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The Title page from the following book reads:

Sydney Burial Ground 1819-1901 (Elizabeth and Devonshire Streets) and History of Sydney's Early Cemeteries from 1788 by Keith A. Johnson and Malcolm R. Sainty. published by the Library of Australian History, Sydney 2001.

The book details a comprehensive history of the cemetery.

One of the main sections of the book deals with the Re-interment Register that was compiled by the Department of Public Works of the NSW government in 1901, to record the names of the deceased who were being removed to make way for Sydney's Central Railway Station.

The history of this process, taken from the book, is reproduced below. The book also contains copies of documents relating to this process. It is copyright.

Removal of Sydney Burial Ground in 1901

N.S.W. Government Gazette 22 January 1901, P. 433.

Department of Public Works

Sydney. 17 January 1901

City Railway Extension and Devonshire Street Cemetery

It having been determined to extend the City Railway to Devonshire Street, notice is hereby given that in all cases where application has been made to the Minister of Justice by the representative of deceased persons buried in the Devonshire Street Cemetery and permission obtained to exhume such bodies with the sanction of the cemetery trustees within 2 months from this date the Department of Public Works will bear all reasonable expenses incurred in the re-interment of such bodies in such cemetery as the said representatives may desire.

The cost of removing and re-erecting all monuments stonework etc. now in a fair state of preservation will also be borne by the Government.

In the case of those bodies for which no applications will have been received at the expiration of this notice, exhumation will be carried out by the Government and re-interment will be effected at Rookwood Cemetery.

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Forms of application and other information may be obtained on application to the Clerk in charge of Bonds and Contracts at this Department.

(Signed) Robert Hickson

Under Secretary for Public Works and Commissioner for Main Roads.

In 1901 the New South Wales Government invited descendants and relatives of those interred at the Sydney Burial Ground to relocate the monuments and remains. The Cemetery had been closed for more than twelve years and presented a deserted and neglected appearance. The total area of the Cemetery was resumed to make way for Sydney's Central Railway Station. In addition the following properties were resumed: The Police Barracks and Superintendent's residence, the Sydney South Morgue, the Benevolent Asylum (built 1820) which faced George Street at the corner of Devonshire Street, Christ Church Parsonage (built 1852) in Pitt Street, opposite St. Lawrence Church, the Sydney Female Refuge, the Convent of the Good Samaritan and the Tram Depot. The last three formed part of the site occupied by the Carters Barracks prior to 1848. See the end papers of this volume for a "Plan of Part of the South End and Suburbs of the City of Sydney - P. L. Bemis, Surveyor, 1842. About one-third of the monuments were relocated in metropolitan cemeteries set aside during the second half of the nineteenth century, including Rookwood (1868), South Head (1869), Gore Hill (1868) and Waverley (1877). Others were transferred to country cemeteries, e.g. Goulburn, Cootamundra and Kincumber. A list of cemeteries where remains were re-interred is at the end of Appendix 2. A total of 1,568 applications were received by the Devonshire Street Cemetery Board of the Department of Public Works, claiming 8,460 known remains.

Of approximately 4500 monuments surviving in 1901, about 2800 were relocated on 25 acres of government land adjoining Bunnerong Road, La Perouse and the existing Botany Cemetery which had been set aside in 1888. Very few went to Camperdown Cemetery, Sydney's principal Church of England cemetery from 1849 until January 1868. The introduction of Licenses authorizing burials in cemeteries within the City of Sydney (namely the Sydney Burial Grounds) restricted interments in the Episcopalian portion to vaults only. The Sydney Burial Grounds Act of 1866 (30 Victoria 3) was enacted prior to the opening of the Necropolis at Haslem's Creek (Rookwood) in 1868. Another Act restricted burials at the Camperdown Cemetery and at St. Jude's Cemetery, Randwick) from January 1868. Licenses to Bury in these three cemeteries were required. The Camperdown C. of E. Cemetery Company kept Registers which record details of 17,962 interments. Almost 17,000 forms were also completed by undertakers and delivered to the Secretary of the C. of E. Cemetery Company. The latter forms often give additional information about the deceased.

Surveyors' Books

Before removal, a number was painted on each monument from which numerical lists were compiled in four note books by surveyors from the Department of Public

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Works during January and February, 1901. In total, 1,229 monuments were listed from the Church of England portion by David Dietrichson; 1,451 from the Catholic portion in two books by H. P. Thomas, the first of which is lost and the second commences with grave number 1414. The remaining portions were listed in a fourth note book: 1,006 Presbyterian; 318 Congregational; 256 Wesleyan Methodist; and 268 Jewish. The only particulars recorded from the monuments in plot number order were name and date of death (presumably taken from the headstone), if decipherable. These books were placed by the Compilers for safe keeping, in the primary records of the Society of Australian Genealogists in 1972.

Graves marked "B" - there are a number of graves in the re-interment register marked as plot B. These are probably monuments discovered face down or buried and were not marked by the surveyors in their initial numbering sequence. These occur in all denominations. A typed list of these exists for the Catholic section only and this is now housed in the Primary Records of the Society. It contained several dates of death not recorded in the original Re-Interment Register. These dates have been noted in the following edited Register as "Date from B list".

Claimants

There are extant 100 odd completed application forms addressed to the Trustees of the Church of England cemetery, to remove remains. These are dated January to May 1901 and are held in the Anglican Church Diocese of Sydney Archives and have been compared with the data in the Re-interment Register compiled in 1901. Extra data has been added to the edited Register, within square brackets, as well as being the subject matter of Notes I to 9, at the end of the C. of E. section of Appendix 2.

There appears to be only one single (damaged) original Claimant's application form surviving. It is located at the Society of Australian Genealogists and has the format of a pre-printed Statutory Declaration subtitled Devonshire-street Cemetery.

This sample reads:

I, Sarah Annette Buckingham of 201 Norton St. Leichhart in the State of New South Wales, in the Commonwealth of Australia (Occupation - not completed in this case) do hereby solemnly declare and affirm that

1. I am the only proper person entitled to apply for the exhumation and removal of the remains of my deceased relative(s) who (was/were) buried in the Roman Catholic portion of the Devonshire-street Cemetery.

Letter 311 of Volume 2 dated 1 April 1901 states only "The following vouchers are sent herewith" it lists 14 names of which "J. Larkin £6.18.0" It is assumed that Mr Larkin spent only this amount and not a previous estimate.

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Letter 550 of Volume I appears to be in reply to a request to re-inter without first obtaining an estimate. It names "Barbara Burns, George Burns and Christina Moffitt buried in the Church of England portion in about 1852, 1849 and 1856 respectively to remove to the Church of England, Rookwood ... at all reasonable expenses incurred".

Letter 177 in volume 2.

26 March 1901 to Mrs Elizabeth Larkin, 42 Sydney St., Erskineville "remains of John and Mary C. McGibbon, Elizabeth, Henry and Mary C. White.. to Rookwood £7.17.6"

The above Mrs. Elizabeth Larkin (nee White) (1847-1930), a great-great-grandmother of Keith Johnson, one of the Compilers of this volume, made application to the Devonshire Street Cemetery Board in March 1901 to remove, from the Presbyterian portion, the remains of her maternal grandparents, John McGibbon (d. 1842) and Mary McGibbon (d. 1858), her mother Elizabeth White (d. 1860) and her brother and sister Henry and Mary White who died in infancy (mid 1840s). As there was no monument Mrs. Larkin presumably had pointed out to her, probably by her mother before her death, when Elizabeth was 12 years of age, the burial place of her grandparents and brother and sister. Research has proven that Mrs. Larkin's mother was in fact buried at Camperdown Cemetery in 1860. Her father John White's first wife, Eleanor White, was buried in a separate grave at Devonshire Street in 1840 (No. 1121 - Roman Catholic portion), but her remains and monument were not claimed in 1901. The foregoing illustrates the need to question these records, even inscriptions cut into tombstones can be misleading. It is interesting to note that when Mrs. Larkin's father John White died in 1875 and was buried at Rookwood and not with either of his wives at Devonshire Street or Camperdown Cemeteries. Mrs. Larkin was buried in 1930 with her husband John Joseph Larkin (1848-1929) in a plot at Rookwood Cemetery that his family had acquired in April 1901 when he had the remains of his father Philip Larkin (1805-1883), two sisters, two brothers and other relatives re-interred there from family graves at the Devonshire Street Cemetery. A majority of the persons who applied to have the remains of relatives relocated at cemeteries other than Bunnerong in 1901 provided for a burial place for themselves in an adjoining plot at the cemetery chosen.

Most claimants dealt with the Devonshire Street Cemetery Board, however two wrote on 18 and 19 February 1901 to the Department of Justice: George Kellick of Waverley for permission to re-inter in Camperdown Cemetery three infants who had died in 1828, 1835 and 1838. He gives full details of date of death and ages which he states were taken from the headstone, only the first child was recorded in the Re-Interment Register. Another, Mary W. Kilminster of, Manly 'the only surviving child of the deceased' sought permission to remove the remains of her father Mr Aberdeen to be buried with her mother Mary Aberdeen at Manly Cemetery. The ODS Re-Interment Register records several Aberdeen family members transferred on her authority.

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Transfer of Remains:

Several different pre-printed forms were used by the Department of Public Works when administering the transfer of remains. The only known surviving samples are now located in the Primary Records of the Society of Australian Genealogists. One of these forms is headed 'Devonshire-street Cemetery Resumption'. It makes provision for the date and denominational Portion to be added. The form then gives details of: Applicant, Deceased, No. of Graves Opened. No. of Coffins Used. and No. of Lead Coffins Found, Where taken to, Undertaker, Sexton's Name and Time Worked, Remarks as to Remains Found, &c. The only forms surviving are for James Bourke from the Catholic Portion dated 24 May 1901 to Waverley; eight members of the Bryen family and two of Turton family (all named) from the C. of E. Portion dated 22 May 1901 to Rookwood; seven members of Brown, Chapman & Johnstone families (all named) from the Presbyterian Portion dated 9 May 1901 to Rookwood. There is a similar but typed form for Margaret & William Chambers in the Presbyterian Portion dated 12 & 22 February 1901 to Waverley Cemetery.

Another pre-printed form from the Department, was used by the receiving Cemetery of which only six samples survive for remains received at Balmain, four each for St. Thomas, North Sydney and Camperdown Cemeteries. It can be assumed that all remains transferred to cemeteries other than Bunnerong would have been recorded on similar forms, which have been destroyed. The form recorded the Date, Applicant, Name of Deceased, [Denomination] Division, Section and Lot to which the remains were transferred and Remarks recording how many remains went into each coffin.

Remains sent to Rookwood Catholic Cemetery were recorded in the contemporary Register of Burials in the R.C. Cemetery, Rookwood inter-disbursed with new burials there. The first from "Devonshire R C C" were: Francis Hunter 1879 aged 59, James, 1886 aged 7 and Francis 1886 aged 2 1/2. Remains were "presented" on 31 January 1901 and buried on 1 February in grave 538 Section Q - 1 coffin.

The following Re-Interments Return dated 7 November 1902 forms part of the contemporary Interment Register for the Botany Cemetery.

Return showing number of coffins re-interred at Botany New Cemetery containing identified remains and also number of coffins containing remains not identified.

	Coffins	Known Remains	Unknown Remains
Church of England Section	1,057	1,629	
Average 10 sets each coffin	408		4,080
Roman Catholic Section	1,081	1,959	
Average 10 sets each coffin	844		8,440

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Presbyterian Section	580	1,107	
Average 10 sets each coffin	282		2,820
Wesleyan Section	163	316	
Average 10 sets each coffin	31		310
Congregational Section	198	303	
Average 10 sets each coffin	32		320
Hebrew Section	48	49	
Average 10 sets each coffin	32		320
Friends Section	2	3	
Average 10 sets each coffin	4		40
Total to Botany New Cemetery	4,762	5,366	16,330
Applications for removal to Metropolitan [not recorded] and Country Cemeteries			
1,410 Applications			8,460
Average 6 sets each coffin			
Gross Total Remains	30,156	13,826	16,330

Restoration of Stonework

The Department of Public Works removed to Bunnerong all unclaimed remains and monuments by steam train, on specially laid railway tracks. The same means was used for transporting claimed remains and monuments to Rookwood (see illustration). Some fencing and kerbing was discarded, but if claimed, the Government paid for its removal with the remains to the Applicant's cemetery of choice and in some cases paid to restore the stonework.

Only one volume survives detailing the state of the stonework before removal. It has the following title:

Resumption - Devonshire Street Cemetery - Mr Colyer's Reports from January to March 1901. The volume contains about 500 reports, examples of which follow:

D.S. Kirkwood. 25 February 1901.

This property consists of a Vault 10ft x 8ft supposed to contain 6 bodies in lead. The vault is slabbed with 3in stone slab and is surmounted by a box tomb 2ft x 6ft.6in x 3ft 2in with a 6in slab on top 6ft 6in x 3ft 2in. The applicant is willing to accept three

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graves at Rookwood in place of vault. Estimated cost of removing stonework above ground is £9/10/1-. 6 coffins will be required.

Mr T. Leslie. 13 February 1901

This property consists of ground 7'0" x 3'0" with 6" x 14" kerbing all round. The top of the grave is cemented and covered with marble chips. Has a headstone 6'0" x 2'6" x 6" in good order. Only one coffin is required. Cost of removal £4.10.0

The costs of exhumation and the removal of remains was £26,890 and the reburials at Bunnerong was £22,541. The Board's task was completed by September 1902.

Original Register and the Compilers' Edited Register

The Re-Interment Register of Remains is in alphabetical order for each denomination. It was compiled in 1901-1902 from the Surveyors' Note Books and the Applications received by the Department from the relatives of those interred at the Sydney Burial Ground. In addition this Register records where the remains and monuments were relocated and on whose authority.

The Register was in the custody, until 1999, of the Botany Cemetery Trust, which body had under its control from 1901, the former Bunnerong Cemetery. The Register and Index have now been transferred to State Records, New South Wales.

The Register measures 59 cm wide by 47 cm high - it is leather bound and is titled "Devonshire Street Cemetery - Register of Remains, Etc., Transferred Therefrom".

It is a printed page format with pre-printed numbered pages commencing with the Presbyterian section and the pages run as follows:-

Presbyterian 1 - 86; Society of Friends 86A; Congregational 87 - 111; Wesleyan 112 - 134; Jewish 135 - 146A; Church of England 146 - 226; Roman Catholic 226 - 346. The edited Re-Interment Register has been reproduced in this same order, the Friends (Quakers) section being on the last page of the Presbyterian section.

The Register records all persons whose remains or tombstones were identified. In most cases, the plot to which remains or stonework were transferred to Bunnerong was not recorded and this information has been added from the Surveyors' Books.

In some instances remains from the same Sydney Burial Ground plot were claimed by different people and removed to different cemeteries. In many cases the Register recorded, in the Remarks column, the full names of the persons of different surname buried with the family. e.g. in the Presbyterian section, plot 919 for Mary Ann Clinton, records in the Remarks, "With Eliza, Ann & John Robertson and Jane Anley". Turning to the letter "A", under plot 919, the entry for Jane Anley, records in the Remarks, all the others and in the letter "R", plot 919 under Robertson, records Clinton and Anley.

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The clerks who compiled the Register were generally accurate with cross referencing, but in some instances they did not cross reference and in others one surname may be referenced to another but not vice versa.

The Compilers have sorted the data from the Register on computer and discovered the missing cross references. These have been added into the edited Register in square brackets, to distinguish them from what appears in the original Register. The Compilers have recorded only the surnames in the Remarks column. The appropriate Smith/Brown cross reference therefore depends on the correct plot number being found in the alphabetical section of the Register within the letters S & B. A very small number of entries found to be obvious duplications in the original Re-Interment Register have been deleted.

In the edited Register, in some entries in the column headed Cemetery an asterisk may appear (e.g. Bunn*). This means that the entry has been added by the Compilers from a Supplementary List created by the Devonshire Street Cemetery Board in 1901.

In the column Died, an asterisk (*) in front of date refers to wording printed on every page of the original Register: "where re-interment has been effected at Botany the work has been carried out by the Government".

Plot Number at cemeteries where remains were re-interred (e.g. 4716-20 Rookwood) may mean plots 4716, 18 & 20 and not plots 4717 & 4719.

A full listing of the Cemeteries to which remains were relocated and also the abbreviations used by the Compilers, is given at the end of Appendix 2.

The total number of deceased persons named in the Compilers' edited Re-Interment Register is 10,058:- Presbyterian 2530; Congregational 712; Wesleyan 631; Society of Friends 4; Jewish 297; Church of England 2330; Roman Catholic 3554.

Original Index Volume

This volume, bound in leather and measuring 32cm wide by 48cm high, appears to have been compiled by the Devonshire Street Cemetery Board of the Department of Public Works from a source other than the Re-Interment Register as it contains a more accurate recording of names and plot numbers. In some instances it includes names not in the Register and in others it gives a different spelling of the surname and unabbreviated first names. Checking these details against the Compilers' 1969 transcript of inscriptions on then extant monuments, the Index has proven to be more accurate than the Register.

The Index also records some plot numbers as an A or B plot to distinguish it from the main number series. It is assumed that these plots were identified at a later date to the others, possibly from buried monuments or coffin plates. It is thought that this Index may have been compiled from the Surveyors' Reports in conjunction with the

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Register, although the Register was not corrected at the time. The Index lists only those persons transferred to Bunnerong (La Perouse) Cemetery.

For other 'Cemetery Records' included in the BDA see

<http://www.bda-online.org.au/sources/cemeteries>

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