

~ Farewell Louisa ~ (Part 2)

It's finally time to bid you farewell dear Louisa Ker / Peterson / Uhr.

People have spent decades looking for your final resting place. You've been elusive to say the least. The obvious place to look, was at your local parish – St George in the East. Yet you never materialised – metaphorically that is.

Margaret Ker had narrowed it down to the year 1837 with your death duty index –

Intestate	Name and Residence of Administrators or Administratrix	Vol.	Folio
Witting	Joseph May, Northam, Hamp Langley, North	1	110
Underhill	Mary, 20 Underhill, Ball St. Dudley, Worcs	1	120
Underwood	Henry, 11 Underwood, Yorkley, Hastings, Sussex	1	110
Uhr	Louisa Shepherd, 15 Impud St. Cannon St. Lond	1	161
Vaughan	Elizabeth, 11 St. Pauls, Stalstead, Essex	1	255

But those page and folio numbers kept haunting me – “What if there was something further, a word, a name, a clue of some sort that wasn’t on that page?” Then Frank Uhr refers a contact, a researcher in London, Jane, who will have a look –

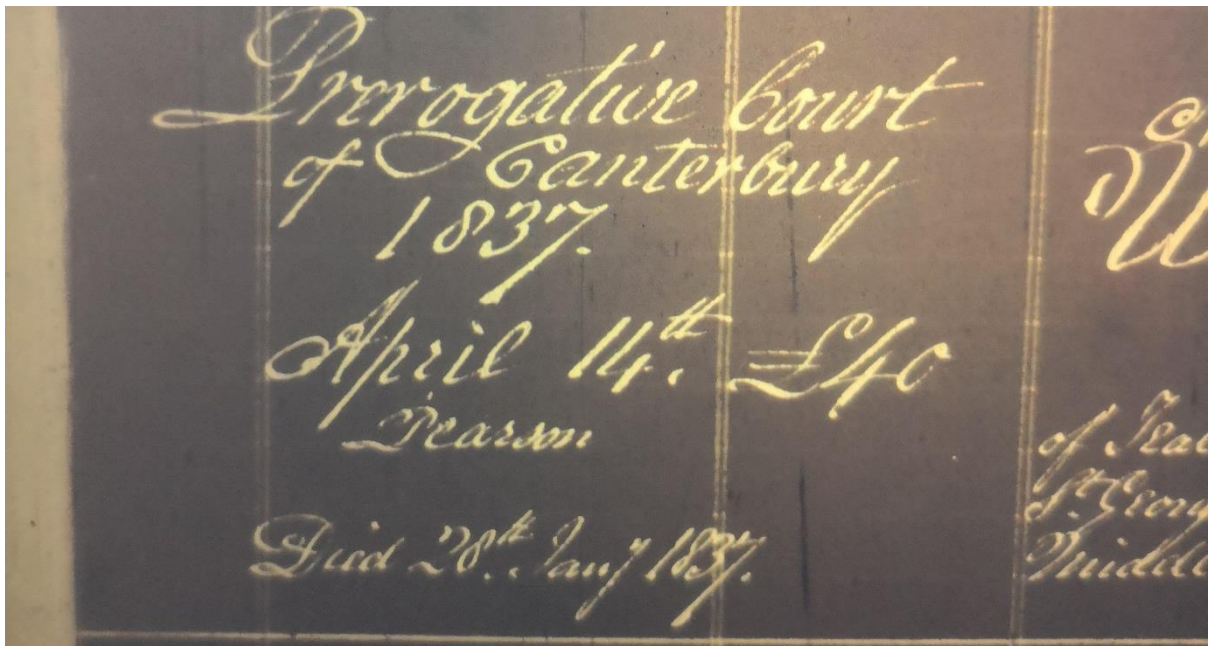
<http://www.searcher-na.co.uk/>

I was feeling hopeful, a tad impatient for more news, but mostly resigned to it being another dead-end, excuse the pun. That was until it arrived. At first glance it didn’t look much different, but it held just enough clues to get us going again.

Name of the Court Date of Administration and by whom extracted	Sum sworn under	Name and description of Intestate	NAME	And Residence of Administrator or Administratrix
Prerogative Court of Canterbury 1837 April 14 th 1837 Pearson	£40	N ^o 223 Uhr Louisa of the late Geo parish of St George in the County of Middlesex - Widow	Louisa Shepherd	(copy of page & Shepherd N ^o 15 of Bond Book Cannon Street Road - same County, Eng ^l) George Shepherd - 11 St. Pauls Street George Graham - 11 St. Pauls Street (Clerk) Westminster
11 th 1837	£1500	N ^o 924 The Reverend Vaughan	Elizabeth Vaughan	of the same place - Widow

With a mere £40 of assets left to you name, you must have just been getting by.

Then...Eureka! It was listed. You died in 28 January 1837 and it was a Saturday.



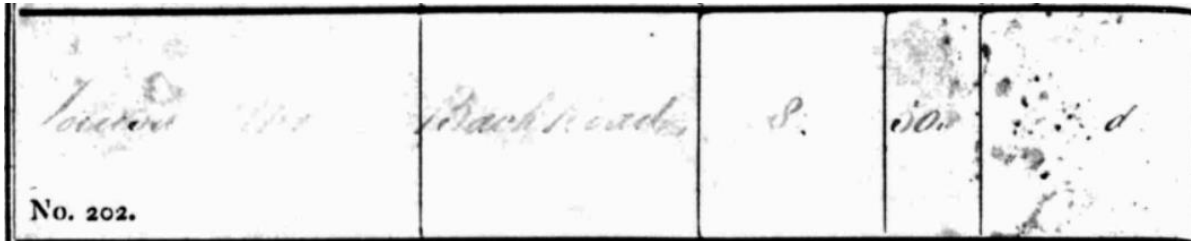
Other churches in your area had no burial grounds, at least not in 1837. I trawled through the St George in the East burial register again, this time with a definitive starting point. Alas, you didn't ruffle a page. I started again...January 29, 30, 31. Then 1st, 2nd, 3rd of February, 4th and 5th also proved unfruitful. The writing had become so faded; it was illegible in parts. Time to download them and put Photoshop to work.

One address under "Abode" simply said "Backroads" and I nearly passed you by again. I should have known you'd have the 6th version of the same address! (See article [Cannon St Rd Conundrum](#)).

BURIALS in the Parish of <u>Saint George</u> in the County of <u>Middlesex</u> in the Year 18 <u>37</u>				
Name.	Abode.	When buried.	Age.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
<i>Richard Pearson</i>	<i>Backroads</i>	<i>28th Jan</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>The Curate</i>
No. 201.				
<i>Richard Pearson</i>	<i>Backroads</i>	<i>28th Jan</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>The Curate</i>
No. 202.				
<i>Richard Pearson</i>	<i>Backroads</i>	<i>28th Jan</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>The Curate</i>
No. 203.				

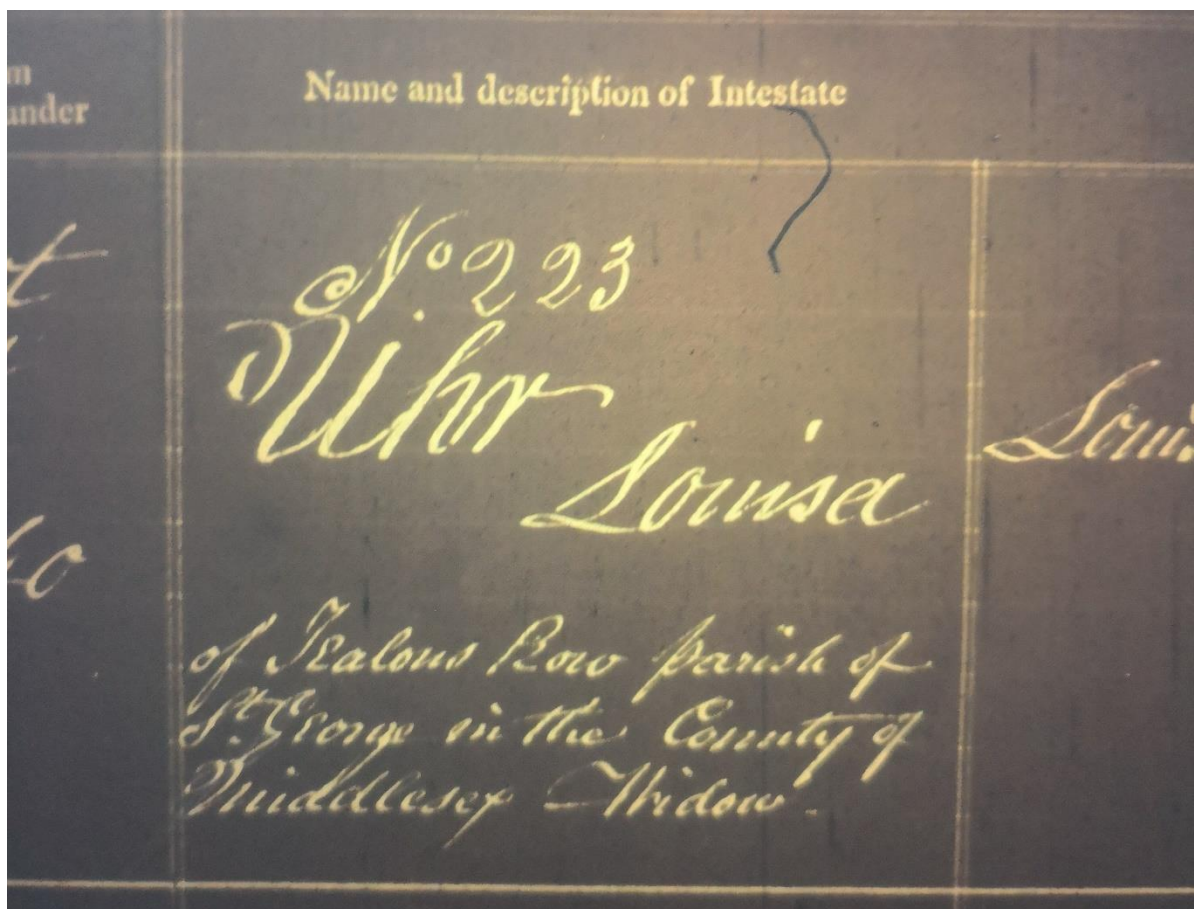


There you were on the 8th of February, along with six others buried there that day.



Reportedly, you were only 50 years old. You certainly crammed a lot into those years. At least we can confirm you were a widow.

But Louisa, seriously, a 7th version of your address?



Jealous Row in Lockie's street description is –

Topography of London: Giving a Concise Local Description Of, and Accurate ...

By John Lockie

James-Street, Church-Street, Bethnal-green,—at 124, the first E. of Brick-lane and about $\frac{1}{2}$ of a mile on the R. from 65, Shore-ditch.
James Street Leonard Street Shore

hill, and 84, Lower Thames-st. Jealous - Row, New - Road, St. George's in the East,—a part of the N. side, nearly op. Betts-st. from 164, Ratchliffe-highway.
Jeas Court Oxford Street —at 163

This address was found for a W. J Broadwater in the British Medical Directory.

14, Wooldridge, J.
JAMES PLACE, Hackney Road.
9, Latham, C. W.
JAMES STREET, Covent Garden.
7, Berry, E. U.
JAMES STREET, Westbourne Terrace.
8, McCormick, J. V.
JAMES TERRACE, New North Road.
6, Atkys, A.
JEALOUS ROW, Cannon Street Road, St.
3, Broadwater, W. J. (George's East.)
JERMYN STREET, St. James's.
6, Veitch, J. T.
49, Tegart, E.
49, Tegart, E., jun.
118, Rutter, W.
118, Ellery, H. J.
JEWIN STREET, Cripplegate,
40, Milton, J. L.

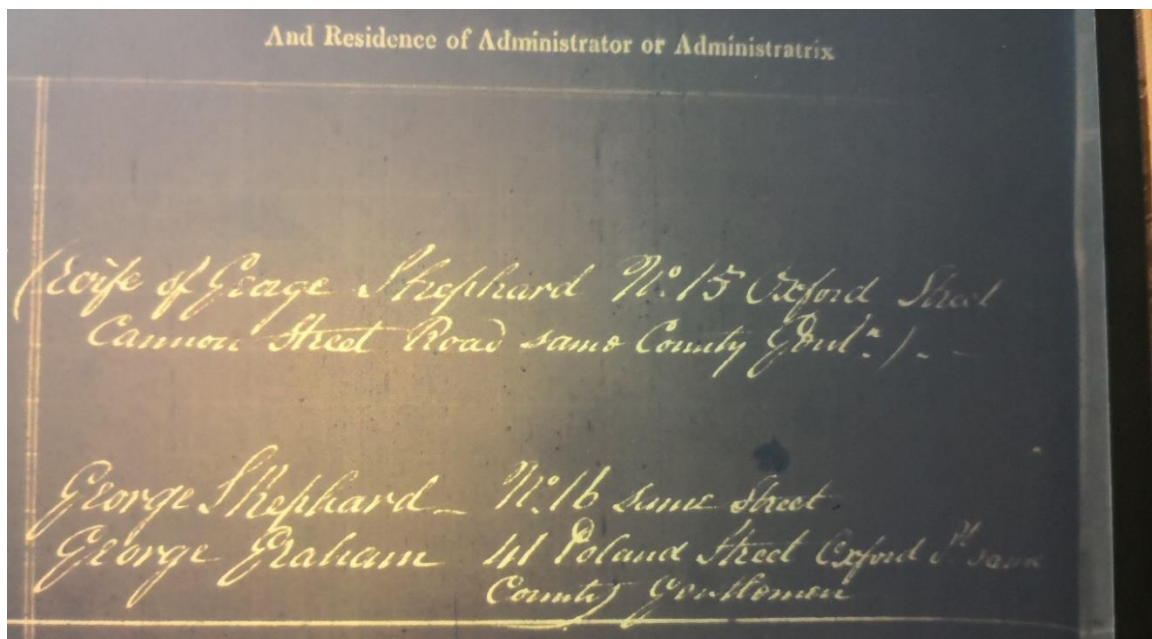


Seems you weren't the only one with an address mess –

THOMAS ARMITAGE (warden 1803-07)

In 1773 (at an Old Bailey prosecution of John Padgett, when he was one of three complaining of an assault) he was described as a *cloathier* of Kings Street, St George-in-the-East. From 1793 he insured, together with Elizabeth [Ludeken](#) (widow of an earlier churchwarden) a house in New Square, Minories - her home? Between 1803 and 1820 he insured his own home, as a *gentleman*, the same address being variously described as '5 next the George, New Road, Cannon Street Road'; 'near the George Tavern, Back Lane, Ratcliffe'; '5 Back Lane, Ratcliffe'; '5 Jealous Row, New Road, Back Lane', together with other premises which he owned - in Queen Street, Wapping (1803); Catherine Street, Commercial Road (1808); 105 Ratcliffe Highway (1808, when he is described as *sugar refiner*); Humberstone [Umberston] Street, Commercial Road (1809); '14-17, at the corner of Marmaduke Street and William Street, Cannon Street Road' (1819); 19 Kings Place, Commercial Road (1820). In 1817 he was one of a large number of freeholders summoned for jury service for the celebrated treason trial of [Arthur Thistlewood](#) and others, but was excused on account of illness (as was John Henry Wackerbath, a local sugar refiner).

Next, beside your daughter Louisa Shephard's name, we find her address of 15 Oxford St.

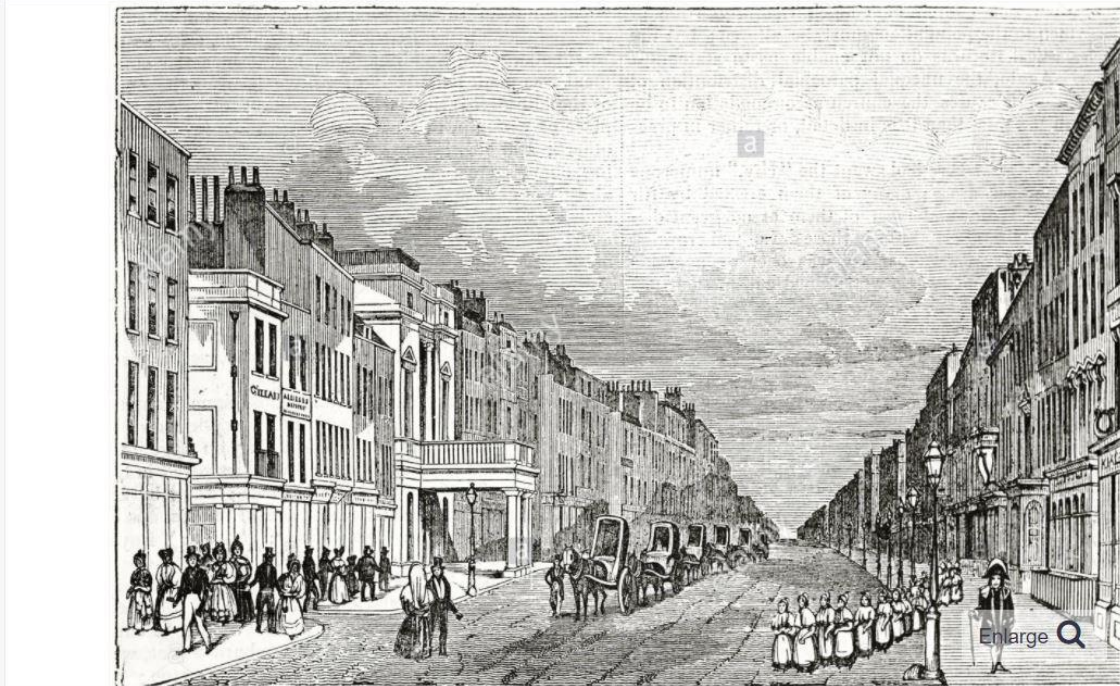


Then your son-in-law George Shephard, at number 16 same St! What's going on there?

Louisa, we needed answers, not more questions! Why don't they both have the address 15/16 Oxford St? Was one a business and the other residential? Had they separated?

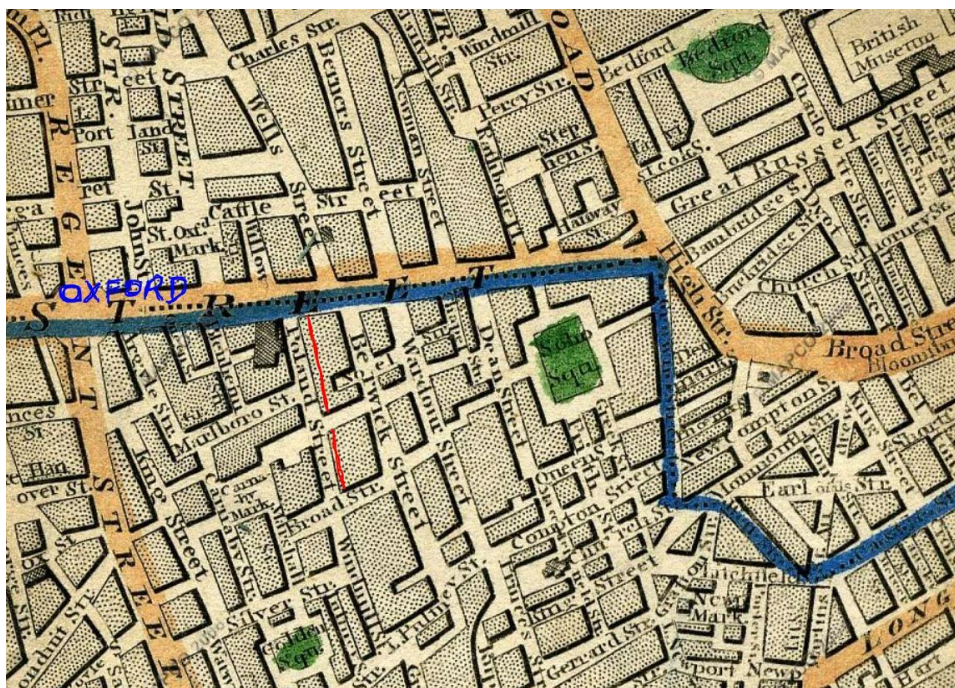
Is it really the old Oxford St off Cannon St Rd? (See article [Cannon St Rd Conundrum](#)). Did one live at Oxford St in Tower Hamlets, and the other in Oxford St, Soho such as in this picture?

Old view of Oxford Street, London. By unidentified author, publ. on The Penny Magazine, London, 1837 - It



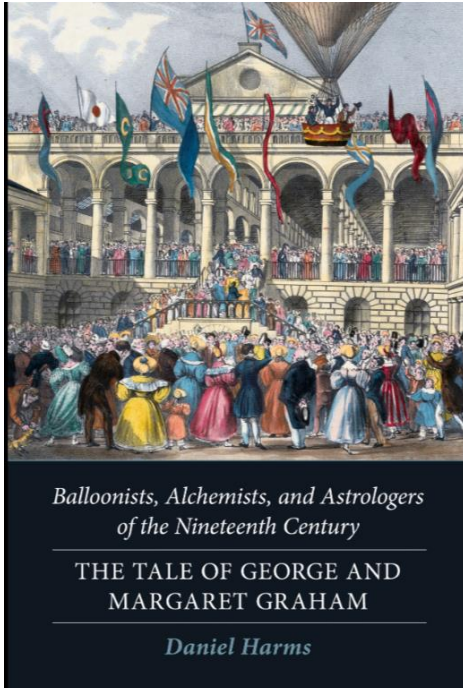
Oh, how I wish you could talk, especially for the last reveal – your other administrator.

George Graham of 21 Poland St (off) Oxford St. This time it really is Oxford St, Soho.



Interestingly, the death duty says “same county”, (as George Shepard?). Soho being in the ‘Westminster’, and Oxford St (off) Cannon St Rd being in of ‘Middlesex’, gave me something further to ponder. Were these in the same county at the time?

Did George Shephard’s address say No. 16 same St or was it naming a different street altogether? (Originals available for zooming in). Nothing similar has shown up yet.



None the less, George Graham was quite the surprise indeed. Graham and his wife Margaret (nee Watson) were famous aeronauts.

There is much written about them, but let me share a summary of what I found.

He was born 13 November 1784, London, making him about the same age as you and George Shephard.

He was also into the occults, astrology and astronomy. Was it George Shephard who knew him? “Astronomer” is on his son Edmund’s death certificate. Maybe they were travelling in the same circle of friends.

NSW DEATH REGISTRATION TRANSCRIPTION		REF NO 1893/11648
NAME	EDMUND CHRISTOPHER SHEPHARD (ALTERED FROM EDWARD SHEPHARD)	
DATE OF DEATH	9 NOV 1893	
PLACE	GOOBANG CREEK, PARKES	
OCCUPATION	STATION MANAGER	
SEX	MALE	
AGE	63	
CONJUGAL STATUS		
PLACE OF BIRTH	SYDNEY	
TIME IN AUST COLONIES	SINCE BIRTH NSW	
FATHER	GEORGE SHEPHARD	
OCCUPATION	ASTRONOMER	
MOTHER	LOUISA PETERSON	
PLACE OF MARRIAGE	CAMPBELLTOWN	
AGE AT MARRIAGE	20	
NAME OF SPOUSE	MARY HUMPHRIES	
CHILDREN OF MARRIAGE	EDMUND 35, LIVING	

Or perhaps it was you who helped him by making the “Bonnet Shapes and Stiff Sleeves” for one of George and Margaret Graham’s ‘elaborate pretence’ meetings for astrology?

This snippet taken from the above book by Daniel Harms -

University College of London’s Senate House Library, we find an advertising card bearing the Grahams’ address, 41 Poland Street. Based upon its reference to Raphael, it dates after his death in 1832, but the activities described within may not be confined to this period. It reads as follows:

ASTROLOGY.

Ladies are respectfully informed that a variety of Bonnet Shapes and Stiff Sleeves, are kept in sale at 41, Poland St. Oxford St. N. B. Every purchaser of the above articles will receive answers to questions on the most important events of life gratuitously, on Astrological principles, by a Pupil of the late RAPHAEL, author of the Prophetic Messenger, & c. Private door.

It is likely that this elaborate pretence for providing astrological consultations was an attempt to circumvent the 1824 Vagrancy Act, under which astrologers were often prosecuted. It might also be that the appeal to women was intended to keep male customers — and possible policemen — away. A note next to this item in the Wonderful Magical Scrapbook indicates that five hundred copies of this card were printed when the two went into business.

We might ask whether the unnamed “Pupil” noted was George or Margaret. After all, George had ties to Raphael, but he seems to have been established in his knowledge of occultism by the time he met Smith. As a point in Margaret’s favour, a “Ladies’ Astrological Society” at one time held meetings at 38 Poland Street, not three doors from the Grahams

They would have been exciting friends to have, and the Royal Astronomical Society (known at the time as the Astronomical Society of London) was handily close. Margaret was born about 1804, perhaps she was the connection tyour daughter Louisa?



Yet it was their ballooning endeavours which caused the most outrage and triumphs. Here’s an audio about some of their endeavours – <https://abneypark.org/virtual-events/2020/5/10/the-amazing-life-and-story-of-margaret-graham-abneys-aeronaut>

MRS. GRAHAM'S FIRST ASCENT SINCE HER ACCIDENT!!

Surrey Zoological Gardens,



The Season at these Gardens will commence on
THURSDAY, 27th of APRIL, 1837.
Being the Celebration of the Birth-Day of
Her Most Gracious Majesty,
Patroness of the Gardens, with a
GRAND

AEROSTATIC FETE,

WHEN

Mrs. GRAHAM,

THE ONLY FEMALE AERONAUT IN EUROPE,
WILL MAKE HER FIRST

BALLOON ASCENT

(Since her most unfortunate Voyage with the

DUKE OF BRUNSWICK,)

FROM THE BEAUTIFUL SHEET of WATER,
WHICH ORNAMENTS THESE GROUNDS.

THE SPLENDID BAND OF THE
ROYAL SCOTS FUSILEER GUARDS

Will perform the most popular airs from "Beniowsky," "Fair Rosamond," "Devil on
Two Sticks," &c., in the

NEW GRAND TEMPLE OF THE LAKE!!

ADMITTANCE ONE SHILLING.

OPEN FROM TWELVE TILL DUSK.

George Graham first started ballooning in 1823. He charged people to view the spectacle, but the balloon wouldn't ascend due to lack of gas, and he took off with the spectator's money. Eventually he made several flights from various locations around London, knocking off roof slates, smashing chimneys down, and getting entangled on spires.

In 1824, he took a passenger by the name of Thomas Harris up in the balloon, Harris caught the bug but unfortunately killed himself shortly after during a balloon flight. Graham and Harris had become estranged and Graham flew his balloon directly over Harris's funeral procession.

A spectator by the name of Miss Stocks had been in the balloon with Harris on that day, she'd also caught the bug. Margaret was to take Miss Stocks up on 28 June 1826, but there was yet again sufficient inflation for two, therefore becoming the first woman to fly solo!



Margaret now had the bug, and on one of her trips – 22nd of August 1836, she took William VIII – Duke of Brunswick up, launching from Bayswater.

Everything went smoothly until near their landing, where he jumped out early and unexpectedly. The loss of ballast sent Margaret violently back up into the air, flipping her over the side of the basket, where she finally lost her grip and fell to the ground.

She suffered major head injuries and lost the child she was pregnant with at the time. Margaret was the mother of seven children under the age of 13.

During their adventures their balloons were seized, sabotaged, impounded, slashed, cut to ribbons for souvenirs, riots abounded, it caught on fire, three people were knocked unconscious by a gas leak, and on several occasions – launched a monkey out with a parachute. On one occasion, two men were holding the ropes, which they'd pulled, rendering the balloon caught on a parapet, one went to hospital and the other died.

During the 1851 Great Exhibition, they launched from Batty's Hippodrome, but the silk caught on the flagstaff at the top, ripping a hole in its side. It started careening toward the Crystal Palace (which was made of glass) where around 40,000 people were bustling inside. They let out all of their ballast on the palace roof, and the grappling irons barely missed snagging the structure. It took off down Arlington Street where the grappling irons caught Colonel North's house, dragging it upward till it smashed the roof. Finally, it wedged between two houses and the Graham's were thrown abruptly out onto the roof.

They went to court on numerous occasions, yet somehow remained living in London, when others were being sent to Australia as convicts for stealing a handkerchief!



So dear Louisa...how did you end up with George Graham as your administrator?

I suspect we'll never know your exact location. There were 36, 049 registered burials between 1777 and 1854 at St George in the East. 36, 054 if you include the five-special burials after that.

“The churchyard of St. George in the East was laid-out as a public garden in 1886 and re-landscaped by the London Docklands Development Corporation in 1996. Headstones were relocated to the garden perimeter in the 1870s and now form a low barrier between the northern (Cable Street) approach and churchyard.” – Find a Grave. 50% photographed.

Did you ever have a headstone?

I bet the 1941 blitz bomb which struck the site was a shock. I guess you and your son George Uhr in Sydney, Australia, both now get the gaiety of children playing above you on the parklands.

Now could you please send us some clues as to where your son Joseph Walter Uhr, and second husband Johan Uhr are please!

Written by Annie S. for the Uhr Family Name website – July 2021