

# **LANSDOWN CEMETERY, BATH**

## MEMORIAL INSCRIPTIONS

2012

**Disclaimer:** This volume contains transcriptions of memorial inscriptions from graves, some of which are in poor condition, as well as transcripts of hand-written burial register entries. Naturally, despite careful checking, there may be errors and, if in doubt, the originals should be consulted.

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8-Apr-2023 Updated allied documents for the Sections to increase the size of the images to 5cm.



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## Introduction

This document contains a compilation of monumental inscriptions at the Lansdown Cemetery, Bath transcribed during the course of 2008 and 2009. The details of the inscriptions have been checked against other sources to ensure that the dates have been faithfully recorded and this confirmatory information along with any other information is included.

## Acknowledgements

We are grateful to St Swithin's parish for giving permission to photograph the Burial Order Books in its possession so as to provide full information on post-1955 burials.

## History

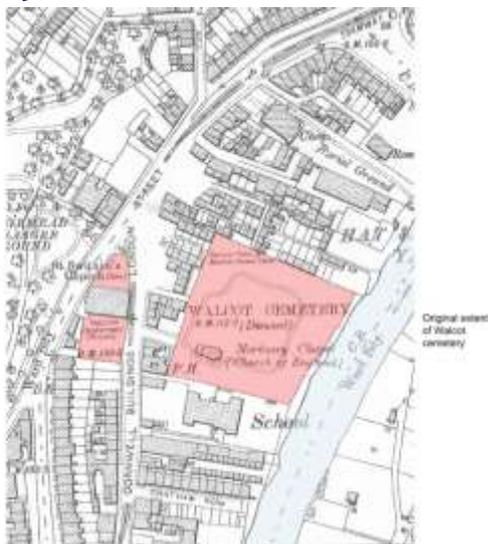


Figure 1 Location of the original graveyards for Walcot parish

Draft

The parish of Walcot has a number of graveyards:

- the area around St Swithin's church - the north and south gardens
- a graveyard, with a mortuary chapel, at Walcot Gate
- Lansdown Cemetery, from 1848 – about 7,000 burials
- part of Locksbrook cemetery from 1864 – about 30,000 burials

Bath Record Office located at the Guildhall has microfiches of the parish's registers for: baptisms 1691-1884, marriages 1728-1971 and burials 1711-1955 as well as transcripts and indexes. It also has for the parish *Alphabetical list of memorials and gravestones in church premises* (names only); *Inscriptions in Graveyard*, by David L Houldridge, 1981 (54 records) and *Plan of Gravestones in the Crypt* (poor legibility).

The graveyard at Walcot Gate must have had a large number of graves, the number of entries in the burial register suggesting that over 20,000 were buried there. However, the area was cleared - reputedly in the 1920s - with the remains being reburied at Haycombe cemetery and the surviving 320 memorials placed in rows by the mortuary chapel. The inscriptions were documented in 1981 by David L Houldridge but represent only a small fraction of those buried.

For the parish the National Burial Index version 3 produced by the Federation of Family History Societies has 22,293 entries for periods 1699-1700, 1711-1717, 1721-1843, 1846-64 and, for Lansdown

Cemetery, a further 5785 entries but this does not give the location of graves.

From 1864 many inhabitants of the parish were buried in Locksbrook Cemetery which served Walcot, Weston and St Saviour's. Burials in that cemetery are not recorded in the parish's burial register, the cemetery being administered by a burial board. Bath & NE Somerset Council has a chargeable service for finding a grave in this cemetery. See the Council's 'Cemeteries' webpage for information on this.

## Beckford and Lansdown Cemetery

William Beckford had wished to be buried in the grounds of Lansdown Tower, but was instead interred at Bath Abbey cemetery in Lyncombe Vale on 11 May 1844. The Tower was sold to a local publican, who turned it into a beer garden. Eventually however it was bought back by the Beckfords' elder daughter, the Duchess of Hamilton, who gave the land around it to Walcot parish for consecration as a cemetery in 1848. This enabled Beckford to be re-buried near the Tower that he so loved. His self-designed tomb – a massive sarcophagus of pink polished granite with bronze armorial plaques – now stands on a hillock in the centre of an oval ditch. On one side of his tomb is a quotation from *Vathek*: "Enjoying humbly the most precious gift of heaven to man - Hope"; and on another these lines from his poem, *A Prayer*: "Eternal Power! Grant me, through obvious clouds one transient gleam Of thy bright essence in my dying hour."

*From the Bath Chronicle of May 8, 1844, p. 3*  
[OBITUARY]

MAY 2, at his residence, Lansdown crescent, WILLIAM BECKFORD, esq., aged 84. This distinguished man was the son of Alderman William Beckford, who was twice elected Lord Mayor of London, and grandson of Col. Peter Beckford, Lieut.-Governor and Commander-in Chief in the island of Jamaica. Mr. Beckford, on May 5th, 1783, married Lady Margaret Gordon, sole surviving daughter of Charles, 4th Earl of Aboyne, and had issue - Margaret Maria Elizabeth (who, in May, 1811, married Lieut.-General, then Colonel, Jas. Orde, and who died in 1818, leaving two daughters) and Susanna Euphemia, who, on the 26th of April, 1810, married Alexander, Duke of Hamilton, Brandon, and Chatelherault, by whom his Grace had one son and one daughter, viz., William Alexander Anthony Archibald, Marquis of Douglas and Clydesdale (who recently married the Princess Mary of Baden), and Susan Catherine Harriet, who, in November, 1832, married the Earl of Lincoln, son and heir of the Duke of Newcastle. Mr. Beckford, at an early period of his life, was returned to Parliament for Wells, and afterwards for the borough of Hindon several times; but for more than 40 years he has relinquished Parliamentary honours and other public duties, devoting himself to retirement, but not unprofitably. His highly cultivated and ever active mind to the latest period of life directed his splendid fortune to the encouragement of literature and the arts. In this respect the whole nation has felt the influence of his judgment, and

genius has been fostered by his encouragement and rewarded by his patronage and the sanction of his approval. His literary productions are few, but of the highest character for classical elegance of diction, for truth of feeling, scope of observance, and power of invention. The production by which he is best known as an author, "Vathek," was written originally in French, and ranks, in both countries, among the highest of the standard works. Mr. Beckford was formerly reputed to be the richest commoner in England, and upon the first institution of the Income-Tax we believe his return proved that he was so. Mr. Beckford's collections of pictures, books, illuminated manuscripts, statuary, and sculptured gems, were selected with infinite taste and judgment, and, it is needless to add, at an immense cost. His learning was profound, but never used for display: in giving an opinion he had the courtesy to convey his own sentiment in terms which made the listener regard them as opinions perfectly developed and conclusive. All who ever had the happiness of occasionally conversing with him remember it as a great and happy privilege; for it was impossible to do so, even upon ordinary occasions, without feeling the charm of highly-polished manners, and consummate knowledge and good taste. Without ostentation, he was charitable; and he liberally assisted in forwarding all public improvements, especially in this city. The Duchess of Hamilton is understood to be the sole legatee of his property, and her Grace, we believe, has fixed upon Salisbury Cathedral for the sepulchre of her beloved father's remains, he having recently attended Divine service in that

most beautiful Christian edifice, of which, it is well known, he was always a very ardent admirer, and expressed himself much pleased on the occasion. Mr. Beckford was, for his great age, wonderfully active; he took daily exercise on foot and horseback until within a few days of his lamented death: few men, for the long period of 84 years, have been blessed with such uninterrupted health, or have maintained until so late a period of life such vigorous energy and intellectual power.

*From the Bath Chronicle of Thu 16 May 1844:*  
The body of the late Mr. Beckford has been embalmed by Messrs. English and Hiscox, surgeons, of this city. The place of sepulture is to be the Abbey Cemetery, in Lyncombe Vale. The body is to be placed in a mausoleum of highly-polished granite, which is to stand on a small circular plot of ground immediately in front of the chapel of the Cemetery. It was constructed a long time before Beckford's decease, and, we believe, has no other ornament than a simple moulding round the top or cover. A dome is to be erected over it. It was intended that Mr. Beckford's remains should have been deposited in Salisbury Cathedral, but the Dean objected to the body being placed in a mausoleum above ground. Another proposition was, that the body should be first placed in the Walcot Cemetery, and then removed, by a faculty, to Lansdown Tower, where, we understand, Mr. Beckford had expressed a wish to be buried. This however, was not practicable, as no faculty can be granted for the removal of a body from consecrated ground to that which is not consecrated. The coffin (manufactured by Messrs.

English and Son, to whom the funeral arrangements have been entrusted) is of a superb and costly description. It is beautifully made of Spanish mahogany, embellished with superior mouldings, and covered with purple Genoa velvet of the finest fabric. The gilded metal ornaments, even to the nails, were all moulded and cast expressly for the purpose, and are of a massive and rich appearance. The cover of the coffin is divided into three compartments, the first or head part, taking a shield, with an inscription; in the centre is a gilded electrotype coat of arms in bold relief, on a rich mantle, surmounted by a crest. The foot compartment contains also a crest. The sides are adorned with Latimer crosses and cinque foils alternately disposed: and the massive handles bear each a shield, with arms in the centre. The funeral is expected to move from his house on Saturday, soon after 10 o'clock, and is to be attended by the Duke and Duchess of Hamilton, Lady Lincoln, the Marquis of Douglas, Earl Dunmore, the Marquis of Huntley, the Hon. Charles Murray, the Hon. Capt. Henry Murray, and other distinguished relatives and friends of the deceased.

*Biographical Sketches of Bath Celebrities, Ancient and Modern, with Some Fragments of Local History* by Jerom Murch, London & Bath 1893, Chapter XXVIII. Part II. pp307,308

"...Beckford had composed the lines on quitting Fonthill, given in a former chapter, and long afterwards some verses were published entitled A Prayer written at Fonthill. Short as it is it yet reveals something of the inner life of the author.

The last three lines are given in the inscription on his tomb in the Lansdown Cemetery.

"Like the low murmur of the secret stream  
Which through dark alders winds its shaded way,  
My suppliant voice is heard: - all do not deem  
That on vain toys I throw my hours away!  
In the recesses of the forest vale,  
on the wild mountain, on the verdant sod,  
Where the fresh breezes of the morn prevail,  
I wander lonely, communing with God.  
When the faint sickness of a wounded heart  
Creeps in cold shudderings through my sinking  
frame,  
I turn to Thee! That holy peace impart  
Which soothes the invokers of Thine awful name.  
Oh, all pervading Spirit! sacred beam!  
Parent of life and light! Eternal power!  
Grant me through obvious clouds one transient  
gleam  
Of thy bright essence in my dying hour!"

That hour came at length, in 1844, after eighty-five years of life. His illness was short; it found him at home, comforted by his favourite daughter the Duchess of Hamilton. Long before his death he ordered his tomb of Aberdeen granite and directed that the coffin should be placed within it so as to be above the ground. He wished to lie under the shade of his tower near a favourite dog, but the dog being there and the ground unconsecrated the interment took place at the Abbey Cemetery, and the tower and its grounds were sold by auction. Then the Duchess of Hamilton, shocked at hearing that her father's beautiful little domain was to be perverted to tea gardens bought it back, gave it to the parish of Walcot for a cemetery, obtained the

Bishop's consecration after the removal of the dog and ordered the remains of the former owner back to the spot he loved. There he lies amidst the trees and shrubs he planted, surrounded also now by the fellow men from whom in life he was divided. There they all sleep side by side, the same sun shining upon the quiet graves in summer's heat and winter's cold; and there the visitor who wishes to see the last resting-place may see the fervent aspiration,

" Eternal Power!  
Grant me through obvious clouds one transient gleam  
Of thy bright essence in my dying hour!" "

From the *Bath Chronicle* of Thu 9 Sep 1847:  
The Duchess of Hamilton has made a munificent gift of Lansdown Tower, and the beautiful surrounding grounds, to the Rev. S. H. Widdrington, Rector Walcot, who intends dedicating them to the purpose of a Cemetery for his extensive parish. The gardens, full of the choicest shrubs, are laid out in a most attractive manner, presenting an opportunity for making one of the most beautiful places of sepulchre in the kingdom. According to his anxious desire, the sarcophagus containing the mortal remains of the late Mr. Beckford will be transferred from Lyncombe Cemetery, here to rest in a retired spot, under a once favourite tree. The arrangements of preparing the grounds, chapel, entrance, &c, it is supposed, will be so far completed, that the Cemetery will be ready for consecration before next Christmas. The Bishop of the diocese has expressed his full approbation of the arrangements, and his willingness to consecrate the ground and the chapel when ready.

From the *Bath Chronicle* of Thu 30 Sep 1847:

“... Many of our readers may not be aware that this celebrated building [Beckford Tower], and its lovely gardens, have had a very narrow escape from being turned into a *beer-shop*, and its out-of-door appendages ! Strange as this may appear, it is no less true. It was purchased at the auction sale for that very purpose, and the buyer, of course, had a perfect right “to do what he liked with his own.” In prosecution of his plan, he had already given orders for a large number of deal tables and stools to be fixed as tobacco-smoking and beer-drinking stations amid the exquisite foliage of that charming retreat. Those who knew Mr. Beckford will readily join with us in the belief that if it had ever occurred to his mind that it was within the range of possibility that his cherished creation of his fancy could ever have declined to “such base uses,” he would have lost no time in razing the tower with the ground, and re-converting its fairy gardens into wild down-land. We must confess that we were much surprised when we heard that the tower was to be bought into the market for unreserved competition, to be converted into anything which the buyer might think fit. The mistake has, however, been rectified. ...”

From the *Bath Chronicle* of Thu 4 May 1848:

#### LANSDOWN CEMETERY

This beautiful cemetery (to the intended arrangements of which we referred last Autumn), was consecrated by the Lord Bishop of Bath and Wells, on Friday last. The public were admitted to the chapel and grounds by tickets, and the fineness of the weather attracted a very numerous assemblage, among whom was Her Grace the Duchess of Hamilton. The road to the spot

presented quite an animated appearance; and those of our fellow citizens who, on the occasion, mounted, whether on foot or otherwise, the steep hill leading to Lansdown had the enjoyment of a most cheerful aspect of the surrounding scenery, which lay bathed in brilliant sunshine, setting forth the varied charms of our exquisite landscapes to high advantage; while the freshness of the air, and the gushing song of the lark over-head, shed abroad a joyousness of which appeared to find a way to every heart.

The Lord Bishop arrived at the Cemetery shortly after half-past twelve, and was received at the entrance by the Rev. the Rector of Walcot, arranged in line near whom were a number of children from the parochial and other public schools of Walcot. The petition for consecration having been presented, his Lordship, accompanied by the Ven. the Archdeacon of Bath, the Rev. the Rector of Walcot, and other clergymen, &c., proceeded round the ground, repeating the 19th Psalm. Having returned to the Tower (now the Mortuary Chapel), the deed of consecration was read by the Bishop’s Secretary and signed by his lordship, who then offered up the following prayer:-

“O God, who has taught us in Thy Holy Word, that there is a difference between the spirit of the beast that goeth downwards to the earth, and the spirit of man which ascendeth up to God who gave it; and likewise, by the example of Thy holy servants in all ages, hast taught to assign particular places where the bodies of Thy saints may rest in peace, and be prevented from all indignities, while their souls are safely kept in the hands of their

faithful Redeemer. Accept, we beseech Thee, this charitable work of ours, in separating this portion of land to that good purpose; and give us grace, that by the frequent instance of mortality which we behold, we may learn, and seriously consider, how ... and uncertain our condition here on earth is, and so number our days, as to apply our hearts unto wisdom. That in the midst of life thinking upon death, and daily preparing ourselves for the judgement that is to follow, we may have our part in the resurrection to eternal life, with Him who died for our sins, and rose again for our justification, and now liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, our God, world without end. Amen.”

Four verses of the 30th Psalm were then sung, and his lordship concluded the ceremony by pronouncing the benediction.

Among the clergy present (in addition to those above mentioned) were the Revs. the Rectors of Bath, Bathwick, St. Michael’s, and St. Saviour’s; the Revs. G. G. Gardiner, E. Tottenham, T. Woodward, J. Wood, H. Seymour, S. W. Mangin, J. Sproules, \_ Strong, P. Hall, A. Tomkins, T. Lathbury, T. Marsh, and J. Batchellor.

The entrance to the Cemetery consists of a porch with carriage and side entrances, executed in the Byzantine style, to suit the screen which enclosed the tomb of the late Mr. Beckford at the Lyncombe Cemetery, which has been removed, and now forms an imposing architectural extension, harmonizing with, and greatly improving, the general effect of the tower. The porch is surmounted by a belfry, on the apex, on which is a cross with a serpent entwined, emblematical of the

introduction of sin into the world, and salvation by the cross. The capitals of the pilasters are all in accordance with the style, varied, and assist the composition without destroying its breadth. The arch is elaborate; two columns stand prominently on each side, in the capitals of which are introduced the reed, spear, nails, &c. The ...ling of archway is in stone, relieved by moulded r..., and contains the following inscriptions (with the monograms of the Rector and Architect):

“Rect. extruxit, MCMXLVIII. Architecto.”

“Till the heavens be no more they shall not awake.”

“Watch, therefore, for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.”

“Lord remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.”

On the two wings are introduced, in circular recessed panels, the cross, emblems of the Trinity, serpent, and winged hour glass. Over the principal entrance, in a sunk panel, is the cross; and on the reverse side, the equilateral triangle, and monogram I.H.S. The side entrances form lobbies, affording seats and shelter for persons in attendance at funerals, the walls being enriched with small three-quarter columns, from which spring arches. The capitals (nearly forty) all vary in form. The ceiling is in stone, arranged in compartments. The gates are massive, framed in wood, the upper panels being filled with cast-iron work, and bronzed. Over the side doors are two ribands, on which are inscribed, “The Gates of Death, and “Resurgam.” The iron-work of the parapet (furnished by the Coalbrook Dale Company), has a most elegant character relieved

by the handsome stone piers, and united with the porch, as if the whole had been one original conception. The design of the beautiful structure reflects the highest credit on the taste and judgement of H. E. Goodridge, Esq., architect, of our city. He has most happily surmounted the difficulties with which he had to contend, which were to make the style of the porch harmonize with the tower, as well as with the screen brought from the Lyncombe Cemetery. He has achieved his object without committing the slightest incongruity, and he has thus added a most charming feature to the architectural beauties of our neighbourhood. The work has justly excited general admiration. The masonry has been executed by Mr. John Vaughan, of our city.

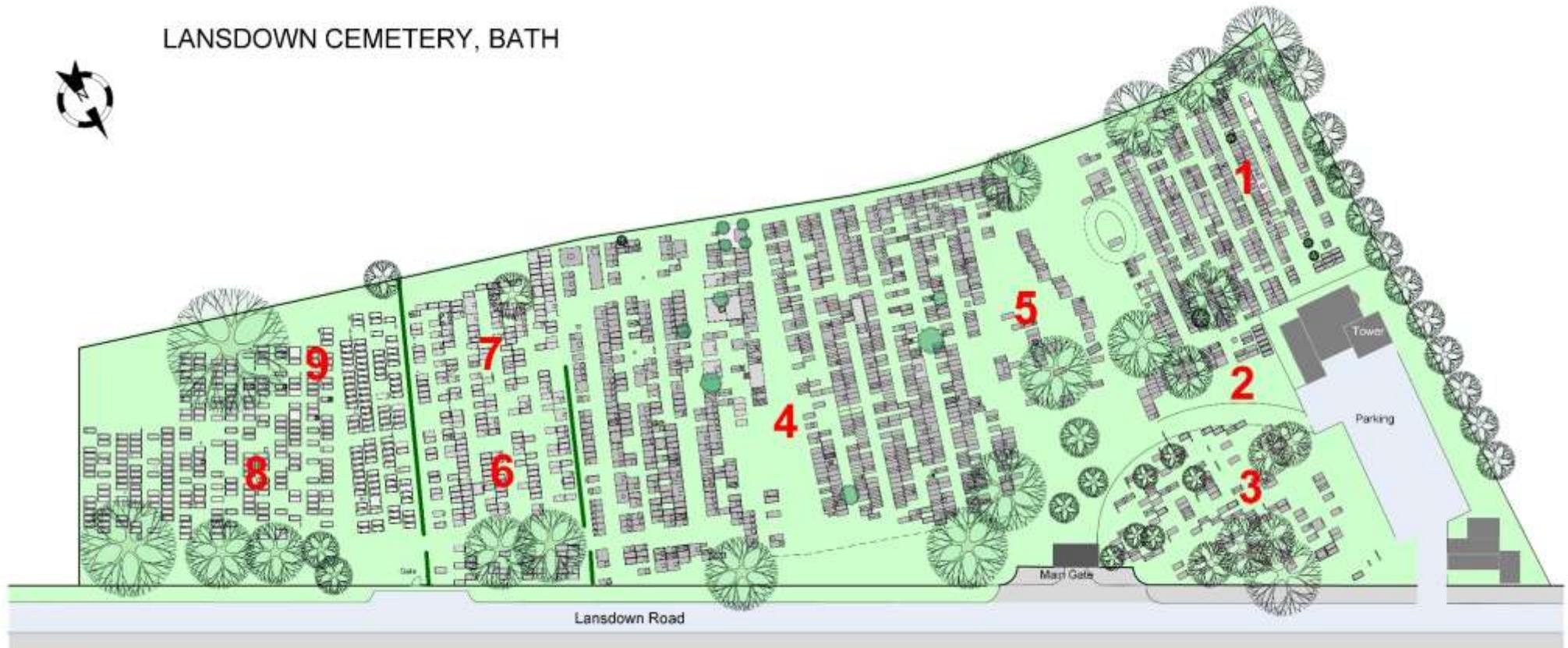
The Cemetery itself is laid out with great taste. When completed, it will be a most beautiful spot. The lovely foliage which shade the smooth green turf will soon be seen in all its summer beauty, and the bustle of the needful alteration being over the place will resume its air of quiet seclusion. We have no doubt that the general feeling of those who then visit it will be that it would be difficult to imagine a more interesting or appropriate resting place for the dead. There can be no doubt that it will occupy a prominent situation among the *notabilia* of our vicinity.

From *The Bath Chronicle* of Thu 1 Jun 1848 p3 col d  
 LANSDOWN CEMETERY — The first interment in this beautiful spot, since the consecration of the ground, and the removal of the late Wm. Beckford, Esq., took place on Sunday morning last, when the

late Mr. Wm. Harris, of Kingsmead Terrace, was deposited in his last resting place. He was a man much beloved and respected, and for many years foreman of the cabinet department to Mr. Frederick Morris, of Union Street, by whom, as well as by all those who had an opportunity of knowing his excellent qualities, his loss will be long and deeply lamented. An impression having prevailed that it would be difficult to procure graves of sufficient depth at Lansdown Cemetery, and that a pair of horses would not be able to take the hearse to the spot from Bath, we are requested to state that Messrs. Shaw & Beale’s funeral carriage (which is a hearse and mourning coach together) was used on the above occasion — that it contained the body and three friends of the deceased— and that it was drawn by a pair of horses with perfect ease. The grave was dug, without difficulty, to a depth of ten feet, in a perfectly dry soil.

The transfer of Beckford’s remains from the Abbey cemetery to Lansdown cemetery would have occurred after the consecration on 28 April and before the first burial on 29 May 1848. No press report has yet been found.

## Layout



P.J. Bendall 31-Jan-2012

Figure 2 Overall Layout

**Section 1** The oldest section in the cemetery is by the tower. It consists of a series of rows running north-south and has just over 400 graves with 922 burials. Most of the rows are in pairs with paths running each side of a pair. There are

exceptions to the general layout where graves cross a path.

**Section 2** A small area between Section 1 and Section 3 with 48 graves and 45 memorials. The land used for graves is at the same level as Section

1 but on the northern side slopes down to the path from the main gate to the tower.

**Section 3** Under trees by the tower, it is bounded on the northern side by the boundary wall and on the southern side by the curved path that

runs from the main entrance to the tower. The land slopes upwards from the path to the wall. There are a number of large trees whose branches reach almost to the ground limiting access.

**Section 4** The largest section of the cemetery with 1945 burials, 1091 graves and 866 memorials. Ten long rows are in a sunken area with another eleven rows to the east on ground which is on the same level as the other areas.

At the eastern side is a row of trees which separate it from Section 6 and 7.

**Section 5** A small area between sections 1 and 4 containing only 37 graves and 80 burials. Most of the graves are on the same level as Section 1 but the ground drops down on the eastern side to the sunken area of Section 4.

**Section 6 & 7** A modern (post-1907) section of nine rows. A set of 4 double rows and a single row. About halfway down each row the section changes from 6 to 7. Various small 'paths' allow the visitor to walk between the rows. Graves on the western rows are under the trees which separate this section from Section 4.

**Section 8 & 9** The most modern section comprising ten double rows with paths between. About halfway along each row the section changes from 8 to 9, although this is no clear separation between these sections. The northern boundary wall by Lansdown Road has a gate for pedestrians which leads to a lay-by. There is a water tap near this gate.

Draft

## Maintenance

Originally maintenance of the cemetery was undertaken by a superintendent housed in the cottage by Beckford Tower. The cottage is no longer occupied by a gardener and, when the cemetery was declared 'closed', Walcot parish transferred responsibility for maintenance to the local council.

The local council, on its notice board by the entrance, declares its policy on the maintenance of the cemetery in the following terms:

### "Looking after the Cemetery

The monuments and architecture are a wonderful memorial to those buried here. No less so is the greenery surrounding them and the sounds of the birds and the scents and colours of the flowers.

With careful management wild plants and creatures can find sanctuary here alongside humankind. In this way we can show our respect not only for the dead, but for life and living things.

The continuing existence of the older, flower-rich grassland depends on allowing plants to flower and produce seeds, so that the area which is no longer used for burials will be spared from mowing until the end of summer, and you will see areas of long grass.

The newer burial area has very few wildflowers, so this area and the paths in the older part are regularly mown and kept quite short.

Trees and shrubs and other vegetation will be left along boundaries and in corners and wherever else possible."



Figure 3 Council Notices

In practice, the long grass as well as other plants including trees and shrubs are allowed to grow on the graves themselves and are not confined to 'corners'. Indeed, volunteers working in the cemetery have been instructed by the council not to remove saplings and ant hills from graves. The council's website has:

"Shortly after it became the council's responsibility the Beckford Tower Trust also began to take an interest in the cemetery, forming an offshoot known as the Lansdown Cemetery Trust, and together with cemeteries staff a management plan was agreed which allows the grassland to grow uninhibited over to graves whilst keeping grass pathways for ease of access, by cutting them fortnightly during the growing season. The Lansdown Cemetery Trust was able to access a grant from the council's ecological service enabling its members to place an interpretation board near the main gates

detailing the type of flora and fauna visitors can expect to see.”

The council undertakes an annual strimming in November and mows the paths in summer every three or four weeks. Many graves in the sections 1-7 have become overgrown with vegetation with slabs covered by a layer of earth that has built up over years. Many pitched graves have grass and ivy growing up their sides, earth as well as debris from strimming accumulating along their edges and promoting this growth.

Visitors from abroad have remarked on their shock on seeing the cemetery in such a neglected state. People tending the graves of their relatives in the section which is overgrown in the summer have also expressed their dismay at the neglected state. One family, who are related to a former gardener, are considering replacing the existing memorial of edging and chippings with something that will need less maintenance as they do not believe that maintenance of the cemetery will ever be undertaken as it was in the past.

In its submission to the Select Committee on Environment, Transport and Regional Affairs in Dec 2000 (printed in Mar 2001), Bath & North-East Somerset Council’s submission (CEM09) included its view on the division of responsibilities:

“Local authorities are obliged to take on the management of closed burial grounds if requested to do so by the Parish. There are 29

closed burial grounds and two open cemeteries in the B&NES Council District. **The management and maintenance of the closed burial grounds is mostly the responsibility of the local authority. The local authority are obliged to keep main paths open, the burial grounds clear of regenerated scrub and to inspect all walls, steps and other structures on a regular basis to ensure that they are safe.** Work to make these structures safe is the responsibility of the Council.

...

**The monuments and gravestones remain the responsibility and in the ownership of the occupants and their descendants.** It was often the case that a capital sum was left by the deceased to generate an income in perpetuity for the maintenance of the plot. The sums were often small and through inflation are not now sufficient for the purpose. In some cases the Parishes have added all these small sums together and retained them for other purposes, they are not usually passed over to the local authority along with the closed burial ground. It is difficult to get from the Church Authorities how big these funds are and for what purpose they are being currently used.”

The council’s approach to Lansdown Cemetery seems contradictory because, if the maintenance of the graves is the responsibility of the ‘occupants and their descendants’, there should be no constraint on the removal vegetation and ant hills from graves.

The council’s Cemetery Safety Officer visits the cemetery from time to time to check on the state of memorials. Those which are considered unsafe are made safe. This has resulted in a large number

of crosses being laid flat, mainly with the topmost plinth attached.

## Registers

The burial registers are available on microfiche under St Swithin’s up until 1948. As they are the registers for the parish, rather than the cemetery, entries include all burials irrespective of the cemetery actually used. Entries for burials at Lansdown Cemetery are usually annotated by ‘Cemetery’ but this is not consistent. From about 1861 all burials were at Lansdown Cemetery as Locksbrook Cemetery has its own set of burial registers for the Walcot section.

The Burial Order Book contains similar information to the burial register but includes both the dates of death and burial - the burial register only has the latter - and the location of the grave. Some of the mid-19<sup>th</sup>-century entries include the fees paid but these are absent in later volumes. The format of the Burial Order Book changes over time. The first volume includes some additional information at the front on reserved plots and maintenance agreements with the main part having the entries in pre-printed boxes. However, for some periods, a shorter, one-line form is used. The 20th century entries use the pre-printed books. The numbers of the entries are not pre-printed, as occurs in burial registers, and there are occurrences of duplicate numbers or the same number being used for two burials.

BURIALS in the Burial Ground of the LANSDOWN in the County of SOMMERSSET					CENSITORY in the Parish of BATH in the Year One thousand nine hundred and FORTY SEVEN						
NAME	Age	Quality, Trade, or Profession	Date of Death	Place or Parish where Death occurred	Place or Parish from which the Body was brought	PLACE OF BURIAL				By whom the Cemetery was profaned	Signature of the Person making the Entry of Burial
						Section	No. of Grave	Section	No. of Grave		
CHARLES ROBERT HAYWARD No. 4506	74		JUNE 14 <sup>th</sup> 1947	WALCOT BATH	25, BUNGRAVE CRESCENT, BATH	SECTION 4 LETTER W	6 <sup>A</sup>			JUNE 15 <sup>th</sup> 1947	W. Bell
MARY ELIZABETH DUTTON No. 4507	51		JUNE 16 <sup>th</sup> 1947	ASHLEY DOWN ROAD BRISTOL	20, EAST DOWN ST. SAVINURS, BATH	SECTION 4 LETTER V	14 <sup>A</sup>			JUNE 19 <sup>th</sup> 1947	W. Bell
ROSSETTA PALPK No. 4508	70		JUNE 22 1947	ST MARTINS HOSPITAL, BATH	1A, SUMMERFIELD BUILDING, GYSEBEND, BATH	SECTION 4 LETTER M	6			JUNE 26 <sup>th</sup> 1947	W. Bell
HANNAN HISCOCK No. 4509	82		JUNE 26 <sup>th</sup> 1947	ORCH STREET, RUSSELL HOME, WALCOT BATH	23, MARLBOROUGH BUILDINGS, WALCOT, BATH	SECTION 4 LETTER U	17			JULY 1 <sup>st</sup> 1947	W. Bell
ELIZABETH TERESA RUSSELL No. 4510	68		JULY 1947	ST STEPHENS LANSDOWN, BATH	1, SUMMERFIELD BUILDINGS, BEACON HILL, BATH	SECTION 4 LETTER M	6 <sup>A</sup>			JULY 30 <sup>th</sup> 1947	W. Bell
MABEL NEW No. 4511	68		AUG 1 <sup>st</sup> 1947	ST SAVINURS BATH	3, ROSE HILL TERRACE, LARKHILL, BATH	SECTION 4 LETTER M	7			AUG 7 <sup>th</sup> 1947	W. Bell
JOHN ALBERT GEORGE FRY No. 4512	71		10 <sup>th</sup> SEPT 1947	ST STEPHENS LANSDOWN, BATH	7, MOUNT VIEW, BEACON HILL, BATH	SECTION 4 LETTER M	7 <sup>A</sup>			SEPT 13 <sup>th</sup> 1947	W. Bell
FRANK McLUISH No. 4513	75		OCT 2 <sup>nd</sup> 1947	ST MARTINS HOSPITAL, BATH	15, MORTFORD STREET, BATH	SECTION 6 LETTER E	2 <sup>A</sup>			OCT 6 <sup>th</sup> 1947	W. Bell

Figure 4 Example of entries in the Burial Order Book

The Burial Register entries have the 'abode'. The corresponding entry in the Burial Order Book in the 20th century has two addresses: the place of death and the place from which the body was transported to the cemetery, neither of which may actually be the abode that appears in the burial register.

Addresses have not been entered consistently, as one might expect. In 19th century entries the city or town is usually omitted if the address is in Bath. 'Russel Street' which appears in this form on the carved street name appears as 'Russell Street' in some burial register entries. The spelling of the name of the area of 'Charlecombe' appears in a variety of forms with different numbers of the letter 'e'. Where there are obvious spelling mistakes, these have been corrected.

The following table summarises the availability of the microfiches of the Burial Register and Burial Order Book:

Document	Microfiches	Years	
Burial Register	DP WAL SW	2/1/39 (1-7)	1848-1851
		2/1/42 (1-7)	1851-1858
		2/1/45 (1-7)	1858-1864
		2/1/49 (1-7)	1864-1926
		2/1/57 (1-3)	1926-1942
Burial Order Book	DP WAL SW	2/1/74 (1-7)	1848-1925
		2/1/75 (1-3)	1931-1938
		2/1/76 (1-3)	1939-1946
		2/1/77 (1-3)	1946-1955

The set of microfiches of the Burial Register is missing some pages circa 1855. There is a gap in the sequence of pages from the Burial Order Book from 1925 to 1931.

The original documents are held by Somerset Archives and these are:

Document	Reference
Plan of Lansdowne Cemetery, showing individual named plots n.d. 19th cent	D\P\wal.sw/3/5/13
Lansdowne cemetery extension 1947	D\P\wal.sw/3/5/14
Burials (Lansdowne Cemetery) 1848-1925	D\P\wal.sw/2/1/74
Burials (Lansdowne Cemetery) 1931-1938	D\P\wal.sw/2/1/75
Burials (Lansdowne Cemetery) 1939-1946	D\P\wal.sw/2/1/76
Burials (Lansdowne Cemetery) 1946-1955	D\P\wal.sw/2/1/77

The parish of Walcot has a Burial Order Book from 1955 which it uses as the Burial Register.

## Notes

The Notes against the memorial inscription text contains information used to check the dates of the individuals whose names appear on the inscriptions. Some inscriptions give ages from which it is possible to establish an approximate year of birth, other inscriptions omit this information. Names are sometimes in full, in other places initials or a nickname is used. In addition the condition of some of the inscriptions is such that it is possible to misinterpret letters and numbers. The most common ones are:

'C' and 'G' where, from the style of carving, it might not be obvious

'E' and 'F' where the latter is transformed into the former by weathering

'3', '5', '6', '8' and '9' which may be difficult to distinguish if weathering has eroded part of the character.

As with all determination of years of birth from ages, it is possible to be out by a year. Instead of omitting such years, they have been included as they give sufficient information to be able to distinguish between possible individuals should someone inquire about a possible burial.

In addition a number of inscriptions refer to people not buried there, usually people to whom the individual is related, such as the father, and for which no dates are provided. To find out who these people are the research has been used to identify these and provide dates.

The research into the individuals also allows an assessment to be made on the background of the people. As noted before, the cost involved in buying a plot and paying for its upkeep 'in perpetuity' inevitably means that the occupants of the cemetery are from the wealthier sections of society. In broad terms the early graves from 1848-1900 are those of: military and civilian staff working in the Empire (in particular India), those with money who had retired to Bath and local professionals or trades people. There are significant numbers of Church of England vicars/rectors, usually from wealthy families, or their descendants.

Through research it has been possible to determine the profession of many of the individuals. From the outset of the gathering of the inscriptions, it was

apparent that there were many individuals who were retired people who had served in the Empire. The research has shown that there are also many 'fundholders', that is, people who had inherited wealth and were living off those funds, as well as people in the professions and local business people.

### Occupants

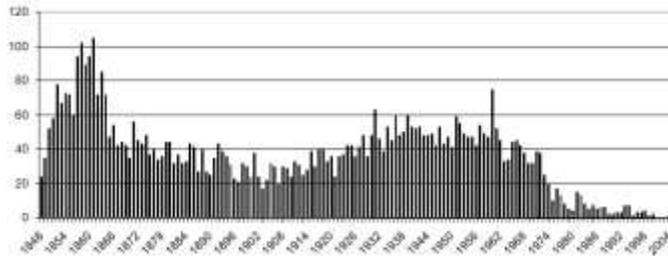


Figure 5 Number of burials by Year

The number of burials was about one per week in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century but has then diminished steadily so that now it is less than three a year.

### Categorisation

This section gives a summary of the results of analysing the backgrounds of the individuals buried in the cemetery. The profession or trade has been classified into broad categories such as:

- Clergy
- Army
- Navy
- Professional
- Trade
- Fundholder

Other attributes of the individuals have also been used, such as:

- Spinster

Draft

- Married
- Place of birth

### Profession or Trade

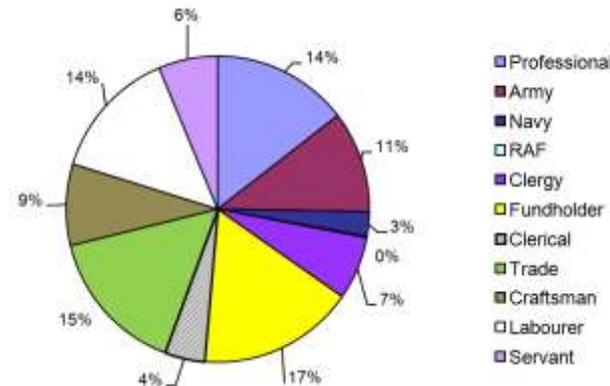


Figure 6 Occupations for the whole cemetery

Occupations have been determined for about 40% of males and these given broad classifications. Just over 50% are one of: professional, armed services, clergy or fundholder.

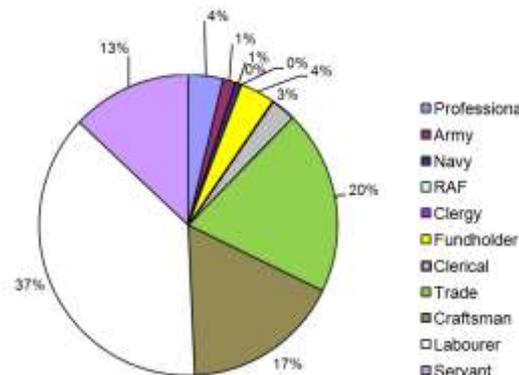


Figure 7 Occupations for those buried in Section 3

By contrast, for Section 3, the occupation profile differs from the overall one in that the vast

majority are one of trade, craftsman, labourer or servant.

Army	Field Marshal	1
	General	9
	Lieutenant General	5
	Major General	14
	Brigadier	2
	Colonel	16
	Lieutenant Colonel	31
	Major	15
	Captain	14
	Surgeon General	1
	Surgeon	7
Navy	Admiral	10
	Commander	3
	Captain	5
	Engineer Captain	2
Professional	Architect	8
	Attorney, Solicitor, Barrister	49
	Civil Engineer	7
	Dentist	3
	Doctor	20
	Teacher	38
Clergy	Anglican	81
	Catholic Apostolic	5
	Nonconformist	3
Fundholders		222
Police		7
Craftsmen	Bootmaker	10
	Cabinet maker	10
	Carver & gilder	6
	Confectioner	2
	Mason	11
	Tailor(ess)	24
	Upholsterer	6
	Watchmaker	2
Labourer	Carpenter	12
	Coachman	12
	Gardener	32
	Livery stable keeper	4
	Wheelchairman	3
Servants		40
Trade	Auctioneer	4
	Baker	6
	Bookseller	5

Brewer, Publican etc	31
Butcher	6
Chemist, druggist	6
Dairyman	3
Draper	12
Grocer	19
Ironmonger	7
Linen draper	4
Lodging house keeper	33

### Age

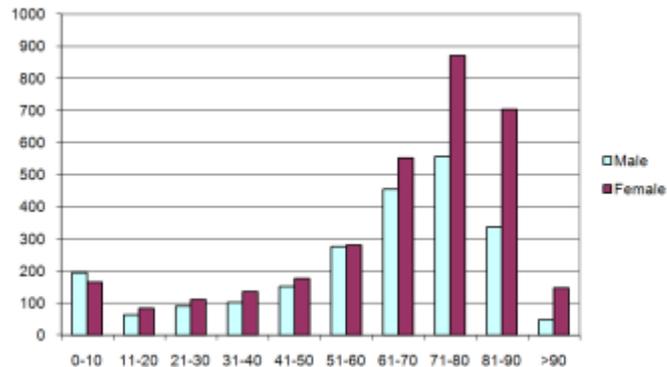


Figure 8 Age Profile

The figure above summarises the number of burials by age at death grouped into 10-year spans. It is notable that over 50% died over the age of 70. Those who died with an age under 11 is 6.1% The profile is similar to that for Bath Abbey cemetery.

### Origin

The country and, for Britain and Ireland, the county of birth have been sought. This has only been successful for about 66% of those buried, rather than relatives that are mentioned.

The populations of Great Britain and Ireland would suggest that the proportion from England would be about 80% and that from Scotland 10%, if there was

a random mixture of birthplaces. In fact, the occupants were mainly born in England. The number born in India is significant and arises from British families stationed there. Those born in Ireland include various English people who were posted there, either as clergy or in the services, and some landowners.

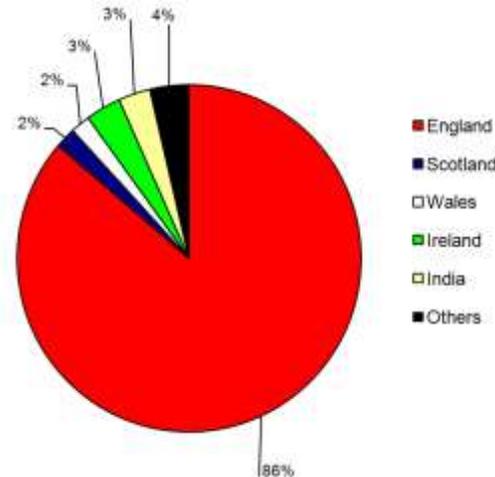


Figure 9 Country of Birth

### Individuals of Note

#### David Harrel (1841-1939) 1.A2.9

While assistant chief commissioner of the Dublin Metropolitan Police (he was commissioner 1883-1893), he was one of three people tasked with investigating the Phoenix Park murders in 1882. He was Under-Secretary for Ireland from 1893 to 1902.

#### Edward Lechmere Russell (1818-1904) 1.A2.15

General in the Indian Army (Bombay Establishment). Resident and Commandant at Aden. Received the thanks of both houses of

Parliament for his services in the Abyssinian war (1867-8) and was knighted in 1868.

#### George Thomas Palmer (1784-1854) 1.A/7/7A

Founder of a settlement in Australia named after him as Palmerstown (later renamed to Ginniderra).

#### Thomas Garrard (1787-1859) 1.A.9A

City Treasurer for Bristol and biographer of Edward Colston.

#### William Rowan (1789-1879) 1.A.12A

Field Marshal. Fought in the Peninsular War, at Waterloo and after the defeat of Napoleon, was put in charge of the 1<sup>st</sup> arrondissement of Paris. In 1823 he was posted to Canada and in 1849 was made Commander-in-Chief, North America.

#### Joseph Bouch (1801-1859) 1.A.19A

Caused a scandal pursuing his wife from Australia to New Zealand after she had run off with someone else.

#### Percy Ralph Ricardo (1855-1907) 1.A.23

A son of Harry Ralph Ricardo (1822-1860). Buried at Melbourne but commemorated here. Controversial involvement in the suppression of the shearer's strike of 1891. A grandson of Harry Ralph Ricardo was a pioneer of internal combustion engine design.

#### Robert MacLimont (1822-1865) 1.B.12A

American orthodox physician who converted to homeopathy, practiced in Guernsey and, after several years travelling abroad, settled in Bath

where he was appointed as a Physician at the Bath Homeopathic Hospital. There were several controversies.

**Forbes Fraser (1870-1924) 1.K.18A**

Surgeon who was instrumental in setting up the Royal United Private Hospital in Bath which, shortly after his death, was renamed the Forbes Fraser Hospital.

**William Jervois (1783-1862) 1.L.16/16A**

General. Served in the Peninsular War. Promoted to General in 1846 he was Commander and Lieutenant Governor of Hong Kong in 1851. In retirement he was Master of Ceremonies at Bath's Assembly Rooms.

The obituary in the *Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette* of Thu 6 Nov 1862 referred to him as "a gentleman who for many years has been one of the chief ornaments of [Bath's] society".

**Martin Claris Colbourn (1901-1989) 2.A1.3A**

Last vicar of St James, Bath (it was bombed and later demolished) and then rector of Walcot 1942-1951 succeeding Geoffrey Erskine Woodmansey who had been killed in the blitz (see grave 2.A1.2).

**William Augustus Fry (1835-1860) 3.N.8A**

A survivor of the Charge of the Light Brigade. The inscription states that "he was one of the gallant six hundred in the charge of Balaclava".

**Elizabeth Pigot (1791-1860) 4.A1.4**

Married Major George Pigot (the acknowledged natural son of Lord Pigot of Patshull) 10 days before setting off for Algoa Bay, South Africa in Draft

1820 with 20 indentured servants where they set up an estate.

**Hester McCormick (1782-1857) 4.B.16A**

A servant. The inscription has an enigmatic inscription which states that "by prudence and industry" she amassed "a considerable sum of money" which she used for charitable purposes.

**Marie Carandini (1826-1894) 4.B.23**

Noted prima donna in Australia. Born in England, she emigrated with her family to Tasmania where she married an Italian marquis.

**Edward Pelham Brenton Von Donop (1811-1890) 4.D.7A-8**

Vice-Admiral. A history of the Royal Navy, in reference to a battle in the (so-called) Friendly Islands has "At a later date his gallantry would have won him the Victoria Cross".

**Henry Edward Goodridge (1797-1864) 4.D.14/15A**

Noted architect. When aged 24 William Beckford commissioned him to design the tower now known as Beckford Tower. He also designed the neo-classical façade to Argyle Chapel (1823) Cleveland Bridge (1827) and The Corridor shopping arcade (1825). His designs outside Bath include the chapel of Downside Abbey (1828), the Catholic Clifton pro-cathedral (1834) which was never completed, Devizes Castle (1840) and the library of Hamilton Palace (1845).

**Mary Pitman (1793-1857) 4.I.1A**

Wife of Sir Isaac Pitman (1813-1897) The inscription uses phonetic letters and starts "MÆRI PITMAN/WEIF OV MR EIZAK PITMAN"

**George Frederick Rosenberg (1825- 1869) 4.I.16**

Watercolour artist and author of a guide on flower-painting in water colours.

**William Hinde (1817-1878) 4.I.31**

Master of the Supreme Court at Adelaide, South Australia.

**Thomas Simson Pratt (1796-1879) 4.K/23-23A**

Served in the war in China in 1840-1. Commander of forces in Australia 1856-1861 and served in the Maori war of 1860-1.

**Leonard Blomefield (1800-1893) 4.M.23A**

Naturalist. Clergyman. Offered the position of botanist on HMS Beagle, which he declined. His specimen collections were donated to the Bath Royal Literary & Scientific Institute.

**James Scarth Gale (1863-1937) 4.S.14A**

Born in Canada, a missionary for 40 years in Korea, translator of the Bible into Korean and author of books on the Korean language and folk tales.

**Benjamin James Maslen (1900-1982) 4.S2.4**

Organist and composer.

**Adolph B Brewster (1854-1937) 4.T.14**

Born in Australia. Went to Fiji in 1870. Entered the colonial service and wrote books on Fiji before retiring to England in 1910.

**Julia Georgina Affleck (1863-1944) 4.U.12**

The monument has “widow of Sir Robert Affleck 7th Baronet” but in 1914 she obtained a divorce on the grounds of cruelty and desertion. She then worked as a shop assistant and under the name of “Madame Julie” and gained a reputation as a business woman.

**George Uvedale Price (1853-1929) 4.V.5A**

Author of books on China in the 1890s.

**Alexander Kennedy Cuninghame (1858-1935)**

4.V.6

Member of Her Majesty's Bodyguard of the Honourable Corps of Gentlemen at Arms, the monarch's bodyguard instituted by Henry VIII.

**Harry Strickland McGill (1861-1914) 4.W.5**

Army medical surgeon, accompanying the army in Burma, India and China, being in charge in turn of two hospitals in India 1906-1911.

**Percival Huth (1851-1913) 4.W.28**

Member of a banking family, originally from Germany, who rose to prominence after helping the Spanish royal family save the jewels during the Napoleonic invasion.

**Sophia MacLean Wood Law (1834-1914) 4.X.4-4A**

Born in Canada. Stepmother of Andrew Bonar Law, British Prime Minister (1858-1923)

**Emma Sophia Georgina Goldie (1854-1923) 4.X.6A**

For 32 years a missionary in China. Her sister had married a missionary and when this sister died in China Emma Goldie brought her nephews and nieces back to Bath.

**Henry Edward Jerome (1830-1901) 5.A.19**

Awarded a Victoria Cross for action during the Indian Mutiny.

**Wilfred Vincent Miller Koch (1863-1939) 5.A.23**

Born in Ceylon, son of a noted doctor, awarded a gold medal at Edinburgh University for medical studies. Subsequently medical officer in the West Indies and hospital superintendent in Hong Kong.

**William Frederic Carl Schottler (1863-1912)**

6.B.4A

Born at Göttingen, Germany. Conductor of The Bath Theatre Royal Orchestra, The Bath Military Band, The Bath Operatic Society and Bandmaster of the 4th Btn. Somerset L. I. Memorial erected “in public recognition of his great services to the musical life of the city of Bath”

**Henry James Griffen (1855-1931) 7.B.6**

Organ builder at Hedgemoor Park.

**George Reynolds Scott Burrows (1827-1917)**

7.C.11

General with a distinguished career in India. He was in charge of a British brigade which suffered a

disaster in Afghanistan in 1880 when the force was severely outnumbered.

**Known Issues**

- 1 The numbering of graves in Sections 8 and 9 is not consistent between rows. Some numbers have been used more than once, particularly at the northern ends of the rows. These anomalies are highlighted on the maps for those rows.
- 2 The numbering of some graves at the northern end of some rows in Section 4 as given in the Burial Order Book is wrong. The survey has found that in certain cases where the Burial Order Book indicates a single grave there are multiple graves.
- 3 Some memorials indicate that an individual is buried there but there is no corresponding entry in the Burial Order Book. The presence of a Burial Order Book number is the only certain way of determining whether or not the individual was buried in the cemetery.

Some late 20th-century burials - as implied by the memorial - have no corresponding entry in the Burial Order Book, probably because the ashes were scattered.

- 4 There remain some inscriptions to check.

