

Bunhill Fields

Vols. I & II

by

Alfred W Light



These views are of the front of the Burial Grounds, and are taken from the opposite side of the City Road. In the top one are two numbers, which indicate (1) the tomb of **JOHN GUYSE** (see page 53), and (2) the grave of **DAVID DENHAM** (see page 54).

BUNHILL FIELDS

WRITTEN IN HONOUR AND TO THE
MEMORY OF THE MANY SAINTS
OF GOD WHOSE BODIES REST
IN THIS OLD LONDON GEMETERY

BY

ALFRED W. LIGHT.

Vol. I

WITH CHART OF THE GROUND AND MANY
ILLUSTRATIONS.

SECOND EDITION.

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Give me the wings of faith to rise
 Within the veil, and see
The saints above, how great their joys,
 How bright their glories be.

Once they were mourning here below,
 And wet their couch with tears ;
They wrestled hard, as we do now,
 With sins, and doubts, and fears.

I ask them whence their victory came,
 They, with united breath,
Ascribe their conquest to the Lamb,
 Their triumph to His death.

They mark'd the footsteps that He trod
 (His zeal inspired their breast ;)
And, following their incarnate God,
 Possess the promised rest.

Our glorious Leader claims our praise
 For His own pattern given ;
While the long cloud of witnesses
 Shows the same path to heaven.

ISAAC WATTS.

PREFACE TO SECOND EDITION.

IT is with unfeigned pleasure that I have prepared another edition of "Bunhill Fields." I acknowledge with gratitude the kind reception accorded to the book, not only from the readers, but also from the Press, both secular and religious. Indeed I have been surprised at the appreciation which has been shown, although I am fully aware that the subject itself, rather than the work of the author, has called it forth. Not the least agreeable experience has been to note the gladness with which Sunday School scholars have received the book as a reward for attendance and conduct.

In this edition I have included a few extra accounts and illustrations, and only wish that it were possible to deal with other noble men and women, whose last earthly home is in Bunhill Fields.

I am happy to record the renewal of certain stones since I published my first edition. Three notable ones are those of the late Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain's grandfather, some other ancestors, and that of the preacher-poet Joseph Swain. Several members of the Langston family remembering their honourable ancestors have placed a new headstone opposite the old massive one. Appropriately enough, the graves of the Chamberlains and the Langstons are close together between that of Abram Hume and the "Sunken Tomb." I have marked the positions on the chart and am also giving photographs; these show the names of Joseph Chamberlain and Ann Langston, whose descendants have made such a mark in the life of our mighty city and vast empire.

It is well to notice that the Southern section of the ground has been closed to the public during this period of war unless the services of one of the official guides be obtained; this part adjoins the Hon. Artillery Company's buildings.

If further interest is aroused in Bunhill Fields by this second edition, I shall be well repaid for any trouble I have had.

ALFRED W. LIGHT.

PREFACE.

THE need for a new work on "Bunhill Fields" has long been apparent, not only to me, but to all who have taken any interest in this wonderful "God's Acre." There are only two books extant dealing exclusively with it, viz.: "Bunhill Memorials," by John Andrews Jones, and "The Official Guide," published by the City Corporation. The former is, however, now very rare, and as Mr. Jones wrote chiefly of Ministers, he did not entirely meet the needs of the ordinary visitor. The names, too, he gave in alphabetical order, which makes the book somewhat confusing to use as a guide, although the numbered intersection of each grave is given. It should also be noted that, as "Bunhill Memorials" was published in 1849, many of the tombs, head-stones and inscriptions which Mr. Jones described have entirely disappeared, whilst, on the other hand, new monuments have been erected and epitaphs re-cut. The Ground, too, has been altered, so that the positions of some, as given by Mr. Jones, are now inaccurate. The official publication is a very small, incomplete and perplexing guide, and is really of little use for this purpose, except in a few special cases.

I have found persons from well-nigh all parts of the civilized world wandering about the grounds in dismay, therefore I hope that, by means of the chart and the instructions given, much difficulty and disappointment will be avoided, and a tour through Bunhill will be made both instructive and interesting. I venture to think also, that many who are not privileged to visit this sacred spot in person, may now be able to obtain some idea of it.

Practically every grave which is mentioned has either a sketch or photograph of the tomb or head-stone, and this feature will be particularly valuable to visitors, because many inscriptions are undecipherable, so that some special mark of identification is really necessary.

I have to thank many friends for kind encouragement, and some for much valued help.

The four illustrations which have been loaned to me by Mrs. Fuller, of Aylesbury Lodge, Bedford, were sketched by the skilful hand of her late much lamented husband. They are Elstow Church, The Village Green at Elstow, Bunyan's Den, and Bunyan's Cottage. Mr. J. E. Hazelton also kindly lent four illustrations.

For all the other sketches and most of the illustrations I am indebted to Miss F. Bertha Buggs, of Church Farm, Capel, nr. Tonbridge, and Mr. Arthur Wood, of Church Road, Paddock Wood. I had a great desire that the book should be brought within the reach of all, and particularly that Sunday Schools might obtain it at a special price, and if I had been compelled to employ a professional artist and a photographer, the cost would have been considerable, so that a much higher price would have been put upon the book. I feel therefore, that not only my thanks, but also those of all who obtain it, are due to the kind friends who have given willingly of their time and skill. Their united work in sketching will rescue many tombs from oblivion, and Mr. Wood's camera has produced some most pleasing results.

The City Surveyor, S. Perks, Esq., obtained special permission for my friends to sketch and photograph, and also placed the records, of which he is the custodian, at my disposal.

I must also thank Miss Alice Alexander, of Salusbury Road, Brondesbury, for valuable help in reading, for correction, many of the accounts. In reply to my oft-repeated query, "What advice give ye?" (2 Chron. x. 9), I received, "Herein I give my advice" (2 Cor. viii. 10), and this was invariably what could be accepted and which made for accuracy.

The lines by the gifted poetess, Mrs. Chaplin, of Galleywood, Chelmsford, enrich the book, and I most sincerely thank this friend for so graciously acceding to my request for a suitable poem.

The extracts, which were specially chosen by some whom I count it an honour to call my friends, will, I am sure, be appreciated and prove a special feature of the book.

I must thank my wife for her unremitting patience in carefully reading "proofs" and for general assistance. I hope her little poem will not pass unnoticed, but that it will meet with at least a measure of appreciation.

I must also express my deep indebtedness to the printers and publishers, Messrs. C. J. Farncombe & Sons, Ltd. They knew what my wishes were with respect to the price of the book, and were cordially in agreement with me. They were equally desirous that a new reward for Sunday Schools should be obtainable, and they have been almost prodigal in supplying blocks for illustrations. The book is larger than was intended, but it is only just to say that they have acceded to all requests in this direction in a most generous way.

ALFRED W. LIGHT.

As there are over three hundred ministers of religion buried in Bunhill, it has only been possible to mention a few of these.

The graves of some of the most gracious and famous cannot now be found, and preference has been given to those whose tombs or head-stones are still standing. If space had permitted, a short account of each one would have been given, and should there be a general desire for another volume, this may be complied with.

The following list contains the names of some of those whose particular resting-places are not known :—

Abbott, Mordecai	Kiffin, William	Palmer, Anthony
Clarke, Matthew	Knollys, Hanserd	Powell, Vavasour
Cole, Thomas	Lambert, James	Ridgley, Thomas
Doolittle, Thomas	Lobb, Theophilus	Robinson, Benjamin
Dyke, Daniel	Loder, John	Stretter, Richard
Evans, John	Maisters, Joseph	Stubbs, Henry
Faldo, John	Mather, Nathaniel	Towers, John
Gosnold, John	May, Samuel	Vincent, Nathaniel
Jacob, Joseph	Ness, Christopher	West, Edward
Jessey, Henry	Newman, John	Wilson, Samuel.
Key, Mark	Newman, Samuel	

The graves of the following ministers have been found, but no space was available for accounts of them :—

Barber, Joseph	Jerment, G.	Simpson, R.
Clayton, William	Kello, John	Spilsbury, F.
Hall, Christopher	King, W.	Towle, John
Hardcastle, Joseph	Lawson, Robert	Upton, James
Harris, Joseph	Platt, W. F.	Wilton, S.
Hookly, W.	Savage, S. M.	
Hunter, H.	Saunders, Thos.	

NOTES.

THE reader must not conclude hastily that all spelling and grammatical errors are the fault of the author or printers. The extracts, inscriptions, &c., have been given as nearly as possible to the originals, so that they should appear in their old-world form.

Many visitors to "Bunhill Fields" are under the impression that the grave of George Fox, the Quaker, is here. This, however, is not so, but the small head-stone on which the name of Fox is inscribed stands in the Friends' Burial Ground in Roscoe Street, and may be seen easily through the railings. It is about three minutes' walk from the entrance gate at the west end of "Bunhill."

Some confusion has arisen owing to there having been a "New Bunhill Burial Ground." This was in Islington, and amongst others, Henry Fowler, the preacher and hymn-writer, was buried there. This ground has long been built upon, and now there is nothing to show for what purpose it was once used.

Neither John nor Charles Wesley is buried in Bunhill. The former's tomb is at the back of his old chapel, opposite Bunhill, and the latter's at Marylebone Parish Church.

The epitaphs given without illustrations or positions appeared on tombs and headstones which have now disappeared.

The easiest way to Bunhill from the south, east or west of London, is to get to the Bank of England and then take one of the several lines of 'buses that pass the gates. The numbers of these are 21, 43, 43a, and 76. From the northern districts a L.C.C. tramcar going to Moorgate Street will pass along the front.

On entering the Ground, the left-hand pillar of the Gateway bears the following inscription:—

BUNHILL FIELDS.

This burial ground of the Nonconformists, known anciently as Bunhill in the Fields, was enclosed with a brick wall, at the sole charge of the City of London, in the Mayoralty of Sir John Lawrence, Knight, Anno Domini 1665 and afterwards, the gates hereof were built and finished in the Mayoralty of Sir Thomas Bludworth, Knight, Anno Domini 1666.

On the right-hand pillar there is the following inscription:—

BUNHILL FIELDS.

At the time of the closing of this Ground, in 1852,* more than 120,000 bodies had been interred therein. In the year 1867 it was committed by Act of Parliament to the care of the Corporation of London, and having by them been planted and restored for public resort, it was opened by the Right Hon. James Clarke Lawrence, M.P., Lord Mayor, on the 14th of October, 1869.

CHARLES REED, Esq., M.P.

Chairman of the Preservation Committee.

* This is a strange error, as according to the records the last interment took place on Jan. 5th, 1854. The name of the person then buried was Elizabeth Howell Oliver, who was 15 years and six months old.

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