
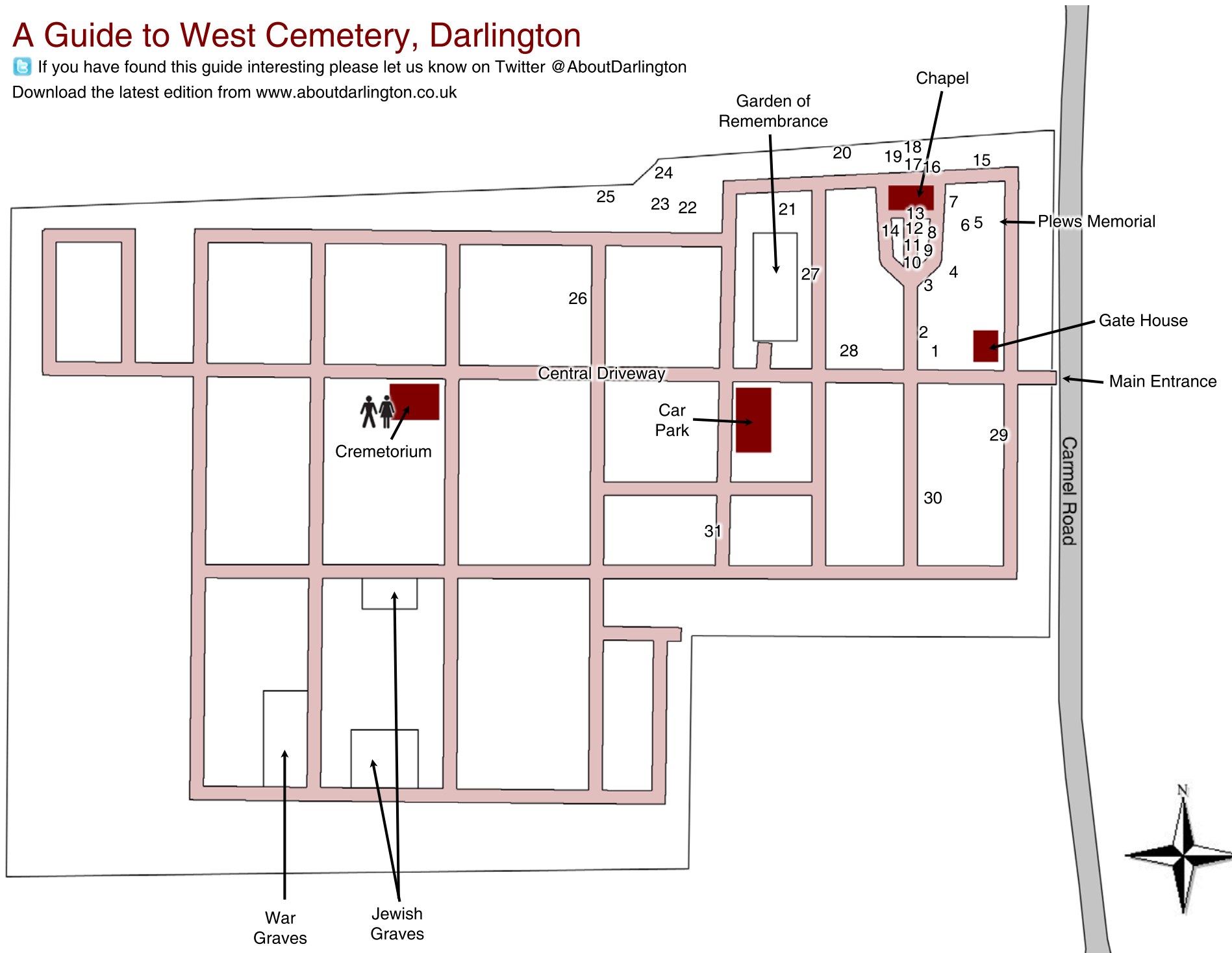


# A Guide to West Cemetery, Darlington

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**1. Septimus Hird** (Died 1861)

DHS ref. [C-18-2](#)

Aged only 17, as an apprentice architect, Septimus won a Total Abstinence Society competition to design a new drinking fountain for the town - the [Fothergill Fountain](#) which now stands in the South Park. Before it was built however he drowned while swimming at Redcar. His design was modified by his boss at the Richardson and Ross architects practice and the fountain was constructed in its original position in [Bondgate](#). Chris Lloyd's "[Raising a glass to a pioneer of temperance](#)" article gives more information.



**2. Ann Graves** (Died 1858)

DHS ref. [C-20-2](#)

West Cemetery opened in April 1858. By the following November there had been 50 burials. While Ann Graves was not the first to be buried in the new cemetery, on the reverse of her headstone is the inscription "This stone was the first erected in this cemetery".



**3. George Stephenson** (Died 1881)

DHS ref. [C-17-13](#)

Highly respected Traffic Manager of the Stockton and Darlington Section of the North Eastern Railway. Speaking shortly after his death, [David Dale](#) (see K1-6-7) said that he had been "possessed of great intelligence, had great perseverance of character, and had the means of saying things most clearly, and expressing his opinions forcibly. He had the love of work himself, and he disliked to see slovenly work in others. He loved to see work done thoroughly well for its own sake; but, above all, these qualities were characterised by a high sense of morality, and good faith, and honour."

He lived at Gloucester House on North Road, the entrance steps for which stood close to B&Q until the recent changes to the road layout.

This memorial and a Grammar School scholarship in his name were paid for by public subscription following his death. The scholarship was competed for by boys whose fathers were employees of the North Eastern Railway Company. It covered the cost of school fees for up to three years.



**4. James Piggott Pritchett** (Died 1911)

DHS ref. [C-9-25](#)



Architect of numerous buildings in and around Darlington including the [Darlington Training College](#), now the Arts Centre as well as the chapels and original design of West Cemetery, and many other ecclesiastical buildings throughout the north of England.

He was also responsible for the design of [Robert Henry Allan's](#) monument (see A-5-12), which is among the most imposing in the cemetery.



**4a. Thomas William Marley** (Died 1925) DHS ref. [C-8-15](#)

Secretary and later Chairman and Managing Director of the North Brancepeth Coal Co. Ltd. The British Library holds a copy of his 1919 monograph "The question of the Nationalisation of the Mines". He was a noted amateur genealogist. His genealogical notebooks and papers are preserved in the Northumberland Record Office. He researched the histories of the Marley, Rayne/Raine and Middleton families of Teesdale, among others, and was an active member of the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle upon Tyne. The British Library has a copy of his 1920 book "The Marleys of Langton, Ingleton, Hilton and Houghton-Le-Side in Co. Durham [with Genealogical Tables]". T.W. Marley lived at [Marton Grove](#) on Abbey Road, Darlington.

Note: Information provided by Mark Rayne.

Note: This grave is not indicated on the [map](#). It is just to the south of J.P. Pritchett's grave, one row closer to Carmel Road.



**4b. Cuthbert David Marley** (Died 1960) DHS ref. [C-8-16](#)

Son of [T.W. Marley](#). Born in 1898, he was at Durham School when the Great War began. When he left school in July 1915, he joined the Inns of Court OTC (Officer Training Corps) and was commissioned in the DLI. He fought with the 5th Battalion DLI on the Western Front from 1916-18 and, after the war, continued to serve as a Territorial Officer, rising to command 5 DLI. He received the MBE in 1929 and the Efficiency Decoration in 1936.

In 1940, he was given command of the 10th Battalion DLI and was awarded the Distinguished Service Order for his leadership during the German attack on Arras, before the Dunkirk retreat. In 1942, he was made a Brigadier.

His medals are on display at the [Durham Light Infantry museum](#).

In civilian life, David Marley was a director of the Durham Coal Board. He died at Middleton St. George in 1960.

Note: This grave is not indicated on the [map](#). It is just to the south of J.P. Pritchett's grave, one row closer to Carmel Road.



**5. John Kane (Died 1876)**

DHS ref. [C-4-20](#)

Fourth row, behind the Plews family monument ([see map](#))

Trade unionist who lead the workers of the iron industry through some of their most turbulent periods of industrial unrest. During one of the most bitter disputes, the Northern Echo reported that he was "Idolised by fellow workmen, denounced by the employers, and regarded by the middle class generally as a pestilent firebrand and a dangerous agitator." His union was eventually defeated and almost destroyed but Kane regrouped by forming a new union, the National Amalgamated Malleable Ironworkers' Association, based in Darlington, where he came into close contact with [Sir David Dale](#), a leading Quaker ironworks owner. Kane came to see that progress could be made through negotiation rather than conflict and together with Dale he set up the Board of Arbitration and Conciliation for the Manufactured Iron Trade of the North of England. Their efforts eventually brought peace within the troubled industry. In 1870 the ironworkers presented him and his wife, Jane, with a gold watch each and a purse of sovereigns in gratitude for his unstinting work on their behalf.

By the mid-1870's however, the industry fell into recession and Kane once again found himself at the centre of industrial disputes. He died suddenly in 1876 while returning from mediating in a dispute in Maesteg, in South Wales. His death was attributed to the relentless pressure of his work.

A full account of John Kane's life and achievements can be found in Chris Lloyd's article on the "[Ironworkers' leader who gave his life to the cause](#)".



**6. Nicholas Bragg (Died 1873)**

DHS ref. [C-5-21](#)

Fifth row, immediately behind the monument to John Kane ([see map](#))



Bragg was a Chartist. Chartism was a working class movement demanding political reform including universal male suffrage and other measures to challenge the dominance of the wealthy property owners in politics. Bragg campaigned for many years to overcome the dominance of the Pease family in Darlington, running a Chartist bookshop on High Row and standing against the Peases and their Liberal Quaker colleagues in elections. Following a disturbance in the Darlington Market Place in May 1840 he was sentenced to three months imprisonment for causing an obstruction and public nuisance.

In 1867 he was successful in having Darlington incorporated as a municipality with a more democratically elected town council headed by a mayor. In 1868 he formed the first formal political party in the town, the Darlington Working Men's Conservative Association.

His obituary in the Northern Echo said "His firmness made him many enemies, but those who knew him best acknowledge his singleminded devotion to what he believed to be the best interests of Darlington", "He was a bold, outspoken, generous-hearted man - a notability and a marked character in Darlington, and one of its most worthy men."

More information about Bragg's work can be found in Chris Lloyd's article on the [The radical criminal who carpet bagged a 'spinster'](#).



**7. Francis Mewburn** (Died 1867)

DHS ref. [C-11-27](#)

The worlds first railway solicitor and the legal brains behind the Stockton & Darlington Railway. In 1819 he defeated the Duke of Cleveland's attempts in Parliament to prevent the railway being build, because he feared that it would ruin his fox coverts. At a dinner at the [Croft Spa Hotel](#) on June 11th 1829 to celebrate the opening of the Croft branch of the railway he astonished his audience when he predicted that one day people would be able to leave Darlington by train in the morning, attend the opera in London in the evening, and arrive home for breakfast.

In 1833 he negotiated with Parliament to find a suitable form of words that Joseph Pease, the first nonconformist MP for 200 years, could use in place of the constitutional oath of allegiance. He planted one of the [South Park sequoias](#) in 1863. He also laid the foundation stones for [Blackwell Bridge](#) and the Stockton & Darlington Railway Skerne Bridge.

The Bishop of Durham appointed him Chief Bailiff of Darlington in 1846, making him the Bishop's representative in the town. In this capacity he greeted Queen Victoria at

Bank Top station in 1849 when her train rested there briefly.

His house, Larchfield, stood on the corner of Coniscliffe Road and Larchfield Street. It was demolished in 1978. There is a mural plaque to him in [Holy Trinity church](#) and a stained glass window in his memory in St Cuthbert's church.

Chris Lloyd's '[Railway the result of a race into the future](#)' article includes more information and a sketch of Francis Mewburn.



**8. Dr Stephen Edward Piper** (Died 1894) DHS ref. [A-3-12](#)

Dr Piper was at one time the only fully-qualified medical man in Darlington. He became Joseph Pease's doctor and the official surgeon of the North Eastern Railway Company.

In 1850 he was appointed as Darlington's first Medical Officer of Health and the following year produced a report about the health of the poorer areas of Darlington, stating that "At present numerous dwellings are surrounded by fetid cesspools, abominable pig sties, open dunghills, dirty ditches and ponds of stagnant water so that the ground is literally saturated with these filthy ooziings which often percolate into springs and wells contaminating the water, or intrude through the adjoining houses staining the walls with offensive moisture". He set to work to improve the situation, organising doctors to visit every family, providing free chloride of lime to each household for disinfecting the home, and ensuring that working class homes were whitewashed inside and out.

His work lead to the creation of the West Cemetery, replacing churchyard burials and to the opening of Darlington's crematorium in 1900, only the fifth in the country and the first in the North-East. He was also responsible for cleaning up the River Skerne, opening South Park to all, and also ensuring that a hospital and public baths were built in the town.

The walk-in medical centre in King Street is named Dr Piper House in his honour.



**9. Sir Edward Daniel Walker** (D. 1919) DHS ref. [A-5-4](#)

Proprietor of the Northern Echo and three times Mayor of Darlington. [E D Walker Homes](#) on Coniscliffe Road were built at his bequest, opening in 1928. He also



commissioned the [mayoral chains](#) for the town, which were presented to the Borough in 1902 at the conclusion of his year in Office as Mayor.

The Durham County Council web site includes a portrait of [E D Walker](#).



**10. George Gordon Hoskins** (Died 1911) DHS ref. [A-6-1](#)

Architect in the gothic style. Designed numerous prestigious buildings in and around Darlington including the [Public Library](#) in Crown Street, the [Grammar School](#), the [Kings Head Hotel](#), the [Lloyds Bank building](#) in Coniscliffe Road, the Red Lion pub, the North Cemetery chapels, lodges and monument, the [Technical College](#) in Northgate and also [Middlesbrough Town Hall](#).

He lived in a house of his own design at Thornbeck Hill, Carmel Road.

More information on GG Hoskins can be found in Chris Lloyd's article, "[Lost in a world of belltowers, cloisters and crypts](#)".



**11. John Dixon** (Died 1865) DHS ref. [A-6-3](#)

John was the son of a County Durham colliery owner, George Dixon, whose brother Jeremiah Dixon worked with Charles Mason to survey the Mason-Dixon line in the USA.

John began his working life in his fathers colliery, becoming a a clerk in the Backhouse Bank in Darlington when Jonathan Backhouse bought the colliery. Backhouse transferred him to the Stockton & Darlington Railway Company as a clerk and later as a surveyor, under the direction of George Stephenson.

He became one of the first railway civil engineers and Stephenson's Chief Engineer and Surveyor on the Stockton & Darlington Railway. Dixon also worked as a engineer on the Canterbury & Whitstable Railway and the Liverpool & Manchester Railway.

He was elected to the Darlington Board of Health in 1850.



**12. Mary Jane Allen** (Died 1874) DHS ref. [A-6-9](#)

Bareback horse rider and wife of the Excelsior Circus proprietor Frederick Allen. The Excelsior Circus toured all over the north-east of England. Mary Jane died of bronchitis while the circus was passing though Darlington.



Her monument is similar to the more famous horse memorial in London's [Highgate Cemetery](#).



**13. Robert Henry Allan, J.P.** (Died 1879) DHS ref. [A-5-12](#)

Became High Sheriff of Durham in 1851. Lived at Blackwell Hall and Blackwell Grange in Darlington.

The imposing monument, standing on eight individual plots, was designed by [J. P. Pritchett](#) (see C-9-25). It is made of polished Aberdeen "dice" granite, so called due to it's distinctive black and white markings. The base and cover are each of one block, with highly moulded panels on the sides and ends, also of granite.



**14. Alderman William Foggitt** (Died 1891) DHS ref. [B-5-6](#)

Proprietor of a grocers shop on High Row in Darlington until his retirement. He was a Member of the Local Board of Health, Councillor for the West Ward and later Alderman of the North West Ward and also a Magistrate. For some years he was the organist at the Wesleyan Chapel in Bondgate.

The Durham County Council web site includes a portrait of [William Foggitt](#).



**15. Aaron Bowker** (Died 1875) DHS ref. [C\(2\)-8-1](#)

First Superintendent of the cemetery, for 17 years from its opening in April 1858.



**16. John Harrison** (Died 1889) DHS ref. [C\(2\)-18-2](#)

Founder of the Onward Building Society, which had its head office in Northgate, Darlington, in the building which is now Greggs the Bakers. On his death, Harrison was considered to be the "most active and exemplary of businessmen". However within 9 months a huge financial scandal erupted when it was discovered that he had misappropriated £45,151 (almost £2.5m in today's money)

from the building society, partly to support his Linthorpe Pottery business. This led to the attempted suicide of his deputy, Thomas Dennison, who was later jailed for his part in the fraud, and also to a run on the societies funds.



**17. Robert Barker Hall** (Died 1889)

DHS ref. [C2-20-2](#)

Killed in the North of England School Furniture Company fire disaster, when a wall collapsed onto a crowd of spectators. He had lived at 5 High North Terrace and was described as a traveller . The inquest into the deaths of Robert Barker Hall and four others including [George Wilson](#) (see D1-2-4), was held in the Railway Tavern, in Northgate. The bodies were laid out in a stable behind the pub, but the proceedings were delayed for 45 minutes because the landlord had mislaid the key. This incident led to Darlington's first official mortuary being built, as recommended in the coroners report on the accident.

See reports from the [Northern Echo](#) reproduced by Janet McNeilly.



**18. Frederick William Dickens** (D. 1868)

DHS ref. [C\(2\)-20-7](#)

Located close to the cemetery wall, in the same row at Robert Barker Hall's grave, overhung by trees.

Wayward brother of Charles Dickens. He only lived in Darlington for a year, while working as a journalist. He had lodgings in Elton Parade with a friend, Jonathon Ross Feetum (grave C-13-26) who was formerly the landlord of the White Horse Tavern in London's Regent Street which Frederick had frequented. Over many years he had run up debts by trading on his brother's name. He was the inspiration for Fred, the dissolute brother of Little Nell in The Old Curiosity Shop. People who knew him at the end of his life said that his only sustenance was a penny bun a day, with a little ginger beer with gin added. Charles was unable to attend the funeral, though his eldest son was present, and he contributed to its cost. For more information, see [Wikipedia](#).



**19. George Wilson** (Died 1889)

DHS ref. [D1-2-4](#)

Headstone overhung by trees.

Killed in the North of England School Furniture Company fire disaster, when a wall collapsed onto a crowd of spectators. He was 61 years of age when he died. He worked for the School Furniture Company as a fitter, in a building adjacent to the one which burned down. He left a



widow and a grown up family.

The inquest into the deaths of George Wilson and four others, including [Robert Baker Hall](#) (see C2-20-2) was held in the

Railway Tavern, in Northgate. The bodies were laid out in a stable behind the pub, but the proceedings were delayed for 45 minutes because the landlord had mislaid the key. This incident led to Darlington's first official mortuary being built, as recommended in the coroners report on the accident.

See report from the [Northern Echo](#) reproduced by Janet McNeilly.



**20. Bysak Fukau** (Died 1873)

DHS ref. [D\(1\)-15-4](#)

Student from Tosa in Shikok, Japan who was drowned at Middlesbrough, aged 18, while studying in Darlington. He was an orphan from an aristocratic background, brought up by his uncle, a wealthy landowner in Japan. As part of the Japanese government's policy of introducing Western civilisation to their country, together with a number of other young Japanese students, Bysak came to the Darlington to study at the Walworth House College, in Pierremont Crescent, then worked as an articled pupil with Raylton Dixon & Company shipbuilders in Middlesbrough. One November evening, while walking along a dockside, he fell. Despite the efforts of his friends he was unable to swim to a nearby mud bank and was drowned.

His headstone has a Japanese inscription on the front, and English on the reverse.



**21. George Wharton** (Died 1866)

DHS ref. [E-8-15](#)

Headstone of iron.



**22. John Bowman** (Died 1896)

DHS ref. [E5-19-2](#)



Lived at Polam Grange. For many years he ran a tannery business with his father in Four Riggs. Became a proprietor and secretary of the Darlington & Stockton Times. He was a town Councillor and for 11 years was the honorary Captain on the Darlington Fire Brigade, spending much of his time improving efficiency within the Brigade.

There is a photograph of him with the Darlington Fire Brigade, outside Polam Grange, on the [Durham Record](#) web site.

In his obituary, the Northern Echo described his love of all animals, "furred and feathered...his collection of foxes, raccoons, monkeys etc and his aviary of rare birds being unique in the neighbourhood". Shortly before his death he had donated his collection to the Darlington Corporation.



**23. William Dresser** (Died 1899)

DHS ref. [K1-5-6](#)

Founder of Wm Dresser & Son, printer, bookseller and publisher. The business for many years occupied a site on High Row in Darlington, next to [Barclay's Bank](#).



**24. Sir David Dale** (Died 1906)

DHS ref. [K1-6-7](#)

Industrialist, knighted in 1895 for his work on industrial relations. He lived at West Lodge in West Crescent, off Woodland Road, Darlington, now occupied by the Darlington Association on Disability.

Dale had married into the wealthy Backhouse family. He was the right-hand man of the Pease family and owned Consett Ironworks. He was also involved in the railway and shipbuilding industries. Being a Quaker, he had an interest in peaceably resolving disputes, considering strikes and lock-outs within the iron industry "barbarous, cruel and stupid". Together with [John Kane](#) (C-4-20), he set up the Board of Arbitration and Conciliation for the Manufactured Iron Trade of the North of England, which eventually brought peace within the troubled industry. During the 19th century the arbitration board pioneered in Darlington became an accepted practice in most industries in resolving industrial disputes.

A portrait of Sir David Dale can be seen in the [Darlington Bourough Council art collection](#).



**25. Frank Robson** (Died 1908)

DHS ref. [K\(1\)-22-5](#)



Managing director of EC Robson, flour miller, of Sunderland. Lived at [Faverdale Hall](#).



**26. Corporal Alix Olaf Liddle** (Died 1914) DHS ref. [L-1-17](#)

Killed in the Bombardment of Hartlepool on 16th December 1914. He was among the first soldiers to be killed on British soil during the First World War. His body was returned to Darlington, where he had lived with his parents at Hummersknott Lodge and later in Lindon Avenue and where he had recently been married. His horse drawn funeral cortege was attended by numerous civic dignitaries and he was honoured with a military gun salute.



**27. William Craggs** (Died 1895) DHS ref. [E-1-22](#)

Prior to his death at the age of 74, William Craggs was said to be the oldest living railway engine driver. He worked for the North-Eastern Railway Company for 60 years, from the age of 14, becoming a driver at the age of 20.

He was regularly the driver of [Locomotion No. 1](#) during its working life on the Stockton & Darlington railway and again was its driver at the Railway Jubilee celebrations on 27th September 1875. He was also a driver of Timothy Hackworth's 'Coronation' locomotive.



**28. John Wesley Hackworth** (Died 1891) DHS ref. [D-16-2](#)

Son of pioneering railway engineer Timothy Hackworth, at the age of sixteen John Wesley travelled to Russia to oversee the delivery of the first steam locomotive to run there. He became Works Manager of the Soho Works in Shildon. After the death of his father he moved to premises in Priestgate in Darlington, manufacturing stationary engines and machinery.

He patented the 'Hackworth radial valve gear' for steam engines and manufactured cotton machinery for use in Egypt, setting up a works at Bank Top. He devised improvements to mine ventilation and to blast furnaces. He travelled in Canada and the USA to promote his valve gear, returning to work in Darlington, Sunderland and London as a consulting engineer.



**29. Thomas Adamson (Died 1894)**

DHS ref. [G-1-14](#)

Engine driver, resident in Cobden Street, Darlington. Died following a railway accident at Castle Hills junction, near Northallerton, on 4<sup>th</sup> October 1894. He was the driver of the Edinburgh to London express which missed a stop signal in thick fog, late at night, and stuck a mineral train.



**30. Roman Sarcophagus**

One of at least three Roman sarcophaguses in Darlington which came to light around 1840 when the first stretch of the main railway line was being built from Darlington to York. It is thought that they were discovered as navies dug a cutting through Castle Hills to the west of Northallerton (by coincidence the same location where the accident in which killed Thomas Adamson, above, occurred), which was believed to be a Roman fort.

More information on Darlington's Sarcophaguses can be found in Chris Lloyd's article, "[The secret diary of a love sick 'Jane Austen'](#)".



**31. Joseph Forestall Smythe (Died 1930)** DHS ref. [F\(3\)-1-5](#)

Gunmaker whose shop in Blackwellgate exploded on 9th October 1894, destroying a substantial part of the town centre. [GG Hoskins](#) (see A-6-1) and a number of others were injured in the blast. An apprentice, Thomas Howe, later died from his injuries. Smythe moved his business to Horsemarket where he continued to work for a number of years until he was knocked down by a bus, and later died, aged 85. See Chris Lloyd's "[How bowls in Darlington began with a bang](#)" article.