

## Camden Town notable people – sciences and humanities

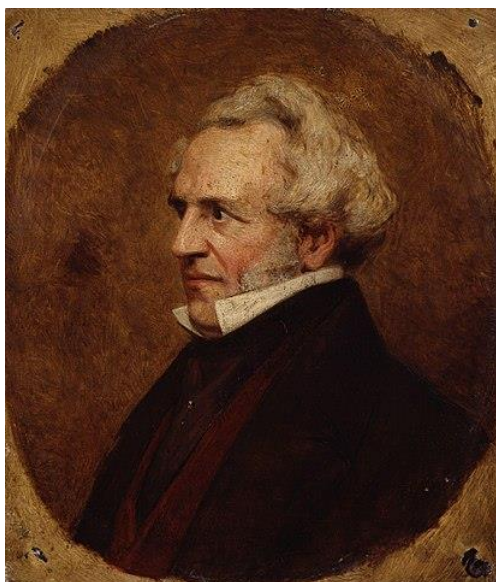
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## Politics

**James Buckingham** 1786-1855 lived at 4 Camden Terrace West

He travelled in, and wrote about, Palestine and India before returning to England and becoming a Reform Parliament MP for Sheffield (1832-1836), calling for the end of flogging in the armed services, abolition of the press-gang and the repeal of the Corn Laws. Based in further travels, he published *The Slave states of America* (Fisher & Son 1842), with a dedication to Prince Royal from 4 Camden Terrace West. By 1846 he was writing from Hanover Square (a tract on not drinking: appeal to the British nation, on the greatest reform yet remaining)



Clara Lane, James Buckingham; HW Pickersgill, Buckingham and wife 1816 (Wikipedia)

## Walter Bagehot

Bagehot was an economic journalist, author of *The English Constitution*.

When he attended University College, he lived with Dr Hoppus at 39 Camden Street from October 1842. He writes to his parents in January 1844 that he greatly enjoyed the lectures of de Morgan on mathematics and had attended Anti-Corn Law meetings.

Emilie Barrington. *The works and life of Walter Bagehot* London, Longmans, 1914.

**Shirley Baker** (1836-1903), was born in Camden Town, London, the son of George Baker and his wife, Jane Woolmer, daughter of a Methodist minister. He grew up in drab circumstances and in 1852 stowed away to Australia. He was self-seeking but he was also the king's loyal and capable servant. 'Tonga for the Tongans' was not just his slogan; it became his enduring achievement.

N. Rutherford, *Shirley Baker and the king of Tonga* 1971.

## Religion

### William Champneys

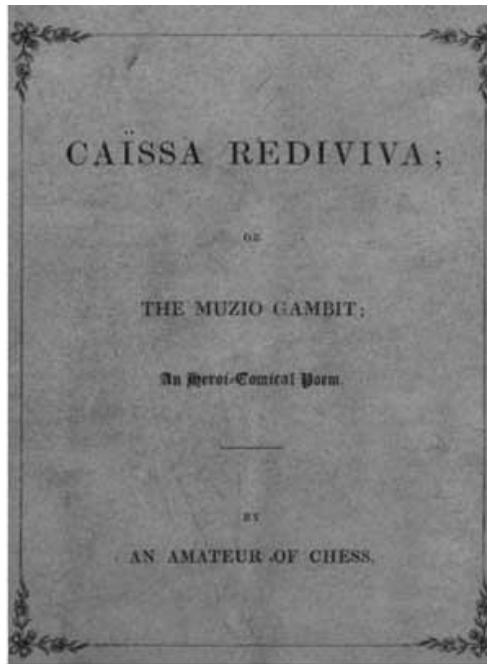
Champneys' grandfather, Weldon Champneys, had been vicar of St Pancras parish and he himself was born in Camden Town in 1807. He worked diligently as vicar in the East End, promoting schools and welfare projects, and became vicar at St Pancras 1860-1868. His seven children included the distinguished physician (Sir) Francis Champneys, the architect and author Basil Champneys and the rowing clergyman Weldon Champneys.

Dr Christoph **Bialloblotsky**: 1799-1868 – Methodist minister from Gottingen, lived and taught languages in the 1830s at the 'Hebrew Institute', 12 Great Randolph Street; also connected with a group called Friends of the Hebrew Nation. Correspondence with the Royal Geographical Society Correspondence, 1830-1833. Thereafter missionary in Africa.

Rev. **Charles d'Arblay** (1794-1837), a mathematician and a Fellow of Christ College Cambridge was the vicar of Camden Chapel for its first ten years. Through his mother, the socialite and diarist Fanny Burney, he was intimate with aristocracy and also with Clara Bolton – "a very close friend" of Benjamin Disraeli. He is remembered by chess experts for publishing a poem about an exceptional match, to which he added his own challenging chess problem as cover illustration.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.vukutu.com/blog/2011/03/the-matherati-alexander-darblay/>



## Business

**Andrew Chatto**, (1840-1913), publisher, was born at 55 Pratt Street, Camden Town, London, the son of William Andrew Chatto (1799-1864) and Margaret Roberts. William was a writer who in the 1840s published books on wood-engraving, card playing, and fishing ... (Oxford Dictionary of National Biography). At the death of the publishing business of John Camden Hotten, his junior partner Chatto took WE Windus to become Chatto & Windus, who published Mark Twain, W. S. Gilbert, Wilkie Collins, H. G. Wells, Aldous Huxley ...

**Leslie Lazell** (1903–1982) was born at 9 Canal Terrace of Henry Lazell, a wine merchant's manager, who died prematurely, and his wife, Ada Louisa King. Educated at a London county council elementary school until he was thirteen and a half, he became an office boy in the solicitor's department of the Inland Revenue at Somerset House. He attended evening classes for accountancy and became company secretary to Alexander Maclean (Macleans toothpaste) and at Beechams when they acquired Macleans.

In 1944, Lazell secured the board's authority to create a central research organization and meet its running costs out of the buoyant profits of Lucozade, a Macleans' glucose drink. The company worked closely with Ernst Chain, and by 1959 Beechams had developed its first semi-synthetic penicillin Broxil, with help from the American company Bristol-Myers.

He became managing director for Beecham's in 1951. Like the company's founder, Thomas Beecham (1820–1907), Lazell was a self-educated man, almost uniquely so among those

then at the head of a major UK manufacturing enterprise. He never became assimilated into the British establishment; he was granted no honours from the state or any university, although acted as appeal President of the British Heart Foundation. In retirement he spent much of each year in Bermuda, but he was in London when he died of heart failure at his home in Westminster.

H. G. Lazell, *From pills to penicillin: the Beecham story* 1975.

**Davison Dalziel**, Baron of Wooler (1852–1928), newspaper proprietor and financier, was born in Camden Town, London, on 17 October 1852. As a young man Dalziel also spent several years in the United States, where he gained experience of newspaper management. On returning to London in 1890, and with American financial backing, he became one of the founders of Dalziel's News Agency. From 1910 he bought a controlling interest in *The Standard* and the *Evening Standard* newspapers and was also a shareholder in the *Daily Express*. In 1906 he formed the General Motor Cab Company Ltd, of which he was initially vice-chairman and then chairman, 1907–12. In 1907 he was chiefly responsible for the introduction of motor cabs in London. He was chairman of the Pullman Car Company from its inception in 1915 and was a director of the International Sleeping Car Company. Dalziel always put his newspapers at the service of the Tory party. He was elected as a Conservative MP for Brixton in January 1910 to 1927, and created a baronet in 1919. He died at his home, 18 Grosvenor Place, Westminster.

**James Edwards**, 69 Camden Road Villas, director of Saville Edwards & Co, 4 Chandos Street, Covent Garden, (LMA: MH 13/268/259), publications including

John Mill, *The Subjection of Women* Longman 1869, an argument he developed jointly with his wife Harriet.

Lovell Reeve *Conchologia iconica*, (Illustrations of the shells of molluscs animals) 1843-1878 (20 editions)

**William Pelerin** was born 28th December 1872 and educated at 'Dr. Bell's Camden High School'. He joined the firm of Engelbert & Co. (Lubricating Oils) as a junior clerk at 16, supervised the shipping side of the business for many years and from 1907 took over work of Government and Commercial contracts. He was appointed to the Board of Directors in 1943. He lived in Golders Green.

**Henry (Newson-)Smith** (1854-1898), accountant and music-hall entrepreneur, was born at 28 Wyndham Street and educated at the North London Collegiate School, Camden Town. His business interests flourished and in 1880 he became a fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants. Newson-Smith controlled the finances of the most influential and

successful theatres of the music-hall boom of the 1890s. He died from liver disease in 1898 at his home in St John's Wood, London, age forty-three and was buried at the old parish church, Hampstead.

## Sciences

**Oliver Heaviside** FRS (1850-1925), born at 55 King Street<sup>2</sup> is known to posterity for work on the mathematics of electricity. He recounted his early life as 'in a very mean street in London, with the beer shop and baker and coffee shop right opposite ...' His father was an engraver and his mother converted their home into a small school. His mother's sister, was first governess for, and then wife to, Charles Wheatstone, the inventor who lived near Regent's Park. As well as inventing the concertina, Wheatstone is remembered for sending the first electrical message, using codes, along the new railway from Euston to Chalk Farm station. Two of Heaviside's older brothers took up work in telegraphy – one a clerk, one a manager – and after two years at home in self-study, Heaviside went to work with an electrical cable company, first in Denmark and then Newcastle. He returned to Camden Town in 1874. The Heaviside family had moved from King Street to College Street in 1863, and in 1875 moved again to 3 St Augustine's Road: and 'it was here, over the next fourteen years, that Oliver produced a brilliant succession of startlingly original papers' and was elected FRS in 1891. But in 1889 he remained without formal employment and with his aging parents he chose to move from London to the West Country, where he remained for the rest of his life.

**Olaus Henrici** FRS, mathematician, lived at 21 South Villas around 1880. He came to London from Germany in 1865, was professor of mathematics at University College and then Imperial College from 1869 through to 1911.<sup>3</sup> He innovated in courses, particularly applied mathematics, and wrote texts for students. He was made FRS in 1874 and was President of the London Mathematical Society – that Augustus de Morgan had founded – 1882-1884.

**George Swiney** (c1786-1844), a physician who lived at one time in Molesworth Place [corner of Jeffreys Street and Kentish Town Road]. He established two Lectureships, each endowed with £5000, one at the Society of Arts (still awarded annually as a prize) and Royal College of Physicians, and one at the British Museum. 'He lived in the greatest seclusion, not going out of doors more than five or six times during an entire year. He had not shaved for the last two years, and his beard

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<sup>2</sup> Basil Mahon *The forgotten genius of Oliver Heaviside* New York (USA), Prometheus Books, 2017.

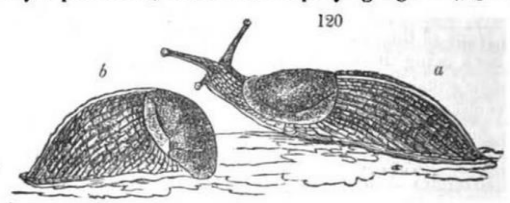
<sup>3</sup> <http://www-history.mcs.st-andrews.ac.uk/Biographies/Henrici.html>

extended nearly to his waist ... for the last month he peremptorily refused to allow the slighted nourishment to pass his lips, excepting small quantities of cider and water'. He was buried in St Martin's cemetery, Pratt Street, directing that 'the coffin be covered with bright yellow cloth, and that the pall and the mourners' cloaks be the same material'.<sup>4</sup>

**James De Carle Sowerby** was a botanical artist who lived at and worked from 5 Camden Terrace West in 1834-1839, and Pratt Street in 1840.<sup>5</sup> He was a member of the Camden Literary and Scientific Institution, reading a paper on the 'Habits of the long-eared bat' to the first meeting in January 1836.<sup>6</sup> A snail (*Limax Sowerbyi*, common in Camden Town and 'troublesomely abundant') was named after him [see Box].

ART. II. *Some Account of the Limax Sowerbyi of Férussac.* By JOHN DENSON, Jun. A.L.S. "Plate VIII. D," cited by Férussac, appears not to have been yet published; but the accompanying figures (fig. 120.

SOME of the Bayswater gardens are rich enough in slugs; and among these are numerous individuals of a species very distinct from any species that inhabits the limited portions of Cambridgeshire and Suffolk with which I happen to be acquainted. By submitting living individuals of this slug to Mr. James de Carle Sowerby (5. Camden Terrace West, Camden Town), I have learned the following facts respecting it. Mr. G. B. Sowerby, being unable to identify it with any species described, sent specimens of it to Paris, where it had not been before seen, and was determined to be an undescribed species. Subsequently, the Baron de Férussac has published



*a, b*), drawn by Mr. Sowerby from living individuals, well exhibit the animal under two of its forms: *b*, when it has been touched, and has contracted itself; and *a*, when again dilating itself to resume its progress: *b* does not show, I think, so

Magazine of Natural History 1839;3:610

He illustrated many fossils in *Mineral Conchology* (1812–46) and for many publications – Darwin wrote 'I picked him out as most capable of doing the work'<sup>7</sup> With his cousin Phillip Barnes, in 1838 he founded the Royal Botanic Gardens at Regent's Park, and was its Secretary until his retirement in 1869.

<sup>4</sup> Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, Gentleman's magazine 1845; Victoria & Albert Museum.

<sup>5</sup> Royal Society MS/682. "The Sowerby family is without equal in the history of natural history for the depth and variety of its contribution to science." Fourteen members of the family published, wrote or illustrated natural history works between about 1780 and 1954. Subjects covered included botany, zoology, conchology, palaeontology and mineralogy. [The Sowerby Collection] 1739-1985 Natural History Museum, London.

<sup>6</sup> The London and Edinburgh Philosophical Magazine and Journal of Science 1836;8/47:265. John Salter, his sixteen-year old apprentice, also gave a paper.

<sup>7</sup> RJ Cleevley. Sowerby, James De Carle, (1787–1871) Oxford Dictionary of National Biography.



A design for the Royal Botanic Society Gardens in Regent's Park, London by Decimus Burton, 1840.

**John Salter** (1820-1869), son of a bank clerk of Kentish Town, was apprentice to James de Carle Sowerby. He contributed drawings and engravings to many of Sowerby's publications, but his interest developed in fossils. He was appointed to the Geological Survey in 1846, when he married Sowerby's daughter Sally,<sup>8</sup> and became the leading authority on trilobites. In 1863 he resigned the Survey, on matters of principle, and was without income for his family of seven children. He suffered from severe depression and committed suicide by drowning himself, when with his son, from the ferry from Margate to London in 1869.<sup>9</sup>

**George James Symons** FRS (1838-1900) was a meteorologist who created the British Rainfall Organisation, with 5000 voluntary observers to collect meteorological data across Britain, 'a mass of data of standard value, unmatched in any other country'. 'He turned his gardens in his house at Camden Square into a menagerie of instruments, where he maintained an unbroken series of observations for forty-two years', assisted by his wife Elizabeth until her death in 1884.

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<sup>8</sup> J A Secord. Salter, John William (1820–1869) Oxford Dictionary of National Biography

<sup>9</sup> John W. Salter: the rise and fall of a Victorian palaeontological career. Archives of Natural History / 1985, Issue 1. The Quarterly Journal of the Geological Society. 1870 vol 27, Proceedings of the Geological Society pxxxvi



He took on **Herbert Sowerby Wallis** in 1872, becoming co-director, and then (Mortyn de) **Carle Salter** in 1897, who became Assistant and finally Director when the organisation was taken into the Meteorological Office in 1920<sup>10</sup>

An important part of the work at Camden Square was the preparation of reports on the rainfall of gathering grounds for projected water-works, which had to be prepared often from scanty data and supported by evidence before Parliamentary Committees. In the inspection of the ground and rain gauges

**Henry Lavis** (1856-1914), physician and vulcanologist, was born at 107 Bayham Street (it is suggested out of wedlock<sup>11</sup>), the son of Frances Lavis (1827-1880), (a servant? or) an artist.<sup>12</sup> His mother already had a daughter, Bertha Lavis. He was highly commended at medical sciences at University College London. He travelled to Naples, where he practised and also developed the science of volcanology, making the first scientific survey of Vesuvius. He continued to practise medicine also in England and France but died in a car accident in 1914.

**Thomas Joyce** (1878-1942), anthropologist and archaeologist, was born at 19 North Villas, the elder of two sons of the journalist Thomas Heath Joyce (1850-1925), who, as first editor of the Daily Graphic from 1890 to 1906, was a pioneer of illustrated daily .. He was educated at Dulwich College and then Hertford College, Oxford. In 1902 he joined the staff of the British Museum, where he created the Ethnographical Collections. At the time of his retirement he was regarded by many as the world's foremost authority in the field of Maya archaeology.

**Thomas William Allen** (1862–1950), Greek scholar and palaeographer, was born 103 Camden Road Villas, Camden New Town, London, the eldest of five children of Thomas Bull Allen, wholesale tea dealer, and his wife, Amelia Le Lacheur. One of his sisters married the classical scholar John Percival Postgate. He was educated privately and went up to University College, London, for one year, but in 1881 was elected to a scholarship at the Queen's College, Oxford, and read classics there, graduating with a double first in 1885. Allen's best-known scholarly work was the large edition of the Iliad prepared for the Clarendon Press (1931); he had previously collaborated with D. B. Monro to issue a text in the series of Oxford Classical Texts, and he also prepared the Odyssey for the same series.

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<sup>10</sup> De Pedgley, A short history of the British Rainfall Organisation, Royal Meteorological Society, 2002:17. Quotation from Salter's Obituary, Meteorological Magazine, June 1923.

<sup>11</sup> [https://www.curiousfox.com/vill100/Middlesex17653\\_1.html](https://www.curiousfox.com/vill100/Middlesex17653_1.html), 10-04-2014

<sup>12</sup> Wendy Kirk ODNB

**Augustus de Morgan** was professor of mathematics at the University of London from its foundation in 1828 through to 1866. From 1844 he lived at 7 Camden Street with a family of seven children. 'An inveterate Londoner, he loved the town, and had a humorous detestation of trees, fields, and birds.'<sup>13</sup> Through his wife's social connections with the Byron family, de Morgan became tutor to Ada Lovelace 1840-1842.<sup>14</sup> His specialty was algebra and he wrote for both academic and public audiences. He was an active fellow of the Astronomical Society and founded the London Mathematical Society whose headquarter at Russell Square is called De Morgan House.



NPG carte de visite

The year of his birth may be found by solving a conundrum proposed by himself, "I was  $x$  years of age in the year  $x^2$  (He was 43 in 1849). The problem is indeterminate, but it is made strictly determinate by the century of its utterance and the limit to a man's life. Those born in 1722 (1764–42), 1892 (1936–44) and 1980 (2025–45) are similarly privileged.

Also with his wife Sophia he became interested in spiritualism and carried out paranormal investigations in his own home with the medium Maria Hayden.<sup>15</sup>

JH/A/256/165 - Catalogue of the papers of Sir John Frederick William Herschel 1st Baronet Astronomer (1792 - 1871)

Janet Oppenheim 1988. *The Other World: Spiritualism and Psychical Research in England, 1850-1914*, CUP.

<sup>13</sup> Leslie Stephen, I. Grattan-Guinness. Morgan, Augustus De (1806–1871), mathematician and historian. Oxford Dictionary of National Biography.

<sup>14</sup> Recently reconsidered: Christopher Hollings et al. The Lovelace–De Morgan mathematical correspondence: a critical re-appraisal. *Historia Mathematica*, 2017 (pre-publication online)

<sup>15</sup> Oppenheim, Janet (1988). *The Other World: Spiritualism and Psychical Research in England, 1850–1914*. Cambridge University Press. p. 335

**Catherine Alice Raisin**<sup>16</sup> (1855–1945), geologist and educationist, was born at 13 Camden Terrace. Her parents were both from the Sussex/Essex border. Her father was a pannierman for the Inner Temple and her eldest brother an ornamental engraver. She went to North London Collegiate School and continued to teach there until 1875. She entered University College London in 1873, studying geology and botany, and moved to Bedford College in 1888. From 1898 to 1901 she was vice-principal of the college. She was 'to the weaker brethren, an intimidating fighter ...'Neither colleagues nor students could lightly disregard her opinions on college matters'. She paid close attention to the work of her assistants and students; among them she was affectionately known as 'the Raisin', and (secretly) 'the Sultana'. At the age of 25 she founded and organized a discussion group for women, the Somerville Club, with 1000 members in 1880 (but closed in 1887). She never married and died in Cheltenham at the age of 90.



Raisin (standing) with mineralogy class (Bedford College papers)

**Joseph Dyer, (1780–1871)**

He first came to England from America in 1802, and in 1811 married Ellen Jones, daughter of Somerset Jones of Gower Street, London, and set up house at Camden Town, where they raised three sons. He was active in introducing into England several American inventions, including Perkins's plan for steel-engraving (1809); fur-shearing and nail-making machines (1810), and the carding engine (1811).

He moved to Manchester in 1816 where he took out his first patent for a roving frame used in cotton-spinning. He aided in establishing the Royal Institution and the Mechanics'

<sup>16</sup> Cynthia Burek. *Geology Today*, 2003;19(3):107-11; Oxford Dictionary of National Biography.

Institution at Manchester, engaged in the struggle for parliamentary reform and in the promotion of the Liverpool and Manchester railway, and in later years was closely associated with the Anti-Corn Law League, both in its formation and operations. He cherished a strong hatred of slavery, and wrote several pamphlets on the subject, both prior to and during the American war.

(ODNB)

**Thomas Page** 1803 October 26th, born in London. The education he received whilst growing up in Romaldkirk in the North Riding of Yorkshire, was designed to prepare him for life as a sailor. However, the engineer Thomas Tredgold suggested that Page become a civil engineer. In 1833 Thomas Page of Camden Town, an Architect, became a member of the Institution of Civil Engineers. His most memorable design that was completed is Westminster Bridge

**George Snelus** FRS (1837-1906) was born at Camden Town, London. His father, a master builder, died when George was about seven. Snelus trained to become a teacher at St John's College, Battersea, but after teaching on Macklesfield trained at the Institute of Mines and became a works manager in Cumberland improving iron production. He was the first to make pure steel from phosphoric pig iron in a Bessemer Converter lined with basic materials; a discovery of national importance. The Iron and Steel Institute awarded him, jointly with Sidney Thomas, their Bessemer medal in 1883. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1887.<sup>17</sup>

**Walter West**, of 9 St Paul's Road, was part of a family with manufacturing premises in St Pancras and Pentonville and Whitechapel, making equipment for cotton presses in north-east India ('West's Patent Press Company 1874-1911'). His correspondence includes accounts of journeys in Europe and a proposal for improving the water supply of Bombay, as well as 300 letters with friend Mr Theobald, who had a piano shop in Oxford Street.<sup>18</sup>

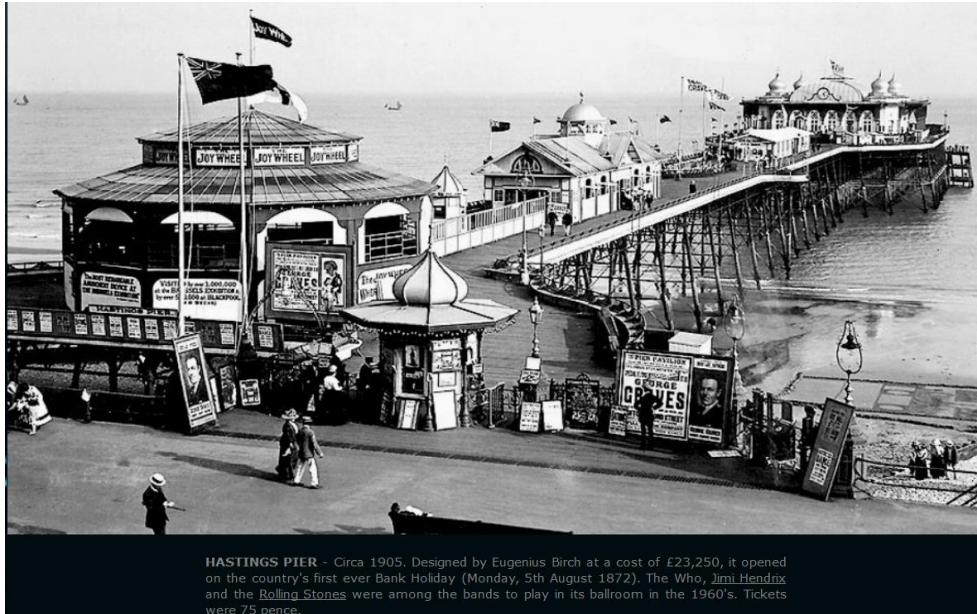
**Eugene Birch** lived at 6 Rochester Terrace in a house of Italianate design, possibly related to his knowledge of architecture of south-coast resorts. Brought up on Euston Square and 'enthralled' by the works of the London-Birmingham railway, he became a civil engineer. Between 1853 and 1884 he built 14 seaside piers (including Brighton and Hastings), based on his innovations in design, including screw-driven piles, corrosion-resistant cast iron columns and use of standardised components (timber and iron) from manufacturer's catalogues and designed into original pieces.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> W T Jeans. The creators of the age of steel. London, Chapman & Hall, 1884; Obituary; Proc Roy Soc Series A 1906-1907 vol 78 pp lx-lxi signed by J E S.

<sup>18</sup> London Metropolitan Archives: F/WST/-.

<sup>19</sup> John Lloyd, Mike Chrimes. Birch, Eugenius (1818-1884). Oxford Dictionary of National Biography.



[http://www.miss-ocean.com/Conferences\\_Exhibitions/Eugenius\\_Birch.htm](http://www.miss-ocean.com/Conferences_Exhibitions/Eugenius_Birch.htm)

Sir **J Ambrose Fleming** FRS (1849–1945), 4, The Terrace, Camden Square, an English electrical engineer and physicist, invented the first thermionic valve or vacuum tube and also established the left-hand rule for electric motors. Although born in Lancaster his family moved to North London where he spent most of his early life. He was educated mainly at University College School on Gower Street, and for a BSc degree at University College, London, studied under the mathematician Augustus de Morgan. In 1877 enrolled at Cambridge, attended Maxwell's last lectures. In 1882, Fleming took up the post of "electrician" to the Edison Electrical Light Company, advising on lighting systems and the new Ferranti alternating current systems. In 1884 Fleming joined University College London taking up the Chair of Electrical Technology, the first of its kind in England. Although this offered great opportunities, he recalls in his autobiography that the only equipment provided to him was a blackboard and piece of chalk. In 1897 Fleming took up the Pender Chair endowed as a memorial to John Pender, the founder of Cable and Wireless.

Fleming retired from University College, London in 1927 at the age of 77. He remained active, becoming a committed advocate of the new technology of Television which included serving as the second president of the Television Society. He was knighted in 1929, and died at his home in Sidmouth, Devon in 1945. His contributions to electronic communications and radar were of vital importance in World War II.



Ambrose Fleming, *Memories of a Scientific life*, London, Marshall, Morgan & Scott, 1934.

**Sir Eugene Goossens**, (1893-1962), composer and conductor was born in Rochester Square. The family came originally from Bruges in Belgium, his grandfather and father also had careers as violinists before being conductors, and his mother Annie a contralto. Eugene was the eldest of five exceptionally gifted musical children: Marie and Sidonie Goossens (1899–2004) were to become celebrated harpists while Léon Jean Goossens (1897–1988) was the pre-eminent oboist of his day; a second brother, Adolphe, who showed great promise on the French horn, was killed at the battle of the Somme in 1916.

Carole Rosen, Oxford Dictionary of National Biography

**Lucy Clifford** [née Lane, pseud. John Inglis] (1846-1929), writer, was born in Great College Street, the daughter of literary parents John Lane and Louisa née Gaspey. Her later childhood was with her grandfather in Shooter's Hill (d. 1901). She started in journalism and met William Kingdon Clifford (1845–1879), professor of mathematics at University College London, in the early 1870s. They married in 1875, but he died in 1879, leaving her with two small daughters. She took up writing and became famous with the (anonymous) publication of *Mrs Keith's crime*.



- a young widow who first loses her eldest child and then has to cope with the imminent death from tuberculosis of her small daughter. When the family doctor predicts that she herself will die first, she decides to kill the child so that she will not have to suffer a lonesome death.

Lucy Clifford's novels include autobiographical elements: the central characters of her novels are usually young women, who have to prove their strength and will-power in the face of adversity. She achieved recognition in the top circles of literary London, including friendship with Henry James.

M. Chisholm, *Such silver currents: the story of William and Lucy Clifford, 1845–1929*, 2002.

**John Walcot** / Peter Pindar (pseud) (1738-1819) 'the most popular [satirical] poet of the 1780s and 1790s'. In 1807 he lodged on the first floor of a house in Pratt Place and, the husband being away at sea, is said to have seduced the landlady (John Timms, *English Eccentrics and Eccentricities*, 1870:470) Walcot later lived in 'a small house in Montgomery's nursery gardens [on] the north side of Euston Square' – the area now Euston Station: Montgomery moved his nursery gardens in 1820s to what is now Rochester Square.

**John Johnson** (1732 – 1814) was an English architect ...For most of the rest of his life, he lived in one of the houses that he had built in Berners Street. From 1782, he was Surveyor to the County of Essex, retiring in 1812. He was a partner in a bank in Bond Street, which failed in 1797 and was wound up in 1803. After this, Johnson moved from Berners Street to Camden Town (Camden Street 1806, College Street 1807)<sup>20</sup>, and on his retirement in 1812 returned to Leicester, where he died.



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<sup>20</sup> Nancy Briggs, *John Johnson: 1732-1814: Georgian architect and county surveyor of Essex*, Essex Record Office, 1991:153.

**Valentine Blanchard** (1830-1901) lived at Camden Cottages from about 1866 to 1872. His life and career spanned the Victorian development of photography.<sup>21</sup> He was a member of the "brilliant band of the sixties", when he produced stereoscopic pictures of Paris, London and the south coast seaside towns. He then moved, with the fashion of the times, to studio portraits, winning prizes and clients: four are in the National Portrait Gallery. He "wrote frequently and lucidly on all photographic topics, from technical advice to personal anecdotes". He also made technical improvements, although "not always with success" – in 1869, his 128 Camden Road studio was destroyed by an explosion of photographic material, "blowing Blanchard into the garden, from where he watched his business go up in flames". In April 1871 Valentine, his wife Mary Ann, daughter Nellie b 1860, nephew Charles Watkin b: 1853, two female servants and a visiting teacher of music were living at 12 Camden Cottages. He moved to live in Westminster in 1878, and by 1881 he was a widower living in St James' Square.

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<sup>21</sup> Bill Jay. Valentine Blanchard - a once famous and now forgotten photographer. *British Journal of Photography* 18/25 February 1982.