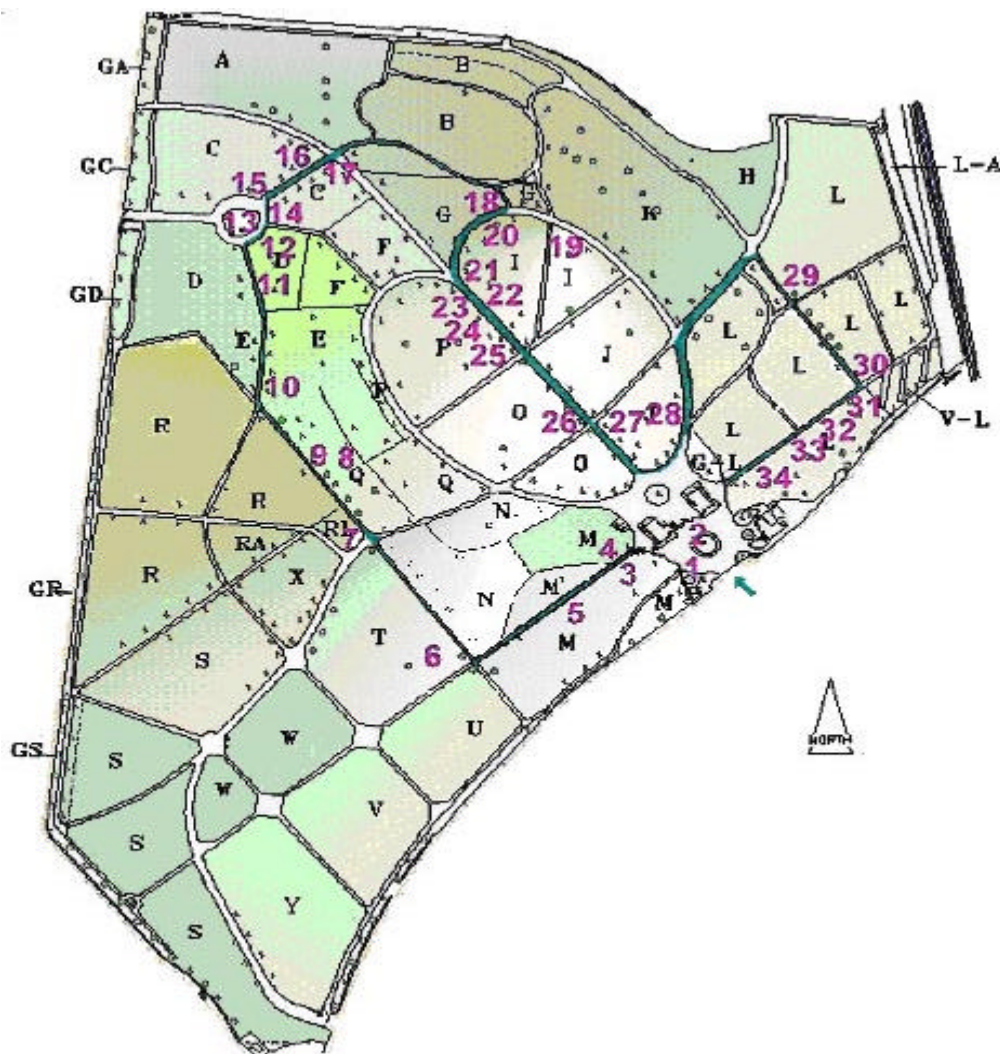


Cathays Cemetery Heritage Trail

At the opening of Cathays cemetery in 1859, the Cardiff Times predicted that it, 'would form the principal walk of the inhabitants of Cardiff'.

Today, Cathays provides a fascinating walk for residents and visitors alike. The vast number of interesting memorials and the changing character of the cemetery through the seasons make Cathays a place worth visiting time and time again.

This trail has been produced to introduce some of the more outstanding features of the cemetery. The suggested route, shown on the map, takes you past several important memorials and ecological features, which are described in detail in the following text. The numbers in the table and on the map below refer to the memorials in the guide.



As you approach the cemetery along Fair oak Road, notice the wall and railings surrounding the site. The original railings were removed during the Second World War to be melted down for munitions. The boundary around the site has been refurbished and new railings installed, recreating some of the cemetery's Victorian splendour.

1. Monkey Puzzle tree

The Monkey-Puzzle tree (*Araucaria araucana*) was introduced to Great Britain from South America in the late eighteenth century. The country of origin, Chile, gives the tree another of

its names, the Chile Pine. This conifer has close set leaves that make it unique and the cones on the tree are covered with splendid pointed scales.

At a tree planting ceremony in the eighteenth century one dignitary is reputed to have said that; '*it would puzzle a monkey to climb that tree*' hence the tree's common name. Later on in the trail there is another example of this unusual tree.

To the left of the chapel is the lime tree, Tilia Harold Hillier, which was planted by Gladstone Primary School for National Tree Week in November 1994.

2. Chapels

The fine Decorated Gothic style twin chapels with central bell tower were built by R G Thomas of Newport and Thomas Waring of Cardiff in 1859, at a cost of £5,200. At first sight the chapels look identical. On closer inspection, however, you will notice that the right hand chapel is more ornate. This is because it is consecrated and was used for services for episcopal denominations such as Church in Wales. The left-hand chapel is unconsecrated, and served Nonconformist denominations such as Methodists.

The covered archways, known as porte-cochères, are found within cemeteries & crematoriums. They were designed for the horse-drawn hearses to shelter under whilst the coffin was moved into the chapel. The high death rate in the late nineteenth century ensured that the chapels were heavily used during the week and often at weekends too. A typical entry in the cemetery records for Saturday 8 February 1896 lists 16 services, 10 of which were for children under 8 years of age. This high infant mortality rate is reflected on many of the gravestones in the cemetery. Inscriptions also reveal a much lower average age of death compared with that of today.

3. Jonathan Billups

Jonathan Billups was born in a village in Cambridgeshire in 1824. From a poor background he fought his way up to a prosperous position. He became a Railway Contractor who had great ability and talent. Although it has been said that Mr Billups wanted to make a fortune – he failed. His skill and trustworthiness had enabled him to make money – his unwise speculation ensured its loss quite as rapidly as it was made.

'He was a Soldier in the Army. He was a Salvationist in heart'. (*The War Cry, Dec.5, 1896*)

Thirty- three years prior to his death in Bristol in December 1896, he and his wife had met General Booth and his wife at the close of the 1st Salvation Army Campaign in Cardiff and from that day they were to be friends forever. Mr Billups was a true admirer and a staunch friend of the Salvation Army – he loved soul saving. He has been described as a 'lover of God and souls'.

The lives of the two families then ran very much side by side. Mr & Mrs Billups had two daughters, one a wife to a local business man; the other the wife of a Minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church of the United States.

The latter was a woman of the world, her great ambition being to live the life of a student. She was already skilled in music but wanted to excel in languages. The General's eldest son was to be taught by an accomplished linguist. In order that she secured the advantages of such tuition, she went to live with them, although at the time hating their religion. Curiosity drew her to meetings and the course of her life changed.

To the joy of her parents, the Billups, she devoted herself to helping the poor. Mr Billups loved the Salvation Army because his deepest sympathies were with the poor struggling masses of the people and the Army sought their benefit. She then became one of the first officers in what is now the Salvation Army, was an interesting and effective speaker, a leader of the women's side of the movement until her marriage, subsequently joining in Evangelist work with her husband, first in this country and then in America.

Mr Billups had a generous, open-handed nature and was truly loved and respected by the Salvation Army.

'Mr Billups is gone. All around the world officers will hear the tidings with regret'. (*The War Cry, December 5, 1896*)

4. Memorial Symbolism

The Victorians and Edwardians expressed their sentiments and expectations of death through the language of memorial symbolism. This memorial to John Stuart Rogers is a fine example of some of the symbols commonly used. The central image of a tree standing on a rock indicates a strong attachment to religion. The top of the bough has a clear cut in it, representing a life cut off in its prime. The upturned torch is a further symbol of a life extinguished, whereas the anchor epitomises hope for the life beyond death. The ivy growing up the bough is a symbol of immortality; the artistry of such memorials does indeed ensure for the deceased a degree of immortality.

As you walk around the cemetery look out for other forms of symbolism and the rich variety of memorial types, both in the overall design of the memorials and as decorations upon them. Some examples and explanations of their meaning are given on the checksheet. Many of the symbols derive from the Classical World of the Greeks and Romans, such as the draped urn, the victor's wreath and the broken column.

Also notice how the memorials close to the chapels and along the main path are generally larger and more ornate than those are further away. Unlike today's cemeteries the Victorians had a scale of charges for different parts of the site. Desirable areas would have been more expensive, and hence would attract the upper classes of society. The differences in memorialisation in the various sections of the cemetery therefore reflect not only religious preferences, but also the clearly defined class structure of Victorian society.

5. Andrew Pettigrew

Andrew Pettigrew was born in Ayr in 1833. For 37 years he was head gardener to the Bute estates, beginning in 1866. In 1873 Pettigrew came to Cardiff to take charge of the grounds attached to Cardiff Castle. At this time Coopers Field was pasture grounds. After the rebuilding of Castell Coch, Pettigrew oversaw the planting of vines and the manufacture of wine from these. He also landscaped Sophia Gardens into a public recreation ground. Pettigrew was famous throughout the horticultural world for his depth of knowledge and his winning of some of the highest awards. At the time of his death in 1903 he was one of the oldest Fellows of the Royal Horticultural Society.

Buried nearby to Andrew Pettigrew is his son, Andrew Alexander Pettigrew, who was born in 1875. He worked away from Cardiff for a number of years, returning in 1915 to the position of Chief Officer of Parks at Cardiff, living in Roath Park House. He died in 1936 and was succeeded by his elder brother William Wallace Pettigrew in an unpaid capacity until a new officer had been appointed. William Wallace had been apprenticed to his father and was involved in the landscaping of 40–50 acres of Coopers Field.

6. Thomas John Wall

This memorial to Thomas John Wall is a good example of the types of information which gravestones can give us. The inscription tells us that Wall is a member of the Independent Order of Rechabites – a benefit society that believed in the abstinence of alcohol. This implies that Wall was a morally upstanding chap. The inscription also tells us that Wall died by drowning in the River Taff. An unfortunate end for one so worthy.

The second inscription, to John Allier, states his occupation as a mariner, reminding us of Cardiff's maritime importance. The symbol of clasped hands represents both friendship and farewell; hence we can assume that Wall and Allier were friends.

The stating of occupations, membership of societies, cause of death and other personal information on gravestones was more common in Victorian and Edwardian times than it is today. Some examples to look out for are listed on the checksheet. Also look out for euphemisms for dying, such as 'passed away', 'fell asleep' etc. Take time to read some of the inscriptions as you pass – many are moving, some are tragic and a few are entertaining.

7. Modern memorials

This small area contains burials from the last thirty years. Notice how the design of memorials have changed from Victorian times, and how much more uniform today's stones are. Victorian memorials were hand-carved, whereas today nearly all memorials are produced by machines. Will historians in the future be able to tell as much about our society from our funerary memorials as we can about the Victorians?

Look towards sections V and W. Large Victorian cemeteries such as Cathays are very expensive to maintain. Cutting the grass alone costs tens of thousand of pounds each year. In the 1970s memorials in these sections were moved from their original position and placed back to back in rows without any kerbsets. This creates space for large machines to cut the grass, therefore saving on labour costs. This process of lawn conversion does, however, change the character of the cemetery. Since the 1980s only those memorials that are dilapidated or present a danger to visitors are moved. All other memorials are restored and left in situ, thus preserving them for future generations to enjoy and learn from.

8. Log Pile

Ecology is encouraged in the cemetery by selective planting, adopting differing grass cutting regimes for different sections, limiting the use of weedkiller, and by encouraging features such as this log pile. Healthy and rotting wood provide habitats for a wide variety of 'mini-beasts', as well as for fungi. This in turn attracts birds to the cemetery. Please feel free to turn logs over to look for insects, but remember to return them to their original position carefully.

In section Q is one of the strangest burials in the cemetery. On 10th April 1883, the amputated leg of Samuel Chivers was buried here, several years before the demise of Chivers himself! Chivers lost his leg after being run over by a horse and cart. The rest of Chivers is buried at Penarth.

9. Yew Trees

Yews are evergreen trees with linear spiral arranged leaves and they grow between 20-40 ft (6-12 metres) in height with a short thick trunk with dark red-brown flaking bark. There is little undergrowth because of the dense shade of the leaves. The leaves from the Yew are used as a treatment for cancer.

Yews are slow growing and long lived, but their appearance often makes them seem older. The timber is an elastic fine-grained hardwood, which was used in the making of longbows and can be used in cabinet making. A 4000 year old Yew has recently been found in a North Wales church.

Yews have a long association with churchyards and are shrouded in mystery and suspicion. Yews were often used at pre-Christian sites of worship since their dense shade provided good shelter and churches developed in these areas. Being evergreens, Yews are also associated with good overcoming evil and with everlasting life, and sprigs of the yew were often buried with the dead.

Another reason for finding so many Yews in churchyards is that their leaves are poisonous to sheep and in the days when sheep were used to keep the grass short (before the invention of lawnmowers) – the trees would not be eaten. Churchyards were also one of the few enclosed places where Yews could be grown without fear of harming people.

Although Yew branches were used as palms on Palm Sunday, the tree also had a gloomy and dangerous reputation. In the seventeenth century it was thought unwise to sleep beneath

a Yew Tree in a churchyard as the roots sucked up death and disease from the ground and exhaled this through its leaves.

Notice how different in shape and colour the Irish Yew is to the Common Yew.

10. Catholic section

You have now entered the Catholic section of the cemetery. Notice the large number of crosses, angels and statues, and compare the designs and symbols with those in the Nonconformist area.

The statue of Jesus revealing his sacred heart and the two angels are fine examples of hand-carved memorials showing typical Catholic imagery. Such memorials would have been imported from Italy, with inscriptions being added by English craftsmen. The white Carrera marble from which these statues are made lends itself well to this form of carving.

11. Bishop Hedley

One of the largest and most elaborate memorials in Cathays is this Bishop's memorial. Bishop John Cuthbert Hedley was born in Morpeth, Northumberland, in 1837 and educated at Ampleforth where he became a Benedictine Monk in 1854. He was ordained a Priest in 1862. He moved to Newport to assist Bishop Brown and succeeded him in 1880.

Bishop Hedley was a preacher and writer of international renown and worked to get Roman Catholics accepted at Oxford and Cambridge and to get schools and churches built. In 1915 Bishop Hedley died, a year before Cardiff became an Archdiocese, something Hedley had always wanted.

The fine sculptures and carvings on the memorial reflect a range of religious icons and bishops accoutrements. The memorial is of a type not commonly found in cemeteries and is more reminiscent of those found in cathedrals and churches.

12. 'Peerless' Jim Driscoll

This is a memorial to one of Cardiff's great characters – the boxer 'Peerless' Jim Driscoll. A licensed victualler by trade, Driscoll was also a renowned boxer and is regarded by many as the finest exponent of scientific boxing the world has ever seen. Driscoll was well respected not only as a boxer but also as a man of great generosity who brought much credit to his native city. Although Driscoll's memorial states that he was 'retired featherweight champion of the world', he never in fact achieved that title. The nuns of Nazareth House in Cardiff crowned him world champion after Driscoll turned down the chance of a title fight to keep a charity date in aid of the convent. Such was Driscoll's popularity that 100,000 people lined the streets to watch his funeral cortege pass by.

13. Catholic Chapel site

This is the site of the Catholic chapel that was demolished in 1986 after falling into disrepair. According to a contemporary report, the Chapel was blessed on 11 November 1859 with a crowd of 1,500 in attendance. The chapel was too small to accommodate such a large crowd so the service was held outside. Although the officiating priest prohibited entry to the chapel in order to avoid injury, the temptation proved too much for one man. The rest of the crowd was furious that he should defy the priest and attempted to beat him. Fortunately, the priest managed to calm the angry crowd and the miscreant escaped with no more injury than a reprimand from a magistrate the following Friday.

14. Irish Famine memorial

The 17th March 1999, St Patrick's Day saw the unveiling of a Celtic Cross at Cathays Cemetery. The memorial is dedicated to the victims of the Irish Famine 1845 – 1849, which claimed the lives of at least one million people. The memorial was jointly unveiled by John Owen Jones MP and Conor O'Riordan, Irish Consul General in Wales, during a ceremony attended by over 200 hundred people.

The memorial is situated on Section C, in a prominent location near the Catholic gates on Allensbank Road. The memorial is an Irish limestone cross erected on a base constructed from some of the stones that formed part of the now demolished Catholic chapel. Set into the base are four Welsh slate plaques with inscriptions written in English, Welsh, Irish and Latin.

15. World War II action

Note the lack of memorials in this section. This is due not to lack of burials but to the effect of enemy action. During World War II the cemetery was the victim of several bombs and a land mine which destroyed hundreds of memorials. After one particularly heavy raid, it is reputed that local residents saw dogs running through the street with human bones in their mouths.

The effects of war also manifest themselves in the many hundreds of memorials commemorating those who saw action or were killed in various battles and wars. In this section there are several small crosses marking the burials of French sailors and soldiers killed in action in this country. Most of the war graves in the cemetery, of which there is over 500 in total, are distinctive small white Portland headstones, usually decorated with the emblem of the regiment of the deceased. *top of page.*

A young hero, John Howard Davies, aged 12 years, gave his life to save a friend who was drowning. He has been honoured with a similar style memorial, decorated with the Scouts emblem, of which he was a member. As part of the Carnegie Trust Indigment given in his honour in 1949, a figure of £100.00 was given to aid in the purchase of this memorial. There was a little money left over and a silver cup was donated to his school, Monkton House, to be awarded to the boy who made the most progress at swimming. (This memorial is situated on Section EK, grave number 558, off Allensbank Road).

16. French Sailors

In Cathays Cemetery are buried 21 French sailors who died whilst serving in the French navy during the Great War (1914 –1918). The individual graves, which are in a number of sections but the majority are buried in the Roman Catholic Section C, are marked by stone crosses with bronze plaques bearing the details. It had been a wish of the French community in Cardiff to honour the sailors with a memorial and Mme J Forbes, the former Honorary Consul worked towards this goal for some time. The current Honorary Consul, Mme Rapport, working closely with the Cardiff Bereavement Services, has been able to fulfil the work started by Mme Forbes.

The Cardiff Memorial Masons, Mossfords, have kindly donated the memorial to the French sailors. It is a granite tablet bearing the Tricolour and an inscription in gold leaf, which reads "In memory of the French Sailors who died for their country 1914 – 1918", in French, Welsh and English. The memorial was unveiled on the 11th November 1998 at a ceremony led by the Vice Consul General, Mr B Mathieu and Councillor Doug Francies, Chairperson Sports and Leisure.

17. Large crosses

As you leave section C, notice the two very large crosses that give the impression of forming a gateway to the section. Not only are these memorials beautifully made, they are excellent examples of how skilled Victoria masons were. The crosses weigh over a ton each and would have needed special lifting equipment in order to erect them.

18. Louisa Maud Evans

This is a very moving memorial to a young girl called Louisa Maud Evans. She was a domestic servant with Hancock's circus and met a very unfortunate death in a freak ballooning accident, during the Cardiff Exhibition of 1896. The inscription on the memorial describes the accident and offers a fitting epitaph for a young life tragically lost.

Throughout most of the Victoria and Edwardian periods, white marble was the most common material used for funerary monuments. Other materials used include sandstone, limestone, coloured granites, slate, wood and iron. This section features memorials made from several different types of material.

Memorials made from stone are of particular interest to geologists and environmental scientists. The weathering of a memorial can be measured from the date it was erected to the present day, thus revealing not only the properties of the stone but also the effect of any pollution. Memorials also provide places for colourful lichens to grow. Look out for the effects of weathering and the growth of lichen on memorials as you walk around the cemetery.

19. Major Valliant de Guelis

Major Jacques Vaillant de Guelis was one of the stars of the Special Operations Executive operating in France in World War II. The family were from Cardiff, and involved in the export of Welsh coal to Brittany. Jacques Vaillant De Guelis was bi-lingual and became the personal interpreter for the Commanding Officer of the British Expeditionary Force. As one of the first educated Englishmen to observe conditions and attitudes under German occupation, he was taken to see Churchill. He served in France and then Algiers under De Gaulle and Giraud. Due to political differences between the two Generals, he was withdrawn to England.

Following the liberation of France, he was assigned to the Special Allied Airborne Recce Force to help co-ordinate local resistance and provide intelligence feedback, especially concerning gaining information about conditions of prisoner of war and concentration camps. He was sent around Europe to look for intelligence targets. During this work he was injured in a car accident and died. He was described as 'a man of great charm, intelligence and courage'.

20. Ernest Thompson Willows

Ernest Thompson Willows (1886 – 1926). Born in Newport Road, Cardiff, is famous for pioneering airship flight.

Willows did not follow his father and become a dentist but he was lucky to have a supportive and rich father to pursue his dream. In 1905 Willows built the Willows I, his first airship, which flew to 120 ft, seen flying over Splott, whilst its successor reached heights of 200 ft and flew across Cardiff. In August 1910 he flew from Cardiff to London, a journey which took 10 hours, and by November of that year he became the first man to cross the channel in an airship, arriving in Paris on December 28th. Whilst there, he held exhibition flights but fled the country to avoid customs duties on fuel.

He moved to Birmingham and established a flying school in Hendon, London. In 1916 Willows joined the Royal Flying Corps, gaining the rank of Captain and providing a number of ideas for the Government, which were widely used. He was commended for the use of his steel curtain suspended over London by balloons at a height of 10,000 ft, which protected the capital against low flying aircraft.

After the war he established a factory in Westgate Street, making balloons and kites, and was reduced to flying passengers for entertainment. In August 1926 he was killed, along with four passengers, when piloting a balloon at the Hoo Park Flower Show near Bedford, when the net surrounding the balloon tore away and the basket plummeted to the ground.

Willows is remembered in Cardiff by a street named after him in Splott – Willows Avenue – and a school in Tremorfa. _

21. Draped urn

This fine example of a draped urn on a pedestal commemorates a family of some worth. It illustrates, however, that even well off families could not escape the high infant mortality rate. The memorial is also interesting in that it commemorates people not buried in Cathays, reminding us that a memorial does not always necessarily mark the place of burial. One of the inscriptions mentions Pere Lachaise Cemetery in Paris, the first large urban cemetery in the world and a model for many others.

22. Wildlife habitat

The range of trees along the main drive provides habitats for a variety of wildlife. Look out for

insects such as bees, beetles and butterflies; birds including magpies, robins, blue tits and tree creepers, and mammals such as squirrels and hedgehogs.

23. William Reardon Smith

Cardiff was the boomtown of the late Victorian Britain and in the period before World War I it outstripped the ports of London and Liverpool for tonnage exported and imported. The Marquis of Bute was the main driving force behind the development of Cardiff with the building of the Bute Docks and helped the family amass a huge fortune. Cardiff was the steamship centre of the world.

William Reardon Smith was born to a seafaring family in Appledore in Devon in 1856 and was sent to sea at the aged of 12. In 1878 he acquired his First Mate's Certificate and three years later his Master's Certificate and took command of the *Drumadoon*. In 1896 he became the Master of the *Starcross*, owned by the Anning Bros. of Cardiff. From there, he was employed by Tatem, commanding first the *Lady Lewis* and then the *Shandon*. In 1900 he retired from active seafaring and settled in Cardiff.

In 1905 he bought his first ship and by 1914 he owned 9 tramp steamers. By 1917 his company owned 17 vessels which had increased to 29 in two years. In 1920, due to his services in the war, he was elevated to the baronetcy and moved his shipping interests away from coal, a now declining trade. In the 1930s the shipping trade declined and in 1935 Reardon Smith died, aged 80. Like most ship owners, the firm lost 20 vessels through enemy action, which coincided with a general decline in shipping. Reardon Smith was renowned for his generosity to the National Museum of Wales and a lecture theatre in the University is named after him.

24. William Henry Seager

The Seager family the owners of the Tempus Shipping Company Ltd. William Henry Seager was born in Cardiff in 1862, the son of William and Mary Seager who moved to Cardiff in the 1850s from Ilfracombe. Due to his father's illness, William Seager could not become an architect and had to find work. He joined a Cardiff Ship Chandler in 1885, earning 4s per week. By 1892 he had become a Ships Chandler with premises in Bute Street.

In 1904 he purchased the *Tempus* for W H Seager & Co. Ltd, (one of the minor shareholders was William Reardon Smith). However, by 1914 the Seager fleet consisted of 4 vessels of less than ten years of age, adding 3 more vessels in the 1920s, to have a fleet of 7 by 1928. Enemy action in World War II destroyed all the company's vessels except the *Campus*. The business never recovered from this huge loss. After the war, two new vessels were bought but the business was wound up in the 1960s.

In 1918 - 1922, W H Seager was the Liberal MP for Cardiff East and was knighted in 1918.

25. James Summers

In 1865, young James Summers, a Master Carpenter, left his native Bridgwater by Sea, disembarking at Cardiff. He worked on the building of the Royal Hotel and was persuaded by Augustine Stone, later a Councillor, who had befriended him, to set up as an Undertaker. This was done in 1878 and the establishment sited in Broadway, where in his premises he had a fine stable of Belgian black horses individually named after the generals and leaders of the Boer War period. James Summers son, John, succeeded his father.

After John Summers died in 1949, his sons Morlais and Cuthbert maintained the family interest. In 1952 Morlais, the eldest son, saw that Roath Court was to be sold and he purchased it as a dignified and prestigious funeral home. Now Paul Summers, great-grandson of the founder continues in the tradition built up over a century.

26. Jack Peterson

This memorial is a dedication to another distinguished boxer – John Peterson, more commonly known as Jack.

In 1931 he won the coveted A.B.A British Heavyweight title. Within fifty days he had also won the Light Heavyweight title. Jack became the first boxer to hold both titles simultaneously. He later went on to win the Lonsdale Belt and was successful in thirty five out of his thirty eight professional bouts. Retirement from his beloved sport came at the early age of twenty-five, due to persistent eye problems caused during his fights. This did not, however, deter him from taking an active role and following his retirement some of his many achievements included becoming the President of the British Boxing Board of Control, being awarded an O.B.E in 1978, serving on the Sports Council for Wales and becoming the first Chairman of the Welsh Ex-Boxers Association.

27. Mossfords Monumental Masons

This unusual memorial would have been very difficult to make. It is, therefore, not surprising to learn that it commemorates the Mossford family, one of the oldest established firms of Monumental Masons in Cardiff.

Victorian local directories for Cardiff reveal interesting information about the monumental masonry profession. In Duncan and Ward's Cardiff Directory of 1863 (4 years after Cathays was opened), no monumental masons are listed in the trade section. There are, however, three sculptors and two builders who probably provided funerary memorials. By 1883, there were 15 separate firms of masons and one company described as Stone and Marble Merchants. By 1900 this figure had increased further, to around 20 firms of masons and 5 of stone merchants. Many of the memorials in the cemetery have the name of the mason inscribed either on the back or on the base – some of these firms are listed on the checksheet.

28. John White

This is undoubtedly one of the most impressive memorials in the cemetery, not least because of its sheer size. It was erected in 1910 to John White, who was the father of a well-known local amusement caterer, Mr Sidney White. John White, who died from heart failure at the age of 76, not only has an exceptional memorial but also had an unusual funeral, as this report from the South Wales Echo of 1910 shows:

Novel Sight at Cardiff

The dying wish of Mr John White, father of Mr Sidney White, the well-known amusement caterer, that his remains be drawn to the cemetery at Cardiff by one of his son's traction engines, was fulfilled this afternoon. The traction engine was draped in purple and black and was covered with many beautiful floral tributes. An exquisitely designed floral harp was fixed to the front of the engine and suspended above it was a design of the Prince of Wales feathers, composed of choice flowers.

The cortege left the residence of the deceased in Tin Street shortly before 3 o'clock and so dense was the crowd that the road had to be cleared by police. The line of the route – Newport Road, Queen Street, Park Place, Cathays Terrace, and right up to the cemetery, was thronged.

You have now entered the consecrated area, which was used by episcopal denominations. Notice how the designs on the memorials and the symbols differ from those in the Nonconformist and Catholic areas.

29. Frank Baselow

The size and artistry of this beautifully carved memorial would indicate that it commemorates a wealthy family. However, although Frank Baselow was a ship's chandler by trade, he was by no means a millionaire. The reason for such an elaborate memorial lies more in the origins of Frank Baselow. In the trade directory for 1882 he is listed as Franz Baselow, indicating a probable Continental origin. The extravagance of the memorial, therefore, reflects Continental fashions. The memorial is thought to represent Baselow's young wife and child.

30. William Tatem

William Tatem (1868 – 1942) was the owner of the famous Tatem Steam Navigation Co. Ltd. He was born in Appledore, Devon, and moved to Cardiff when 18 and began working in the shipping offices of Anning Bros. In 1897 he started his own company, the Lady Lewis Steamship Co. and employed William Reardon Smith. The company quickly grew to 16 ships in eight years. By 1906 his company had become the largest single ship owning company in Cardiff. In 1910 this became the Tatem Steam Ship Co.

To reflect his established position, he was knighted in 1916, First Baron Glanely of St. Fagans, mainly for his efforts in World War I. However, after the outbreak of war in 1939, he moved the family to the safety of Weston-Super-Mare but he was tragically killed following a bombing raid on the town in 1942. With his death, Tatem's commercial knowledge was lost to the company, which coincided with the post-war decline in steam shipping.

31. William Llewellyn Rhys

This memorial to William Llewellyn Rhys is one of many in the cemetery recalling brave deeds in the service of military duty. Rhys, a vicar's son from Llantrisant, had a mixed army career, achieving the rank of Troop Sergeant Major but being demoted twice. After going to America to fight in the Civil War, Rhys returned to Cardiff and entered the steadier career of accountancy, becoming Chief Accountant with Messrs. Insole and Son, Shippers. If we can interpret the quote from Alfred Lord Tennyson's poem which appears on Rhys' memorial, it would appear that Rhys was one of the few survivors of the Charge of the Light Brigade at the battle of Balaclava during the Crimean War.

The inscription reads:-

"When can their glory fade?
Oh the wild charge they made!
All the world wonder'd
Honour the charge they made!
Honour the Light Brigade,
Noble six hundred!"

32. Dr Henry James Paine

Buried in Cathays, Section L is Dr Henry James Paine (1817-1894). Dr Paine is best known for his achievements in bringing sanitary conditions to Cardiff and the seamen's hospital, The Hamadryad.

In 1847 the Rammell Inquiry stated that Cardiff had dangerously polluted water and no sanitation. Typhoid was rife and Cholera outbreaks common. After the inquiry Paine was appointed the Medical Officer and installed a £200,000 deep drainage sanitation system.

The population of Cardiff grew rapidly with Irish immigration to escape the Famine. Some 200 died immediately of various diseases with over 500 people from this area dying of Cholera by 1854. Through Paine's work by the 1866 Cholera outbreak only 44 people died. Flatholm Island (near Barry) was acquired for the reception of immigrants with Cholera so that the disease did not enter the town. Paine is also renowned for reducing the effects of Smallpox in Cardiff. Through his pioneering ideas to keep Cardiff free from disease and improve sanitation, it is estimated that Dr Paine may have saved over 15,000 lives at the time of his retirement in 1887.

Paine bought and fitted out the Hamadryad at a cost of £1414.00 to house 60-65 in-patients with a doctor, medical staff, matron, nurse and cook. The ship was grounded on "Rat Island", an area that later came to be known as Tiger Bay. Voluntary contributions kept it going and a 2 shilling contribution was extracted for every 100 tons of registered shipping that entered Cardiff. By 1871 the ship became the only centre in the city for treating infectious diseases and the ship opened its doors to the ill of Cardiff. To celebrate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, a permanent hospital building was proposed which was eventually taken under the umbrella of the National Health Service.

33. Frances Batty Shand

This somewhat unremarkable memorial commemorates a remarkable woman. Frances Batty Shand was born to Scottish parents in Jamaica in 1810. She came to Cardiff with her brother John, who is also buried in the grave, in 1857. In 1865 Frances met a Mr Frederick Hallett of the Blind Bible Society, and became determined to do all she could to help the visually impaired. She founded the Association for the Improvement of the Social and Living Conditions of the Blind on Good Friday 1865 and continued to work for the charity until her brother's death in 1877. Little is known of Frances following her brother's death. It appears that she went first to Scotland and later to Switzerland where she died in 1885. Her body was brought back to Cardiff to be reunited with the brother she loved. In her Will, Frances left £1000 to the Institute for the Blind. Today, thousands of people pass the real monument to Frances Batty Shand – Shand House on Newport Road, the home of the Cardiff Institute for the Blind.

34. John Cory

This grand memorial commemorates part of the Cory family as some are buried elsewhere in the Vale. John Cory was one of Cardiff's earliest ship owners. Cory, despite being born to a family of farmers, became a ship owner in his hometown of Padstow in Cornwall. In 1872 he spotted the potential which the vastly improved docks at Cardiff offered and moved to the city. The company rapidly expanded, from 2 ships in 1872 to a fleet of 23 by 1898. In that year the company also built its offices on the corner of Mount Stuart Square and James Street, premises which it still occupies.

Although the memorials to the rich and important are impressive and often beautiful to look at, it is worth remembering that all sections of society had their part to play in the history of Cardiff. Many of the graves in Cathays are common graves, provided by the local authority for those who couldn't afford to buy an exclusive right of burial. Common graves, or paupers' graves as they were often known, contain several burials and are usually not marked with a memorial. These unmarked graves, however, tell us as much about the class structure of Victorian society as those with elaborate memorials.

We hope that you have enjoyed this introduction to Cathays Cemetery and that you will visit again and discover more of the delights which it has to offer.

If you would like to arrange either a guided walk or illustrated talk - or receive a full colour printed Trail brochure - please contact our Memorials Officer on 029 2062 3294.