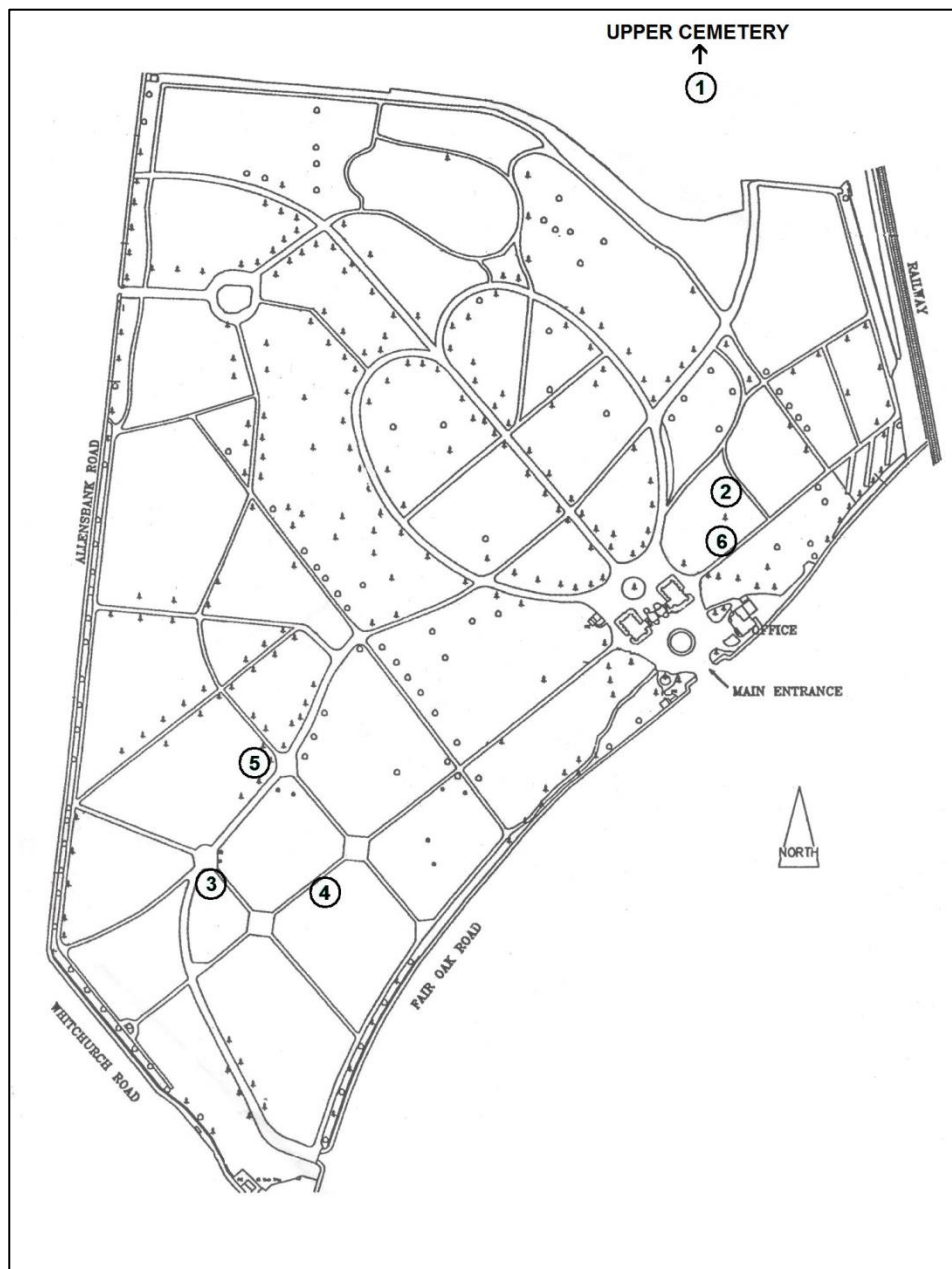


# **THE TURNERS & OTHER BUILDERS in CATHAYS CEMETERY**



**The Friends of Cathays Cemetery**





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# 1 George E Robinson (1832-1914)

PLOT EH1466

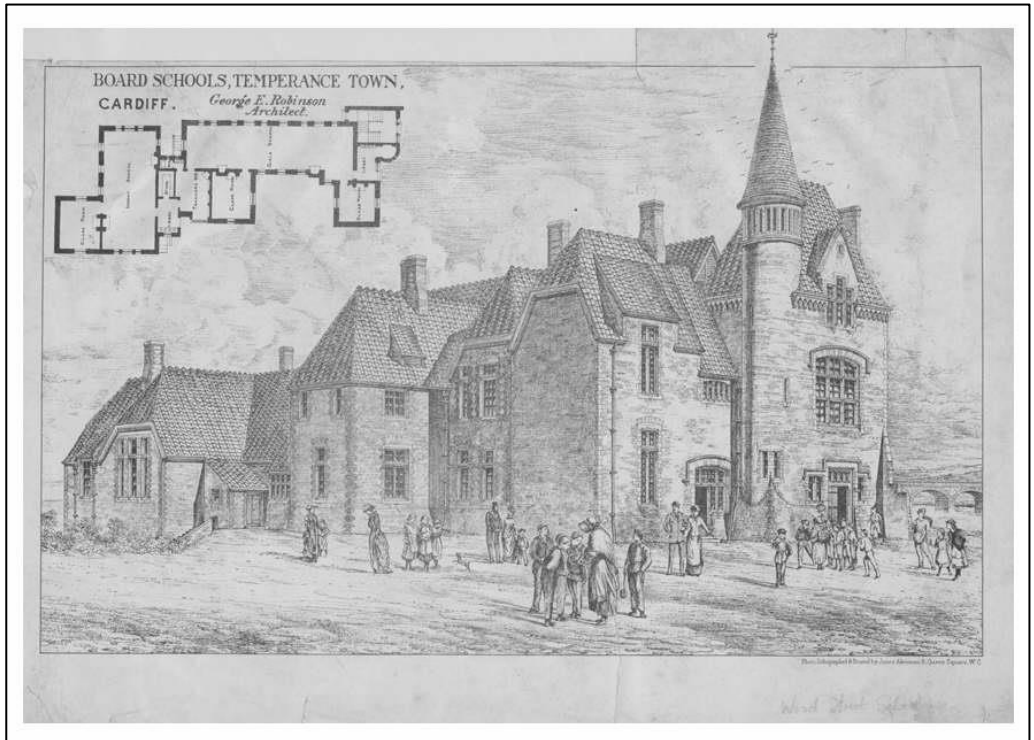


George E Robinson was an architect responsible for a number of key buildings in the developing borough of Cardiff and was the mentor of Edward Seward who would become the 21<sup>st</sup> president of the Cardiff Naturalist Society, and in many ways eclipse him as a notable architect in the Cardiff borough.

As an architect he designed and oversaw the construction of a number of buildings in Cardiff. Robinson and Seward were commissioned to enlarge Insole Court in 1873.

Other projects included the Racquet Court in Cardiff Arms Park (1876), Cardiff Medical School in Dumfries Place, Cardiff (1894).

He seemed to be particularly involved in educational establishments such as the board schools in Whitchurch Road, Cathays, Cardiff, providing for the accommodation of nearly 1,000 children. And Wood Street Board School, Temperance Town, Cardiff (1883).



*With Kind Permission of The People's Collection Wales*

George Edward Robinson also acted as architect to the Pontypridd Union Workhouse in 1863.

Unfortunately, he was declared bankrupt in February 1902.

## 2 Samuel Shepton (1822-1892)

PLOT L691

**S. SHEPTON,**  
**Builder and Contractor,**



**SANDON STREET,**  
**CARDIFF**

All works entrusted to his care will receive personal attention, from the smallest jobbing work to any large works that may be required.

—♦♦—

*Estimates and Drawings furnished for alterations and additions to Shops, Private Dwellings, or other works.*

—♦♦—

**Joiners' work executed with well seasoned materials and good workmanship, with the assistance of Steam Power.**

Samuel Shepton, born in Henbury Gloucester, living in Bristol for many years, came to Cardiff aged about 30 years old.

He resided in Dumfries Place at the time of his death and died after only a few days illness of bronchitis.

Works carried out by him as builder and contractor included the Post-office building in St Mary Street, the Restoration of St John's Parish Church, the building of St Saviour's and St German Churches in Roath, St Catherine's church, Canton and many large business premises in the Town. He was involved in the widening of Canton and Wood Street bridges, Dunraven Castle and the National & Provincial Bank. He also built the Welsh church of St David in Howard Gardens.

He was married and had two sons and a daughter, who pre-deceased him. He was an ardent churchman and unsuccessfully contested the East Cardiff Ward for the Conservatives. He was buried in Cathays Cemetery 5<sup>th</sup> January 1892, aged 70.



*Post-office building in St Mary Street*

### **3 Ephraim Turner (1839-1911)**

PLOT W863

“In loving memory of EPHRAIM TURNER the beloved husband of Ann Turner who fell asleep at Cefn Coed, Penylan, Cardiff, on 14 December 1911. "Ernest in life, Peaceful in death". Also the above ANN TURNER who also fell asleep at Cefn Coed on 13 January 1916. "Until the morning breaks". And of Annie daughter of the above named who died on 30 June 1954.” – Original memorial inscription.

Ephraim Turner was born in 1839 in Merthyr. His father, who had owned a farm in Herefordshire, had been attracted by the potential wealth to be gained in Merthyr during the industrial revolution and went to seek his fortune in Wales. Ephraim then spent his childhood in Merthyr, became a builder and married, Ann Barber in 1860.

Ephraim's children consisted of James Edward Turner, born 1861, died 1936; William Henry Turner, born May 1863, died January 1865; William Henry Turner born 1866, died 1924; Emma Turner; Francis Turner; Selina Turner; Rosina Turner; Annie Turner buried in plot W863; Edith Emily Turner buried in plot T692, died 28 November 1884, aged 14 months.

Ephraim earned himself a reputation as a builder of the stone arch bridges on the LMS line into Merthyr. In 1870 Ephraim moved to Grangetown and in 1885 founded E. Turner & Sons with his two sons.

In 1896 the Prince of Wales (the future Edward VII) came to Cardiff to open the new library extension in The Hayes. In addition, in 1896, Turner's built the General Post Office on the corner of Westgate Street (See previous page). The business had become very successful and by June 1897 Ephraim retired leaving his sons in control.

In the 1890s Turner's had built over a thousand houses to house the seven thousand extra inhabitants each year that entered Cardiff during the boom years, becoming the greatest 'coal' exporting port in the world. Between 1890 and 1897 Turner's built forty seven churches and chapels as well as almost five hundred shops and twenty schools. They employed more than five hundred men with a wage bill of over £25,000 a year. The average cost of a house at the time being around £400.

Turner's secured the contract for the building of the new Town Hall and the Law Courts, completed 1904. This contract worth £200,000 was carried out under the personal supervision of both James and William Turner. The stone for the new Civic

Centre was brought by ship from Portland and had forty shire horses for transporting the Stone From the docks.



The original gravestone has been removed in the 1980s as part of a Grass-cutting restructure at the Cemetery. And replaced with a new memorial, now fixed upright, just reads: "Turner 1911 1916"

The Turner family has been immensely involved in the building of Cardiff. As the listing of some of the buildings erected by E Turner & sons shows:

<b>Building</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Architect/Designer</b>
City Hall & Law Courts	1904	Lancaster Stewart & Richards
University College Cardiff	1909	W D Caroe FSA, London
Glamorgan County Hall	1908	E Vincent Harris & Moodie, London
Technical College	1916	Ivor Jones & Percy Thomas, Cardiff
Royal Infirmary - Front		Col E M Bruce Vaughan, Cardiff
Royal Infirmary - Rear	1927	E Stanley Hall, London
General Post Office	1896	Henry Tanner
War Memorial	1928	J N Comper
Central Fire Station	1917	E Vincent Harris, London
Central Free Public Library	1896	Seward & Thomas
National Museum of Wales	1927	
Medical College Newport Road	1918	Col E M Bruce Vaughan, Cardiff
Medical College The Parade	1926	J B Fletcher, Cardiff
The Capitol Cinema	1920	Phillips & J B Wride, Cardiff
Cox's Café (Cardiff)	1920	Phillips & J B Wride, Cardiff
Coal & Shipping Exchange	1911	Edwin Seward
Atlantic Flour Mills		Gelder & Kitchen, Hull
Morgan's, The Hayes		
Morgans Arcade	1897	Edwin Seward
Merthyr house Cardiff Docks	1918	Henry Budgen, Cardiff
The Cardiff Exchange	1900	Edwin Seward
Nat Provincial Bank Cardiff Docks		
Empire Theatre	1915	William & T R Milburn, Sunderland
Principality Buildings	1914	Habersohn & Fawckner, Newport
Birchwood Grange, Penylan	1924	J B Fletcher, Cardiff
Ty Gwyn, Lisvane	1906	

Bell & Nicolson's Drapery (YMCA)	1910	Speir & Bevan, Cardiff
Duke Street Arcade	1902	Ware & Williams, Cardiff
J Cory Offices Mount Stuart Sq		H Tudor Thornley, Cardiff
Royal Buildings Queen Street		Henry Hartley, Liverpool
Atlantic Buildings Cardiff Docks		H Tudor Thornley, Cardiff
Schweppes Factory		
Pearl Assurance Building		
YMCA Central Buildings		
Cardiff Sanatorium		
Saltmead Council Schools		
Penylan Reservoir		
Roath Outfall Sewer		
Wholesale Co-op Services building		
Phillips & Co Tea Warehouse		
H & C Spiridion Warehouses		
Royal Engineers HQ		
Pengam Boys School		
Cardiff Gas Co Gas Holder Tank		
St Marys School		
James Howells St Mary Street		

#### **4 James Edward Turner (1861-1936)**

PLOT V146/V163



Unfortunately buried in a now unmarked grave, we suspect originally this plot would have had a large impressive memorial. Born in Merthyr Tyfil and taken to Cardiff by his parents when only nine. He married Emma Sophia Jane Warren and both built and lived at Ty Gwyn, Lisvane near Cardiff. He became a partner of E. Turner and Sons, from 1885 – 1912 and like his brother a Director of E Turner & Sons Limited Cardiff from 1912.

His family consisted of : (Thomas Henry) Huxley Turner; born in 1896, died 1973, a Director of E Turner & Sons Limited Cardiff; Grace Turner; born in 1893, and married Mr Pritchard-Williams; Frederick William Robertson Turner, who was a Lieutenant in the Royal Engineers, 2nd (Glamorgan). Born in 1891, he died on 5th August 1916 and is buried at Habarcq Community Cemetery (Extension) Pas de Calais, France; Florence Turner; born 1897.

Emma, his wife, died on 15 August 1924, aged 73 and is buried at Cathays in the same grave as James.

## 5 William Henry Turner (1866-1924)

PLOT S509/S534

In Loving Memory of WILLIAM HENRY TURNER JP, the Beloved Husband of Louisa Turner, who died at Cardiff, 21 January 1924, aged 54 years. "My days work done, now home." Also of LOUISA TURNER, Beloved wife of the above, who died 18 March 1941, aged 74. "Her children arise up and call her blessed." – Memorial Inscription

William was partner in E. Turner and Sons, from 1885 – 1912, William became a Director of E Turner & Sons Limited Cardiff from 1912.

His large family consisted: Edith Turner; born in 1893, married Mr Parkinson; Clifford Turner; born in 1905, died 1982; Harry Turner; born in 1897 Cardiff, died 1968; Also a Director of E Turner & Sons Limited Cardiff; Iris Turner; May Turner; Daisy Turner; Olive Turner

William lived at "The Inn on the River" with his wife Louisa Warren until his death on 24th January 1924. The premises built on the side of the River Taff at the beginning of the century by William Turner that were responsible for erecting some of Cardiff's most notable buildings such as Central Library & City Hall. Originally named Min Yr Avon and known widely as Turner's Mansion. It was turned into a public house by William Turner's grandson in 1974, becoming a popular live music venue. Known to many locals as 'The Pub on the Mud'.

The Inn on the River on the Taff Embankment in Grangetown, Cardiff, suffered a third arson attack since being put up for sale by Brains in August 2005. It has now been demolished and is a residential home.

Louisa, his wife, died 18 March 1941 and is buried at Cathays with William.



## 6 Thomas Waring (1825-1891)

PLOT L1372/L1390

Thomas Waring was born in 1825 at Wheatley Hall, Wooley, in the West Riding. After serving a regular period of pupillage as an Engineering Surveyor, he entered the office of Messrs. T. L. Gooch and F. M. Young, and was employed by them on the construction of the Leeds and Bradford and Extension Railways. This engagement having come to a close when all the works were completed, Mr. Waring became Contractor's Engineer under Mr. Young. He carried out contracts on the Leeds Waterworks extensions under Mr. J. W. Leather; on the London and North-Western Railway branches under Mr. Woodhouse; on the Furness Railway, and Ulverston and Lancashire Railway under Messrs McClean and Stileman. He was also engaged on some arbitrations at Sunderland Docks and other places.

In the autumn of 1854 Thomas Waring became Resident Engineer upon the Cardiff Sewage Works under Mr. Hawkshaw, and the office of Surveyor to the Local Board of Health of Cardiff falling vacant in the following year, that appointment was also offered to Thomas. The carrying out of the Sewerage Works was not effected without some difficulty; the severe weather in 1855, together with financial difficulties, and the necessity of opposing a scheme which would have compelled the drainage of all Butetown into the packet slip, delayed the final completion, which was not effected till 1857. The beneficial effect of it, however, was speedily apparent in the improved health of the town. No sooner was the first sewage scheme finished than a material extension was required, which was successfully accomplished under Mr. Waring's directions. In a short time the length of the sewers had to be doubled in consequence of the rapid growth of the town. Many new streets were built, and the whole of the old ones remade, and there are few public institutions in Cardiff which have not benefited in some way by Mr. Waring's exertions. The large expenditure of money in the erection of cottage dwellings for workmen, on land liberally granted by Lord Bute at a low rent, was in a great measure due to his influence. In 1861 he is described as the Architect of the Cardiff Baths in the company papers registered that year.



For several years he was Surveyor to the Canton and Roath Boards of Health, and Chief Engineer to the Cardiff Rural Authority. He acted as Engineer to the Borough of Aberavon, and laid out their system of sewerage and water supply. He took an active interest in municipal affairs, and in 1886 was elected Alderman.

Robert Waring was a ready speaker, eminently practical, and always listened to, on account of his great experience, with attention. He was a Member of the Council of the University College of South Wales and Monmouthshire. He died on the 24th of April, 1891 but, until recently, the grave was unmarked.



