

The Less Well-Known Members of the Shakespeare Memorial Library's Subscribers' Committee

Introduction

The year 1864 marked the three-hundredth anniversary of the birth of Shakespeare. Across Britain, as well as many European cities, the date was celebrated by a series of events, commemorations, and monuments. In Birmingham, a range of some of its most prominent residents envisioned a unique and lasting commemoration of the Bard: a memorial library dedicated to Shakespeare, which would contain every edition and translation of Shakespeare's works.

Initially proposed in 1858, the idea of creating the library was revived at a meeting of the Birmingham Shakespeare Club in 1863. Within a year, the new Shakespeare Memorial Library (SML) had been created in the Central Reference Library. The library was very likely the first special collection devoted to a single individual. The collection grew rapidly, often accruing over a thousand volumes per year and reached 6,739 volumes by 1877. The haste with which the SML was created and the continued enthusiasm for it raises the question of who exactly was responsible for the library's creation.

This article investigates the SML committee's initial membership. It provides an outline of the committee and its better-known members. This is followed by a series of biographies of the committee's lesser-known figures and highlights connections between its members.

SHAKESPEARE MEMORIAL LIBRARY.
COMMITTEE.
The MAYOR of BIRMINGHAM.
M. D. HILL, Esq., RECORDER.

BACHE, SAM. JARRET, GEO.
BOYLE, G. D., M.A. JOHNSON, G. J.
BUCKLE, J. LANGFORD, J. A.
CHAMBERLAIN, J. H. LOYD, THOS., M.P.
DALE, R. W. MARTINEAU, THOS.
DAWSON, GEO., M.A. MATHEWS, G. E.
EVANS, CHAS. FRYLAND, A. BELL.
FLETCHER, T. B., M.D. SHAW, GEO.
HARRIS, W. STUBBS, W. T., M.A., J.P.
HESLOP, T. P., M.D. SPAOK, J. H.
HUTCHINSON, E. N., M.A. TIMMINS, SAM.
INGLEBY, C. M., J.L.D. TROSBY, EDW., B.C.L.
JAFFRAY, JNO., J.P. VINCE, G.
HON. SECR.—GEO. JARRET, SAM. TIMMINS, J. H. CHAMBERLAIN,
HON. TREASURER.—JOHN JAFFRAY.

THE SHAKESPEARE MEMORIAL LIBRARY
is intended to celebrate the Tercentenary of Shakespeare's birth by the formation of a complete collection of books relating to the Poet and his works. It will be placed in a room granted by the Town Council in the New Reference Library, and will be open free to the public and to students, under proper regulations for the safe custody of the books. The room will be so decorated as to be an artistic as well as literary memorial—worthy alike of the Poet and the chief town of the county in which he was born. The Committee, encouraged by the liberal response already made to their appeal, believe that the proposed Memorial Library will ultimately become one of the most interesting and valuable of the literary institutions of the town, and will be constantly enriched not only by donations of books, but also by works of art relating to the Poet and his times, which may be presented or bequeathed. Donations will be received by the Secretaries, or the Committee, or may be paid to the credit of John Jaffray, Esq., the Honorary Treasurer, at the Midland Bank, Union Street.

GEO. JARRET } Hon. Secs.
SAM. TIMMINS }
J. H. CHAMBERLAIN, J }
17, Temple Street, Birmingham.

DONATIONS.

Boyle, Rev. G. D.	£10 0 0	Fletcher, T. B. Esq.	2 2 0
Byer, Thos.	5 5 0	Fresman, Jas.	2 2 0
Chamberlain, Job.	5 5 0	Goodman, J. D.	2 2 0
Dixon, A.	5 5 0	Harris, Rev.	2 2 0
Dixon, Geo.	5 5 0	Hutchinson, Rev. T. N.	2 2 0
Feecey, J. F.	5 5 0	Jarret, Geo.	2 2 0
Griffiths, Thos., jun.	5 5 0	Marin, Wm.	2 2 0
Griffiths, Thos., jun.	5 5 0	Martineau, Thos.	2 2 0
Hemslow, F. H.	5 5 0	Mason, G.	2 2 0
Hill, M. D. (Recorder).	5 5 0	Mathews, W., jun.	2 2 0
Hinks, Jno.	5 5 0	Oborne, E. C.	2 2 0
Jaffray, Jno.	5 5 0	Phillips, Jas.	2 2 0
Johnson, G. J.	5 5 0	Pope, Jas.	2 2 0
Middlemore, Wm.	5 5 0	Reynolds, Art.	2 2 0
Payton, Abel	5 5 0	Saunders, C. T.	2 2 0
Sargent, W. L.	5 5 0	Smith, Hen.	2 2 0
Shaw, Chas.	5 5 0	Wardell, Thos.	2 2 0
Short, Thomas, jun.	5 5 0	Wardell, Thos.	2 2 0
Tomke, Edmund	5 5 0	Woodhill, J. C.	2 2 0
Turpin, J. F.	5 5 0	Anderson, Thos.	1 1 0
Wright, Robert	5 5 0	Ashford, W. W.	1 1 0
Kelkins, Henry	5 5 0	Bache, Rev. S.	1 1 0
Branson, Geo.	5 5 0	Bealby, G. F.	1 1 0
Chambers, R. L.	5 5 0	Bryce, A. J.	1 1 0
Chambers, R. L., jun.	5 5 0	Buses, J. T.	1 1 0
Kenrick, Tim.	5 5 0	Clarke, Rev.	1 1 0
Kenrick, Wm.	5 5 0	Daly, Rev. R. W.	1 1 0
Lawrence, J. T.	5 5 0	Dawyer, J. S.	1 1 0
Lloyd, Thomas	5 5 0	Forsyth, Alex.	1 1 0
Mathews, G. E.	5 5 0	Harris, Wm.	1 1 0
Phillips, Edmund	5 5 0	Heslop, Thos. K.	1 1 0
Schofield, W. M. F.	5 5 0	Landor, Ed.	1 1 0
Stack, T. S.	5 5 0	Langford, J. A.	1 1 0
Wainwright, J. F.	5 5 0	Manton, J. S.	1 1 0
Blews, W. H. M.	3 3 0	Mathews, G. S.	1 1 0
Wainwright, R. D.	3 3 0	Oborne, M. W.	1 1 0
Pemberton, O.	3 3 0	Stack, J. H.	1 1 0
Wade, W. W.	3 3 0	Wright, T. H.	1 1 0
Wade, W.	3 3 0	Yates, Geo.	1 1 0
Wiggin, Hen.	3 3 0	Bealby, G. F.	0 10 0
Aliso, W. S.	2 2 0	Denham, P. H.	0 10 0
Chamberlain, J. H.	2 2 0	Hempson, J. T.	0 10 0
Collins, J. T.	2 2 0	Goodman, G., jun.	0 10 0
Eyton, J. W. K.	2 2 0		

DONORS OF BOOKS.

Allan, J. Jun.	Loyd, W. B.
Dawson, Geo.	Sackett, W. J.
Evans, Selm.	Timmins, Sam.
Inglby, C. M.	

Committee Members of the SML in July 1863. SML Committee Minute Book.

The Shakespeare Memorial Library Committee

The initial committee had twenty-eight members, including the then town mayor, William Holliday. It featured many of the town's most prominent figures who came from all corners of public life. Several members had attended renowned public schools and universities. Whereas others left school aged ten to join a trade, received most of their education as adults or were entirely self-educated. Similarly, the committee were divided on major questions of the day, such as education reform or Home Rule for Ireland, and consisted of Liberals, Conservatives, and independents.

Although solely Protestant, the committee members came from many of Birmingham's varying Protestant sects. Seven of its founding members were preachers in Birmingham, coming from a variety of denominations including Anglicans, Baptists, Congregationalists, Unitarians, or a blend of all four. The other members of the committee similarly attended a diverse range of local churches.

Five committee members were journalists, and three more briefly tried their hand at journalism. In 1863, Birmingham's three largest circulating newspapers were the *Birmingham Journal*, *Birmingham Daily Post*, and *Birmingham Daily Gazette*. As the then editors, John Jaffray, John Thackray Bunce and John Herbert Stack were all committee members, the library was guaranteed good press coverage.

A further five members of the committee were lawyers for much of their lives, while a further two briefly practiced law. In Samuel Timmins and Edmund Tonks, the committee featured two of Birmingham's leading manufacturers. While two of Birmingham's leading physicians, Thomas Bell Elcock Fletcher and Thomas Pretious Heslop were also founding committee members. Other members also came from fields as diverse as academia, architecture, banking and photography.

Nevertheless, the members all shared an interest in trying to improve Birmingham. Eight of the members served on the town's council and three became Mayor of Birmingham. Across Birmingham, the men were committed to trying to improve civic and intellectual life in the town, such as through the creation and running of hospitals and libraries. Members were engaged with a wide variety of societies in the town. Ten committee members served as president of the Birmingham and Edgbaston Debating Society, while others were active in groups as diverse as the Birmingham Law Society and Birmingham Natural History and Microscopical Society.

However, the area most of the committee members dedicated themselves to was education. Almost all the committee members either lectured at or helped to run the Birmingham and Midland Institute; one of the members, Arthur Ryland is heavily credited with its creation. Similarly, eleven were governors of the prestigious King Edward's School in Birmingham and three were staff there. Two members, Thomas Pretious Heslop and George James Johnson, played significant roles in helping to establish Mason College. Many of the committee also helped to form the National Education League which campaigned for elementary education to be provided to all children.

The Most Well-Known Committee Members

George Dawson (1821-1876) was a radical lecturer and preacher who largely opposed denominational differences. He led the Civic Gospel movement which channelled religious fervour into civic pride and improvement. Fellow committee members John Henry Chamberlain, William Harris, George James Johnson, John Alfred Langford, Thomas Martineau, Arthur Ryland, and Samuel Timmins were members of his congregation at the Church of the Saviour. Robert William Dale (1829-1895) and Charles Vince (1823-1874) were also influential Birmingham preachers and close confidants of Dawson. They too engaged with the Civic Gospel movement. Dale was a Congregationalist and preached at Carr's Lane, while Vince was a Baptist and preached at Mount Zion Chapel, where Dawson had formerly preached.

John Thackray Bunce (1828-1899) and John Jaffray (1818-1901) were both prominent Birmingham newspaper proprietors. Bunce was initially editor of the *Birmingham Gazette* before becoming editor of the *Birmingham Daily Post* in 1862. Jaffray was largely associated with the *Birmingham Journal* from 1844 but helped found the *Birmingham Daily Post* and *Birmingham Daily Mail*.

John Alfred Langford (1823-1903) was also a prominent journalist. He left education aged ten to work as a chair-maker. He considered becoming an actor and was dissuaded by famous Victorian actor William Macready; however, Langford did perform at the Shakespeare Royal Theatre to raise money for the SML in 1868. Langford produced several histories of Birmingham and wrote for the *Birmingham Daily Press*, *Birmingham Daily Gazette*, and the *Birmingham Morning News*.

Arthur Ryland (1807-1877), Thomas Martineau (1828-1893) and Charles Edward Mathews (1834-1905) were all prominent lawyers and served on the town council. Martineau and Mathews were both articled to Ryland's practice. Ryland partnered with the former who was also the son of his cousin. Additionally, Thomas Martineau's aunt was the famous writer Harriett Martineau, while he himself was the uncle of future Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain.

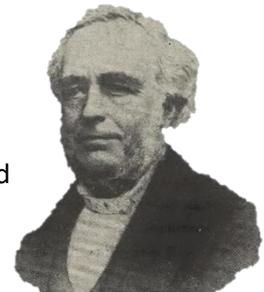
In 1848, Thomas Pretious Heslop (1823-1885) became a physician at Birmingham General Hospital alongside Thomas Bell Elcock Fletcher and Oliver Pemberton who was a life-long friend and supported the SML. Heslop was heavily involved in establishing the Midland Medical Society, the Birmingham Children's Hospital, the Birmingham Women's Hospital and the Skin and Lock Hospital, the latter of which he personally funded. He helped establish Mason College.

Committee members were active elsewhere in Birmingham. John Henry Chamberlain (1831-1883) was a famous architect and created many of Birmingham's civic buildings in the period. Matthew Davenport Hill (1792-1878) became the town recorder and a prominent reformer after a short career in law. Clement Mansfield Ingleby (1823-1886) was a prominent scholar of mathematics and literature. George Shaw was the town's patent agent and is believed to have been the first person in England to take a daguerreotype photograph in 1839. Finally, Samuel Timmins (1826-1902) was a hardware manufacturer, and the first to propose the idea for a Shakespeare collection in 1858.

While the figures listed thus far still warrant further research, more information beyond these outlines does exist. However, while still significant in nineteenth-century Birmingham, many of the individuals described below have not been previously researched in significant depth. This article will provide short biographies of them that have been derived from original research.

Samuel Bache (1804-1876)

Samuel Bache was a Unitarian preacher. He was born on 24 December 1804 in Bridgnorth, Shropshire, to Joshua Tilt Bache and Margaret Silvester. He was raised by his aunt and uncle in Stourbridge where he received a modest education.



Samuel Bache. The National Library of Wales.

In January 1826, Bache enrolled at Manchester College, a Unitarian seminary in York, after which he became minister of Dudley's Unitarian Chapel in July 1829. After three years, he became minister of New Meeting in Moor Street, Birmingham, where the famous Joseph Priestley once preached. Bache led the congregation for thirty-six years between 1832 and 1868 and oversaw its move to larger premises at The Church of the Messiah on what is now Broad Street. During this time, he was also secretary of the Monthly Meeting of Unitarian Ministers for the surrounding counties. He was described as belonging to the 'older school of Unitarians' and holding similar views to Priestley.

Even outside of the Church, much of Bache's spare time was associated with his Unitarian faith. To supplement his income, he taught pupils and was dedicated to the Protestant Dissenting Charity School in Graham Street. Furthermore, he was a leading member of Birmingham's Old Library Committee. The Old Library was associated with the town's Unitarians, having been founded by a Unitarian in 1779. He was also its president in 1857.

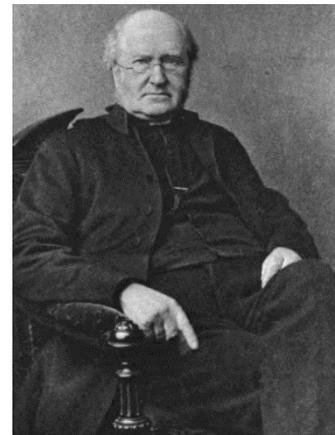
In June 1832, Bache married Emily Higginson, the daughter of a Unitarian minister in Derby. The marriage was officiated in Dublin by Reverend James Martineau, the younger brother of Thomas Martineau. The pair had seven children together. Emily died in 1855, while Samuel Bache died on 7 January 1876 at the age of seventy-one.

George David Boyle (1828-1901)

George David Boyle was an Anglican preacher. He was born in Edinburgh on 17 May 1828 to Lord Shewalton and his second wife Camilla Catherine. Although raised as a Presbyterian, there was some

fluidity between the Anglican and Presbyterian Churches in his youth and he credited the Anglican Dean Ramsay for his 'inclination for the ministry in the English Church.' Boyle was educated at Edinburgh Academy, through a private tutor and at Charterhouse School.

He then attended Exeter College, Oxford, from April 1847, attaining a BA in 1853 and an MA in 1854. Later Boyle entered the Anglican Church at Oxford. He was ordained as a deacon in 1853 and a priest in 1854. Boyle was curate of Kidderminster between 1853 and 1857 and then curate of Hagley between 1857 and 1860, before taking over St. Michael's in Handsworth, Birmingham. He became Vicar of Kidderminster in 1867, honorary canon of Worcester Cathedral in 1872 and then the Dean of Salisbury in 1880. His obituary described him to be 'generally regarded as a broad Churchman.'



George David Boyle. From Boyle, *Recollections* (1895).

Boyle's memoir provides insight into the culture of the SML's committee. He noted that 'there was something infectious in the life and public spirit of Birmingham. The energy with which all the good works of the town were supported was very striking.' Boyle was a member of the Old Library and suggested it featured 'men of very different opinions' but that they discussed books in a 'most pleasant way.' Furthermore, despite the wide variety of denominations represented by the SML Committee's members which in other instances produced strife in the nineteenth-century, he spoke highly of its Nonconformist ministers. Robert William Dale was his 'ever generous and cordial friend.' Similarly, he recalled that 'on most of the great questions' he and Dawson were 'at one.'

Boyle was dedicated to the local community at each of the parishes he worked at. In Birmingham, he was governor and bailiff of King Edward's School. In Kidderminster, he was chairman of the first school board, arbitrated in industrial disputes and promoted the building of an infirmary. He was also deeply interested in literature. He met a wide variety of famous literary figures during his lifetime and attended William Macready's last performance as Macbeth. In 1861 he married Mary Christina Robins. However, no children came of the marriage. He died on 21 March 1901.

Sebastian Evans (1830-1909)

Sebastian Evans was born on 2 March 1830 in Market Bosworth, Leicestershire. He was largely educated by his father Reverend Arthur Evans, a professor and artist. He was the older brother of Sir John Evans, an archaeologist, numismatist, and paper manufacturer. He attended Emmanuel College, Cambridge, where he received a BA in 1853, an MA in 1857 and a doctorate in 1858.

Evans left university for Lincoln's Inn but was appointed secretary of the Indian Reform Association. Evans was claimed to be the first person in England to hear of the 1857 Indian Rebellion. During this time Evans married Elizabeth Goldney in April 1858. They had two children. Their youngest son was Francis Bennett-Goldney, who was an MP between 1910 and 1918.

Evans' connection to Birmingham began in 1857 when he became manager of the art department of the glassworks of Messrs Chance Bros. & Co. at Oldbury. Evans was widely engaged in Birmingham's public life. He was a writer, poet and artist although the latter two he regarded as hobbies. He produced words for a cantata performed at the April 1864 celebration of Shakespeare's birth in Birmingham. Fellow SML committee members Thomas Anderton and John Henry Chamberlain wrote

the music and provided the stage and scenery respectively. Evans was also a keen archaeologist and member of the Birmingham Natural History and Microscopical Society.

After impressing at the Birmingham and Edgbaston Debating Society in 1867, Evans became editor of the conservative *Birmingham Daily Gazette* for three years. Evans was a Conservative, and unsuccessfully stood to be Birmingham MP in 1868. In 1870, he also unsuccessfully ran as a candidate for town council in the Deritend and Bordesley Ward against Edmund Tonks. He was magnanimous in defeat and on good terms with his political opponents. In 1878, Evans noted that when he first came to Birmingham, almost all the town's intellectual activity was done by Liberals and Nonconformists but believed that had since changed. In 1870 he left journalism to join the bar in the Oxford circuit. In 1887 he then became an editor of *People* before retiring to a small estate in Devonshire. He died on 18 December 1909.



Sebastian Evans. From "Death of Dr Sebastian Evans," *Birmingham Weekly Post*, December 25, 1909.

Charles Evans (1824-1904)

Charles Evans was a Birmingham Anglican preacher and teacher. He was born in Meriden, Warwickshire, in 1824 and was educated at King Edward's School. He was awarded a scholarship to study at Trinity College, Cambridge. He received a BA in 1846, an MA in 1850 and became a Fellow of the College. He then served as assistant master at the famous Rugby School until 1862, and during this time was ordained as a deacon in 1852 and a priest in 1854 by the Bishop of Manchester, James Prince Lee. Lee had been headmaster of King Edward's School while Evans attended, and Evans married his younger daughter, Susannah Sarah Lee, in December 1852. The couple had five children.

In 1862, Evans left Rugby to briefly serve as the first headmaster at Clifton for several months where he helped organise the staff. Evans then returned to Birmingham to become headmaster of King Edward's, where he remained for ten years. He is credited with overhauling the school's student intake by introducing examinations. In Birmingham, Evans was active in public life. He was associated with the Birmingham and Midland Institute, Free Libraries Committee and Old Library and occasionally preached in his friends' churches. Evans was committed to education, he was a member of the National Education League and advocated for the wider provision of secondary education. He was also a trustee and governor of Rugby, a trustee of Warwick Grammar School and a governor of the Harpur Trust of Bedford.

Evans was rector of Solihull between 1872 and 1894. He also became honorary canon of Worcester Cathedral in 1874. At Solihull, Evans raised over £4,000 for improvements to the church and conducted charity work with his wife. He retired in 1894, briefly moving to London before settling at Poole, Dorset. He died on 19 August 1904 aged eighty-one.

Thomas Bell Elcock Fletcher (1806-1897)

Thomas Bell Elcock Fletcher was a leading Birmingham physician. He was born in Shifnal, Shropshire, in 1806. Fletcher studied at the University of Paris before moving to Birmingham, where he attained his first professional post as a physician to the General Dispensary in 1838. In 1848, he became a physician to the Birmingham General Hospital and a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians. Fletcher remained at this post for thirty years and retired as its chief physician in 1878.

Fletcher was also a consulting physician to South Salop Infirmary, Midland Counties Hospital for Women, Birmingham Orthopaedic Hospital, West Bromwich Hospital, the Blind Asylum and helped found the Midland Counties Asylum for Idiots. He founded two medical schools, the first of which failed. The second, Sydenham College, ran for seventeen years during which time, he was its principal. He opposed its amalgamation with Queen's College, Birmingham, but became a life governor and president of it. Furthermore, he supported the Birmingham Blue Coast School and was an active member of the Birmingham Natural History and Microscopical Society.

Fletcher retired in 1887 and moved to Leamington Spa. In 1893, his wife Ruth, whom he had married during the 1830s, died aged seventy-eight. He died on 21 October 1897, aged ninety-one.

William Harris (1826-1911)

William Harris was a journalist, architect and politician. He was born in Cheadle, Staffordshire, in 1826 and came to Birmingham to article as an architect to Isaac Newey. In 1849, he formed his own firm based in Colmore Row called Harris, Martin and Harris, and later Harris and Harris. In 1848 he married Sarah Elsmere and after her death he married the widow of John Henry Chamberlain.



William Harris. From "Death of Mr. William Harris," *Birmingham Daily Mail*, March 25, 1911.

Harris was close friends with George Dawson and a member of his Nonconformist congregation at the Church of the Saviour. He, alongside Dawson, founded the short-lived *Birmingham Daily Press* in 1855 and was its editor. Harris was involved in many of the same struggles that Dawson and his other congregation members engaged with. He was long associated with Birmingham's libraries, campaigning for a public library in 1852 and chairing the Birmingham Free Libraries Committee between 1869 and 1871. Harris was also closely associated with promoting free, secular and compulsory education. He was honorary secretary of the Birmingham School Association in 1850 and a founding member of the National Education League in 1867.

Harris was an ardent Liberal, serving as a councillor of Deritend and Bordesley between 1865 and 1870 and was critical in organising the local Liberal Party. He helped found the Birmingham Liberal Association in 1867 and was its honorary secretary. He was later vice president in 1874 and president in 1880. Furthermore, at a meeting of the Liberal Associations in Birmingham on 31 May 1877, it was Harris who motioned for a Federation of Liberal Associations, which he chaired in 1880.

Elsewhere, Harris wrote a history of the Radical Party and Birmingham Shakespeare Club. He was closely associated with the Midland Institute and a member of the Birmingham and Edgbaston Debating Society, serving as its president in 1864 and 1865. He was also Clerk of Birmingham Tame and Rea District Drainage Board and was succeeded by his only son, Arnold Harris in 1908. He died on 25 March 1911, at the age of eighty-five.

Thomas Neville Hutchinson (1826-1899)

Thomas Neville Hutchinson was an Anglican preacher. He was born in Birmingham in 1826 to Henry Hutchinson, a Birmingham architect most famous for a variety of local churches and several buildings at Cambridge University. Henry Hutchinson died prematurely in 1831. Thomas Neville Hutchinson attended King Edward's School before being educated at St. John's College, Cambridge,

which his father had worked on. Another committee member, C. E. Mathews, attended at the same time. He received a BA in 1854, MA in 1859 and became a priest in 1855.

Hutchinson spent his early professional life working in education. He was vice-principal of Chester Diocesan Training College between 1854 and 1860. In Chester, Hutchinson lectured on architecture where it was observed that he had inherited the 'tastes' of his father. In 1860, he became second master of King Edward's School, where he remained until 1865. He was then a natural science master at Rugby School until 1882. Hutchinson left Rugby to become the Vicar of Broad Chalke, Wiltshire, between 1882 and 1898. He was also made Prebendary and Canon of Salisbury 1898.

Thomas Neville Hutchinson had a younger brother, Christopher Blick Hutchinson, who was born in 1828 and their lives had a remarkably similar trajectory. Christopher attended St. John's College and followed his brother into the Church. The brothers worked at both King Edward's School and Rugby School at similar times. Christopher also left education for the Church, becoming the Honorary Canon of Canterbury in 1892. In 1855, Thomas Neville Hutchinson married Sarah Turner and in 1856, Christopher married her younger sister Gertrude Turner. Thomas Neville Hutchinson died on 6 May 1899 and his wife Sarah died six days later.



George Jabet, 1869. Birmingham & Midland Institute.

George Jabet (1815-1873)

George Jabet was a lawyer. He was born in Birmingham in 1815. His grandfather, William Jabet, was minister of St. Bartholomew's Chapel, an Anglican Chapel in Birmingham, while Jabet's father was associated with the *Birmingham Commercial Herald*. Jabet became a solicitor on Ann Street and practiced law until the early 1860s when he retired.

Jabet was highly involved in Birmingham public life. He founded the Birmingham Debating Society on 3 December 1846 and became its honorary secretary. The Society merged with the Edgbaston Debating Society, then under the presidency of SML committee member, Samuel Timmins, in 1853. Numerous other committee members were associated with both societies and their amalgamation.

Birmingham's Old Library and Birmingham New Library had traditionally been divided over sectarian lines. Jabet was involved in both: he was proprietor and a committee member of the Old Library and helped edit and compile the catalogue of the New Library. He also proposed their amalgamation, later serving as the Library Committee's president between 1860 and 1866. Jabet was also an honorary secretary of the SML committee.

Elsewhere in Birmingham, Jabet was heavily associated with the Birmingham and Midland Institute, Blue-Coat School, Birmingham School of Design and in his later years was secretary of Handsworth National Schools. He also, alongside fellow committee members Sebastian Evans, Thomas Pretious Heslop, and George James Johnson, attended the British Association for the Advancement of Science's meeting held in Birmingham in 1865.

Jabet published several books under the pseudonym Eden Warwick. The first was *The Poets' Pleasance* (1846) which outlined a history of plants in English poetry and imagined them as metaphorically spanning across a garden. Jabet's work was picked up by the satirical *Town Crier* which suggested that while Jabet's 'husk's a trifle prickly' if cracked 'you'll find within' Eden Warwick.

Jabet also wrote *Nasology or, Hints Toward a Classification of Noses* (1848), under his pseudonym. It attempted to classify humanity by six different nose types and is generally considered to be satire, as the book's anti-scientific stances were unlikely to represent Jabet's views. Nevertheless, it did feature many unpleasant claims, particularly regarding Black people. Jabet spoke on ethnology at the Midland Institute, used similar language and described ethnicity in essentialist terms, which suggests some of the book resembled Jabet's beliefs. Jabet died on 13 July 1873.

George James Johnson (1826-1912)

George James Johnson was a leading Birmingham lawyer. He was born in 1826 and was the son of George Johnson, a steel toy manufacturer. He was initially privately educated but became too ill to attend school. Johnson was then educated by his father and later attended the Polytechnic Institute.

After finishing his education, Johnson became a junior clerk at a legal firm on Little Charles Street which became Tyndall, Johnson and Tyndall. He later founded his own firm, Johnson, Barclay and Co., with his younger brother William Johnson and John Henry Barclay. Johnson served as a president of the Birmingham Law Society. He was also honorary secretary and president of the Law Student's Society, which he attended with his friend Charles Edward Mathews, who was also a founding member of the SML. Johnson also served as Professor of Law at Queen's College, Birmingham.

As a lawyer, he most famously collaborated with Sir Josiah Mason, the manufacturer and philanthropist. In 1868, Mason reached out to Johnson for legal advice regarding his almshouses and orphanage. Johnson became a close advisor and friend to Mason, acting as a trustee of both institutions, and served as a secretary of the orphanage for thirty years. In 1870, Johnson convinced Mason to use his wealth to further improve the town, which resulted in the creation of Mason College.

Johnson was a member of George Dawson's congregation and attended Dawson's first and last Birmingham sermons. After Dawson's death, he did not attach himself to another place of worship. Like many of Dawson's congregation, Johnson was deeply invested in improving education. In 1872 Johnson and Mathews created a short-lived movement to reform grammar schools. Then in 1874, Johnson became the second nonconformist in eighty years to become a governor of King Edward's School, the first being fellow SML committee member and Dawsonite, Arthur Ryland.

Johnson was heavily engaged in Birmingham's political life as a staunch liberal. He was twice an election agent for John Bright MP and was active in the Liberal Unionist Association. Johnson became a councillor for Edgbaston Ward in 1877 until 1885, at which point he became an alderman. When the Liberal Party split over Irish Home Rule, he sided with the Liberal Unionists before retiring in 1898.

Elsewhere in Birmingham, Johnson was trustee of Lench's Charity, Dudley Trust, and fundraised extensions to the Queen's Hospital. He was active in the Birmingham and Edgbaston Debating Society, and was its president between 1859 and 1860. He also frequently wrote for the local satirical newspaper *The Town Crier*. Johnson was twice married. In 1867 he married his first wife



George James Johnson. "Death of Mr. G. J. Johnson," *Birmingham Daily Mail*, January 16, 1912.

Sarah Taylor, who died in 1890. In 1892, he married his second wife Annie Frances Horton. Johnson died on 16 January 1912.

Thomas Lloyd (1814-1890)

Thomas Lloyd was a prominent Birmingham banker. Born in 1814 and raised at Bingley Hall, a stately home in Birmingham, Lloyd was raised as a Quaker and educated at the Grove House School, a Quaker school in Tottenham. He later became an Anglican. He was the great-grandson of Sampson Lloyd, who had co-founded what became Lloyds Bank.

After finishing his education, he worked at merchant companies in Bristol and London. He then returned to Birmingham to work at Rabone Brothers in Broad Street. For much of his time with the firm, Lloyd dealt with the foreign side of the business, which saw him travel across much of the world and live in Sydney for several years. He then continued to work at the business in Birmingham. The domestic side of the business was ran by Abraham Dixon and George Dixon, the latter became MP and was an early donor to the SML.

Lloyd was a committed Liberal and first elected to the Town Council for St. Thomas's Ward in 1855 and a year later was made an alderman. In 1859, he became mayor and promoted the 1861 Improvement Act, municipal works and the Birmingham volunteer force. He was long associated and friends with John Bright MP. Lloyd unsuccessfully stood for MP in Barnstaple in 1863 and Bewdley in 1868. In 1865, Lloyd's Banking Firm became a limited company and Lloyd resigned from the council to take up a seat on its board of directors. He remained involved with the bank throughout his life.

Nevertheless, Lloyd remained active in local civic circles. He served as director of the Metropolitan Life Office, Birmingham Canal Navigation, West Cannock Colliery Company, Midland Land Corporation and governor of the King's School, Warwickshire. Lloyd was also Justice of the Peace for the borough of Birmingham and county of Warwick, deputy-lieutenant of the county and high sheriff of Warwickshire in 1872, during which time he proposed jail reform. He also served as alderman on the Warwickshire County Council when it formed in 1888. Johnson additionally established a cheap dining hall for Birmingham's working men and bailed out the Birmingham Penny Bank when it failed.

On 1 October 1845, Lloyd married Emilia Travers, the daughter of a London wholesale grocer. The two promoted school reforms. They had two children, a son who died young and a daughter, Jane Emilia Lloyd who married Sampson Samuel Lloyd, a distant relative from a different branch of the Lloyd family. Thomas Lloyd died on 23 January 1890.

John Herbert Stack (1828-1892)

John Herbert Stack was a journalist and writer. He was born in Ireland in 1828; however, few records exist of his youth. He began his career as editor of the *Dublin Commercial Journal* and wrote a series of fictional stories for the paper.

Stack then moved to London to become sub-editor of the *Globe*, a then leading Whig newspaper. While in London, Stack contributed to the *Spectator* and *Saturday Review* as well as writing a pamphlet advocating Civil Service reform. Stack had some authority on the subject. One of his brothers, Robert Stack was the Chief Clerk in the Irish Board of Works, and the other, Aloysius Stack worked in the Exchequer and Audit Department. In the 1850s, Stack also became a Free Mason and joined Lord Ranelagh's Volunteer Corps.

In 1861, Stack moved to Birmingham to become the first editor of the *Birmingham Daily Gazette*. It is alleged Stack was forced to move having been fired from the *Globe* for having a love affair with a married woman. Fellow SML committee member, John Alfred Langford, was assistant editor during Stack's time at the paper. Stack was likely replaced as editor by another SML committee member, Sebastian Evans. While in Birmingham, Stack married Matilda Ann Redfern in May 1864.

Stack later returned to London where he became the *Daily Telegraph's* chief political writer. During this time, he engaged with the spiritualist movement. He was a member of both the Psychological Society of Great Britain, Society for Psychical Research and the British Branch of the Theosophical Society. Nevertheless, he remained a Christian. In 1862, he authored an article called *Historic Doubts Relative to the American War*, which was an homage to Archbishop Whately's *Historic Doubts Relative to Napoleon Bonaparte* (1819). Both works imitated attempts to refute the Bible using stringent logic to highlight the flaws in challenging the Bible in that way. Stack died in 1892.



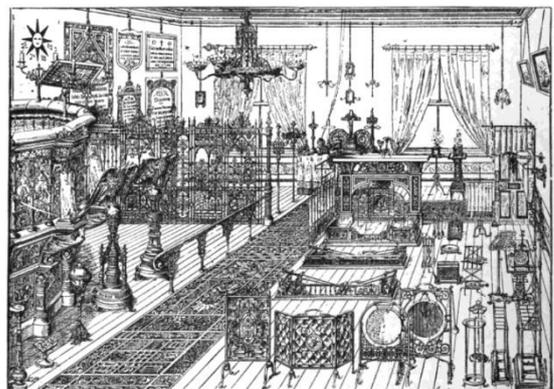
Edmund Tonks. Birmingham Museums Trust.

Edmund Tonks (1824-1898)

Edmund Tonks was a brass manufacturer. He was born in Birmingham in 1824. Tonks' family were of Dutch descent and owned the Birmingham brass foundry Tonks and Sons, which had been founded in 1894. He graduated from Queen's College, Oxford, with a Bachelor of Civil Law in 1850 and was called to the bar in Gray's Inn, London. While in London, he met Julia Ann Johnson who he married in April 1855. One of their children was Henry Tonks, a famous artist. Edmund Tonks returned to Birmingham in the early 1850s to become a partner at the family firm, alongside his brother William.

The Tonks and Sons' large premises were located on Moseley Street, Birmingham, and comprised an impressive 2,000 square yards. They also owned a London showroom and exported their goods globally. Reports of the Birmingham site highlight that the firm was highly innovative and continually had up to date equipment. The firm won medals at the 1851 Great Exhibition, 1855 Exposition Universelle, and 1862 International Exposition. Tonks owned a series of patents and attained some of these through fellow SML committee member George Shaw. The firm also had a sick fund, benefit society and circulating library.

Tonks was an active Liberal in Birmingham's political scene. In 1870 he became a councillor for Deritend and Bordesley Ward after defeating fellow committee member Sebastian Evans. As councillor, much of Tonks' focus was on sewage and irrigation improvements in Birmingham. He was also president of the Liberal Club in 1888. Elsewhere in Birmingham, Tonks was a president of the Library Committee, honorary secretary of the Iron, Hardware, and Metal Trades Pension Society and vice-chair of the Birmingham School of Art's committee. He was also deeply interested in botany and heavily associated with the Birmingham Natural History and Microscopical Society from the 1870s until his death on 7 February 1898, at the age of seventy-five.



Tonks and Sons Showroom. Wyman's.

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