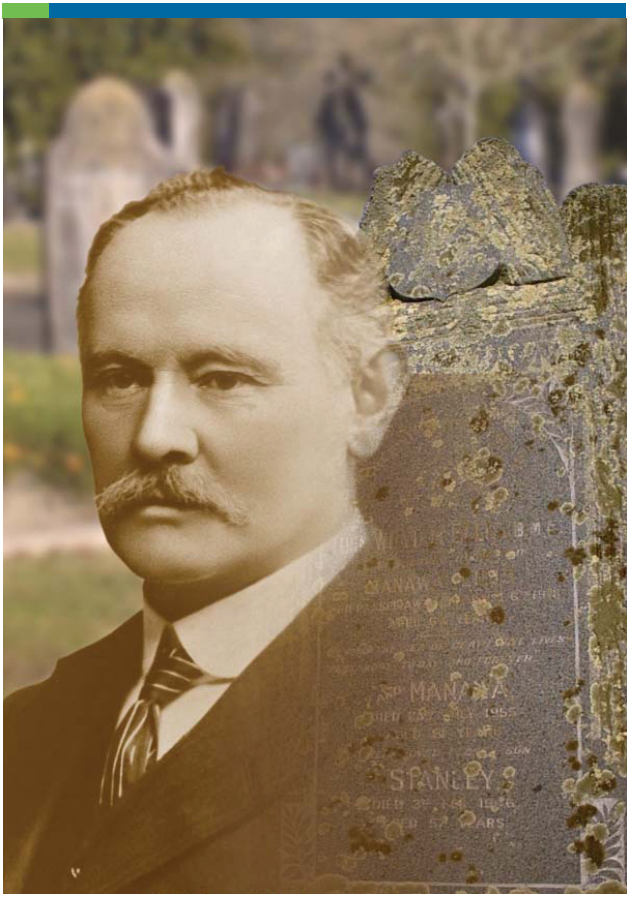
Hamilton Historic Cemeteries Heritage Walks

Hamilton East & West Cemeteries

Hamilton East Cemetery, Hungerford Crescent: 90 min.
Hamilton West Cemetery, Willoughby Street: 40 min.

Research and text by Lynette Williams, Hamilton.



Hamilton City Council
Te kaunihera o Kirikiriroa

It has been possible to present only a small selection of the many stories represented by the headstones in Hamilton East and West Cemeteries. We hope you will enjoy this insight into the history of Hamilton.

Hamilton's history in brief.

Hamilton was settled by the Fourth Regiment of Waikato Militia in 1864 on land confiscated from Ngati Wairere and Ngati Haua. Militiamen were allotted an acre of land (0.4 ha) in Hamilton West or Hamilton East and some rural land, but life in the new settlements was hard and many left. Of those who remained, and the entrepreneurs and businesspeople who followed, many are buried in Hamilton East or West Cemetery along with their descendants.

The life histories of these people reflect the history, inter-relationships and cultural make-up of the township and the Waikato. The first settlers were predominantly British and Irish. Continental European, Chinese and Indian names on the memorial inscriptions indicate a slow increase of new immigrants. The small number of Māori graves reflects the cultural preference for burial at local urupa, though the Māori population in Hamilton was very low for many decades after European settlement.

Hamilton's technological history is reflected in the causes of death – accidents involving land clearance and horse transport decrease, and rail, motor vehicle and industrial accidents increase. The number of children's graves indicates the high rate of child mortality in the late 19th century, the result of poor housing, health care, sanitation, and diseases such as diphtheria, typhoid and dysentery. The 1918 "Spanish Flu" claimed the lives of many Hamiltonians, some being soldiers just returned from active service in WWI. A few victims of the Tangiwai rail disaster and the Kaka air disaster are buried in Hamilton East.

The increasing variety of occupations of those buried in the cemeteries reflects the development of the small militia settlement into a city that is the heart of an important rural economy.

Hamilton City Council recognises the heritage values of the cemeteries and strives to preserve the grounds, graves and monuments. Conservation plans were written for Hamilton East and West Cemeteries in 2013.

The Union Bridge, opened in 1879, physically joined Hamilton East to Hamilton West after their merger into one borough in December 1877.

HCL_02758 Historic Photographs collection

History of Hamilton East Cemetery.

The earliest extant headstone is that for Louise Vowles and her baby daughter, but the earliest burial may have been militiaman George Norris or infant Eleanor Rothwell. Their graves have not been identified as records were not kept, and in 1868 and 1874 scrub fires burnt the mostly-wooden grave markers. Community concerns about the state of the cemetery, where pigs and cattle roamed freely, led to fundraising for fencing, scrub cutting and track clearing.

For many years there was no plan of the plots, nor any burial records. An attempt in 1890 to keep records and back-date them to 1884 was only partially successful. Earlier plans have been lost but a plan of plots identified by name, drawn retrospectively in 1952-53 but added to since, exists as the base map for the cemetery.

The layout of the earlier blocks is typical of the Park Cemetery Movement, with symmetrical, straight roads. Newer areas reflect international fashions, from the late 19th century more relaxed American style, the mid-20th century lawn cemetery and the homogeneity of the war graves areas. By the end of WWI the first of the blocks reserved for returned servicemen and women was opened (see map). Men who served in the Waikato War, the South African (Boer) War and some of those from the First and Second World Wars are buried in the main blocks, with their families. The Masonic block was set aside in 1884. Some ill-defined roads existed by 1891, but as one newer road goes through the Masonic Block, some graves may lie beneath the roads.

Some headstones are for people interred elsewhere, but memorialised here. Several graves are not marked: some in CC block are paupers' graves, but elsewhere the memorials have been burnt, or damaged and removed.

In 1975 the cemetery was closed for burials, other than for reserved plots, ashes interments and special exemptions. The remains of at least 13,060 people are buried in the cemetery. Hamilton Park Cemetery at Newstead opened in 1957 with crematorium and chapel facilities available from 1963.

Hamilton East Cemetery Trail.

The focus of the walking trail is on the graves of the earliest settlers, found in the older central blocks AA1, AA2, the Masonic block and the Roman Catholic block, and is intended as a guide only.

The trail begins at the sexton's shed at the top of the slope – follow the map inside the brochure. For the purposes of the route instructions, the cemetery is deemed to lie east - west, with the river to the south and the main gate to the north.

En route note the different styles of monuments (headstones) – simple sandstone, ornately carved marble or polished granite, austere concrete, decorative and symbolic motifs – which reflect fashion, wealth, religion and culture, or simply the availability of materials. Note also the names of the stonemasons, some of whom are also buried here. Look for the graves of those prominent mayors, councilors and business people whose names have been given to local parks and streets – examples are Dey, Fow, Swarbrick, Innes and Clarkin.

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Masonic Block
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Roman Catholic Block
Cemetery
Workshed
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AA1 Block
AA2 Block
Soldier 1
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50
49
Main
Entrance

Walk diagonally across the road from the sexton's shed to the second row of block AA1. The first headstone is the oldest headstone in the cemetery. It commemorates the burial of:

1 **Thomas, Julia and Louisa Vowles**
Militiaman, his baby and wife
Buried AA1-H-236B

Julia died at six weeks old in October 1865 and her mother Louisa five days later, possibly because of the primitive conditions in which the militia settlers lived, with poor food and medical supplies. Louisa and Thomas met on board ship in 1855 and first settled in Lyttelton. Thomas died in a house fire in Waihi in 1906.

Cross the road to the first row of AA2 Block. The third headstone, facing the shed, is for:

2 **John Crawford**
Militiaman
Died 1879 aged 41 years
Buried AA2-AA-510

Crawford, Ensign for Captain Steele, was the first militiaman ashore off the *PS Pioneer* on August 24, 1864.

Directly west in the first row, an iron railing surrounds the graves of two sisters:

3 **Mary and Emily Reynolds**
Died March 1881 aged 3 days and
August 1887 aged 11 months
Buried AA2-AA-515 & 516

The sisters' father, Henry Reynolds, was manager of the extensive Eureka Estate, living first at Eureka and then at Woodlands. He was involved with William Steele and others in the Piako Swamp drainage scheme. In 1879 he married Steele's daughter, Elizabeth. Reynolds established a butter factory at Pukekura and developed the Anchor brand.

To the north in the next row is a rounded marble headstone with tasselled rope trim, marking the grave of "the father of Hamilton":

4 **William Steele**
Militiaman, farmer, speculator, JP,
Waikato County councillor
Died 1898 aged 67 years
Buried AA2-AB-531

William Steele.
HCL_00324, Hamilton City Libraries.

After William Steele was sent to Sydney in 1863 to enlist men for the 4th Waikato Regiment, he was made captain of No. 4 Company of the regiment. Steele was granted 300 acres in the Hillcrest area, but his involvement with the failed Waikato Land Association scheme to drain 34800 hectares of Piako Swamp forced him to sell up. Steele erected the headstone for his first wife, Jane, who drowned at Raglan in 188. He and his second wife, Jessie (nee Runciman) were buried with her. Sydney Square was re-named Steele Park after his death.

Next to Steele's grave are five headstones for the Seddon family, including:

5 **Samuel Thomas Seddon**
Farmer, businessman, Waikato County councillor
Died 1908 aged 79 years
Buried AA2-AB-528

Seddon came to Hamilton in 1869 and farmed over 140 hectares at Knighton. He was an influential man, promoting many development schemes including the Waikato Cheese and Bacon Factory Company with Steele, Reynolds, Swarbrick and Runciman.

Move north towards the red brick enclosure, but pausing at the square-section marble column, the memorial for:

6 **James Reid**
Businessmen, saddler, photographer
Died 1939 aged 89 years
Buried AA2-AD-560

Major Reid came to Hamilton circa 1885 after long service in the British army. He formed the Hamilton Light Infantry Volunteers and commanded them from 1887 to 1900. A saddler with his business premises in Grey Street, he was also a keen photographer. His 1894 studio and home still stand at the south end of Victoria Street.

James Reid's saddler's shop in Grey Street.
HCL_04400, Hamilton City Libraries.

The red brick enclosure, one of the more impressive plots in the cemetery, is for:

7 **Lewis O'Neill**
Solicitor, barrister, Rechabite
Died 1908 aged 60 years
Buried in AA2-AE-576a

Auckland-born O'Neill came to Hamilton in the late 1870s as a barrister and solicitor. He was not active in public affairs except for involvement with the Rechabite movement, which promoted total abstinence. An obituary stated O'Neill "was distinguished by singular uprightness of character".

Walk to the next row north then east to the long plot marked by a single steel rail. This encloses the graves for the:

8 **Roche family**
Buried AA2-A-599 to 601

The patriarch of this family, Hungerford Roche, served with the Commissariat during the Waikato Wars, farmed unsuccessfully at Paterangi, became a land agent and moved into Hamilton. He served on several local bodies and was one of the instigators for forming the Lake Reserve. His name is given to Hungerford Crescent. His wife Emily Adela wrote poetry and gave painting lessons. Their son Geoffrey, wounded at Flanders in WW 1, became a teacher, an amateur historian and archaeologist, and set up the Waikato Historical Society. Their daughter Adele Younghusband became a notable painter.

Move three rows south (towards the river), to the 2nd grave from the road to:

9 **James Runciman**
Farmer, soldier, local body politician
Died 1899 aged 70 years
Buried AA2-AC-540

James Runciman, a captain of the Volunteer Cavalry Corps in the Waikato Wars, took over a 600 hectare property at Newstead, calling it Marshmeadows. A progressive farmer, he imported agricultural machinery to drain and improve Marshmeadows. By 1889 he had planted at least 50,000 trees, many of which survive. He also imported dairy factory machinery and was a founder of the Waikato Cheese and Bacon Factory. Runciman was a pioneer of sharemilking; he helped establish the Waikato Farmers Club and Newstead School.

Move to the end of the row to the grave for an exceptional woman:

10 **Annie McPherson**
Philanthropist
Died 1928 aged 74 years
Buried AA2-AC-538A

Annie McPherson, daughter of James McPherson, never married but lived an independent life, in her own home. She was financially independent and was known for her charity work. She left major bequests to St Peter's Cathedral and the Hamilton Beautifying Society.

Move directly one row south to her father's grave:

11 **James McPherson**
70th Surrey Reg., 4th Waikato Regiment, Clerk and Treasurer for Waikato County Council, first MP for Waikato
Died 1905 aged 75 years
Buried AA2-AB-538

Captain James McPherson served with the Commissariat Transport Corps in the Waikato Wars then enlisted with the 4th Waikato Regiment. His house, Riverlea, still exists in Silva Crescent. He was noted for extensive agricultural operations, including the first flax-dressing mill in Hamilton. His wharf, used to load produce off and on to river steamers, was just upstream from the cemetery. He is recorded as dominating, high-tempered, and "though meticulous in his duties" as Clerk for the Waikato County Council, not always tactful. He is buried with his older daughter, Mary.

Captain James McPherson.
HCL_02298, Hamilton City Libraries.

Go directly across the road to the AA1 block, across the lawn to a tall black obelisk monument. Just before this is buried:

12 **Mary Jane Innes**

Brewery manager and owner
Died 1941 aged 89 years
Buried AA1-G-230

Mary Jane Lewis married Charles Innes, a brewer, at Ngaruawahia in 1874. Bankruptcy and debt followed until Mary Jane took over the management of their Waikato Brewery in Hamilton East in 1889. It was destroyed by fire in 1897, but Mary Jane built a new brewery across the river by the Union Bridge. After Charles died in 1899 (in a bath tub at the brewery) Mary Jane went into partnership with her son Charles Lewis Innes as C.L. Innes & Co. He died in the 1918 flu epidemic.

The Tisdall Street side of the Innes factory. c.1918.
HCL_02452, Hamilton City Libraries.

Charles and Mary Jane Innes and family, with son Charles Lewis at rear. c.1892
HCL_06976, Hamilton City Libraries.

The tall obelisk with the draped urn on top is for:

13 **Mark Harrison**

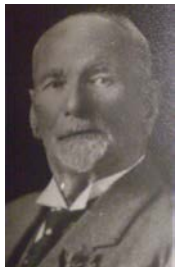
Estate manager, Matamata and Piako County councillor, race horse owner
Died 1914 aged 57
Buried AA1-G-227

By 1885 Harrison was manager of the huge Lockerbie estate (Morrinsville area) and in 1892 he became manager of the larger Patatere estate of 66,770ha (Putaruru-Okoroire area). He later owned two Grand National winning racehorses, Inniskillen and Shrapnel.

Continue 7 metres across unmarked graves in the same row to a large concrete dais with a polished granite-faced headstone marking the grave of:

14 **Philip Le Quesne**
Carpenter, storekeeper, hotel owner, postmaster, librarian, local body member
Died 1937 aged 100 years
Buried AA1-F-136

Le Quesne and his wife Mary Ann came from Jersey in 1866. He built and ran a general grocery store that included Hamilton's first post office and library, on the corner of Grey and Clyde Streets. He also built the Waikato Hotel and a hall, with his own bricks. He is reputed to be the first person to make wine in the district, using grapes and blackberries. He started a bowling green, helped establish the Anglican church of St Peter's, was on the Hamilton East Town Board, and the first Borough Council in 1878. He was considered "Hamilton's grand old man".



Philip Le Quesne.
HCL_08063, Hamilton City Libraries.

Move east along the row of graves and two rows south to a double grave with a raised concrete edging:

15 **Pene and John Ngahiwi**
Assessor for Māori Land Court and son; Ngati Wairere
Died September and January 1884 aged c.40 and 13 years
Buried AA1-H-254

Pene (Benjamin) Ngahiwi lived in Hamilton East with his wife, Hariata (Harriet), and family in the 1870s-80s, the children attending Hamilton East School. His father Hohaia Ngahiwi was a teacher and minister, and a chief of the kainga at Hukanui (Gordonton). In June 1884 Pene was appointed assessor of the Land Court but died of consumption just three months later. After a tangi at Hukanui he was buried here with his young son, John, with an Anglican service. John is the earliest known Māori burial in this cemetery.

Further along the same row is a large family grave for the Hinton family:

16 **Henry Hinton**
Militiaman, farmer
Died 1891 aged 63 years
Buried AA1-H-260

Henry Hinton was a militiaman-settler; with his wife Sarah Ann he had 11 children, many of whom settled in the Waikato. Also buried here is their son Thomas (died 1944) who was chairman of the Central Waikato Electric Power Board for 24 years, on the Waikato Hospital Board for 32 years, and a prominent rugby footballer.

Carry on east along the same row for 11 metres, to a grave beneath a camellia:

17 **James Melville**
Farmer, Methodist lay-preacher
Died 1909 aged 58 years
Buried AA1-H-268

Born in Scotland in 1851, James came to New Zealand as a nine year-old. He became cabin boy on the paddle steamer Rangiriri. His first wife, Caroline (née Pascoe), died giving birth to their seventh child. At the time of his second marriage, to Alice Farr, he and the older children were hand-milking for Henry Reynolds at Newstead. Melville eventually farmed 60 hectares in what is now the suburb of Melville. He was a staunch preacher of the Methodist Church. James Melville is buried with Caroline and their son John who died aged 4 years.

The next grave to the east is for:

18 **Edward John Pearson**
Militiaman, carpenter, sandsoap manufacturer, borough councillor
Died 1896 aged 71 years
Buried AA1-H-271A

EJ Pearson is credited with building the first wooden house (a small hut) in the militia settlement. His carpentry business went bankrupt, but after a time in the Thames gold-fields he returned and in 1884 he established a sandsoap factory in part of the Oddfellows Hall (that he himself had built earlier). The carbolic sandsoap could scour brass and tin ware, clean unpainted wood to “a smooth clear whiteness” and serve as a disinfectant and flea-deterrent. The product was so successful it became one of our first exports.

Pearson’s factory in the former Oddfellows Hall, Cook Street..
HCL_2768, Hamilton City Libraries.

*In the next row south by the road is the tall monument with draped urn on top, for Pearson’s son **George Samuel Pearson**, a blacksmith and photographer.*

Go along the road to the Roman Catholic block almost to the sexton’s hut. Near the road verge is the grave of:

19 **Father Eugene O’Connor**
Parish priest
Died 1972 aged 77 years
Buried RC-A-359

Irishman Eugene O’Connor was ordained in 1917 shortly before he came to New Zealand. He was parish priest for Frankton from 1927 to 1969. Priests were usually buried at Panmure or Ohaupo.

Move towards the tall polished black granite pillar in the 4th row back, the monument to:

20 **Andrew Casey**
Farmer, hotelier
Died 1915 aged 69 years
Buried RC-C-696

Casey farmed in the Tamahere area, and he and his son farmed in the Fairfield-Claudelands area (including Casey Avenue). Despite being bankrupt in 1894, Casey died a wealthy man. After he left most of his estate to the Catholic Church, his wife contested his will to benefit their 12 children. Casey's daughter Lily was buried with him, but his wife and son Daniel are in the grave marked with a tall marble plinth two rows closer to the river.

Turn around and walk east between the 1st and 2nd rows stopping at the large grave for four nuns (the cross has fallen):

21 **Sisters of the Mission**
Buried RC-B-429A to 432A

A Catholic church was under construction in Hamilton East by the end of 1865. The first convent opened in 1885 and served the sisters until the late 1930s. Two nuns from St Mary's Convent in Hamilton East, a Mother Superior from Our Lady of the Mission Convent, Cambridge, and a Mother Superior from Pukekohe who was visiting St Mary's for medical advice, were buried here. Fifteen nuns are buried elsewhere in the Catholic Block (RC-F-819 to 830).

Just to the east and one row south is the grave for William Revell, who died while digging a grave:

22 **William Joseph Revell**
Sexton, labourer, singer
Died 1909 aged 62 years
Buried RC-C-428

Labourer William Revell was appointed grave digger for Hamilton East Cemetery in 1899 and for Hamilton West Cemetery as well in 1905. Graves had to be dug with a spade, and it seems he collapsed and died from over-exertion. Two other sextons are buried in the cemetery: Thomas Keep (died 1925) and David Cockhead (died 1899).

Continue east to a cross lying flat in the lawn in front of a plinth, for:

23 **Yelverton O'Connell**
Builder
Died 1879 aged about 24 years
Buried RC-C-421

In 1877 Yelverton O'Connell eloped with 16-year-old Martha Mullions; O'Connell was charged with contravening the Marriage Act. But Martha declared she still wanted to marry O'Connell and the judge sentenced him to imprisonment "for the duration of this court session". They married, but O'Connell was killed 18 months later when he fell off the roof of a shop he was building. The fathers of both Martha and Yelverton were 4th Waikato militiamen.

Walk straight out to the road; under the camellia in the first row is the grave for:

24 **Grove Vowless**
Militiaman, sawmiller
Died 1876 aged 49 years
Buried RC-A-375

Private Grove Vowless' wife Teresa was the first white woman to land in Hamilton, two months after Grove arrived. Grove worked for Ebenezer Gibbons' sawmill, but died relatively young, of consumption. Teresa brought up eight children on her own, earning money through odd jobs, as well as helping her sons farm Grove's 50 acre (20 ha) land grant.

The next grave east, under the same camellia tree is for:

25 **The de Vere Hunt family**
Farmers
Buried RC-A-377 & 378

Mathew and Mary de Vere Hunt arrived from London in 1872 with their five children and settled near Gordonton. Their 20 year-old son John died of typhoid in 1874 and Mathew died of dropsy in 1879. One daughter, Alicia, married Walter Chitty; another, Kate, married Edward Cussen. They are buried in nearby graves.

Two headstones further east is one for:

26 **Thomas Cassidy**
Militiaman, butcher
Died 1901 aged 67 years
Buried RC-A-382

Cassidy was another of the 4th Waikato Regiment who had to supplement his low income in the Thames gold-fields. He later owned a butchery.

Five rows away from the road and straight back from the Cassidy family grave is a large concrete slab with a fallen marble cross. This is the grave for:

27 **Walter and Alicia Chitty**
Pioneer farmer, stock agent, show judge, local organisations, Mason; welfare
Died 1938 aged 89 and 1936 aged 77
Buried RC-E-767 & 767A

From 1873, Walter and Alicia Chitty farmed about 300 hectares at Hukanui, specialising in milking shorthorns. One of the wealthier landowners, Chitty employed up to 48 people to break in the scrub-covered land. Alicia (née de Vere Hunt) was involved in church, medical and welfare activities. On February 11, 1934, their diamond wedding anniversary, the Chittys made the first non-official telephone call from Hamilton to England. Their son Jack was a prominent Waikato architect.

Go back to the Cassidy grave. Diagonally one row back is the large family grave for the Lees family:

28 **Thomas Lees**
British Army, 4th Waikato militiaman, labourer
Died 1887
Buried RC-B-412

Thomas and Ann Lees settled in Hamilton in 1864. Because Thomas was literate, he would read the newspaper out loud to visitors; he also wrote their letters. The middle monument was erected by the Armed Constabulary after son Joseph died in the winter of 1882 when on the party constructing the road to Rotorua. Son John died of tuberculosis; the eldest son, Tom, became a heavyweight champion in Australia in 1885-86.

Go east along the road verge to the large family grave for the Hoopers:

29 **Joseph Ball Hooper**
Hotelier
Died 1916 aged 49
Buried RC-A-828

Hooper's legacy to Hamilton is the Grand Central Hotel in Hood Street, now a restaurant and bar. It was designed by JW Warren and opened in 1915. WWII veteran son, Joseph, is buried in the same plot.

At the road intersection cross diagonally to enter the Masonic Block. Except for those near the corner the rows in this block run north-south with headstones facing east. In the lawn a couple of metres from the corner is a plaque for:

30 **William Henry Paul, MBE**
Bookseller and philanthropist
Died 1962 aged 83 years
Buried Masonic-C-57B

WH Paul set up Paul's Book Arcade, on Victoria Street, in 1901. He served for many years as secretary and manager of the Winter Show Association. As a member of the Hamilton Domain Board and the Beautifying Society, it was his inspiration to create Memorial Park with trees as living monuments to soldiers who died in WWI. Alongside Dame Hilda Ross he initiated the Port Waikato Children's Camp and received the MBE for his services.

Two metres away on the east-west road verge is the plaque for his son:

31 **Blackwood Paul MA, LLB**
Publisher, writer
Died 1965 aged 56 years
Buried Masonic-A-06

Blackwood Paul began his publishing and writing career at Auckland University before joining his father in the book trade and publishing business in 1933. He and his artist wife Janet transformed the shop to "one of the 14 best in the world" and began publishing New Zealand authors and educational books.

Just to the north, marked by a 2-metre high marble slab is the grave of:

32 **Frederick John von Sturmer**
Forest Ranger, journalist, editor, local body politician
Died 1897 aged 68 years
Buried Masonic-D-58

A Forest Ranger during the Waikato War, von Sturmer became a journalist and at various times was an editor of the New Zealand Herald, the Coromandel Mail and the Waikato Times.

The next grave to the north is for Thomas Chappell:

33 **Thomas Chappell**
Stonemason, undertaker, bowler
Died 1922 aged 83 years
Buried Masonic-D-59

Thomas and Sarah Chappell settled in Hamilton in the late 1880s. Thomas and his son set up business as brick layers, stone masons and builders. His work is evident in many headstones in this cemetery. He was a founder of the Hamilton Bowling Club in 1899.

To the north-east 3 rows away is the grave for the man who brought the bumble bee to the Waikato:

34 **George Edmonds**
Farmer
Died 1890 aged 49 years
Buried Masonic-G-120

In December 1889 George Edmonds, a farmer at Claudelands, brought from Canterbury a quantity of newly-imported British bumble bees suitable for fertilising red clover – without them, farmers had to sow clover each year. Within two years of Edmonds' effort, Waikato orchards and paddocks were humming with the bees.

The next grave to the north in the same row is the large grave for members of the Edgecumbe family.

35 **Henry Edgecumbe**
Grocer, brewer
Died 1885 aged 67
Buried Masonic-G-119

Brewer Henry Edgecumbe immigrated to New Zealand with his family in 1864, settling first in Ngaruawahia where they ran a store. His son George (died 1930, buried Hamilton West) later owned the Waikato Times and then the Waikato Argus. Daughter Marion married CJW Barton and is buried in the Masonic Block. The funeral for Henry Edgecumbe was large, with about 25 buggies and other vehicles and 500 people on foot.

Immediately east in the next row is the grave for the surveyor of the cemetery:

36 **Thomas Goodman Sandes**
Surveyor, engineer, 2nd Waikato Regiment
Died 1897 aged 51 years
Buried Masonic-H-137

In 1885 Thomas Sandes surveyed this cemetery, laying out rows and defining the Masonic section, but his marker pegs did not survive the elements and vandalism. He undertook many surveys and engineering work throughout the Waikato, as well as being known for his singing and theatrical performances. Two of his sons died young. They are buried with him: 11-month Innes and 23-month Stanley – the latter died after tripping and hitting his head.

Immediately east in the next row is the headstone for:

37 **William Dey**
Mayor, storekeeper, Waikato Hospital Board
Died 1923 aged 76 years
Buried Masonic-L-173

During William Dey's time as mayor of the Hamilton Borough Council during the 1890s and 1900s the railway was opened through to Rotorua, gas street lighting was established, the fire brigade was formed, and the telephone exchange and the town hall were opened.

Head south (towards the river) and one row west to a distinctive tall marble pillar in the large family grave for the Graham family.

38 **William Australia Graham**
Surveyor, interpreter, farmer, mayor, hospital board chairman
Died 1916 aged 74 years
Buried Masonic-H-132

WA Graham as a young man.
HCL_05376, Hamilton City Libraries.

WA Graham was immensely important in Hamilton's development. Born in Auckland in 1841, he became fluent in te reo Māori and in 1865 was able to interpret for his father George Graham at the signing of the peace with Wiremu Tamihana. He surveyed Hamilton East with one-acre allotments for militiamen and undertook surveys in the greater Waikato and Bay of Plenty. Graham helped establish Waikato Hospital, and was mayor in the 1880s. He was highly respected, and was given a patu paraoa by King Mahuta. In 1893, his wife Alice was the first woman ever to vote in Hamilton. In 1923 she gave Richmond Park to the town. The family had their share of tragedy, with the deaths of young children and son Cedric in the Battle of the Somme.

A recent burial in the Graham plot, for Olive MacDiarmid (nee Graham), 1920. Note the low hedge along the west boundary of the Masonic Block.
HCL_ 10935, Hamilton City Libraries

The Graham Family, 1898.
HCL_10971, Hamilton City Libraries.

Directly east in the next row, the 4th headstone from the road marks the grave of:

39 **Charles John Wright Barton**
Auckland Militia, farmer, mayor, businessman, town clerk
Died 1935 aged 83
Buried Masonic-L-178

In 1883 Charles Barton bought the Waikato Brewery and the Commercial Hotel. He was mayor in 1887 and 1903, town clerk between 1889 and 1902 and on the borough council intermittently from 1905 until 1933, finally resigning when he was 81. His debating skills and political astuteness earned him the title "the watch-dog of the council".

Move 3 rows to the east to the 9th headstone from the road, that for:

40 John Willing Warren
Architect
Died 1936 aged 76 years
Buried Masonic-O-223

Warren was one of Waikato's major architects in the early 20th century. His Hamilton buildings included several at Waikato Hospital, St Peter's Cathedral, the fire station, Greenslade House, Grand Central Hotel and Waikato Hospital Charitable Aids Board office. Other buildings were St Joseph's Catholic Church in Pirongia, the Māori Parliament building "Kauhanganui" and St Paul's Catholic Church in Ngaruawahia, and the Kawhia County Council Chambers. Many are listed by Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga.

Walk north to the other end of the same row, past the grave of Thomas Dennis (died 1928) who was an engine driver for New Zealand Railways for 35 years, to a 6 metre-long concrete dais with the graves for:

41 **Arthur and Adriana Swarbrick**
Solicitor, farmer, actor, Domain Board member; singer
Died 1927 aged 76 years and 1926 aged 71
Buried Masonic-M-199

Arthur Swarbrick was a solicitor in Hamilton from 1893. As chairman of the Domain Board he successfully pushed to have the golf links in public ownership. The arch entrance to the Lake Domain is a memorial to him. Dutch-born Adriana (nee Pieters) won awards for her singing and contributed to the cultural life of Hamilton, as did Arthur as an amateur actor and producer.

Directly west 7 rows away is the grave of:

42 **Henry Exford Tristram**
Waikato Trotting Club, councillor, hospital board, JP, Pearson's Sandsoap manager
Died 1941 aged 87 years
Buried Masonic-E-80

When he was on the Borough Council in 1937 Tristram voted against the removal of Garden Place Hill, for a romantic reason: in the late 1870s he had been standing on the hill watching the horse races when he met Minnie Pearson. She became his wife, and Tristram spent 35 years as manager of Pearson's Sandsoap Company. Tristram Street is named after him.

Across the road in a smaller part of the Masonic Block is the grave of a noted clergyman:

43 **Robert O'Callaghan Biggs**
Anglican clergyman
Died 1899 aged 73 years
Buried Masonic-E-79

Rev. Biggs was the incumbent at St Peter's in Hamilton from 1883 to 1899, when it was a wooden church in southern Victoria Street. He was also chaplain for Masonic Lodge-Beta. His son Henry and daughter Elizabeth married two Jolly siblings (see Hamilton West Cemetery walk).

In the north-west corner of the main Masonic Block is a large rough-hewn granite monument for the Johnstone family.

44 **Campbell Johnstone**
Farmer, chairman of Waikato Hospital Board and Raglan County Council
Died 1930 aged 67 years
Buried Masonic-B-24

Campbell Johnstone, a sheep farmer from Whatawhata, was a leading figure on Waikato Hospital Board, especially with the establishment of the public maternity ward, named after him. Johnstone served on the Raglan County Council for 28 years and never missed a meeting. He was also on the Auckland Harbour Board and other bodies, including the Waikato Racing Club and Waikato Trotting Club. He was survived by his wife Clementina and 12 of their children. His parents and other family members are buried at Hamilton West Cemetery.

Leaving the Masonic Block go west across the road to the AA1 Block to the large plot with the timber-effect edging, the grave for:

45 **John William Ellis MBE**
Trader, Māori affairs, timber merchant, Frankton Borough councillor, mayor
Died 1918 aged 64 years
Buried AA1-B-63

JW Ellis "was one of those who made the Empire great". He settled near Aotea Harbour in the 1870s, ran a schooner for trading with local Māori and as a fluent speaker of te reo Māori he influenced the opening up of the King Country. He married twice, first to Kauki Tauira, then to Manawa Francis, both of Ngati Maniapoto. Ellis became the confidential adviser to King Tawhiao.

John William Ellis
HCL_ 11596, Hamilton City Libraries.

With Harry Burnand, Ellis operated several timber mills in the King Country; Ellis and Burnand had their headquarters in Hamilton. Ellis was a strong advocate for the merger of Frankton and Hamilton Boroughs and became the first mayor of the combined body in 1917. He died in office, and the funeral cortege had over 60 motor vehicles. Manawa continued living in their large villa, Muriaroha, in Lake Road, and died in 1955 aged 90.

Two rows south and at the end of the row is a low concrete dais with three headstones, including those for:

46 **Francis and Ada Quick**
River boats, coach service, boarding house proprietors
Died 1914 aged 76 and 1935 aged 82 years
Buried AA1-C-681

In the early 1860s Frank Quick and his brother George (CG Quick) ran coaches between Auckland and the military frontier at Drury, extending their service south as the Great South Road was built. In late 1875 they switched to a river service, with their new steamer, the Quickstep. Frank and Ada later ran Almadale, a large boarding house on the corner of Alma and Victoria Streets.

The next marked grave west along the row is for:

47 **Henry Herbert Howden**
Jeweller, businessman, bowler, councillor, patron, Mason
Died 1945, aged 77
Buried AA1-C-678

Henry Howden established a successful jewellery, watchmaking and optician business in Victoria Street in 1889. His third shop was designed by FE Smith with the shop front being the work of Ellis and Burnand; it still exists as a café. He was a patron of various sports, donating many trophies.

Directly south one row back is the desk-style plaque for prominent architect Frederick Ernest Smith. He died in a road accident in 1914.

In the area to the west are graves, some unmarked, of victims of the 1918 influenza epidemic. They include two Chinese men Wong Hau Chi aged c.42 years and Yue Cheung Sing (also translated as Sai Cheng Shing). Their headstones were erected by the Gee Kung Tong Society, a support group.

One tragic example of the flu victims is that of:

48 **James Carr**
Farmer of Horsham Downs
Died on November 16, 1918, aged 35 years
Buried AA1-A-50

James Carr died of the flu the day after his wife Emily died of the flu. She had given birth to their daughter two days earlier on November 13, in Auckland.

Continue along the rows and at the red granite war memorial go through the line of cypress into Soldiers Block No. 1.

The first to be buried in the special servicemen's area was Private Charles McPhee, No.14138 Canterbury Regiment, who died on 5 October, 1918, at Te Waikato Sanatorium, having returned on a hospital ship in December 1917. Some of the pre-1920 deaths, such as Alfred Charles Popham, died of their wounds, some such as Louis Harper King returned safely only to die of the flu.

From May 1935 standardised grave markers were required as a condition of funding support from the government.

One example of a non-standard headstone, beside the central path, is that for:

49 **Albert Graham**
A Company, 1st Battery, 3rd Rifle Brigade; fireman
Died in 1921 aged 24 years
Buried Sold1-F-230

Fireman Albert Graham died when the fire engine in which he was travelling overturned in a ditch in Grey Street. Another fireman, 68-year-old George Prince, also died. Graham's original headstone was cut down later to make it more like the standardised markers.

The original grave with taller headstone
Graham Family collection.

Across the central path in the same row is a grave is for a member of the Māori Battalion:

50 **Hone Mohi Tawhai**

Flaxmiller, Māori Pioneer Battalion, 1st NZ Expeditionary Force
Died 1920 aged 25 years [19 on marker]
Buried Sold1-F-229

Hone Mohi [John Moses] Tawhai's enlistment record states he was a flaxmiller, next of kin being his father, Mohi Tawhai of Waima, Hokianga, the member of the House of Representatives for Ngapuhi. Tawhai enlisted in October 1916 but was invalided home in September 1917, with more than 400 other soldiers. His brother Hohepa, with the 4th Reinforcements, died of disease in France in 1916.

Beside the central path, 2 rows south from Tawhai's headstone, is the marker for Sister Ruth Sanderson.

51 **Ruth Ada Sanderson**

Nurse, co-owner of Cassel Hospital
Died 1928 aged 45 years
Buried Sold1-D-168

Ruth Sanderson joined the New Zealand Army Nursing Service and served on the hospital ships Maheno and Aparima. Between July and October 1916 the Maheno carried 15,822 casualties of the Somme offensive across the English Channel. In 1920 Sanderson and Sister Lara Hawkins opened Cassel Hospital in Von Tempsky Street, Hamilton East. By 1923 Sanderson was ill with tuberculosis contracted during the war and she died despite years of treatment.

In the most northern row are the graves of two other nurses who served in the war: Matron Isabel M. Whyte of the Imperial Nursing Service who received the Medaille de la Reine Belgique and the Royal Red Cross twice, and Sister Phoebe Mary Reynolds of the New Zealand Army Nursing Service who was invalided home in 1917 and was ill until her death in 1923.

History of Hamilton West Cemetery.

Hamilton West Cemetery was established in 1870-1871 after several occasions when people in Hamilton West could not get across the river to Hamilton East Cemetery – before the Union Bridge was built there was only an unreliable punt. The cemetery is also known as Whitiora or Willoughby Street Cemetery.

The oldest remaining headstone is that for Fanny Jolly; she died in February 1869 therefore she must have been interred elsewhere originally. Emma Kurshlit, who died in November 1870, and her husband, Henry, who died in October 1871, may be the first burials. The next-earliest burial was William Pevreal (aka Prutheroe, Pavreal), a 4th Waikato militiaman who died in February 1872. The Anglican burial register records seven children, plus others, buried here between 1870 and 1873.

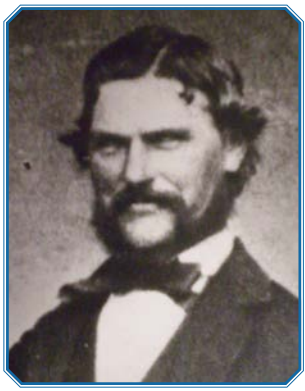
A cruciform-shape path creates four main areas, subdivided with secondary grass paths. The plots follow a grid system of straight rows aligned approximately north-south. The older graves are closer to the gate. No records were kept of burial locations until 1883, however the first serious attempt at record-keeping dates from June 1890. Decorative plantings have changed over the years but a few old camellias and a box tree remain.

Separate areas were not put aside for denominations, although many Catholics were buried in the south-east area, but there were rows assigned for babies and stillborns, mostly in unmarked graves. There are no known Māori burials apart from a two-day-old baby. The south-west quadrant has the graves of several victims of the 1918 influenza epidemic. Several standardised headstones mark the graves of returned servicemen; other servicemen are commemorated on the family grave. There are at least 1612 burials and 21 ash interments with the last burial being in 1975.

An early 20th century photograph shows the truncated column erected for Susan Gordon (far left) and the impressive marble column erected to rugby player Thomas Kirk (middle right).
Breckon Collection, Auckland War Memorial Museum Library neg 8736.

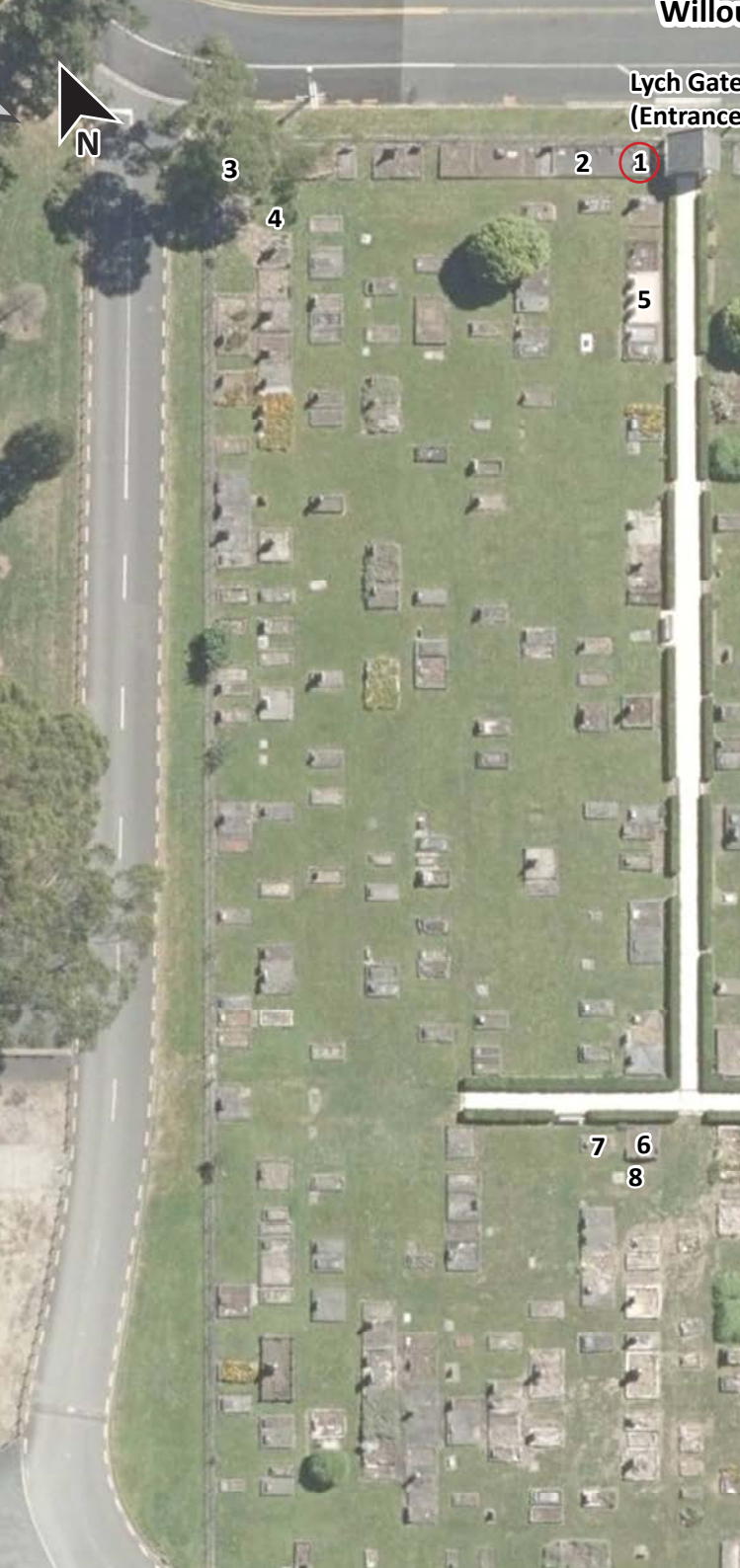
Hamilton West Cemetery Trail.

The cemetery contains the graves of many of Hamilton West and Frankton's prominent residents and their families, plus some from rural districts and out-of-towners who died at Waikato Hospital. Many damaged headstones and railings have been removed; in a few cases, families have marked graves with new plaques. Amongst the unmarked graves are those for two men of contrasting social standing: **William Searancke** (1817?-1904), the grandfather of Princess Te Puea Herangi and one of the first surveyors and resident magistrates in the Waikato; and one of the first sextons, **Ned Wall** (c.1833-1910), who was sacked for allowing his horses and roaming cows to damage grave markers.



William Searancke.
HCL _8372 , Hamilton City Libraries.

Sexton Edward Wall.
HCL_19991, Hamilton City Libraries.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To begin, turn to the right after going through the lych gate and immediately note the large grave for the Dillicar family of Frankton.

1 **Dillicar family**
Farmers, storekeepers, WWII servicemen
A1-J-28 to 32

Richard and Mary Ann Dillicar farmed in the Grandview area in the early 1880s. Two of their sons, William and Thomas, ran general stores in Victoria Street and Frankton. The main headstone, for Richard and Mary Ann, also commemorates the deaths of their grandsons Flight Lieutenants John Dillicar and Richard Ferguson while on active service in WWII.

2 **Mary Jane Dillicar**
Frankton tornado victim
Died 1948 aged 76
Buried A1-J-32

On 25 August 1948 a tornado cut through Frankton destroying shops, factories and houses. Three people were killed, including Joseph Dillicar's widow, Mary Jane, in her house in Lake Road. Five people were hospitalized and scores of others injured.

Continue along the roadside row to the north-west corner to Fanny Jolly's headstone.

3 **Fanny Jolly**
Oldest headstone
Died 1869 aged 11 months
Buried A1-J-53

Fanny was born in 1868 on the Bluenose paddle steamer on the Waikato River when her parents Thomas and Mary Jolly were en route to Hamilton. Fanny died at 11 months old; her original burial place is unknown. Her sister Kate Biggs was buried here in 1955.

Near the beginning of the 2nd row from the side (west) fence is a large monument for:

4 **Thomas and Rebecca Dinsdale**
Farmers
Died 1915 aged 80 and 1913 aged 76
Buried A1-H-32

The Dinsdales came to Hamilton from Yorkshire in 1869 to help Rebecca's brother, Isaac Coates, farm his land; in 1877 they bought their own farm in the area that now bears their name.

Walk back to gate and follow the central path. On the right are headstones for members of the Rothwell family.

5 **Rothwell family**
4th Waikato militiaman, farmer, hospital matron, vicar
Buried A1-E-06 to 08

Thomas (c.1820-1893) and Eleanor (1828-1900) Rothwell settled on the southern outskirts of Hamilton before farming at Whatawhata. Their daughter Elizabeth (1863-1932) was head nurse or matron at Waikato Hospital from 1896 to 1921. Son Benjamin (1860-1924) became a Methodist minister. Leah died aged 19 in 1892 after catching cold at the races. Two Rothwell babies were buried in Hamilton East Cemetery in 1865.

Continue up the main path past the new memorials for tinsmith Daniel Dee Hyde (died 1894) and carpenter and councillor Joseph Frear (died 1926). In the south-west corner (to the right) are several victims of the 1918 influenza epidemic. They include coach driver Thomas (Tibby) Moore, aged 42, and his sister Nellie Moore, aged 37, who died within four days of each other.

At the cross-path, go through the gap in the low hedge. On the right is an impressive double grave for Francis (Frank) Jolly and his wife Elizabeth.

6 **Frank Jolly**
Local body politician, farmer
Died 1943 aged 78
Buried A3-D-49

In 1877 settler Thomas Jolly subdivided part of his farm and named it Frankton after his eldest son, Frank. Frank Jolly was chair of Frankton Town Board and mayor of Frankton Borough intermittently from 1908 until 1917, when Frankton merged with Hamilton. In 1895 he married Elizabeth (Bessie) Biggs (1866-1930), daughter of Rev. Robert O'Callaghan Biggs (see Hamilton East trail). His sister Kate married one of Biggs' sons.

Frank Jolly.
HCL 00320, Hamilton City Libraries

Behind and beside the Jolly grave are graves of the Cussen family.

7 **William Cussen**
Surveyor, rugby player
Died 1901 aged 51
Buried A3-D-44

Surveyor William Cussen introduced rugby to the Waikato, organising a game on a farm at Te Rapa on 26 September 1874 between the Elephants (fellow surveyors) and the Bounders (men from Hamilton).

8 **Lawrence Cussen**
Surveyor, photographer, rugby player, geologist
Died 1903 aged 60
Buried A3-D-46

Lawrence Cussen was district surveyor of the Auckland land district from 1877. He studied the geology of the Central Plateau and was the first to record thermal activity in Ruapehu's crater lake and the potential dangers of lahars. His numerous photographs of Māori life in 1880s King Country are a valuable record. He and his wife Annie had 11 children.

Walk towards the stadium past the polished black granite monument for Patrick Corboy, chairman of Waipa County. Four rows closer to the east railing fence is a polished red granite headstone for:

9 **Thomas Millington Hill and Ellen Hill**
4th Waikato Commissariat, butcher, boarding-house keepers
Died 1927 aged 95 and 1926 aged 82
Buried A3A-G-13

Thomas Millington Hill served in the commissariat department of the Fourth Waikato Regiment. He established a butchery on the Ferrybank but later he and Ellen ran the Riverview boarding-house in southern Victoria Street.

The Hill Family.
HCL_03907, Hamilton City Libraries

Hill's Private Boarding House.
HCL_03898, Hamilton City Libraries

Two rows further east, near the south fence, is a tall headstone for a popular policeman:

10 **Francis "Old Mac" McGovern**
Policeman
Died 1925 aged 91
Buried A3A-H-24

Constable Francis McGovern arrived in Hamilton in 1865 – in the first three years he slept in the blacksmith's shop, and later had to keep prisoners in his own house as the lock-up was inadequate. He helped capture the murder-accused Taurangaka Winiata in 1882, became officer in charge of Waikato Police and rose in the ranks during his 36 years' service.

Portrait of Francis 'Old Mac' McGovern.
Observer, Volume 4, Issue 95, 8 July 1882

Turn away from the stadium and walk along the row, past the fallen headstone for militiaman Robert Yallop Stokes (died 1895). Cross the grass path to the graves for members of the prominent Johnstone family.

11 **John Campbell Johnstone**
Career soldier, farmer, flax mill owner
Died 1882 aged 66
Buried A2A-R-07 & 08

Captain John Campbell Johnstone served with the East India Company before settling in the Te Uku area in 1854 on a 2000-acre [c.800 ha] farm. In 1882 one of his and Emelia's eight children, Lilla, died from a heavy cold, and Johnstone committed suicide from grief. His remains were re-interred here in 1941, where other family members are also buried.

A further seven metres to the north in the row beside the fence is a desk-top style headstone, for:

12 **Andrew Seymour Brewis**
Doctor, private hospital "Opoia", councillor 1905-07
Died 1933 aged 68
Buried A2A-Z-35A

Dr. Seymour Brewis was a wealthy prominent resident of Hamilton for over 40 years. His first surgery was in his large villa on Garden Place Hill. Brewis was awarded an OBE for his service in the Medical Corps in WWI.

Two rows away under a large camellia is the grave of his wife Mary (died 1913) and their daughter Annie (died 1953).

The Brewis home, "Jesmond", on Garden Place Hill.
HCL_00627, Hamilton City Libraries.

Mary Brewis' grave in 1913 shows the adjacent camellia only about one metre high.
HCL_11064, Hamilton City Libraries

Two rows west of Mary Brewis' grave and to the north of another large camellia is the tall truncated column in grey granite, erected by John Gordon for his first wife, Susan.

13 **John Gordon**
Manager of Woodlands Estate
Died 1932 aged 86
Buried A2A-P-20

John Gordon managed Woodlands, part of the extensive Eureka Estate, for nine years before farming at Eureka and then Bankwood, now part of Waikato Diocesan School. The impressive monument was in memory of his first wife Susan (died 1892); John, his second and third wives, Alice (died 1908) and Margaret (died 1916) and a son are buried in the same grave. The farming district of Gordonton is named after him.

Move two rows closer to the railing fence to another tall monument.

14 **Thomas Everton Kirk**
Rugby player, jeweller
Died 1901 aged 22
Buried A2A-Q-25 & 26

Tom Kirk died a week after being injured in a rugby match at Gisborne where he was captain of the Kaiti team. The monument was erected by the footballers of Gisborne and Waikato. The graves of his father Thomas, Clerk of the Court, and mother, Elizabeth, lie either side of the monument

Move along the row, passing a plinth with a replica bible on top in the adjacent row, for Thomas and Mary Evans, builder and boarding-house keeper; headstones for coaching company owner Charles Harwood, militiaman and hospital attendant Philip Munro and pharmacist and militiaman, Thomas Aitken.

Go past the large box tree into the next row closer to the railings to the large grave at right angles to the main rows. This is for the Knox family.

15 **John Knox**
4th Waikato militiaman, mayor, shopkeeper, auctioneer, flour mill owner
Died 1905 aged 72
Buried A1A-Z-14

Intractable, hard-headed and provocative, John Knox's years as Hamilton Borough mayor and councillor in the 1870s-80s caused controversy. Knox ran a general store and auction mart. The tall monument was erected for his son Charles (died 1911) by the Auckland Master Bakers Association. Knox's second wife, Maria nee Kurshlit, was buried here in 1900. The earliest-known burials, Henry and Emma Kurshlit, may be in this grave.

A few metres closer to the Willoughby St fence is the large grave for the Gwynne family.

16 **Richard and Sarah Gwynne**
Hoteliers, horse breeder
Died 1883 aged 56 and 1906 aged 76
Buried A1A-Z-08 to 12

The Gwynnes settled in Hamilton in 1874 as owners of the Hamilton Hotel, which they improved so that the hotel had 18 bedrooms, five sitting-rooms, a billiard room and bar, and stalls for 25 horses in the stables and a productive garden. After Richard's death in 1883 Sarah managed the hotel alone for a further 14 years and died in 1906. Buried with them are two young sons who died of diphtheria in 1875; son Robert, who was editor of the Waikato Times, his two wives and a baby daughter (all three named Jeanie).

Gwynne's Hamilton Hotel. The hotel burnt down in 1898.
HCL_01440, Hamilton City Libraries.

Five rows to the south-west, directly behind the iron railings around the grave of music teacher Thomas Aubrey Bell (1845?-1886) and his infant daughters, is a red granite headstone with a broken cross and partially surrounded by an ornate iron railing.

17 **Thomas Jolly**
Farmer, founder of Frankton
Died 1894 aged 57
Buried A1A-C-15

Thomas and Mary Jolly arrived in Hamilton in 1868 and farmed 200 ha from Hamilton Lake to Forest Lake Road. Thomas gave land to the government for the Main Trunk Line and railway station, then subdivided the adjacent land for the town of Frankton and built a hotel. He died in 1894, gored by his jersey bull. Mary died in 1914.

The first Jolly house.
Private Collection

Move towards Willoughby Street in the same row to the graves of John Carey, his wife and daughters.

18 **John Carey**
Surgeon with 4th Waikato Regiment and Armed Constabulary
Died 1889 aged 70
Buried A1A-C-10

John Carey (1819-1889) served as surgeon to the 4th Waikato Regiment, the Armed Constabulary and later as a private medical practitioner in Hamilton. He owned 162 hectares at Forest Lake. After his death his wife Susannah (died 1906) ran a boarding house in Grantham Street. Buried in adjacent graves are their daughters Charlotte [Lottie], Margaret and Susan. Lottie Carey (1871-1913) was Hamilton's librarian for many years.

Hamilton's Carnegie Library soon after its opening in 1908 during Lottie Carey's term as librarian.

HCL_ 01843,a Hamilton City Libraries.

References and Further Information

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Hamilton City Council archives

All quotes are from articles in the Waikato Times, Waikato Argus or New Zealand Herald, accessed from paperspast.natlib.govt.nz.

The historic photographs are reproduced from the collections of Hamilton City Libraries (HCL) unless otherwise stated. Genealogical and local history resources are available at the Hamilton Central Library and Waikato Museum. In 1975-76 volunteers of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists Waikato Branch transcribed inscriptions in Hamilton East and Hamilton West; this is an important record of many headstones that have been broken or removed since then.

Acknowledgements
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Opening Hours
Hamilton East Cemetery:
Vehicle access 8.30am - 4.00pm.
Pedestrian access anytime.
Hamilton West Cemetery:
Pedestrian access only, 8.30 to 4.00pm.

Burial Records
These are available at hamilton.govt.nz
Then select: 1. Our services. 2. Cemeteries. 4. Cemetery Search. 5. Online search.

Alternatively phone Hamilton Park Cemetery (07) 856 7987 during business hours.

Health & Safety
Burial plots can become uneven due to natural sinking. Please walk with care.

Behaviour
Please respect this cemetery as a sacred place and a heritage site. If you see anyone damaging grave stones or cemetery property please notify the Police. Dogs are prohibited from the cemeteries.

Headstone Maintenance
The cemeteries are administered and maintained by Hamilton City Council staff. There are historic headstones in both Hamilton East and West Cemeteries. Due to their age some of these headstones can be fragile and easily damaged. We recommend that a monumental mason carry out any restoration works. Please contact the Cemetery Manager on 07 8567987 before carrying out any maintenance of headstones or graves.

Notes