

# **KINGSTON HILL PLACE: HISTORIC MANSION OF HANDSOME ELEVATION.**

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## **ABSTRACT**

Kingston Hill Place is a grand mansion, built in 1828 by Samuel Baxter of Regent Street, that is the centrepiece of a gated housing estate on Kingston Hill, KT2 7QY. Its first occupant was Robert Lawes Esquire and thereafter a number of other interesting people lived there, including Viscount Pollington and Bonar Law MP. During WW2 it was a convalescent home for members of the women's services. Thereafter, it was a campus of Kingston Polytechnic until about 1991. An enigmatic granite obelisk in the grounds possibly may have been a silent memorial to one or more of the deceased members of the family of the first occupant, Robert Lawes Esquire. Research on a local tradition that the estate was used by the Prince of Wales, later King Edward VII, for trysts with Lillie Langtry indicated that, if they did take place, they would have occurred between 1874-1879 during the tenancy of Robert Leonard Trollope, a rich, and probably well-connected property developer.

## **INTRODUCTION**

Kingston Hill Place is a grand late-Georgian mansion that is the centrepiece of a gated housing estate on Kingston Hill, KT2 7QY [Figure 1]. This article is based on research carried out for the Kingston Hill Place Residents' Association and the findings outlined to them in a talk given on 27 May 2015. The first part looks at the origins of Kingston Hill Place. The second part reviews past occupants of the mansion. The third part reviews some research on the obelisk in the grounds. The fourth part is a hypothesis on the reason for the installation of the obelisk. The last part explores the local belief that in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, at Kingston Hill Place, the famous actress Lillie Langtry had trysts with the Prince of Wales, later to be King Edward VII.

## **ORIGINS**

Joan Wakeford wrote that the mansion was built between April 1827 and October 1828 by Samuel Baxter, the elder, of Regent Street, London, described by her as

*“a builder”*. She reported that Baxter acquired pieces of land on Kingston Hill, then called *“Robin Hood Hill”*, obtained from various sources, including a parcel bought for £350 from the turnpike commissioners, which was conveyed to him on 19 April 1827. This land became available when the turnpike was re-routed to the line of the present A308 road between Kingston and Putney Vale. The architect of the mansion was not discovered by Wakeford, who implied that Baxter was bankrupted as a consequence of building Kingston Hill Place. However, Baxter appeared to have been what today would be called *“a property developer”* rather than just a builder. In collaboration with the famous architect John Nash, between about 1817 and 1823, Baxter contributed over a hundred houses in the development of the Regent Street area, later getting into financial difficulties which culminated in bankruptcy in April 1829, and his death shortly afterwards. Baxter built houses in Upper Grosvenor Street and Park Lane, and for one of these properties he may have been the architect.<sup>1</sup> Moreover, an advertisement in the Times of 4 June 1829 for the disposal of Samuel Baxter’s property on behalf of assignees showed that, as well as the estate on Kingston Hill, he owned ten houses, two mansions, two pubs and a factory, all in fashionable parts of London. Thus, Baxter’s insolvency may have been caused by failure of his entire property empire rather than just the costs of building Kingston Hill Place. Moreover, inasmuch as he had considerable experience of building fine houses, Baxter may have been the architect of Kingston Hill Place and possibly he intended to live there himself.

The London Gazette gave the official date of Baxter’s bankruptcy as 24 April 1829 and his address as Carmarthen Street, Tottenham Court Road in the County of Middlesex.<sup>2</sup> Records of All Saints’ Church, Kingston, showed that Samuel Baxter of Carmarthen Street, Tottenham Court Road, aged 67, was buried on 4 May 1829. This indicated that Baxter probably died in Kingston, perhaps while on business concerned with Kingston Hill Place. Thereafter, it was put up for public auction. The advertisement in the Times of 17 June 1829 read *“A valuable newly erected mansion of handsome elevation most delightfully situate at Robin Hood Hill, Kingston, Surrey; and seventeen acres of land;*

*commanding views of great extent. The house is planned for the accommodation of a large family with offices of every description...*" Wakeford noted that while Baxter outran his resources, his vision must have stimulated the Earls Spencer to develop their land on the opposite side of the road. Here, a parallel might be drawn with Thomas Pooley of Surbiton.<sup>3</sup>

## **PAST OCCUPANTS**

Wakeford stated that Robert Lawes Esquire, of Wimbledon Common, in 1829, acquired the house and land at public auction for £4,060.<sup>4</sup> Robert Lawes also lived at No. 2 Hyde Park Place, and that during his occupation of Kingston Hill Place it was called "*Kingston Hall*". He married Elizabeth Bull in 1822 and had two sons, Robert Bartholomew, born in 1824, and William Ernest, born in 1825.<sup>5</sup> Robert Lawes died on 24 April 1858 leaving effects of about £50,000.<sup>6</sup> It was unclear exactly how Robert Lawes accumulated his wealth. On 25 June 1824, a Robert Lawes was made a Freeman of the City of London as a member of the Painter Stainers' Company.<sup>7</sup> His inclusion in a list of merchants, bankers, traders and others in a declaration in the Times of 29 March 1853, together with one "*R. B. Lawes*", presumed to be Robert Bartholomew Lawes, his son [below], indicated that the Lawes had financial interests in the City of London. William Ernest Lawes, died, aged 23, in 1848 and Robert Lawes died in 1858.<sup>8</sup> They were buried in the Lawes family vault in St Andrew's churchyard, Ham.<sup>9</sup>

In 1861, Robert Bartholomew Lawes, a "*landed proprietor*" in the Census, was living at Kingston Hill Place with his family and six servants. His mother, Elizabeth Gilham Lawes, died there in 1870.<sup>10</sup> Between 1866 and 1873, various plots of land from the original estate were let on 99-year building leases and houses were built on either side of the mansion.<sup>11</sup>

Various digitised records enabled the identification of other past occupants of Kingston Hill Place.<sup>12</sup> The Times, on 11 August 1871, advertised Kingston Hill Place to let. Probably, it was taken by Robert Leonard Trollope shortly afterwards. The house is given as his address in the 1878 Surrey Post Office Directory and in the Surrey Electoral Register for 1887. He and other members of the Trollope family lived there from time to time. They also had residences in

London and were engaged in the speculative development of Mayfair. Later, they became part of the Trollope & Colls construction empire, and once managed the Grosvenor Estates.<sup>13</sup>

Between 1888 and 1891, Kingston Hill Place was let to John Horace Saville, Viscount Pollington. Later, he became the 5<sup>th</sup> Earl of Mexborough.<sup>14</sup> Around 1894, the mansion was let to Henry John Jourdain, a colonial administrator who was to become a bank director with a knighthood.<sup>15</sup> Between 1903 and 1908, Kingston Hill Place was let to George Simon Arthur Watson-Taylor, an eccentric man who once locked his wife out of the estate before she obtained a divorce on the grounds of desertion.<sup>16</sup> During these lettings, the owner Robert Bartholomew Lawes, a major in the Militia, Justice of the Peace and Deputy Lieutenant of Kent, lived at Old Park, Dover, and died there in 1907.<sup>17</sup>

In 1916, the mansion was let to Major General Henry John Fielden Brocklehurst, first Baron Ranksborough, a Boer War general, sometime Equerry to Queen Victoria, Lord Lieutenant of Rutland and Commanding Officer of the Royal Horse Guards.<sup>18</sup> In 1919, it was let for a short term to Andrew Bonar Law, a Cabinet minister during the WW1 period, and in 1922 the UK's Prime Minister.<sup>19</sup> The 14<sup>th</sup> Earl of Dalhousie, a Scottish peer, whose family seat was Brechin Castle, occupied the property in 1920.<sup>20</sup>

In 1922 Kingston Hill Place was purchased by Sir James Carmichael, a civil engineer, with a distinguished military background, one-time Crown Agent and philanthropist.<sup>21</sup> After his death, his wife, Lady Winifred Carmichael, lived in the mansion until around 1934.<sup>22</sup> Then, around 1935, it was sold to Albert Thomas Shead, a rich insurance broker and Lloyd's underwriter who was living in the property in 1941.<sup>23</sup>

In 1943 Kingston Hill Place was used by the British Red Cross & St John Joint War Committee as a convalescent home for members of the women's services.<sup>24</sup> Thereafter, Mr Shead probably sold the mansion to Surrey County Council. In 1946, it was handed over to Gypsy Hill Training College, which became part of Kingston Polytechnic, which later became Kingston University.<sup>25</sup> In 1991,

Croudace Special Developments converted the mansion into apartments, installed an ornamental lake and built 44 houses in the grounds.<sup>26</sup>

The advertisement in the Times of 17 June 1829, cited above, noted that the estate was “...*eight miles from town, being an easy one hour’s drive...*” The research on the earlier occupants indicated that it was probably this attribute that attracted them because it suited a lifestyle that required a large grand secluded property with easy access to London, where they had business interests and other accommodation.

### **THE OBELISK: RESEARCH**

When first inspected in the spring of 2015 this very fine structure, approximately 6.5 m [21 ft.] high, in a grove of rhododendrons on the edge of the A308 road cutting, comprised two large unpolished but smoothed large granite sections. The width of the base of the obelisk was 865 mm [34 in.] and the top section terminated in a pyramidion. The obelisk had no inscription, although there was an area where one may have been intended. There was no evidence of fixings for an inscription plate, or the identity of the monumental mason. A sketch of the obelisk, made on 21 March 2017, is at **Figure 2**. Possibly, once it was visible from the mansion, or even from the nearby A308 road, which could just be seen through a gap in the trees, when the monument was inspected. The Kingston Hill Place obelisk was not included in Richard Barnes’ gazetteer of British obelisks published in 2004.<sup>27</sup>

Ron Gibbons, the Chairman of the Kingston Hill Place Residents’ Association, was informed that the obelisk was a memorial to men killed, possibly as a consequence of blasting, while working on the Portsmouth Road. The source of this information, an old student of Gypsy Hill Training College, told me that when she was at the College, from 1954 to 1956, she saw a metal plate on, or near, the obelisk. This, she reported, was about the size of an A5 envelope, with raised lettering that commemorated the deaths of workmen killed on the road. The information on the plate probably came from a letter that was found in the Kingston University Archives.

In 1937, Albert Thomas Shead, then owner of Kingston Hill Place [above], asked the Surrey Archaeological Society about the origins of the obelisk, which was described as a “*pyramid monument*”. Unfortunately, Shead’s original letter to the Surrey Archaeological Society was not found, but it was clear that it was passed to Dr. William Evelyn St. Lawrence Finny, an antiquary and former Mayor of Kingston.<sup>28</sup> **Figure 3** is a transcript of Finny’s response to Shead.<sup>29</sup> In essence, Finny said that the obelisk was erected around 1776 as a monument to the men killed during work on the Portsmouth road to facilitate stage coach travel. To support this, he referred to an inscription on a stone in the wall of Beverley Brook bridge, “*This bridge was widen’d in 1776*”. This stone is still in place: please see **Figure 4**.

It seemed reasonable to assume that Shead put the metal plate, long since disappeared, on the obelisk after receiving Finny’s letter. However, the question remained whether Finny’s opinion was reliable and this needed investigation. In particular, did the obelisk really commemorate road workers killed about 1776 when, according to Finny, the Portsmouth Road was “*cut out*” close to where Kingston Hill Place stands today. There was no doubt that the section of A308 road close to the mansion was in a cutting. This was shown on the first edition of an Ordnance Survey map held in the British Library, that was surveyed between 1861 and 1871, at a scale of six inches to one mile, which showed paths on the estate, and a structure, close to the edge the cutting that looked like the base of an obelisk. On another section of this map an obelisk clearly was marked close to a reservoir near Tibbett’s Corner at the top of Putney Hill.<sup>30</sup>

In the British Library was a plan, surveyed by John Corris in 1787, of the Coombe Neville Estate. This showed land belonging to Earl Spencer and a section of the old London to Kingston turnpike road from Beverley Bridge [above] to the outskirts of Kingston. No obelisk was shown on this plan, although milestones were marked on it.<sup>31</sup> Pictures of Kingston Hill Place, one dated 1830, which were mentioned by Wakeford, did not show an obelisk, although clearly they were painted to enable the best view of the mansion, not its surroundings.

A detailed plan, dated 17 March 1824, made for the Surrey and Sussex Turnpike Trust also was in the British Library. This was entitled, "*Plan of sections of a proposed new line of road on the south side of the proposed road on Robin Hood Hill on the Kingston Road*".<sup>32</sup> This established that a new section of road was *proposed* on 1824 and therefore did not exist before this date. No obelisk was shown on this plan, although milestones were marked on the original road. Wakeford noted that a plan of the land purchased by Samuel Baxter was in a Surrey Quarter Session record of 15 January 1828. This detailed plan, dated 12 September 1826, indicated the line of the old turnpike road and that of the newly constructed road, which approximated well to the line taken by today's A308 road. No obelisk was shown on this plan.<sup>33</sup>

The available evidence indicated that the new section of turnpike road was "*cut out*", in Finny's words, between 17 March 1824 and 12 September 1826, not in about 1776 as he stated. Furthermore, considering the high quality, obvious cost, location of the obelisk and the absence of an inscription, it seemed unlikely that the Turnpike Trustees had it installed, on private land, to the memory of some anonymous workmen. And, with reference to Finny's inference that "*dangerous work*" caused the deaths of such workmen, examination of the sides of the cutting revealed that the ground was soft and without rocks that would require hazardous blasting.<sup>34</sup> Therefore, it seemed likely that Finny was mistaken; so the questions remained who installed the obelisk and why did they install it?

### **THE OBELISK: HYPOTHESIS**

No obelisk was marked within the grounds of Kingston Hill Place on the abovementioned plans of 1787, 1824 and 1826. However, because milestones and an obelisk on Putney Heath were marked on these documents, general attention to existing detail by the original surveyor was suggested. Therefore, it seemed probable that had the Kingston Place Obelisk been in place when the area was surveyed it would have been marked on the plan or map. In short, the evidence indicated that the obelisk was installed between the time that the plan of 1826 and the OS map of 1861-1871 were published.

In his work, the *Victorian Celebration of Death*, James Stevens Curl wrote that, between 1717 and 1744, Alexander Pope, the poet, created a landscaped garden of memory and meditation at Twickenham that included an obelisk that was a memorial of his late mother. According to Curl, this was credited as one of the first of such structures designed to retain the memory of a departed loved-one. This led to the hypothesis that the Kingston Hill Place obelisk might have been installed by a former owner or occupier as a memorial to a person or persons deceased. But, could such an owner or occupier be identified from the available evidence?

It was recalled that during the ownership of Robert Lawes Esquire his second son, William Ernest Lawes, died at the young age of 23 [above]. According to his death notice he was “*most deeply lamented*” and his epitaph on the family vault indicated that he was highly regarded.<sup>35</sup> Could the obelisk be a monument erected by Robert Lawes Esquire, between 1848 and 1858, in memory of his second son William Ernest Lawes? On the other hand, could the obelisk be a monument, erected between 1858 and 1871, by Robert Bartholomew Lawes, in memory of his younger brother, William Ernest, his father, Robert Lawes Esquire [died 1858] and his mother Elizabeth Gilham Lawes [died 1870]? The fact that the obelisk had no dedicatory inscription might suggest that none was needed because whoever commissioned it, Robert Lawes Esquire or Robert Bartholomew Lawes, did not need to be reminded of the names of their departed loved-ones, a silent reminder of their spiritual presences being sufficient.

### **LILLIE LANGTRY & THE PRINCE OF WALES**

Knowledge of the local tradition that Lillie Langtry once had trysts with the Prince of Wales at Kingston Hill Place was probably the background to a letter in the Kingston University Archives, believed to have been written in 1971, by Miss Frances D. Batstone, Principal of Gypsy Hill Training College, to Mary McFadden, grand-daughter of Lillie Langtry. Miss Batstone’s letter was not found, but Mary McFadden responded by saying that she had no idea whether Lily Langtry lived at Kingston Hill Place and pointed out that stories about King Edward VII were manna to estate agents.<sup>36</sup> On 3 September 1981, the Times

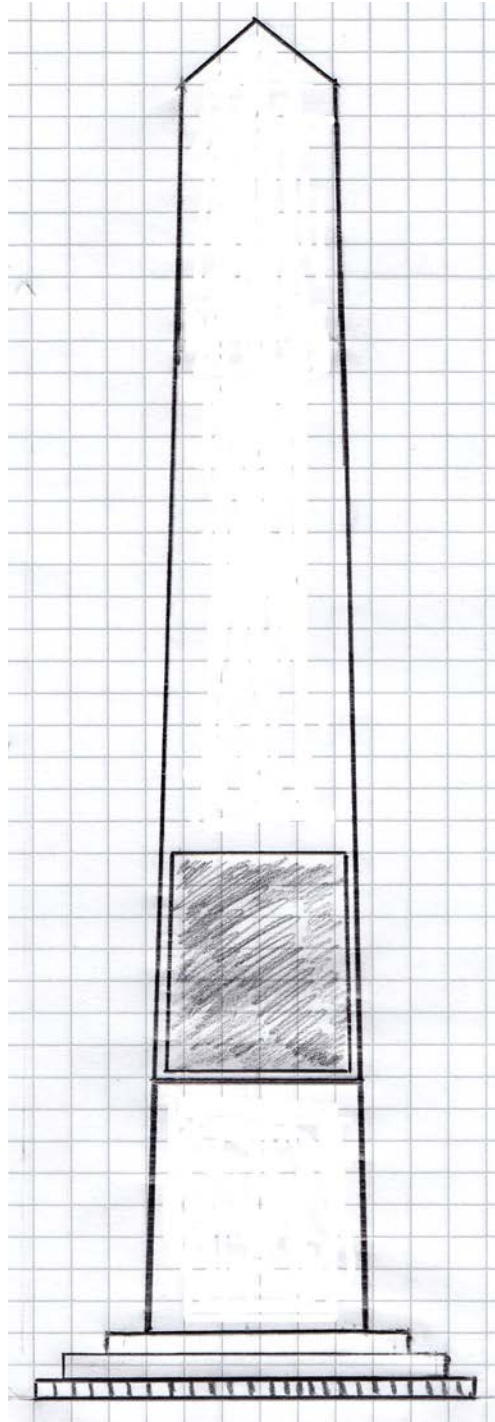


included an article on a theatrical performance by students of Kingston Polytechnic which stated that a former owner of Kingston Hill Place once provided the house as a discreet hideaway for Edward VII and his friend Lillie Langtry. In a residential property article featuring Kingston Hill Place, on 30 May 1990, the Times attributed to the estate agent Knight, Frank and Rutley a statement that Lillie Langtry reputedly used the house as a retreat during her affair with Edward VII. An article in the Times of 29 May 1991 said of Kingston Hill Place, then called "*Richmond Park Heights*", that an association with Lillie Langtry, who reputedly used the house as a retreat during her affair with Edward VII, gave it "*that extra spicy ingredient beloved of developers and estate agents*".

An on-line article in the *Genealogist* helped to put these reports into perspective by indicating that the affair between Edward, Prince of Wales, who became King Edward VII in 1901, could be dated between 1874 at the earliest and 1879 at the latest.<sup>37</sup> If Lillie and the Prince really did have trysts in Kingston Hill Place, they would have been when it was being rented by Robert Leonard Trollope, a rich, and probably well-connected property developer, who had a residence in a London, and possibly elsewhere. When Mr Trollope was not at home at Kingston Hill Place, perhaps it was made available for others to use. For example, the 1871 Census finds him at 59 Warwick Square, London, while in the 1878 Surrey Post Office Directory his address is given as Kingston Hill Place. Hopefully, more research will be carried out in due course to investigate this interesting story.



**Figure 1, Photograph of Kingston Hill Place taken by David A. Kennedy, 20 March 2017**



**Figure 2. Sketch of the obelisk at Kingston Hill Place by David A Kennedy, 21 March 1017, not to scale.**

**TRANSCRIPT OF LETTER TO ALBERT THOMAS SHEAD ABOUT THE  
KINGSTON HILL PLACE OBELISK,  
FROM DR. WILLIAM EVELYN ST. LAWRENCE FINNY, 4 MAY 1937.**

41 Liverpool Road  
Kingston Hill  
Surrey

4 May 1937

Dear Sir

Sir Humphrey Neville, the Hon. Secretary of the Surrey Archaeological Society, has sent me your letter about the pyramid monument in your grounds at Kingston Hill Place.

It was put up about 1776 when the Portsmouth Road there was cut out of the higher ground above and made higher in the part below your house, between it and Kingston Vale – you will see there how the houses are lower than the level of the road. Coaches were then being introduced and was necessary to make the road more level for them. The monument is to the workmen who were killed in making the road in this district of it.

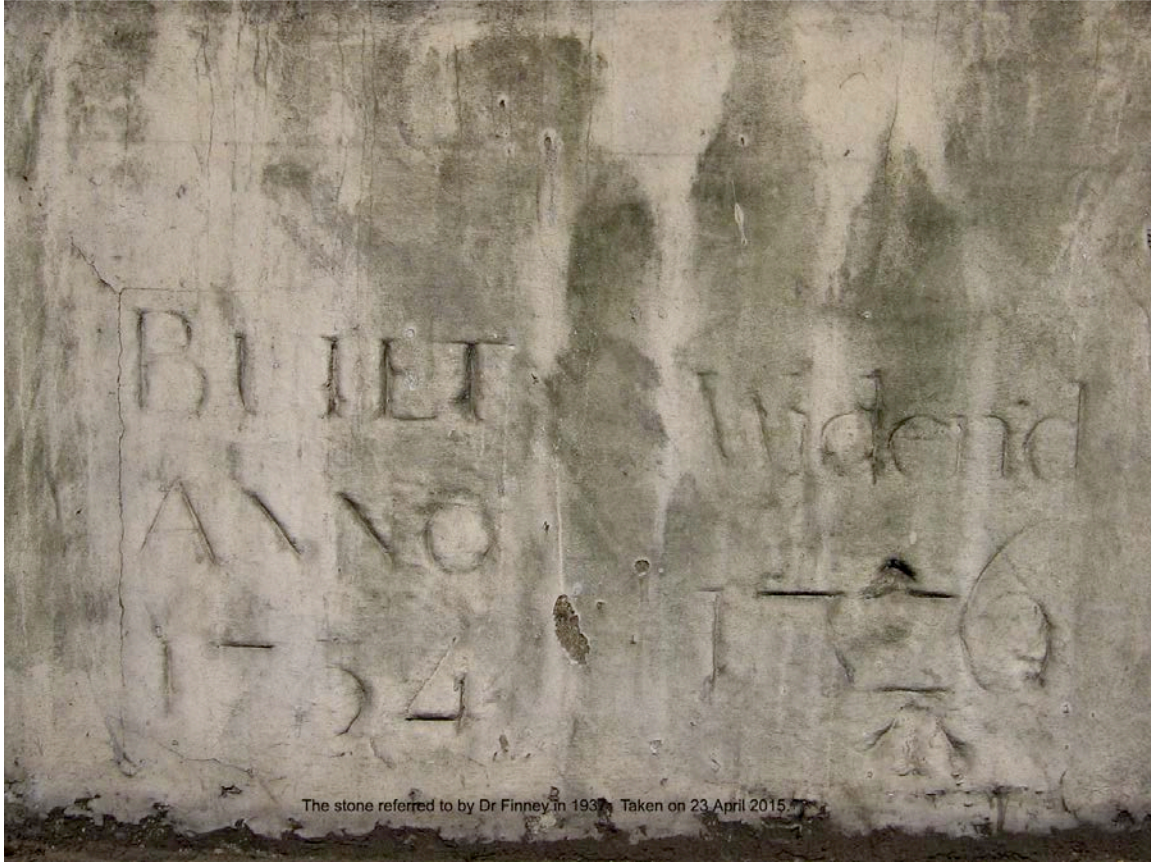
Road making was at the time dangerous work. I am not sure as to whether there are other monuments like yours further along the Road, but I think there is one in the Hindhead or Haslemere district. There is one on the Chester Road – and another beside the end of the Menai Bridge, or the Tubular Bridge, I forget which, but I often saw it when I was a boy.

Just below Kingston Vale Post Office is an inscription on a stone let into the wall of Beverley Brook bridge, "*This bridge was widen'd in 1776*" That was when the Road was made much wider and more level for the use of horse drawn vehicles between London and Portsmouth.

I am sincerely yours.

W. E. St. Lawrence Finny, MD

**Figure 3. Transcript of a letter from Dr. Finny to Mr Shead, 4 May 1937.**



**Figure 4. Photograph of stone on Beverley Bridge taken by David A. Kennedy, May 2015.**

<sup>1</sup> Joan Wakeford, 1990, Kingston Hill Place, pp. 82-84, in *Kingston's Past Rediscovered*, Chichester, Phillimore [for Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society and Surrey Local History Council]. See also, [https://www.bartlett.ucl.ac.uk/architecture/research/survey-of-london/eastern-marylebone/documents/chapter18\\_Upper\\_Regent\\_Street.pdf](https://www.bartlett.ucl.ac.uk/architecture/research/survey-of-london/eastern-marylebone/documents/chapter18_Upper_Regent_Street.pdf) 'Upper Grosvenor Street: North Side', in *Survey of London: Volume 40, the Grosvenor Estate in Mayfair, Part 2 (The Buildings)*, ed. F H W Sheppard (London, 1980), pp. 224-231. *British History Online*

<http://www.british-history.ac.uk/survey-london/vol40/pt2/pp224-231> [accessed 8 December 2016]. 'Park Lane', in *Survey of London: Volume 40, the Grosvenor Estate in Mayfair, Part 2 (The Buildings)*, ed. F H W Sheppard (London, 1980), pp. 264-289. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/survey-london/vol40/pt2/pp264-289> [accessed 8 December 2016].

<sup>2</sup> London Gazette, 6 October 1829, p.1829.

<sup>3</sup> Joan Wakeford, 1990, pp.83-84. David A. Kennedy, Advent of suburbia. Thomas Pooley, the railway and Surbiton, [www.kingstonhistoryresearch.co.uk](http://www.kingstonhistoryresearch.co.uk)

<sup>4</sup> Joan Wakeford, 1990, pp.83-84.

<sup>5</sup> Times, 13 December 1822, 9 August 1824 & 11 November 1848. Probate records, <http://home.ancestry.co.uk>

<sup>6</sup> National Probate Calendar, <http://home.ancestry.co.uk>

<sup>7</sup> London, Freedom of the City admission papers, 1681-1930, <http://home.ancestry.co.uk>

<sup>8</sup> William Ernest Lawes' death certificate stated the cause of death as "inflammation of the liver for six weeks extending to the pleura, disease of the lungs". It stated that he died at 2 Stanhope Terrace, Paddington, although the notice of his death in the Standard, 11 November 1848, stated that he died in Brighton.



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- <sup>9</sup> Burial records, St Andrew's Church, Ham, <http://home.ancestry.co.uk> Elizabeth Gilham Lawes and Robert Bartholomew Lawes also were buried in the vault.
- <sup>10</sup> National Probate Calendar, <http://home.ancestry.co.uk>
- <sup>11</sup> See, for example, Times, 5 April 1873 and OS map, Surrey, 1:2,500, 1897.
- <sup>12</sup> <http://home.ancestry.co.uk> Newspaper archives via <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/people-and-community/libraries/libraries-for-learning-and-research/adult-online-reference-shelf> & <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk>
- <sup>13</sup> See, for example, Surrey Post Office Directory, 1878, Times, 29 July 1880 & <http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/rd/6792a8b8-1014-4456-824f-bd979ccd1c82>
- <sup>14</sup> See, for example, Morning Post, 1 November 1888 & 12 August 1889, and <http://www.thepeerage.com/p5746.htm>.
- <sup>15</sup> See, for example, Times, 25 August 1894.
- <sup>16</sup> See, for example, Times, 6 May 1905.
- <sup>17</sup> See, for example, National Probate Calendar, <http://home.ancestry.co.uk>
- <sup>18</sup> See, for example, letter from Lord Ranksborough, of Kingston Hill Place, <http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/results/r?q=Kingston+Hill+Place>
- <sup>19</sup> Times, 18 August 1919.
- <sup>20</sup> Times, 21 February 1920.
- <sup>21</sup> Times, 9 May 1922.
- <sup>22</sup> Times, 28 September 1934.
- <sup>23</sup> Times, 27 June 1935 & 27 November 1941.
- <sup>24</sup> Times, 21 August 1943.
- <sup>25</sup> Letter from the Commandant of Kingston Hill Place Convalescent Home to Miss L. DeLissa, Gypsy Hill Training College, 13 February 1946, Kingston University Archives.
- <sup>26</sup> Times, 29 May 1991.
- <sup>27</sup> Richard Barnes, 2004, The obelisk: a monumental feature in Britain, pp. 162-188, Kirstead, Frontier Publishing.
- <sup>28</sup> Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries, 1930, Vol. 10, Issue 4, p. 429. List of mayors of Kingston upon Thames, [http://london.wikia.com/wiki/List\\_of\\_Mayors\\_of\\_Kingston-upon-Thames](http://london.wikia.com/wiki/List_of_Mayors_of_Kingston-upon-Thames)
- <sup>29</sup> Letter from Dr. W. E. St. Lawrence Finny to Albert Thomas Shead, 4 May 1937, Kingston University Archives. Finny recalled obelisks which commemorated the deaths of workmen, including one near the Britannia Bridge, Anglesea. A gazetteer of UK obelisks, records one, 25 ft high, erected in 1850, to the memory of workmen killed on the Britannia Bridge – see Richard Barnes, 2005, p.71. It is assumed that the other obelisk referred to by Finny was the Norris Obelisk at Camberley. <http://www.camberley.net.co.uk/town-history/the-obelisk-camberley/>
- <sup>30</sup> British Library, microfiche of 1<sup>st</sup> Edition of map of the County of Surrey, Sheet VII.9, 1861-1871, scale 1:2500, or 25.344 inches to a mile. This stone and brick structure was erected on Putney Heath in 1770. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wimbledon\\_Common](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wimbledon_Common) It was marked on John Corris' plan of 1787 showing land held by Earl Spencer in the Parish of Putney [Wandsworth Heritage Service, catalogued as Wimbledon [Surrey] Manorial Map, 1787, 912 CORR]. It would have been the obelisk mentioned in an article in the Times of 17 September 1803 about a review of troops on Wimbledon Common.
- <sup>31</sup> "A plan of Coombe Neville Estate in the parish of Kingston upon Thames. Also, four closes, Nos. 129,130, 131 and 132, in Merton parish in the County of Surrey belonging to the Right Hon. the Earl Spencer. Surveyed by John Corris in 1787. Add MS 78151, B, British Library.
- <sup>32</sup> Add MS 78155, British Library.
- <sup>33</sup> Surrey & Sussex Roads Kingston Division, 12 September 1826, Plan of the old turnpike road at Robin Hood Hill, QS2/1/45, p.389, Surrey History Centre.
- <sup>34</sup> The geological sequence of Kingston Hill, starting from the top plateau, is Black Park Terrace Gravel, Bagshot Sands, Claygate Beds and London Clay – see Figure 2.11, p. 13, Tony Drakeford & Una Sutcliffe, Editors, 2000, Wimbledon Common & Putney Heath. A Natural History, London, Wimbledon Commons Conservators.
- <sup>35</sup> Death notice in the Standard, 11 November 1848. So far as it could be deciphered, William Ernest Lawes' epitaph read... Departed this life on the 8<sup>th</sup> of November 1848 aged 23 years.

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Called from the scene of active life early in that arisen of duty in which he evinced the zeal and ability which called for the esteem of enlightened men, he waited with Christian fortitude through a short but painful illness the will of Him who would deliver him and...resigned his soul to peace. Surrounded by those to whom he should have been a dutiful and affectionate son and a most kind and...brother. William Ernest Lawes' death certificate stated that the cause of death was "*Inflammation of the liver for six weeks extending to the pleura disease of the lungs*".

<sup>36</sup> Letter from Mary McFadden, to Miss F. D. Batstone, 15 December, probably 1971, Kingston University Archives.

<sup>37</sup> <https://www.thegenealogist.co.uk/featuredarticles/2011/the-jersey-lily-67/> 30 July 2011.

Downloaded, 12 January 2017. King Edward VII was crowned in 1901.