

WELCOME TO GRANTHAM'S HIDDEN GRAVEYARD

THE MANTHORPE ROAD BURIAL GROUND





- What lies behind this door?
- Why was it built?
- Who is buried there?
- What is there now?



This is a burial ground or graveyard formed because the churchyard at St Wulfram's parish church was getting very full.

The parish of Grantham encompassed the old town as well as Harrowby to the east, Spittlegate to the south and Little Gonerby and Manthorpe to the north.

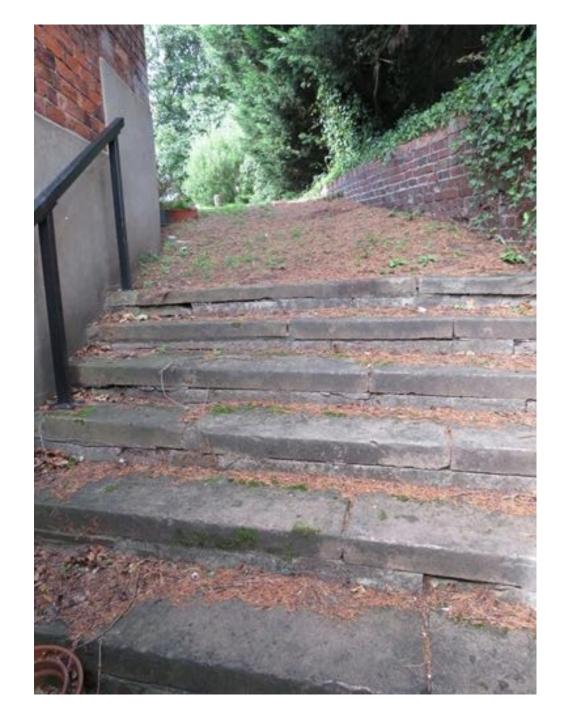
In 1811 the parish population was 4,777.

By 1851, the population had reached 10,870.

Let's take a look inside....



GATE OF OLD BURIAL GROUND, MANTHORPE ROAD











Some 114 people are named on the surviving gravestones. The majority are upright headstones but there are about ten flat-stones.







The cemetery is a haven for wildlife. Many trees were planted in the late 1960s by the Kesteven Tree Society and there is a carpet of cyclamen in the autumn.

There are some 35 varieties of trees.







Timeline

- 1809 The Enclosure Award for Great Gonerby & Little Gonerby -cum-Manthorpe allocated half an acre to the Vicar of Grantham to be a burying ground
- 1812 Burial ground was consecrated by the Bishop of Lincoln
- **1812-1857** Burial ground in use
- 1857 Grantham's Cemetery opened on Harrowby Road
- 1951 Grantham Borough Council takes over maintenance



Burying Grounds

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Enclosure
Award

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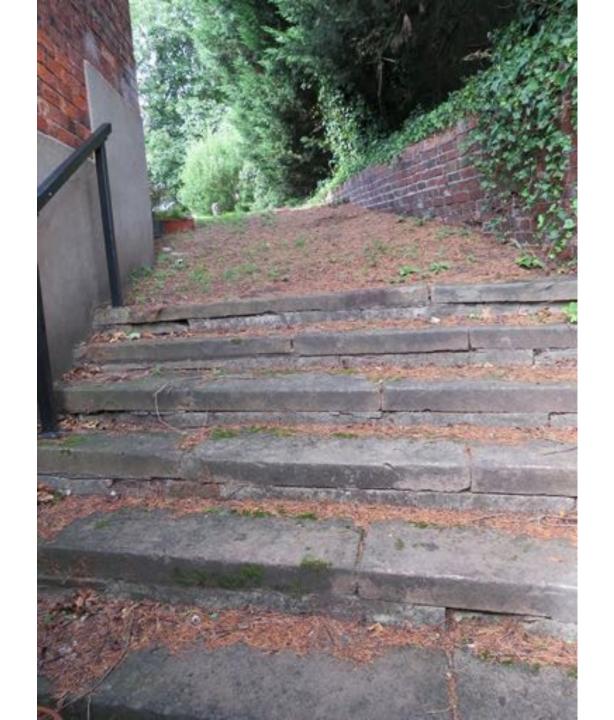
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St Wulfram's parish registers record between about 80 to nearly 250 burials each year, so a total of over 6,000.

A proportion continued to be buried at St Wulfram's. We believe that over 3,000 could be buried in the Manthorpe Road Burial Ground.



The ground level inside the burial ground is higher than the surrounding area in part owing to the number of burials



A FEW HIGHLIGHTS

Lawrence CONNELL – A trumpeter in the 13th Light Dragoons died 1852

George HILL died 1836

William Willcox HILL died 1831

William CROSS – aged 4, died 1855

& Mary HARDWICK – aged 3, died 1855

Lawrence Connell

Trumpeter in the 13th Light
Dragoons
died 1852



He died in Grantham as a result of lying on a damp bed in Retford. The gravestone was erected by fellow officers & men.

George Hill died 1836 aged 59 years

Shoemaker - lived in Swinegate

His widow Mary, died in 1863, and was buried in Grantham Cemetery and this may account for the blank section.



William Wilcox Hill died 1854

Aged 21 years

He is buried next to his father

George Hill



William Cross aged 4 & Mary Hardwick aged 3

Attended a school run by John Hardwick in Castlegate.

Both died from scarlatina in January 1855



Aiged 4 Teaurs.

The tenant of this little grave,
Our hope, and joy and pride.
Was anatchid away from our contract
In early yourth he died.

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Stone Masons

Gravestones are made from limestone,

Swithland slate from Leicestershire and from
Welsh slate, which accounts for the majority.

This was transported to Grantham by sea and by canal.

Stonemason, **George Wilcox** of High Street & later in Spittlegate carved at least three headstones.



Joseph Sills and his family were responsible for at least seven of the surviving gravestones. His workshop was on Wharf Road.



William Miller and William
Tomlin both had stone-mason's
yards in New Street less than
half a mile from the graveyard.



IMAGERY & MEMORIAL VERSES

The surviving gravestones are richly carved and contain imagery and memorial verses.

Verses, on gravestones carved by Joseph Sills, were drawn from a book of epitaphs published in 1832.





VISITING THE GRAVEYARD

Grantham Civic Society has opened the graveyard annually for the last fifteen years as part of the Heritage Open Days.





Sadly, owing to Coronavirus, we have not felt it safe to open the graveyard in September 2020.

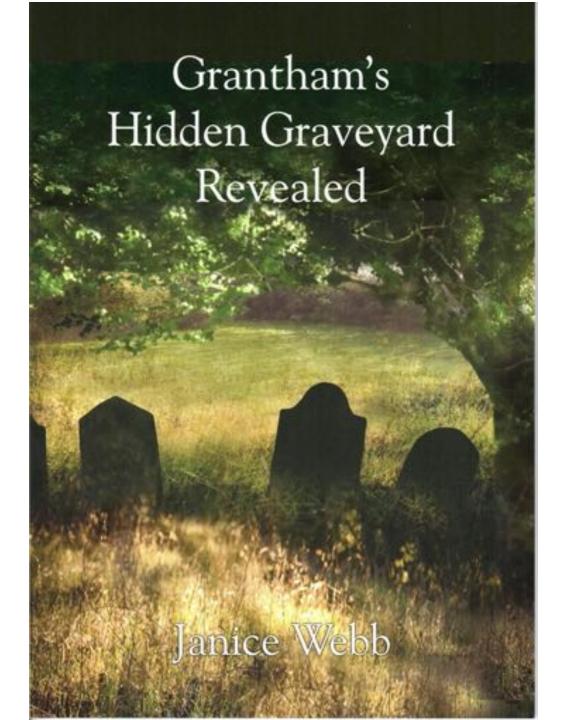
We hope to be able to open again as and when the situation allows and certainly for the next Heritage Open Days in September 2021.

But, if you want the whole story,

GRANTHAM'S HIDDEN GRAVEYARD REVEALED

by Janice Webb





Janice's book is priced at £10 Available via Facebook

https://www.facebook.com/groups/846022188803781/

