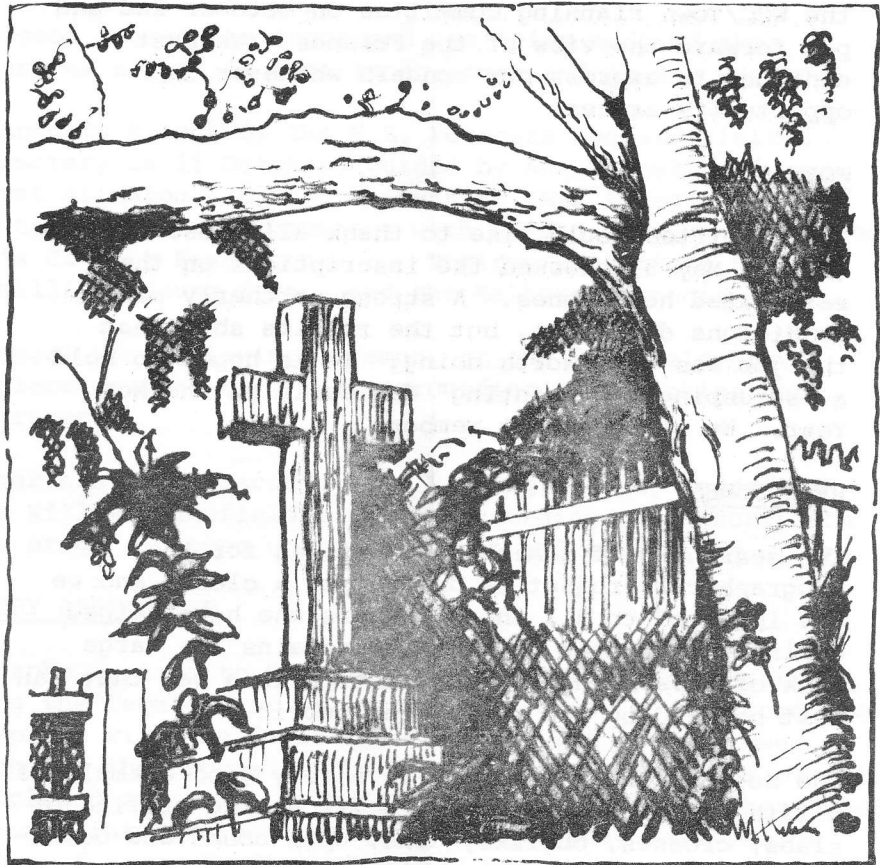


Friends of Bolton Street Cemetery Inc.

PO Box 2336, Wellington.

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The Committee are gratified with the response of members to our appeal in Newsletter No 6 to help in publicising the Society's concern for the delay in finalising the Mowbray Street land issue. Your efforts brought the matter again to the attention of the Wellington City Council, National Roads Board, Members of Parliament and the public, and coverage of the issue was made in the local press, on T.V. and radio. A deputation from the Committee of Helmut Einhorn, Margaret Alington, John Daniels along with Mrs Tiller and Mrs Rowe from the National Council of Women, and Mrs Tahiwī met with the WCC/Town Planning Committee on October 2nd and put forward the view of the Friends. We must continue to express our concern whenever an opportunity arises.

WORK DAYS

The Committee would like to thank all those members who, on May 5, checked the inscriptions on the reinstated headstones. A strong northerly made conditions difficult, but the results show that the job was well worth doing. It is hoped to hold a "scrubbing and painting" day early in the New Year. We will contact members.

HEADSTONES

The searching of names on headstones for the biographical project is drawing to a close, and we are indebted to all those members who have helped during this winter. There now remains the large task of presenting the information in a way that can best be used by the interested public.

The Bolton Street Cemetery is a very good example of a 19th century cemetery, with its varied profile of slabs, crosses, obelisks, urns, open books and occasional statuary. It belongs to what one writer has called the "age of unreality" between about 1825 and

1890. "The period was one in which it became fashionable not to face reality but to evade it through oblique and euphemistic reference. No longer did the deceased die but 'fell asleep' and pious hopes (were) embodied in selected biblical quotations. Crosses reappeared about 1850, having been absent from churchyards for some 300 years since the Reformation. In our restoration work, it is important to see that this profile is maintained, and the memorials and graves kept as intact as possible." White, H.L. Monuments and their inscriptions. London. 1978.

ACTIVITIES

It is good to see the increased use being made of the cemetery as a park in fine lunch-hours and in the weekends.

The Manawatu Branch of the N.Z. Founders Society visited the cemetery on 11 October, guided by Ann Burnett and Margaret Alington. During the winter, Mrs Alington has given talks about the cemetery with slides, to the East Harbour Women's Club at Eastbourne, the Porirua Historical Society, St. Phillip's Young Wives, and the Kelburn Community Club.

The annual wreath-laying ceremony at the Wakefield grave took place on 16th May, the surrounding area looking very well groomed.

A marker has been placed by the Wellington City Council beside William Wakefield's grave, recording the inscription or is original stone which is broken and in storage.

CEMETERY APPEARANCE

Our thanks must go to Bruce Harkness and Joe Turner for keeping the Cemetery so well tended. It was a very good show this spring with the daffodils and narcissi in the lower portion and the crocus in the upper part. This years planting has included camelias, kowhais and magnolias which should add colour and interest next spring. At present, last year's planting of roses is flowering well and this year's should add interest for lovers of "old" roses.

GIFTS

Robin Kay of Pukerua Bay has generously donated to the Friends 35 colour transparencies taken in the cemetery in the 1960's, before the dismantling. These are a welcome addition to our collection of historic photographs of the cemetery.

From the New Zealand Mail, 24 January 1890:

It is with deep regret that we record the death by drowning of Mr Thomas Kebbell, a well-known citizen, which occurred during the progress of the First Class Yacht Race at the Regatta on Jubilee Day. Mr. Kebbell, who has taken great interest in yachting for several years, was engaged in sailing the Florence, which was owned by him, when the accident occurred. The yacht, which was leading, had completed her second journey round the course, and shortly after passing the flagship Mr Kebbell took the tiller from Dr Fell, who formed one of the party, remarking, strangely enough, "that this would be the last race he would ever sail". He was sitting on the weather gunwale of the boat holding on to the tiller lines, when he was observed by the doctor to suddenly fall backward into the water ... He struck out for the yacht, appearing quite cool and collected, but the breaking of the waves quickly overpowered him ... The deceased gentleman, who was 71 years of age, arrived in New Zealand by the ship Mandarin in 1841. In co-operation with his brother he built a steam sawmill (afterward a flourmill) in the Manawatu, from which place he was driven by the earthquake of 1855, which destroyed the mill. The brothers then obtained new machinery from England, and carried on business as flourmillers in Manners-street until 1874 when they retired ...

Kebell's mill was on the site of the Grand Opera House. His reinstated headstone is in the gully on the west side of the motorway, near the stone wall.