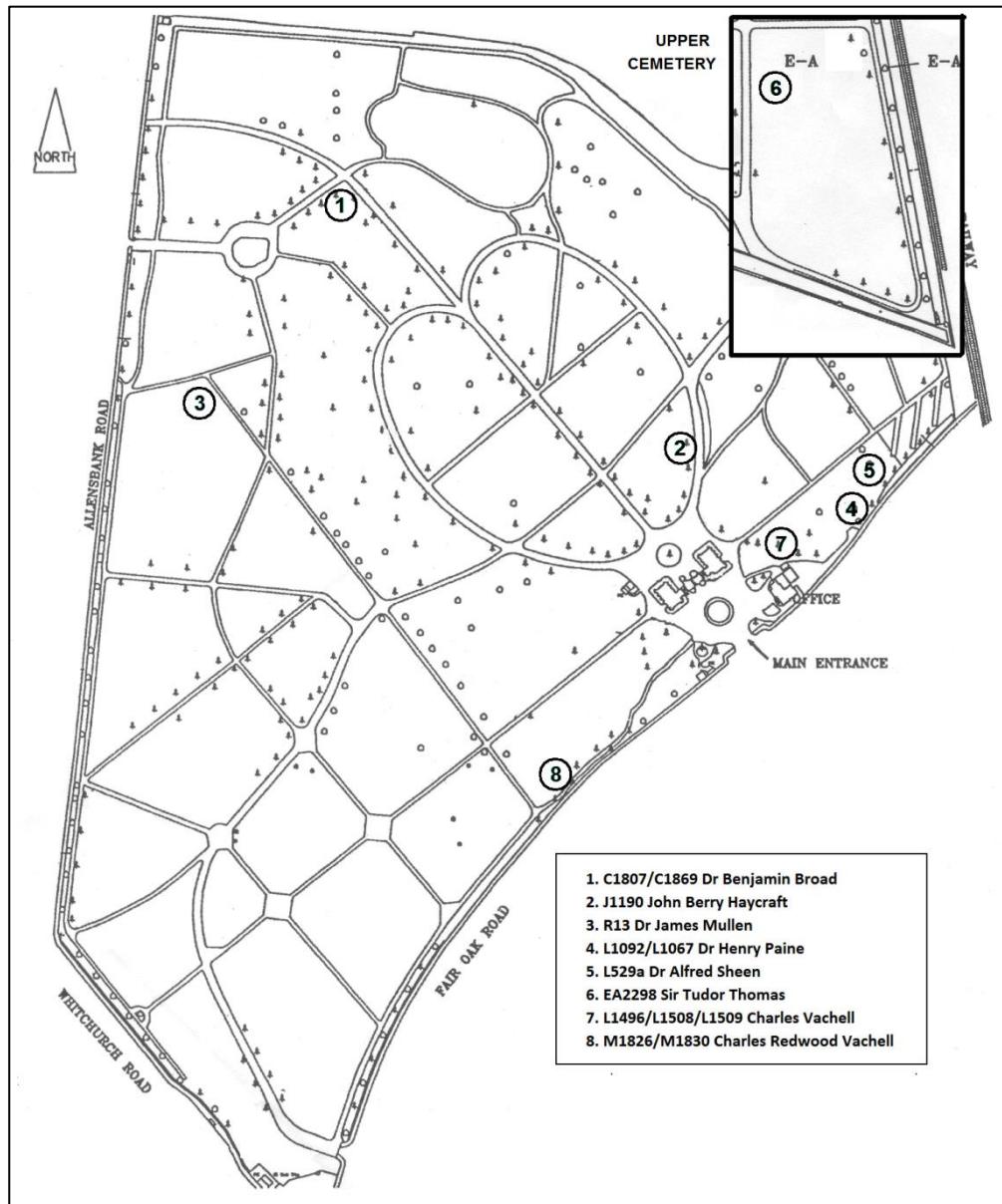


# **DOCTORS & MEN of MEDICINE in CATHAYS CEMETERY**



**The Friends of Cathays Cemetery**





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# 1 Dr Benjamin Broad (1861-1924)

PLOT C1807/C1869



Dr. Benjamin W. Broad was the resident medical superintendent of the Cardiff Sanatorium and Small-pox Hospital (Cardiff Fever Hospitals).

He was born at Llanhilleth, Monmouthshire, on 13<sup>th</sup> December 1861, and educated at the Monmouth Grammar School and the University of Edinburgh. He graduated M.B., C.M.Edin. in 1894. As a student he distinguished himself in the study of fevers, while taking his degrees and after, he was attached to the

staff of the Edinburgh Fever Hospital. After leaving Edinburgh he studied in Dublin, before going to Cardiff where he engaged in general practice in the Rhondda Valley. While still a medical student at Edinburgh he became one of the original members of the Volunteer Medical Staff Corps, an organization which in later years transformed into the R.A.M.C. (T). As a student he rose to the rank of sergeant-major, and when the Territorial Force was established in 1908 he rejoined the R.A.M.C. (T). After serving as assistant to Dr. John Williams at Dowlais, he was appointed in 1896 as medical superintendent of Cardiff Sanatorium. For many years, in connection with the Welsh School of Medicine, he taught hospital administration and fevers to students and candidates for the D.P.H., and this appointment he resigned because of the pressure of other work. During the war he served with the 3rd Western General Hospital as specialist in fevers, with the rank of major. He was a vice-president of the Municipal Officers' Association and a member of the Cardiff Division of the British Medical Association.

Dr Broad died on 8<sup>th</sup> March 1924, aged 63.

## **2 John Berry Haycraft (1859-1922)**

PLOT J1190

John Berry Haycraft was a professor in physiology and carried out important medical research. He was born in Lewes, Sussex, England in 1859 and received his medical education in Edinburgh. He worked for a time in Ludwig's laboratory in Leipzig.

In 1881 he was appointed chair of physiology at Mason College, which later became the University of Birmingham. He taught in Birmingham and attracted many students to the city. During his years in Birmingham and Edinburgh, Haycraft had been actively engaged in research and published papers on the coagulation of blood and in 1884, he discovered that the leech secreted a powerful anticoagulant, which he named hirudin, although it was not isolated until the 1950s, nor its structure fully determined until 1976.

Haycraft returned to London 1892 and was appointed a research scholar of the British Medical Association. In 1893 he was appointed chair of physiology at University College, Cardiff where he worked until retirement in 1920. Residing at 21 The Parade, Cardiff, he died 30<sup>th</sup> December 1922.



Amongst the books and articles published: "Upon the Cause of the Striation of Voluntary Muscular Tissue." (1880), "A New Hypothesis concerning Vision." (1893), "On the Action of a Secretion Obtained from the Medicinal Leech on the Coagulation of the Blood". (1883) and "Darwinism and Race Progress.". (1895).

### 3 Dr James Mullen (1846-1919)

PLOT R13



James Mullin was born of Catholic, working-class parents in a two-roomed, thatched cottage at James's Street, Cookstown, County Tyrone, in 1846. His father died that year leaving mother and son without any means of support. On the death of her husband, Bridget Mullin (nee Hagan) provided for herself and only son by labouring in the fields in summer and spinning flax for a weaving factory during the winter months. Since Mrs. Mullin owned her small cottage and garden she was able to augment her meagre income by letting one of the

rooms to a family at a weekly rental. On the half-rood of ground belonging to the property she grew enough potatoes to tide herself and child over each winter with the result that during the year of maximum famine, when soup and Indian meal was distributed among the townsfolk, she never accepted such relief as a supplement to her diet, austere though it already was. In the aftermath of famine came typhus or "spotted fever". Mrs Mullins had no qualms in helping the sick and dying in the pest-stricken houses of her neighbours. She not only assisted in laying out the corpses but she accompanied them to the graveyard and, on one occasion, even rode back in the hearse when the funeral was over.

Having learnt the English alphabet from his mother, James Mullin entered a local school kept by an old man who taught the boy to spell and read. By the time he had reached the senior class he was considered one of the best readers in the school. He was in universal demand amongst his neighbours to write letters on their behalf. He also read at wakes.

His first job consisted of weeding crops of flax and oats in the harvest fields, and gathering potatoes after they had been dug up in the autumn. This sort of work involved bending for ten and a half hours daily with very little time to straighten his back. At the age of thirteen Mullin became apprenticed to a cartwright for a period of five years at a weekly wage. His health and strength, on the other hand, were below average, mainly due to under nutrition which was made worse by his aversion to potatoes, the only available cheap source of food.

Mullin was connected with the Fenian Association which he joined in 1865. He had always been an enthusiastic Nationalist and declared that one of his dearest ambitions was to strike a blow on behalf of Irish independence. Several of Mullin's friends were arrested, several others sought safety in exile. Since arrests usually took place at night or in the early hours of the morning, Mullin himself, for a period, took the precaution of leaving home every night and sleeping at the house of an aunt who lived two miles away. Fortunately, he was never apprehended or detained.

In 1871 he was recommended for a literary scholarship at Queen's College, Galway. Having passed his matriculation and gained a scholarship of £30 tenable for one year, Mullin enrolled as a student at Queen's College, Galway, where he remained for nine years. His remarkable progress in English, Modern Languages and the Humanities was offset by the perplexing difficulties which he experienced in mathematics. He graduated as a Bachelor of Arts becoming

a fully-blown M.D. of Queen's College, Queen's University, Ireland, in 1880 at the age of thirty-three.

After taking employment in London and Brynmawr, he took a small shop at 10 Custom House Street which he converted into a surgery. Mullin bought in bulk, and when it came to purchasing drugs from overseas, he sought to obtain his medicines from foreign agents in London who were, on the whole, cheaper than British wholesalers. He prescribed small quantities at a time to prevent waste. He avoided the use of peppermint in his mixtures as the patient invariably said on smelling it: "Oh! this is only peppermint water". He insisted on his dispenser compounding each mixture on an open counter and not behind the proverbial screen, about which he had heard many unfavourable remarks in the past. The doctor made a rule of getting paid for each house visit as he made it, refraining from calling again unless requested. He was too familiar with the many malicious and unfair complaints levelled at practitioners who made unnecessary house calls for the sake of financial gain. In the case of a long illness in a poor person Mullin used to waive his rigid regulation after two payments and continued attending his patient without asking for or expecting fees. His career as a family doctor in Cardiff extended over more than twenty-five years.

Soon after Mullin came to Cardiff, he was made vice-chairman of a branch of the "Irish League" or "National League" which had recently been formed in the town, a position he filled for over twenty-five years. Many prominent Irishmen visited Mullins at his home, "Pendyrys", Conway Road, Cardiff. When C. S. Parnell, the founder and leader of the Irish Parliamentary Party and one of the most important figures in 19th century Great Britain and Ireland, described by Prime Minister William Gladstone as the most remarkable person he had ever met, visited Cardiff he became the house-guest of Dr. Mullin. Parnell addressed one of the largest audiences that the doctor had ever seen in Cardiff. However Mullins was strongly critical of the Easter Rebellion 1916 in which prominent Sinn Feiners showed their determination to throw off the British yoke.

As time went by Dr. Mullin's practice grew to unmanageable dimensions. For the best part of a quarter of a century it was his daily custom to see some seventy to eighty patients in his surgery followed by about twenty domiciliary visits. Due to ill health he had to retire from his practice.

Having read somewhere that the three most beautiful islands in the world were Jamaica, Java and Ceylon, the retired practitioner decided that one day he

would like to visit them. In 1906, the Western Mail presented him with a first-class return fare to Jamaica in exchange for a few articles dealing with the state of the island. He found the heat of the blazing sun intolerable and soon his resistance to malaria was reduced to zero. He became smitten with a violent fever accompanied by occasional nocturnal delirium. Then on 14<sup>th</sup> January 1907 Kingston was hit by an earthquake and laid in ruins with fires breaking out. Mullins aided the casualties and reported on the incident, being the fullest account of the earthquake and its immediate aftermath to reach the United Kingdom.

As ship's surgeon on the Yeoward Line he made several trips to the Canary Islands, plying between Glasgow, Durban, Colombo and Rangoon. His third and last trip to the Canaries took place in the first year of the First World War. The doctor was then in his late sixties.

Mullin wrote a long prize-winning poem for the National Eisteddfod (1899), entitled "The battle of St. Fagans 1648", which he later published. He also wrote the libretto for a piece of music composed by Mrs. Edward Thomas, a former Mayoress of Cardiff. Bearing the title "St. David's Leek", Mullin reprinted it from the Western Mail dated 28<sup>th</sup> February 1903. In addition, he wrote a patriotic war poem called "Spirit of Cambria", copies of which were sold to raise comforts for the Welsh troops fighting in the First World War.

Dr. James Mullin, the brilliant self-made scholar, passed away on 19<sup>th</sup> December 1919 aged seventy-three at his home in Conway Road.

Like her husband, Mrs. Annie Mullin had a political turn of mind. Among her guests at "Pendyrys" were Keir Hardie and Viscount Philip Snowden who was at one time Chancellor of the Exchequer. Highly interested in the welfare of the Cardiff community, she was for many years a member of the Board of Guardians and an active social worker. She died at her own residence on 27<sup>th</sup> January 1921 and was buried with her husband at Cathays Cemetery.

Dr. and Mrs. Mullin's son, Justin James Patrick, was educated at a private school in lower Cathedral Road before entering Cardiff High School. Fully determined to follow a military career he ran away to the Army twice. He died of dysentery on 8<sup>th</sup> September 1908 at the age of twenty-one whilst serving with the Royal Lancers in Sialkot, North India.

## 4 Dr Henry Paine (1817-1894)

PLOT L1092/L1067

Dr Henry Paine's main achievements were in bringing much improved sanitary conditions to Cardiff and establishing the Hamadryad Hospital Ship.



The inscription on the red granite obelisk tells you that Henry James Paine died in 1894, at the age of 76 and that his relict, Eliza, died in 1904, aged 92. But the rest of the story is more tragic. Their first three children are buried in St John's churchyard, since their deaths pre-date the opening of Cathays Cemetery, and died at the ages of 19 days, 4 months and 2 years 7 months in

the years 1848 and 1849. It is probably not irrelevant that Cardiff suffered its worst cholera epidemic in 1849. Although their other two children reached adulthood, both died relatively young and failed to outlive their parents: their second daughter, Emily Louisa, died in 1884, aged 34, while their third son, Francis Trevor died in 1878, aged 25. In the face of such personal tragedy, it is perhaps even more commendable that Henry James Paine should have done so much for the health and well-being of the people of Cardiff during his own life time.

Dr Paine also served as a Justice of the Peace for Cardiff, a role that was time-consuming and quite diverse. He sat on the inquiry, in January 1886, into the circumstances attending the loss of the pilot cutter "Gertrude" through collision with the steamship "Eliza Hunting", in Penarth Roads, the previous month. The Court found that the "Eliza Hunting" failed to keep a proper look-out. Its master was deemed guilty of neglect and had his certificate suspended for 3 months - a seemingly mild punishment in the circumstances.



*Central Library Local Studies Section*

HMS Hamadryad was the third ship of that name being a 46-gun man-of-war, built at Pembroke Dock between 1819 and 1823 for £24,683, but never saw active service. It was laid up at Devonport until 1866, when orders were given for it to be broken up. Two other redundant warships had been brought to Cardiff in 1860, one to become the 'Ragged School' for homeless children, the other being used as a church for the Missions to Seamen. It has been suggested that this gave the idea of a Hospital Ship to Henry James Paine, who was then local Medical Officer of Health.

In February 1866, the Mayor of Cardiff convened a meeting to discuss an extension to the Glamorgan & Monmouth Infirmary and Dispensary to accommodate new wards for patients with infectious diseases and ill seamen. Dr Paine had already negotiated the loan of HMS Hamadryad from the

Admiralty and believed it to be the most suitable accommodation for seamen who were unwell.

The scheme was not universally supported. The Cardiff Times feared that the plan would fail but urged that the “very doubtful experiment” be implemented quickly, so that it would be fairly tested to enable a decision on the extension to the Infirmary, which had been postponed, to be made as soon as possible. The paper was less than complimentary about Dr Paine's judgement and commitment to the medical needs. The Cardiff & Merthyr Guardian was more supportive, being particularly concerned that the diseases of the world were not dragged through the streets of the town and allow to fester in the middle of it. It also thought that there would “be more chances of an old or young salt's cure, floating in this hollow oak, with old mess mates about him, and the Union Jack wavering o'er him, than there would be in the most perfectly fitted ward in any infirmary.”



*One of the hospital ship wards-courtesy of Cardiff Central Library Local Studies Section*

In the event, Dr Paine's proposal was accepted and, only a month after the order to break up the ship, arrangements were in place for its conversion into a seamen's hospital ship for use in the Port of Cardiff. It was fitted out at a cost of £1,414 to receive between 60 and 65 inpatients, with facilities for a doctor, his medical staff, a matron and her nursing staff. On arrival in Cardiff, the ship was grounded on wasteland known as Rat Island, the area that subsequently grew into Tiger Bay.

Over 30 years, 173,000 patients from all over the world were treated on the ship, including 1,285 with fractures or dislocations, 1,384 with wounds, and 2,098 with chest infections. Of the 1,182 fever cases, many came from the town itself. It was one of only two hospitals devoted to the free treatment of seamen of all nations, the other being the Dreadnought Seamen's Hospital, in Greenwich.

At a meeting to discuss the best means of celebrating the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria it was suggested that a permanent seamen's hospital should be built. This was opened on 29<sup>th</sup> June 1905 and as the Royal Hamadryad Seamen's Hospital continued to provide free medical treatment for seamen until 1948, when it was incorporated into the National Health Service. On becoming redundant, the hospital ship was taken to Bideford and broken up, although the ship's bell and figurehead were preserved and kept initially in the new hospital. Today, the figurehead is one of the largest exhibits in the Cardiff Story Museum.

The growth of Cardiff in the 19<sup>th</sup> century was frantic and between 1831 and 1856, the population grew from around 6,000 to over 30,000. The docks became very busy and prosperous as trade increased, aided by new railways and improvements to the Glamorgan Canal. But there was insufficient housing, resulting in overcrowding, poverty and poor sanitation. The Glamorgan Canal also served as a source for drinking water and for sewage disposal. Landore Court in St Mary Street illustrates the degree of overcrowding – in 1848, there were 27 two-roomed houses accommodating 500 people. Further, in 1858, Dr Paine who was by then Medical Officer of Health for Cardiff provided a list of 222 dwellings housing 2,920 people, including one house with 26 inhabitants.

Disease was common and Cardiff suffered repeated epidemics, the spread of which was also aided by the increased movement of people, which came with growing trade. In 1842, the first cholera epidemic of the century struck Cardiff, killing many people. The 1846/7 epidemic of typhus killed nearly 200 people, while cholera returned in 1849 and 1854, killing in excess of 365 and 200 people, respectively. In 1857, 150 deaths resulted from a smallpox infection in the area around Caroline Street. The fact that a cholera outbreak in 1866 only resulted in 76 deaths was seen as a measure of the success of measures that had been taken to improve health and sanitation.

In 1847, the Rammell Inquiry stated that Cardiff had dangerously polluted water and no sanitation, while the Public Health Act of 1848 permitted the establishment of local Boards of Health and the new position of Medical

Officer of Health. It was an enabling, not a compulsory, act and implementation depended on the initiative of local communities, but Cardiff was among the first in Wales to grasp the opportunity offered by the new legislation.

Shortly afterwards, Dr Paine was appointed as Medical Officer of Health. The Cardiff Waterworks Company was set up to supply wholesome drinking water from clean sources and the 1850 Cardiff Waterworks Act granted the powers to do this. By 1856, a new system of sewerage/drainage was nearing completion, at a cost of £200,000.



*Dr Paine – courtesy of Cardiff Central Library Local Studies Section*

Perhaps more important was a better understanding of the causes of diseases and the best way to control and minimise their spread. It had been commonly

thought that epidemics had been caused by smells, bad food, cold and damp or, even, the “shocking habits of the Irish”.

Under Dr Paine, Cardiff was divided into districts and a medical officer appointed for each district. At the first sign of disease, every house would be visited once a day by a doctor. Houses were whitewashed with lime. People living near the canal were advised to move. Efforts were made to tackle the worst areas of overcrowding, which had the highest mortality rates. Flat Holm was acquired for the reception of immigrants with cholera so that the disease did not enter the town.

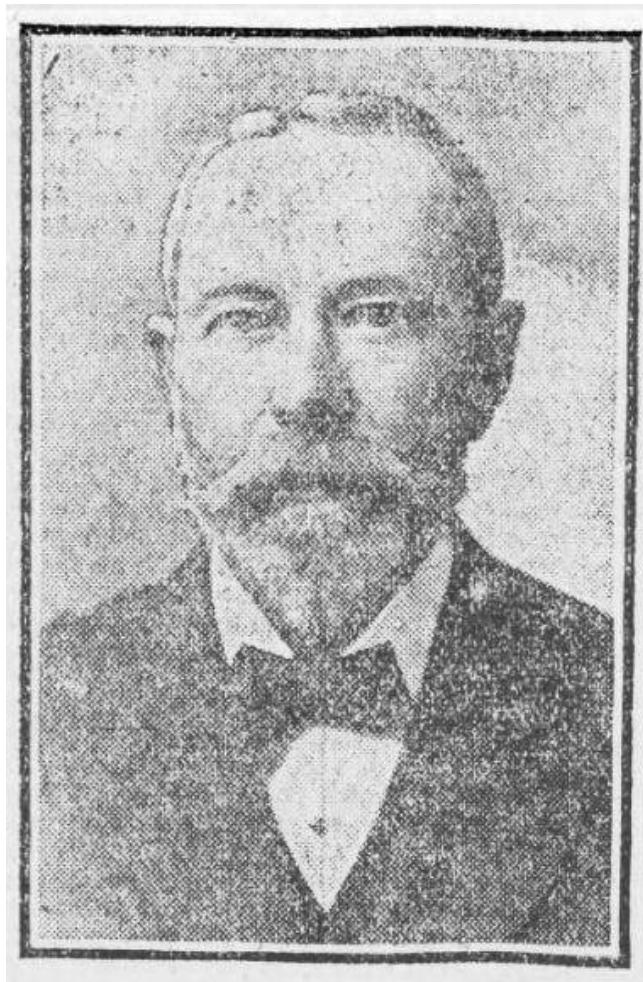
It was widely recognised that the improvements achieved were largely due to the efforts of Henry Paine, who was the Medical Officer of Health from 1853 to 1887. He often had to fight both medical and political opposition but, through his pioneering ideas to improve sanitation and keep Cardiff free from disease, it is estimated that he may have saved over 15,000 lives by the time of his retirement.

## **5 Dr Alfred Sheen (1839-1906)**

PLOT L529a

Dr Alfred Sheen, M.D. St. Andrews, M.R.C.S. Eng., D.P.H. Cam., born at Leicester in 1839, became one of the Honorary Secretaries of the South Wales and Monmouthshire Branch of the British Medical Association of which he was President in 1884. He was educated at St. John's College, Hurstpier Point, and at the Madras Medical School, where he carried off a large number of prizes, completing his professional courses at Guy's Hospital. Later he obtained the diploma of M.R.C.S. (Eng.) and the D.P.H. of Cambridge. In 1864 he was appointed House Surgeon to the Cardiff Infirmary, resigning this appointment two years later. In 1869 he became M.D. of St. Andrew's University. He then obtained the post of Medical Officer to the New Bute Docks Works and the South District of the Cardiff Union. In 1870 he became Medical Officer to the Workhouse and Ely Schools and in 1871 Honorary Physician to the Cardiff Infirmary. As chairman of the Building Committee he took an active part in inducing the late Marquis of Bute to give the site on which the Infirmary stands. Dr. Sheen suggested the idea of the Annual Infirmary Ball and the Hospital Sunday Movement, and was one of the prime factors in the establishment of the Cardiff Medical Society. He took an active part in initiating the outdoor treatment of consumption and was the author of "The

Workhouse Medical Officer,"", "Handy System of Medical Book-keeping," while he had had contributed for many years to the Medical Journal.



He was also treasurer of the local branch of the Queen Victoria Jubilee Nurses and a member of the Council of Cardiff University College. In 1884 Dr. Sheen was elected president of the South Wales and Monmouthshire Branch of the British Medical Association, of which he was for some time also one of the honorable secretaries and as a compliment to him the annual meeting of the association was held in Cardiff that year.

He passed away at his residence Halswell House, Newport Road, Cardiff, aged 67, having been in failing health for some time. He was still attending to his professional duties, paying visits to the Cardiff Workhouse, as visiting medical officer.

His body was removed early in the morning from the house in Newport Road to St. German's Church, where an early service of a private nature was attended by the members of the family only, at which the Rev. R. J. Ives officiated. There was a very large attendance. After a brief but impressive service the cortège proceeded to Cathays Cemetery.

A number of distinguished mourners attended the funeral including: William Sheen. Mr Charles C. Sheen. Mr K. Arthur Sheen. Mr F. A. Sheen, and Mr H. LI. Sheen (sons) Mr Gordon Cory (son-in-law), the Lord Mayor of Cardiff and Dr. C. T. Vachell. There was also present Mr Richard Cory, Councillor F. J. Beavan, Dr. Herbert Vachell, the Rev. A. Henderson, the Rev. W. E. Winks, the Rev. David Davies, and E. B. Recce. At the graveside the Rev. Canon Beck, assisted by the Rev. C. A. L. Senior, officiated. The coffin was covered with a number of beautiful floral tributes, including wreaths from the Cardiff Infirmary, Cardiff Guardians, medical staff of the Infirmary, staff of the Nurses' Institute, and the Cardiff branch of the Queen Victoria Jubilee Nurses' Institute. The funeral arrangements were all carried out by Mr Augustine Stone, Working Street.

He left a widow and 11 children, one of whom was Dr. W. Sheen, St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff. His practice passed to his partner Dr. F. W. S. Davies.

## 6 Sir Tudor Thomas (1893-1976)

PLOT EA2298

Sir James William Tudor Thomas universally known as Tudor Thomas was a Welsh ophthalmic surgeon who came to note in 1934 when pioneering work on corneal grafting restored the sight of a man who had been nearly blind for 27 years.

Thomas was born in Ystradgynlais, Breconshire on 23rd May 1893, the only child of Thomas Thomas, headmaster of Ynyscedwyn County School where Tudor himself began his education, and his wife. He completed his schooling at Ystradgynlais County School and after passing the Senior Central Welsh Board examination impressively in 1909 in nine subjects (English, Welsh, Latin, French, history, geometry, algebra, arithmetic and physics) he proceeded to the University College of South Wales and Monmouthshire to study.

He was then educated at the Welsh School of Medicine in Cardiff, winning the Alfred Sheen prize in 1912 for the best performance in the preclinical examinations in that year. In the following year he obtained the BSc degree of the University of Wales and proceeded to the Middlesex Hospital in London. In 1916, he became the first person to receive the MB BCh Degree of the University of Wales and he specialised in eye surgery from an early point of his medical career.

After house appointments at Swansea he undertook war service with the RAMC in Africa, encountering young men blinded in action, and resolved, on his return to civilian life, to address this distressing condition in his clinical practice.

After the First World War, he worked for a time as a clinical assistant at the Royal London Ophthalmic Hospital (Moorfields) before returning to Wales. In 1921 he was appointed Ophthalmic Surgeon at Cardiff Royal Infirmary and United Cardiff Hospitals and served there for 37 years. He was also a clinical teacher for the Welsh National School of Medicine. It was while at the School of Medicine that he undertook his pioneering work in corneal grafting, initially experimenting on rabbits.

He had an Honorary LLD conferred on him by Glasgow University. In 1933 he delivered the Middlemore Lecture at the Birmingham Eye Hospital and in 1936 the Montgomery Lecture in Dublin.

Seemingly destined to be a bachelor, in 1938 he married a young vivacious Welsh lady, Bronwen Pugh, who proved a great asset in enlivening both his professional and private social life.

Despite his international eminence, as a Welsh-speaking Welshman he retained a strong love for his native land throughout his life. In 1954, when the National Eisteddfod of Wales was held at Ystradgynlais, his birthplace, he was admitted to the Gorsedd as an honorary member in recognition of his services to surgery.

He was honoured by being elected President of the British Medical Association in 1953-54 and gave a masterly inaugural lecture. He conceived the idea of a donor system for corneal grafts and an eye bank was established in East Grinstead in 1955. In the same year, he gave the Doyne Memorial Lecture at the Oxford Ophthalmological Congress, on whose council he had sat for many years. From 1956-58, he presided as Master and his contributions and chairmanship made these meetings a great success. By a fortunate coincidence,

he was knighted early in his term of office in 1956 and, at the Congress, Lady Bronwen organised the lady visitors' social programme. Also in 1956 Tudor was elected High Sheriff of Breconshire and it gave him pleasure to entertain prominent Breconshire and Cardiff personalities to an inaugural luncheon. The Worshipful Company of Apothecaries honoured him by presenting their Gold Medal in therapeutics to him in 1960 and he was elected an honorary member of the Royal Society of Medicine later. At the age of 72, he was invited to be President of the Ophthalmological Society of the United Kingdom and one of their meetings was held in Cardiff.



Sir Tudor died on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 1976 and Lady Bronwen (Bronnie) was reunited with him seven years later. The third occupant of their grave is their eldest son, David, who died in 2009. They had one other son.

## 7 Charles Vachell (1784-1859)

PLOT L1496/L1508/L1509

Charles Vachell was a businessman and a local Whig politician who twice became mayor of Cardiff (1849 & 1855). He was also an alderman and Chief Magistrate of the then town.

Charles was born in Exeter, Devon, in 1784 to Charles Vachell (1755-1832) and Elizabeth Wilcox (1760-1826), daughter of William Wilcox of Abergavenny.

Vachell's father had been a naval surgeon and came to Cardiff when Charles was a small child. Vachell senior opened a chemist's shop in Duke Street in 1790. Charles later took over the running of the chemist's shop, subsequently opening an ironmongers next door.

Charles was a Wesleyan and a teetotaller, marrying Margaret, daughter of Thomas Redwood, the schoolmaster and tanner of Boerton. The marriage took place at Llanmaes church on 11<sup>th</sup> December 1811 and it is noteworthy that their eldest son was given the opposite name of Charles Redwood Vachell - a name signifying the union of the two families who were destined to play a prominent part in the progress of medicine over quite a wide field.

Charles Vachell Jnr, though trained as a surgeon at Middlesex Hospital, took over the profitable apothecary's business in Duke Street on the retirement of his father. Under his management it continued to thrive and prosper; yet he was no exacting businessman, for he obviously found time to entertain his friends. Charles remained a constant friend of Iolo Morganwg, who draws a delightful picture of his horse waiting patiently while its master was partaking of Mr Vachell's hospitality. The apothecary also acted as surgeon to the Glamorganshire Yeomanry and so retained his interest in the military side of surgical matters for many years.

Charles's businesses were successful, allowing him to retire and hand over the businesses in 1849. He invested his money in property and land in Cardiff. Some of his land was used for the creation of one of the town's most well-to-do streets, which became known as Charles Street, named after him. In March 1849, when planning Cardiff's new drainage, Charles Street was described as the town's "principal street", though Charles, being a member of the street commissioners, was criticised for having a conflict of interest.

Charles was one of the original town councillors to Cardiff Town Council when it was created in December 1835. He was elected as Mayor of Cardiff in 1849 and again in 1855. In the following year he served as deputy mayor - another office bestowed upon him serving the community so well for so many years. He was also elected as Cardiff's Chief Magistrate.

His first period as mayor was marked by his campaign against all forms of gambling in public houses. Charles represented Cardiff at the Lord Mayor of York's dinner, where the principal mayors of the United Kingdom mayors were represented. During both of his periods in office, as a teetotaller, he refused to grant any additional pub licenses in the town.

He was a notable supporter of the poor and dispossessed. He was a Guardian of the Poor for the parish of St John and a vice president of Cardiff's Infirmary. During Charles's second period as mayor he established a 'Poor Box' in the Police Court to collect money for those in need, though this was discontinued as soon as his period in office ended.

Vachell was elected as an alderman in January 1855. By 1859 Vachell was one of only three councillors to have been founding members of the council.

Charles & Margaret had 9 children; Charles Redwood Vachell (1816-1865); John William Vachell (1820-1898); Margaret Redwood Vachell (1832-1867); Edwin Vachell (1830-1893); Thomas Vachell (1823-1876); Henry Isaac Vachell (1818-1894); Jane Stoker Vachell (1816-1847); Mary Ann Elizabeth Vachell (1825-1826) and William Vachell (1828-1910) a glass and iron merchant who became mayor in 1873 and is buried in plot L1507, opposite Charles.

Charles died in Crockherbtown, Cardiff, on 19<sup>th</sup> January 1859, at the age of 64, after being in failing health for several months. He was buried in St John's churchyard but was reburied in Cathays Cemetery on 22th August 1867. Three of his sons continued in business in Cardiff, while two others moved away. His widow and a son continued to live in his substantial house at 51 Crockherbtown.

Margaret, born in Coity, Bridgend, in 1790, was buried with her husband at Cathays Cemetery on 5<sup>th</sup> April 1869 aged 79.

## 8 Charles Redwood Vachell (1813-1865)

PLOT M1826/M1830

On 10<sup>th</sup> March 1829, Charles Redwood Vachell became articled to his father, Charles, as an apothecary's apprentice for 5 years. Before this period was completed he was allowed to go to Bristol Infirmary for medical training. The records show he attended at Bristol for 14 months. He qualified for his LSA on 20<sup>th</sup> November 1834, MRCS (England) on 11<sup>th</sup> May 1835 and his on FRCS 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1853. Having taken his London exams at Guy's Hospital, he went to study medicine at Edinburgh from 1835-36, graduating MD in 1836, at the young age of 23 with a thesis on "Acute Pleurisy", which incidentally never seems to have been published.



He was House Surgeon at the Bristol Royal Infirmary, and afterwards Admiralty Surgeon and Agent for the Port of Cardiff, and Surgeon, then Physician, to the Glamorgan and Monmouthshire Infirmary at Cardiff.

He married Hester Shearman (1823-1889), born in Gibraltar, on 25<sup>th</sup> September 1922, daughter of Captain Francis Clearman of the Cameronians 26th Regiment.

They had 11 children, Oliver Robinson Vachell (1863-1863); Arthur Tanfield Vachell (1858-1865); Charles Francis Vachell (1854 – 1935); Beverley Robinson Vachell (1858 – 1915); Edward Shearman Vachell (1855-1891); Frances Gertrude Vachell (1859 – 1876); Esther Shearman Vachell (1860 – 1928); Kenneth Redwood Vachell (1864 – 1938); Emily Harriet Vachell (1861 –); Tanfield Vachell (1866 -) and Margaret Jane Vachell (1853 – 1916).

Charles passed away in Charles Street, Cardiff on 26<sup>th</sup> May 1865, aged 52.

Hester followed on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 1889, aged 67.

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