

LOCKSBROOK CEMETERY, BATH

WESTON SECTION

NOTES

2024

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Introduction

History

In 1857 an inquiry was made into the state of Bath's burial grounds as complaints had been received that some were not adhering to the Burial Acts and an Order of Council of July 1855 which stipulated the depth and separation of graves. An inspector from the government's Board of Health held an inquiry at the Guildhall at which representatives of the parishes were asked whether or not they had adhered to the regulations. Weston was, at that time, outside with city of Bath and didn't enter into this inquiry. The Burial Act of 1857 allowed for an order in council to be issued ordering the closure of a burial ground.

In 1869 a report on the sanitary state of Weston village recommended that the churchyard be closed to remove the risk contamination of the nearby wells (*Bath Chronicle* Thu 30 Sep 1869 p8). The churchyard was closed in 1875 (see below).

For Weston parish, burial registers exist for the period 1552-1955 and there are memorials in the churchyard up until the 1890s. Nonetheless after 1874 the annual rate of burials fell from 30-40 to less than 10 and from about that time some burials occurred in Locksbrook Cemetery. From the press report of the opening of the Weston section of Locksbrook Cemetery in 1877 "Since the disuse of Weston churchyard as a burial place, the dead of that parish have been interred in the Locksbrook Cemetery, the joint boards kindly charging fees according to the ordinary scale for the funeral of any poor inhabitant."

Locksbrook Cemetery had opened in 1866 for the use of the parishes of St Swithin's, Walcot and St Saviour's. According to the press report on the consecration, the burial board "have been able to effect an arrangement with the representatives of the parishes of Walcot and St. Saviour's, for the use of the present chapel for all interments from Weston, thus saving to the latter place the expense of providing an extra building of the kind."

Churchyard Closure

From the *Bath Chronicle* of Thu 17 Jul 1873 p5 col d:

THE WESTON CHURCHYARD.—An Order of Council has been signed at the instigation of Mr. Secretary Bruce with respect to the burial ground of Weston, near Bath. The order, which has been affixed to the doors of the parish church, made under the provisions of the "Act to amend the laws concerning the burial of the dead in England beyond the limits of the metropolis, and to amend the act concerning the burial of the dead in the

metropolis," and sets forth that on and after the 1st day of January, 1875, no burials must take place in the Weston churchyard except in now existing vaults and walled graves, or in such as can be constructed without the disturbance of the soil that has been buried in and except in earthen graves to be used only for the burial of widowers, widows or parents of those buried there.

Cemetery Opening

From the *Bath Chronicle* of Thu 27 Sep 1877 p3:

CONSECRATION OF A CEMETERY

The new cemetery which has been provided for the parish of Weston, near this city, was consecrated on Tuesday afternoon, by the Lord Bishop of Bath and Wells. It is two acres two roods and twenty-seven perches in extent, and adjoins, upon the north side, the Locksbrook Cemetery. The land in question was purchased from the Oliver family for £1,140, but the expense of

building a wall, laying out, and other necessary costs, will bring up the total to something over £2,000. This sum has been borrowed at the rate of 4½ per cent, repayable in a period of 30 years, so that the burden falling upon the parish will not be very irksome. The Burial Board consists of the Vicar of Weston (Rev. Prebendary Bond), Messrs. J. Murch, C. Bush, H. Trickey, H.

Pointing, W. H. Spurway, S. Becher, H. Hancock, and A. Browning, who have been able to effect an arrangement with the representatives of the parishes of Walcot and St. Saviour's, for the use of the present chapels for all interments from Weston, thus saving to the latter place the expense of providing an extra building of the kind. One seventh of the entire ground is appropriated for the burial of Dissenters, and another strip is set apart for St. Saviour's, in consideration of some portion of the land being used in the construction of new roads. Since the disuse of Weston churchyard as a burial place, the dead of that parish have been interred in the Locksbrook Cemetery, the joint boards kindly charging fees according to the ordinary scale for the funeral of any poor inhabitant. The act of consecration was preceded by Divine service at the parish church of the newly-formed ecclesiastical district of St. John's, at half past three. The following clergy met the Bishop at the Court House a few minutes previously, and, wearing in their surplices, walked in procession to the church, namely, the Revs. Canon Brooke, Canon Bernard, Prebendary Bond (vicar of Weston), J. Stedman (vicar of St. John's, Weston), J. C. Burnett, H. B. Clissold, R. E. Wilkins, W. S. Shaw, J. Müller, H. H. Mogg, and G. Gordon. The congregation included Colonel St. Aubyn and Lieut.-Col. Ford, as representing the Walcot Burial Board; and Mr. R. H. Taylor and Mr. W. S. Kerby, members of the St. Saviour's Board. Mr. J. T. Pinker presided at the organ, and played two voluntaries, the *Odertoire* of Batiste at the opening, and "In Questa Tomba Oscura" (Beethoven), at the end of the service. A selection of prayers from the morning and evening services, and Psalms xxxix. and xc. were read by the Rev. J.

Stedman, the Lesson (Genesis xxiii) being read by Prebendary Bond. The only hymn sung was the one,—

"Jesus lives ! No longer now

Can thy terrors, death, appal us."

The Bishop then ascended the pulpit, and preached a sermon from the Gospel of St. John v., 28, 29—"Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming in which all that are in the graves shall hear His voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation." His lordship said the truth announced in the words which he had just read was one that they believed must exercise a most powerful influence upon their thoughts and ways of living. Perhaps in nothing was its effect more clearly seen than in the striking contrast between a heathen and a Christian grave ...

At the conclusion of the service in the church the bishop and clergy, with the congregation, repaired to the new Cemetery and proceeded round the ground repeating alternately the 49th and 115th Psalms. A pause was made at a small tent erected in the ground, when the usual formalities of presenting the deed of conveyance to the Bishop was gone through, after which Mr. W. Dore (Registrar) read the sentence of consecration, to which the Right Rev. prelate affixed his signature. His lordship then offered prayer, and, the fifth and three following verses of the 39th Psalm having been sung, concluded the ceremony the a benediction.

The ground was laid out from the designs of Mr. C. E. Davis, architect, of Bath.

The area is equivalent to 10,800 m², ie 1.08 hectare. The area of the St Saviours section (1½ acres) is 0.6 ha and St Swithin's (11 acres) 4.4 ha. To compare, Haycombe (28 acres) has an area of 11 ha.

Burial Register Index

Access to the burial registers was sought in 2012 but this was refused. Instead the indexes to this and other of Bath's municipal cemeteries was permitted for the cost of scanning.

In the absence of the registers, the initial set of records for this part of Locksbrook cemetery came from the indexes to those registers, matching with GRO register entries to obtain, where possible, the age and to entries in the National Probate Calendar to obtain the abode.

The burial index gives a chronological list of burials, grouped by the initial letter of the surname. There are three volumes:

Volume	Year range
1	1877-1906
2	1906-1939
3	1939-1990

Register Number.	Surname.	Christian Name.
2344	Beese	James.
2349	Bean	Walter George.
2351	Baker	George Amos.
2370	Bond	etirified Mary.
2376	Bawles	Ellen Anna Vere
2378	Burnell	Albert.
2385	Bailey	Alfred.
2396	Bell	Ann Elizabeth.
1912 2412	Blake	Keeney
2428	Bailey	Florence Mary.
2429	Bank	James.
2442	Brain	Edith Louisa
2445	Bond	Amelia.
2448	Bond	Ellen.
2452	Brendon	Anna Maria Rosetta
2454	Biffen	John.
2464	Bankes	Elizabeth M.
2466	Bailey	John Spear.
2467	Bleasby	William R.
2480	Bassett	John Thannor L.
2486	Berry	Walter.
1913 2509	Bankes	George.
2511	Blake	Elizabeth
2525	Bridgewater	Edward.
2536	Boyd	Mary to.

Sample page from volume 2

WESTON CEMETERY			
INDEX TO BURIAL REGISTER			
NAME	Date of Burial	Number of Entry in Burial Register	Letter and Number of Grave Space
Cass-Morris, Thomas.	5 th Feb. 1951	5013	A. 1703
Curtis, Elizabeth.	3 rd Apr. "	5025	C. 456a
Curie, Albert	10 th May "	5080	D. 564a
Cole, Albert Edward	30 th May "	5082	D. 592a
Cook, Miss Louisa	28 th June "	5086	D. 1162
Cook, Elsie Thomas	29 th Sept "	5045	D. 1169
Cross, Richard James	7 th Nov. "	5051	C. 486
Cooley, Henrietta	20 th Apr. 1952	5077	C. 486 G. 815a
Collins, Florence, Spott-Duggin	19 th Jan. "	5078	E. 1264
Cross, Alice Eliza	22 nd July "	5081	G. 816a
Common, Gertrude Emily	2 nd Aug "	5085	G. 8163
Clement, Margaret Beatrice Le Age	27 th Nov. 1953	5112	F. 76
Carver, Lily.	9 th July "	5159	C. 1100a
Chivers, Ada Eliza	9 th Sept "	5149	F. 82.
Cross, George Henry	6 th January, 1951	5163	H. 1752
C. Lamb, Robert Edward	10 th February "	5171	C. 497.
C. Cliff, Thomas	12 th February "	5172	H. 258.
Cross, Emily Anne.	4 th March "	5177	B. 96b.
Cramond, William Henry Leonard	28 th September "	5199	B. 1010.
Collins, Frederick John.	28 th January, 1955	5213	E. 680.
Carter, William James.	21 st March "	5219	F. 2160.
Carpenter, Fanny Hope.	1 st April, "	5226	H. 2491.
Cass-Morris, Cecil W. Haver,	30 th April, "	5229	H. 1703.
Cox, S. B.	9 th June, "	5235	A. 350.
Cross, Emily Ada.	27 th June, "	5238	C. 486.
Cox, Hilda Margaret	25 th August, "	5241	E. 1281.
Candy, Emily	2 nd March, 1956	5267	G. 1574.
Cook, Ellen Mary Ann.	26 th April, "	5273	A. 732.

Sample page from volume 3

In 2012 these indexes were transcribed.

The indexes to the burial register do not have the ages of the individuals and these have been obtained, where possible, by reference to the death registration held in the General Register Office indexes. Where there are death registrations for more than one individual with the same name in the same year in Bath, it is usually not possible to determine which age is the relevant one and, in those cases, no age was been added.

Known Limitations:

1 Ages

As there is no age in the index, this has been obtained, where possible, from the corresponding death registration. Where there is more than one possible entry no age has been added. Ages have been found for about 90% of the entries. Where a grant of probate has been found, it was possible to add the abode.

2 Burial Locations

In the first two volumes of the index there are no burial locations but they do exist for the third volume which covers the period 1939-1990. A survey of the surviving memorials has been able to establish the locations of some pre-1939 burial but, if there is no memorial, this is not possible.

3 Scope

The index volumes end in 1990. Some memorials for burials after this date have been found and these have been included.



Please note: Until the transcription of the register is complete, the limitations of the burial register indexes mean that it is only possible to determine the location of a grave for about 4,000 of the 5,800 burials. Names on memorials have been established for just over 1,800 burials.

Burial Registers

The burial registers themselves eventually became available and in 2024 the records in the index were enhanced with additional information from these registers such as: plot number, abode, place of death and dates of burial and death. The registers have, under ‘Rank or Profession’ the occupation and also, for women, spouse names (and their occupations) and, for children, fathers’ names and occupations. Forenames in the index tended to have reduced second and subsequent forenames to initials (although this is not consistent) whereas the registers have the forenames in full. As found with the records for the Walcot section of this cemetery, ages may be out by a year and some dates of death differ slightly with those in the National Probate Calendar entry. The age discrepancy most likely arises from the people using ‘in the __ year of his/her age’ rather than the number of years.

The set of registers is made up of three volumes:

Volume	Year range	Entries
1	1877-1906	1-2010
2	1906-1934	2011-4020
3	1934-2010	4018-5910

The columns for the first two volumes are:

- Number
- Date of burial
- Name of person buried
- Place of abode
- Rank or profession
- Sex
- Age
- Place of death
- Date of death
- Colour, letter and number of grave space
- Description and Depth of grave
- Name of officiating minister

The columns for the third volume are:

- Number
- Date of burial
- Surname
- Christian name
- Address a) where death occurred and b) of home, where not the same
- Rank or occupation
- Sex
- Age
- Date of death

- Nature of certificate (death cert, or coroner's order)
- Parishioner/non-parishioner indicator
- Colour, letters and number of grave
- Description and depth of grave prior to interment
- By whom the ceremony was performed

There is no explanation of 'colour' but, from the St Swithin's section. this would seem to be an indication of cost based on the position, those close to the paths being more expensive. The colours used are: pink, green, blue. The map accompanying the registers has these colours as red, green and blue with red being 'first class'.

For the specification of the grave, separate sets of columns are used for consecrated and unconsecrated plots. Sections A, B and I/J are deemed to be 'unconsecrated'. As with the St Swithin's section of the same cemetery the attribution of the plot seems to be more a function of whether the officiating minister was Anglican or non-Anglican as some burials in Section B are assigned to the consecrated columns while others at the same location are considered unconsecrated.

The description of the grave is one of: vault, family or common.

The parish was incorporated into Bath in 1911. Abodes prior to this are designated as being in Weston rather than Bath. For example in 1889 an address in a National Probate Calendar entry is given as 'Partis College, Bath' but as '10 Partis College, Weston' in the burial register. Until 1913 addresses in the parish have 'Upper Weston' or 'Lower Weston' specified. Then they are qualified by 'Weston' only. There is a change of hand for a period early in 1922 after which the 'Weston' is replaced by 'Bath' but from the mid-1920s the city/area is mostly omitted.

For the burial of stillborn children, in the main no dates of birth/death, abodes and parents are given. While burials of some are within the Weston section there are many in the Walcot and St Saviour's sections, identifiable by the section and by annotations next to the plot number.

Layout

Bath Record Office has a large map of the whole of Locksbrook Cemetery dated 1871. This shows the individual sections and the numbering scheme within those sections. In the 1871 map the northern side of Section D of the St Saviour's section is bounded by a wall. Later maps indicate that the cemetery was extended northwards to Cedric Road and it is this northern extension which is the Weston section. Maps accompany the scanned images of the registers give the numbers of the plots. It also has the section letters but these cross row borders without an indication of which side the letter applies to. The letter 'I' appears on the northern border wall.

The specification of a plot is as <area><plot number>.

The area is a single letter in the range A-I. Letter 'A' is used for rows on the southern boundary, a letter being used for 6 rows before changing to the next letter in the sequence. This is not always consistent and there are examples where 'B' and 'C' are used for the same plot in separate burials. The western end would seem to be the earliest and is almost devoid of surviving memorials. While these would be expected to have low numbers, it is at the eastern end of the cemetery where some later burials have low numbers.

The numbering suggests that the whole cemetery needs to be considered as three distinct areas:

- the western area which has numbers that start at about 290 up to about 800
- the central area which has numbers that start at about 900 up to about 1780

- an eastern area which, in its southern part, has numbers from about 1840 to over 2220
- an eastern border with numbers in the range 62 to 88.

However there are a series of anomalies in the numbering in the eastern area.

The use of the <area> is not consistent. In 1960 there was burial at C409a but also one at B409a.

At the eastern end of the is a grid arrangement of smaller plots with the width of 3 full-sized plots having 4 smaller plots.



Overall layout with the area of the Weston area of Locksbrook Cemetery indicated

Map development

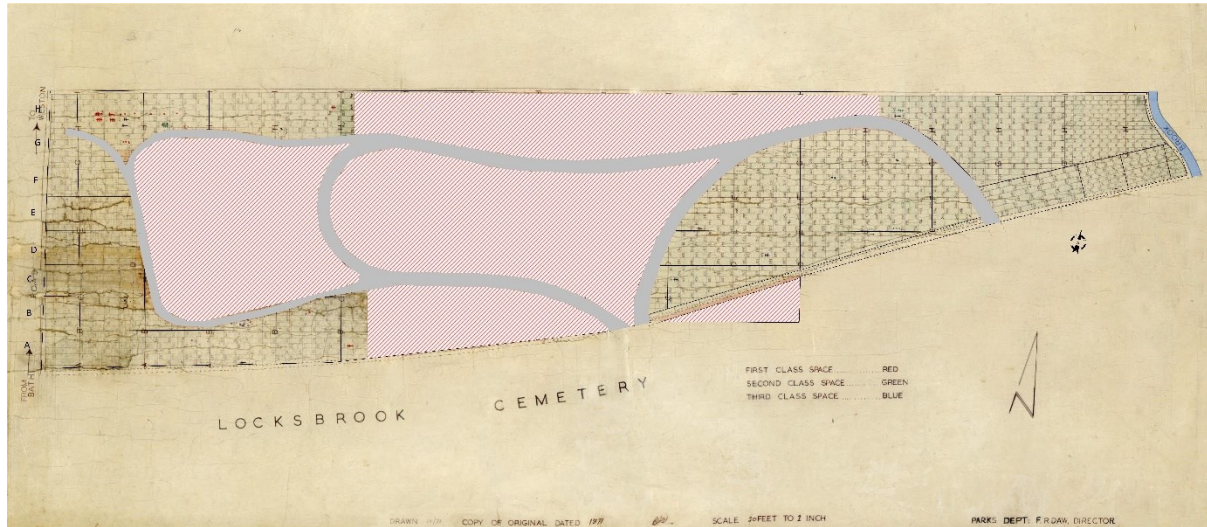
The detailed map of the arrangement of the memorials has been developed through a combination of:

- a survey of surviving memorials carried out in 2016
- using the plot numbers from the burial register in 2024
- using of the map to establish the arrangement of graves and their numbering for the areas devoid of memorials.

Reconciling the three types of information has proved to be difficult as, in addition to the non-straightforward numbering scheme, various adjustments have been made. Thus the map has a plot E182, there is a memorial there but the register has the location as E644c, this being the third addition westwards of plot E644. On the maps some plots are unnumbered with dashed lines indicating that they were originally intended as paths.

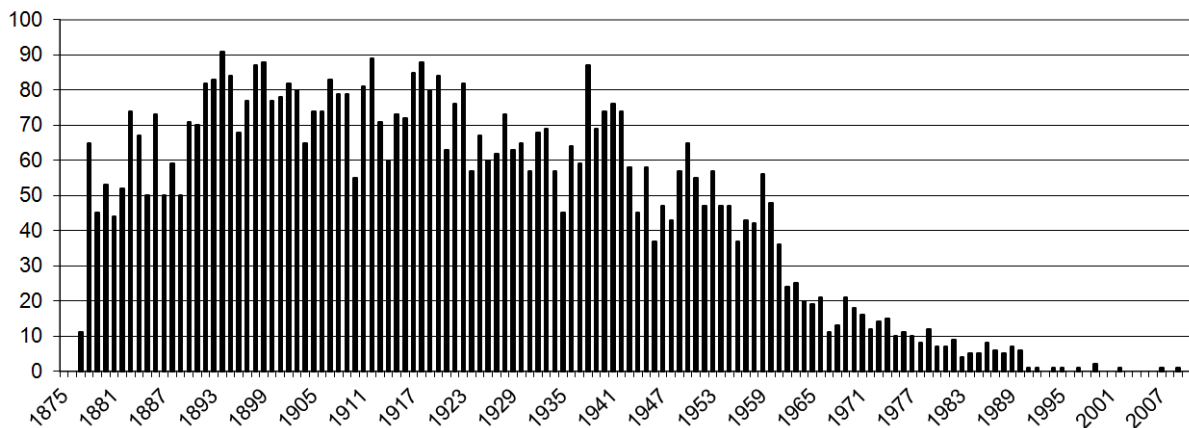
From the original map there are zones A to I as bands running west to east with A in the south and I at the north. Unhelpfully the map does not make it clear where the boundaries are. The map shows the location of paths which no longer exist, having been used for burials. This goes some way to explaining the anomalous numbering scheme. As the paths were used the new plots were given the number of an adjacent plot with a supplementary letter. This scheme broke down in the eastern part where a new numbering scheme was started.

Within the whole area plots are given classes: 1 red, 2 green 3 blue. The first class areas are near the paths on the level ground in the centre. Unfortunately the green and blue colours have faded but there are hints that the second class areas were to the east and west of the centre and third class was the eastern slope down to the Lock’s Brook.



Plot classes (first class as red hatching)

Numbers of Burials

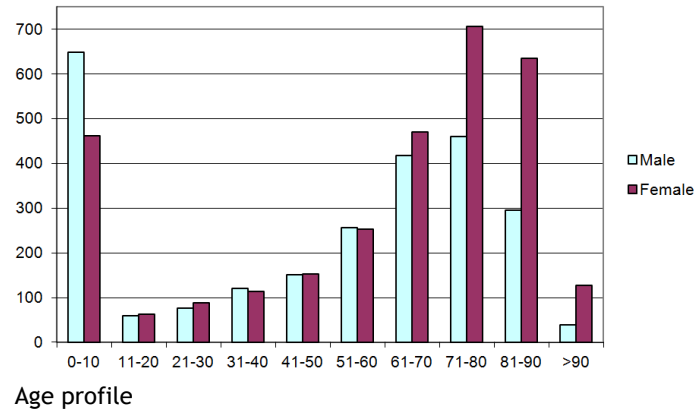


Numbers of burials by year

From the 1870s until about 1920 the number of burials per year was between 50 and 70, after which there was a sudden decline to 15-20 per year. The cemetery was closed in 1937, Haycombe cemetery then taking on the role of the sole municipal cemetery.

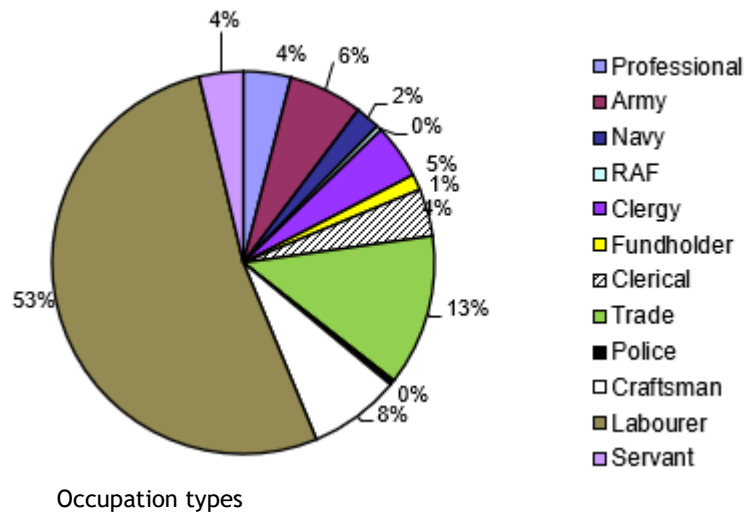
Age Profile

The age profile for those buried shows that about 20% were aged under 11 and 32% aged over 70. This can be compared with the Abbey Cemetery where 50% were aged over 70 and St Mark’s, Lyncombe with 43% aged under 11.



Occupations

The burial registers give the occupations in the column entitled 'rank or profession'. Sometimes this is the unhelpful 'retired'. A broad category used was 'labourer' without being specific. Some occupations have been found though finding a census entry.



About 60% were either labourers or craftsmen.

Places of birth

The places of birth as country and county had been determined in over 1200 cases. This information comes from census entries and, where the name is sufficiently distinguishable, from birth registrations.

