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THE MELBOURNE GENERAL CEMETERY

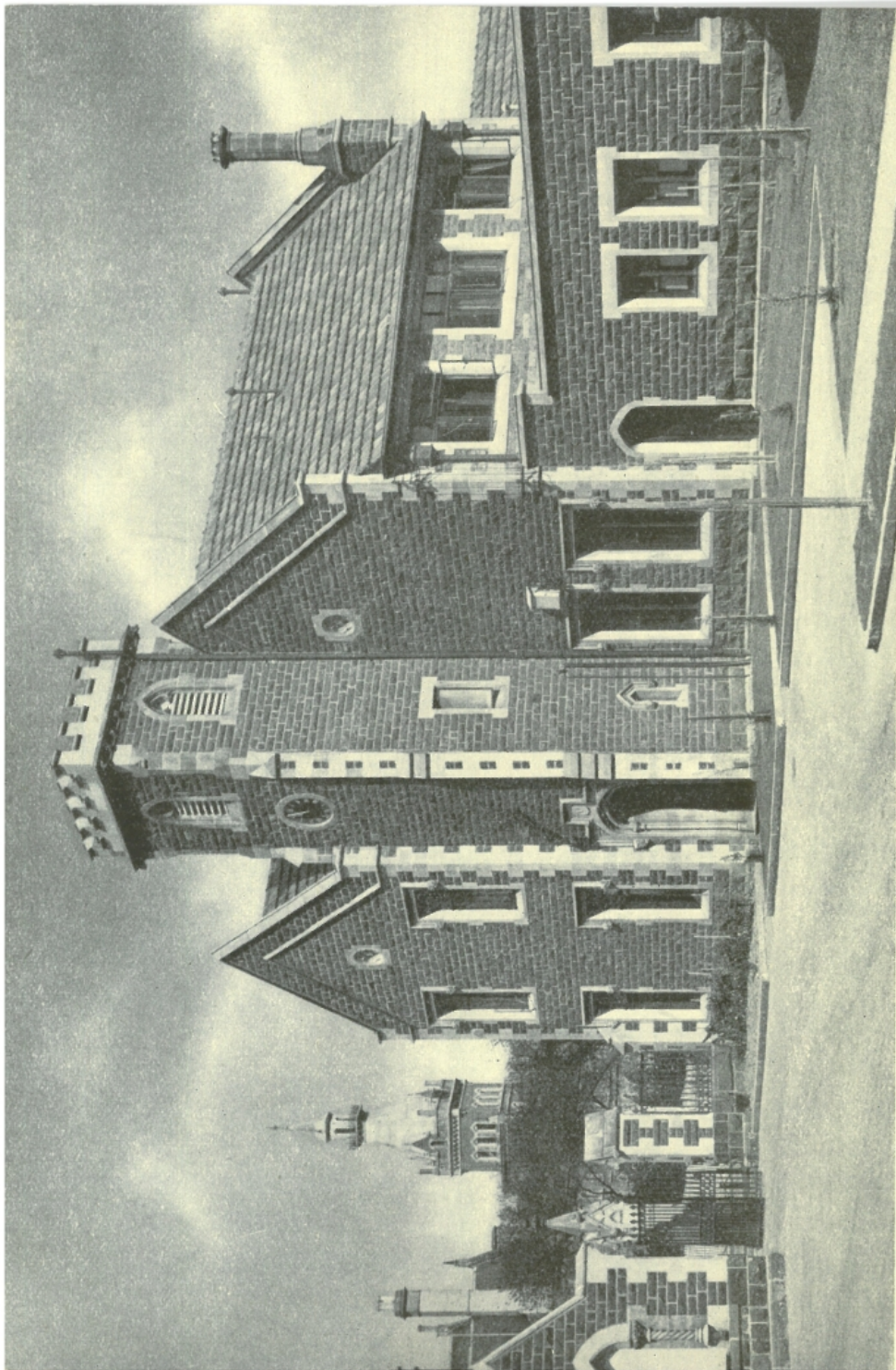


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**BENDIGO HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY INC.**

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ENTRANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDINGS

THE  
MELBOURNE GENERAL CEMETERY

Founded 1852

Opened 1853

o o o

OFFICE:

College Crescent, Carlton, N.3, Victoria

Telephone F2811

o o o

TRUSTEES—1852

R. W. POHLMAN, Chairman

H. JENNINGS

J. SULLIVAN

D. CGILVY

R. SMITH

Secretary: A. PURCHAS, C.E.

o o o

TRUSTEES—1941

G. E. LANGFORD, Chairman

Hon. E. L. KIERNAN

J. J. GILCHRIST

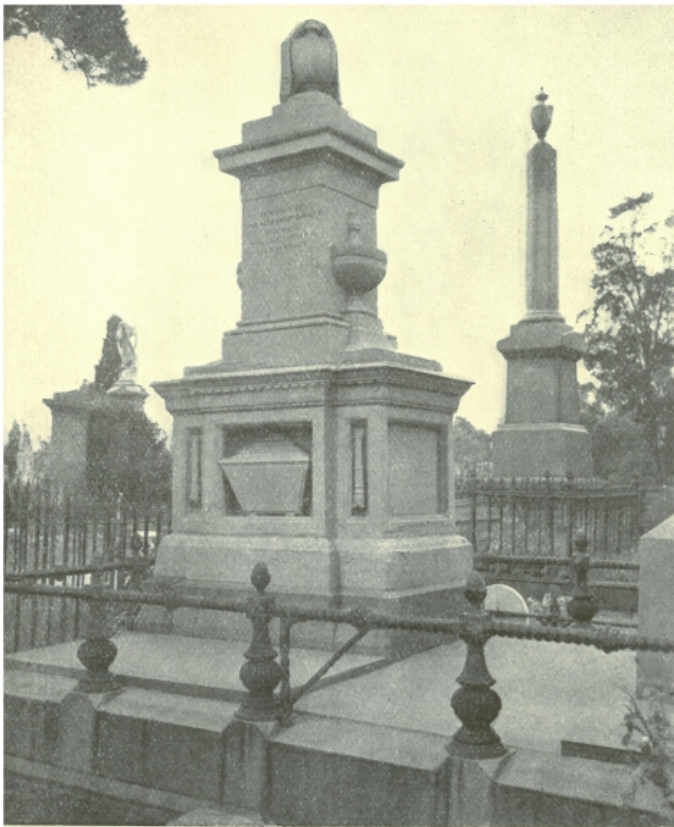
C. J. PERLSTEIN

Hon. J. M. BALFOUR, M.L.C.

Hon. J. A. KENNEDY, M.L.C.

Secretary: G. A. GLEN





Memorial to  
JOHN ALEXANDER BURNETT

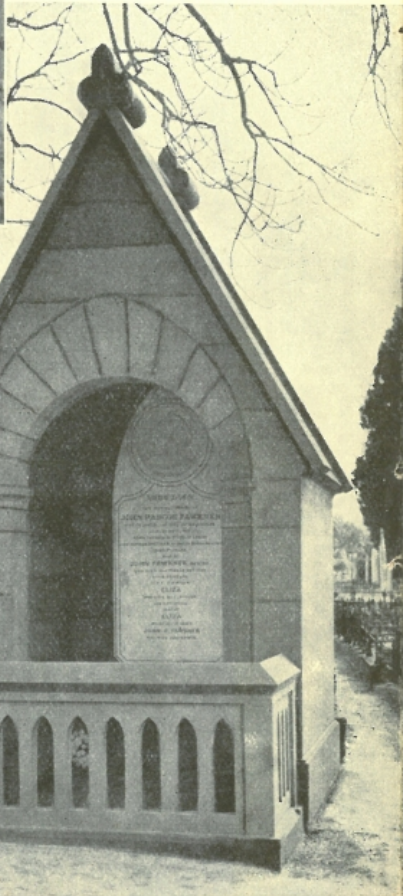
The first burial in the  
Cemetery, 28th May,  
1853

o o o

(On the Right)

Memorial to  
ROBERT HODDLE

First Surveyor-General of  
Victoria



Memorial to  
JOHN PASCOE FAWKNER

Claimed by many as the  
founder of Melbourne

## SITUATION—

The Melbourne Cemetery, which includes an area of approximately 106 acres, is situated close to the Sydney Road at Carlton, and is easily reached in a few minutes by electric trams or motor car (via Elizabeth Street or Swanston Street).

## HISTORICAL—

In the year 1850, when most of the land available for burial purposes in the Old Melbourne Cemetery had been sold, the Legislative Council of New South Wales assented to an Act "for the establishment, and regulation by Trustees, of a General Cemetery near Melbourne." On the 27th March, 1852, the Commission appointing the first Trustees was issued from the Colonial Secretary's office in Sydney.

The Cemetery was surveyed and laid out in Denominational areas; it is interesting to note that our early Australian cemeteries were among the first in the world to be sub-divided in this manner. This was largely due to the influence of General Sir Richard Bourke, Governor of N.S.W., who was a noted advocate of religious liberties, and it was under his personal direction that some of them were so planned. With the advice and assistance of Baron Von Mueller, the broad, winding avenues, which had been made a special feature in the designing of the Cemetery, and the areas that had been reserved for garden purposes were tastefully set out and planted with suitable trees and shrubs, which even to this day make the Cemetery notable in this respect, and give it its distinctive individuality.



Memorial to  
ROBERT O'HARA BURKE  
and  
WILLIAM JOHN WILLS

The famous explorers

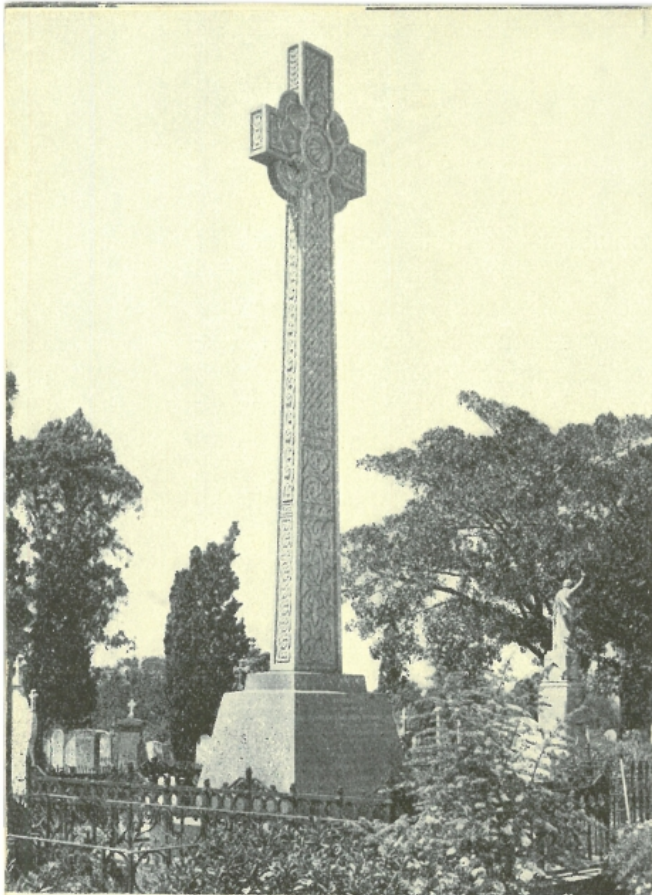


Memorial to  
SIR CHARLES HOTHAM  
First Governor of Victoria

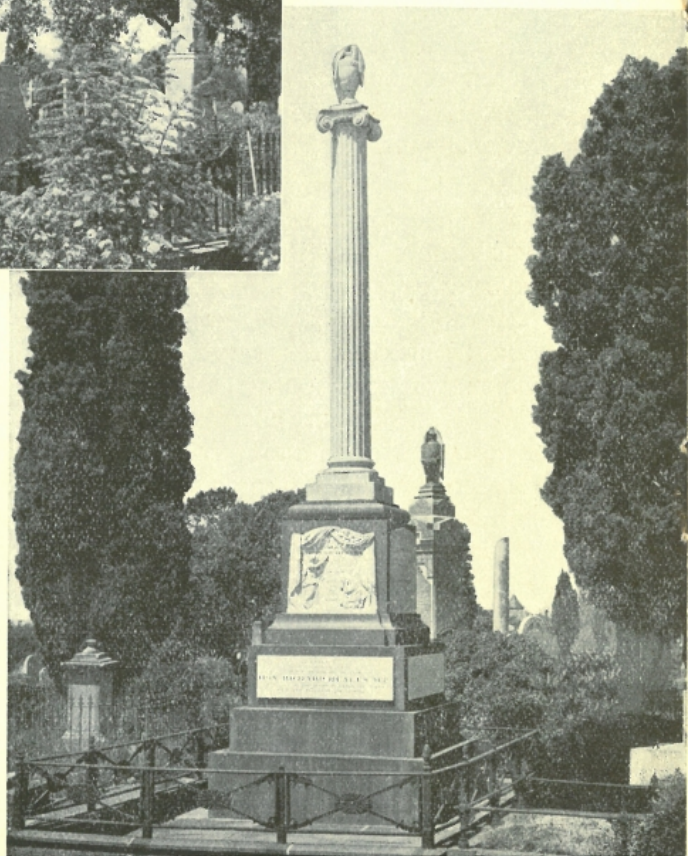
At the beginning of the present century the rapidly expanding population of Melbourne called for further provision being made for its burial needs, and this Cemetery was closed to enable the Fawkner and Spring Vale Cemeteries to become established. During the time it remained closed, great deterioration took place, and when nearly 25 years later it was reopened, this deterioration had assumed serious proportions. Much progress, however, has since been made in restoring the extensive gardens and the 46½ miles of avenues and paths to their former state of beauty and repair, and in keeping with their associations and purposes. This restorative work can only be done slowly as there is no endowment to the Trust, and the annual margin of revenue over expenses is not enough to allow for large expenditures being made in any one year. A well-defined policy of reconstruction is, however, being consistently carried out.

An extension of the burial area of the Cemetery was granted by the Government at the end of the year 1933, when a special Act of Parliament was passed, which gave the Trustees power to use for burial purposes a reserve of approximately six acres which was previously used as an entrance drive to the Cemetery proper. This area was enclosed and a new entrance made on the frontage to College Crescent by the removal and re-erection of the handsome iron gates which had been a notable ornament to the Cemetery for over 70 years. The artistically designed Gothic buildings that had served as offices and gatekeeper's lodge for a similar period were also removed and the material used for the erection of a stately adminis-





Memorial to  
 Sir JOHN O'SHANNESSY  
 Member of the first Parliament  
 of Victoria



Memorial to  
 Hon. RICHARD HEALES  
 Member of the first Parliament  
 of Victoria

trative block on the new site. A new road was laid down, gardens formed, and the surveying of the area into sites for graves carried out. These sites are now available to those who desire to make provision for family graves in the beautiful surroundings of this, Melbourne's oldest and most important Cemetery, with all its historical significance and interest.

### EARLY BURIALS—

The Cemetery was opened for burials in the year 1853, and much of the early history of Melbourne may be gathered from a study of the inscriptions to be found on the many thousands of memorials erected within its boundaries. In chronological order a few amongst many are here recorded. The first burial was that of John Alexander Burnett, one of the founders of the firm of Dalgety & Co., who was buried on 28th May, 1853; Major-General Sir Robert Nickle, who was Commander-in-Chief of Her Majesty Queen Victoria's Forces in Australia, at the time of the creation of Victoria as a Colony; Sir Charles Hotham, the first Governor of Victoria as an autonomous State, whose magnificent memorial is one of the only two examples in Australia of the architectural genius of Sir G. G. Scott, R.A.; James Galloway, one of the founders of the Eight Hours system in Australia; Burke and Wills, the explorers; Native Chief Derrimut, who, by timely information to the first colonists, Messrs. Fawkner, Lancey, Evans, and Henry Batman, saved them from massacre planned by some of the up-country tribes of Aborigines; Hon. Richard Heales, a member of Victoria's first Parliament, a pioneer of the Temperance Movement, and one of the Colony's





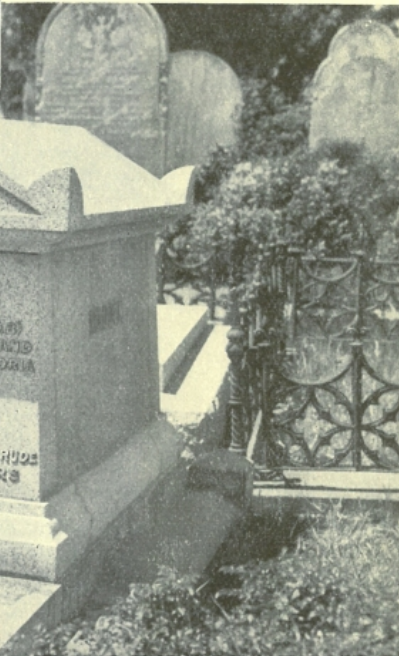
(Top)

Memorial to  
 Hon. JAMES SERVICE  
 Twice Premier of Victoria

o o o

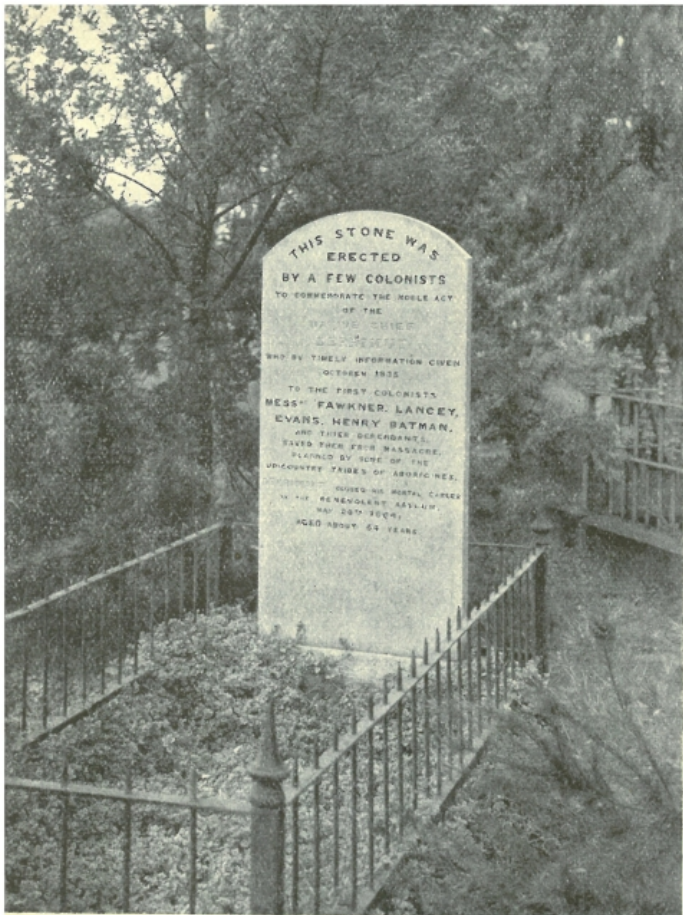
(Below)

Memorial to  
 Hon. Sir JOHN MADDEN  
 Lieutenant-Governor and  
 Chief Justice of Victoria



earliest Premiers, whose memorial was erected by the public in remembrance of his statesmanlike administration; John Pascoe Fawkner, claimed by many as the actual founder of Melbourne; Robert Russell, first Surveyor of Melbourne; Sir Redmond Barry, first Puisne Judge in Victoria, first Chancellor of the University, and founder of the Melbourne Public Library; Marcus Clarke, author of "His Natural Life"; Robert Hoddle, first Surveyor-General of Victoria; Sir John O'Shannessy, a member of the first Parliament of Victoria, and Premier of the next succeeding Government; Peter Lalor, whose name recalls memories of the Eureka Stockade episode; the Very Reverend Hussy Burgh Macartney, first Dean of Melbourne; Hon. James Service, President of the first Federal Conference of Australasia, and twice Premier of Victoria; John Conway Bourke, Victoria's first mailman, whose memorial was erected by the Historical Society of Victoria; Sir John Madden, first Doctor of Laws of the Melbourne University, who later became Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Justice of Victoria; the Reverend William Pascoe Crook, one of the first missionaries who left England in the ship "Duff" in 1796, who was probably the first clergyman to arrive in Victoria; and many, many others associated with the early days of the then new Colony of Victoria.





(Top)

Memorial to

Native Chief DERRIMUT

Who by timely information to  
the first Colonists saved them  
from massacre.

o o o

(Below)

Memorial to

JOHN CONWAY BOURKE

Victoria's first mailman

## ADMINISTRATION—

The Cemetery is administered by honorary Trustees representing the various religious denominations, the individual Trustees being nominated by the religious bodies concerned.

## UPKEEP OF GRAVES—

If memorials are to become other than meaningless, they must be tended and cared for. In cases where relatives or friends find they are unable to personally give this attention and care, they are invited to entrust the work of preservation to the Trustees, who, for a small charge, undertake the preparation and planting of gardens on graves. Before the closing of the Cemetery in 1904 the majority of graves were cared for in this manner, or by relatives themselves; but with the passing of the years during which it remained closed, many graves became gradually neglected, until large numbers consequently lapsed into a regrettable condition. It would be an act of graceful consideration if relatives or friends would again exercise their privilege of restoring and beautifying the resting place of their loved ones.

## PERPETUAL MAINTENANCE—

Full information and particulars with reference to the maintenance of graves, either yearly or in perpetuity, can be obtained personally or by letter, from the office of the Cemetery.





## CEMETERY HOURS—

For visitors the Cemetery is open from 7.30 a.m. until 6 p.m. Office hours on week-days from September until April are from 7.45 a.m. until 5 p.m. (4 p.m. on Saturdays), and from May until August 7.45 a.m. until 4 p.m. The office is not open on Sundays, but a gate-keeper is on duty at the Main Gates from 2 p.m. till 5 p.m. to answer enquiries and to direct visitors to the different parts of the Cemetery.

## REVENUE AND UPKEEP OF CEMETERY—

The Revenue of the Cemetery is derived from the following sources:—

1. Sales of Burial Rights.
2. Burial Fees.
3. Fees for maintenance of graves.
4. Interest on invested funds.

The upkeep constitutes a severe drain upon the revenue, and comprises the following expenditures:—

1. Salaries and wages.
2. Grass-cutting.
3. Tools and materials.
4. Water and sanitary charges.
5. Insurances.
6. Office and general expenses.
7. Cartage.

Grass-cutting is a specially heavy expense, and every year special gangs of men experienced in scythe and sickle work are engaged. Owing to the presence of thousands of graves surrounded by stone-work and iron fences, progress is necessarily slow, and the work takes from three to four months to complete.

## STATISTICAL—

The Cemetery was first opened in the year 1853; it has an area of 106 acres, which is divided amongst the various religious denominations.

Length of roads -  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles.

Length of paths - 42 miles.

Length of water channels - - - 10 miles.

Length of water mains and pipes - 7 miles.

Buildings - - - Offices, Secretary's residence, three dwelling houses, eight shelter kiosks.

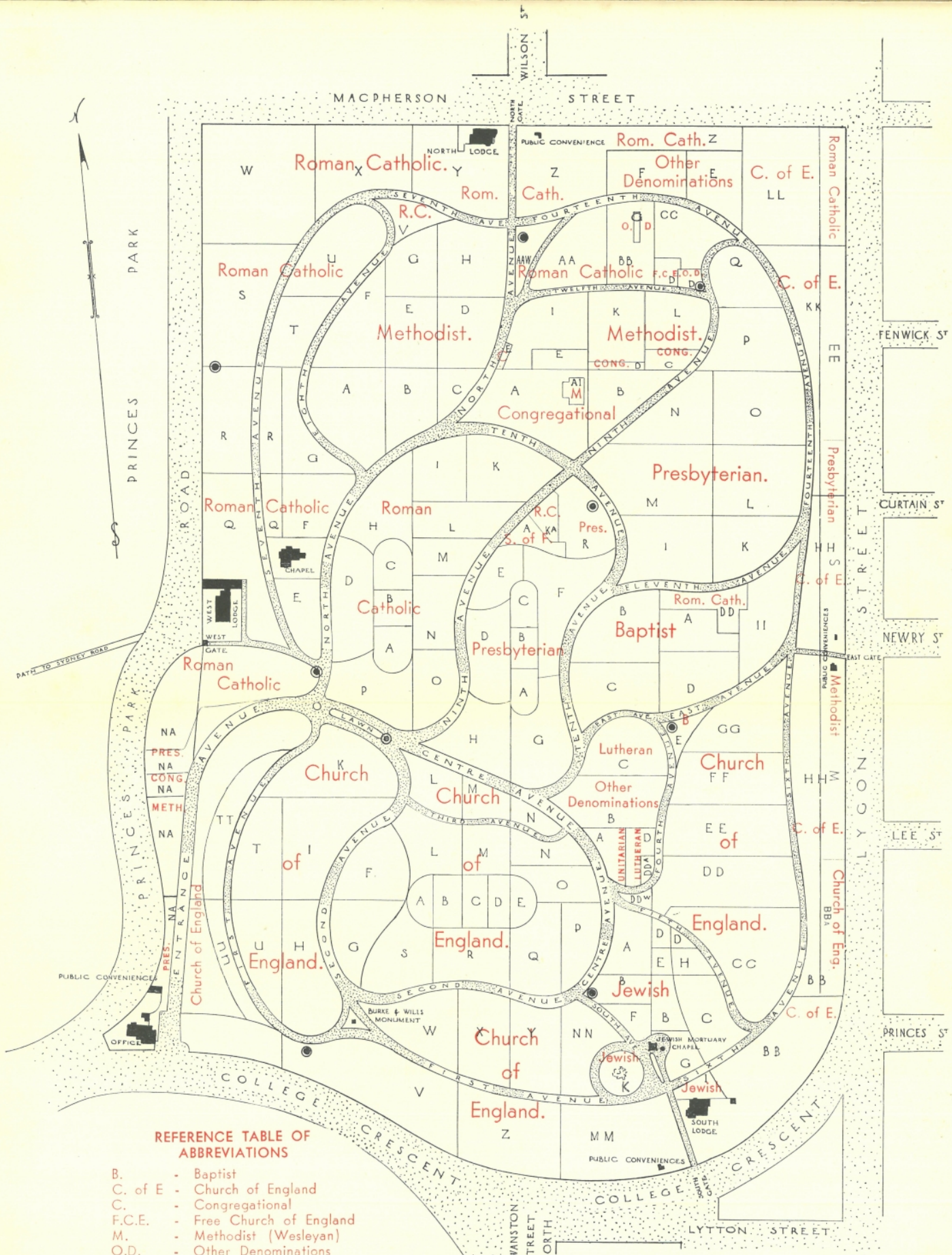
Fence - - - - Two miles of iron fence on dwarf bluestone wall.

Graves - - - - 100,000 graves, in which 277,074 persons are buried.

Visitors - - - - 250,000 people visit the Cemetery yearly.

Expenditures - - £750,000 has been spent on monuments, etc., over graves, and more than £100,000 on the roads, paths, buildings, etc.





**REFERENCE TABLE OF ABBREVIATIONS**

- B. - Baptist
- C. of E. - Church of England
- C. - Congregational
- F.C.E. - Free Church of England
- M. - Methodist (Wesleyan)
- O.D. - Other Denominations
- Pres. - Presbyterian
- R.C. - Roman Catholic
- S. of F. - Society of Friends
- ☐ Shelter Sheds
- Letters A, B, C, etc. - Compartments



# The Melbourne General Cemetery

n.d. ~ 1941

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