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**HISTORICAL CEMETERIES
AND PASSIVE RECREATION**

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A study of historical cemeteries throughout New Zealand, their value and significance to our culture and means of future restoration, renovation and maintenance.

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HISTORICAL CEMETERIES AND PASSIVE RECREATION

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NUMBER</u>
Introduction	1
1. A Background to Cemetery Design in New Zealand	3
2. Cemeteries as a Source of History	8
3. Cemetery Maintenance	11
4. Planting in Cemeteries	16
5. Circulation Patterns	21
6. Interpretation	24
7. Vandalism in Cemeteries	26
8. Legal Considerations	30
9. The Bolton Street Memorial Park	32
10. The Barbadoes Street Cemetery	36
11. Conclusions	48
Bibliography	50

INTRODUCTION

"Behold my grave as you pass by,
As you are living so once was I,
Death suddenly took hold of me,
And so will be the case with thee."

17th Century Epitaph

In the planning of a city, one of the necessary components is a burial place for those who pass away. A common, and indeed most natural occurrence. As a result of this need, many cities find they have large areas of land in centrally located, valuable positions, containing memorials dating back to the initial establishment of that city. In a time where land is in increasing demand, especially within our cities, areas of passive recreation are greatly sought after. Cemeteries such as the Barbadoes Street Cemetery in Christchurch, the Bolton Street Memorial Park in Wellington, or the Northern Cemetery in Dunedin, represent a potentially unrecognized source of passive recreation within the confines of rapid urban development.

These old cemeteries are of great historical interest and provide us with "a link with the past". They are perhaps the only surviving memorials of those people that battled the rigours of a new unconquered land. They are in fact the founders of what we call "civilization". These cemeteries provide a contrast to the harshness of modern cities. They contain the charm and character of that era, as does a museum or an historical building.

Perhaps the reason for the neglect and misuse of these historical sites is the stigma attached to those who have died. Death is the only certainty in life, without death there cannot be life. A cemetery has a particular

aura to be found nowhere else, they are peaceful, quiet, reflective, but certainly not the misty, terrifying places depicted in horror movies.

"Death must be so beautiful. . . To lie in the soft brown earth. . . To have no yesterdays and no tomorrows. . . To forget time, to forgive life, to be at peace !"

Oscar Wilde

OBJECTIVES

1. To encourage public use of cemetery-parks as aesthetic focal points for passive recreation, contemplation and relaxation.
2. To encourage public interest and awareness in the historical value of old cemeteries. To show how the social history of an area can be brought to light by researching and interpreting an historical cemetery.
3. To identify the problems of vandalism within a cemetery and to show how this problem can be reduced.
4. To show the importance of preserving unique stonework and masonry now absent from modern memorials.
5. To show how old cemeteries can be developed for passive recreation without losing the authentic character unique to an historical site.
6. To show how appropriate planting can enhance the appearance and the authentic character of a cemetery.

1. A BACKGROUND TO CEMETERY DESIGN IN NEW ZEALAND

Introduction

As the first settlers arrived in New Zealand, they brought with them their traditions and customs of their countries of origin. As a result, our first cemeteries were of traditional European design. The monumental masonry was reproduced from English designs. Similarly the trees were not New Zealand natives, but of European origin, particularly conifers such as the Irish Yew.

The first cemeteries were those associated with the pioneer churches scattered throughout New Zealand. These catered for the needs of the community. As these needs grew they progressed to larger traditional memorial cemeteries away from the church. From these beginnings we should see cemeteries not just as burial grounds, but as places of great sociological and genealogical value. They are permanent records of people that can never be replaced.

Attitudes towards life and death have changed over the years and so has cemetery design. Cremation has now become an acceptable means of disposing of and remembering the deceased. In fact, in some heavily populated parts of the world, cremation is necessary in view of an intense shortage of land. The design of cemeteries has changed dramatically also. Pressures placed on land in cities increase and it becomes a valuable commodity. Not one, it seems, to be spent liberally in remembrance of our past. Multi-use is the ideal of today and a necessary one if recreation is to survive in the face of rapid industrial and commercial development within our cities.

Recent Trends in Cemetery Design

The modern cemetery follows the easily maintained design of the crematorium with smaller spaces, and little or no memorial at the burial site. One of the values attributed to the traditional cemetery was the individuality of each site. Each monument had its own private space. Today, maintenance costs and space restrictions prohibit such extravagance. We should however, acknowledge the importance of a cemetery - not only to friends and relatives of deceased, but to the area of "passive recreation".

If this trend of cemeteries without memorials continues, we and our future inheritants will lose a great deal of culture and history presented through this means. Monuments become memories of the past and as in all things it is difficult to appreciate the importance of this until it is too late.

New Zealand is a multi-cultural society and we should appreciate the importance of preserving those cultures. For all ethnic groups, respect for their past is an important part of cultural beliefs and customs. Most cultures would agree that a permanent memorial at the place of burial is essential. A monument serves as a physical link with those who are living and those who have died.

As our way of life changes, posing new threats and challenges, the quality of life of yesteryear becomes increasingly important. Historical cemeteries are a reminder of our past, like the museums.

There exists in our cities today four main types of cemeteries. They began with the churchyard cemetery and the traditional monument cemetery. Today for economic reasons we have developed the lawn cemetery and the memorial park cemetery.

(i) The Churchyard Cemetery

As I have mentioned, the churchyard cemetery began with the arrival of Christianity. The style of the graveyard was intimate and fulfilled the needs of a small community. It was just a small area set aside near the church for burial purposes.

(ii) Traditional Monumental Cemetery

As populations grew, so did the need for burial space. The small churchyard cemeteries gave way to larger areas of land set aside purely for graveyard use. There were few architectural elements except for crypts and family tombs. The monuments became larger and more elaborate to compensate for the loss of the church as a focal element. In New Zealand these cemeteries flourished during the latter half of the 19th century, and some continued up until the 1950's.

The main reason for the deterioration of this type of cemetery was the problem of maintenance. Traditionally, the relatives were responsible for the upkeep of each grave, but the burden inevitably fell upon the Local Authorities, and hence the rate payer. When originally designed, the grass was cut by hand using a scythe, perhaps four times a year. This is no longer plausible, and with the advent of the lawnmower, more frequent cutting is required. So because of the somewhat haphazard arrangement, maintenance became a time consuming and expensive business.

For this reason cemetery design evolved to the other extreme, the lawn cemetery.

(iii) The Lawn Cemetery

The lawn cemetery was designed about thirty years ago in response to this maintenance problem. The aim

was that of visual simplicity, and ease of maintenance. There are no upright headstones, merely rows of uniform graves that can be mowed as if it were a football field. The effect is much the same. These cemeteries were designed for alternative uses when full. The effect however is highly formalized and totally impersonal. It has led to much public dissatisfaction and a common inability to find plots.

(iv) The Memorial Park Cemetery

Memorial park cemeteries are again designed with maintenance in mind, but usually with little imagination or consideration. There is no intimacy of spaces, and trees are usually left out of the plan altogether. The term park is really not applicable to this situation.

A common problem with older graves is the subsidence of headstones. To combat this problem a concrete beam is used to hold stones upright. This provides for nice easy mowing but is a visual disaster. There are height restrictions placed on the headstones which helps create an atmosphere of incredibly boring formality.

NOTE

Owing to the extent and complexity of this topic, the remainder of this dissertation will be devoted to Historical Cemeteries.

For an excellent insight into innovative cemetery design, the New Zealand Master Monumental Masons Association have published a booklet considering this topic. (Listed in the Bibliography).

"Man's life.
Man is a glass:
Life is a water thats weakly
Walled about:

Sin brings death:
Death breaks the glass:
So runnes the water out:
Finis."

English epitaph.

2. CEMETERIES AS A SOURCE OF HISTORY

"Rejoice ye dead where'ere your spirits dwell,
Rejoice that yet on earth your fame is bright,
And that your names remembered day and night,
Live on the lips of those who know you well."

The old graveyard should be looked upon as a source of history. Just as the heirloom is handed down from generation to generation, we should look upon our graveyards as a piece of history we have inherited from our ancestors. As such, they should be maintained and controlled accordingly.

Historical Cemeteries can be dealt with in a number of ways, but there are two main options. The first is to develop the cemetery as an historical park and acknowledge its important open space and its historical features. The second method is a more convenient means of dispensing with the problems associated with any old cemetery. It can be heavily planted, covered with bush and perhaps grazed to keep maintenance down.

Current trends indicate that cemeteries could become a thing of the past. Cremation is now widely accepted as a means of disposing of relatives and loved ones. (After they are deceased, of course!) There are many advantages with this method of burial. In a time where land is in short supply, cremation is the obvious answer, but it will see the end of the attractive headstones and memorials. It should also enable us to appreciate the worth of old cemeteries, their beauty and associated history that ^{may} (is) never (to) be repeated.

I walked through an old cemetery in Christchurch that I found hidden by a corrugated iron fence on one side and a large factory on the other. I had driven past this particular cemetery hundreds of times, quite ignorant of its existence. The area is one of high unemployment,

it has a great deal of industrial activity and very little in the way of passive recreation. Yet here we have a large area of open space of great historical interest, hidden and unused. The graveyard contained graves dating back to the last century, many of which should be preserved on their artistic merit alone. The cemetery had many stories to tell the interested visitor. A group of children that had died of Diphtheria in 1880, a child drowned in a pool in 1879. In a shaded corner there was an old grave covered in tree roots and ivy, surrounded by an old iron fence. The writing was illegible, but one wonders at the stories behind this lonely grave. Each grave told a story of the hardships endured by these early settlers, the survivors of "the first four ships". A grave remembering a child who had passed away in 1914 was adorned with fresh flowers.

Even in those early days there must have been some social differentiation as can be seen by the types of headstones used. Large marble memorials remember affluent families who had left their mark on the country. Smaller, less expensive memorials mark the graves of individuals, whose families probably sacrificed a great deal for these headstones. We have a responsibility to these people to preserve what is left of their history. When they left the earth they left behind them the basis upon which we have built our society. They suffered many hardships for us, so what they ask of us is very little.

Old cemeteries contain a wealth of geneological and social history. It falls mainly upon Local Authorities to preserve this history and it is to be hoped they can do so with a little sympathy and consideration for the dead whose memory still lives on.

Value of an Old Cemetery

(1) As most old cemeteries now lie within cities, they provide natural havens for old plants, animals and birds.

(2) Metal or wood fences around graves can be of aesthetic interest even when broken.

(3) The kind of stone, wood or metal used for the memorial is interesting as is its source.

(4) Statuary is significant, and its origin can be of interest.

(5) The name of the stonemason is often recorded on the memorial. Some stones come from overseas.

(6) The inscriptions reveal

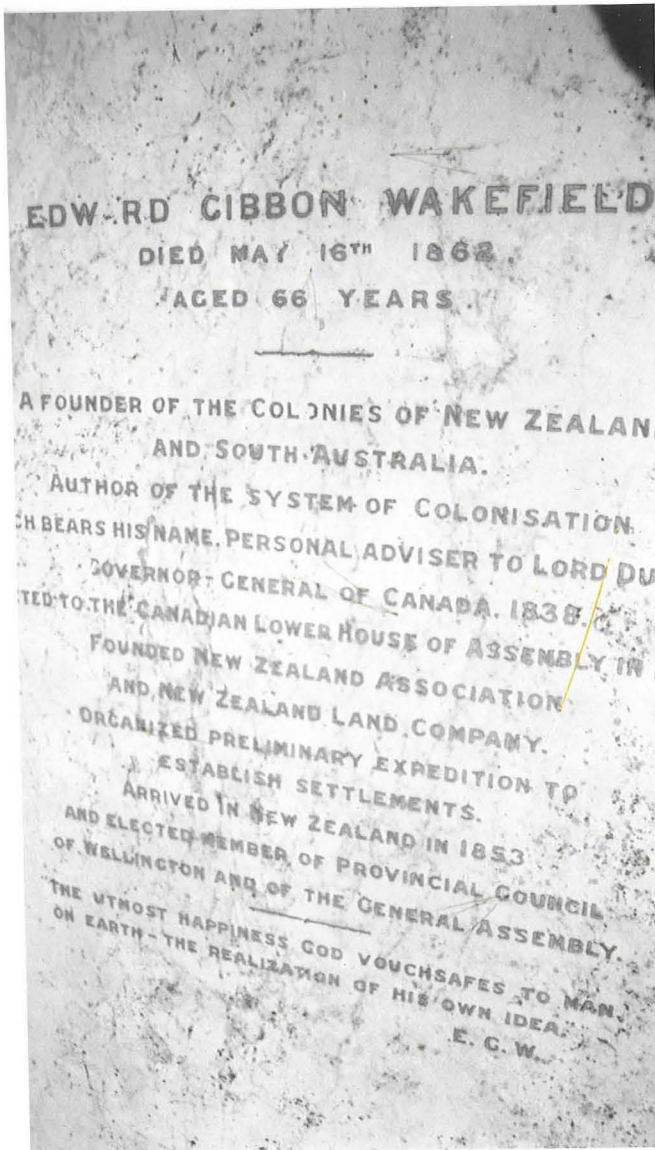
a) Different types of lettering.

b) Geneological information.

c) A wealth of historical detail gained by following up obituary notices etc., with the aid of the date of death. These details can make a valuable contribution to our social history (e.g. doctors are interested in the record of epidemics.)

d) Varying attitudes towards death throughout the texts and quotations.

(7) An old cemetery is a "period piece".



A memorial in the Bolton Street Cemetery showing the kind of information that can be gleaned from these historical memorials.

This stone in the Barbadoes Street Cemetery is in memory of a sea captain who went down with his ship in 1881.



3. CEMETERY MAINTENANCE

"Perhaps in this neglected spot is laid,
Some heart once pregnant with celestial fire,
Hands that the rod of empire might have sway'd
Or wak'd to ecstasy the living lyre."

Undertaking the maintenance of an old cemetery presents us with a dilemma. Do we conduct our programme according to the authentic or to the modern practices. Do we give the visitor what he wants and expects to see or do we show him what it would have looked like to a visitor last century.

Today's visitors have become accustomed to carpet-like lawns and manicured trees and shrubs, free of pests due to intensive weeding and spraying. Maintaining an historical site should be educational, not only in what it presents but in how it presents it. You can't restore an old cemetery with new grounds, you must give the visitor a real picture of the past.

However we are dealing with a difference of centuries. A lot of changes have occurred in that time making accurate authenticity impossible. A hundred years ago sprays were not used to control these problems but many of the pests we have today were not evident last century. They have been introduced so we have also devised new measures to cope with them. So it is prudent that we continue using these new methods of control, both to enhance the appearance of the cemetery and to reduce labour costs. Materials should be used that don't leave obvious residues and this operation should be carried out outside peak hours. Modern spray equipment is not exactly conducive to the authentic appearance of an historical site.



The Addington Cemetery in Christchurch has a rather advanced Ivy problem. Ivy will disfigure stones and prove extremely difficult to remove unless continued maintenance is ensured.

This Nelson cemetery shows the difference between two graves of the same age. The memorial on the left has been maintained by relatives.



Lawns

Last century a Flymo whizzing round a cemetery on a Saturday afternoon would have created superstitious panic amongst the people. In those early days, lawns were cut with a scythe or grazed by sheep. And don't start to imagine waking to the sound of scythes clicking on Saturday mornings, lawns were only cut four or five times during the growing season.

Today our modern equipment is designed for cutting every week to produce a nice carpet-like lawn. One totally unnatural to the nineteenth century. It is contradictory to maintain gravestones and surrounds in their original condition and place them in a twentieth century setting.

By using a sickle-bar mower you can obtain the ragged appearance of a scythe cut lawn. To actually cut the lawn with a scythe would be too expensive but by using a sickle-bar mower it would work out cheaper than by using an ordinary mower. The grass will then look unsheared and resembles a lawn of that period. The grass is allowed to come almost to the seeding stage. It is then cut and the clippings are collected. It works out cheaper because weekly mowing is unnecessary.

Weeds in lawns were not usually worried about. Sometimes children would be employed to dig them out, in the affluent properties. To be truly authentic common weeds present at the time should be allowed to persist in some places. Sophisticated weed control mixes were not used but as I mentioned, many weeds have been introduced this century and were not a problem at the time.

Leaf raking was a common practice in the autumn as piles of leaves presented a fire hazard and would kill

and grass if left. These would be collected and ^{compacted} compacted before winter.

A nineteenth century lawn would have looked rough and coarse, not the carpet-like lawns we see today. As a minimum of maintenance is the primary objective, traditional methods would work out cheaper.

Other gardening techniques were used, such as mulching to keep down weeds, to conserve moisture, to add organic matter and to keep the soil cool. Grass clippings, hay, straw and compost were used but not bark chips and wood chips which are a result of modern technology.

Pest Control

Visitors to any recreational site do not wish to see insect ridden plants. Trees and shrubs should be sprayed to control the insect problem. By spraying before visiting hours, with an emulsifiable liquid there will be no residue, and the visitor is none the wiser. There are some traditional controls that could be used as an educational feature.

- Placing cabbage leaves around plants plagued by slugs will draw out the slugs which can then be burned.
- Tobacco leaves were used as a pest deterrent.
- Strong liquid manure and charcoal dust close to plants will control cutworms. (And possibly visitors)
- The hand picking of insects was also a common practice but is now obviously impractical.

If traditional methods are used, consult an entomologist to find out if they actually work. For example, injecting brandy into the trunk of a tree may make the tree sway a little but will not kill insets.

Pruning

Pruning is an essential part of cemetery maintenance.

This practice has been carried out for many centuries and will help reduce the neglected appearance we are trying to overcome. Many books have been written about pruning that can be obtained from bookshops and libraries.

The cemetery should not become overrun by trees as it will soon look untidy and neglected. However trees are a valuable asset to any cemetery, they break up the rigid lines and add a friendly, personal element. Old trees should be retained at all costs, they add greatly to the character of an historical site.

The Lyttelton Anglican Burial Ground

No two cemeteries are the same, problems vary from place to place, so answers will differ also. No one solution can be applied to each site, each must be considered individually for its own various attributes.

The Lyttelton Anglican burial ground was renovated recently, but required a different type of maintenance procedure because of its situation. The cemetery occupies a key position in the township, a town with few public spaces. The graves and surrounding areas were in a state of disrepair and orthodox maintenance was impossible.

Something had to be done to improve the cemetery but very limited funds were available. The parish could provide plenty of labour but little else. Material was re-used as much as possible, such as headstones and iron railings. This helps reduce costs and also maintains the original character. Graves were assessed for their potential for retention, some were beyond repair and were removed. The resulting spaces were then also considered.

Pathways had to be modified and boundaries were reconstructed, some old headstones were used in walls. The topography of the area meant that regular mowing was impossible, continuous grazing was then considered. Where this has been tried in other areas it has presented maintenance problems. Periodic grazing was finally accepted but it was stipulated that it must be well controlled.

Another original idea was the ground cover. Achillea millefolium or Yarrow is a common garden weed. Yarrow can however be grazed effectively, will choke out other plants, is excellent wearing and will stay green throughout summer. Yarrow may be a weed but here it fulfills a useful function.

Effective management really means the best possible utilization of the site, taking all variables into consideration. Large funds available for cemetery renovations are a great help but not a necessity. Much can be done to improve and enhance these historic places, just given a little thought and consideration. Today there is great public interest in historical cemeteries and there are always people willing to donate their labour to this worthy cause.



Crooked headstones are a major problem in all old cemeteries. Unless they are set in a firm base they tend to sink over the years. This stone in Barbadoes Street cemetery illustrates the problem.

An overgrown grave in Barbadoes Street. Ivy has claimed this grave enclosed by an old iron fence.



4. PLANTING IN CEMETERIES

"From whence you come or whosoe'er you be,
Remember mortal man, that thou must dee"

Many of our older cemeteries, through years of neglect, remain barren and exposed with little tree cover. Some of these areas require the introduction of new trees but a difficulty arises in deciding what to plant.

We must then, decide what is appropriate for this situation. New Zealand's first cemeteries in the late nineteenth century were of a distinctly English design. The first European settlers came from England and brought with them their own traditions, cultures and lifestyles. Their gardens were a reproduction of English gardens complete with exotic plants imported from the homeland. Tree species, cemetery layout, architecture and stone masonry were all reproduced from examples "back home". New Zealand was considered an unhospitable, hostile environment and settlers strove to recreate a little piece of England in their new country.

Because of this background planting trees native to New Zealand in these cemeteries would be unnatural in many cases, and would create the wrong atmosphere. Certain exotic species normally associated with cemeteries and churchyards will maintain an old English character.

Before any cemetery renovation takes place, a site analysis should be conducted with the consultation of a landscape architect. There are many factors to consider, such as climate, soil, aspect, drainage, existing features and the intended use. Trees are important in conveying an idea or creating a setting and the correct type of tree is essential.

Because we are creating an old English setting I find

it fitting to consult an old English book on the subject. In 1843 J.C. Loudon wrote a book directly concerned with cemeteries (listed in bibliography). The book has been reproduced and is available through the National Library Service.

In England there are cemeteries dating back many centuries and Loudon in 1843 was expressing his concerns over the neglected state of such burial grounds.

Problems and solutions were slightly different in 1843 than they are 142 years later, but Loudon was a key man behind cemetery design and it is appropriate that we consult him for ideas on planting.

Loudon names three requirements for a cemetery tree.

- 1) Must be hardy and able to survive with the minimum of maintenance.
- 2) Must grow well in turf and must not have roots growing above the surface (pinus spp). Long complex root systems will disturb the stonework.
- 3) Must have a long life span.

Loudon's four preferences for cemetery trees are ever-greens with needle leaves and a vertical branching habit.

- 1) Cupressus sempervirens. The Italian Cypress. This tree grows to a height of 20-30 feet and in 1843 would have cost one shilling and sixpence. In his opinion, this is the number one tree.
- 2) Taxus baccata 'fastigiata'. The Irish Yew grows to about 30 feet and is to be found in cemeteries throughout New Zealand. This is listed as the second best tree, it is extremely hardy and has been known to live over 500 years.
- 3) Taxus baccata 'erecta'. The upright tree is

Loudon's third preference.

4) Juniperus communis 'suecica'. The Swedish Juniper grows to approximately 12 feet and is light in colour.

There is, however, great variation in the plant applicable to the cemetery situation. A cemetery full of Irish yews can look quite monotonous and uninspiring. A full list of plants Loudon found suitable can be seen in his book. Thorns, Hollies, Maples, Sycamores, Yews, Ash and Oaks are some examples of good cemetery trees.

The type of tree needed depends greatly on the situation in which it is to be placed. No tree is suitable in every site as climate, soil and amount of available space will vary a great deal. When these cemeteries were in use, smaller trees were preferred as they provided less shade and there was a need to preserve dryness within the cemetery.

Certain trees may suit the site better than others. The purple beech is recommended as it harmonises well with the dark Yew. The Oriental Plane has a stone-like hew to the bark and foliage, reflecting the textures found in a cemetery.

Existing trees that were planted in the early days of the cemetery, are an essential part of the decor and should not be disturbed. These old specimens contribute greatly to the character of an historic cemetery. Large old Sequoiadendrons such as 'Wellingtonia', or 'Big Tree', are found in many historic places and are a large part of the attraction. Trees are not the only plants applicable to a cemetery. In years gone by, flowers and shrubs of many varieties were to be found, but maintenance costs now usually prohibit such aesthetic extravagance. Lists of flowers and shrubs are also found in Loudon's book.



This Nelson cemetery shows a great variety of vegetation. Shown here *Phoenix canariensis* a Nikau Palm and a Pohutakawa add considerable appeal to this scenic cemetery.



Taxus baccata fastigiata. The Irish Yew.
The tree most commonly associated with cemeteries.



Loudon on Maintenance

New Zealand being a relatively new country, our cemeteries are now encountering problems Loudon noticed, over a hundred years ago in England. The problem with insecure monuments was a source of annoyance to him. He felt the problem lay primarily with cemetery design. Monuments must have the appearance of security and permanence. They should be erect and perpendicular and should arise from a solid foundation. This, he noted was easy to achieve when first established, but they must remain so for many years to come. To achieve this, a foundation of masonry under the ground is necessary. Stones composed of many pieces will break at the joints and repair is difficult. Crooked headstones should be reset in solid ground with a secure foundation.

Loudon saw cemeteries as a source of local history especially for the poor, who were mostly illiterate, and for who the cemetery was a book of history, biography, architecture and sculpture. For these reasons village cemeteries were visited regularly and provided a source of pride to villagers. Loudon felt their state of neglect was deplorable. He felt the root of this neglect could be attributed to poor original layout.

"Slovenly state of grass or herbage"

The condition of cemeteries in England in 1843 was apparently one of negligence and slovenliness rather than care and respect. Their problems were much the same as ours today, but one would think with advanced techniques and technology we could keep our cemeteries under better control. Weeds, drainage and long grass were major problems in those days. The grass had to be "close cropped by scythe, hedge shears, sheep shears or the reaping hook". A long process when compared with the lawnmower.

Desecration

Seventeenth century attitudes towards the dead were more reverent than ours today. Multi-use was a term unheard of and would never have been considered in regards to a cemetery. In those days, playing frisbee in the village cemetery would have been punishable by death. Sheep, horses, cows, and swine were a problem as they dug up bones and would damage graves. In some of the more uncivilised parts of England that lacked any public or private toiletry facilities, villagers would resort to the cemeteries for their relief.

"A more hideous spectacle of the kind we never saw."

J.C. Loudon



Iron rails surrounding graves were often quite elaborate, with ornate patterns making up the small enclosing fences. These examples are from Nelson, the lower photograph shows the memorial of a one-time mayor of Nelson, complete with tiled surface.



5. CIRCULATION PATTERNS

Circulation is an elementary part of any park. It is seldom planned with much thought for the park user, which results in wear and tear, compaction and vandalism. There are three places where circulation is particularly important.

- 1) At the intersections of paths.
- 2) At the edge of important features.
- 3) Entrances, exits and rest areas.

Wear occurs primarily because of poor or inadequate design of circulation patterns. Some important points to remember are:

- 1) People. Will always take the shortest route between point A and point B regardless of where the track goes.
- 2) People are not in the habit of walking around right angle corners if it can be avoided.

The circulation pattern should be laid out according to the lines of least resistance. This means rounded corners and paths following simple and direct routes. Pathways should be functional, encouraging people to follow them, they are not merely for aesthetic appeal. If you need a sign saying "please stick to the path", then you have a bad circulation pattern that isn't working. A sign like that will only serve to antagonise people anyway.

Lawns

Grass wears well and will take a great deal of traffic but concentrated wear will cause compaction. Compaction causes a lack of soil oxygen, lack of aeration and poor root growth. If this happens, mechanical aeration will become necessary, by using coring machines to open up the soil. A lawn will only take so much, if the problem persists, either disperse the traffic

or pave the problem area.

Walkways

Paths should be laid out to make things as easy and as enjoyable as possible for the visitor. Walkways should be free flowing, intersections should be rounded rather than angular and a little wider than usual. An edging in brick, wood, or stone may be necessary to prevent edges becoming eroded.

Shingle paths are cheap to construct and look quite authentic. However the stones tend to get scuffed and kicked on to lawns and will cause some problems with maintenance. Brick and various types of stone make very attractive, original-looking walkways, and although more expensive to construct, will save in the long run in terms of labour.

The only problem with this type of path is weeds growing in the cracks. An effective weedkiller such as Roundup *-Glyphosate* will prevent this nuisance.

Access for the elderly and the disabled should be considered. Easy wheelchair access is a must. Ramps should be placed wherever necessary if there are steps to negotiate. A smooth stone walkway system would enable easy circulation and paths of an adequate width with occasional rest areas will prevent congestion.

An historical cemetery also lends itself as an interpretative park for the blind, with a wide variety of headstones, engravings, and all the interest and associated history. For this, the circulation system needs careful planning and a braille sign and mapping system is little extra trouble.

Safety is an important point to consider when designing walkways, they must have a non-slip surface with no

rough or jagged edges. There must be no obstruction on the walkways for the public's safety and convenience. Lighting at night will act as a protection for visitors and will also help prevent vandalism.

Parking

If the cemetery were to become a major attraction, as is hoped, parking may be necessary. It may be just a drop-off point or it could be a major facility. If there is a parking area nearby this should be utilised if at all possible. Any kind of carpark will obviously create a contradictory landscape and should be separated from the cemetery. This can be done using hedging or shrubs. Parking is ugly and should be avoided if possible, but if a carpark is necessary it should be outside the authentic portion of the cemetery.

6. INTERPRETATION

"Here lies John Racket
In his wooden Jacket,
He kept neither horses nor mules,
He lived like a hog,
He died like a dog.
And left all his money to fools."

As the historical cemetery is an educational facility, and its purpose is to interest and enlighten the public, a certain amount of interpretation is necessary. Through this means we can explain historical facts and help the public relate to and understand the background of the cemetery.

Interpretation is used merely as an aid and should not become a feature of the cemetery. It should not create any visible intrusion to the site. Any signs should be low to the ground. If they are above waist height they will destroy the overall effect of the cemetery, and attract attention to themselves.

You need not identify anything and everything in the cemetery, only the points of utmost interest. Most things will explain themselves, besides, signs and notices are quite expensive to purchase and maintain. This also makes them attractive to vandals and souvenir seekers. To prevent signs cluttering up the site and becoming an intrusion, a different method may be used. Small brochures could be printed, perhaps with a brief map and containing any relevant information. The brochure could be used to supplement an interpretation system within the park.

If signs are used they should be attached to free standing objects, such as buildings or fences. This will be less of an intrusion and saves on installation and vandalism. Signs should be easily legible, firmly attached and of weather-proof, durable material.

They should contain the minimum of lettering and ornamentation and must be simply proportioned. If the site is large and complex a map may be necessary. Placed by an entrance point it will give a simple, accurate representation of what is within the cemetery and where items are situated. Alternatively the map may be part of the brochure.

A combination of the two systems is preferable. People tend to read signs more than brochures but with a brochure people only read it if they want to, and it isn't as costly and obtrusive as a sign.

7. VANDALISM IN CEMETERIES

"Alas the little day of life,
Is shorter than a span,
Yet black with many hidden hills,
To a miserable man."

When one thinks of old cemeteries, vandalism springs to mind. A vandal is defined as, "one who wantonly damages property". The seemingly pointless destruction of that which belongs to someone else. There are those who say, "there is no such thing as a vandal, these people are being oppressed by society and are making a statement in the only way they know how". This may be true but if so there is little we can do about it, short of a dramatic restructuring of society. We can however, attempt to deter vandalism and destruction on a small scale such as within the cemetery. This can be done by incorporating certain factors into the design, so hopefully people will not want to vandalise it.

Some vandalism would appear to occur as a result of some aggravation or annoyance experienced by the individual. For example too many signs telling what to do, a circulation system that just doesn't work. Inadequate facilities or confusion within the site may also incite vandalism.

To deter this destruction and at the same time improve the cemetery layout for visitors, there are a number of points to be considered.

- 1) A good circulation and layout system that provides a minimum of confusion and irritation will prevent a great deal of petty vandalism.

- 2) If the layout is well thought out, signs saying "do this" and "don't do that" should not be necessary. If used, signs should be simple and vandal proof.

They should be unbreakable and well attached.

3) The main aim should be to create a friendly, "we care for you", atmosphere which is possible even within a cemetery. Inviting, tidy entrances and exits with enough room to absorb the crowd and prevent congestion. Adequate maintenance with clean facilities, pleasant walkways, rest areas and picnic spots will change the atmosphere from one of neglect to one of interest and pride.

4) Good housekeeping is essential. The moment deterioration becomes visible it will invite more of the same. If there is litter on the ground others will think that is acceptable and follow suit.

Placing litter receptacles at strategic points will prevent this problem. People will not carry litter for very long before depositing it, so bins need to be placed in the correct places. Rest areas, circulation intersections, parking areas, entrances, exits, should all be covered if the site becomes busy.

An attempt should not be made to create authentic bins because they didn't exist last century and a litter bin needs to be obvious and easily identified.

5) Site security is an important aspect of vandalism prevention. You have to decide what type of facility you wish to create. Is it to be free to the public at all times, limited access, etc. Quite often if you try to keep people out at night they will try to get in just for the sake of it. By providing free access it presents little challenge to the more adventurous vandal.

To exclude people at night you could erect a tall impenetrable fence with a strand of barbed wire at the top. This would destroy the whole concept of an "historical park". If exclusion is necessary a tall iron picket

fence with spiked pickets as seen in old churchyards would be the best option. People can then see in easily yet it provides an effective yet authentic-looking barrier. The latter option also provides a greater challenge for the graffiti artist. The idea of free circulation in many cases will give greater security than a large fence. In New York's Central Park when crime reached epidemic proportions people were encouraged to use the facility more often, providing in itself a means of crime prevention. The same concept would seem to be the only solution to crimes of vandalism and destruction within cemeteries. With the same idea, discreet lighting in and around the cemetery will both encourage visitors and deter vandalism.

For many years vandalism has been a problem in old cemeteries. It has been proven that good maintenance will deter vandalism to some extent, yet most old cemeteries throughout New Zealand remain neglected and forgotten. In New Zealand, many people have talked about tidying up cemeteries for many years. If a dollar had been put forward for each unfulfilled promise we would have quite a large fund by now. We have a particularly bad record of vandalism with no reasons, nor answers being established.

30 January 1966 "Missing Grave"

A large white marble headstone was found on a fairway of the Shirley Golfcourse. "In memory of Annie Mclay died 12/7/1872 age 27". The police could not find a grave to match the tombstone. There were no records of the person named on the stone.

6 May 1969 "Graveyard Mystery"

Detectives were trying to find out why a large hole was dug between two graves in a Linwood Cemetery. The hole was three feet square, several feet deep and overlapping parts of two graves. The graves were

those of children buried 47 years ago. Nothing was taken from the graves and no reason could be found for such stupidity.

9 September 1976 "No rush to replace markers"

Recent outbreaks of stone smashing had occurred and stones were not being replaced. With no surviving relatives and the Council bearing no responsibility, the monuments are lost forever. The police admitted difficulty in preventing this type of crime.

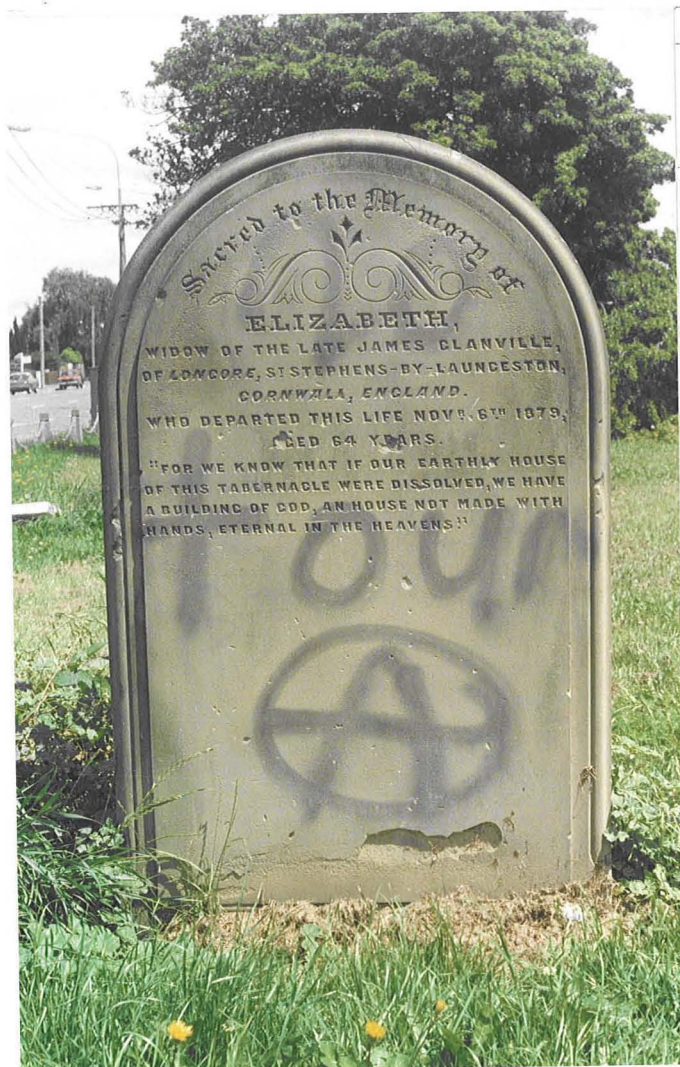
28 June 1983 "Smashed Headstones"

Headstones were smashed in the Addington Cemetery. Ivy was growing rampant, some stones had been removed and widespread damage had occurred.

9 May 1984 "Vandalism at Cemetery"

Police believe children were responsible for damage done to eight headstones in Waimairi Cemetery. Crosses were ripped off, stones were smashed and other pointless damage had been inflicted upon the cemetery.

These are merely a few examples of vandalism that has occurred over the years.



Vandalism is always a problem in cemeteries situated in cities. Little can be done to prevent this problem. This stone in Barbadoes Street Cemetery has been used as a means of expressing anti-tour views.

This area within Addington cemetery is sadly neglected and abused. This state certainly will not discourage vandalism.



8. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

"Woman: Grieve not for me my husband dear,
I am not dead, but sleeping here,
With patience wait, prepare to die
And, in a short time, you'll come to
I.

Man: I am not grieved my dearest life,
Sleep on, I have got another wife,
Therefore I cannot come to thee,
For I must go and live with she!"

There remains one more question to consider before zealously initiating your cemetery renovations.

Is it legal?

There are many do's and dont's relating to (what would appear to be) the simple operation of burying someone. All the legal complexities can be found in the "Burial and Cremations Act 1964 No. 75". The Act can be found in major libraries throughout the country, the City Council offices would also have a copy. The Act covers every aspect of the cemetery operation.

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| PART I | Establishment, maintenance and regulations of a cemetery. |
| PART II | Finance and miscellaneous functions. |
| PART III | Trustee |
| PART IV | Burial grounds. |
| PART V | Cremation. |
| PART VI | Closing of cemeteries and burial grounds. |
| PART VII | Cemetery provisions. |
| PART VIII | Offences and penalties |
| PART IX | Regulations, savings and repeals. |

Part II deals with financing the clearance of disused cemeteries. A Local Authority may spend money as it sees fit in the clearing, cleaning, repairing, tidying, renovating, removing or disposing of cemeteries.

Part VI is particularly relevant to this topic, dealing

with the closure of cemeteries and burial grounds. The Governor General has the authority to close cemeteries dependant on a number of provisions. Any individual, body corporate or Local Authority can under take control and management of a cemetery by the Minister's approval. The closed cemetery shall then be maintained in good condition by that party and shall be open to the public, subject to certain regulations and bylaws. The closed cemetery cannot be sold, leased, otherwise disposed of, or used for any other purpose.

The controlling body can apply for the Minister's approval for the removal of all monuments and tablets therein. The body must give public notice of any action to be taken, in any form the Minister may direct.

a) Upon removal of the monuments and tablets they must be disposed of, recreated or replaced in some part of the cemetery set aside for that purpose.

b) For all graves removed a complete set of records must be maintained of the names and their position within the cemetery.

c) All records must be available for inspection.

d) The place from which monuments are removed must be cleared, levelled, sown in grass or replanted with trees or shrubs.

e) Where monuments are removed, a memorial must be erected listing names of all persons known to be buried therein.

The Act goes on to list offences, penalties and the applicable punishments which the manager of a cemetery may wish to consult. If unsure of any legal matters concerning the cemetery or matters relating to maintenance and management, the Act should be consulted before going ahead with plans.



Angels frequently adorn
 memorials as in this
 example from Nelson.
 The Harry Holland
 memorial in Bolton Street
 cemetery is a brilliant
 example of the skilled
 stone masonry of bygone
 years.
 This skill has declined
 due to lack of space and
 finance. All the more
 reason for these memorials
 to be preserved.

9. THE BOLTON STREET MEMORIAL PARK

The Bolton Street Memorial Park is a Wellington cemetery that has been transformed from a place of ruin and neglect into a popular, cared for, historical environment. This success was achieved by charging a motorway through the middle of the cemetery. Ironical but true, attention was only focussed on the cemetery by this motorway proposal. It is possible that if Bolton Street had been properly cared for and maintained previously, the motorway may never have gone through.

The transformation began in 1967 when Margaret Alington was commissioned by the Ministry of Works to write a history of the area due to be damaged by the motorway. The M.O.W. did their best to record what was to be lost by having a large number of photographs taken of graves, trees and plants. They also ensured the history was to be recorded adequately before proceeding.

The Act under which cemeteries are controlled is partly responsible for the previous neglect of Bolton Street. The "Cemeteries and Cremations Act" requires only the care of pathways and public areas. In a closed cemetery where most, if not all close relatives are no longer around to care for graves, this token maintenance procedure is not nearly adequate. The cemetery was a mass of overgrown pine trees with branches breaking and landing on graves damaging memorials and fences.

The Ministry of Works drew the obvious conclusion that this cemetery was of value to no one and no serious attempts had been made to improve its neglected state. Several attempts had in fact been made to tidy up the cemetery by small, interested groups. These are pointless in the long term unless they can be backed up by a regular maintenance procedure. This is a common phenomenon throughout New Zealand.

A major step forward was taken in 1976 when the Parks department of the Wellington City Council took over control of the cemetery. To begin with they formulated a new management policy with the aim of eventually administering Bolton Street as an Historic Reserve, under the Reserves Act 1977. This would allow for the whole area, including graves, to be looked after.

When the motorway went through, the little chapel in the dell was wiped out, along with some fine trees. However what now remains as the Bolton Street Memorial Park is used and admired by a great number of people who pass through on foot en route to the city, eating their lunch in the park or visiting graves of interest.

Before any work could be done on the historical aspect of the cemetery, information was needed on the occupants (over 1500). In 1972 Margaret Alington, aided by a group of enthusiasts from the Historic Places Trust, began transcribing inscriptions on stones that were due to be removed. These stones were then taken up and stored in the yard of the Karori cemetery.

Recording was done line by line on foolscap paper, noting all information, including the type of lettering and measurements. Today the Genealogical Society would help with this task. The Society is at present attempting to record details from cemeteries around the country. Information such as this provides a valuable basis on which to build a social history. From here, maps and leaflets can be prepared to provide visitor interpretation. This information is necessary for repair work and for the reinstatement of removed stones. It is important that stones are placed in the correct areas, as the cemetery consists of three sections, Church of England, Public and Jewish. All removed stones were incorporated once more into the cemetery.

The date of death on the stones enabled much information to be obtained concerning these early settlers. By consulting obituary notices, death certificates and old newspaper articles, a great deal of information can be gathered. This information was copied and placed along with transcripts in the Alexander Turnbull Library. Through this kind of research many interesting characters and events come to light. Some of these are printed in the "Friends of Bolton Street Memorial Park" newsletter from time to time. The 'Friends of Bolton Street Memorial Park' were established in 1977 with the intention of providing additional support to the Ministry of Works and the Parks Department. By their efforts the Society also shows the Wellington City Council that there are people who care what happens to the cemetery. The 'Friends' also have work days in which they undertake odd jobs around the cemetery, such as cleaning graves, painting wooden picket fences, rubbing down and painting iron fences and cleaning headstones. Recently they assisted the Parks Department in removing an infestation of Old Mans Beard. They also have a monthly roster to assist with picking up paper, bottles, cans, etc. from around the park, and are currently helping the Wellington City Council to prepare a map and index of graves.

The Parks Department is doing an excellent job of planting and maintenance within the cemetery. They are trying to preserve the historical setting of the park, such plants as old roses are found to be very compatible with the ancient graves.

Many stones are in need of repair, which is proving to be a most complex problem. A landscape architect has designed a metal brace which can be used on marble stones. There is now also a glue available capable of fixing marble and sandstone. Most damage is caused by vandals who raid the park every once in a while. When this happens stones are either fixed immediately

or taken away until they are fixed. If broken stones are left lying around, the cemetery begins to look uncared for.

Other functions of the friends include -

(a) A monthly roster for collecting rubbish in the park.

(b) Organising workdays for specific jobs e.g. cleaning memorials.

(c) They have named the paths and prepared interpretive plaques.

(d) They have prepared a pamphlet on the park for the Parks Department.

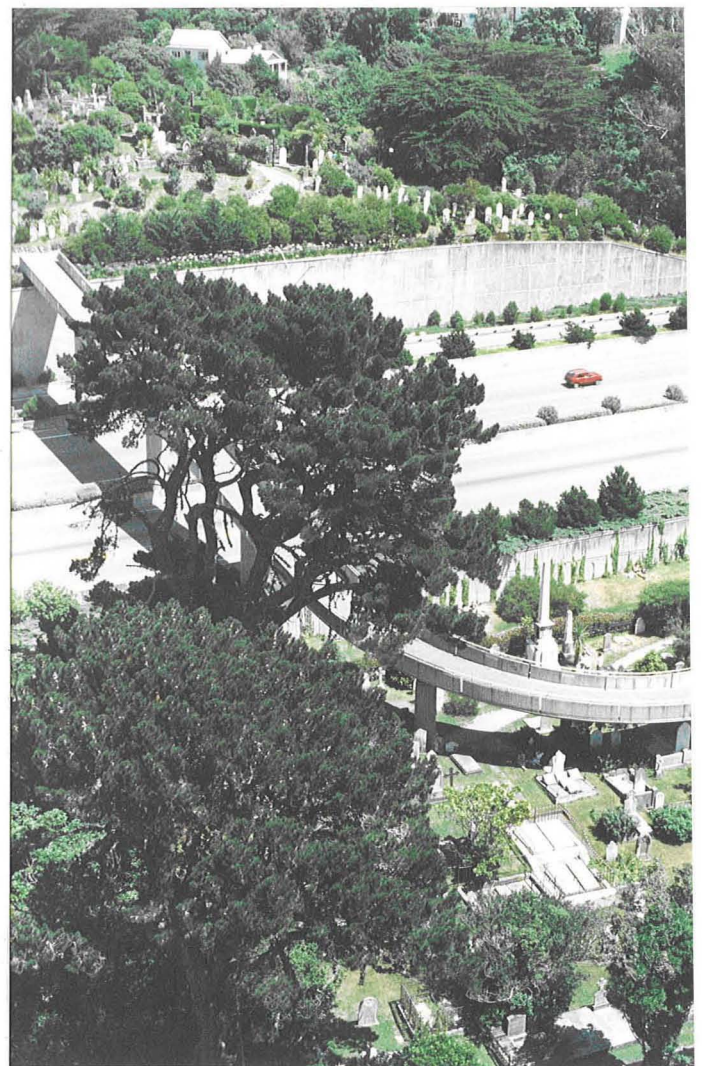
(e) They have prepared a picture book on the cemetery.

(f) The friends are assisting the Wellington City Council in the preparation of a map of the park, with index of graves and stones.

(g) Urging the Wellington City Council to acquire some adjacent land promised in 1965.

(h) Urging the rebuilding of the chapel as a museum of cemetery records.

(i) Conducting guided tours.



Views of the Bolton Street Memorial Park showing a pleasant park-like atmosphere despite the intrusion of the motorway.

10. THE BARBADOES STREET CEMETERY

Background

In the year 1849 Edward Jollie surveyed Christchurch and drew up a plan he thought would cater for the city's future growth. A large area of $22\frac{1}{2}$ acres was set aside for the main cemetery in Barbadoes Street. Originally, this was the area within Bealey Avenue, Fitzgerald Avenue, Barbadoes Street and Cambridge Terrace. Although a pleasant spot alongside the river Avon, the site was not suitable for a burial ground, but at that time Christchurch was not a suitable place to put a city.

The land consisted mainly of swamp with a vegetation covering of flax, raupo, tussock, toe toe and ferns. The Barbadoes Street Cemetery was in fact used intensively for many years, but drainage was always a problem. During this time poor drainage created other problems which led to its closure in 1885.

The first burials took place in 1851 but there is little remaining record of these first settlers, when finally closed over 1000 burials had taken place in the cemetery. All the allocated land was not used, for a time this was leased to a Mr Bowron who grazed sheep and cattle. As need arose, the grounds were extended. At the time that this very early maintenance was carried out by local parishes, the grounds were said to be securely fenced and set out with "considerable taste".

As the population of Christchurch grew, a chapel was required. Finance was a problem but in 1803 the chapel was completed, for a cost of 250 pounds. The chapel was quite unique and of Gothic design, but is no longer present at the cemetery. The chapel was destroyed in 1955 as it was beyond repair, infested with borer and dry rot.

In 1867 a board was established to direct the future development of the cemetery. The board established certain ground rules and had to be consulted regarding such items as burial and sexton fees, obtaining family plots, size of graves, memorials, inscriptions, size of headstones, preparation and upkeep of graves, etc. (At this time of high infant mortality, children could not have full sized graves as they took up too much space). In this same year fences were erected, paths were laid, trees and shrubs were planted and a gate was placed at the Barbadoes Street entrance.

When closed in 1885, three sextons were employed. A keeper was also hired with the task of keeping the cemetery in order and preventing the occurrence of "mischief, trespass, and disorderly conduct".

Complaints

The first reported case of an offence committed in the cemetery was reported in 'The Press' 1866. Two people were charged with wilfully destroying property by picking flowers off graves. They were each fined one pound but could not pay the fine and were sentenced to 96 hours imprisonment with hard labour.

The sexton caught another couple stealing plants who then received three months hard labour. Other complaints were made over people preaching within the cemetery, people being buried in the wrong places, and complaints due to drainage problems such as graves collapsing or filling up with water prior to burial.

Closing of the Cemetery

In 1885 public pressure forced the closing of the cemetery with a petition signed by 41 people living in the vicinity "We the undersigned most respectfully call your attention to the very bad smell arising from the cemetery in Barbadoes Street. We think you will agree with us

that this must be very hurtful to the health of those that live in the vicinity and also to the general public. We trust you will do all in your power to relieve us of this very great and serious nuisance."

The cemetery drainage flowed into a channel on Barbardoes Street creating a rather pungent smell. A member of the hospital board, Dr Belmi bottled some air out the cemetery on a calm day. It was found to contain an organic corpuscle "septo pneumonia", which when administered to a pigeon inflicted a putrid fever destroying the bird on the third day.

Because the cemetery was so swampy, a pungent liquid drained out onto footpaths and side channels making life rather unpleasant for neighbours.

Canterbury Pilgrims

The majority of the people buried in the Barbadoes Street cemetery arrived in New Zealand on board the "first four ships" on September 7 and 8, 1850. Temporary accommodation was established at Lyttelton until the pilgrims ventured over the Port Hills. Their hearts would have sunk at the sight that greeted them from the top of the Bridle Path. Mountains half hidden by rain, swampy plains, tussock, swamp and bush. In 1851 a settler was hailed by a man struggling through Cathedral Square indignantly demanding to be shown the way to Christchurch. These settlers came from all walks of life including carpenters, blacksmiths, masons, printers, bakers, butchers, plumbers, servants, shepherds and farmers. Another trait of these people was the religion they brought with them. Arriving in the first ships were about 200 Wesleyans, 300 Presbyterians, 200 Roman Catholics and 3000 Anglicans. Two years later out of 6700 people, 4800 were Anglicans.

These people could not afford specialised undertakers,

carpenters would double as cabinet makers and others within the parish would help where possible. As no masons arrived on the first four ships many monuments were added later. Those who could afford elaborate headstones had them brought out from England or Italy.

Three Cemeteries

The Barbadoes Street cemetery actually consists of three separate cemeteries. The Church of England cemetery made up the greater part of the area. The chapel with its impressive stained glass windows was also within this section. The other smaller areas were allocated to Roman Catholic and Dissenters, which required less land. The first registered burial in the Church of England cemetery was John Williams who died on December 18, 1850 while climbing the Bridle Path.

The dissenters had one acre set aside which was funded by burial fees and exclusive plots. In 1851 there were 2000 Roman Catholics in Canterbury and prior to 1860 a priest would come from Akaroa as at that time Christchurch had no priest of its own.

Infant Mortality

The largest proportion of deaths were those of children. Scarlet fever, infantile diarrhoea, Diphtheria, Typhoid and Influenza were frequently claiming many lives. In the register for 1859 16 out of 34 deaths were under 15 months. In 1864 there were 128 entries, 61 of those were under 15 months. In the Church of England cemetery a special area was marked off into $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$ plots for the burial of infants.

Neglect

Since its closure in 1885 the cemetery has frequently been brought into the public eye for its neglect.

In 1936 those responsible were severely criticised for the poor state of the cemetery. Infestations of weeds, long grass, rusty iron, lumps of concrete, untidy hedges, a broken gate and rampant vandalism all helped in making Barbadoes Street the most neglected cemetery in Christchurch. Nothing has changed; from time to time working bees have been held in the cemetery by interested parties but no long term maintenance procedures have been planned and carried out.

Legal factors again posed problems in the renovation of the cemetery. Until the Burial and Cremation Act came into force in 1964, authorities had no statutory right to interfere with grave markings or monuments no matter how ancient, neglected, or unsafe they may be. With the passing of this Act it was then possible to remove broken and neglected headstones.

Over the last 60 years, although the historical significance of Barbadoes Street has been recognised, and the value to passive recreation has been acknowledged, the responsible authorities have not been able to get together and do something despite all the public pressure and determination of many people.

Historical Significance of Barbadoes Street Cemetery

Over the last 100 years this cemetery has been sadly abused and neglected, both by those responsible for it and by those who are plainly irresponsible. It has been used by courting couples, drunken parties, vandals, runaways, but not by society in general who could have gained a lot from its existence.

Walking into the cemetery, wandering in and out of the graves, these early settlers reach out to your imagination. Many old trees such as Yew, Oak, Laurel, Elm and Sycamore create a sense of stillness and performance that can only be found in an old cemetery.

The memorials tell stories of the hardships endured by these pioneers. Infant deaths, young mothers dying with their children, deaths of whole families, and even the death of a European Countess, who lies in a high fenced grave.

Many important people are buried here, people to whom we have a great debt, if only that they not be forgotten.

Cyrus Davie, the chief surveyor of Canterbury, was buried by the river in 1871. He was the only man booked on two of the first four ships. He lingered too long on the wharf saying goodbye to his sweetheart and the "Randolph" sailed without him. He caught the "Sir George Seymore" the next day.

Dr A.C. Barker came out as a surgeon on the "Charlotte Jane", but gave up medicine in favour of photography. It is to him we give thanks for the many fine photographs of early Canterbury. The large Blue Gum in his garden where Noahs Hotel now stands, was a common backdrop for his portraits.

William Lyon, a child drowned in Riccarton 1856. He was playing with toy boats in the river Avon when in flood and was swept away.

Henry Jacobs, the first dean of Christchurch.

Octavius Mathias, the archdeacon of Akaroa lies cosily with a wife at either side. Mr Mathias and his wife arrived on the "Dominion" in 1851. His wife died in childbirth soon after, leaving the archdeacon with eight children under the age of thirteen. Mr Mathias later married 21 year old Harriet Bowron, his children's governess, who provided a further seven sons. We owe these people for starting the colony off in such a hurry. Mathias was as much a farmer as a preacher. He used to ride to town in a cart driven by a yellow cow with no tail. He entered the cow in a Bullock race one day, he won easily but was disqualified. He was fined a gallon of beer.

The Harper family were prominent in Christchurch in the late 19th century. Bishop Henry John Chitty Harper was the first Bishop of Christchurch. His son Walter followed him as Dean of the cathedral. When the Bishop and his wife celebrated their golden wedding in 1879, Walter and his brother Henry (archdeacon) conducted the service. There were 74 grandchildren in the congregation as well as most of the choirboys also being Harpers. It is now impossible to tell how many of this family are buried in the cemetery.

Francis Herbert Stewart died in a yachting accident in the Estuary in 1896, three people were drowned while preparing for a race the following day. His epitaph read,

"Out of the deep I called unto the Lord,
Lord hear my voice".

There are many small graves of children, some whole families who died of Influenza, Diptheria and Typhoid. There are clergymen, scholars, politicians, farmers, shopkeepers and many more. There is an atmosphere in the Barbadoes Street cemetery which can be felt. Not an unhealthy one, but a friendly presence of people who walked the earth long ago. Even without the recreational significance of an old cemetery, we cannot turn our backs on these people who endured such hardships, to pave the way for todays civilization.

The Bleeding Headstone

Despite all the famous names of important people who left their mark on society, there is no grave in the cemetery more commonly talked about than that of Margaret Burke. There has never in the history of Canterbury been a tale of such mystery and horror than the tale of the bleeding headstone. Many rumours and distortions have been added over the years but the story is nevertheless based on fact. It all began in the town house of the Honourable William Robinson, better known as

"Ready money Robinson". The large house was situated on Park Terrace where Robinson kept several servants including a negro and three servant girls. Robinson found the negro 'Cadeno' in a Panama Hotel, on his way back from England. He was assured the negro was a good worker so he was hired and taken back to New Zealand. The tall light-coloured negro, a native of Santa Fe came, thinking it was to a better job. But being a negro in the colonies was much like being in the deep south of America today.

Robinson was unkind to Cadeno and frequently put him down in front of his guests. He was referred to as "Black nigger", or "blackheart", and was continually teased. The other servant girls teased him also, especially when it was learned he was to marry a white girl.

It all came to a head on January 8, 1871. The details vary a little, but all agree on the outcome. Some say he first attacked Bridget Murray in the upstairs bedroom and others say he first attacked Catherine Glenn in the scullery. All agree that Cadeno chased Margaret Burk through the house with a bread knife. Burk ran screaming into the dining room where Mrs Robinson was speaking to Mrs Campbell. Burk fell over some furniture with the negro on top stabbing her repeatedly.

The girl died and Cadeno was sent to prison for his crime. On the way Cadeno said "you kill Maoris and cattle and I kill an English girl". Cadeno became the second person in Canterbury to be hanged, and Margaret Burk was buried in the Catholic section of the Barbadoes Street cemetery, watched by 500 sympathetic mourners. Robinson, who felt responsible for the girl's death, erected a handsome headstone at her grave surrounded by iron bars. A month later a bloodstained mark in the shape of a hand appeared on the headstone. In a time of no detergent and rampant superstition,

a great stir was created when the stain wouldn't go away. There was but one course of action, smash the stone to dispel the evil spirits. A while later, a further stone was erected and this too became stained by the same reddish mark in the same place.

The stone was removed many years ago. There are many logical explanations for the stain but who knows what to believe, given the servant girl's gruesome demise. Of course another stone could be placed above the grave to see if it too becomes disfigured by the bloodstained hand.

These historical ramblings and tales of yesterday may seem a little irrelevant to this discourse on cemeteries. By these tales I merely wish to illustrate the kind of information that can be gleaned from these headstones. Myself, and many others interested in these historical places hope more people will show an interest in the people lying beneath the neglected stones. Too often, people only mourn for that which is lost and ignore what they already have. We shouldn't need to put a motorway through a cemetery to recognise its importance. I frequently show concern over the loss of yet another piece of New Zealand bush. A beautiful Rimu stand may take centuries to grow, but when cut down it can be replaced, even if it will take another few hundred years. When the monument of an important historical figure is destroyed or lost, that memory is lost for ever.

Proposals for the Renovation of Barbadoes Street Cemetery

It may have taken a century of public criticism but at long last some solid proposals have been put forward for the renovation of this unique cemetery. The landscape architects for the Christchurch City Council have conducted thorough research and have drawn up plans for the cemetery. These plans are not final,

they have yet to be approved by the various parties. As the wheels of bureaucracy turn very slowly, it could be a while before we see results, but these are positive steps in the right direction.

The landscape architects have decided on three primary aims most important to the development.

1. Retain existing character of cemetery as far as possible, while facilitating greater use by public. The open space structure and links are designed around existing graveyard areas and vegetation.

2. Reduce maintenance.

Main graveyard areas to be converted to paths and ground cover surface, rather than lawn.

3. Design to discourage vandalism.

Encourage greater use, pedestrian through traffic. Repair broken headstones.

Keep planting (except fence screening) in two layers - trees, groundcover.

Floodlight groups of headstones and trees.

The developments to take place within the cemetery will hopefully facilitate increased usage by the public. The following are some possibilities for the future if the development takes place.

Uses of Cemetery

Passive recreation - (walking, jogging, picnicking, childrens play area, neighbourhood social gatherings, etc.)

Open space link between Avon Loop, Ely Street area, Churchill Street, riverbank.

Ecological - green space, bird habitat.

Historical research and exploring.

Visual relief from Barbadoes Street and for surrounding areas of housing.

Planting

The main objective is to retain the existing character of the cemetery by using simplicity of form and a limited range of species. New planting will be based on the existing structure, expanding on this design to provide further spacial definition. By keeping the cemetery as open as possible, planting trees rather than shrubs, vandalism will be discouraged. Shrubs will be used on the periphery to screen the boundary fence. The use of existing species will be retained as much as possible with emphasis on those species providing bird food.

Trees - Oak, Elm, Walnut, Arbutus, Yew, Laurel, Holly.
Groundcover - Hedera helix, Vinca major, poppies, parthenocissus, wisteria.

Other Features

- * Existing spaces will be reinforced by further planting to create small intimate spaces with a sense of mystery and exploration.
- * Unsightly fences around the periphery will be hidden and softened by shrub planting.
- * An informal play area is to be created, including seating and a fence for children. The fence will be either pickets or wrought iron.
- * To provide aesthetic appeal and to deter vandalism, certain characteristic tombstones and trees will be illuminated by floodlights.
- * To provide a means of interpretation there will be a formal entrance possibly with a lych gate and plan of the cemetery.
- * A small sheltered sub-space will be created with a paved barbeque area, seating and a garden area of biblical plants.
- * In the eastern area, a number of graves will be moved to create a large central open space. If this idea is approved, about 56 graves will be relocated in

empty spaces within the main grave area.

- * A foot bridge will link the Avon Loop to the cemetery.

- * Trees providing autumn colour will be featured by the river bank, e.g. Fraxinus excelsior, Quercus rubra, Ullmus, Sorbus.

- * The proposal also suggests the narrowing of Cambridge Terrace to increase river bank space and to reduce the division between the cemetery and the bank.

As I mentioned earlier, at this stage the plans are not final. If they go ahead the cemetery will become a great asset to the people of Christchurch, providing a means of leisure and recreation in a most constructive way. At the same time, it will make use of a previously neglected piece of land within central Christchurch. As with all Government organisations, the Parks and Recreation department has a budget allocation that could provide constraints to the plan. If the full potential for recreation within the cemetery is recognised it will become a top priority, and we should see the implementation of the plan in the near future.



The Catholic section of Barbadoes Street has a great variety of vegetation. Many old trees add considerably to its character.

The lower photograph shows the Avon river separated from the Barbadoes Street Cemetery by Cambridge Terrace. The area provides a pleasant environment for many aspects of passive recreation.

11. CONCLUSIONS

Throughout my study of historical cemeteries, I have encountered frequently a certain "taboo" people feel towards cemeteries. A rather contradictory feeling, surely to respect our forebears is to maintain and respect their memorials not ignore their existence, resulting in the neglect and slovenliness of many old cemeteries throughout New Zealand today.

I now maintain members of the public cannot be blamed for the misuse of cemeteries. Their general state of disrepair only leads the public to believe they are not for general use. One feels to enter the cemetery is a crime in itself. Vandals also are not entirely to blame. There will always be those who wantonly destroy property regardless but if those responsible for a cemetery cannot find the motivation or reason for caring for them, why should anyone else care. As in many aspects of life, a good example serves infinitely better than a thousand notices. Those responsible for the Bolton street Memorial Park have effectively grasped this philosophy.

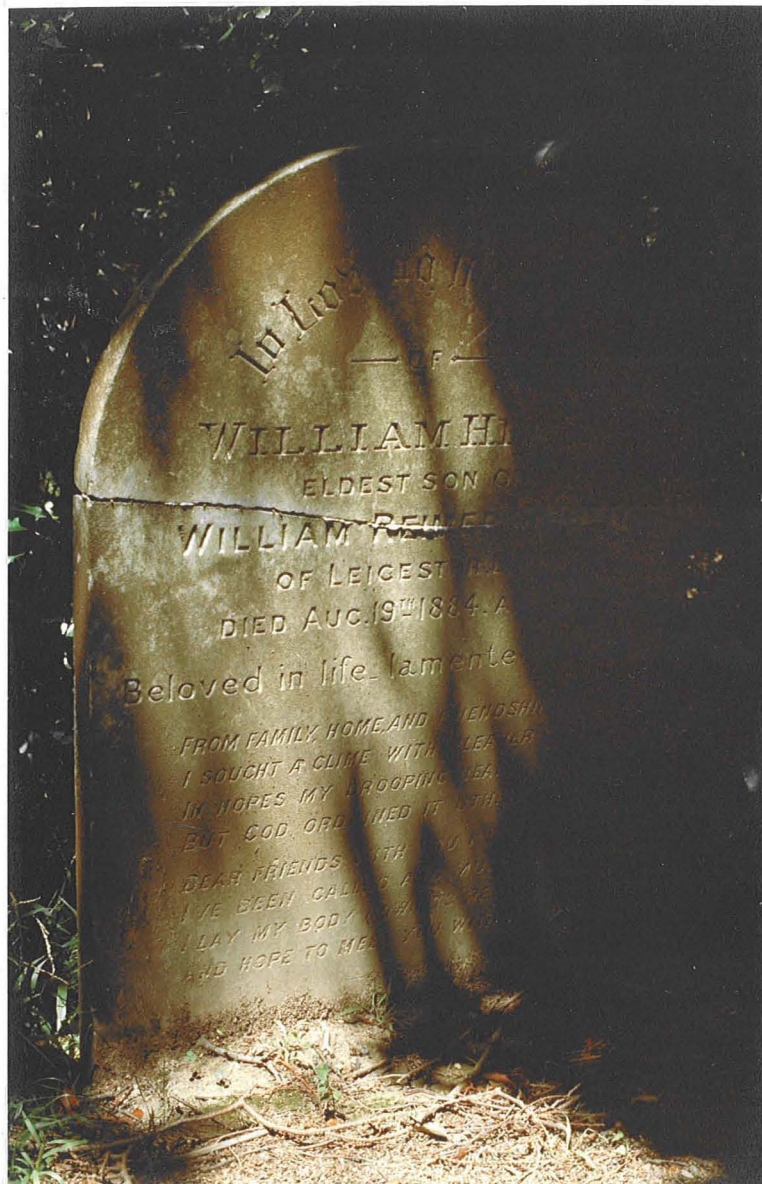
The principal problem is that until recent years no-one has recognised the potential of an historical cemetery. For decades Government bodies and private groups have fought tooth and nail to obtain any green space within the city they can lay their hands on, and all the time we have had these prime recreational resources under our very noses. At the same time these resources have been deteriorating rapidly through years of neglect.

By developing these old cemeteries with passive recreation in mind, and by maintaining an on-going management plan, people will come to respect and admire the many unique memorials and memories. Memorials representing an art of masonry that has long since died out, and memories of people who have left a large mark on

civilisation and who will not be forgotten.

When dealing with a resource over 100 years old one must take care not to jump in with both feet and a few ideas. Great care must be taken to develop the cemetery with respect and consideration for the past and present. To effectively enhance an historical site a considerable knowledge of the past is needed. A cemetery has a particular aura, a certain feeling to be found nowhere else, as though memories linger around the old stones, where these people left the earth, or returned to earth, a dilemma we shall not know until we too, depart this life. Our imagination races back to try and grasp what it was like for these people. The old stones, the inscriptions, the iron railings, old trees planted with the first burials, the layout and setting of the cemetery are responsible for the atmosphere, and your renovation of a cemetery must be sensitive and must not compromise the authenticity of a unique place.

Time is running out. Natural deterioration, vandalism, general abuse and neglect are taking their toll. It has taken over half a century for any positive renovation plans to be initiated on the Barbadoes Street cemetery. Even now the plans are still journeying through official channels. The process begins with recognising a need for some action to be taken, the method of action must then be considered and finally should come implementation. Too often this last step has been left out. Public pressure is the most powerful tool we have. By enlightening the public and bringing their weight to bear upon the relevant bodies, the wheels of bureaucracy can be turned a little faster. An historical cemetery has many values and can contribute greatly to society. We owe it to our ancestors and to our future generations to preserve these cemeteries before it is too late.



"Rejoice ye dead where'er your spirits dwell,
Rejoice that yet on earth your fame is bright,
And that your names remembered day and night,
Live on the lips of those who love you well."

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