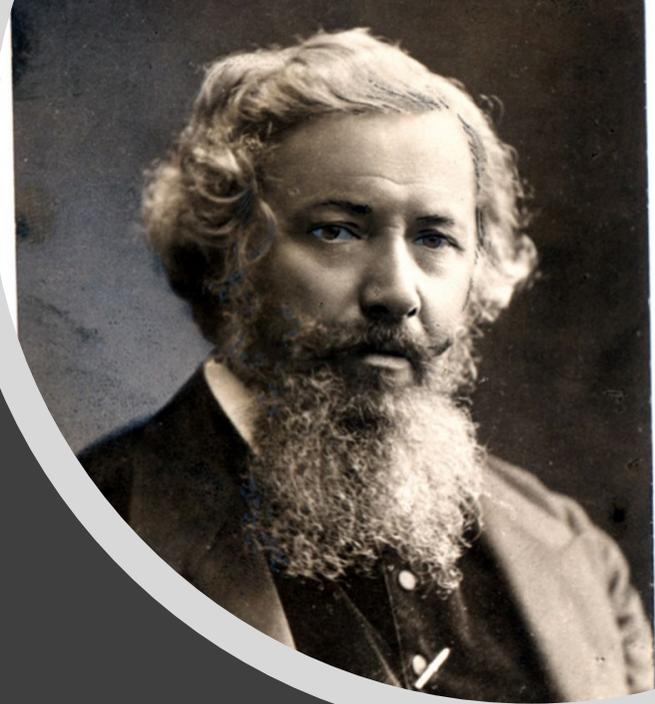


JQRT



Douglas Wilks

# Victorian Do-gooders

Jewellery Quarter Research Trust

07748 575688 : [enquiries@jqrt.org](mailto:enquiries@jqrt.org) : [www.jqrt.org](http://www.jqrt.org)



*Two Founders of the*  
Jewellery Quarter Research Trust

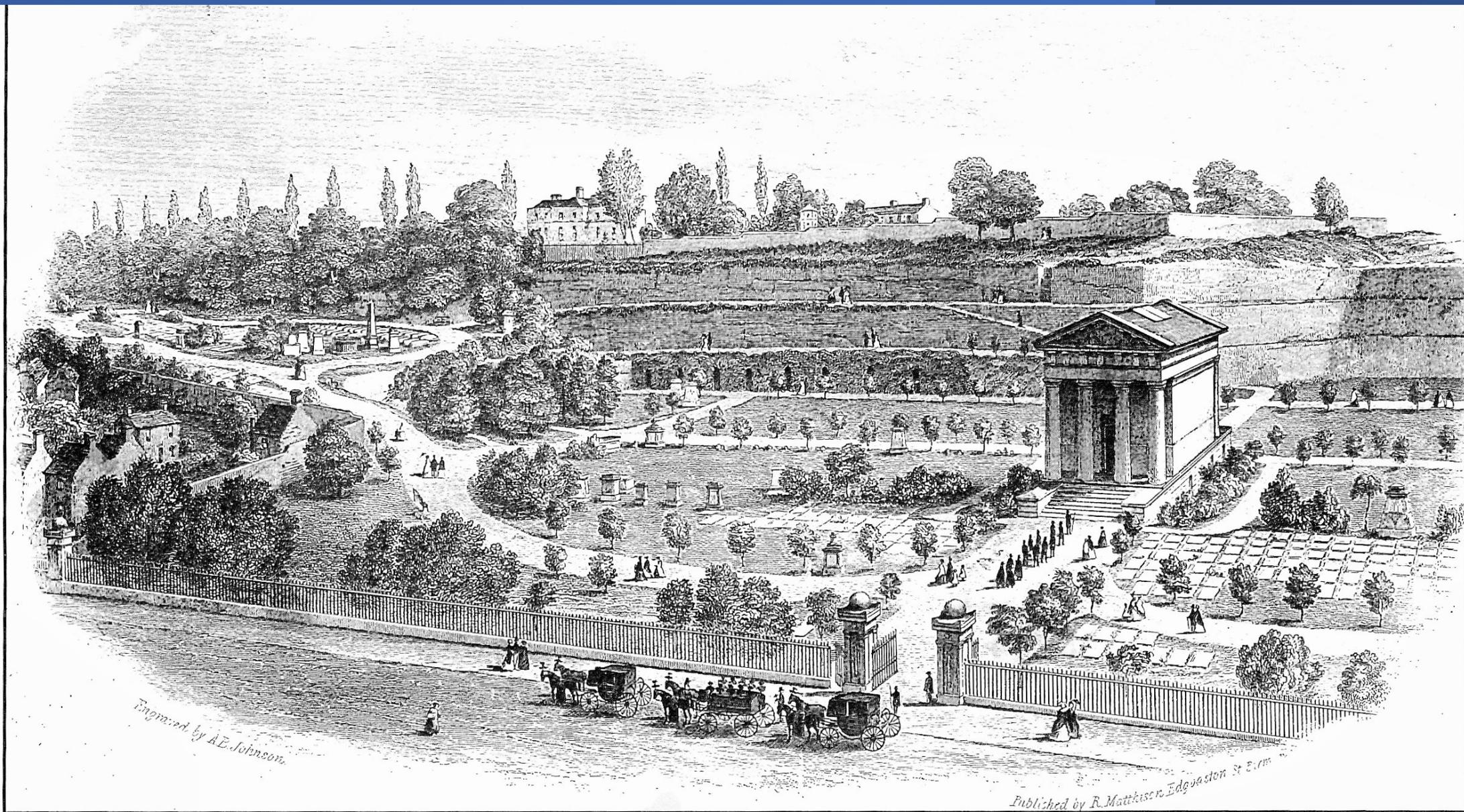
- Dick Empson



- Doug Wilks



All Volunteer Enthusiasts Not Experts



Engraved by A.E. Johnson.

Published by R. Matthews, Edgemoor St. E.M.

# E2E VIDEOS

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**Birmingham Heritage Week**

[www.Jqrt.org](http://www.Jqrt.org) : Select 'E2E Videos'

**Victorian Do-Gooder's**

**Introduction**



*"When a man has his comfort, his health, his security, the mind and the spirit have needs of their own too, and those need to be satisfied. This means that the city which really is a city must have parks as well as prisons, an art gallery as well as an asylum, books and libraries as well as baths and washhouses, schools as well as sewers. It must think of beauty and dignity no less than of order and of health."*

*Free Reference Library Inaugural address given by George Dawson 1866*



**DAWSON**  
George  
[Video](#) : [Info](#) : [Grave](#)



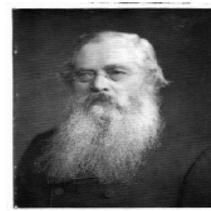
**BEAUCLERC**  
Marie Bethell  
[Video](#) : [Info](#) : [Grave](#)



**MULLINS**  
John Davis  
[Video](#) : [Info](#) : [Grave](#)



**PEMBERTON**  
Charles Reece  
[Video](#) : [Info](#) : [Grave](#)



**LANGFORD**  
John Alfred  
[Video](#) : [Info](#) : [Grave](#)



**CHAMBERLAIN**  
John Henry  
[Video](#) : [Info](#) : [Grave](#)



**DALE**  
Robert William  
[Video](#) : [Info](#) : [Grave](#)



**VINCE**  
Charles  
[Video](#) : [Info](#) : [Grave](#)



**TANGYE**  
Joseph  
[Video](#) : [Info](#) : [Grave](#)



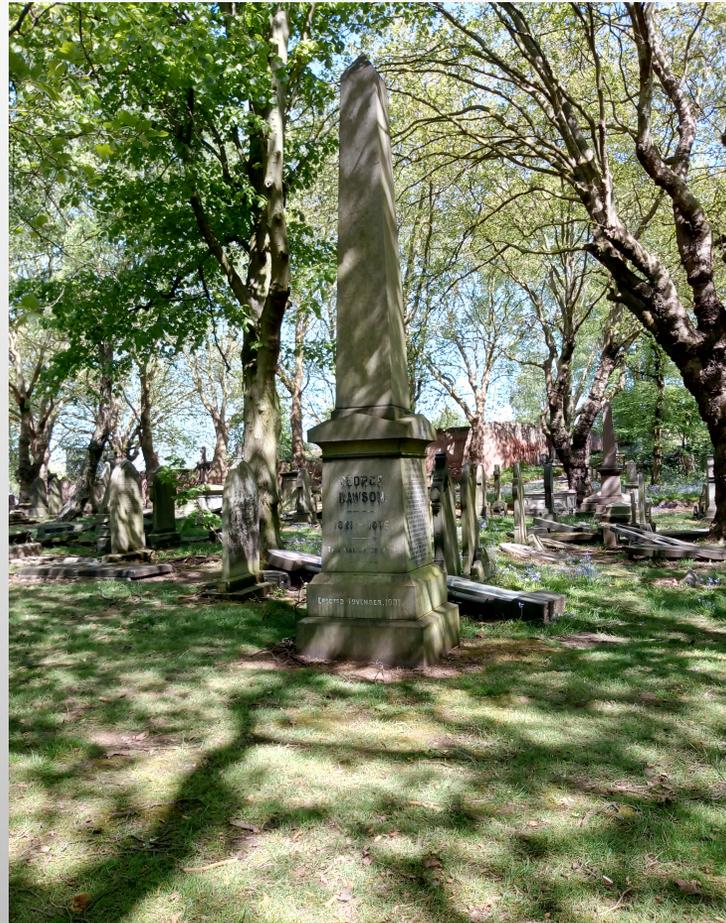
**MARTINEAU**  
Robert  
[Video](#) : [Info](#) : [Grave](#)



# George Dawson M.A.

Preacher : Social Reformer : Civic Gospel : Good Talker

*“When a man has his comfort, his health, his security, the mind and the spirit have needs of their own too, and those need to be satisfied. This means that the city which really is a city must have parks as well as prisons, an art gallery as well as an asylum, books and libraries as well as baths and washhouses, schools as well as sewers. It must think of beauty and dignity no less than of order and of health.”*



- 1821 Born - London
- 1843 Rickmansworth Baptist
- 1844 Mount Zion Baptist

## Mount Zion Baptist Church



Mount Zion Baptist Church  
Graham Street

## Interior of Mount Zion Baptist Church Graham Street





The Church of the Saviour

**Here this charismatic orator, dressed more like a poet, preached a gospel of service and brotherhood**

Municipal Responsibility : Early closing : Public Library : Parks : Smallholdings : Secular Schooling  
Extending Franchise : Sanitary Reform : Slum Clearance : The Arts : Shakespeare



# A young George Dawson

- Complex
- Controversial
- Unconventional
- Outspoken
- Progressive
- Contradictions

---

**Visionary : Inspire : Entertain**

A Prophet in the old sense of the word

(inspired teacher or proclaimer)

# Marie Bethell Beauclerc

Reporter : Teacher : Pioneer

“Miss Beauclerc takes a clear note and writes excellent Phonography. She has been a pioneer of shorthand in Birmingham, and at the International Shorthand Congress and Phonography Jubilee held in London in 1887 she read an interesting paper on shorthand in that town.”



First Female Shorthand Newspaper Reporter In England

Shorthand Teacher Perry Barr Institute

Shorthand Teacher At Rugby School

Credited With Introducing Typewriting To Birmingham

Established Shorthand Writers Association

Miss Beauclerc is the lady to whom thousands of people are indebted for the publication of the sermons and prayers of the late George Dawson. Sunday after Sunday, morning and evening, Miss Beauclerc, then a young girl, used to attend the Church of the Saviour at Birmingham and take verbatim notes of the discourses and prayers of Mr. Dawson, all of which were extempore; and but for her they would have been lost.

# Marie Bethell Beauclerc

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“Miss Beauclerc takes a clear note and writes excellent Phonography. She has been a pioneer of shorthand in Birmingham, and at the International Shorthand Congress and Phonography Jubilee held in London in 1887 she read an interesting paper on shorthand in that town.”



- 1845 Born - London
- 1897 Died – Birmingham aged 53
- 1897 Buried – Key Hill : 1961

*‘This stone was erected by the members of the Church of the Saviour, Birmingham. In grateful recognition of her services, by which many of the prayers, sermons and lectures of the late George Dawson, have been preserved.’*

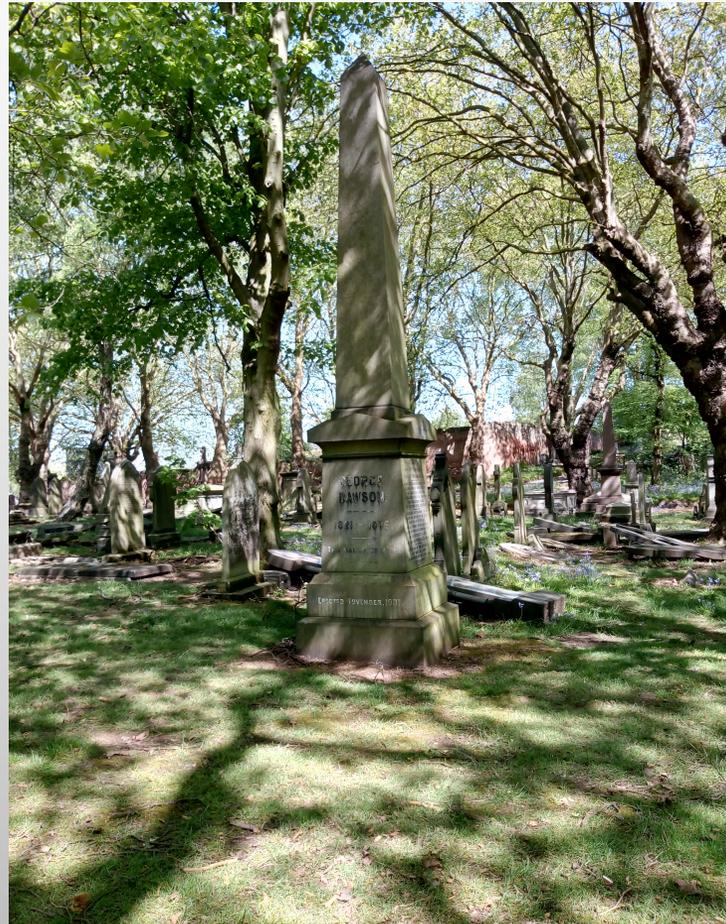




# George Dawson M.A.

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- 1821 Born - London
- 1843 Rickmansworth Baptist
- 1844 Mount Zion Baptist
- 1845 Problems at mount Zion
- 1846 Left Mount Zion
- 1847 Church of Saviour Opens
- 1864 Shakespeare Library (1868)
- 1874 Visit to America
- 1876 Died – Watford House aged 55
- 1876 Buried – Key Hill : O 507
- 1907 Obelisk placed on grave

End of an Era

# Marie Bethell Beauclerc

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“Miss Beauclerc takes a clear note and writes excellent Phonography. She has been a pioneer of shorthand in Birmingham, and at the International Shorthand Congress and Phonography Jubilee held in London in 1887 she read an interesting paper on shorthand in that town.”



First Female Shorthand Newspaper Reporter In England

Shorthand Teacher Perry Barr Institute

Shorthand Teacher At Rugby School

Credited With Introducing Typewriting To Birmingham

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# John Davies Mullins

Librarian : Catalogue : Administrator

“In 1865, the year he was appointed chief librarian, the number of volumes was under 30,000 and the issues of books 11,468. In 1898, when he retired, the number of volumes was more than 233,000 and the total issue of books was upwards of one-and-a-quarter-millions.



A part of the library to which Mr Mullins devoted a great deal of attention was the collection of manuscripts relating to the history of Birmingham.

He was moreover very successful in his method of cataloguing; and the catalogue of Shakespearean editions which he prepared was unique in its completeness and comprehensiveness and frequent recourse was had to it, not only by Englishmen, but by Americans and Germans.”

- 1832 Born - London
- 1900 Died – Birmingham aged 53
- 1900 Buried – Key Hill : R 81

# Charles Reece Pemberton

Actor : Orator : Author : Lecturer : Shakespearian Scholar



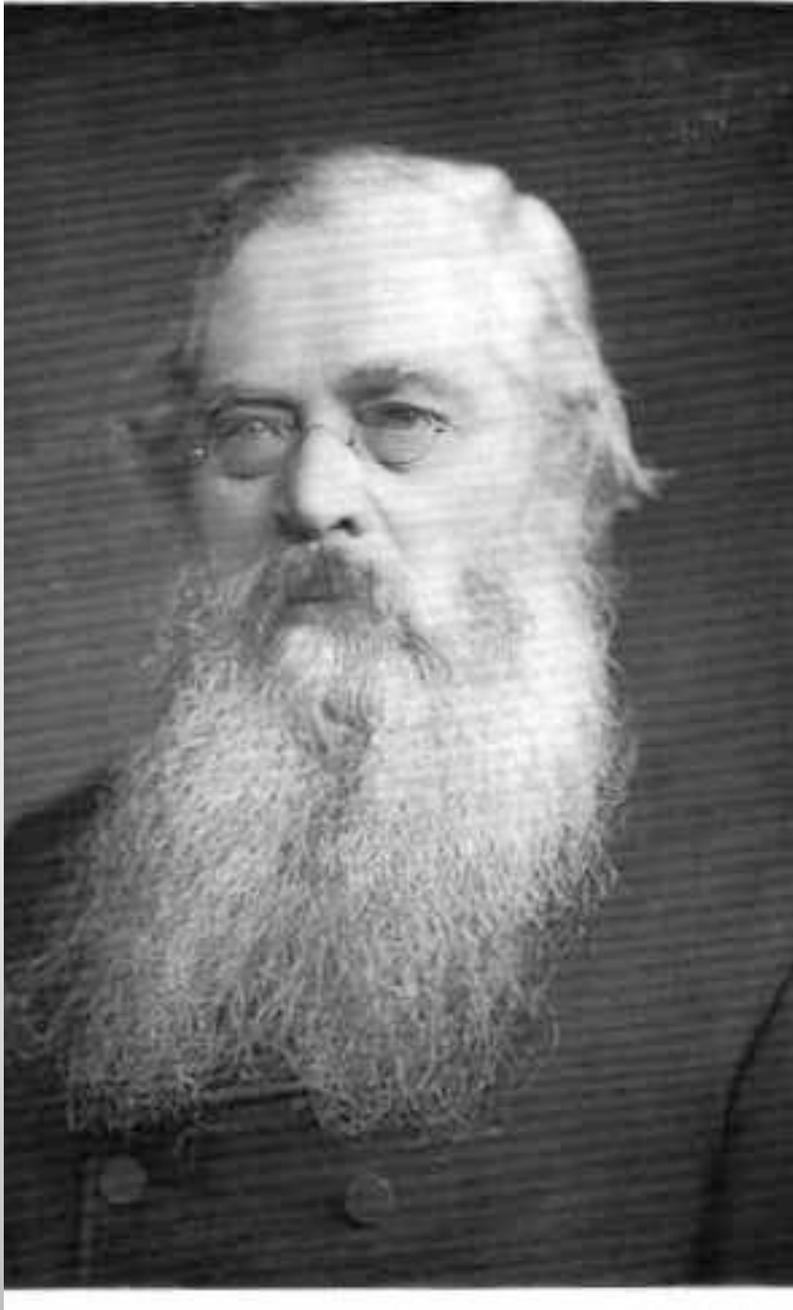
I stood in Key Hill Cemetery, near Birmingham, with Mr. Fowler and read, on a large flat stone, the following inscription, composed by the late Mr. W. J. Fox, who knew him well :

*His gentle and fervid nature, His acute susceptibility,  
And his aspirations to the beautiful and true, Were developed and exercised  
Through a life of vicissitude, And often of privation and disappointment  
As a public Lecturer He has left a lasting memorial  
In the minds of the many Whom he guided to a perception  
Of the genius of Shakespeare In its diversified and harmonising powers.  
At oppression and hypocrisy He spurned with a force proportioned  
To that wherewith he clung To justice and freedom, kindness and sincerity,  
Ever prompt to generous toil, He won for himself from the world  
Only the poet's dowry, The hate of hate, the scorn of scorn, The love of love.*

---

1790 - Born at Pontypool Wales : 1840 - Died at Ludgate Hill, Birmingham

1840 Buried - Key Hill : O 380 – No visible Headstone (Grassed Area)



# John Alfred Langford

Teacher : Author : Printer : Poet : Antiquarian

“JOHN ALFRED (1823–1903), Birmingham antiquary and journalist, born in Crawley's Court, Bradford Street, Birmingham, on 12 Sept. 1823, was second surviving son of John Langford, who, coming to Birmingham from Wales in 1815, started business in 1828, as a chairmaker, in Bradford Street, Cheapside .

In August 1847 he joined the new unitarian 'Church of the Saviour,' which George Dawson [q. v.] started. In a widely circulated pamphlet he defended Dawson against an attack by George Gilfillan in 'Tait's Edinburgh Magazine' (1848, pp. 279-285). He taught evening classes in the schools of Dawson's church.

In 1875-6 Langford made a tour round the world with his friend (Sir) Richard Tangye. He died on 24 Jan. 1903 in his 80th year at 85 Fernley Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham.”



- 1823 Born - Birmingham
- 1903 Born – Birmingham
- 1903 Buried – Key Hill : R 169



# John Henry Chamberlain

Architect : Civic Gospel Supporter

“**CHAMBERLAIN, JOHN HENRY** (1881–1883), architect, son of Rev. Joseph Chamberlain, minister at Leicester of a congregation of Calvinistic Baptists, was born at Leicester on 26 June 1831 and educated at schools in that town and in London. At an early age he was articled to Mr. Henry Goddard, an architect of some note in Leicester, with whom he remained for several years.

On the completion of his articles there was a brief interval of further study spent in a London office, and then he received the impulse which, for the rest of his life, governed his own course in his art.

He became an ardent student of the works of Ruskin, and was led to visit Venice and other Italian cities, where he made careful drawings of the monuments of early Gothic architecture.

Returning to England in 1856 he settled at Birmingham, and in the erection of warehouses and residences endeavoured to effect an improvement in the style of the buildings”

- 1831 Born – Leicester
- 1883 Died – Birmingham
- 1883 Died – Key Hill : K 701



# Robert Dale

Preacher : Free Education : Orator : Disestablishment

“Dale was a passionate orator and did not shirk from expounding arguments for change. Indeed, the traditions of Carr’s Lane Chapel were Calvinistic when Dale arrived in Birmingham, but he initially aroused opposition when he attacked Calvinistic doctrines in his sermons. Dale was a strong advocate of the disestablishment of the Church of England, arguing that any vestige of political authority impaired the spiritual work of the Christian church.

This belief extended to support of social improvement, and he was an advocate, alongside George Dawson, of the Civic Gospel. Dale took a particular interest in public education and held a seat on the Birmingham school board.

He believed that there was moral and religious work in the civic duty of improving public wellbeing in Birmingham, and he advocated many important causes, including: free public education, the recognition of trade unions, and the understanding of the links between poverty and crime.

- 1829 Born – London
- 1895 Died – Birmingham
- 1895 Burial – Key Hill : K 637



Dr. Robert William Dale





# Charles Vince

Preacher : Educationalist : Social and Political Reform



Charles VINCE born July 6th 1824 died October 22nd 1874 for twenty-two years the Minister of Graham Street Chapel in this town. The memorial, erected by his admirers has one of the long-winded eulogies so loved by Victorians.

*“As a preacher of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ his teaching was especially characterised by perfect faith in the infinite love and mercy of God and by deep and tender sympathy with the hopes the sorrows and the struggles of men as a citizen his generous zeal for the poor the suffering and the oppressed made him the strenuous advocate of all efforts for social and political reform..... ”*

- 1823 Born – Farnham, Surry
- 1874 Died – Birmingham
- 1874 Buried - Key Hill : K 284

# Joseph Tangye

Engineer : Hydraulics : Benefactor

“Three brothers with a successful engineering business in Cornwall. Specialised in Hydraulics. Brunel certainly visited them and, when he found he could not launch the Great Eastern, he called on Tangye's to help him. They did this with massive hydraulic jacks and their fame was assured.

Joe Tangye used to joke ‘Tangyes launched the Gt Eastern and the Gt Eastern launched Tangyes’ and this was a sign above his office desk. Tangye's Cornwall Works in Smethwick, huge employer, gave very generously to Birmingham Council, were also involved in the building of Bournville. Joseph came to Birmingham in 1850 he lived for years in Church Lane, Handsworth but on his retirement in 1873 moved to Bewdley.

This very modest memorial speak volumes and it is a sad reflection on the city that such a famous and influential person should have his memorial neglected in this way.”

- 1823 Born – Farnham, Surry
- 1874 Died – Birmingham
- 1874 Burial – Key Hill : K 918



# Robert Martineau

Preacher : Social Reformer : Civic Gospel

Robert began the Martineau tradition of public service in Birmingham which included five generations of Mayors and Lord Mayors (a Blue Plaque in the Council House commemorates this achievement).



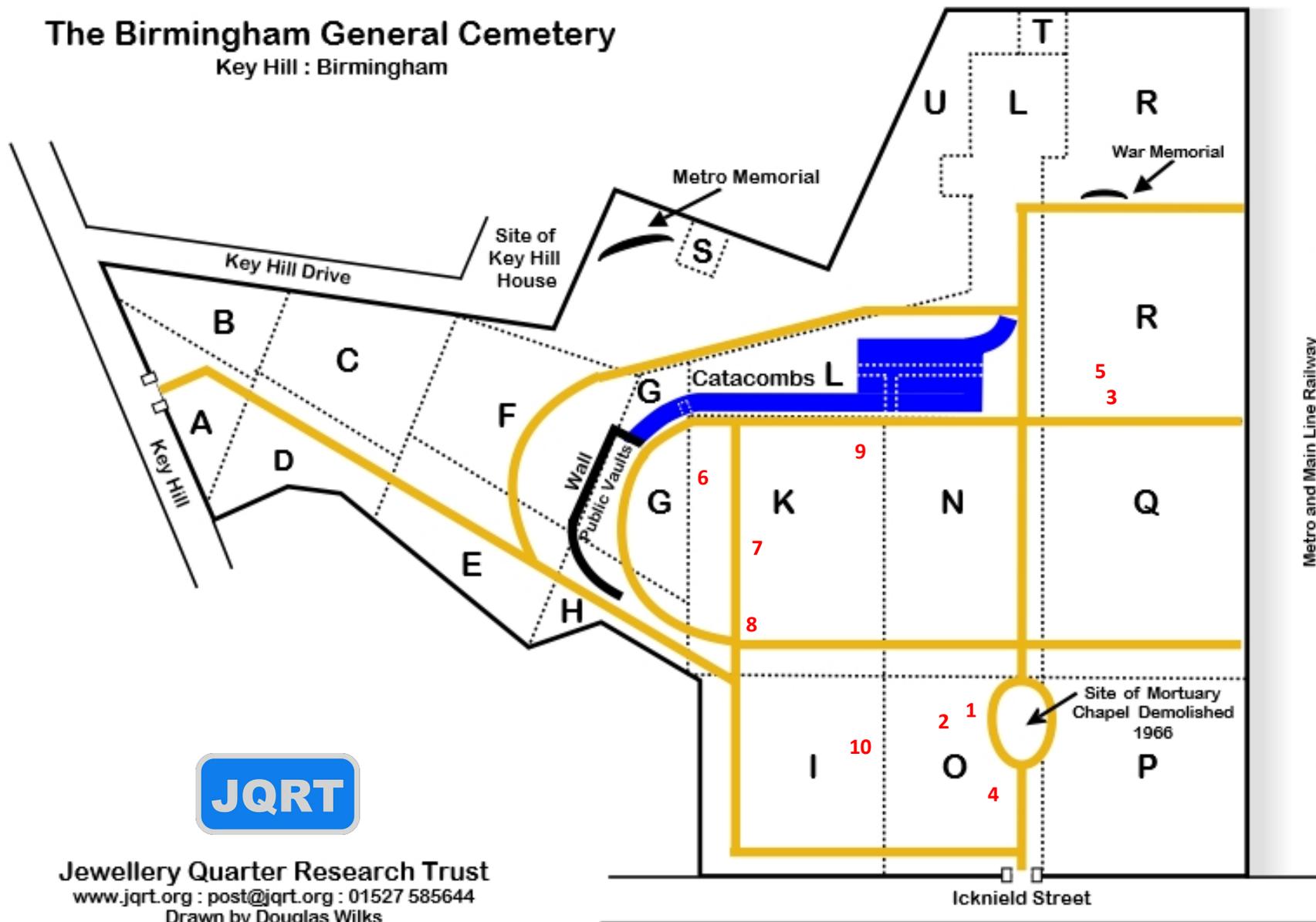
As a liberal he became politically active in the 1830s and was involved in the great Birmingham radicalisation that secured the 1832 Reform Act and as a Unitarian dissenter assisted in the freeing of the City from Church Rates.

He settled in Birmingham in 1828 where he set up in business as a brass cock founder. Which was a successful business and was still operating into the early 20th century. It is not known why Robert chose Birmingham but freedom of religious expression may have been a factor – Birmingham was not yet an incorporated borough and therefore not subject to the Five Mile Act, which meant that Unitarians and non-conformists could worship freely.

- 1798 Born - London
- 1870 Died – Edgbaston, Birmingham
- 1870 Buried – Key Hill : I 790

# The Birmingham General Cemetery

Key Hill : Birmingham



Metro and Main Line Railway  
Six rows of graves were removed for the Metro. See [www.jqrt.org](http://www.jqrt.org) for more details

## Victorian Do-Gooders

- 1) O : 507 - George Dawson
- 2) I : 961 - Marie Bethell Beauclerc
- 3) R : 81 - John Davis Mullins
- 4) O : 380 - Charles Reece Pemberton
- 5) R : 169 - John Alfred Langford
- 6) K : 701 - John Henry Chamberlain
- 7) K : 637 - Robert William Dale
- 8) K : 284 - Charles Vince
- 9) K : 918 - Joseph Tangye
- 10) I : 790 - Robert Martineau



**Jewellery Quarter Research Trust**

[www.jqrt.org](http://www.jqrt.org) : [post@jqrt.org](mailto:post@jqrt.org) : 01527 585644

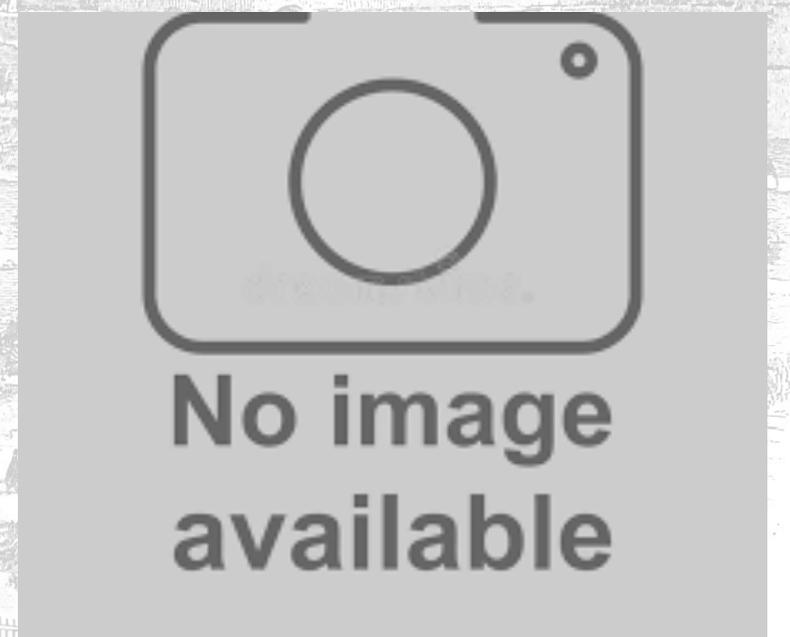
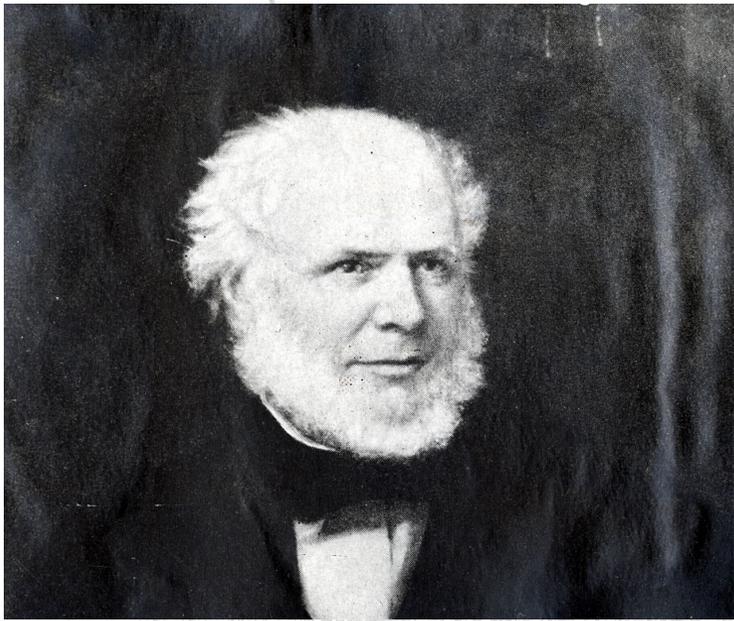
Drawn by Douglas Wilks



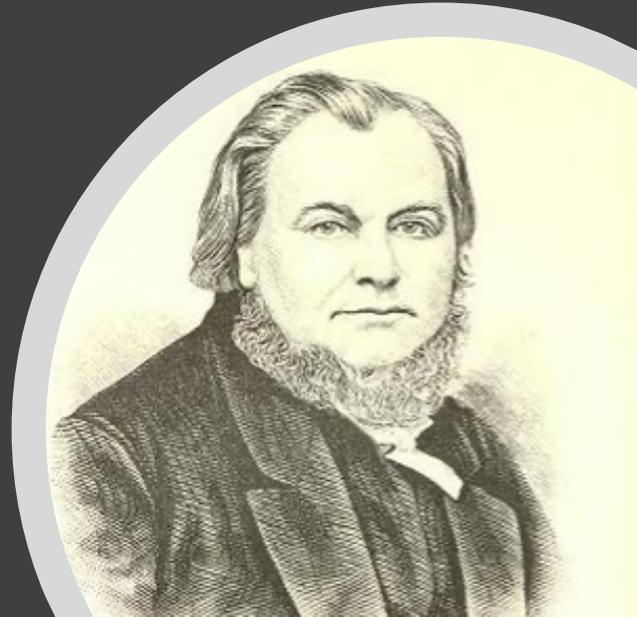
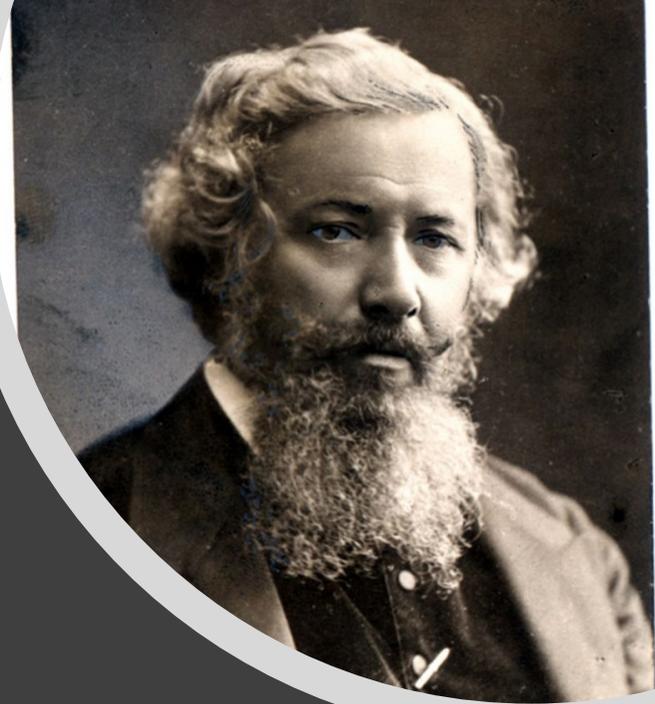
# More Do-Gooders

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[www.Jqrt.org](http://www.Jqrt.org)



JQRT



Douglas Wilks

# Victorian Do-gooders

Jewellery Quarter Research Trust

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