

Norfolk Record Office Information Leaflet 47

Cemetery records and monumental inscriptions

1. Introduction

Until the mid nineteenth century, most people were buried in Church of England (Anglican) churchyards. Burial registers may survive for these churchyards from 1538 onwards. The Norfolk Record Office holds burial registers for most Anglican churches. To check the whereabouts of the registers that you wish to see, contact us or visit our website <<http://archives.norfolk.gov.uk>> and click on the link 'Parish Registers and Transcripts Summary'. Some nonconformist churches had their own burial grounds, whilst in other places, nonconformists were buried in Anglican churchyards. The Record Office holds burial records for some Norfolk nonconformist churches. To find out whether the relevant records are available here, contact us or visit our website and click on the link 'Free Church Registers Summary'.

In 1853, an Act was passed enabling local authorities to administer their own cemeteries and many urban churchyards were closed.

2. Norwich Cemeteries

2.1 Rosary Cemetery

The Rosary Cemetery was established by Revd Thomas Drummond, a Presbyterian Minister, in 1819. It was the first private cemetery in England. Drummond's aim was to establish a cemetery on freehold land to be secured as a cemetery for all time. Many nonconformists chose to be buried here, rather than in a Church of England churchyard.

The Record Office holds the following records on microfilm:

- Burial registers 1821-1991
- Information given includes the name; place of residence; dates of death and of burial; age; the section of the cemetery in which the grave was situated; and the grave number. Prior to 1867, the date of death is not normally included. The registers are arranged chronologically by the date of burial; use the indexes to the registers to find out the burial entry number, burial register number and folio (page) number.
- Indexes to the burial registers 1821-1997
These are arranged alphabetically to the first letter of the surname only. They give the entry number and folio (page) number in the burial register, as well as the section of the cemetery in which the grave was located.
- Grave books
The plots in Rosary Cemetery were sold as 'squares' or graves. The grave books list the owners or purchasers of the graves or squares, rather

than the names of the people who were buried there. The numbers underneath the names are the entry numbers in the burial register.

For further details, see the list *Norwich City Records on Microform Part 2: Cemeteries' Department*.

Burial registers 1821-37 and monumental inscriptions 1819-1986 have been published in *Norfolk Genealogy* volume 18, available on the searchroom shelves. This volume has a name index.

The Record Office also holds documents relating to the administration of the Rosary Cemetery 1824-1974. These include minutes, accounts, correspondence, records of shareholders and records of owners of grave squares. See lists MC 71 and N/C2 for more details.

2.2 Norwich City Cemetry (Earlham Road Cemetery)

The Record Office holds the following on microfilm:

- Burial registers 1855-1970
Entries give the name; age; occupation; place of residence; date of burial; the section of the cemetery in which the grave was situated and the grave number. Use the indexes to the registers to find out the burial number and folio number.
- Indexes 1856-1998
These are arranged alphabetically to the first letter of the surname only. They give the burial number and folio (page) number in the burial register and the grave number and folio in the grave book.
- Grave books
Using the section and grave numbers given by the indexes, you can find the entry in the grave book. This will list all occupants of a particular grave plot. On microfilm MF 812, there is an overall section plan of the cemetery and plans of individual sections with the plot numbers, so that the grave can be located at the cemetery.
- Registers of stillborn children 1928-97
These record the date of burial; parents' names; address where the birth took place; the section of the cemetery in which the grave was situated; and the grave number.

For more details, see the list *Norwich City Records on Microform Part 2: Cemeteries Department*. There is a plan of the cemetery in this list.

The Record Office has transcripts of cemetery inscriptions for the eastern part of the City Cemetery: see list MC 2669/32-35, 992X6. We also have records relating to the administration of the cemetery 1855-1974. These include minutes; records of grave ownership and grave maintenance; financial records; correspondence; and plans. See list N/C1 for further details.

3. Great Yarmouth and Gorleston Cemeteries

The Record Office holds microfiche copies of these registers. The originals are held at Magdalen Cemetery, Oriel Avenue, Gorleston, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, NR31 7JJ (telephone 01493 441974). Although cemetery staff will undertake paid searches of the registers, members of the public are not allowed to look at the originals.

3.1 Great Yarmouth Old Cemetery 1856-1987

- **Indexes**
There are two indexes; you may need to check both. The indexes are arranged alphabetically to the first letter of the surname only. They give the entry number in the burial register and the folio (page) number.
- **Burial registers**
Each fiche is labelled with the dates it covers and the burial numbers that it includes. The information given in the burial registers should include name; age; occupation (in the cases of children, usually gives 'son of/daughter of...' and for married women, 'wife of...'); place of death; date of burial; and the grave number and section in the cemetery.

3.2 Great Yarmouth New Cemetery 1876-1986

- **Indexes**
There are two indexes; you may need to check both. They are arranged alphabetically to the first letter of the surname only. The indexes give the entry number in the burial register and the folio (page) number.
- **Burial registers**
Each fiche is labelled with the dates it covers and the burial numbers that it includes. The information given is the same as for Yarmouth Old Cemetery.

3.3 Gorleston Old Cemetery 1879-1987

- **Indexes**
There are two indexes, both of which are arranged alphabetically to the first letter of the surname only. The indexes give the entry number in the burial register and the folio (page) number. The first index is arranged like the indexes to the Yarmouth Old and New Cemeteries. In the second index, the first number is the burial number and the second is the folio number,
e.g., *9410 163 538* : 9410 is the burial number; 163 is the folio.
- **Burial registers**
Each fiche is labelled with the dates it covers and the burial numbers that it includes. The information given is the same as for Yarmouth Old Cemetery.

3.4 Great Yarmouth Cemetery at Caister 1907-87

- Indexes
There are two indexes; you may need to check both. They are arranged alphabetically to the first letter of the surname only. The indexes give the entry number in the burial register and the folio (page) number.
- Register of Burials
Each fiche is labelled with the dates it covers and the burial numbers that it includes. The information given is the same as for Yarmouth Old Cemetery.

3.5 Magdalen Cemetery 1958-87

- Indexes
These are arranged alphabetically to the first letter of the surname only. The indexes give the entry number in the burial register and the folio (page) number.
- Burial registers
Each fiche is labelled with the dates it covers and the burial numbers that it includes. The information given is the same as for Yarmouth Old Cemetery.

3.6 Market Gates Cemetery at Yarmouth 1828-64

This was a private cemetery, mainly used by nonconformists. No original register seems to have survived, but the Record Office has a modern transcript of the burial register 1828-64 on microfilm NNAS 894754.

3.7 Other records

The Record Office also holds some administrative records of the Yarmouth Burial Board and Gorleston Burial Board 1828, 1855-1908 (see lists Y/TC 86/14/62; Y/TC 76-77; Y/TR 238-246).

4. Monumental Inscriptions

These are copies of gravestone inscriptions and of other memorials in churches, chapels and graveyards. Around one third of graveyards in Norfolk have been surveyed. Most of those included are parish churchyards or nonconformist burial grounds, rather than modern civil cemeteries. Often there is a plan with the survey, which shows the locations of the graves. Surveys may also include the inscriptions on the parish war memorial and on memorials inside the church.

Most of the surveys are available on microfilm. Further details are given in the list *Churchyard surveys on microfilm*. Transcripts of Norwich Cathedral inscriptions are available with the other transcripts on the searchroom shelves. For a list of inscriptions in Norwich Cathedral Cloisters, please request document BOL 4/122, 742X4.

The Norfolk Family History Society also has a collection of monumental inscriptions, which is available for consultation by its members. A list of churchyards covered is on the Society's website <http://www.norfolkfhs.org.uk>. The Society's address is Kirby Hall, 70 St Giles Street, Norwich, NR2 1LS (telephone 01603 763718).

5. Other cemetery records at the Norfolk Record Office

Many workhouses had their own burial grounds; for details of burial registers that survive, see lists C/GP. St Andrew's Hospital at Thorpe, the county lunatic asylum, had its own burial ground. The Record Office holds burial registers 1815-1966 (see list SAH 231-234). However, these records are closed to public inspection until 100 years after the death of the patient concerned.

6. Records of cemeteries and crematoria available elsewhere

6.1 Norwich

St Faith's Crematorium opened in the 1930s, whilst Norwich City Crematorium (situated in the Norwich City Cemetery on Earlham Road) opened in 1964. Both are now in private hands. For records of both contact: The Administrator, St Faith's Crematorium, 75 Manor Road, Horsham St Faith, Norwich, NR10 3LF (telephone 01603 898264).

6.2 Gorleston Crematorium

Registers begin c.1968. You can request a search of the registers (for which a fee is charged) by contacting the crematorium at Magdalen Cemetery, Oriel Avenue, Gorleston, Great Yarmouth, NR31 7JJ (telephone 01493 441974).

6.3 King's Lynn and West Norfolk

Burial registers and indexes for Hardwick Road Cemetery, starting in 1855, and for Gayton Road Cemetery, beginning in the mid 1940s, are held at the offices of the cemetery and crematorium service at Mintlyn Crematorium, Lynn Road, Bawsey, King's Lynn, PE32 1HB (telephone 01553 630533).

6.4 Thetford

A cemetery was laid out on the east side of London Road, Thetford in 1855. Records of Thetford Burial Board are held by the Town Clerk, Council Offices, King's House, King's Street, Thetford (telephone 01842 754247). The NRO has a list of the records (see list of Thetford Borough Records, T/BB). The records include burial registers, 1855-1978; registers of burials in war graves, 1939-49; cemetery plans, 1850s-1897; and Burial Board minutes, 1854-1932.

6.5 Other Norfolk cemeteries

For other local authority cemeteries, contact the relevant Town or Parish Council.

6.6 Waveney area of Suffolk

Indexes to cemetery registers in this area are available on the internet <http://www.waveney.gov.uk/cemetery> Cemeteries included are Beccles, Bungay, Halesworth, Kirkley, Lowestoft, Southwold, Wrentham and the Royal Naval Patrol Cemetery.



If you need this leaflet in large print, audio, Braille, alternative format or in a different language, please contact the County Archivist on 01603 222599 and we will do our best to help.

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