

BDA Source Description Pages

<http://www.bda-online.org.au>**Camperdown Cemetery Interment Register 1849-1853**

Camperdown Cemetery dates from January 1849 and was established by a private corporation called the Sydney Church of England Cemetery Company in 1848 to cater for Anglican burials. Sir Maurice O'Connell, Lieutenant Governor of NSW, had been buried here in May 1848, it being originally part of his wife's landed estate. It became the principal Church of England cemetery for Sydney, the Sydney Burial Ground (Elizabeth Street) had reached its capacity.

There were 17,962 burials at Camperdown between 1849 and its closure in 1942. Licences to bury had to be obtained from the Colonial Secretary from 1867. The cemetery originally covered 4.8 ha but was reduced to 1.6 ha in 1950 by the NSW Department of Lands and surrounded by a stone wall, within which surviving headstones from outside were relocated around the inner wall. The area outside the wall was converted into a public park, the bodies remain in their original location, under the park.

St Stephens Church of England, Newtown, was erected in the cemetery grounds between 1871 and 1874, where it remains today within the walled cemetery.

The Register transcribed is not the burial register of the church, many of the funerals were conducted in other Sydney parishes and their burial registers should contain details. The Interment Register is a cemetery company record and not a church register.

The transcription from the original volume was undertaken in 1969 by Keith A Johnson and details interments from John Holden Michie, the first interment on 8 February 1849 to William Edward Martin, an 11 day old infant, who was buried on 31 December 1853. In all, 3,048 interments in that period, have been transcribed.

The Register details full name, either street or suburb of residence, death date, death place such as Benevolent Asylum if not their home address, death cause in most cases, burial date, for some, the section of the cemetery in which they were buried and the entry number of the person previously interred in the grave, age in years for adults and days, weeks or months for infants, employment for some people and ship of arrival for a few. Remarks often contained for children such as "dau of a carpenter". Where this occurs a cross reference to Mr Smith, carpenter of Elizabeth Street, has been created. With these added, plus some other people mentioned in the register, together with variation of the spelling of some names, a total of 4,005 entries make up the Database now on-line. In a number of cases the clergyman who performed the burial is recorded which indicates the parish in which the deceased resided.

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Malcolm R Sainty AM - General editing of the Dataset & preparation of this Information page.

Further Reading

A Stroll Through the Historic Camperdown Cemetery N.S.W. by P W Gledhill, JP FSAG, published Sydney 1946.

Camperdown Cemetery an article prepared by Megan Martin, Honorary Archivist, in June 2008 as a guide to original material relating to the cemetery and its records, held in the Primary Records of the Society of Australian Genealogists in Sydney.

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Historical resources available from the BDA Shop

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