

NOTES ON HIDDEN CEMETERIES IN THE HUTT VALLEY by Warwick Johnston

These are remnants of, or disappeared or even lost burial areas of the lower part of the Hutt Valley. In some cases the areas have been readjusted, redeveloped, have had a makeover, been built on, reduced or even lost.

Hidden Cemeteries

- Korokoro
- Knox
- Wesleyan
- St. James
- Te Puni
- Owhiti
- Aglionby
- Gear Island
- Military Rd

Korokoro Catholic Cemetery

- Roman Catholic Cemetery, Old Catholic Cemetery Korokoro, Roman Catholic Cemetery McKenzie St.
- Maori land obtained in the late 1840s. 1854 fenced. Earliest date 22 May 1853. Only few European catholic families in the area at first.
- 1956 closed by Act of parliament. Given to Petone Borough Council. Land then taken for State Highway 2. Two rows, Borough records show three rows, of graves disinterred and reburied (44). Headstones removed.
- List is incomplete - headstones missing, some indecipherable, parish records incomplete.
- Several more records made, sources checked - however there are discrepancies in all the lists.
- List on site with two additional headstones.
- Burials on hill behind Memorial are a possibility. There is a list and overgrown remnants of headstones have been sighted.

Knox Presbyterian Cemetery, High St. 'Blackbridge Cemetery'

- Most of the early records lost.
- Earliest 1857 - David Speedy & Donald Couper. First open to all.
- 1885 allotments only to church members
- 1891 Hutt Borough Council prohibited internments within the borough
- Little use made of Knox after 1892. Last recorded internment 1913
- 1949 Knox Presbyterian (Lower Hutt) Cemetery Act. Closed and laid out in lawn.
- List on site.
- Headstone laid face down half a metre below ground. Levelled and grassed, with a memorial plaque of known burials (75).

Weslyan Cemetery, Bridge St.

- Opened 5 Nov 1845. Chapel St. / Marsden St.
- Used until closed in 1901, upkeep taken over by HBC.
- “28 Dec. 1887 - Bridge St. Cemetery closed to strangers as Taita was opened.”
- Methodist Church Trust minutes.
- Land taken for roads in 1872 and 1912. Borough erected memorial stone containing names of those buried in those parts (50).
- List on site.

First St. James Cemetery, Aglionby

- Established with 1840 settlement at Aglionby.
- Western side of the river, just below present bridge. Cnr Maudie and Montague Streets or quarter mile from Bridge, in area around Alice St ?
- Washed away in floods of 1845

Second St. James Cemetery, Woburn

- Church opened 1848. Capt. Daniell donated extra land for burials in 1855.
- 1888 extensive use of cemetery forced solely for St. James parishioners.
- During 1950s Civic Centre redevelopment Cemetery reduced to present size - controversy & headstone rearrangement.
- Seven burial registers 1841- 1964 at the Alexander Turnbull Lib. Indexed and transcribed by the NZSG.
- Information on Lych Gates.

Te Puni Maori Cemetery

- Earliest record is 1870.
- Urupa and Pa site identified as far back as 1839, but earlier back to 1830s.
- Early settlement Pakeha burials were here according to M. Alington (Unquiet Earth), including boats deaths.
- Over 200 buried, some 3 deep. Only 125 listed.
- Extended right through to Victoria St. - according to Survey map dated 1889.
- Section set aside by GM for remnant of urupa. Remains found there when GM demolished.
- No list on site

Owhiti Maori Cemetery, Seaview.

- Waiwhetu Pa, No. 4 Cemetery Reserve.
- Earliest record 1890.
- Site of old Waiwhetu Pa and urupa, as shown on very early surveys, over 2 acres.
- Land taken for roads and buildings.
- No list on site.

Gear Island Cemetery

- An island part of extensive river mouth estuary in the 1840s.
- Rev. John Gare Butler recorded as being buried there in June 1841. "He was buried on Gear Island, with many others, was swept away to the sea by the River Hutt." 1927. Earliest NZ.
- Also close to Paetutu kainga at end of Jackson St.

Military Rd.

- Memorial plaques to 1846 incident there and at St. James.
- Bodies buried at Bolton St. However sketches at the time show burial near the stockade itself.

HOW DO WE DEAL WITH THESE BURIAL AREAS ?

- Carefully
- Burial Registers are limited, with only St. James with any sort of collection.
- Even Christ Church, Taita records are held by St. James.
- Use Cemetery records here in Heritage Centre
- If family records show burial then strict co-ordination with burial register and site plans is crucial.
- In situ headstones do not necessarily relate to actual burial.

As these are only notes it would be useful if anyone else has additional information or knowledge to add it to the above so that we keep some sort of record.

Thanks

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