became well-known painters: Louis (1824-1893) and Gustav Adolph (1828-1891).

His son Louis reported that his father suffered from heart disease and decided in 1833 to leave Hamburg and establish himself in Rome, hoping to benefit from the southern climate (there was also

a cholera epidemic in Hamburg that year). He sold his house and possessions including his painting collection which was acquired by the insurance broker and art collector Nikolaus Hudtwalcker (1794-1863). The collection was enlarged by Hudtwalcker, inherited after his death by his nephew Johannes Wesselhoeft, and eventually acquired by the Kunsthalle in Hamburg. It is now known as the Hudtwalcker-Wesselhoeft collection but the core of it is the acquisitions made originally by Georg August Spangenberg.

Once resident in Rome, having written his will and severed all ties with Hamburg, he lived only for art and supported several painters resident in the city. In 1837 he, his wife and their two young sons moved to Albano, as did many other foreign residents to escape the cholera then plaguing the city. There, in the Villa di Parigi, Spangenberg died of a heart attack on 8 July 1837. He was buried two days later in the Protestant Cemetery (Zone 1.11.1). In his will he requested a simple coffin and an inexpensive funeral, asking that a donation be made instead to an alms-house in Hamburg.

Contributed by Annemarie Störk of Hamburg, a descendant of the doctor



The sad end of Mary Ludlum Cass



Photo: N Stanley-Ridge

"A parental memorial to one dearly loved and early lost" is the epitaph on the monument to Mary Ludlum Cass (Zone 1.16.22), born in New York on 23 July 1834 and died at Rome on 4 March 1853 (although, as we shall see, this date is wrong). The epitaph ends with a line from Psalm 127: "He giveth his beloved rest", although the Biblical text gives 'sleep' instead. Even so, the monument serves now only as a cenotaph because the remains of the young woman were transferred to New York, where they are now to be found with those of her husband, Lewis Cass jr, who died some twenty years later.

Almost nothing is known of this unfortunate girl. It is certain, however, that she met a sudden death "occurring while in the act of taking an ordinary bath" (according to a memoir of 1879 about the Farwell family who were friends of Ludlum). Her father Nicholas (1799-1868) lived in the Jamaica district of Queens and was a wealthy businessman in Manhattan. But he had the pain of seeing three of his four daughters die before him: Adelia was the survivor but Cornelia Maria died aged about 13, Maria Cecilia at one year and Mary at twenty. (The year on the tomb is wrong because she died in 1855, not 1853, but the date of 4 March is correct.) In honour of his three daughters Nicholas had a memorial chapel built in Prospect Cemetery in Queens.

But if we know little of Mary, there is much to say about her husband, a real character. Lewis Cass jr (1810-1878) was one of the many children of Lewis Cass, a United States senator. He married the very young Mary on 27 June 1854, in New York, but the marriage sadly was due to last only eight months. Cass was a career diplomat. On 5 January 1849 he was nominated chargé d'affaires to the Holy See and stayed at his post during the ephemeral Roman Republic for which he showed a marked sympathy. He was a friend of many patriots and of Mazzini himself, for whom he obtained an American pass-



Photo: Chang Lee
The Ludlum chapel, Prospect Cemetery, Queen's, NY, under restoration in 2008

port under a false name, allowing him to embark at Civitavecchia after the fall of the Republic. Given to generous impulses, in 1851 he secured the release of thirteen political detainees of the Pontifical State by committing himself to spend from his own pocket 3,000 dollars in expenses for their deportation to California. On 9 November 1854 he was promoted to Resident Minister and on 25 February 1856 he was named Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary. But in 1858 he resigned from the post. Lewis Cass jr's tombstone records that "he died in Paris, France".

The press of the time reported that the unexpected and premature death of his wife had profoundly shocked him. Raffaele De Cesare in his *Roma e lo Stato del Papa* (1907) writes that Lewis Cass at that time was "a misanthrope, shut up in his apartment at the Hotel Meloni. The Romans thought him uncouth but Cass was a fine man, full of good deeds, and for donations to charity his was always the largest." It is curious to note that in 1855 he was persuaded to join the organizing committee for the horse races that year, one of a good number of diplomats and aristocrats. This remained the only such instance, however, suggesting that he was involved mainly due to circumstances or to the role required of him.

So, in the case of Mary Ludlum, we can say that a too brief existence prevented her from leading a potentially brilliant life surrounded by the devoted love of her husband.

Contributed by Domenico Rotella

Trees and plants in the garden: a botanist investigates. No. 2: the colourful Lantana



Flowers with a “spherical corymbus” on a *Lantana camara* in the Cemetery

The garden has some fine, healthy examples of the colourful *Lantana camara* (L.1753), a genus that has about 150 perennial flowering plants in the verbena family (Verbenaceae). In English it is known also as shrub verbena. In many parts of the world it is considered a pest and one of the most difficult plants to eradicate. From its origins in Central and South America, it has colonised large areas of Australia, Oceania and Africa, for instance the highlands of Kenya and Tanzania, especially on cleared forest land. Birds are a principal agent of its dissemination. Lantana seeds become attached to the birds' wings or are ingested by them and are then expelled when the birds fly over areas not yet infested with the plant. So the spread and then the germination of the seeds can be very rapid. Botanists have found it almost impossible to eradicate – it survives even intense fires.

In Europe, on the other hand, and specifically in Italy, it has never shown these characteristics (perhaps because stronger plants compete with it or else its seeds do not appeal to birds here). Instead it has become a popular ornamental, used often in rockeries. You do not see it often in cemeteries or historic gardens but it is common in public parks along the paths.

It is an evergreen bush and ‘suffruticosa’, meaning a perennial

plant, woody, with herbaceous stems down to its base, and of medium height. The varieties found as ornamentals and in nurseries have a delicate appearance, with their stems slender and profuse (the botanical, or spontaneous, species are more robust). Overall they have a harmonious and bushy structure, and can grow up to 2m. high whereas spontaneous specimens tend to grow, in the right conditions, more horizontally. The flowers within one inflorescence of a *Lantana* may be of various colours which can change over time due to oxidation processes. The oval leaves are of a dark green colour, the surface rough to the touch and covered with a soft down. If rubbed, it gives off a rather unpleasant odour. In its original home in South America various peoples have used the berries to make ink and the stems to make brooms. Now spread worldwide, *Lantana* plants are considered toxic to grazing cattle and their berries are poisonous if ingested by humans. But their colourful flowers, out usually between April and September, make this ornamental a bright and decorative asset to the Cemetery garden.

Giuliano Russini and Nicholas Stanley-Price



A bushy specimen of *Lantana* in Zone 2

**A big thank-you to the Friends for supporting restoration of monuments and garden work,
and to all our volunteers for their warm welcome in the Visitors' Centre.**

HOW TO BECOME A FRIEND

This Newsletter is made possible by the contributions of the Friends of the Cemetery.

The Friends also help fund the care of the trees in the cemetery and the restoration of tombs. Please can you help us by becoming a Friend? You can find a membership form at:

www.cemeteryrome.it

THE NON-CATHOLIC CEMETERY IN ROME

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of the Friends of the Non-Catholic Cemetery in Rome

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