

## Doncaster Archives Department

This catalogue was digitised by The National Archives as part of the National Register of Archives digitisation project

NRA 12431



The National Archives

12431/1  
rep.  
21SEP87

NRA

12431

Hyde Park Cemetery, Doncaster

Doncaster Archives Department

King Edward Road  
Balby  
Doncaster DN4 0NA

Reference no: MB/CEM/1

Accession no: 1927

## DONCASTER ARCHIVES

FEB 2002

## DONCASTER METROPOLITAN BOROUGH:

## DONCASTER, HYDE PARK CEMETERY, 1854-1994

By the mid-nineteenth century, Doncaster, like many other towns, was experiencing problems over burial grounds. In a number of large towns, including Leeds and Sheffield, private cemetery companies had been created by local Act of Parliament to provide burial grounds financed by fees. The provisions which parliament usually required to be included in such Acts were drawn together in the Cemeteries Clauses Consolidation Act, 1847 ( 10 and 11 Vict., cap. lxxv).

The creation of cemeteries by local authorities was permitted in London by an Act of 1852 and this possibility was extended to other parts of the country by an Act in the following year (16 and 17 Vict., cap. cxxxiv).

In Doncaster by this time the ten-acre churchyard of St George, the ancient parish church, was congested and no longer large enough to bury all the dead of the town. There were, in addition, a number of smaller burial grounds, including that attached to Christ Church of about two acres, consecrated in 1848, and several attached to nonconformist churches. The situation is described in William Ranger, *Report to the General Board of Health on a Preliminary Inquiry into ... the Borough of Doncaster* (London, 1850), pages 42 to 48. A copy is available in the departmental library of Doncaster Archives.

Although a scheme to provide a cemetery in Doncaster was already underway by 1848 (see Ranger's *Report*, pages 45 to 48, which includes the text of the petition to HM Treasury), it was not until six years later that legislation was finally obtained to implement it. The Doncaster Cemetery Act, 1854 (7 and 8 Vict., cap. lxxxviii) arranged for a cemetery to be provided, using land belonging to the corporation and funds belonging to the borough freemen, or 'common right holders' as they are referred to in the Act. A copy of the Act can be found at Doncaster Archives reference AB/CLERK/2/32.

The corporation had obtained the permission of the H. M. Treasury to appropriate some of its estates for use as a cemetery, namely Dial Stone Close and Carr Side Close, in the township of Balby with Hexthorpe, which together contained slightly more than seven and a half acres. The construction was to be partly financed from a fund of £1,706. 3s. 10d belonging to the common right owners. This sum had accumulated from the compulsory purchase of common right lands at the Marsh,

## MB/CEM/1

adjoining Marshgate, by the Great Northern Railway Company and the South Yorkshire Railway and the River Dun for railway purposes but which, for legal reasons, could not be distributed amongst the individual common right owners.

It was agreed between the corporation and the common right owners that the management of the cemetery should be entrusted to a body of fourteen commissioners, comprising the mayor and six other commissioners annually nominated by the corporation and seven elected by the common right owners each year.

Additional finance could be obtained by the commissioners by powers given in the Act to sell or lease the residue of the two and a half acres of the Marsh and raise money through a cemetery rate of up to 3d. in the pound.

The cemetery was opened in January 1856. The minutes and other records of the commissioners and the registers kept by the cemetery are catalogued here. The cemetery was obliged by law to keep a register of burials. There are, as the law required, two series of registers ( see sections 2 and 3 below), one for the consecrated ground (that is, ground for burials conducted according to the rites of the Church of England) and unconsecrated ground for the burial of those of all other denominations and faiths. The cemetery was also obliged by law to keep records of plots sold for exclusive rights of burial (see section 7 below).

In addition to these series of records, there are registers of graves, recording the names of those buried in each grave-plot, registers of monuments erected and various financial records. There is also a series of interment order books (see section 8 below), which give in one series of volumes the same information as the official burial registers for both the consecrated and unconsecrated grounds.

The Doncaster Corporation Act, 1915 (5 and 6 Geo. 5 ch. xv, Part VII, sections 53 to 59) provided for abolition of the cemetery commissioners and the vesting of the cemetery in the corporation from 1 October 1915. A copy of the Act is to be found at Doncaster Archives reference AB/CLERK/2/1. From that date, the management of the cemetery was the responsibility of the cemetery committee of Doncaster Borough Council. From 1 April 1974, the responsible authority was Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council.

Subject files relating to cemeteries can be found amongst the records of the Town Clerk of Doncaster County Borough Council at Doncaster Archives reference AB/CLERK/5 and /6. A register of grants of exclusive rights of burial, 1937-1962, is to be found at Doncaster Archives reference AB/CLERK/30/8.

Plans of the cemetery are to be found amongst the records of the Borough Architect at Doncaster Archives references AB/ARCH/1/4, 1/5 and 1/1211.

A photocopy of a plan of the cemetery, showing the location of plots is to be found at Doncaster Archives reference DZMZ/102.

**Doncaster Hyde Park Cemetery: General International Standard  
of Archival Description**

The information given here follows the requirements of the General International Standard of Archival Description established by the International Council on Archives (second edition, Ottawa, 2000).

<b>International Reference Code</b>	GB/197/MB/CEM/1
<b>Level of Description</b>	Fonds
<b>Dates of Accumulation</b>	1854-1994
<b>Extent and Medium of Archive</b>	16 boxes and 20 oversized volumes
<b>Name of Creator of Archive</b>	Doncaster Cemetery Commissioners up to 30 September 1915, then Doncaster (County) Borough Council up to 31 March 1974, and then Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council
<b>Administrative or Biographical History</b>	See the first two pages of this catalogue
<b>Immediate Source of Acquisition</b>	Rose Hill Crematorium, Cantley, Doncaster
<b>Scope and Content</b>	The records of the Doncaster Cemetery Commissioners 1854-1915 and the registers and financial records of the cemetery from 1856 to 1994
<b>Accruals</b>	As can be seen from the catalogue below, certain series are incomplete, and it is possible that these volumes may be found in the future. No major accessions are expected as the Hyde Park cemetery is in effect closed.
<b>Appraisal, Destruction and Scheduling Information</b>	All records received have been accessioned as records for permanent preservation.
<b>System of Arrangement</b>	By series

**MB/CEM/1**

<b>Legal Status</b>	Records are the property of Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council
<b>Conditions of Access</b>	All records catalogued here are open to public access
<b>Conditions Governing Reproduction</b>	Most of the registers are too large to be photocopied. The registers in sections 2 and 3 of the catalogue are partly available on microfiche as explained in the catalogue.
<b>Language or Script of Materials</b>	English
<b>Physical Characteristics</b>	Most of the registers are volumes of substantial size, some 370 mm by 440 mm and over.
<b>Finding Aids</b>	This catalogue; departmental place index The Doncaster and District Family History has produced a catalogue of the monumental inscriptions in the cemetery A copy of this is available on microfiche at Doncaster Archives
<b>Allied Materials</b>	Minutes of Doncaster (County) Borough Council and its Cemetery Committee, Parks and Cemeteries Committee and Amenities Committee 1915-1974 and records of the Town Clerk and the minutes of Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council from 1 April 1974 Doncaster County Borough Architect's Department, plans relating to the cemetery, Doncaster Archives references AB/ARCH/1/4, 1/5 and 1/1211
<b>Archivist's Note</b>	Catalogued by Dr B J Barber, January 2002

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1/1-1/7	CEMETERY COMMISSIONERS	1854-1915
2/1-2/7	REGISTERS OF BURIALS: CONSECRATED GROUND	1856-1994
3/1-3/3	REGISTERS OF BURIALS: UNCONSECRATED GROUND	1856-1991
4/1-4/2	REGISTERS OF GRAVES AND VAULTS	[mid 19 to late 20 cents.]
5/1-5/8	REGISTERS OF GRAVES	[mid 19 to late 20 cents.]
6/1-6/3	REGISTERS OF GROUND PURCHASED	1856-1936
7/1	REGISTER OF GRANTS OF EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS OF BURIAL	1856-1915
8/1-8/12	INTERMENTS ORDER BOOKS	1865-1965
9/1	REGISTER OF MONUMENTS	1856-1916
10/1	RECEIPT AND PAYMENT BOOK	1896-1901
11/1	BURIAL FEE ACCOUNT BOOK	1935-1942
12/1-12/3	MINISTERS' FEE BOOKS	1913-1922; 1950-1994

**1 DONCASTER CEMETERY COMMISSIONERS 1854-1915**

1/1	Minute Book, signed, no index At back, copy of a case for the opinion of counsel on voting rights in the election of cemetery commissioners, with the opinion of Robert Hall [borough recorder], 1855	Jul 1854-Dec 1875
1/2	Minute Book, signed, indexed	Jan 1876-Oct 1894
1/3	Minute Book, signed, indexed	Nov 1894-Nov 1911
1/4	[Minute Book, not yet deposited	1911-1915]
1/5	Register of Declarations of Office	1855-1881
1/6	Register of Declarations of Office	1882-1910
1/7	Register of the Return of Elections of Commissioners	1913-1915

**2 REGISTERS OF BURIALS: CONSECRATED GROUND 1856-1994**

The entries include the serial number of the burial, grave reference, date of death, date of burial, name of deceased, age, occupation and last residence. Note that microfiche of the registers from 1856 to 1946 are available in the reading room of Doncaster Archives.

2/1	Registers of Burials: Consecrated Ground	Jan 1856-Sep 1901
2/2	Registers of Burials: Consecrated Ground	Sep 1901-Jul 1926
2/3	Registers of Burials: Consecrated Ground	Jul 1926-Apr 1934
2/4	Registers of Burials: Consecrated Ground	May 1934-Sep 1937
2/5	Registers of Burials: Consecrated Ground, indexed	Sep 1937-Oct 1946
2/6	Registers of Burials: Consecrated Ground, indexed	Oct 1946-Aug 1957
2/7	Registers of Burials: Consecrated Ground, indexed	Aug 1957-Nov 1994

**3 REGISTERS OF BURIALS: UNCONSECRATED GROUND 1856-1991**

The entries include the serial number of the burial, grave reference, date of death, date of burial, name of deceased, age, occupation and last residence or, in 3/3 the place where the death occurred.

Note that microfiche of the registers from 1856 to 1991 are available in the reading room of Doncaster Archives.

- |     |                                                                                                                                                                                            |                   |
|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 3/1 | Registers of Burials: Unconsecrated Ground                                                                                                                                                 | Jan 1856-Sep 1906 |
| 3/2 | Registers of Burials: Unconsecrated Ground<br>Note: burials between serial number 15380 (page 700) and 15483 (page 719) have been numbered in error as 19318 to 19742                      | Nov 1906-Dec 1991 |
| 3/3 | Register of Burials: Unconsecrated Ground, indexed<br>Note: the serial numbers of burials in this volume begin at 13675, although the last serial number in the volume 3/2 above was 15552 | Sep 1937-Dec 1952 |

**4 REGISTER OF GRAVES AND VAULTS**

These registers record the names of those buried in each grave or vault. They were superseded by the registers in section 5 below, and do not contain all the entries to be found in the registers in section 5, even when the information pre-dates the creation of the later registers. Nor do they contain all the heads of information to be found in section 5. It is thus appears advisable to consult the registers in section 5 in preference to these, or consult both series of registers to ensure that no information is overlooked. The registers in section 5 are indexed, whereas these are not.

- |     |                                                          |                                  |
|-----|----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 4/1 | Register of Graves and Vaults: Sections A to V, no index | [mid 19 cent. to early 20 cent.] |
| 4/2 | Register of Graves and Vaults: Sections Ax to X no index | [mid 19 cent. to early 20 cent.] |

## 5 REGISTERS OF GRAVES

These registers record the names of those buried in each grave or vault. They are not copies of those in section 4, but were compiled from an independent source of information (probably the registers in section 6 below), as the entries in these registers contain more information than that to be found in the registers in section 4.

Since they refer to Hyde Park as the 'Old Cemetery' they must have been compiled after the opening of the Rose Hill Cemetery in 1934. They appear to contain all the entries to be found in the registers in section 4 above. In addition, they appear to contain, in some cases, information which one might have expected to find in the registers in section 4.

It thus appears advisable to consult this series of registers rather than those in section 4, or consult both series of registers to ensure that no information is overlooked. The registers are also indexed.

The registers are arranged in order of section and plot number and include the name and address of the purchaser and the name and date of burial of those interred in the grave, with a cross-reference to the burial register entry.

The registers 5/5 to 5/8 relate to the extension to the cemetery, dating from about 1887.

5/1	Registers of Graves: Sections A to F, indexed	[mid 19 to late 20 cents.]
5/2	Registers of Graves: Sections G to L, indexed	[mid 19 to late 20 cents.]
5/3	Registers of Graves: Sections M to T, indexed	[mid 19 to late 20 cents.]
5/4	Registers of Graves: Sections U to Y, indexed	[mid 19 to late 20 cents.]
5/5	Registers of Graves: Sections Ax to Gx, indexed	[late 19 to late 20 cents.]
5/6	Registers of Graves: Sections Hx to Nx, indexed	[late 19 to late 20 cents.]
5/7	Registers of Graves: Sections Ox to Sx, indexed	[late 19 to late 20 cents.]
5/8	Registers of Graves: Sections Tx to Vx, indexed	[late 19 to late 20 cents.]

**6 REGISTERS OF GROUND PURCHASED 1856-1936**

The entries include the name, residence, and occupation of the purchaser, the number of the grave, the number of the certificate and the fee. These registers were probably used to provide some of the information incorporated in the series of grave registers in section 5 above.

6/1	Register of Ground Purchased, indexed	Apr 1856-May 1888
6/2	Register of Ground Purchased, indexed	Jun 1888-Apr 1923
6/3	Register of Ground Purchased, indexed	May 1923-Nov 1936

**7 REGISTER OF GRANTS 1858-1915**

The entries include the name, address and occupation of the purchaser and the fee paid. No register has been found for the years 1915 to 1937. A register from May 1937 to December 1962 was maintained by the Town Clerk's Department, see Doncaster Archives reference AB/CLERK/30.

7/1	Register of Grants of Exclusive Rights of Burial	Jan 1858-Mar 1915
-----	--------------------------------------------------	-------------------

**8 INTERMENTS ORDER BOOKS 1865-1965**

The entries in the registers in this series of volumes are for burials in both the consecrated and unconsecrated grounds in the cemetery, and so for the period for which they are available, are a more convenient source to use than the registers in sections 2 and 3 above.

The entries include date (not date of death or burial, but perhaps date of the notice of interment), location of plot, dates of death and interment, name, age occupation and residence of deceased and details of burial costs.

There appears to be no interments order book covering the period between October 1935 and November 1936. None have been found earlier than 1865.

8/1	Interments Order Book	Feb 1865-Aug 1871
8/2	Interments Order Book	Dec 1878-Nov 1884
8/3	Interments Order Book	Nov 1884-Mar 1891

**MB/CEM/1**

8/4	Interments Order Book	Mar 1891-May 1897
8/5	Interments Order Book	May 1897-Jun 1903
8/6	Interments Order Book	Jun 1903-Jun 1909
8/7	Interments Order Book	Jul 1909-Nov 1915
8/8	Interments Order Book	Nov 1915-Jul 1921
8/9	Interments Order Book	Jul 1921-May 1922
8/10	Interments Order Book	May 1922-Apr 1930
8/11	Interments Order Book	Sep 1933-Oct 1935
8/12	Interments Order Book	Nov 1936-Dec 1965

**9 REGISTER OF MONUMENTS 1856-1916**

From 1856 to 1864, the entries include date (apparently of the application or payment of fee, and not the date of death or interment), name (of applicant, not of the deceased), location of grave, type of monument and fee paid.

From 1865, the entries include a date, probably the date of the application, the type of monument, the name of the deceased, the location of the grave, the fee paid, the name of the monumental mason or contractor, a further date (possibly the date when the monument was erected), and the name of the person making the application. This was, with increasing frequency the monumental mason or contractor, so duplicating the name given in the first column of the right-hand page.

From 1875, there is a serial number of the number of monuments in the cemetery, beginning at 651 and running on to 3444 by the last entry in the volume.

9/1	Register of Monuments At front, table of fees for monuments, Jul 1892	Mar 1856-Nov 1916
-----	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------

**10 RECEIPT AND PAYMENT BOOK 1896-1901**

10/1	Receipt and Payment Book, Balanced Monthly	Sep 1896-May 1901
------	-----------------------------------------------	-------------------

**11 BURIAL FEE ACCOUNT BOOK 1935-1942**

11/1 Burial Fee Account Book Nov 1935-Jan 1942

**12 MINISTERS' FEE BOOKS 1913-1922 and 1950-1994**

12/1 Ministers' Fee Book Sep 1913-Mar 1922

12/2 Ministers' Fee Book Feb 1918-Mar 1922

12/3 Ministers' Fee Book Dec 1950-Nov 1994