

## CAMPERDOWN CEMETERY



Dunbar commemoration service, 22 August 1931  
reproduced from P.W. Gledhill A stroll through the historic  
Camperdown Cemetery 1946

SAG library ref: B7/11/Pam 30

On the night of 20 August 1857 the full-rigged ship Dunbar, with 63 passengers and 59 crew, struck the rocks broadside on near the Gap, just north of outer South Head of Sydney Harbour. In a gale force wind and pounding seas, the ship was rapidly broken up. Of the 122 people on board, only one survived, a young able seaman named James Johnson. A few of the dead were identified and their bodies buried in private graves in Camperdown Cemetery and other Sydney cemeteries. The remains of some of the unidentified dead were buried at Camperdown, at government expense in a common grave, and a memorial was erected to commemorate the tragedy.

The burial ground known as Camperdown Cemetery dates from January 1849. It was established by a private corporation called the Sydney Church of England Cemetery Company, formed in 1848 in response to the need for additional burial sites as Sydney's then main general cemetery, the Sydney Burial Ground (Elizabeth and Devonshire Streets - where present day Central Railway station stands) was reaching capacity, especially the oldest section, the Anglican portion.

There were 15,733 burials in Camperdown Cemetery between 1849 and 1867 when the creation of new grave plots was prohibited and burials were only permitted by license from the Chief Secretary. Between 1867-1900 there were a further 2,057 burials - in already existing plots and family graves. A final number of 172 burials took place in the first half of the twentieth century. As at May 1942 the total number of headstones, vaults and stone enclosures in the cemetery was 2120. [ref: P. W. Gledhill A stroll through the historic Camperdown cemetery N.S.W. Sydney, Robert Dey, 1946 and Chrys Meader Beyond the boundary stone: a history of Camperdown Cemetery, Marrickville Council Library Services, 1997]

Today the surviving monuments are all contained within an area of 4 acres (1.6 ha), part of the grounds of St Stephen's Anglican Church, Newtown, built 1871-1874, but the cemetery originally occupied an area of more than 12 acres (4.8 ha), bounded by Church, Federation, Australia and Lennox Streets, Newtown. Around 8 acres (3.2 ha) of the original burial ground was resumed for use as a public park by legislation enacted in May 1948, and further amended in May 1950. The 4 acre area retained for church and cemetery purposes by the 1948-1950 Act was enclosed within a stone wall. Headstones removed from the resumed area were mostly relocated along the inner face of the wall.



Norman Frederick & Bruce Bowen transcribing the Nicholas Charles Boscha monument in the resumed section of Camperdown Cemetery in 1949/1950.  
SAG Primary Records collection: 5/1224

## CEMETERY TRANSCRIPTIONS

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- Camperdown Cemetery Index B7/11/13 – B7/11/16  
in the Society's library at 379 Kent Street, Sydney

4 volumes, arranged alphabetically, of monumental inscriptions from gravestones in the resumed area, transcribed 1949–1950 prior to the resumption of part of the original cemetery area for use as Public Park. Volume 1 includes a cemetery plan showing section numbers.

Photographs of nearly individual 100 graves in the resumed area, taken during the reconstruction of the cemetery 1951–1954, are held in the Western Sydney Records Centre of the State Records Authority of NSW. [ref: 8/2066A–B]

- St Stephen's C of E Camperdown monumental inscriptions NSW-CEM-CAM  
in the Society's library at 379 Kent Street, Sydney

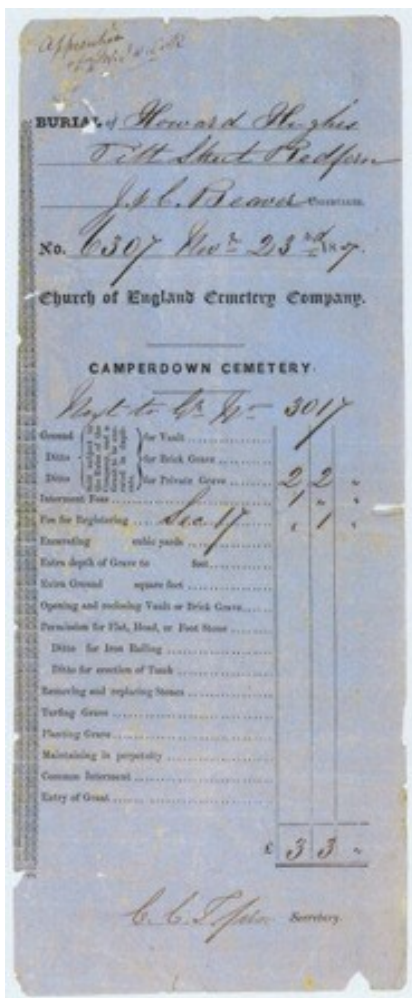
2 microfiche, alphabetical listing. Some sections were transcribed in 1968–1969, others in 1982–1983 and all were checked in March/April 1990, by which time a number of monuments extant in 1949–1950 had been broken or become illegible. Transcription comprises 1899 memorials in the churchyard plus memorials within the church.

## BURIAL RECORDS & RELATED

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- Camperdown Cemetery Burial Butts microfilm reels 3228–3235  
in the Society's library at 379 Kent Street, Sydney

Microfilm copies of original records held in the Sydney Diocesan Archives. Arranged in butt number order (and therefore chronologically) from 1 April 1850–4 March 1853 [nos.521–2299], 7 March 1853–21 Jan 1854 [nos.2300–3099], 21 Jan 1854–7 May 1857 [nos. 3100–5950], 24 April 1857–24 Aug 1859 [nos.5935–7830], 18 Aug 1859–17 Oct 1862 3 Oct 1862–17 Oct 1865 [nos.10519–13366], 10 Oct 1865–28 Dec 1867 [nos.13350–16115], 28 Dec 1867–23 March 1901 [16106–17798], excluding 17249–17500 (1871–1887) and 17751–17960 (1897–1942). The information recorded in the butts includes: full name, late residence, parish, date and hour of death, cause of death and age.



Church of England Cemetery Company  
 burial receipt for burial no.6307 23 Nov 1857.  
 SAG Primary Records collection: 4/4408

- Camperdown Cemetery Burial Butts microfilm reel 0290  
 in the Society's library at 379 Kent Street, Sydney

Microfilm copies of original records held in the Sydney Diocesan Archives.  
 Arranged in butt number order 13 Jan 1871–29 Dec 1873 [nos. 16415–16674]; 31  
 Dec 1873–19 Jul 1876 [nos.16675–16925, lacks 16686 & 16689]; 25 May 1881–28  
 Apr 1887 [nos. 17249–17500]; 28 Jun 1897–4 Nov 1942 [nos.17751–17960].

- St Stephen's Newtown burial registers microfilm reels 3076–77, 7001, 3398–99  
 in the Society's library at 379 Kent Street, Sydney

1847: reels 3076–3077; 1849–1854: reel 7001; 1847–1948: reels 3398–3399

DEATH REPORTS, BURIAL NOTICES, INQUESTS, REMOVALS

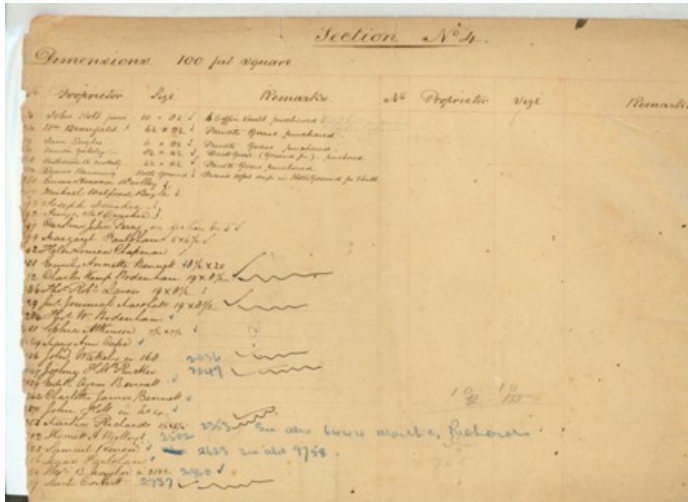
in the Society's Primary Records Collection at Richmond Villa, 120 Kent Street Sydney

- Small bundle of "Notice of burial where no certificate of registration has been  
 received at time of burial": Gertrude Amy Clarke, aged 3 months, died Strawberry Hill  
 1857; William Wright, dealer aged 36, died Infirmary 1857; Lewis Brewer, sailor aged  
 30, died Infirmary 1857; Arthur George Cubitt, aged 3 years 5 months, died Lower  
 Fort Street 1857, Mather Smith died Gloucester Street 1857. 4/4405

- Small bundle of receipts for burial, notification of burials and licences to bury:  
 John Gamble 1852, Salina Lavinia Ryder 1853; Maria Josephine Cook 1853,  
 Howard Hughes 1857, John Bruffell 1871, William Ralph Templeton 1871, Jane Day  
 1871, Sarah Jane Jenkins 1871; James William Robert Dart 1871; Richard Murray  
 O'Connell 1923, Rachel Cole Wells 1929, Walter Robert Hamblin 1936, Florence Lily  
 Maud Vandervord 1940. 4/4408

- 1 page typescript list of grave sites provided in other cemeteries to applicants under  
 Section 9, Camperdown Cemetery Act, 1948–1950. 4/4440

This is a Department of Lands (Parks Section) list of 47 removals (20 family names)  
 from Camperdown to the Rookwood Necropolis, Northern Suburbs Cemetery,  
 French's Forest, Raymond Terrace and Turrimetta (Mona Vale) cemeteries.  
 Correspondence relating to the removal of some of these graves is held in City of  
 Sydney Archives as part of the Camperdown Memorial Rest Park Trust Records series.



## CEMETERY PLANS

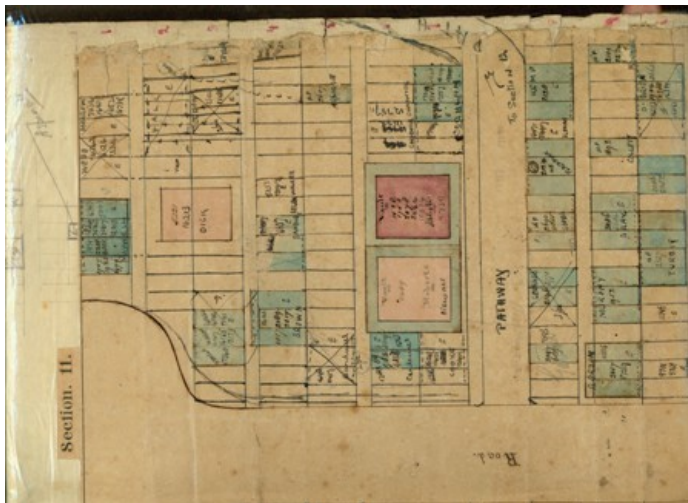
- Trustees' plans

16/154

in the Society's Primary Records Collection at Richmond Villa, 120 Kent Street Sydney

Original coloured Trustees Plans of Camperdown Cemetery, circa 1860–1930. 51 folio sheets of an original set of 56 sheets. Lacking Sections 1, 4, 34, 39, 40. Each section sheet shows numbered rows, grave plots and numbers, some with proprietor's surname. The verso of each section sheet provides full name of the proprietor, size of plot and occasional remarks.

A set of black & white photographs of cemetery plans derived from the originals is held in the Western Sydney Records Centre of the State Records Authority of New South Wales (8/2066B). This set is annotated with references to relocated gravestones



- Resumption plans

4/4402

in the Society's Primary Records Collection at Richmond Villa, 120 Kent Street Sydney

Department of Lands Plan of Camperdown Cemetery circa 1951 showing numbered location of graves within the resumed area together with an indication of graves to be exhumed.

A series of plans were drawn up by the Department of Lands between 1949 and 1954, showing the location of original gravesites and monuments, and the redesigned and reconstructed cemetery area. These plans are held in the Western Sydney Records Centre of the State Records Authority of New South Wales (SR Plan nos. 61688–616702).

Copies of some of these plans are also held in the City of Sydney Archives as part of the Camperdown Memorial Rest Park Trust Records series (55/18/7–55/18/11).

SAG Primary Records collection: 16/154



SAG Primary Records collection: 4/37

TRUSTEES' PAPERS: 'NEXT OF KIN' LISTS & PERPETUAL CARE

• Joseph Cook's notebook 4/37  
in the Society's Primary Records Collection at Richmond Villa, 120 Kent Street Sydney

a small notebook containing 145 pages including 690 names of persons buried in the cemetery, each with names and home addresses of next of kin and other relatives. Joseph Cook (1825–1912), a Trustee of the cemetery from 1896–1907, began compiling the information in the early 1890s in order to appeal to the owners of tombs and graves for funds to clean up the cemetery grounds and repair fencing.

Cook tried to find relatives wherever he could and as many as possible. Those listed for Benjamin Clayton, Surgeon (Balmain) and Broughton Clayton, for example, are Mr Ernest H. Clayton, "Fernhurst", Macpherson St, North Sydney; Mrs Clayton, Marlborough, Drummoyne; J.H. Clayton, Solicitor, Forest Rd, Rockdale and Joseph Clayton, Homebush. For John Scott Chavase the family contact is Mr Alban Chavase, Solicitor, 57 Lincolns Inn Fields, London W.C. and so on.

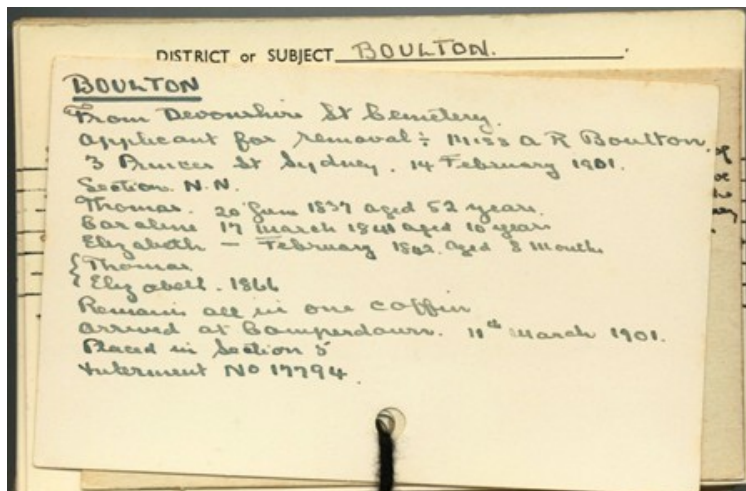
Sometimes he drew a blank: he could find no one to take an interest in the gravestone of George Jilks, being told that Jilks had "no descendants living, all gone to bad – or been hung". The notebook contains occasional comments on the state of a grave and other miscellaneous information, including a list of 17 naval seamen buried in the cemetery between 1850 and 1866, compiled and sent to Admiral Cyprian Bridge of HMS Orlando on 9 December 1896 with a request for support.

• Next of kin address list ca. 1908 4/4406  
in the Society's Primary Records Collection at Richmond Villa, 120 Kent Street Sydney

71 pp. alphabetical typescript, containing around 1000 names with addresses of next of kin.

• List of graves in Perpetual Care 4/4434  
in the Society's Primary Records Collection at Richmond Villa, 120 Kent Street Sydney

2 pp. foolscap typescript list of 32 graves, compiled by sexton Arthur Spence, dated 1 December 1942.



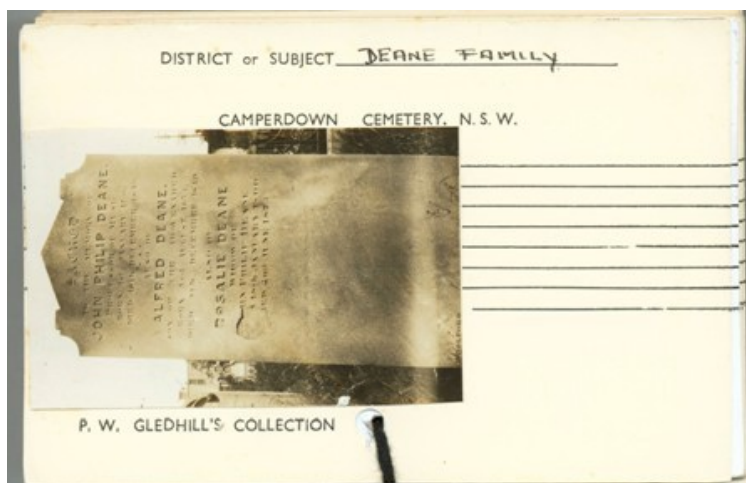
TRUSTEES' PAPERS: P.W. GLEDHILL'S COLLECTION

• P.W. Gledhill's cards 20/64  
 in the Society's Primary Records Collection at Richmond Villa, 120 Kent Street Sydney  
 8 bundles of 5 x 3" cards arranged alphabetically. The cards comprise Gledhill's  
 handwritten or typescript notes on 365 graves, families and other topics, including  
 biographical information, information on the condition of headstones and other  
 items of interest. For example, a card for William and Lucy Aston provides the  
 following details: "Section 16, by Dunbar Tomb. William was engineer of old paddle  
 steamer 'William 4th' and one of the first men as an engineer with Captain Cadell to  
 steam up the Murray River. Information supplied by W.H. Aston, 25 Arundel St Glebe.  
 25 May 1944."

Gledhill's notes sometimes require more than one card per family or grave. Thus  
 there are two cards for the Bodenham family with biographical notes on one card and  
 on the other a report on the state of the Bodenham headstones made following an  
 inspection on 23 July 1957. Some notes run to several cards: the Boulton cards  
 include notes about the removal of the headstone from Section 5 to Section 38 in  
 1955, a sketch map of the original location of the headstone in Section 5, a list of  
 Boulton family remains removed from Devonshire Street cemetery in March 1901,  
 and a transcription of the original Devonshire Street headstone.

A few cards include photographs of headstones. Other cards reflect aspects of  
 Camperdown Cemetery history of interest to Percy Gledhill. He has a card for a  
 'Bushranger', one Charles Ross, executed at Darlinghurst Gaol on 18 March 1863 and  
 buried in the cemetery on the same day. He also has a card for the headstone erected  
 in 1931 for an Aboriginal man named Mogo who died in 1850 and whose grave was  
 "covered with shells from an Aboriginal kitchen midden at Pittwater". This headstone,  
 originally in Section 8, was removed to Section 38 in 1943.

The data gathered by Gledhill and kept in his cards provided the material for his  
 publications about the history of the cemetery.



SAG Primary Records collection: 20/64

## TRUSTEES' PAPERS: CORRESPONDENCE FILES

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- Correspondence, 1896–1958 4/47, 4/4415–4/4432  
in the Society's Primary Records Collection at Richmond Villa, 120 Kent Street Sydney  
relating to financial appeals for the upkeep of the cemetery, the campaign against  
resumption, and the particulars of removal and relocation of some graves. Includes  
letters from owners of graves and from other family members:

## TRUSTEES' REPORTS

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- List of subscribers to Camperdown Cemetery Repair Fund, 1907 4/4417  
in the Society's Primary Records Collection at Richmond Villa, 120 Kent Street Sydney  
3 pp. printed brochure including 126 names and addresses.
- Camperdown Cemetery Trustees Balance Sheet, 1923 4/4403  
in the Society's Primary Records Collection at Richmond Villa, 120 Kent Street Sydney  
4 pp. printed brochure including 108 names and addresses in a 'List of donations to  
the fencing and repair fund June to December 1923' plus 13 names in a list of  
'Annual Subscriptions promised'.
- Trustees' Annual Reports 4/4403 & 4/4451  
in the Society's Primary Records Collection at Richmond Villa, 120 Kent Street Sydney  
a series of printed reports titled 'Trustees Report and Balance Sheet' published by the  
Camperdown Cemetery Trust from 1929–1949. Each report includes lists of people  
who have made donations to cemetery appeals. From 1931 the annual report also  
lists Perpetual Care graves and details of interments taking place in that year and  
from 1939 a list of Annual Care graves is included.

## DUNBAR MEMORIAL

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• Wreck of the Dunbar Commemoration Service programmes 4/4403 & 4/13492

in the Society's Primary Records Collection at Richmond Villa, 120 Kent Street Sydney  
a series of printed brochures, 1929–2001.

A list of passengers and crew who drowned in the wreck of the Dunbar is printed in Archives in Brief no. 67 published by the State Records Authority of NSW (available online on the State Records NSW website: <http://www.records.nsw.gov.au/archives>)

## HISTORIES & PHOTOGRAPHS

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Published histories of Camperdown Cemetery held in the Society's library at 379 Kent Street, Sydney are listed in the Society's online library catalogue. They include:

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| B7/11/Pam28  | M. F. King Prominent Australians and importance of Camperdown Cemetery [1934] – 23 pp.                 |
| B7/11/Pam29c | P. W. Gledhill Camperdown Cemetery: Plan and description of some of the historic graves [1934] – 8 pp. |
| B7/11/Pam30  | P. W. Gledhill A stroll through the historic Camperdown Cemetery [1946] – 85 pp.                       |
| B3/47/Pam5   | Chrys Meader Beyond the boundary stone: a history of Camperdown Cemetery [1997] – 71 pp.               |

### Photographs:

The City of Sydney Archives holds a series of 8 photographs of the original cemetery area, taken in January 1951 by Milton Kent for the Camperdown Cemetery Trust Board. (NSCA CRS 55/14/8 – available online through [www.pictureaustralia.org](http://www.pictureaustralia.org))

A set of 5 photographs of the cemetery generally taken in July 1954 by the Department of Lands is held in the Western Sydney Records Centre of the State Records Authority of New South Wales (8/2066A).