


THE AGE OF THE HUMBLE HERO

VICTORIAN HEROIC SELF SACRIFICE










G.F. WATTS'S MEMORIAL TO HEROIC SELF-SACRIFICE



UNVEILED IN 1900, THE MEMORIAL TO HEROIC SELF-SACRIFICE WAS
CONCEIVED AND UNDERTAKEN BY THE VICTORIAN ARTIST
GEORGE FREDERIC WATTS OM RA (1817-1904).

IT CONTAINS PLAQUES TO THOSE WHO HAVE HEROICALLY LOST
THEIR LIVES TRYING TO SAVE ANOTHER.

WATTS BELIEVED THAT THESE 'EVERYDAY' HEROES PROVIDED
MODELS OF EXEMPLARY BEHAVIOUR AND CHARACTER.

'THE MATERIAL PROSPERITY OF A NATION IS NOT AN ABIDING
POSSESSION: THE DEEDS OF ITS PEOPLE ARE' G.F. WATTS
'GREATER LOVE HATH NO MAN THAN THIS, THAT HE LAY DOWN HIS
LIFE FOR HIS FRIENDS,' JOHN 15:13

WATTS GALLERY, COMPTON, SURREY.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE WATTS MEMORIAL

WWW.POSTMANSPARK.ORG.UK



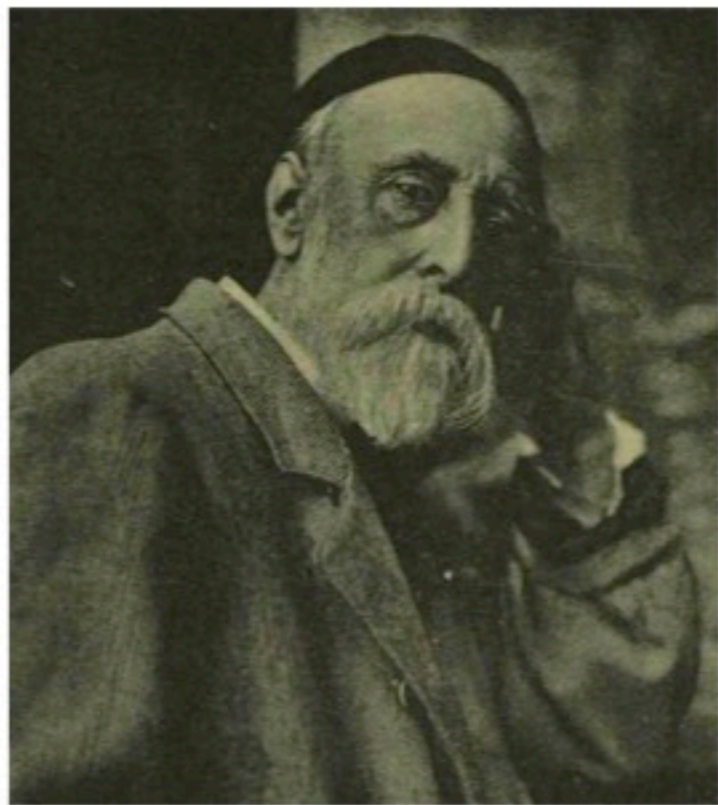
ALEX STEWART BROWN
OF BROCKLEY
FELLOW OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS
DROWN SUFFERING FROM SEVERE SPINAL INJURY
THE RESULT OF A RECENT ACCIDENT DIED
IN HIS BRAVE EFFORTS TO RESCUE A DROWNED
MAN AND TO RESTORE HIS LIFE
OCTOBER 9 1900

GEORGE FREDERICK
SIMONDS OF ISLINGTON
RUSHED INTO A BURNING
HOUSE TO SAVE AN AGE
WIDOW AND DIED OF HIS
INJURIES
DEC 1 1886



RICHARD FARRIS LABOURER
WAS DROWNED IN ATTEMPTING TO SAVE A
POOR GIRL WHO HAD THROWN HERSELF
INTO THE CANAL AT
GLOBE BRIDGE PECKHAM
MAY 20 1878

AMUEL LOWDELL
ARGEMAN
DROWNED WHEN RESCUING
A BOY AT BLACKFRIARS
FEB 25 1887
HE HAD SAVED
TWO OTHER LIVES






FELIX HOLT,
THE RADICAL



BY
GEORGE ELIOT



ALICE AYRES

DAUGHTER OF A BRICKLAYER'S LABOURER
WHO BY INTREPID CONDUCT
SAVED 3 CHILDREN
FROM A BURNING HOUSE
IN UNION STREET BOROUGH
AT THE COST OF HER OWN YOUNG LIFE
APRIL 24 1885



ALICE AYRES,
THE HEROINE OF THE FATAL FIRE IN THE BOROUGH.



TERRIBLE FIRE IN THE BORO—LOSS OF FIVE LIVES



SACRED
TO THE MEMORY OF
ALICE AYRES,
AGED 26 YEARS.

WHO MET HER DEATH THROUGH
A FIRE WHICH OCCURRED IN
UNION STREET, BOROUGH,
THE 24TH DAY OF APRIL, 1855, A.D.

AMIDST THE SUDDEN TERRORS
OF THE CONFLAGRATION,
WITH TRUE COURAGE AND CLEAR JUDGMENT
SHE HEROICALLY RESCUED THE CHILDREN
COMMITTED TO HER CHARGE.
TO SAVE THEM, SHE THREE TIMES BRAVED
THE FLAMES; AT LAST, LEAPING FROM THE
BURNING HOUSE, SHE SUSTAINED INJURIES
FROM THE EFFECTS OF WHICH SHE DIED
ON APRIL 26TH 1855.

SARAH·SMITH PANTOMIME
ARTISTE

—WHE AT PRINCE'S·THEATRE—

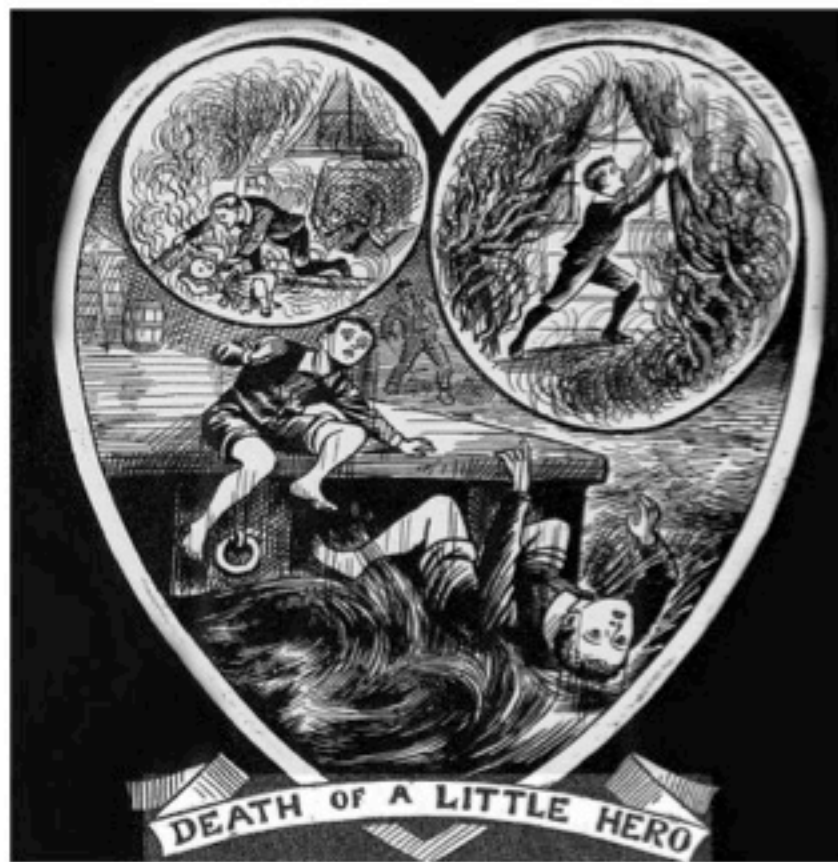
DIED OF TERRIBLE INJURIES RECEIVED
WHEN ATTEMPTING IN HER INFLAMMABLE DRESS
TO EXTINGUISH THE FLAMES WHICH HAD
ENVELOPED HER COMPANION

JANUARY·24·1863



JOHN CLINTON
AGED 10


WHO WAS DROWNED NEAR
LONDON BRIDGE IN TRYING
TO SAVE A COMPANION
YOUNGER THAN HIMSELF
JULY 16 · 1894











G GARNISH
A YOUNG CLERGYMAN
WHO LOST HIS LIFE
IN ENDEAVOURING TO
RESCUE A STRANGER
FROM DROWNING AT PUTNEY
JANUARY 7 1885

ROBERT WRIGHT POLICE
CONSTABLE

OF CROYDON

ENTERED A BURNING HOUSE TO SAVE A WOMAN.

KNOWING THAT THERE WAS PETROLEUM STORED
IN THE CELLAR - AN EXPLOSION TOOK PLACE

AND HE WAS KILLED

APRIL 30 1893







99, NORTH END, CROYDON.
(The + denotes the outbuilding on to which
Barnett jumped.)









