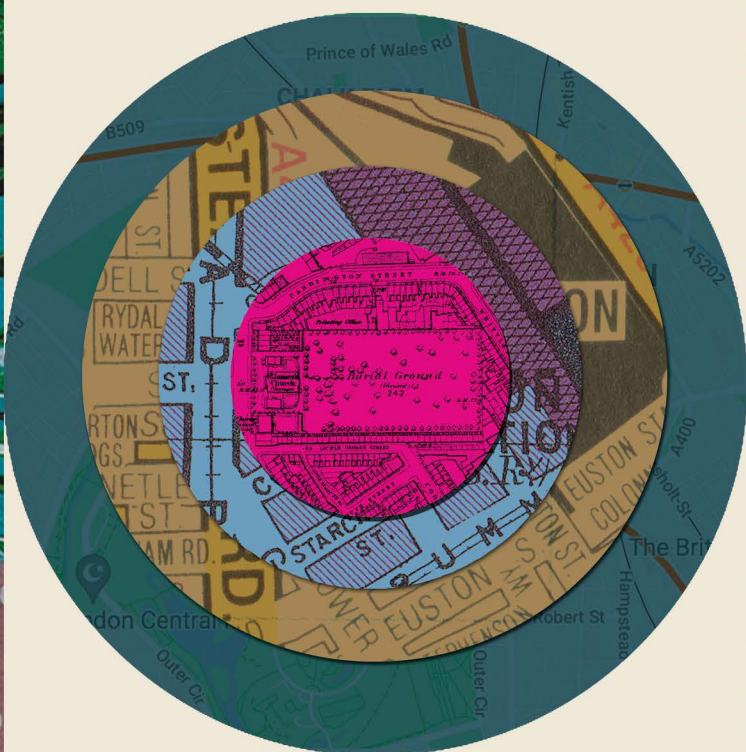


ST JAMES'S BURIAL GROUND



LIFE STORY MAP



Elizabeth Montgomery

ELIZABETH MONTGOMERY: an Irish born, wife of a reverend, who died in France and was buried in London.

Born: year unknown, Ireland
Died: 28 May 1833, Dieppe, France

Elizabeth Montgomery (maiden name Domville) was born into a wealthy and politically active family in Ireland. She was the daughter of an M.P. for Dublin and the sister of Sir Compton Domville (1st Baronet), who was Governor of County Dublin and an Irish member of parliament in the UK Parliament.

We don't know much about her adult life, other than the fact that she married Reverend George Montgomery in 1814.

But in her will, we learn more about Elizabeth. She said that if she died outside of London, her body should be 'transported to London in order it may be laid by the side of my dearest Montgomery'.

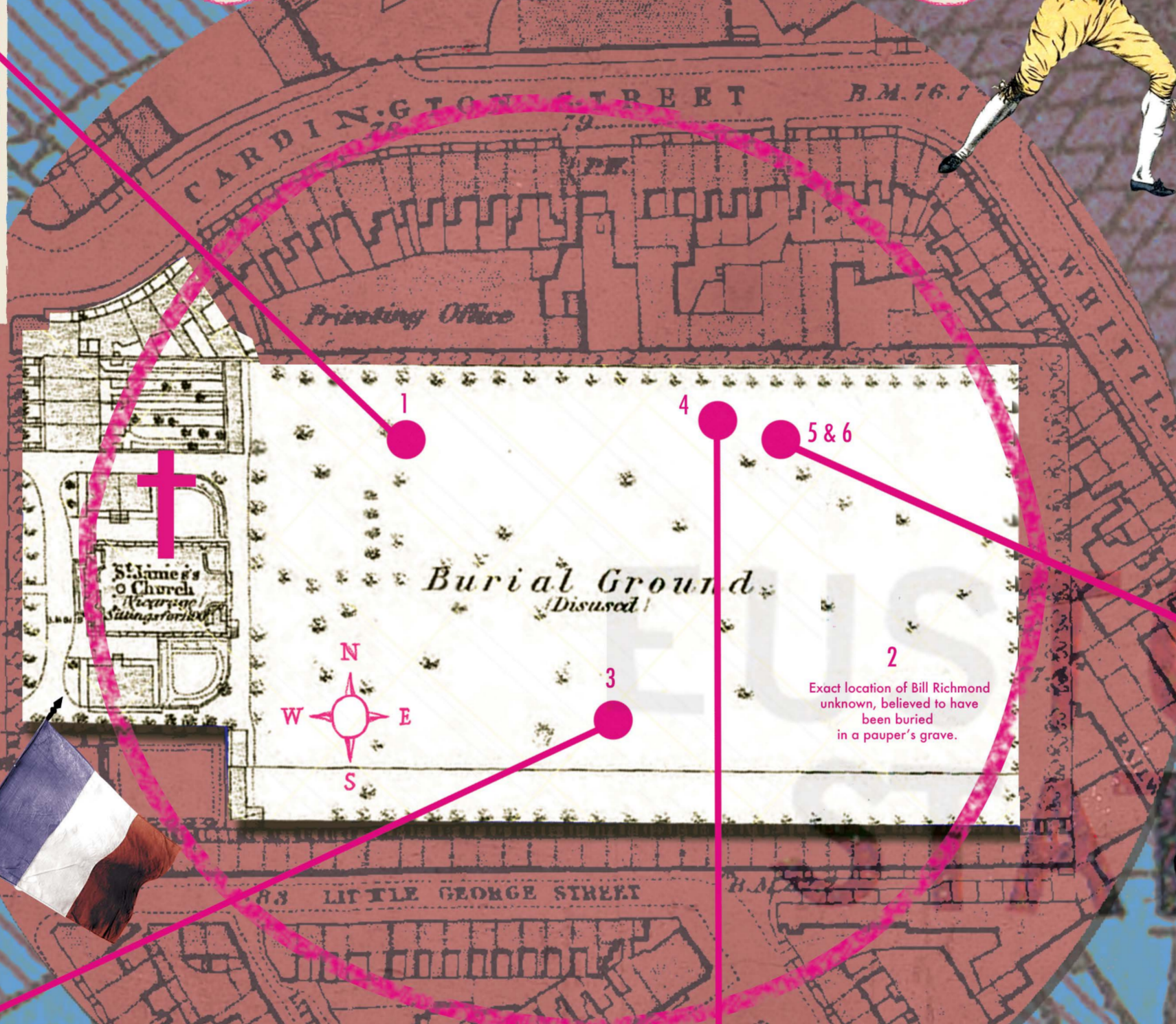
Elizabeth's will also tells us that she had a collection of miniature portraits of her family. She asked that these be given to her relatives and friends upon her death.

Elizabeth died in Dieppe, France and, as she wished, was returned in her coffin to London via an address in Cavendish Square, Marylebone. We have no record of how old she was when she died.

CAVENDISH SQUARE W1
CITY OF WESTMINSTER



St James's Burial Ground



Exact location of Bill Richmond unknown, believed to have been buried in a pauper's grave.



Bill Richmond

BILL RICHMOND: an American, enslaved then freed, famous left-handed boxer, cabinet maker, and pub landlord

Born: 5 August 1763, Staten Island, New York, USA
Died: 28 December 1829, London, aged 66

As a teenager, Bill worked for a British naval officer during the American War of Independence. Then in 1777, when Bill was just 14, Earl Percy (later the 2nd Duke of Northumberland) brought him to York, England, and found him work as cabinet-maker's apprentice.

In 1791, Bill married an English woman in Wakefield. We think her name was Mary Dunwick.

Bill was often racially insulted in York by locals and was even called a 'Black Devil'. He got into several fights, which he won!

Eventually, he moved to London and became a bodyguard for Thomas Pitt (2nd Baron Camelford), an eccentric naval officer. One day, Pitt took Bill to watch some prize fights (boxing matches fought for money). Bill was hooked and decided to become a boxer himself. His first professional fight was in 1804 at the age of 36.

By 1810, Bill was famous and known as the 'Black Terror'. He reportedly gave advice on boxing to celebrities such as Lord Byron and trained another well-known black fighter Tom Molineaux, who had been born enslaved. Bill also became the landlord of the Horse and Dolphin pub in Westminster.

Bill retired from boxing in 1818, age 55, but was later picked to be a bodyguard at King George IV's coronation celebrations in 1821.

In 1829, Bill died suddenly after a coughing fit. In 2005, he was inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame.



Yrene Victorie Soyer

YRENE VICTORIE SOYER: French woman, protestant and possible 'Huguenot'

Born: around 1798-1800, France
Died: 12 August 1838, London

Yrene was a French woman who lived in Rupert Street. She may have been a descendent of Protestant French immigrants, called 'Huguenots', who fled France during the reign of Louis XIV (1643-1715). She lived in Rupert Street which was bustling with traders including fishmongers, engravers, milliners, and florists. Yrene was buried in this protestant graveyard with her sister and mother.

She clearly left friends behind, as one wrote a long inscription on her gravestone. It read:

'In the memory [of] Yrene Victoire Soyer, born in France, died in London the 5 August 1838. Missed by her friends. This tomb has been erected by M.A. Dyke as a tribute of respect and regard to her dearest friend Mademoiselle Soyer, and also as sacred to the memory of her beloved mother and sister whose remains lie interred near this spot.'



Micheal Peruzzi

MICHAEL PERUZZI: an Italian family man, a valet, and the keeper of an eating house

Born: around 1764-5, Italy
Died: 13 July 1834, London

Michael came from an Italian family and arrived in England before 1803. We know this because he married Sarah Sproston in Hanover Square on the 26 May 1803.

We think the couple had around 7 children, including Frederick (born on 23 August 1815) and Mary (born on 1 June 1818). Over time, the family lived at different London addresses, including Osnaburgh Row, St George Hanover Square, and Park Terrace, Chelsea. Michael also kept an eating house (similar to a restaurant) near Golden Square.

Michael died on King Street, Westminster, and gave everything to his wife in his will. Sadly, just three years later, his wife Sarah died and was buried at St James's on 20 December 1837.

Margaret Fenton & James Fenton

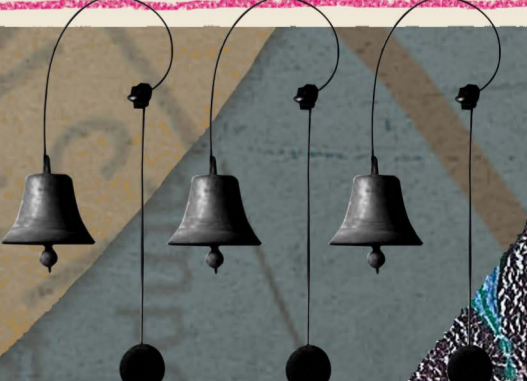
MARGARET FENTON & JAMES FENTON: a mother and newborn child

Born: Margaret in 1809 and James in 1835, London
Died: Margaret in 1835 and James in 1835, London

We know little about Margaret and James's short lives. Margaret lived on Poland Street, a fashionable area at the time, and may have been a house servant.

At just 26 years old, Margaret died giving birth to her baby boy, James, who tragically died a week after her. They were buried together in the same coffin.

Sadly, Margaret's fate was shared by many women and the burial records for St James's suggest that many of the children buried there were stillborn or died before their first birthday. At this time, death rates for women aged 25-35 outnumbered men because of the dangers of childbirth. We also know that 1/3 children born in 1800 did not survive until their 5th birthday due to disease and illness, poor nutrition, and challenging living conditions.



STUDY. LOUNGE. FRONT DR.

The excavation of St James's Gardens

In 2017, archaeologists from MOLA Headland Infrastructure started work at St James's Gardens. Close to Euston Station, this site now forms part of the HS2 scheme. However, from 1790 to 1853 it was the burial ground for the Church of St James's Piccadilly.

Over two years, archaeologists carefully excavated more than 31,000 burials on behalf of Costain Skanska and HS2. Amazingly, they discovered metal coffin plates which show the names of the people buried. They also found personal objects, such as a wooden doll and silk slippers, which hint at everyday life.

Although the excavation is now finished, there is still more to learn. Unusually, nearly 60,000 written burial records survive. These documents can be matched to the burials found by archaeologists, revealing further details about the lives of those buried at St James's. The public are helping with this process, putting the records online as part of the 'Stories of St James's Burial Ground' project.



The history of St James's Burial Ground

Most people buried at St James's Burial Ground were not from the area. They actually lived a couple of miles away in Piccadilly, a major road in central London. In Georgian times (1714-1830) some of the richest and poorest people in the city lived there.

At the time, Piccadilly was dominated by St James's Church, which was designed by famous architect, Sir Christopher Wren. As the population of London increased, the church decided to build a new chapel and burial ground on a plot of land to the north. This area, which we now know as Euston, was open fields in 1790. The church had the 16 acres of land they'd bought would be enough space for 16,000 new burials.

St James's Burial Ground was divided according to wealth and social importance. The most expensive burial plots were closest to the chapel and so 'closer to God'. Meanwhile, the cheapest burial plots were placed further away. Poor people who were buried by the parish were usually given cheap coffins.



They were buried in mass graves in the southeast corner of the burial ground.

By 1830, the burial ground had received double the number of burials expected. Grave-diggers were paid more the deeper they dug, so that more burials could fit in one grave plot. Incredibly, archaeologists found graves containing up to 9 coffins.

In 40 years, London's population almost doubled to 2 million people. This put huge pressure on all the city's existing cemeteries. From the late 1830s, campaigners started to talk about how overcrowding in burial grounds harmed the health and wellbeing of Londoners. They argued that new cemeteries should be created outside the city instead.

Euston Station opened around the same time, in 1837. Eventually, St James's Burial Ground was finally closed to new burials 16 years later.

6 life stories from St James's Burial Ground

Although several famous individuals were buried at the site, most of the people there were ordinary Londoners.

To help tell their stories, MOLA Headland teamed up with members of The Dragon Hall Trust community in Camden. Together, they researched 6 people buried at St James's Burial Ground. This illustrated map explores their lives.



"I was lived in London 54 years and come from Ireland as a teenager and stayed. I'm interested in social history, not famous people but ordinary people, and have always been interested in researched Elizabeth Montgomery, an Irish born woman, who died in France and was buried in London."



"I was interested in the project having lived south of King's Cross station for 36 years in London for 41 years. I know Bill Richmond as I wanted to ensure we researched a wide range of people. He was on an estate and considered the 'world's best black sporting separator'."



"I first lived in London in 1965. I've lived in other parts of the world and I've back in London because I love the city. I researched Trine Wiliane Seyer - a French woman who lived in Euston Street, St. James because I was interested in the French connection and the possibility that Seyer was a Huguenot."



"I have an Italian family, but was born in the UK and have lived for the most part in London, Covent Garden. I'm interested in the early Italian immigration to London, the Michael Perrotti's. Someone I've heard these stories that they had very difficult lives."



"I have an Italian and in all things Italian as I'm married to an Italian and we have little girls who name the our daughter. I researched the Italian name Michela Perrotti - the see if the host of connection to Little Italy, but it appears to be a different wave of immigration. I am interested in different ethnic groups."

Volunteer Researchers

Resources

Westminster Archives

London Metropolitan Archives

www.lyonesburialground.org

London Parish Archive

Legacy Companies - www.familysearch.org

www.london.gov.uk

www.londonarchives.gov.uk

Internet Archive: Digital Library of Free & Borrowable Books, Movies, Music & Wayback Machine



DRAGON HALL

ESL SKANSKA Working on behalf of HS2