

16. FHA THE TOMB IN GYLLYNG STREET

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If you've ever walked down the path that crosses the grassy area between Wodehouse Terrace and Gyllyng Street in Falmouth, you may have been intrigued by the sight of this tomb behind a metal grille.

The history of this part of Falmouth makes interesting reading ...In the past, there was a mortuary opposite the tomb, and until the 1850s, the grassy area was the old Falmouth graveyard. As Falmouth's population grew, a lack of space in the graveyard made the creation of the new, larger one essential. This was built on the site of a farm at the top of Hangman's Hill, near Swanpool.

From records in the Falmouth History Archive we know that the tomb was built for Thomas Arundel Lewis, Lieutenant Commander of the Falmouth Packet HM Brig Crane.

The Falmouth Packet service operated between 1688 and 1850 and employed fast, lightly armed vessels like HM Brig Crane to deliver mail packets, dispatches, and sometimes bullion and passengers to destinations across the world.

Crane was one of the last Falmouth Packet ships to be built and was also one of their very last vessels to operate in the service.

Thomas Arundel Lewis's life became linked to Falmouth when he and his family were based here during his five-year period of command of Falmouth Packet HM Brig Crane from 9th May 1842 until June 1847. He also chose Falmouth as his final resting place.

Although Thomas Arundel Lewis died almost 150 years ago on 23 February 1875, his tomb remains a visible link to a fascinating period in Falmouth's maritime past when the town carried out a key role of international importance.