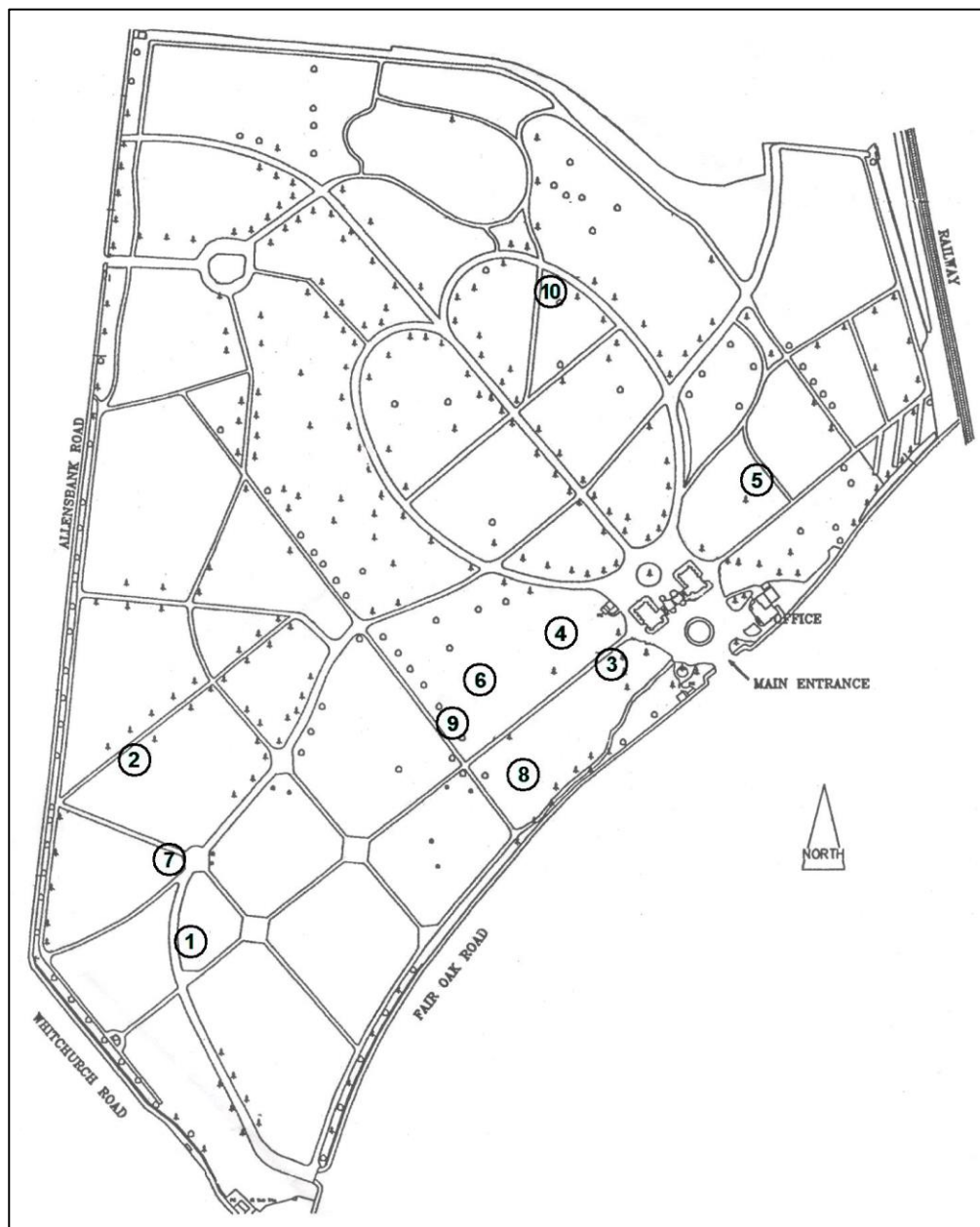


# **BUILDERS & ARCHITECTS in CATHAYS CEMETERY**



**The Friends of Cathays Cemetery**





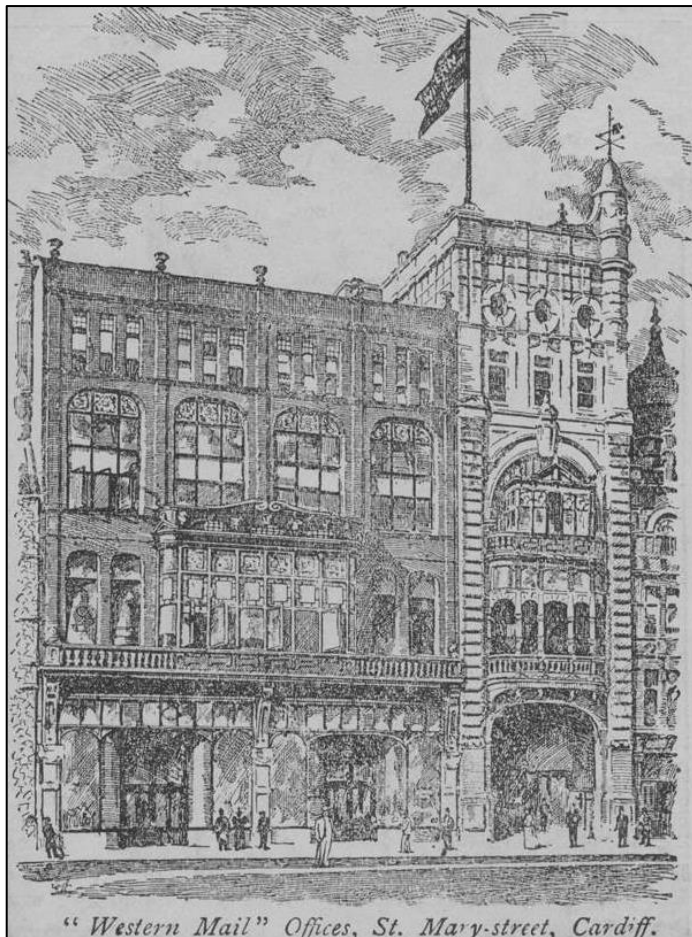
# INDEX

1 James Allan	3
2 Thomas Albert Beavan	5
3 Jonathan Billups	6
4 Charles Fox	7
5 William Frame	7
6 Thomas Gough	8
7 William Harpur	10
8 John Price Jones	12
9 Arthur Knill	15
10 Hopkin Knill	16

# 1 James Allan (1841-1917)

PLOT W1322

James Allen was a Builder and Contractor in Cardiff, born at Fochabers, a village in the county of Moray, in April 1841. His father, Robert Allan, was a farmholder there, and young James Allan received his early education at the Mills' School Institute, Fochabers. On leaving school, he abandoned the idea of becoming a farmer, and started life as an apprentice to a stonemason at Elgin. After finishing his apprenticeship, he came to Cardiff under Mr. Euston Gibbs, contractor for the Rhymney Railway, and remained with him for nearly twenty years. When Mr. Gibbs retired, he started business on his own account, which was to prove very successful.



During the time he was at Cardiff he has carried out a number of the largest undertakings let to contractors by the Cardiff Corporation. He erected the new Cardiff Market, St. Mary Street, from plans prepared by the Borough Engineer, William Harpur. He also undertook and carried out very successfully all the building work and the enclosing of Roath Park. He was engaged by a number of the principal residents in Cardiff, and many of the private villa residences, hotels, warehouses, and large works of almost every description have been erected by him. One of his great works was the erection of the Western Mail Offices, St. Mary Street, offices that were the most complete and extensive of any works of a similar nature in the country; also, the fine building in Bute Terrace erected for the Cardiff Gaslight and Coke Company. He was a member of the Cardiff Master Builders' Association.



*Cardiff Gaslight and Coke Company Façade*

James Allan married Margaret and had two sons James Leonard and Robert Alexander. They lived at “Tullock”, Park Place, Cardiff. James Allan died 13 July 1917, aged 75.

## 2 Thomas Albert Beavan (1880-1920)

PLOT S486a

Thomas Beavan was a partner in Speir & Beavan, Architects in Wharton Street in Cardiff.



In 1906-07 the partnership built Cathays Library, a free public library endowed by Andrew Carnegie

Thomas died on 6th January 1920 and living at the time in 2 Newport Road. Dying at the tender age of 39 he was buried on 9th January 1920 in plot S486b. A non-conformist the ceremony overseen by minister Rev J Macara Gardner of Roath Park Presbyterian Church (later St Andrews URC "The Scottish Church", Cardiff) 1918-1922.

### 3 Jonathan Billups (1824-1896)

PLOT M365/M348



Jonathan Edwin Billups, who was born in Charteris, Cambridgeshire in 1827, had come to Cardiff in 1856. He was the principal contractor for the Taff Railway Company, and among other things built the vast East Moors ironworks, and the dry dock for the Bute Shipbuilding Company. He was a devout Christian, and a member of the Charles Street Congregational Church, and became one of the most loyal supporters of the work of the Salvation Army in Wales. At the time he met the Booths in 1863, he and his wife Susannah and their two daughters were living at Cadiz House, Newport Road, Cardiff, later moving to 28, The Parade, in the town centre, near the church they attended. They supported the cause financially, and Susannah Billups even became a



Salvation Army officer; while their eldest daughter Mary, following her dramatic conversion in a Christian Mission meeting in London, also devoted herself to the work of the Army among the poor. A measure of the importance and depth of the friendship can be seen in Catherine Booth (William Booth's wife) being at Susannah Billups bedside along with the dying woman's husband when she passed away in 1883. And after Jonathan Billups died in Bristol in 1896, 70 Salvation Army officers attended his funeral in Cardiff, and Bramwell Booth spoke at the funeral service.

*Source: Evangelical-times.org website*

## **4 Charles Fox (1843-1887)**

PLOT M102

One of the best-known speculative builders in Cardiff. Principally occupied in building over 400 houses in Splott and Adamstown. He died at his residence in 6 Richmond Road in November 1887. His Estate, on his death, was estimated at £40-50,000.

## **5 William Frame (1848-1906)**

PLOT L915

William Frame came from Melksham, Wiltshire, and was articled firstly to William Smith of Trowbridge. He then became assistant to John Prichard of Llandaff. In 1868, he entered the office of William Burges and worked with Burges at Cardiff Castle and as clerk of works on the restoration of Castell Coch in 1876. He was also clerk of works on the restoration of Castell Coch in 1876.

The Marquesses of Bute had acquired Caerphilly Castle in 1776. John Stuart, the first marquess, took steps to protect the ruins. His great-grandson John, the third marquess, was immensely rich as the result of the family's holdings in the South Wales coalfields and was passionately interested in the medieval period. He had the site fully surveyed by the William Frame, and reroofed the great hall in the 1870s.

Following Burges's death in 1881, Frame remained in the service of John Crichton-Stuart, 3rd Marquess of Bute and continued Burges's work at both Cardiff Castle and Castell Coch, as well as designing the grade I listed Pierhead Building in the docks built by Bute's father. During these years he won the Royal Academy's gold medal and the Soane Medallion

In the 1881 census William was living at 1 The Parade, completing the Burges designed animal wall, and remained in Bute employment until his death in April 1906 despite problems with alcoholism from at least 1890.



## 6 Thomas Gough (1848-1893)

PLOT M980

The work of pioneer builder Thomas Gough can still be seen in the city, especially in the Roath area. This enterprising Victorian - he was born in 1848, the son of George Gough, a publican of 20 Bridge Street - was a man in tune with the times. He recognised the need for cheap housing, established his builders' business at 1 Oxford Street (off City Road) and in the 1870s built the dwellings leading off Clifton Street which were named after metals and

precious stones. This successfully completed, he went on to build large houses in Glossop Terrace and Howard Gardens. Others followed in Lower Cathedral Road and Riverside. As befitted a man of his improved status, Thomas Gough moved his family into 7 Howard Gardens in the 1890s. A plasterer by trade, Thomas Gough soon established himself as a builder and was responsible for the construction of many houses in Cardiff. By the time of his premature death in February 1893 at the age of 44, Thomas Gough had built a thriving business

**T. GOUGH,**  
CONTRACTOR,  
**Builder, House Decorator, &c.**

---

ENRICHMENTS AND MODELS  
SUPPLIED TO THE TRADE.

---

**1, OXFORD STREET, ROATH,**  
**CARDIFF.**

---

*REPAIRS DONE IN ALL BRANCHES OF THE BUILDING  
TRADE IN TOWN OR COUNTRY.*

---

**PAINTING, GLAZING, PLUMBING, & PAPERHANGING**  
BY EXPERIENCED WORKMEN.

---

**ESTIMATES GIVEN.**

---

**ORDERS PROMPTLY AND PERSONALLY ATTENDED TO.**

Thomas Gough was twice married. After the death of his first wife, Anne Asher, he married Ruth Thomas at Roath Road Wesleyan Methodist Church on 25 November 1876

## **7 William Harpur (1853-1917)**

PLOT S1664



*Courtesy : Glamorgan Archives*

Cardiff city engineer and surveyor, William Harpur was appointed Borough Surveyor in 1883 and responsible for the Cardiff we know today. As Borough Surveyor, he ultimately had the the final say over whether a proposed street layout scheme or individual building was acceptable during the building boom powered by the growth of the city in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Evidence of his work can be seen in the layout of Roath, Grange and Victoria Parks, working in co-operation with William Wallace Pettigrew, Head Gardener to Cardiff Corporation, as well as on the civic centre at Cathays Park. Harpur also designed the Market Hall in the Cardiff Central Market, St Mary Street, opened on 8 May 1891.



William oversaw the development of isolation facilities on Flat Holm Island. William is mentioned in the Minute books for 1890-1900 as Cathays Cemetery Surveyor, being buried on 1st June 1917 in plot number S1664 with Mary Ann Harpur, Mary Harpur and Ivor Harpur.



One can still visit an example of his work at The Pumping Station, Penarth Road. This red and yellow brick building originally housed pumps, driven by huge beam engines, to help sewage from the western side of Cardiff on its way to eventual discharge to the Severn Estuary off Lavernock Point.

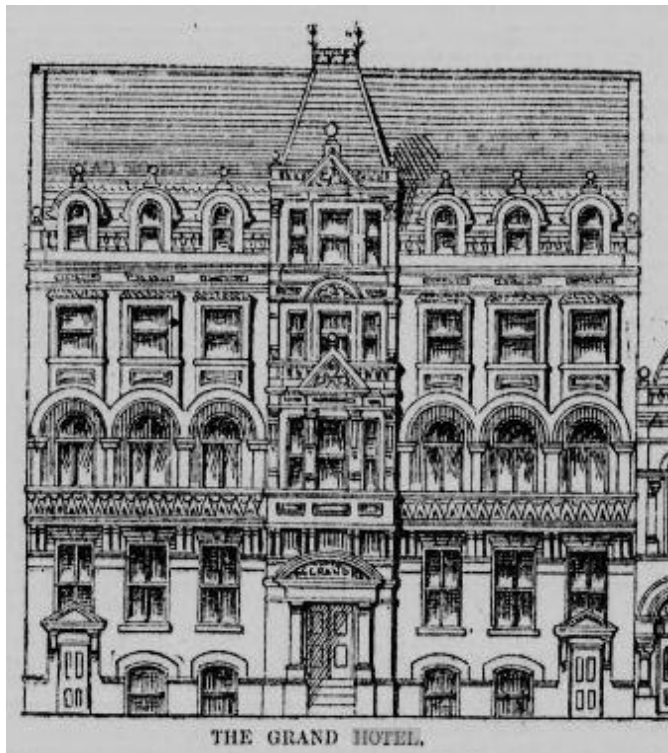
## 8 John Price Jones (1851-1893)

PLOT M1583



Councillor J P Jones was the eldest son of the late Mr. Daniel Jones J.P., of Cardiff. and nephew of Alderman David Jones, of Richmond Road, Cardiff. He was a native of the town, and received his education at the academy of the Mr. Trice, of Charles-Street, Cardiff. He took an active part in the social and political affairs of the borough. After leaving school he entered the drawing-offices of his father's firm, and at the time was one of the most prominent students at the local science and art schools. Subsequently, he set up on his own account as architect and surveyor, and designed some of the most

important buildings in Cardiff. Amongst these were the Market-buildings, Severn Road and Saltmead Board Schools, the High Street and Wyndham Arcades, a portion of Messrs. Howell and Co.'s drapery in St. Mary Street, the whole of Messrs. Howell's premises in Trinity Street, and the extensive alterations and additions carried out on the Royal Hotel and Queen's Hotel, Cardiff. J P Jones's reputation as an architect was not, however, confined to Cardiff, as he was from time to time entrusted with commissions in various parts of Glamorganshire, including the reconstruction and additions to the drapery premises of Messrs. Ben Evans and Co., of Temple Street, Swansea. In politics he was, like his father, a staunch Liberal, but his broad-mindedness and honourable dealings in political matters gained for him the esteem and goodwill of all his political opponents. At the council elections he contested one of the divisions of Penarth with Mr. H. O. Fisher, and was returned by a substantial majority. He was one of the leading members of the Reform Club, and during the general election worked vigorously to secure the return of Sir E. J. Read as member for Cardiff.



*J P Jones was the architect of the Grand Hotel/Theatre in Westgate Street.*

From boyhood he had been an active sympathiser with all sorts of field sports, and made a reputation for himself as a cricketer. He was one of the first members of the old Science and Art Cricket Club; and from that club came some of the best of the local cricketers of later years. He occupied the position of captain of the Cardiff Cricket Club, and acted as treasurer. In the 1870s he played with the South Wales team against the Sussex Cricket Club, and rendered outstanding service at the wicket. He was also one of the players in the Bute Household v. All England cricket match in 1874, which was played on the Bute Grounds, in Cooper's Field, and in his day was looked upon as one of the foremost cricketers in the county. Although not a football player himself, he was an ardent admirer of the game, and followed the local football teams with the keenest interest. He was treasurer of the Cardiff Football Club, and was an active supporter of the Penarth Cricket and Football Club. His position in the football world may be judged from the fact that he was the president of between thirty and forty local clubs. He was also one of the best amateur swimmers of South Wales, and the principal supporter of the Cardiff Homing Society. In 1876 he married Miss Mary Stowe, second daughter of Mr. G. S. Stowe, shipowner, of the King's Castle, Canton, later living retired at Penarth.

He was familiarly addressed as "Johnnie." and left a widow and ten children, the eldest seventeen and the youngest a baby.



*J P Jones' name on the Wyndam Arcade.*



## 9 Arthur Knill (1831-1904)

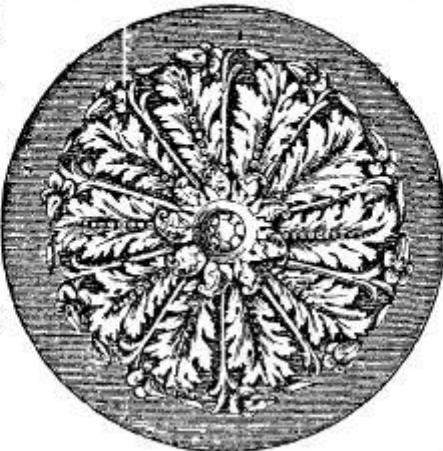
PLOT M387

Arthur Knill's Obituary in the Evening Express of 1 February 1904 states he was one of Cardiff's oldest builders, passing away on Saturday 30th January at the age of 78. He came to Cardiff from Barnstaple in about 1850, was closely associated with building interests in the district for many years, and an interesting fact in his career is that he was one of those who assisted to let the water into the Cardiff mains after the completion of the Llanishen Reservoir. Arthur was formerly connected with Bethany Chapel, but for many years had taken a close interest in Tredegarville Church. He was a staunch Liberal, leaving behind many friends. He resided at the time of his death in System Street, Cardiff.

THE OLDEST CASTING SHOP IN CARDIFF.

**A. KNILL,**

Monumental  
58, SYSTEM ST.,  
CENTRES  
FOR  
CEILINGS,  
TRUSSES,  
AND  
CASTINGS  
OF ALL KINDS ON  
HAND.  
MODELS  
SUPPLIED.



Plasterer,  
SPOTLANDS.  
ESTIMATES  
GIVEN FOR  
BUILDING,  
ALTERATIONS,  
SLATING,  
MASONRY  
AND OTHER WORK

WORKS: PLANET STREET.

## 10 Hopkin Knill (1841-1910)

PLOT I22b

Hopkin Knill was born at Llandaff in 1841. He worked in London in his early years as a stone carver, and was a close friend of Mr Henry Broadhurst<sup>1</sup>, M.P., when the famous member was a working-man engaged upon the House of Commons. Mr Knill's return to Wales came about through his brother, Mr George Knill, who for many years was postmaster at Tonypany, giving him the contract to build a shop for him at Tonypany. It was the commencement of a very prosperous career in the building trade for Mr Hopkin Knill. He built in the following ten years a very large number of business premises in the Rhondda. He also built two chapels at Tonypany, one for the English Congregationalists and another for the English Baptists. Hopkin also built a number of hotels in the valley, including the Thistle Hotel, Tonypany, where he resided for some time, and the Royal, at Clydach Vale. Throughout his career as a builder Hopkin enjoyed a great reputation for the honourable way in which he executed his contracts, and he prospered. Before giving up the building trade he built the Park Hotel at Barry, and retained the ownership of it, besides building the Osborne at Cadoxton. Mr Knill was one of the proprietors of the Tonypany Brewery, and when this company concern was sold to Messrs Crosswells (of Ely) he became a director of the company, and was a member of the board at the time of his death. He was also interested in other brewery companies. A staunch Churchman and Conservative, Mr Knill was nevertheless on very friendly terms with Mr Broadhurst, who from time to time visited him; and was a great admirer of Mabon. In 1896 Hopkin took up his residence in Cowbridge Road, Cardiff, subsequently moving to Hillcrest, Llandaff, and within the last few months of his death he moved to 10 Palace Road. He was a member of the St. David's (Aberdare) Lodge of Freemasons. He died on 2nd January 1910 and left a widow, but no children.

<sup>1</sup>Henry Broadhurst (13 April 1840 - 11 October 1911) was a leading early British trade unionist and a Lib-Lab politician who sat in the House of Commons variously between 1885 and 1906.



