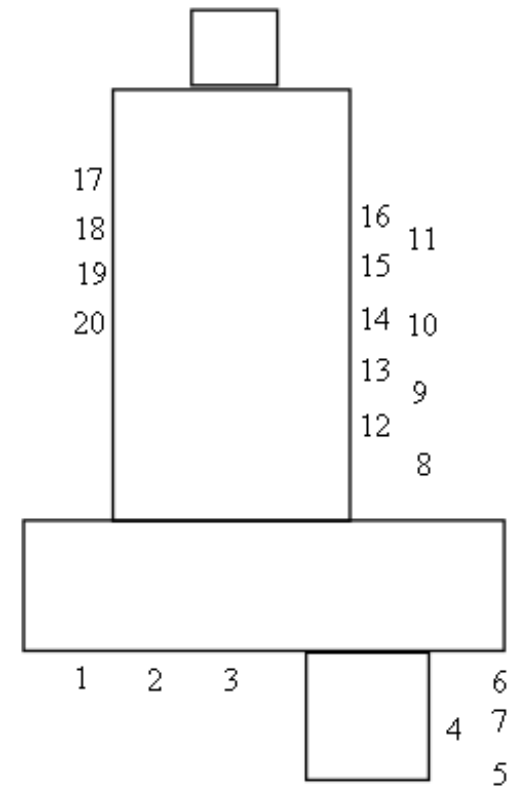


What mean ye by these stones?



An attempt to trace and record something of the individuals named on the remaining 20 monumental gravestones at the Maidenhead High Street Methodist Church.

October 2008

1

In Memory of
JOHN KAY
Died Dec 30th 1859
Aged 82 Years
"He Being Dead Yet Speaketh"

Mrs MARY KAY
Departed This Life
Dec 5th 1879
In The 93rd Year of her Age
"That At Evening Time It Shall Be Light"

Zecharia 14 chapter 7 verse

2

In Memory Of
THOMAS MERRITT
Who Died Jan 11th 1858
Aged 77
Also MARY His Wife
Who Died Jan 1st 1862
Aged 77

In Good Old Age Death Laid Us Down
To Wait Until The Trumpets Sound
Which Wakes the Dead And Bids Them Rise
To Meet the Saviour In The Skies

John Kay b 1777 - Labourer/Tailor

In 1841 lived on the Windsor Road along with his wife Mary daughter **Jane** (15) (see Memorial 3) and **Edward Kay** (aged 50) presumably his brother.

(In 1851 we find a **John Kay** living on the Braywick Road registered blind and living as their uncle with the family of **Edward Burton**.)

Mary Kay b 1786
Mother of **Jane Giles** (see memorial stone 3).

Thomas Merritt b 1781

Mary Merrit b 1785

Agricultural labourer lived with **Mary** on Boyn Hill (1851)

(Merritt deaths in 1858 or 1862 are confirmed as Cookham)

3

The Remembrance of
THOMAS GILES

15th Feb 1871
In The 51st Year Of His Age

In Remembrance Of
Of
JANE Wife Of The Above
Who Entered Into Her Rest
Dec 21st 1885

Aged 60

I Know That My Redeemer Liveth
(etc unreadable)

Thomas Giles b 1820 South Stoke, Oxfordshire

Jane Giles b 1825 Maidenhead

Married in Lambeth in September 1848
In 1851 Thomas & Jane lived in Lambeth with Jane's mother Mary
Kay (see Memorial 1).

In 1861 they lived in 8 Chester Place, Lambeth with family Rosa,
Edward and William and widowed mother Mary Kay
(A Rosannah Giles died Criocklade Jun 1844)

In 1871 Jane still lived in Lambeth with her three children:
Edward Kay (14), William Henry (12) and Frederick Ernest. (9)
along with her mother Mary Kay

4

In Affectionate Remembrance Of

CLARA BROWN

Who Fell Asleep Feb 10th 1882
Aged 18 Years

"Not gone from memory not gone from love
but gone to a better love above"

Clara Brown b 1829 Beaconsfield

Daughter of John and Annie Brown. John became a Maidenhead
Master Butcher in Maidenhead High St.

Clara had two sisters
Kate (b 1861) and Alice (b 1869)

In Memory Of HENRY HUSSEY

Died 25th Day of April 1848
In The 75th Year Of His Age

5

In Memory Of SILVIA HUSSEY

Died 24th Day Of November 1861
In The 72 nd Year Of Her Age

Also Lucy Hussey
Who died October 1852 aged 6 years

ELIZABETH WHITE

who died Nov 23rd 1876 aged 78 years
Also of ELIZA SYMMONS Daughter Of The Above
Wife Of Charles SYMMONS
Who died April 13th 1871 aged 35 years

6

Also of FRANCIS WHITE
Who died Sept 1 1884 aged 68 years

Henry Hussey b 1774

Probably the brother of Abraham Hussey. Living off Maidenhead High St (Back Lane) in 1841 with Selina Hussey (45), Sarah Hussey (15) and Mary Hussey (10)

Silvia Hussey b 1789 Marlow

Silvia Hussey probably the sister of Abraham Hussey born in Turville, Buckinghamshire. Abraham is listed in successive censuses as Pawn Broker then as an Auctioneer and Cabinet Maker. He and his wife Mary Ann had two children Lucy Eliza (b 1844) and Thomas (b 1851).

1861 living in Cookham High Street next door but one to William Hewitt (see memorial 9)

Lucy Eliza Hussey b 1844

Daughter of Abraham and Mary Ann Hussey

Elizabeth White b 1798

Elizabeth was the first wife of Daniel White a gardener. They lived in Forlease Road (1841) then later in Bridge Street Their daughter Eliza married Charles Symmons (b Somerton, Somerset) Draper and Grocer.

In 1881 Daniel was gardener to the household of the children of Sir George Scott in Maidenhead High Street. Sir George Scott was Governor of Lucknow, India. Daniel died In September 1904 aged 99.

Francis White b 1816 Arborfield - Gardener

What relationship Francis had to Daniel white has not been established.

In Loving remembrance of
the Rev JOSEPH PORTREY of Shaftesbury
who entered into rest on the 10th October 1880 aged 66 years

Also of MARTHA PORTREY his wife.
She died at Alton on the 12th Nov 1881 aged 86
"I was dumb and opened not my mouth because thou didst it"
Psalm 39 v 9

7

In loving remembrance of
RICHARD WATSON PORTREY B.A.
Eldest son of the Rev JOSEPH PORTREY

Also of his second son Rev JABEZ BUNTING PORTREY
who died at Adelaide, Australia June 20th 1882 aged 31
Also of his youngest son Rev ROBERT NEWTON PORTREY
who died at Cape Haitien West Inde Dec 14th 1882 aged 26

The Portrey Memorials

Two memorial stones on the East Side of the Church name five of the Portrey Family, **Joseph** (father), **Martha** (mother) and three of their children **Richard Watson**, **Jabez Bunting**, and **Robert Newton**.

Joseph Portrey was Superintendent Minister of the Windsor & Maidenhead Circuit and it was while in Windsor that his son, **Richard**, died and was interred here at High Street in April 1869. However shortly after being transferred to the Shaftesbury Circuit, **Joseph** himself died and his remains were brought back, by train, to be interred at High Street in October 1880. Within a year **Martha**, **Joseph's** widow, died and was also interred at High Street. Tragedy then struck the family as the two remaining sons, Ministers of Religion, both died - **Jabez Bunting Portrey** in Adelaide and **Robert Newton Portrey** in the West Indies. The latter having been married in September 1881 leaving a widow **Alice** (nee Pearce) and no children. The only surviving child of the Portrey family being their daughter **Susannah Wesley Higgins** with her three young daughters **Helena Victoria**, **Susannah Portrey** and **Josephine Alice**.

Joseph and **Mary Portrey's** four children were named after four significant figures in the history of Methodism:-

Richard Watson (1781 - 1833) Active in the formation of the Wesleyan Missionary Society and President of the Conference in 1826

Susannah Wesley (1669 - 1742). The Mother of the John and Charles Wesley

Jabez Bunting (1779 - 1858) Founder of the Wesleyan Missionary Society and President of Conference 1820, 1828, 1836 and 1844.

Robert Newton (1780 - 1854) President of Conference 1824, 1832, 1840 and 1848

In memory of WILLIAM HEWITT
Who fell asleep in Jesus Oct 17th 1875
aged 55 years

The path of the just is as the shining light that shineth
more and more with the perfect day

8

In memory of
..... HARRIET HEWITT
Who fell asleep in Jesus Oct 26th 1886 aged 70 years

Sacred to the Memory of
SAMUEL ANDREWS

Who fell asleep in Jesus Feb 12th 1864 Aged 31 Years
"And they sung as it were a new song before the throne"

9

Sacred to the memory of
BARBARA COLLINS ANDREWS
Who Died August 14th 1885 Aged 50 Years
I was sick and Ye Visited Me

In as much as ye did it unto one of the least of these
my brethren ye have done it unto me

William Hewitt, b 1821 - Marylebone

Aged 15 he resolved to become a Christian. Spent some time in Ireland
and came to Maidenhead in 1851. Member of the Good Templars and a
Master Tailor. (Obit MA 27 October 1875).

Harriet Hewitt b 1819 -Westminster

In 1861 the family lived in High Street Maidenhead.

Harriet (42) b Westminster 1816
Thophilus (15) b Kensington Sep 1845
Rosina (12) Kensington Jan 1848
William (9) b
Edwin (6) b

Alfred Charles (4) b Chorlton Sep 1857
Emily (4) b Chorlton Sep 1857 - died 1859

Samuel Andrews b 1833 Louth, Lincolnshire
Son of Thomas Andrews a farmer

In 1851 he was apprenticed to his uncle as a druggist

Barbara Collins Andrews (nee Fumess) b 1835 Maidenhead
(Sister of Elizabeth Fawcett Cleare - see memorial stone 14)

When Barbara was 6 her mother died. In 1841 the Cleare household was:
James (40), Barbara (6), Elizabeth (5), John (4)

In Memory of HENRY JAMES COOPER
Died 5th March 1868 Aged 72 Years -
Christ Is My Only Hope

MARTHA COOPER Wife of the Above

10

SARAH SERENA COLE
Daughter of HENRY JAMES and MARTHA COOPER
Died 13th March 1860 Aged 40 years

..... Sacred To The Memory of
Mr THOMAS ARROWSMITH
Who died 31st Dec 1847 aged 71 years

11

Sacred To The Memory Of
Mrs MARTHA ARROWSMITH
Wife of Mr THOMAS ARROWSMITH
who died 19th Feb 1865 aged 84 years

Henry Cooper b 1797 St Georges, London

Martha Cooper b 1797 Uxbridge

In 1851 they were living in Maidenhead High Street with their daughter **Sarah Cole** and her husband **Charles Cole** and their son **Frederick Cooper**

In 1861 they were living in Braywick Road with their two grandchildren **Charles Cole** (15) and **Julia E Cooper** (3)

Thomas Arrowsmith b 1764 location unknown

Martha Arrowsmith b 1784 London

1841 they were living in London with family:
Henry, Elizabeth, Elizabeth and new baby .

1851 Martha was living in Littlewick Cottage with family: Henry (57)
Elizabeth (daughter in law) (45), Elizabeth A (16), Charlotte (8), George
William ?(6), William Henry (5) along with a Governess Jane Hair..

IN MEMORIUM

JEMIMA ANN
Only daughter of
ROBERT and ANN WALKER
Died Jan 15 1860
Aged 10 years

ROBERT WALKER J.P.
Died Aug 1 1886
Aged 64 years

ANN WALKER
Died July 12 1896
Aged 78 years

MARY ANN CURTIS
TREFFREY
Died Dec 12 1864
Aged 75 years

JOHN HIGGS Esq J.P.
Died June 5 1867
Aged 67 years

JEMIMA GRIFFIN HIGGS
Died Nov 3 1886
Aged 79 years

He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment;
and I will not blot out his name out of the Book of Life; but I
will confess his name before my father

Mary Ann Curtis Treffrey. Born Mary Ann Curtis Cullern daughter of Thomas Cullern Mayor of Maidenhead 1793. Influential in establishing the Sunday School at the Methodist Chapel in Holyport. Married to Richard Treffrey President of the Methodist Conference 1833.. Mother of Robert Walker, grandmother of John Wesley Walker and step-mother to Jemima Griffin Higgs Higgs.

John Higgs. Local Preacher. Held many Church offices. Variousy Chemist, Postmaster, Alderman, Magistrate. Mayor ????. Brother in Law of Robert Walker. Foundation stones bear his name. There is a memorial plaque in the church to John & Jemima Higgs. His portrait is in the vestry.

Robert Walker. Local Preacher. Sunday School Superintendent 1845 - 1886. Mayor of Maidenhead 1871 & 1872. Variousy Postmaster, Chairman of the Maidenhead Gas Company and Magistrate. Jemima Higgs' half-brother. Foundation stones bear his name. (Obit MA 11 August 1886). His portrait is in the vestry.

Ann Walker. Born Ann Wright daughter of Murrel and Mary Wright of Sunninghill. Married Robert Walker in 1847. Her portrait is in the vestry.

Jemima Higgs. Wife of John Higgs and the instigator of John becoming a Christian. (Obit MA 10 November 1886). Foundation stones bear her name. There is a memorial plaque in the church to John & Jemima Higgs. Her portrait is in the vestry

For further reading:

Methodism in Maidenhead by J W Walker

Methodism in Maidenhead 1829 - 1879 Peter Hardiment

And Can it Be - The story of Cookham Methodism - Peter Hardiment

John Wesley Walker - Peter Hardiment (to be published)

13

CHARLES CLEARE Born 10 th March 1828
Died 29 th October 1898

ELIZABETH FAWCETT CLEARE nee FURNESS
Born 9 th July 1832 Died 14 th June 1903

ARTHUR CLEARE UPSON born 27 th June 1888
Died 15 th Aug 1888

14

In affectionate remembrance of
CATHERINE
Third daughter of
WILLIAM and AMELIA WOODBRIDGE
Who died July 18 th 1862
Aged 19 years

Also
JOHN HENRY
Second son of the above
Who died July 12 th 1880
Aged 30 years

15

FRANCES
ELIZA
STEVENS

(Died 13 Jan 1872
Aged 9 months)

"He shall gather his lambs

Charles Cleare b 1828 Burnham.

Charles came to Maidenhead in 1842 and started his own business as librarian, printer & stationer and later became Maidenhead Postmaster. Was Chapel Steward, Class Leader and Local Preacher for many years. Suffered from Bright's Disease and lived seven years after a serious pioneering cancer operation. (Obit MA 2 November 1896). Laid a Foundation Stone.

Elizabeth Fawcett Cleare b 1832 High Wycombe

Charles and Elizabeth had one daughter Elizabeth Susanna Cleare who married Arthur Upson in December 1887. Arthur Upson was Chemist, Druggist, Optician and a Local Preacher. They had eight children: Arthur Cleare, (1888), Arthu Charles (1890), Robert Henry (1893), Dorothy Barbara (1896), Marjorie Elizabeth (1896), Edith Annie (1898), Thomas Wilfred (1902), Kathleen Irene (1904)

Arthur Cleare Upson b 1888 Maidenhead

The first of Charles and Elizabeth's children who died in infancy

William Woodbridge b 1821 Builder

In 1838 William, then a carpenter, married Amelia Jones. They started life in Park Street then moved to Queen Street and had a large family: Sarah Jane (1839), Catherine (1843), William Augustus (1845), Selina (1847), John Henry (1849), Charles Albert (1851), Eliza Augusta (1855), George Jones (1857), Florence Harriet (1859), Frank (1861), David Walter (1866)

Frances Eliza Stevens

No trace

Thomas Stutchbury b 1789 Grocer

Born Buckinghamshire

Well known Maidenhead family

THE FAMILY VAULT OF

Mr THOMAS STUTCHBURY
Who died 26 th Aug 1874 aged 85

SARA, HIS WIFE
Died 26 th April 1848 aged 60

WILLIAM OWEN, THEIR YOUNGEST SON
Died 8 th May 1845 aged 46

THOMAS, THEIR ELDEST SON
Died 26 th May 1845 aged 33
--- Interred at Highgate ---

MARIA PEGG, THEIR ELDEST DAUGHTER
Died 31 st July 1882 aged 67
--- Interred at Cores End ---

RICHARD, THEIR SECOND SON
Died 4 th January 1893 aged 79
--- Interred in Maidenhead Cemetery ---

ELIZABETH, THEIR THIRD DAUGHTER
Died 4 th Feb 1896 aged 74
--- Interred at Maidenhead cemetery ---

LUCY, THEIR YOUNGEST DAUGHTER
Died 30 th September 1907 aged 83
--- Interred at Maidenhead Cemetery ---

SARAH, THEIR SECOND DAUGHTER
Died 11 th July 1917 aged 97

**In memory of Mr WILLIAM HACKSHAW
(illegible)**

17

**Sacred to the memory of Mr AARON HYATT
late of the Life Guards.**

Died January 8th 1854 aged 46 years.

**Also Mr HENRY HYATT brother of the
above who resided many years at Hobart
Town Van Diemen's Land.**

Died in London 16th July 1855 aged 69 years.

William Hackshaw

(No trace)

Aaron Hyatt

At one time Aaron was a corporal in the 1st Life
Guards, but after his discharge kept the Vine Inn,
Market Street, Maidenhead

Henry Hyatt

Operated a Blacksmiths Shop in Hobart, Australia
before returning home to England. Died of a stroke

**In memory of Mrs SARAH SWALES
Who died on the 9th day of January 1868
Aged 67 years
"Her end was peace"**

18

**Also of Mr JOSEPH SWALES
Who died the 15th day of December 1887
Aged 89 years**

Joseph Swales b 1798 St Albans

John made his living in Maidenhead as a Coach Builder

Sarah Swales b 1801 Wattlinngton

Joseph and Sarah lived in Sun Cottage on the Marlow Road

At one time Joseph was an Alderman of the town

John King b 1793 Hounslow

Susan King b 1793 St Albans

In 1861 they were living in High Street Cookham with
Silvia Hussey as a lodger (see memorial 5)

Sacred to the memory of Mr JOHN KING
Who died June 20 th 1860 in his 74 the year

Also Ann King who died 11 December 1813

19

Here Lieth the body of Susan King The Beloved
Wife of Mr JOHN KING who Departed This Life
29 ? 1870 In The Seventy Ninth Year Of Her Age

In Memory Of
JOHN ILLSLEY

Who died 20 th December 1865 aged 61 years

Also Lousa Neville who died 24 December 1890 aged 81

20

In Memory of
Mrs MARY ILLSLEY
Who died 26 th March 1861 aged 79

There is a record of **John Illsley** dying in Lambeth
and **Mary Illsley** dying at Cookham

Otherwise no other records have so far been found