

Message from the Chair

Welcome to our 6th newsletter!

Thanks to all who attended the Extraordinary General Meeting held on 7th April. We are pleased to report that we successfully achieved our aim of establishing a committee which will be in place until our next A.G.M in March/April 2017... date to be confirmed. One of the benefits to members is that this year's subscriptions will be extra good value — as the financial year-end has been changed to 31st December, from 30th September.

We are particularly pleased to welcome Steve Miller to our number – his name will be familiar to many of you from Yorkshire Indexers on which he wrote an article in our last newsletter. There is an update on page 8. Amongst his many talents is web-site design and he is leading a team for a long-overdue update of our site!

At that meeting constitutional and administrative changes were made and one outcome is that jobs can be rotated more informally amongst the committee which allows flexibility to cope with personal circumstances...see page 8 for how it is at the moment!

Ann Lightman
pp the Committee

Newsletter June 2016

Members Feedback regarding priorities for the year

At the EGM the three front-runners were, with only a point separating them:

- 1) Restoration of the vandalised section (with a query over what restoration meant perhaps survey and make-safe and tidy would meet our objectives?)
- 2) Repairs to the Columbarium. Despite £66,000 being spent in 2013 it has been closed now for almost a year on Health and Safety grounds.
- 3) Ground maintenance this was quite a wide heading and, with hindsight, it would have been good to have broken this down into smaller sections.

Work on the third objective is ongoing thanks to our superb Action Day team. I hope you have enjoyed the wonderful display of bulbs many of which were planted by the team last autumn.



We also actively encourage corporate groups – and were pleased to present Helen Cole, the manager of McDonalds Ring Road (Horsforth) branch with a certificate of our appreciation for their contribution over the last two years.



Helen Cole from McDonalds receives the Certificate from Ann Lightman.

If any member has connections to a business that might welcome a team-bonding exercise, do consider a day in the cemetery. It has proved a very popular choice with a number of organisations. This year we have been pleased to welcome some Lloyds Bank PLC staff who have added to our numbers on Action Days.

The first two objectives are going to require largescale funding and so probably cannot be contemplated together and although we will play a part in obtaining funding, the direction here has to come from the cemetery owners, Leeds City Council. We intend to repeat this exercise, which we found so valuable in providing feedback, at our Summer Tea Party, (see page 8 for details).



Ann Lightman mans the 'Friends' display at the History Fayre at Leeds museum on 7th May.

A new face at the Action Days

On a very wet day in February we were introduced to park ranger Peter Banks who has taken over as the new lead on our Action Days. Despite the prolonged heavy rain a number of stalwarts turned up to welcome him and continue the good work.

We look forward to working with him.



Pete Banks



Sheltering from the deluge



Working inside, even the camera steamed up!

GRAVE SPOTLIGHT

Berkeley Moynihan Surgeon

By his grand-daughter Melanie Corbett

In July 2015, I visited Lawnswood Cemetery where my grandfather, Baron Moynihan of Leeds, the greatest surgeon of his time, lies buried. At the time, his family had been offered the opportunity for a grand ceremony and burial in Westminster Abbey but his family knew that Berkeley would have chosen Leeds, a city that he loved, where he made his mark upon the medical world. An inspirational teacher and international pioneer in abdominal surgery, he introduced the use of sterilised whites and rubber gloves as well as green drapes to soothe the eye. He carried out the first blood transfusion in Britain and emphasised the need for 'caressing the tissues' rather than speed in surgery.



Berkeley Moynihan

My older sister, Imogen still remembers watching her grandfather operate and how, when he had completed his work and his patient had been wheeled out, Berkeley would wave to her. His manicurist would arrive after breakfast, twice a week, to manicure his hands. The manicurist would use two bowls of water, an orange cleaning stick, a file and dark pink powder which would be placed on each of Berkeley's nails. This was followed by a final 'whizzy' polish in a small boxmachine specially designed to polish his fingernails. The hands were key to surgery and had to be kept in fine condition; he often wore gloves when out to protect his hands.

Imogen can clearly remember the much-loved swimming pool at the bottom of Carr Manor gardens and how, as a young child, she was always asking what happened to you when you dived in. Berkeley told our father to dive in with her on his back so she could find out and that's exactly what he did! She can't remember ever not being able to swim. Berkeley once told her that it was his ambition to swim the channel. Imogen also remembers that Carr Manor was reported to have a lady ghost. One evening, Berkeley had to be summoned when Vera, the cook who was bringing Imogen her mushroom soup for tea, fainted at the top of the stairs, having seen 'The Grey Lady'. She told me that Berkeley had two chauffeurs called Dowding and Stringer. They used to take it in turns to drive because Berkeley was on call twenty-four hours, always ready to attend one of his patients. The idea of not being on call or leaving the follow-up care to someone else was not part of Berkeley's beliefs about how patients should be treated.

Berkeley Moynihan was born on 2nd October 1865 in Malta, the son of Andrew Moynihan and Ellen Ann Parkin. Andrew Moynihan came from a long line of soldiers and was the son of Malachi Moynihan and Ann Scott who moved from Templemore, Tipperary to England. Andrew was born in Wakefield, Yorkshire on September 8th 1831. He had a very distinguished army career being one of the first to be awarded the Victoria Cross in 1857 for his bravery in the Crimea.

Andrew died from Malta Fever (Brucellosis) in Malta in 1867 aged 37 and following his death, when Berkeley was less than three years old, Ellen moved Berkeley and his two sisters (Ada and Eva) back to England. They stayed for a short time with Andrew's mother at Sefton Park, Liverpool, Ellen's only income being one pound a week from the Patriotic Fund, before they went to live with Ellen's sister, Mrs. Ball and her husband, a Police Inspector, in Millgarth Street, Leeds. They had no children of their own and helped provide for Ada and Eve's education and Berkeley's early student days. When Berkeley was six, he attended a small preparatory school in Brandon Villa, New Leeds, run by the three Misses Baxendale. In 1875, H.R.H. The Duke of Cambridge secured the nomination for Berkeley to attend Christ's Hospital. When he was fifteen, he transferred to the Royal Navy School at New Cross.

It was Berkeley's wish to become a soldier despite his mother's preference for him to become a doctor. However, passing the Leeds Infirmary one day, he had a sudden change of mind and announced to his mother, "The Moynihans have done enough killing. It's time they mended their ways! And I'm going to be the first to do it. I'm going to be a doctor!" So, in 1883, on his eighteenth birthday, Berkeley entered the Medical School in the Yorkshire College (later to become the University of Leeds) and Leeds General Infirmary and became the first of his family not to enter the army. He qualified four years later in 1887, with an M.B. of London University and the Primary Fellowship after which he was appointed house surgeon to Mayo-Robson.



In 1890, Berkeley achieved the Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons and was appointed R.S.O. at Leeds Infirmary. In 1893, he practised from 33, Park Square, Leeds and passed his Master of Surgery of the University of London. In 1895, Berkeley married Isabel (Isabella Wellesley) Jessop, daughter of Thomas Richard Jessop, senior surgeon at the Infirmary, at Leeds Parish Church. They lived at 5, Woodhouse Square and had three children: Dorothy, Shelagh and Patrick. In 1896, aged 31, Berkeley was elected to a position on the surgical staff of the Infirmary.



33, Park Square, Leeds

Berkeley continued as a commanding surgeon, teacher, speaker and writer, publishing many papers, publications and books from 1896 onwards. He would write each day before breakfast between the hours of 6 and 8 o'clock. Many of his books included his own drawings of surgical findings that he sketched at the end of each operation and provided evidence for his surgical theories. It was through recording meticulously each operation that he was able to recognise patterns that led to the development of a deeper understanding of abdominal disease. His Abdominal Operations, largest book, published by W.B. Saunders in 1905. It was Berkeley who succeeded in raising understanding of the high incidence of duodenal ulcers and perhaps his best known book became: Duodenal Ulcer, 1910 W.B. Saunders.

From this time onwards, Berkeley made several trips to America, once returning with rubber

gloves that he started to use when operating. Previously, he had introduced the wearing of white, sterilised garments for operations and in 1912, he used green rather than white drapes for the operating table to help reduce eye fatigue. The family moved to 63, Clarendon Road, Leeds from 1904-1914. In 1906, Berkeley advanced from Assistant Surgeon to Full Surgeon and, in this year, he performed the first successful blood transfusion in this country. In 1909, Berkeley was made Professor of Surgery in Leeds University and founded the Chirurgical Club to bring together provincial surgeons to advance new learning and practices.

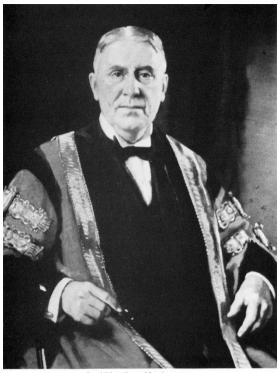
In 1910, Leonard Braithwaite became Berkeley's private assistant and Assistant Surgeon at the Infirmary. He continued to work for Berkeley for the next 15 years. It was Leonard Braithwaite who commissioned the marble bust of Berkeley that still stands in the Royal College of Surgeons in London, left to the R.C.S. by Berkeley. He was knighted in 1912 and elected to the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons in the same year. When presented to King George V, the King said, "I am proud to shake the most skilful hand in all the world." In 1914, the Moynihan family moved to Carr Manor, Meanwood.

It was the nursing home in Hyde Terrace that became Berkeley's favourite operating place. He gave advice to some of the most famous people of his time but he always had time for the people of Leeds. Whilst those who could afford to pay, did, those who couldn't would still be seen and treated by Berkeley. He would talk at length to his patients, believing the patient's history and postoperative care were intrinsic parts of the surgical approach. Patients would be followed up meticulously, so that he attended to their pre and post-operative care in a manner that would be rare nowadays. Patients would be visited at weekends or late at night so that the whole medical journey was attended to in a thorough manner. One of the key aspects of Berkeley's work was his respect for nurses, a role he

described as 'a noble profession'. He was always considerate of his nurses, particularly that of Miss. Bertha Reid, his favourite nurse, who would accompany him when operating in private houses or remote farmhouses by the light of an oil lamp. His appreciation of the nurse's role helped bring about the proper recognition of nurses' work and eventually led to the State Registration of nurses. We can only imagine what Berkeley would have thought of the current situation where much of the genuine nursing is carried out by the lowest paid health care assistants whilst the nurses' time is too often spent on form filling behind the nursing station.

Between 1914 and 1915, Berkeley was posted to France as a consulting surgeon with Leonard Braithwaite, his A.D.C. where they visited over a hundred hospitals, supervising the construction of hospitals and helping improve the quality of surgery. Berkeley continued his commission as Major, in the Royal Army Medical Corps, throughout the war, advising in London and America. During the war, his eldest daughter, Dorothy Moynihan, would sometimes assist him in his operations.

In 1917, Berkeley and Colonel Goodwin were made Honorary Fellows of the American College of Surgeons during their tour of America. In 1918, on the King's birthday, Berkeley was made a K.C.M.G. - Knight Commander of St. Michael and St. George for his services at home and abroad during the war. This was followed in 1922 when Berkeley was created a Baronet. He now saw some patients at the Jules Hotel and subsequently in Portland Place several days of the week as well as in Leeds. He operated in Lady Carnarvon's nursing home. In the autumn of 1921, he placed the author John Buchan on a health regime which Buchan reported had rapidly made him 'feel better'. As ever, he also devoted time to all patients, often talking with them for up to an hour, standing by their beds, to calm their nerves which he believed to be part of the healing process.



Lord Moynihan of Leeds, P.R.C.S.

In 1926, he was made President of the Royal College of Surgeons. He was the first President ever to be appointed from outside London and held the office for six years. In 1926, he was made a Freeman of the City of Leeds. Berkeley retired from the Infirmary in 1926 (aged 60) but continued to practise in both Leeds and London. Additionally, he worked for the advancement of surgical research and helped found the Buckston Browne Research Farm in Kent. In 1932, Berkeley was the first surgeon to be invited to give the Romanes Lecture in which he discussed the experimental method of research. From 1927 onwards, Berkeley visited South America, India, Jamaica, Canada, the Mediterranean and Egypt where, on one occasion, he spent a day in Tutankhamun's tomb with Howard Carter. He was asked to reduce the sub coracoid dislocation of a sphinx's shoulder that had occurred in 1450 B.C.

In 1929, Berkeley was elevated to the House of Lords as Baron Moynihan of Leeds. In the latter part of his life, Berkeley put forward the case for euthanasia for the incurably ill and he supported the Voluntary Euthanasia Campaign for the rest of his life.

He remained devoted to his wife, Isabel, who died on August 31st 1936 after which he died just six days later.

Forever proud of his provincial roots, the City of Leeds and all the opportunity it had offered him, Berkeley's family chose for him to be buried in Leeds, where he would have wished, and not in Westminster Abbey, a distinction the family were offered, but turned down. His funeral was held in Leeds and the streets were lined for over four miles to Meanwood.

Berkeley was blessed with tireless energy, both physical and mental (like his father, Andrew), a quick wit, infectious charm and great sense of humour. He often stated that one should never turn down a request on the basis of not 'having enough time' or being 'too busy'; time had to be made for his patients. He possessed an extraordinary memory and was a highly accomplished orator. Six weeks before he died, he wrote to a friend: 'It has all been great fun, and I would willingly have it over again'.

© 2016 Melanie Corbett, grand-daughter.

Reference: Conversations with Imogen Vance, grand-daughter;

Berkeley Moynihan Surgeon by Donald Bateman Macmillan 1940;

Moynihan Centenary lecture by Sir Geoffrey Keynes 13 October 1965;

Private letter to Sir Berkeley from John Buchan 1921.



Inscription on Berkeley Moynihan's monument

Visit to Stonefall Cemetery, Harrogate.

As we walked into the airfield section of Stonefall Cemetery we felt we had strayed into one of the war cemeteries of Northern France or Belgium. There before us was the familiar sight of Blomfield's Cross of Sacrifice accompanied by Lutyen's Stone of Remembrance and between them, row upon row of uniform headstones.



Stonefall was the destination for the latest of our popular Friends of Lawnswood Cemetery 'on tour' events. Stonefall Cemetery is situated on the outskirts of Harrogate and contains the graves of over 900 airmen from the Second World War.

Two thirds of the men buried there are Canadian. Our first question to our guide Richard Thackrah who was leading the tour on behalf of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission was why are they buried here in Harrogate? He told us that these are mainly the graves of aircrew who were stationed in East Yorkshire and Lincolnshire during the Second World War. Many of them died from their injuries while they were patients in the military wing of Harrogate General Hospital or were killed in accidents while training, therefore it was important to bury them close by and also at a site with good transport links. So large were the numbers of airmen requiring burial that the local council had to set aside a whole new area of the cemetery specifically for them. This is the area now known as the Air Force section. There are also some Second World War burials in other parts of the cemetery and 23 graves from the First World War.

As well as Canadian airmen we also found the graves of troops from other parts of the world including New Zealand, East Africa, Australia and Russia. There are also two German soldiers buried here. Our small party was entertained by Richard's many stories about the young men buried in the cemetery. His enthusiasm helped to take our mind off the wind, rain and even snow which accompanied our visit. The story of the crew of Wellington BK387 was of particular interest to me as the plane had crashed in Oakworth close to where I live in Keighley. The cause of the crash which killed all 6 crew is still unknown. Here at Stonefall they are buried side by side just as they served together each day.

While researching this subject I found an article published in 2013 by a Canadian newspaper focusing on one of the young men Chesley Grassie buried here at Stonefall. I recommend the article (see link below) as it helps one to understand what it must have been like for those who served in a war so very far from home and did not return.

Bev Forrest

https://www.thestar.com/news/insight/2013/11/ 11/the story of one canadian airman who die d on nov 11.html

Photos courtesy of Steve Miller





Monumental Inscription Update

We have been working on the 1910 Extension for several months and I would probably have finished all the mapping if I stopped chatting to everyone I meet. Mind you the weather hasn't helped, but that all adds to the challenge.

Most of the 1910 Extension is now mapped, just a small part of section W and X remain to be checked. We are plotting every grave against the original maps and physical locations. We are colour coding the sections to show whether or not a stone is in existence and also whether the stone has a military inscription.

Even though the maps have not yet been completed, the gardeners and masons on site have printed off copies. These have been laminated and take pride of place in their office ready to assist in locating graves for general enquirers or use in connection with their work.

We have already made arrangements with the lady in the flower shop to deposit completed copies there.

So on your next visit to the cemetery, if you see a chap with a brightly coloured clipboard chatting to all and sundry, tell him to stop gabbing and finish those maps!

Steve Miller, Yorkshire Indexers

FoLC Committee

Acting Chair - Ann Lightman
Secretary - Gladys Strawbridge
Treasurer - Mary Mills
Membership Secretary – Kate Vernon
Events and Education - Bev Forrest
Committee members – Janice Simpson,
Steve Miller

Membership currently stands at 79

As always, many thanks to those who have renewed their membership and to all our new members, thank you for joining us - we hope you will continue to support us as we could not exist without you.

Kate Vernon

Forthcoming Events

Wednesday 22nd June 7.45pm. Festival of Remembrance for the Soldiers of the Somme – evening event at Horsforth School.

Free event although donations welcome to Horsforth Cenotaph renovation appeal. Starts at 7.45 p.m. and lasts about 80 minutes. Some film, a brief presentation about the Leeds Pals and what happened to them, some poetry readings, presentation of the lives of individual soldiers, including Horace Iles, and some music. The actors in our play 'The Pals' will talk about the play and tickets will be available for Wednesday 13th and Thursday 14th July – 'the Pals' to be performed by Horsforth School Year Ten Boys Military Drama Group.

James Bovington

24th July – **18**th November in the Memorial Building (next to the chapels) there will be a display showing how the Battle of the Somme impacted on Lawnswood.

30th July Members' Summer Tea Party 2.30 – 4.00

at The Friends Meeting House,

New Adel Lane, LS16 6AZ

Our guest speaker is Dr Patrick Bourne, Assistant Curator of Abbey House Museum and Kirkstall Abbey. His subject -'Monuments and Museums: preserving our past'

Booking is essential for catering purposes so to secure a place please either -

Email <u>friendsoflawnswoodcemetery@yahoo.co.uk</u> or ring Janice on 07971 396931

11th September 2.00pm

Heritage Open Day walk with Ann Lightman. Subject – 'Lawnswood's Industrialists'.

15th October 10am

'Fungal Foray' Join Countryside Ranger Pete Banks and local expert Mary Larner from the Mid Yorkshire Fungus Group for an insight into the many different species of fungi to be found at Lawnswood.

The walk is free but there is a maximum of 30 places. Please ring 07891 277 108 or email Peter.Banks@leeds.gov.uk to secure a place.