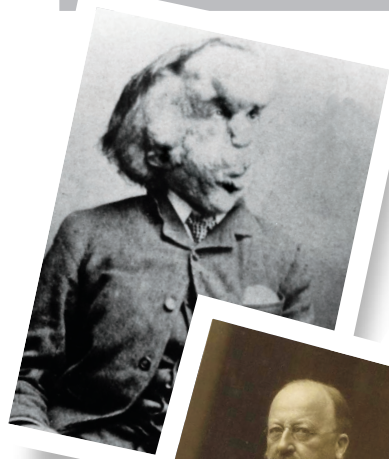


History...



the
vault

Imagine you've reached the million-dollar question on a TV quiz show and the host asks you: "What do Henry VIII, the Elephant Man and Jack the Ripper have in common?" And you're stumped.

Hall of fame (l-to-r):
Joseph Merrick, Henry Head, Jack the Ripper letter, Sir James Paget, Dr Thomas Barnardo, Eva Luckes

Below: William Harvey, Henry VIII

Yet the answer lies here at Barts and The London NHS Trust. Along with producing some of the great pioneers of modern medicine and nursing, our hospitals can lay claim to links with some of history's most famous figures.

Take Henry VIII, now chiefly remembered for beheading two of his six wives. He granted St Bartholomew's Hospital to the City of London in the 1540s, endowing it with properties and income in response to a petition by the people of London – although his generosity failed to do Bart's first physician much good. Portuguese

Dr Roderigo Lopez was doctor to Henry's daughter Elizabeth I, but, after being falsely accused of plotting to poison her, he was hung, drawn and quartered.

In subsequent centuries, medical successes prevailed, along with pioneering work. In the 17th century, William Harvey of Barts, acknowledged as the founder of modern medicine, reputedly dissected the bodies of his father and sister post mortem along the way to discovering how blood circulated. Pioneering neurologist Sir Henry Head of The London Hospital later went one better. Famous worldwide in the 1890s for his papers on nerves and sensation, he submitted to experiments conducted on his own nerves.

Down the centuries, a roll call follows of personnel recognisable today by the diseases or conditions to which they gave their names: At Barts, surgeons Percivall Pott, to Pott's fracture, and Sir James Paget (one of the founders of modern pathology) to diseases of the skeleton and nipple, and, at The London Hospital, James Parkinson, who described Parkinson's Disease in 1817, and John Langdon Down for Down's Syndrome. Dr Thomas Barnardo, the philanthropist and child welfare pioneer, studied medicine at The London, which can also lay claim to training Elizabeth Garrett-Anderson, the first woman doctor to qualify in Britain, in 1865.

At The London Chest Hospital, Lord Lister, appointed consulting surgeon in 1896, continued to build on his earlier groundbreaking work on the use of antiseptics in surgery.

Barts and The London also helped usher in the era of professional nursing. Florence Nightingale was an honorary hospital governor of The London and an ally of Eva Luckes, the hospital's matron from 1880 to 1919. It was Eva Luckes who radically reorganised the nursing service at the hospital. During her tenure, WWI hero nurse Edith Cavell spent five years training and working at The London. Edith went on to set up a nurse training school on the outskirts of Brussels but was executed in

1915 by the Germans for helping around 200 British and Belgian soldiers escape to neutral Holland.

In Ethel Gordon Manson, Barts too had a nursing pioneer. Matron of the School of Nursing in the 1880s, she campaigned for a nursing register and became the first state registered nurse in 1919.

And what of the Elephant Man and Jack the Ripper? Joseph Merrick, known as the Elephant Man due to his facial deformation, saw out his days at The London Hospital, under the care of distinguished surgeon Sir Frederick Treves, dying in a room overlooking Bedstead Square in 1890.

As for Jack the Ripper, he roamed Whitechapel, killing his many victims in 1888. Speculation suggests he may have been a local doctor or medical student and he supposedly sent a letter (pictured above, third left) boasting of his killings to Dr Thomas Openshaw, pathological curator of The London Hospital Museum. His true identity remains a matter of conjecture but his link to the hospital lasts to this day in its archives.

The Trust's archives and museums are always on the look out for interesting documents and objects to add to their collections, helping to preserve the heritage of the hospitals for future generations.



For more information, or if you have documents or items that might be of interest to the Trust's museums or archives, please contact the Archivist at Barts on ext **15-8152** or the Archivist at The Royal London on ext **14-7608**.

